

Should parents attend wedding?

Dear Annie: My husband and I adopted our daughter from foster care when she was 12. We were told by the social worker that she had mental health issues, but we already loved her and went through with the adoption.

The 10 years since have not been easy, but we thought she had grown to love us. She is a smart, beautiful girl, and we never regretted adopting her. She was the light of our lives. She is now in college in another town. Last week, she called and said she is never coming back to our house and no longer wants to have anything to do with us.

We have tried to talk to her, but she either doesn't answer the phone or hangs up when we press for answers about what is wrong. She is dating a young man who has expressed his dislike of us. We have learned through other people that they are getting married and his family is paying for the whole thing. We don't know what to do. When she learned that we knew about the wedding, she did call and say we could come if we wanted, but it seemed a half-hearted invitation. I suspect if we had not been told by someone else about the wedding, she

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



never would have told us herself.

Should we go to the wedding or not? We do not know what kind of lies she may have told his family and are concerned it may be a problem. We love her and want to see her get married. What should we do? — *Brokenhearted Mother in Georgia*

Dear Georgia: Please go to the wedding. Don't worry what the groom's parents think. Prove them wrong. You need to be supportive of your daughter on her big day and let her see that you still love her enough to do this. Don't cry or become angry or try to get her to tell you what's wrong. Simply be happy for her as best you can. And we always worry about relationships where the husband or wife prevents the spouse from seeing family members. It could lead to an abusive

situation. Please keep your eyes open and make sure your daughter knows you will always be there for her.

Dear Annie: In a recent column, you mentioned people not feeling comfortable visiting a friend or relative in a nursing home.

I have been a patient in a nursing home while recovering from surgery and I also worked in one where I had dealings with visitors. Most residents in these facilities like to have visitors no matter how long they stay — even if it is only a few minutes. Any diversion from the regular routine is so welcome. Just talking a bit does a world of good. Other residents may join in, as they like to see a new face, too.

I know folks feel uneasy because they have a problem seeing friends or relatives in a poor medical state, but it can be dealt with. Your visit can be the best medicine. — *Canaan, Connecticut*

Dear Canaan: Thanks so much for reminding readers how much short visit means to people in nursing homes. It can be a boost and a breath of fresh air, and your kindness means more than you will ever know.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll bring tangible gifts to the loved ones in your life. Also, the unique way you see each person is a gift and this will be reflected in how you interact with those near.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The joy in your heart will be released in each and every interaction of the day. Good manners rule as you mix and mingle with the ones you love. Enthusiasm will spread.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will look for (and you will find) the brightest potential in each person you meet. The magic that happens later is something to celebrate — they will rise to embody your vision.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll have some of your favorite accidents today. Enjoy this convergence of good intentions, wild hearts, peaceful backdrops and generous benefactors.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While children revel in the spirit of the holiday, the elders may need more attention than you would have thought. You'll forget yourself and be mindful of everyone else, but that will be a state of bliss for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your personal wants are few, and they will be fulfilled in the early parts of the day. After that, what you'll need most is the spirit of mercy, and you will bestow her gifts generously into the night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll wake up one person and go to sleep as someone else. Your world is a beautiful storm today and it will change everything. Everywhere you look there is something

interesting to capture and twist your attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your version of the holiday spirit will center on elders and asking to hear stories of years gone by. These yesteryear tidings will be important for generations to come.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Thoughtful, useful feedback is the best gift imaginable. You'll have plenty of this and you'll revel in the excitement. Your allies are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is beauty in silence; some would even call it sacred. Can you hold a space open for someone who desperately needs that room? Maybe that someone is you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How do you feel about singing? For better or worse, it will unify the crowd. Tonight: Those around you will feel warm and secure in your love, especially Gemini and Libra.

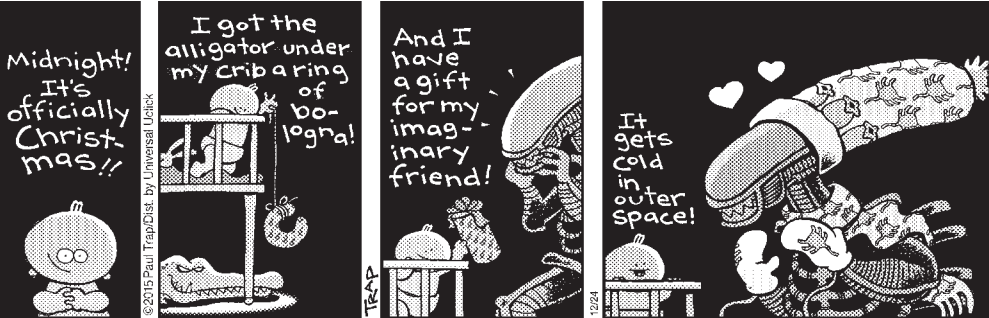
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The one with your best interests at heart will come around and fulfill some of those interests. This is a dream come true for you. Go on and prepare your acceptance speech!

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 25). When the light shines on you it also illuminates someone close to you, which will make you so happy! Your alliances will keep you productive and profitable through February. The spring is for investing in your dreams. Someone close will seek refuge in your company in June. What you do for your family, you do for yourself. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 2, 4, 44 and 18.

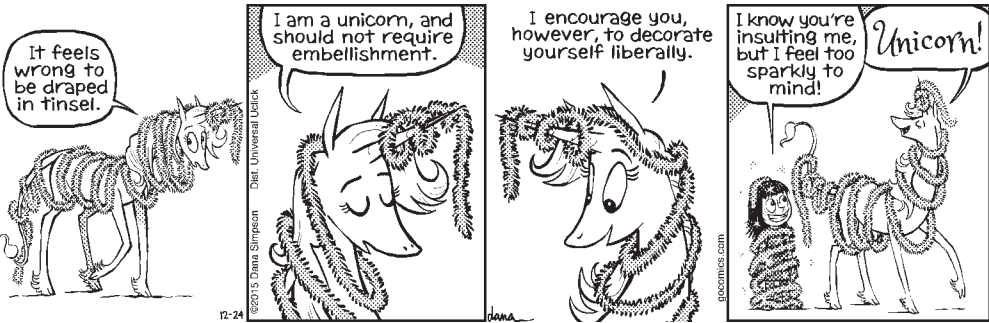
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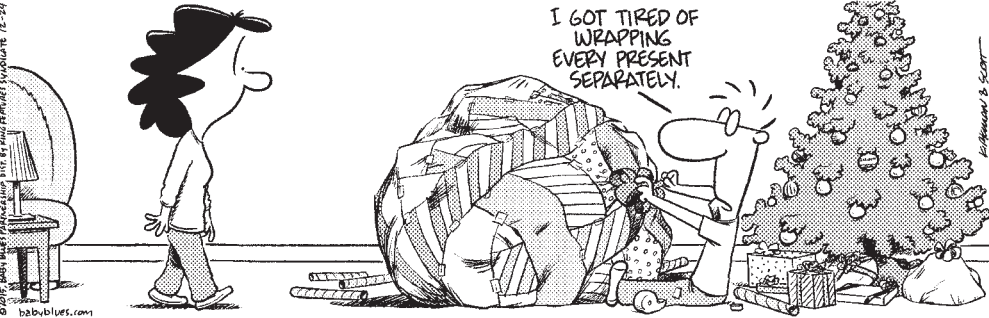
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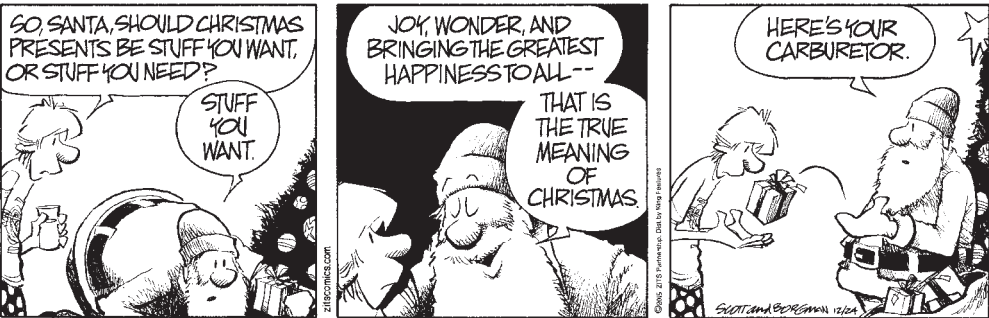
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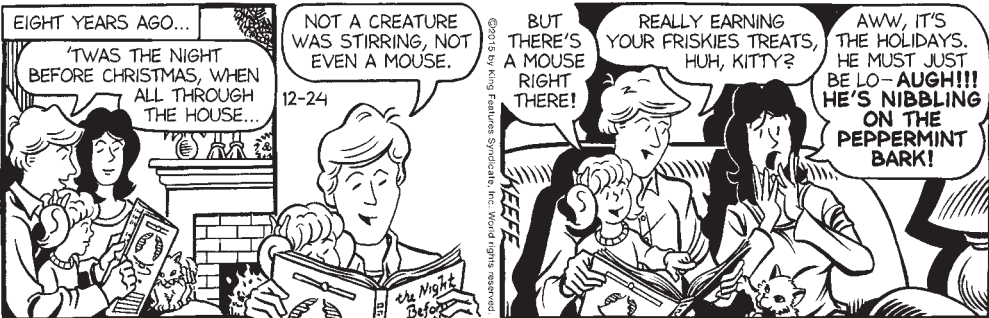
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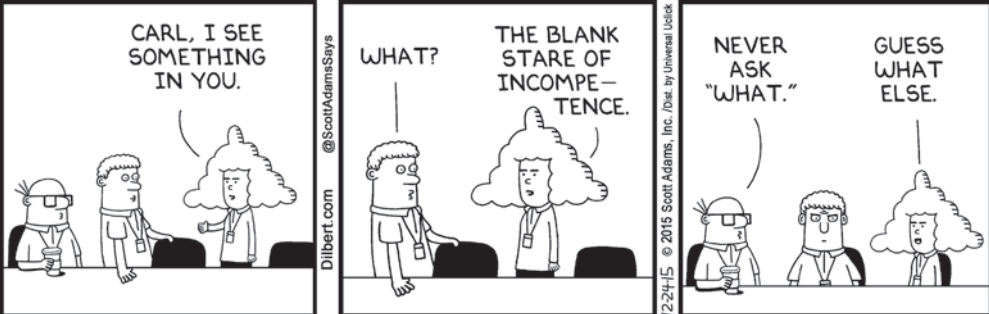
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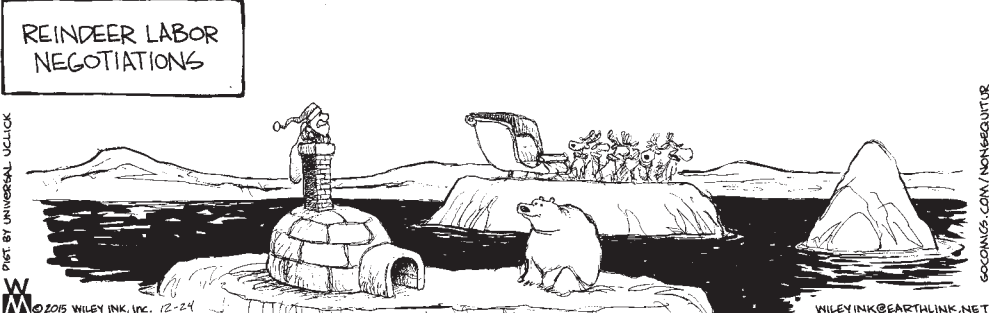
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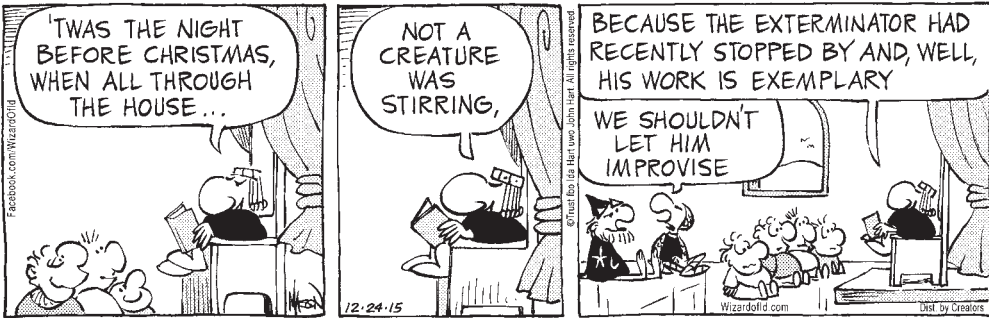
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