

Teed off about golf balls

Dear Annie: I can't believe your response to the letter from "Between a Golf Ball and a Hard Place," saying that golf balls shouldn't be cleaned in the kitchen sink.

We routinely wash fruits and vegetables in the kitchen sink, and they have dirt and chemicals on them. Fighting over which sink to wash them in is like fighting over which way to hang the toilet paper. Get over it! — EMT

Dear EMT: We were surprised at the volume of mail this letter elicited. A lot of golfers must read our column. (And let's not get into the toilet paper.) Here are a few more comments:

From I'm Not Fooled: I've played golf for 50 years and everyone uses the ball washers at each tee or wets a towel and wipes them. Unless a ball is lost or damaged, golfers play with one ball for 18 holes. How hard is it to wash one ball at the end of a round?

Practical Guy: I fail to see the problem. Cabbage and potatoes are exposed to the same environment as golf balls, and I am sure the wife has no problem washing those things in the kitchen sink. The problem seems more territorial than practical. My wife and I

Annie's Mailbox

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Kathy Mitchell
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Marcy Sugar



both wash paintbrushes and scrub buckets in the kitchen sink. On many occasions, I've washed dog poop from the soles of our shoes in that sink. Just clean the sink when you're done, and forget about it.

D: Please tell that Golf (goof) Ball never to wash those disgusting things in the kitchen sink. When he washes the car, he can have an extra pail with hot water, soap and maybe a little bleach and throw in the balls. By the time he's finished with his car, those balls will be pretty clean. His wife should give him information on E. coli and show pictures of necrotizing fasciitis. I would disinfect the kitchen and tell him I'd never make him another meal unless this stops. (He should take off his shoes before entering the house, too.)

The Villages: There should not

be a big issue with cleaning golf balls. Take a wet towel and clean them after you play.

California: We put a lot of stuff in our kitchen sink that is disgusting, but nobody thinks twice about it — mostly fruits and vegetables from our garden that are covered in dirt and fertilizer. We simply clean the sink thoroughly with bleach and that's the end of it. I think she doesn't want her husband to play golf.

S. Spring: As a health educator and a pesticide reform activist since the '80s, it is unfortunate that some folks are still not aware of the toxicity of pesticides that are used on nearly all American golf courses. Golf balls are contaminated from contact with pesticides on the grass, and most certainly ought not be washed at home, except in a designated pail. Shoes and gloves used for golfing would best never be taken inside the home, and instead left in the garage or a golf locker. Pesticides are designed to adhere to surfaces, even during rain, and are highly toxic. Their half-lives are decades long. An online search of "pesticide and golf course" will give your readers some education. Thank you.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Usually, whether or not you get what you want you take it in stride. Today you're more invested in seeing things go your way, as you should be. This one is important and worth fighting for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to improve the world; we all do. Maybe that's why you're turned off by political rants that either preach to the choir or alienate the opposition. A break from intense sharing is what's needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's nice to feel self-contained, and you very well may be able to fulfill any need that comes up today all on your own. However, accepting a bit of help may also be the most gracious thing to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships will thrive as you give enough to let others know you're interested and admiring and then pull back enough to allow them to reach for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You care. You give. You get. You care even more. This is the cycle that sums up the day. Tonight will bring an important meeting of the minds. Capricorn and Aquarius are two minds that should be included.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your current vision is enough to drive you to the next waypoint, but a broader vision is probably needed to sustain your motivation through the miles and miles that follow. Brainstorm, discuss and research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be there to catch the soul who is floundering to catch balance. Your discreet assistance will be much appreciated, though perhaps privately,

so as not to draw attention to the fall.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not exactly in uncharted territory, but, without guides around, you might as well be. Call out to tell people where you want to go. Trying to get there without a map will be a waste of time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will accomplish your top priority as long as you state what it is and keep paying attention to it throughout the day. Loved ones seem to need you, but if you're busy they'll do brilliantly on their own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Go ahead and step into that fresh scene. You'll get attention because you're the new person, and you'll become fast friends with someone who can show you around.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your help is so subtle that some don't even realize they are being assisted. You'll gently nudge people into the right groove and all goes smoothly from there.

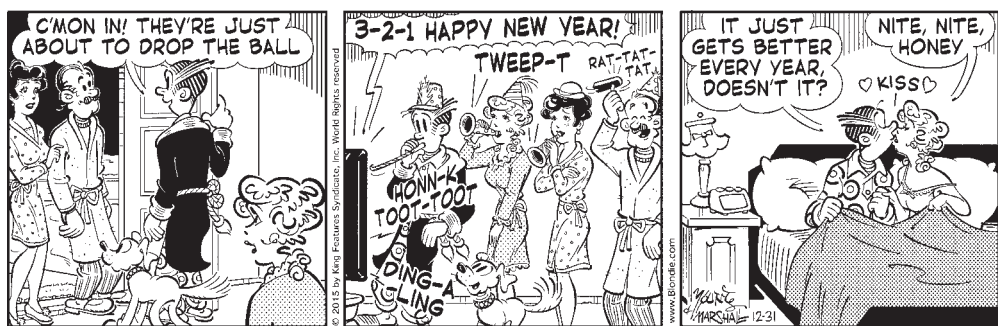
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Preferring to keep things light, you may not set out to tell your friend what's really going on with you, but you're likely to reveal it, anyway, because the time you spend together has a way of opening your heart.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 1). You're in charge, and you get to say what fits into your life and what doesn't: no apologies. A love connection will grow stronger through February. Wonders unfold in the area of family and relationships in April. Business changes for you, and this summer you'll have to learn in order to keep up. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 21, 45, 39 and 42.

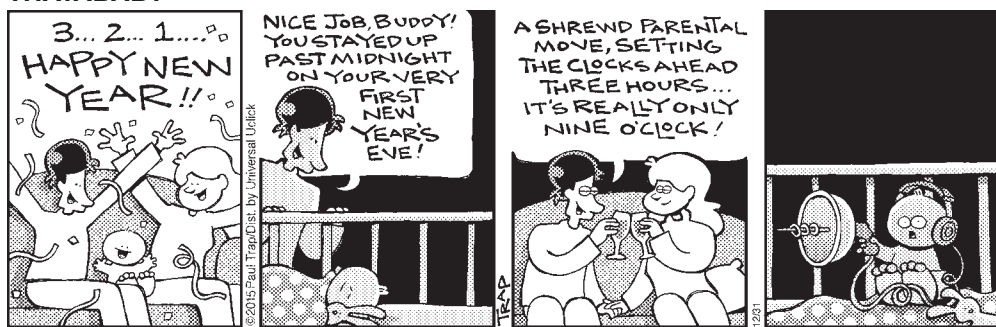
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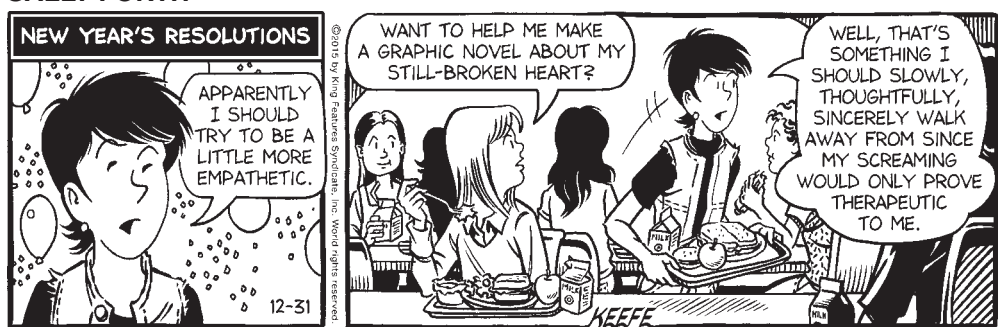
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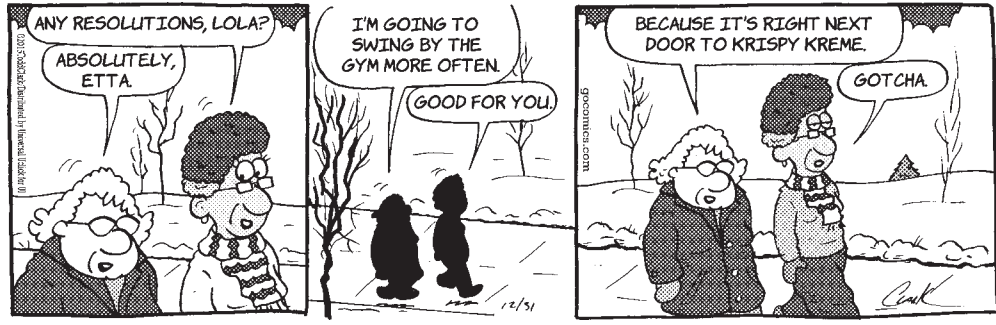
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