

Lazy wife angers husband

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for 30 years and we've had the same problem all of that time. She doesn't have an outside job, but she doesn't do much around the house, either. She doesn't clean and rarely cooks. It is always up to me to tidy up. I am forever picking up stuff, clearing piles of papers and eating mostly store-bought meals.

After a day at work, I would like to relax a bit. But I cannot tolerate this type of messy, dirty atmosphere. It upsets me and I lose my temper. This has been going on for our entire marriage and nothing changes. When I raise my voice, I am blamed for having a temper and made out to be the bad guy, and around and around we go. What can I do? — *Going Mad in Canada*

Dear Mad: This type of issue should be addressed early in a marriage, before the behavior comes entrenched and resentment builds. After 30 years of enabling, you are delusional if you expect your wife to suddenly turn into a housekeeper. Losing your temper obviously isn't working. Instead, find ways to cope. Can you hire cleaning help so that the

Annie's Mailbox

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house stays mostly tidy? We also recommend that you stop making an issue of it. Instead, say nothing. Cook your own meals, clean your own dishes, wash your own clothes, and if your wife objects, tell her as sweetly as possible that she is welcome to do the same.

Dear Annie: "Heartbroken in California" needs to run for her life. No amount of counseling is going to help a guy who doesn't see that his kids are tyrants.

I married a man who has a rude teenage daughter. This kid can flip a switch. She is nasty to me and then becomes a little angel the second my husband walks in the door. When I come home from work, she won't even acknowledge me. Of course, I am not allowed to say anything about her rude behavior, or question his constant spoiling of this ungrate-

ful brat.

Tell "Heartbroken" to get out while she can. Moving in won't fix anything. We tried counseling until we finally began addressing her awful behavior and she whined that she didn't want to go. We couldn't force her, so we got nowhere and now I just deal with it.

I have tried to be nice, but it doesn't work. My husband won't do anything about it, because he doesn't see it. My best response now is to just ignore her, as sad as that sounds. — *Frustrated in Oregon*

Dear Oregon: It's too bad that your stepdaughter has chosen to ruin what could be a solid mother-daughter relationship, and that your husband prefers to keep his blinders on. We hope the daughter grows up enough to be tolerable and that your husband's other qualities make up for the frustration.

Several readers suggested that "Heartbroken" surreptitiously record her stepdaughter's bullying and then play it back for the husband. That might open his eyes, but we aren't convinced that it will change his attitude toward his child.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While it may be easier to get angry than it is to work out a solution, there is little to be gained from losing control. Remove yourself from the situation to think it through. A walk around the block will produce brilliance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Part of the "homework" you need to do will involve getting a second (and third and fourth and seventh) opinion. Your keen mind will sort through this data and home in on the golden ticket.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Before you go counting that admired someone among the glorious, consider where the person came from and how he or she got to the current position. You're glorious in your own way, too, you know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you have to give up a little money and some of your time to make a partner happy, it will be worth it. What's even harder may be the part where you have to compromise on a preference. You're up to this!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). At times there is simply nothing left to do but give an ultimatum. These times are few and far between and, however dramatic today's circumstances may seem, this is not one of them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Dish out compliments — to your friends, to strangers, your boss, your loved ones, etc. Everyone could use your brand of ego-inflation. Even people you think would be above flattery will eat yours up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What used to seem romantic may now get on your nerves; such is the bane of familiarity. The answer is to go off in separate directions for a while

and gather new influences so you'll be mentally fresh again when you reunite.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you can't change the way things are, you may still be able to change how you experience the way things are. Detachment is the key. This will be made much easier by today's delicious distraction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Those moments when you first wake up and right before you fall asleep are potent. Don't waste this power concentrating on responsibilities and worries. Use it to project your love and envision your happy future.

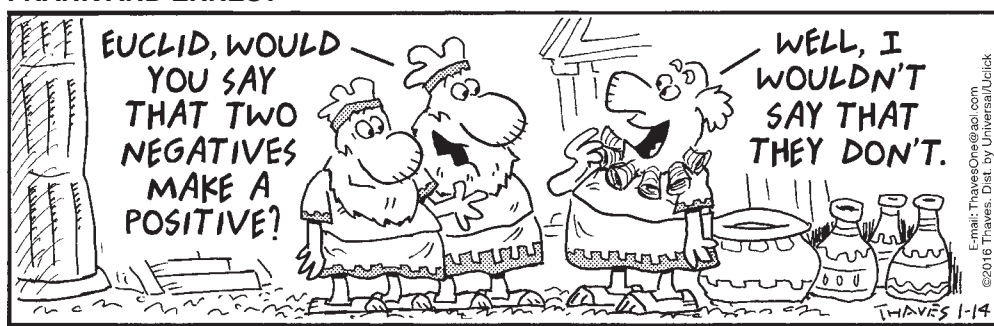
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have enormous respect and gratitude for the one who will overlook your flaws, excuse your mistakes and generally try to see and bring out the best in you at every juncture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you may have been completely convicted in a certain belief yesterday, this is a new day with fresh evidence, different challenges and a unique set of circumstances.

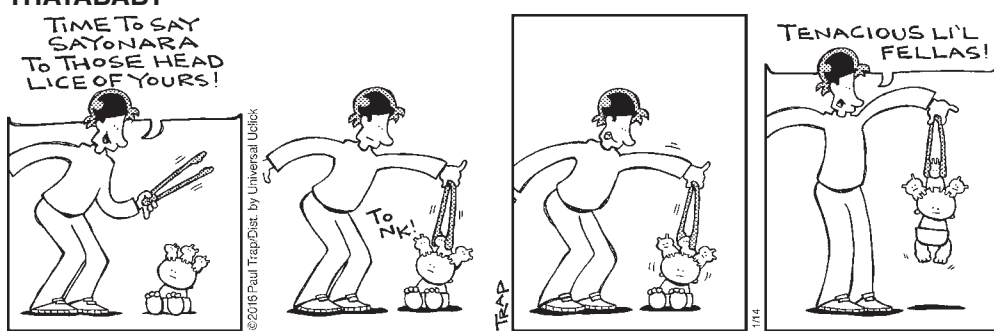
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's time for you to assume leadership. If you followed the protocol it would only cause hesitation, doubt and confusion. Instead, swoop in and start handling things. Act, delegate, decide.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 15). One declaration having to do with who you are (or want to be) will make all of the difference in where you arrive this year. Small improvements will have outsized effects on your love life in February. In March, the trust and rapport you generate in your relationships will lead to professional advancement and financial gain. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 35, 41, 19 and 43.

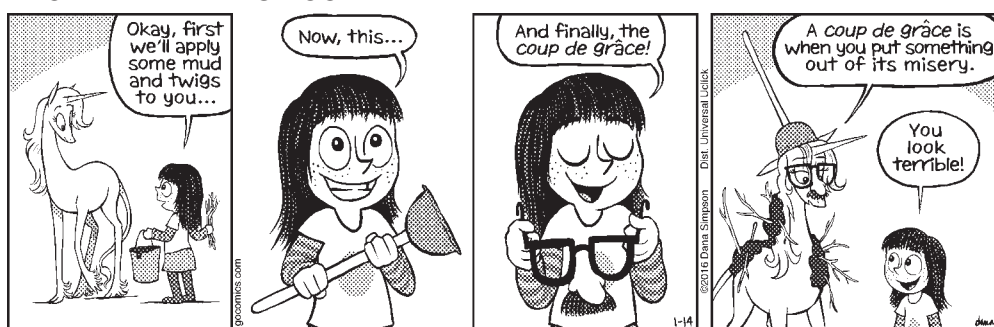
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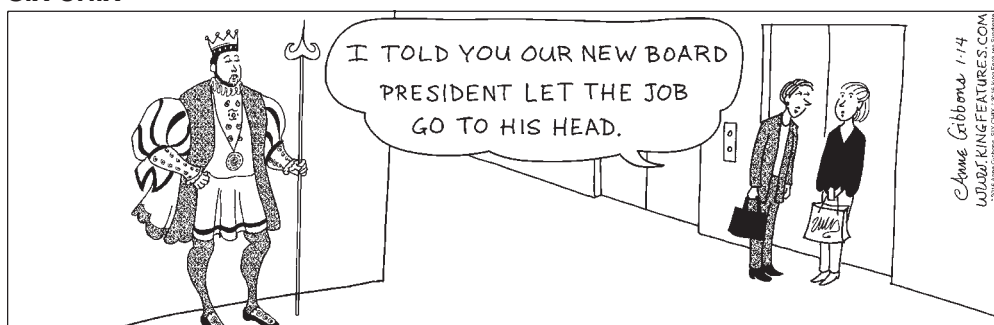
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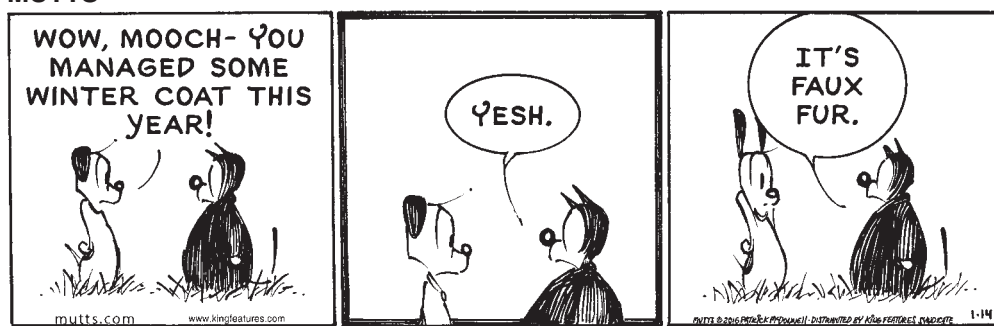
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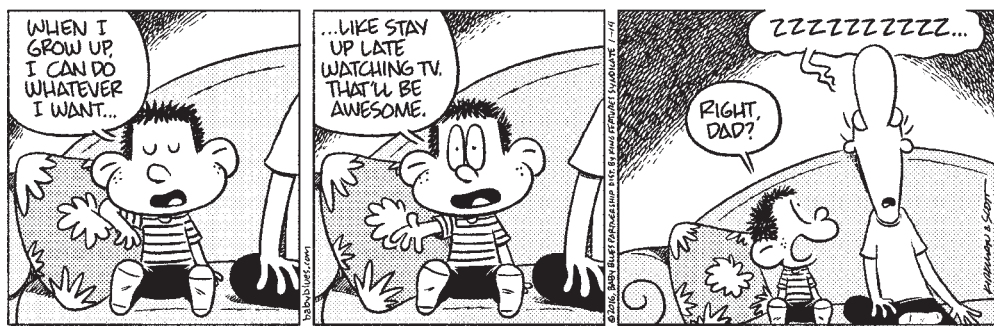
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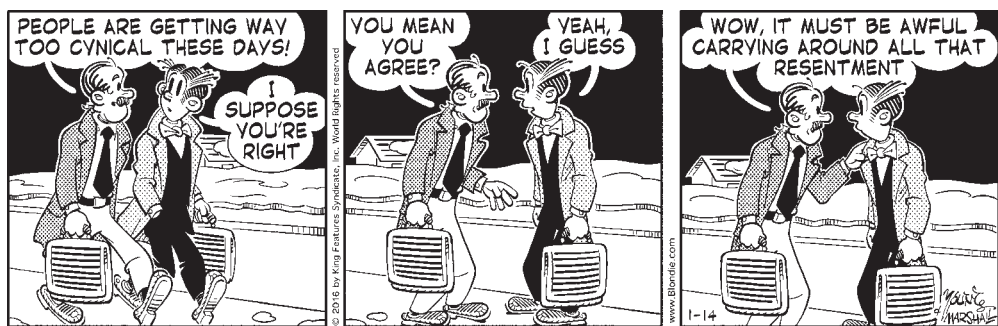
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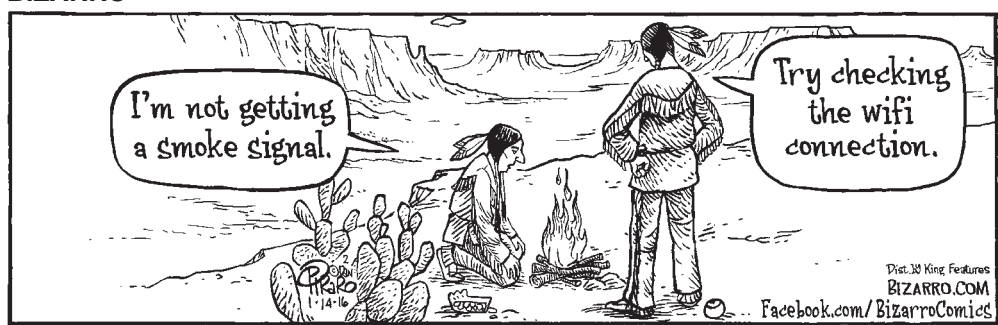
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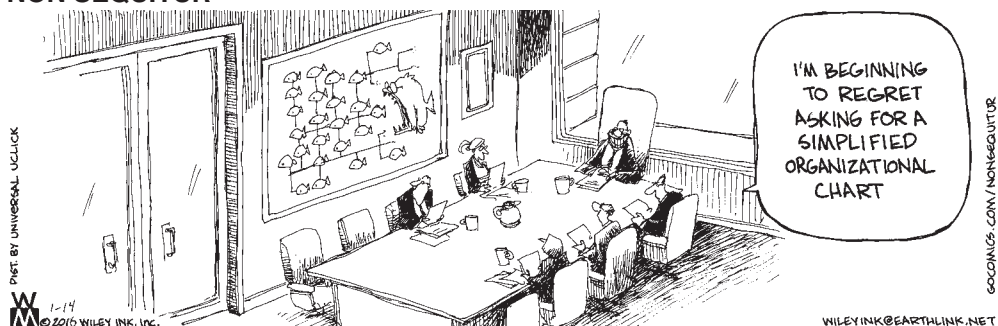
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