

Marriage's luck about to run out

Dear Annie: My fiance and I became engaged a year ago. He has many good qualities: He is really sweet most of the time, and he is a good provider. He takes me on nice trips and buys me lovely presents. He even rubs my feet and cooks for me.

However, there are three bad qualities that give me grief. Like all couples, we argue now and then. But about once a week, we stay up all night arguing and can't get to work the next day. He hangs out at the casino into the wee hours of the morning. Last week, he came home at 5:30 a.m. He says he does it just to make me angry. Two weeks ago, he left on Sunday afternoon and didn't return until Monday morning. Then he wonders why I don't trust him.

The other problems are that he drinks heavily and he likes to gamble a lot. I've prayed that God will allow him to be the man I need and deserve. When we first started dating, I didn't see any of these signs. I knew he frequented the casino, but it didn't seem so bad.

Now he says he will work on coming home so late if I stop fussing. I told him if it happens

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



again, the relationship is over. But he refuses to stop gambling. Can he possibly change? Please help me. I love this man, but I must be insane to put up with this mess. — *Vicki in Vegas*

Dear Vicki: You are engaged to a man who is unlikely to change just because you want it and pray for it. Please don't lopsidedly balance minor good points (he rubs your feet) with major difficulties. Gambling is an addiction. Is he in debt? Does he have enough money to keep losing it at the casino? Drinking is a different addiction and can affect his health, as well as your safety. Staying out all night is a trust issue, and arguing all night is totally unproductive.

It is always a mistake to marry someone and expect him to change. That rarely happens.

Please look into Gam-Anon (gam-anon.org) and Al-Anon (al-anon.org) for a better understanding of his behavior. Before marrying him, be sure you have a full report on your joint finances. And we strongly urge you to get premarital counseling. Your fiance sounds like an oncoming train wreck.

Dear Annie: A few months ago, you printed a letter from "Marie," who was looking for nursing home and assisted living facilities for family members who live out of state.

You provided information only on nursing homes. For information on assisted living residences, please suggest that your readers contact Argentum (formerly the Assisted Living Federation of America) at argentum.org, or write us at 1650 King Street, Suite 602, Alexandria, VA 22314. — *Richard T. Moore, President, Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association*

Dear Richard Moore: Thank you for this additional valuable information. We hope any of our readers who are searching for an appropriate residence will check this resource.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's easy for you to take people where they want to go. The trouble is that today they don't want to go to the places that are good for them to be. Your job is harder than usual, but far from impossible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've heard a good pep talk or two in your time. Do you think you can copy it? Because not only are you going to need this sort of thing; the people around you are going to need it, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are right not to want to rock the boat, especially when said "boat" is on serene waters and the relaxed people inside are not wearing their life jackets. Perhaps some rowdier, hotter time would be better for boat-rocking.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will have the benefit of an intelligent and attentive audience, ready to hear you. Once you get the feeling that you may have made your point, back off and let them mull it over.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone in an environment seems to be playing by certain rules. This will not stop you from seeing and taking note of the reasonableness (or ridiculousness, as the case may be) of those rules.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Does it feel like you've said all you have to say to your familiar friend? This is an indication that you really are close! Also, that it's time to refill your well and have some adventures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can do anything for a few hours! Try out the thing you would like to turn into a lifestyle. Your mood will set the perfect groove for easing into situations that would otherwise be difficult.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may nab the goal in the early afternoon, but this isn't really the end of the story. As it is in many classic forms of entertainment, there will be a kind of denouement. Secrets will be revealed, loose ends tied up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It wasn't handled well in the past, and now you have a chance to do it better. Or get it wrong in a new and improved way. Don't worry, all of this is progress if you lean into it with your sense of humor.

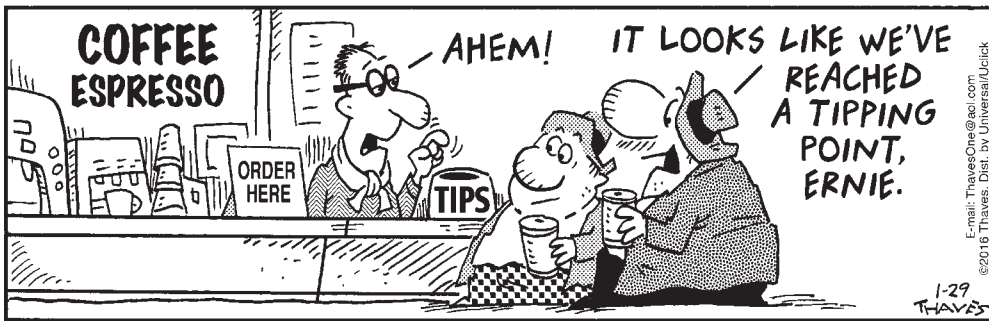
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Remember when you so effectively applied yourself to please the powers that be? Well, now the one who happens to be in power is you. You're worth all the fuss! Enjoy!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your goal is simple: Leave it better than you found it. It will be inconvenient to maintain those high standards, but in doing so you'll set a fine example for the young, the messy and the thoughtless.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll learn. Use the new knowledge or skill as soon as possible. Practice to enforce this. The next 24 hours will be crucial. You could spring forward in leaps and bounds instead of merely scooting along.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30). Go on and do the things that make you nervous. This is what will push your life in the happiest direction — perhaps not at first, but ultimately. Your connection with family deepens, and shared resources will help those you love succeed right along with you. A long-term investment opportunity will set you up for years to come. Taurus and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 11, 3, 36 and 43.

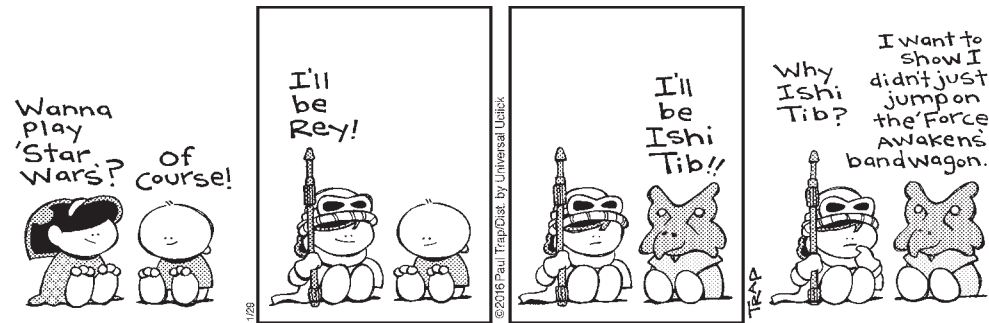
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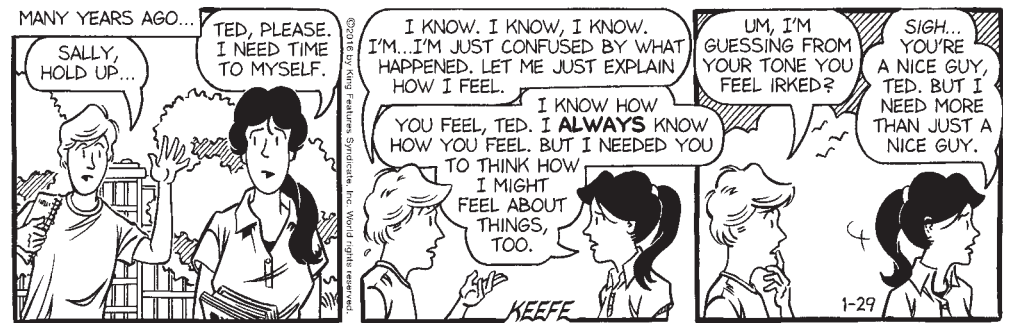
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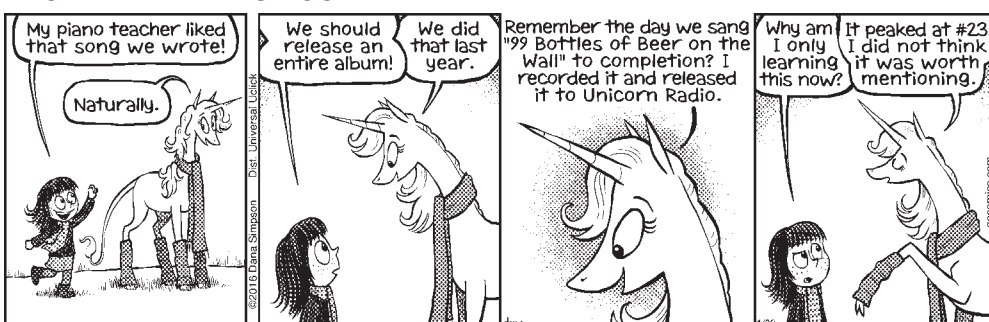
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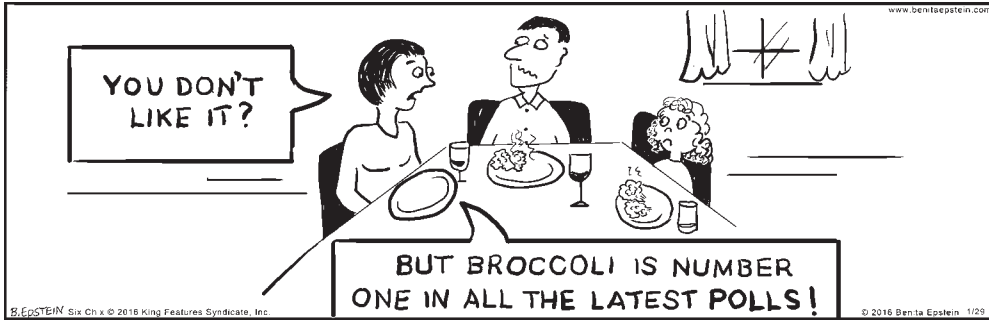
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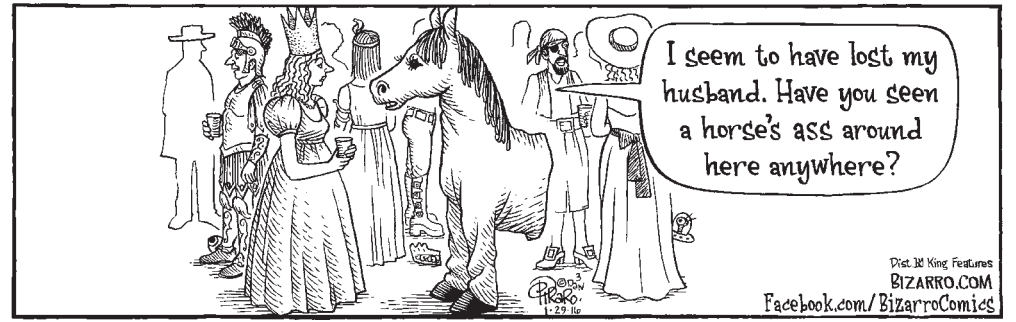
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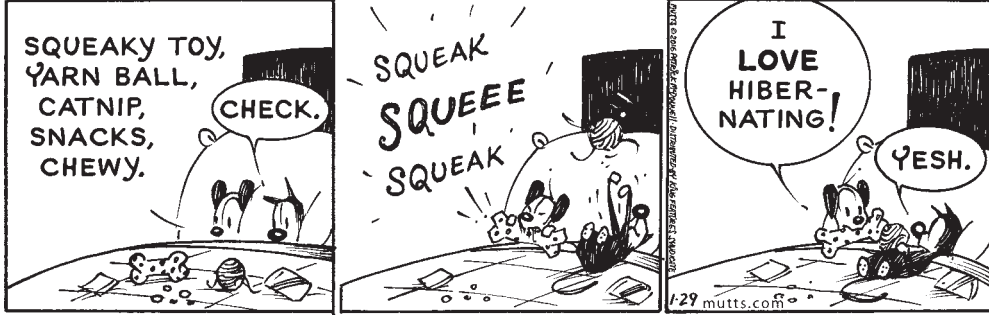
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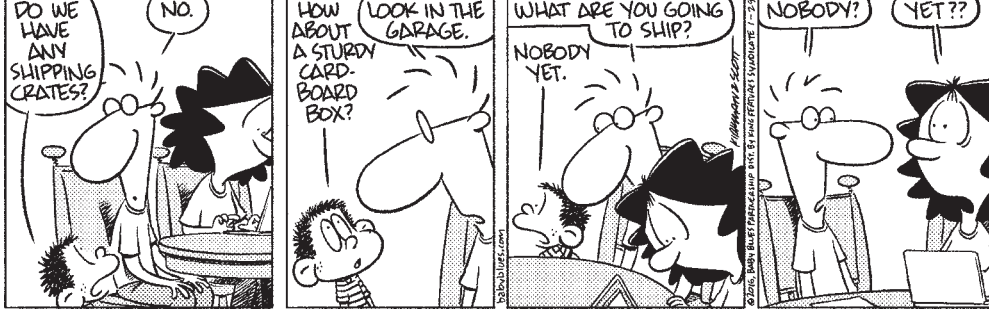
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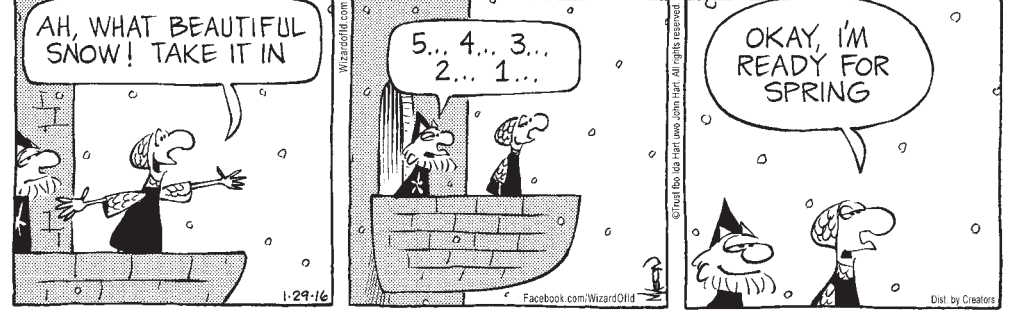
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