

Wife ready to leave gross man

Dear Annie: After more than 30 years, my husband has turned into one disgusting human being. He retired on disability some time ago, and has slowly gone from a very intelligent man to a human cesspool.

He burps loudly and thinks his flatulence is amusing, and he believes that I should just put up with both. After years of trying to be a supportive spouse, this is the thanks I get. It's not funny to me any longer, but I don't have the nerve to tell him that I've lost all respect for him. I cannot bring friends to the house because of his boorish behavior, which I suspect is just what he wants.

I used to admire my husband. Now I wouldn't care if something happened to him, if you know what I mean. If I had one wish, it would be not to have him in my life any longer. Do you have any suggestions? — *Frat Boy's Wife*

Dear Wife: We have a few. If you don't communicate clearly with your husband, he will not know how you feel. Tell him you have lost all respect for him. Insist he see his doctor to find out why he cannot control his bodily functions, since this change in his previous behavior could indicate a small stroke or dementia. (That might get his attention.) Tell him you are ready to walk

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

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out the door, because that is an easy way not to have him in your life. And if you truly mean it, you ought to do it. Otherwise, absent yourself as much as possible. Go out to dinner with friends and leave him at home. Find a hobby that gets you out of the house. Take long vacations to see the relatives. Book a trip with a tour group. Many couples find a modicum of contentment living independent lives when too much closeness becomes suffocating.

Dear Annie: I'm writing about "Crying Mother," who wondered why her once loving daughter-in-law now seems cold and distant. I could be that daughter-in-law. It's possible that it's not a personal issue at all. It may be a life-stage issue.

When my children were young, I regularly saw my mother, as she provided care for them when I was at work part time. We regularly had

dinner with my in-laws and visits with my parents as the kids enjoyed it and I had plenty of time.

In the past few years, I've gone back to work full time. My children are older and are involved with music, sports, church, scouts and other activities. I see my family twice a month and on holidays. I see my in-laws roughly the same amount. This is not distance or estrangement. It's time management. There are only so many hours to go around. We still make time for family, but it is definitely different than when the kids were little and had no activities.

My parents, in-laws and I communicate well most of the time, but with less communication, there may be less understanding. — *Juggling It All*

Dear Juggling: You have made some excellent points. Grandparents often don't understand (and can resent) the time kids spend in various activities and with their friends. Kids tend to become increasingly busy the older they get, and although they love their grandparents, they prefer to be with their classmates. Divorced parents often have similar issues. Open communication is important so that there are fewer negative assumptions.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When there aren't a lot of features in a situation, each detail is all the more precious. This is a main tenant of minimalism — fewer things to concentrate on will encourage a deeper appreciation of each one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The experienced warriors know that there are times when it's best to cross the bridge and burn it behind you so the enemy can't follow. But you only strike the match when you're sure you never want to get back to a place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your friendships need tending to as you move forward: a little refresher here, mending a small tear there, adding new bonding and fresh influences. Just don't let anything get stale. These are treasures in need of polish.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may temporarily lose track of the joy, the passion, the reason ... but don't lose track of your persistence. Keep going, one foot in front of the other. The joy will come back; then the passion; then the reason.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You need to be needed. You love to be loved. You want to be wanted. This is precisely what makes you such a perfect candidate for exciting adventures in love today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In all ventures, Virgos are craving a counterpart — an equal with complementary skills. Singles may still be debating whether a romantic candidate is strong enough to be the kind of partner that is needed at this juncture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though you certainly deserve it, you don't always have cheerleaders around you. It really benefits all if you're able to do this for yourself without feeling weird

about it. Pump up your self-belief. You can do this!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you hang back and talk about it, you'll only talk yourself out of it. Stop socializing, agonizing and analyzing. There's no point, considering you already know what to do. Jump in and scramble through.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can avoid criticism by avoiding production, creation and expression. But what's the fun in that? When you're not producing, you're not being yourself. The most expedient thing would be to stop caring what "they" think.

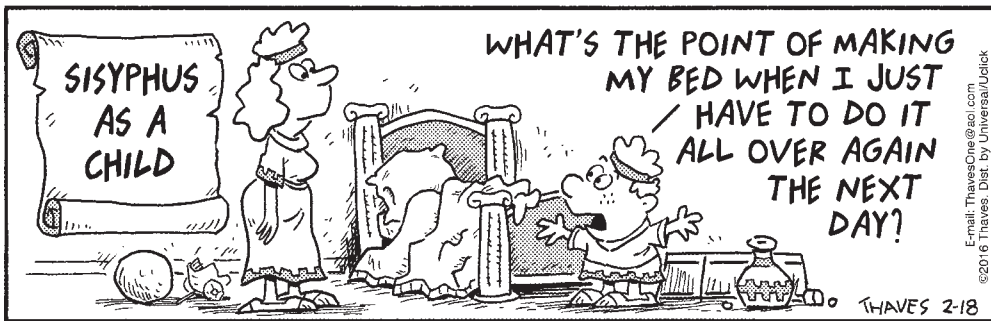
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to choose between two extremes. Examine your choices more carefully. They probably have more to do with applying the resources you have toward being an effective human being.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is nothing mundane to the eye that chooses to see it as mesmerizing instead. You have such an eye. You'll use your talent to help others appreciate the environment better.

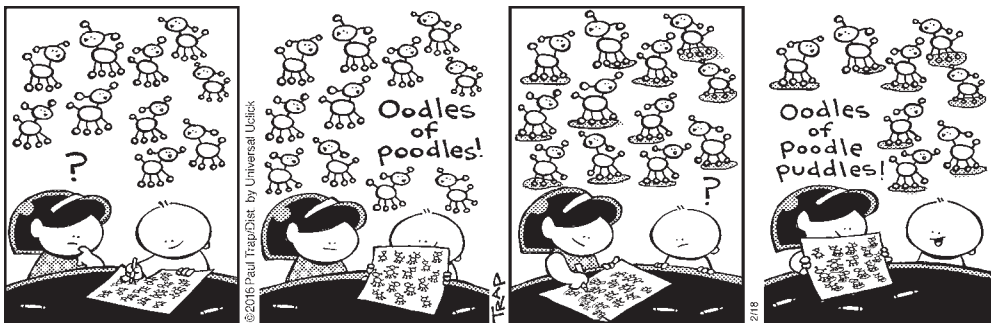
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The trick is to get your imagination and eyes to focus on the same thing in approximately the same way. This will never happen completely, but you can come close and get these two working.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19). Your talent and genius won't be rewarded until your persistence is — that will be a glorious day indeed! You'll be working toward it for the next 10 weeks; then at the start of May there will be a celebration involving many you know and new faces, too, promoting you and launching you into a new stratosphere. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 5, 28 and 11.

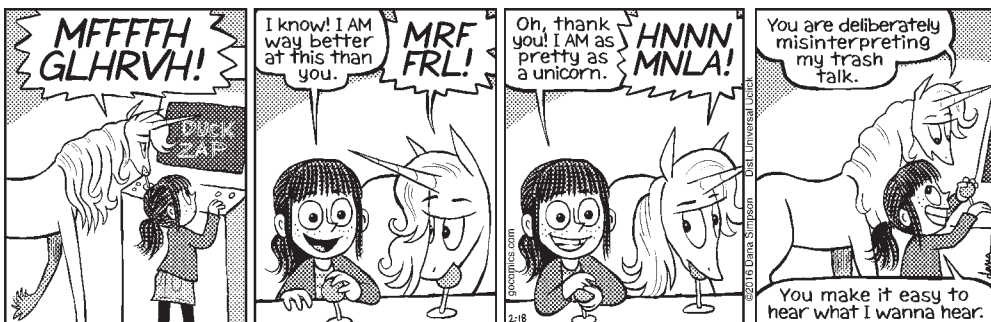
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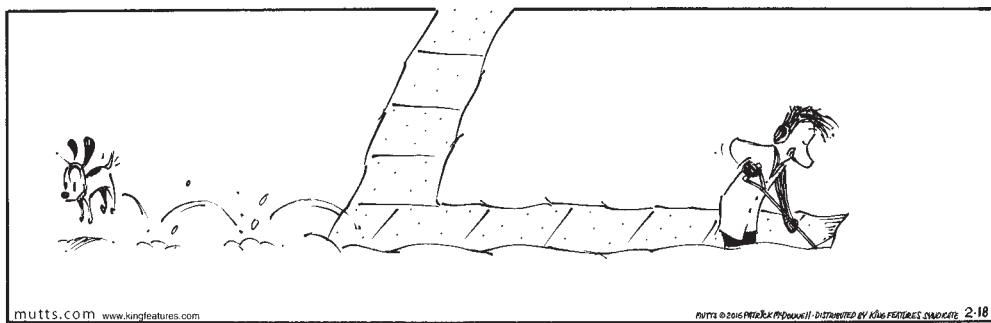
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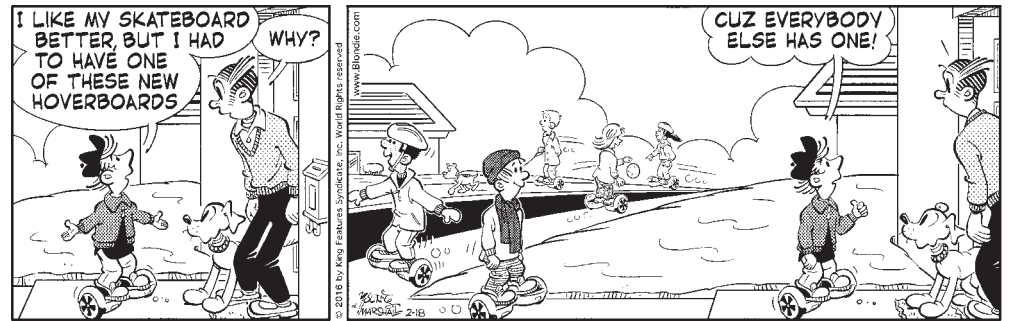
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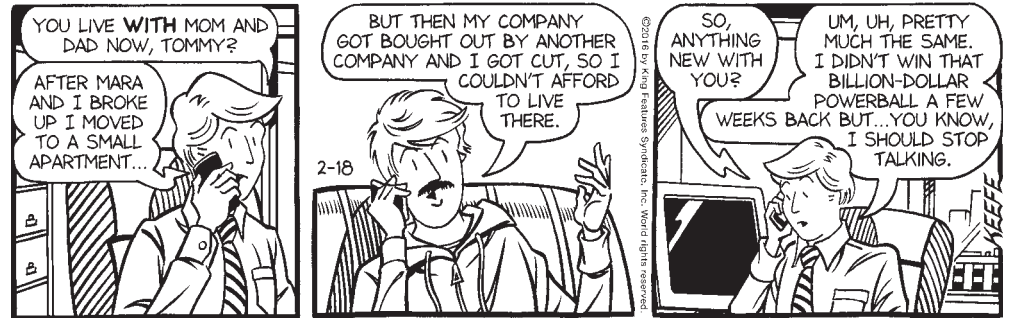
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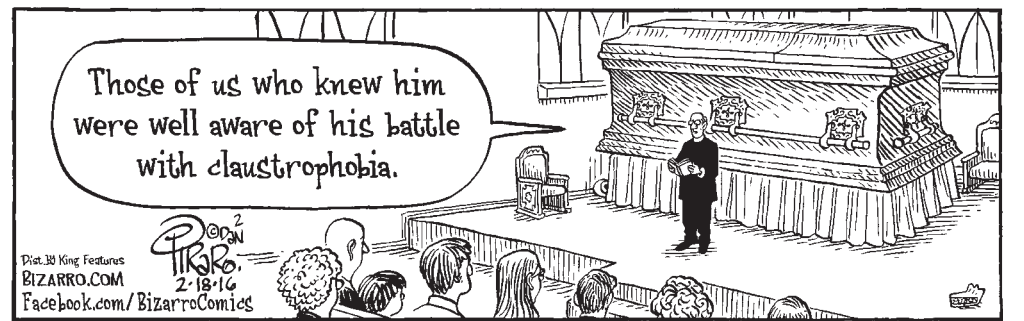
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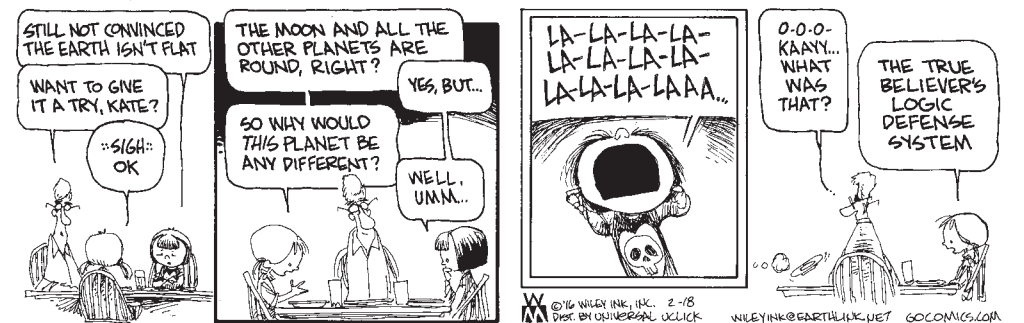
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