

# Bragging brother annoys sister

**Dear Annie:** I have three siblings. I get along great with my sister and oldest brother, but my younger brother drives me bonkers. The only time he ever calls or emails is to brag about how much money he has, how great his kids are, and on and on. Yet, if I ever try to say anything positive about my family, he quickly interrupts and tries to top me.

I am happy that he is so blessed in life, but nobody's life is as perfect as he makes his out to be. My other brother ignores his annoying habit and my sister is always impressed with his shallow, narcissist bragging. My husband and I are comfortable financially, but we don't feel compelled to announce our business to the world. I have started sending his phone calls straight to voicemail.

Am I being petty to not want to hear my brother's constant bragging? He lives in another state and when he comes back to town, he never visits me. I was hoping if I cut off contact, he might get a clue, but I doubt it. — *Fed Up Sister*

**Dear Sister:** This seems to be a rather minor issue over which to sever ties with a sibling. We actually feel sorry for your brother. People who can't stop boasting about

## Annie's Mailbox

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themselves tend to be terribly insecure. They need the constant reassurance that they matter. We don't doubt that it's tedious to listen to, but you can ignore a great deal of this with very little effort. Give his emails a token glance and only answer his calls if you feel up to it.

No one is perfect. Siblings can be annoying. We cherish the good parts and forget about the rest. If you cannot find any "good parts," and the bragging is unbearable, then whatever contact you have is up to you.

**Dear Annie:** You were surprisingly indulgent with "Still Hurting," who was upset that no one inquired about her family in France after the terrorist attacks. This person sounds seriously high maintenance. She probably has resentment issues in other areas of her life. She should focus on the good

news that her family is safe, and share this with others in a positive way, not as way to create guilt. She may soon find herself with no friends at all. — *Feeling Judgmental About Your Advice*

**Dear Feeling:** Many readers agree with you, but not all. Read on:

**Dear Annie:** It was sad to read the letter from "Still Hurting." I'm proud to say that I did not hesitate to call my former girlfriend, "Michele," who was raised in France, to offer my condolences. She was grateful that I called, but to me, it was only natural, almost obligatory, to contact her. Maybe "Hurting" will learn, like I did, who her real friends are. — *Still Hoping*

**Dear Annie:** It is unreasonable to expect our acquaintances to inquire every time an incident occurs near our family. If it was so important for her friends to know that everyone was safe, she should have broadcast the good news. To expect friends to inquire about everything that matters to you is placing too much importance on your own feelings. She obviously doesn't value her friendships if she is so eager to cast them aside for what she considers insensitive behavior. — *Gary*

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The theme is personal power and how you're going to find, keep and use it. Keep going, full steam ahead, and you'll be very surprised and pleased about all that you can accomplish in one day.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're nice, but not so nice that you'll let just anyone take up your time. You'd like to know what's in it for you, and because you're smart, wise and shrewd, you'd like this information as early as possible in the interaction.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll get the distinct impression that the group needs a leader and they're looking to you. The commitment may seem daunting now, but rest assured, this group will calm down once they have a strong leader.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** One thing we learn from time-travel movies is that it's almost always unexpectedly difficult to get back to the "present." You'll have a similar challenge today if you look back. So don't look back! Go forward with velocity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** In order to inspire people, usually it helps to first understand them. However, there will be times, like now, in which you are completely, un-self-consciously yourself, and they respond. You may never know why — just go with it!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You are in the flow of wonder and will experience it from all sides. You'll be the object of someone's curiosity, and this will be almost as fantastic as pursuing your own curiosity about another person.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Even though you know your friends, loved ones and colleagues very well, you do not presume to know what their reaction to something is going to be. People are always growing and changing. You stay tuned in.

orable moments of joy go, the ones that come as sudden relief to prior periods of pain or deprivation stand out most in your mind. That's why if you can help someone out of a pain state, you'll do it, pronto!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Hesitation, procrastination, stagnation and any other "ation" that happens to be keeping you from moving forward has to do with one thing only: fear. Courage is the remedy to all. Take courage; then take a step.

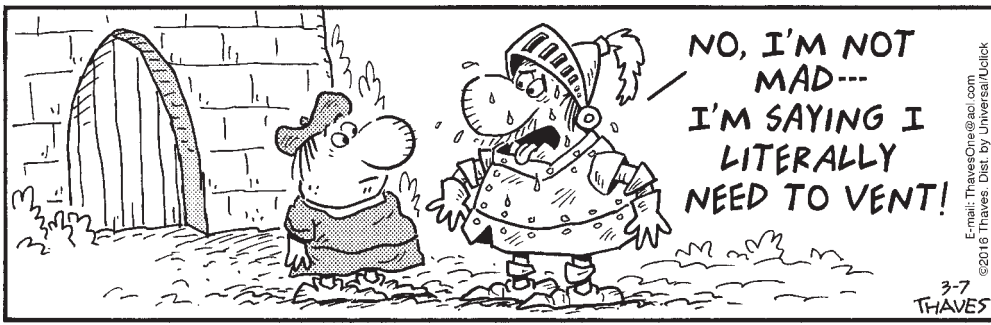
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's an art to asking the right question, and you could definitely be punished (with mild social judgment) for asking the wrong question. Therefore, you're careful to be thoughtful with the information presented to you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** This won't surprise you, but people do tend to think of you as their own. The funny thing is, as much as they all try to claim you, you can't be everybody's. You'll be gracious about it, but you will have to make some choices.

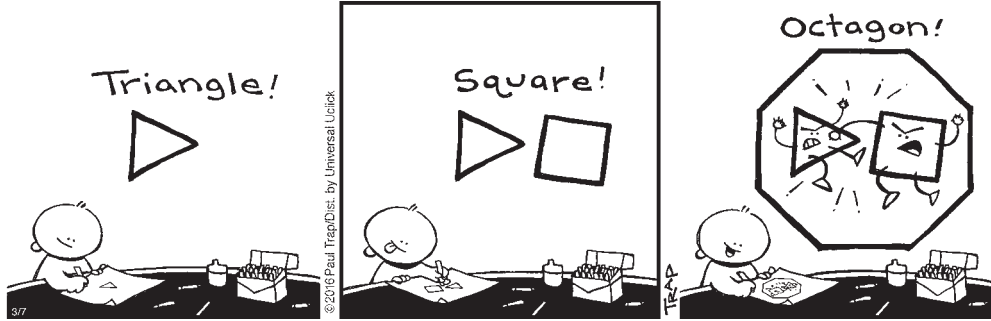
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Seeing greatness should make you want to deliver greatness. If instead it makes you jealous, it only means that you have a little more work to do to bridge the gap between your current and future ability level. You'll get there!

**TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 8).** It's a lucky feeling at the start of this solar cycle, like you've arrived, you deserve it and you'll be ready to want something else in about two months. All the more reason to celebrate big! Your honed aesthetic sense will play into May's success. June features a relationship breakthrough. August begins an education. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 44, 38, 34 and 17.

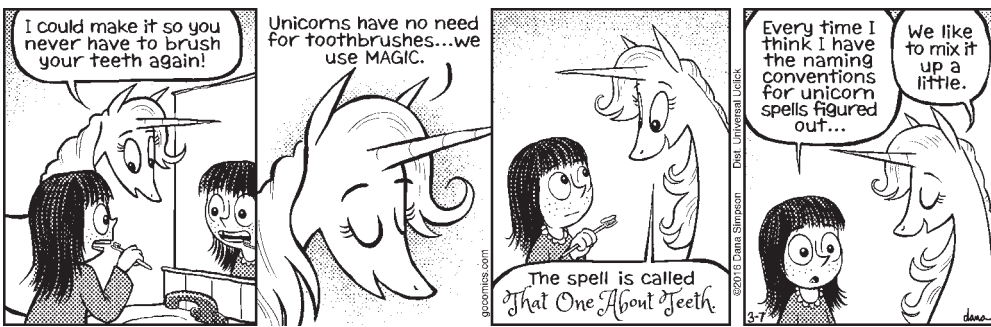
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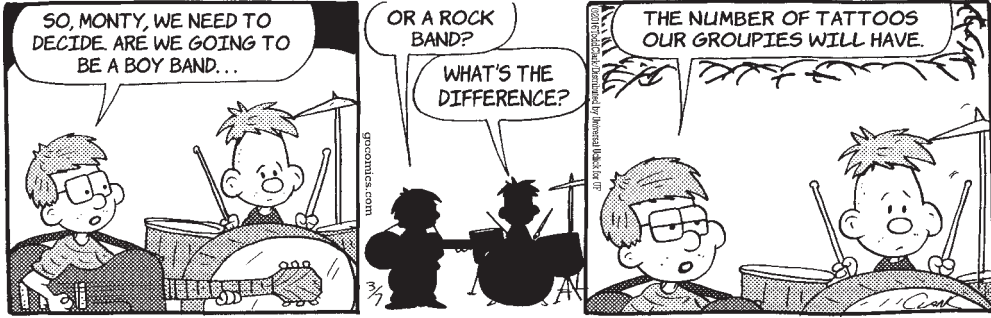
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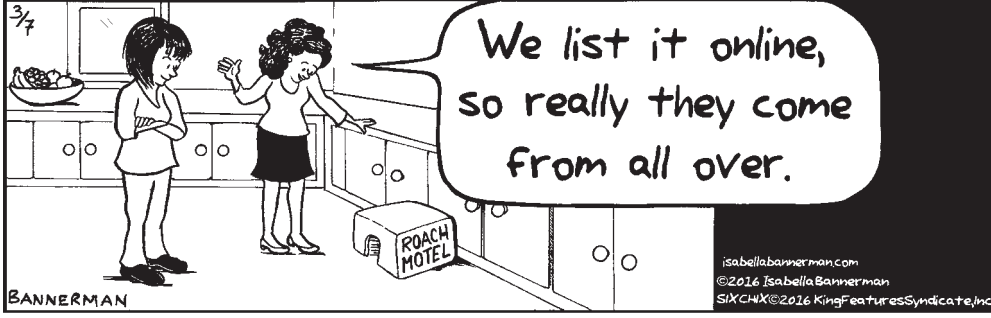
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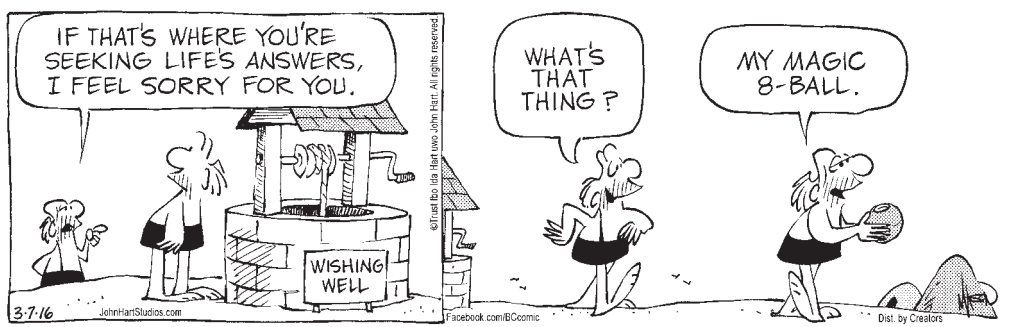
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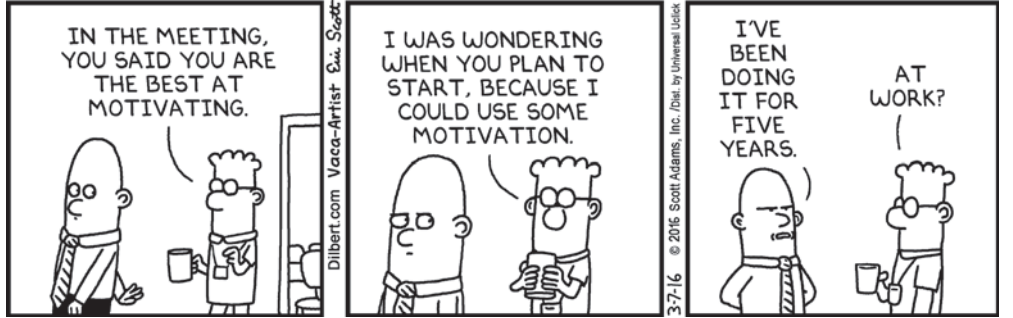
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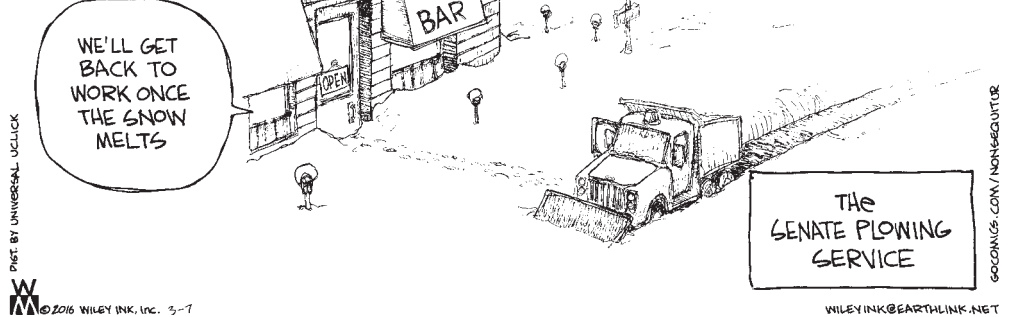
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