

Leave the dog next door?

Dear Annie: Two years ago, my husband bought a dog from a breeder. It is a designer dog that's supposed to be hypoallergenic, since I have very bad allergies to dogs. (I take medication now.)

Here's the problem: We didn't know at the time that the dog was part of a litter that came from our neighbor's dog. The mother still lives with our neighbors and they like to come around every day and take our dog for a walk. Our dog loves them so much that he often crosses the electric fence when he sees his mom outside. If he's tied up, the neighbors will come by and just untie him. This is a major annoyance. Worse is that when they take him for a walk, I have to go to their place to pick him up after, and the neighbor tries to make me feel guilty for not walking him myself.

My husband doesn't have a problem with it since he's away all day and walks the dog when he gets home. Annie, I really didn't want a dog and my husband knew it, but got one anyway. Now I have a responsibility to take care of him and deal with intrusive neighbors. What do I do? — *Desperate*

Dear Desperate: You could go the nuclear route — your neigh-

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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bors are trespassing and taking your dog without permission. You could call the police. But try this instead: Let them walk the dog and take him back to their house. Then leave him there. You know the dog is being well cared for, and your husband can pick him up when he gets home. That way, you get to relax, you don't have to visit your critical neighbor, and your husband becomes more responsible for the dog — which is what can happen when one person in a relationship makes a unilateral decision that negatively affects the other.

Dear Annie: I'm a 74-year-old happily married man. I read the letter from "Confused," the 51-year-old lady who asked whether she should stay in a relationship with her 58-year-old fiancé.

Each of them is twice divorced.

He's had four DUIs and likes to watch porn. They met online and hit it off quickly. The guy moved in with her and took control. She supports him financially. Yet she said that her only problem is his sexual demands, including bringing in another woman to join them. She wanted your advice.

Annie, is this woman so insecure that she can't see the whole picture? She must like the way she's living or she would have dumped this fast-talking bozo a long time ago. I may not have been the perfect husband, but I still pray that we'll stay married for many more years to come. I know a good thing when I see it. Glad to say, I've only been married once. — *Life is Good*

Dear Life: A lot of people cannot see the whole picture when they are in the middle of a relationship. And there are usually some good aspects, which muddies the view. But the guy who is great in bed does not make up for the same guy who won't get a job and yells at you all day. This is especially true for those, like "Confused," who were previously in abusive relationships. They don't know what a healthy one looks like. We're glad you do.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know the "where" and the "what," you just don't know the "who" yet. Your job now is to put offerings in front of as many candidates as possible. The right "who" will show up soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Are you the impulsive child who can't move forward without the resources or permission of your guardian? Either way, the dynamic is getting old. Maybe someone should break the rules. Maybe that someone is you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What makes the job hard and what makes it easy is the same thing: attitude. Attitude adjustment seems to be a headspace matter, but physical exertion can be just as important to setting your energy in a positive way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Old-fashioned thinking could be the cause of conflict, especially with senior family members or colleagues who have been doing a job in a particular way for a very long time. Approach change gently. It's hard for some!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are those who act without thinking about the risk involved. As impressed as you may be with them, you're braver. To assess the risk and move forward anyway takes real courage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be argument over what is a privilege and what is a right. But to the grateful heart, does it really matter? Gratitude inspires more of what's given, regardless of what's deserved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If only you could know the inner lives of others. You'll get a glimpse today though. In fact, you'll be so surprised by a one you thought you knew well, you may reconsider your whole relationship with this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How did you sleep with the moon glowing in your sign last night? Today has a reflective sheen to it as you ponder and assign meaning to the happenings of yesterday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A little bit of pretending may be in order. Don't think of this as lying; rather, consider yourself getting into the spirit of an activity — acting "as if" and hoping that the requisite feelings and interest will catch up with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Apply what you know to the puzzle at hand but do not try to solve anything today. You still don't know enough. Even if only one piece is missing, it's a significant piece that could change everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel funny for asking for things you don't really need when there are so many in the world who have so much less than you do. On the other hand, you can only live your own life. Why shouldn't it be as rich as possible?

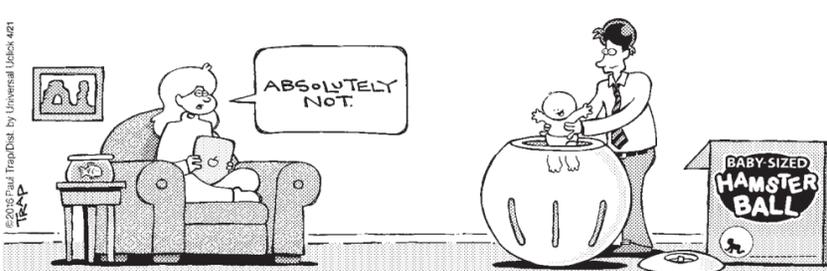
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no reason to be jealous, but if you do find yourself turning green just know that this can be a positive emotion. It teaches you what you really want and what you could work on.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 22). There's one area of your personal life (a problem you've dealt with for a long time now) you'll finally fix up, bringing new zest to your whole scene. Successful results will require you to take an action that doesn't come naturally for you, but you'll master it nonetheless. What eluded you will be in your grasp in September. Leo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 30, 45 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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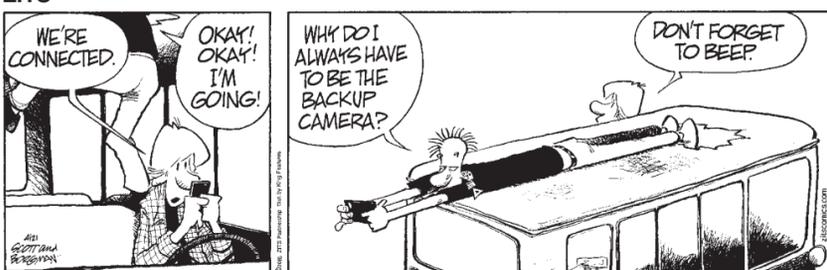
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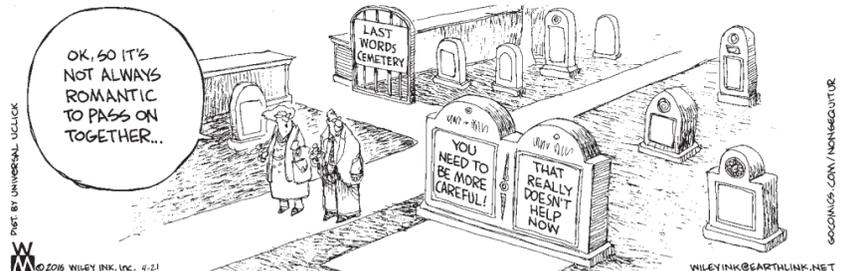
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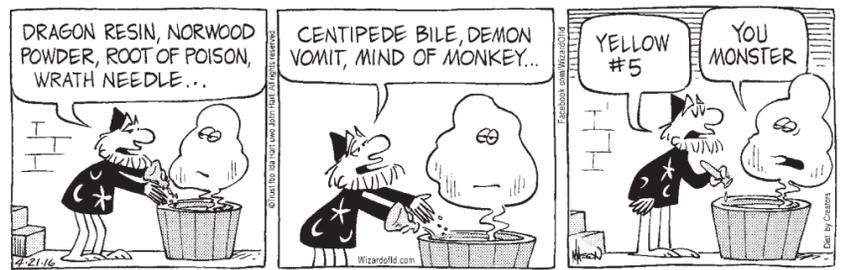
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