

Destroy shocking letters?

Dear Annie: Please advise your readers not to hold onto any letters that contain family information or intimate details of a relationship that should remain secret. I was cleaning out my mother-in-law's house after her death and came upon letters addressed to "My dearest wife and son," written while my father-in-law was away at war. As I started to read, it was immediately evident that the letter was intended for his wife's eyes only, as it contained not only graphic intimate details, but also some family information that was the opposite of what my husband had been told all his life.


Thankfully, I was able to destroy the letters before my grieving husband saw them, as he would have been traumatized by their content. I am sure his mother never wanted anyone to read what I found. Please, readers, don't do this to your loved ones. Remember, one day someone will be going through all your private correspondence. — *Shocked in Missouri*

Dear Shocked: We, too, are shocked that you took it upon yourself to decide what your

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



husband was allowed to see and what he was capable of handling. It would depend a great deal on the information. If, for example, the letter said your husband was the product of an affair, he is entitled to know his genetic background. On the other hand, if the letter said Daddy regretted having a son, we can understand your desire to destroy it.

It might have been better to put those letters aside until some time had passed and then tell your husband you found some disturbing information, letting him decide whether to read them or not.

Dear Annie: I'm a 48-year-old female and have been dating a 52-year-old man for over a year. "Jed" has yet to say he loves me. He says he likes me a lot, and I'm his "baby." I see

him every Saturday, we email twice a day, and he calls every night. I've never been married, though I've been in several long-term relationships and am still friends with the exes. Jed has been divorced three times and has an adult daughter. He only gets along with the most recent ex-wife.

Jed is very loving when I see him, but sometimes I feel hollow after — like I'm the desert after a dinner date. Sometimes he's friendly, then quiet, and occasionally he won't call. How do I find out where I stand? When I ask, he blows it off. He told me his ex wants him back, but he's not interested. But he'll go over to her house to help her out occasionally. What do you think? — *Third Wheel in California*

Dear Third Wheel: The actual words don't matter as much as his actions. A year is long enough to feel secure in the relationship. If you are "hollow" after a date, it does not speak well for the dynamic between you, and we don't see the relationship changing a great deal. Either accept things as they are or move on.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While your heightened awareness of your surroundings is of great use to yourself and others these days, the time to let loose of your vigilance is coming — tomorrow. So don't relax just yet!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Welcome to yet another day when you'll be around people who don't share your beliefs. These foreign minds have strange ideas about how the world works and the meanings of things, but you'll be more amused than offended.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Many wonderful ideas look a lot easier than they really are. What starts out as the best idea ever will develop into a royal pain unless you quickly get other people involved to help handle the dozens of details likely to come up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A disagreement exists between you and your dear comrade. Why does everything have to be solved? Take it on if you must, but if you don't, rest assured there are truly have enough commonalities to go on for a long while.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You make others feel comfortable — maybe too comfortable. You're constantly getting information and stories you wish you could un-hear. Take heart in the fact that you're doing an important public service.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Inanimate objects will provide interesting obstacles for your mind and body to find a way around. Being forced to deal with impossibly cumbersome resources and inadequate tools is what will make you great.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To want too much from someone is an act of rejection. To want nothing more or other than what the person naturally delivers is an act of love. Expect a loved

one to be who they are and do what they do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been exposed to many different ideas and beliefs. Furthermore, you've been praised and rewarded for your open mind. This isn't the norm in many societies. One of the hardest things for you to tolerate is intolerance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are so many ways to go wrong, most of which can be easily accessed from a state of impatience. So cling to the one virtue that will most keep you from regret: patience.

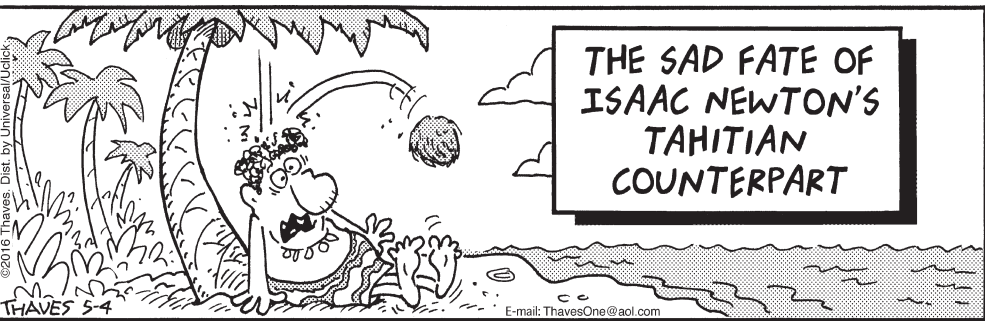
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not out to change anyone's mind, and you resent when others try to change yours. Also, this almost never works. Once you've decided on what to do, it's as good as done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're putting out to the world is a little on the unusual side and frankly so are you — at least according to the new people lucky enough to experience what you do today. Gather contact information!

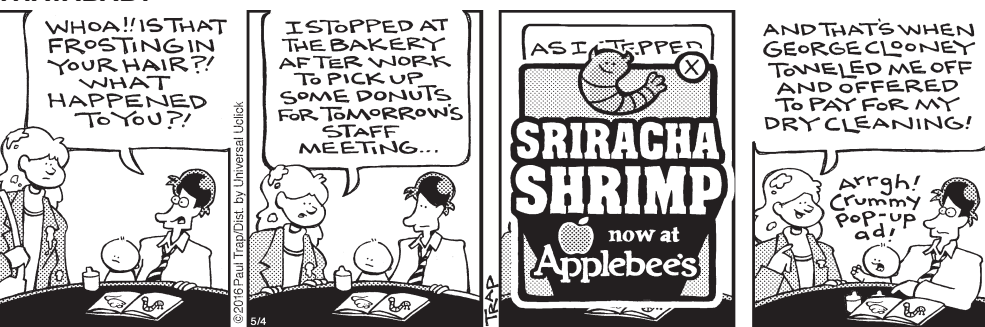
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you understand how a person's past can affect his or her behavior, you are slow to judge the one who responds more drastically than is necessary. Your wisdom will one day be deeply appreciated.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 5). Over the next six weeks you will expand your social horizons through church, networking groups and community functions. Your love life will flourish, too. Something lost will be regained in July. You'll be appointed to a position that will utilize your talent for rousing, energizing and motivating those around you. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 28 and 3.

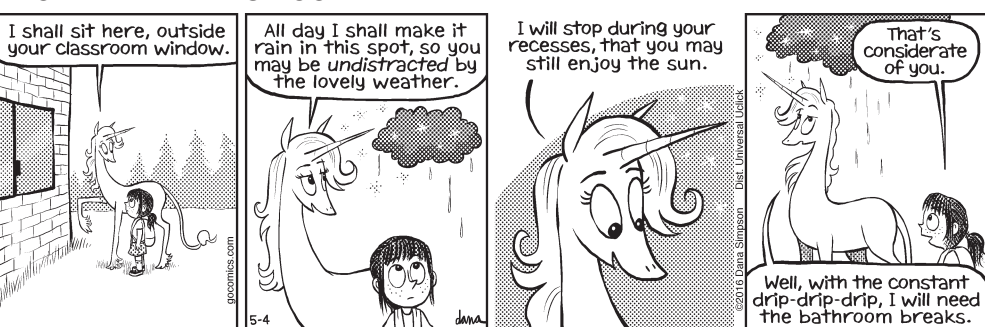
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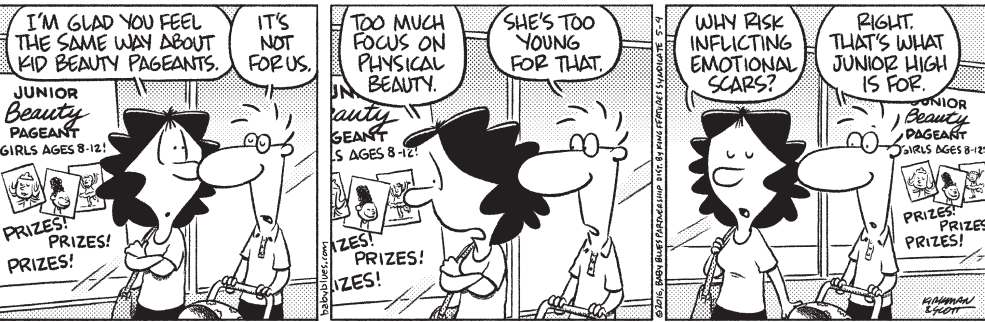
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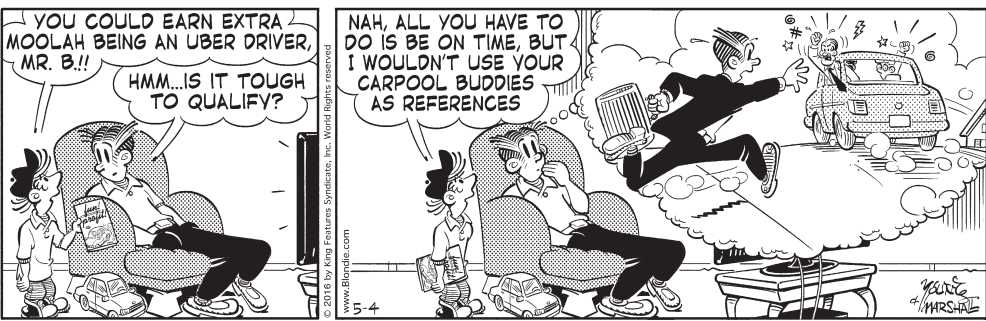
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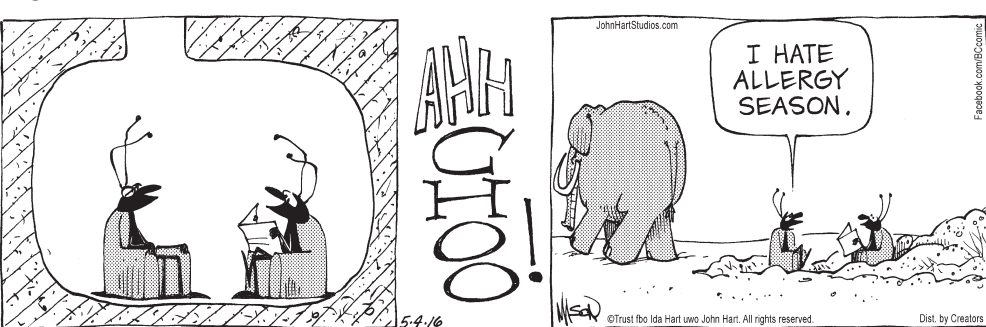
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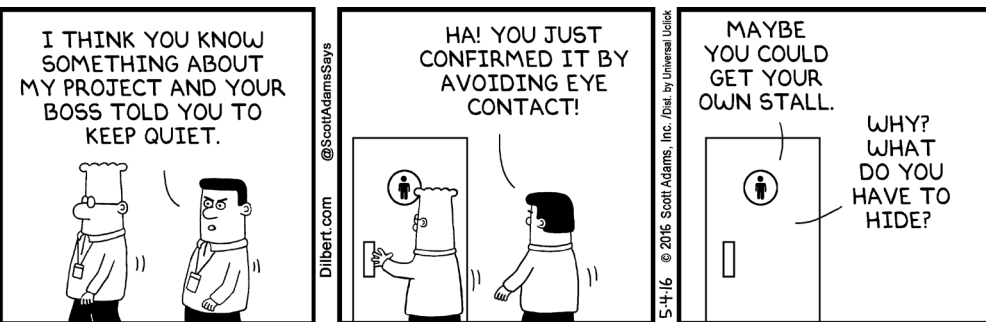
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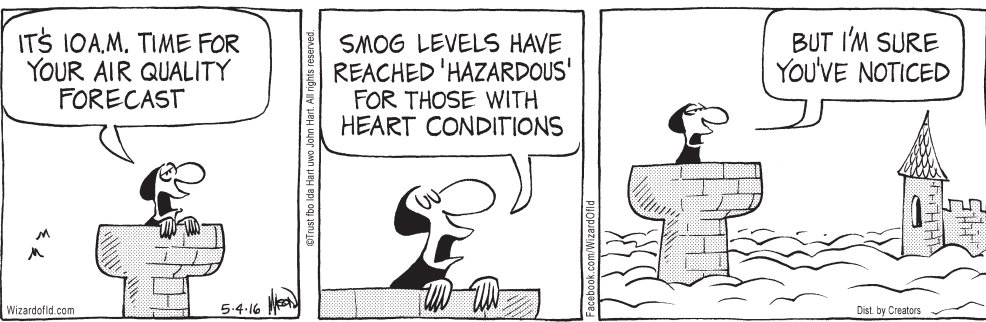
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