

# Should she invite matchmaker?

**Dear Annie:** My college sweetheart, Ryan, and I are now engaged. We met at a bar because of a mutual friend, "Nancy." Ryan and I are both shy people, and we were even shyer back then. Nancy actually grabbed my arm and dragged me over to meet Ryan that night because she had a feeling we'd like each other.

I lived with Nancy for two years during college, in a big house with lots of roommates, and although we were never best friends, we were still in the same friend group. When Ryan and I got engaged, Nancy contacted me saying how happy she was and how excited she was to be a bridesmaid because she was, in fact, the "reason" we met. That was an awkward moment!

We are paying for the wedding on our own, and it will be a very small one, meaning we have to be selective about whom we invite. We can't even afford to invite all the people we would truly love to have there.

Nancy wasn't originally on the list, and now I don't know how to tell her she's not a bridesmaid or even invited to the wedding. A limited budget can only go so far as an excuse, but it truly is the only reason. We are looking at a little over \$100 a head. — *Budgeting Bride*

## Dear Annie



By **Annie Lane**

Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Budgeting:** This pushy matchmaker may be on your last nerve, but she is the reason you two met. Yes, it would be an additional person to feed at the reception. I feel your pain there. Weddings have gotten ridiculously expensive, and it's hard for average folks to keep up.

But out of respect for her role as the catalyst for your marriage — and to avoid bringing bad juju upon your big day — do whatever it takes to make it work and invite her. Just ask a friend to keep an eye on her and head off any impromptu self-congratulatory toasts.

**Dear Annie:** I'm retired. My wife died five years ago. My house is paid in full. It is my pride and joy.

I spend most of my day doing various chores around the house. I am pretty handy and don't mind tacking on projects.

If I had to pick one part of the house that I am most proud of, I'd say it is my yard. I have a green thumb. I love gardening. I am out there every day planting, trimming or weeding. But my lawn, my grass — that's my crowning achievement (and I have three kids).

The reason I am contacting you is that some jerk lets his dog poop on my lawn. I confronted him about it once before, and he apologized in the moment. Then I saw him letting his dog do his business on my lawn again that same week.

My house and my yard are all I have. I want to have a good relationship with my neighbors, but this guy is pushing me. If he picked it up, it would be one thing, but the guy just leaves it there. I bet he's the type of guy who spits his gum out on the sidewalk. How should I handle this stinker? — *Get Off My Lawn*

**Dear Get Off My Lawn:** I doubt Robert Frost had this sort of thing in mind when he wrote about good fences making good neighbors; nevertheless, the line applies here. Try putting up a small, attractive fence that won't detract from your lawn's supposed glory. Then that lazy stinker will have to find a new neighbor to rattle.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You can't make other people happy if they don't want to be. But for the most part, they do want to be, and all it takes is a little sweetness from you today to push them into cheerfulness.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're in the mood to blast outside of your known realm to experience something practically unrecognizable to you in your current version of reality. For maximum security in this venture, take a guide.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The job on the table today is so big and involved, there's no way you can accomplish it single-handedly. With both your hands and two or three capable people on your team, you'll work miracles.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You've chased after dreams before — and caught a few, too. Then there are those you lost in the pursuit; maybe you even felt like you lost yourself. Because you had that experience, you'll help someone else today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The only people who never fail are those who never try. Your courage is turned up, and you're even more receptive to intuition than usual. One remarkable move could change everything for you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The offer on the table will last three days. So, though there's time to think it over, you should also know that the longer you wring your hands in indecision, the less enthusiastic the other party will be about the deal.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Shared joy multiplies; it's the same with optimism and excitement. In the sharing of grief, the opposite emotional math occurs. This is why you don't

mind a friend unburdening on you. Together you'll make the load bearable.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You have people in your fold who are more animated than the others, always with extra excitement going on. They take more energy, but they also generate more energy. Today you'll find them quite worth the effort.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** It's a funny world you're in and it will almost seem as though the people around you are deliberately putting on a comedy just for you. Your kindred one will see the humor, too.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Decisiveness is a part of you now - it's in your bones. When you make a move, you'll do it quickly so only the ones who are tuned into you will have time to track it and join you or counter your efforts.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Pleasantness and good cheer is a talent. There's a bubbly charm inside you, but you don't always feel it's appropriate to release it. You can turn on this effervescence at will.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're powerfully tuned in to the physical world, and as you move your body, this connects you to the world beyond, where secret knowledge is imparted and creativity flows strong.

**TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 5).** Take charge and decide what your experience will be. A honed version of your last plan will work this time. August brings the money you need. In January you'll trade an unhealthy habit for a healthy one, and oddly enough, it's an effortless process. February will bring peace to a relationship that's been historically rocky. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 19, 2, 31 and 15.

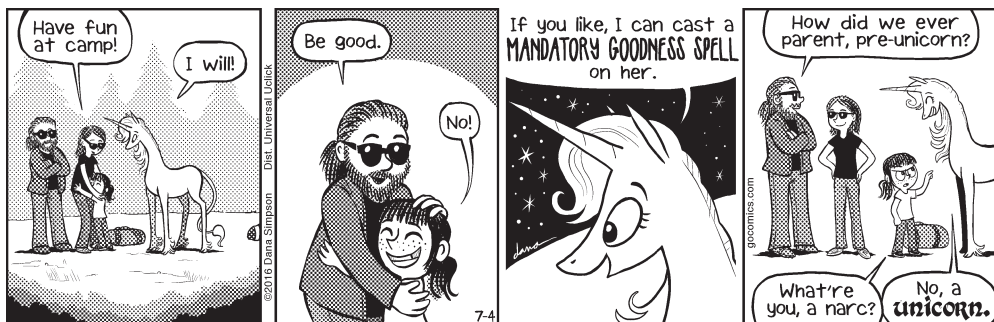
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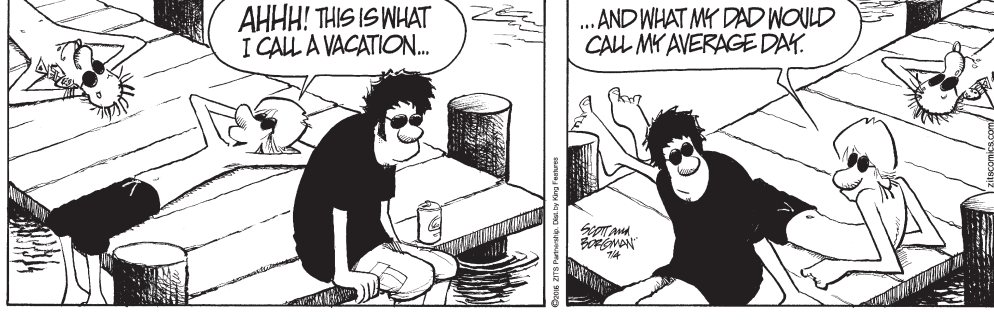
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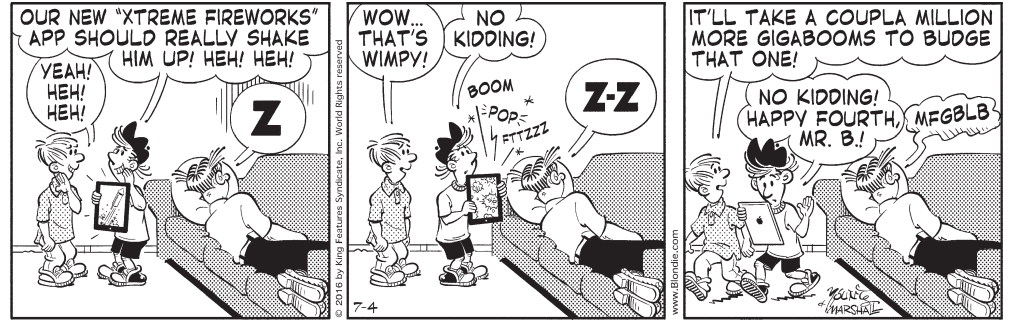
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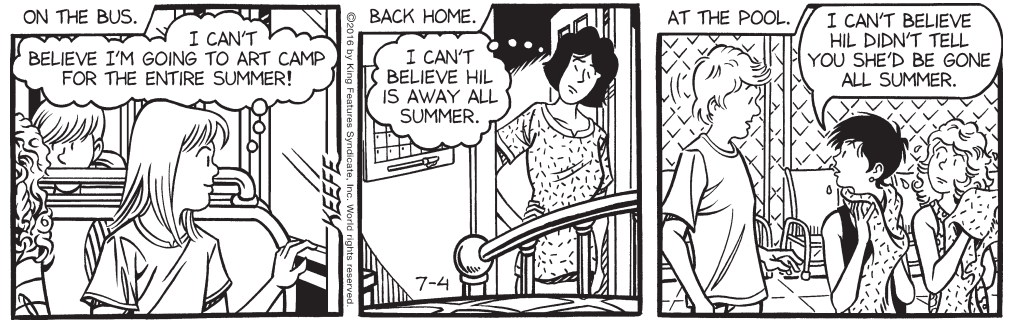
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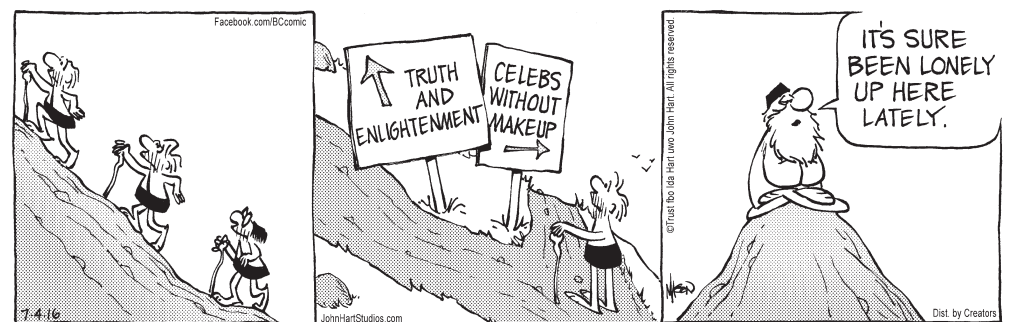
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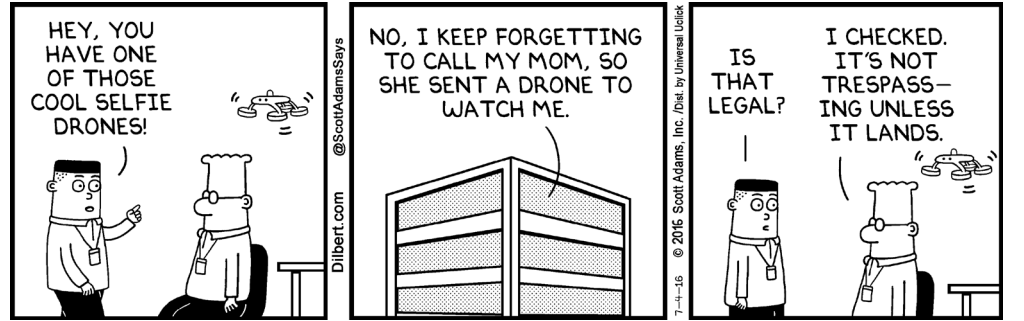
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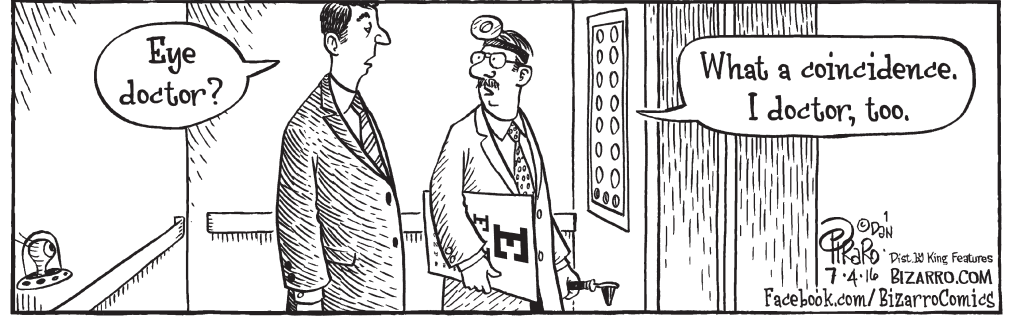
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