

Cheating for love of b-ball

Dear Annie: I love basketball, but my husband has no interest in it. Our two boys, ages 6 and 8, play at school sometimes but have not yet discovered what a great game it is. I grew up with two brothers who played all the time, and I was a tomboy for most of my childhood, falling in love with basketball at an early age. We live in a big city with an NBA team, and my one luxury in life, which is an annual gift from my husband, is my season tickets to our team's home games.

Season ticket holders are assigned the same seat for every home game. The man sitting next to me this past season is friendly and intelligent, and best of all, he loves basketball. Over the first few weeks of the season, we struck up a friendship. At first, it was just about basketball, chatting at halftime, cheering when we won, that sort of thing. Then we started meeting before and after the games, and he told me he is sick of his wife and their only child is a brat. I can't wait for next season to start so we can have an airtight excuse for seeing each other. Until then, we have to sneak around. I keep dreaming of running away with him and starting a new family based on our love of basketball. I can picture my two sons playing basketball with him, getting guidance and having fun. In my dreams, that would be heaven. What do you think? — *A Basketball Fanatic*

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Fanatic: Heaven? If you act on your fantasies, you are asking for an early death, and heaven is not where you'll end up. Your two children and his child are dependent on both of you. Get your thumb out of your mouth and grow up. You are playing with fire, not free throws, and it is time to reinvest in your marriage. Those three young lives depend on it. Your husband buys you season tickets to the game you love, and you repay him by ... cheating on him? He sounds like a good guy who deserves better.

Dear Annie: My uncle has been a passionate stamp collector for the past decade, ever since his retirement. He has said that he loses track of time as he pursues rare stamps, catalogs them and studies intricate details of each one. He has a network of friends who share his hobby. Most are great, but one of them persuaded my uncle to let him stay at

his house, and the next thing you know, some of his most treasured stamps were missing. Of course, his guest denied taking them, and my uncle had no proof. But about a year later, some of them showed up for sale on eBay. My uncle contacted the authorities, who alerted the seller that he was offering stolen merchandise, which led back to the man who had stayed at his house. My uncle wanted to prosecute but then said it would be too much of a hassle. He only got back half of the stamps that were stolen, and now he is very guarded about making friends in the hobby.

I always thought that his passion for stamp collecting was keeping him alive, but now I am worried that he has shut down. He really doesn't trust anybody in his hobby. My uncle and I have always had a unique bond, and I feel so sad for him. What can I do to help him renew his enthusiasm? — *Helpless and Seeking Solutions*

Dear Helpless: Because you are close to your uncle, I'd suggest asking him about his longtime friends in the hobby. You could reach out to them to ask for their help. They may have had similar experiences. As long as your uncle continues to pursue his hobby — albeit with caution — and his old friends are with him, the odds are good that he will be enjoying his stamps as much as ever. It just takes time.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Feeling overwhelmed? It's a positive sign that your life is big and broad, rich and full. You've been ambitious. You've challenged yourself. Accept the anxiety that goes with this state. It will be far more comfortable than fighting it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Often the mental picture is better. Then there are times when it's not, when the real life version blows it away. Today those instances will be well worth the risk required, so take a chance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you're expressing has value, whether or not you're right. Recap all communication so as to be sure you've been heard and understood.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may not get it finished today, but if you work on it a while you'll get closer. Bring a friend or colleague in on this, too, while you're at it. There will be no big glory in finishing alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Multitasking will rob you of your mindfulness. Instead of doing many things at once, do one thing at once.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When it's your turn to relax, take it. Kick back, daydream, binge on media, do the thing that gives you the feeling like you're one long, stretched out sigh. This is healthy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In order to make yourself happy, you might have to get past some of the ideas you have about who you're supposed to be. Anyway, a lot of those ideas are based on other people's expectations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Everyone is different. A party might energize others, while you might find it to be a lot of work. Both are true, but since you can only be in your own body, you may as well cater to that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your thoughts may seem to ping chaotically around in your head, but once you hold a pen in your hand they will order themselves quite nicely. Make lists; gain clarity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The Italian proverb suggests, "One who walks in another's tracks leaves no footprints." It's a good idea if you're doing something illegal, but in all other cases wouldn't you rather make an impression?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love is: getting to know another person's triggers so you don't accidentally press against the wrong one. If you're going to cause another person pain or pleasure, you'd rather do it mindfully.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You owe your success to saying "yes," but you could also make a case for "yes" being your downfall. For now, just make sure you're not being taken for granted.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 9). The music is in you. Sing it out! Know that other people will dance to your song if you get it out there loud enough for them to feel the beat of it. The next two months will introduce you to new friends. August and February are your luckiest months in business. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 3, 19, 47 and 8.

FRANK AND ERNEST



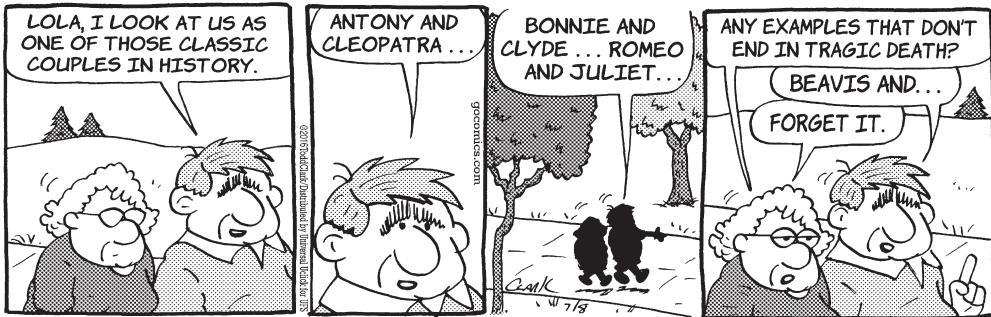
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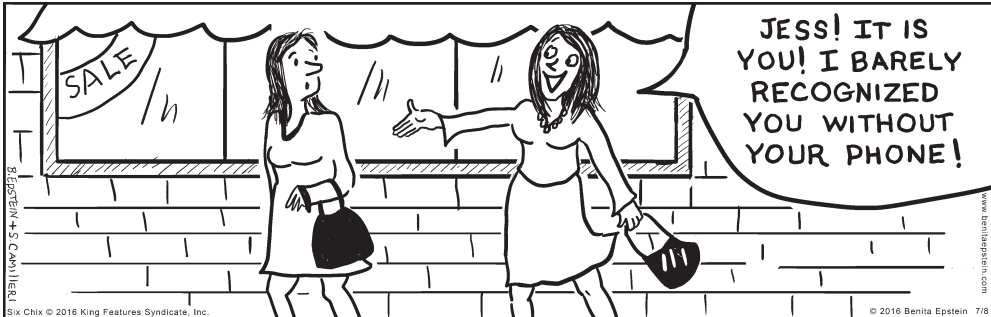
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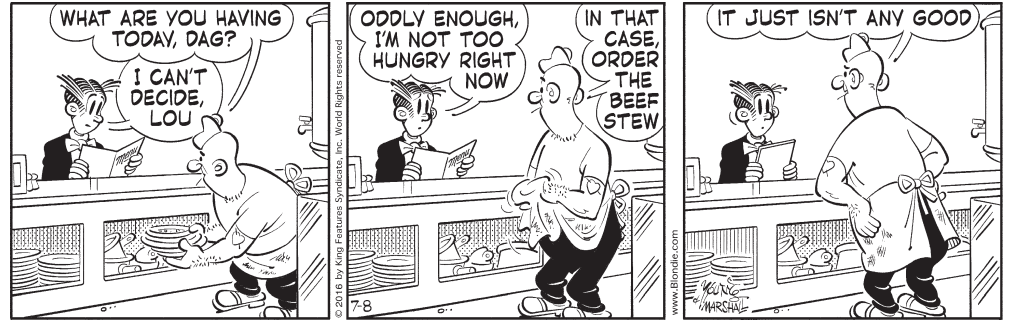
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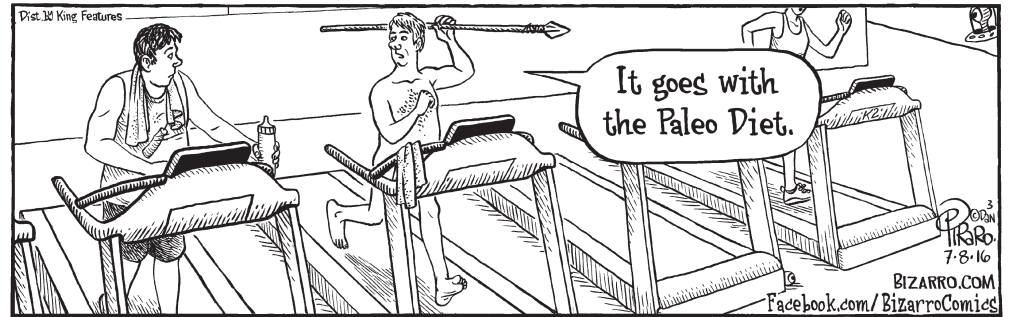
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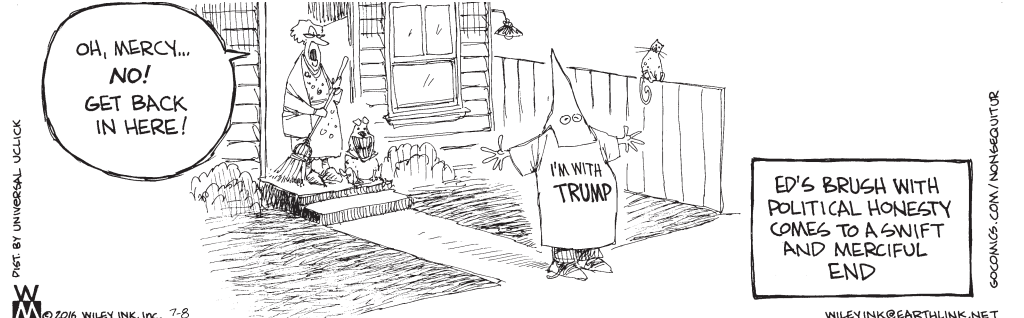
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