

Co-worker romance fizzles

Dear Annie: I am a 31-year-old man with a question about a woman who is 28. This story started in August of last year with my asking this woman on a date. We work together but were in different departments at the time. She said she doesn't date the people she works with. I didn't buy it, so I kept flirting with her. And she'd flirt back.

This went on until December of that year, when we saw each other in a neighborhood bar. She came up to my friend and me and pulled on the hood of my sweatshirt. Then she started to walk away, but my friend stopped her by standing in front of her. I talked to her like normal. Then I kissed her on the cheek. Then my friend left, and we hugged. I rubbed her back, and she rubbed mine. I kissed her hand. Then she turned away, and I playfully smacked her on the butt. We left at the same time but went our separate ways. The next day, we saw each other at work, and she came over to me and gave me a peck on the cheek.

After that, it all went downhill. I saw her sitting on another guy's lap at work. (He works in a different department than we do.) I took it personal. Here she was, the girl I was attracted to, sitting on this guy's lap. I felt as if she'd lied to me. I think

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

that maybe she'd forgotten I asked her out, but I have told her I want her to be my girlfriend on several occasions. So I think she knows how I feel about her. After all this, I'm not sure what to think. Any help would be appreciated. — *Pining*

Dear Pining: Dating co-workers is great — if your goal is to save time by simultaneously ruining your personal life and your career. I would like to know why you didn't buy it when this woman told you she doesn't date co-workers, because you should have bought it, thrown away the receipt and gotten the message in your head, even if she later sent mixed signals.

Save yourself a lot of strife and look for love outside the workplace. This sounds like an astonishingly immature group. Case in point: Unless it's Bring Your Child to Work Day, no one should be sitting on any-

one's lap at the office.

Dear Annie: I have just turned 65 and recently retired. My spouse is several years younger and not able to retire for four more years.

Although I am staying active, including handling all of the household chores, she seems to be resentful that I'm enjoying an unstructured schedule. She grills me every evening on what I did all day. Some days, I just like to sit around reading a good book. This makes her angry and makes me feel guilty. It seems as if every conversation ends in an argument.

I worked my whole life and have looked forward to this time, but now I'm considering going back to work part time at nights just to avoid this daily confrontation. — *Retirement Unrest*

Dear Retirement: Kick up your feet and enjoy that good book. You earned it! Jealousy is rearing its ugly head here. You haven't done anything wrong.

With that being said, marriage is about communication. Talk to your spouse and find out why she's so resentful. Show empathy and recognize her hard work. But don't be afraid to remind her that you are in fact taking care of all the household chores.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your mind operates differently from the minds of others. Be glad for your unique mental process and you'll set up your work and domestic flow in a way that supports the way you think.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you can't add value to the situation, you won't even want to be in it. When you get lost (a natural response in such unfamiliar territory as where you'll be traveling today) just remember that you're there to bring the goods.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). However low or high it may be and however long you've been in it, you never take your position for granted. Humility is the way of the angels and saints and of all the forces of good in the world today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No yawns allowed: It's time to think! As the scene grows stale, the person who has intriguing ideas and a fresh perspective automatically becomes the most attractive person in the room.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The short-term perspective isn't giving you enough juice to stay motivated. So what about the more distant future? Does it shimmer enough to keep you reaching? If it's not glowing, perhaps it's time to pitch your goals a little higher.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In order to be persuasive, you have to get the facts right — a no-brainer for you. Details and integrity are the spokes in your wheel. Now you just need to give those facts an emotionally compelling context and you'll be set.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The opportunities come to you — a result of your hard work. Capitalizing on these opportunities will be a matter of skillful communication. Your

influence is growing exponentially.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will have many people wanting different things from you today, and you'll somehow make each feel like his or her needs are the most important and pressing in the universe. Brilliant! **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When projects go off the rails, people often look back and note that calamity could have been avoided were people paying attention to the job at hand. Look. Listen. Check twice. Stay aware. Something is at stake.

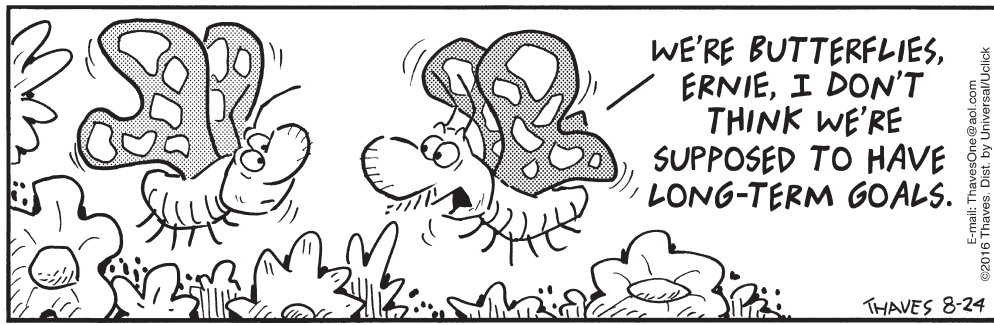
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you take the time to understand the concerns of the people you're dealing with, you'll save yourself from a lot of wasted effort in trying to solve a problem that no one is having.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You make others the star of the show — even when it's your show. Maybe that's why your social demand is higher than you'll be able to meet. Expand your network and reach by getting people together in groups.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You love to come across a problem you already know the solution to, but what you love more is learning something new. Today you'll be an especially quick learner with an exceptionally wonderful teacher.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 25). You're a visionary and a world-class planner. You'll lean on this strength with extremely positive results this year. Loved ones will also thrive as you include them in your dreams and schemes. Leave little to chance for the victory in November. Creative brilliance will bring in big bucks and new friends in December. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 49, 3, 33 and 16.

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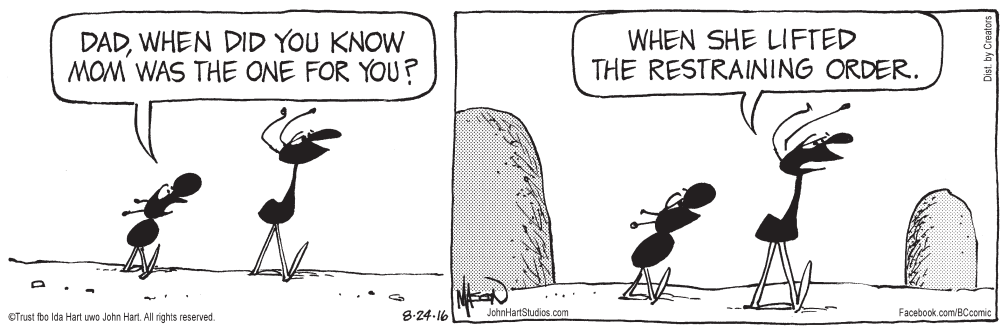
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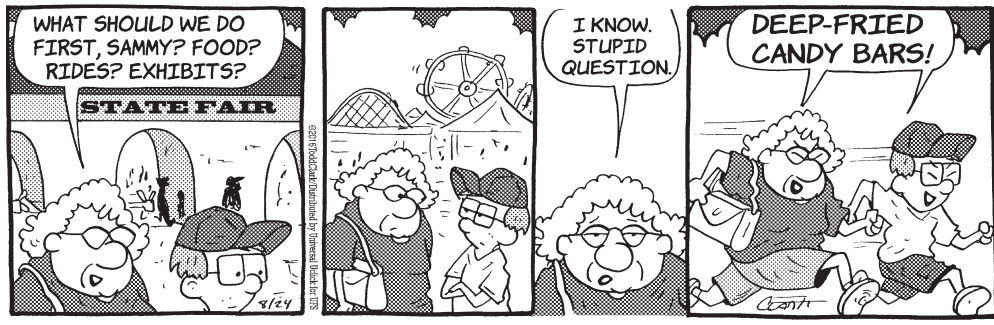
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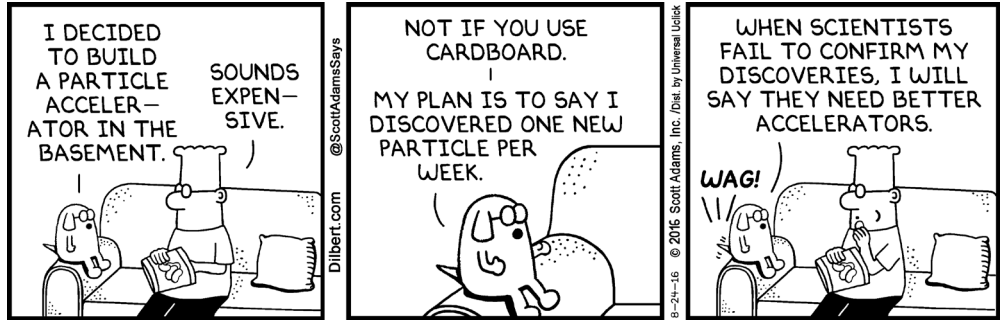
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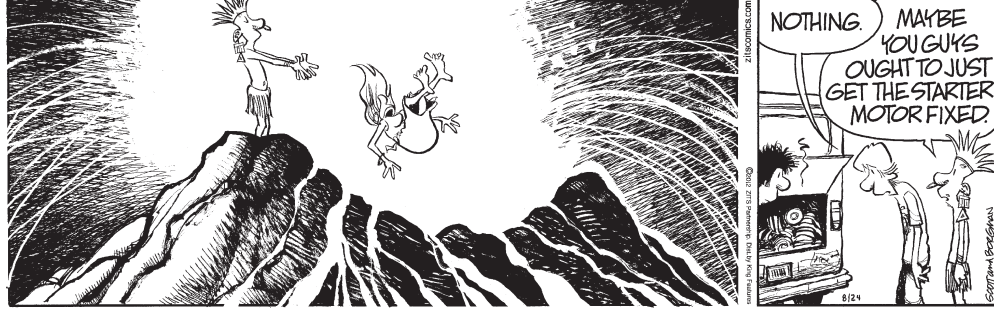
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