

Mom hates sibling rivalry

Dear Annie: My children are grown and have wonderful families of their own, but my daughter is extremely jealous of her brother and his family.

My daughter moved to another state after she graduated college (she is the eldest) and lived with her father for a while before she married and had her two children. She lived there for almost 24 years before she came back to our hometown. My son and I were close because his dad and I were divorced for four years before I remarried and we only had each other. Even after he moved out and got married, we remained close.

Five years ago, my daughter divorced her husband, moved home and married a nice man here. But never in these five years has she had us down to her home for a meal, though we've had them over to our place many times and on most holidays. On the holidays we don't host, we are all invited to my son's, two hours away. My daughter complains because of the drive, yet she won't have any of the holidays at her house. She always has excuses — that her house is too small, she can't cook, etc. But we have answers for all of those.

When I talk about her brother, she gets upset, but I talk about her

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

life and compliment her all the time. She lives 1 mile from me but never comes by. When I go there, she is too busy watching TV or sleeping.

When my mom was alive, there was never a day I didn't talk to her, and most days I just dropped by her house to see how she was doing. I wish I had this kind of relationship with my daughter. She refers to her brother as "the chosen child."

I am 68 years old and don't want to die and have my children hate each other after I'm gone. — Moderator Mom

Dear Moderator: Your daughter is so attached to that chip on her shoulder she should give it a name. It's possible she's holding on to a lot of anger from her divorce; maybe she blames her ex-husband for their living in another state for 24 years and she is taking that resentment out on

you and your son because she feels as if she missed out. Regardless, she's being unfair.

Continue to shower her with affection — but refuse to indulge the self-pitying remarks. You clearly care equally about both of your children. Her attitude is no reflection on your love.

Dear Annie: I don't know whether anyone else has this problem, but it grosses me out, big-time!

Once in a while when I get my mail from the mailbox, it has cockroaches mixed in. I have called the post office, but the people there say the roaches crawled into the mailbox by themselves. Anyone who knows anything about roaches knows that they are too smart to crawl into any place that would roast them alive as soon as the sun hits it. I don't want to cost anyone a job, but the problem needs to be fixed. Any ideas? — Grossed Out in Missouri

Dear Grosse Out: Unless you've subscribed to a "Bug of the Month" club for amateur entomologists, no, there's nothing normal about finding cockroaches in the mailbox. Talk to other people on the block and see whether they've had the same problem. If they have, call the post office again, and ask your neighbors to do the same.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Who you really are is not always the same person you've allowed yourself to become. It is the same for everyone. What is also the same for everyone is the potential to steer things back on course at any moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those who react badly to criticism prevent themselves from growing, because they alienate the very people who can enlighten them as to how they (or their work) are being perceived.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The person who is trying to seduce you away from your work or your goals isn't really on your side. Those who want you to succeed wouldn't dream of tempting you in another direction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your friendliness puts all at ease. There are those who take themselves too seriously to fully understand the importance of small talk and its role in building rapport. But even these types will not be immune to your charms.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Because someone wants your approval, this person is unlikely to speak of anything unflattering or controversial. You're better off with the truth. Make it clear that honesty is a stipulation of your approval.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Is what you want really worth working so long and hard to get to? That future day will come whether or not you worked long and hard — only, if you don't put in the work, that future day won't have nearly the same significance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want to know that the other person will be there and be loyal. This is not too much to ask, though it's not the right time to ask it, certainly not directly. Look for clues instead, and trust your instincts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A Chinese proverb says that the eye can't see its own lashes. This was before the invention of extra-long eyelash extensions. Still, it's possible that you possess a quality that is invisible to you though others see it clearly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be catering to an ego today, and this is tricky business for sure, especially if the ego in question happens to be your own. Go gingerly, as no good will come of alienating your subject.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Certain emotions are unobtainable without a good amount of self-awareness. Jealousy and shame fall into the category; so do pride and admiration. Today you'll put what you know about yourself to good use.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You want to be dazzled by greatness and are therefore rooting for every source of potential amusement in your world, hoping (sometimes against hope) for the very best presentation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your path will converge with another's. Neither route is wrong. Neither is trying to own the whole path, just needing to take it over for the moment to get to the next place. All can be solved with courtesy.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 30). One of your birthday wishes will come to fruition next month. Now through the year's end, a great sense of self-discipline will well up in you. You will expertly manage your emotions, curb your cravings and shine in the social arena of your choice. Family will grow in January. Finances improve in October and May. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 10, 4, 6 and 45.

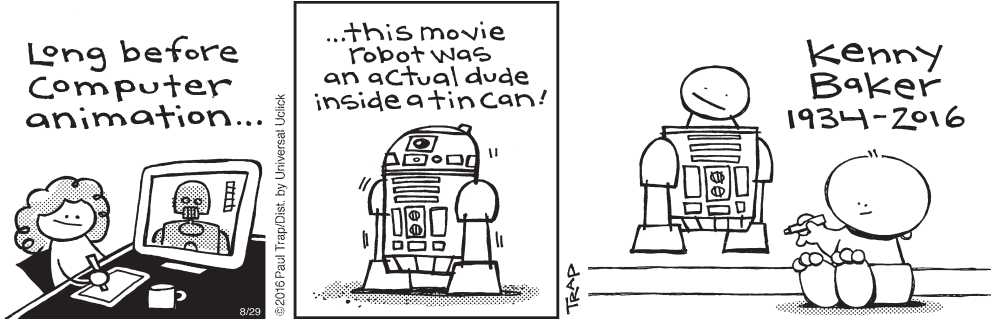
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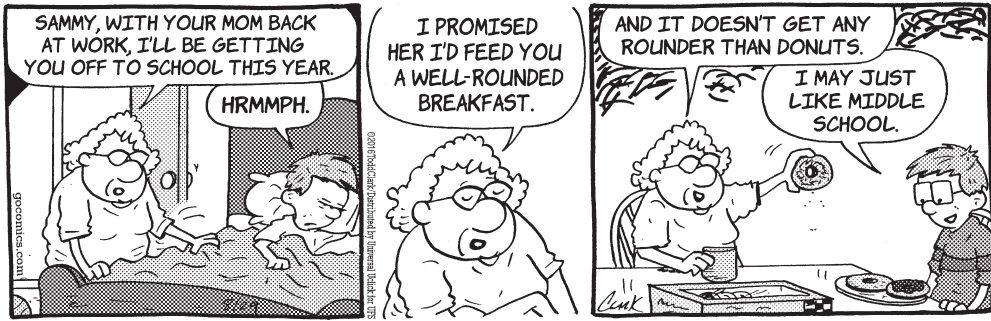
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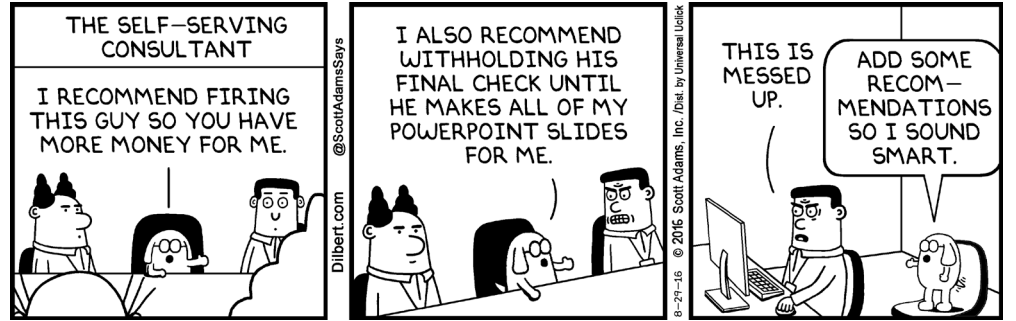
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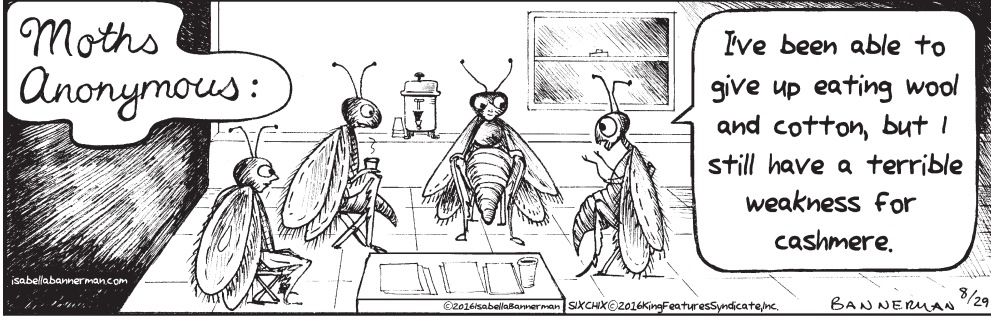
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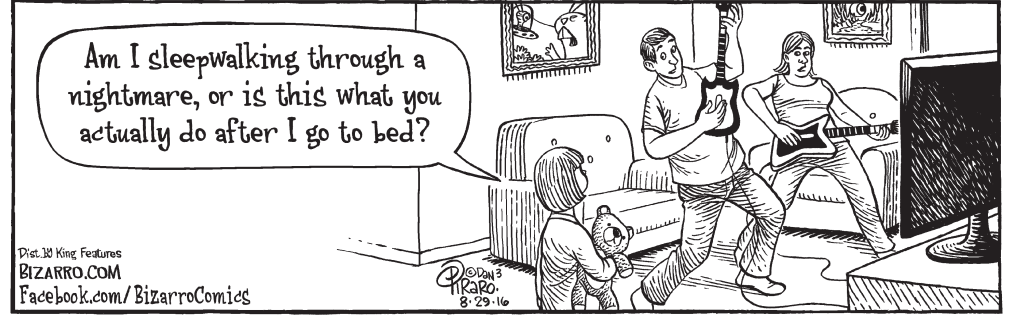
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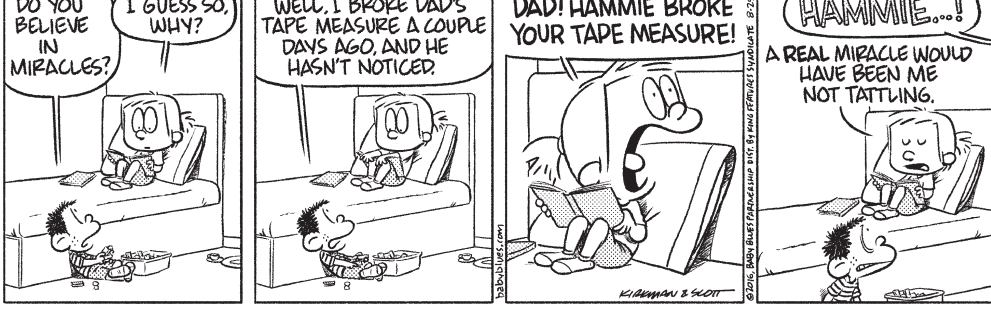
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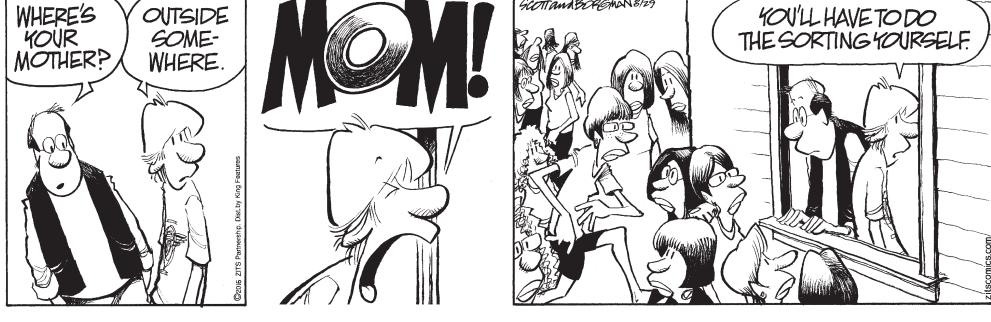
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