

Groom's mom a problem

Dear Annie: My fiancé, "Kyle," and I are supposed to get married in three weeks, and the venue — his mother's house — is falling through. Kyle and I are on a budget and were engaged for a year trying to save up enough to even begin planning our wedding. Then Kyle's mother graciously offered to lend us her house for the event. It's a big old place with a lovely backyard. We thought it would be perfect.

We picked out food options (with my aunt and cousins as the catering team), took care of the DJ (we put together a massive playlist of all our favorite songs) and sent out invitations (which our graphic-designer friend made). It was shaping up to be our dream wedding, even on a modest budget — that is, until a week ago, when my soon-to-be mother-in-law went into meltdown mode.

She's stressing out majorly, saying it isn't fair for us to put so much pressure on her. The thing is, I'm not even sure what she's talking about. Kyle and my bridesmaids and I have taken care of all the big items on the to-do list. And we're really laid-back people, so even if something were to go wrong or be missing, we wouldn't get angry. We just want to get married. Unfortunately, she's blown every-

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

thing out of proportion and, just to make things worse, dug up old family drama. She and Kyle got into a huge argument about a week ago and haven't spoken since. What should we do? Postpone the wedding? Look for another venue? Sedate her? — *Bride-to-Be or -Not-to-Be*

Dear Bride: Put away the tranquilizers. With some luck, words will be enough to calm the mother of the groom down.

Weddings can be a sensitive time for all involved, filled with excitement and nerves. Marriage is a huge milestone and signals major change. Kyle's mom is probably feeling a mix of competing emotions. She's happy that her son has found in you a life partner, but she's also probably dealing with the fact that she will no longer be the main woman in his life. She

could be taking out her anxiety on something she can control — namely, the venue.

Be patient with her. The fact that she was so excited to lend you her house to begin with leads me to believe that she can be persuaded. You and your husband-to-be just need to assure her in every way possible that everything will be handled by the two of you; her only duty is to be there.

Dear Annie: As a newly single woman who has been staying in motels alone for the first time in my life, I have realized that I am completely ignorant about at least one subject. I have no idea how much tip you are supposed to leave for the maid. Some motels leave an envelope for this purpose. I usually end up leaving all the cash I have, but I don't know whether that is too much or that is too little. What is the right amount? — *Uninformed*

Dear Uninformed: The American Hotel & Lodging Association recommends tipping housekeepers \$1 to \$5 per night, leaving cash in a marked envelope or with a note. Visit the AHLA website for a handy gratuity guide, which includes suggested tips for shuttle drivers, concierges and other hotel staff.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Are you going to do what you said you would do? That's all they care about today. Hopefully, you underestimated what you would do, and the delivery will be over your promise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You might be very bored with what's going on today, and that's really just a challenge to look a little deeper. There's always a pretty thing to be admired, a problem to be solved. There's always a day to be made.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): When you don't exactly know how to manage what's going on down low, look up high. Is there a higher thought that resonates with you? A guide, a cloud formation, a sky that speaks to you?

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Small thinkers will go disguised as "reasonable" people. They may tell you about limits that are true for them, but that does not mean that the same rules apply to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The market is calling you. You've something to sell, and they definitely want it. How will you position this? Knowable, likeable, trustable: You're all these things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Something you set up one way will end up another. There is nothing reasonable you can do about this. Settle in. That is just another way of saying, "Chill!" It's going to work when you calm down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): "With liberty and justice for all!" Well, that's a big statement with a big meaning. Your sign of balance and fairness, you really get that, live it and mean it. What are you going to do about it today?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your plans are solid, meaning that nothing has been left to chance — but chance doesn't like that at all. This is the time she will rebel, elbowing her way into the equation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The dynamic between two people is compelling. Fake or real — it depends a lot on the medium. Of the ones you observe now, you're wise to be a little skeptical.

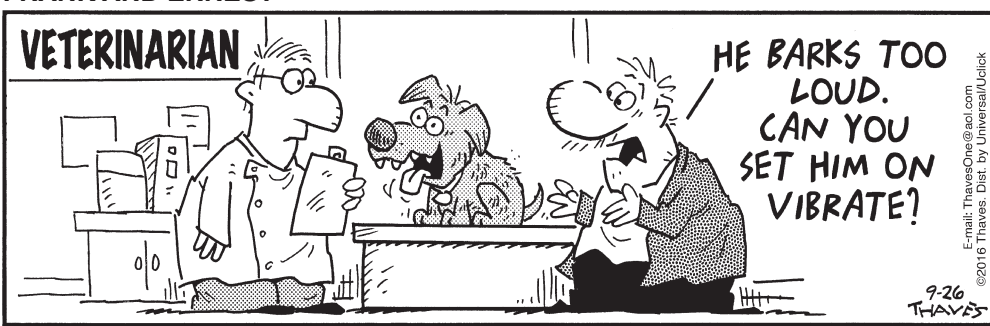
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is safety in being shy. If you feel like hiding, it's a signal that you will benefit by doing the opposite. Take one step forward. Put yourself out there, even if it feels foolish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You sought a position in the middle because you thought it would be logical and easier, but it wasn't. There is no middle. It's always the start of something or the end of something.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Life is an experiment. No one ever really knows how a choice will turn out; they just get adept at playing their odds. And the only way to do that is by building experiences — choosing and then choosing again.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 27): You can't help who you are. That's the sad way to look at it. Who you are is a gift. That's the happy way. This is your year to start making good on all those things you thought were "different" or "flawed," because it turns out that those are your assets. Lean into it. December and June will be your best months financially. Libra and Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 11, 13, 29 and 4.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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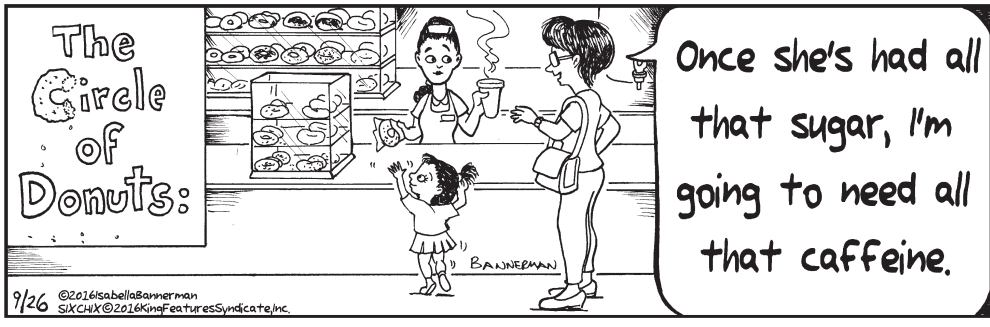
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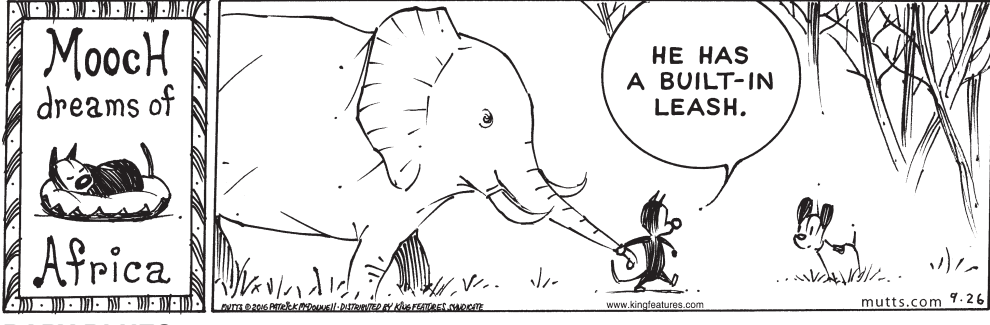
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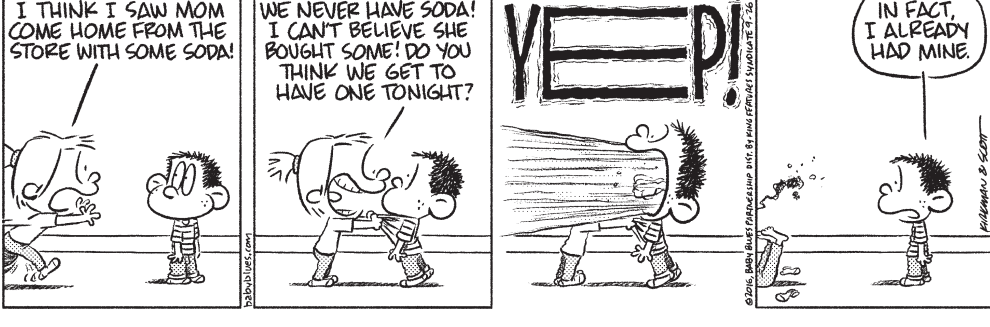
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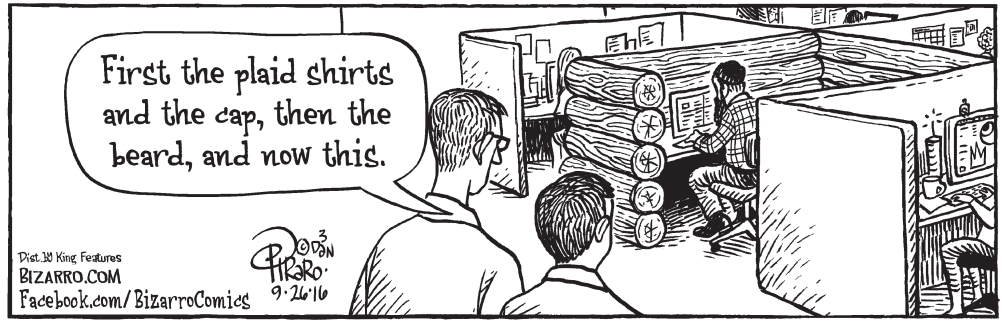
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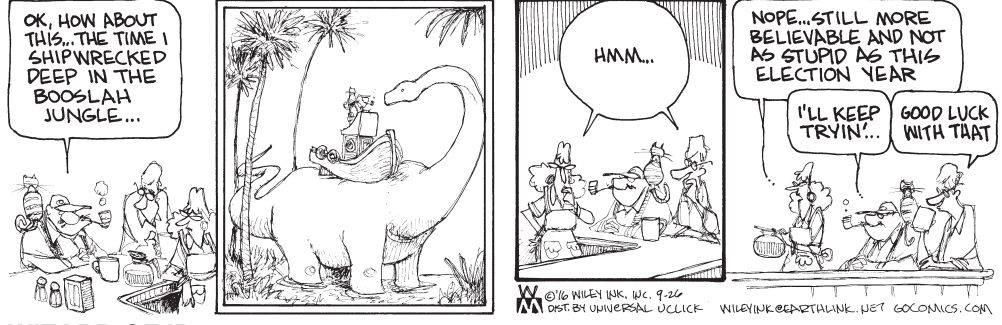
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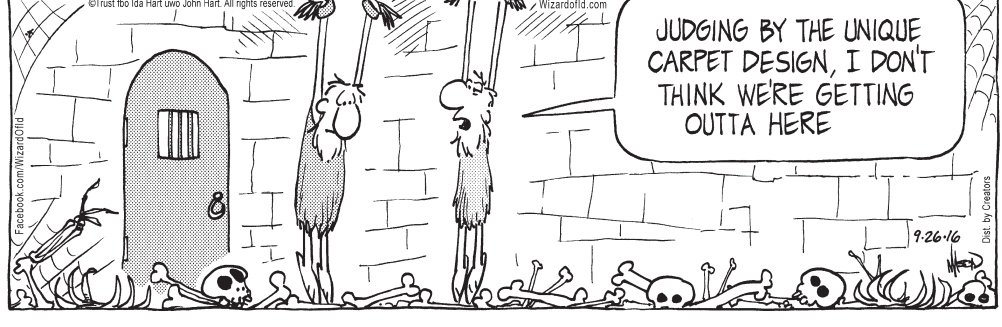
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