

Eager to reveal a secret

Dear Annie: My love and I are both about 70 years old. My love, "Marjorie," belongs to a community service group, which she has been in now for 30 years. Her husband died four years ago.

Marjorie dated "Arthur," who is from her community group, for a year. They broke up, and about four months later, we started dating.

When Arthur and Marjorie separated, they agreed to keep each other's secret. He is addicted to pornography, and she is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Every time Arthur and Marjorie see each other at weekly community meetings or social events, Arthur thinks Marjorie is protecting his secret and putting it above our relationship. I want to tell Arthur, politely, that I know the secret, thereby making our relationship first and the secret second. Marjorie will not let me do it. What to do? — *Angry*

Dear Angry: Simmer down. Marjorie is right. You should absolutely not say anything to Arthur. She probably shouldn't have told you about Arthur's issue in the first place. But the fact that she shared

such an intimate secret with you shows that she really trusts you. Why isn't that enough? Do you really need to hold something over Arthur's head to feel good about your relationship?

It sounds as if you have some deep-seated insecurity issues that have nothing to do with Marjorie or Arthur. Reflect on that and try to feel more comfortable in your own skin. If you let jealousy drive your decision-making, you're headed for a wreck.

Dear Annie: I disagree with your reply to "Senior in Connecticut," who asked you to weigh in on those who address senior citizens as "honey," "sweetie" and other such terms. You replied, "It's all in the tone. Yes, it can be demeaning and rude." But you also said that the words are "terms of endearment" and that one should "take into account the speaker's intention."

When I am called "hon" or "sweetie" by people I am seeing in a professional capacity, such as medical personnel with whom I have no close relationship, they have no right whatsoever to use

"terms of endearment" with me. And a supervisor has no business using such terms with employees. "Terms of endearment" are just that — terms reserved for those close and dear to us. I would never dream of calling my doctor "dearie." What gives him the right to think he is free to call me that?

The practice is rampant nowadays, and it is nothing but rude and demeaning. Those who have let themselves adopt the habit of using such terms need to stop immediately. Period. These people should ask themselves, "Would I address the first lady or president in that way?" If the answer is no — and I pray no one would do such a thing — they have no business addressing someone with whom they do not have a close relationship in that manner, no matter the person's age.

When strangers call me those offensive words, I either call them something like "snookums" in return or say, "I prefer, if you must address me, to be called (my name)." But most have no clue why I'm offended and continue to do it.

It will never not set my teeth on edge. — *Seething in the Great Plains*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's hard to imagine that the ability to move and the freedom to roam could ever get old to you, but it will. It's the boundaries, rules and obstacles that keep it fresh.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Historically, the attention of an important person has made you feel brilliant, special, vivid and amazing. Now, if you could only re-create that feeling without the external stimuli. Today's fulfilling pursuit may be just the ticket.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one has a golden life; everyone has unique challenges, and that particular loveliness that you wish you had is not the happily-ever-after it appears to be. But if knowing that doesn't make you want it less, go for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Figuratively, it's like you're pointing to the moon and they're looking at your finger. Don't worry, they'll catch on in time. For now, be patient. Maybe stop pointing. Gaze and admire and they'll look, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you're too good for too long, it's as though your virtuosity is a feather tickling under the chin of a sleeping party goblin inside who wants to break out and do as the wild things do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's not about doing OK anymore; it's about doing better than your Facebook friends. To be happy, either stop comparing yourself or get more diversity in your social media feed so there's a fuller range of comparisons to make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your loved ones need help balancing the basics of sleep, good nutrition and exercise. If their energy dips, poor decisions and troublemaking will

happen. Lead by example and the day will bring many high points.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Money and your ability to earn it — that's what's on your mind today. What can bump you into the next level? The answer will be both financially and personally fulfilling.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though spiritual fulfillment is where it's at, dealing with your physical environment is how to get there. Cleaning and organizing will be a most effective form of meditation, and the benefits will be immediate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An amazing thing will happen once you release the need to be impressive and important: You'll get a rush of energy you can apply toward making a difference in the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you could tap your life with the magic wand of transformation, where would you apply it? Today you could turn a hobby into a business, a friendship into a romance or one positive behavior into a habit.

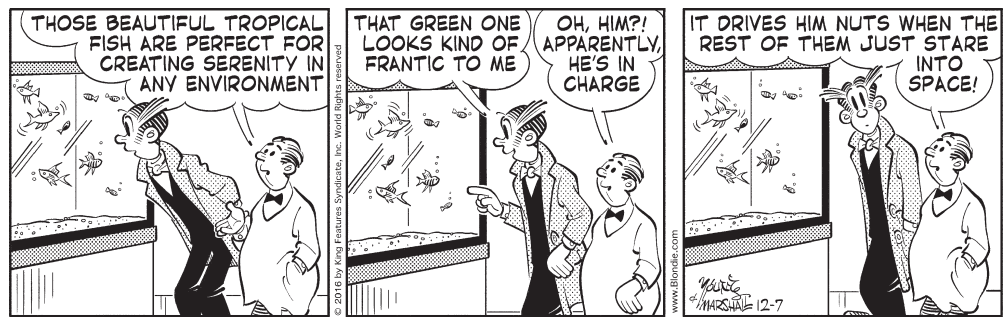
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The current drama will not wash over like a wave. It's more like a riptide with its own agenda. Your choices: Resist and get carried away, or swim parallel to the shore and eventually you'll find your way out of it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8). Your charm will win you opportunities and your work ethic will turn them into lasting bounty for you and yours. Adventures with one special person will be featured in March and June. Your bank account will swell in May. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 25, 11, 28 and 37.

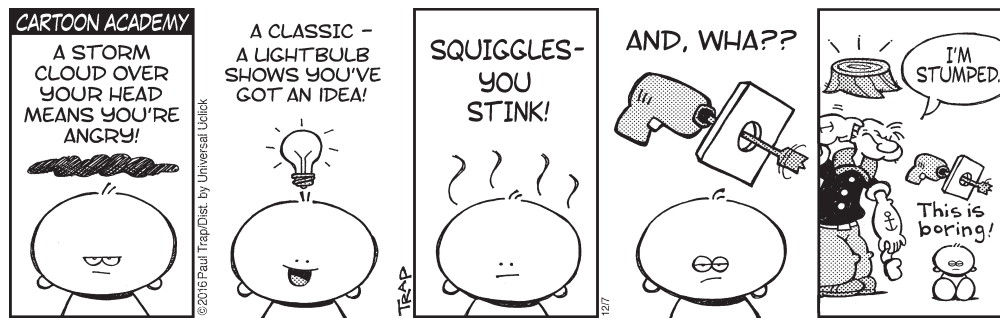
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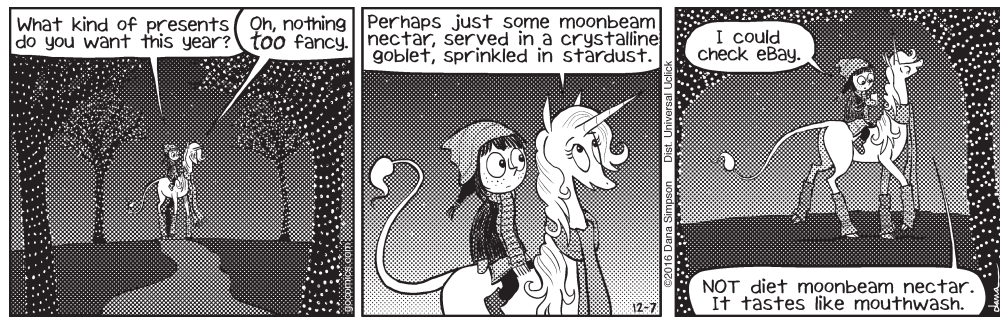
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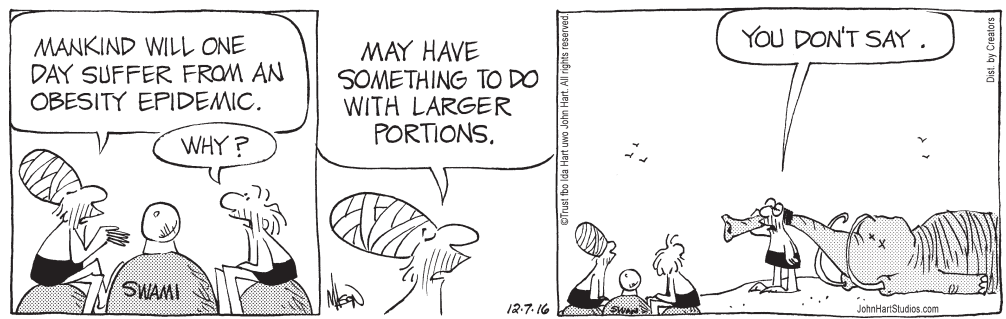
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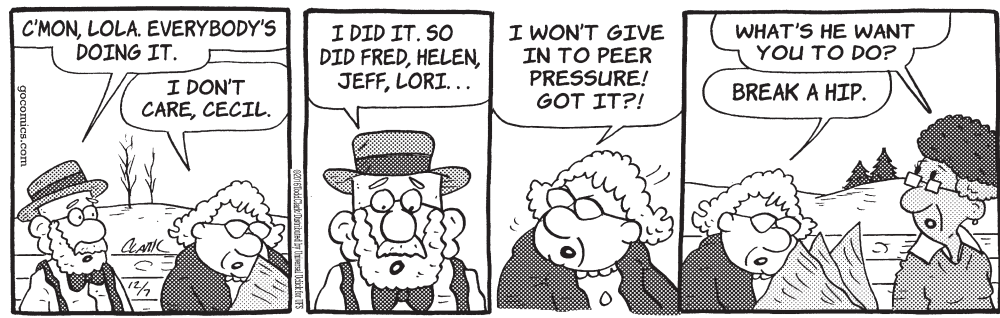
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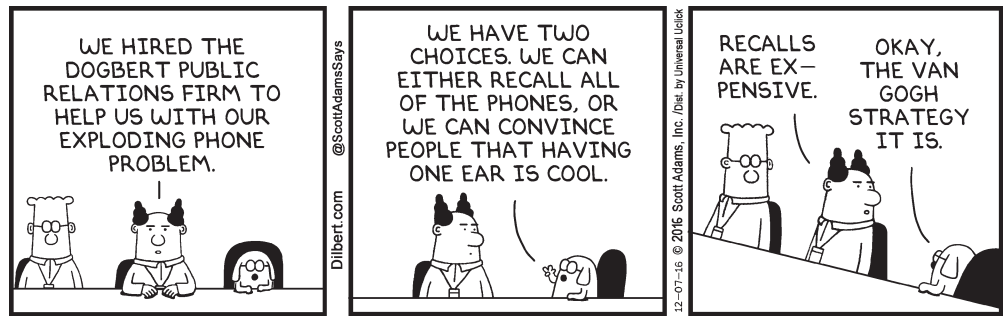
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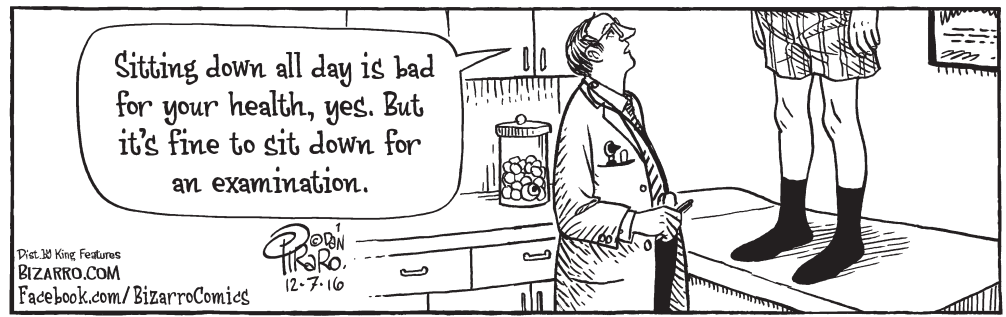
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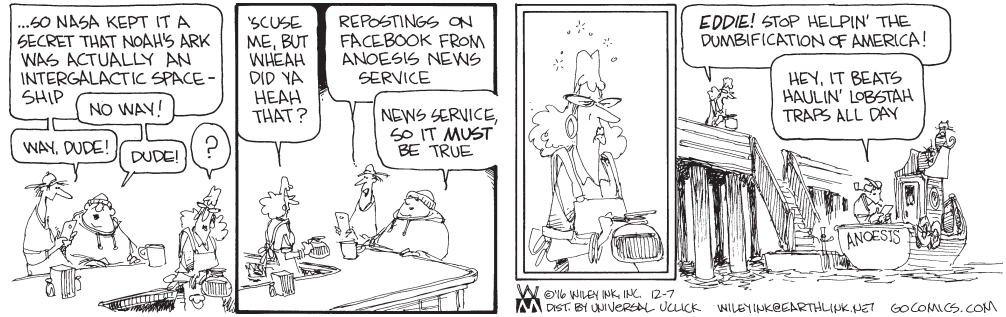
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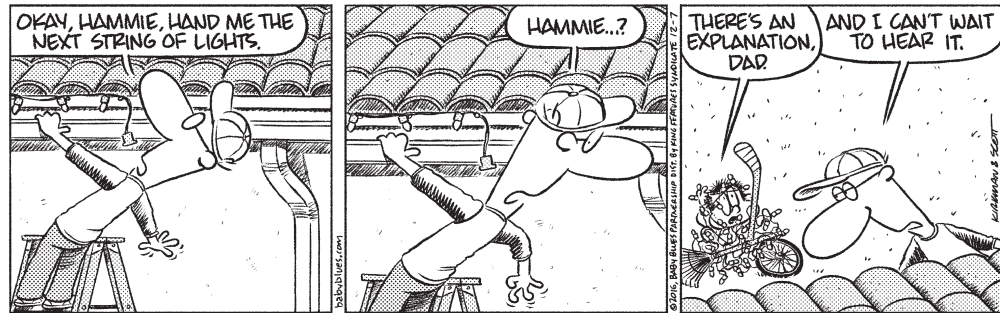
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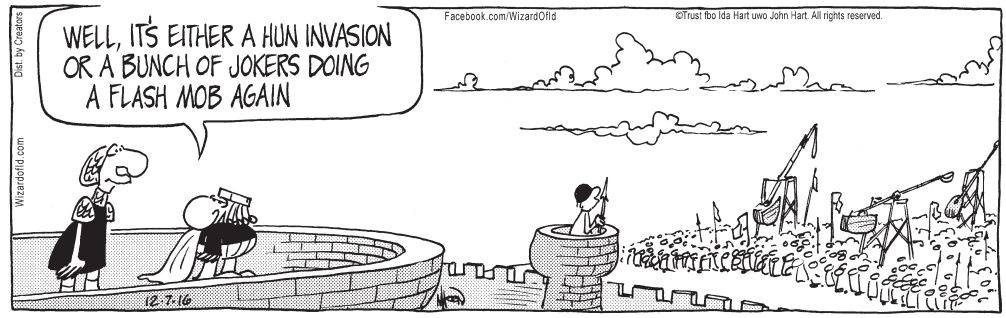
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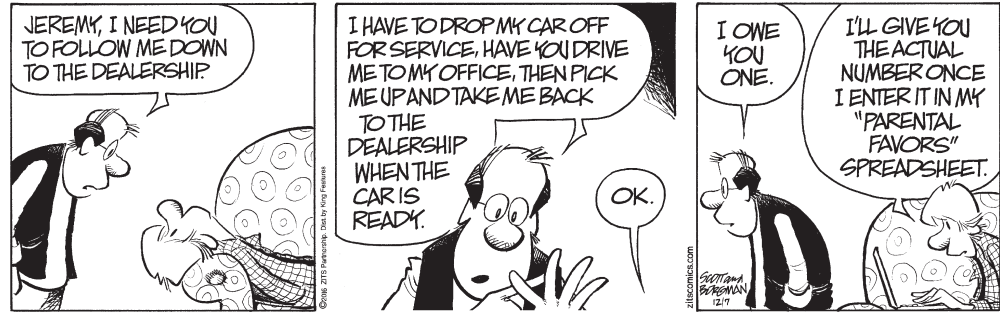
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