

She has terrible taste in music

Dear Annie: I've been seeing this woman, "Becky," for six months or so. We met through a mentorship program for underprivileged teens. She's a lawyer and incredibly smart. I write for a music magazine. We have a great time together.

But — and I know this is going to make me sound like a jerk — I can't get over her terrible taste in movies, music and TV shows. I don't own a television, and I only dedicate precious free time to critically acclaimed shows. She watches, you guessed it, reality TV.

We have tried taking turns picking out movies to watch, but I'm miserable watching rom-coms, and she's miserable watching the heavy films I pick out. It doesn't seem like a good time for either of us.

I collect vinyl and enjoy discovering new music from independent artists (which is part of my job, after all). She listens to pop stuff that might as well be nails on a chalkboard to me.

Annie, what do you think? Can we ever make this work? — *Dinner and Definitely Not a Movie*

Dear Not a Movie: Opposites attract for good reason. Sure, you might drive each other a little nuts — but would you really want to date someone exactly like you? Taste is fleeting. The important thing is that you hold similar values. It sounds as if you two share common ground there, where it counts.

Keep an open mind (no snobbery), and encourage her to do the same. Who knows? You might find something liberating about shaking it off to some Taylor Swift, and your girlfriend might love crying her heart out to a Sundance selection. You can learn from each other. And a bonus: You'll never have to worry about her stealing your records.

Dear Annie: I just wanted to reply to "Still Crying," whose nephew adopted his wife's son and then had the child taken from him by the wife when she left him for another man: Never give up. If the nephew wants to have time with his son, he should fight for it.

Kids do have rights. He should not listen when people tell him

that he has no chance. Trust me; I know from firsthand experience.

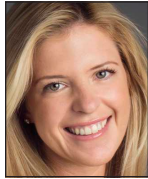
When I married my husband, I became stepmother to his two children. My stepson was 12 1/2 months old, and my daughter was almost 3. Their father and I were together for five years. When we got divorced, he took off with the kids.

I went to a lawyer, who told me that he would take the case but I would most likely lose. But I did not. I got my visitations that I wanted. Then I filed for custody. My lawyer asked for a family case study, which was granted, and the kids were given a lawyer of their own. The kids' lawyer spoke with them alone. And to everyone's shock, including mine, I won full custody.

What that mother "Still Crying" described is doing to her child is a rotten thing to do. So if the nephew loves that child, he should try again. He should tell the court he adopted his son in good faith and fell in love with him. — *Judy R.*

Dear Judy: Thank you for sharing your story. I think it will provide hope to many parents who are in the same sad situation you were once in.

DEAR ANNIE

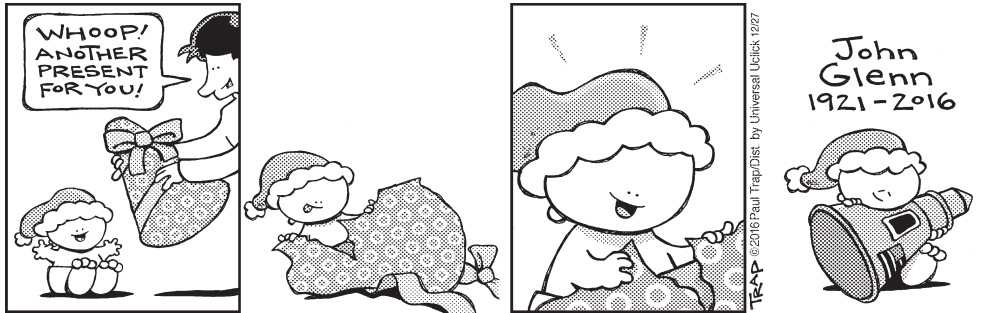


Annie Lane
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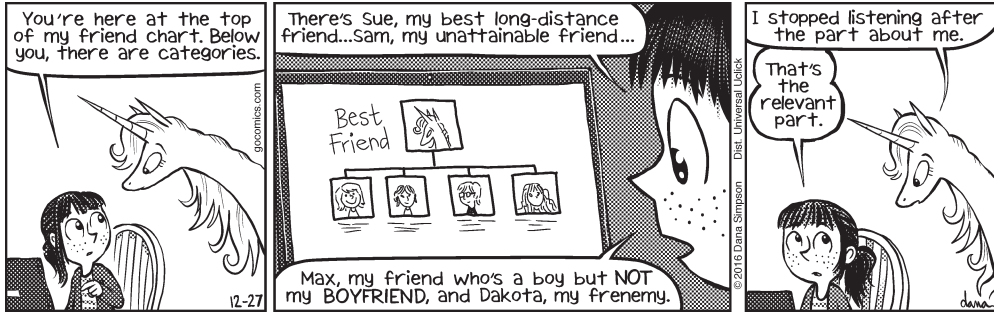
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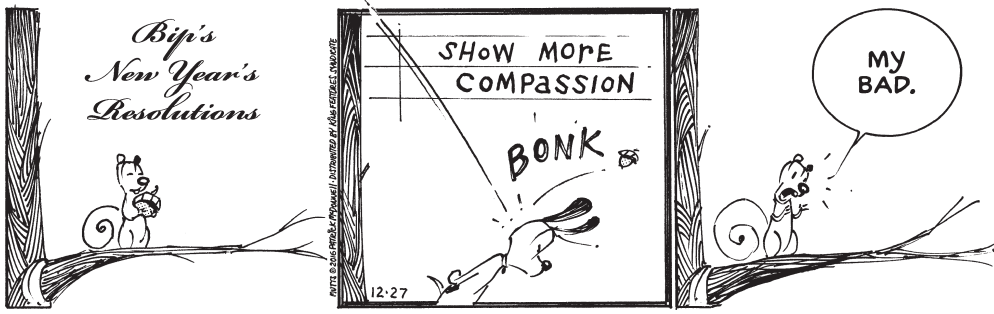
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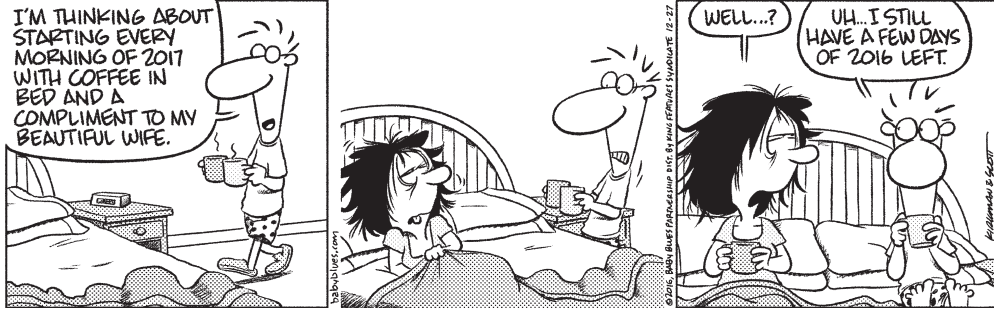
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BABY BLUES



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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're becoming more intentional in these last days of the year. You'll measure the things that matter to you. Time is your greatest resource. A little self-discipline is all that's needed to work the clock in your favor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Come from a place of curiosity. You can afford it. Relax and think of a different question you could be asking. If nothing comes to you, escape to new environs and see if that doesn't inspire a new mindset.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What was a chore to learn is becoming increasingly exciting to know, now that you understand it better. Keep seeking knowledge. You'll soon meet people who share your enthusiasm for the subject.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can't control other people, so you focus on you. This will be positive as long as you realize that there's really nothing to fix about yourself, just something to accept.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have some fun as you take on a challenge with a small team. New people in the group will highlight different characteristics of your loved ones, giving you a new angle to appreciate them from.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whatever happened before, leave it in the land of before. Future-you is still to be determined. You're the determiner. You will be what you make of yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone has felt the sting of exclusion and rejection — hard but a kind of rite of passage for humans. If you can soften it for someone you will. Laughing about the past, or holding hands in the present — that's you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do you ever go on social media and find yourself being quite mean about it? You wouldn't leave bad comments, but you might think them. There's something cathartic in the thought process, and as long as you don't act on it, you're golden.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How well should they understand you? This is the question of the day. You have surprises and mysteries inside you. How much do you really want to communicate now?

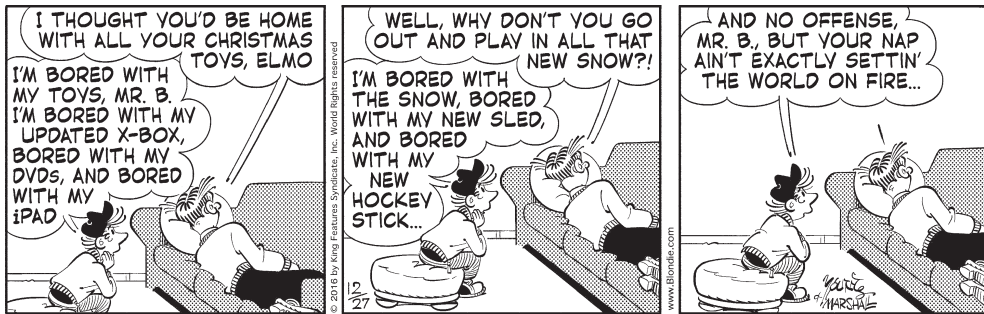
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Is this person difficult to get to know? You'll have to work harder to crack the code, that's all. Only you can determine if it's really worthwhile, although the challenge in and of itself will probably be enough for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because you are such a fantastic listener you will understand even those who have difficulty communicating. You will find a way to help them and perhaps make an accidental profit, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your affection toward those you love cannot be masked. Others are secretly envious of the attention you lavish on your nearest and dearest, and today they may make a play for your interest.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28). Your cosmic gift is confidence. Your voice gets stronger, your movements sharper; you know yourself better than ever. Your self-assurance will make others certain about you, too. You'll seal a deal through an educational or familial network. April and September will be your best financial months. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 8, 45 and 12.

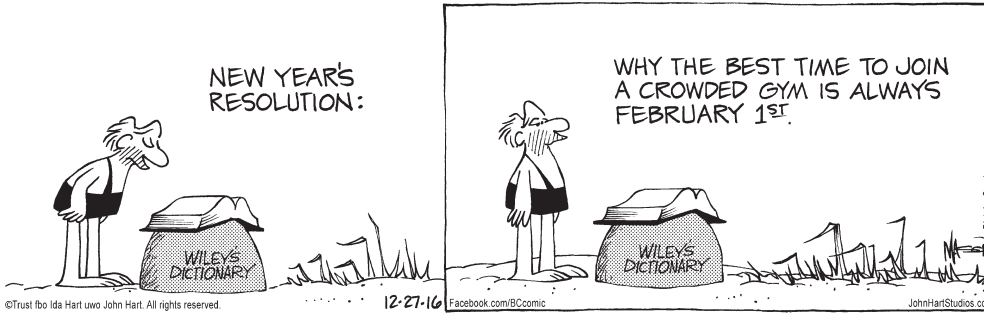
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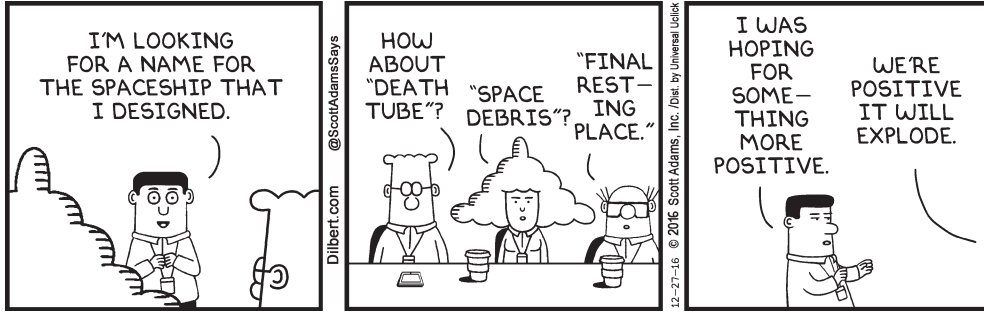
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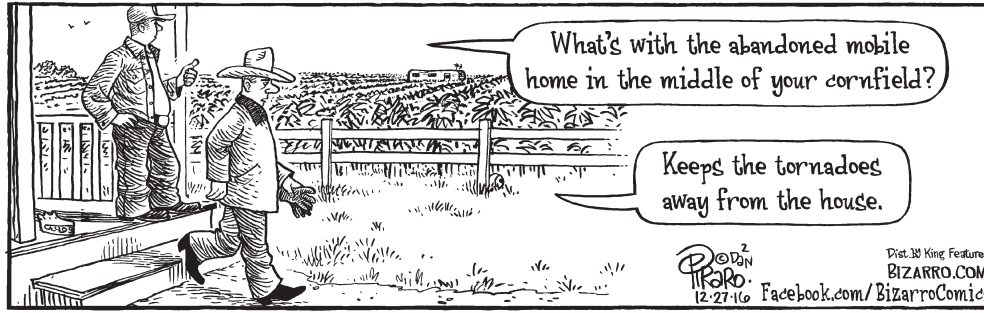
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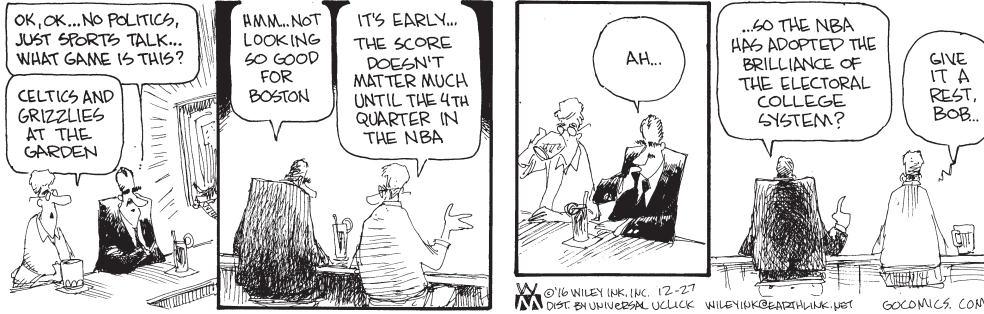
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ROSE IS ROSE

