

Roommates can't get along

Dear Annie: I live with four other people in a big old house outside Boston. Two of the roommates are a couple, "Jeremy" and "Rachel." Rachel is a very close friend of mine and has been for about 10 years, ever since we met in college. She and Jeremy live downstairs, while the other three of us live upstairs.

Jeremy and Rachel have been together for three years, and I liked Jeremy fine — until we moved in together. The past year has been a war. He and I started butting heads pretty much immediately. He kept using my condiments and leaving my TV on. (I keep it in the living room downstairs.) I had to tell him to stop several times before he finally did.

Well, things really came to a head yesterday. I was about a month late paying him my portion of the heating bill, and he texted me to ask for it. I told him I would have it to him when I get paid this week. He said, "What about the money Rachel lent you last month?"

I lost my cool and told him

it wasn't his money or his business. He immediately wrote back, "Whoa, whoa, OK, Friday is fine. Pay me back whenever." But it was too late for him to try to back-track, and I let him have a piece of my mind. I told him to go to hell or at the very least get out of our house. I may have used even more colorful language than that. I was just so floored by his rudeness.

Now Rachel says she's angry with both of us for handling ourselves the way we did. She says she knows that Jeremy can be annoying, but she's hurt that I would act so hatefully toward her boyfriend. He's trying to find a place to stay temporarily because I told him I don't want him living here.

I am not apologizing. I am the one who has been wronged here. Right? — *Mad in Massachusetts*

Dear Mad: No matter how bad you think Jeremy is, cursing him out just made you worse.

Let's review Morality 101: Two wrongs don't make a right; they just make a mess. And your friend, by the way, is in the middle of that mess. Apologize to Jeremy

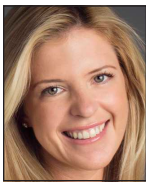
for the outburst, but let him know that you do have some valid concerns about living with him. Find a way to tolerate each other, at least until the lease is up. There is enough drama in the world without friends tearing each other apart over condiments and heating bills.

Dear Annie: Usually, I agree with and appreciate your advice. I'm sure you have to edit a lot of the letters you receive and we don't get all the information. This time, though, based on the information we got, I don't understand your advice.

When a couple are having a heart-to-heart conversation about a problem in their marriage, why would you encourage them to be anything less than honest with each other? You want "Mumma" to tell "Bill" to stop calling her names. It sounds to us as if he was honestly answering a yes-or-no question when she asked him whether the reason for his wandering eye is that she is fat. She knew it. He acknowledged it. They got to the root of the problem. Are you advocating that he lie to her?

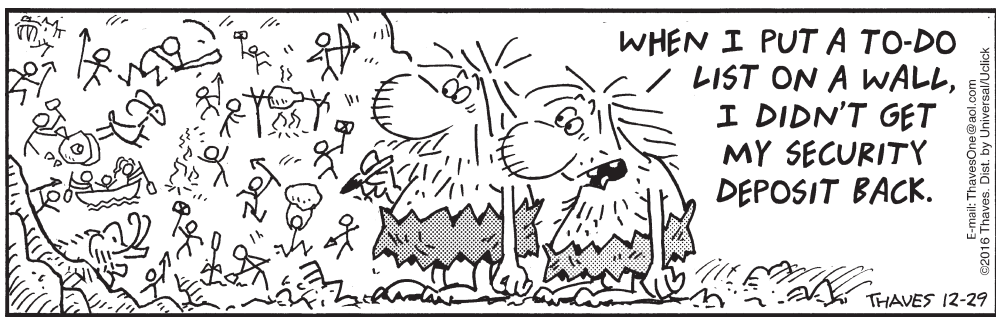
Overall, good job. I enjoy your column. But sometimes you are too quick to side with your readers.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

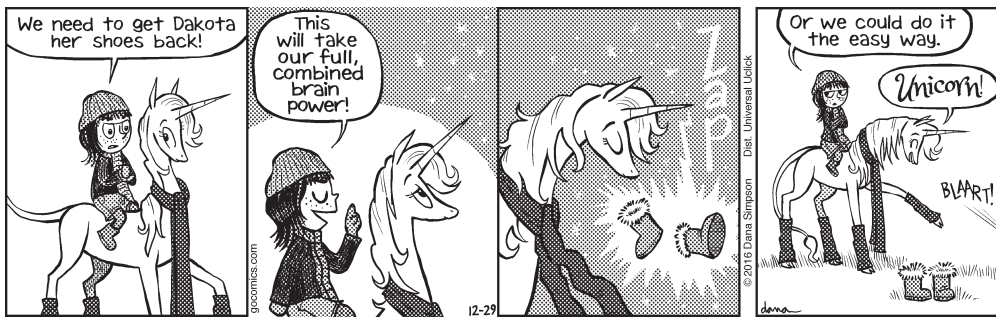
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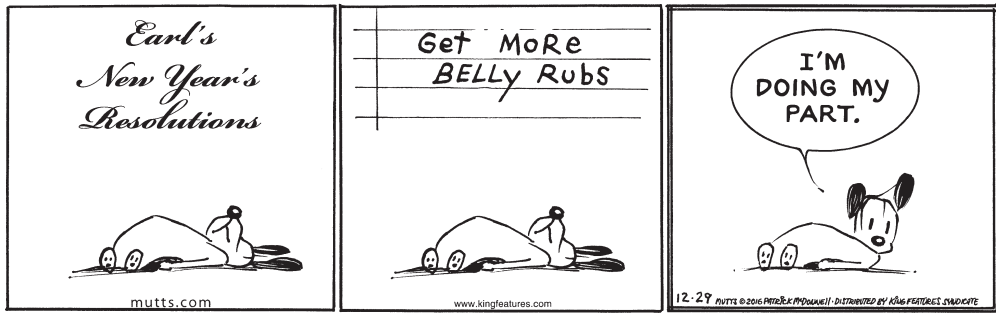
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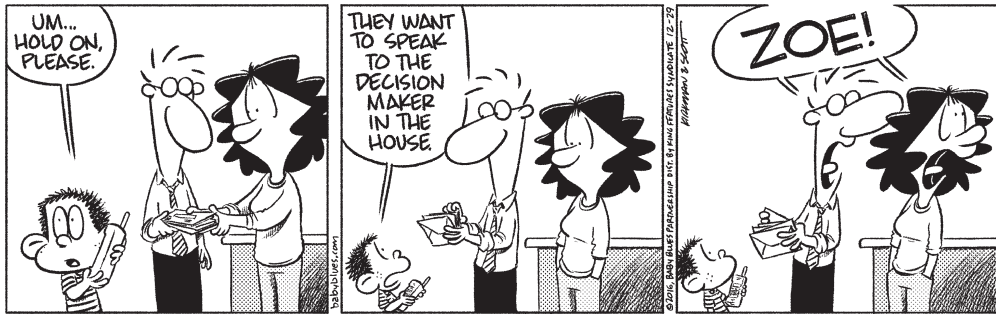
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Humans consider living in the moment to be an art. Dogs find it to be a way of life. Today you'll be better off not thinking much about it, and simply riffing off of the energies around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Create accountability, collect data and set up an organized system for doing so. After all, life is better with systems. You're already following many of them, although unconsciously, to good effect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People study to learn what you already know instinctively. You're too close to understand your own talent, but when you act naturally it will lead to outstanding results today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will be happiest in relationships that offer you challenges. You'll work for someone's attention, which makes that person all the more attractive (and attracted) to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Freud noticed that guilt and remorse are often confused, the former stemming from aggressive wishes, the latter a form of self-punishment for the wish fulfilled. As far as today goes, both emotions are useless.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's someone out there who would love to double your joy and divide your grief. Perhaps this person is already in your world, only you haven't yet shared enough to know how well you fit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It would be nice to be left in your own little corner of the world to do your thing, but life won't let you. Getting along with difficult people will be the difference between success and failure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There will be

moments of feeling lost. Love is the magic that will keep you moving toward "found" status. Connect with that kindred spirit who pushes you forward, forward, ever forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Small amounts of "better" count. In fact, maybe those are the best amounts of all, because they're not too hard to create and they add up quickly. Before you know it, you're big-time better!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're versed in more than one language, if you count cultures as languages. You understand people of different generations. You make an effort to learn about different worldviews. You'll act as a translator today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What if you took away the operational strata? If all of the people were equal status, all the ideas equally up for investigation, all of the reality open to your interpretation: What then?

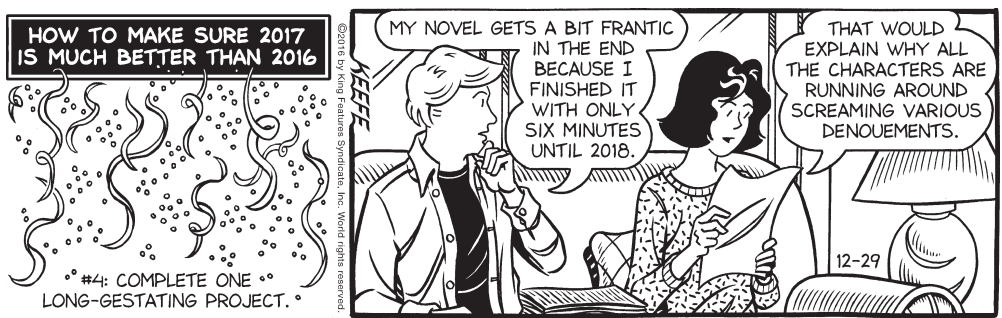
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). One changed habit will be all it takes to alter your reality. What do you grumble about most often? Give it up for the next three days and your life will change, incrementally at first, and then remarkably.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 30). They love you. Just let them. You'll be showered with affectionate gestures through the first part of the year. School is featured prominently and life-changing relationships happen through the learning process. In April, network and cash in. September brings very successful business arrangements. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 14, 19, 5 and 32.

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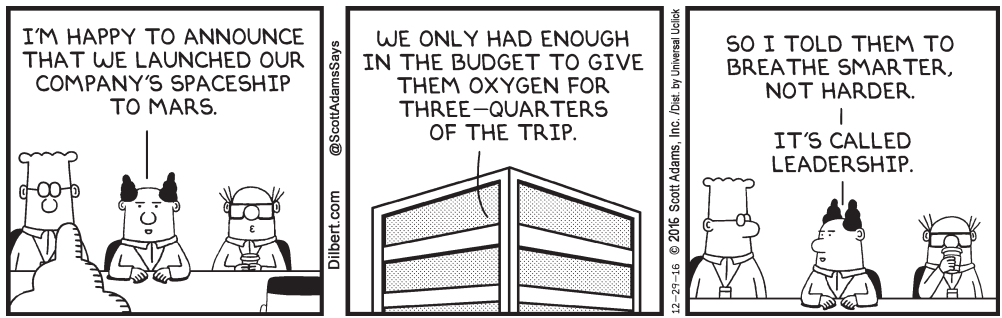
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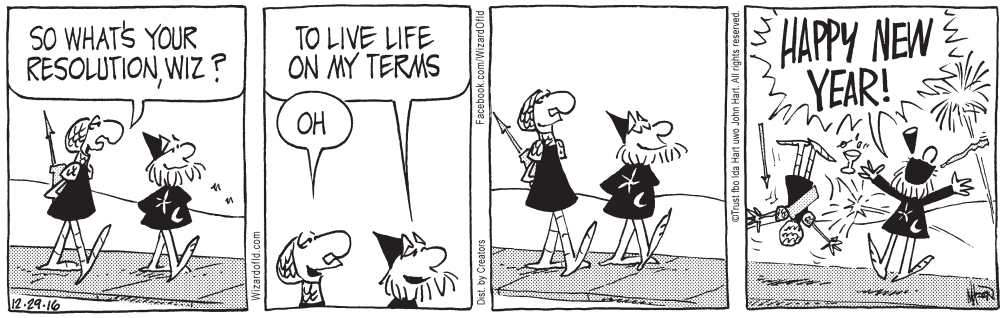
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