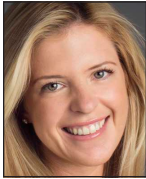


Daughter is a shining example

Dear Annie: I have a rare child, one who asks nothing for herself and gives generously to others. Each year for her birthday and Christmas, I try to find something, anything, my daughter might like as a gift. She smiles sweetly and says nothing or says, "I'm good."

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Yet she works hard to make other lives easier and happier every day. When her dad had a stroke, she was my assistant, no matter how messy and how hard the task. When her dad passed away, she and I clung to each other for comfort. Then we got the news that her uncle was very ill. We moved from our home in Florida to Alabama to help him. She lost her school, her friends, a community to walk in without fear and so much more.

Once again, she gave her all, helping to bring her uncle back from barely being able to get out of bed to being able to plant in his beloved garden once more. If he made any noise, she ran to his room to see whether she could help.

She smiles at everyone and makes no judgments regard-

ing color, sex, religion, wealth or anything else others notice. She accepts one and all. At church breakfasts every Sunday, she proudly says the prayer of thanks, and before every sermon, she raises her voice in song.

This rare and beautiful young woman is 38 years old, and although often hurt by other people, she holds no hate in her heart. She was born with Down syndrome.

That she holds no bias in her heart makes me wonder: Are the rest of us "normal," or is she? I think she is, because she acts the way all humans should instead of as they do. I am so proud of my generous, loving child. — *Proud of My Daughter*

Dear Proud: Thank you for sharing your daughter's generosity with the world. May we all learn from her example.

Dear Annie: I am friends with a couple who are in a long-distance relationship. Our group of friends has been tight for a long time. A few weeks ago, I walked in on the girl with another guy at a house party. I quickly removed myself from the situation.

The girl called me the next day super upset. She said that she was drunk and that it was a mistake that she regrets and would never do again. She is afraid that it would destroy her relationship if her boyfriend found out.

I am decent friends with both and am stuck deciding what I should do. Should I let the guy know what I saw or just mind my own business? — *What Do I Do?*

Dear WDD: That ugly truth will out itself in time. Keep your hands clean.

Dear Annie: You could not be more wrong in your answer to "Scratching My Head in NH," whose husband's family stays in touch with his ex-wife but does not include the ex in family affairs that this new wife attends. This is perfectly acceptable.

Many people who have formed deep, loving bonds of friendship with an ex's family should not be expected to drop the ex because two people find they cannot live together.

Many people in the position of ending a marriage also stay in touch for the sake of children and other family members. You really need to rethink your answer. — *Remaining a Friend*

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can prevent future discomfort by asking more questions about an upcoming social event. After all, if you don't know exactly what the occasion is, it's hard to dress for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You recognize that look when you see it — like they've been tricked before and they're not about to be again. The thing is, you're not out to trick anyone. You're the real deal. You'll earn trust, in time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People you don't know have something valuable to offer, even if you never so much as talk to them: Social osmosis is real! Spending time in a public or shared space will lead to good fortune, so make it happen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give second chances. You may be disappointed yet again, but you'll never regret making the more compassionate choice. In fact, you'll feel better regardless of how the other person responds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You give your love in such a big-hearted way that it's hard for you to imagine withholding attention or affection to gain a certain affect. However, such tough-love tactics may serve an important purpose now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's nothing hard about having happy relationships today. Your sunny attitude attracts people who casually give you exactly what you need, and if they want anything in return, it will be something that's easy for you to give.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You see things others don't, which is why the solution that is so clear to you is not being produced. Take the lead. Gently point out what's missing. Use the

diplomacy and charm that is your birthright.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you operate inside a group of people who are already very tight with one another it could make you feel like an outsider. With subtle intention, you'll be able to penetrate defenses and get as "inside" as you want to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No matter how busy you get, if there's time to do a thing, there's time to do it right. Today's odd luck: The right way will also happen to be a rather quick fix.

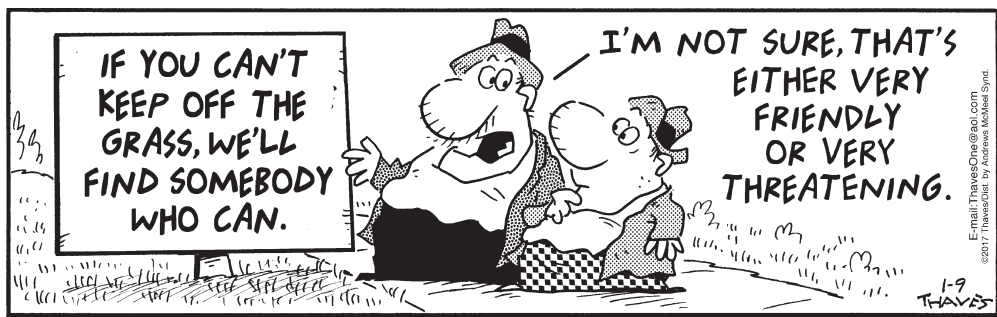
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Hitting the right tone will be important. If you're strictly rational, the others will think that you don't care. If you're too emotional, they'll be uncomfortable with how much you care. A moderate investment is what's needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's charm in the mundane! It takes a soulful, curious eye to see it. Go on and make a big deal out of small things. You'll love the conversations you get into.

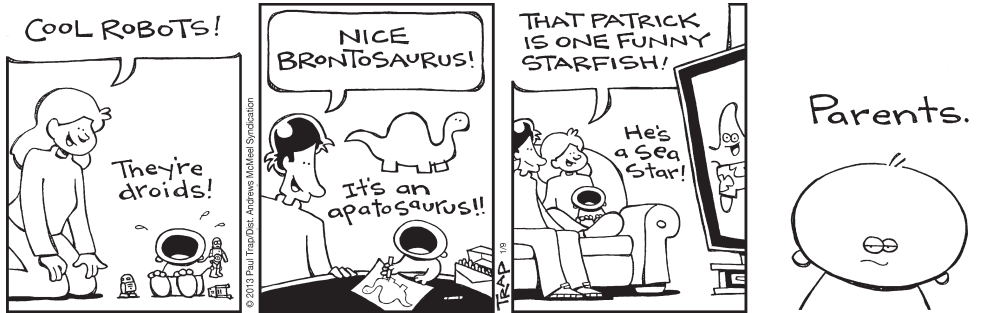
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As you focus on executing a job very well, other seemingly unrelated aspects of life will improve. Power dynamics are shifting. You're starting to get a sense of your influence, which is growing.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 10). You get scientific about your happiness, and this measured approach works wonders. Practical steps repeated will be the magical formula for changing your life in a very positive way. Your domestic scene gets upgrades in April. Close relationships take you on an adventure in July. October brings a windfall. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 16, 44 and 3.

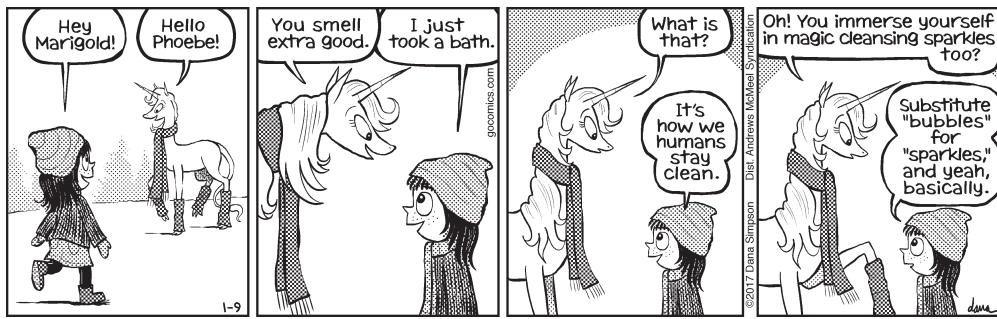
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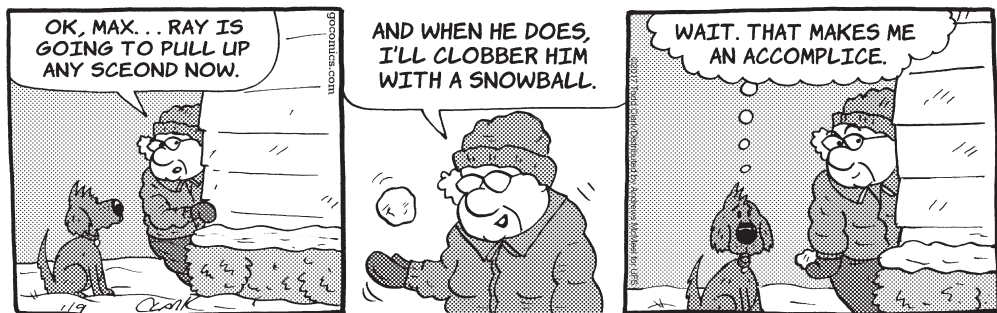
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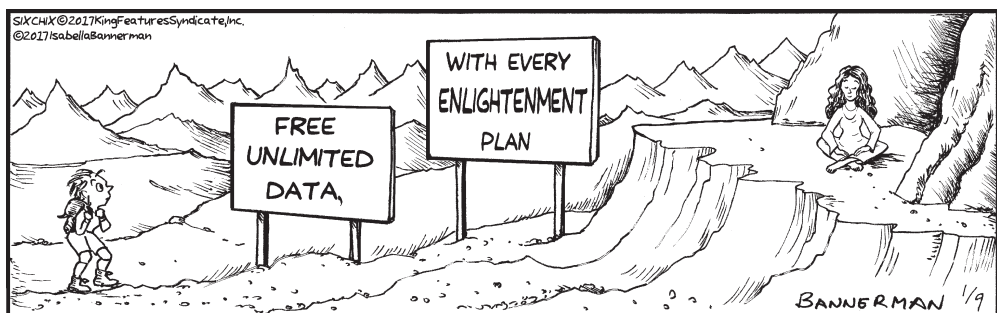
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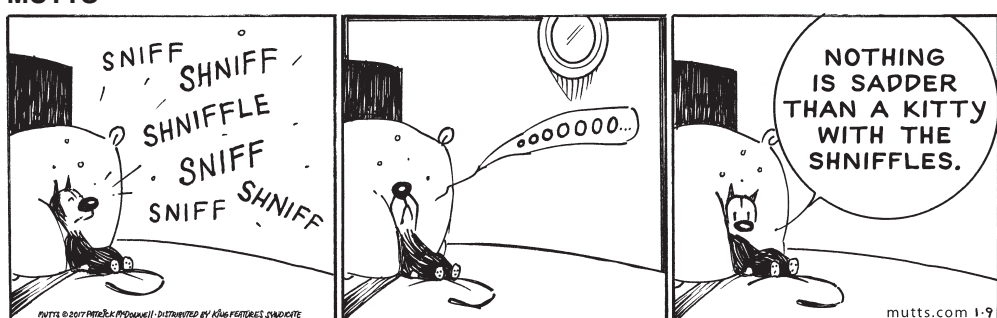
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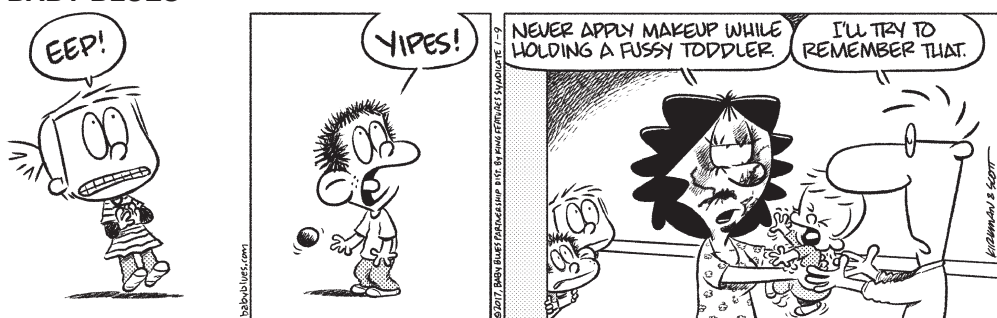
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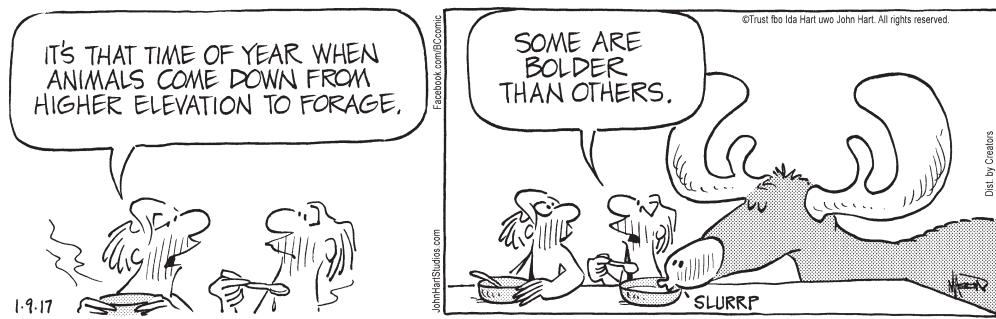
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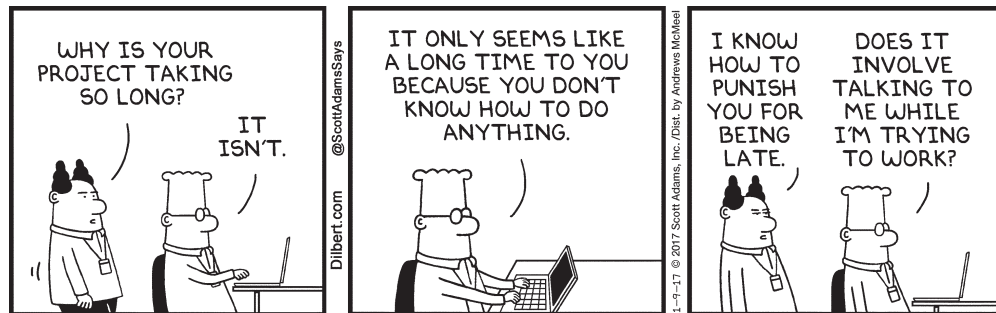
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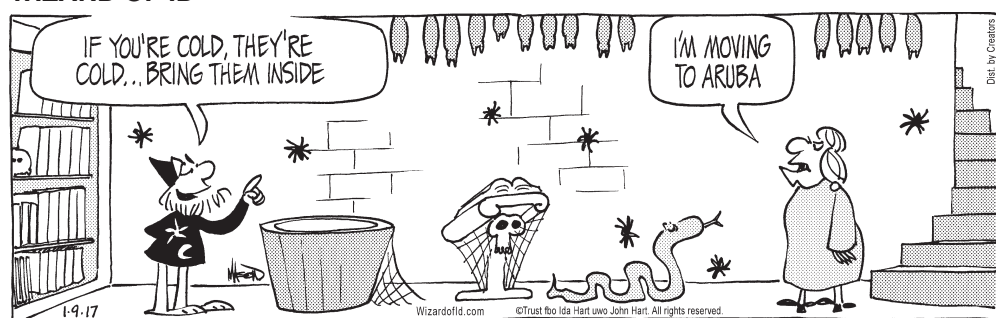
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