

Sisters quarrel on Facebook

Dear Annie: Recently, I copied an article and reposted it on Facebook. The article dealt with a woman who has handicapped license plates. She does not appear to be physically handicapped, although she is. Another woman had approached her in a parking lot and harassed her for using the handicapped parking spot. The gist of the article was to not pass judgment on people and make assumptions.

When I posted it, I added a disclaimer in the comments area to let people know that I wasn't the original author. I also commented that my husband has a handicapped placard but does not look handicapped and that if someone did approach us negatively, I would be ticked.

My sister commented on this post and said, "You are an idiot."

I am hurt, and I'm angry with her. I don't understand why she would make a comment such as this to her own sister on social media where my children, grandchildren and friends can see. I deleted the post and unfriended her. Did I go too far? — *Hurt Sister*

Dear Hurt: Using social media to settle disputes between family members or friends is like trying to repair reading glasses with a sledgehammer; you have a blunt tool and an incredibly delicate object, and it results in a totally unnecessary broken mess.

Your sister is squarely in the wrong here, and I understand why you unfriended her. But that is not a long-term real-world solution.

Because her comment seemed to you to come totally out of the blue, you two must be on very different pages. Talk to her in person if you can or on the phone if not. Ask her what she was thinking. Communication is the key here — real communication, between two sisters, not two screens.

Dear Annie: The letter from "Confused Young Life in California," a young man in prison who says he won't change his ways, was quite interesting. You said the key to his success lies in what he does and whom he associates with immediately upon his release. True enough, but there is another

factor. Depending on where he is incarcerated, he may have educational opportunities inside, often in trades.

For example, here in New Hampshire, we have a program run by the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association in which inmates learn woodworking skills. Of course, only prisoners with good behavior can be in the program, which is an added positive incentive. Several former inmates are now working as furniture-makers or cabinetmakers; one has even become a full member of the association. These guys are not going back to prison.

In other places, prisoners are involved in training service dogs. A local family has a dog that alerts a young lady with Type 1 diabetes when her blood sugar is high or low. The dog was trained by prisoners in Kansas.

This is just what I know about. The point is that as a society, we need to change our ideas about what prison is. If it's just a holding pen for "penitence," we will certainly fail. If we give these folks skills while they are in, they will then have the hope you suggest for your letter writer. — *Furniture-maker in New Hampshire*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Start with the most crucial thing. If you don't, there may not be time. You'll get to the end of these 1,440 minutes in a day and be disappointed, having missed the whole point.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You construct an expectation, and when the expectation proves to be way off, there's nothing left to do but laugh — at least, that's your response. (Being light of heart and heavy of intellect helps make it so!)

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What was derailed is now popped back on track, thanks in part to your "popping" abilities. Force usually isn't the way. It tends to be more of a wiggle and snap that puts the pieces back in line.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Given the multitude of ideas you generate, of course there's not enough time to act on all of them. But with your knack for sensing the best one and focusing there, this day will be an enormously productive one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's definitely a work in progress, but every day, in hundreds of different ways, you're acting out the person you want to be. It's not perfect. You may be starting to want something different for yourself, and that's OK, too. Acceptance is the path.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have seen the truth without really noticing it. And the truth, not wanting to intrude on you, let you go on, knowing you'd someday come back to it and be liberated by it in some small way. The day has come.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The one you are so fascinated with represents a whole new world to you. You'll breathe the air in that world as you interact with this person and get a sense

of what a more extensive visit might be like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No person who carries his worries with him is really on break. The only vacation from worry is to resolve it one way or another. You can rid yourself of a significant one inside of an hour.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The reason you are able to touch the hearts of others is because you are very much in touch with your own heart and know what makes it puff up with joy and swell with empathy.

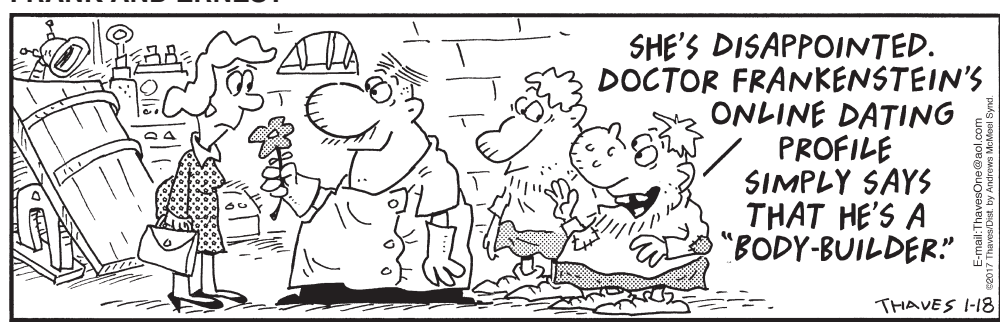
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've gotten used to some pretty unusual situations because the oddities evolved so gradually that you couldn't even see them as anything other than ordinary life. Friends will provide an alternate perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you want time to go by fast, fall into the routine. If you want it to go by slowly, novelty is the ticket. Bounce between the two for optimum pacing and a humming good mood.

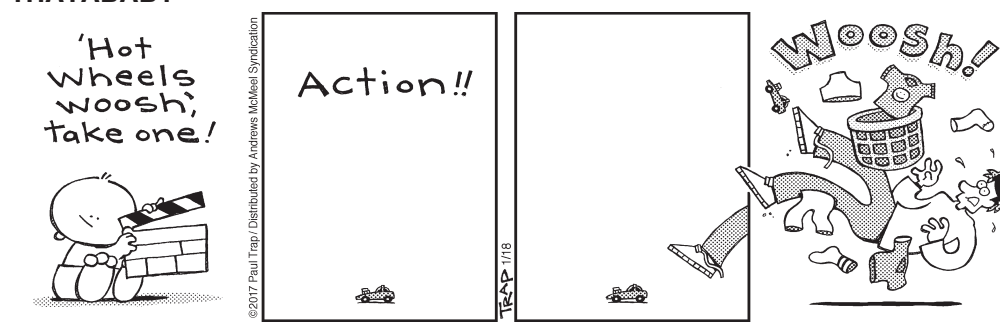
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know what you want it to look like, and from there you'll extrapolate all that needs to happen. The order it needs to happen in — now, that's the tricky part. Luckily, your organizational skills will be amplified all day.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 19). You alight upon social secrets, charismatic habits and ultimately ways of bringing out the cleverness in others; they celebrate you time and again for it. February and October both bring a surprise gift and money, too. Professional advancement will come in April. The travel in August will be out of character in a very fun way. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 47, 10, 33, 15 and 6.

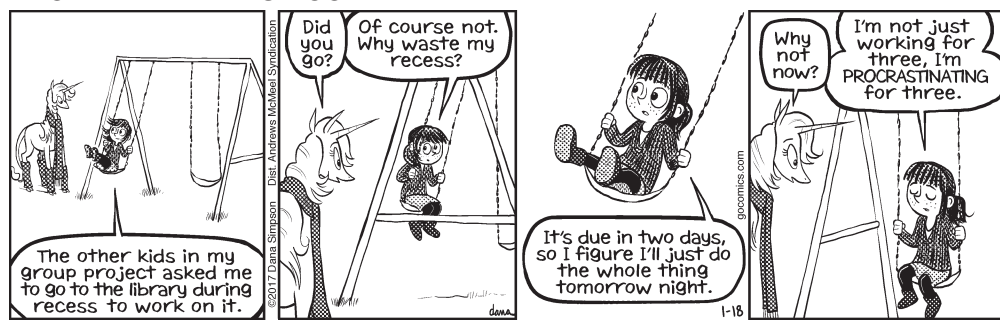
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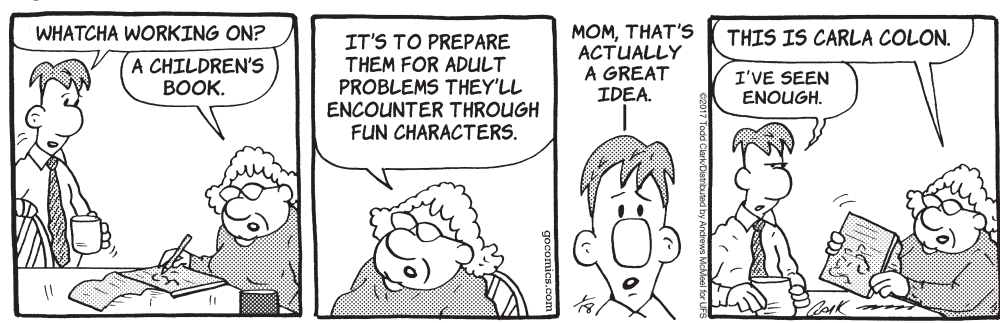
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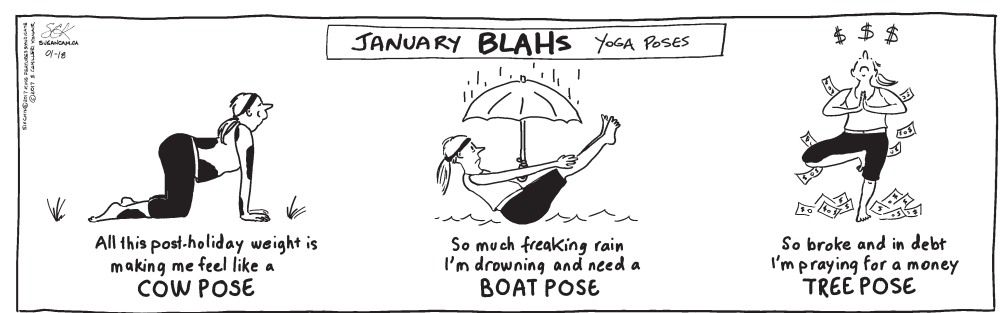
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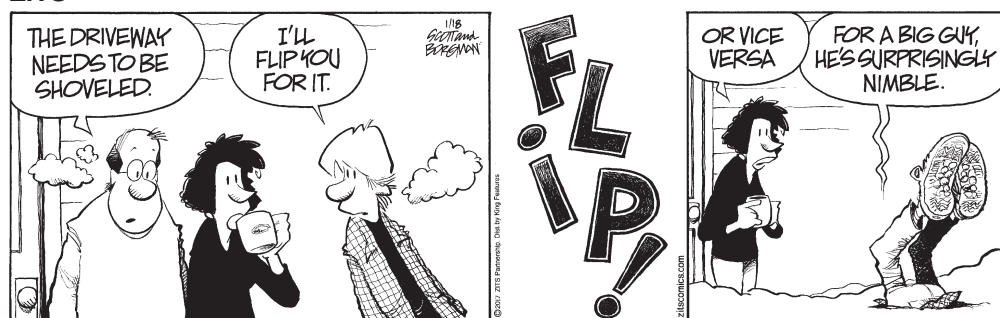
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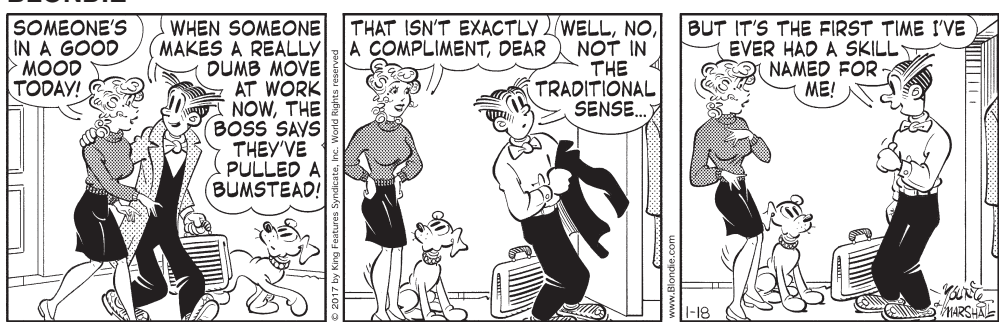
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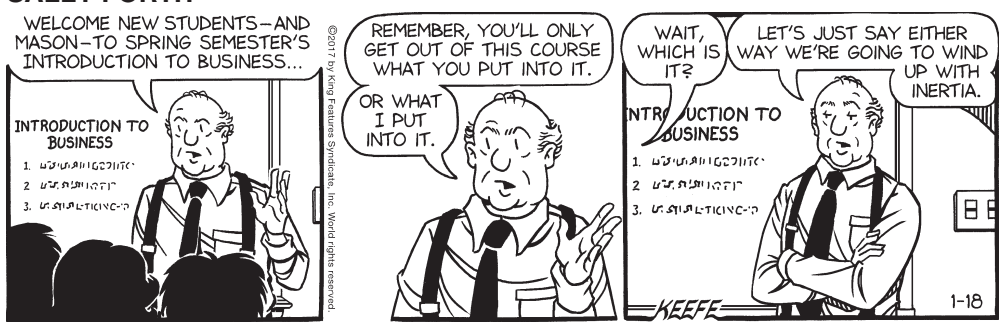
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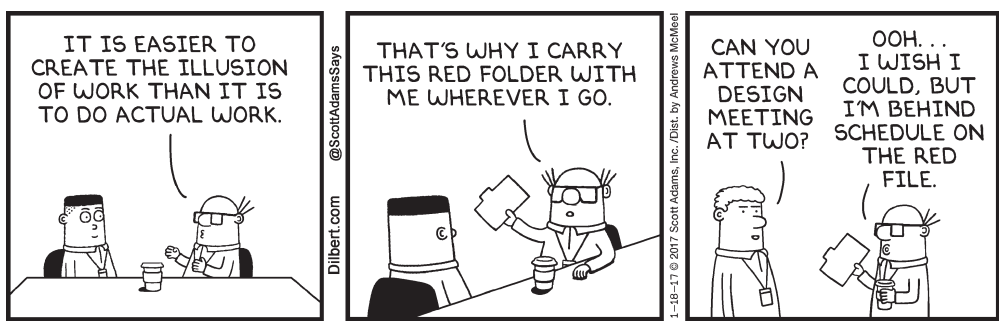
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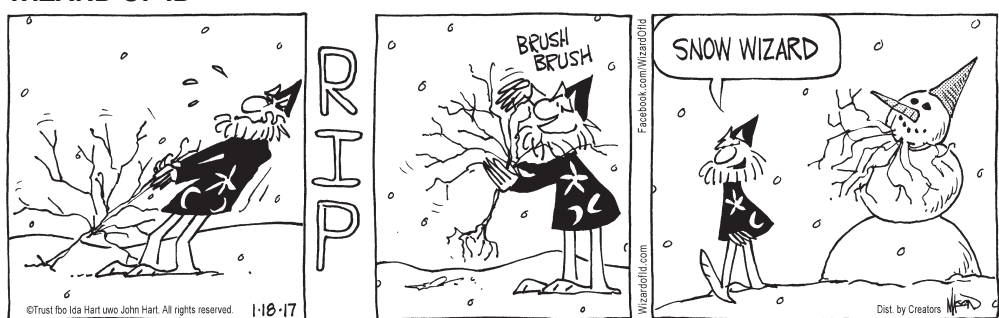
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