

Chatterbox ruins the evening

Dear Annie: My wife and I just visited good friends we've known for over 40 years.

The hostess talked from "good morning" to "good night." What a performance!

At dinner, I was able to get a word in and remark that we had seen a moose on the road to their house. As was typical for the hostess, she butted in before I was done talking, and in a minute, she was talking about what her aunt Sally Smith's neighbor, Joan Nobody, had for dinner at her daughter's birthday party. Why would any intelligent person have any interest in this? These are people we don't know, and there was nothing special about the dinner. I would rather have kept talking about the moose.

I now never want to visit them again. My wife tells me I am a social misfit and am being unreasonable. I feel our hostess is out of touch with polite behavior. Your thoughts? Please sign me — *Tired of Boring, Never-Ending Chatter*

Dear Tired: The hostess is the real social misfit here, but everyone is too polite to let her know it. Do visit them again. But when

this woman interrupts you, you must gently snag the conversational reins again. Let her speak for a minute before reminding her that you were in the middle of speaking. Say something like, "You stopped the moose dead in his tracks." A little humor will keep the tone friendly and spare the hostess some embarrassment.

Dear Annie: I'd like to add something to your response to "Tears and Fears for the Victims All Over," who wondered how to help when witnessing violent or unpleasant situations. I have been in such situations, too, and in a couple of instances, I have gone over and asked whether there was anything I could do to help. Obviously, one does not want to put oneself in harm's way, but for events such as the ones "Tears and Fears" described, I might suggest, seeing as there were automobiles included in the scenarios, is for people who see what is happening to take the license plate down or take a brief video. Getting the license plate would enable them to contact the police and possibly get some action taken. I was once being chased by

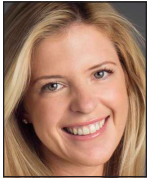
someone on the freeway in the Los Angeles area. I took the license plate down and called the police. They told me that they would go and talk to the person.

Sometimes there is more we can do than we realize in situations such as this. I once saw what appeared to be an assault going on in a car in the parking lot of a hospital, and I went over to try to intervene. It turned out that a young woman was having a grand mal seizure in the back seat, and her father was trying to restrain her so she would not hurt herself. I quickly ran to the hospital and got somebody to bring a gurney out so that the woman could be taken immediately. Apparently, the mother had gone into the hospital earlier but was not forceful enough at the intake desk to tell the people that her daughter needed immediate help. I said that someone was having a really bad seizure in the parking lot, and they acted immediately.

Thank you, concerned citizens, for the good work that you do to make the world a better place. — *Good Samaritan*

Dear Good: Your story of the family in the hospital parking lot underscores how the kindness of strangers can make all the difference. Thank you.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are plenty of available options, but the ones that meet the criteria of being the right thing at the right time in the right way are few and far between. Trust in life's unfolding today. Relax, align yourself, and wait for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This is a day for acceptance. You'll meet a wide range of personalities and deal with more than a few different behavioral styles. No one's style is better. You can learn from everyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just when you were starting to relax into the current scene, a diversion erupts. This is an exciting twist! You may not change your course, but you'll sure approach with heightened attention.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Low confidence could actually be a good thing for you today. Those who think they already have it nailed won't make the extra effort to be remarkable. Where the overconfident fail, you'll succeed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Once in a while you look around you and wonder, "How did I get here?" Even you couldn't repeat the steps if you had to. And the journey ahead will be equally as whimsical.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Ben Franklin suggested you get to bed early and wake up early, but what did he know about your life? Your internal clock has its own sort of wisdom and efficiency. Try to be patient as it adjusts today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are sometimes too proud and independent for your own good. Let people give to you. Money, gifts, help, attention — whatever it is, if it feels sincere and unencumbered by strings, you

should take it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just because something is silly and mindless and fluffy-fun doesn't mean it's stupid. If you're attracted to it, and it makes you smile and maybe ponder or wonder or think — this is valid enough.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you try and study yourself, very few insights are likely to emerge. However, in the process of studying someone you admire or a subject of fascination, you'll learn much about yourself.

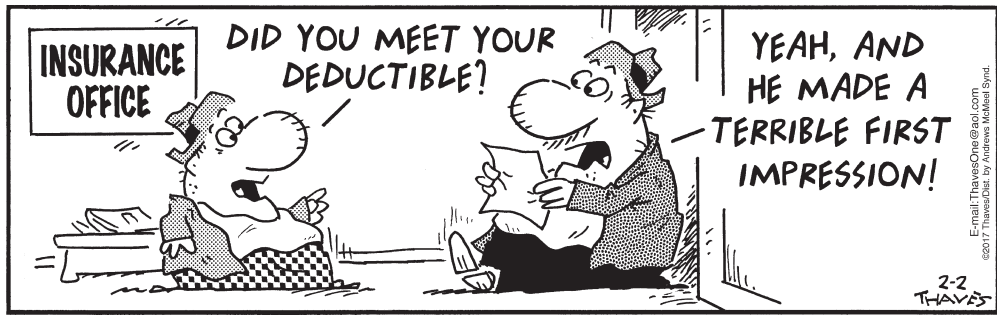
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whether the expenditure is emotional or financial, the purchase price will be negotiable. Decide what you can afford and then back down from that to what you really want to pay. Be bold. Name your price and go from there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It takes a strong person to ask for and take in honest criticism, but it will be well worth your while, because there is something just beyond your usual awareness that will be incredibly helpful for you to know.

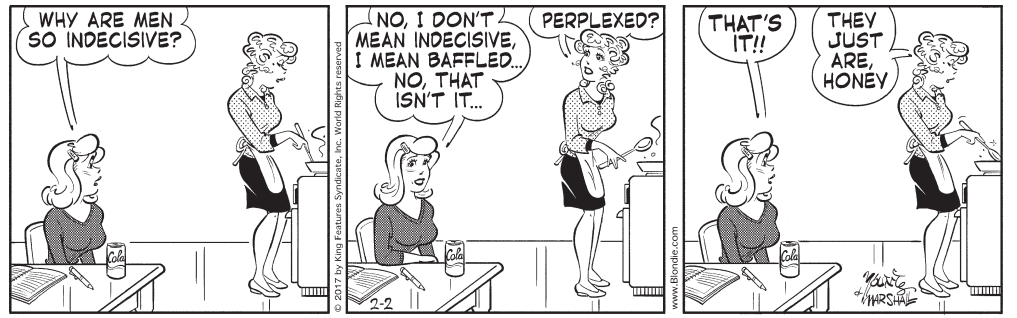
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To get what you need without wondering why you need it or telling yourself that you shouldn't need it: that is to really trust in the universe and your own intuition.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 3). Realizing that you can't keep everything the way it is and still get what you want, you'll approach this solar return with scrutiny. What can you trade? What are you unwilling to compromise about? Tough questions will lead to a plan that nets you a superstar transformation by the end of May. July brings a windfall. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 38, 14, 22 and 19.

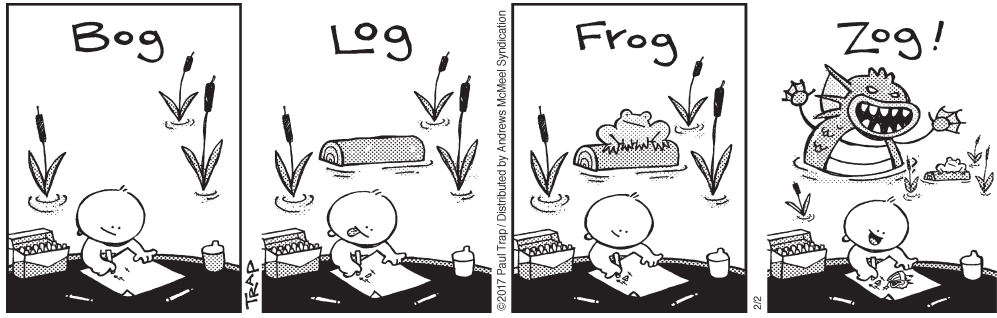
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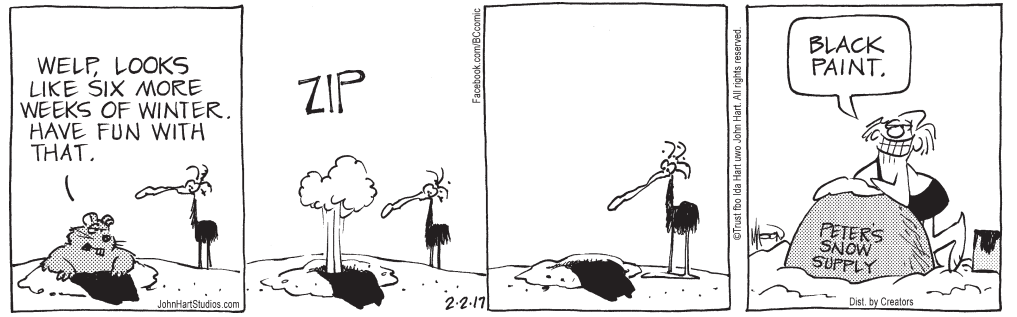
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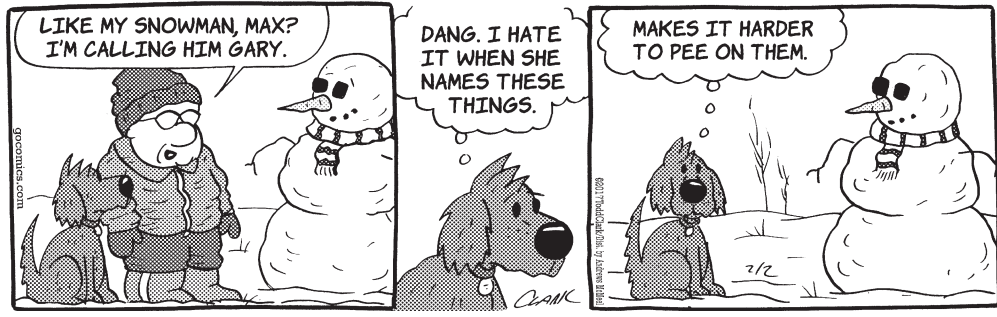
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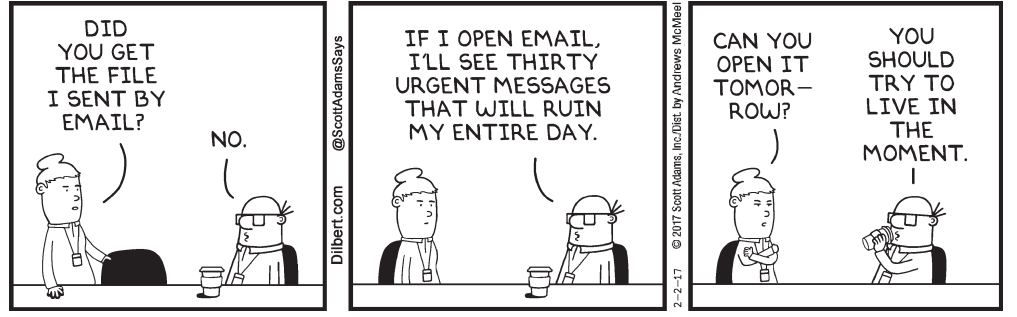
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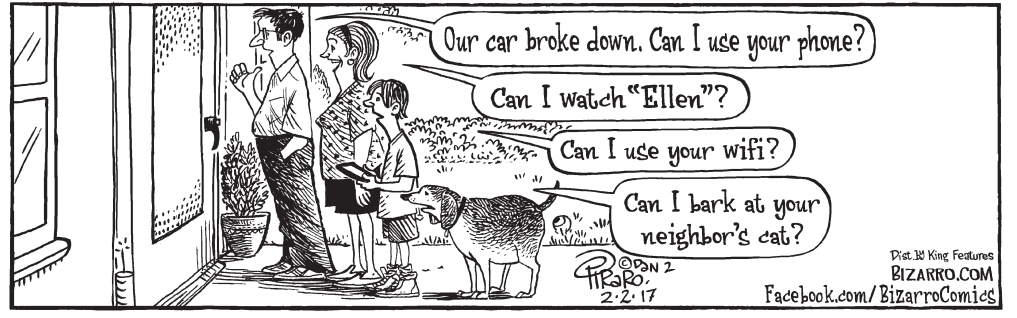
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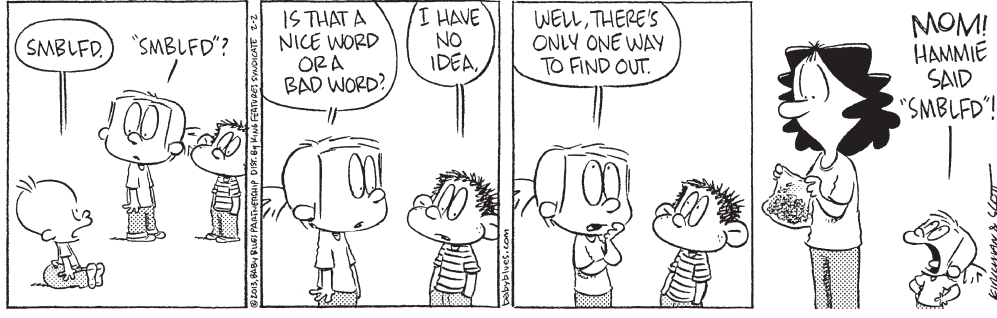
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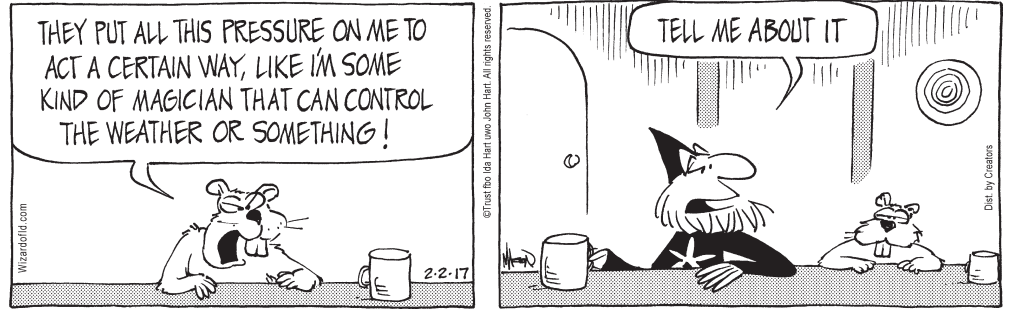
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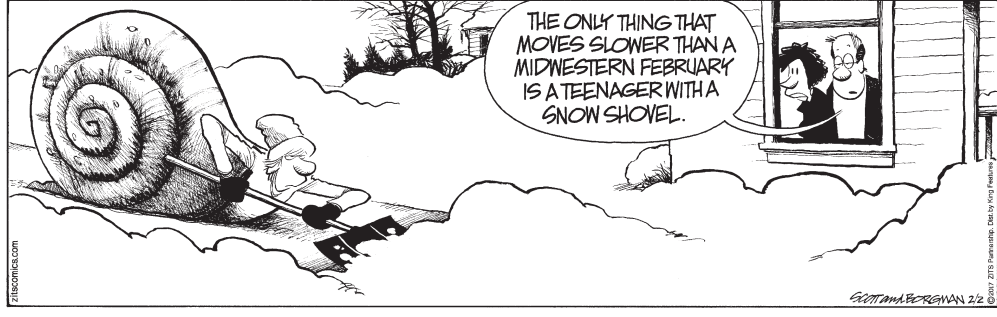
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