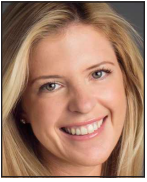


Bad way to break the news

Dear Annie: I am in the process of getting a divorce after 38 years of marriage. I'm wondering whether you could help me understand the way in which my husband "announced" he is having an affair. We went to a small-town festival, and he introduced me to a woman. I could tell there was something going on. Later that day, he said that yes, he finds her very attractive. (I should mention that she's just two years older than our daughter.)

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

So I'm just trying to understand why he would do this to me and why this girl would want to meet me. She's also married, and supposedly her husband doesn't know about their affair.

I am just having a difficult time understanding how two people could be so cruel and mean to me. — *Slapped in the Face*

Dear Slapped: I will never fully understand why people are deliberately cruel. But I do know that the happier a person

is the more he or she wants others to be happy, and the reverse is also true. Just think how miserable your husband and his new girlfriend must be to act like such bullies. Pitiful.

Instead of getting mad, or even, get happy — happy that this louse is out of your life, for one. Spend time with friends and your daughter. Focus on living well (which really is the best revenge anyway). Good riddance to the rest.

Dear Annie: I am in my 50s and was taught by my family members that when someone brings or sends a gift, you should send a thank-you note. That was before email, texting or other digital messaging methods. There is always the good old telephone. I was also taught that it is not about the gift's value but about the thought, even if it's a tin of cookies or something homemade. Luckily, we have been able to be very generous.

In the past year, we attended two weddings, two funerals and a graduation and had two

babies born to friends (millennial to middle age). That doesn't include the gifts we gave for birthdays or the holidays. A "thank you" of some type would have been nice. We did not receive any acknowledgment for anything and finally asked the recipients whether they had received the gifts (knowing that in most cases, they had, because they were hand-delivered), to which most responded, "Oh, yeah. Thanks." Please tell your readers that if someone takes the time to send a gift, a quick "thank you" by some means is proper etiquette and very appreciated. Or the next time, they won't get anything. — *Beachside Suzi*

Dear Beachside: You are not the first — and you won't be the last — to write me about this trend. Two recent solutions I've heard from readers: 1) Donate to a charity in the person's name instead of continuing to give material gifts for which he or she shows no gratitude. 2) Give each offending person a set of nice thank-you notes and a book of "forever" stamps.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your journey in the world of commerce may have a few bumps. Handle business, however inconvenient it may be. The customer is not always right, though it behooves the merchant to lend the benefit of the doubt.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Take up space and command attention with your communication style. You'll gain the support of authority figures and the approval of those who see you as an authority.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are many ways to say it. Because of your desire to leave people with a good feeling, you'll give thought to how you're going to relay information from important news to the simplest of salutations.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Artistic expression is stress relief. A regular creative practice ensures that you'll be not only calmer and more centered but also quite masterful at the craft of your choice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have your choice of a few different investments. It will be better to invest in a person than it will in an object or commodity. Tonight: Fortune favors you when you express your love in actions instead of words.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People will have a strong need to categorize you today, only because they're trying to figure out where you fit into their lives. Just don't let them define you. You define you; and that definition is ever-evolving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If love is a game, this will be a prize winning round. Hand on the buzzer, you're ready to come up with the right answer. Make your move. Don't wait

to be sure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your close friends and loved ones will want to know what you think, but beyond that there is little to gain (and much to lose) from discussing personal and political views with the general public today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're probably feeling nostalgic for another time. It was no better or worse than this time really, but it was lovely and inspiring in its own way. Channel the energy of the past into today's work.

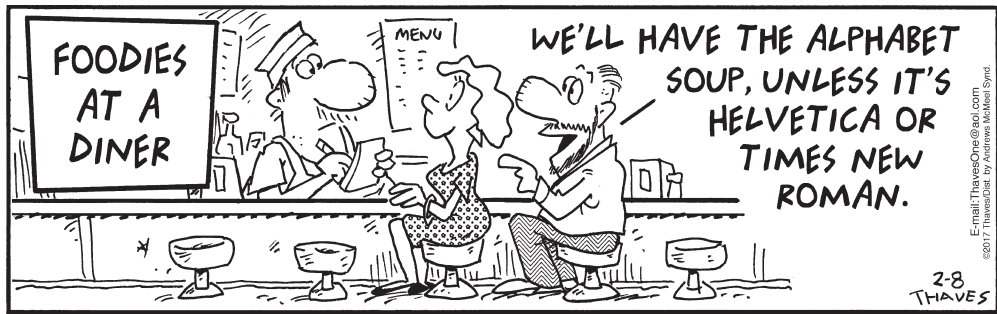
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Driven people do not find it difficult to push themselves hard. The real challenge for an overachiever is in setting limits that will lead to optimum gains over the long term.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You never know who is hurting inside. When in doubt, reach out. Your handshakes and hugs are healing. You won't regret being a little more friendly or affectionate than was really necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Without regular injections of fun and excitement, relationships get stale. Brainstorm on the subject, because the answer will be out of the ordinary.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 9). You can be subtle and sly when you need to be, and you'll maneuver a situation that requires diplomacy. You'll advance through the politics of a scene and become quite powerful. March and June offer a different kind of work and the chance at big money. A special friendship will send you on a July adventure. Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 9, 25, 34 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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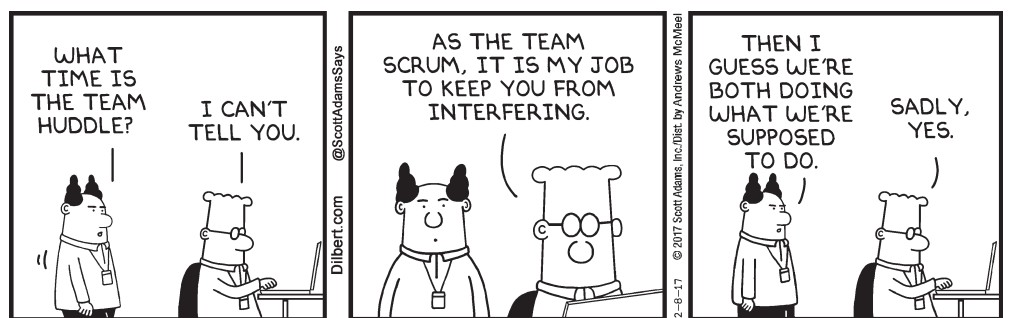
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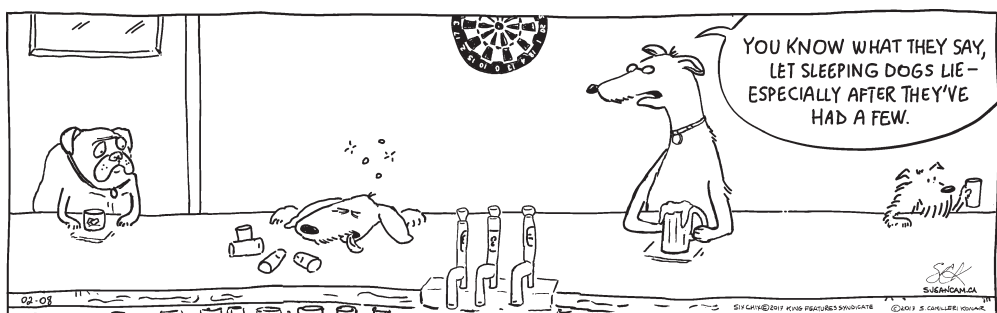
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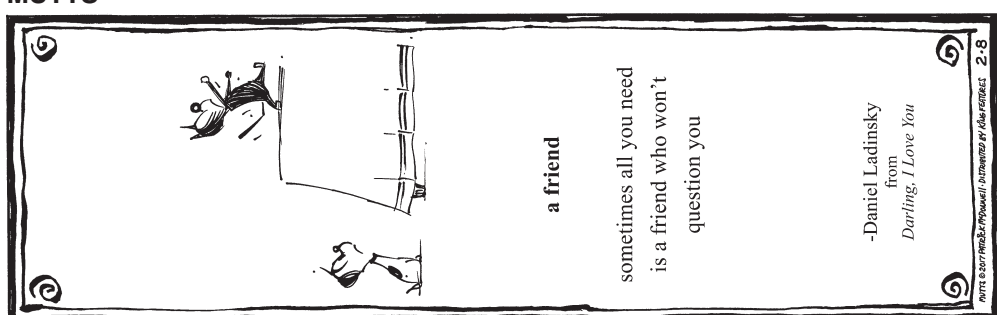
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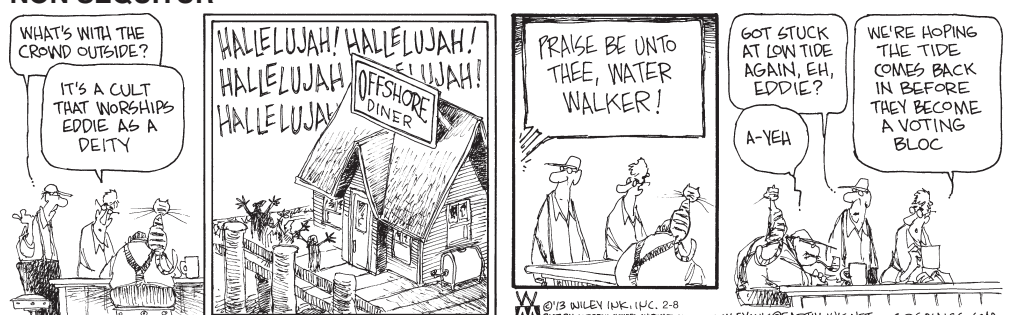
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