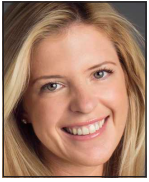


Lacking computer skills

Dear Annie: I'm in my 50s and struggling with technology. My two kids are both tech-savvy geniuses (as everyone under the age of 35 seems to be). When they were younger, they were around to help me on the computer, but now they're both grown and out of the house. I call them when I'm really stumped, but I know they're getting tired of it. My son has started telling me to "just Google it." I'm not great at Google, so that isn't much help.

What's worse is that last year, I somehow accidentally downloaded a virus that ruined my entire PC, so I ended up buying a Mac laptop. I've never had a Mac before, and now trying to do anything beyond checking my email is Greek to me. Although I'm embarrassed to have to keep asking my kids, I think that if one of them could just walk me through using the new laptop, it would be a big help. Would it be wrong of me to ask my son to come set everything up for me? He lives about an hour away. — *Low-Tech*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Low-Tech: Your kids grew up using technology. It's so second nature to them that they're not going to make the best teachers on that subject. It would be like trying to explain how to breathe. So though I don't think it would be wrong of you to ask your son for help, I think you'd be better off enrolling in a class.

Many Apple Stores offer free workshops to help users get acquainted with their products. If you don't have an Apple Store nearby, many libraries and community centers also offer free or low-cost courses on various computer programs. All this tech stuff isn't nearly so intimidating as it seems. Believe in your ability to learn and eventually your kids will be calling you for computer help.

Dear Annie: This letter is in response to "Tired of the Empty-Handed," the woman who is tired of her stepson and daughter-in-law's not bringing anything with them when she and other family members host dinners. She described them both as "wonderful" yet finds fault in

a very minor etiquette issue. Her husband doesn't want to say anything to his son for good reason: Doing so would create a mountain out of a molehill and a possible rift in the relationship.

Whenever my family has get-togethers, it is made quite clear that the host has invited you for your company, not your stuffed mushrooms. When I invite friends and family to my home for dinner, I ask them what types of food and drinks they prefer and make those items available for them. I also pay the tab at the restaurant if I invite someone out to dinner. And when friends invite me out to dinner, they pay. "Tired" should be grateful for having good relationships with her daughter-in-law and stepson — and now her new grandbaby, too. Many folks would love to have such relationships. — *Just My Two Cents*

Dear Just: I appreciate your big-picture attitude, and I think we should all aspire to it. But there will still always be some things that irk us, and we're better off communicating about them in a constructive way than bottling up the resentment and waiting to blow.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will love the work you're doing and may actually choose to work perpetually as a result. Your loved ones who are similarly happy at work will understand. The others, not so much!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you were to summon all your powers of creativity (and they are mighty strong today, to be sure) to redesign yourself, who would the new you be? Don't let the ones who knew you before hold you back. They'll adjust.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Progress and struggle go together. Some would argue that they must — that there is no progress without struggle. Then again, an inspiring influence can make the struggle seem mild, even satisfying!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The love experts have spoken: Don't fall in love with someone who flirts with everyone. If you disregard this advice (or have received it too late), then at least take comfort in the fact that whatever happens next, it's nothing personal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your life will be better through the magic of delegation. But this only works if you do it the right way: Joyfully hand over the task; let go; walk away; don't look back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When fantasy relationships become reality, illusions soon dissolve. The bubble of specialness around the situation may pop. And if you still like each other after that, this relationship has real potential.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you can be your less-than-ideal self with someone, it means you are closer with that person than you are with the people you feel the need to constantly impress. The question today is: How close do you really want to be?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Containing passionate feelings is, as a rule, hard for humans. You're the exception to this rule. You can stay cool even when there's a volcano going off in your emotional body. It's an amazing trick you'll practice today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You wonder if you may have under-loved someone who deserved a better quality of attention from you. You may not get the chance to rectify this with the same person, but you'll pay it forward.

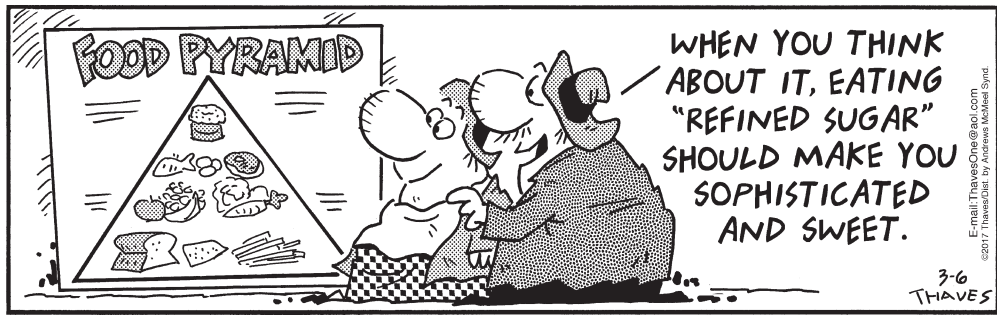
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe there really is a time for everything, and yet you can count on the fact that it's seldom a convenient time or one that's under your control — another argument for doing instead of waiting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being the different one in the group isn't bad, but it does mean you'll have to acquire more credibility and skills than the others. It won't be hard. The hardest part is accepting the injustice. Once you do, the rest is cake.

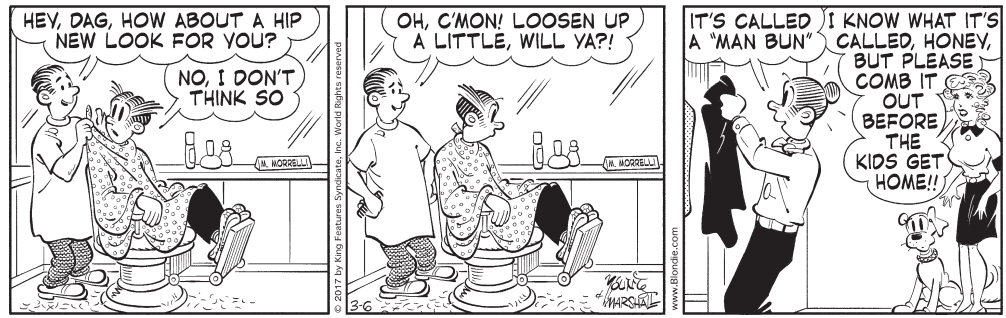
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Since most of the relationships in your life are involuntary (family, neighbors, co-workers, etc.), it makes sense for you to be very choosy about the ones that are voluntary (friends and more). Exercise your right to be picky.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 7). You'll discover the level of risk that suits you best. Your financial horizons open up in the next 10 weeks. Don't settle for what's offered to you, though, as you're luckiest while being proactive. A sweet connection in May will alter your destiny. You'll please the crowd and yourself simultaneously in August. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 39, 12, 46 and 17.

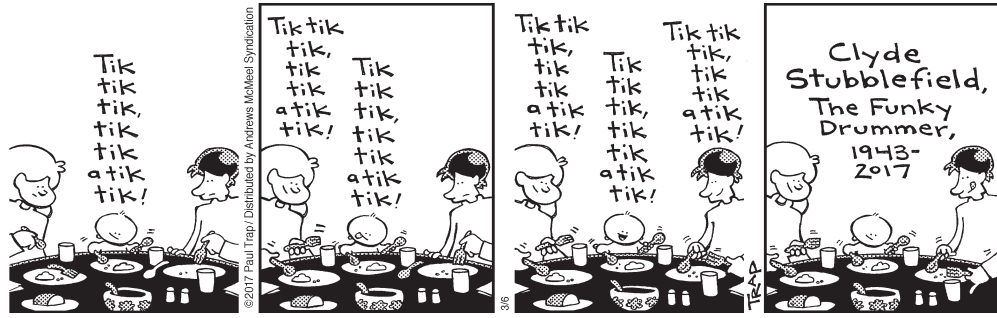
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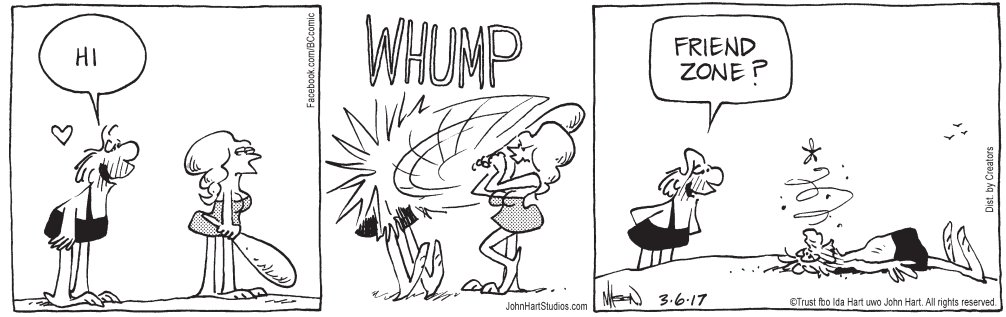
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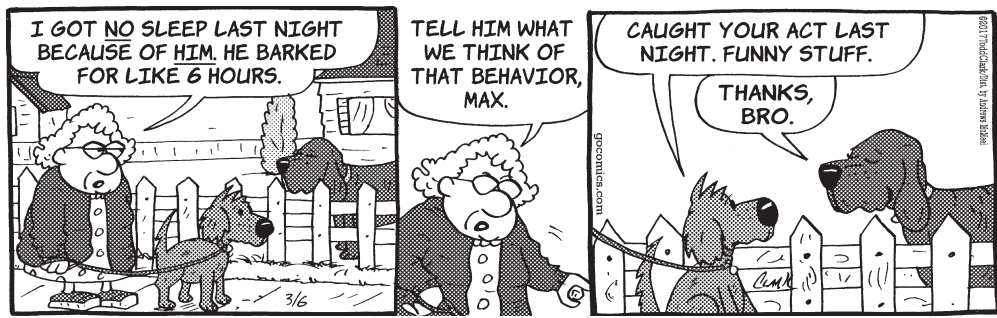
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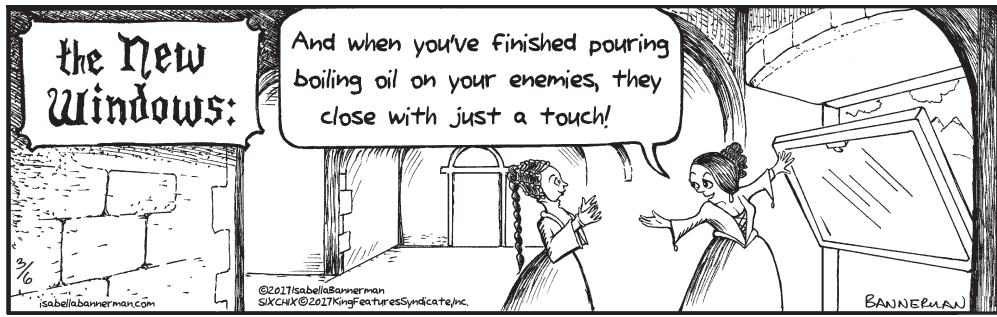
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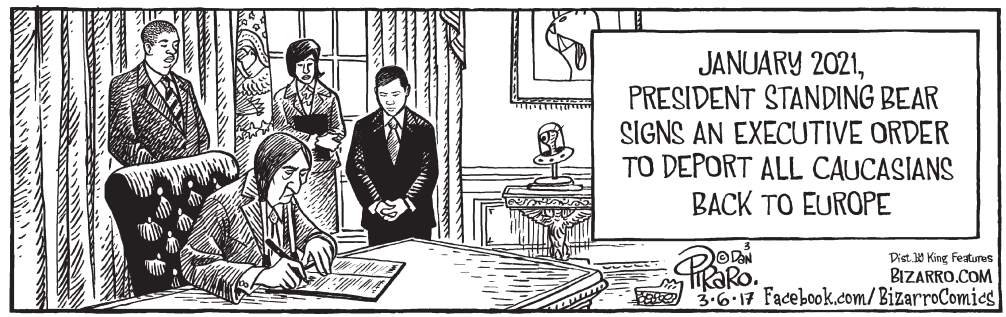
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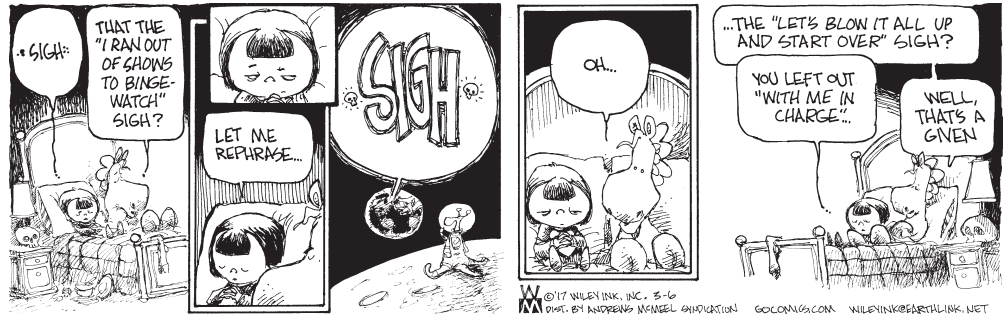
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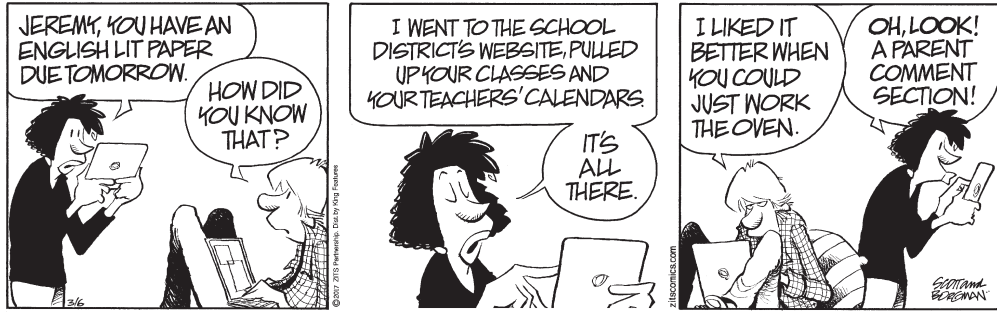
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