

Spanish immersion question

Dear Annie: Our 4-year-old will be in prekindergarten in the fall. His elementary school offers a Spanish immersion program, and we can't decide whether to enroll him in it. The program was one of the things that influenced our decision to buy a house in this area. But now that decision time is here, we're having second thoughts.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

His school day would be 80 percent taught in Spanish. In the class, there would be 10 kids who speak Spanish at home and 10 kids who, like my son, don't speak any Spanish.

My wife and I value the ability to speak a second language, and starting this early, our son might be able to speak as well as a native speaker. But it would be a huge commitment. The school expects people who commit in prekindergarten to stay in the program through fifth grade, and it's now or never; he couldn't start in the future. That is scary for us. We don't really know our son's learning style or whether this would be a good fit for him. And he'd be with the same 19 kids for

seven years. What if he were not to get along with them? — *Una Pregunta*

Dear Annie: This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will beget a lifetime of further opportunities. Being bilingual is a bigger asset than ever in today's globalized society (and increasingly competitive job market). Learning a foreign language has been shown to build multitasking skills, improve memory, make students more perceptive, hone decision-making skills and do so much more. I think you'd regret not trying this program out much more than you'd ever regret trying it.

See whether you can talk to some of the parents of the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who are in the program. Get a sense of the workloads and how children like the tightknit learning environment. Ask parents what they wish they had known when going into it. Whatever you decide, it's clear that you and your wife care deeply about your son's education, so I have no doubt he'll turn out just fine.

Dear Annie: A fellow church-goer doesn't like to drive, so she always asks others to pick her up for church, take her to visit her father in the nursing home, shuttle her to the grocery, etc., etc. She lives 30 minutes out of the way for most of us, and she has a car and a license. She never offers to pay for gas, leaving some of us feeling taken advantage of. Should we just put our frustration aside and try to show some Christian love, or can we help her understand that others don't want to be taken advantage of? — *Feeling Used*

Dear Feeling Used: Just because she has a license doesn't mean she should be driving, and if she feels uncomfortable or unsafe driving, then good for her for making the very smart decision to get help. However, that help needn't be from friends or congregation members every single time. Many community-based transportation services exist for seniors. An excellent database is available from AAA at <http://seniordriving.aaa.com/local-transportation-programs>. The most generous thing would be to help her help herself by getting her plugged in to some resources.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Nature is stronger than man. Then again, man is a part of nature. You'll prove the mightiness of the human spirit in some way today as you go up against the big forces and win.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). After periods of high exertion you need time to relax and recover. If you don't consciously and regularly schedule this, you'll miss it and burn out later. Take care of your health and happiness now by making a plan.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In order to better achieve the group goal, people must feel safe enough speak up about what's working and what's not. If everyone is too afraid to challenge or change the way things are going, the outcome will suffer.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be flashy, glamorous and dramatic situations to get involved in today, but should you? You won't be sorry if you instead choose your company the same way you choose your shoes — for comfort and long wear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you shouldn't tell everyone about the extensive effort you put into getting to a certain result. Your payoff will come when the others figure out that they can't easily duplicate what you just pulled off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You won't get the sale, promotion or attention necessary to move forward unless people know what you're doing and why. So don't be shy today; publicize your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your social talents will be put to good use now. You'll connect people who can do one another good. You'll set a tone where people feel comfortable enough to contribute.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's nothing wrong with wanting appreciation and love. It doesn't make you automatically needy just because you have the very basic human drive to be valued. Be suspicious of anyone who tries to make you feel otherwise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may not agree right now with what you did back there, but you made the best decision you could make based on the information you had at the time. Knowing more, you'll do it differently today.

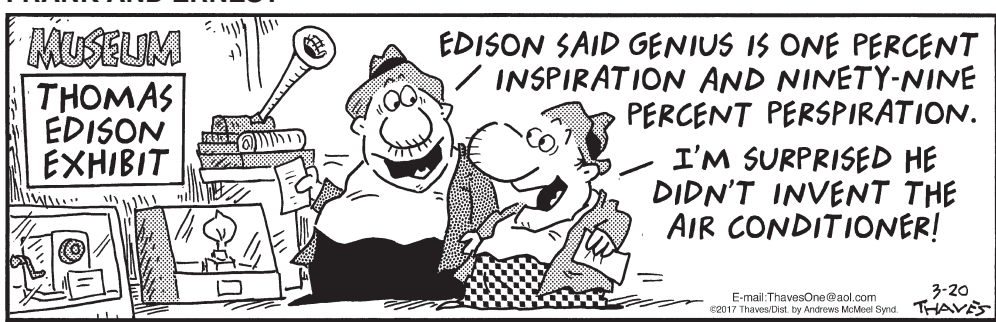
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been wronged — probably just a misunderstanding — and you'll work it out. Being too conciliatory would be a mistake. Don't mute your own interests more than is good for the relationship going forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The day has exciting potential for you as you follow a fascinating lead. Where high standards meet with prepossessing features, a strong attraction will develop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Mistakes teach us how to be more flexible in the future. They also make us compassionate. Accept yourself and move on. You're becoming stronger and more able every day.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 21). Get organized now, because you'll soon take your talents to a wider audience. Travel will be involved. You might be surprised who finds you enchanting in April. Family connections will parlay into business wins in May. In June, while tending to responsibility, a dream will come true. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 40, 9 and 31.

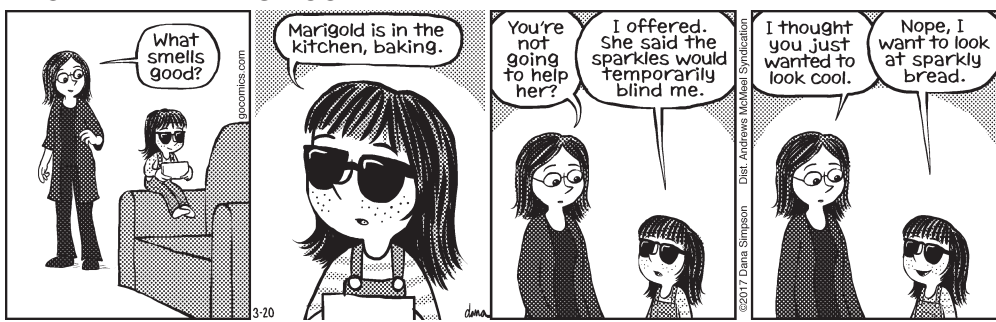
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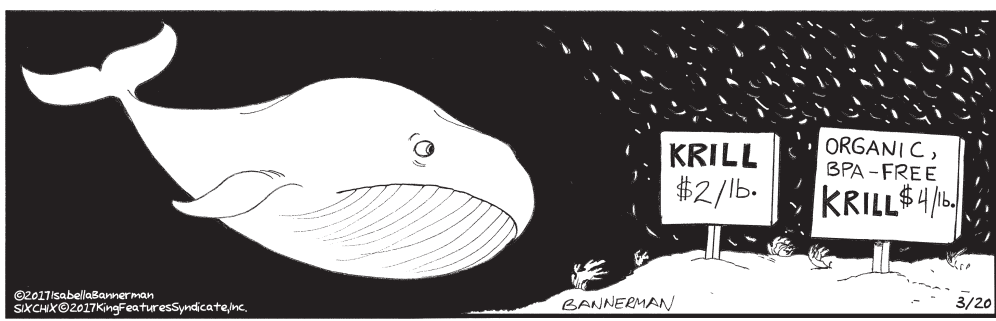
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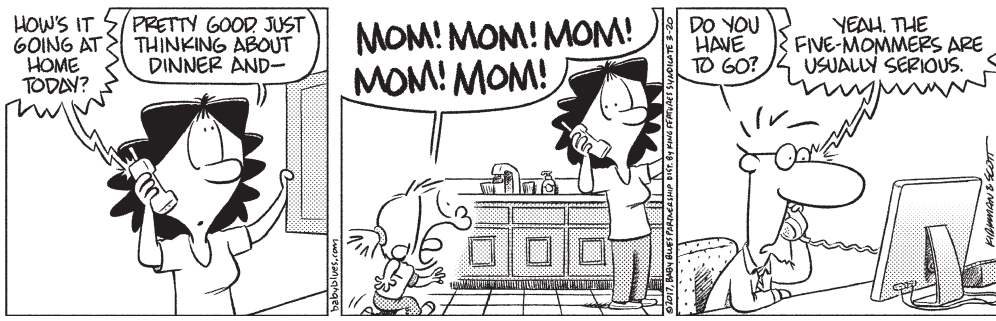
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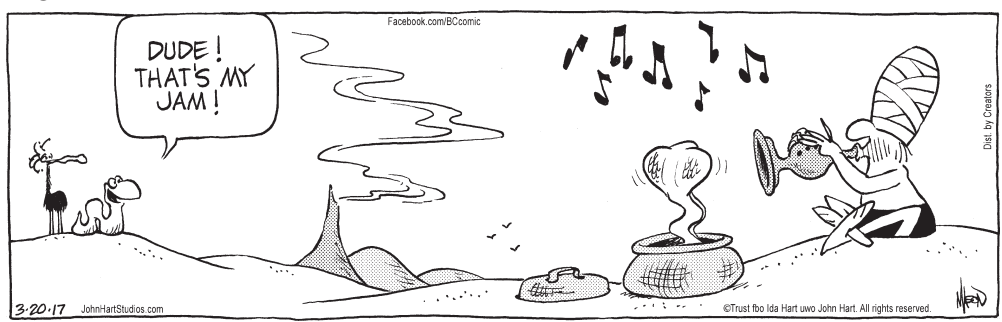
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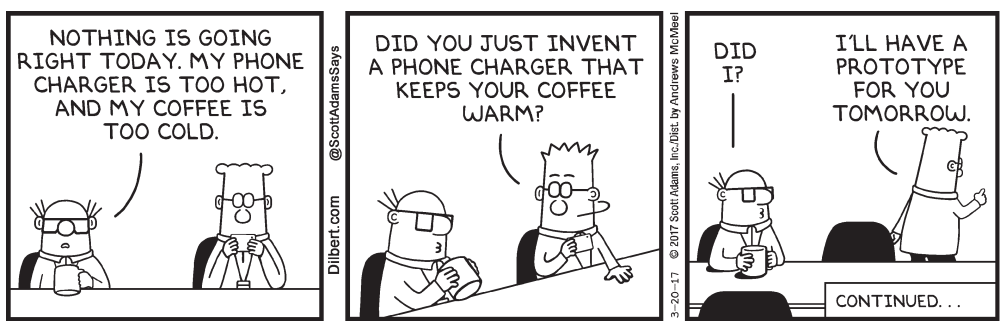
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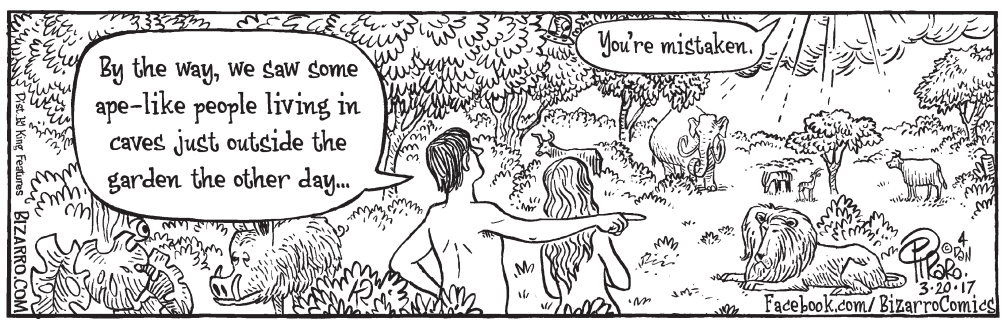
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