

Putting on shoes and socks

Dear Annie: Is there a right order and a wrong order for putting on one's shoes and socks? I find that on most days, I put on both socks and then both shoes. The other day, I put on one sock and one shoe and then the other sock and other shoe. I remember a scene on the old TV show "All in the Family" in which Archie Bunker and Meathead were getting ready to go out. Archie noticed that Meathead had put on one sock and one shoe, and Archie asked him what he was doing. Why didn't he put on both socks first and then the shoes? "I like to take care of one foot at a time," Meathead says. It was really funny. (The clip is available on YouTube, titled "Archie Bunker — A Sock And A Sock And A Shoe And A Shoe!")

But I am wondering whether any polling company has ever done a survey of how people put on their shoes and socks. — *Curious in Klamath Falls*

Dear Curious: Don't know of any survey, but I suspect that most people dress in the order Archie does. In my view, as long as each

shoe ends up on its correct foot, you're doing all right. However, if any of my readers feel strongly about the one-sock-one-shoe method, I'd love to hear from you.

Dear Annie: I've wanted to write to you for a long time. I want to tell you my story. I am a 52-year-old man. I have never married and have never even been in a serious relationship. In my late teens, I was put in the position of being caretaker to two family members who were unable to take care of themselves.

When I was in my 20s, I made two attempts at looking for love, and both times ended with my getting hurt very badly. After that, I realized I had too much baggage to ever appeal to a woman, so I stopped looking and settled in to my role as family caretaker. The years — and the decades — went by.

About four years ago, both family members whom I was caring for died within only a few months of each other, and I am alone. I have thought about looking for love again, but I don't even know how to go about it anymore.

So I am resigned to being alone for the rest of my life. I have been in and out of therapy over the years and been on and off antidepressants. Nothing has really helped. I have gotten involved with a couple of community groups over the years but haven't really made any close friends.

I guess I'm not really writing for advice; it's too late for that. I am writing to tell people to try not to be so judgmental about the socially incompetent guy over there who often keeps to himself. You don't know his story, and he might be really nice if you took the time to get to know him.

— *Lonesome*

Dear Lonesome: I am so sorry for the loss of your loved ones. Bless you for taking care of them. But the fact is that it's not too late for advice.

You are only 52 years old. You still have decades of life that can be full of love if you so choose. Don't look for someone to blame for your current state. Instead, focus on the present. Sign up for online dating sites, and don't let the sting of one rejection — or even 10 — paralyze you. There is a woman who will love the way you're "different."

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whether or not your position is official, you and all around you sense the same thing; you're a leader now, and you'll press on with confidence (that you may not actually feel) to show others the way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today, all speaking will be public speaking, or at least you should consider it as such. Stay on point. Even if you're only telling one person, craft your message as you would if it were being broadcast wide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Another one of those trials that test your mettle will be featured. Sure, you could do without this interruption of routine. Then again, since you know that the conflicts and inconveniences are what keep you on your game, you'll gladly take it on.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your water-sign nature will be amplified as your feelings flow with what's around you in a way that feels as destined as the river that rushes over obstacles and cliffs to get to the sea.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Letting go of worry seems harder than it should be. But you crave a peaceful, easy feeling, and you'll have it. Whatever it will take to align yourself with the highest and best in your nature, you'll be willing to do it today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Maybe you used to think of a certain person as your adversary, but things have changed. You're not working at cross-purposes anymore; maybe you never were. You'll be partners in seeking a solution that's a mutual win.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You got the feeling you were doing the right thing, and that intuition will prove accurate. You will have sublime success if you stay on this course. All you have

to do is keep putting one foot in front of the other and continue on this path.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be visited by a ray of hope, or rather, you'll be heartened by the ray of hope that was always there, just hiding behind some cloud cover for a while.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are many difficulties and challenges in the creative process. There are fears to overcome, skills to acquire and risks galore. Yet, in the end, it's creating that brings you the greatest joy and satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If just one person feels more loving and accepted today because of you, you've made a difference in the world. And if that one person happens to also be you, it still totally counts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Much will be requested of you. Just because it's doable doesn't make it reasonable or advisable. Stand up for yourself. Don't accommodate others at the expense of your own comfort and well-being.

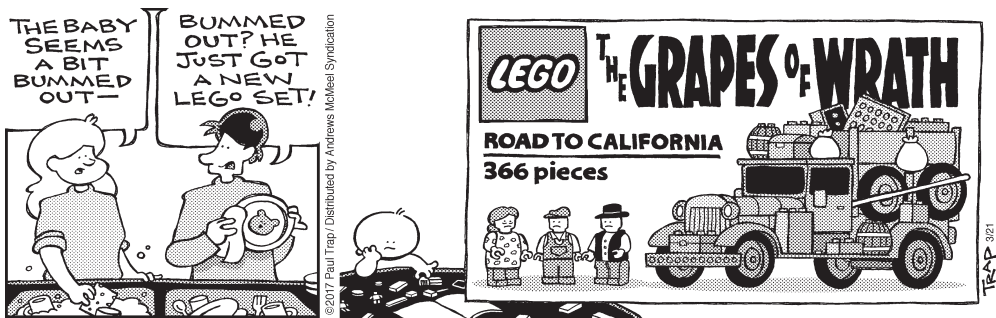
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Blaming another is a waste of time. Blaming yourself is also useless. Think in terms of cause and effect. You can find a quick solution when you skip the emotional baggage that comes with blame.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 22). You'll hear praise from many corners over the next 10 weeks. You'll be asked to join a person or group in an arrangement that excludes other options. Think carefully; take your time. Lifestyle upgrades happen in June and September. Because of new influences your work takes a different direction in July. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 44, 42, 20 and 14.

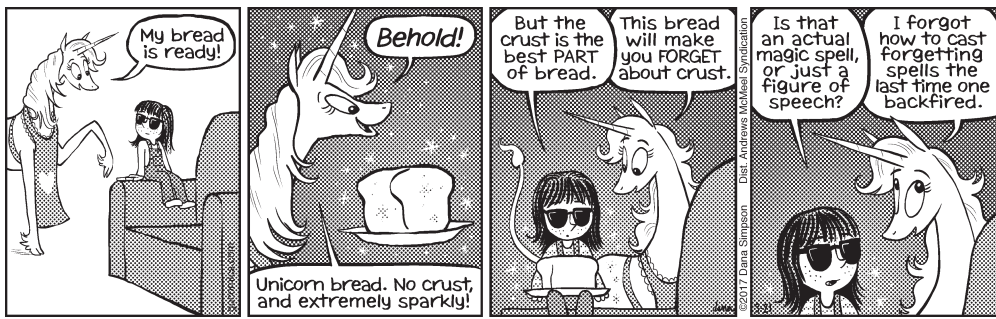
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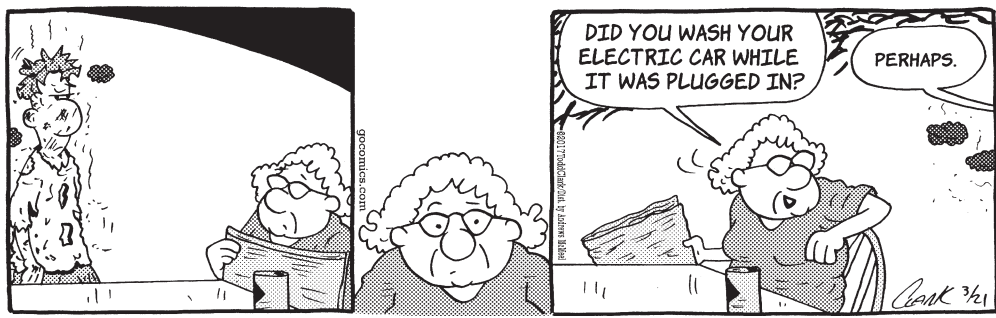
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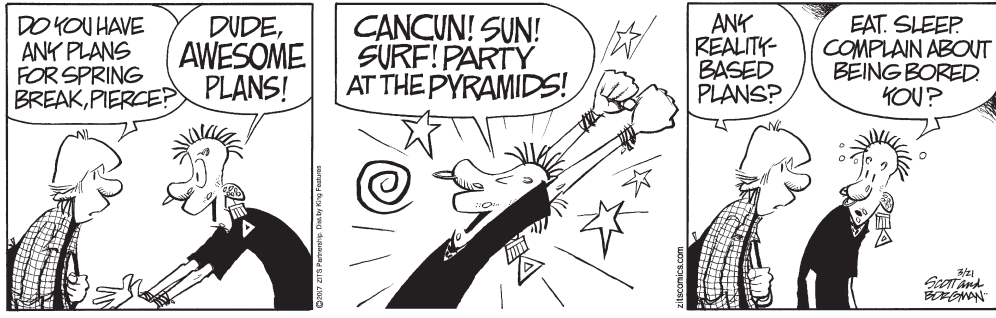
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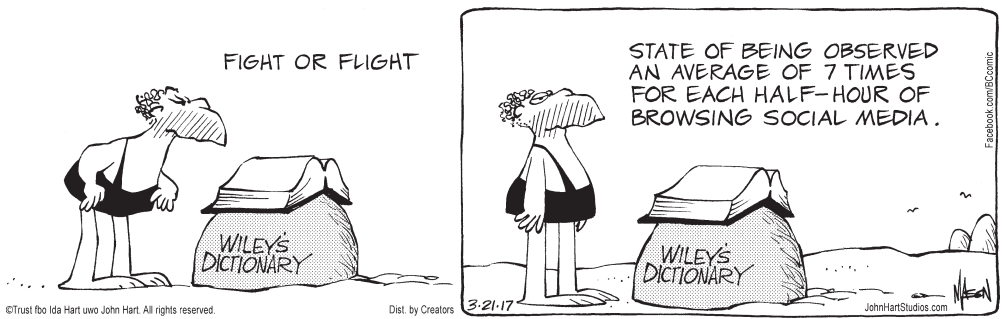
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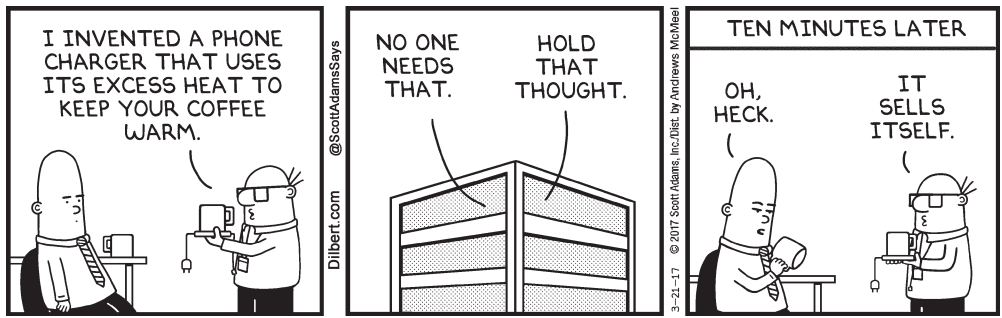
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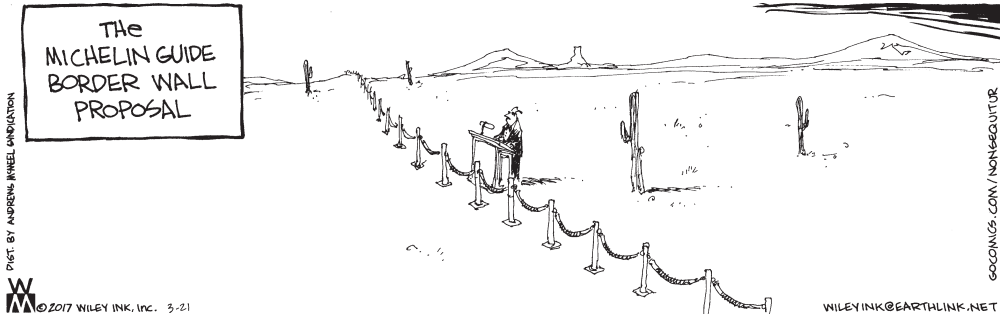
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