

Should Dad be invited?

Dear Annie: My 17-year-old son will be graduating soon, and the question is: Does Dad get invited? My son's father moved back to the area in the past year, but they have had contact only about three times, mostly because my son does not answer his dad's texts or calls.

My ex had moved away in a hurry after he was caught stealing from his only friend and roommate. Once he left town, he was also caught stealing from his own father and stepmother.

I used to hide these indiscretions from my child, but now that he is older, I've had to be truthful with him, especially when I was recently concerned that his father might try to come get him from school without permission. Because his dad has mental illness diagnoses, people do not press charges or he somehow manages to get himself out of sticky situations. I'm not even really sure what's going on with him, as I have stopped concerning myself with his many issues.

So, with graduation around the corner and a finite number of tick-

ets — only five — I would rather have my mom and my brother's family of three use the tickets, as they have all been the supportive people in my son's life. Is there an obligation to Dad? — *Proud Momma*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Proud: There a few milestones large enough for us to see when we zoom way out from our own lives and look at the bigger picture — weddings, births, funerals and graduations chief among them. This is a big deal for your son. It is his day. I would ask your son his thoughts on whether he wants his dad there. As long as there's no risk of his dad's disrupting the celebration, I would lean toward allowing him to come if your son wishes.

Having your mother and brother there (along with one other member of his family) would be great and helpful, too. The more support for your son the better. If your ex comes to the ceremony, you need not invite him to celebrate afterward if you would be uncomfortable with it or feel it might be too much. A hug

and a thank-you would suffice.

Dear Annie: The recent letter you received from "Finally Sleeping," about the difficulties of fibromyalgia, has saved my body. Within a period of two years, I had three back operations that had to be performed by a neurosurgeon. Because of spinal cord issues, I suffer from permanent nerve damage and developed neuropathy and a condition called complex regional pain syndrome. Our mattress, which is a Tempur-Pedic, can be very cold, and every morning when I would wake up, I felt as if a truck had run over me. It would take at least an hour for my body to adjust. Thanks to "Finally Sleeping," my problem was solved: I got a heated mattress pad. I figured that if it helps her to sleep, it might help me feel better in the morning. And it has changed my world. So kudos and many thanks to "Finally Sleeping"! — *Mornings Are Better in PA*

Dear Mornings: I print readers' stories and solutions in this column with the hope that they help at least one person out there, and you're living proof. That is wonderful. Thank you for sharing, and keep sleeping soundly.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When the sounds, sights and tastes that speak to your heart and body are the very same as another person's this builds a sense of belonging, comfort and kinship. You can have love without such commonalities, just not as quickly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't need to forgive anyone or be forgiven for anything. This is a day to accept the way it is and build from here without rehashing or giving any focus at all to the way things were before. This is now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone loves a pretty package. In today's instance, such a promise will intrigue and attract many. You'll be drawn in just like the others. But you won't stay "in" if there's nothing compelling inside.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes the unaccepted and seemingly unacceptable thing is the truer thing. You're willing to look at it without taking offense or being astonished. The majority isn't always (or even often) right.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This electric energy that buzzes in your body when you engage with an exciting idea or pursuit is evanescent — but very real. So act on it while the sensation is alive in you! Otherwise you'll miss out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While you admire those with the means and taste to cultivate exceptional collections, you will be more moved by those with a knack for beautifully cultivating the ordinary, elevating what is truly unexceptional.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you face today is not a difficult situation, and perhaps that's the problem. Challenge engages you. Create your own secret goal for the situation. That will help you wholeheartedly step into

the game.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have so much love to give, and today it radiates from you in many forms, including the words of encouragement you lend, your friendly smile and your other smile — the one with all the mischief in it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You must fulfill your duty precisely today. If you do more than your duty, it's interference, and it could upset the balance and undermine others. And of course you never want to do less than your duty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The obstacles of the day will not be big dull rocks in the path. They are living decision-makers, and they are not stupid. They will yield to influence, persuasion and also stern resolve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've a kind, soft heart. However, today it will be very wise for you to avoid getting mixed up with the chronically unlucky types who are perpetual victims and bottomless pits of need.

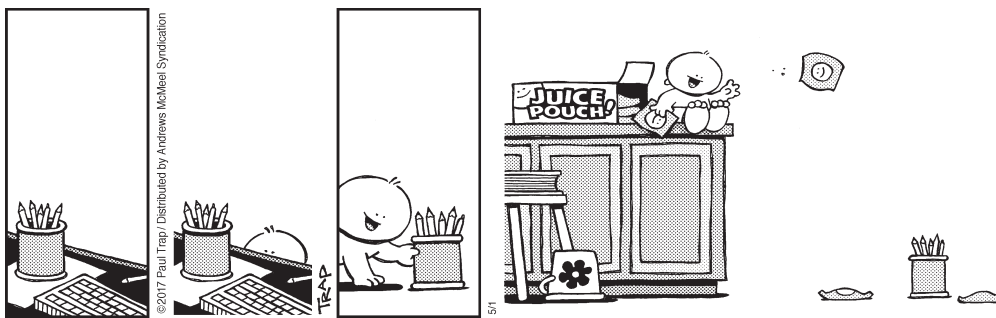
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be so attracted to the person who exhibits opposite qualities from yours — the "yin" to your "yang" or vice versa. You'll swirl together and help one another roll along.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 2). Your identity will shift this solar return. You no longer relate to certain pursuits; other interests will outshine them. Craving the community of like minds, new involvements will change your schedule and your priorities. Your enthusiasm for a team will be highlighted in June and will lead to a subsequent quest. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 9, 30, 22 and 18.

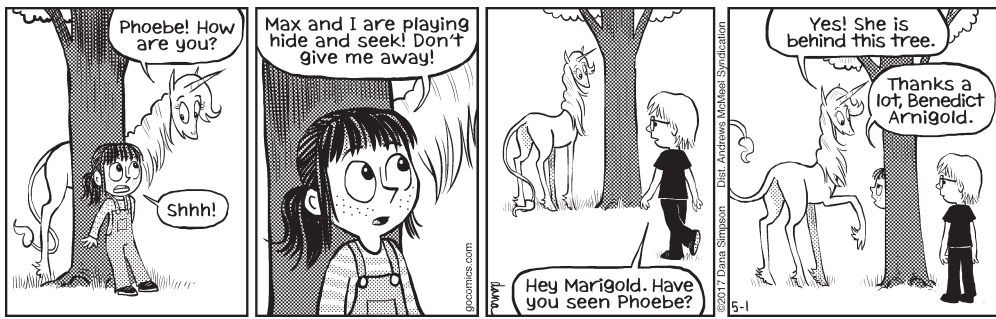
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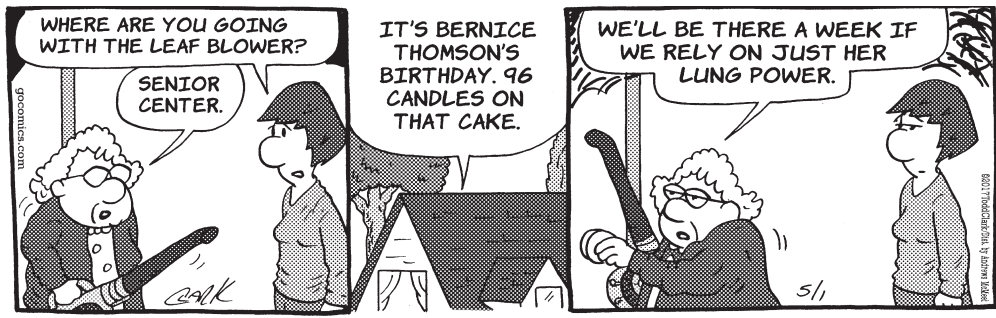
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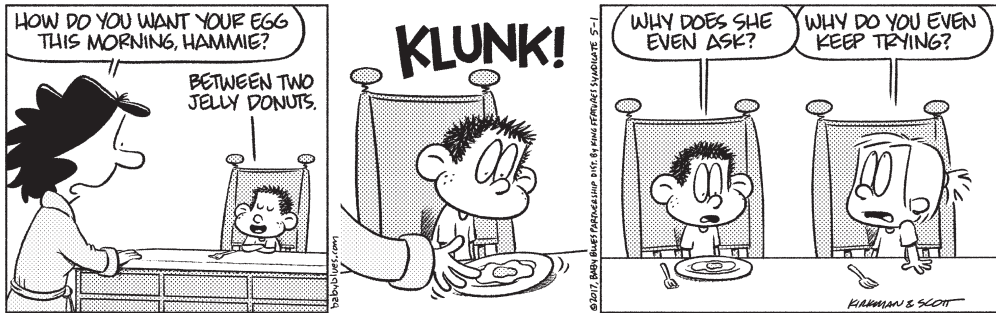
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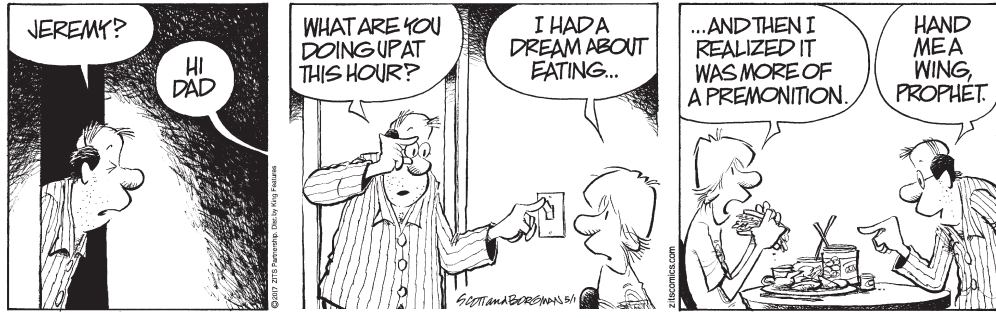
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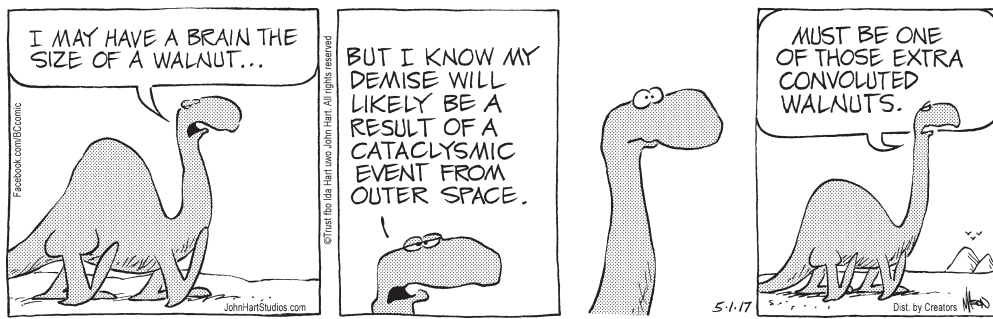
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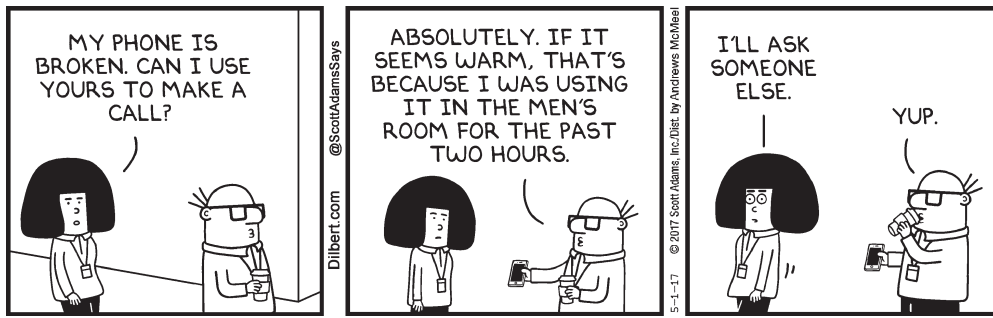
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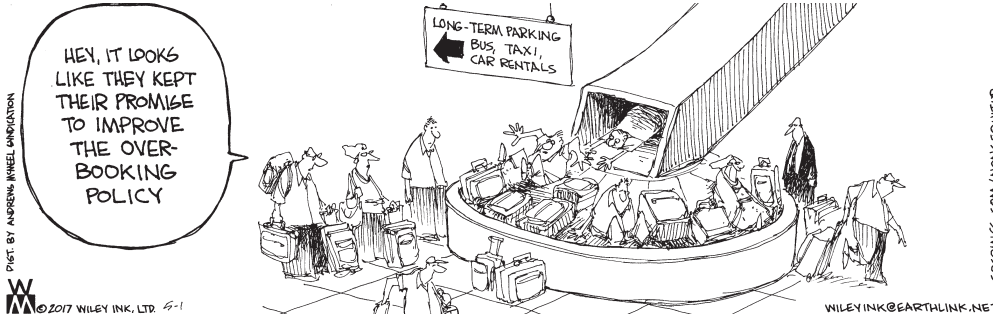
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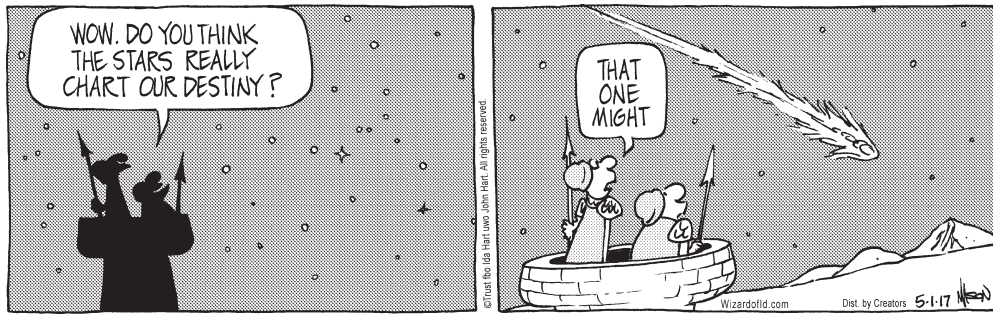
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