

She's still hung up on ex

Dear Annie: I need your help with something. I am still in high school and have hit a bump in the road with a relationship issue.

I was dating this guy, "Andrew," for 10 months, and I really thought we had something going. Then I met this guy "Will," but we were just friends. One of my really good friends, "Natasha," would always talk to Andrew at the time, and it bothered me. I asked both of them whether anything was going on, and they both said no.

Later, I found out that Will liked me, but I didn't like him back. So Natasha and Will made up a plan to break Andrew and me up. They told lies about me, and Andrew believed them and broke up with me.

Now my used-to-be-friend Natasha and Andrew are dating, and though I am happy in the relationship that I am in now, I still feel hung up on him, and I am not quite sure how to get over him. He was a big part of my life, and my parents even approved of him. We talk every once in a while, and he seems happy where he is, but I am still wondering whether there will ever be a chance of our getting back

together. — *Still Hung Up*

Dear Still: Things ended abruptly and bizarrely, and now you're wondering what might have been. That's totally understandable.

But Andrew began disrespecting your relationship the minute he took Will and Natasha's word over yours, and he really fouled things up once he started dating Natasha. Just as any real friend wouldn't date your ex-boyfriend (without permission), any guy worthy of your love wouldn't immediately start dating your friend, no matter the circumstances.

Dating other people can be helpful after a breakup, as it's good to see for yourself that there are plenty more fish in the sea. But real closure can only come from within. If you're not smitten with your current boyfriend, don't hesitate to end things. You'll find someone who makes you forget all about Andrew eventually. In the meantime, focus on your own hobbies and goals, and spend quality time with true friends (i.e., not Natasha).

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "Distracted by His Distraction," who is happy with her boyfriend

aside from his staring at attractive women in public. Many years ago, I was engaged to a very macho man who frequently flirted with other women in front of me. He was also insanely jealous of other men and constantly accusatory of me.

We would be walking down the street, and I would see him exchange eye contact and a sexy little smile with any attractive woman who walked past. If I said anything, he would tell me that I was jealous. He never took responsibility for his demeaning actions.

Then one day, we were in the supermarket, and I turned around to see him flirting with a woman in line at the front of the store. I told him that he was disrespectful of me and that if I ever saw him flirting again, I would yell, for all to hear, "He is unemployed and impotent, but if you want him, you can have him!" He knew I was serious. Of course, I soon broke up with him and eventually married someone else, but at that moment, it was a sweet victory. I made my point and took back my power. — *Threats Can Work With Jerks*

Dear Threats: Threatening jerks is not so effective as leaving them, so kudos to you for getting out of there.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some things are best forgotten: pettiness, mistakes made out of ignorance, accidental slights ... no good can come from dwelling there. If you can't forget, go on as though you have and you'll find that's almost as good.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whoever said that you can't live in the past hasn't seen the glorious reenactments your vivid imagination is capable of achieving. Not only will you relive the scenario; you'll embellish and improve upon it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll play by the rules today and respect those who enforce them. However, you'll apply the full extent of your might within those bounds. You're ferocious when you need to be.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you know you're right, you'll be willing to take great risks and use powerful tactics in order to support your side. But if there's even a shadow of a doubt about your correctness, approach cautiously and conservatively.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've taken risks and weathered hard knocks. It's how you know the value of things. It's how you know the posers from the real deal. It's why people feel the magnetic pull of your presence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're talented. Sometimes you need to be reminded of this fact. Put yourself in a position to succeed. Do what you do best, and let the praise that follows boost your confidence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Even if there's little pay and no recognition attached, the sweat, satisfaction and general character building that happens with a job well-approached is reward enough. Besides, the harder you work, the luckier you get.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When William Blake suggested, "Love seeketh not itself to please nor for itself hath any care," he wasn't considering your co-dependent tendencies. You're healthier in a love that does please you, and abundantly so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The guilty will catch themselves eventually. You may want to speed that along. Consider carefully if it's a worthy investment of your time. If you're in a position to prevent others from harm then the answer is yes.

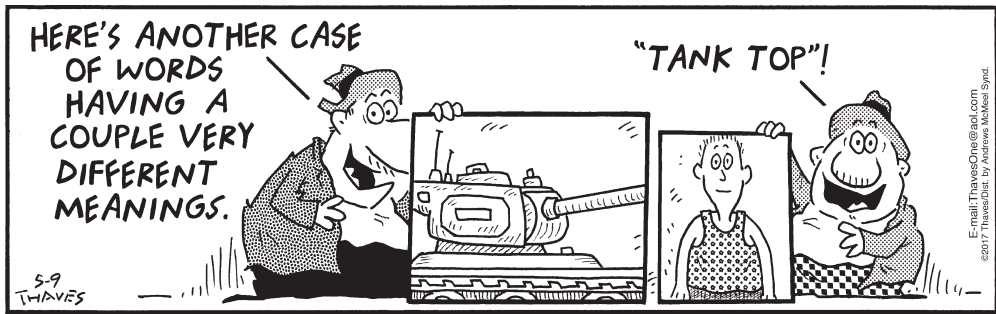
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The confidence you have in yourself is the key that's going to help you gain the confidence of others. If you've never talked to yourself in the mirror to build yourself up, this is an excellent time to start.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you need the lesson, the teachers are everywhere. There are tomes of wisdom to be read in the eyes of strangers. There are sermons in the stones.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't make another person grow up. People do their own growing, often in spite of themselves. Nature gets the credit, really. You can, however, contribute to circumstances that favor growth. And so you will.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 10). The next 10 weeks will bring unexpected twists, unexplainable luck and people who pop in and out of starring roles. There will be spectacular highlights in June; new information will change your backstory in July. A strategic career move will have you making more money in September. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 6, 20, 44 and 28.

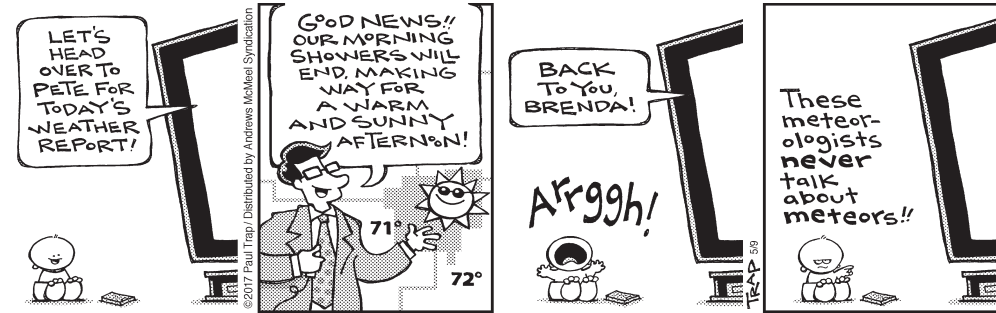
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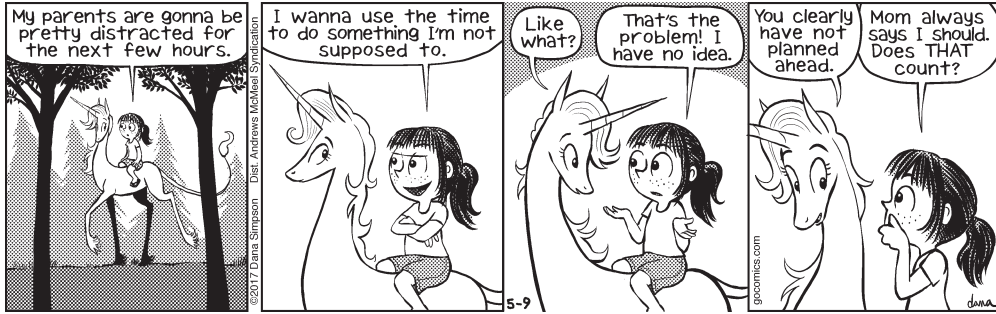
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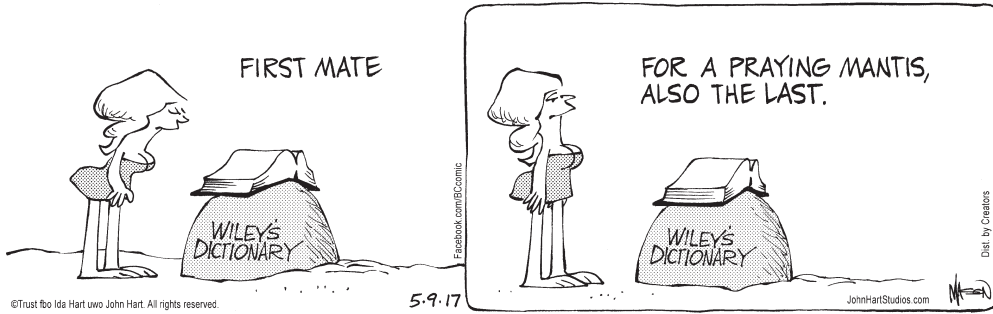
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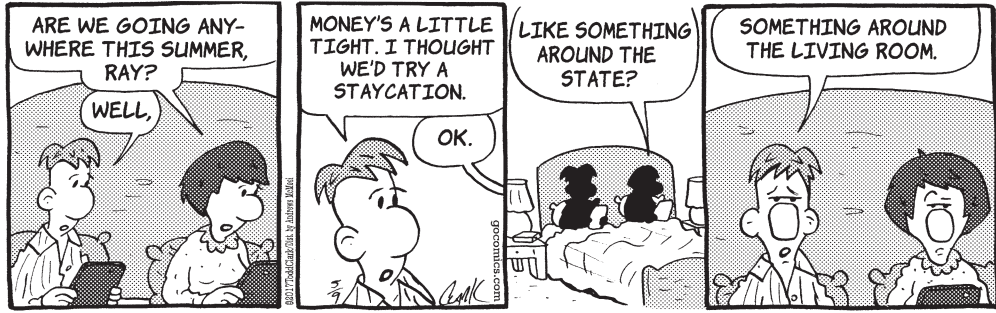
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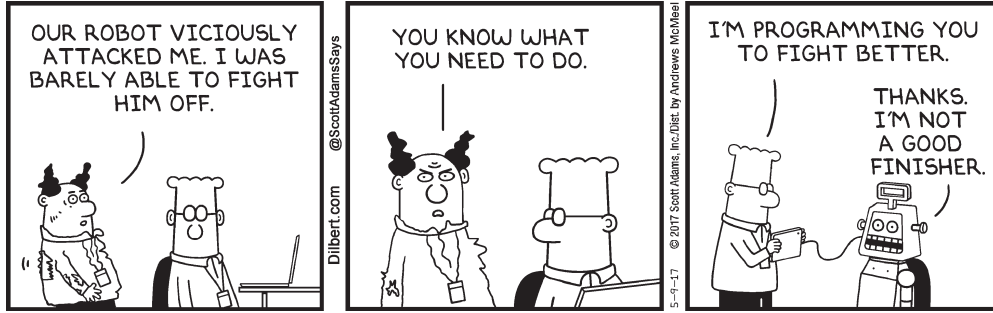
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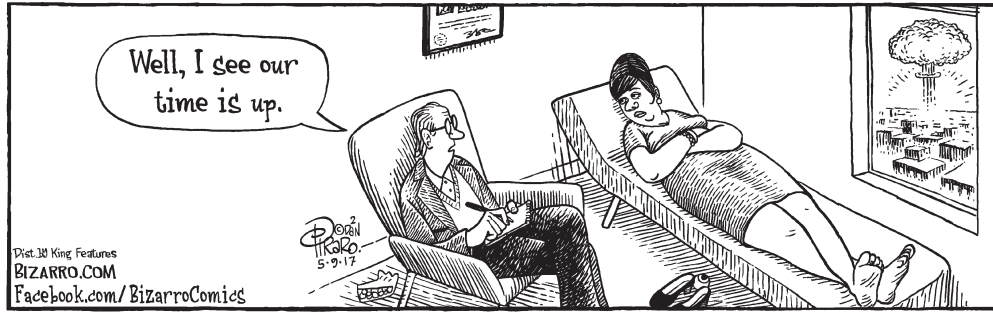
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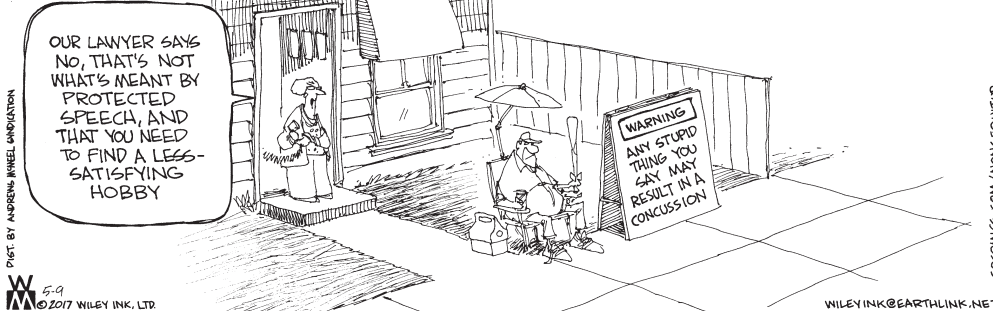
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