

Saying no to a messy vacation, vacationers

Dear Annie: I hope you can settle a conflict I have with my boyfriend of almost nine years. One of his adult children has a wife and two children. He wants them to go on vacations with us. The problem is that they are extremely messy. My boyfriend agrees they are extremely messy but will not talk with them about it, and I cannot deal with their mess — which always goes from one end of the unit to the other, both inside and outside. When they use something, they just leave it wherever, including dirty dishes with food still on them. They are perfectly capable. It stresses me out, but I stay strong and refuse to be their maid.

I have given my boyfriend a condition: He needs to talk with them about keeping our common areas picked up, or I will not be joining them. What

should I do? Please help soon, as summer is approaching. — *No Mess, Please*

Dear No Mess: This situation is stickier than a dirty spoon. This is your vacation, and you shouldn't be acting as the take-along housekeeper. Yet as Grandpa's girlfriend, it's awkward for you to set down rules for his family. This really is your boyfriend's mess to clean up. He should absolutely talk to his son and grandchildren about tidying up. Stay strong. If he refuses to talk to them, treat yourself to a peaceful vacation on your own.

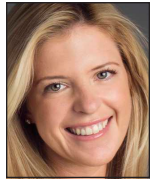
Dear Annie: My daughter "Luann" has a master's degree in business. Yet she will not use it. Instead, she has a low-paying job as a cashier in a dollar store. She is obese — weighing 240 pounds at 5 feet 1 inch tall. She is very

obstinate; you cannot tell her anything. Apparently, instant gratification, french fries and Diet Coke are more important than a healthy body and attractive appearance. What can I do for her situation? Would hypnosis help her to change her attitude? — *Heartbroken Mother*

Dear Heartbroken: Never mind her attitude; let's focus on yours. I know that as a mother, you're coming from a place of love. You think your criticism will help. But your letter sounds judgmental, and if you're approaching your daughter with the same tone, it's no wonder she's not listening.

Luann is an adult now, a well-educated one at that, and she will make her own decisions. All you can do is be a friend — and friends don't shame friends. Build Luann up. The better her self-esteem is the more empowered she'll feel to change her life — if that's what she wants.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

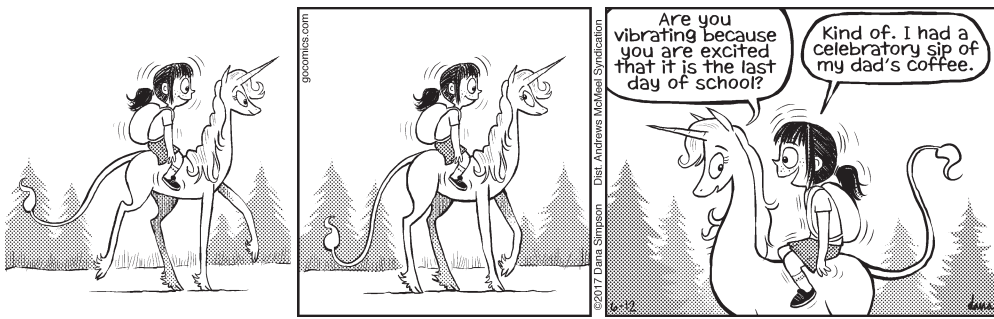
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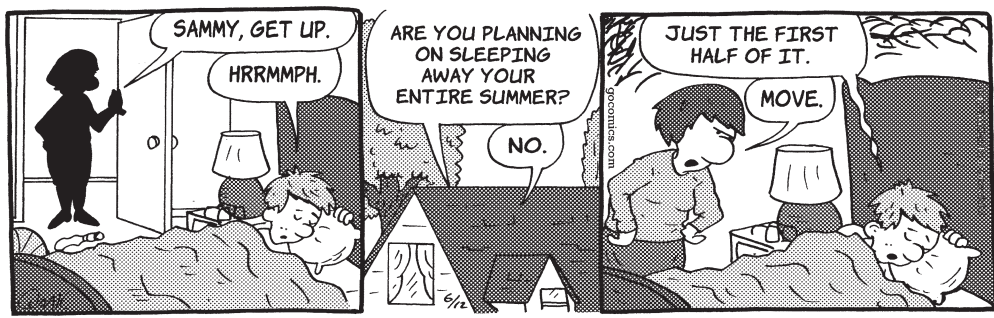
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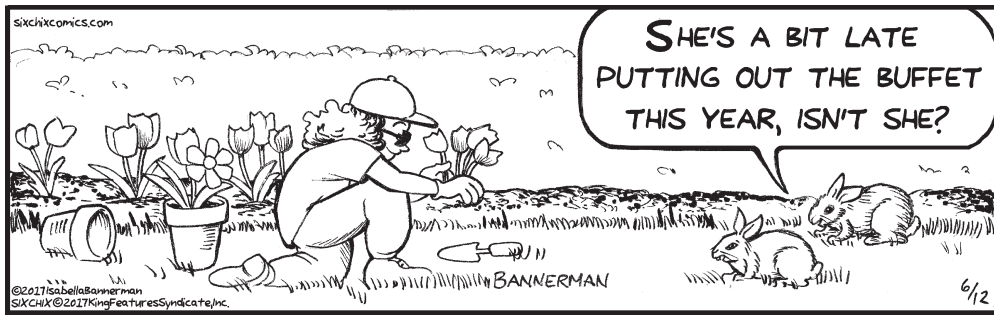
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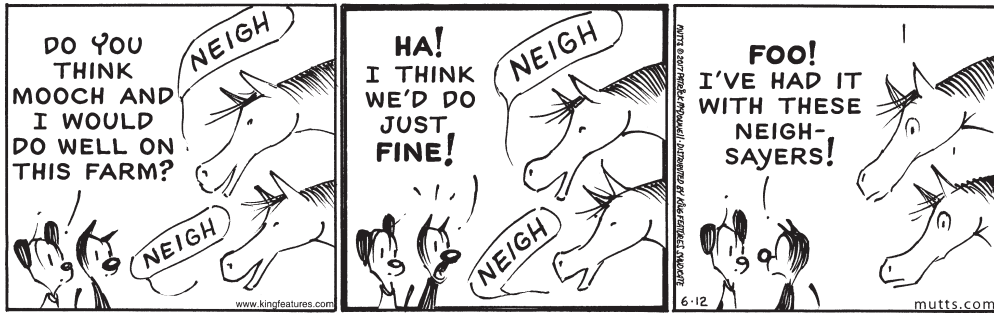
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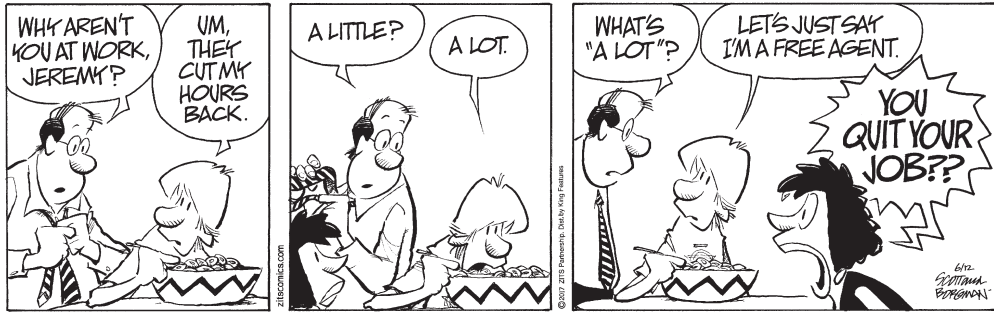
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What someone said to you long ago is still part of your inner scenery, like words drifting on a lake of thought. Go on and ignore them a while longer. Someday they will wash up on the far shore and never get in your way again.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Comfortable people are more honest and generous than defensive people. Your kindness, astute attention and warmth will make people comfortable around you. You've much to gain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone seems to need you at once — part of the deal when you're the cosmic darling. Just remember that you have the choice of when and if to respond to people. Their urgency doesn't have to be yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You want to share, but choose your audience carefully. Some stories are like hot meals that start to cool off as soon as the air touches them. Consider a diary first and then see how you feel when the private writing is done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You feel like a fountain, the water of emotion circling through you, the same feeling being pumped up and falling from you. It's the circulation that keeps this fresh. You're willing to feel unimpeded — an attractive feature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't make the weather outside, but you can go where it's usually sunny this time of year. Similarly, you don't make the weather inside, but you can escape to tropical vacation spots of imagination at will, so what's stopping you?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You shouldn't have to pay to have your senses enlivened: It's a point of reference, a state of mind, and it's free. You'll go where the scents rhyme and the colors beat out

a rhythm your eyes can't help but dance to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your ambition will have you setting lofty goals you're not likely to hit. However, you'll get much further than if you hadn't aimed so high. The key will be to interpret all success as significant and to maintain a joyful tone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you fall for someone, the ride down comes with a rush and a hope that you'll be caught or land on something soft. When you believed you've been tripped — well, that's a far less enjoyable trajectory.

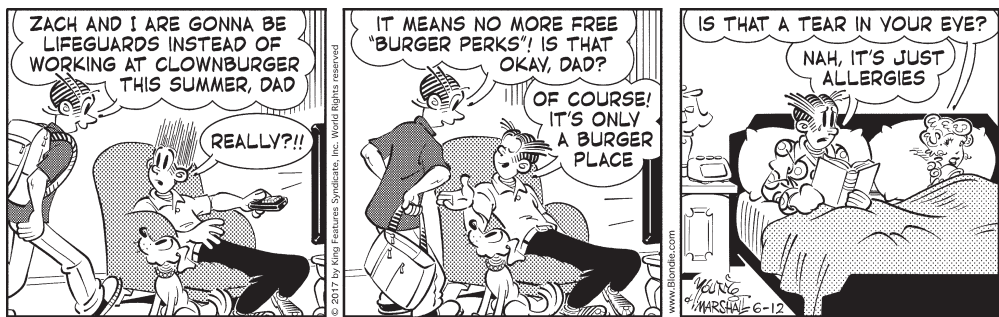
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A strong sense of style isn't really a matter of good taste or bad taste; rather, it's a specific set of mindful choices and intentions repeated in an identifiable pattern.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you first made your decision, you weren't sure. Now you're starting to love this choice. The best part about it is, the more you love it, the less you need other people to love it.

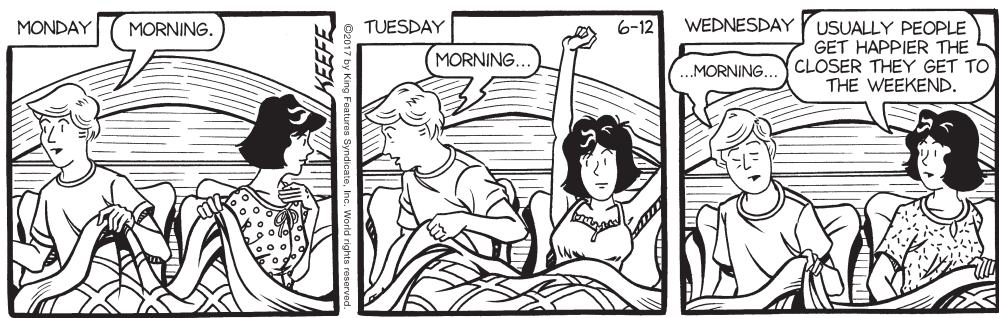
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you had to point it back to a single event that tweaked the relationship, you'd be stumped. It was probably something minor, and it wasn't your fault, either, but that doesn't matter now. What matters is fixing it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 13). You'll invest your heart in projects and be intensely fulfilled this year. Set out with faith that the path before you will be cleared. The next three weeks you'll brainstorm and keep clarifying your vision. Return often to your creative influences. August through October bring toil and sweat then a big cash-in. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 40, 4, 49 and 17.

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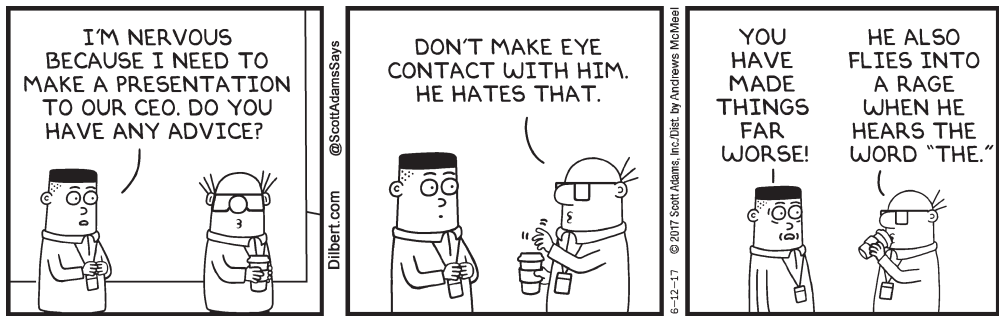
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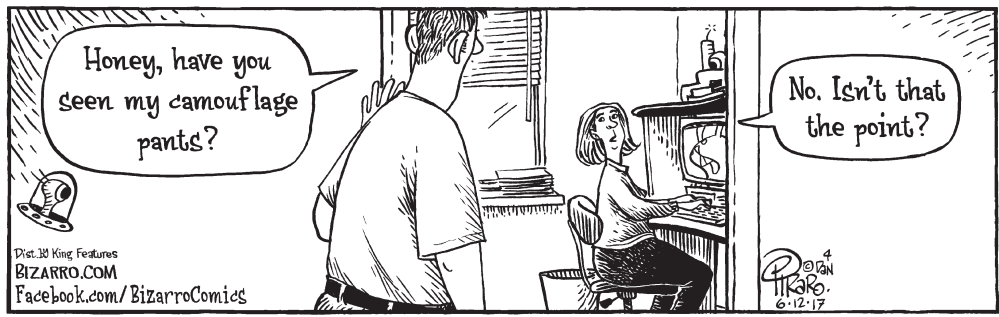
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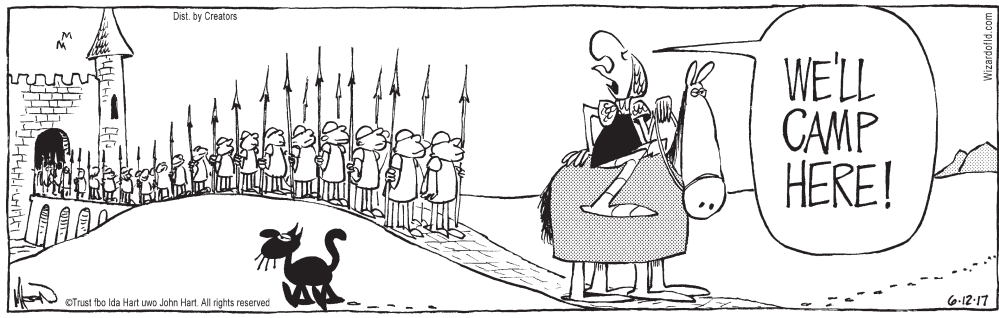
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ROSE IS ROSE

