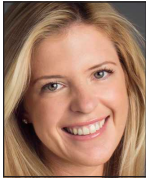


Considering moving in together

Dear Annie: All the advice columns I've read recommend not moving in together before marriage — or at least not before you and your partner have been dating for a year. I get the logic behind that, but in real life, things rarely follow a perfect timeline. In my case, my boyfriend of six months, "Michael," has to move out of his house because his landlord is selling it. He has two months to find another place. We think it makes the most sense for him to move in with me. My apartment is plenty big. We'd both save money. We get along great and spend so much time together as it is.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Sure, I always thought I would wait a year before moving in with someone, too. But Michael and I have a great thing going. We have off-the-charts romantic chemistry, and we're very compatible as friends. We've never even had a fight.

We have discussed our living styles and think we would make good roommates. We're both in our mid-20s. What do you think? And please, with all due respect,

I don't want to hear that "why buy the cow" line. I'm not writing to you for a lecture on marriage. — *Roommates-to-Be*

Dear Roommates: Imagine a house that has no foundation but just sits atop the dirt.

It may have been carefully constructed, with sturdy wooden walls and a dazzling slate roof. But when a hurricane blows through and there's nothing keeping the whole thing grounded, how long do you think that house will last?

No matter how great your chemistry with Michael, you don't deeply know each other. No matter how sunny things are now, storms will appear on the horizon eventually. (By the way, I wouldn't be so proud about never having had a fight. It's healthy to have conflicts in close relationships. It means you're both expressing yourselves.)

Convenience is not a good enough reason to move in together. Move in together when it's because it's the step you want to take in your relationship. You will never regret waiting; you'll

very likely regret not waiting.

Dear Annie: Would you please print a reminder to people who donate food to food banks/pantries not to donate expired food? The Postal Service's Stamp Out Hunger food drive happened recently, so we have been sorting the food. If the canned goods have expired within the past five months, there is still some shelf life; we put those items in the front of the pantry so the clients can take them if they want them.

But today we had to throw out a lot of food — things that expired anywhere from June 2004 (yes, 13 years ago) to December 2016. It seems the people who donated the expired food were looking for an excuse to clean out their cabinets. They should have thrown out the food long ago.

This made me sad. Do people really think pantries should distribute 13-year-old food to the hungry? — *Pantries Across America*

Dear Pantries: That is sad indeed. Folks, check those expiration dates before donating. And for your own health, clean out your cupboards more than once a decade.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a happiness that visits your mind in the embrace of warm notions. Then there's happiness of a different kind. It's visceral, physical and your whole body is involved. Could this become a lifestyle?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you respond to one person in an eerily similar way as you did to another long ago, you begin to recognize life's echoes. Discern reactions of the moment from motions that have more to do with the sheer power of habit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are gestures, and then there are grandstand plays. Know the difference. You'll witness some big personalities, so just remember that you always have a choice about what and whom you buy into.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Recognize what you've got, and be keen to the timing of the thing. The more exciting something is, the shorter the shelf life. Like a fizzy soda or a lit sparkler, enjoy it while it lasts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your secret wishes will gain magnetism. Your wants will get stronger. If necessity is the mother of invention, desire is the father. This is the day to direct your hunger more specifically and intentionally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To be giving and warm is your nature, and many will be drawn to the comfort of your presence. You benefit from their nearness, too. It's all well and good until they start to compete for your attention, at which time it's best to withdraw.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you really adore a person, even the most mundane outing with this person seems like a magnificent event. Today you'll get a taste of this sort of giddy excitement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not that they don't count; it's just that when it comes to you, you're the expert. So assuming that you're the only one you need to impress, what would you do next?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a fine line in teaching. Mistakes must be addressed, but not in a heavy-handed manner. Criticism has a way of making people feel diminished and sometimes humiliated. The best teachers are sensitive to this.

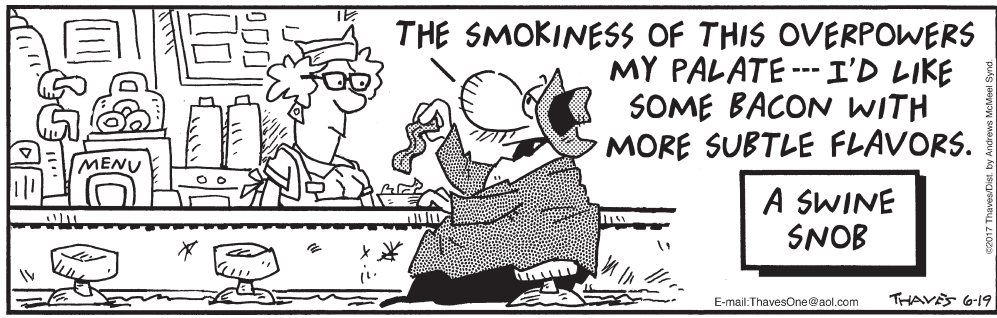
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone has days in which their personal stock seems to fall, at least in relation to their own ideas of value. What will it take for you to recognize yourself as important? Don't wait for someone else to point it out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your mind is like the muscles of your body: able to get stronger and also vulnerable to becoming overworked and injured. Work past your comfort zone but then back off to allow for recovery.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You need inspiration. That may require getting out to see something new and different. Or it may require doing less, or nothing at all. Too much activity and too many choices serve to reduce the impact of everything.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 20). You know your purpose, and you act on it. A strong female will guide, inspire and care for you. August shows you growing past prior limits. September will end a cycle and free you for adventure. Stay unencumbered a while. You've access to a luck factory at the end of 2017. Family will benefit from your good fortune. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 6, 22, 15 and 40.

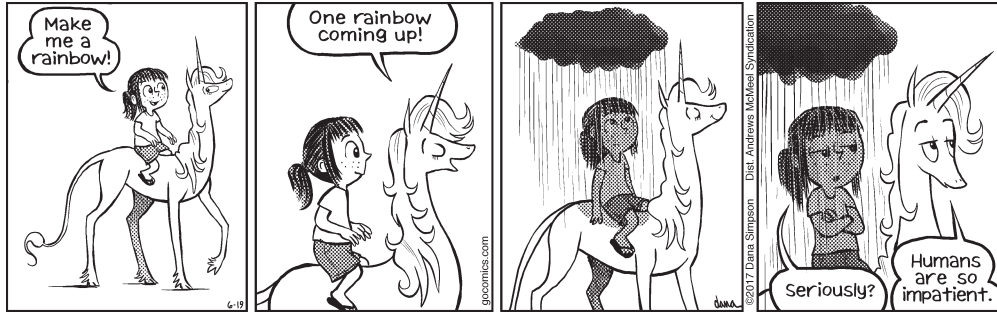
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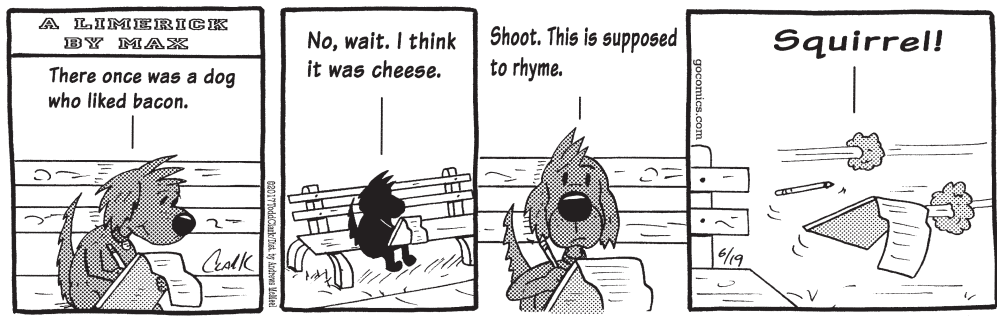
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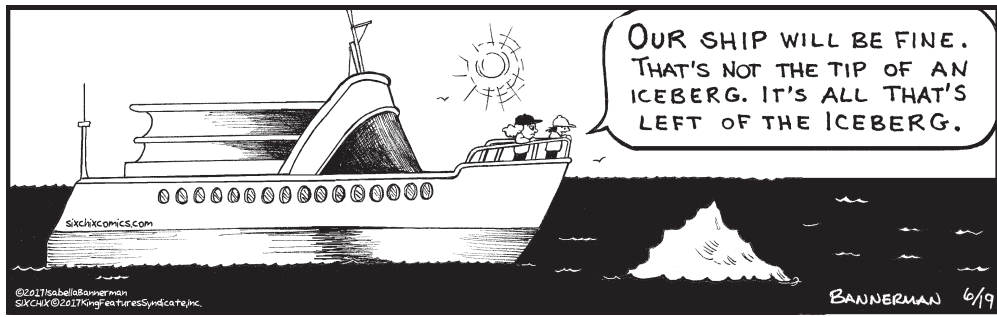
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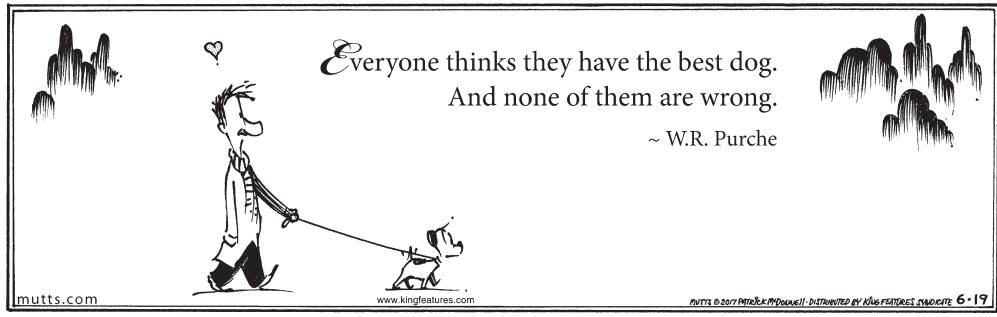
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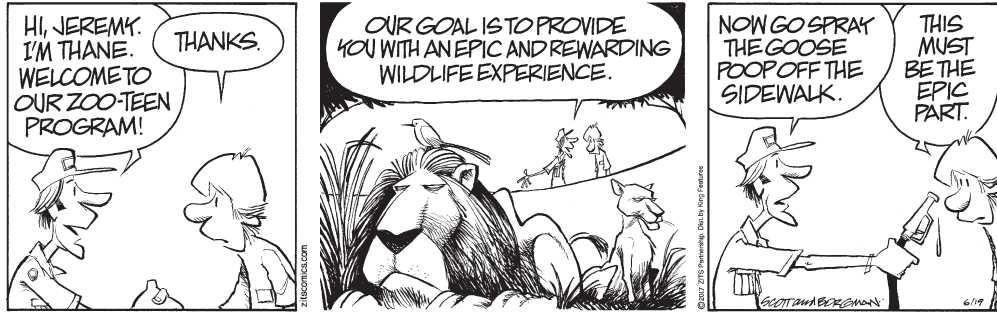
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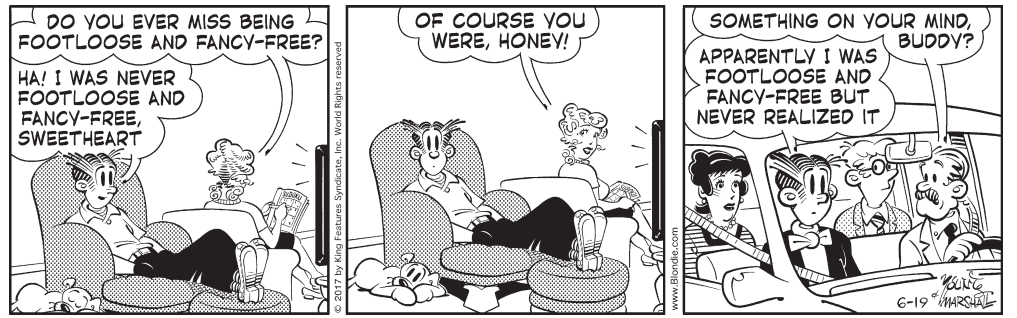
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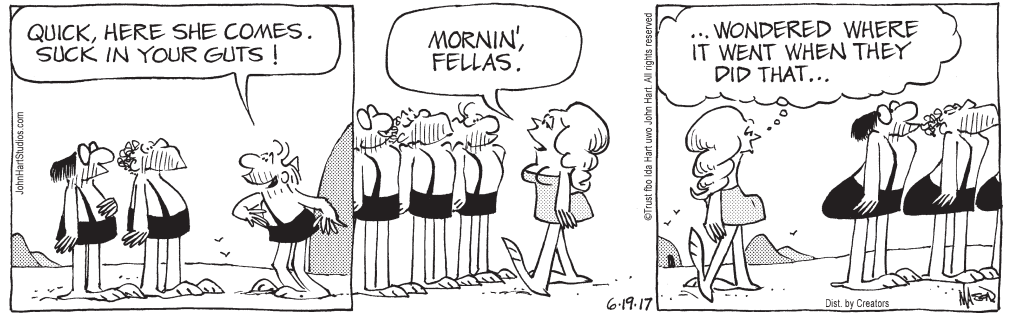
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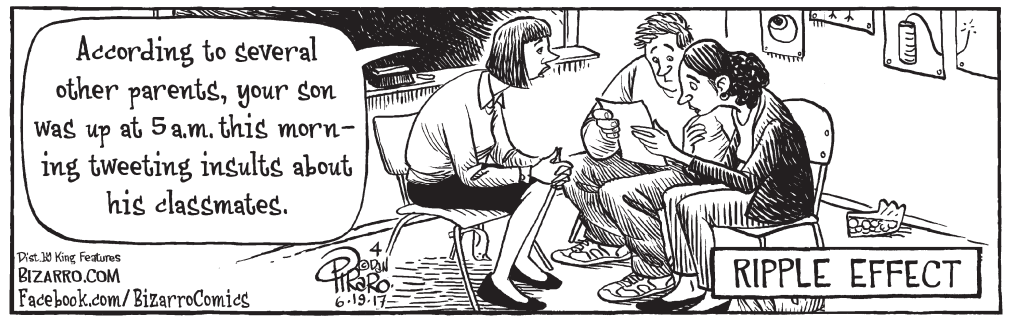
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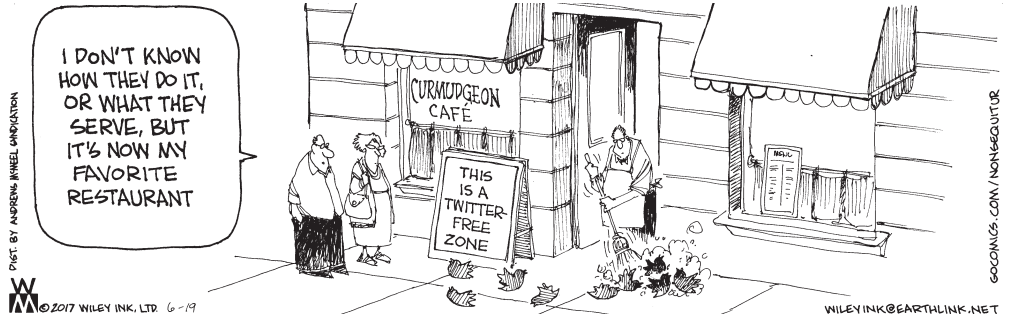
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