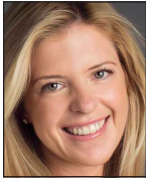


Incompatible living conditions

Dear Annie: A year after my wife of 21 years and I divorced, I reconnected with a woman I had met some 30 years before. I was happy to hear from her; I wanted to marry her before I married my ex-wife. We started seeing each other. After a year, we started talking about living together and decided to rent a home.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

When she moved in, I quickly realized my mistake. She has two cats and a lot of junk. But we bought a home two years later anyway — my second mistake.

She does not cook or clean the house. Her cats tear up everything, and she won't have them declawed. We do not sleep together, because she lets the cats in the bedroom and there is cat hair everywhere. I have tried for two years to get her to change, but she won't. She says that she is retired and can do what she wants.

Annie, I care for this lady, but I am fed up. I have tried everything I can think of to get her to change. She put the down payment on the house and pays the utility bills. I make the house payments. She used her savings on the down

payment, and I do not want to just dump it on her, so I am asking: What should I do? I do not like living like this. I hate going home because the smell is overwhelming when you walk in the door. I want love and compassion and a nice home to go to. — *A Lonely Blue Boy*

Dear Lonely Blue Boy

Boy: As an animal person myself, I'm probably not the most sympathetic audience for your letter. Declawing is akin to cutting a person's finger off at the last knuckle. Few vets will even perform the surgery anymore because they consider it inhumane.

But the feline friction is merely a symptom of the real problem. You and your partner have incompatible styles of living. If at least one of you were flexible and willing to adapt, this wouldn't be a deal breaker. But because you're both set in your ways, I'm afraid that it is.

Speak with a financial adviser about the best options for you to salvage as much of your money as you can, in a way that's fair to you both. The sooner you move out

the sooner you'll move on to living your happiest lives.

Dear Annie: I am 56 years old. I have a good, steady job, a beautiful home and two great children. I don't smoke. Do you know of anyone in the Louisville, Kentucky, area who would be interested in finding a really good Christian man and having a serious relationship? I'm very easy to please and get along with. I don't expect a perfect relationship, because there's no such thing as one. If you know of anyone, please let me know. I pray I hear from you. God bless. — *Looking for True Love*

Dear Looking for True Love:

I've received a number of letters similar to yours over the course of writing this column. Unfortunately, I can't play matchmaker, but I can recommend some general dating tips. Get involved in your community. Join a singles group at your church. Give online dating an honest try. For a man of strong Christian faith such as you, ChristianMingle.com would be a good place to start. More general dating sites include Match.com and eHarmony. You sound like a terrific catch; get out there and share your joy.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The examples and ideas that come to mind are the most available ones to your brain, not necessarily the best or most accurate ones. For the best results, question and test everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To be very literal in your interpretation of what is directed to you is to miss the intention of almost everything. People rarely say what they mean, after all. Feel the tone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Attraction is the glue of the universe. Desire brings things into being. If you feel needy, if you are left wanting, if you are a slave to your cravings, find the creative force in this and let it power you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes we don't want what's good for us. The more we want something, the less wise we become. Back off. Detach. Don't ask, "Will I?" before you ask, "Should I?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you learn from every scenario, the more scenarios you live, the more you'll learn. So when the question of whether to go or stay arises, if your aim is to be wiser, the answer is usually to go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though you value sincerity, you also see the value in its opposite, which today amounts to someone's rather creative way of assembling the given information in order to accomplish the greater good. Call it diplomacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You admire those who are better prepared, but don't let that stop you from jumping in and

doing your best with whatever you have and wherever you are in the learning process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Conversations have a way of getting off-track as people keep talking to try and make a connection that may never come. Instead, keep it brief, say what you need to say, and then leave and let it sink in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Tremendous rationality can have a way of dulling your senses. This has been a theme for you lately and the cosmic challenge really comes to a peak today. Use your feelings; choose your heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is no time to start falling in line. You could save the day by marching to your own drum. Give yourself the leeway to mess around, try things on and poke your nose into the parts of it that don't seem meant for you.

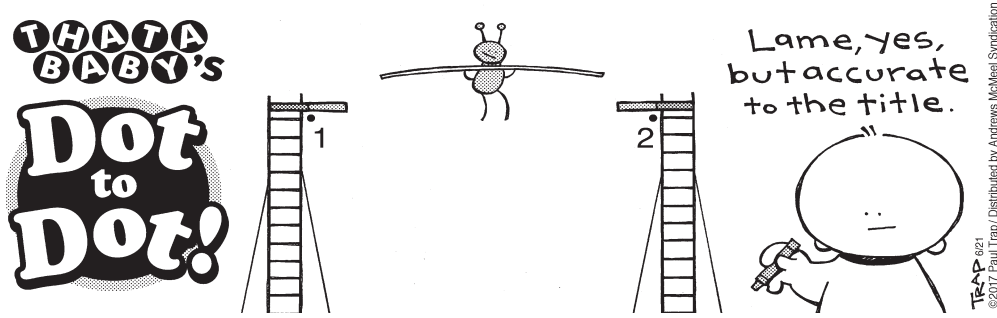
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To rebel is a natural urge. Without it there's no progress. Remember this when — for reasons you can't explain — you want to overturn the authority (even if said authority is only a voice in your own head).

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 22). Peace comes with this solar return. You will trust in the benevolence of the universe, and your trust will be well-placed. Next month brings a creative wave. A political change (perhaps along the lines of neighborhood or family politics) will favor you in September. You'll make money in August and March. Scorpio and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 28, 50, 11 and 34.

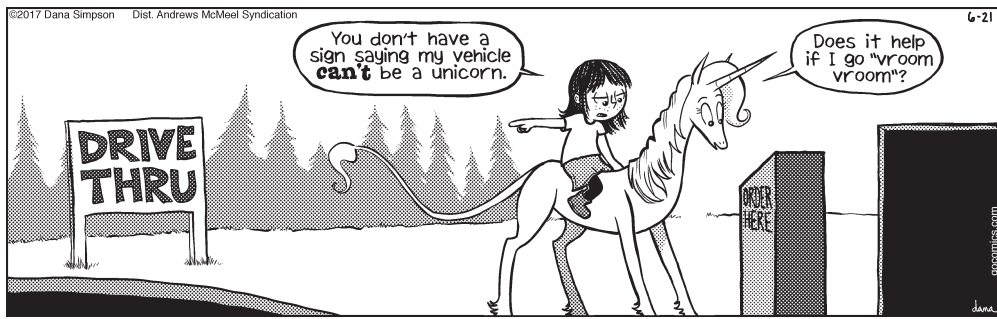
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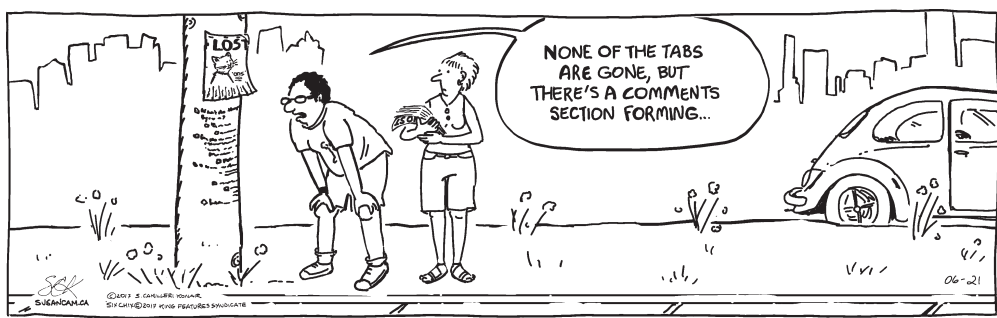
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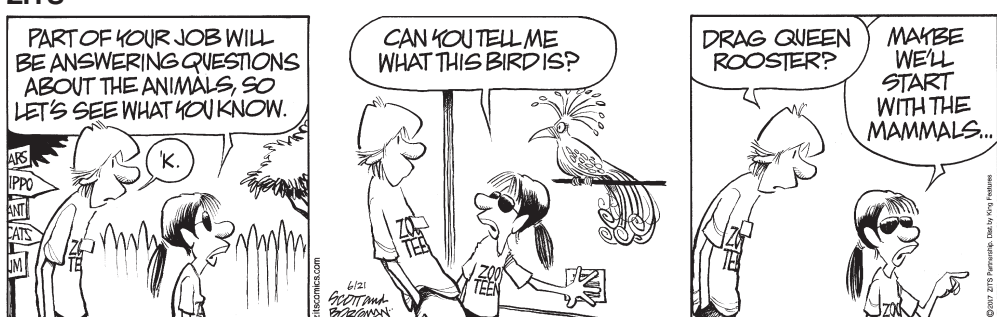
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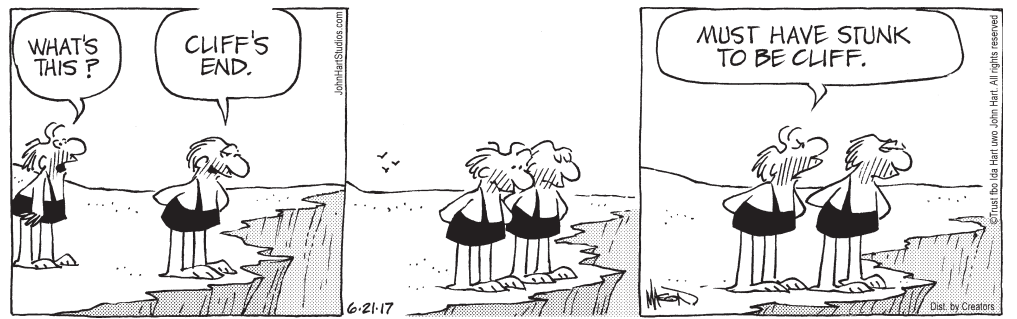
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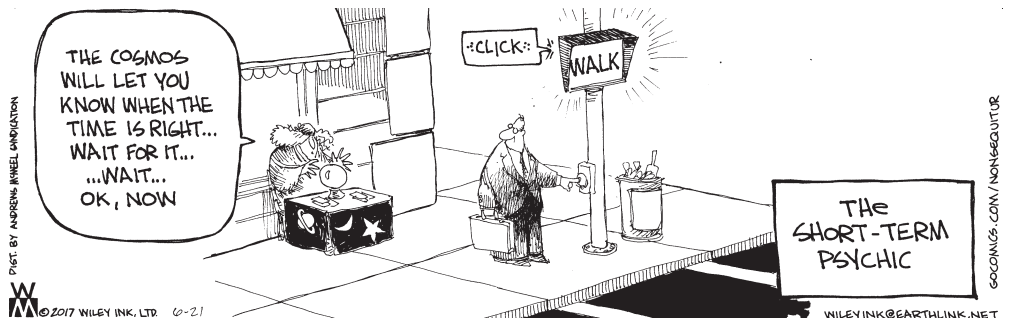
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