

Sisters in a stalemate

Dear Annie: I am having issues with my sister, "Sharon." We are both in our early 50s and have always had a good relationship, but she and my husband, "Rick," haven't gotten along in the 26 years I've been married. I would describe their relationship as "tolerant" at best. Because of this, whenever she comes to town, I get together with her without my husband. But he doesn't seem to mind. I do have Sharon over for dinner on occasion, and we manage to get through the evening.

The problem we're facing now: My mother is not well, and we don't know how much longer she has to live. My parents live near my husband and me, and Sharon comes into town to visit regularly and usually stays with them.

Sharon wanted to come into town last month and stay with Rick and me instead of our parents. (She had had an argument with our dad on her previous visit and didn't want to stay with them.) I knew that staying at my house would result in all kinds of stress between my husband and me. He tolerates Sharon

in small doses, but to have her stay with us for a few days is really out of the question.

When I told my sister that staying with me would not be possible, she completely shut down. She refuses to talk to me, even though I emailed her explaining my situation. I have contacted my father, my brother and Sharon's husband to help mediate, but to no avail. She wants nothing to do with me. I feel as if she is focusing all the negative things in her life and directing them at me, that I have become her target. Do you think I should continue to reach out to her or let it go? — *Sisterly Stalemate*

Dear Sisterly Stalemate: I think the first person you need to talk to is your husband. My guess is Sharon is fed up with your deferring to his preferences all these years. Can he not put their differences aside for just a few days? If his fear is that it would become a habit and she'd be staying with you every month, then you can address that by setting clear terms with your sister. I understand spending time with her might not be a walk in the park, but family is

family. Unless she's outright toxic and cruel — which doesn't seem to be the case, because you've always managed to have a good relationship with her — there's no need to ban her from ever staying at your home.

Dear Annie: I was unhappy but not surprised to see a recent question by someone whose electricity is being stolen by a guest who owns an electric car. This is becoming a big trend. Also, I'm seeing more and more retail establishments, government buildings, etc., not only providing free charging stations but also reserving prime parking spaces to those who plug the vehicles in. It seems a parking spot reserved as a charging station is now a higher priority near the door than a handicapped parking space! — *Glad I'm Retired*

Dear Glad: You may actually be noticing handicapped-accessible charging spots for electrical vehicles. State codes on this matter are still being written, but many businesses aim to make charging spaces accessible to disabled patrons driving electric vehicles. Logistically, this can end up meaning that all the EV spaces are adjacent to handicapped spaces.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A completely peaceful and quietly powerful frame of mind will allow you to control what you can and ignore the rest. It's a brief and fleeting state for sure, but take these kinds of lucky breaks as they come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You envy people who have the luxury of being able to follow their whims. It takes free time, after all, and disposable income. You could make more of both of those things if only you had, well, the luxury to follow your whims. Today brings a lucky break.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be proactive as you look ahead to the weeks to come. Block out large chunks of time that you can dedicate to what you want to do. If you don't do this now, your time will be quickly booked up with what you're only mildly into.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The scientists suggest that the secret to science is asking the right question. Of course, this is the secret to everything else as well. Start with what's relevant, and expand to the question that covers more than that.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The situation seems a little boring, but there's something very important happening here, and if you don't tune in you'll miss it and waste time going back to pick up what you missed. So tune in. Awareness now will prevent problems later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Fear, when channeled well, is better than coffee at keeping you alert and focused. Fear will elasticize time for you. You'll experience the power of nanoseconds! Your performance will be better for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Coming up with a good plan means recognizing a bad one. You may blow through hours making plots that fill the wastebasket but it's nothing compared to

what you'd waste following a bad plan. Back to the drawing board.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not foresight or hindsight but insight that will serve you the best. Examine your reactions to experience — how you're interpreting this and what meaning you're assigning to it. Insight is the easiest kind to change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is an ideal time to clear the air and balance unbalanced relationships. Listen to what's said: That's a no-brainer, though it's even more important to understand what's not being said.

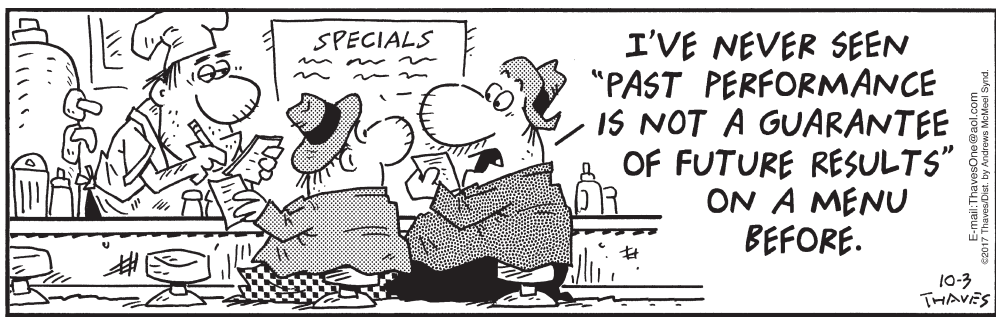
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People often believe what their friends tell them over what the expert might say. Ultimately though, people believe what they tell themselves. The truth will matter less to people than the source.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Irresistible things are not rational things. They tug at a part of the mind and spirit where logic's never stepped — a place of magic and memories and happenings that defy the rules of economics and commerce.

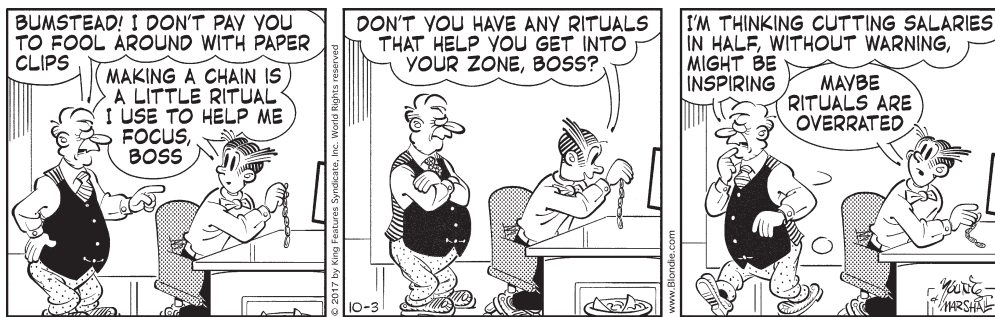
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There will be selfish attention-stealers out there — marketers, companies and people who want your focus but will not repay you for it in any meaningful way. Stay self-directed.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 4). Heart connections drive the action this year. Changing one habit will lead to favorable results in many areas of life. Your reach broadens through efforts of the next five weeks. You could take your work international, add many new friends to your life or touch people far away with your message. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 12, 3, 30 and 17.

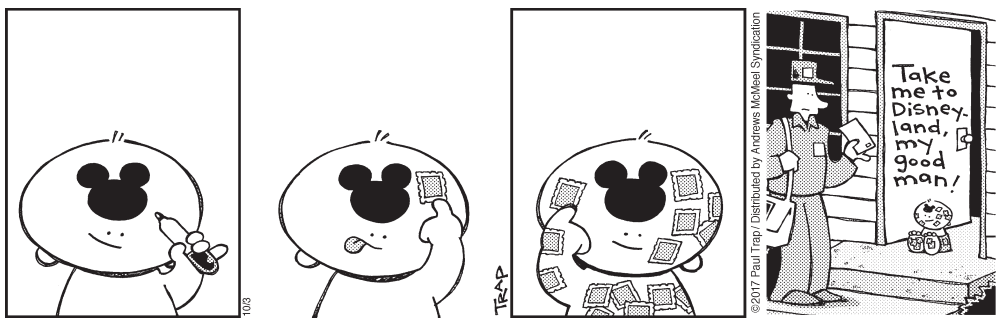
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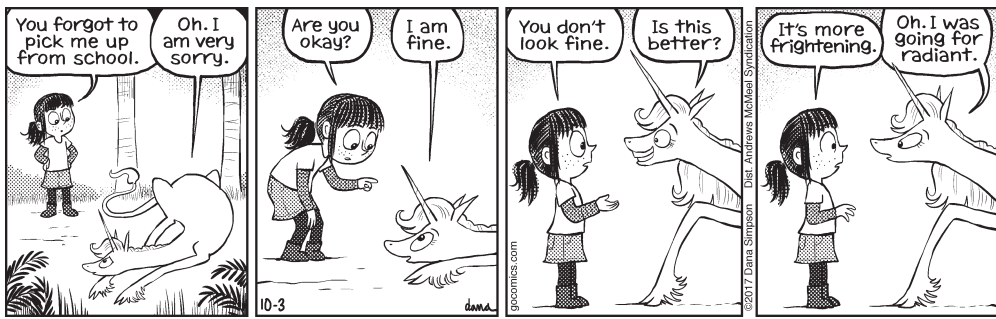
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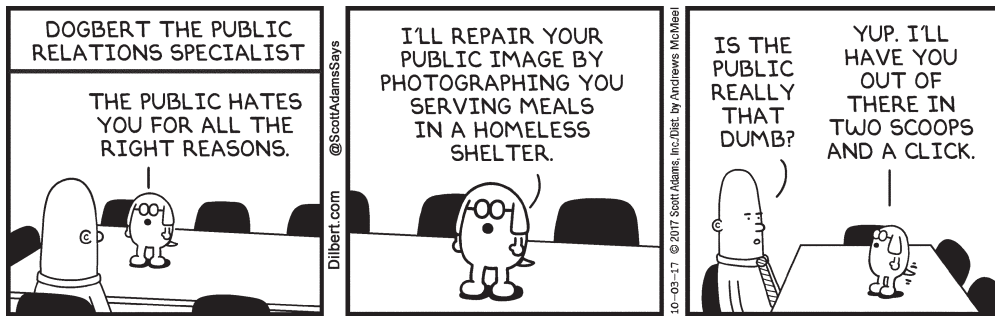
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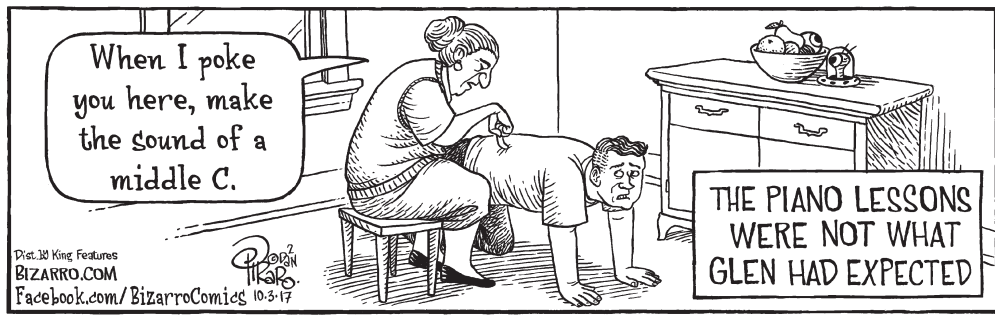
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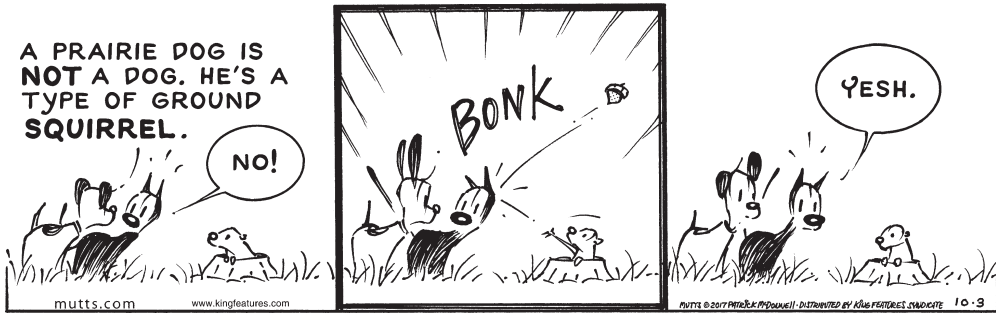
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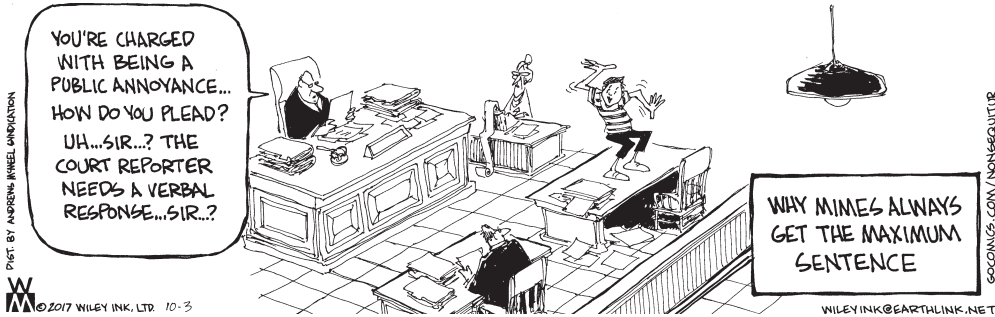
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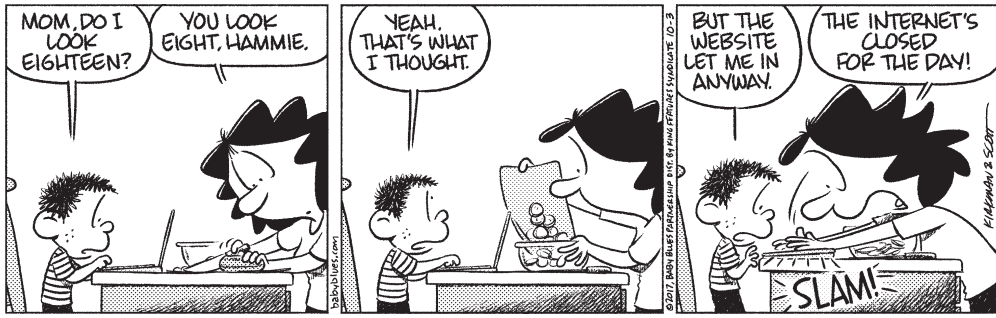
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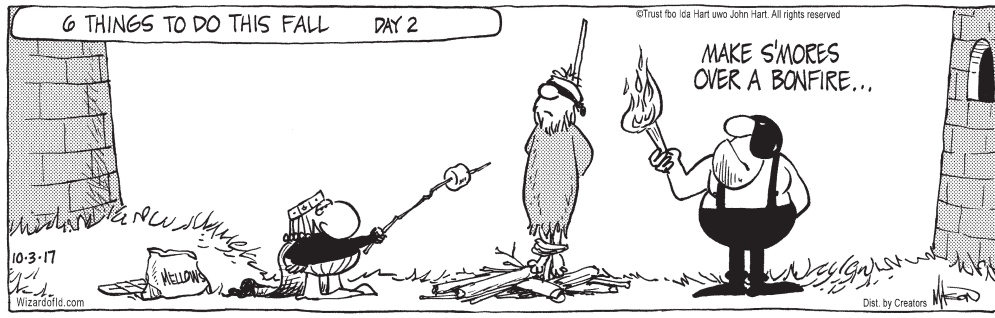
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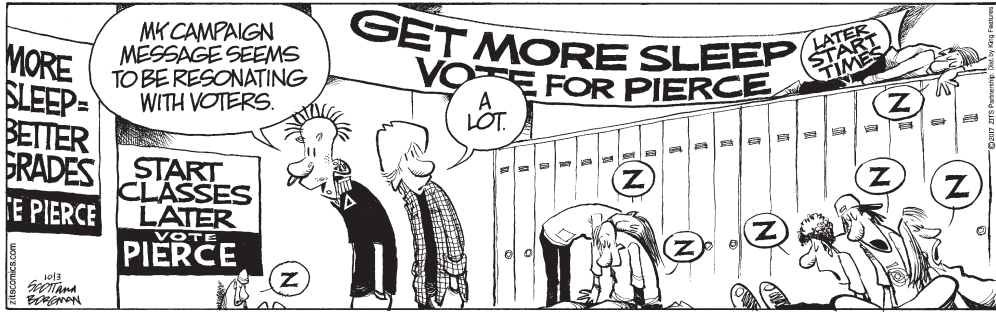
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