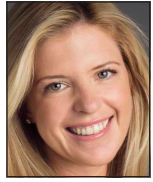


Kid leaving the nest

Dear Annie: I need your advice. My very musically gifted high school senior appears to want to go to college and major in music performance. But he is refusing to visit colleges. He won't discuss why; he just gets very belligerent when the subject comes up and won't expand on any reasons. Should I let it be or make the contacts for him and force him to go? — *Music Man's Mom*

this is his search process, and he should take the lead. It's the first step he'll take as an independent adult, and it's healthy for him to take ownership of the decision.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Music Man's Mom: It's possible that your son is afraid to leave home — which would show his intelligence; it's a big scary world out there. Courage arises not when we suppress our fears but when we find something so worthwhile we temporarily forget them. So do what you can to help him find exciting possibilities. There are many amazing colleges that specialize in music, which you can research together. See whether any schools within a short driving distance have solid music programs. In the end, though,

Dear Annie: I read your advice column every day and love it. I am 64 years old and have been very happily married for 45 years.

I read about the grumpy old dad whom "Hurt Daughter in New Hampshire" has to deal with. I am part of a local association mostly made up of older men. We tend to be grumpy. Why? We hurt. We have health issues. We see changes in the world around us that we don't appreciate. We didn't realize that retirement was going to make us feel unneeded. We are not attractive anymore. Many have been hurt from previous failed marriages and relationships, so they don't trust anyone anymore.

This is what I have learned about how to stop a grumpy old man in his tracks and, if not change, at least realize how he's acting. I first empathize, tell-

ing him I feel his pain, and then I encourage him to not take his pain out on other people. That friendliness and kindness breeds more of the same. But grumpiness and meanness will only make things worse.

When that doesn't work (and it usually doesn't), then I go to him by confronting his hypocrisy: "You are angry with everyone else for all kinds of things, but by being that way, you are acting like a spoiled brat who needs discipline. Get over it! You are a grown man who knows how to act maturely and friendly. Show love even if you don't feel it. Change or get used to being rejected."

This works for most guys. It's the language they understand. They will probably dislike the one who says it to them, but everyone else around them will begin to see the change and appreciate it. I do not let my pain and discouragement affect my actions. — *Father, Grandfather, Husband, Pastor*

Dear FGHP: Empathy and honesty are great virtues and useful tools. Thank you for your tips.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). All frustration is a function of unrealistic expectation. In fact, frustration is a good way to learn what's realistic and what's not. Change the expectation until the frustration evaporates.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your skills may seem arbitrary, but you acquired each one for a very specific purpose that made sense at the time. Now you'll find a new way to apply what you know how to do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your emotional health and personal growth will be served by two little words and one punctuation mark. Give yourself some space and silence and then try this one on for size: "What if?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While there are many purposeful connections to be made through social networking, you'd like to find the line between wasting time and getting things done through social media.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can't expect the euphoria of an idea to carry through each one of the countless small actions that need to happen to bring that idea into reality. Tedium is part of the creative process, too. It will be worthwhile to persist!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you think your work doesn't matter to anyone outside of your little corner of the world, you're wrong. You'll be surprised and pleased by the reaction you get from outsiders.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In order to finally find out what's possible for you in a certain endeavor, you'll need to cut out the thing that's distracting you and taking you away from it. Make the commitment and you'll be fundamentally changed by it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're always on the prowl for new ways of thinking of things and doing things, and you'll like what you discover today. You have to be willing to suspend a bit of skepticism, though, for long enough to try something out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just as it makes no sense to be overly serious about the quest for joy, when the goal is fun, it makes no sense to be hard on yourself along the way.

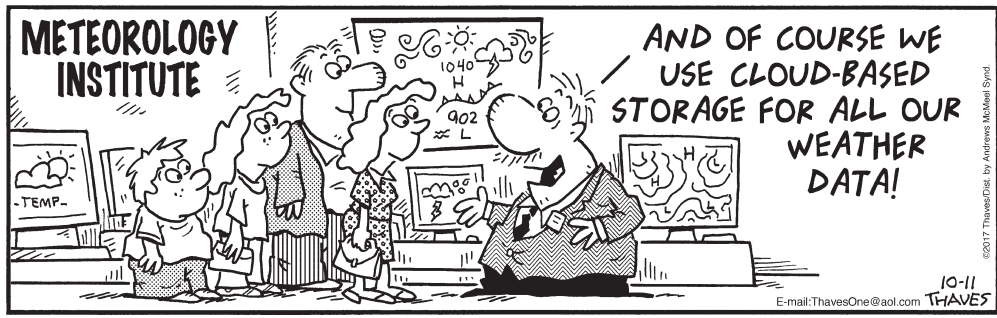
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When someone sees your specialness, it's meaningful. And when someone treats you like you're not special, it's totally fine — but maybe that person doesn't belong in your inner circle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are some things that are manageable chiefly because you know they will come to an end. When it's not clear when that end will be, however, they become scary. You can use this principle to set someone at ease today.

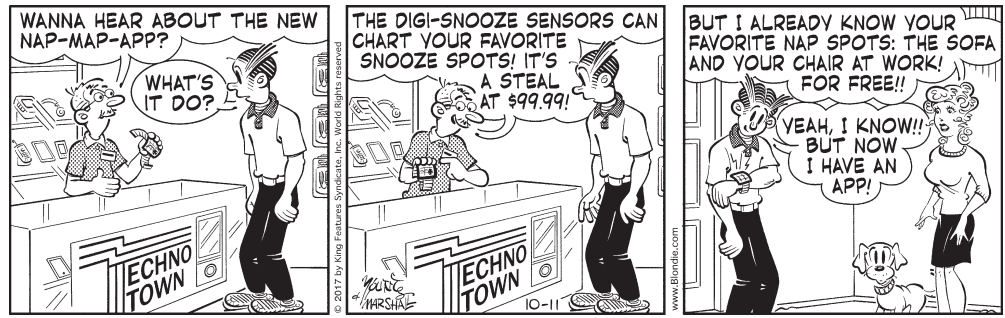
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because of the day's events and how you handle them, when your head hits the pillow tonight you will have the sense that you have come to a deeper understanding of the world and your place in it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 12). New practices started this solar return have you growing richer in health and happiness by the week. Teaching is part of this. The rest of 2017 is about giving others what they need and cannot get on their own. This will not drain you; instead, it will make you unstoppable. Prizes in November and July will be notable. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 9, 30, 2 and 45.

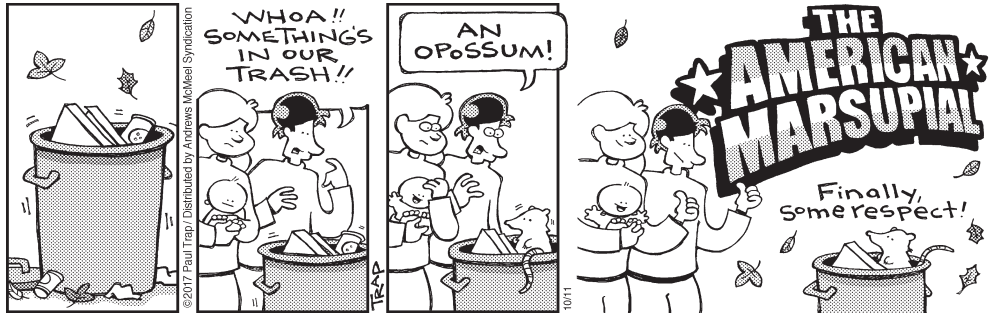
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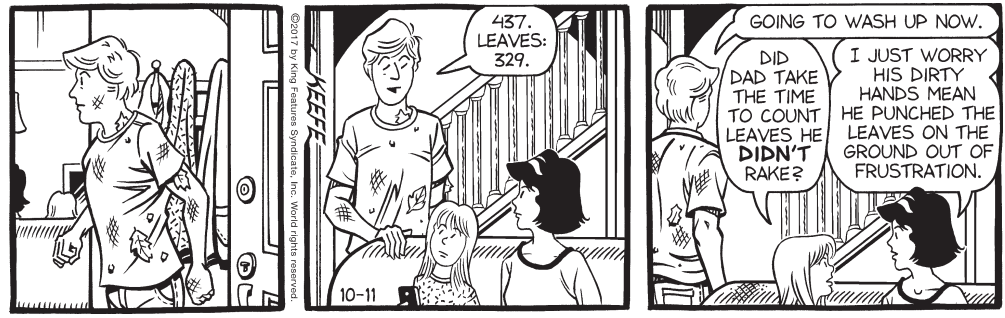
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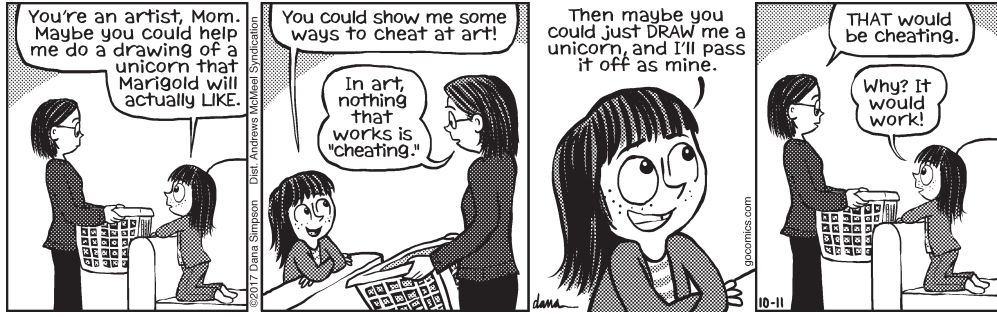
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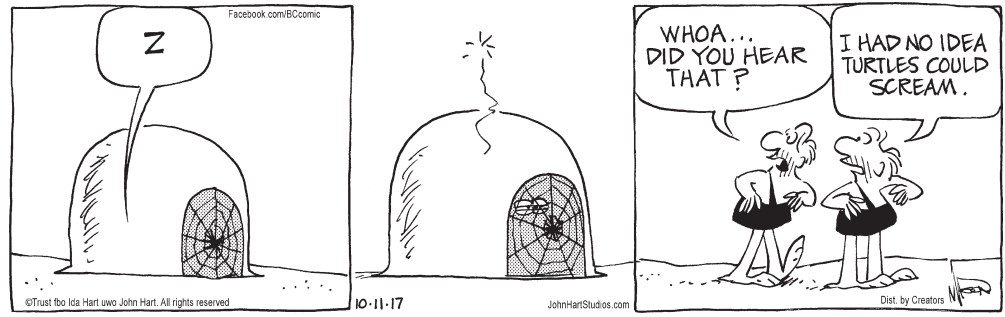
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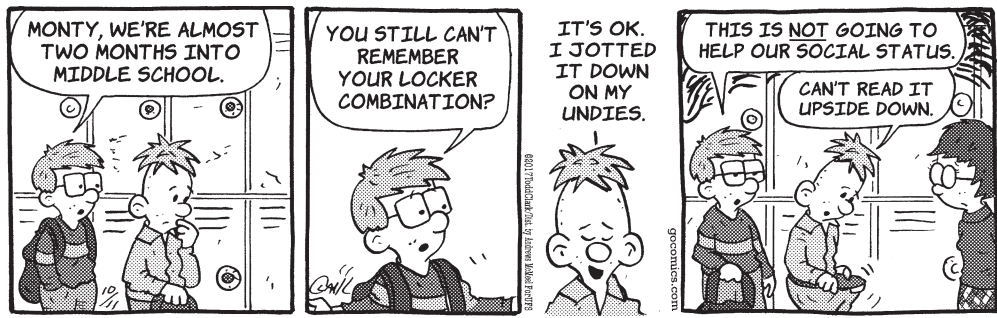
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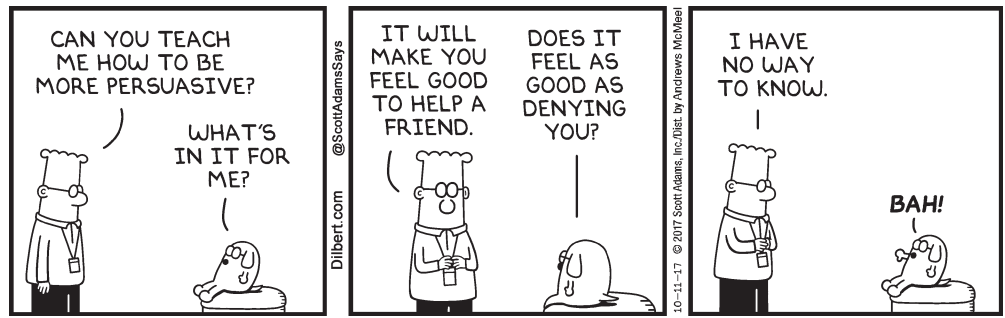
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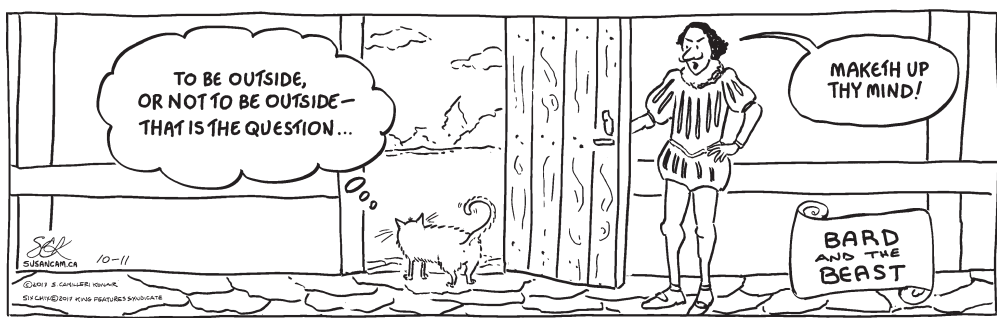
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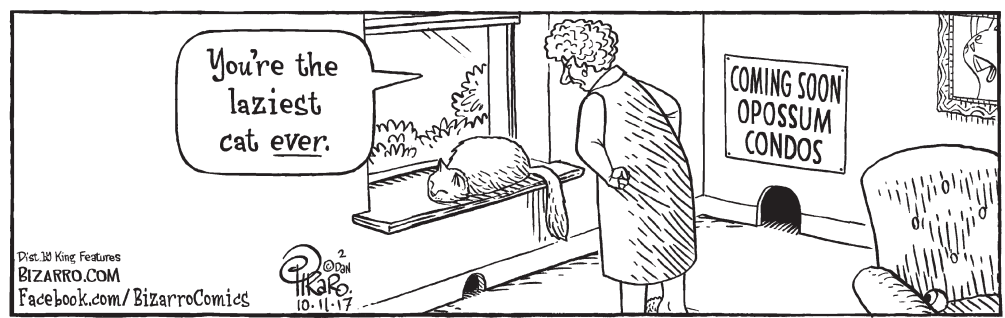
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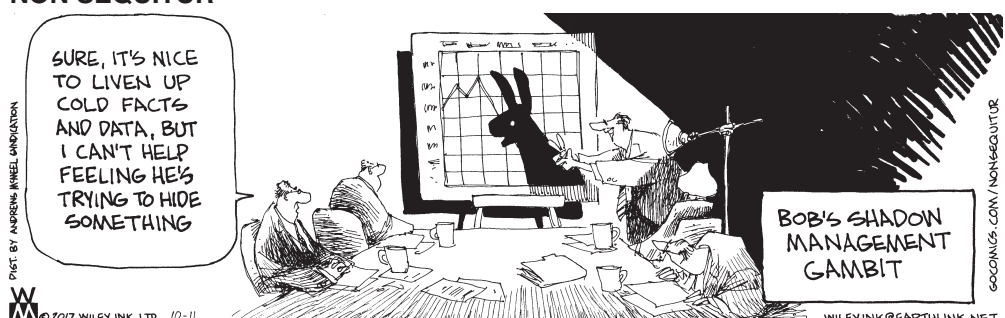
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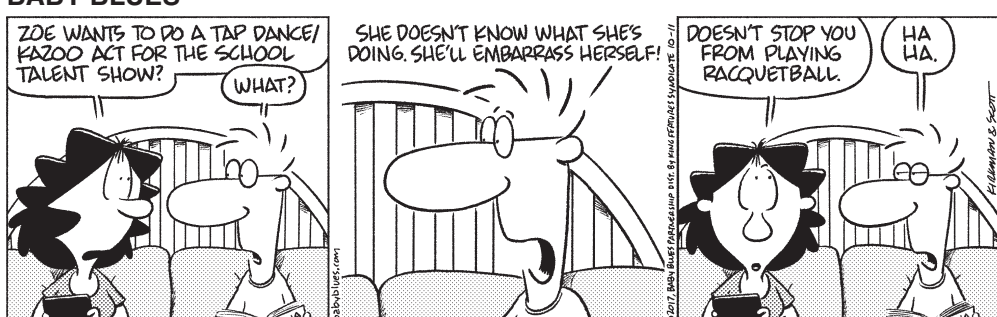
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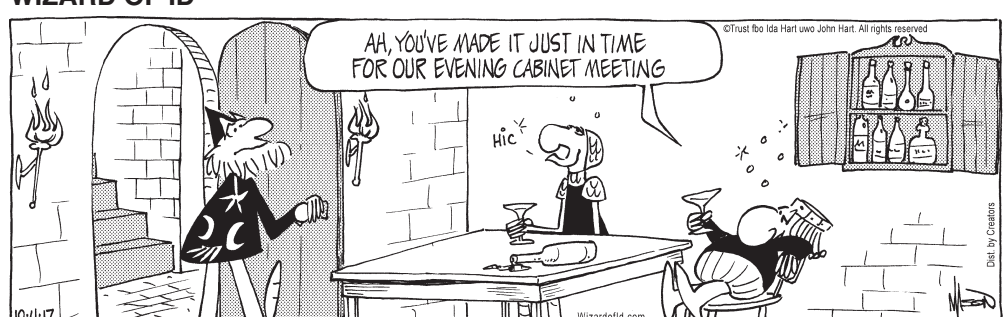
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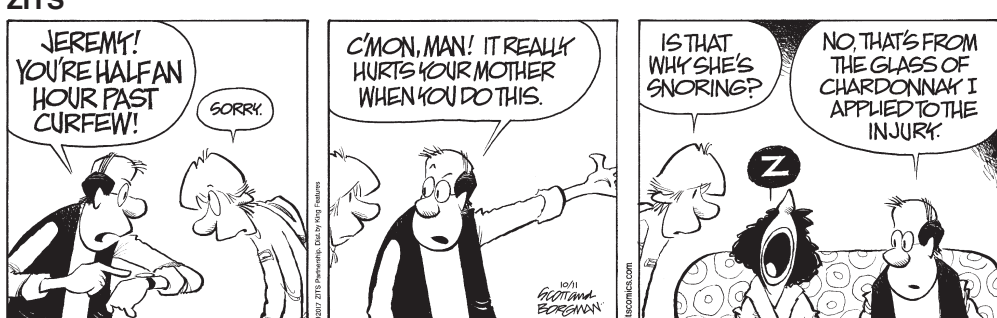
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