

Adventures with social media

Dear Annie: In this day and age, it is very hard to ignore what people are doing in their private lives when it's plastered all over Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Specifically, I am referring to photos of social gatherings that have me feeling left out.

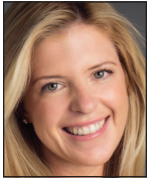
I have a grown child who is married. Recently, the married couple moved. When they moved in to their home, we were there to physically help them. The whole family helped in their move — all four parents, an uncle, a sibling and a nephew. We also gave them a very generous check for a housewarming gift so they could buy a few extra things for their new home.

It has been my great displeasure to learn, from their posts on Facebook, that my son and daughter-in-law have hosted a few dinners in their new home. She's had a "girls' night in," and he's had a "guys' night in." They've hosted a dinner party for my daughter-in-law's side of the family. However, as parents of the other child in that marriage, we have yet to be invited to their new home for a

social gathering.

I am trying not to take this personally, but I can't help but feel slighted and disappointed that our family has yet to be invited to their home. I "like" all the pictures from all their parties, but inside I'm bothered that we aren't important enough to have been invited over as everyone else has been. Suggestions? Thoughts? — *Family Matters*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Family Matters: I can tell your feelings are about to boil over, so turn down the flame or take off the lid.

The former means cooling off. They only moved in recently, as you said; maybe they wanted to host an intimate dinner with each side of the family separately and your daughter-in-law's side just happened to be first. The latter means expressing how you feel — but in a healthy, positive way, free of guilt-tripping and accusations. For example, you might tell your son, "We'd love to come over sometime when you're settled in and it's convenient for you." The main point is not to blow up.

Dear Annie: Wow! I couldn't agree more with "Don't Shoot," who hates having her picture taken and posted online. I am a very private person and do not understand people's crazy obsession with living their lives on the internet. I've no interest in telling the world what I ate for breakfast. When I ask folks not to include my picture or my name in posts, I get the same reaction as "Don't Shoot" — that I need to get with the program. My husband and I made a pact not to bring our phones to the dinner table, including when we are out to dinner. It amazes me to see folks sitting together with their heads down, peering into their phones and having conversations with everyone except the person sitting across from them. Where did we lose our manners? — *"Outta Touch" in Virginia*

Dear "Outta Touch": It is sad to see a couple looking at their phones more than each other's face. Witnessing that makes me worry we've lost not just manners but a bit of our humanity. Fortunately, since printing "Don't Shoot's" letter, I've heard from dozens of people echoing this sentiment, which means there's hope.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You sense how your loved ones are feeling and cater to that emotional state. For people who have you in their lives, that pretty much comes with the package. Not everyone you know will be so emotionally intelligent today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's only natural to want to be near the person who makes you feel good about yourself. Those who make it all about themselves, on the other hand, are repellent to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The situation may seem to call for a reaction, but there's a huge benefit to being slow to react, if any reaction is necessary at all. This is one of those times when you might do nothing at all and the problem solves itself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If anyone can de-escalate the tension and purge the atmosphere of negative vibes, it's you. Mostly this is done by changing the subject. It also doesn't hurt that you refuse to buy into other people's realities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Poke into your fears. Whatever you do to face them, deal with them or even avoid them — it will make your life better. That's as long as you're not ignoring fear (which is a strategy that sometimes works, but not today).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is not a good day to share the details of a relationship, especially facts that could cast a bad light. You may come to forgive some transgressions that others won't, and in that case you'll be glad you kept them to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because something is socially acceptable, that doesn't make it right. You'll notice an injustice and

work to make things better, whether or not it's the popular choice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you want to say no, just say it and be quick about it and all will be well. Saying maybe (when you mean no) will hang both you and the other person in an uncomfortable limbo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's far too much work to get it all done in a day, but if you start early you'll have a fighting chance. The morning hours show you energetic, and with a determined gleam in your eye.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Tidiness will lead to happiness. The success key today could be as simple as cleaning up some part of your life that's gotten out of hand. This kind of effort may very well change everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Although you're very likely to take other people's needs and wants into consideration before you make your move, you are also aware that ultimately they are not the ones who have to live with the consequences.

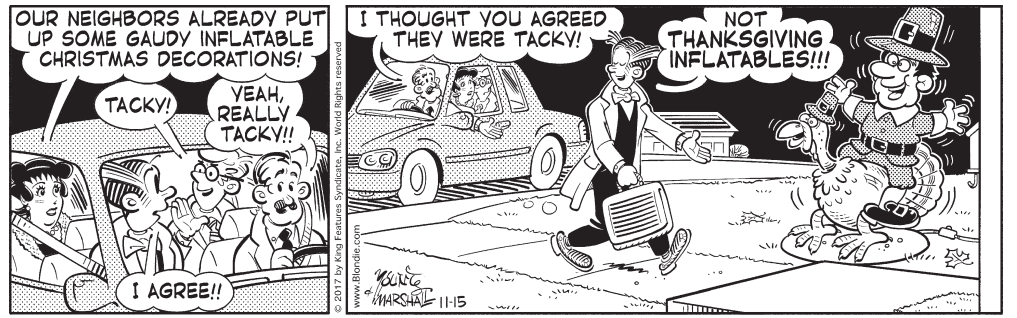
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're confident in your knowledge, yet you're also well aware that there are many other truths and ways. Your open mind will serve you well and net you more friends and supporters than one with a more rigid mindset.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 16). You're growing in power and will be surrounded by people who can handle that instead of be threatened by it. The next 10 weeks introduce new plans and people to your life. A problem that affects your family will finally be solved at the start of 2018. A quest will begin in March. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 2, 20 and 18.

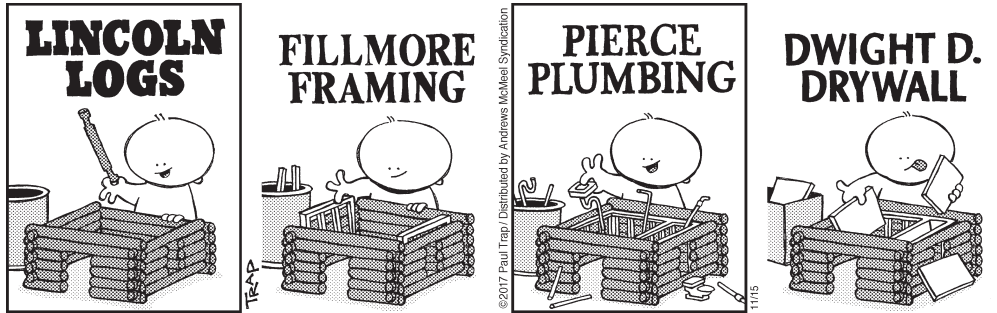
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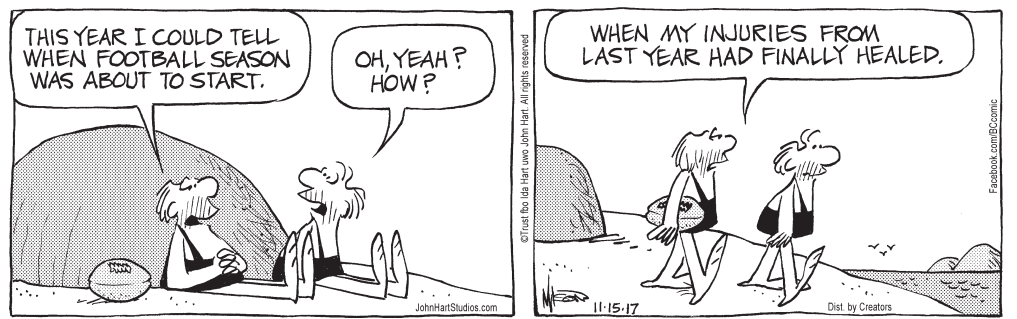
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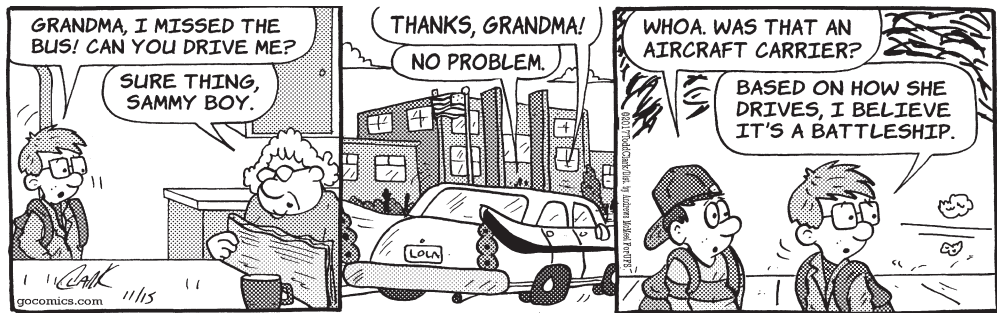
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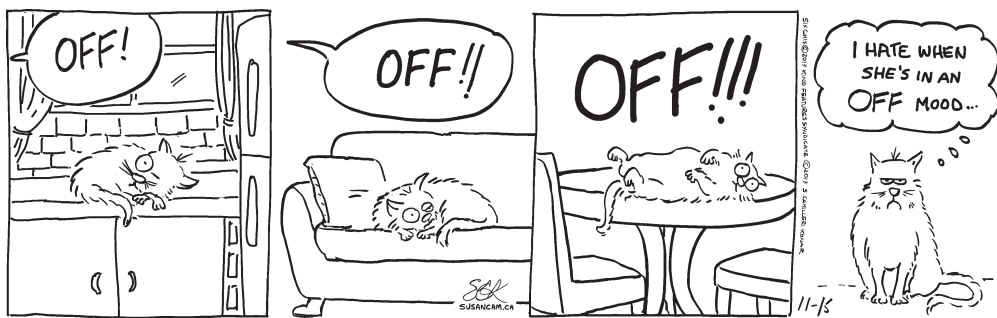
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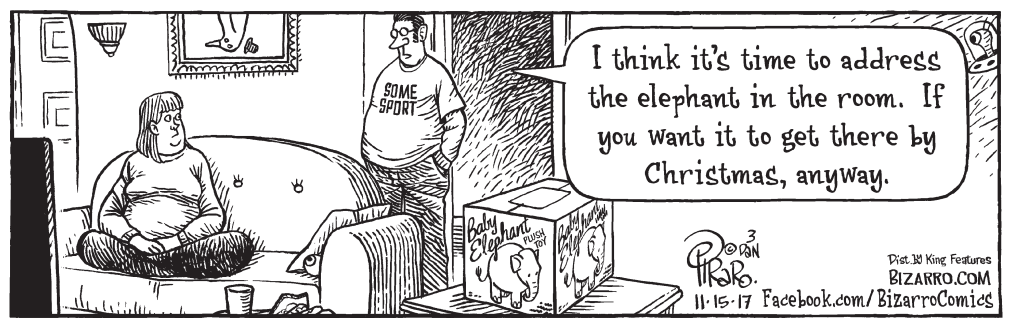
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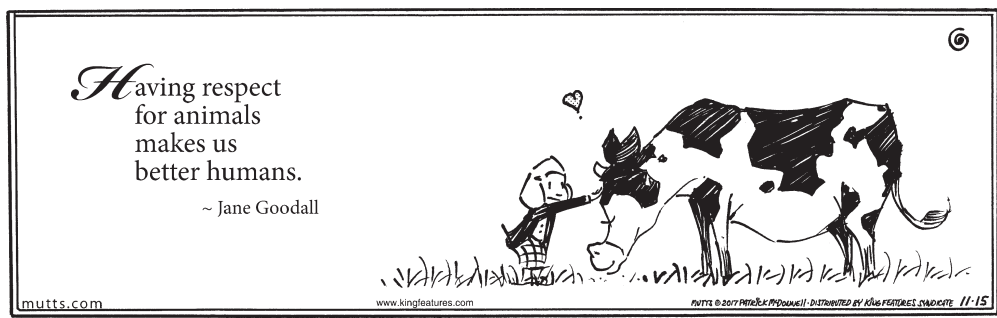
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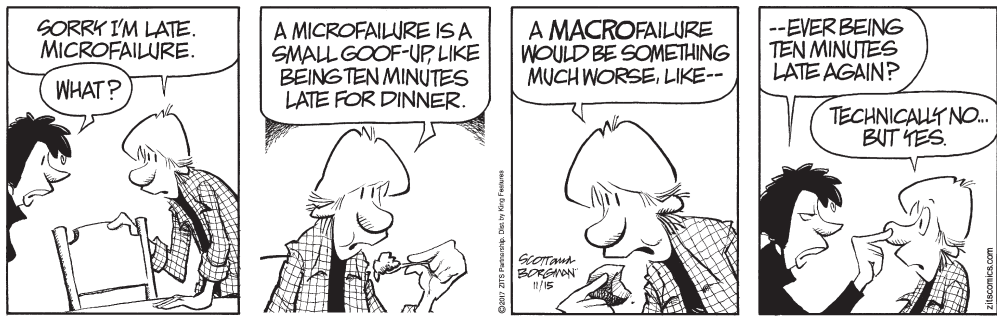
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