

# Always tardy to the party

**Dear Annie:** I have a friend who is always late. Lunch, dinner, concerts, movies — I don't think I've ever gone to an outing with her when she hasn't shown up 10 or 15 minutes late. She's a lovely, caring person otherwise and a thoughtful friend, but I can't help but be put off by this seeming lack of consideration for other people's time, again and again. It's hard not to take it personally. She knows it's a problem and has vowed to be more punctual. It was her New Year's resolution last year, and it probably will be again this year, but I'm not holding my breath for change. I just want to know: What gives? Why are some people always late? — *Waiting Games*

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Waiting Games:** According to time management expert Diana DeLonzor, people who are chronically tardy tend to be optimists. They have unrealistic expectations of what they can get done in a set amount of time. Jeff Conte, an associate professor of psychology at San Diego State, says lateness is connected to deep-seated personality factors, making it a very hard habit to break.

So your friend's chronic tardiness is likely as deeply embedded in her as the things you love about her. Keeping all that in mind might make it easier not to take it personally when she's late — but she can't expect everyone to be so understanding. DeLonzor's book, "Never Be Late Again," might make a good holiday gift for your friend, seeing as she admits it's a problem.

**Dear Annie:** This may seem like a strange problem, but it is frustrating me to no end.

I have beautiful candy dishes for everyday use and for all the holidays. I love to fill them with expensive candy for looks. I don't have them all over the house. They're just in the living room and dining room.

I don't keep them out all the time, but when I do put them out and fill them, I want the candy to stay. However, my husband just can't get it. I have treats in the cupboards and freezer for him, so he isn't ignored. He can have all he wants when I decide to change candy or put away the dishes, but he is always in the candy dishes.

Another problem is that I have to hide goodies from him, or he will eat it all in no time. I will put candy, cookies and snacks in the freezer for our grandsons or company. When I go to get the goodies, they are gone. I can't keep potato chips on hand for when I might want a few with a sandwich. He eats a can of nuts before I know it. He is not overweight, and I cook good, healthful meals for us.

I am like a chipmunk, stashing food all over the house. It irritates me so much! — *Weird, Stupid or Selfish?*

**Dear Weird, Stupid or Selfish?:** You are none of the three. You are simply frustrated that your husband eats any junk food that you buy. Picture your husband like a squirrel who eats or hoards all the nuts he can find. That is just the way he is, and he's not going to change. As you say, you are like a chipmunk and you just need to find more creative hiding places. As for filling the nice dishes, check local gift shops or craft stores for beautiful hand-blown glass "candies." These would look even prettier than real candy and be less appealing to your husband.

**TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Arguably, half of belonging is just acting like you belong. Feeling like you belong is obviously huge, too. But if you do a little of both and still feel like a bit of a misfit, just know the others who "belong" feel about the same.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You may get a late start because there are certain things you'll do to get your head in the game; they take time. The rituals help! It's more than just coffee. It's ways you motivate yourself. Keep reinforcing what works.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You've felt at times that you were fundamentally different from those you were brought up around, so it's pretty refreshing when today you recognize some nice ways in which you are alike.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The water drops seem to reach for each other. The stream is suddenly the river, and as the river connects with ocean, the river is the ocean. Today your water-sign nature will echo this tendency to join completely.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're changed by every circumstance, and that's a good thing. It means you're open to letting life in. It means you're listening and learning. It's true that you have to protect yourself at times by making yourself hard, but not now.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** It is often the case that one broken bulb renders the whole line of holiday lights useless. Let the metaphor remind us to check on one another so we can all be bright together.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Choose a memento representing the mundane aspects of your life. A picture would be enough, but it's not the same as something you can hold in your hand. Years from now, you'll want to remember.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It doesn't feel true, but there really is a guidance system in you that never shuts down. In those directionless moments you think that your soul lacks a GPS, but it's been in your pocket the whole time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it's what keeps humans evolving. As for you, you'll prove your superior intellect by listening to many sides of a story before forming an opinion, if it even comes to that.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's something you want to know, and it will be revealed to you indirectly — through small talk, intonation and body language. So there's really no need for probing questions, deep discussions or heated arguments.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Simplification is part of the brain's job. It's why the first time you travel somewhere the journey seems longer and more detailed; then later trips are short and blurry. It's also why you should go a different route today.

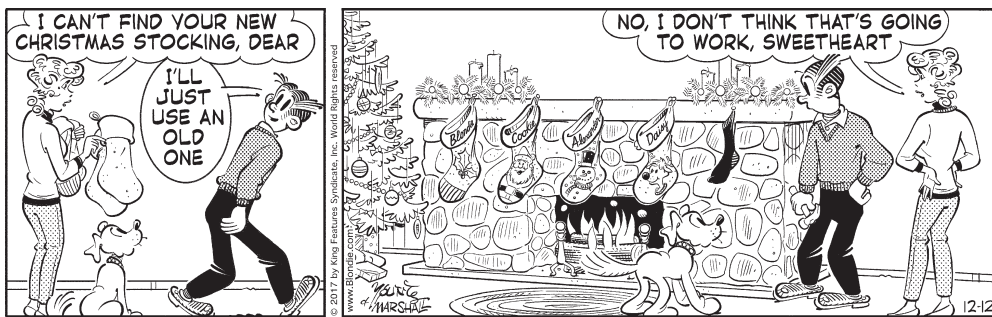
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Snap decisions will be necessary — mostly in matters of taste and style. Your decisiveness in this regard will make a project hum along at a pace that everyone can appreciate.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 13).** You're afraid of something, and you want it at the same time. Over the next seven weeks, desire takes over and fear lessens just enough for you to dive in. This exhilaration will benefit many areas — your health, your love life and more — and the best part is that this will be true whether or not you get what you want. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 33, 38 and 50.

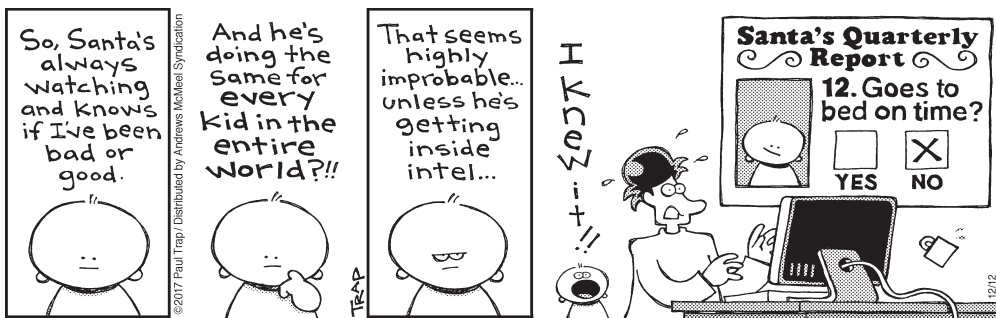
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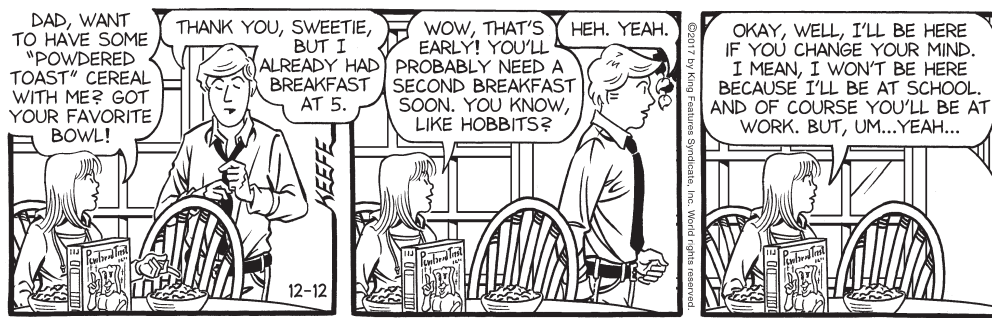
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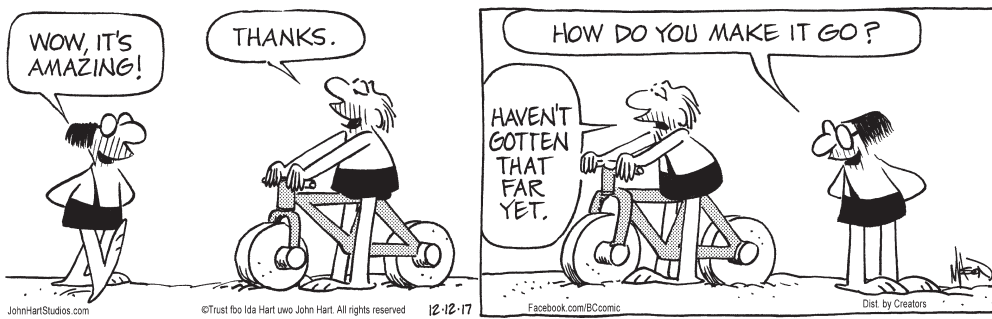
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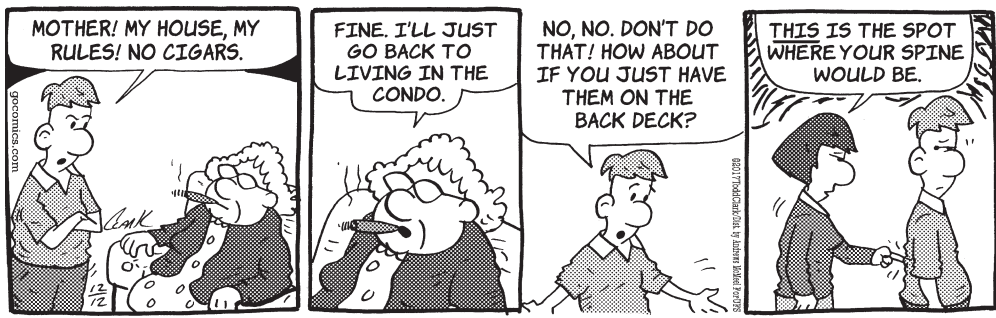
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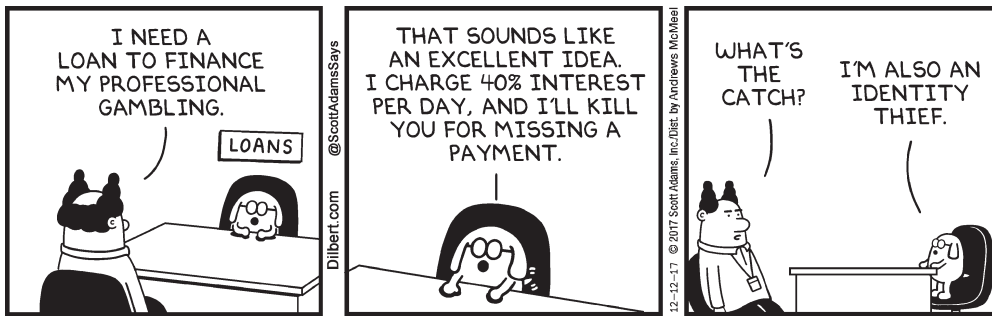
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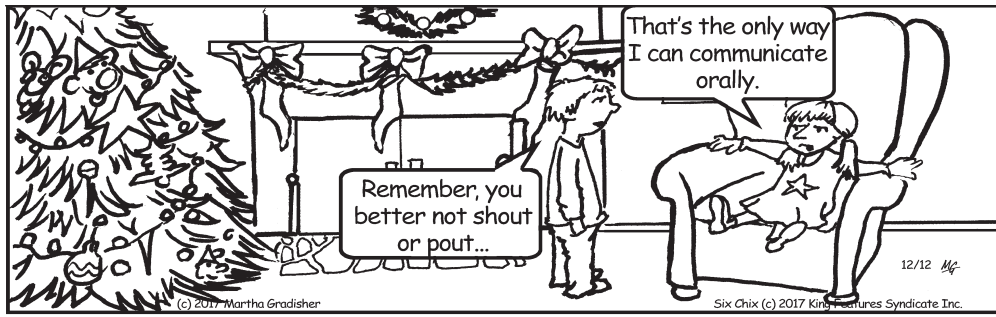
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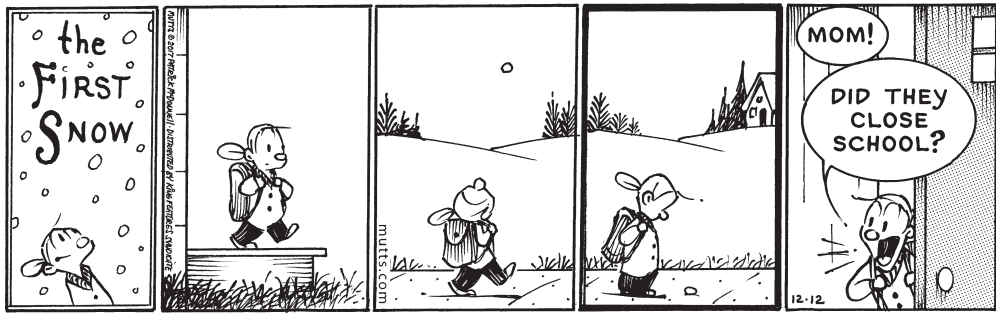
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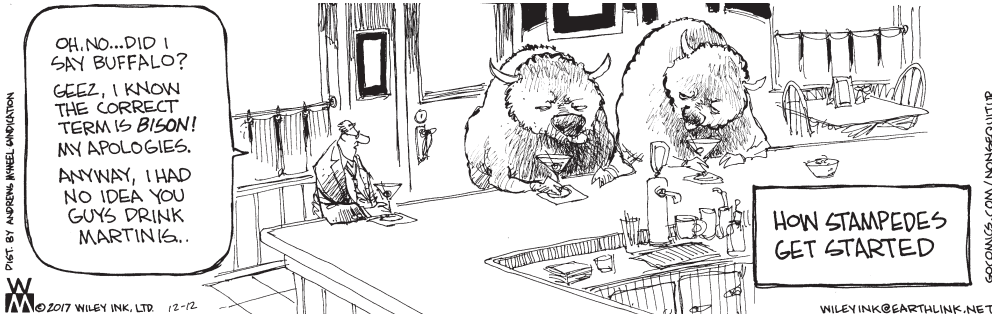
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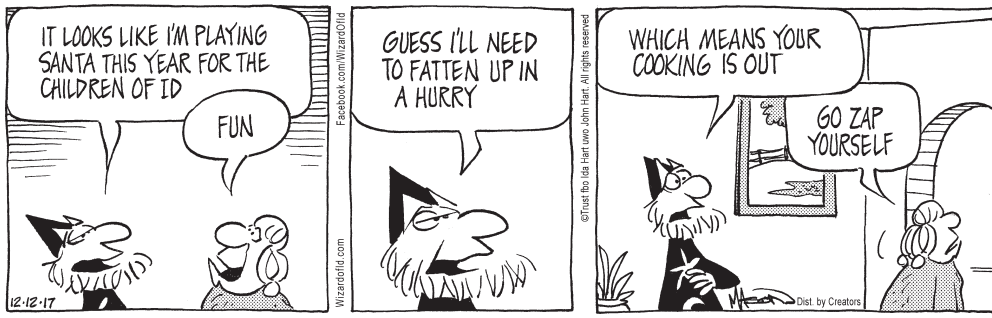
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