

# Many people touched by letter

**Dear Annie:** I am asking you to reprint your column with the letter from "Neil," who lost his wife to cancer and was having a difficult time coping with his grief. I am giving my copy to my brother-in-law, as he lost his wife, my sister, to glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer, Nov. 1. Now I would like to have another copy. — *Kansas Karol*

**Dear Kansas Karol:** I'm so sorry for your loss. Many were touched by Neil's letter. Here it is.

**Dear Annie:** I am a 69-year-old man who, until now, only read your column periodically. Each time I read your advice to someone, I would say to myself, "Hmm, that's really good advice." I never ever thought that I would need to write to you. Well, now I am eating those words.

In late August, I lost the most important person in my life to inoperable pancreatic cancer. My wife was diagnosed in June 2014, and despite the fact that the cancer spread to three additional organs, she fought back. This amazing woman refused to let the cancer win. She went on with her

life, and even though she received chemo and radiation therapy on a regular basis, as well as numerous medications, she refused to give in.

I drove her to every doctor's appointment and every radiation and chemotherapy appointment, as well as all over the country as we searched for clinical trials. However, after two-plus years, her fragile body could fight no longer, and she died in my arms.

The reason I am writing to you is that I am a total mess. Friends and family are calling me to come to dinner. I don't want to be around people as I grieve; I prefer to be alone all of the time. Our house is just as it was on the day she died because I simply can't part with her things at this time. Yet seeing these things sends me into pain and sobbing sessions that may last for hours. I have completely lost faith in everything, and I don't trust professionals. I have joined several grief support groups, but I do not find solace in them yet.

My wife and I spent 50 years

of our lives together. She was my best friend, my soul mate and my only love. Without her, I feel empty and incomplete. Although people keep telling me that things eventually will get better, I have my doubts. I am trying to take care of myself and to do the things I believe she would want me to do if she were still alive. The only thing I really have difficulty doing is sleeping. I would appreciate any advice you can offer. — *Neil*

**Dear Neil:** I know that nothing I say can reduce the enormity of your loss — that my response may come across as clichéd or maybe even a little hollow — because in the face of such grief, words look ridiculous and small. Still, I must say, with all of my heart, that I am so sorry for your loss.

In these times of deep grief, turn to the memories you and your wife shared. Let them warm you through the night like a blanket. They are eternal. No one can ever take those away from you. Your wife lives on in your heart. Let her strength help you through this.

Be patient with yourself and permit yourself to grieve.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
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## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** All the glory will go to the one who got into the mess of it and started racking up the mishaps, lessons and successes. So don't worry about whether or not it's too late. This is as good a start time as any.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Rumors travel in exciting ways. Usually they fly. Sometimes they leak. Rumors never plod along. What plods along isn't juicy enough to be considered a rumor, nor will it qualify as news. Consider this in your PR strategy.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You would rather come up with a successful plan than have one presented to you. You would rather solve a problem than memorize the solutions of others. It's because learning is a process, not an answer.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You won't really find the time to work on the things you want to work on, but if you make the time — carve it out, declare it, keep it sacred — then you'll have just as much as you willfully dedicated to the pursuit.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Remember the times when your thoughts, plus time and effort, resulted in altered reality, materialization and transformation? Today those thoughts will be harder to rein in, but you must, because thoughts become things.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Don't worry about how to do it. You're smart. The "how" won't be a problem once you get the truly important questions answered, the most relevant one being "Why?"

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The easy road will be uneventful and boring, so choose something with more texture and pitch to it, though not so challenging as to cause you to become stuck or disheartened. Some difficulties are more

desirable than others.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Inventing yourself is much easier than reinventing yourself. Once people have an idea about you, it's difficult to overwrite that. But new people will accept what you show them, and you may as well have a little fun with this.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Even though you come into the world with a certain framework, much of your story is a co-creation between you and the outside world. Never forget your ultimate free will. This is a day to exercise it.

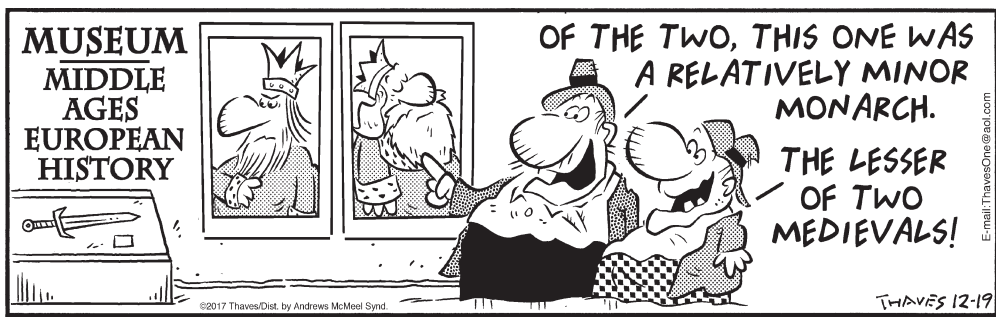
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A relationship will get on your nerves if you let it. No one is trying to irritate the other, but there are sticking points — friction that comes up again and again until someone's resistance is rubbed away.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Gossip is dangerous. Steer clear of it. Make your mind up about people based on what you experience, not what you hear. Truly, people can poison your judgment with their opinions.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** In your current ambitious mood you believe that if it's not getting better, it's getting worse. That's why yours is a path of constant improvement and study, which will be easily accommodated with the free resources you find today.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 20).** You're just beginning to get comfortable with being more powerful. Deals go down next month, and you bring on the new year with confidence and cash. You'll be swept into a loved one's world in March. A job will have you trying out an alter ego. Love and lifestyle improvements busy you in the spring. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 13 and 40.

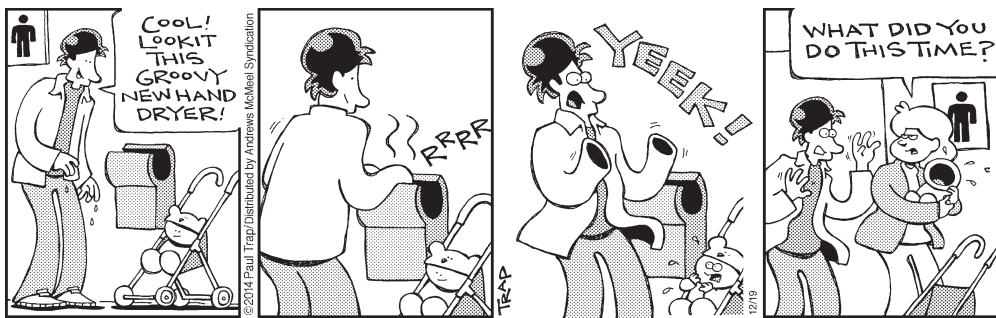
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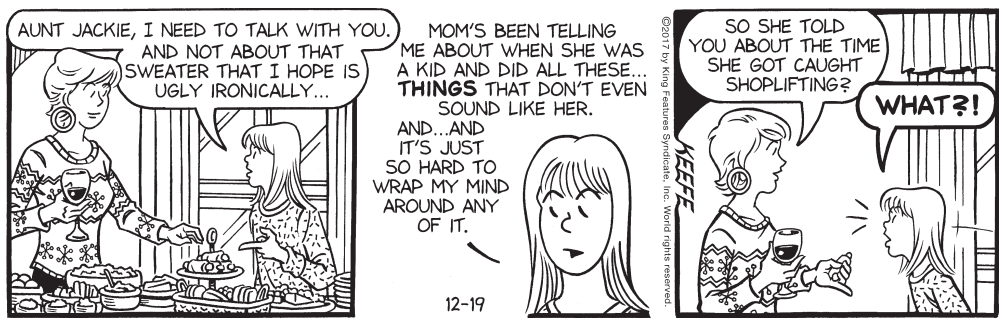
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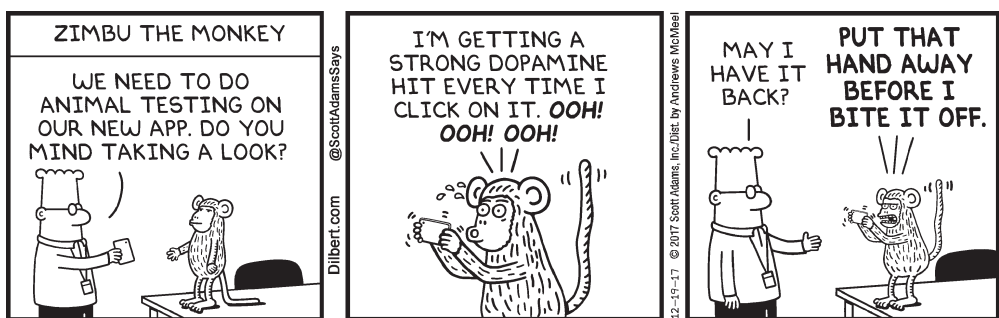
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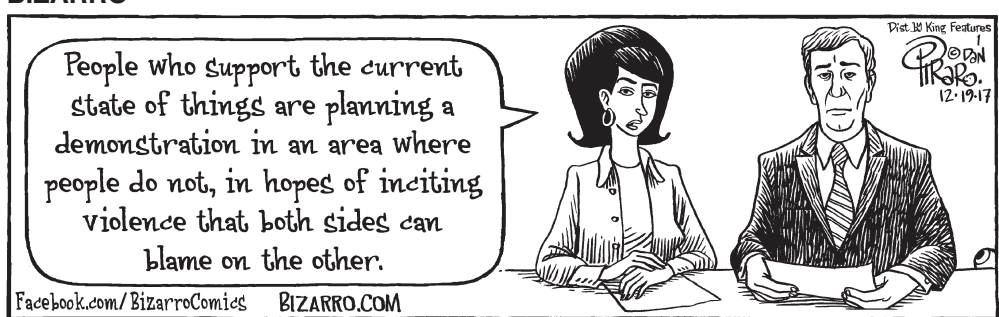
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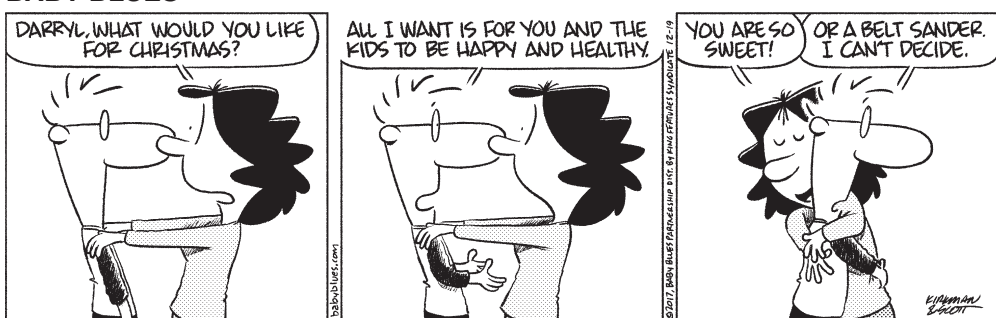
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