

Fighting for attention

Dear Annie: My 36-year-old stepson, "Greg," acts as if he's married to my husband. It's like a constant battle to outdo me. When my husband and I go on vacation, Greg whines to Daddy that he never takes him anywhere. On Wednesday, which is Greg's day off, he will plan something for lunchtime so my husband will be gone while I'm home. I work second shift. Greg has been horribly spoiled by his mother and father and thinks he's entitled to everything. I have quite a few grandkids, and Greg doesn't like that his dad spends time with them, so he calls his dog his dad's grandchild and expects him to buy her birthday and Christmas gifts and gifts at different times throughout the year.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

something about any of this, he tells me he doesn't want to hear it. I love my husband, but I'm about done with all of this. Help, please! — *Frustrated With Ungrateful Kid*

Dear Frustrated With Ungrateful Kid: It sounds as though you're more frustrated with your husband's refusal to stick up for you than you are with anything else. You have to talk with him about how your feelings are hurt when Greg says he does not want you there. Tell your husband that you don't want to have to fight for his time and attention. And to this same end, make sure that you are not being competitive with Greg. For instance, if Greg values his dog almost as a child, you should allow him that and not put down his father's giving the dog some presents. Instead, focus on the attention and love your husband gives to your grandchildren and tell him how much you appreciate it. Your hus-

band tries hard to please Greg and your grandchildren. All that's left is for him to treat you the same way.

Dear Annie: Thanks for saying people who are often late tend to be optimists. I appreciate that characterization, especially because I often cut things very close — although I usually make it just in time.

I want to share the technique used by many I know for dealing with people who are chronically late: Tell them everything starts earlier than it does. That way, they arrive on time, and you don't have to sit around waiting.

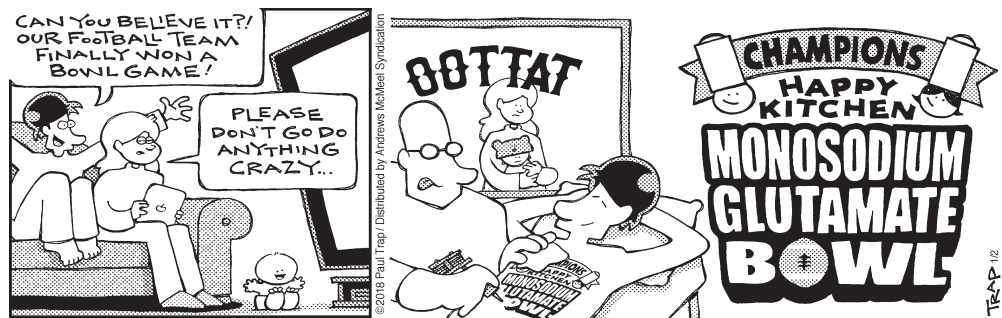
If you know the person is always late and value the person's friendship, it's easy to take that into account and adjust your own attitude and behavior. Appreciate the person's good qualities, and forgive the annoying ones. All of us have something we do that bothers someone else.

— *Ellen*
Dear Ellen: Indeed, we do — and I'd be out of a job if we didn't.

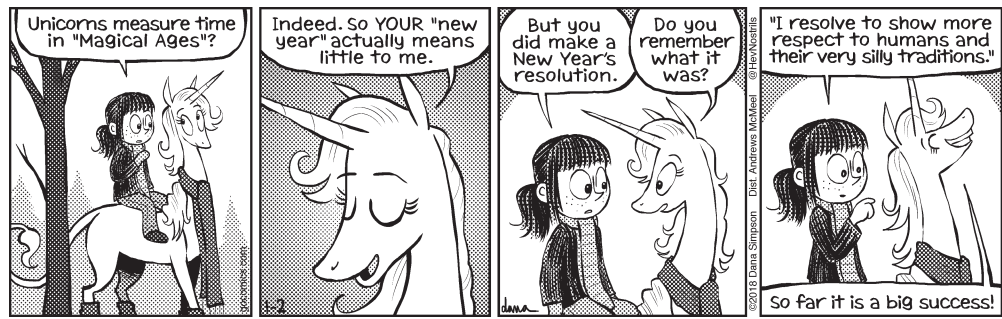
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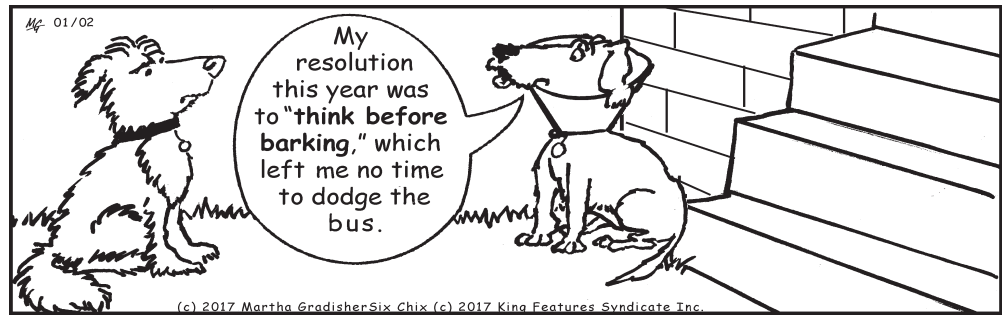
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



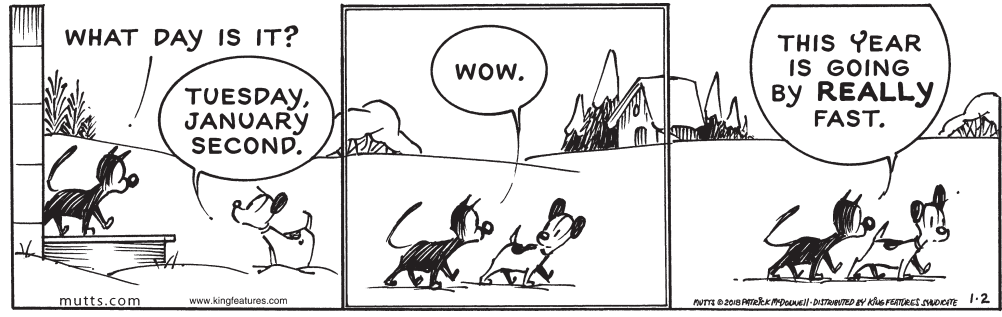
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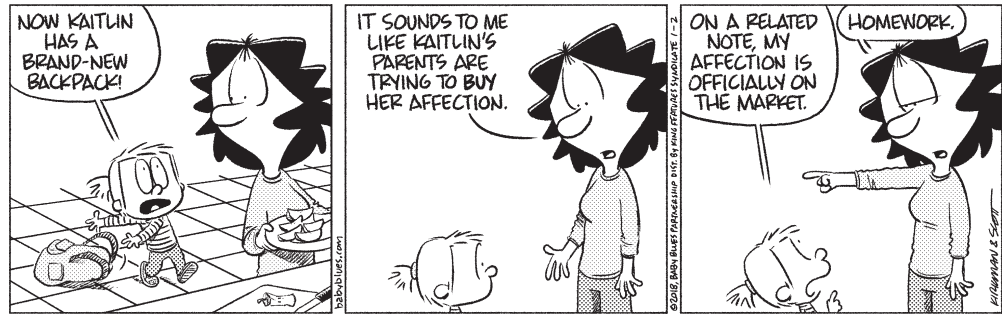
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BABY BLUES



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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's wise to look for the upside of a situation, especially if it's a bad situation. You recognize the downside, of course, but it would be pointless to dwell there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In today's case, ignorance will not be bliss. Ignorance will be something more akin to apathy. Bliss isn't on the menu today anyway, but you will be happier seeking knowledge than not.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If your eyes were sun lamps, you'd be giving a certain someone a face tan. The exchange of extra attention will be good for both of you. On a side note, your nutritional needs are changing. Consider changing your eating style.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sleep is underrated. It's a healer and a spiritual tool. It's a teleportation system, an entertainment system, a protection system and an energetic restoration system. Bottom line: Get more sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). At the juncture of an important decision, you may be worried that you'll do something you'll regret. Don't. People usually don't regret their mistakes. What they regret is their missed opportunities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone is hiding his or her true feelings from you, probably afraid of being an inconvenience. But convenience isn't everything. Make your caring heart known. Be a soft place to land.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you could fix what another person is going through, you would. It's painful to watch without being able to do something about it. Getting involved would mean crossing a line — not always a bad thing, but certainly worthy of careful deliberation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who won't be able to keep up with you, and you'll have to find a workaround for this. Everyone doesn't have to get there at the same time, but stay hopeful that all will get there eventually.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People are good at different things. You may look at the next guy and wonder how he does it, but you can bet that in a different category, others think the same thing about you. Give yourself more credit today.

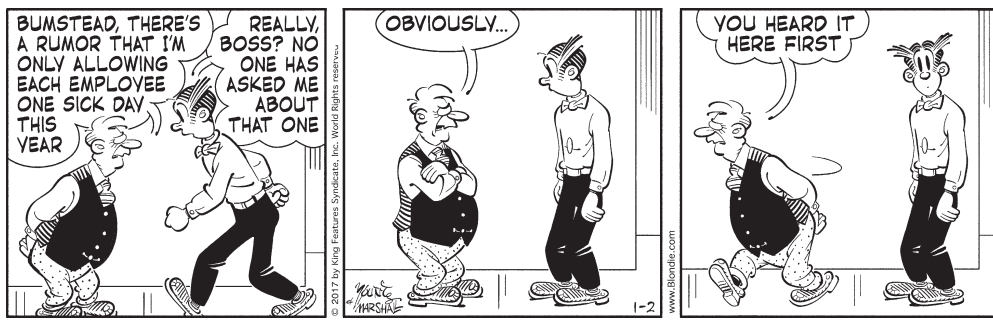
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You feel it's time to prove your worth to your boss or loved one. The trouble is, you have to believe it, or it's not going to work. Furthermore, once you believe it, proving it to others will be a moot point.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Before you embark on a project, ask yourself: Who would be the most fun person to do this with? Then ask: Who has the expertise I most need? The right person will bring both levity and serious skills to the table.

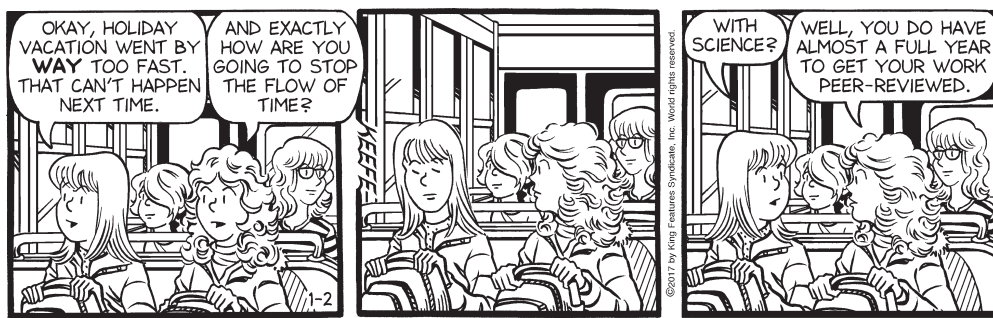
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Complaining is a favorite pastime for the modern human ... or maybe it's more of a disease. While it's important to note the problem, to stop there would be folly and weakness. It's why you take action today.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 3). You're decisive, tenacious and very aware of opportunities, especially the ones others overlook. This will land you in a prime position over the next six weeks. Your ideas catch on. This translates into money in your pocket. Travels with loved ones are tinged with all kinds of luck. New people come into your life in May. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 6, 44, 49 and 12.

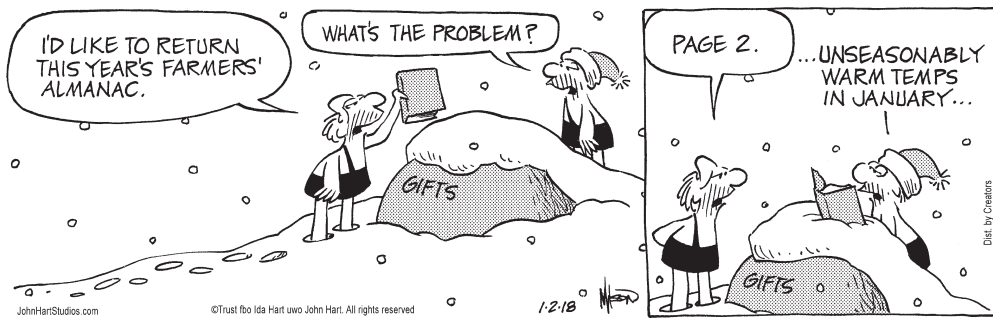
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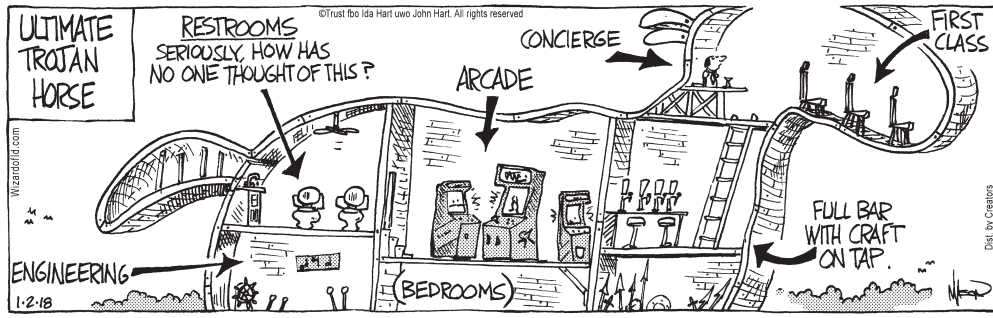
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ROSE IS ROSE

