

Three's becoming a crowd

Dear Annie: I am either in a predicament or being overly sensitive, and I trust you to tell me the truth either way. I am in my 40s and in what I thought was a very healthy relationship with a stable, responsible man who has a very good job, “Luke.” I’ve never been in this type of relationship before, as I previously chose to be single and focus on work. I also have an extremely good job. I have never been treated so kindly in my life. He has been amazing to me. We have been together for almost two years, but I am very cautious.

For the past several months, Luke’s good friend/co-worker “John” has been living with him. I truly like John; he’s a very funny and likable guy.

Because Luke and I live over an hour away from each other, we usually only see each other every other weekend. We have opposite schedules, so it is impossible to see each other during the week. John has his own house but opts to live with Luke 24/7. They work side by side and then live together side by side.

Neither shows any sign of

attraction to the other. However, Luke and I had a chance to go on vacation together a few weeks ago (very rare for us), and seeing as they spend so much time together, I jokingly said, “Well, might as well invite John!” Anyone would have known I was being a smartypants, but Luke immediately asked John whether he would like to go on vacation with us — to a romantic secluded cabin in the mountains.

I feel so insecure and dumb for writing this, but seeing as they are together 24/7, I feel awkward. Am I being dramatic, or is it possible they have their own special relationship? — *Need Advice*

Dear Need Advice: It’s possible they’re more than friends, sure, but I don’t think you can say it’s probable just based on the evidence you’ve cited. What I can say for certain is that their constant closeness bothers you; otherwise, you wouldn’t have made a “joke” about inviting John on that romantic getaway. Tell Luke that you want future trips to be just the two of you, and have a larger discussion about the issue of John and

their close relationship. Emphasize that you like John and consider him a friend but you don’t want to feel like a third wheel in your own relationship. Opening up the conversation will close the door on any misgivings you have, assuming they’re off base. By the way, I hope your joke’s backfiring encourages you to be more upfront about your feelings. They’re not something to laugh at.

Dear Annie: Not long ago, you emphasized the importance of locking up or hiding one’s Social Security card and number for security reasons. It raised a concern for me. I was under the impression that when people turn 65, they should always carry their Medicare card with them. My Medicare card has my entire Social Security number printed on it, and I assume other people’s do, too. How should we handle this? — *Confused*

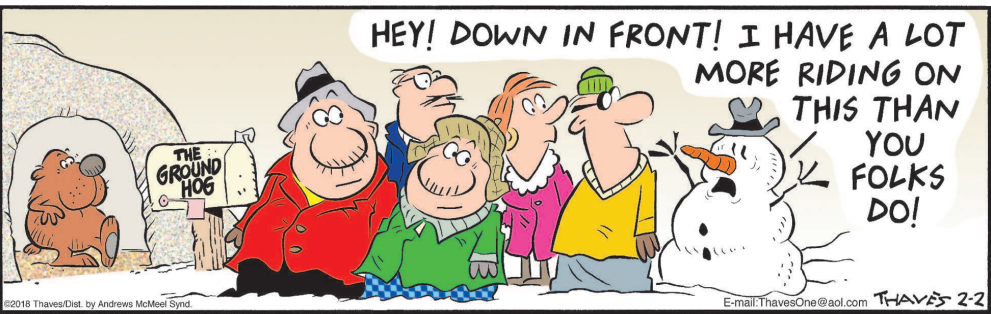
Dear Confused: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced plans to begin rolling out new Medicare cards this year that don’t include Social Security numbers. All existing Medicare cards will eventually be replaced. Read more about these new cards at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/new-medicare-card>.

DEAR ANNIE

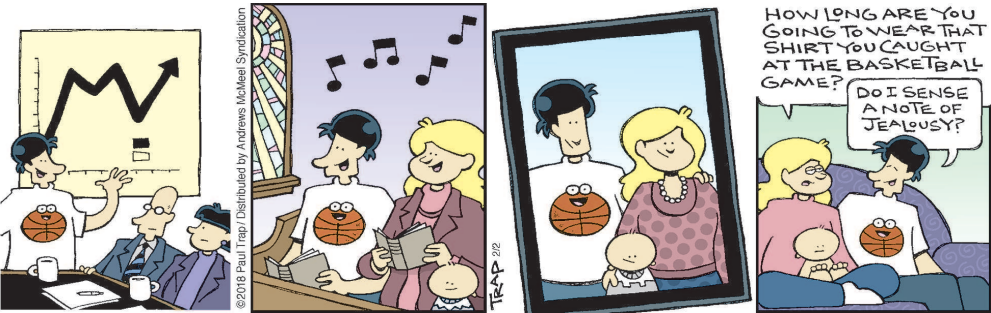


Annie Lane
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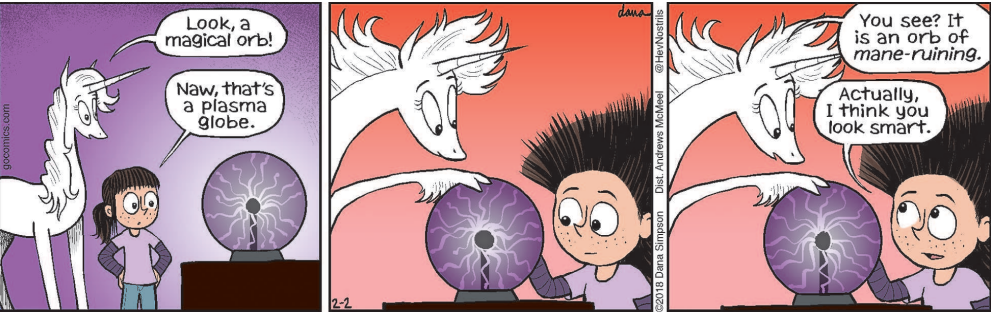
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just because it doesn't make sense doesn't mean it's not the truth. And what is truth, anyway? A law? A balance? Something in accordance with reality ... but whose? The point here is to keep an open mind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Procrastination is tempting, but maybe it would be less so if you knew unequivocally that you could mend the situation within a few hours. Well, you really can!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The good news is that any resistance you are experiencing on the way to your goal is self-created. The bad news is the same. Have a chat with yourself about giving up the fight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The classy way is to show up with enthusiasm. Cynicism might seem to signal intelligence, but what it really signals is a choice of focus, nothing more, nothing less.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Oddly, it will be easier to win at big things than at little ones. Both are significant, though. You might find yourself changing your mind about what's big and little, too — a sign of maturity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sign up to compete. Competition will be fun — not because you'll win but because you'll do your personal best, which is the kind of win everyone loves to cheer for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wacky suggestions and oddball requests abound. Take a breath, and continue to be your usual supportive self. After you've let everyone contribute to the work at hand in his or her own way, you'll get yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Many people could fill the same role, but you're different. You'll get the chance to show them just how different you are. Actually, you don't have to do much, just show up and they'll see it right away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being near another person has its own kind of electrical charge. You'll be sensitive to the vibrations of people and places. Your notes on this will help you in future endeavors.

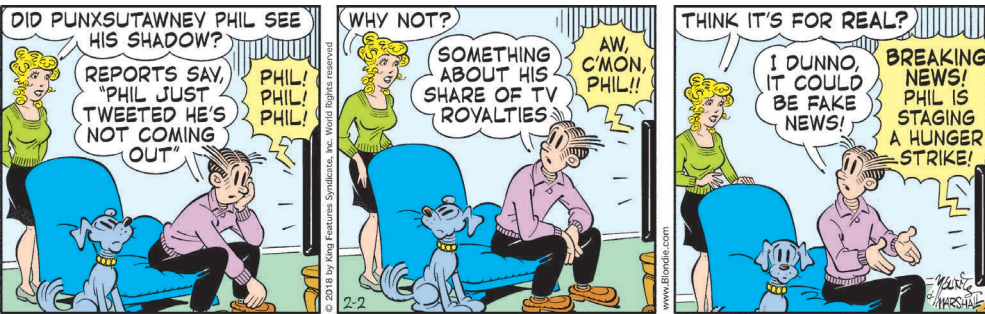
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to see a person in action to get a sense of his or her skills and abilities. You're pretty great at summing people up. Just leave room in your mind to be surprised.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be tempted to ink a deal that binds you in ways that are hard to foresee right now. That's why background checks were invented. Such measures will save you from future stress.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You enjoy people for who they are and not for what they can do for you. Of course, it's interesting what they can do for you. It will get your imagination churning, to be sure!

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 3). You're emotionally stronger and spiritually more generous. Proof: The responsibilities that used to be hard to fulfill will be suddenly as easy as eating cake. Unexpected money in March may seem like the perfect reason to splurge, but you'll be better off saving for travel, as this will expand you in wonderful ways. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 14, 30, 2 and 39.

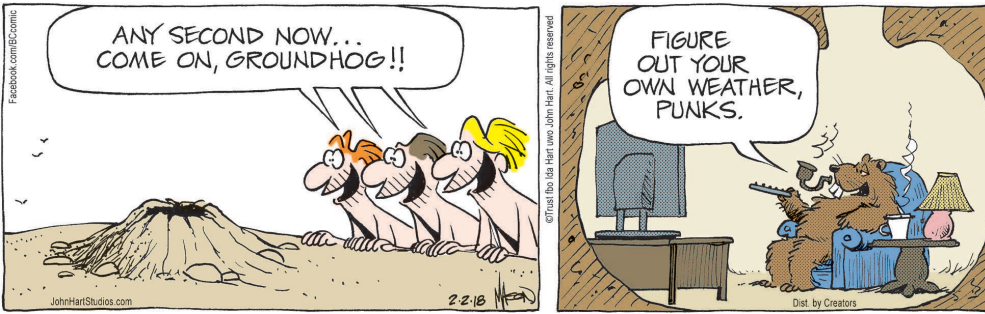
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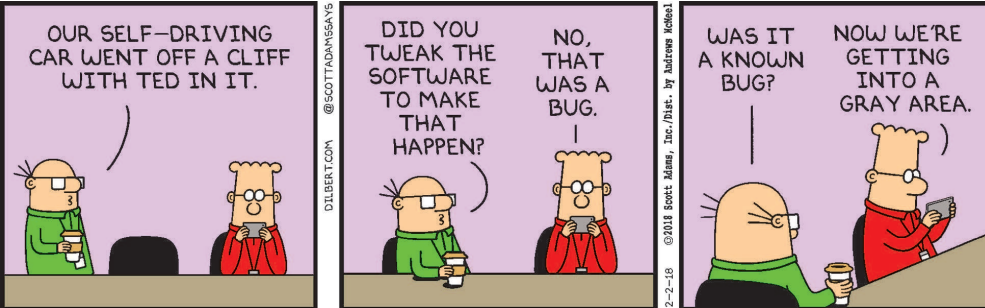
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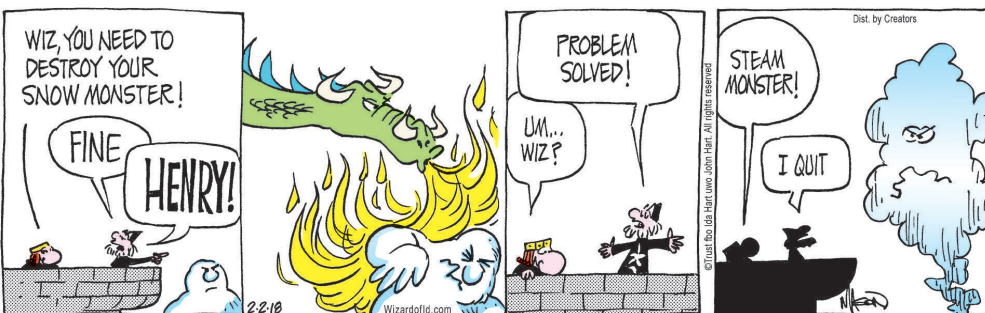
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

