

Showing off humble abode

Dear Annie: I'm hoping you can settle a little disagreement between my 16-year-old daughter and me. The two of us live together in a modest home, which I am proud of. It is nothing special, but I work hard to keep it neat and organized.

When we have company, I am very welcoming and ask our guests whether they would like to see our home, from top to bottom. No one has ever refused, and people seem to enjoy looking at the architecture and decor. They usually make positive comments and sometimes offer suggestions. I feel it gives them a glimpse into our hearts and souls, the space in which we live. My daughter feels it is bragging and unnecessary. She says, "No one else does this." Could I please have your thoughts on this matter? — *To Tour or Not to Tour*

Dear To Tour or Not to Tour: What's the harm in a house tour? A walk-through familiarizes guests with the space, which makes them feel more welcome. I think it's lovely you so appreciate your home. Too many of us take the roofs over our heads for granted.

Perhaps your daughter will understand once she has a house of her own. In any case, she'll have to grin and bear the tours while she's living in yours.

Dear Annie: You told "Too Much or Not Enough?" that it is "socially permissible not to tip" for takeout food. I thought the same thing until my daughter took a job working at a local restaurant that offered takeout. She was paid \$5 an hour, the same as servers who were waiting tables, but she only took the takeout orders. Most customers don't realize this. Some days she would work several hours and not even get up to minimum wage with her tips. — *Lara in St. Johns, Fla.*

Dear Lara in St. Johns: If your letter gave me pause about advising people that they don't have to tip for takeout, the following letter brought me to a full stop. Read on.

Dear Annie: Being a restaurant server and frequently working in car-side/carryout, I take exception to your advice to "Too Much or Not Enough?" about tipping for takeout meals.

Where I work in central Flor-

ida, our hourly rate is between \$5 and \$6. Folks should be tipping 10 percent as a standard. And if the employee is friendly, timely, accurate and accommodating of extra requests, that percentage should go up accordingly, just as if one were dining in.

These people work hard. Your order doesn't just mysteriously appear in the bag. There's a lot of footwork involved. There's the phone call, the car-side area, kitchen area, expediting area, going outside (in all kinds of weather, I might add), etc. That employee is running all over the restaurant getting that order together. He or she is dependent on those tips to supplement a low hourly wage. And if something is incorrect, those same nontipping folks are on the telephone in a heartbeat, irate. Isn't it better to award excellent service (and make someone's day) rather than hurt someone's income and feelings, leaving the person to wonder what he or she did wrong not to get a tip? — *Working for Tips*

Dear Working for Tips: Not tipping for takeout might be common, but that doesn't make it fair or right. So I'm amending my stance: Tip 10 percent on takeout orders.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No one succeeds alone. It may feel as though you are the only one putting in the big work and making the major sacrifices, but don't forget about those whose past work made all of this possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The project will seem to drag on and on. Hopefully you'll find a way to be fine with that, since this is still the middle of the long slog. Things that are worthwhile take time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can't know what will make you happy in the next five years. The way the planets are today, you'll be lucky to predict what's going to make you happy in the next five minutes. But you have ideas definitely worth exploring today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Everything you do today will take courage. It will take courage to express yourself honestly, to show your work when you're still learning and to take care of your many responsibilities. You're brave.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before you act, consider inaction: It's a valid option today. Of course, it's better if it's the kind of inaction that takes patience and restraint instead of the kind that happens out of laziness and apathy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you could travel back in time to talk with the younger you, you'd do more than give yourself hot investment tips or show up where history is in the making. You'd tell yourself to love more fully, too. So tell yourself now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Considering that overconfidence leads to folly and disappointment is rooted in idealism, a little bit of negative thinking might actually steer you to

a better outcome than you could find through strictly positive thinking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Yes, your moods are catching. But this isn't just about mood. Everyone and everything you pass is affected by your energy. It is all changed by the subtle etheric pressure of your being.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Most people are dismissive of what they don't understand. Not you. You take the mystery and hold it to the light. Maybe understanding will happen; maybe it won't. But there's a possibility now where there wasn't before.

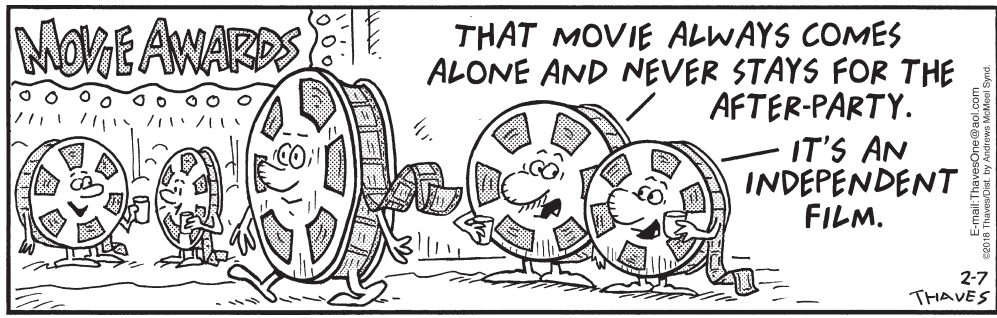
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Have you ever left a letter unopened because just holding it made you uncomfortable? Though it's hard to say why, there are some things you just don't want to know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can learn from books, but what make a difference are mirrors. Not all mirrors are made of glass. Some are made of journal paper. Some are made of people who reflect back what they see in you.

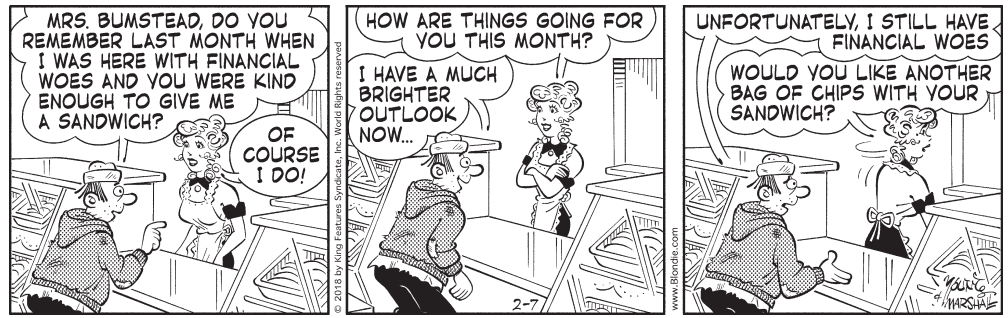
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not about doing this right; it's about doing the right things. To make sure you're on track, ask the expert. Ask three, and check their answers against each other.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 8). This solar return you act on your gut feeling, instinct, intuition and passion, and your life reflects the vibrant uniqueness of who you are. The golden ticket will be yours in April as long as you are clear in your communication and you keep your commitments. You'll get close with special people in April. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 22, 19 and 45.

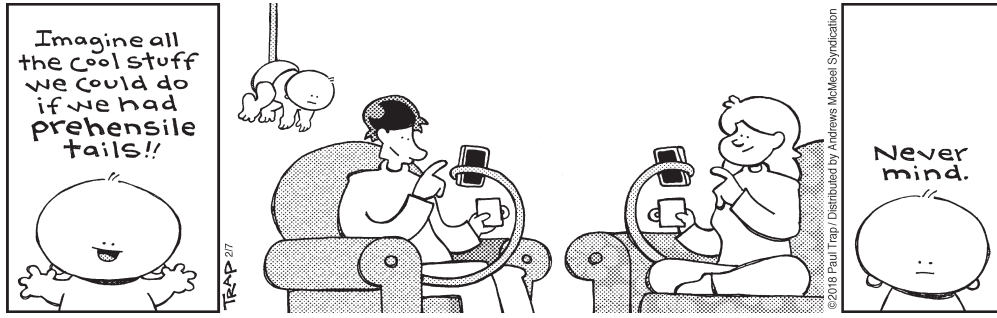
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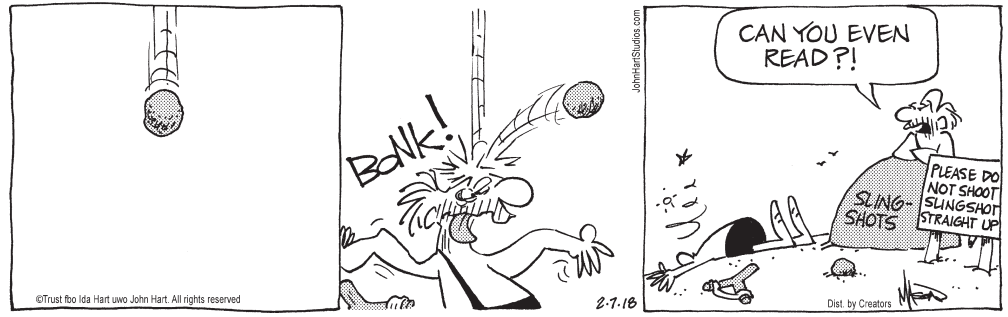
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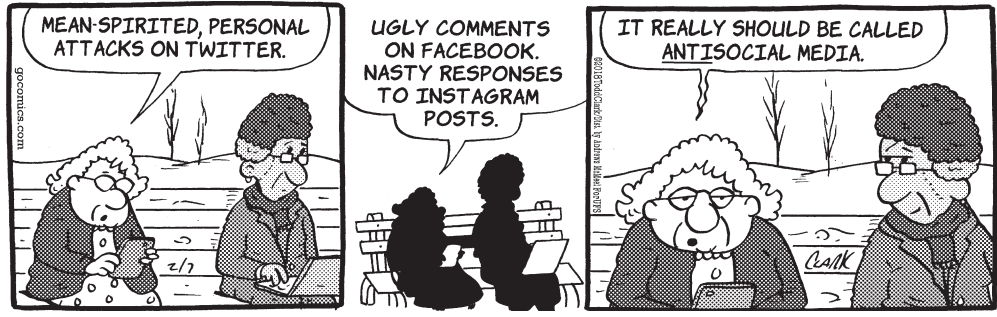
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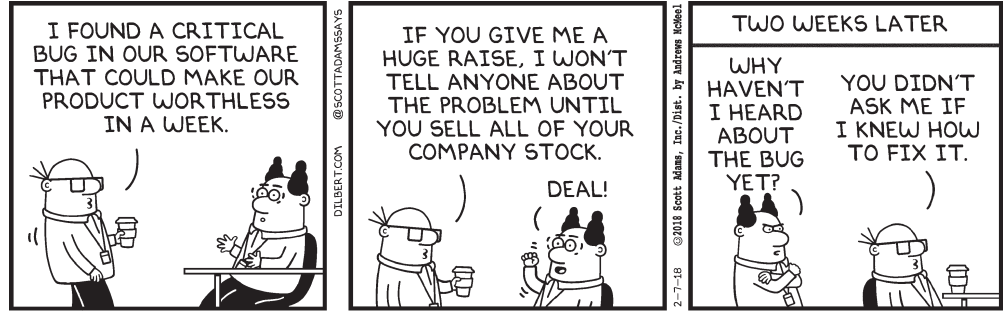
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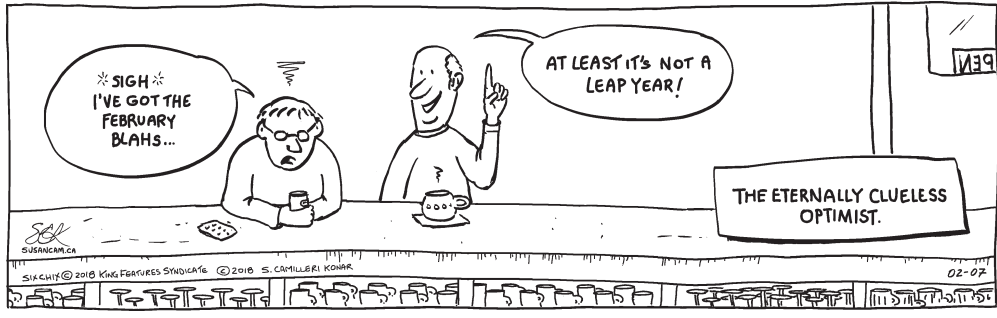
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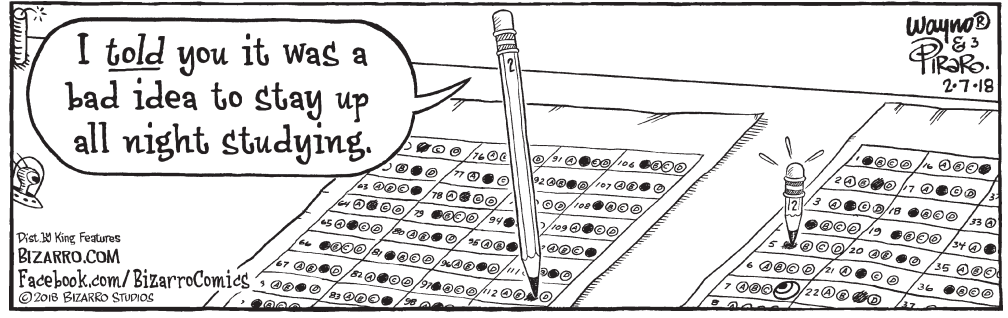
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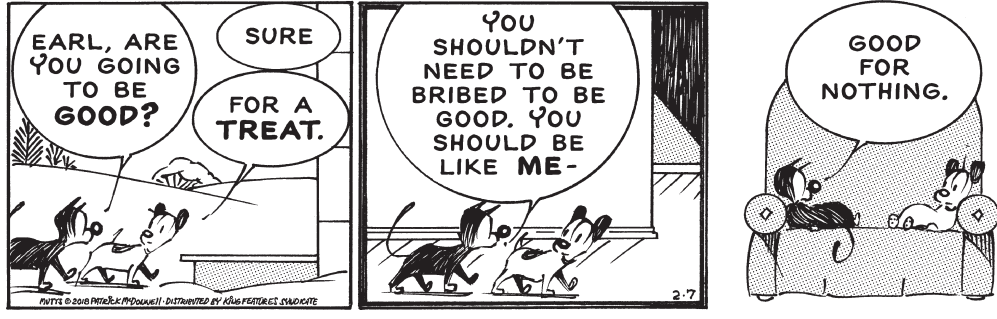
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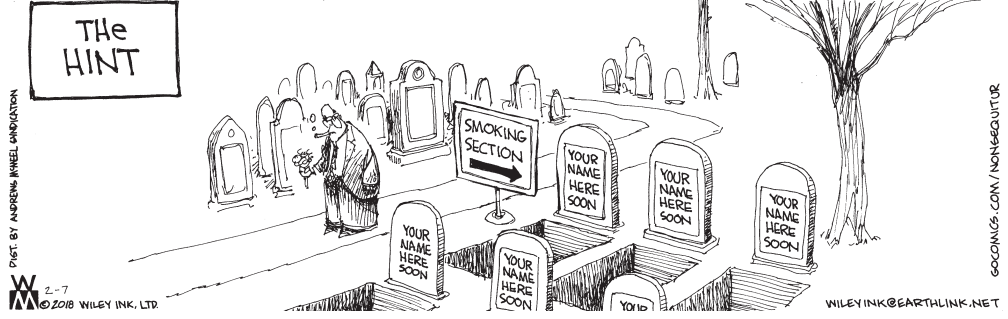
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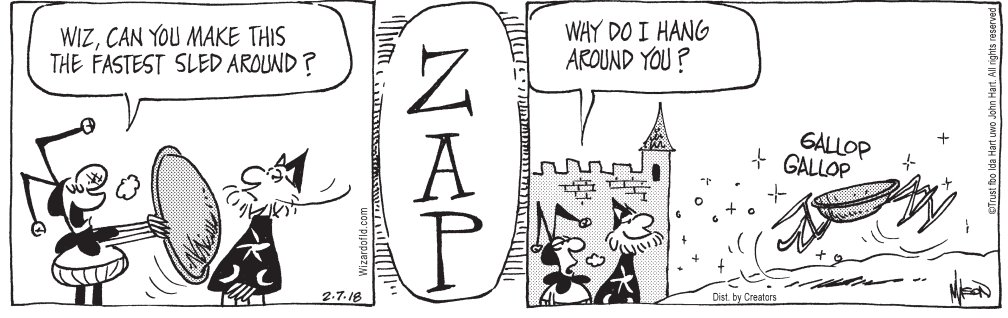
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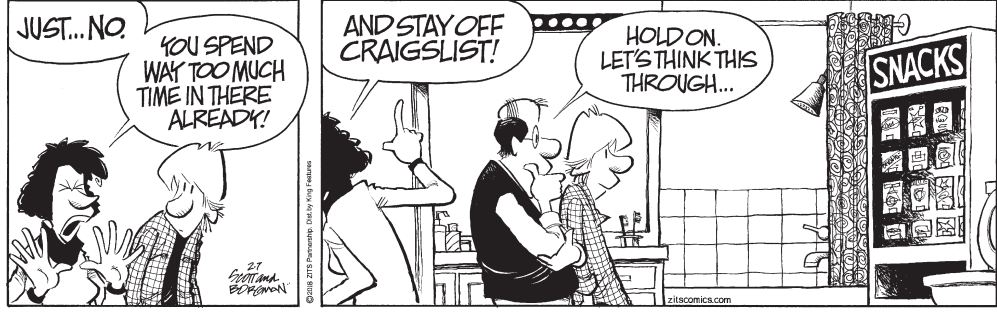
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