

Another look at photographs

Dear Readers: Recently, I printed a letter from "Never Gonna Be Good Enough." She was fed up with her husband's looking at titillating photos of women online and was curious about how other readers have approached this issue in their marriages. The diversity of opinions is remarkable.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: You invited readers to respond about husbands "frequently looking at women." Many women have complained about this to you. Could it be that most men are by nature attracted to viewing beautiful women without any intention of being unfaithful to their wives? Perhaps this is something wives (and girlfriends) just need to accept as natural and something they shouldn't get offended by. — *Realistic and Honest Man*

Dear Realistic and Honest Man: I appreciate your honest perspective. Read on for a vastly different one.

Dear Annie: Your advice to "Never Gonna Be Good Enough" is worse than useless. He's never going to change this habit that gives him pleasure, no matter how

much pain it causes his wife. To answer her question, no, this is not just the way men are. It's the way he is. A man who truly cares about his wife and sees her as an equal partner in their relationship does not treat her this way. A narcissist who lacks empathy and cares only about his own needs and desires is "never gonna be good enough" to be a real husband. There is no middle ground that would work for both as you suggest. There is only total capitulation by the wife (and its attendant misery). My advice: Sweetheart, pack your bags — or his — and

get out of this toxic relationship before you start to actually believe that you are to blame for your husband's juvenile, cruel, abusive behavior. — *Old Enough to Know Better*

Dear Old Enough to Know Better: I think the following letter addresses the same issue to which you speak — the husband's apparent lack of concern for her feelings — but with a bit more hope for redemption. Take a look.

Dear Annie: I wonder why this man feels the need to tell his wife

that she is being ridiculous for feeling insecure about his looking at pictures of women on the internet. Maybe it's an attempt, albeit a clumsy one, to reassure her. But it's disrespectful to judge someone's feelings when she comes to you with a concern. I'm thinking that she might be more inclined to feel better after a genuine (and gentle) conversation about it.

Maybe looking at pictures of pretty women makes him happy. Why not just say so while reassuring her that he doesn't find her any less attractive because of it? — *Greg in NYC*

Dear Greg: Agreed. And I think the following letter underlines your point.

Dear Annie: What she should really be concerned about isn't her husband's actions. It's his reaction. Some men like to look at women in that context; some don't. But a significant other is expected to be understanding of his or her partner and to make compromises. Respect is the one boundary all relationships should have in common. — *Respect Is the Name of the Game*

Dear Respect Is the Name of the Game: I couldn't have said it better myself.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If it's a struggle, step back and consider whether you really have the optimal setup for the task at hand. With the right equipment you can climb gracefully over the wall instead of trying to knock through it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone close would give you exactly what you needed if only he or she were privy to what exactly that was. Maybe you don't even know. Keep trying to figure it out, though. Stay experimental.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have no control over who is the best, but you have complete control over your own ability to get better. Your success happens when you make improvement your goal instead of having the goal to win.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do the same thing you've done and you'll get more of what you already have. Change it up and who knows? You could use a little "who knows?" in your world right now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know that dream you keep having about not being ready for the job you're asked to do? Well, you're getting more prepared every day. Keep it up and you'll soon be competent. Competence will lead to confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's only human to flinch in the face of success. One such "flinch" comes in the form of needing things to be perfect before making the next move. Things will never be perfect. Just move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Hey, what about small actions made consistently? It's not the storybook way — that would be more like a wave of the wand and a magical transforma-

tion — but it will get you there nonetheless.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One only needs to turn on the news for a few minutes to rediscover that people are the worst. One only needs to talk to you for a few minutes to have his or her faith in humanity restored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Inconveniences might be opportunities, interesting backdrops or better. As it is with rain on the wedding day, the less-than-ideal circumstance will be a harbinger of goodness to come.

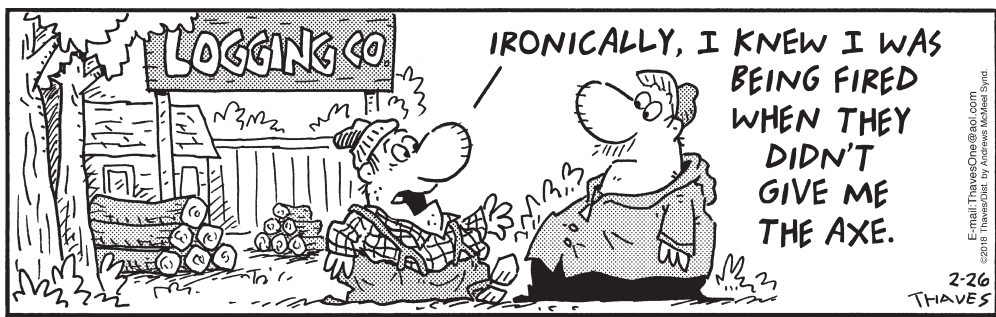
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Regarding these people you admire, it's not that they have something you don't have. It's that they have something you do have but haven't figured out how to use to the greatest effect just yet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be presented with dim alternate views, not unreasonable or untrue, but why dwell in dusky areas? As Walt Whitman suggested, "Keep your face always toward the sunshine — and shadows will fall behind you."

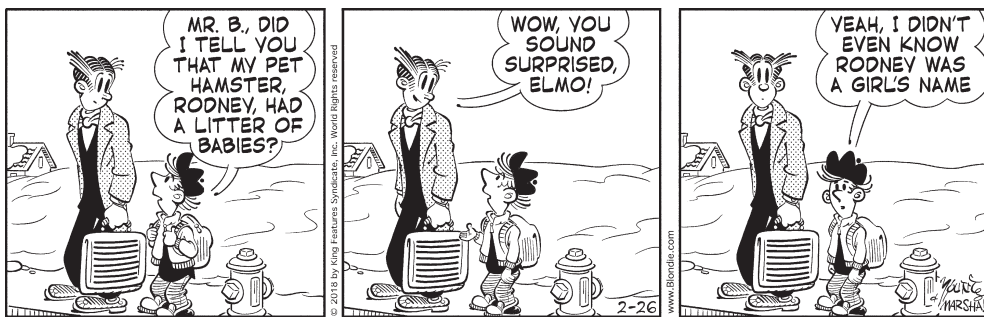
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're trying to figure out life's mysteries just like a lot of people are. Maybe you don't know any more than some of the others, but someone has to step up and be the authority. Why not you? You'll handle it quite well.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 27). The gold medal doesn't tell you who you are: You do. You'll work hard enough to get it without worrying too much about the symbol itself. You'll have a strong influence in June: This is a chance to really do some good in the world. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 9, 45, 18 and 32.

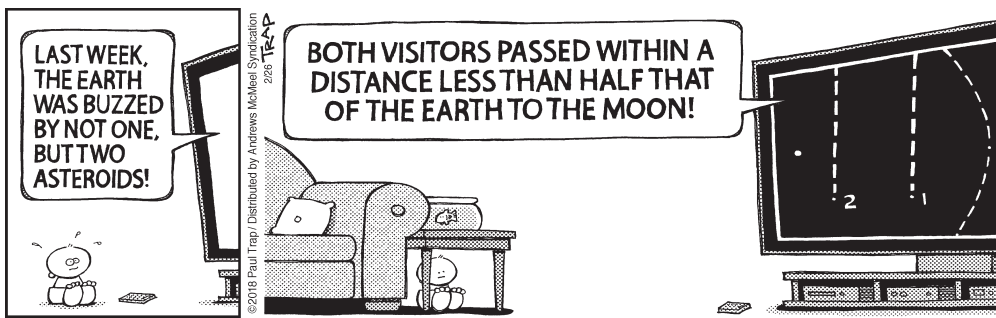
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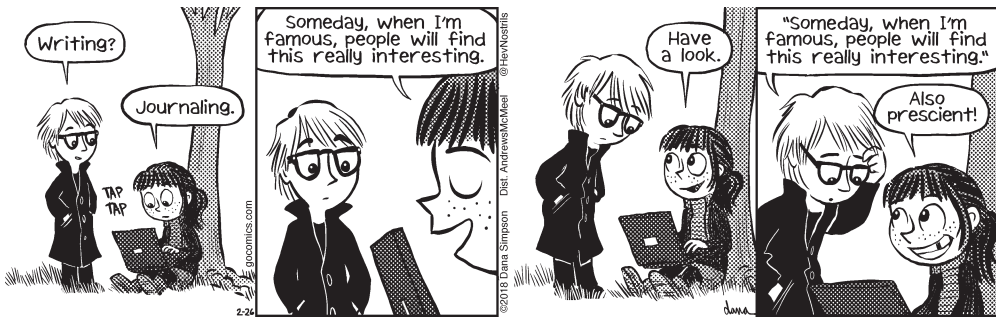
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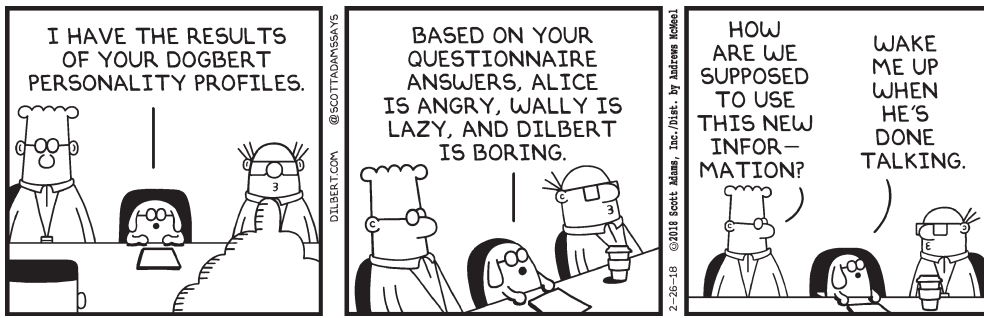
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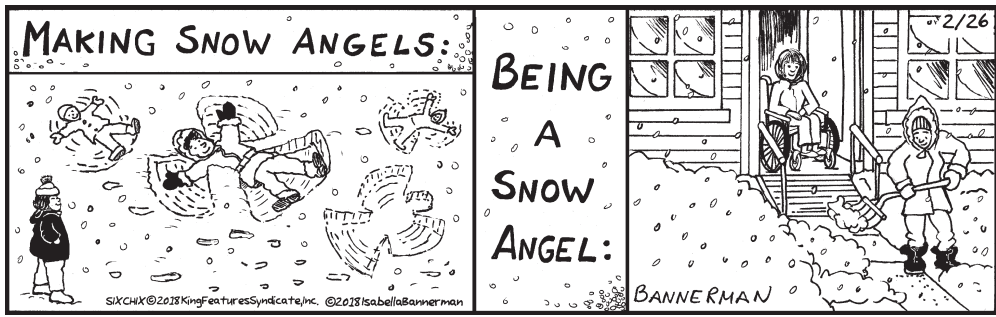
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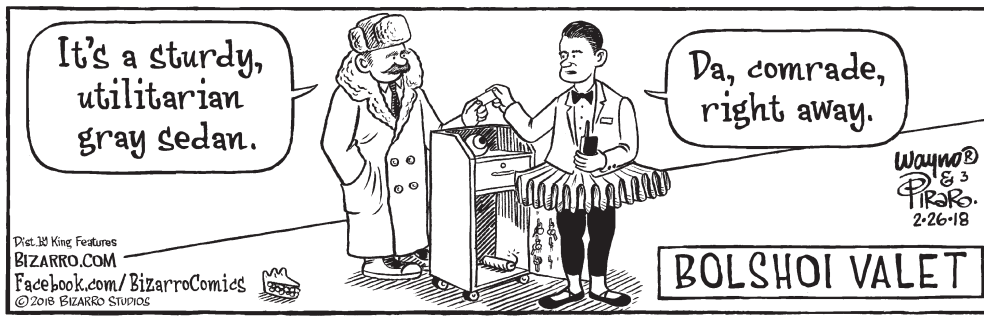
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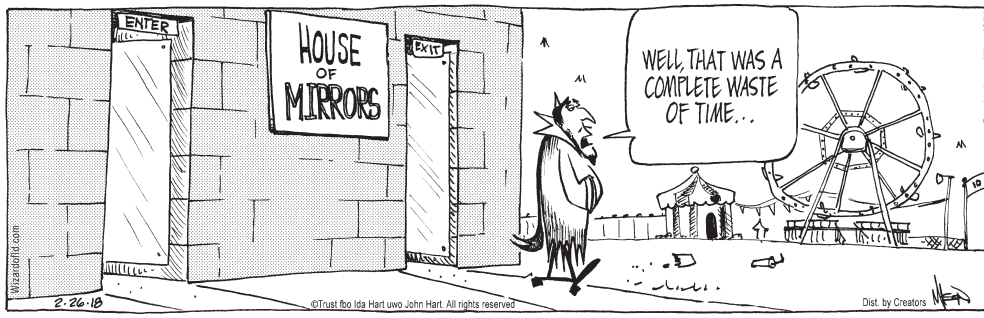
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