

Invitations on social media?

Dear Annie: Recently, I missed a large birthday party for a close family member. I was not aware of the party until several weeks later, when other family members asked where I was that day. My answer was that I had not been invited and knew nothing about it. I was then promptly told the invitation had been on Facebook. It is as if I am expected to read Facebook each day instead of the regular mail. I checked my Facebook page and found no such invitation or mention of a party. I really don't know how to use Facebook, so the invitation might have been somewhere unseen by me even if I logged on regularly.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I have missed several invitations and events because of this. Am I wrong for not checking Facebook for such information? Is this the new norm? If it is, then I suppose we can expect to see obituaries posted on Facebook in the future — and birth announcements and wedding announcements.

What is expected these days? — *Home Alone*

Dear Home Alone: If friends and loved ones really want you

to be at their event and they know you don't use Facebook, they should reach out to you separately, whether with a phone call, an email or — don't hold your breath — a good old-fashioned paper invitation. That said, they may not know you don't use Facebook. You do have an account, after all. One option would be to delete your account so there's no confusion over whether or not you're receiving invitations that way. Another option would be a tech solution for this tech problem: If you use a calendar on your computer, tablet or smartphone, you should be able to sync your Facebook account with it so that any events you're invited to will automatically be added to the calendar. For what it's worth, I am with you. I don't think social media should be the hub of our social lives.

Dear Annie: "News Junkie," who finds himself obsessed and stressed by the 24-hour news cycle, is not alone. Cable news ratings are at record highs. The major newspapers have the highest readership they've had in years. Investigative reporting has never been

more diligent. Most Americans think the country is on the wrong track. And most responsible citizens believe that now, more than ever, is not the time to not be paying attention.

Your advice to "News Junkie" is what I try to do myself: take periodic breaks from the news cycle to do something soul-restoring. In my case, I take my dog out every day, weather permitting, to a nearby nature area where you can let your dogs run and play off leash. The only other thing I would suggest for "News Junkie" is that he take action of some kind, such as volunteering for a political campaign, a "get out the vote" effort or a social service organization whose mission he respects. It is a great stress reliever, too, knowing that you are doing something, however small, to make the world a better place than it is right now. — *Kay C.*

Dear Kay C.: I'd like to second your advice and encourage "News Junkie" and other overwhelmed Americans to volunteer. Though it's crucial to take periodic breaks from the news cycle to avoid stress, fatigue and ultimately apathy, it can also be therapeutic to take action.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A glorious day: The goal of the team will be accomplished by the team! For today, the victory you claim together will be just as sweet for you as any you could claim on your own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't mind leading the dance, so to speak. You're a smooth leader, after all. Since you know where you're going, there will be a certain ease in taking people there.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The drama is there for the taking. Anyone who needs a little extra will find it readily available. And though you may be tempted, as today's drama appears especially juicy, you also have much better things to do. Productivity will win out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The hardest lessons happen when we forget that life is a classroom. So remember. Learning happens everywhere when you're paying attention and occasionally asking the difficult questions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Though you may, for an hour or so, stretch your imagination into interesting places, embellish reality and enjoy a bit of fantasy, in the end it will be your practical solution that saves the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've a talent for giving. The best gifts aren't material. They're the right words at the right time, a manner of showing up, a smile, a joke. Sensitive and observant, you naturally gravitate to delivering what people need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the digital world, it's pretty easy to get snarled into distractions and purchases, but it's also easy not to: Unsubscribe; block the call; don't go to the website. Such limits will keep you on task today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today's opportunity is stellar in every way. Stepping into the situation will bring such a warm, inviting, hopeful feeling that you'll keep right on stepping. Before you know it, you're immersed in the culture of this thing ...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know the nonverbal cues that tell you when people are wanting you to speak and when they are ready for you to stop. Others are not so attuned, which is why you'll need your advanced social tools to navigate this day.

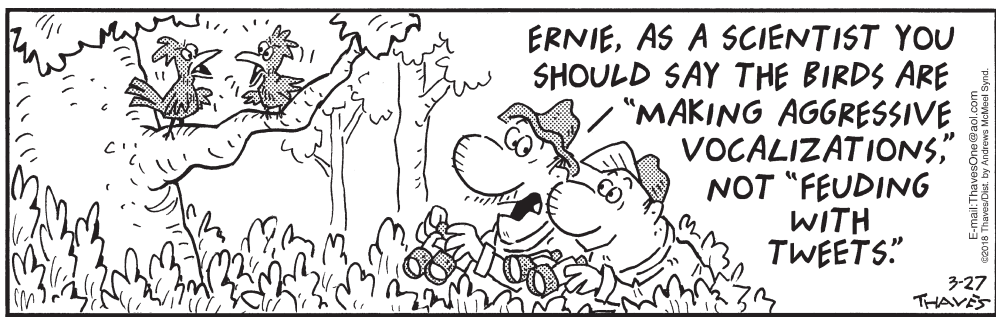
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Being first may give you a slight advantage, but it also comes with risk. In today's dealings, it will be better to hang back and study the scene awhile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The people around you all want different things. Just ask them! Each one will have a different answer. Bonus: You'll discover that you have a purpose that coincides perfectly with that of another.

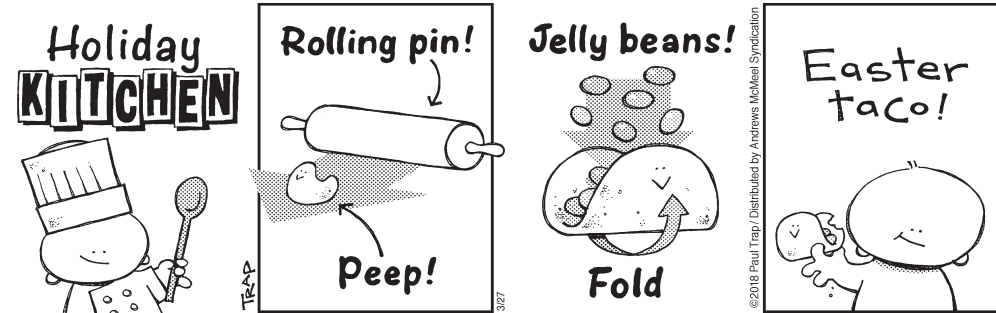
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a time to turn your natural magnetism up and a time to tone it down. Today this mostly will have to do with the size of the space. When you're out in the big world, radiating to fill it will have definite benefits.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 28). Belonging to the group has been important in the past, and it will be so again in the future. But this solar return begins with it individuality. You take your life in your own hands and earn the right to later say, "That was all me." Intellectual pursuits call you next month. Apply what you learn to the complexities of the summer. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 36, 3, 20, 22 and 49.

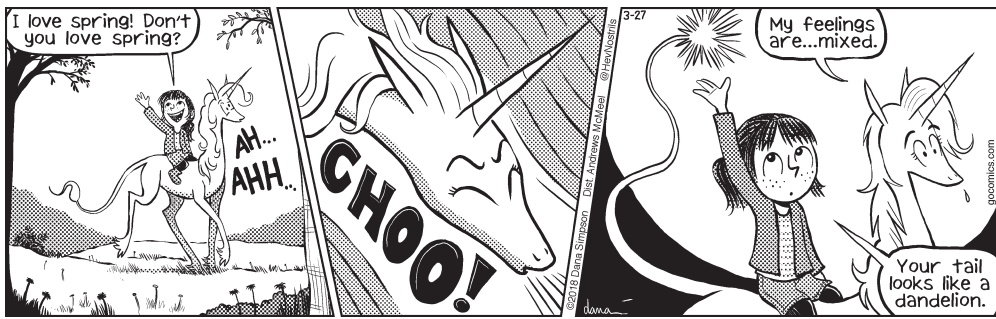
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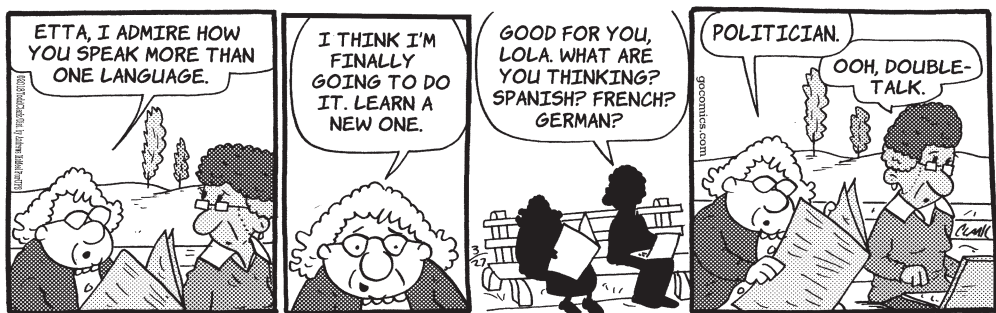
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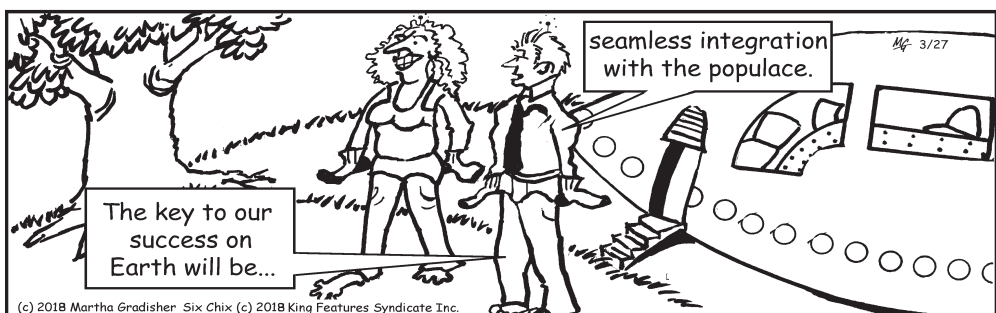
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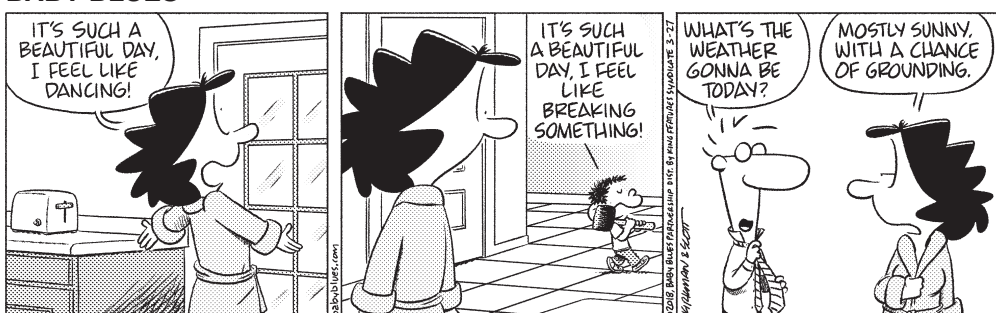
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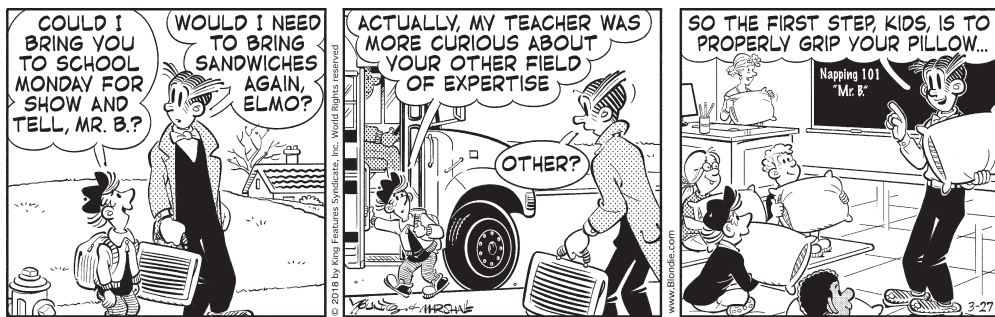
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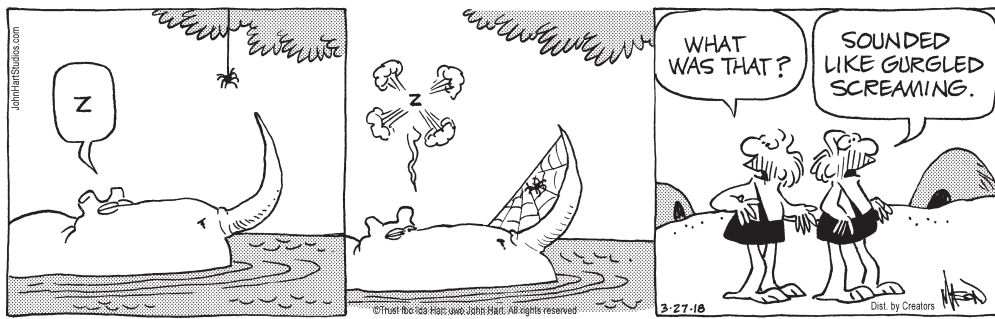
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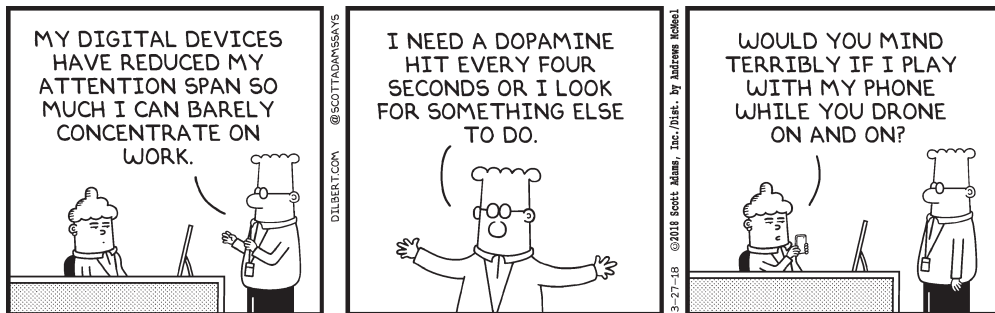
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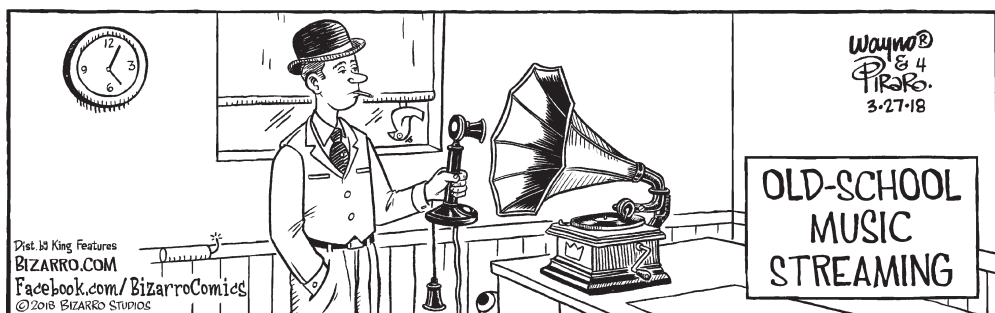
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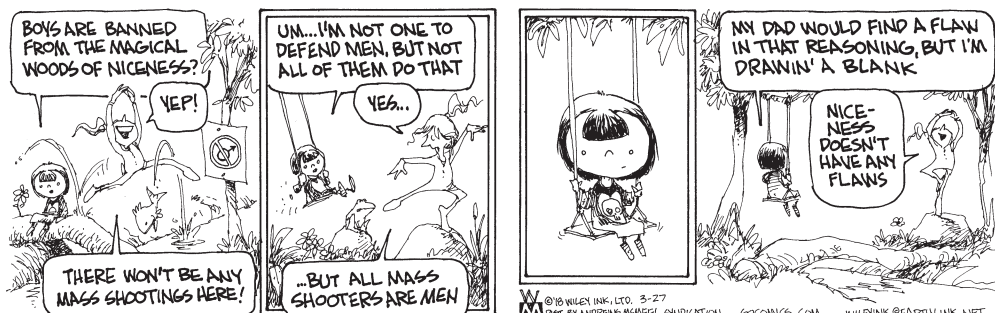
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