

Never celebrated

Dear Annie: I've been wanting to write to you about this for a while. About one-twelfth of people have December birthdays. Mine is in the second week of December.

When I was a child, my birthday celebration would get lost amid all the holiday events. It'd get mashed together with some big get-together or sometimes be pretty much forgotten. There was no event just to celebrate me.

I don't think my birthday should have been any less celebrated than my parents' and siblings' birthdays, but it was. Some people's birthdays are even closer to the 25th than mine, and they probably had it worse.

I realize I'm writing this to you in late March, but if I wrote to you in December and you chose to publish and respond in December, most likely nothing would change, even if some agreed with my viewpoint, because they'd be too busy at that point.

I've thought several times that maybe family and friends could plan something like a biannual birthday celebration for those of

us whose birthdays get lost in the Christmas holidays. How wonderful it must be to have a celebration in which you are the guest of honor.

I am grateful for so much in my life, but it sure would be nice to at least once have a celebration just for me, which most others get. — *December Baby*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear December

Baby: First, to anyone reading this and thinking that birthdays aren't a big deal, don't be so quick to judge. I bet you like to feel special on your birthday. Most everyone does.

Now, "December Baby," you've already thought up a great solution: to observe your birthday on your half-birthday. Are you waiting for your family and friends to develop mind reading capabilities? Tell them your idea! Or just start planning your party for mid-June and let everyone know. You'll most likely have a blast.

And lastly, this is neither here nor there, but seeing as you mentioned it, I wanted to look into it: It turns out that statistically speaking, December is actually the least common birth month. Less than one-twelfth of the population was

born in December. So you're more special than you realized.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Birthday Non-Celebrations."

There's the golden rule: Do unto others as you'd like others to do unto you. Then there's the platinum rule: Do unto others as others would like done unto them.

They're not always the same.

Maybe her husband, like me, is an introvert and he puts up with her big parties and plans but really would prefer a much quieter birthday, with little to no fanfare. Many people, possibly including "Birthday Non-Celebrations," just assume that what they want is what everybody would want. That is so not true!

It's possible he's doing the same thing: giving her the birthday he'd like to get, which is almost nothing at all.

It doesn't sound as if they communicate much. She never says he seems to really like or appreciate the big shindigs she puts together for him. — *Mel H.*

Dear Mel H.: I love that you shared the "platinum rule." I think you can often pick up on what someone would like through context clues.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When relationships go through changes, both people in the relationship are a part of that. The very nature of relationships is co-involvement. Today the blame and credit are likely to be misplaced. It's something to think over.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Want to find out everything? All you have to do is ask, "How are you?" and the whole story comes out. Share your story, too, otherwise it's not as fun (or as fair)!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're the star of someone's thoughts today. And while you're not quite the person they think you are (you're so much deeper than their limited knowledge of you), you might have fun trying on the role.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You want to explore, but there's plenty to do right where you are. How can you justify traipsing around the world (or the internet) with your current load of responsibility? Set a timer. A few minutes of novelty is all you need to refresh your outlook.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Whatever "it" is today, it will require hard work. Hard work isn't always heavy lifting, sweat or hours of toil. Hard work is efficiently getting it done, even if "it" is mostly just thinking something through.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not getting the response you desire. It's not something you're entitled to; rather, it's a puzzle to solve. An experimental approach will work well for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The question of the day is an existential one that can be taken many different ways and directed to yourself or to others: "Who do you think you are?" The answer will change by the minute.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When the social impetus to be with the group plays against the fact that there's apparently nothing in the situation for you, boredom ensues. But there is something here for you. You'll have to dig deeper for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Passion isn't necessary for achievement, but it often leads to it. The passionate person usually gets there sooner, too, because passion is fast-burning fuel. Today you'll be propelled by your passion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A secret is supposed to be something hidden or unknown. And yet, secrets are told and sold every day, in books and on billboards, in texts and on television. That's why your ability to really keep a secret is so remarkable and rare.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Like a good murder mystery novel or a Steven Soderbergh movie, some things are best presented in jumbled puzzle pieces that you have to put together yourself. That will be half the fun today.

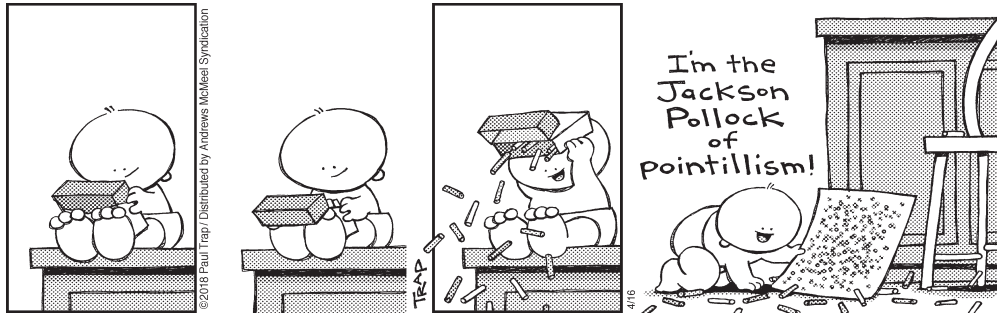
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes happiness has you cheering. Other times it inspires quiet reverie. Happiness can move you to tears, make you dance, write, sing or drive long distances. Stay flexible so you can recognize happiness however it shows up.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 17). You'll experience a sharp uptick in confidence, self-sufficiency and ambition over the next two months. You'll often find yourself in a serious schedule with big responsibility. So when it's time to play, be sure to have fun like it's your birthday. The education you get in November will markedly increase your means. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 5, 49, 30 and 13.

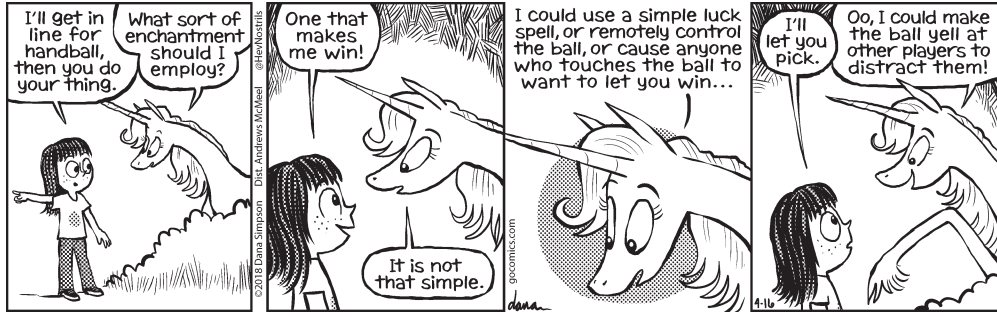
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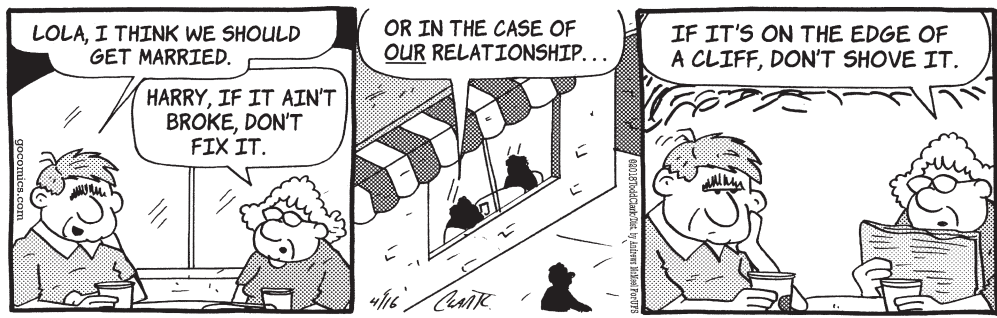
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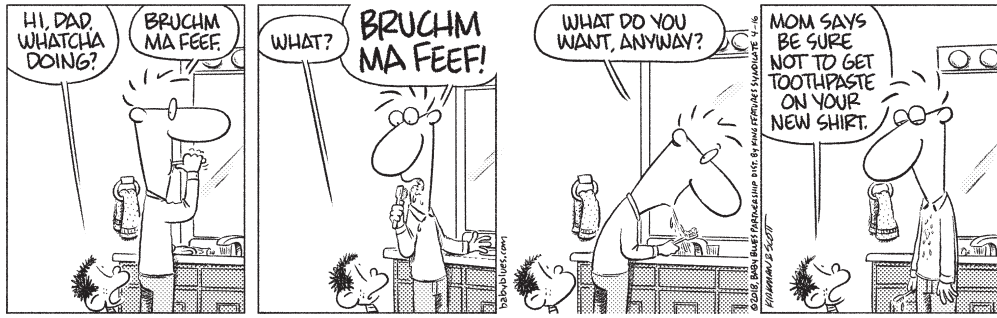
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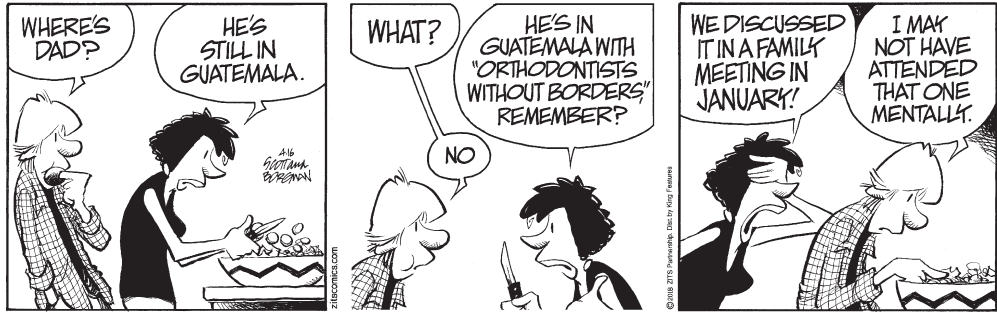
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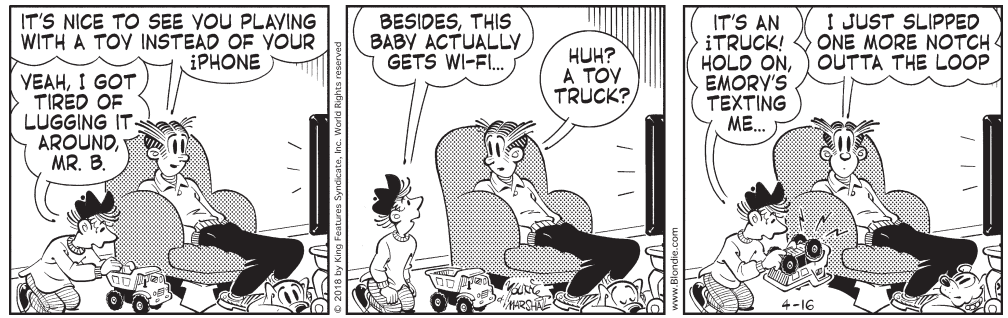
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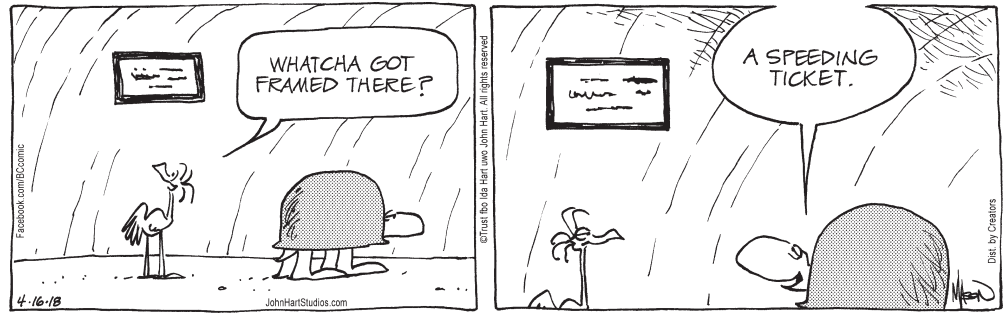
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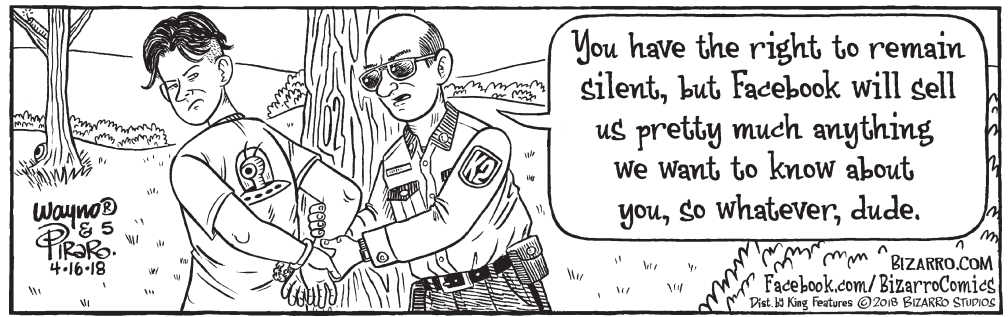
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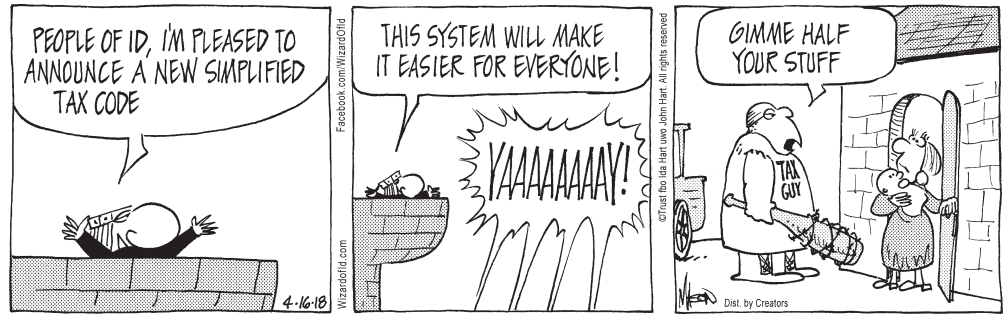
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