

Son, daughter get his criticism

Dear Annie: I'm in a relationship with someone whom I thought would care about and love me. I met this man almost 10 years ago.

My adult son, "Barry," lives with us, though he will be moving out soon. My partner gets home from work and complains to me about little things Barry does. For instance, he recently complained about how much toilet paper Barry uses and how many times he flushes the toilet. So I talked to Barry about those particular issues, and he shrugged it off and said he didn't know what my partner meant. I tried talking to my partner again about it, and he said, "Never mind. It's nothing." So I let it go.

My adult daughter has been on her own, but now she needs my help. She doesn't have anywhere to go. My partner said that she's not welcome to stay at our house overnight. So I drop her off at her friend's home and pick her up in the morning. She is a young mother of two. I work nights.

He has five children of his own. They are all grown. I treat them

the same as I do mine. Whenever they come over, they are very comfortable with me. They stay for hours. And I'm fine with that. I told him that as parents, we are here to help our children if they need help. He has helped his children — buying cars for them, taking vacations with them. I encouraged that. I've told him he needs to spend time with his kids. Yet he always makes inappropriate comments about mine, and it hurts. I need your help. Would I be stupid to end this relationship? — *Don't Know What to Do*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
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Dear Don't Know What to Do: Sometimes an argument about toilet paper isn't about toilet paper. That is to say, it may be easier for your partner to talk about Barry's housekeeping issues than about his issue with Barry's still being in the house. And his frustration on that count doesn't make him a cold person. Your partner can love your adult children and not want to live with them. Boundaries aren't blockades.

So before deciding you're through, try talking it through —

together. Sit down with your partner; share your ideas about what healthy family relationships look like, and ask him about what he thinks they look like. See whether there's a way you both can agree on to sufficiently support your daughter. If you and he look for common ground, I think you'll find it.

Dear Annie: I feel we have reached an epidemic in the U.S. So many people are looking at their phones while driving and while idling. I see it in cars beside me, behind me and in front of me. Statistics show that this is more dangerous than driving intoxicated.

I heard about a movement to tap your horn when you see someone looking at his or her phone. You don't even have to look at the person, if you want to avoid feeling confrontational. Perhaps people will put their phones down in response to peer pressure, as statistics and laws are not doing the job. — *Drive Safely*

Dear Drive Safely: Different states have different rules about honking, so readers should check before trying this, just to be sure they don't end up breaking the law and getting a ticket. But I very much like where your head is.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When action meets opportunity, things take off. But without truth, those things can go as fast and far as they want and they will not make a lick of difference. Truth is what will cut through and create change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're game for whatever way the adventure is delivered, and so you're guaranteed to have one. If they put up a mystery, you'll sleuth it. If it's a puzzle, you'll piece it together. If it's offered to you on a platter, you'll eat it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Competitive people will posture and strut. It might get them some momentary attention — while the true contenders go under the radar to accomplish something meaningful.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The Buddhist figure called Guanyin hears the cries of the world and responds in the manner of a loving mother. Maternal love will come to you today, too, and from surprising sources.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today, the big thing will be confidence. When you have that, you won't need much else. Of course, getting confidence is no small accomplishment. It will require you to both scrutinize and reward yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you like a certain style of doing things, you appreciate all that falls inside that order. The actual results become less important, as you're more concerned with the manner in which those results are delivered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). That humans can behave like wild animals is not news to you. In fact, you're more impressed by (and skeptical of) long-range domesticity. When loved ones are extremely rational for long stretches, the

feral glint is sure to show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being very strong in your sense of self, you accept that others are entitled to think and do things differently. And they will. In fact, they'll surprise you with just how differently they see the world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Apply the dictates of nature across the board. Leaves change, but change doesn't leave. You'll busy yourself with imagining and planning for what's next.

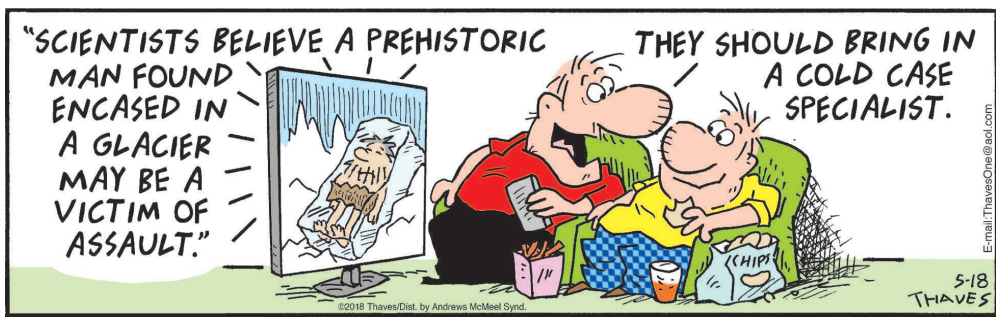
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The value of hard work goes deep into the human psyche, though smart work is quickly taking the starring position. After all, if you keep your nose to the grindstone for too long, you won't have a nose.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are many layers of lies to cut through before you get to anything you can work with. Even if you ask the right question, the truth won't be delivered. The truth is somewhere deeper. It's inside the question behind the question.

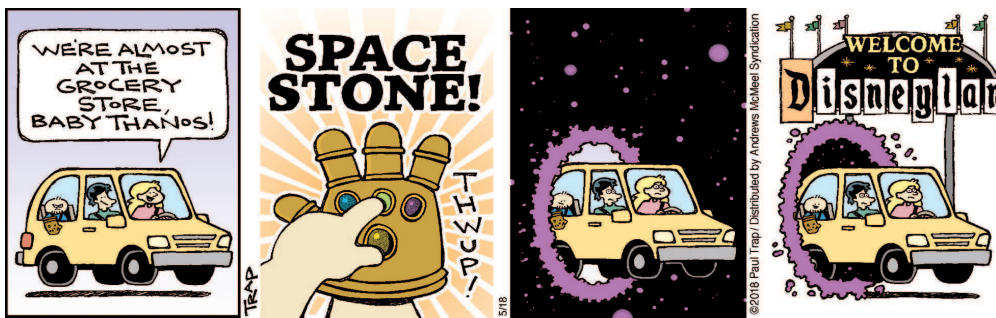
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If no one is on your side, you'll assume the position of your own best advocate. You'll have to for survival. If you have a lot of people on your side, you begin to play devil's advocate. This is a natural product of the luxury of support.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 19). Your psychic powers are strong. You'll think of someone, and then they'll call or show up in another way. It's no mistake, and it happens many times over the course of this solar return. You'll accept the benefits of good karma in July and clear the way for better times, too. Your friendship circle opens. Loving commitments happen. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 8, 32, 11 and 28.

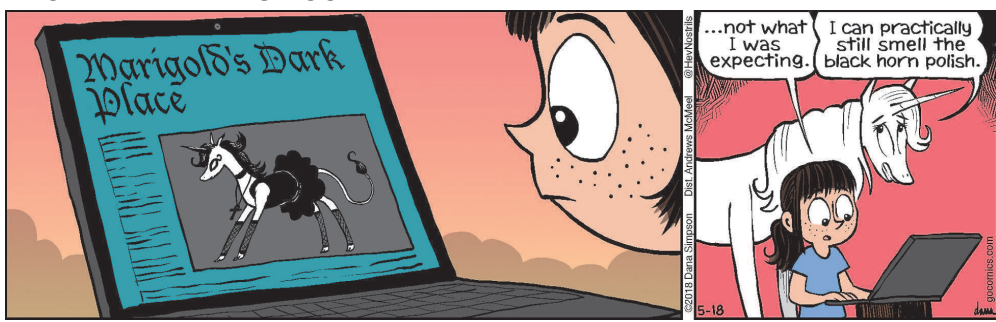
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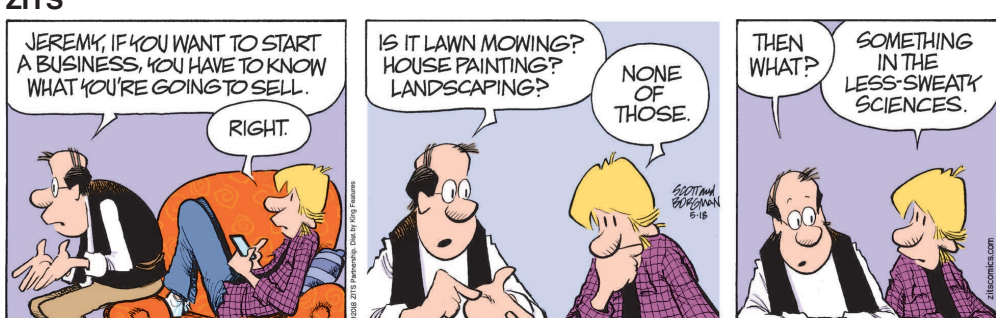
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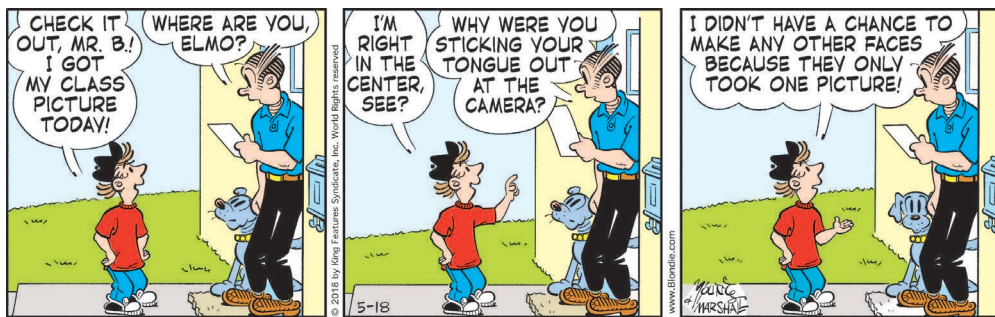
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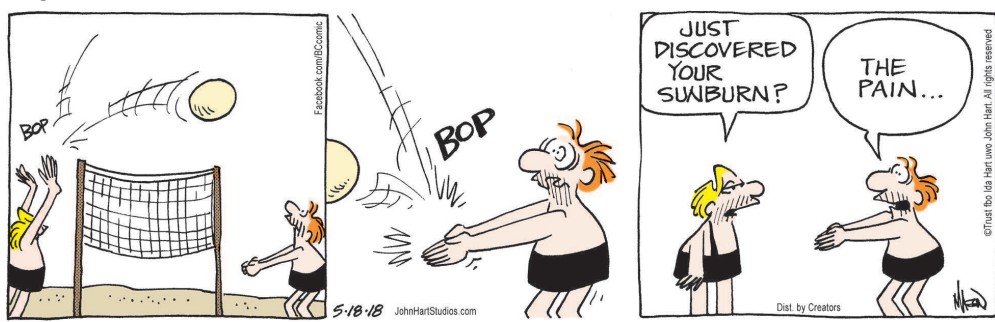
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