

Vegetarian at barbecues

Dear Annie: With summer in full swing, we are preparing for and going to lots of barbecues. I am always grateful when our family is invited over for a barbecue on a nice summer night. The problem is that I'm a vegetarian. Every time we go to a friend's barbecue, I can't find anything to eat. I usually just politely say it's fine and take a bun or some of the sides (if they are available). The hosts are usually understanding and accept my choice.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Last summer, we were invited to my husband's client's house. When I said "no, thank you" to his off-the-grill burger — in what I thought was a gracious way — he got very huffy with me. I said I am a vegetarian. And he said, "Oh, come on, it's the Fourth of July! Have a little meat." Thinking about what a big client this was for my husband, I said he was right and took the burger. Needless to say, I was sick all evening. I told my husband that I would never do that again, and he agreed.

Well, fast-forward to a year later, and we are invited back to the same client's house for the Fourth. He is one of my husband's largest clients, and my husband really feels that we should go, but I'm hesitant. I don't want to be rude, but I also don't want to spend the whole night with an upset stomach. — *To Take One for the Team or Not*

Dear TTOFTTON:

You already took one for the team last year when you were sick for the entire evening because you ate meat. One option would be to bring your own veggie patty to the party. Explain to your husband's client that you loved the way he grilled that burger last year, and tell him you would like for him to grill your veggie burger. That way, you'd be complimenting his grilling style and not insulting him while also not upsetting your stomach.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Doing a Life Sentence With No Parole." I was in the same situation as this

57-year-old lady. I was stuck in an empty marriage, and my soul was very unhappy. I also felt as if I had to stay for financial reasons and the children. Plus, I was just plain scared to leave. The best thing I did for myself was take night courses two nights a week to become a counselor, even though I already worked full time during the day. I thought I needed to learn how to help people find fulfillment. The more I educated myself the more I realized I needed this course for my own life. I left my 31-year marriage and have been with a wonderful man for the past six years.

If you don't respect yourself and set the bar high, then your children won't respect you and they will end up choosing the same life. — *Still Have 30 Years Left*

Dear Still Have 30 Years Left:

To anyone who is unhappy with his or her current circumstances but feels it's "too late," let this be a lesson. The time is always right to begin living your best life.

I wish you many fulfilling decades.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your words and actions follow your heart. To work on changing your speech and movement will be arduous. But you can change your heart in an instant, and all your words and moves can't help but follow from there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are many ways to tackle destructive emotions, none more effective than dipping into the spiritual aspects of you — not in a religious sense, necessarily, but in the sense that your spirit is beyond these temporal feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have been known to keep secrets from yourself, but then there are other parts of you that aren't so great at this, and they'll needle and nudge and hint today until all of you really gets it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The challenges are too big for one person. But the biggest challenge of all isn't solving the problem; it's learning to ask one another for help and humbling ourselves to accept it. The biggest challenge is cooperation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are complex. When you're around people who don't see your many facets, it doesn't make you smaller, but it might make you feel smaller, especially if their presence makes you forget about the many, many other sides of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships take work, and someone always does more of it. It's not necessarily the one who cares more. More likely, it's the one who is stronger and more able — more adept at the actions of showing love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Anyone can be compassionate toward those they already love. It could be argued that it's not really compassion. Compassion is the kind of love that must be

employed when its object seems, for whatever reason, unlovable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Homer wrote in "The Iliad," "Whoever obeys the gods, to him they particularly listen." There are certain relationships (but not all!) that are best begun in obedience. It works today, anyway, to set things off in a promising direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every relationship that has stood the test of time has good and bad things about it. Disagreements and disappointments have come up. That's part of it, and if not, it's not a real relationship.

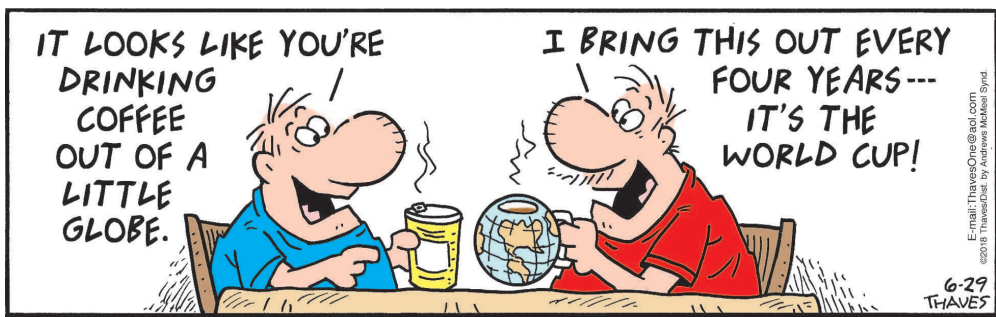
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Humor represents a meeting of minds and sensibilities. It represents shared joy and shared suffering. The humor you share with your loved ones is a special and sacred thing. Enjoy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Happy people help others. People who help others are happy. You'll find this to be true in your own life, as you are drawn to lend a hand today and you happen to get a joyful lift in the process.

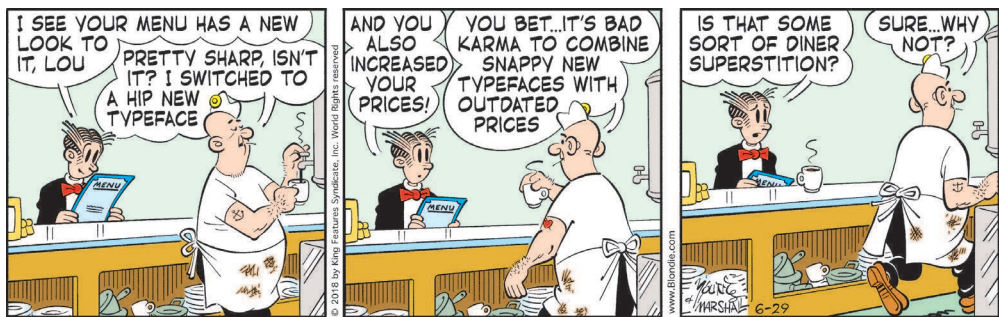
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you were younger you felt it necessary to distinguish yourself, to stand out for your individuality and to know the ways in which you were special. But now that you know, you're more focused on universal values.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 30). This is a year to take hold of the situation in a big way. Don't go searching for meaning; decide what it means and build up from there. Your leadership in your own life will lead to leadership in groups. There's very important business to handle with love in October. Older people will change your world for the better. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 3, 33, 38 and 31.

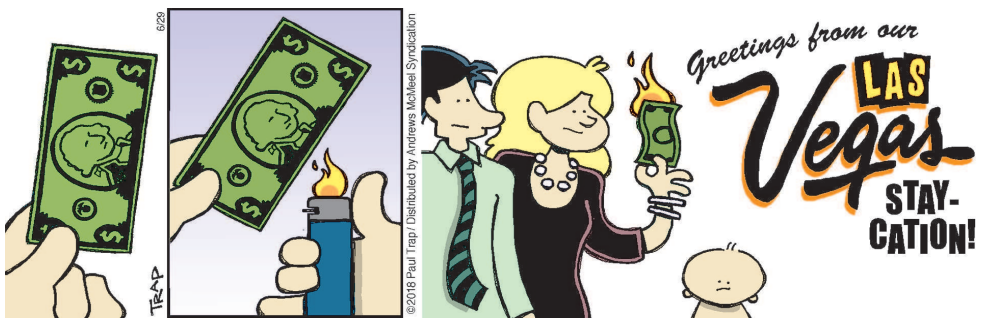
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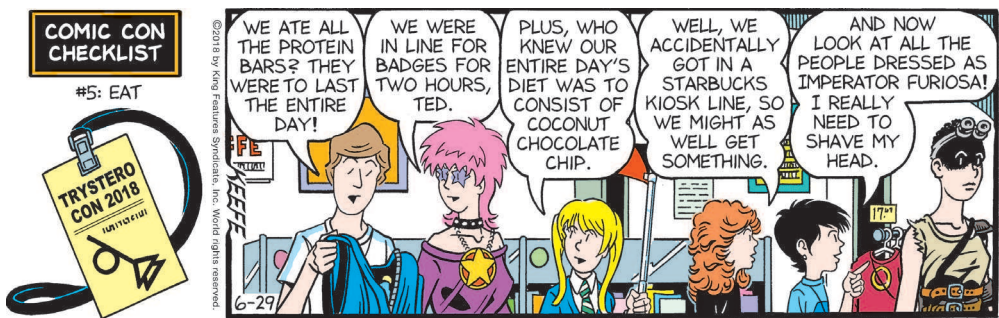
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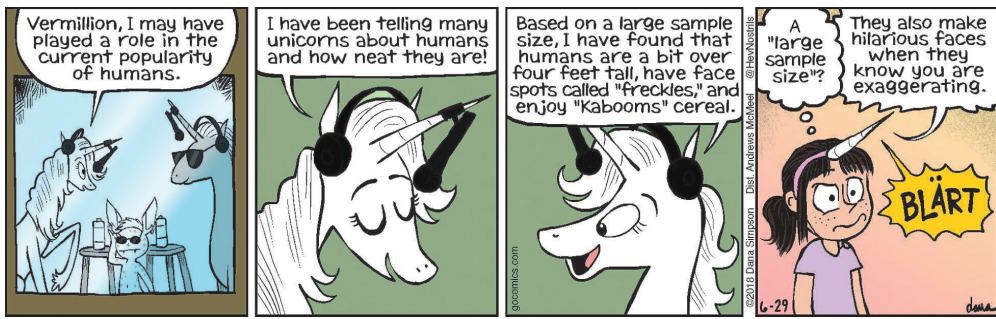
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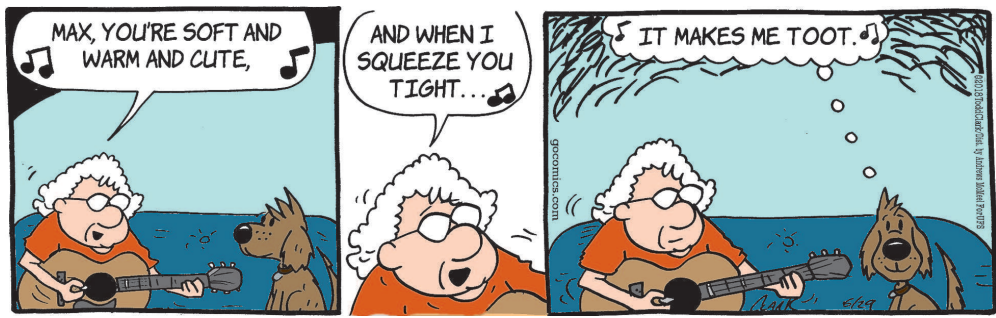
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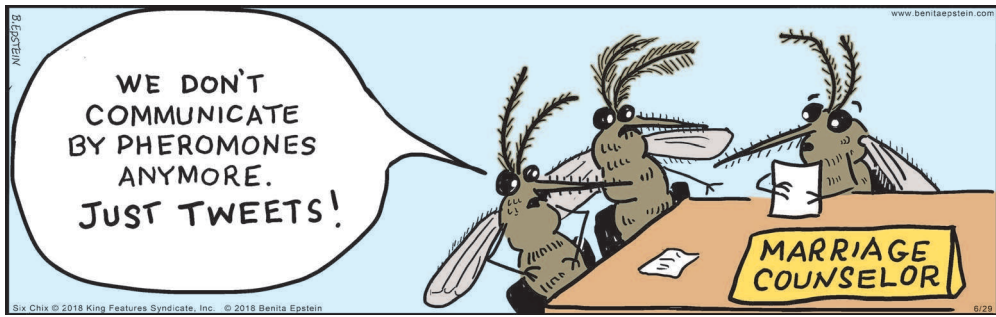
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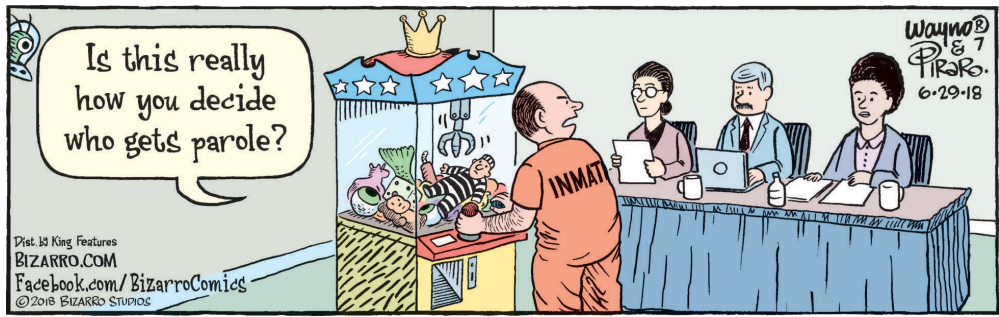
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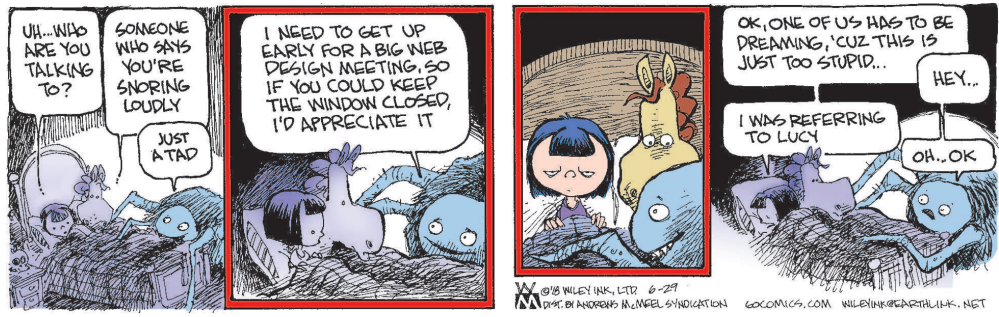
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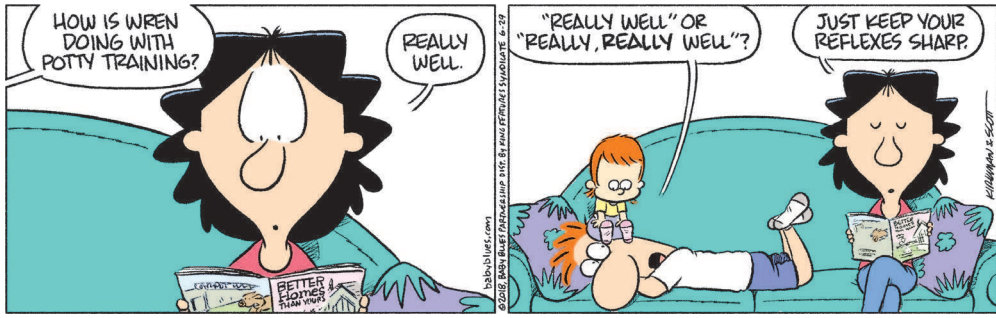
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