

Breaking up with hairstylist

Dear Annie: How does one breakup with her hairstylist of more than 30 years? Mine knows my children and grandchildren, and I know hers. During my haircuts, we have exchanged stories of our families throughout the years, but we have no contact socially. I am ready for a change for several reasons but do not want to hurt her feelings. It would be awkward if I simply quit making appointments and then later saw her in public. Do I owe her an explanation, which might be hurtful? Thank you for advice on the kindest way to deal with this. — *Needing a Change*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Needing a Change: Breaking up is hard to do, and the bond between a long-time client and a trusted stylist can be strong. After consulting some hairstylists on the matter, the consensus seems to be that honesty is the best policy. Give your stylist a call. Try to keep the conversation short and sweet. No need to go into too much detail. Tell her that

you have enjoyed getting to know her over the decades and appreciate her taking care of your hair but that you'd like to change things up and try a different salon that offers more styles you're currently interested in. Emphasize that it's nothing personal. Hairstylists see people every day who are looking for a transformation, so she should understand.

Perhaps this information will also be of use to the following woman, whose letter also arrived in my inbox this week.

Dear Annie: For the past four years, I've been having a friend do my hair. "Marcy" and I knew each other in grade school and lost touch, but I saw on Facebook that she was doing hair and decided to start seeing her. She is a very sweet woman and is passionate about her work, and I am grateful that she gives me a good deal. But over the past few months, my hair has seemed unhealthy, and the color is patchy. I'm tempted to go to another salon

next time to see whether someone else could get my hair into better shape, but I don't want to hurt Marcy's feelings. She seems pretty sensitive, and I'm worried she'd take it as a personal attack. Any ideas on how to handle this? — *Frizzy in Flagstaff*

Dear Frizzy: Before you cut and run, let Marcy know that you've not been loving your locks lately. Many hairstylists are eager to improve their techniques, and she might welcome the feedback. If the problem persists, you can always gently let her know that you really appreciate all she's done over the years but that you'd like to try out another salon to see whether someone else has a different idea about how to manage your hair. She might actually be relieved to have the appointment slot open for someone whom she'd charge full price.

Lastly, I realize this is of little help to you now, but let this be a lesson for the future: Avoid doing business with friends. No matter how much money it saves, it could end up costing you in dearer ways.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The thing that makes you lose your sense of time is very healthy for you to participate in today. While you're in that gap of fascination and engagement, other parts of your mind will be freed to work on problem-solving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a marvelous structure behind the simple things you experience today. To be curious about what makes it so is to touch on your own potential for genius. Curiosity is its own reward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Work on the problem until your brain gets tired of it, and then stop. To work past that point will be counterproductive. Pushing through fatigue will only lead to injury or burn out. Quit while you're ahead, refresh, and try again later.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What is keeping you from offering your gifts to the world? Don't worry about how they'll be received. You could speculate for days and you still wouldn't get it right. Just offer your gifts and get ready for surprise and delight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Things get competitive today, which can be positive if it helps everyone up their game. The best competitions have multiple winners. If there is only one, the game ultimately won't be a great experience for anyone, least of all the winner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). How people see one another is a matter of perception, and each person's perception is limited by that person's own agenda. So if you feel that who you really are has remained a secret, you're in the majority.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The proper way to make an assessment is to gather facts and then form an opinion. Do this today and you'll be rewarded. Also, keep in mind that most people do

the opposite. They form an opinion first, and then they search for confirming facts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're sensitive to struggle because you've had plenty of your own. The people who seem most in control may be hanging on by a thread. It makes you want to listen a little deeper, love a little harder and be a little kinder.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be objective and be happy. If you take it personally, you will be doing yourself a disservice, not to mention making a mistake because the circumstance wasn't built for you personally.

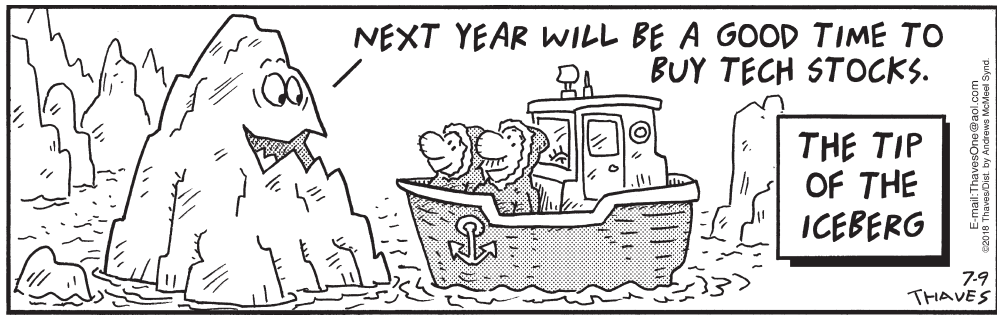
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Be aware that people see you in whatever terms will most benefit and confirm their existing needs and opinions. That's why you'd be unwise to adopt anyone else's definition of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To be thoughtful about your reactions to life is to enter the higher realms of human development. Relationships will push your buttons. That's the job of relationships. Expect it, embrace it, and you'll be better for it.

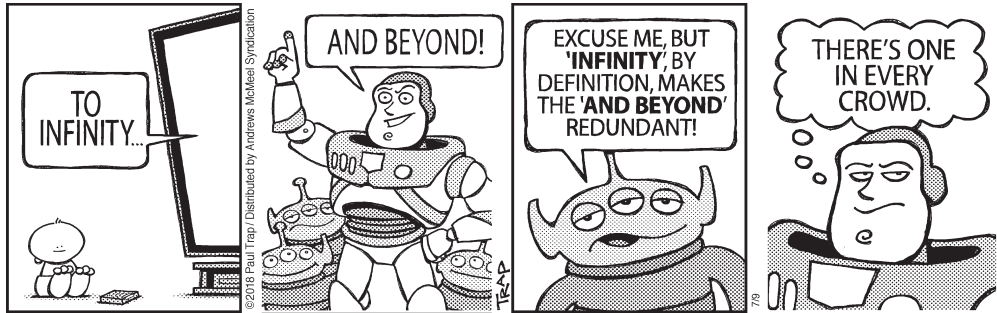
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If an actor played you in a movie, your every gesture and manner of speaking would be studied — your clothes, possessions, what you eat. These minute details are art. Approaching them as such will make life more enjoyable.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 10). You've a natural inclination to serve and assist those lucky enough to be in your circle; just don't forget about you. A retreat will help you get the perspective needed to be a better worker, partner, friend and self-advocate. Logistical adjustments in September will set all on a positive trajectory, so don't be afraid to change it up. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 4, 44, 46 and 32.

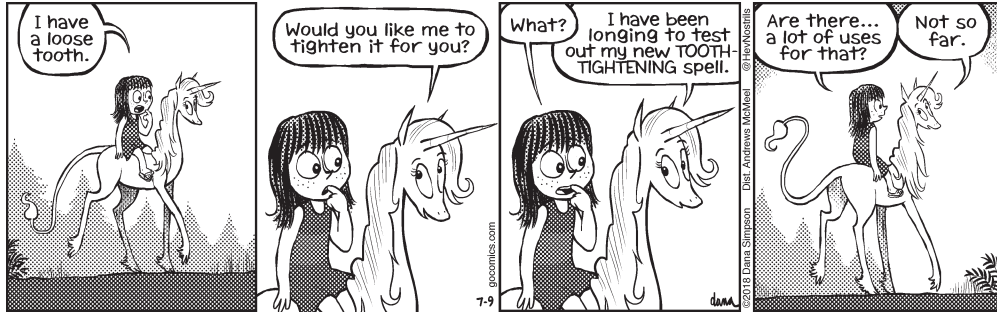
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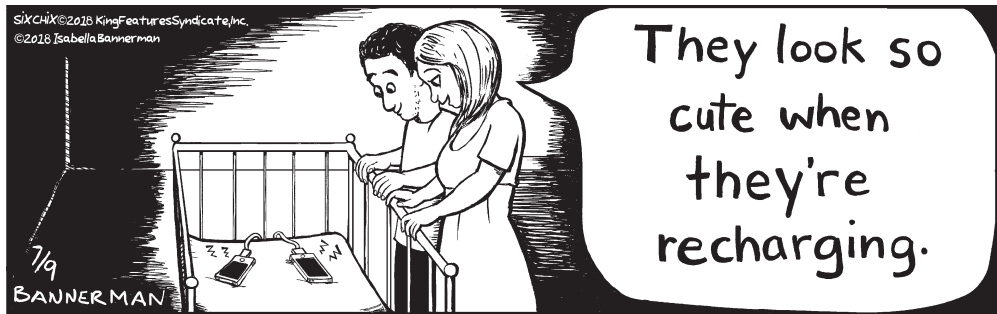
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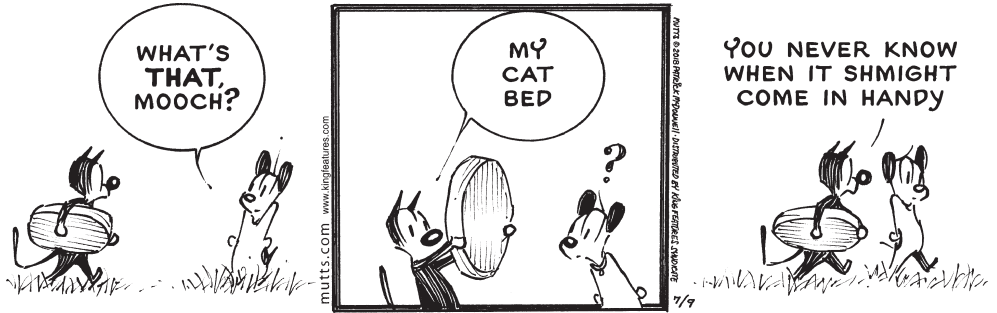
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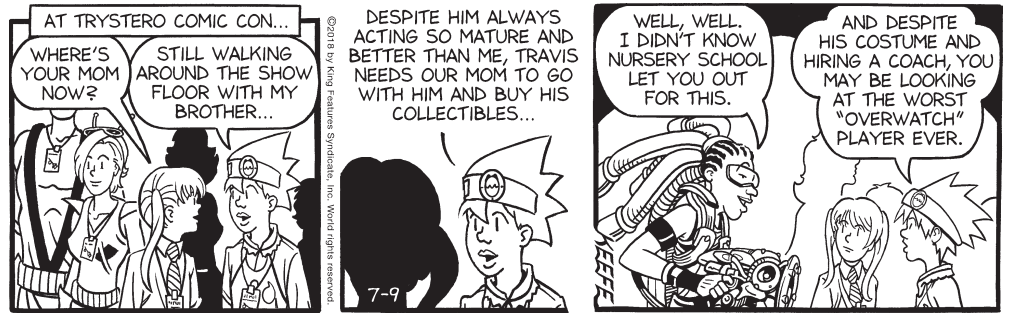
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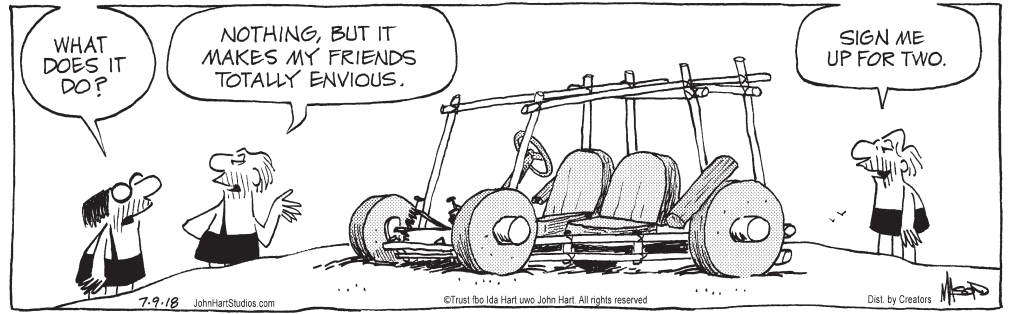
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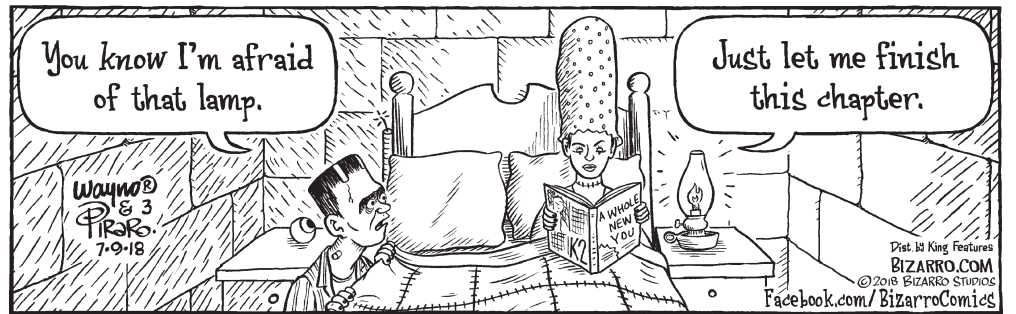
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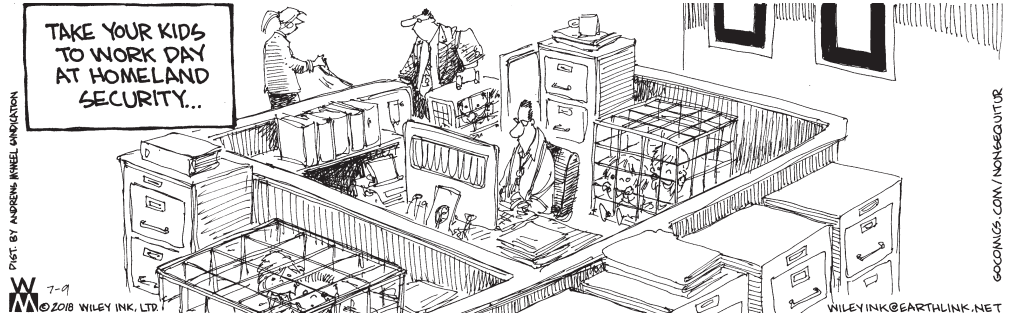
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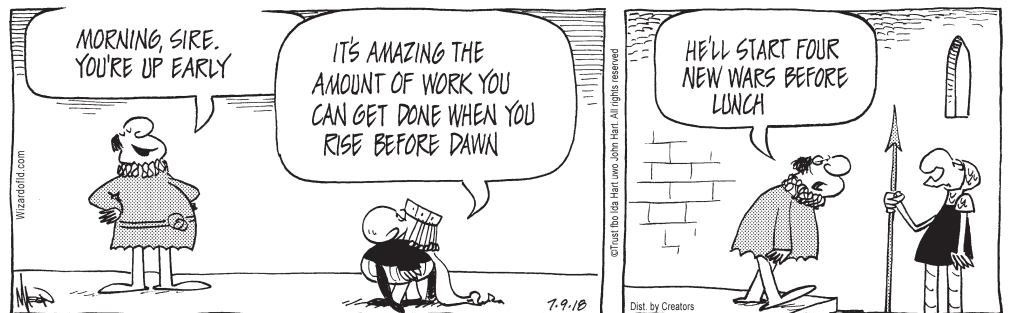
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