

Bringing uninvited guests

Dear Annie: I hope you can offer a solution to my dilemma. Over the Fourth of July, I hosted a party at my riverfront home. Most of the guests were my son's friends, whom I get along with, and I am always happy when they bring their kids, because then my grandbabies have little ones to play with. My issue is that for the past few years at my party, one couple, "John" and "Cynthia," always invite and bring additional people whom I either don't know or don't particularly care for. They do this without asking me ahead of time.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
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leftovers in the fridge. (There weren't any because of all the additional uninvited people.) It was all I could do to hold my tongue. I had asked my son to speak to them about this issue. Apparently, he neglected to do that because he is afraid they would just say they won't come. That would be fine with me, except for wanting my grandkids to have more playmates. The general opinion seems to be that it is incredibly rude and inconsiderate to do this. How do I prevent this from happening again without having them flip out and just refuse to come next time? Even after a month, I am still fuming about it. — *Blindsided*

Dear Blindsided: Your yard is not a campground, even though John and Cynthia are treating it as such. Actually, they're more like bears at the park dumpster — raiding your food and leaving a mess. If I were you, I probably wouldn't even invite them back next year. But if you do, expressly state that the invitation is just for

the two of them and their children. If they "flip out" at that and refuse to come, you're better off. If John and Cynthia are raising their children to be anything like them, you probably don't want them influencing your grandkids anyway.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "I Knew Better," who is deeply ashamed for sleeping with someone. I'd like to address the faith part a little bit more and speak directly to her.

"Knew Better": You did something against your faith. Period. You stopped. With your faith, do you believe you can be forgiven but you can't forgive yourself? You are putting your faith in a very small box. Open up and let the freedom of your forgiveness flow, because conviction of wrongdoing comes from your faith. Condemnation does not come with your faith. You may "feel" shame, but you are much more than this one instance. Stand up like the princess you are! You are beautiful! — *Keep the Faith*

Dear Keep the Faith: Beautifully said. I'm happy to print your encouraging words.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll encourage a loved one to give you frequent feedback. You don't want to be in competition with your love, and you'll shy away from situations in which there will be a clear winner and loser.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your conversational choices will make a difference. This is a matter of destiny. Choose topics that are likely to lead to enjoyment, optimism and happiness. This is no time to stir up controversy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have more in common with an interesting stranger than you do with many of the people in your own family. So go on and strike up a conversation. See what there is to know about others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in the running for an important role. Your previous success qualifies you for the job, but it will be your charm and your excellent listening skills that get you the position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You love to give: You're a giver! And you expect nothing in return — well, almost nothing. You do like knowing that your contribution made a difference. So a smile and a report back later will be awfully nice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your cosmic gift will be strength, stamina and energy to burn. That's a mighty gift, though it comes with a responsibility. Where should you apply it? Bonus: Exciting people will be drawn in by your vitality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be some frustration in the way events unfold, but don't be discouraged. It's bound to happen with smart, quick people like you who might prefer to have life go at their pace. Life has its

own pace, though.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Listen to your critics with an open mind. Maybe they don't know the proper, kinder or ideal way to phrase things, but there will be something valuable in their words nonetheless — something that can give you an advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You didn't make the impression you wanted to make on someone. Good news: Now you will get another chance at it. Present your best self and you'll become your best self.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's said that there's a price for every gift and all advice. Indeed, this is often true. But the cosmic forces can be kind in this regard, as they will be today, naming a price in the realm of what you're more than prepared to pay.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe you want people to like you, but you care more that they respect you. It's not because this is what you need; rather, it's for the good of all.

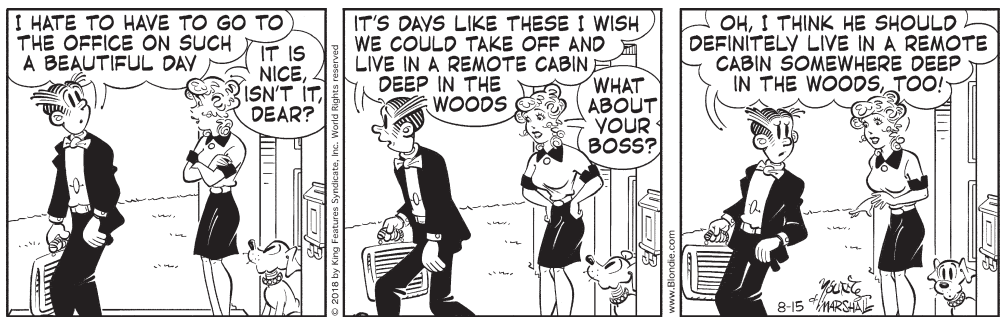
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The social secret is very simple, and it's a one-size-fits-all maxim. All people care about is how you make them feel. That's all. If they feel powerful, happy and significant around you, they will come back for more.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 16). The solar return shows you surrounded by people who love and support you, as well as those who challenge and defy you. You would be hard-pressed to say which is better, as the first category will give you comfort and the second category will make you great, which in turn gives you a way to help many. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 24, 48 and 12.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



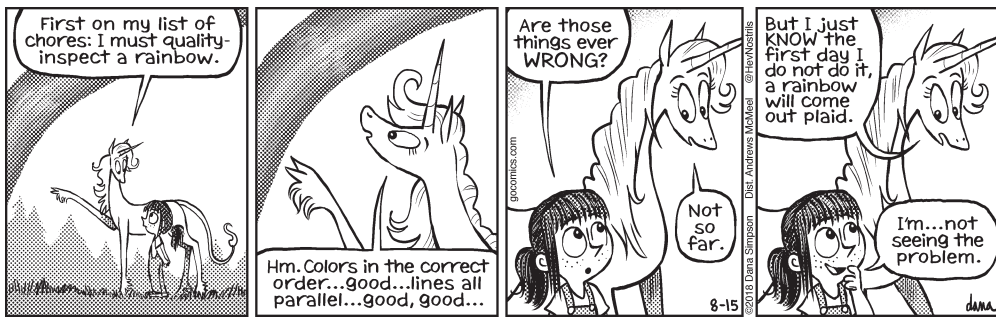
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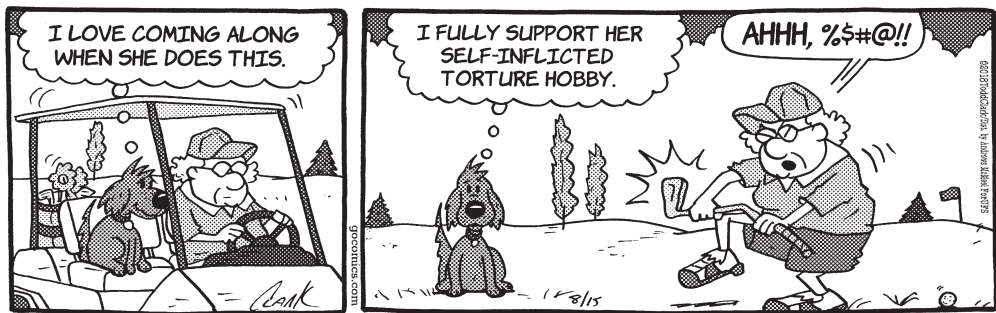
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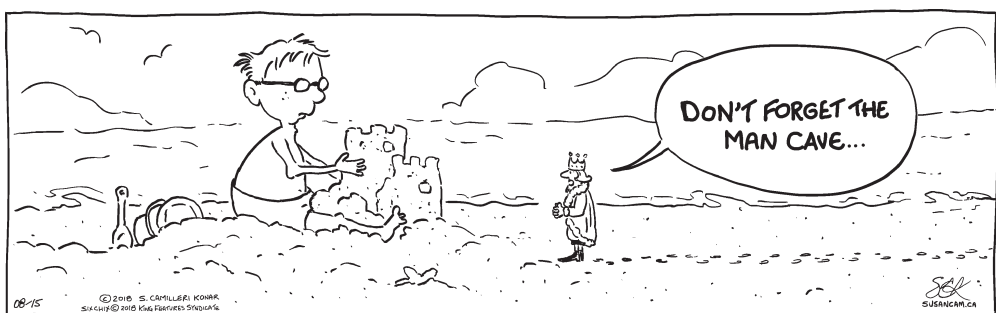
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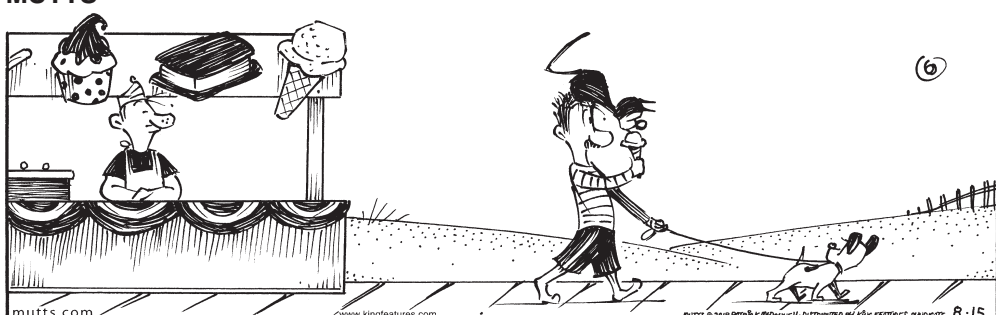
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