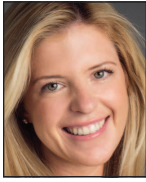


Stepdaughter needs boundaries

Dear Annie: I am married to a man with two children from a previous marriage. They are adults. My husband is 15 years my senior, and he married early the first time, so long story short, his children are only four and six years younger than I am. The problem is with his daughter.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

She really doesn't have much of a social life and because of that spends much of her spare time at our house. This summer, she has been at our house seven days a week. She had vacation from work for three weeks and spent the entire time here. One of my biggest complaints is the lack of boundaries. She helps herself to whatever she wants without asking, comes in and out, and follows her father around. She generally arrives here in the early afternoon, when I have just gotten home from my first job and have two hours before going to my second job. When I get home at 9 p.m. or later, she is still here! Sometimes she's here when I arrive even when my husband isn't home.

I am feeling suffocated, and the lack of privacy for me is driv-

ing me crazy. I feel it's disrespectful on her part and on my husband's part. I don't think it is fair to me to have a grown woman (54 years old) spending so much time here. It is weighing on me and, frankly, on my marriage. I have to tread lightly because she takes everything personally, and my husband says she's fragile, so everyone needs to be nice.

How do I get this to stop? I am ready to leave, honestly. It's gone on for so long I am afraid I should have confronted the situation before it got to this point, but it's not easy to talk to a father about his child. Please help me sort this out before I explode! — *Had Enough of the Helicopter Child*

Dear Had Enough: You are wise to tread lightly. It is probably difficult for your husband to face the fact that his 54-year-old daughter does not have a life of her own and spends almost all of her time with her father. Tell your husband how you feel. All couples need alone time, and you are not getting any with a roommate, especially one who is still

so tied to her father. Cutting the cord slowly will benefit your stepdaughter, your husband, you and ultimately your marriage. The trick is to communicate with all parties involved, set the boundaries that you know are necessary and welcome her warmly when she visits according to the schedule you all agree upon.

Dear Annie: In regard to the letter about the pronunciation of the years since 2000, it didn't flow off the tongue easily to say, for example, "twenty oh two" for 2002, so we started saying "two thousand two." Come to think of it, it probably originated long before the turn of the century. It may date back to the book and movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." Everyone pronounced it "two thousand one." People just became accustomed to saying it that way, and even though we have moved on to the teen years and it is actually easier to say "twenty eighteen" now, many people still say it the "thousand" way. — *Baby Boomer*

Dear Baby Boomer: I never considered that Stanley Kubrick may have something to do with it, but that's an interesting theory. Thanks for writing.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). "Can I talk to you?" has devolved into being a question that people dread. Why? Maybe because talk itself has devolved. The art of conversation is not entirely lost, though, as you'll prove today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). New adults want to be taken seriously, whereas those who have been adults for a while aren't so concerned. This social truth will be behind the events that unfold today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's said that you can never go back, and that's true, to a great extent. You'll physically put yourself out there today, but it won't be the same, so you won't really be back; rather, you'll get current in your thinking about the past.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Theoretically, you want to do what's expected of you, and yet you also see that it's sure to lead to no fun at all. Take risks. Bonds are created over weird mistakes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today presents a super productive groove. It all starts with a pep talk. Get in the mirror and psych yourself up. It will help you attract the thing of your focus, so focus on what you want, not what you don't.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're going to be and do your best when you're forced to associate with others. It doesn't even matter who they are or what they are like. Everyone brings out a different skill in you. Being alone will bring out nothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your head and heart are in the right place. Take action. You can't lose, though you might meet with a delayed reward. No worries with that, either. The rewards will be delayed just enough to make them sweet for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An interesting benefactor will come into your mix. You'll grow from getting to know this person one on one. Things will progress once you break away from a group setting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is power in a person's vision of you. Those who can see you for who you really are — and project an image of a future that you think would be a good fit for you — are giving you a priceless gift.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've found something to enjoy about each age you've been so far, though some have been more challenging than others. Be kind to yourself as you make adjustments to accommodate the natural human progression.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). They want you to fulfill a role you are not well-suited for. You know yourself better. Trust that. Also, trust the universe. Your best opportunities might be strange ones indeed.

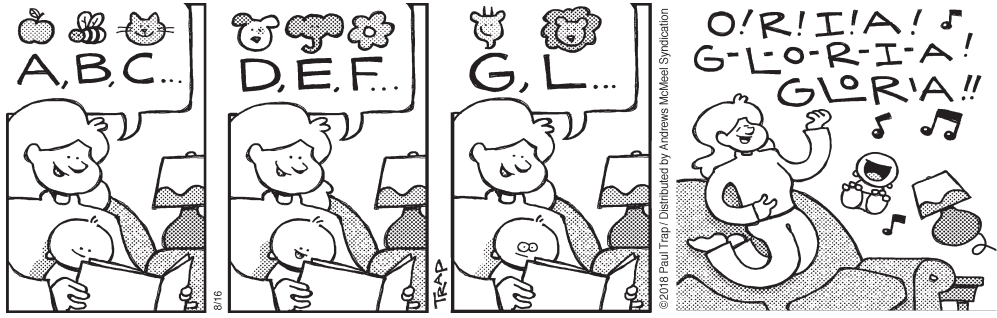
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Do you have a psychic gift? Yes. Yes, you do. Who have you shared it with? "No one" is a perfectly acceptable answer. Better to be private about this than to risk revealing yourself to those who would throw shade.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 17). The solar return opens with a mutual-admiration society. As luck would have it, you'll be surrounded by people who appreciate your kind of beauty, intelligence and truth. Your effort in relationships will pay off. Travel for love. The extra care you put into this year's holidays will be especially well-received. Taurus and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 28 and 31.

FRANK AND ERNEST



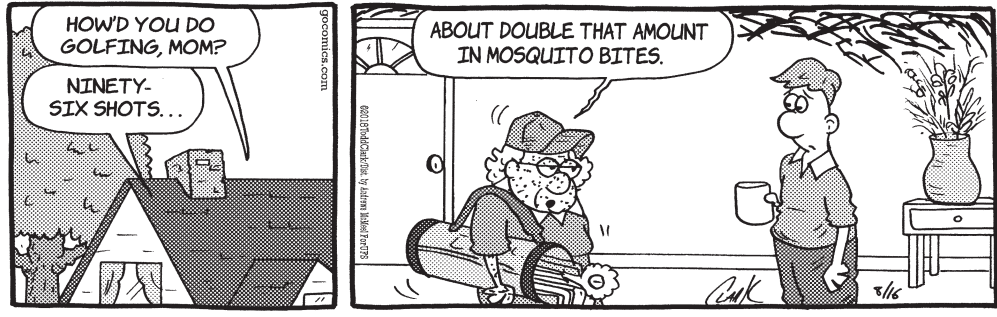
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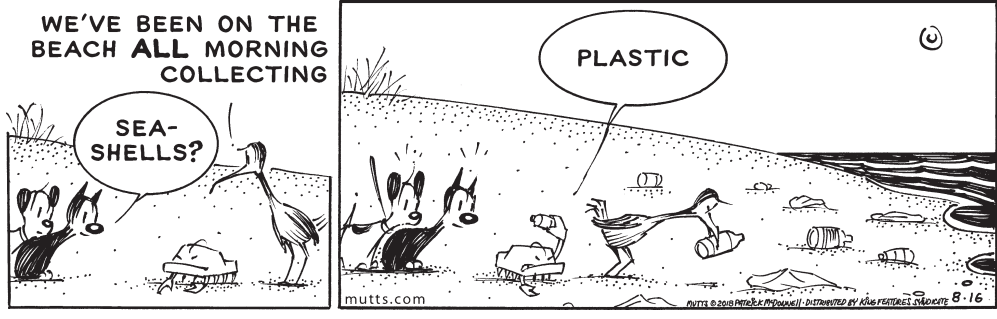
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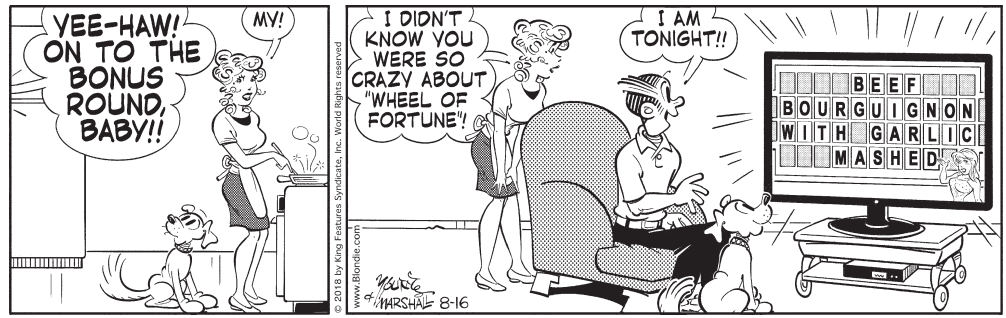
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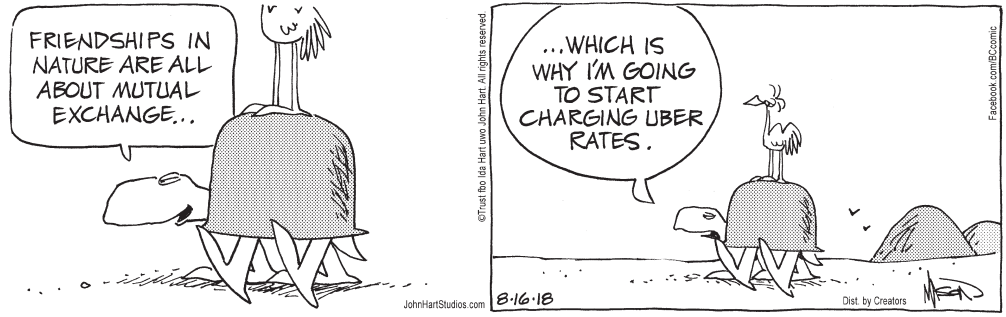
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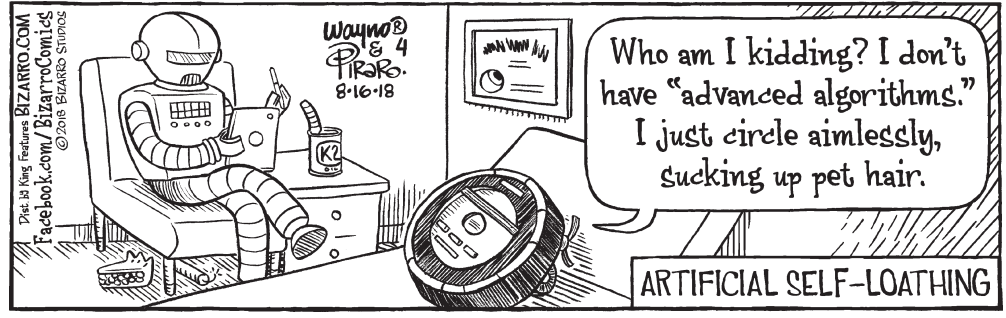
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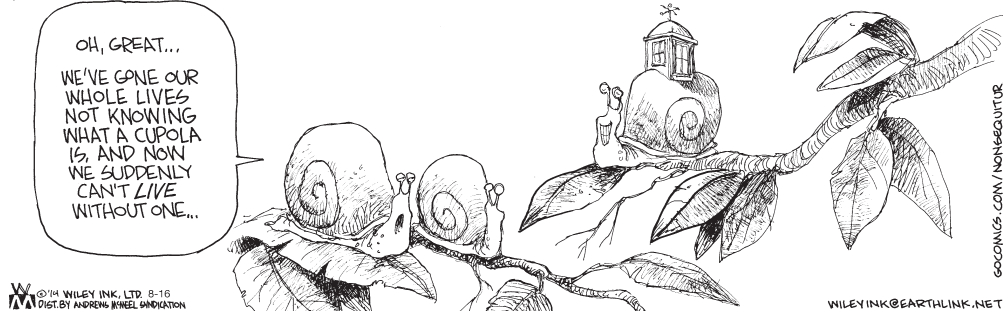
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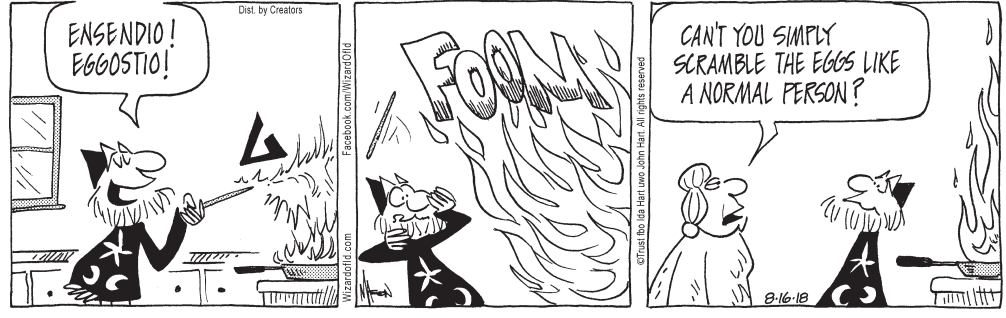
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