

Handling Alzheimer's and invites

Dear Annie: My father has late-stage Alzheimer's and is in a nursing home. Do I send an invitation addressed to my dad and mom, my mom alone or my mom plus one? I want to acknowledge the fact that he is still alive, but I don't want to act as if I have my head stuck in the ground. I'm more interested in respecting them as a couple and as individuals than in formal etiquette. I appreciate any advice you can offer. — *Conflicted Daughter*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Conflicted Daughter: The very fact that you are writing this letter expressing your concern shows that you are not an ostrich with your head stuck in the ground. Quite the opposite. You are aware of everyone's feelings and want to respect them as a couple. Address the invitation to both of them and your dad. Though he might not be mentally all there, he is still alive and thus deserving of the invitation. **Dear Annie:** I wrote to you about the falling-apart golf group for ladies. We took your suggestion about talking to the chairwoman about the issues. Four of us went to speak to her. We were kind and car-

ing, and we all felt better afterward because we had figured out how to help. She was surprised by how off-putting she can be to old players and new players and by how some have felt intimidated by her citing rules and the proper way to play. The chairwoman has agreed to run the group with changing weekly volunteers to make things more fair and to help her. Without your excellent input and advice, we most likely would have ended the group. Thank you again for showing that honesty and working together are ways to resolution. We really would have been stuck without your advice. — *Happy and Satisfied Golf Gal*

Dear Golf Gal: Talk a hole-in-one! Your letter made my day. Thanks for the follow-up. I'm thrilled my advice helped, but the main kudos goes to you for using honest, kind and open communication to solve what had become a serious problem in your golf circle. I always love hearing from readers who have taken my advice, to see how it worked out, whether it solved the problem or it made it worse. Readers: If you've ever taken

my advice, please drop me a line.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to your suggestion to "Wants to Keep the Peace on Our Peaceful Road" to hang a sign on the portion of the street where speeding is not an issue. It sounds as though Sally the Sign Purchaser thinks that drivers need to bend to her will, versus thinking that she should be responsible for her pets and grandchildren. If I were her neighbor, I, too, would want to politely decline hanging up her sign. Let's be real. Drivers understand the hazards of the road. A sign indicating that pets or children may be present is completely unnecessary. According to a survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association, 68 percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet. In 2012, according to census data, 66 percent of households were family households. With percentages that high, a sign is not warranted. Sally needs to be the responsible one; her neighbors, their guests and others traveling in the neighborhood should not be going above and beyond for a careless and entitled neighbor. — *Dawn W.*

Dear Dawn W.: Yes, perhaps I was a bit too sympathetic to the sign purchaser in my original response. Thank you for the data.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Since most work will be done by, through and with the cooperation of people, anything you do to enhance your individual effectiveness will positively impact the performance of the entire team.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can theorize all the livelong day, but you'll never know what will happen until you try it out in real life. Your cosmic gift of the day is the guts to jump in and put your ideas to the test.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are things important enough to do whatever the odds are of succeeding. When it's a matter of right and wrong, the odds are irrelevant. As for the rest, it's only smart to look at the statistics.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Unless you disrupt the tendency, you'll drift into a comfortable pattern. This may not be a bad thing; it just depends on what you really want for yourself and how badly you want it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People may wear a familiar face as they listen to you, but you never quite know how they are processing the information internally. That's why it will be important to ask questions and be alert to cues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People working things out together — it's a form of love, or maybe it just is love. That's what you'll get today, and even better, you'll appreciate it. Special connections: Gemini and Libra.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Pay attention to how other people pay attention. It will tell you what you need to know about how to plan your next move. There are no bad positions, but there are some that are easier

to navigate than others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You care about relationships more than you care about being right, and these things go together very, very well. Compassion, softness and tolerance are what will hold you in good stead today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You needn't fear the change that's on the horizon. You're adaptable, and you will quickly figure out what's in it for you. It's right to be a little selfish about this. You need to get a sure footing before you can help others.

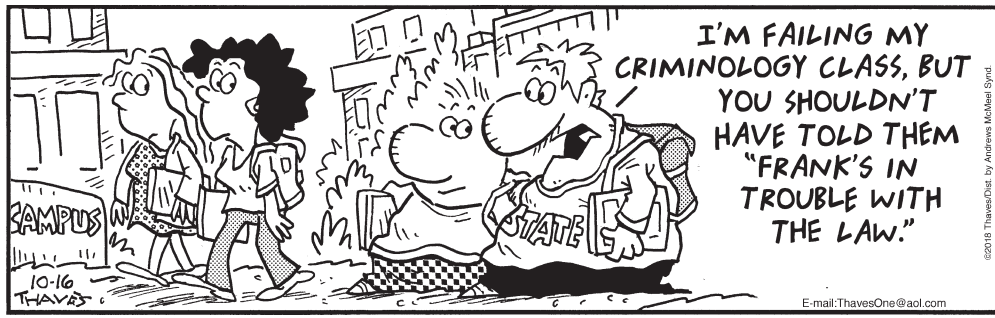
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Try and concentrate exclusively on what you want to happen. Giving any attention to what you don't want will only diffuse your power to make good things happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The challenge on the table will take a certain amount of physical ability and a whole lot more brain-wrangling concentration. You're gifted in both areas, and you should have no problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Natural talent can only take a person so far. It is better not to rely on gifts and to instead put in the work, because then you know how to get results and you can repeat the process.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 17). It's a nonstop learning process this year. As soon as you master one area, you'll move on to the next. At this rate, you'll soon be at the top of your field of interest. Other delights of the solar return will include a visit from afar, unexpectedly generous gifts sprinkled through the seasons and fun updates to your domestic scene. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 1, 27, 38 and 31.

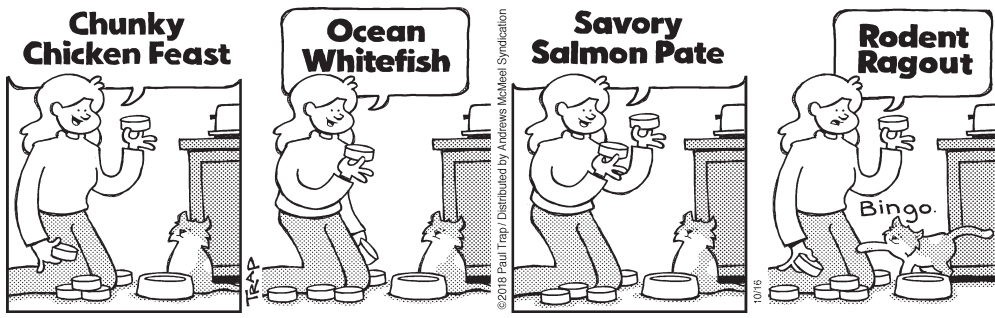
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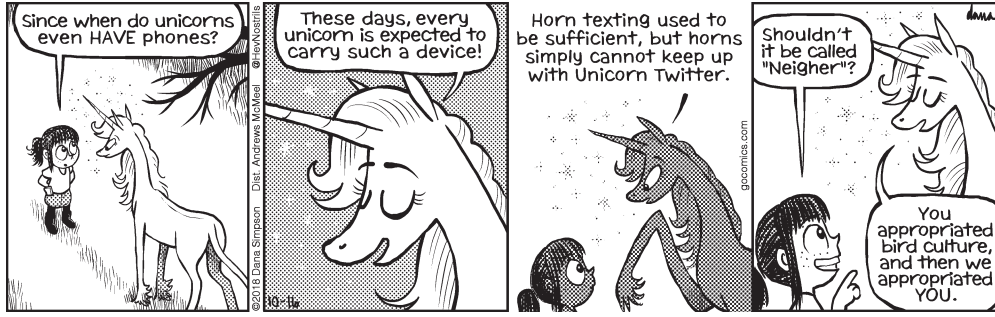
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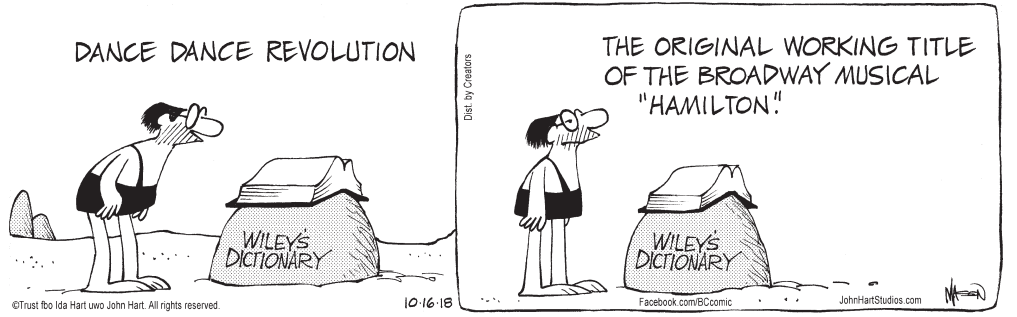
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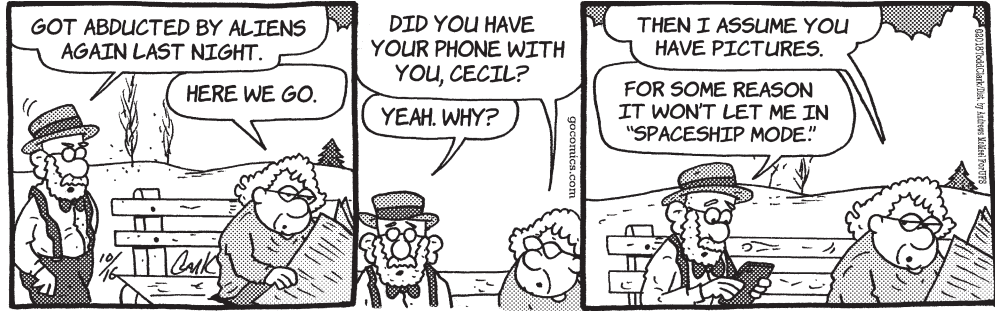
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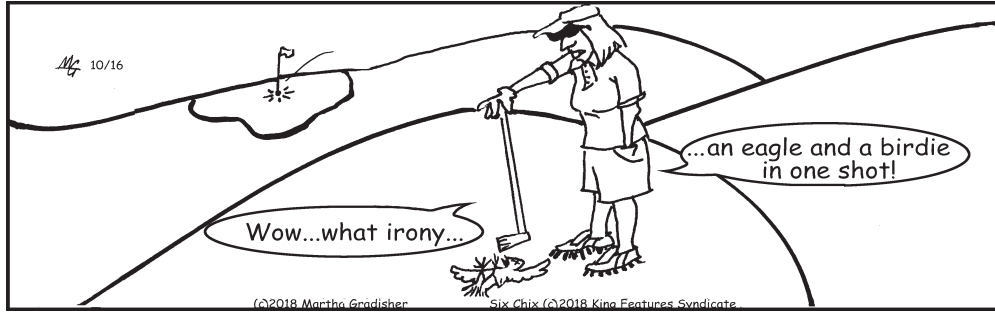
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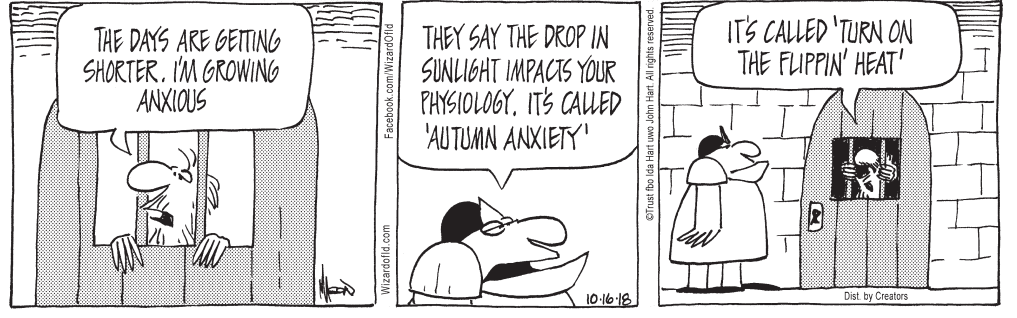
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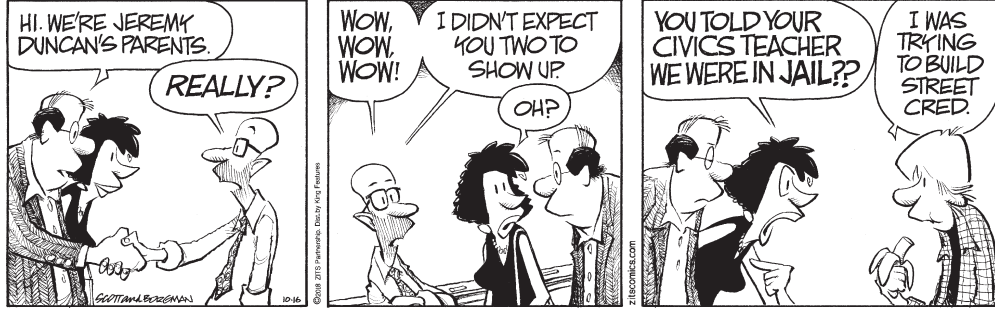
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