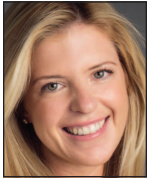


Invited, invited, invited, not invited

Dear Annie: A former co-worker of my husband's invited us to his son's wedding. We received the usual "save the date" card one year prior to the ceremony. For the whole year, he asked us whether we would be attending every other week. About six months before the wedding, my husband's contract was not renewed, and he was temporarily unemployed. The co-worker still kept asking us whether we would be coming, and when we received the actual invitation in the mail, he called practically every day to ask us to send in the card to let him know we would be attending and what our dinner selections were. He then called and asked us whether we wanted to stay overnight in one of the rooms he had reserved for guests at a local hotel. This was two weeks before the wedding. After we declined the room invitation, he called us back and told us that his wife didn't think we should come to the wedding because my husband was unemployed and it would be a hardship for us to come. He still calls our house as if nothing ever happened. I was totally insulted and do not think

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

my husband should keep in touch with him. Am I being unreasonable? — *Steamed in Connecticut*

Dear Steamed: Goodness. Months of incessant phone calls and confirmations and then a last-minute cancellation after all that back-and-forth — this man sounds like a ball of nervous energy, wound up tighter than an eight-day clock. His wife doesn't sound much better.

Though I understand your taking offense, I wouldn't take it personally. This has everything to do with them and nothing to do with you two. If your husband wishes to continue talking to them, that's his choice (though I would advise him that any plans he and this man make should be entered into the datebook with pencil, not ink). You're not obligated to be friends with them. But there's also no point in staying angry with them. Let off that steam before it burns you.

Dear Annie: Recently, you printed a letter from "Crying Grandma." I agree wholeheartedly that she needs to seek counseling of her own to identify why she made such an egregious error in judgment.

With that being said, I see it as an opportunity to address a real issue happening in the educational system that you lightly touched on. Many children are inappropriately diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for a variety of reasons. Parents, schools and doctors alike believe that better diagnostic tools have opened the floodgates in identifying students who need medication. This is far from the truth. For example, when a child can't read, that begins to cause anxiety, and it is often misinterpreted as ADHD. The majority of children experiencing symptoms at school are doing so because of a language-based learning disability. About 1 in 5 students have such a disability. Dyslexia is the most common one.

The bottom line is that parents need to request a complete and thorough neuropsychological examination that is conducted by a team that has experience assessing language-based learning disabilities. This is only the tip of the iceberg, but it is a step in the right direction. Often there is something else going on that doesn't require medication. — *Dawn W.*

Dear Dawn: Well said. Thanks for writing.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You remember difficult times, who helped you out of them and who put you in them. Where it gets really complicated is when both categories point to the same person. You're still figuring out how to place your trust. Take your time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Science has proven via brain scans that it actually gives people pleasure to be nice. So let someone be nice to you without feeling guilty or moving to immediately repay the favor. Relax and let the pleasure sink in for all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've changed. It was that book you read, that friend you hung out with, that food you started eating regularly. One of those things changed you — no, all of them did — which inspires you to keep choosing excellent influences.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The information you receive will have many levels. It may be only mildly interesting or useful until you get a little deeper. Seek clarity. A good teacher won't mind when you ask for specifics.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The project is getting costly and taking a lot longer than you thought it would. You're starting to wonder if it's worth what you're putting in. Don't worry. A hefty return on investment will come once you finish the work and clear the path.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're better at compartmentalizing than most, and this has allowed you to keep going and reap the benefits of perseverance. Now it's time to get back into some of those "compartments" and remember what you stowed there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't get overly concerned about how you're coming off around people who already know you. It's how you make

them feel about themselves that matters. Your image plays but a minor and indirect role in this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). All that you've done has been for particular reasons. They were the best decisions you could make given what you had to work with, and you've had many good results. Commit to learning more and trust yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To be truly effective in carrying the mantle of leadership, you have to model the program you represent. Walk it, talk it, live it. People will follow you not because of what you represent but because of who you are.

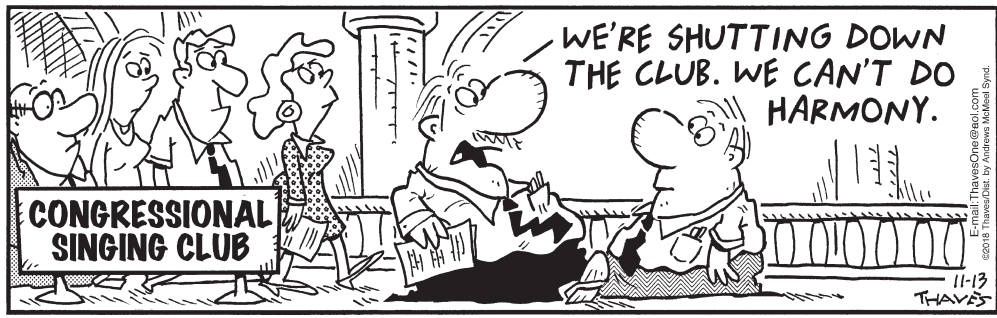
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Those who badly fear mistakes will only take the safest actions, bringing as little of themselves as possible to the task. A tolerance for mistakes will bring the best outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What if the power of a person were measured in joy? What would you do to get happier and simultaneously more influential over your world? Whatever it is, put it at the top of your list.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You would think that if each person took 50 percent responsibility for an outcome, then the task would be covered. But it won't work that way. If it fails, they can blame each other. Each person has to take 100 percent of the responsibility.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 14). Relationships improve across the board. It's not that they were ailing, but they become more helpful, communicative, comfortable and fun. This touches every part of your life. Other highlights in the months to come include home improvements, an once-in-a-lifetime encounter and a free pass when you need it. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 12, 47 and 9.

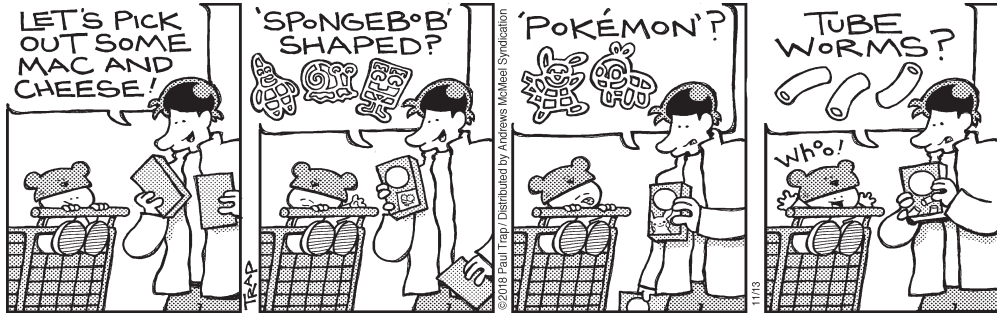
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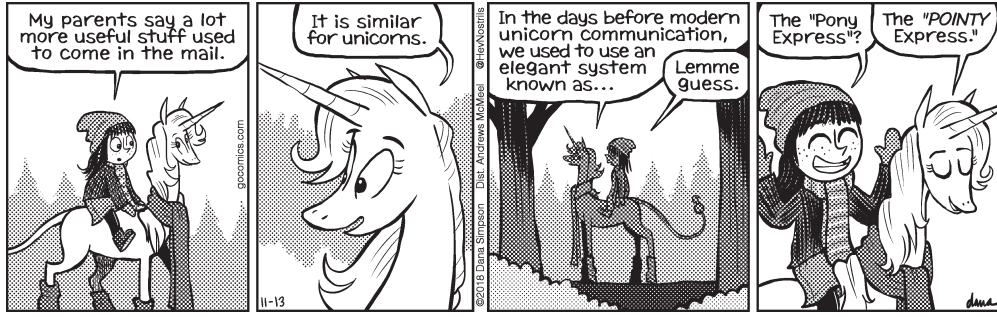
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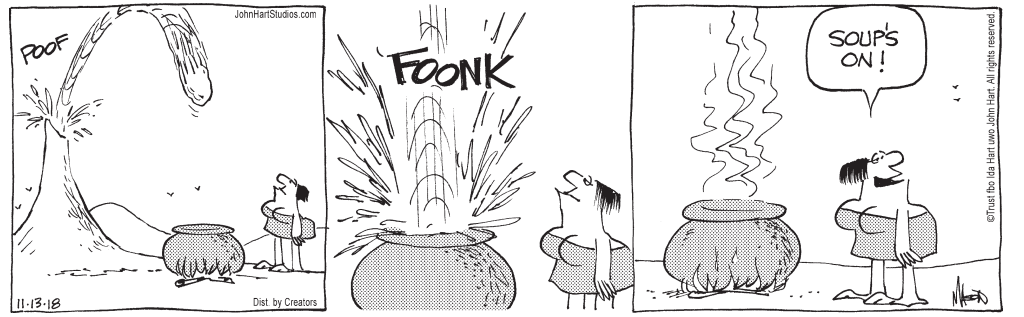
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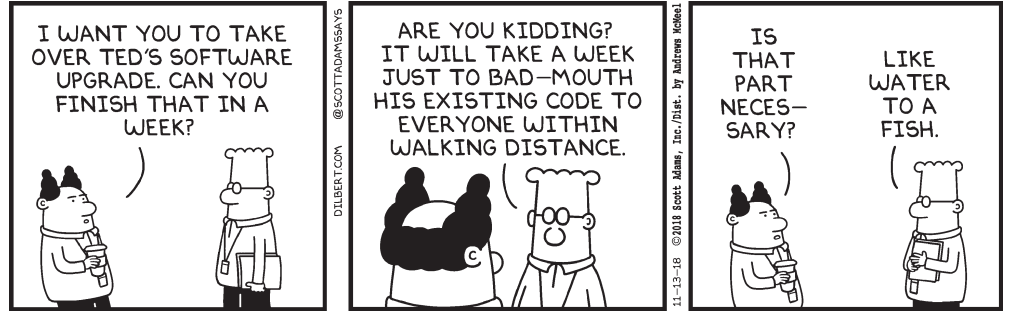
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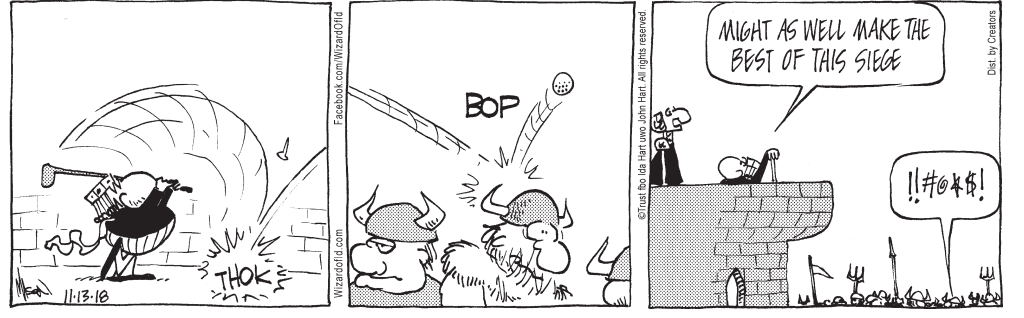
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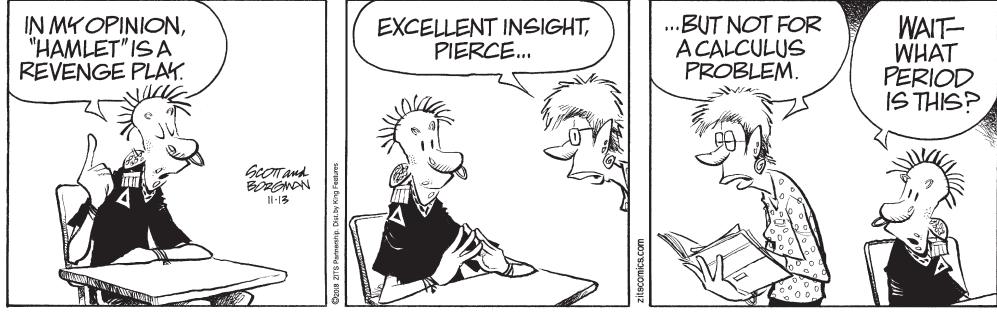
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