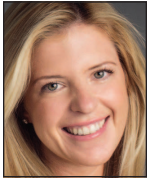


Uncomfortable with his guest

Dear Annie: I was recently out of town for a long weekend with some girlfriends. When I returned home, I opened the refrigerator and commented to my husband of 30 years that based on the leftovers, he must have prepared a nice meal for himself. He responded that he had invited my best friend, who is single, over to have dinner and watch a football game. He had not mentioned this to me during our text correspondence over the weekend. They are also good friends. I would not have minded if they had gone to a public place for a meal or a game, but I feel that the intimacy of their having dinner in our home was inappropriate. My husband said it did not occur to him that anything was wrong with what he did. I know nothing intimate happened between them. My girlfriend and I have been best friends for 25 years. Am I being too sensitive? — *Surprised*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Surprised: Yes, you probably are being a little too sensitive about where your husband and best friend had dinner. But if your wish is that he have dinner

at a restaurant and not your house, you should tell him. You were unable to tell him because the real issue is that you were gone for a girls weekend and only communicated with your husband via text. Marriage is about intimacy and communication. Had you or he picked up the phone, you probably would have been more reassured to hear his voice, and he most likely would have mentioned to you that your friend was coming over to the house. At that point, you could have said you really would prefer that they go to a restaurant. Relationships are all about verbal communication, and we invite trouble when we expect our partners to be mind readers.

Dear Annie: I am interpreting the situation described by "Steamed in Connecticut" differently than you did. I am thinking that the former co-worker really wanted to have "Steamed in Connecticut" and her husband as guests at his son's wedding. I think the former co-worker and his wife were being very considerate by uninviting them. They

knew that "Steamed in Connecticut's" husband was not working, and they most likely were trying to be sensitive to their financial situation and take the pressure off them. — *Gloria P.*

Dear Gloria: That's a brighter take on their behavior, and I appreciate your looking for the good. Maybe they really were just trying to be considerate. Even so, rescinding a wedding invitation after the fact is poor form and liable to hurt feelings. I wouldn't recommend it.

Dear Annie: I'm replying to "Sleepless in SoCal," whose new apartment has lots of noise. I wear earplugs to sleep because my spouse snores. I don't miss my alarm. It could be that my body sort of knows when to wake up, but I can still hear the alarm with my earplugs in, and I wear the ones with the highest noise reduction rating. Perhaps "Sleepless in SoCal" could try earplugs on a weekend, set the alarm as usual and see what happens. She might be surprised. — *Monica*

Dear Monica: Wearing earplugs on the weekend to test whether she can still hear her alarm is a great idea. Thanks for the tip.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There was a time when even your very favorite people were complete strangers to you. Actually, this is such a time as well. You'll soon meet someone who will be very important to your future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What unfolds will confirm it for you; there's room in your head for many different kinds of ideas and affinities, beliefs and preferences, systems and skills. You can trust in all that's been established and still learn more.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know that you own a lot more than you care to think about. That's why you need to, every once in a while, physically lay your hands on what you own. It helps you remember and keeps you from buying things you don't need.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The best way to keep yourself motivated is to choose a task you know you can successfully finish over the course of this day. A win such as this will keep you sailing far into next week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you're around people who appreciate you and see you for who you are, you don't have to actively seek reasons to feel good about yourself. But you're not always around such people. So do what you can to support yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Peace within brings peace without. But how do you find peace for something you're not OK with? It's a little like reconciling the books. Look inside, figure out what's not adding up, and do what you can to make it work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are many factors to consider before you embark on an endeavor, but your age should not be one of them. You will be the same age whether you do

it or not. Take a risk.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a person who must walk your talk. It's one of the basic rules you have for yourself. Today, as you walk your talk, you may wonder why you talked so much! It's tricky now, but you're better off for the ambition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Seek delight. Because if you know how to move yourself from one state to a higher one, you know how to lift others, too. And one of the best things you can do for the world today is raise the mood.

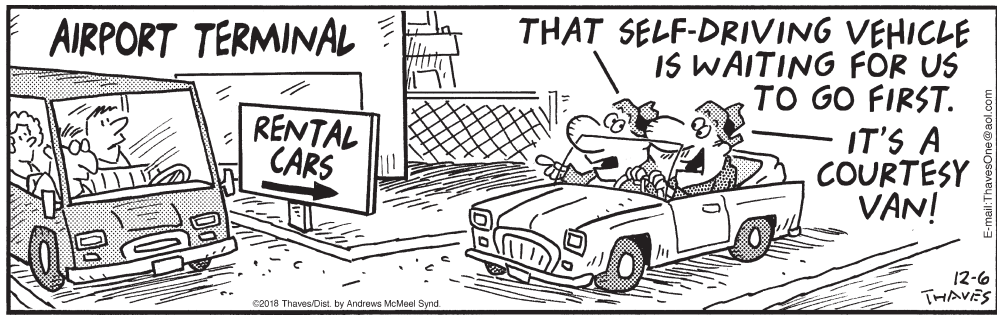
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Dreams of hope aren't just for the exiled and obviously oppressed. Everyone needs the power of hope. But the better off a person is, the more specific that hope must be to maintain a charge. So what's your hope?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Books can be wonderful friends. They can be counted on for constancy, are completely nonjudgmental, and usually bring forth a deeper and brighter mind-set than you'd run across on a typical day.

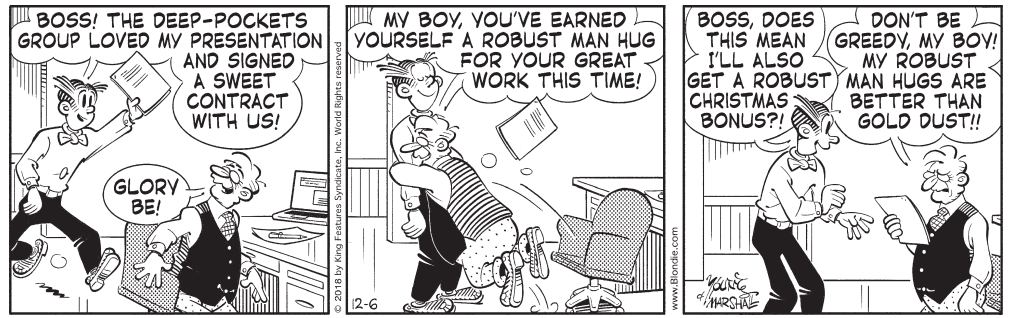
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Start a project. It doesn't have to be a big, important deal. Anything halfway interesting to you will do; it's just something to help you through a transition, out of your head and onto a new way of thinking about life.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 7). You've wanted to give your complete trust to someone who knows you inside and out and loves every bit of you. That is part of the package this year because you're willing to do the work to reciprocate. Other highlights include a formal educational experience, a mysterious message and an inheritance. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 28, 1, 16 and 36.

FRANK AND ERNEST



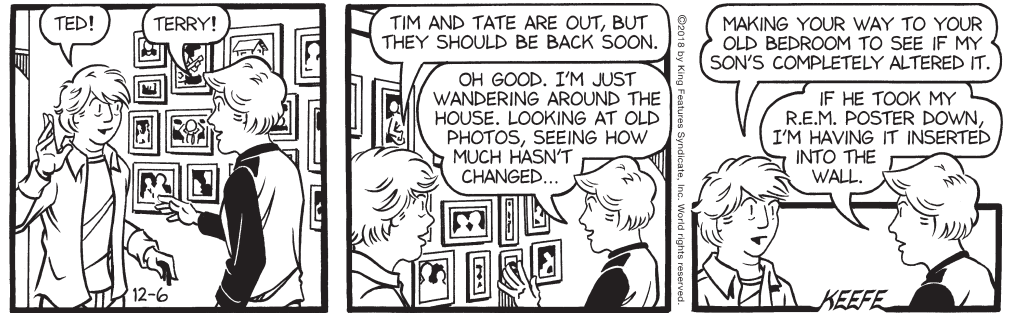
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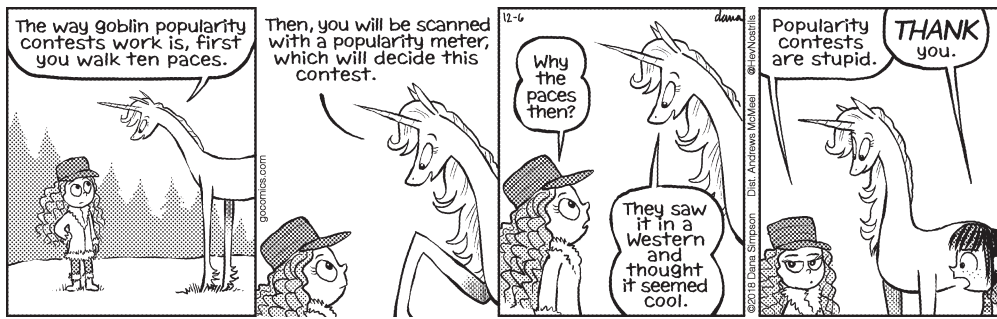
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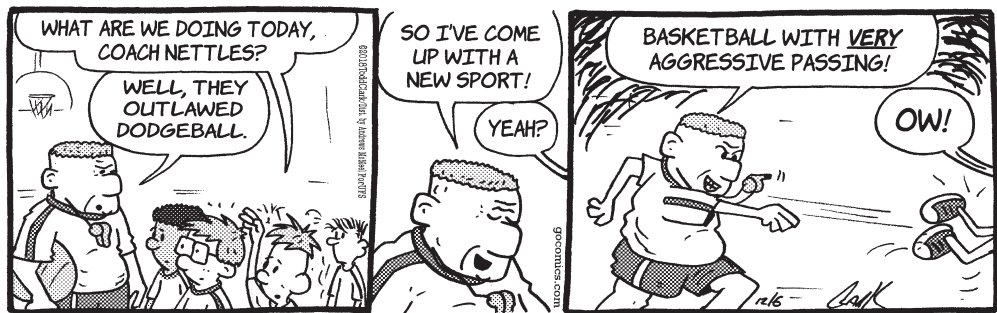
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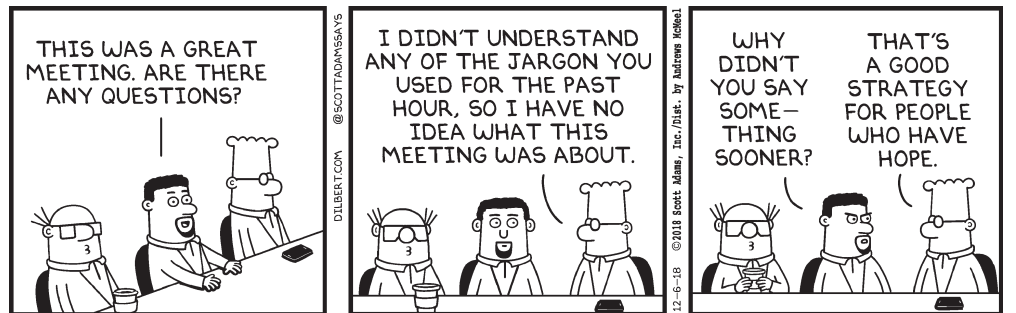
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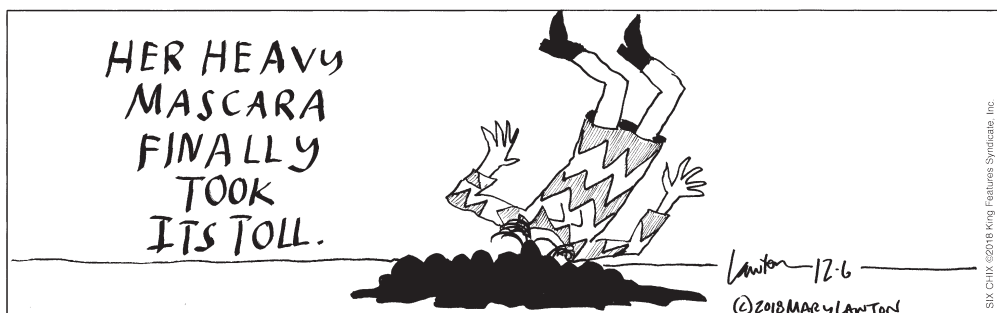
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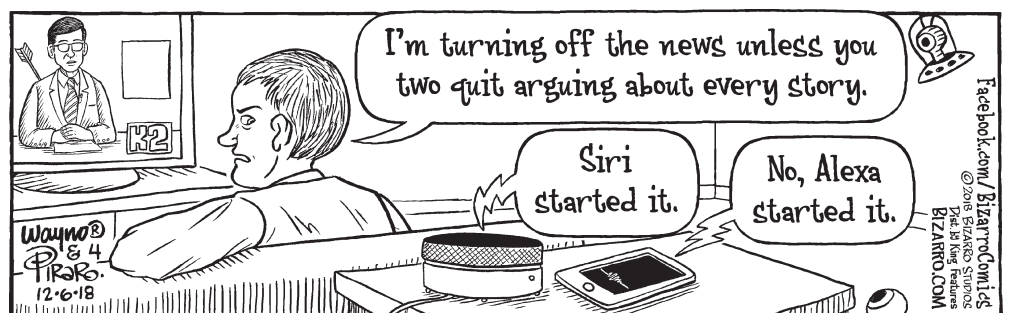
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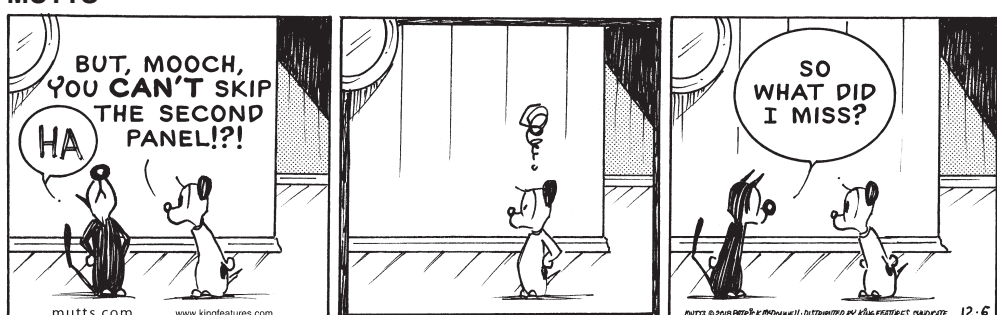
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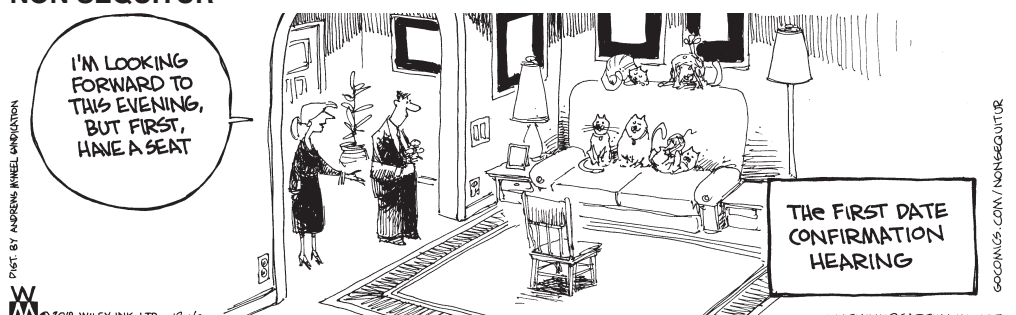
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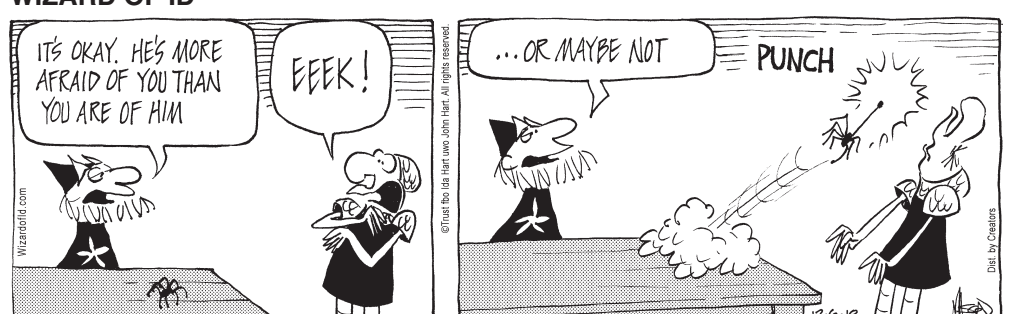
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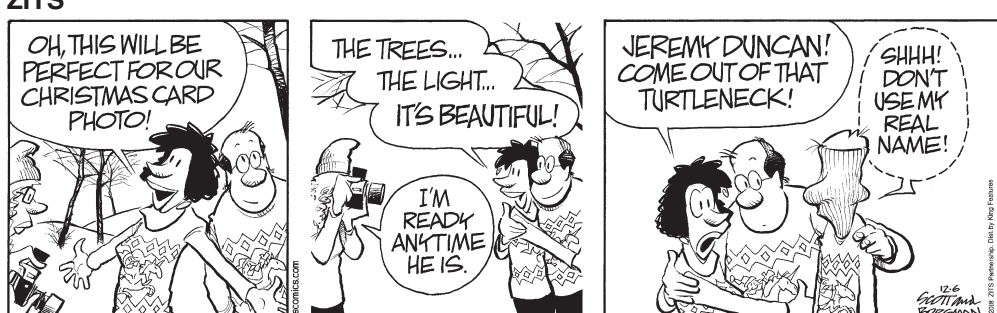
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