Hey man, slow down

DEAR ANNIE

ANNIE LANE
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I hope you will publish this, as the holiday season is upon us and people will be rushing to the mall and the grocery to shop for Christmas gifts and supplies for festivities.

Please take some extra time and slow down — and not just on the road. The store parking lot is not the place for Indy 500 time trials. There is no reason for people to be zipping through parking lots at 20, sometimes even 30, miles per hour. Also, please remember that some people do not drive pickup trucks or SUVs. When you see me slowly backing my Toyota Corolla out from between vehicles, remember that until half of my car is past those vehicles, I can't see you. So please stop and let me pull out (and perhaps get yourself a good space). Just keep in mind that if you still feel the need to speed and hit my car, you will be spending an extra hour or so in the parking lot dealing with police and an accident report. You've got better things to do, and so do I. — *Take It Easy*

Dear Take It Easy: A scraped-up car is inconvenient, but a lost life is irreversible. So let's all please slow down this holiday season. Nothing is so urgent that it's worth sacrificing others' safety for.

Dear Annie: I was a nurse for 43 years in many capacities. I saw love, happiness, despair and sorrow.

I read the letter from "Grieving Mom," who was upset that the recipient of her son's heart wrote to thank her for making it possible for her (the recipient) to see her son get married. "Grieving Mom" felt that the recipient forgot the fact that her son died so she could live.

Often when we had patients who could not be saved, we asked the family members whether they wanted to donate their loved ones' organs, and we passed no judgment when they refused. Members of one family I spoke to willingly offered to donate their son's organs. "If we refuse, our son will be buried and his useful organs will be buried, as well," they said. "If we donate them, our son will still die, but he will live on in others, whether it's his heart, kidney, eyes or any other useful organs." These family members wished they could meet the recipients of their son's organs, because in them, a part of their son would live on.

The woman who wrote a note to "Grieving Mom" sincerely wanted to thank that mother for saving her life. She may have thought it would give her joy. Her son's heart was still beating; part of him was alive, and that part gave someone else a chance to live. What a beautiful gift he gave in death. — *Patricia in The Villages, Fla.*

Dear Patricia: Thank you for your beautiful letter and for your years of helping others as a nurse.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When it's your turn to take a bow, you'll be brief and then hand over the moment to the many others who helped. You'll do this because it feels comfortable. You can't help that it also makes you socially unstoppable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are certain people you feel so connected to that it's as though, unbeknownst to you, your souls signed a contract to be intertwined. Autonomy is still important though, perhaps even more so with this type of closeness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're incomparable really, but if you must compare yourself, and it's hard not to on a day like today, then at least make a favorable comparison and move quickly on from that. It's no place to dwell.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Head in the clouds? That's OK. You're at your best when you're combining your reality with your dream of it. And you will dream more beautifully with pretty things around you to inspire you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You made contributions that were either overlooked or taken for granted. Reintroduce them. The times have changed. Now they need what you're contributing and they'll be much more appreciative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Fun day — a playful mood takes hold. Relationships are better with humor. Your affectionate joking around will land perfectly as long as you keep it light and positive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You always feel better about yourself after you do a round of excellent hard work. So why would you rob others of that self-esteem boost? They want to work for you. Let them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If the path seems to offer no challenge, then it's a lie. You'll look for the hard parts, the possible pitfalls and motives. This you'll do not out of cynicism, but rather in an effort for optimum preparation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Expectation hinges on imagination. The bigger the imagination, the higher the expectation. So if your fantasy has proven outsized for reality, maybe it's because you've augmented powers of vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll create an atmosphere to people to enjoy. It reflects you — your style, appetites and intentions. Music will be an important part of this, an element that's a shortcut to putting people at ease.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a puzzle of a day, but you can handle it. There's a way to make this whole thing work out with many smiles. The most important thing is to stay cool and keep your inside voice on the inside.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It takes a minute to get to know a situation well enough to figure out how you're going compartmentalize all that goes along with it. Take it all in. Later you can decide what to pay attention to and what to tune out.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 21). The truer you are to yourself, the more everyone else benefits. You express yourself, solve problems, join groups and things get better for all. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 38, 20, 22 and 47.

FRANK AND ERNEST

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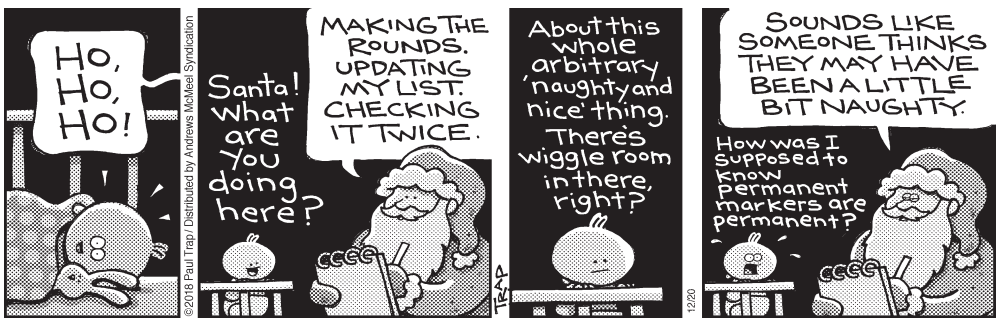

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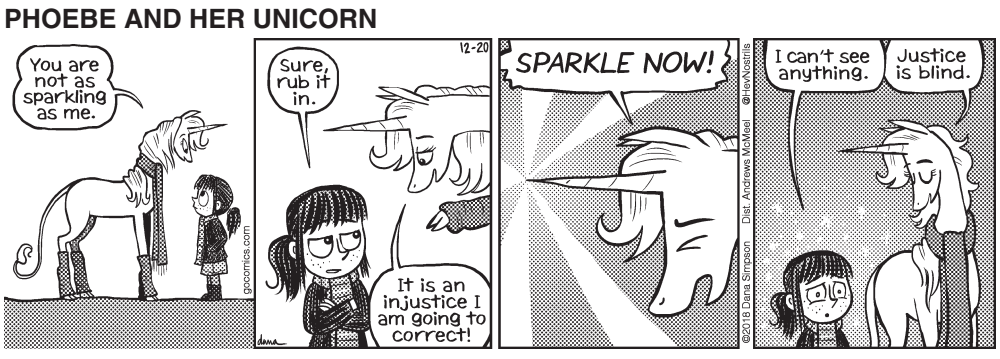

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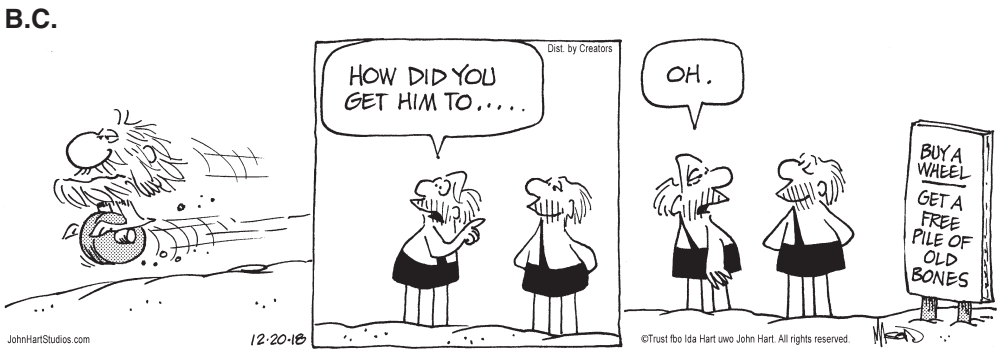

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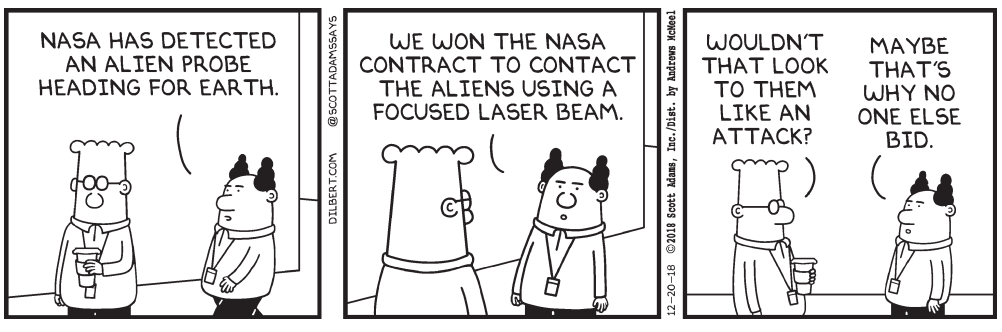

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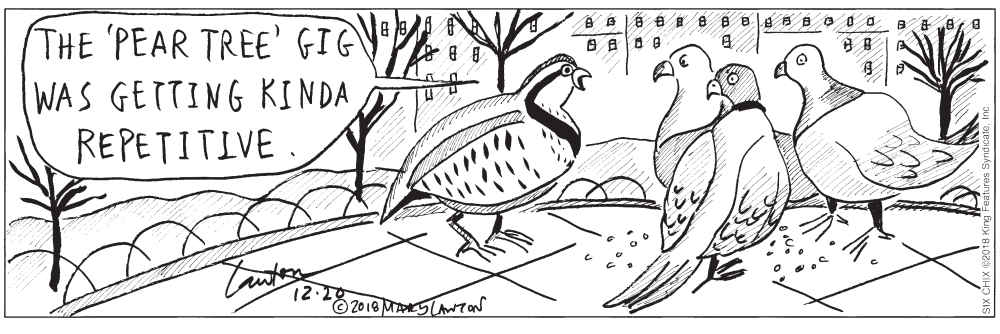

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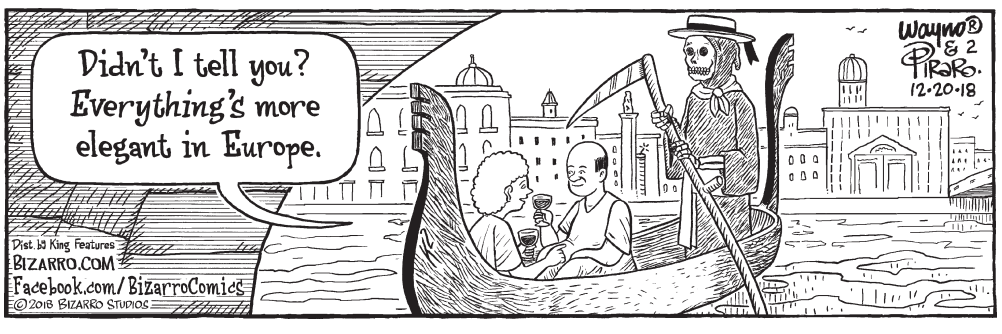

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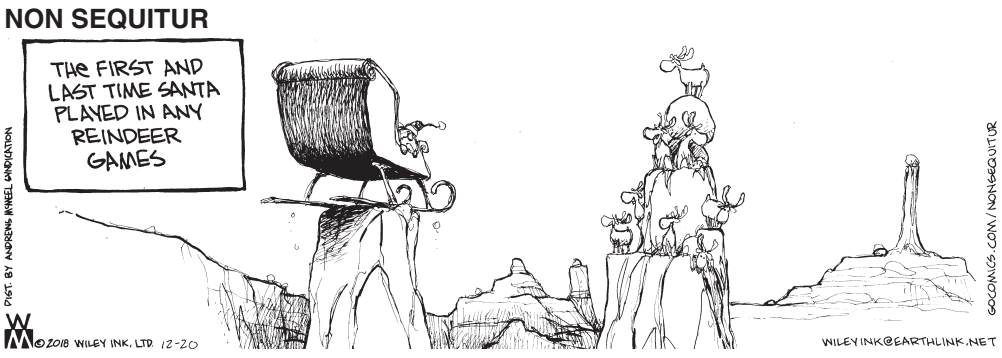

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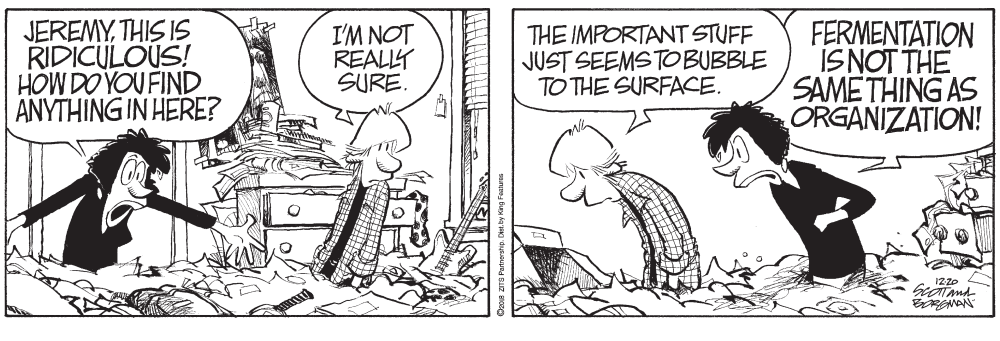
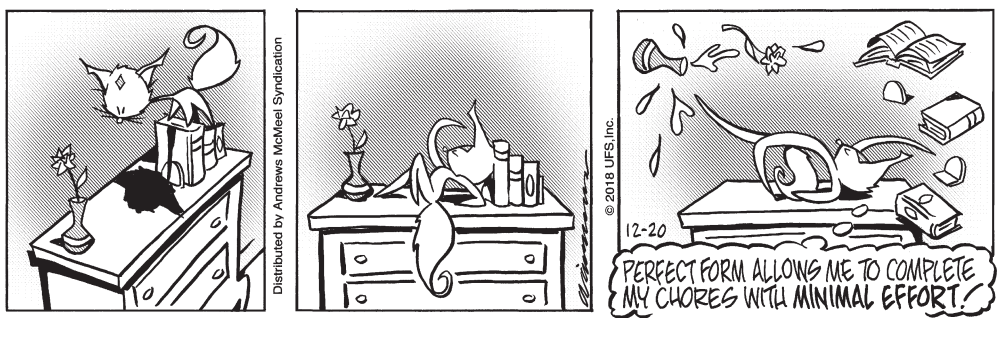
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