Unusual wedding gift request

DEAR ANNIE

ANNIE LANE
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I just received an invitation to a wedding that I've been told will be lavish. The woman is in her 50s, and the man is in his 60s, and they have been together for over a decade, so they have requested no gifts other than monetary contributions to their honeymoon. They have traveled extensively, including to the honeymoon destination. Is their request tacky, or am I just living in the past? — *Wondering*

Dear Wondering: Though asking for cash gifts toward a honeymoon fund was once considered tacky, it's becoming more and more common, especially among young people. Market research firm Harris Interactive found in 2018 that 72 percent of millennials prefer spending money on experiences to material things. Though your friends aren't millennials, they are at a point in life when they most likely have all the household things they need. So instead, they've asked friends and family to contribute toward travel, something they're both passionate about. That seems blameless enough to me.

As for their having already been to this destination and their being financially secure, lavish weddings have a way of setting people back a bit. I'm sure they would appreciate the help swinging a vacation at the moment, even if they don't necessarily need it.

Dear Annie: I was a preschool teacher for 25 years. With all the terrible behaviors in the world, I'd like people to know that babies as young as 9 months can be taught to imitate sounds and actions, so let's have them imitate politeness. Tell children to say please. Do it every chance you get and pretty soon they will echo it. It may come out as only "peas" because kids' tongues and mouths aren't ready to say blends (two consonants together) until a few years later. Tell them to say thank you, too — for instance, whenever they get a cookie. Again, it may sound like "ank-oo," but they know the meaning. Same with "excuse me." If you bump them accidentally, say, "Excuse me." They will imitate you.

Children can learn these courtesies before age 2 and use them for a lifetime. I was a teacher of those who learned these words at home and those who didn't. Guess who started all the fights! — *Make the World a Better Place*

Dear Make the World a Better Place: *It's never too early to start modeling good behavior for children. Thank you for this letter.*

Dear Annie: This is in regard to the letter from "Stupid Senior," who broke up with a cheater and soon after found out that she has HPV. You missed an important teaching moment in your response. Before becoming intimate, both parties should be checked for STDs and use condoms until they have agreed to be monogamous. — *K.F.*

Dear K.F.: You're right that I missed a teaching moment there. I appreciate your stepping up with the lesson.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While "I'll know it when I see it" is a fine enough guiding principle for a solo artist, groups need a more specific set of rules to go by. A good leader will think it over and spell it out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Does it please you to know that someone is working hard to impress you? It's flattering, to say the least, although you must also realize that this has a lot to do with what the individual is projecting onto you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When it doesn't work, an explanation for what went wrong is a nice thing to have. Also, it's a luxury. You don't get it every time, nor would you want to come up with it every time. To shrug and walk on ... that's grace, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are people you know who have to, in order to survive and act normal, do things you would consider rather strange. Your ability to accept this will be the key to this day going smoothly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A very strong bond is built one fiber at a time. And if you want to get microscopic about it it, this happens on a cellular level. Small things, repeated ... this is the theme. This is the glue that will bond you to your goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Working people often have less leisure time than others. Since time is the most precious commodity we have, it does make one think about the work worth doing, and the work not worth doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When things go wrong, it may be circumstances that cause it, but as a responsible person you're always trying to assess which circumstances you can control and which you can't.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your attention is worth something. You can't afford to give it away willy-nilly. And you won't. You won't click on nonsense or sit through what doesn't interest you. You won't look into drama. You'll keep your nose clean.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be dealing with new people whose sensibilities may surprise you. Like a masseuse working on a new client, the best way to learn what pressure to use is to ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Are you thinking big enough? It will be impossible to detect from where you are. It will take an outsider to assess the situation. Who can you bounce your ideas off of?

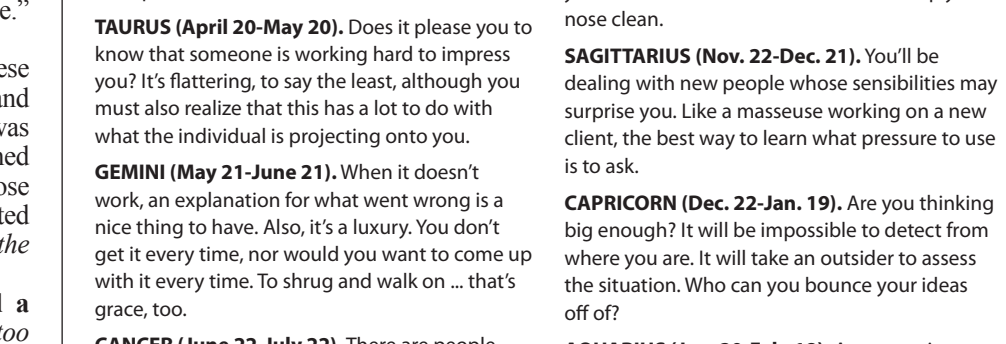
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A mystery is a thrill. And if the mystery seems like it might actually be safe, all the more exciting — to be thrilled and not killed, that's the entertainment sweet spot on which books, movies and roller-coaster rides are predicated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You relate to someone who is solving things and that's because you are also a part of the solution. Get right in there and give your ideas. You are feeling this way for a reason. Don't wait for permission; just go.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 31). You'll invest yourself before others realize this is a successful channel. You're not expecting quick results. You take pleasure in the the slow, steady building of something you believe in. More highlights: a sacrifice allows for astounding beauty, you'll live as others do (an eye-opener), and you'll pursue exceptional love. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 2, 22 and 18.

FRANK AND ERNEST

BLONDIE



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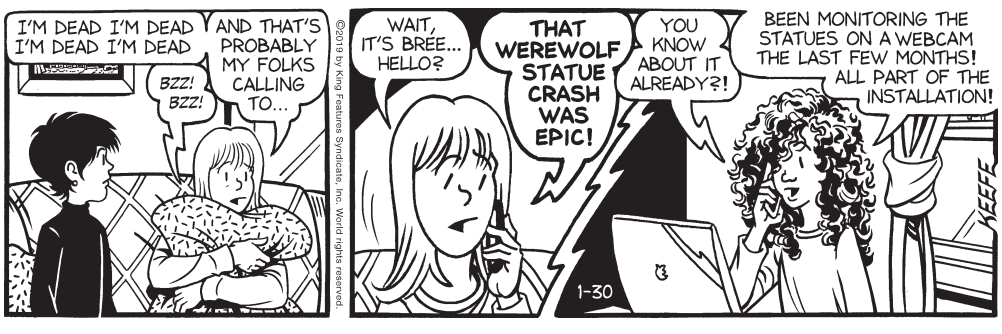
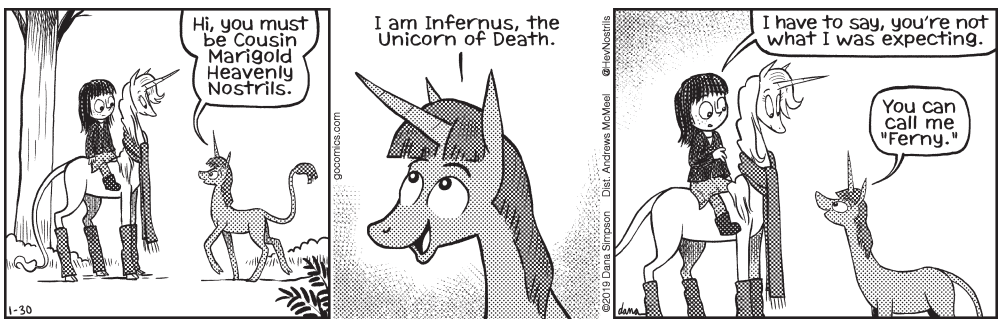
SALLY FORTH



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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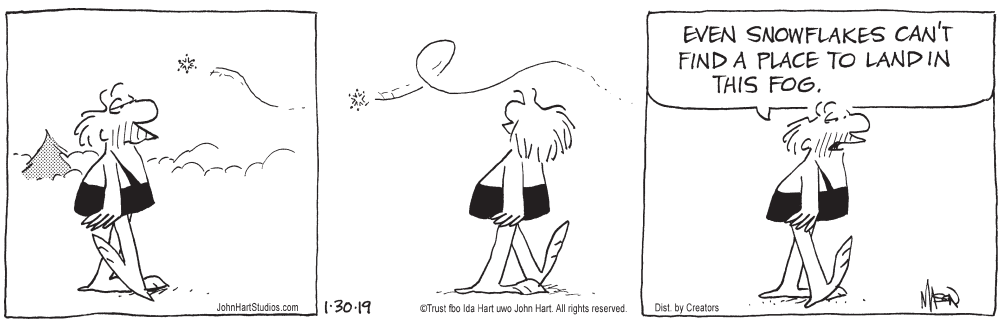

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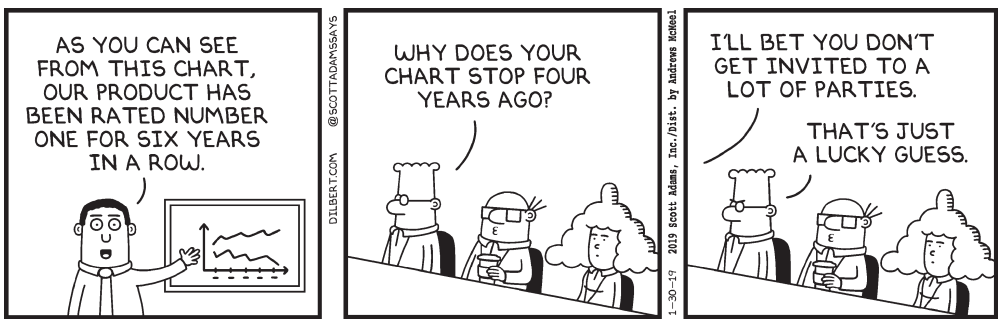

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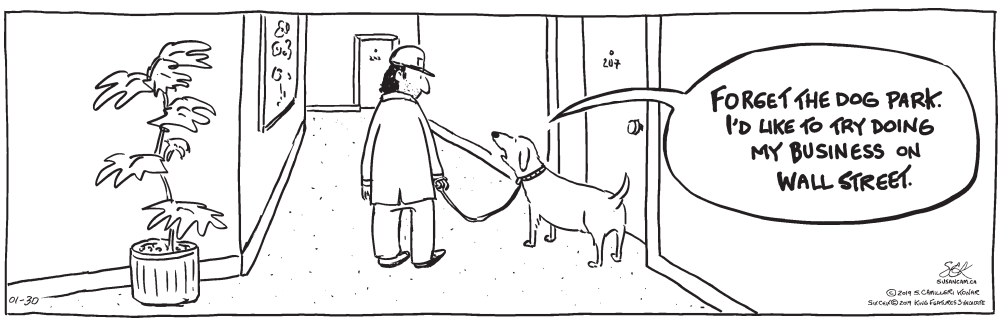

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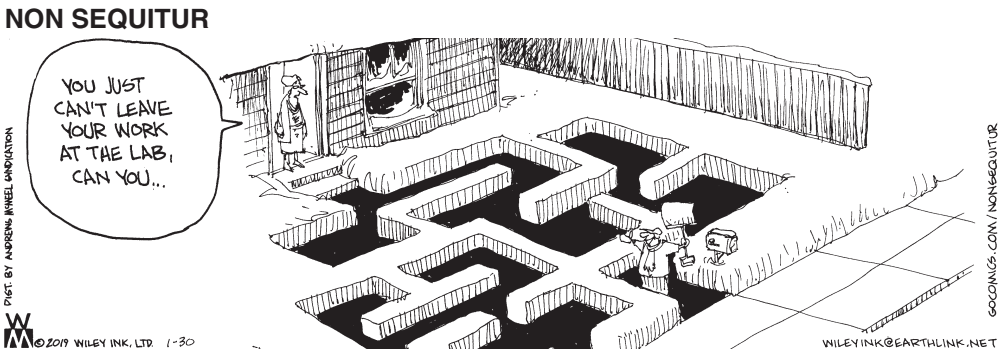

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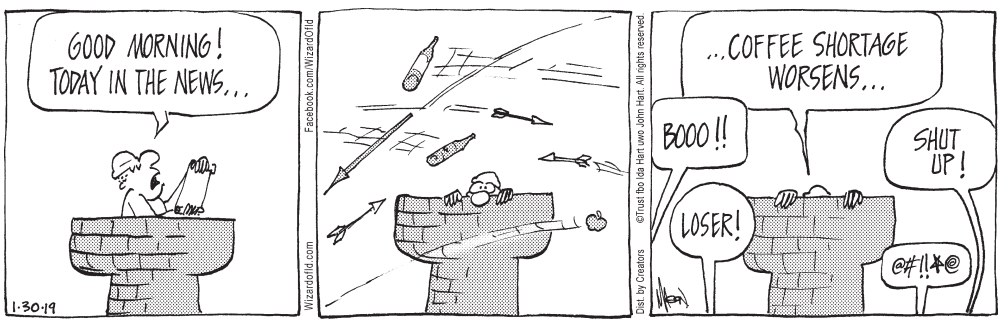

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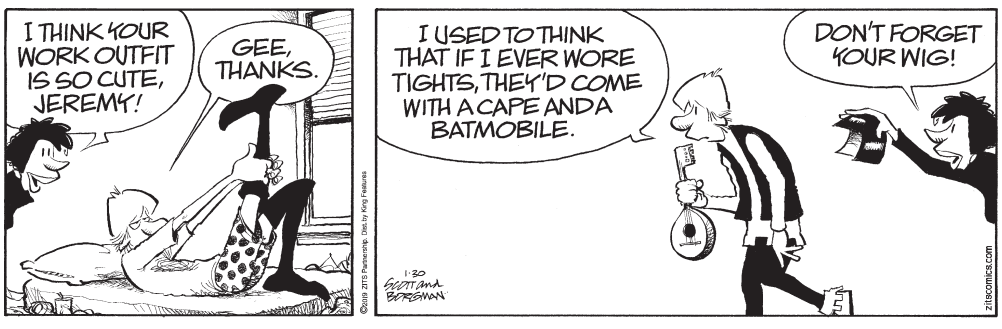
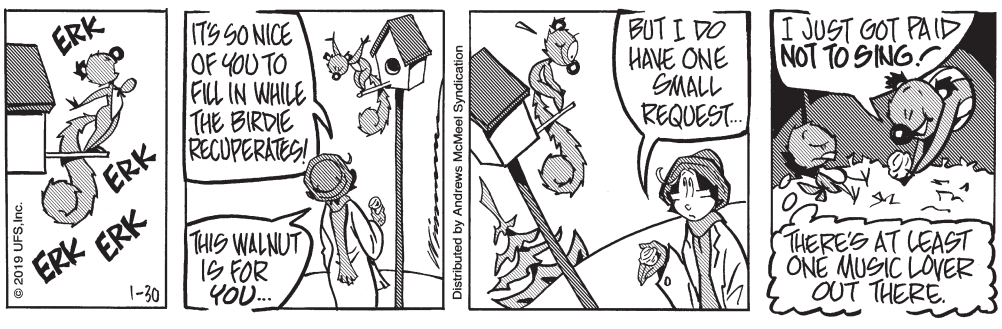
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