

When to doff the hat

Dear Annie: A few months back, I mentioned to my husband that I wish the style of men in suits and hats would come back. He came home a few days later in a little felt hat, which I have to admit looked good on him. Last week, we went out to dinner, and I told him that my grandfather always removed his hat while dining. He waved his arm in a circle and said, "Take a look around." Sure enough, a lot of men, women and children were wearing hats — mostly ball caps and a few cowboy hats. What is the proper etiquette for hat wearing these days? He does remove it in church, thank goodness. — *Hatless in Seattle*

Dear Hatless: Your husband is correct that wearing hats indoors is now commonplace, but that doesn't make it classy. I'd bet a big part of what appealed to you about the style of men in suits and hats was that it connoted a sense of propriety — something increasingly rare in today's world. If

your husband wants to sport that hat with true panache, he should doff it at the dinner table.

Dear Annie: Today I asked my husband whether he had heard from anyone over the holidays, just thinking that maybe one of our friends had contacted him instead of me. He looked right into my eyes and said, "No." Something about the way he answered caused me to do something I had never done before: I checked his email when he left to go shopping. Sure enough, he had heard from someone, and I now discover he has been emailing with this person (a woman) for some time.

Knowing he is having a running conversation with another woman — plus the fact that he lied about it — has me wondering what to do. He's been a liar in the past, but I thought he had moved beyond that. We've broken up before, but we worked things out and got back together. I trusted in him to do

the right thing this time around, and until today, I believed everything was fine.

Of course, the other side of this is that I wouldn't have even known this if I hadn't gone into his email. Right now, I am brooding over it and letting the anger build up inside me. Should I admit I snooped and I know about his lies, or should I just keep quiet and start the process of ending the relationship? Honesty is important to me. But then, I was dishonest by snooping. Help! — *Liar, Liar*

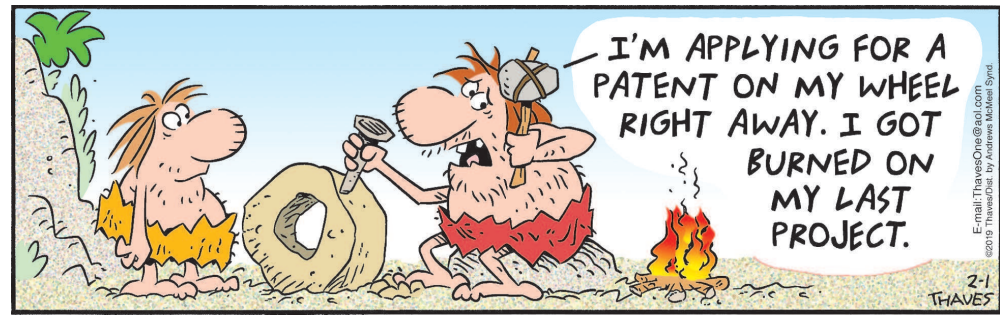
Dear Liar, Liar: Come clean to your husband about your snooping, and in that same conversation, ask him to go to marriage counseling. By the time you find yourself wanting to snoop on your partner, mistrust has been festering for quite some time. It seems neither of you has been able to shake past issues. So perhaps this recent incident will turn out to be a very good thing for your marriage in the long run, if it persuades you both to truly open up to each other and begin the process of rebuilding trust from the ground up.

DEAR ANNIE

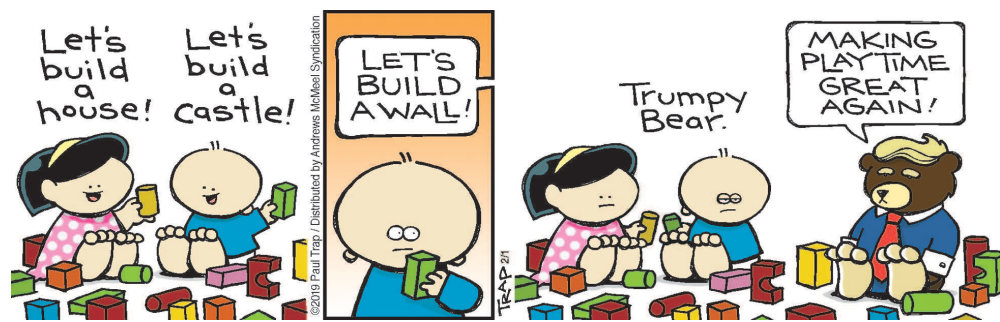


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

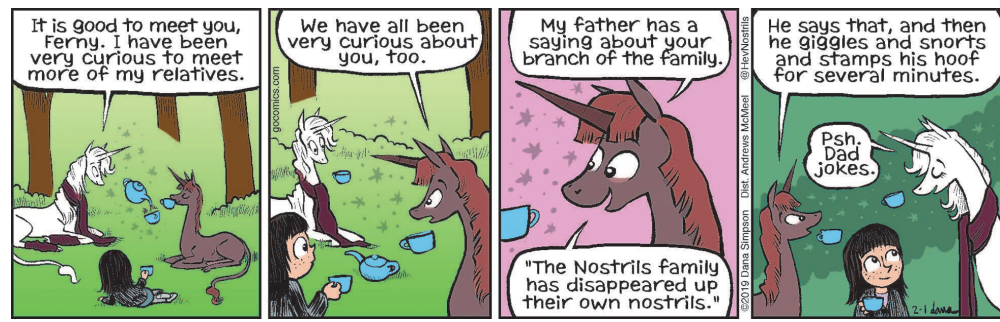
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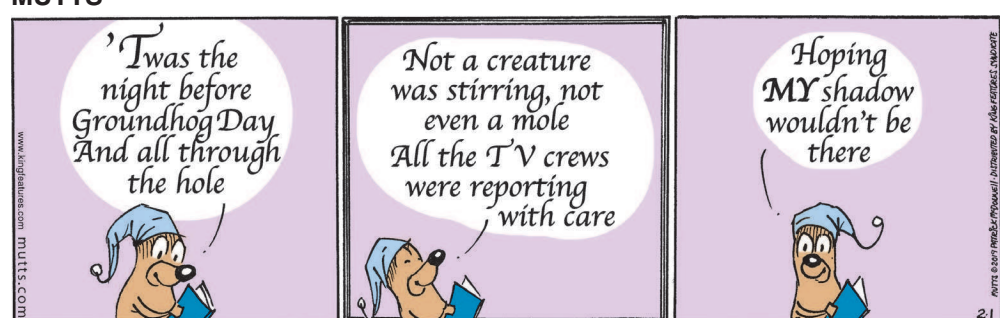
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Hearing a little bit of a story is unsatisfying. You want the rest! You've time for it today, too. Your curiosity (rarer than you realize) will pave the way to learning interesting and even magical things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll do as you wish. When it coincides with what others wish, great. When it doesn't, you won't worry too much about it. You're not put on this earth to please all people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In deciding what to give your time to, the strongest consideration will be the other people involved. If you don't like the activity but prefer the participants, it's in. (Like an activity but don't prefer the participants, it's out.)

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to change your life all at once in order to change it completely. It only takes a few minutes a day to create life-enhancing habits. By this time next year, you could be a different person because of just one habit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Due to new information, you may lack the certainty you once had about your situation, which is smart. It's time to learn, and you can't learn if you think you already know. So you'll toss that, remain open and absorb much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you want to do and what you're good at will come together at an intersection, and this is where life gets very exciting for you. Proceed carefully now. Watch out. Intersections can be dangerous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your emotional landscape is formed in a dialogue with your environment over time. So it's crucial that you interact in the right environments for you. You need positive

and intelligent feedback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are many items in the new vernacular that older people will despise — something to consider before uttering nonchalantly "no problem" or "let's grab dinner." Why use upsetting words when there are other options?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To enjoy the unsettling, well that's not as unusual as it may sound. Tension can be delicious, and it's certainly more interesting than going through a problem-free day.

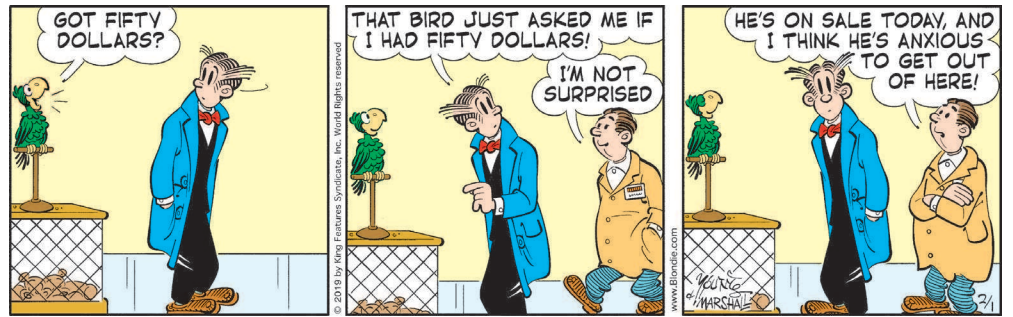
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you need isn't to comply to others or have others comply to you. What you need is a better idea. Start the dialogue, all as humble equals, and you'll come up with the answers together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's weird that sometimes you don't know you're having a great time until much, much later when you look back on the experience and realize — wow. That was pretty great. Today will bring such a phenomenon.

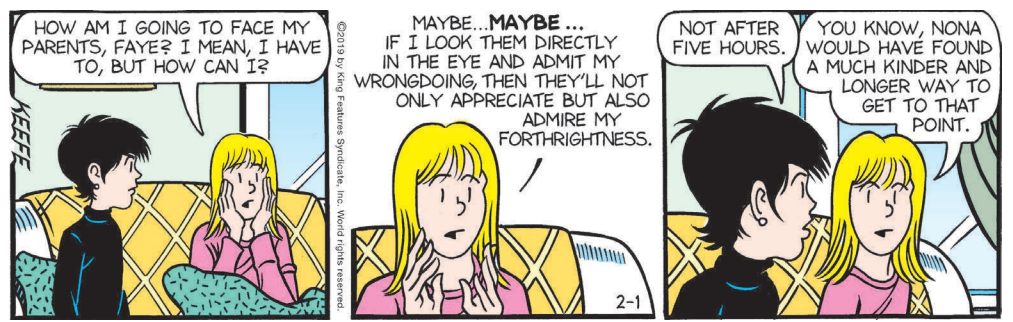
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A continuing sense of mystery and wonder is a requirement for you and one that will be met and then some by today's strange and unpredictable series of events.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 2). Yes, you'll get a significant zing of good fortune at the top of this year. But the big gift is this: You realize that a way of being can improve all. You intend to embody love, generosity, graciousness, cheerfulness, optimism and ethics. With this aim at the center of your being every day, you'll change the world. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 15, 20 and 33.

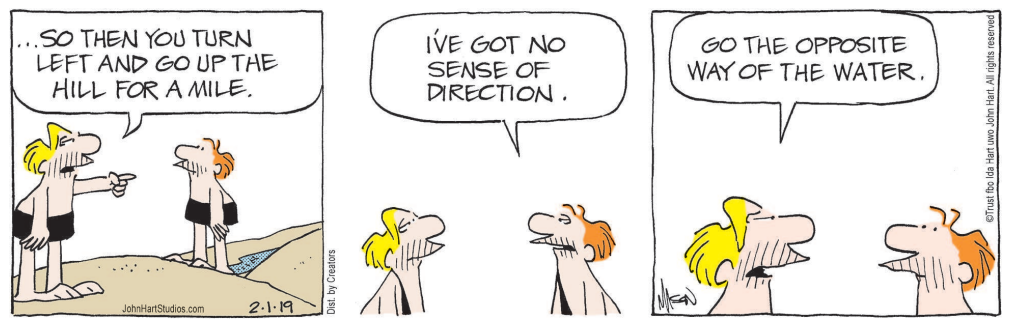
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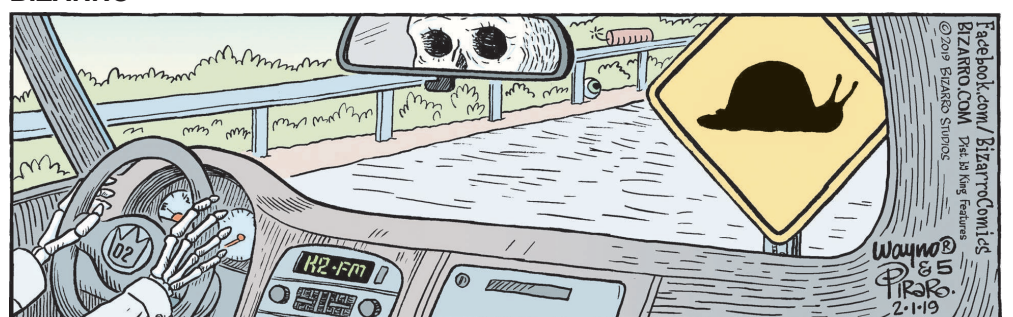
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