

He's drinking and driving

Dear Annie: I have been married for 25 years. My husband grew up in a foreign country and has been drinking alcohol his whole life. He drinks beer the way I drink water. He is in the restaurant business and must be able to recommend wine to his customers, so giving up alcohol is not an option. The problem is that once in a while when he gets home, I will seriously question whether he should have driven home. We have been arguing over this forever. I used to argue he needed to stop drinking. Now I just say he should not drive home if he has had too much. My begging has not made a difference. I have explained that if he were to hurt himself or someone else, I would feel guilty that I did not do more to stop him. I have now told him that if he drives home drunk again, he can move out, because I cannot live with this. He thinks I'm just being overreactive and I should not blow up our marriage and family over this. He does admit it is not OK. I am at a loss as to the next step. Friends tell me I can't

control him and should not feel guilty if he makes bad choices. I don't want to destroy my family with telling him to leave, but I feel backed into a corner. I have tried counseling several times, but he refuses to go. Any suggestions? — *Trying to Do the Right Thing*

Dear Trying: Kudos to your friends for their good advice. They're right that you can't control your husband and should not feel guilty for the things he does. Realize, too, that threatening to leave him is not a way to control his drinking. If you truly mean to leave him because you yourself cannot be around his toxic behavior anymore, that's one thing. But if your saying you'll leave him is really an attempt to get him to quit drinking, that's not a good reason. You will end up more exasperated than ever when things don't change.

Your husband's excuse that he owns a restaurant and must be able to recommend wines is just that — an excuse. Someone else could always taste the wines for him. Your husband drinks

because, from the sound of it, he has alcoholism. It is as simple and as frustrating and heartbreaking as that. I urge you to find some support through a group such as Al-Anon (<https://al-anon.org>) or SMART Recovery Family & Friends (<https://www.smartrecovery.org/family>). I think you'll be amazed by what a weight it takes off just being in a room with people who understand what you're going through. And with some of that weight off, you'll be able to think more clearly about what's best for you.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Mulling Over Memoir." You advised her to start interviewing her father about his memories. I took a recorder to my dad's and listened while he told me some of the things that he did; then I typed up the transcripts. I'm so glad I did. It was nice for the grandkids to be able to read about how he lived.

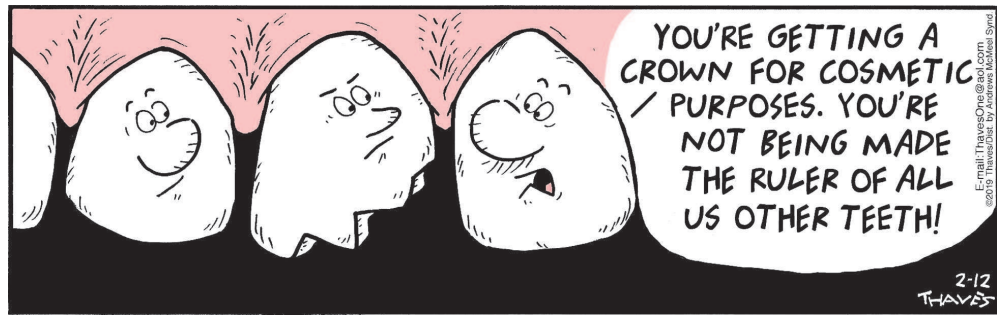
I also did this with my husband, who was older and had served in World War II. He didn't think that what he had to tell was very interesting, but once I persuaded him to talk, I found out things that I never had during the 28 years we'd been married.

DEAR ANNIE

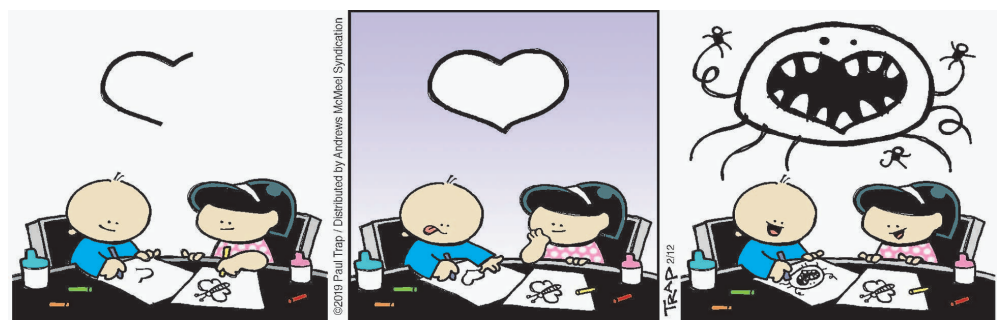


ANNIE LANE
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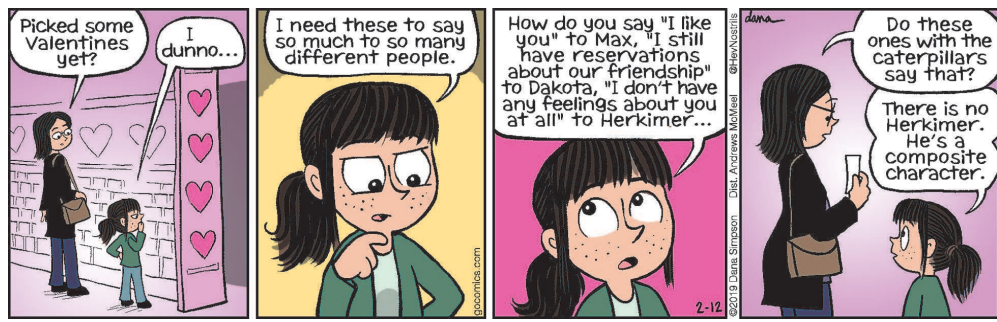
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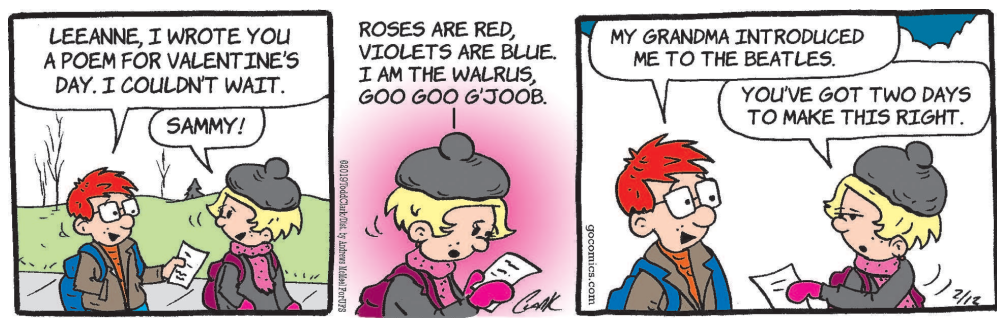
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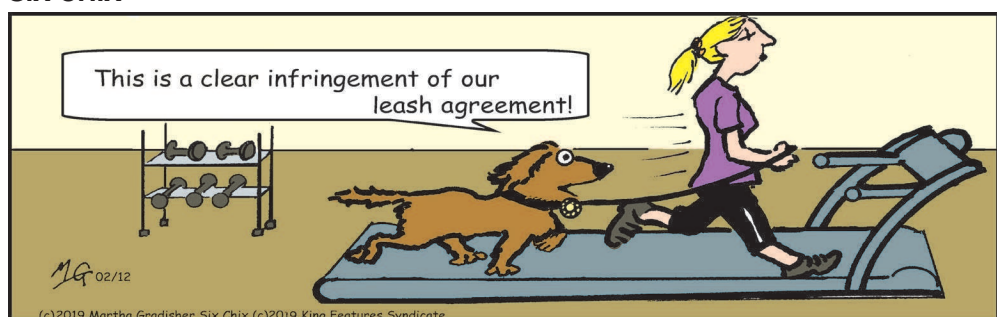
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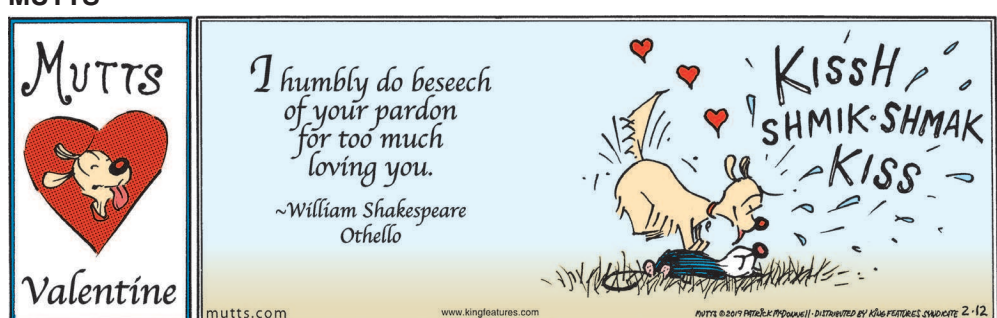
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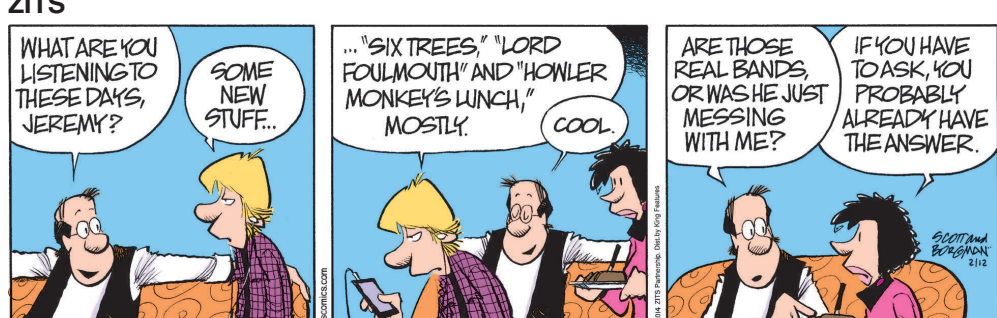
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Think of your offender as much younger than they are, infantile perhaps, because in some ways we are all immature, and indeed it is immaturity that has caused the rift.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The good opinion of others can be a seduction. The trick is to accept people's interest in you as a compliment, and yet not let their attention or opinion of you change how you think of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Trees give us oxygen and animals give us the spiritual equivalent. Your admiration of an animal will buoy your spirit. Taking the time to learn more about this animal's nature will lift you even more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Honesty can be hurtful, crass and ugly. Honesty can also be beautiful, and that sort either takes more consideration and compassion to craft, or it takes purity and innocence such as that which comes from a child.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Negative experiences of the past have blocked the flow of love in your life in some way, causing injury. Maybe you've developed a behavior that hides the injury, but not from yourself. It's time to give this wound a look.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As reasonable as you may be about most things in your life, matters of the heart are impervious to reason. Your heart won't be swayed by even the most logical argument. It wants what it wants.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thoughts, like cats, are a hard thing to discipline, but they can be led. With cats, it's opening up a can of food. With thoughts, it's providing yourself with lots of better, more attractive things to think about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Noticing what people like, producing what they want and predicting what they'll need — these are the skills that solidify relationships of all kinds. But it's only sustainable if you also figure out what's in it for you and get compensated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you're afraid to expect better of people, but do it anyway. They may not meet your expectations, but they'll rise a little higher than they would have. Plus, it encourages you to be better, too, and this you can deliver on.

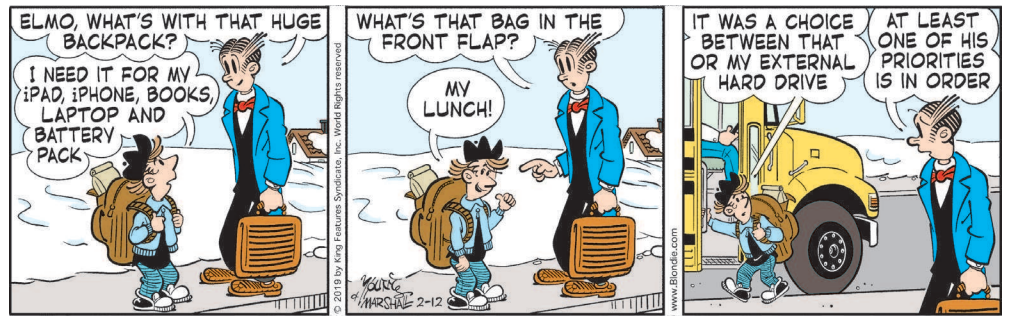
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes you act. Also, you've been known to plan and then act. Then there's when you dream, and then plan, and then act. That third way produces the most interesting results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You hate to admit when you're bored, but maybe it's time to recognize that a certain situation has lost all superficial appeal to you and must be enlivened in some way. Add something. Go deeper. Or just get out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It would seem that wanting what you have shouldn't be so difficult. After all, you acquired it at some point and wanted it very much back then. Find a way to reconnect with that feeling through memory. A picture will help.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 13). You know what it's like to feel stuck and that's why you appreciate the effortless movement that sweeps you into the first five weeks of this new personal era. Decisions and actions feel effortless as you're reaping the benefits of a flow of benevolent karma. You'll link to an entirely new circle of friends in summer. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 48, 3, 10 and 22.

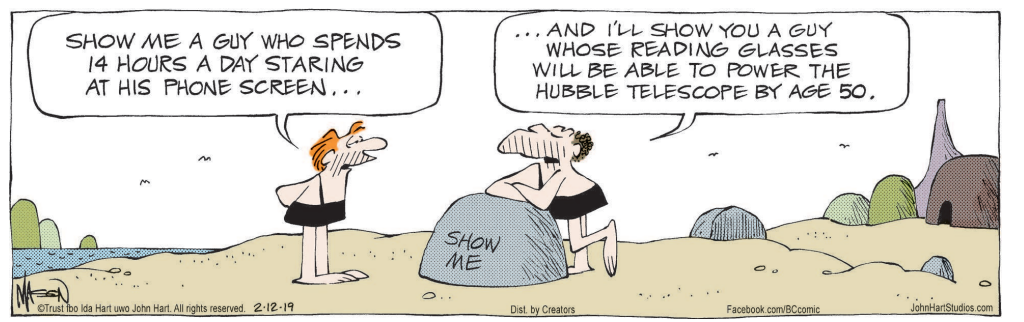
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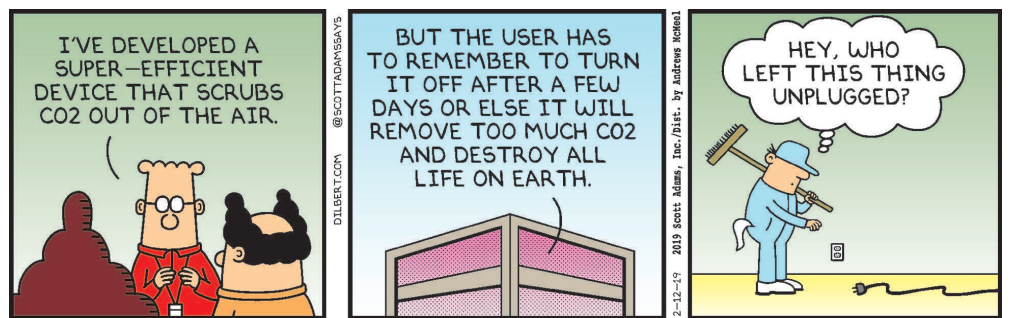
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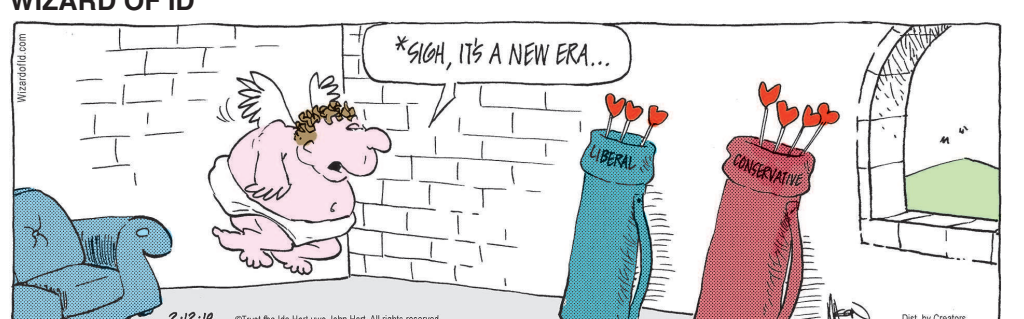
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