

Preparing for a new dog

Dear Annie: I'm hoping to adopt a small dog soon, and obviously, my apartment needs to be prepared. The small, curious new member of the family will want to play with almost everything in reach, so I imagine I'll need to clear the floor as much as possible. What else do I need to do to prepare? My apartment is a studio and only about 500 square feet, but I want my dog to have a safe and fun home to live in. — *Pre-Pooch Preparation*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Pre-Pooch: Congratulations on your forthcoming furry friend. Adopting an animal is a wonderful thing; really, a dog becomes a member of the family. It's wise that you're taking the preparation stage seriously, as it's important. Every year, thousands of pets are returned to shelters by adopters who failed to adequately prepare. First is to make sure that your landlord allows pets. If so, check to see whether any additional documentation or fees are required. Then crunch the numbers. Make a list of monthly expenses and vet bills, and be sure they fit comfortably within your budget.

Next, it's time to get puppy-proofing. Remove any toxic plants. Put away any medications that are sitting on counters. Keep anything with batteries that might be chew-enticing out of reach. Purchase a crate that will be large enough once your pup has reached full adult size. For more puppy-prepping tips, along with a list of which houseplants are safe for pets, visit <https://www.aspc.org>.

Dear Annie: A great number of your requests for advice or a solution revolve around taking action. For Pete's sake, what psychological hang-up prevents these people from making a decision? Have we simply developed into a plethora of touchy-feely wimps? Example: If the neighbors are having sex too loudly, which one of your readers recently complained about, bang on the wall; yell; hang up a sign in the hallway!

There is an incredible lack of spinal fiber. The prosecution rests. — *R. Korkin*

Dear R. Korkin: If taking

direct action were that simple for everyone, I might be out of a job. In all seriousness, it really is easier said than done. Yes, you can sit on the sidelines and criticize someone for fumbling, but it's harder when you're actually the one holding the ball. Try to have some compassion.

Dear Annie: "Frustrated in Maine" wrote to you irate about being asked by servers whether he needs change. He's the one who needs to learn etiquette. One should order, eat, pay the bill and leave an appropriate gratuity.

I think that it is appropriate for servers to ask whether diners require change. "Frustrated in Maine" retaliates by leaving a "small tip"? My advice for him is to dine only in restaurants where he has not gone before. Servers would remember him!

As a New England son, I'll admit that we are frugal, but we're never unkind. (My wife worked as a waitress in high school and college. We know how little they make.)

Punish a server for what he or she was trained to do or say? The server is doing his or her best to accommodate a patron. — *Diner With a Different Perspective*

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Love really does require a sense of humor. When you bring that to the table, you can find the other person's quirks, gaps of knowledge and errors in approach to be a source of endearment and mirth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The paradox of love is that it can at once feel comfortable and thrilling, right and dangerous, inevitable and yet completely up to you. Take a breath and luxuriate love's opposites.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're keenly aware of what the people in your life need, especially your nearest and dearest. You'll save up those three little words and drop them when they'll mean the most.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Among love's many gifts will be the sort of temptation that seduces you in a positive way, so that you want nothing more than to do something wonderful instead of wicked, generous instead of selfish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People have described love to you, but that didn't teach you what it was any more than poets or songs or movies did. Experience is the only way, and your experiences just get deeper and more meaningful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love isn't something that happens because two descriptions of it match up well. It's something much more complex and nuanced than that. You know what love is when you come across it, which is why you keep diving in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Marilyn Monroe famously said that anyone who couldn't handle her at her worst didn't deserve her at her best. This flies against your Libran logic. You reward those who love the full spectrum of you by giving your

very best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are decisive and sure, which makes it all the more impactful when you declare your love. It will be easier for you to give than receive, so make extra efforts to receive well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be understood the way you've longed to be, which is to say, in a way that is in some regards beyond your understanding of yourself and in other regards barely scratching the surface of your deep mystery.

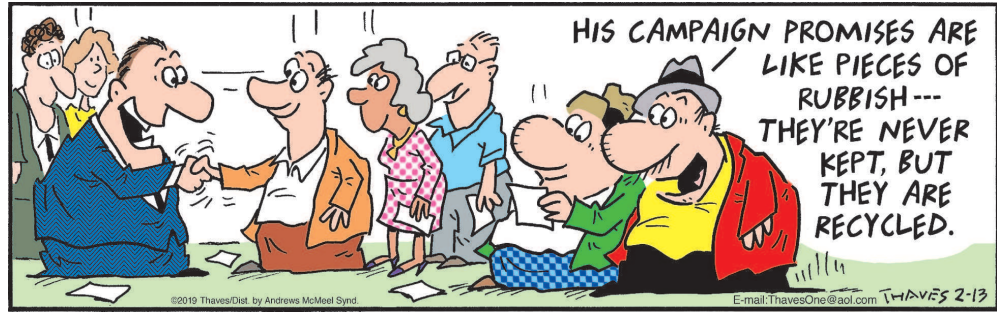
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In love, not everything makes sense immediately, but you've a sense of patient optimism about it that makes uncertainty palatable, if not entirely pleasant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Soul-driven connections are happening for you — some in the form of coincidental meetings or unlikely and whimsical connections that nonetheless feel somehow correct, fated even.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're willing to take on the challenges of love, you'll be, in the moment you least expect it, seized by a thrilling sense of soaring adventure, followed by a comforting rush of relief when you find a soft place to land.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 14). You bring out something so interesting in the people you meet that many become your biggest fans, rooting for you to complete your projects, win your battles and nail your goals. (So make sure you have plenty of the aforementioned purposes for them to lend power to!) It all starts with stellar planning and organization. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 40, 20 and 13.

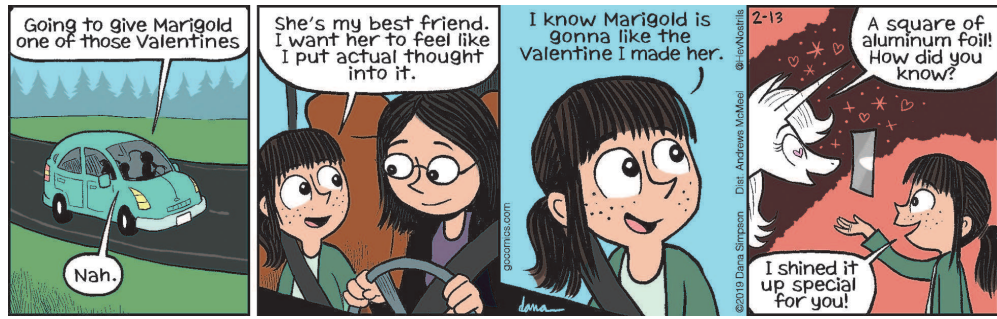
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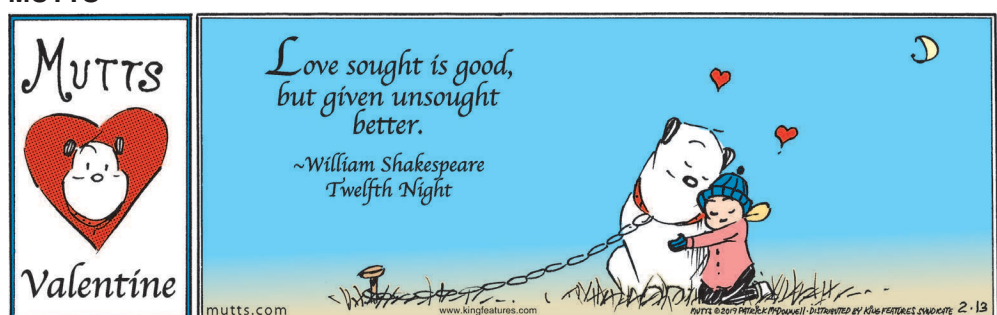
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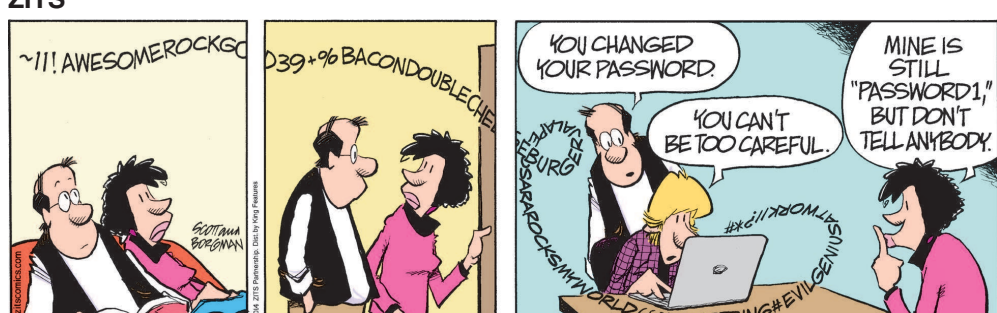
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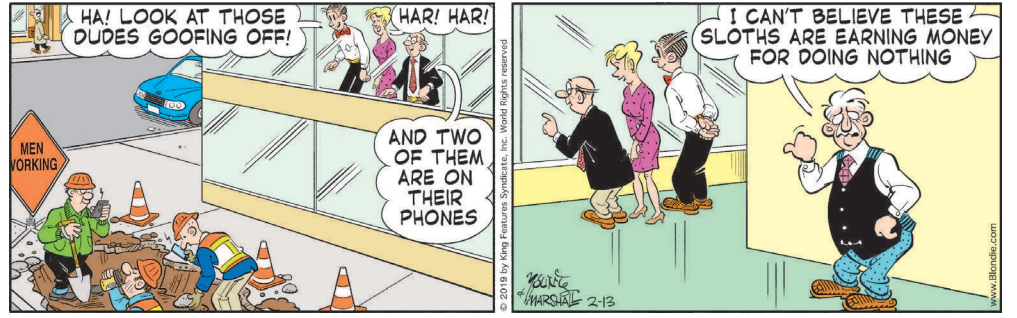
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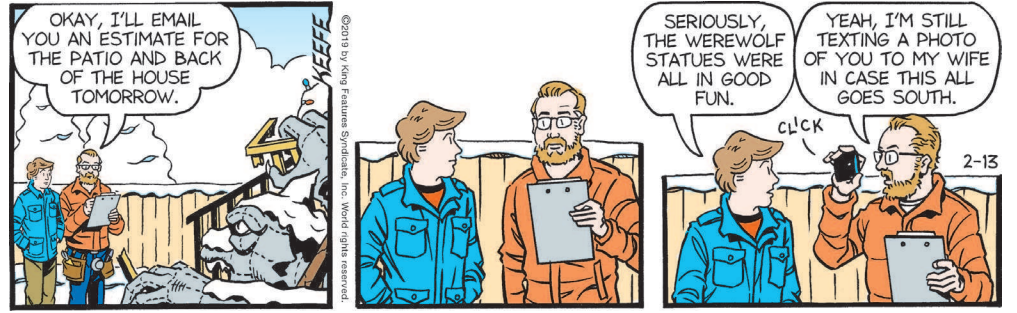
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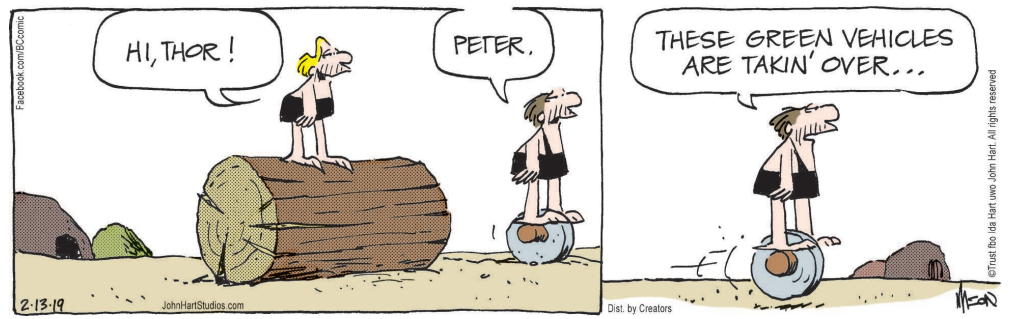
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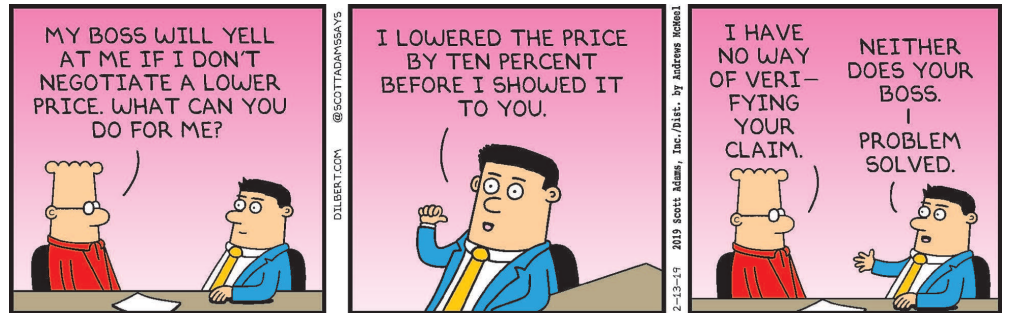
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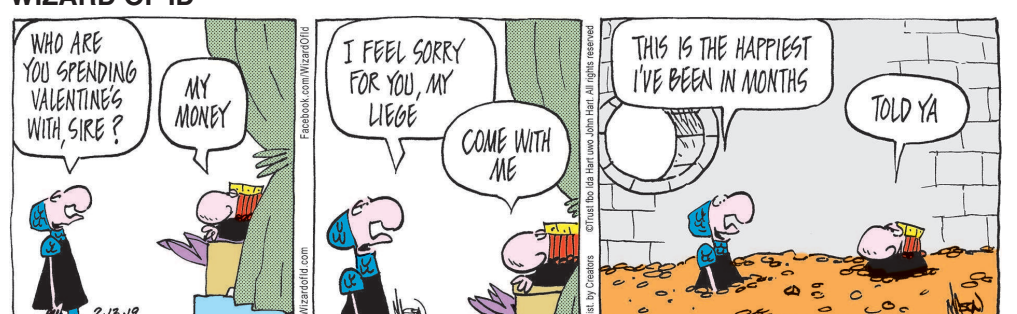
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