

Daughters come first

Dear Annie: My husband and I both have adult kids from our prior lives. Thank goodness my loving and independent children were raised and taught in a manner emphasizing that you honor your spouse first and everyone else is in line (depending upon the situation, of course).

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Recently, his youngest daughter, who is 25, asked her dad whether her friend and fiancé could have their wedding in our backyard. It's my husband's house, but I live there, too. In the middle of a tiff between him and me, he replied to her text without discussing it with me. So there are 65 wedding guests arriving, people we don't know. And I am sure they'll need to use restrooms. All my personal belongings are throughout the house, as I've tried to make this a beautiful and comfortable place to live.

This is so hurtful and mean and inconsiderate of him. He will not say "no" to his girls, at all costs to our relationship. The girls know this and milk it every chance they get.

It's ridiculous, and I'm fed up! I deserve a loving and caring relationship with a man who is ready for a new life chapter, cherishes his woman, as well as his children, and has the you-know-whats to stand up to his adult daughters. — Hurt, Frustrated and Appalled in Florida

Dear Hurt, Frustrated and Appalled: When you're battling your partner's children for his attention, there's no winning. Even if you ostensibly succeed, your partner might always resent you having (apparently) put a wedge between him and his kids. So reframe this problem in your mind, because

it's really not about competition between you and his daughters; it's about communication (or a lack thereof) between you and your husband. Conspicuously absent from your letter is any mention of your having told him how you feel. That's a good place to start. Try not to enter the conversation with finaglers pointed. Let him know that you appreciate his caring nature as a father but that his prioritization of his daughters can sometimes leave you feeling left out. Tell him that in the future, you'd like to be consulted about hosting major gatherings at your home — explaining that though it is his house, both of you call it home.

If the problem persists, consider marriage counseling together. A therapist could help you both to see where the other is coming from and find a healthy middle ground upon which your relationship could thrive.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Assess key players in your scene. Where do they lie between the two poles of character and intellect? Character without intellect is lovable, agreeable and boring. Intellect without character is exciting and dangerous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are smiles that make the day brighter, people who lift and move you along a happier path. When you can't be in their presence, it really helps to be under a beautiful sky. If not, a big gesture in the name of cheer is priority one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't talk about what everyone knows, and don't show all your cards. What about holding things in suspense for a while? The tension will make life interesting. It's a champion move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). "Location, location, location," was once the clarion call of those seeking business success, opportunity and glamour. These days, it's not about where you are so much as who you're connected to. Good luck in that area today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your feelings are strengths, not weaknesses. Keep learning how to use them to your best advantage and know that whatever you feel, it's right for you and for the moment. Also, know that you're not the only one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As you broaden your horizons and become an even more well-rounded person, it gets easier to create rapport with many different types. But it gets harder to find people who can keep up with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The popular people aren't always that likable, and the likable people aren't always that popular. The one to go for is likability because you'll be happier and more respected when you value the group above your

own glory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though it's very important to you to do certain actions in a particular order, what others see is the result, not the process. Use your best judgment to assess how much behind-the-scenes information you should share.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Focus on what you need, not what you want. Wants are more fun, but that's beside the point. Look thoughtfully into the status quo. What are you taking for granted? Check supply levels. Your future self will thank you.

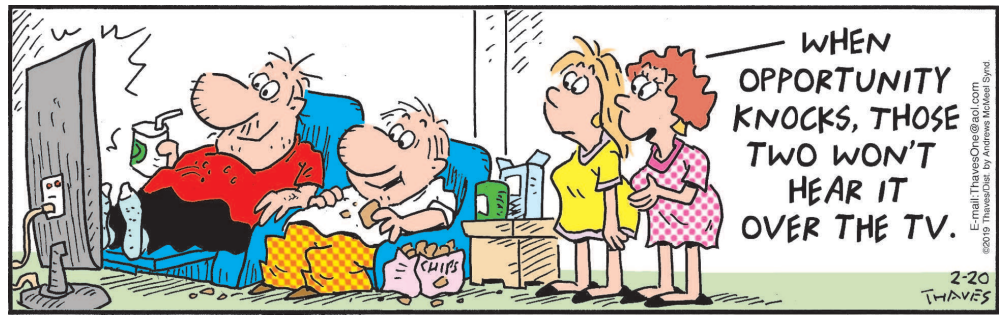
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Compatibility within a group of very similar members may be more easily achieved, though it's the more diverse groups with less internal compatibility that often come up with a better product.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you declare your goals and resolutions, you leave yourself open for criticism, competition and worse. But if you don't, you miss out on the opportunity for possible encouragement and support. So declare, but only to a select few.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In this age of oversharing, cautious silence is a power move. It's easy enough; all you have to do is seal the lips. And yet hardly anyone will think of it. Use discretion and, paradoxically, you'll stand out by not standing out.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 21). You go merrily into this solar transit and with plenty of company in the first 10 weeks. Then comes an incubation period in which rapid connections happen, the likes of which will spring your vision to life in June and July. Being financial shrewd now sets you up to invest in a lucky August opportunity. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 12, 37 and 11.

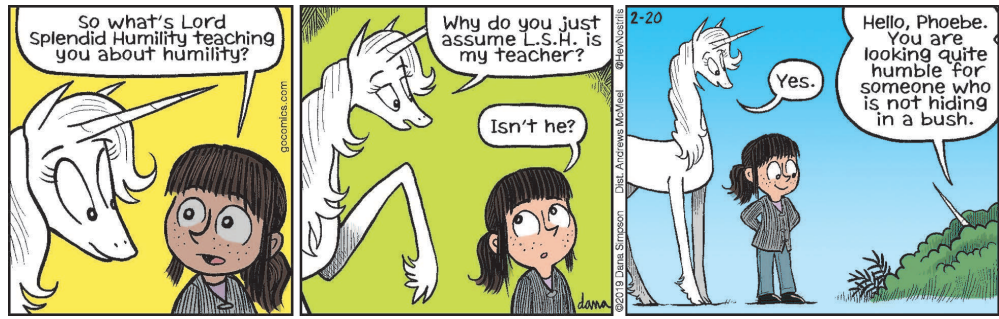
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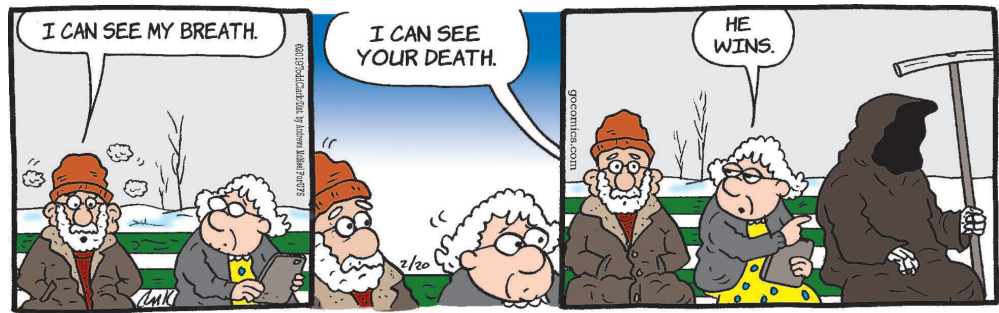
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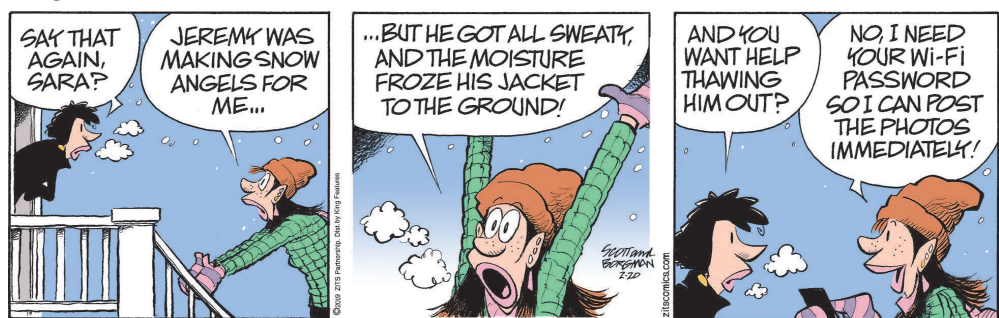
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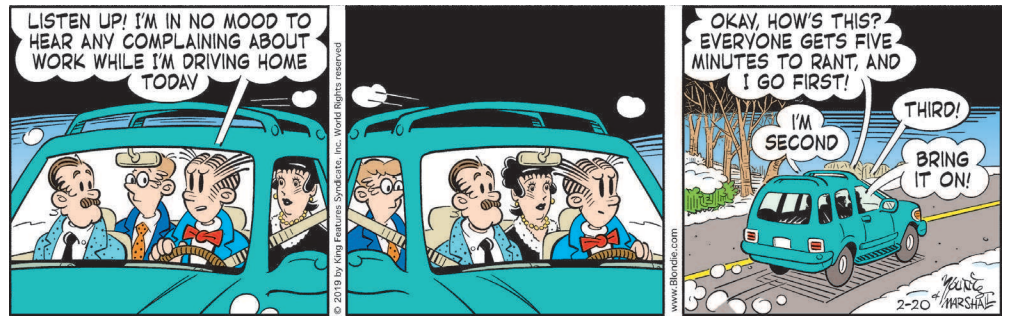
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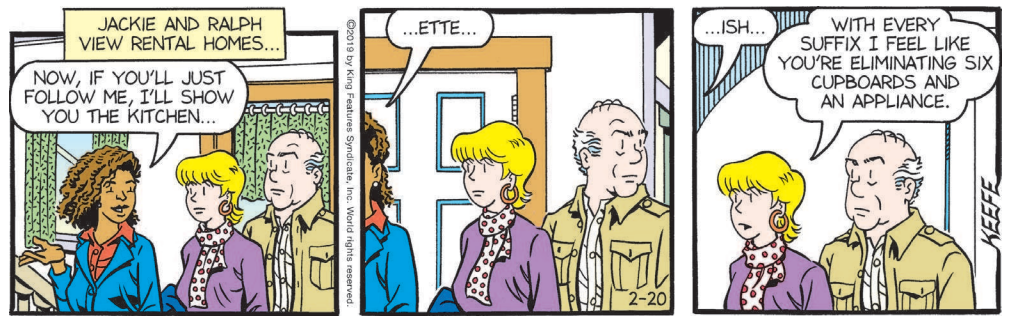
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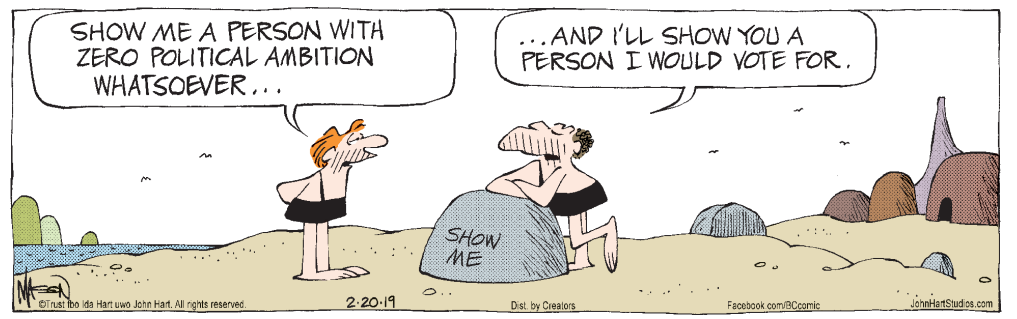
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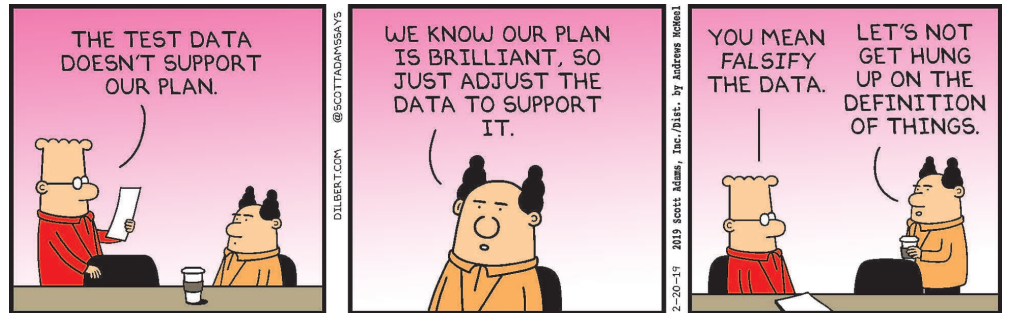
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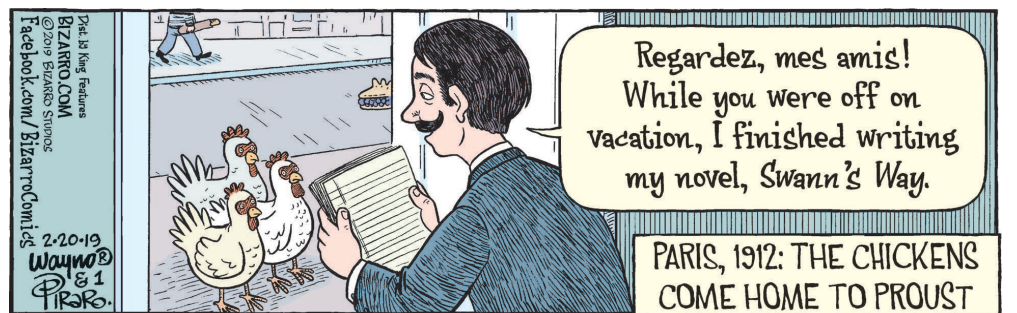
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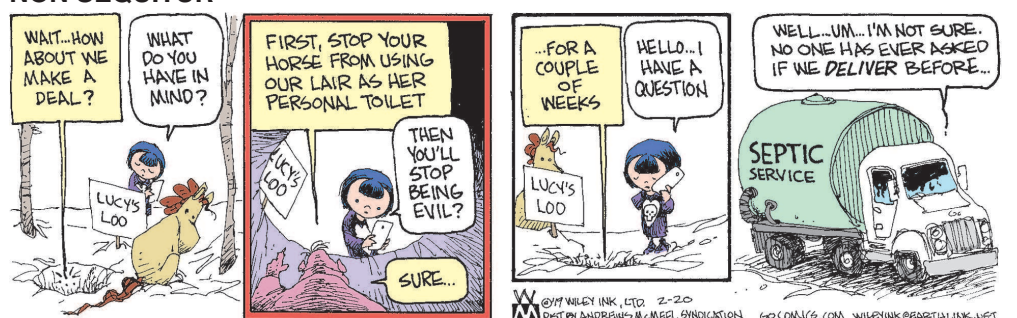
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