

Nuptials cause conflict

Dear Annie: I am feeling so conflicted. My niece, “Melanie,” is getting married in June. Melanie is paying for her own wedding, with a little from her mom. She’s 31 now and was 5 when her parents (my brother and his wife) divorced.

Long story short, things are acrimonious between Melanie and her dad, and she’s decided not to invite him to the wedding. Her dad’s children from another marriage, her half-sister (who she hasn’t met yet) and half-brother, are not invited either. She says that it would be awkward for them to be there without their father, and they are not old enough to drive. Everyone else on our side of the family is invited.

I agree with her that my brother would not just drop his kids off and leave; he would make a scene. I get both sides, but hate that I am in between. My brother does not know he will not be invited. She just isn’t telling him. He asks me, “Did

you get an invite?” Luckily, I have not yet, so I haven’t had to lie. Am I wrong that she has the right not to invite him, but she needs to call and tell him? — *In Between*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear In Between: You’re not wrong, but that’s beside the point. Your niece is going to make her own decisions, and that’s the long and short of it. I know that you want to help, but often when we find ourselves trying to mediate disagreements between two loved ones, we end up playing a role in the drama ourselves. It’s time for you to bow out.

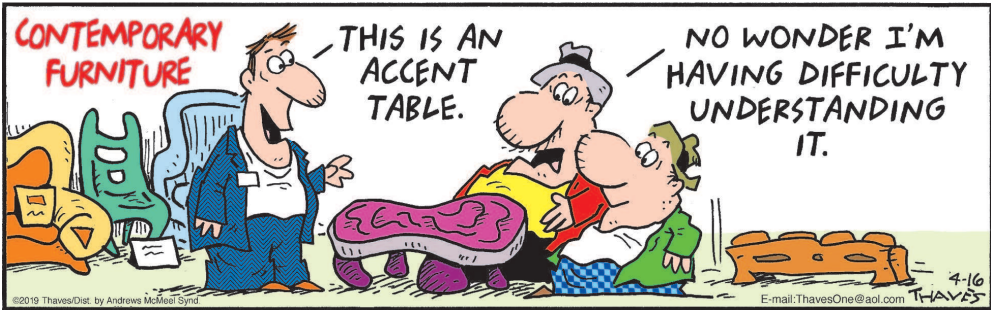
Dear Annie: I am writing in response to the letter from Parental Pawn, whose controlling parents were insisting the writer go to graduate school. In general, people tend to resist change. We seem to have an innate fear of the unknown.

I have observed, many times, people finally managing to free themselves from

abusive situations only to do things, consciously or unconsciously, that send them back into the situation they were familiar with, even if that situation was extremely uncomfortable. For example, habitual tardiness or other things that cause them to lose the job that allows them financial independence. The writer mentions having heard that graduate school will be virtually impossible to succeed at if you’re not fully committed. I would like to warn the writer, once he or she does manage to achieve independence, to be fully committed to being independent. Please keep your guard up against behaviors that would necessitate returning to the parents’ control. And believe me, the parents will use every trick in the book to try to make sure they don’t lose control of their child, never mind that the child is actually an adult. — *Retired Social Worker*

Dear Retired Social Worker: I’m printing your letter because your professional insights are on the mark.

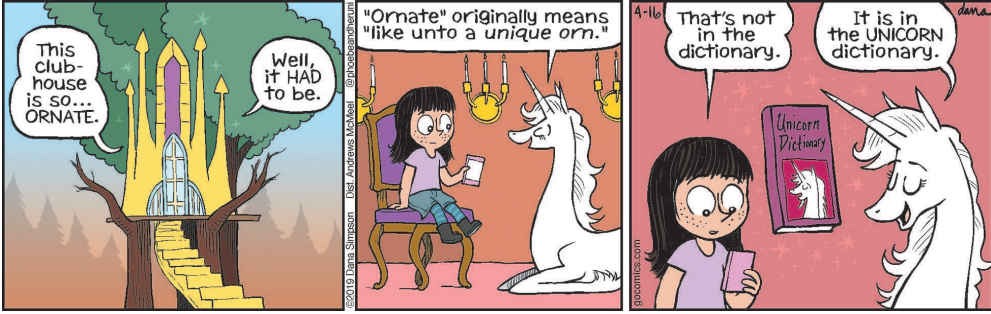
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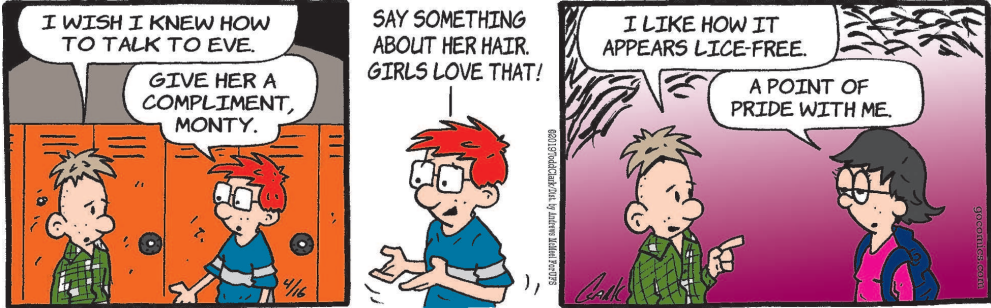
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



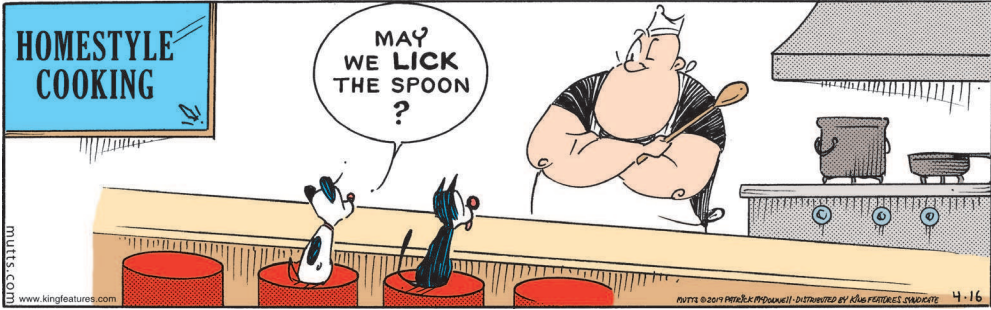
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ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If it's too hard to do the right thing, consider that you might be in the wrong place. Go where you're surrounded by people who are taking good care of themselves and the world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's time to think beyond the obvious options, which have been laid out by people who, while nice enough, simply aren't you. Here's a question: What if instead of having this or that, you could have this *and* that?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Something will help you remember your original intention. You may laugh at how that's changed, and yet you'll still feel excited the way you did when you first started.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most difficult foe is always the one inside. If you try to quiet the chattering mind librarian-style, by shushing, it will only rebel, but you can tamp down the dim through vigorous exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're feeling something new and you can add that to your growing sense of a complicated situation. It's as though your understanding is filling out from a flat picture into three dimensions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). One belief is that human desire is petty and something to overcome in order to do what is required of us. Is that so? What if something like the opposite is actually true? You will be better for the philosophical pondering.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's time to stop thinking and planning and to go find your adventure instead. This one's not going to come to those who wait. Clarity comes with action. So does fun. So does prosperity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's an excellent balance starting to shape up. Life supports work, work supports life, and there's a nice confluence and continuity happening. Understanding relationships are a key part of the equation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your success comes as a result of confronting mistakes. It doesn't always get better on the first try, but keep at it. Because even the sort of stubborn errors that seem almost ingrained can be overcome.

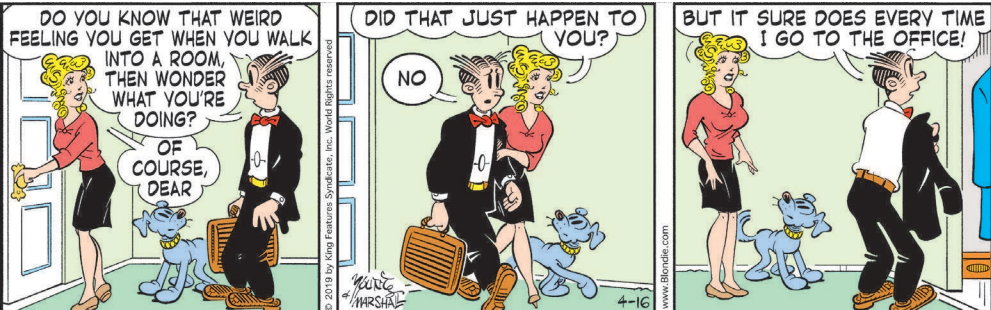
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's always another way to look at it. So if the current way isn't doing you any favors, change it up. The beauty of it is that you don't have to commit. You can try on a perspective and put it back if it doesn't fit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your work doesn't have to be completely finished to be worthy of sharing. In fact, there's something to be gained sharing unfinished work with people who can encourage you with valuable feedback.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Not all sound is music and not all music is sound. Look for rhythm in other parts of your life. Feel the tone of relationships, of places, of experiences. Your poetic heart will get what it needs.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 17). You'll approach what you do with joy overflowing. The feeling is infectious. People flock to you. You'll have plenty of company in your leisure as well as support in your work. A key relationship will grow and solidify. June features a road trip. There's a lucrative opportunity right at the start of 2020. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 29, 4, 40 and 17.

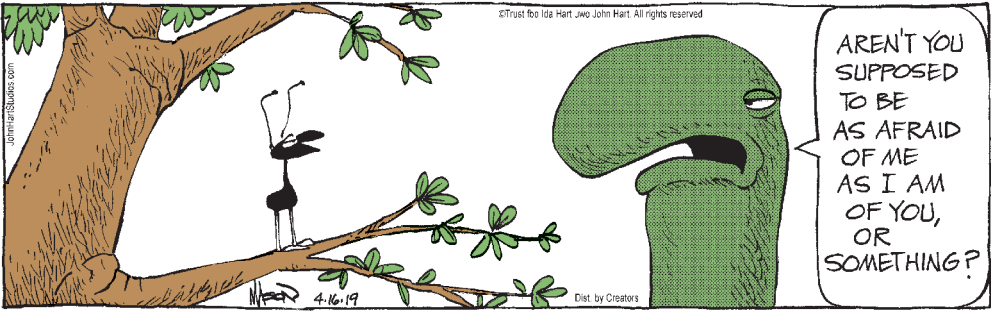
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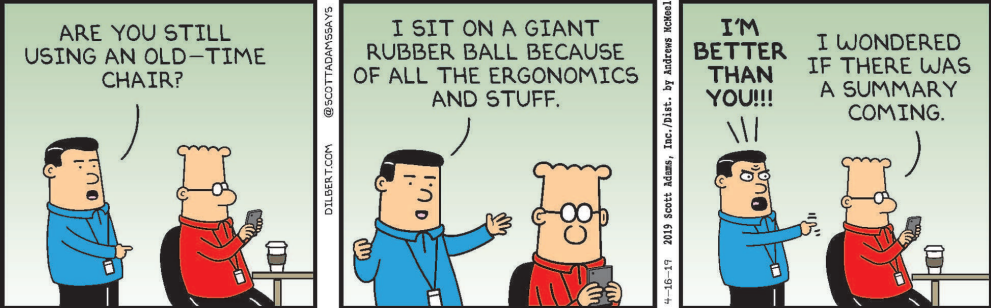
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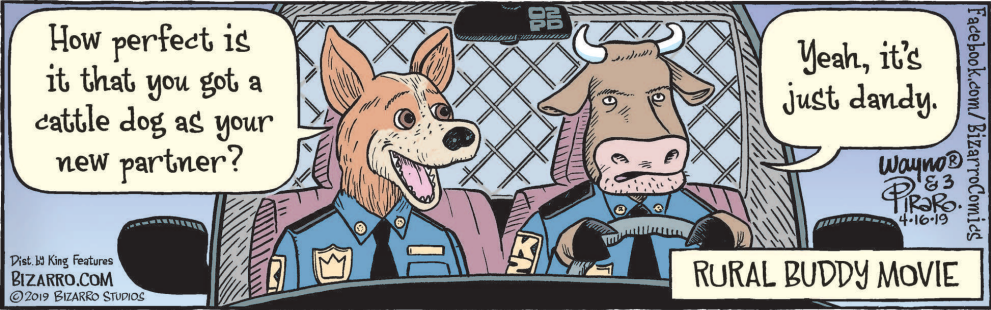
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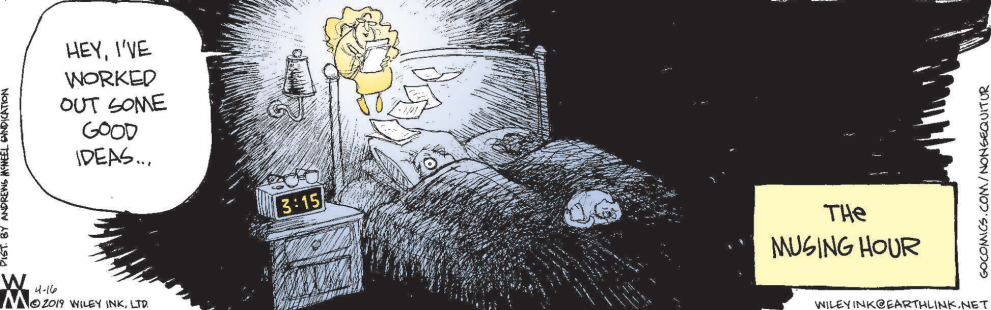
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ROSE IS ROSE

