

Argument erupts over scandal

Dear Annie: My best friend and I agree on almost everything, but something has come up that has caused us to argue, and we decided to turn to you for advice. We both have children who are in their first year of high school, and when they graduate they want to go to college.

Our argument has been over the college cheating scandal that has sent shockwaves through the country. My friend says the parents who bribed their kids' way into prestigious universities did what any loving parent would do, and that we should show forgiveness to them and their children. We are both Christians, and she says forgiveness is a tenet of our faith. She says that just because some of the parents are rich and famous, they are being unfairly singled out for harsher punishment than usual.

My argument is that these parents did a great disservice to their children, to the universities and to the well-deserving applicants who got turned down because the rich kids

took their rightful place. I think the students who were admitted under false pretenses should all be kicked out — no exceptions. They stole something that did not belong to them — acceptance to a prestigious university. The parents should serve jail time to send a lesson to anyone who wants to cheat or buy their way into a school in the future.

You have a great deal of wisdom for your years, and we both read your column regularly and have decided to turn to you for your thoughts. I showed this letter to my friend to make sure that she felt that I was portraying both of our positions accurately, and she agreed. — *Friends in Disagreement*

Dear Friends: You both make good points, but I agree with you that simply forgiving everyone without any consequences would send a bad message to future cheaters. If I were the judge in these cases, here is what I would do with those parents who are found guilty: I would sentence them to pay a hefty fine — dou-

ble the amount of money they spent on bribes. They would pay the fine to the same university they cheated, and the university would be required by law to use that money for scholarships for worthy applicants. That is paying a price, but one with a positive outcome that will improve the lives of hard-working students who are not from rich or famous families.

Dear Annie: I've lived on the American west coast my whole life, but I really want to move east. I feel more at home there. Multiple strangers — and friends — have told me I have more of an east coast vibe. But packing up and moving across the country is terrifying. I feel in my gut that it's the right thing, but there's not a ton of logic behind that feeling.

It would be a good thing to broaden my horizons, branch out, get out of my comfort zone. (All the best things I've ever done have been scary in the moment.) So should I follow my heart and head East? — *Coast to Coast*

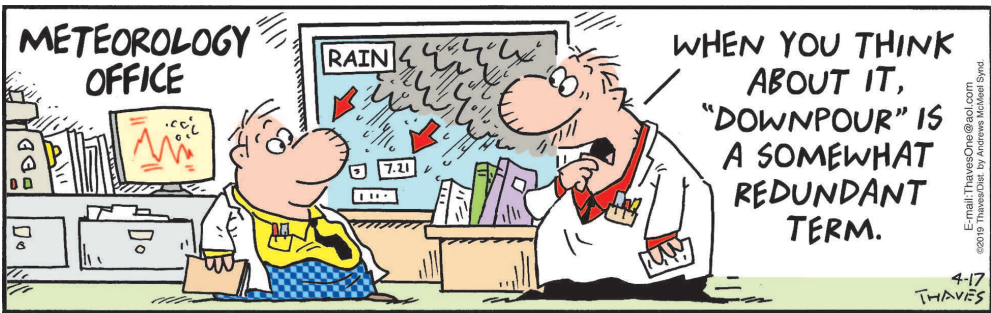
Dear Coast to Coast: Always trust your gut, but set yourself up to succeed.

DEAR ANNIE

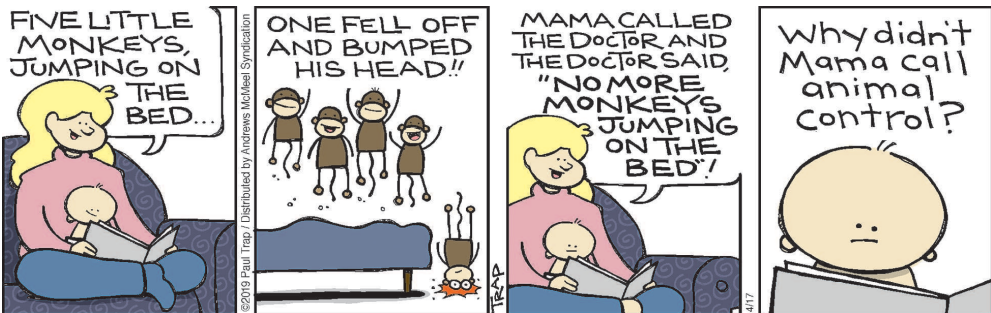


ANNIE LANE
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Syndicate Inc.

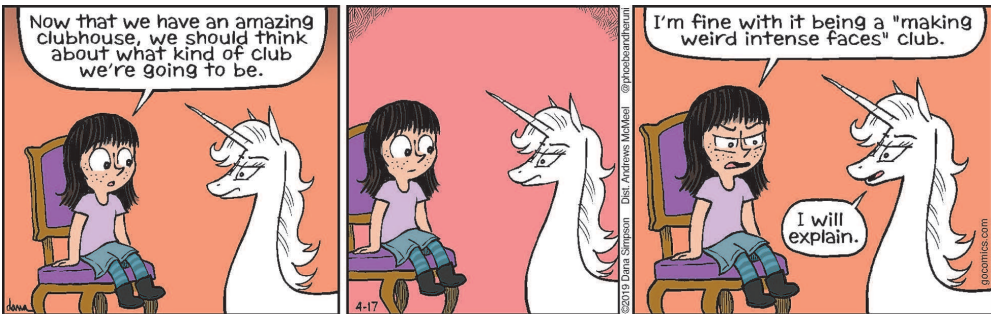
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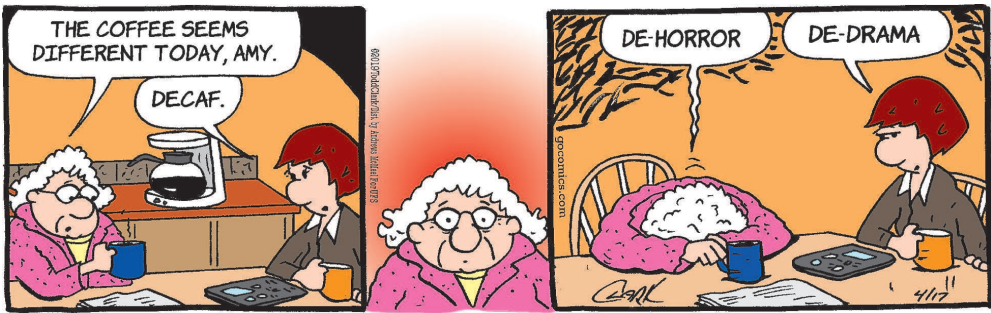
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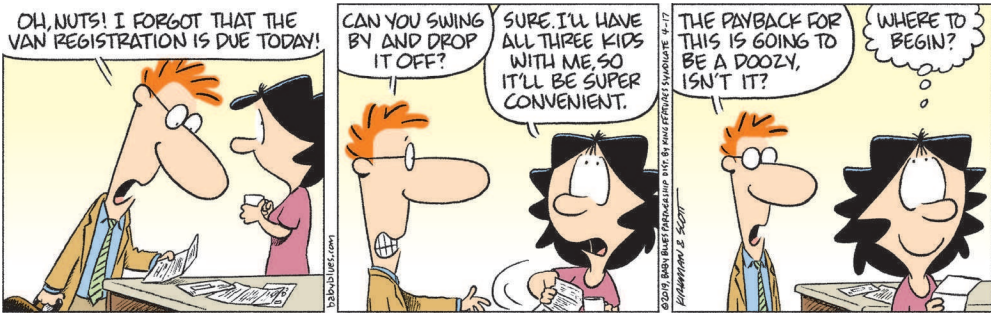
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The epiphany will not be a thunder bolt. It won't come with the opening of clouds and a booming voice from heaven. Rather, it will unfold in stages and a series of ideas, each building on the last.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Motivation is an unreliable fuel source, so don't count on it today. Get started and a half-hour later, motivation may kick in, though it probably won't stay. You don't need it. You can work without it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Prevention isn't glamorous or dramatic. It's the opposite of a story, since you don't really ever know the extent of what you're preventing. Still, you sense it's the better option, and it is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It may not be as clear to you as it really should be, but you need a break. You're like that frog in the pot of water being incrementally raised one degree at a time, so you hardly notice when the cooking starts. Get free.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What if you forgive someone and the person does the exact same thing again? Maybe what's needed is something other than forgiveness. Maybe what's needed is to learn a person's nature and design your part of the relationship accordingly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Like spotty cell-phone service, you'll get moments of clarity and plenty of blanks to fill in, which you're perfectly capable of. Look at this like a puzzle or a game and you'll have some fun with it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll do what you can. It's good enough. It's more than good enough — it's reality. So you may as well accept yourself and feel positively about your contri-

bution. With that mindset, growth will come naturally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To better understand what's going on, you'll slip into a state that's neither logical nor illogical, both of the body and beyond it. You'll do what the spiritual guru calls "entura," meaning "entering the aura."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It won't be enough to face, or even to embrace, your fear. Snuggle it instead. Get very vulnerable. Curl up. Let it envelope you, and do the same back. You are, after all, in this together.

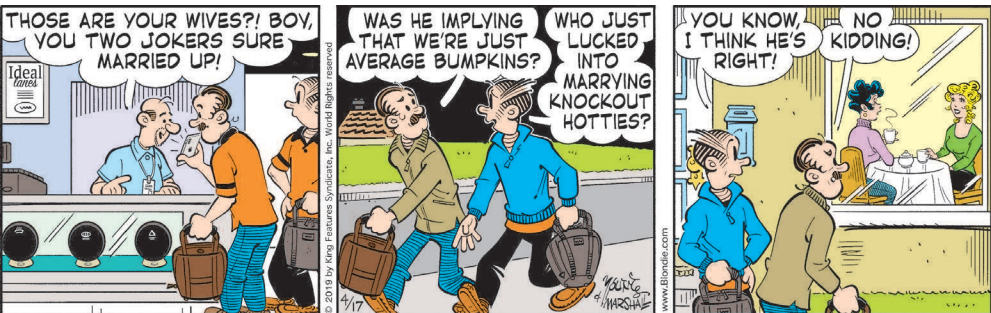
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stay connected to the group even though the project seems to be taking forever. It won't take forever. In a finite amount of time, you will reach the end and reap well-deserved benefits. Keep chipping away at it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can learn something from almost anyone today. You'll use some people as role models and others as reverse role models, as their lives play out like cautionary tales.

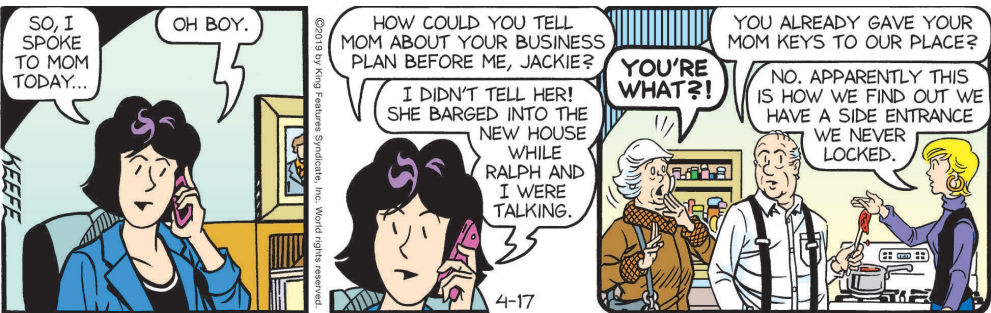
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just as a change in music can switch a movie scene from funny to scary, or create a mood that's epic, folksy or any number of tones, music can also do this in your life. Today it will lighten, lift and inspire you.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 18). This year's sense of forward motion is unparalleled — it's like a theme park ride. You're always on trend or leading the trend. An upgrade to your domestic life leads to more improvements. New relationships have a positive influence on your work and will set you on an adventure in August. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 30, 22 and 19.

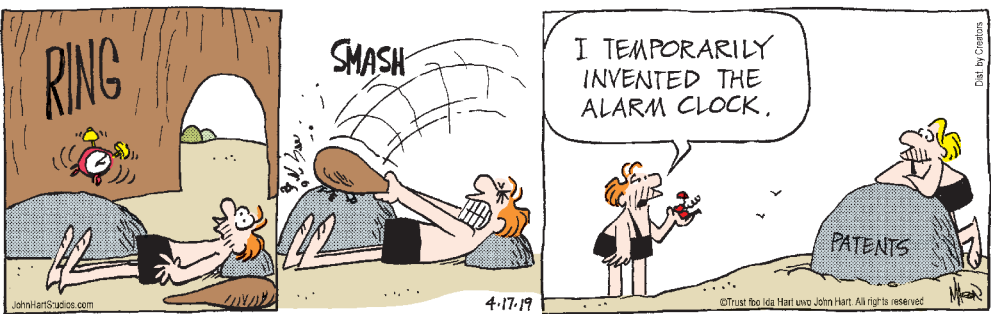
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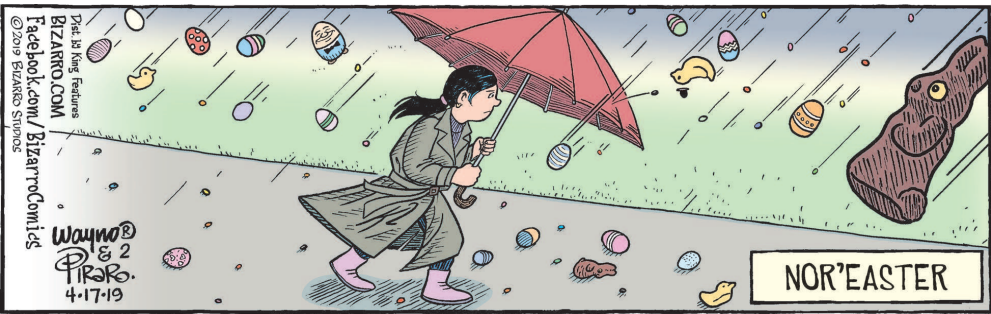
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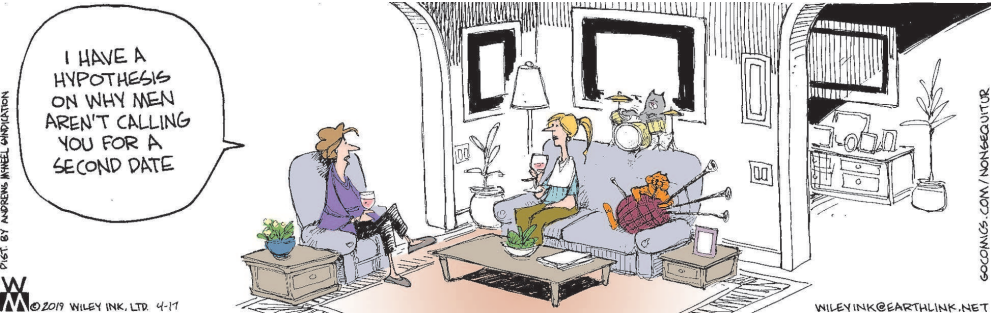
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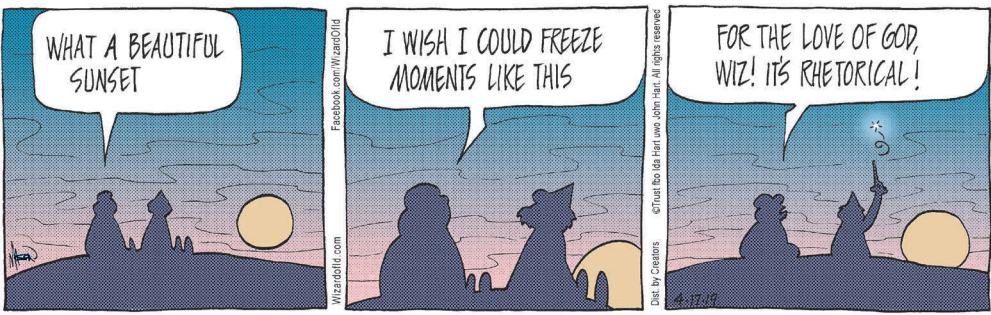
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