Tired of selfish, cruel behavior

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

Dear Annie: My husband's sister controlled his mother's finances. "Carol" paid the nursing home with her mother's credit card and gained reward points, which she used for vacations while Mom was still alive. My husband was the one who handled doctor visits, brought Mom to our home for dinner and did all of the necessary errands. Carol told me she would not care for Mom if her money ran out.

When Mom died, she left a small estate that took Carol over a year to distribute, and she kept a few thousand dollars in a separate account. Carol recently announced that she is going to have a memorial for Mom, and we would rent a nice cottage on a lake so we could scatter Mom's ashes where she had enjoyed many summers. That's fine. But Carol proceeded to put a deposit down on a big cottage, made a list of everyone she wanted to attend and then informed my husband that we would have to get our own cottage at our own expense.

I have never seen my husband so angry and upset. Once he had calmed down, I suggested he call Carol and tell her off. Instead, he said this is just her personality and forget about it.

My husband has always been the whipping boy for Carol. He tells me to find it in my heart to forgive, but I'm tired of forgiving this type of cruel and selfish behavior. I refuse to go to this memorial, because I view it as one last vacation on Mom's dime. I told my husband to go without me, but I know I'll resent it if he goes, and he'll resent me if he stays. I really need some help dealing with this last slap in the face. — *Stunned Once Again*

Dear Stunned: You are thinking of this as a favor for Carol, but it is really for your husband. He wants to attend the memorial and have your emotional support. By refusing, you are only hurting him. Carol won't care whether you are there or not. We agree that she is behaving terribly, but it serves no purpose to rile up your husband by emphasizing Carol's mistreatment and selfishness. It won't change her. It will only make your husband more unhappy. Please go with him and let him deal with Carol as he chooses.

Dear Annie: I am eight months pregnant. It floors me how many friends say, "Wow, you're getting so big" every time I see them. Recently, I overheard someone tell a pregnant woman, "You look a lot bigger than with your last one."

Most women I know are not thrilled about gaining weight, even during pregnancy, and it is easy to be self-conscious about our changing shape. We don't need such insensitive comments. I know these people aren't trying to be hurtful, but who wants to be told they're huge? If it can't pass as a compliment, please keep it to yourself. — *Pregnant Not Fat*

Dear Pregnant: People somehow can't help themselves. They speak before their brains are totally in gear and blurt out offensive comments without meaning to. We hope your letter will encourage folks to think twice, but in the meantime, try to show forbearance. It's good practice for when you are raising children.

Dear Annie: I would like to weigh in on "More Than a Little Grossed Out," whose cousin's 14-year-old son still sleeps with Grandma. The boy may believe this is appropriate because he has been conditioned to think this way by his mother and grandmother. It may have started when he was a hard-to-settle infant and was then perpetuated to satisfy their needs.

Whether or not there is abuse, it is inappropriate and keeps this boy infantilized. I hope the family can see the potential for harm in what they are doing. — *Appalled in Ithaca, N.Y.*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to understand things to get used to them. This truth will show up in your relationships. Your loved one has qualities that baffle you, and eventually those will be the same qualities that endear her to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You appreciate the privileges of your years, of which there are many. Don't spoil this by wishing for a "do-over." The past is gone. Jonathan Swift said, "No wise man ever wished to be younger."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you don't like where the fates are leading you, dig in your heels. Sometimes the fates should be wrestled to the ground — exhausting work, but it makes you stronger, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Put yourself out there with a story about who you are, where you come from and what you want. You'll speak to people's emotions. At the end of your story, the applause will come in the form of an opportunity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not imagining things: Someone is checking you out or putting you to the test. There are good reasons for this. Relax, smile and do your thing. You'll tip the scale in your favor just by being happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're transitioning into a new phase, and there will be some discomfort to go along with it, but nothing you can't handle. You can't be born without going through birth!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). More than the money, the kinship of others is what makes your work joyful. You'll demonstrate your appreciation for your colleagues so that there is no question as to how you feel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your need to communicate is strong, and you'll do it so well. Even that horrible listener you know will pay attention as you engage him or her in the juicy details of your journey.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You believe in the power of love, and you put action behind that belief. It's what will allow you to let go of a problem relationship and adopt an inspired relationship, all with the same person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When it comes to love, you hold out for an equal. You want to be wanted, not needed. There are exceptions to the rule, but for today, hold fast to your preferences and expectations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Before you break out your wallet, ask your friends for help. You can borrow what you need so you don't have to rent or buy it. Also, you may be able to swap instead of shop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No one cares like you do. Someone wants that special kind of attention you give and is too proud to ask for it directly. Address the situation with your renowned sensitivity, and you'll be rewarded in kind.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 3). This year you're grateful not to have everything you need, because the fun is in reaching out and connecting with others. A collaboration that comes together over the next six weeks will bring love and money into your world. You'll ink a deal in May. July is your chance on the world stage or at the higher levels of a difficult endeavor. Sagittarius and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 28, 9, 44 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST

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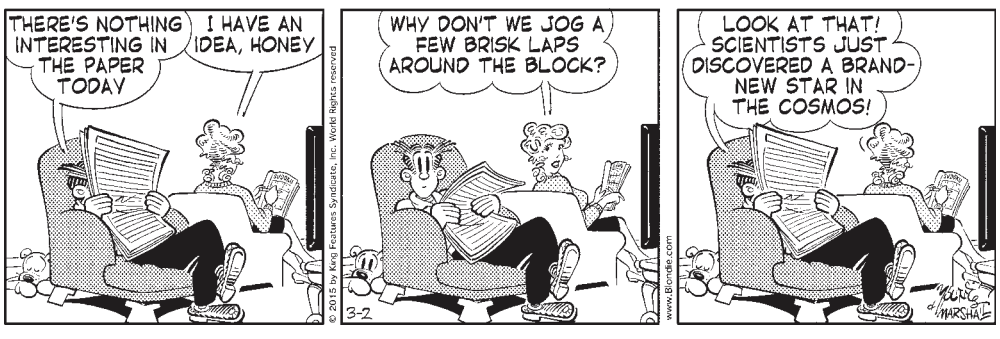

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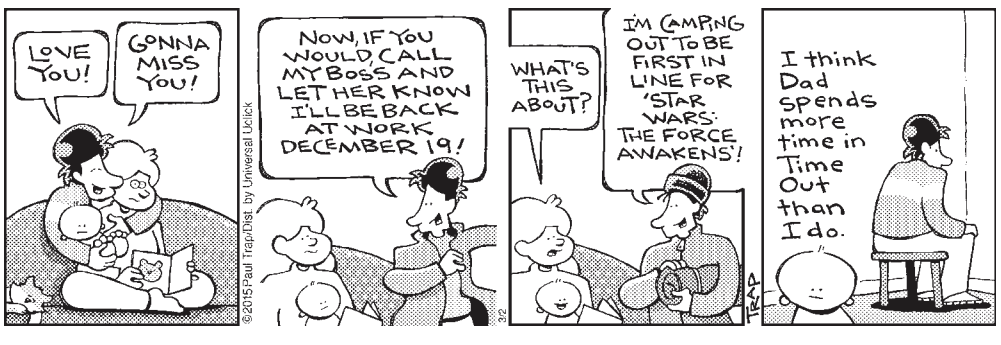

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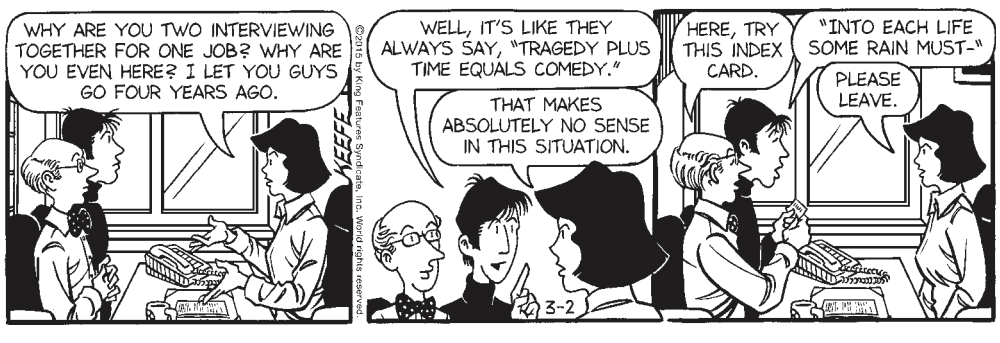

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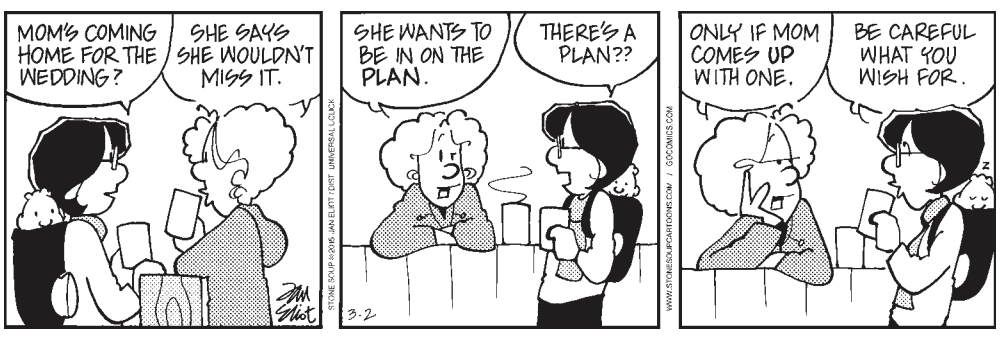

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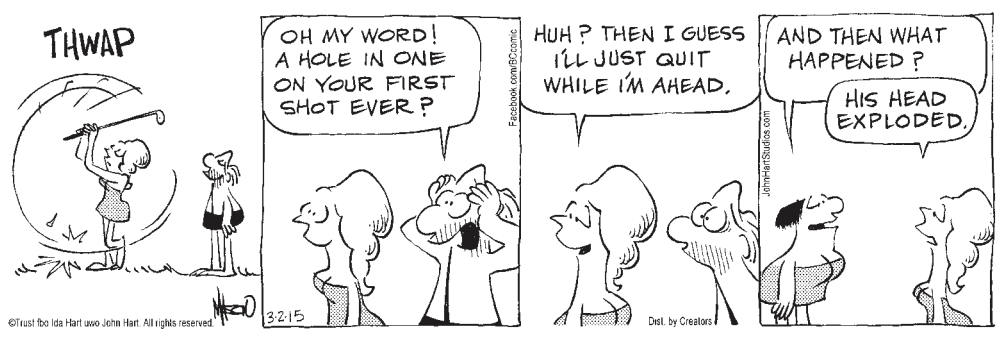

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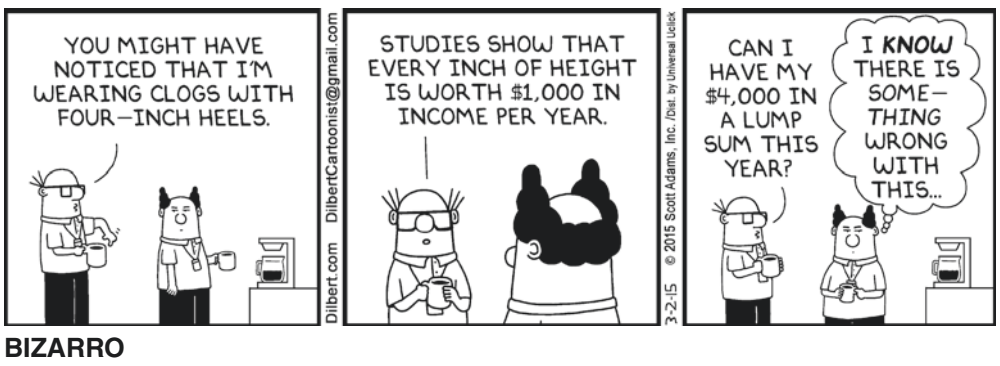

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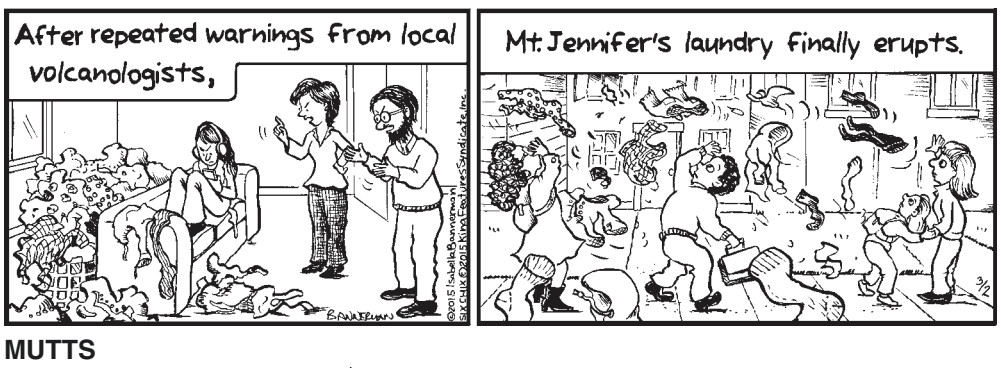

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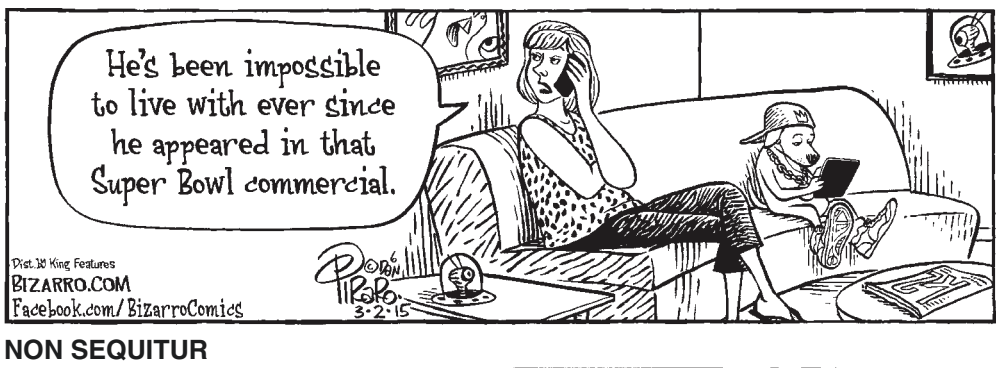

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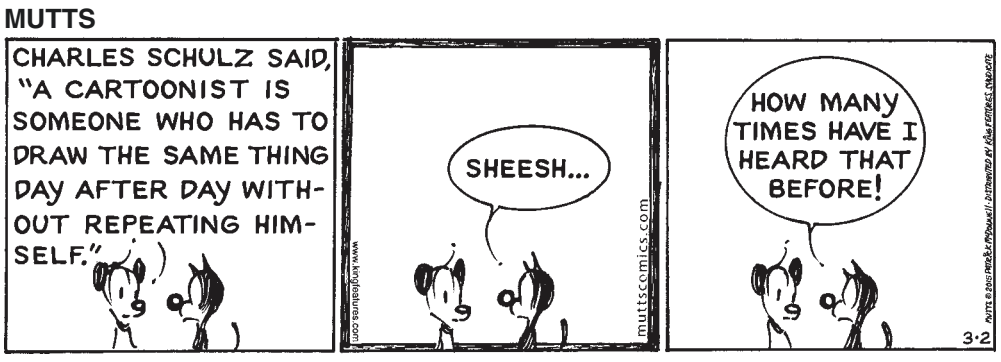

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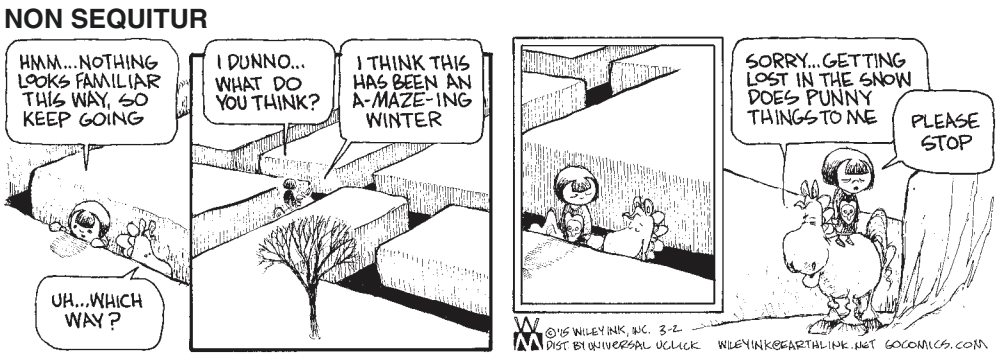

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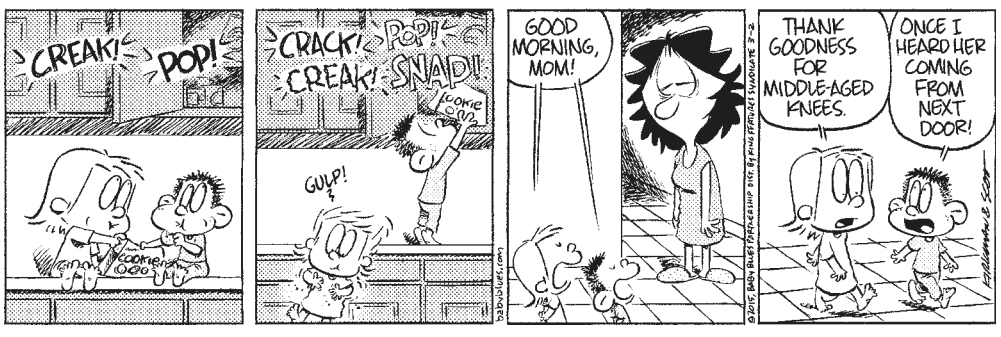

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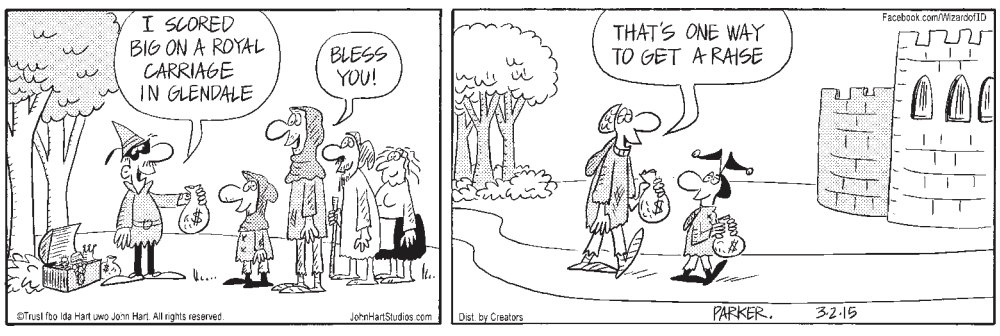

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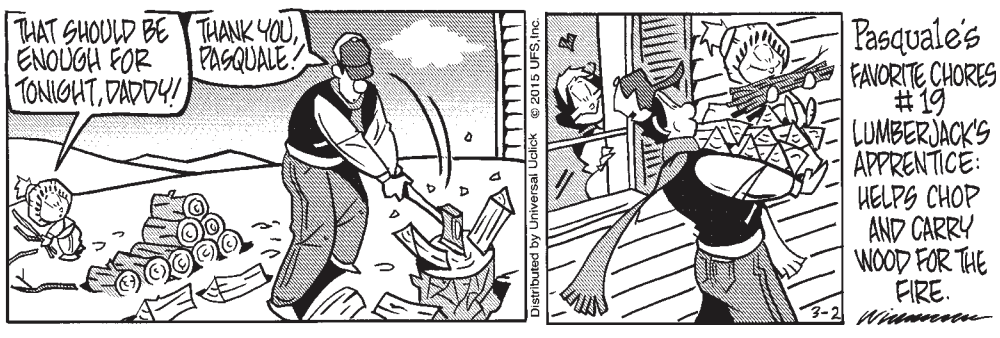
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