

She's looking for greener pastures

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I married "Oliver" 20 years ago, and we moved to a small Midwestern city where Oliver was offered a well-paying job. I'm impressed with my husband's "staying power" and am proud that he's been able to keep this job through thick and thin. However, his pay leveled out a few years ago, and he hasn't had an appreciable raise in many years. Our cost of living, however, has increased.

This is not an area where I can easily find a job in my chosen career. I've been fortunate to be able to work from home while raising our children, but the oldest will be out of high school in June. I've been unhappy here the entire time we've lived in this town. It's a declining area, there is no job growth, and travel can be impossible in the winter because of the snow and ice.

I've tried to "grow where I'm planted," getting involved in the community and the school, but I'm dying on the vine. I've had enough. I want to move to a more vibrant area, a better climate, and a place where I have more employment options. Oliver, however, has no interest in relocating.

I want to be out of here within five years, when our youngest child finishes high school. But Oliver is a homebody and doesn't like change. We can't afford a second home or an annual winter vacation. If Oliver won't go, I'm considering leaving on my own. I've put in my time,



Dear Annie: I am a great-grandmother who left an abusive husband in the 1960s. My children were sexually abused by him. We have all been in counseling. I have uncovered intergenerational abuse in both my family and my ex-husband's family. Domestic abuse has also been found in the homes of my

children and grandchildren. I am presently doing all I can to protect the great-grandchildren. My ex-husband is planning a trip to see the family, and I have warned all the parents not to leave their children alone with him and explained why. He may be 80, but he is still capable of offending. As loving grandparents, we must do all we can to protect the children. The healing is long-term. — *BC Canada*

Dear Canada: Your family seems to have had some major issues with abuse that have persisted through the generations. We are glad all of you have had counseling. You also are wise to protect the great-grandchildren from your ex-husband, even though such information is often difficult to convey and believe.

Dear Annie: Your answer to "Brokenhearted in Florida" was much too nice. I don't know what her circumstances were when she gave up her son, but to give up a child at age 4 is pretty harsh. Telling him he should have contacted her sooner is just an excuse to avoid contact and is so cruel that I can't wrap my head around it.

It can take years to track down birth parents. "Brokenhearted" sounds like a cold woman without empathy. Maybe she deserves to feel a small bit of what her son has been feeling all these years. — *Stunned in Pittsburgh*

and he's had his career. When is it my turn? — *Stuck in the Midwest*

Dear Stuck: You have five years to get Oliver ready for a change of scenery. Start to research areas that appeal to you and that also offer job opportunities for Oliver. Look into housing prices, cost of living and community organizations. Try to take at least one vacation in the area to see whether it meets your expectations. Then inform Oliver that this is where you would like to move and when. Bring it up every few months, showing him your "new neighborhood" and the things you will do there. Make it familiar to him, and he will be more amenable to going there.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't want them to feel overly persuaded by you, because you know they'll push back. That's why you might act like you don't want the choice you advocate or that it hurts you personally to want it. Tricky, but effective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your influence is strong in part because people trust you to do what's good for the majority instead of only what's good for you. Luckily, today your interests align perfectly with the better half of the group.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have the situational awareness of Jason Bourne now and can apply it to solve the mystery of what's really going on in your environment, as well as the deeper question of "Who am I?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Every person has a set of behaviors that he or she would normally enact in a given situation. When someone departs from this baseline of activity, it's a clue for you and a signal to figure out what's really going on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Like the seasoned performers know, the best show in the world can go unappreciated by the wrong audience. Market what you do so you can find your right audience.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Most people around you are just like you: trying to get along. That's why the person exhibiting dominant behaviors feels threatening. It's worth paying attention to, because if you can put this person at ease, it will be good for all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's obvious (and repellent) to you when another person is trying too hard. That's why whenever you feel like you're edging toward this state, you take a few steps back, regain your compo-

sure and reframe the situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so bright and imaginative that you need interesting challenges to keep your mind busy. You'll struggle when the environment is dull. The best thing to do is plan your escape.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's good to know your weaknesses, but don't change a thing until you've first considered the advantage that lies within each weakness and how you counter it with a strength.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As you take in the view, you can't help but wonder whether you're looking for and paying attention to the right things. Stay relaxed and alert. Don't doubt for a minute that something inside you knows the right answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There will be those around you who talk a good game, but you have a special talent for spotting posers, frauds and wannabes. You may heroically intervene for someone who isn't as savvy as you.

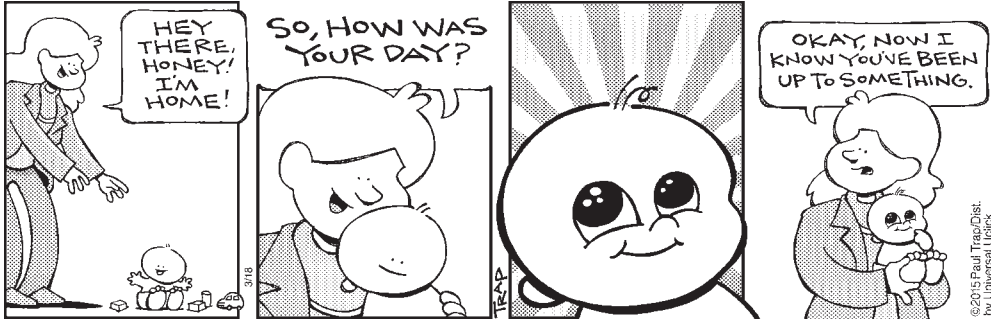
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When it's their job, their desire or their duty to take care of you, let them. If it's their obligation, however, pass on the care. It's likely to be tainted and costly.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19). Your intellectual interests are pathways to many forms of riches. April will demand practical action and follow-through. You'll reach an important milestone by May. Complicated relationships will smooth out in June. Brilliant joint ventures will mix love and business. July brings an important step forward in love. Libra and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 11, 37, 14 and 17.

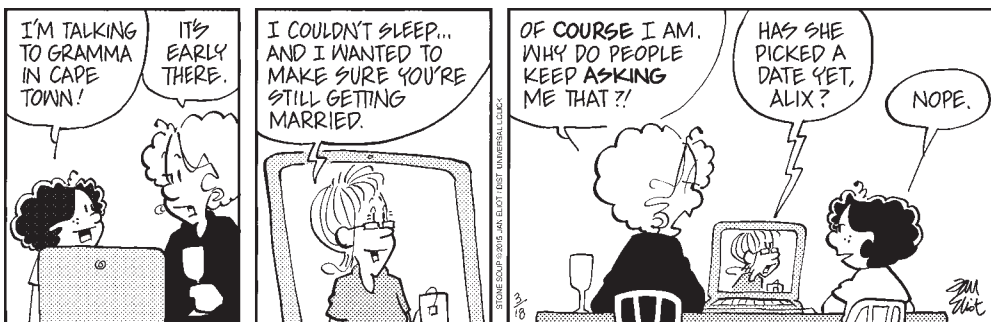
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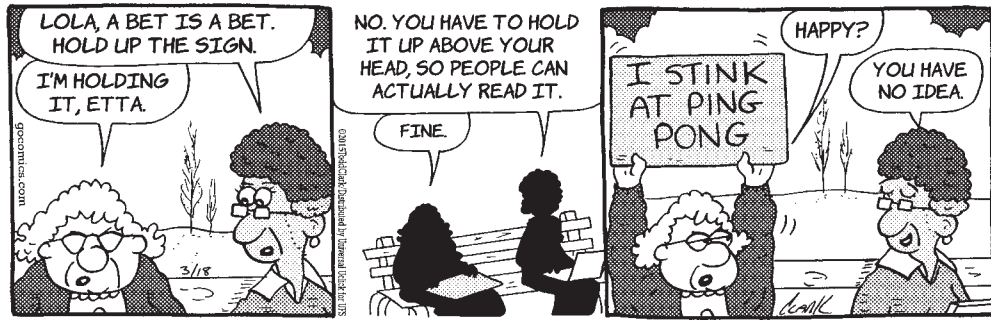
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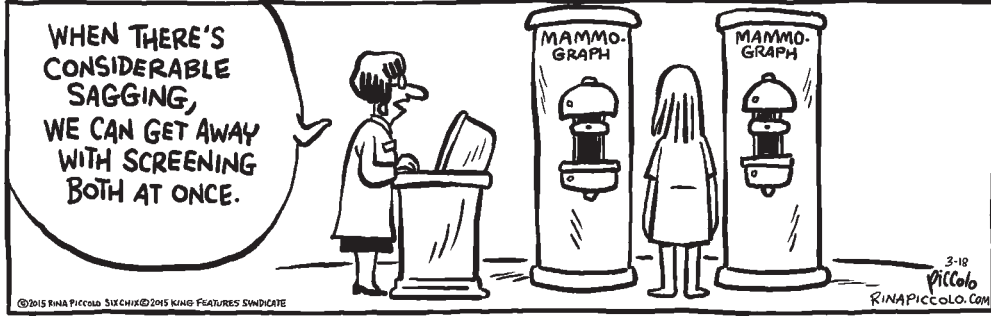
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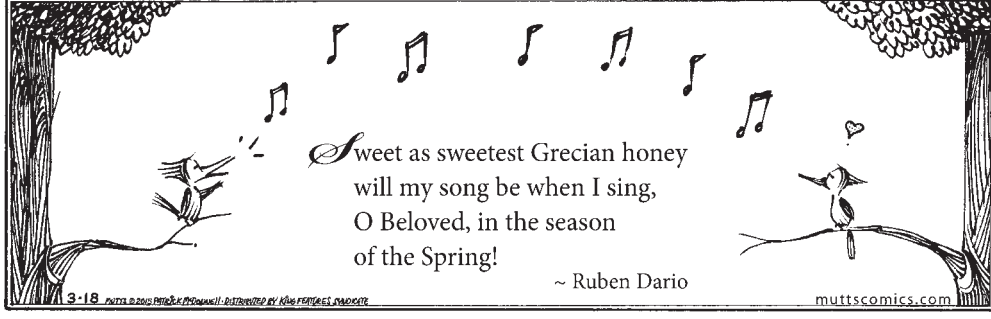
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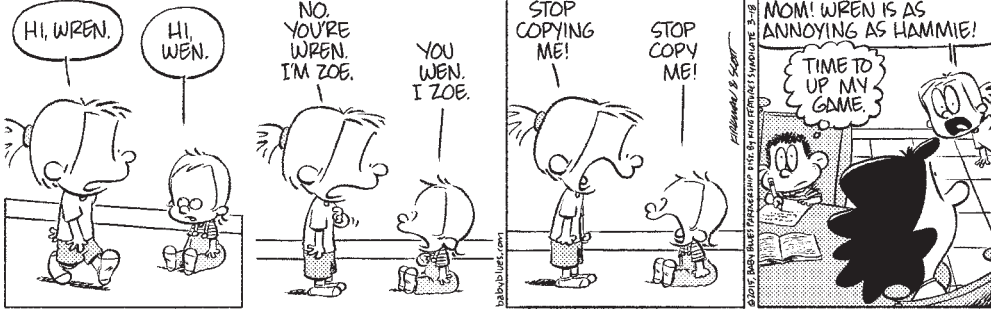
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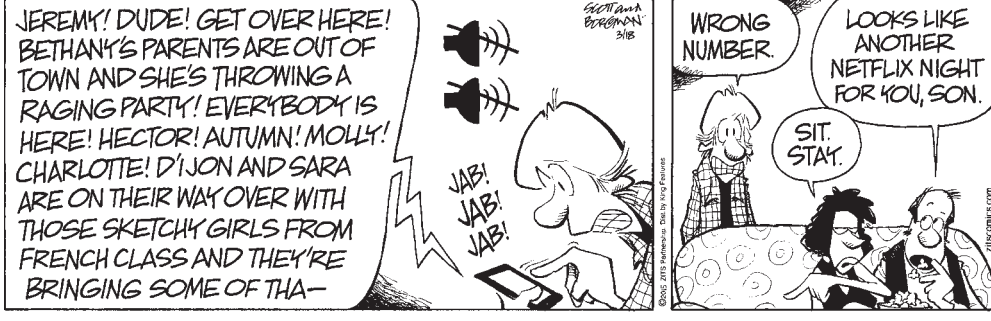
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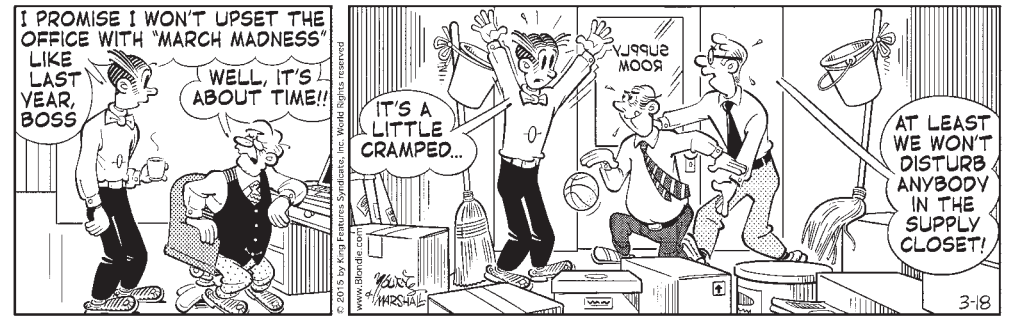
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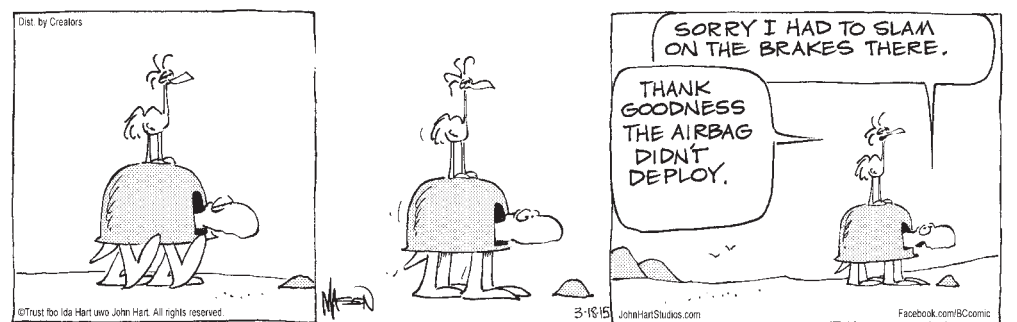
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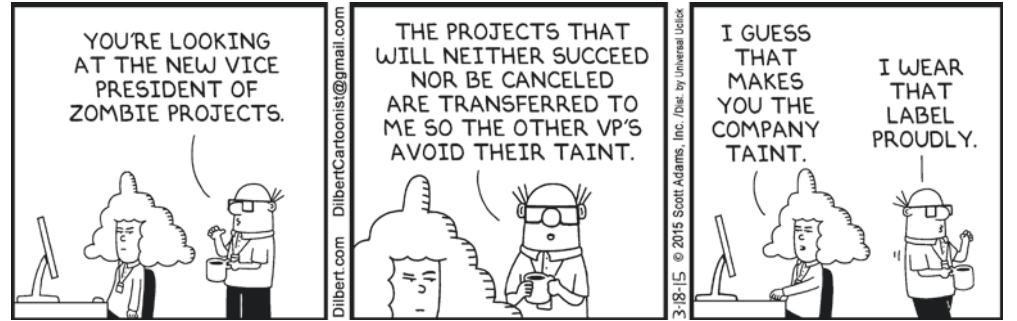
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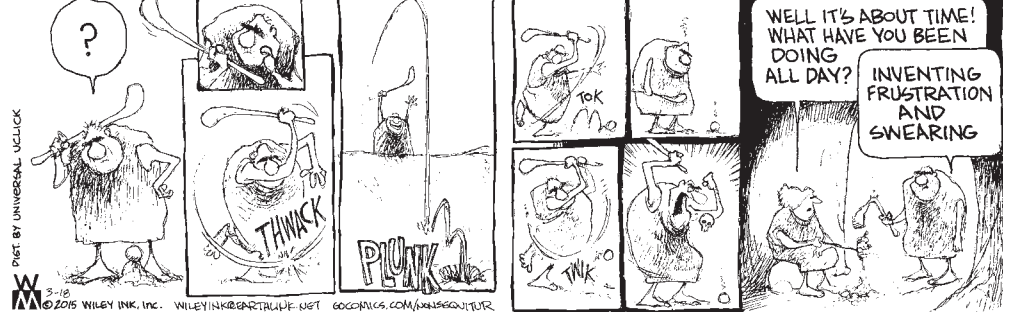
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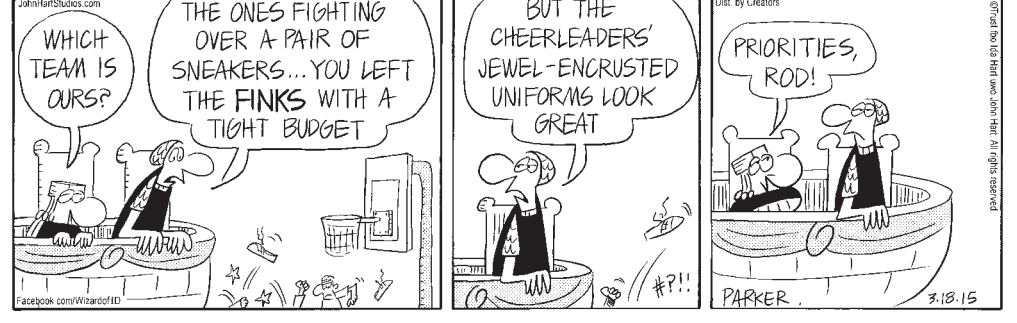
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