

Man left for 'vulgar' lady

Dear Annie: After 14 years of marriage, my husband, "Ron," left me for another woman. Here's how it happened: For several years, friends had dinner with us once a week. One day, they brought along "Fran," a recently widowed woman they took under their wing. Ron initially told me he found her vulgar, overweight, unattractive and heavily tattooed. Fran talked non-stop about herself, bragging about her time in a biker club where she enjoyed "getting wasted on drugs and having random sex," a lifestyle she wanted to get back into.

Within weeks, Ron changed his tune about Fran. He decided she was "cool," and he, too, wanted a life that included drugs and random sex. He and Fran began to text and call each other daily, often right in front of me. Ron began to find fault with everything I said or did, and criticized me to others. He even assaulted me physically and then stopped speaking to me for months. Finally, he left and moved in with Fran.

Annie, I did everything for Ron. I helped support us with my full-time job while doing all the cooking and cleaning. Our sex life was great. I kept myself slim and attractive.

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



Nearly a year after Ron left, he begged me for forgiveness, and I agreed to let him come home provided he got into anger management counseling. I also told him if he ever assaulted me verbally or physically again, I would terminate the marriage. With counseling, Ron became a different man, loving and supportive, and very apologetic. But to this day, he has been unable to tell me what he found so provocative about Fran, a woman he now says he abhors.

Why would a man leave a loving relationship for one that is so destructive? If any of the men in your reading audience have done this, could they tell me why? And were they happy? — *Waiting for Answers*

Dear Waiting: We don't believe Fran was the attraction. We

think it was the promise of her lifestyle that he found fascinating, exciting and freeing. But it turned out to be something much less appealing in practice. We are glad Ron has become a better husband, and if our readers have more to say, we'll be happy to print it.

Dear Annie: What a kind gesture "Heartbroken Brother-in-Law" did by ordering vases of his wife's ashes to be given to his wife's sisters. It's a shame they thought it was in poor taste and now the relationship is damaged.

When my sister died a few years ago, we didn't know this was an option. Her son took the urn back to his home state. He didn't do this selfishly, of course, but all of us who loved her would have been so grateful to have had that remembrance. Please tell "Heartbroken" that he was indeed thoughtful and kind. — *Louisville, Ky*

Dear Louisville: Several readers suggested the sisters may have had religious reasons to reject the remains, but we think a brother-in-law of 60 years would know whether this was the case. We hope their relationship has been repaired.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Things do not always run smoothly for you, but today they run right. You'll be glad about how it all shakes out. The important part is that you keep believing in the benevolent process of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't plan your own delight — it will happen by surprise. You can, however, put yourself in circumstances in which you are more likely to be surprised.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Once again, you've set your sights on a lofty destination. Too lofty? No. If your wings can take you there, then it's not too high for you. You'll handle this one wing-flap at a time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In a sense, you feel that life is scolding you. It's not. It's just caring for you the way a good parent does, trying to correct you when you stray slightly from the path.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Mostly the best things are made slowly and painfully. If that's how you feel your "thing" is being made, count yourself among the fortunate. This is going to turn out well for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Find a new model. The one you're chasing isn't worthy. Whether this is business or personal, the answer is the same. You're bringing something unique, and a generic model is never going to encompass all you can do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The good thing about connecting with people from your past is that they knew you before these trials and victories shaped you. They help you to meet yourself as you were, which will be interesting for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Anyone who thinks it's so easy to sell out isn't in touch with sales in general. It's rarely easy to make a sale. There's work that goes into finding the right product for the market. You'll do the work and win.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The person who dares to alter the power balance in relationships must be brave, indeed. People hate this. Maybe change is necessary, and if so, go carefully. A power balance is nothing to take lightly.

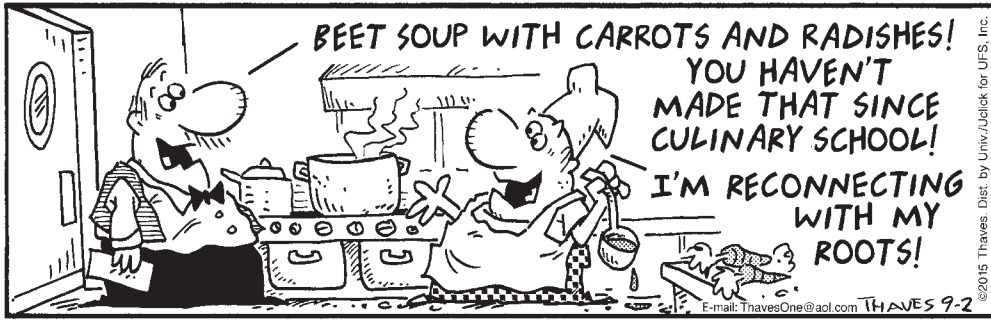
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will feel like you don't have any control over the flow of ideas today, and maybe you don't. The quality of the idea will make itself known over time. For now, it's enough just to keep track. Document your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Those who buy tickets to the circus should not be too surprised to find themselves interacting with clowns. This is the day to sit back and enjoy the entertainment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your tone will make or break your argument today. Strong messages are best sent with dulcet tones, and weak messages can be made more interesting with emphasis.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 3). After you've said and done what you needed to say and do, you'll do more. More matters. Your willingness to go the extra mile is what will form tighter bonds and forge new relationships. November and May are your best months to invest your time and energy in a new business. Wedding bells ring in July. Taurus and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 31, 21, 28 and 14.

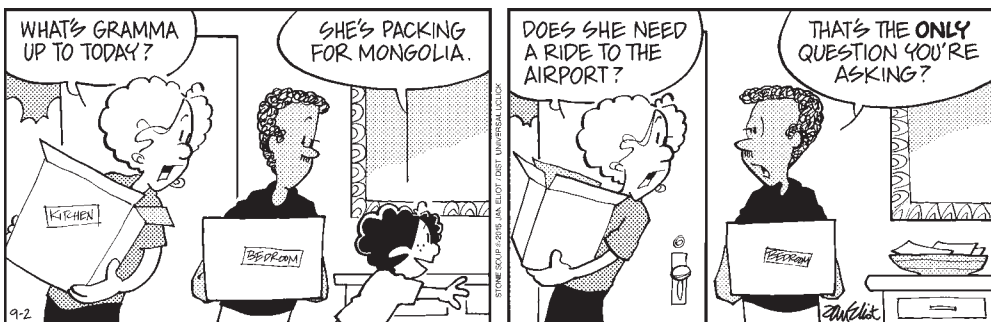
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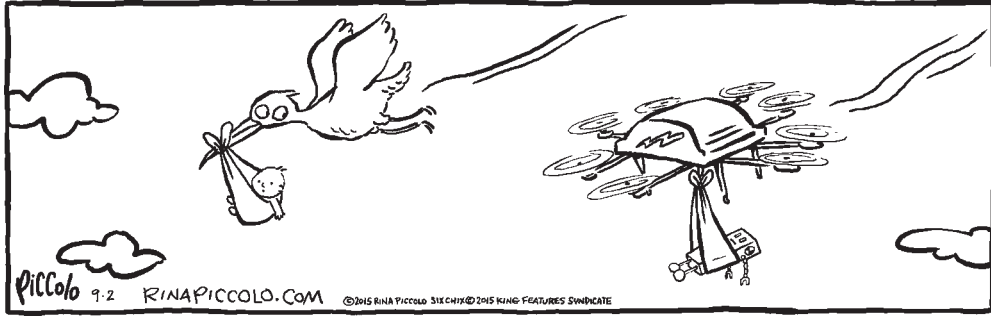
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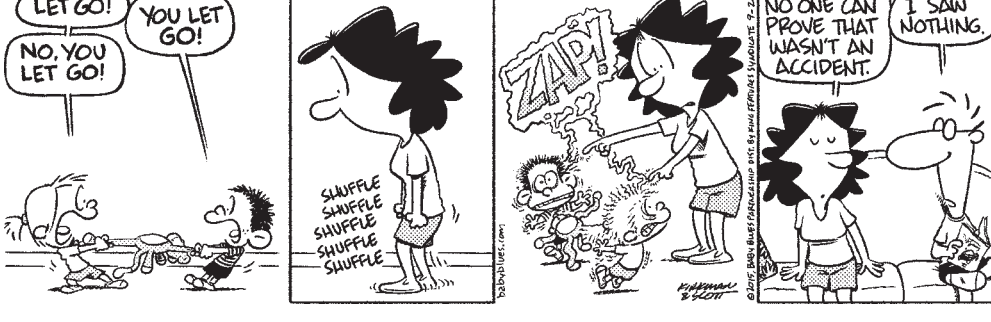
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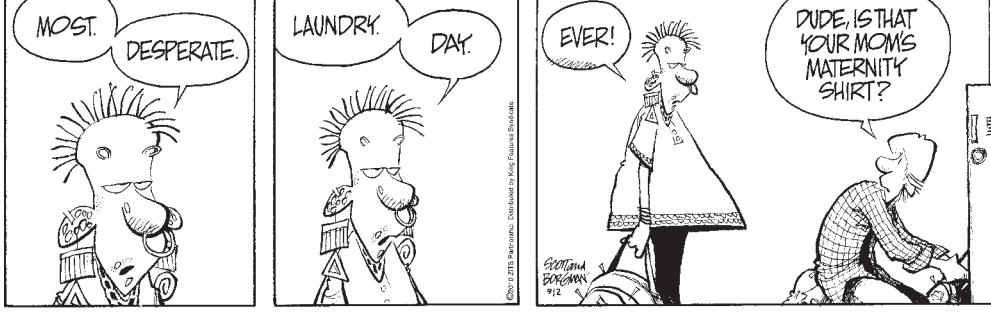
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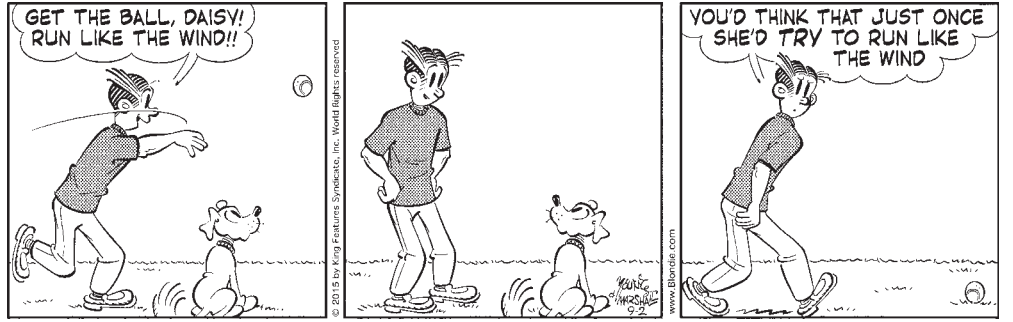
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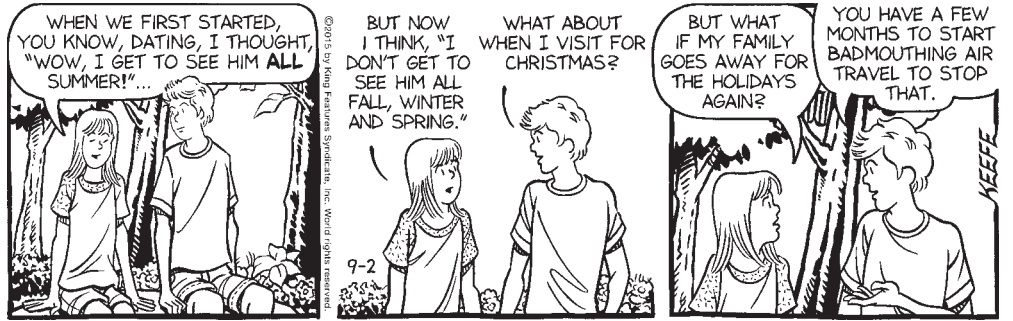
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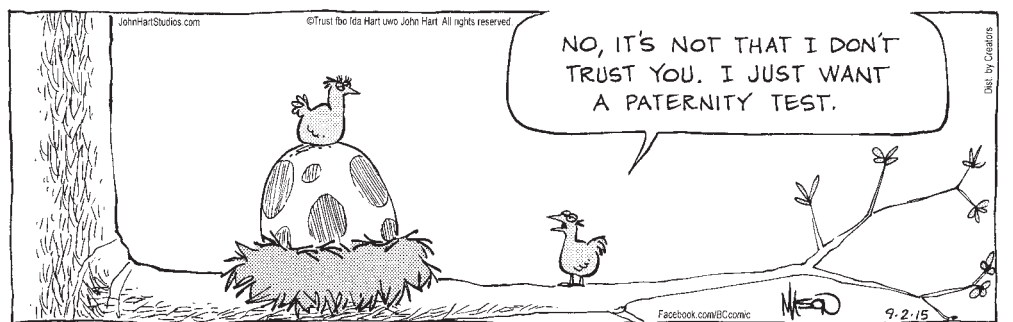
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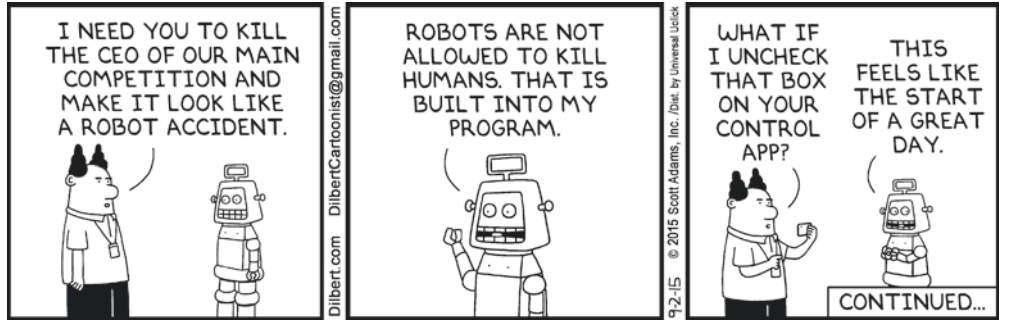
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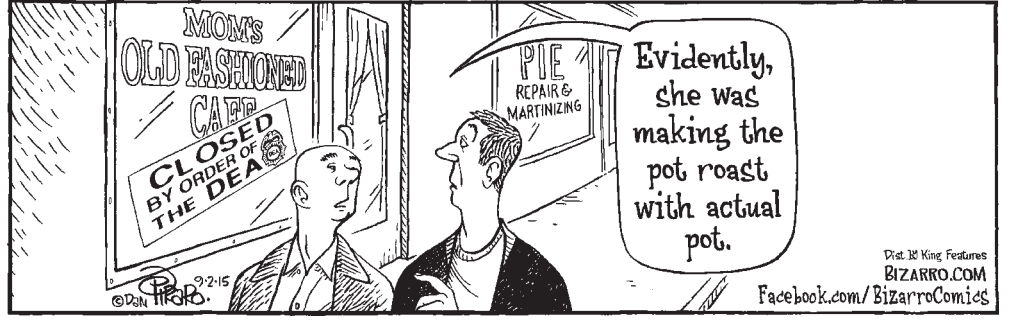
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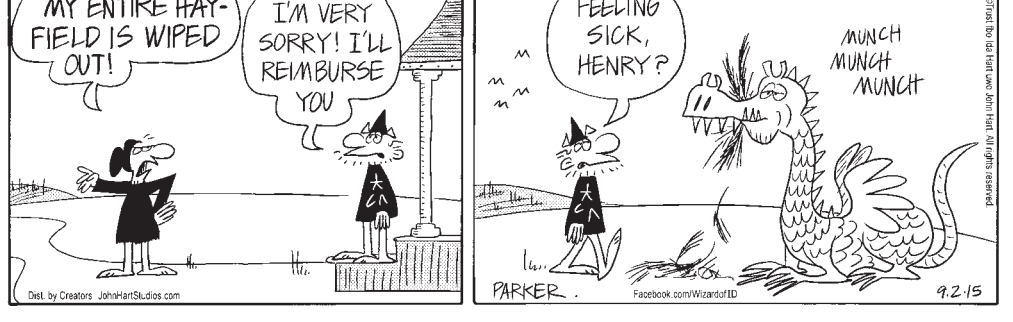
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