Grandma mad about presents

Annie's Mailbox
Creators Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

Dear Annie: My ex-son-in-law has temporary custody of my granddaughter, "Cathy," who is 8. Every time I buy her something, she wants to leave it at my house. I couldn't understand why so I asked her father. He said it was because Cathy had overheard him talking to his ex (my daughter), fussing that Cathy would lose things they bought her, or she would forget to bring the item back to the parent's house where it belonged when she stayed overnight with the other parent.

I think the problem is that Cathy has her mom and three sets of grandparents who buy her things, and Dad now has a stepdaughter who doesn't get much (if anything) from her father or grandparents. She is 3 years older than Cathy.

I don't think Cathy needs to be punished because her stepsister doesn't have much of a relationship with her family. Any help would be appreciated. — *Sad Nana*

Dear Nana: You have no cause to be sad. Cathy isn't being "punished." Your ex-son-in-law is trying to be kind to his stepdaughter. It must be terribly hurtful for her to see how much Cathy is indulged when she is neglected. You should absolutely get on board with this. Tell Cathy you think it's a great idea for her to keep those gifts in your house so she can use them when she visits. Put a positive spin on it. Make those presents special "Grandma" things. Your job is to provide a place of stability and calm for Cathy, not to undermine her father's decision to limit how many presents are at his house, whatever the reason.

Dear Annie: I recently stopped at my husband's office and needed to use the bathroom. I was so angry when I noticed a calendar that had half-naked women on it. My husband thinks the calendar is OK, but now I feel as though I'm not good enough or pretty enough for him.

There are only men who work in this office, and he says the calendar belongs to everyone. He's the boss. I want it down! Am I being silly? — *Outraged in Pennsylvania*

Dear Outraged: You're not being silly, but you are totally out of line. This is not your office. You don't work there. If there were female employees, then your husband would be wise to remove the calendar lest he be sued for creating a hostile work environment. Or, if it were common practice for female clients to stop by and use the restroom where they would see the calendar and become upset, it would be smart to get rid of it. But since only men work there and women don't generally visit, this is none of your business.

Girlie calendars have been around forever. We agree that they are sophomoric, but guys have always liked to look. It has nothing to do with your husband not finding you "pretty enough." Please put your insecurities away and stop telling him how to run his office. It will only lead to trouble. For you.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't need to travel the world to know the value of what you have at home. You appreciate the many gifts of domestic life, and outside influences only enhance your knowledge and appreciation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The way to security is through insecurity. Maybe feeling insecure is a good thing. It means you're doing the things that help you seek the confidence and emotional tools you need to succeed in different arenas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The conditions around you are dominated by the dominant and most assertive character in the group. So, what do you think of what's happening? If it doesn't suit you, it's time to consider a coup.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Praise does something to your spirit to help you grow into the form you'd like to take in this world. As you soak up the high praise presented to you you'll also be learning how to give such a gift to others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Is wishing foolish? Only if you leave it at that. And your mind is practically incapable of leaving it at that! Once a wish crosses your mental screen, part of you begins unraveling the mystery of it and figuring out what it will take to bring it to fruition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your love of the truth is what makes you funny today. You're not trying to make anyone laugh; it's just the pleasant byproduct of your attempt to sort through the muck and get to what's real.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not exactly seeing eye-to-eye with a loved one, but this might just be the blessing that keeps you from arguing with one another. "For if, by ill luck, people understood each other, they would never agree!" — Charles Baudelaire

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You won't be able to do exactly as you like, but this will keep you on a good path, the one that draws up your highest and best. You'll be surprised at how much fun you can wring out of this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whatever the popular opinion is, you can bet that it's not well-founded, and there's a variety of other reasons that make it a dangerous thing to join into today.

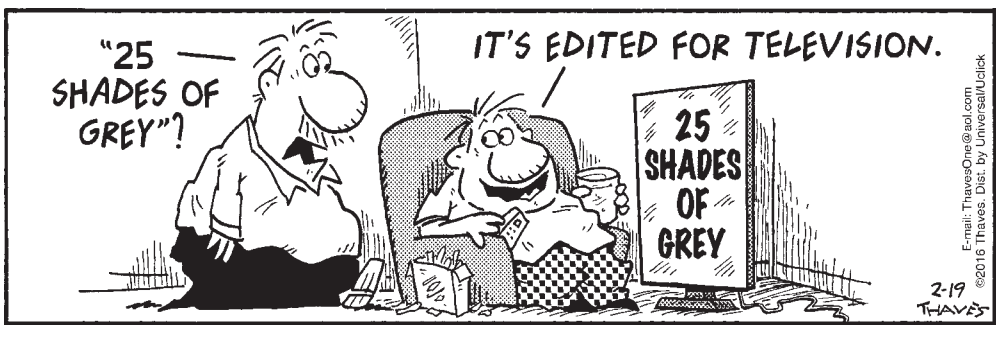
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In order to take advantage of the opportunity at hand, you might need funds, you might not. Stay open minded about this. Be ready for either way. If you don't have the money, start thinking of how you might get it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Figuring out what you really want will take some time, but it will be well worth your while to consider, point by point, the things that might make you happy. You're likely to get much from your list.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've given much to someone who may, at this time, be incapable of returning the energy. The boomerang of karma sometimes comes back from a different direction than the one in which it was tossed.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 20). You have all the best ideas and that's why the group forms around you over the next three weeks. April lines your pockets with all you need to invest in a business. Use this well, because when you mix ingenuity into the equation the result is a June excitement explosion. September brings a written commitment. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 14, 33 and 17.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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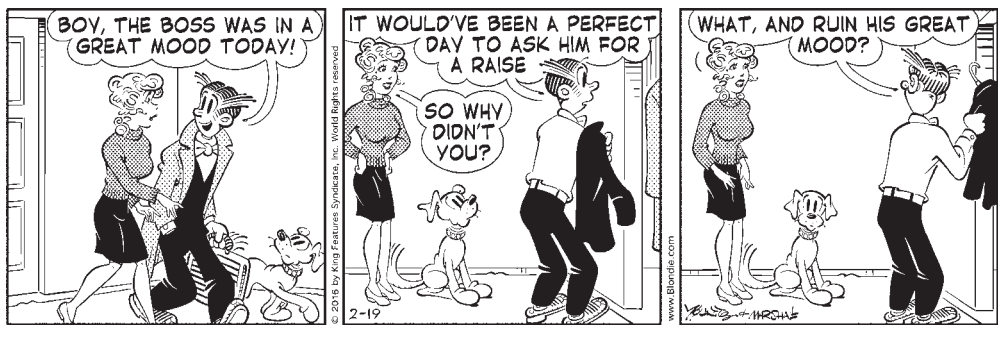

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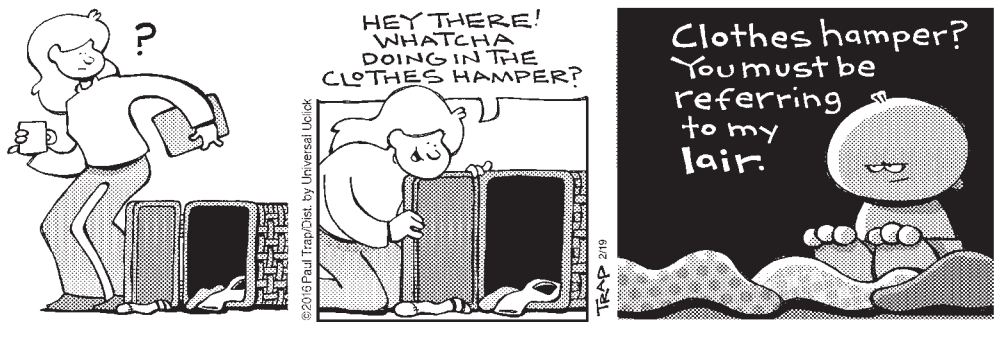

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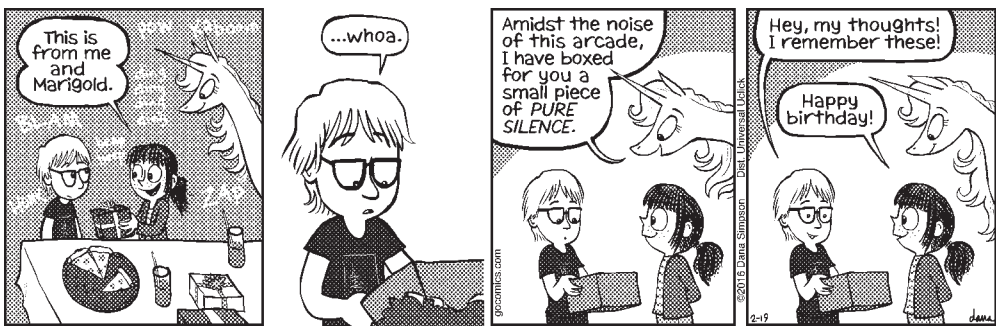

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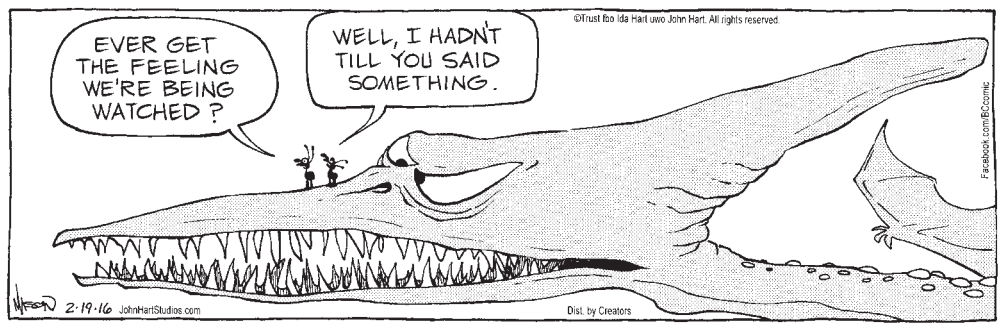

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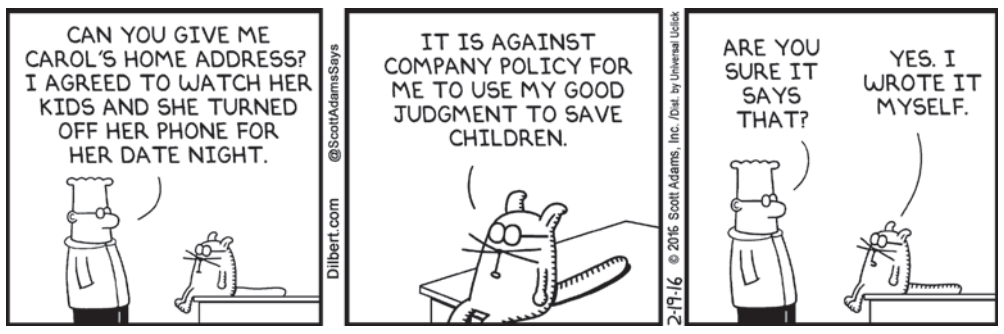

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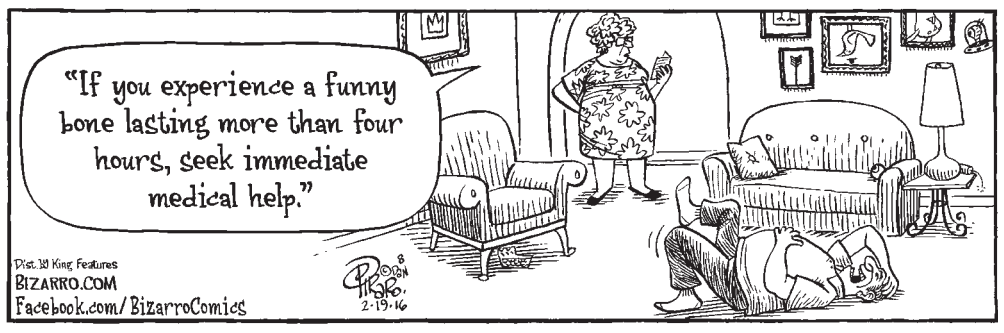

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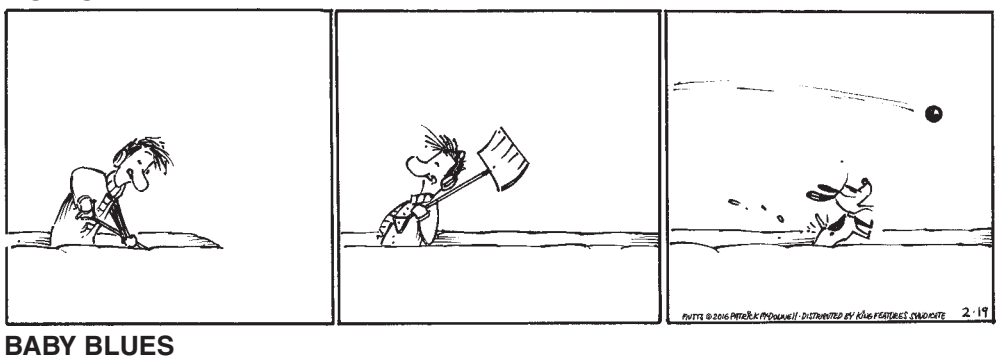

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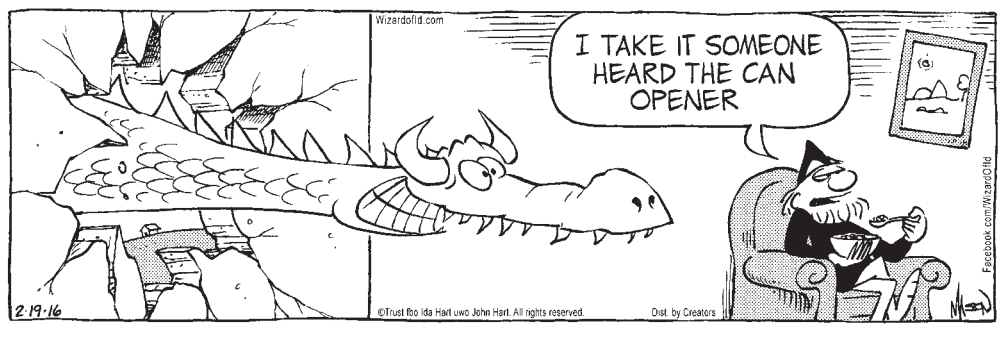

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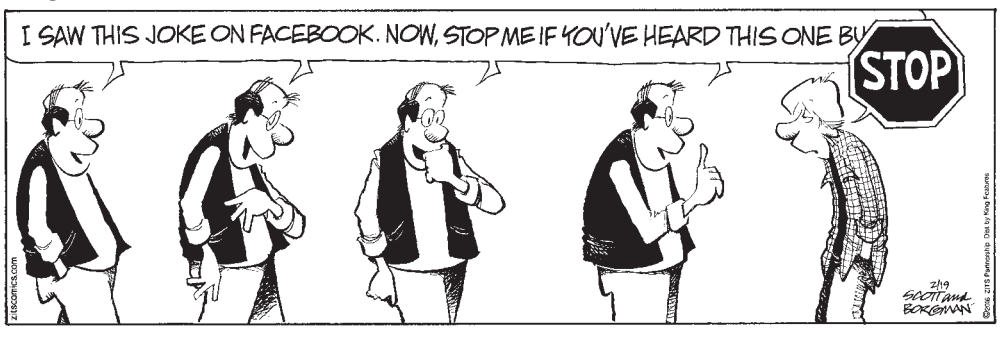
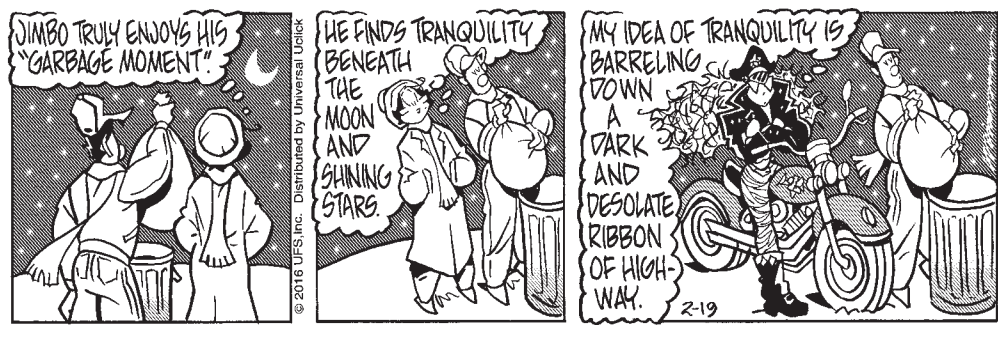
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