

Teen has troubled friendships

Dear Annie: I have three best friends. We are juniors in high school and like sisters. Two weeks ago, "Jessica" and "Lucy" got into a fight because Jessica didn't like Lucy's driving. When I suggested that most people don't take well to criticism, Jessica refused to talk to me. The next day, she sent a long text message to Lucy and me, saying we are "always mean and heartless" to her. She sent me a separate text listing all the little things I do that bother her.

I apologized to Jessica, saying it was not intentional and that I would try to be more aware of my responses to her. We are in a lot of classes together and eventually, she started being sugary sweet to me. Meanwhile, Lucy confided that her parents are having horrible problems and then she swore me to secrecy. I felt loyal to Lucy, and didn't really warm up to Jessica's overtures.

Today, a classmate informed me that Lucy is dating my ex-boyfriend. Lucy claims she didn't tell me because she thought I'd be angry. Annie, I don't care about my ex and it doesn't bother me if they date. What bothers me is that Lucy hid it instead of telling me and asking if it was OK. After the

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



way I've tried to be loyal to her, this is like a stab in the back. Are these friendships over? — *Kylie*

Dear Kylie: Maybe. You sound like a sensible person with some difficult friends. One seems oversensitive and the other self-involved. But this is not unusual during high school. With the normal ups and downs of adolescence, along with hormonal changes, relationships can be challenging. These changes are indications of personal growth and maturity, and not all friendships survive the transition.

We recommend you be as tolerant as possible while Jessica and Lucy sort out their own struggles. Be supportive and kind, but you shouldn't have to walk on eggshells. And please find people you can count on to be supportive and kind to you, even if it means

broadening your circle of friends.

Dear Annie: I thought you offered good advice to "Just Wondering," who came home after a week away to find that her house sitters had used all her stuff, including food, laundry supplies, shampoo and hand lotion.

I have need of a house/pet sitter from time to time and here is how I adjust my attitude: When someone stays in your home and takes care of your pet, your pet does not have to cope with the stress of being moved to an unfamiliar location. Your pet also doesn't have to sleep in a crate. Additionally, kennels run around \$200 per week for cats, plus additional fees for exercise, treats, etc. It is also much safer to have the house occupied than empty, not only to discourage burglars, but also to catch a burst pipe or broken furnace early enough to save thousands.

Next time, she should put most supplies in a locked closet. Leave some food and necessities for the house sitters, but don't go overboard. Be grateful you have friends so willing to look out for you. Granted, using all of your stuff is weird, but it's not worth losing a friendship. — *A Different Perspective*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Things should work right. That's why you don't like to be persuaded to buy extended warranties or fussy maintenance accessories. Maybe things that are too difficult to keep up aren't worth the trouble of having.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just when it seems like you've an endless capacity for forgiving the foibles of your people, you may surprise all by taking umbrage at something rather small. This will keep them from taking you for granted!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The ideas that come to you for other people need to be expressed. They probably won't be immediately appreciated but think of it this way: You wouldn't acquire a present, wrap it and then not give it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone you used to see as a competitor will now be a top resource for whatever you need. It turns out you were always on the same side, but your vantage point didn't make it seem that way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you're feeling energetic, sluggish, inspired, tired, enthused or used, you'll work on. Because of your "never say die" attitude, you'll go to bed tonight knowing the prize is in your hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've held off sharing your idea, fantasy scenario or vivid imagination too long, but the fear is gone now. There's no reason you should care what they think! If they're as smart as you, they'll totally get it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As exciting and dynamic as a relationship may be, you wonder in private moments whether or not you are really connecting, or just experiencing

things together, each in your own private way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not what you give or even the way that you give it today — it's who you are. You can't help the rest. You've come to this place with your choices, and now you simply are the good deed that shines through the weary world!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whether or not "manager" is officially in your job title, managing people will be critical to your success today. Communicating effectively is a huge component of this, as is making sure you're all after the same goal.

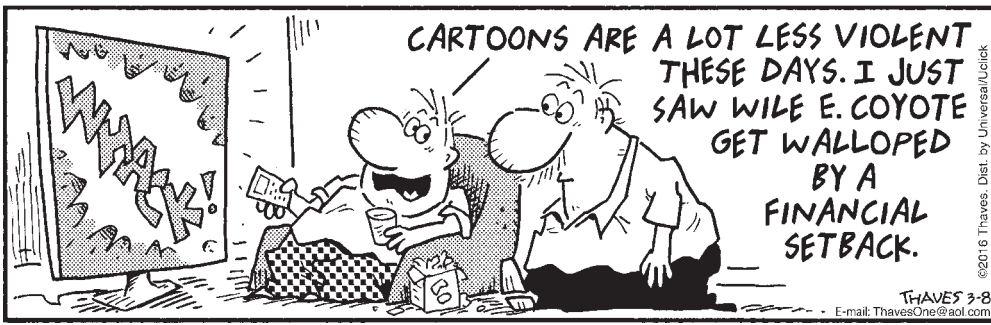
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Happiness is a goal that is only loosely definable and hardly quantifiable. Yet, if you're not happy, what does it matter what other definable and quantifiable achievements you have?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). They want more of you. They'll try to get you to show up here and there and stay for longer than you want to. Well, it's not your fault that there's only one of you to go around. It's just the way it is!

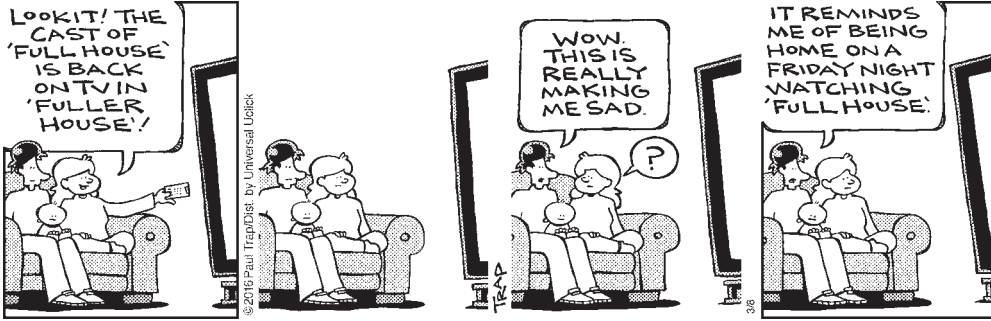
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Language is always evolving and so are the other methods and tools we use to understand one another. Because you keep learning about communication and improving your effectiveness, you'll get more of what you need.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9). Before things get interesting (and they will), it's important to remember to cherish eventless times! Lightness and triviality is a rare and beautiful thing in any lifetime. April features an upgrade of your home, wardrobe or vehicle. June is the most romantic. November will show you a different part of the world. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 20, 25 and 41.

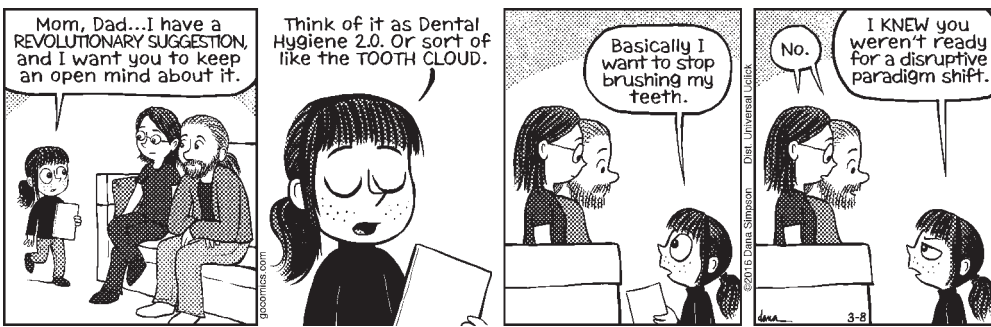
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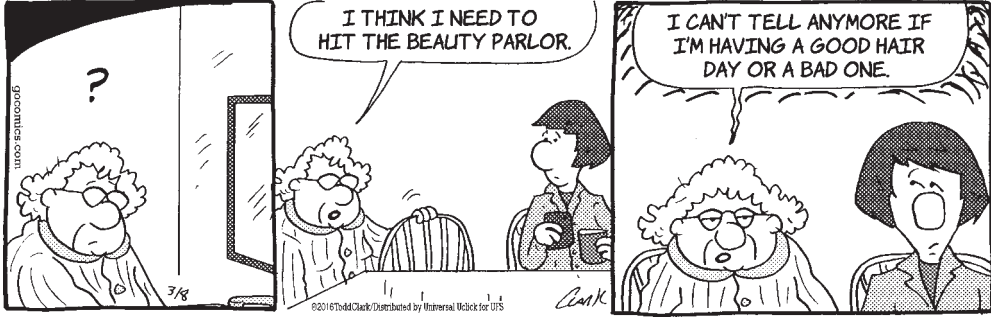
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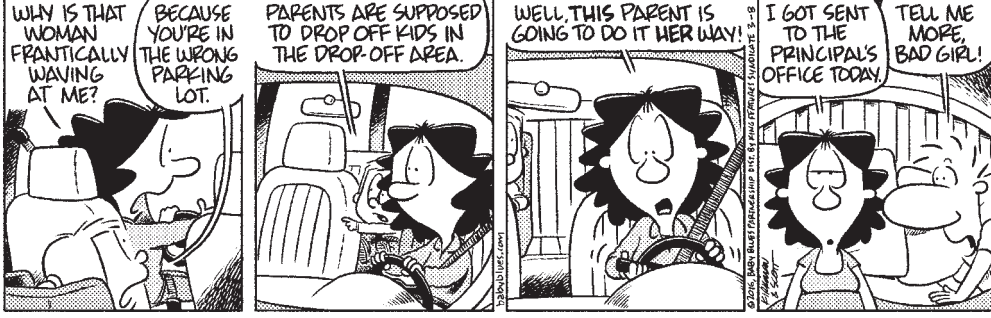
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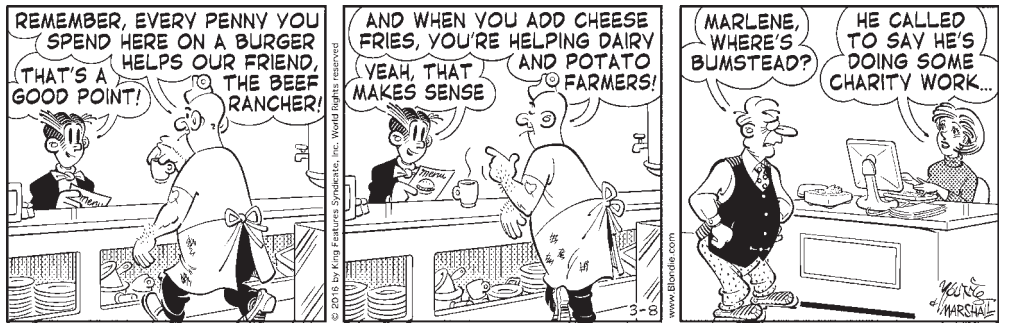
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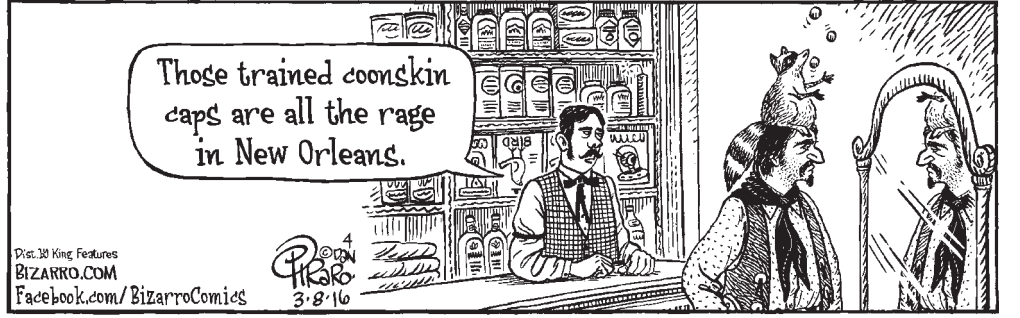
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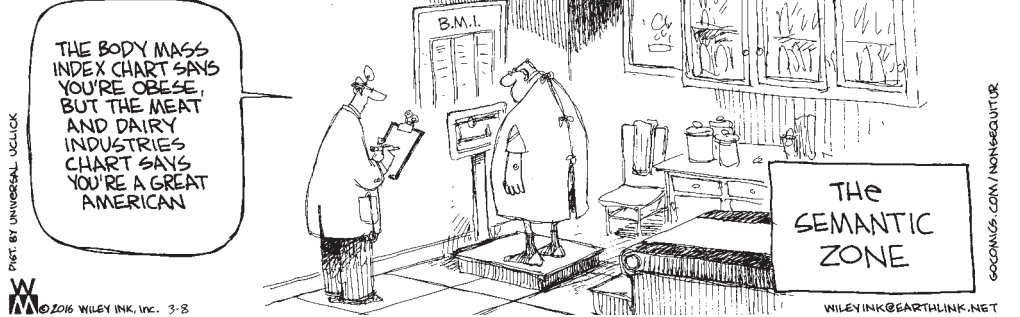
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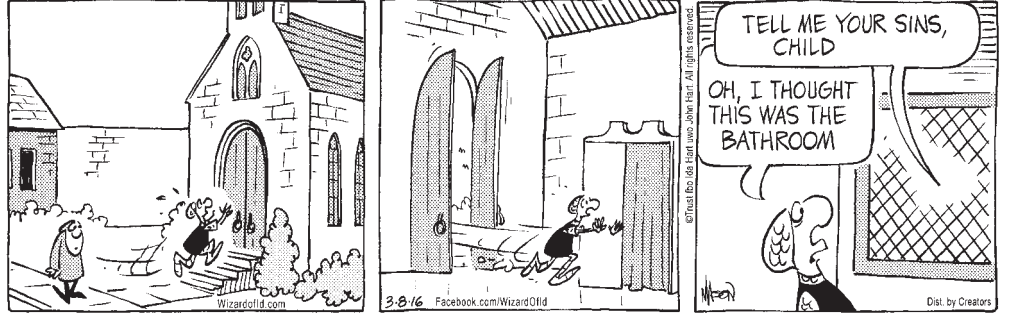
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