

Grieving girl worries friends

Dear Annie: I belong to a large group of friends across several states who get together often to camp and ride motorcycles. Recently, one couple in our group had a terrible accident. The husband was killed and the wife suffered brain damage. "Jane" does not remember the accident and only recalls her husband because she has been told about him. She is not capable of making any major decisions.

Here's the real tragedy: Jane has two children. Her 21-year-old son is now responsible for all of the decisions, and he is overwhelmed. Fortunately, he seems to be adjusting. We can't say the same for his 17-year-old sister, "Astrid." Her world has fallen apart.

Right now, the entire show is being run by Jane's mother-in-law, who never got along with Jane. She plans to sell Jane's house and move Astrid in with her. She recently took away Astrid's phone and car as a punishment for not doing her chores, leaving her unable to visit her mother or stay in touch with us. No one in the family seems able to stand up to this woman. We have no legal standing and are frustrated watching this runaway freight train. Jane's family has asked for our

Annie's Mailbox

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advice, but all we can tell them is to get a lawyer and they don't have the funds for that. I know both sides of the family are grieving, but this is just a mess. Please help. — *Harley Momma from Texas*

Dear Texas: This is such a tough time for everyone. Try to keep in mind that, although Jane and her mother-in-law are not close, it doesn't mean Mom is mistreating her granddaughter. You are getting only one side of the story. Also, while your advice to find an attorney is good, the family should clarify what for. Does someone want custody of Astrid? Is the grandmother keeping Astrid from seeing her other relatives? If so, perhaps the entire family can pool their resources or look into Legal Aid.

In the meantime, please do your best to stay close to Astrid, not only through social media and

phone calls, but also by befriending her grandmother. She lost her son and now has responsibility for her granddaughter. It would be a kindness for you to offer assistance, and it also will be supportive of Astrid.

Dear Annie: This is about "Not a Creepy Guy," whose soon-to-be daughter-in-law thinks he's creepy, for no particular reason.

My 30-year-old daughter, with whom I have a wonderful relationship, has told me that young women think men in their 50s are creepy just because of their age and gender — no matter how gentlemanly or polite they may be. She says now that I am entering my 60s, I am leaving behind the "creepy middle-aged" guy demographic and will enter the "kindly grandfather" stage. I am looking forward to it.

Hopefully, this daughter-in-law is looking at a stereotype and has no particular concern. But he is right to talk about it with her. — *Too Old to Be Creepy*

Dear Too Old: We have never noticed this particular stereotype and think it is odd and potentially damaging. But thanks for mentioning it. We hope the new daughter-in-law will grow up before Dad is too old to care.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You seek the guidance of someone strong and objective. You may even prefer the impersonal directive of a book or self-guided program. Your desire to learn will be answered in the eventual acquisition of serious skills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Discard your conventional notions of what it means to dance and a wondrous ballet will unfold before your eyes. This ballet will be performed by people, objects and ideas alike.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some may mistakenly think you are indecisive. It's just that they don't currently understand your information-gathering process. You like to know the full range of options before you make up your mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not always the case, and yet you have been before — and will be again — the essential crux of the action around you. For now, enjoy your position slightly out of frame.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your idea of playtime is different now from what it was when you were a child, but it's no less crucial to your development as a person. In playful acts you will discover yourself and grow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You do have support, though it might not be as specific or as plentiful as it could be. How much better would you feel with even more people around you who were supportive of you living the life you want to live?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a point in which you can actually hurt a relationship by operating too generously inside of it. So why not cash in on that stack of karma chips that has been steadily growing over the last few weeks?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Hope is a hard thing to hold in your hand sometimes, but you can totally wrap your head around a realistic paper plan. So write it all down. Plot and scheme. This is how you'll push through to the next stage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's been suggested that a fallen halo becomes a collar just waiting for someone to snap on a leash. You're better off avoiding the angel stereotype altogether by reminding someone now that you're not perfect.

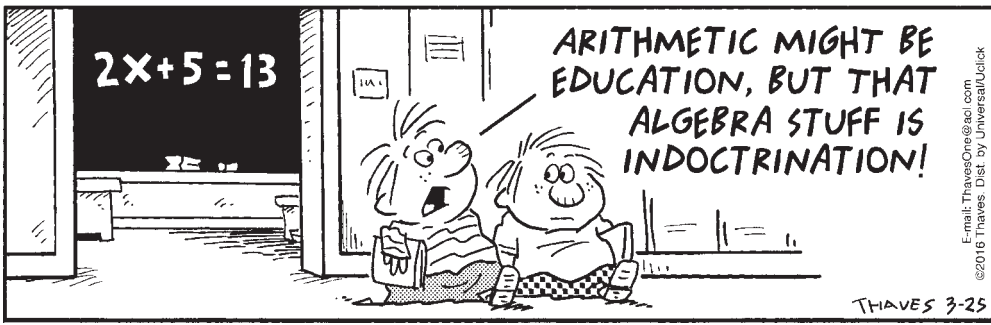
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You would love to experience more grace in your life. You embody grace in more ways than you think, and yet you need someone to reflect this back to you to see it clearly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can appreciate that people love you the way you are, and maybe you even feel some pressure to stay that way. But quite simply, there's something in you that doesn't want to. You'll spread your wings tonight.

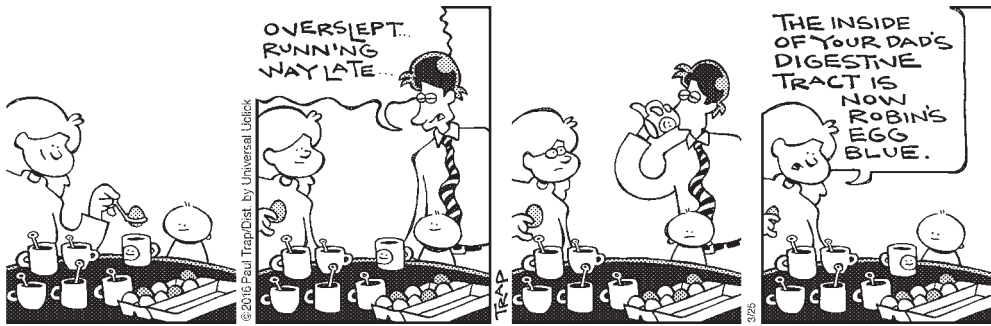
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your hospitality is so attractive, which could be humorous to you, because it does feel at times that the responsibility has been thrust upon you. This is only because you're so good at it!

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 26). You're in sync with the cosmic clock this year. You'll take a professional leap in April and someone will catch you. May and June show you getting into better physical shape and taking great pride in an accomplishment of determination. The good luck you experience in July will center on a new group of friends. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 49, 33, 28 and 1.

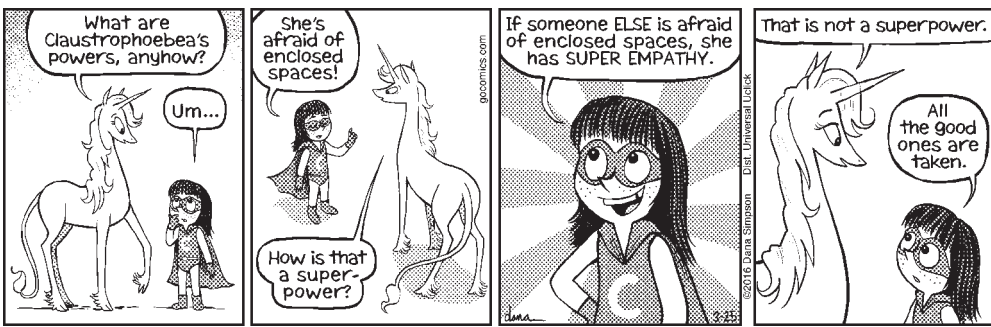
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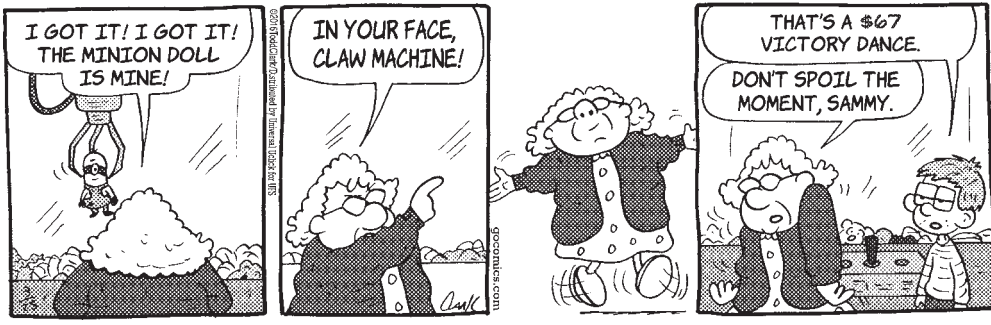
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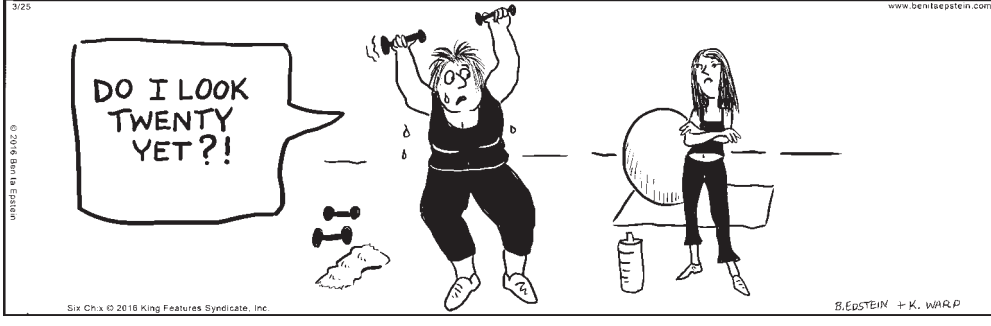
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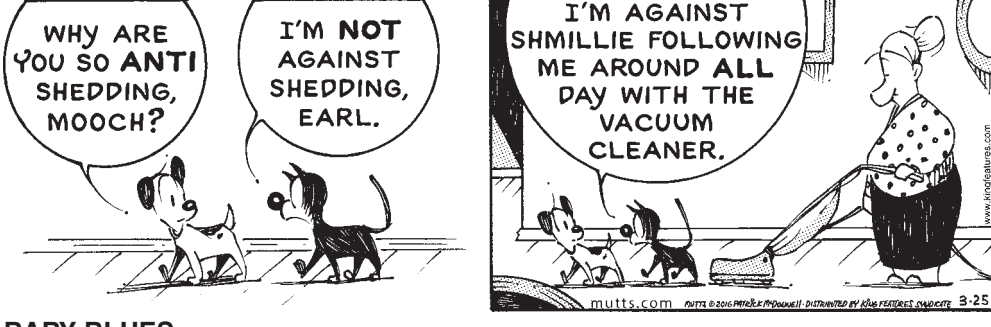
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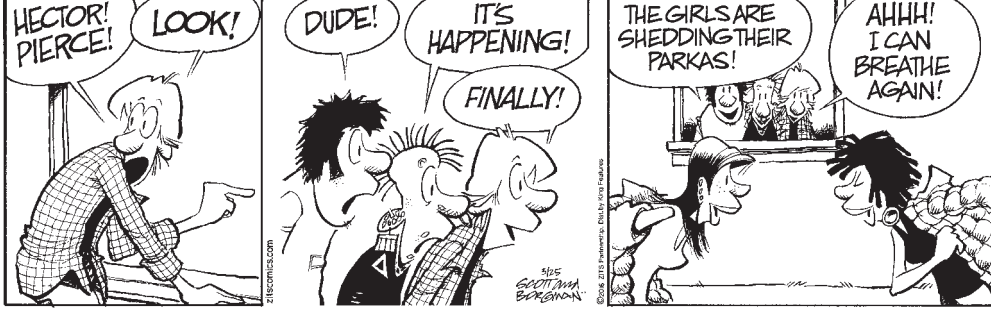
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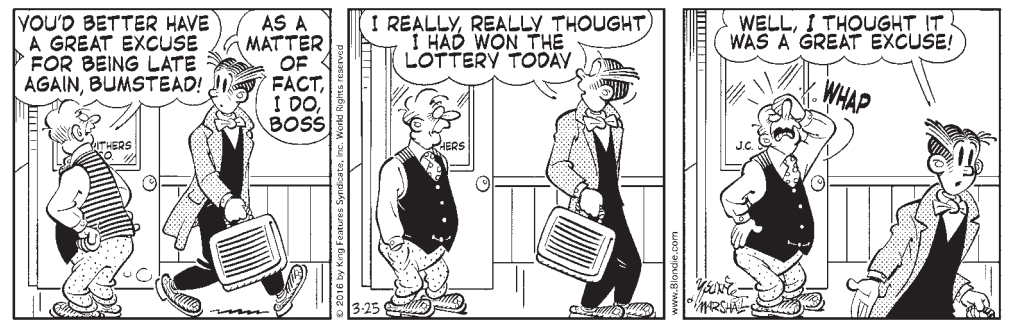
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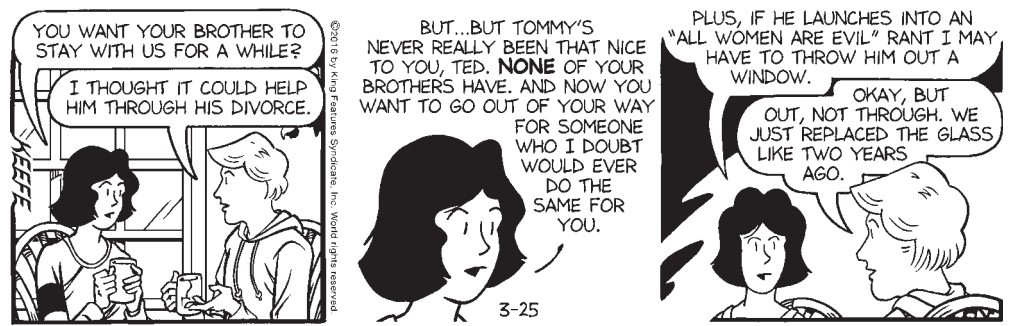
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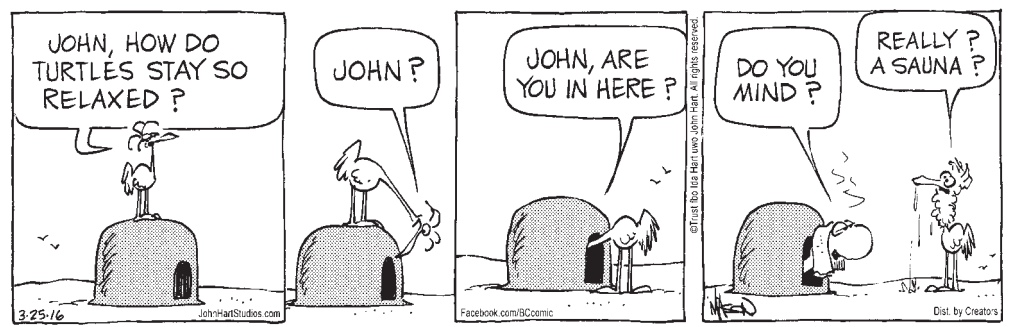
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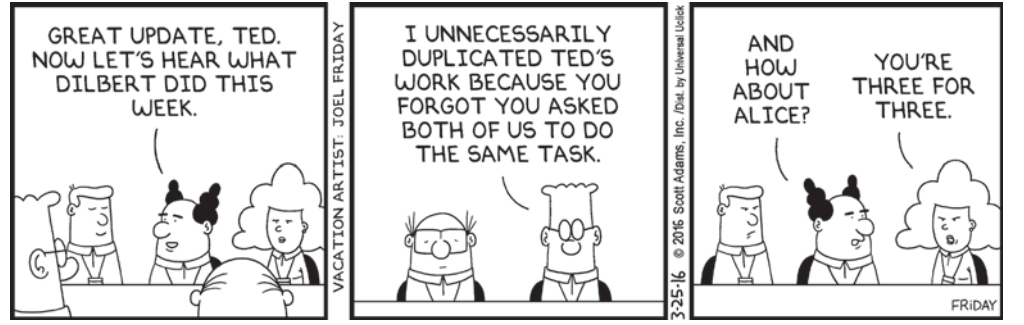
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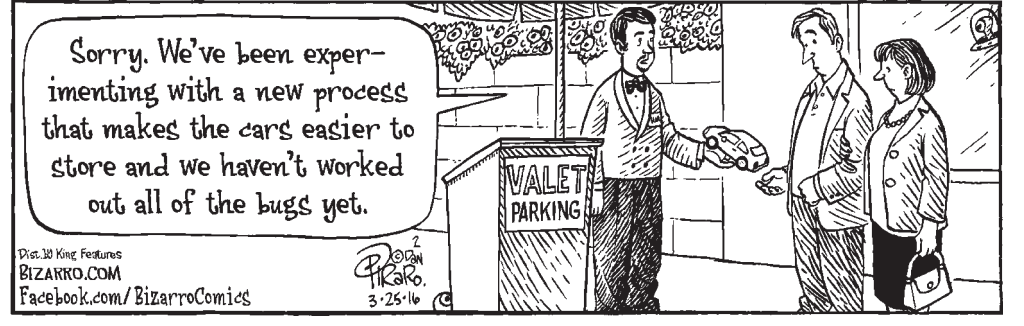
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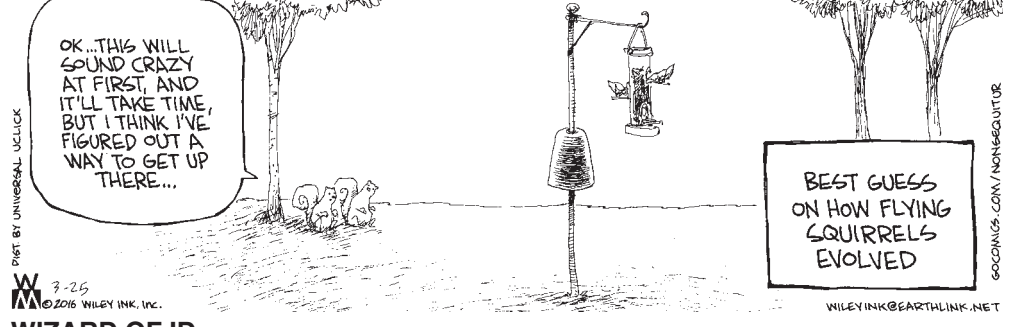
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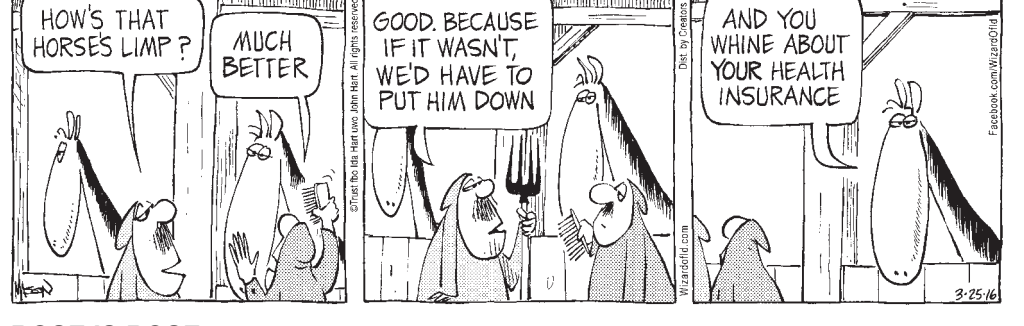
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