

Sister-in-law wreaks havoc

Dear Annie: I come from a large family. We haven't had any truly rough times, but our sister-in-law is proving to be a problem for me.

"Jennifer" has never liked me. At her wedding, my other siblings were attendants, but not me. She often invites my siblings for dinner, but never me. I could live with that, but I am bothered by the way she treats my mother.

My brother has five children. For years, my mother has babysat for free. She attends all their events to show her support. She invites the kids to fun activities. Mom recently took on a full-time job and can no longer babysit. Jennifer always seemed a little jealous of how close Mom is to the kids, and now she's found a way to exclude her. Jennifer has stopped communicating with either of my parents. She declines invitations to family events at my parents' house, and won't invite them anywhere. She won't tell them when the kids' events are. Last week, Mom saw Jennifer at the grocery, and she wouldn't look at her or say hello.

Jennifer's attitude is having an effect on my brother. He's starting to behave the same way. This is

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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this for your mother's sake, and see if anything works to get this sister-in-law to behave with more compassion. (And shame on your brother for permitting his wife to treat Mom this way.)

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Mother-In-Law," who regrets the way she treated her husband's mother now that she is the recipient of her son's wife's disdain. I was happy to see you point out that many women have wonderful relationships with their mothers-in-law.

I could not have asked for a better woman to fill this role in my life. My mother-in-law did an outstanding job raising her son and accepted me into her family with grace and love. Sadly, she developed Alzheimer's and we had to watch a beautiful, active and engaging woman fall victim to the ravages of this insidious disease. It was heartbreaking to see this decline, but she was always happy to see us when we visited. She knew we belonged to her in some way.

I learned a lot from her, and can only pray that I have the same type of relationship with my son's wife when that day comes. — Grateful Daughter-in-Law

awful for my mother and an injustice to the kids. Mom is too nice to say anything, and if I speak up, it will only make things worse.

My older sister has told me that I will soon be excluded from any family event involving Jennifer if I don't "change my ways." I don't understand what I have done wrong or how to fix it. Could you please give me some suggestions? — Frustrated

Dear Frustrated: We don't know what you have "done wrong," other than to respond to Jennifer in the same negative way she responds to you. But we can tell you that improving the relationship will require major effort from you, since Jennifer is unlikely to bother. Please talk to your older sister and ask her to explain what might help you get along better with Jennifer. Don't criticize her. Be sincere. Do

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The one who makes you feel that you must perform in order to earn love is not really giving love at all; that person is rewarding you for fulfilling a personal need, which has a lot more to do with utility than love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You would prefer to be adored by the one you adore. Who wouldn't? This would make life candy-sweet indeed. However, it should also be noted that such a dynamic is not in any way necessary to your happiness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not like you to overlook the crucial role that pleasure plays in life, and yet lately you've denied some of the things that please you. Now it's time to assess: Was the reason for that denial really good enough?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your secret is safe with you — and that's about it today. Even your best friend can't be totally trusted with sensitive information. If you write it in your diary, use a code. Everyone is interested in you these days!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The answer to one problem is the seed of another problem. For this reason, refrain from solving everything right away. It's a good time to think it over, let it ride or just plain stall for a better time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone has given time, effort and money in hopes that you would advance along certain lines. You've bettered your position, but you still have a ways to go. Keep going; you'll make your team proud.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Before you put your money on the best, strongest and most qualified, consider that anyone can have a good day. Sometimes the worst horse takes the gold cup. Such an event will simultaneously restore

and rock your faith.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You probably won't stay accountable to your own set of rules. It's not weakness. There's just too much going on for you now. If you need to keep the rule, get more people involved in it: They'll hold you accountable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be there for the person who is hurting. It's likely you could pick up some residual emotional pain if you're not careful, so be sure to protect yourself. Practice excellent self-care before, during and after.

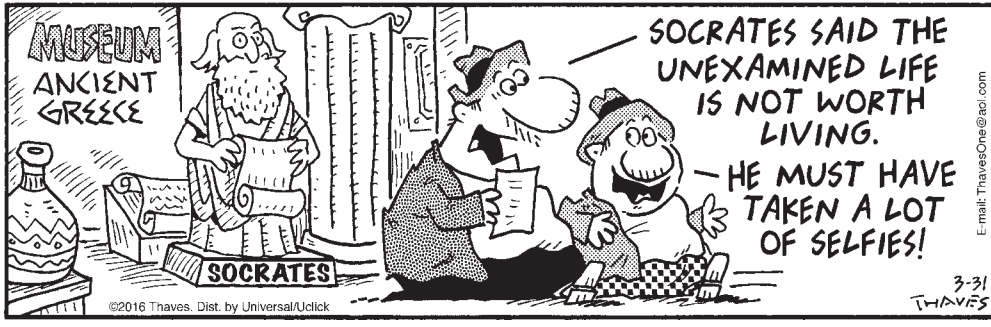
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you're striving for will be a lot of trouble. Some would define it as "just one thing after another." Well, that's precisely what you like about the situation. It's riddled with the challenges that make you better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel driven to put your ideas in front of a crowd even though the idea of doing this gives you emotional tremors. This is just the kind of contradiction that is making someone fall in love with you.

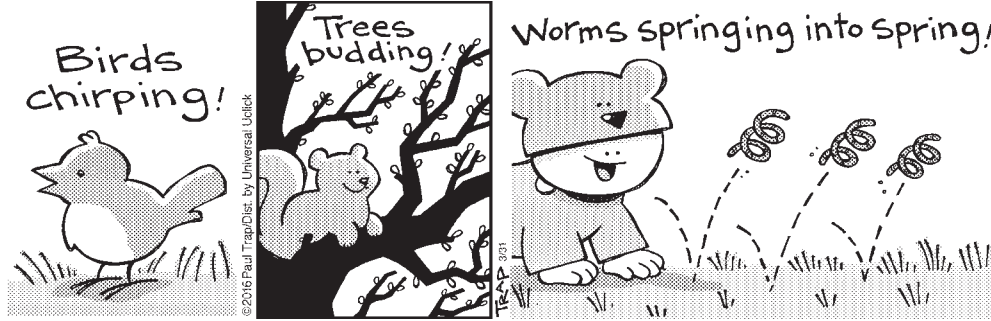
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When roused by feelings of irritation, consider that such a reaction is usually as disturbing an energy as the original thing that caused it. An unwanted situation will be dissolved with a calm approach.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 1). Creative juices flow now! You will diversify your social interests. The two groups might not blend together well, but each in their separate way will enrich you. A fresh assignment in May will bring fast success. In June your life becomes easier with the improved behavior and performance of those who account to you. Love signs are Gemini and Libra. Your lucky numbers are: 41, 27, 5, 15 and 42.

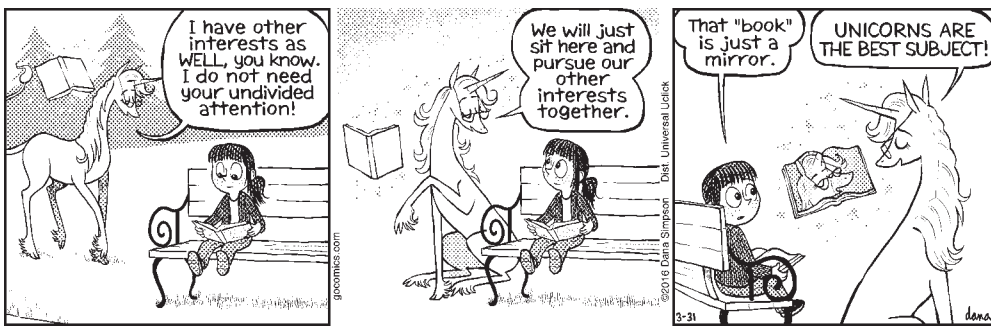
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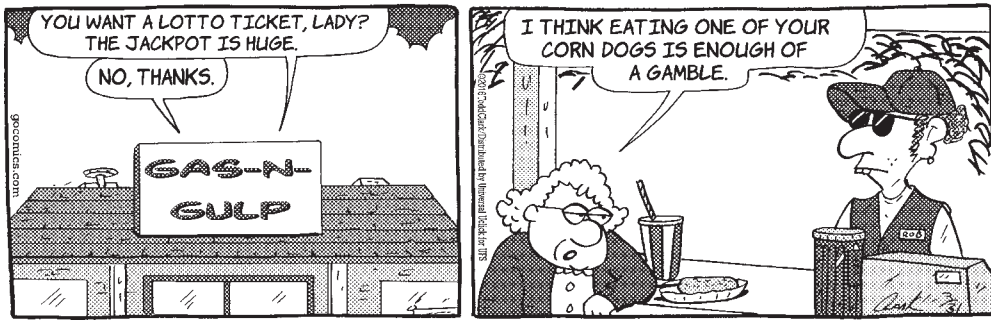
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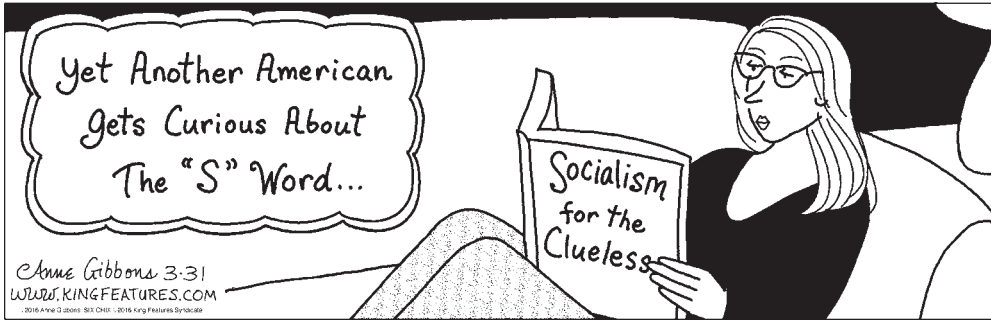
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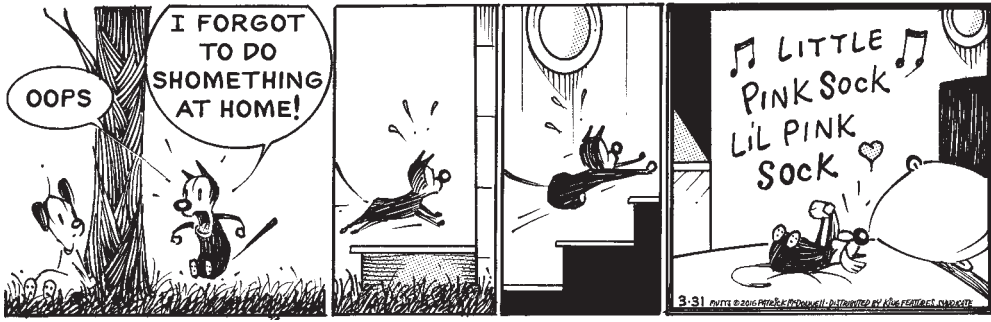
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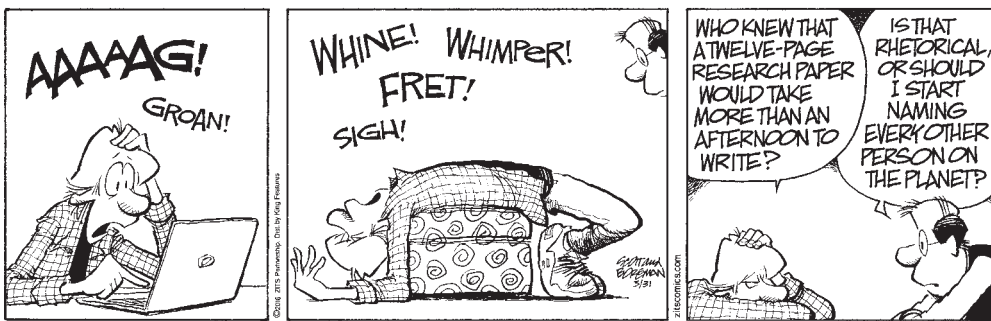
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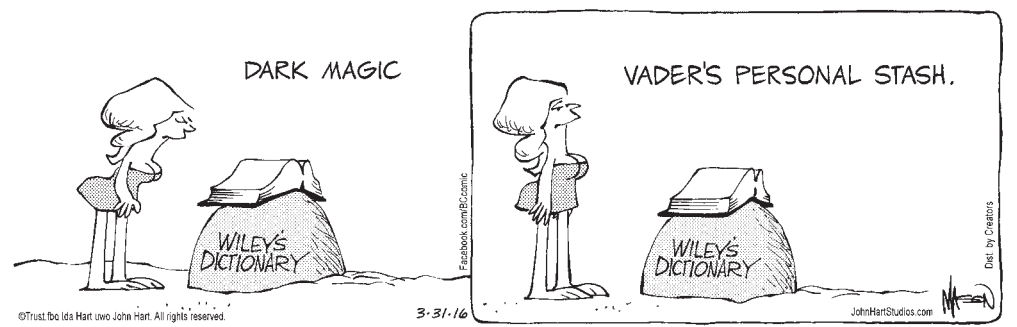
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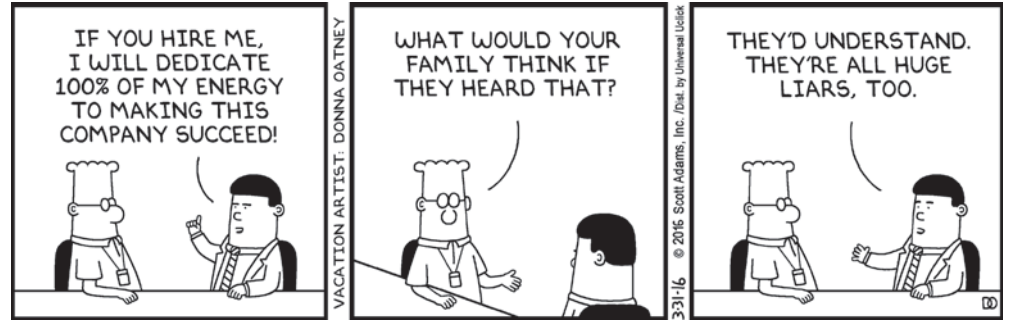
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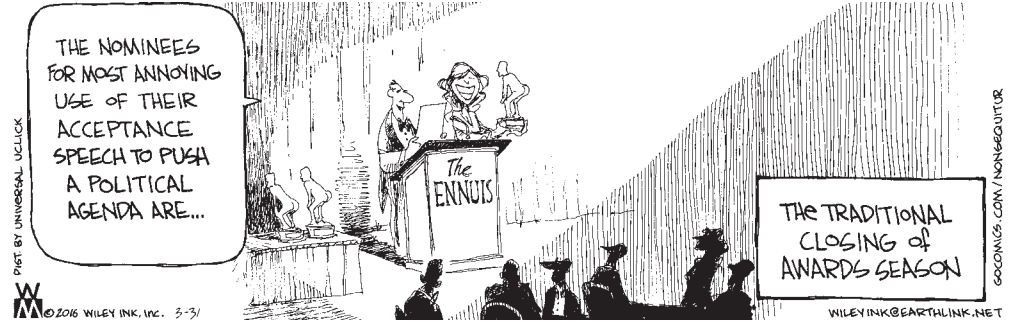
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