

Cheating among friends

Dear Annie: My friend "Mary" was dating "Lance." Behind her back, our mutual friend "Sarah" started a physical relationship with Lance while he was still in a relationship with Mary. Mary did not know about this. I was often in the company of the three of them and was uncomfortable watching Lance and Sarah making goo-goo eyes at each other every time Mary turned her back.

Now Mary and Lance have broken up, and Lance has another girlfriend. He is still hooking up with Sarah, behind the other girlfriend's back. Sarah wants to make a go of it with Lance. He has told her that he'll leave the other girlfriend for her. Oy vey!

Here's my question: I am trying to persuade Sarah to tell Mary what's up and ask Mary whether she is OK with her dating Lance. Otherwise, she'll find out through the grapevine. Sarah keeps saying she will talk to Mary, but she hasn't yet. I feel as if I'm in the middle of this ugly, cheating relationship. Mary would be so hurt and angry with me if she found out that Lance had been cheating on her and I knew about it. Or if she didn't find out about the cheating and she just heard about Lance's "new" rela-

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

tionship with Sarah, she'd be hurt I knew about it and said nothing. Do I have any responsibility as a friend here, to either Mary or Sarah? — *Head Spinning in North Carolina*

Dear Spinning: Your head might be spinning, but I guarantee it's still on straighter than Sarah's and Lance's. Those two need to wise up and calm down, Lance in particular. He's spun you and these three women into a very tangled web.

Normally, I tell people not to get in the middle of friends' relationship problems. But I think this situation is a little different, and Mary deserves to hear the truth in a respectful way. It's crummy news no matter what, but it would be better delivered from a close friend than from the gossip mill.

Please advise Mary that she is the luckiest one, whether she

realizes it yet or not.

Dear Readers: I recently printed a letter from a man who is fed up with servers asking, after he has given them cash, whether he needs any change. I asked you, my readers, what your thoughts were on the matter, and boy, I heard from a lot of you. Here's just one of many responses. Stay tuned for more.

Dear Annie: I can so relate to the gentleman who gets angry with clueless waitstaff asking whether he needs change. Unlike you, I think this is a trained and calculated maneuver. It happens too often for it not to be.

I once went to a fairly expensive chain restaurant for brunch. It was busy, and we waited a bit too long, but otherwise the service was OK. My bill was \$9 and change, and I handed the waiter a \$20 bill. He asked that question: "Do you need change?" Really? A 120 percent gratuity?

Ever since then, I have become more and more aware of this tactic. And my conclusion is that there can't be that many oblivious servers. This is a directive and probably an effective one. I, for one, react as the gentleman does — by truncating what would have been a healthy tip. — *Hugely Peeved*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a child crying in a public place, an event will separate the inherently empathetic from the inherently selfish, revealing who belongs in each category. Pay attention and you'll save yourself from future unpleasantness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Serious, deep connections are often characterized by the way they share the lighter moments — or, more likely, the ability for two people to find the lightness together in the heavier moments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Worry has its place — as long as you use it as a thoroughfare, not a parking lot. No brakes, no stopping. Roll with the stress. Ride it like it's the fast lane to remedy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The way to lay down boundaries now is rather subtle. No confrontation is necessary — not even a talk. When you are sure about what you're willing and not willing to do, people will understand almost telepathically.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The feeling a person kindles in your heart, it changes your chemistry, softens your mood, alters your mind and sweetens your senses. You can't help but dedicate the best of your energy to this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). However well you show up on your own, you're going to get there with your team. "For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." — Rudyard Kipling

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Clear up the misunderstandings, fill in the communication gaps, and then go through all of the channels and make sure the lines are good. You may have to change how (or to whom) you give

information in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When it works, it's brilliant. When it doesn't, don't give in to disappointment. Keep the positive, inquisitive, experimental mindset. There's nothing to be down about: This is all education and growth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One mark of maturity is that you now have no reaction to the occurrence that once annoyed you. And when you get to the place where you actually welcome this occurrence — well, that's spiritual evolution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'd like to think that your happiness isn't dependent on such things as the quality of lighting, but just like the other creatures of the earth, on a physiological level, you need sunlight to thrive. Accept this and get out in it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some moods are like puddles you walk into because you weren't paying attention to the road. Remember this divot up ahead? Now avoid it by walking around.

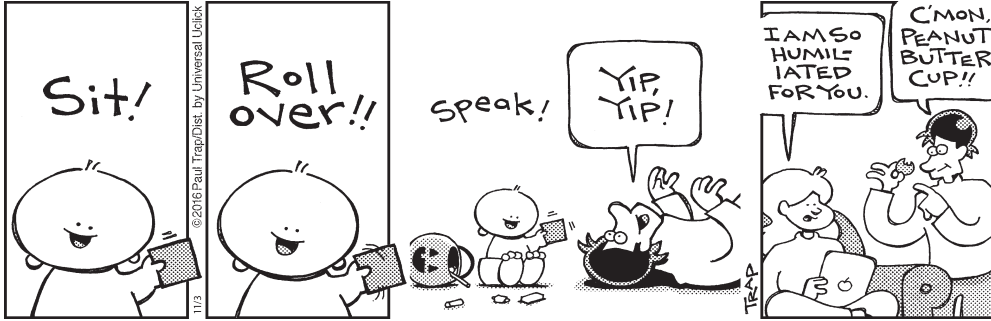
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some people feel love when they make someone laugh. There are those who prefer laughter to hugs, gifts, and other displays of affection. Laughers need people around them who share their humor, or their joy will shrivel.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 4). The easiest way will be the genuine way this year. You'll maintain constant contact with your feelings and gauge the health and happiness potential of different arrangements with a new accuracy. This is how you'll raise your energy, augment your fortunes and become extremely attractive to all kinds of opportunity. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 1, 22 and 49.

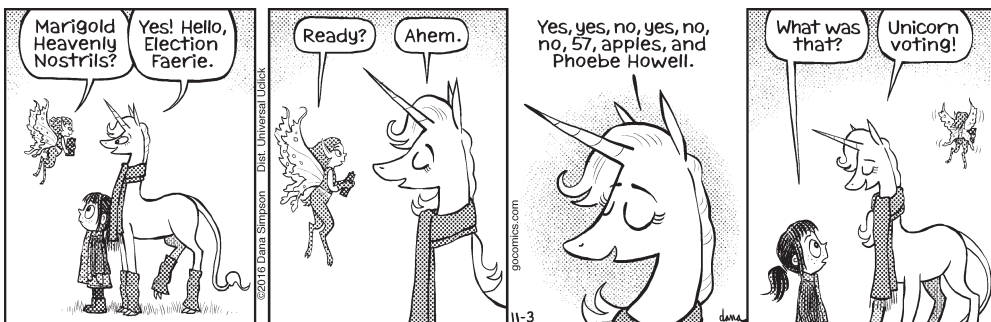
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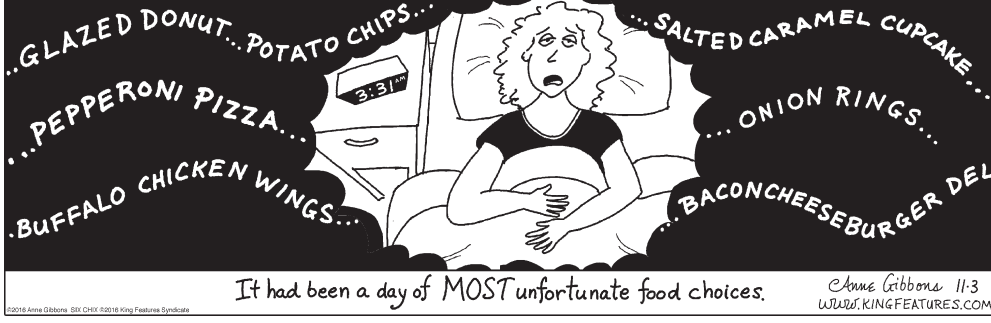
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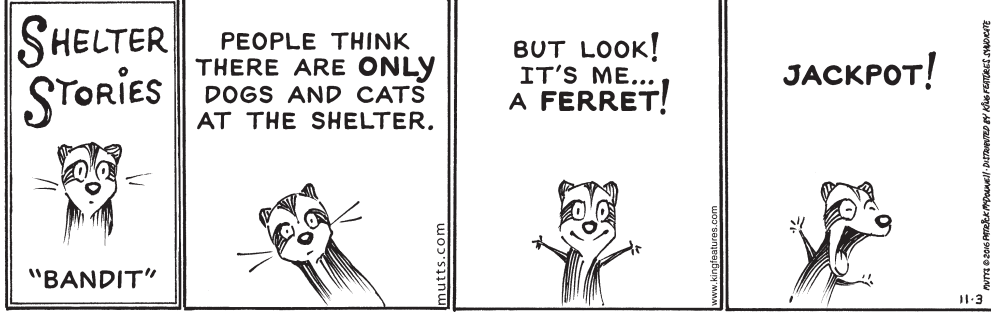
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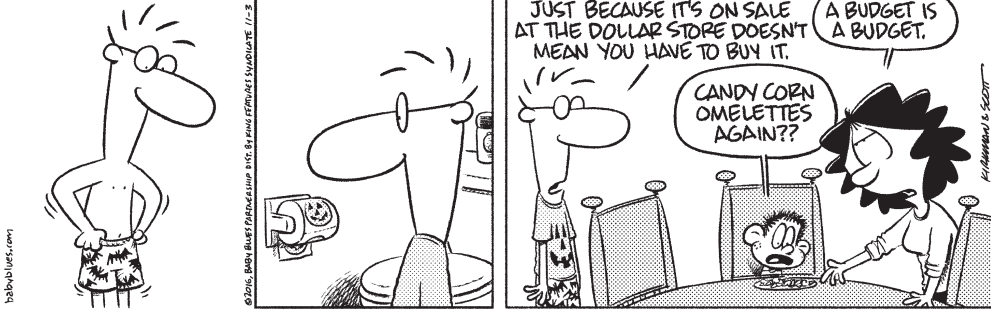
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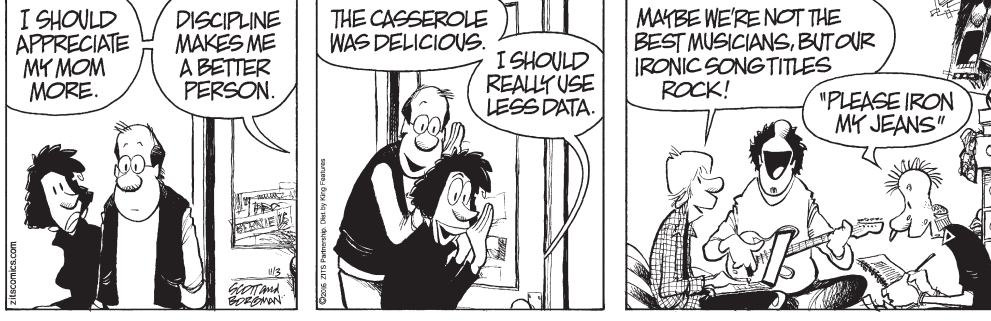
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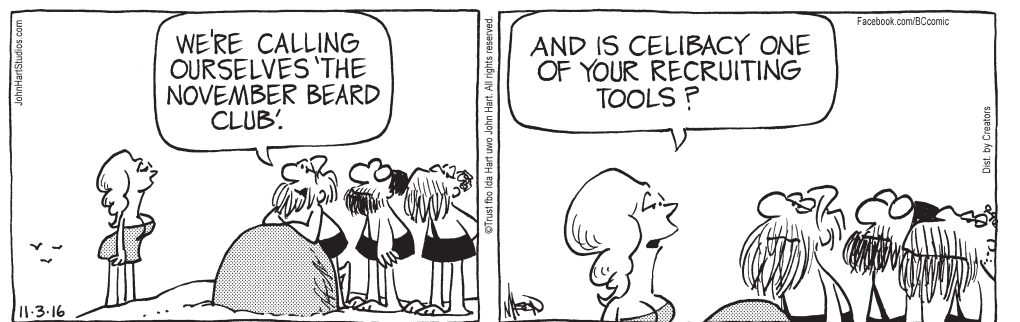
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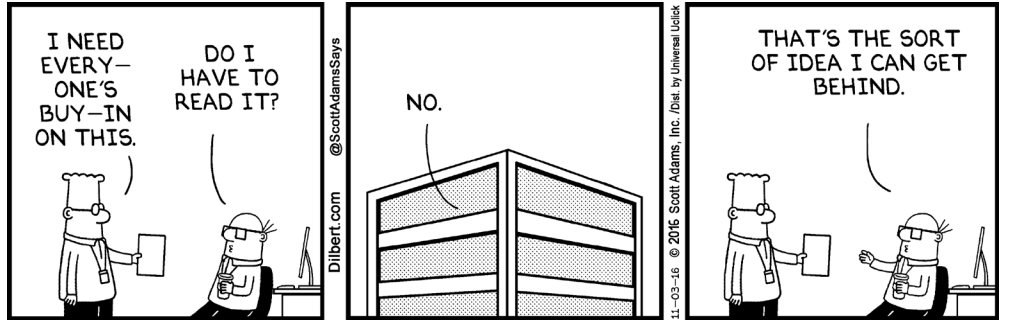
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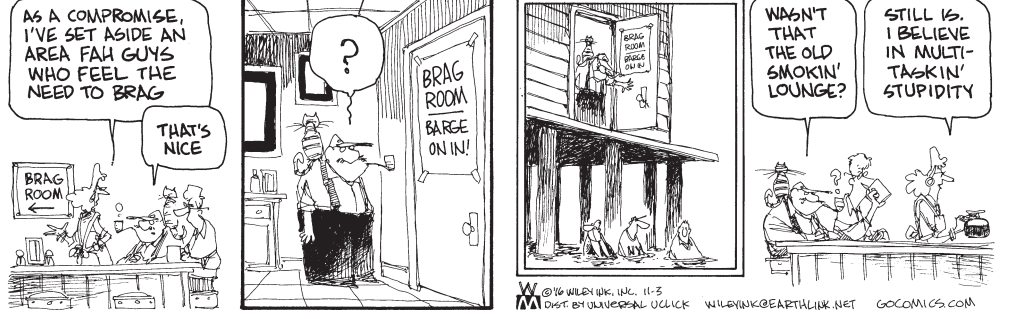
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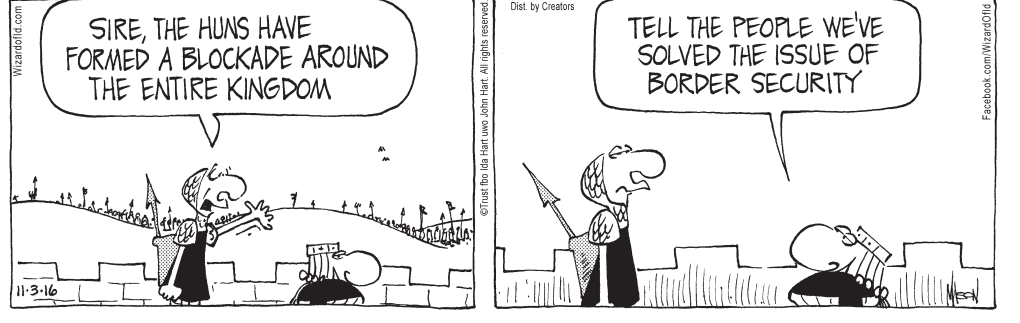
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