

Attitude poisons office morale

Dear Annie: I am trying to handle a delicate situation at the office. A man I work with has very poor hygiene and is an all-around slob. The guy has no respect for anyone, including himself. He often comes to work without combing his hair, and many times he smells as though he hasn't showered in days. He has some other unclean habits at the office that are too disgusting to mention here. I could go on, but you can see the picture.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

The company has warned him many times but he's not been fired. When I confronted this employee, he threatened me with a lawsuit, as well as our employer. I love my job, and the boss is a good, kind boss.

I am pretty sure there are depression issues. His wife even called to say he went off his medication recently. She's trying to get him back on it. In the meantime, what can I do? — *P.U.*

Dear P.U.: Your co-worker's poor hygiene presents a serious problem in itself, but it's his foul attitude that's truly toxic. His unwillingness to change and his explosive temper are not winning

traits for an employee. If his noxious attitude is allowed to linger, it will poison morale throughout the office.

It sounds as though your boss's kindness is getting in the way of effective management, because this has already gone way farther than it should have. Talk to him and the human resources manager, if your company has one, about the impact this issue is having on you. Explain that it's making it difficult to do your job. Take note of every offense going forward (without letting the co-worker know you're

doing so) to document the pattern. Don't confront him about the issue yourself, as he's likely to lash out again. And while it's very possible his behavior is connected to mental health issues, refrain from speaking to him about that. His hygiene or lack thereof at the office is, unfortunately, everyone's business, but his mental health is not.

Dear Annie: You get many letters about family divisions, so I'll tell you my story.

My children are all grown.

They have their careers and are doing well, all married. We thought we were the perfect family. What problem could we possibly have?

One son married into a booming family business, which I thought was great. Well, the business grew and moved to a new location, and it seems they have decided that my family shouldn't visit their store. Now, I'm thinking, why can't they just treat us like any other customer? Perhaps, they don't believe in "giving" us the family discount. Or perhaps we aren't as good as their regular customers.

I have been totally devastated thinking my son's wife's family is embarrassed or doesn't want us to shop there for some other reason. I've been feeling left out of my son's life. Meanwhile, he seems perfectly happy to enjoy his wife's family. Any idea how to talk to my son about how I feel? — *Sad Mom*

Dear Sad Mom: Did you previously overuse that family discount? Did you spend too much time socializing at the store? Consider these questions as prompts for the candid conversation you need to have with your son — outside of business hours.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've been at it a while now. The responsibility is getting burdensome. You wonder why you agreed to this, but that doesn't matter now. You did. This is the arrangement. Keeping your word will be key to your liberation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've a wow factor. You've not seen it as an asset, because for you it's innate or at least comes very easily. But it's something you wouldn't want to lose. Honor it as the gift it is. Protect it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Storytelling is important to success, but so is storytelling: living up to the hype of one's reputation. It's turning values into policies. It's living out the narrative. And it's what you'll spend your hours on today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may feel like someone else is the star of the show today, but there are fantastic opportunities to be mined here nonetheless. The thing that's great about your role is that it's yours. Play it to the hilt.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a meteorologist of emotional weather. You read the atmosphere and determine what kind of protection will be appropriate. A metaphorical umbrella will serve you well around certain individuals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're going to meet the right person to help you take your plan all the way. But in order to entice this person to join you, the plan has to already be in motion. So move forward; make it happen; and trust that the world will catch up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though it may have felt like a series of small accidents and odd coincidences that led you here, this was not a mistake. You're the best person for the job. That's why you were chosen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You give your all on the regular. Loved ones don't know how good they have it until you withdraw. Only then will they remember what it's like to live without all of the perks that come with the "You" package.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your influence isn't as great as you'd like it to be. Your territory is smaller than you believe you can handle. No matter. Use your power. Govern your realm to the best of your ability, and your realm will increase over time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The balance of relationships will be precarious. If you feel like you have to constantly check to know whether you are in or out of favor... well, at least you're in tune with the ridiculous social reality. Treat it like the game that it is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've great potential to make an impact by carefully honing the image you put out into the world. This image is your creation and you're as much an artist as anyone with a paintbrush.

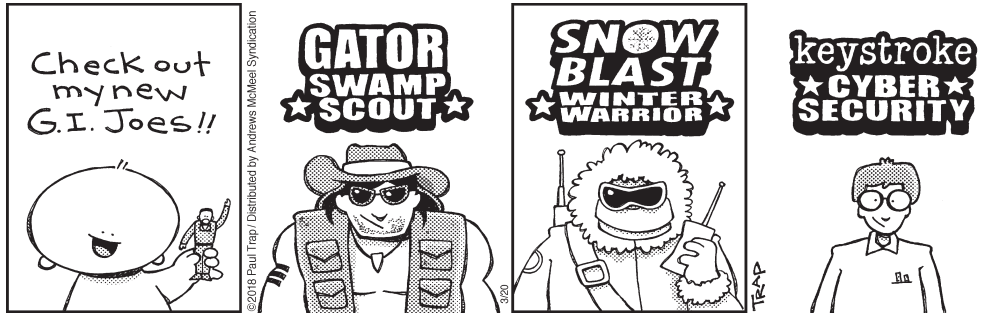
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a lot that's not worth dealing with. Giving even a moment of attention is a loss. And once spent, you can't get your time or energy back. So ignore the drama.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 21). You're the new ruler. Later, others will come along to claim the role, and you're enlightened enough to realize that this is just the natural cycle. But right now it's about living your role to the fullest and creating your legacy. Nature energizes you. Define relationships in June. You'll cash the big check in September. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 39, 33, 19 and 40.

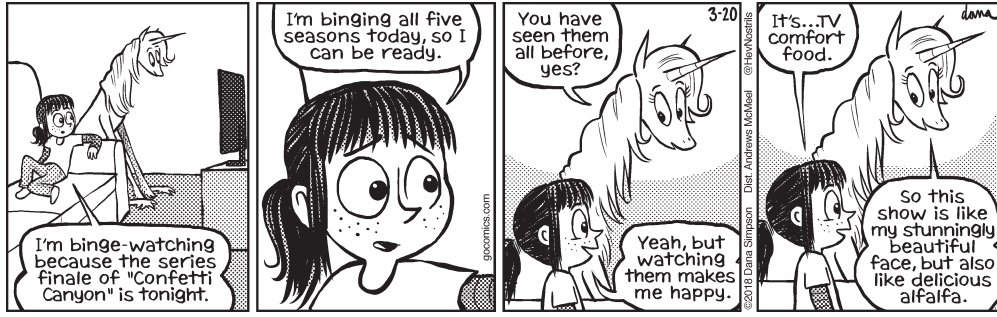
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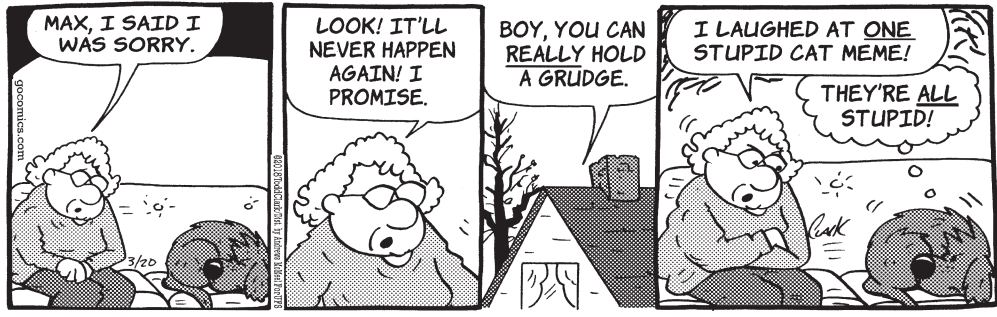
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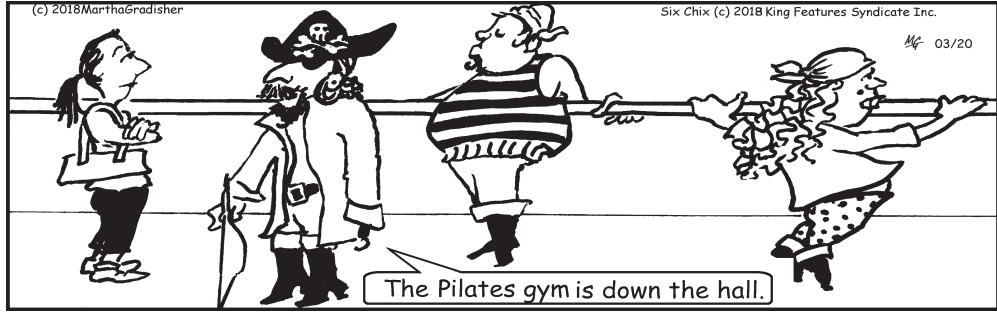
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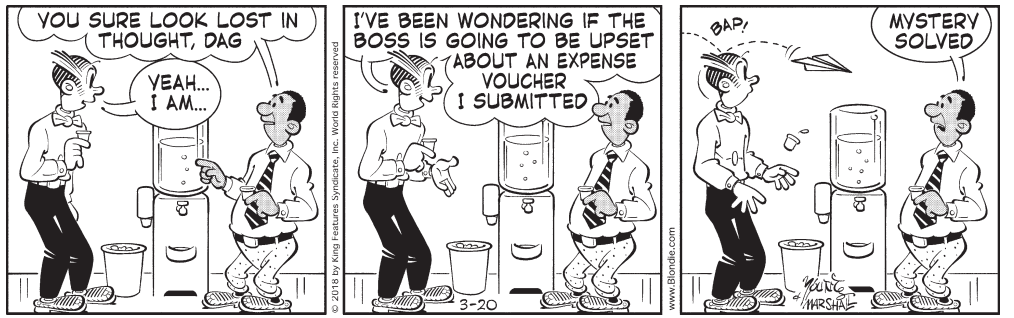
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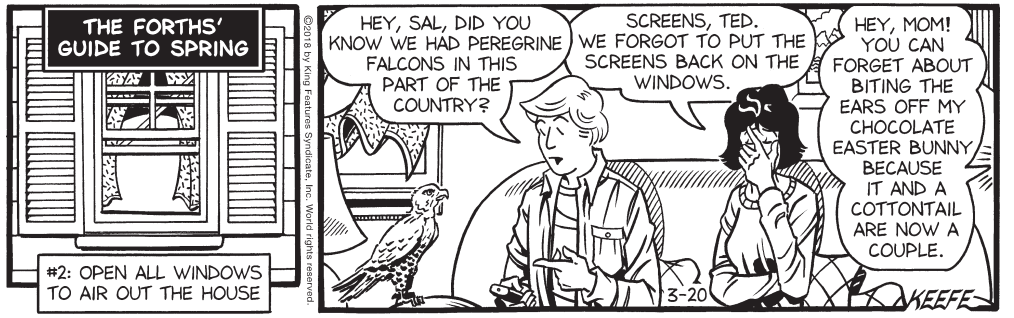
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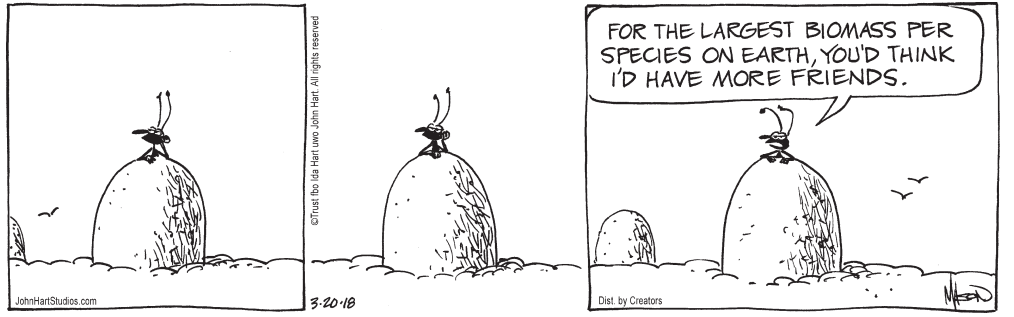
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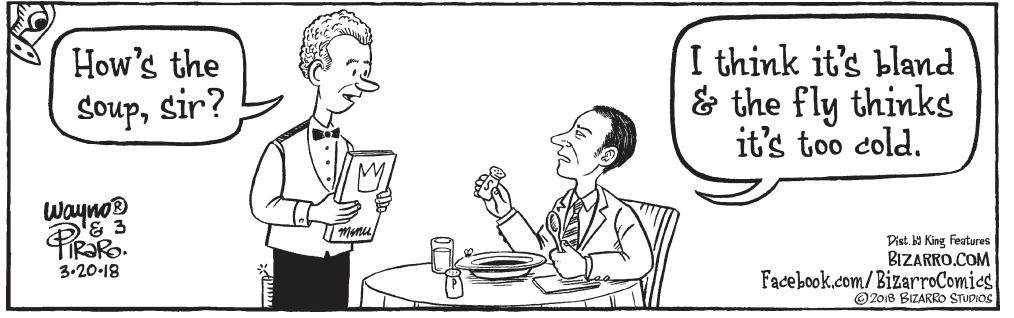
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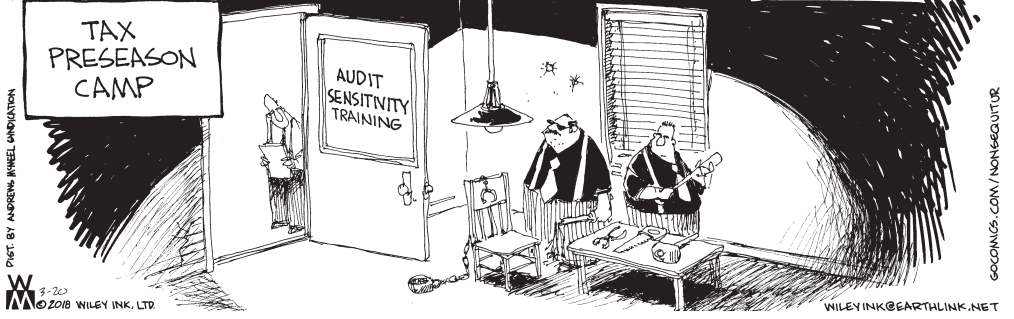
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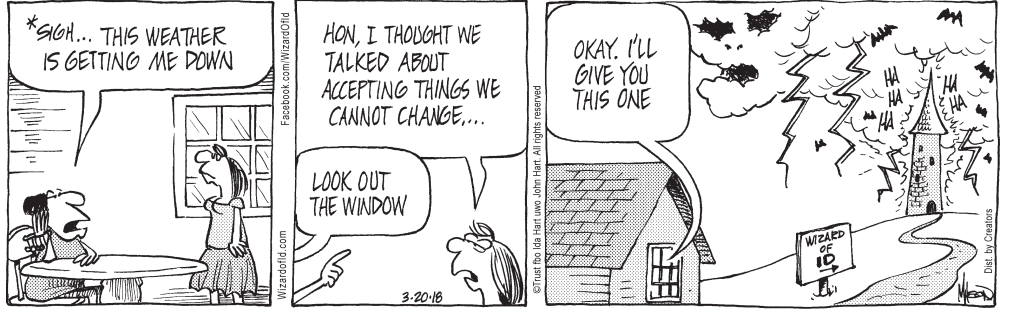
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