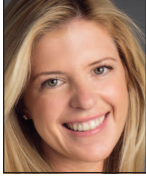


A friend who flaunts and mocks

Dear Annie: I have been trying to decipher my recent bad feelings toward a friend who is much wealthier than I am. We have known each other for a decade. Whereas she has been married to the same man for

over 30 years, I was usually a single mother. Our daughters are about the same age, and we have the same jobs and make the same income. We also were both raised in abusive homes. Here the commonality ends.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I have been poor all my life and have priorities besides money and bank accounts. She has a husband who makes engineering wages, and they go on vacation every year. When she returns, she plasters the atmosphere in front of my face with photos of her latest excursion, and to be honest, I cannot relate and could not care less. I don't flash photos of burgers in front of a homeless person to show what I had for lunch, which is what I liken her actions to. She has also begun rattling on incessantly about her savings bonds and commenting on how

old my car is, which we have to take whenever we go out to save hers. My question is: Am I merely jealous, or is there something to how I feel? I feel violated by her insensitivity. — *Less Than*

Dear Less Than: A friend doesn't boast about how great her financial situation is while mocking the condition of your car. At the same time, a friend usually wants to see fun photos of a nice family vacation. Sharing those photos and waving a hamburger in front of a homeless person are two very different things. Considering that you couldn't care less about her photos and she is making rude comments about your car, this does not sound like a friendship at all. But the fact that you are writing to me leads me to believe that you really like her. Instead of bottling everything in, why not tell your friend how you feel? Remember, you are not "less than." Tell your friend this is how you feel with her at times, and if she responds helpfully, all

will be good. If not, you need to find a new friend.

Dear Annie: I was heartbroken to read the letter to you from "Still Suffering," the woman who, because of financial hardships and health problems, moved back in with her parents, who abused her when she was a child. I can only imagine how painful and challenging her situation must be.

I am disappointed that you did not direct her to contact women's resource services in her area. Many areas have services and counseling for women in abusive relationships — at no cost. Though she is not in an abusive romantic relationship, the situation isn't very different, and one of these agencies might be able to help. Please let her know there are people who are sending her love. — *Supportive in Sarasota*

Dear Supportive: Thank you for your wise suggestion. Advocates at The National Domestic Violence Hotline can help refer abuse survivors to resources in their area. I encourage anyone in such a position to call. The number is 800-799-7233.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your stars are excellent for striking a deal. Look for sales. Believe that you can find high quality at a lower cost. There's always a way. Don't settle for the first thing people offer unless it's crazy-good.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Early success is seen as a gift, though it may be a bad one, as it robs a person of the extensive body of knowledge that comes with early failure. You'll win, but try to stay humble so you can still learn all you possibly can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your skills might not seem to be a great match for the challenges of the day. Don't let this stop you. Intention and creativity will make up the difference. You don't have to be technically good at something to pull it off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You admire people who know what they're doing and do it very well. You become more creative and professional when you stick close to such people and learn what they know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes you find yourself pulling away from others without knowing why. Try to figure out why, though, because the knowledge will help you in this relationship and others to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will do as most people who have a choice will do — that is to say, what you feel like doing. You'll also be in a position to lead others, which will require that you help them feel like doing the thing you want them to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). For what are you willing to trade your hard-earned cash? Your eye may be drawn to the luxuries and extras you don't really need but somehow still really want. Note that value sometimes has very little

to do with cost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're wondering what someone sees in you, where the relationship stands, and the nature of the feelings being silently exchanged. Be patient. Feeling comes first and then seeing. Words come last, if at all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The people you love will cause more work for you. It's what they're good at! It's part of why you love them! It keeps you in service, and in shape. You're better off for it, though it's not always pleasant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When people have something better to do, they do better. You won't take this as a fact of life; rather, you'll go the distance and take it as a challenge, a responsibility, even. What better thing can you offer them to do?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you're working with a team, it's still crucial that everyone is individually acknowledged, including you. When it's your turn to accept the applause, take a bow.

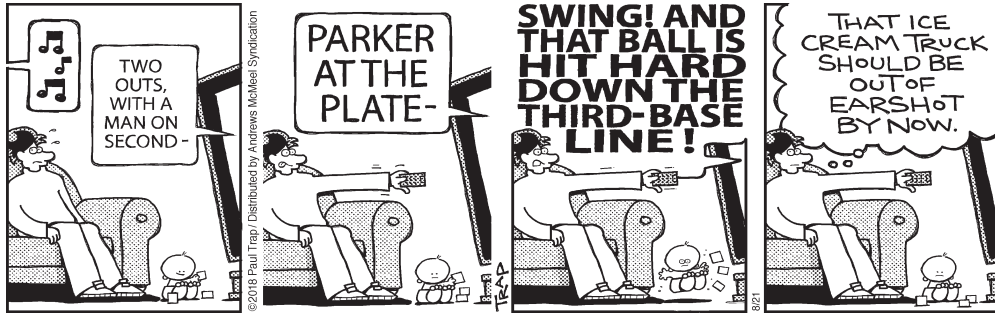
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life is a lot less stressful for the people who happen to be around you because you use your sense of humor to lighten things up. Bonus: You feel loved and appreciated when you hear their laughter.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 22). Your social life ramps up this solar return with several fortuitous meetings. An introduction in September will soon have you thinking of the world and your place in it very differently. Workwise, you'll build on what you've learned, but you'll take it in a very surprising direction. Truly, you will be a creative force. Sagittarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 32, 10 and 30.

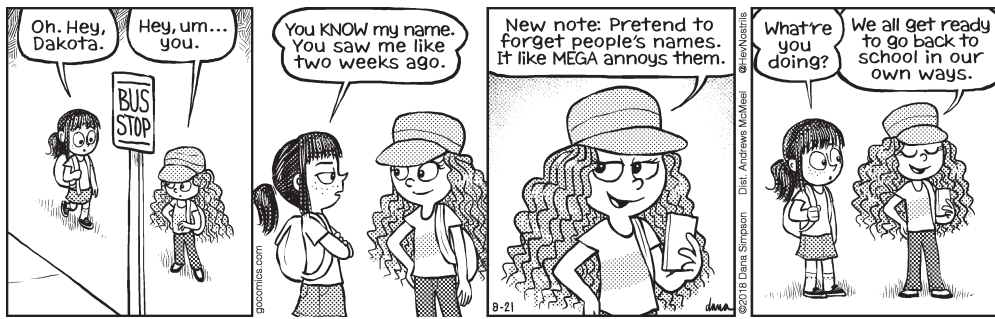
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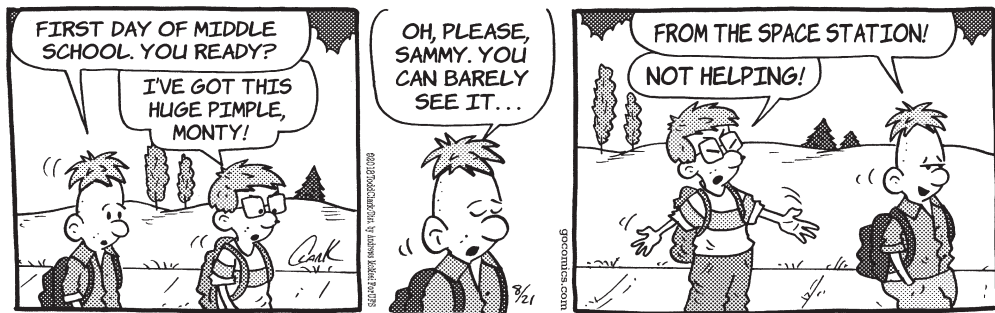
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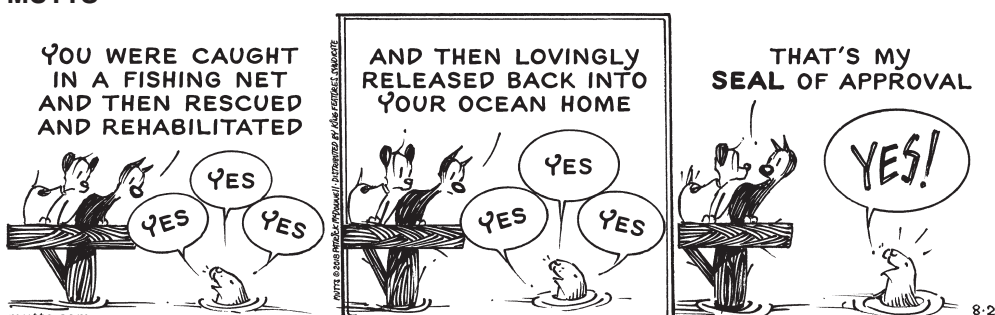
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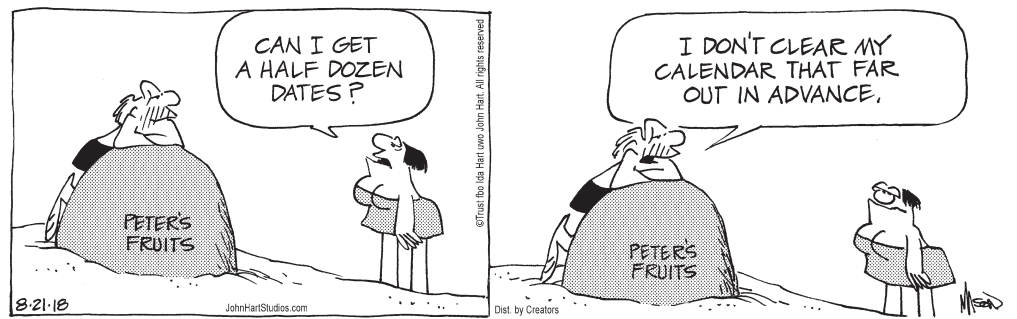
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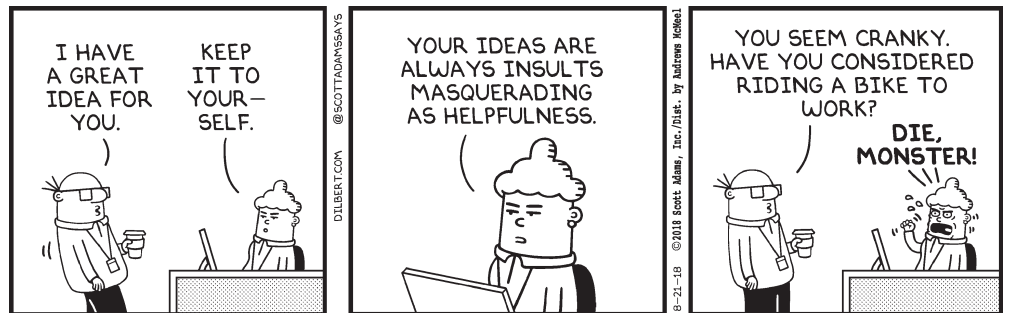
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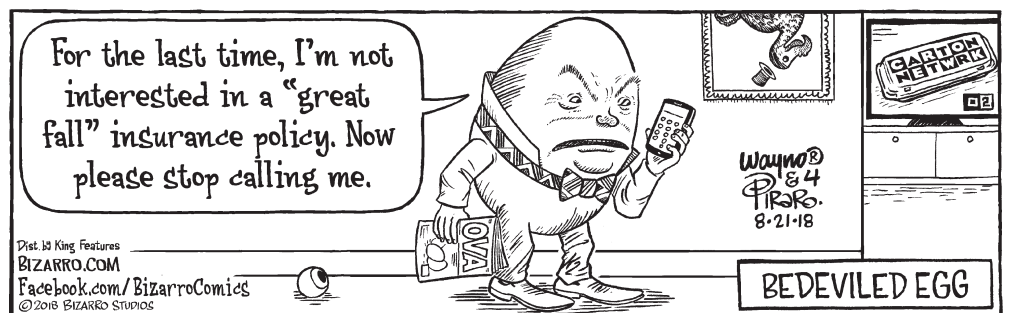
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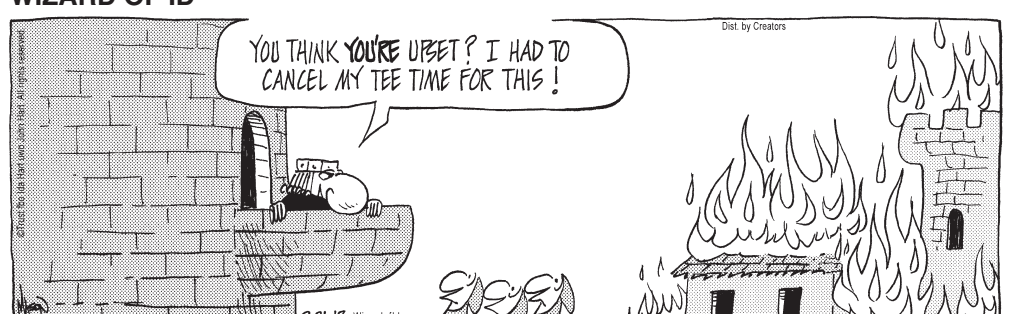
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