

Parents are not invited

Dear Annie: I am a woman in my late 30s marrying the woman of my dreams this fall. I will not be inviting my mother or, by extension, my father. Everyone seems to assume this is because they are opposed to gay marriage or are some sort of religious zealots. This is not true at all. They are fine with gay marriage, and in fact, we pretty much agree politically on all points. They just don't like me as a person. That is sad but also fine, as I don't really like them, either. So how do I navigate this? I don't want people maligning them as bigots, because they are not. They are just regular, run-of-the-mill jerks. I don't want them anywhere near me at my wedding. I don't like them, and though I do feel some sort of suppressed glee that everyone thinks they are horrible, I don't want people thinking they are horrible for the wrong reasons. Thoughts? — *Confused*

Dear Confused: It's not your job to run PR for your parents in addition to planning your wed-

ding. Still, it's mature of you to want to correct the record. I've found that often the most graceful way of dealing with such complicated social situations is to have a concise canned response ready to go — for instance, "My parents and I aren't close, so I've decided not to invite them." If the person expresses outrage or sympathy on the presumption that your parents are refusing to attend because you're marrying a woman, a simple "I appreciate your concern, but that's not the issue" ought to do. Then let it go. Some people will insist on careening toward their own conclusions. So be it. If we were responsible for monitoring every wrong assumption about our private lives, we'd probably all go bonkers. Best wishes to you and your wife-to-be.

Dear Annie: I am tall. Flying is miserable. In addition to having no legroom, I find that the area under the seat in front of me rarely has any room for my feet after I stow my CPAP, so my knees are especially vul-

nerable to the seat in front of me.

At the earliest opportunity to speak to the person in front of me on a flight (during boarding if possible, but not during safety announcements!), I let the person know that a tall person is seated behind him/her and ask him/her to give me a warning when (s)he plans to recline so I can protect my knees.

I explain that his/her courtesy warning will give me an opportunity to shift in the seat and point my knees away from the center of the seat back as best I can. Only rarely does that person completely ignore the implications of his/her actions on my anatomy. — *Florida Lady*

Dear Florida Lady: I expected a whole lot of hulla-baloo in response to "Cramped in the Cabin's" letter — angry parties on both sides of the issue. On the contrary, everyone who's written in so far has been empathetic, understanding and more frustrated at the airlines for putting people in such cramped quarters than at other passengers. What a pleasant surprise.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're giving a performance of sorts, and you're not exactly sure how well it's going. If you ask too many questions, it might tip the other person off to your feelings of insecurity. But you can afford to ask one or two. Make them count.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). With your vast projects, deep thoughts and complicated ventures of late, it may feel like the way you're living your life is unsuitable for small talk. But when you're with the right people, all flows naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The friendlier the environment, the more you worry someone is about to sell you a timeshare. And then there are the shark tanks. If you seem like you don't belong, they'll eat you alive. Act like you've been there.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People do different things to get through the tension of a workday. Some joke around. Some socialize. You'll have the easiest time of it when you isolate, turn on some tunes and focus hard in your own little bubble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Rumination is unhelpful. But if you never think about the past, how can you learn from it? You'll split the difference. Think it over until you come up with one thing you could have done differently, and then move on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Remember the time you heard of someone's good fortune and didn't feel the least bit happy? It's something to consider before sharing your own good news. Shield yourself from the repercussions of jealousy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want to give voice to your admiration but are apprehensive about doing so, as you're afraid your flattery will sound foolish. The more specific and reasoned your

compliment, the better it will land.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some people can't write because they are blocked. You're the opposite today. You feel blocked in another area of life, and you'll write your way out of it. Getting your feelings down, if only to be read by you, will liberate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While no one is against you, there are those who are adamantly for themselves who happen to be positionally opposed to you. Someone will have to move to the side.

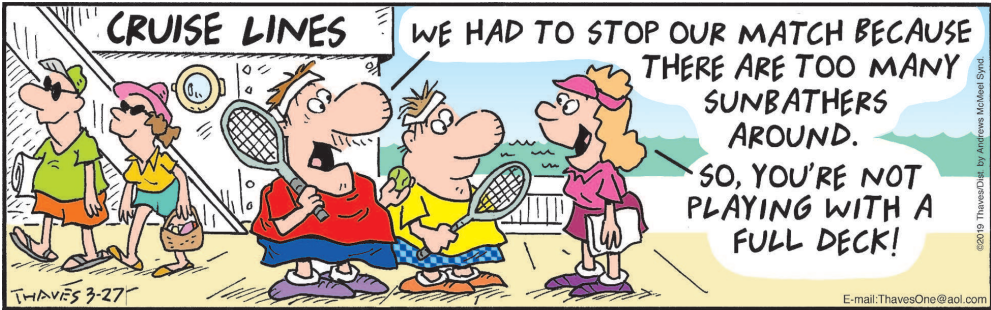
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Persuasion is a subtle art. When the point of influence is detected, it ceases to work. You are most persuasive when you don't even realize it's what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's time for another you-to-you review on the topic of caring for yourself. It's easy to forget, with so many people around wanting and needing things from you, that self-care is your No. 1 job on the planet.

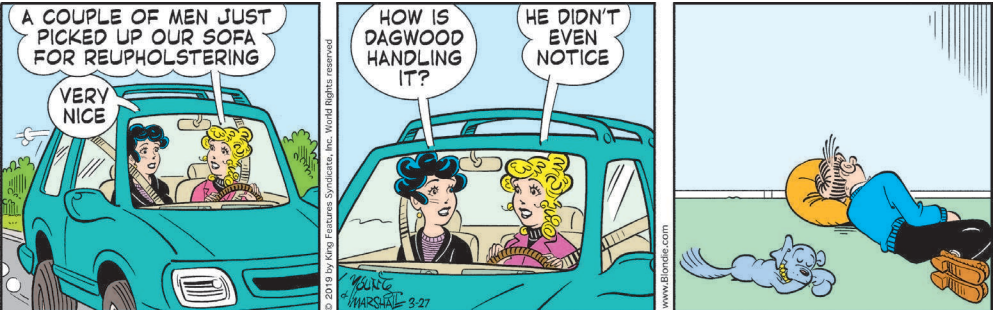
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Top lawyers don't build their entire case in the opening statement and neither should you. Your audience will stick with you today as you present your information in a thoughtfully ordered way.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 28). You'll discover new resources inside yourself. It comes about when you give yourself tasks that require great concentration and stamina. To turn inward for periods of time will build a core of strength you'll apply in many areas of life. You'll sign an important document in June. A stellar career move happens in August. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 39 and 18.

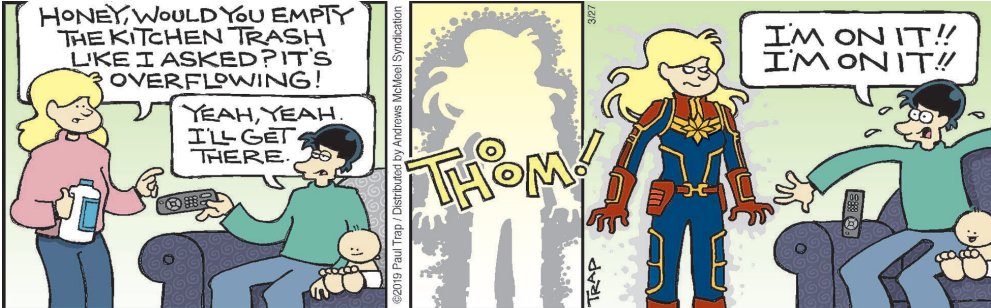
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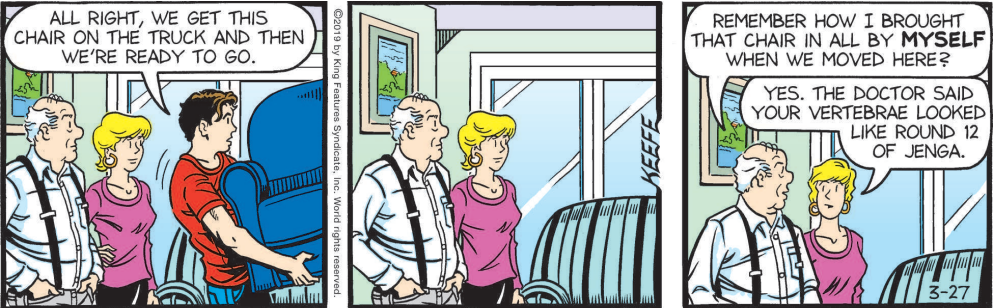
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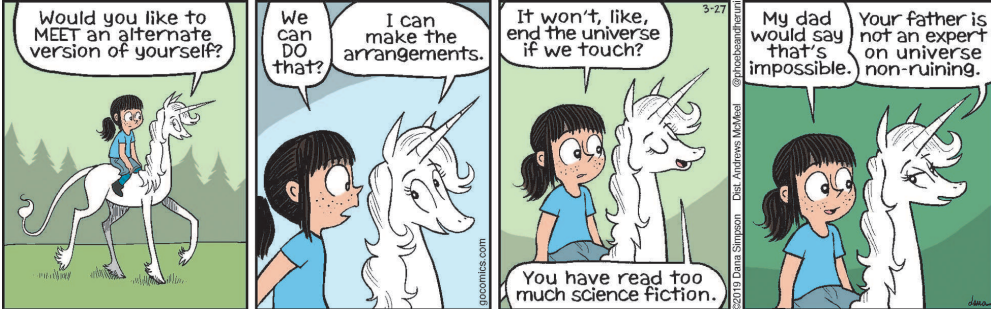
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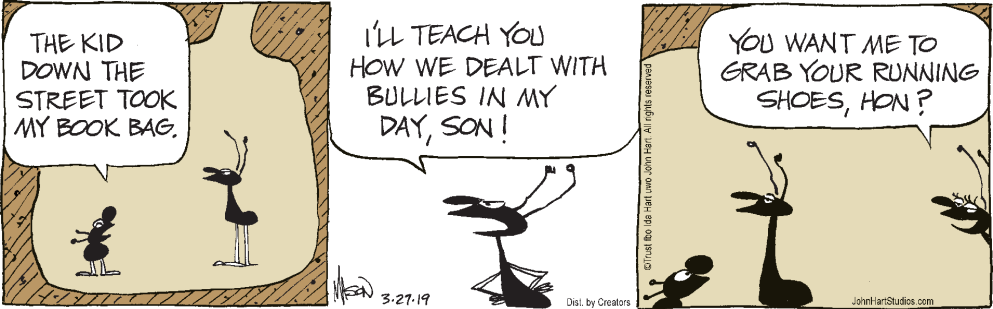
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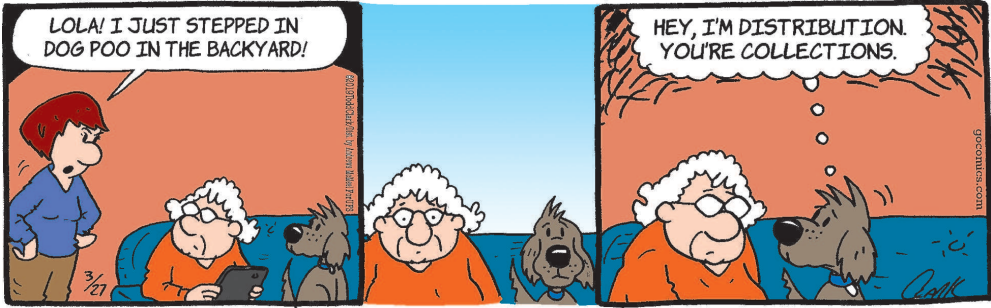
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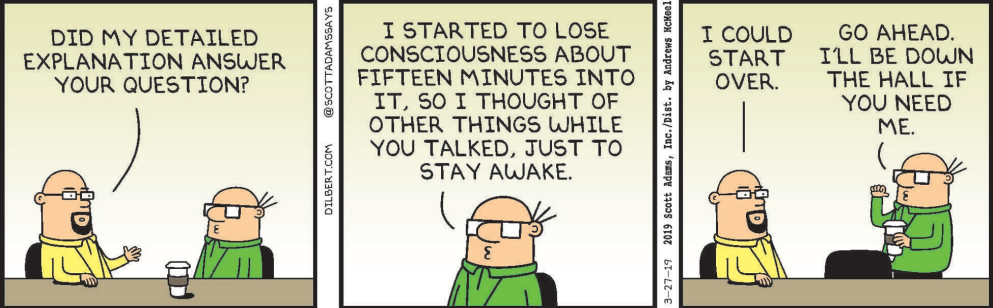
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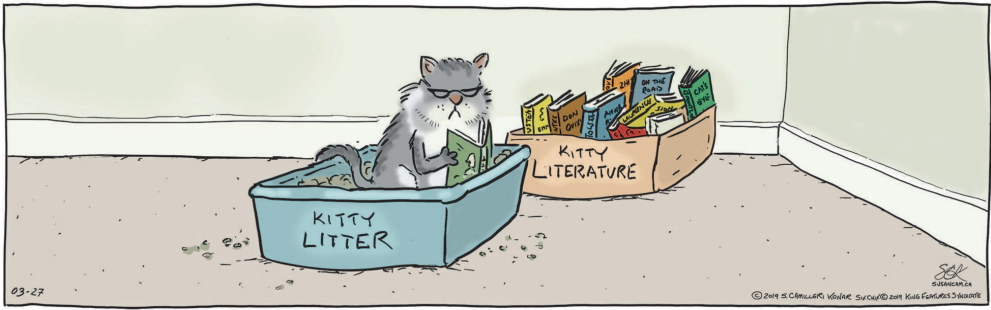
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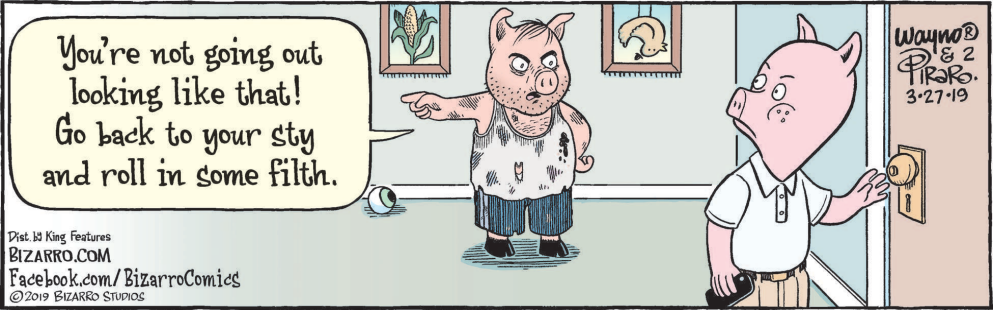
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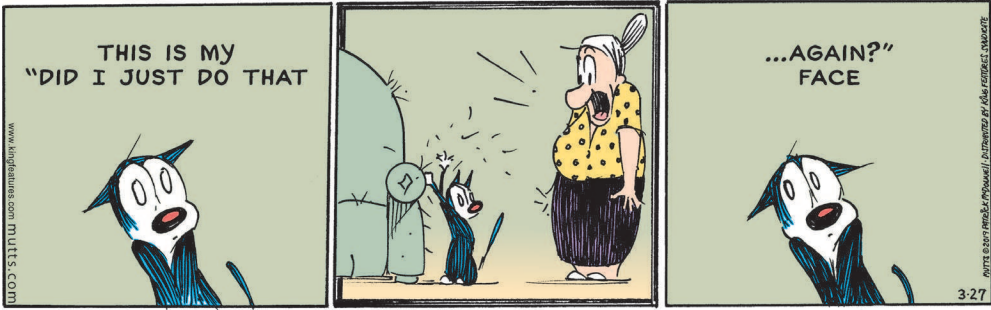
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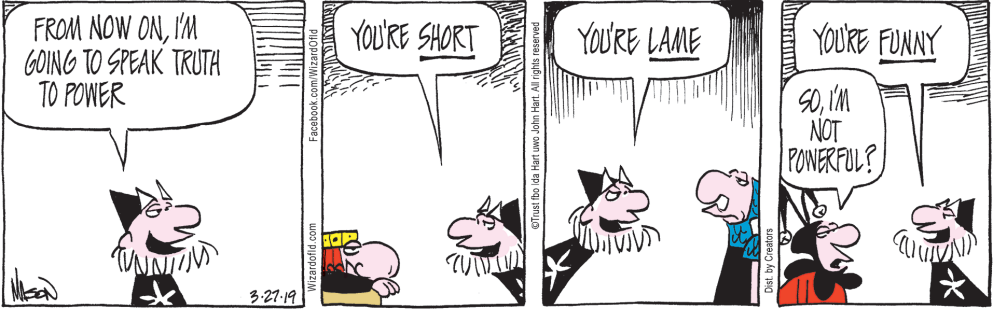
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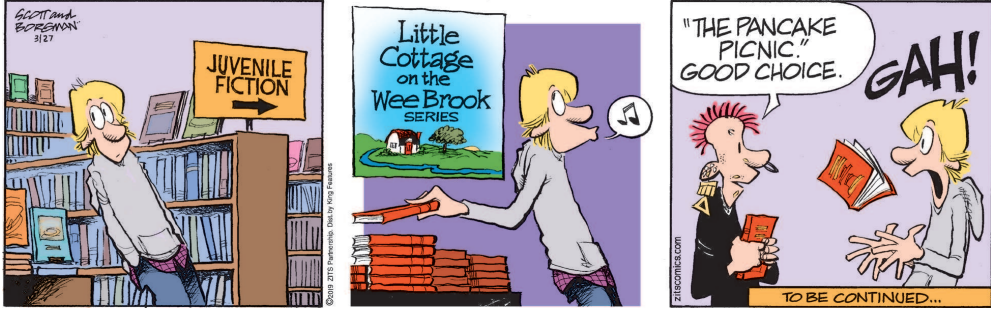
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