

# MARCH MADNESS

2021



John Tenniel: The Mad Hatter's tea party, from the *The Nursery "Alice"*, 1890

Robert Middleton

## The Madness of King Donald

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." If, as frequently claimed, Goebbels said this, no one has found the exact source. Hitler, on the other hand, laid out the theory very clearly in *Mein Kampf* Vol. 1, chapter 10, pp. 252-253:

"... in the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. ... Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying."

"... daß in der Größe der Lüge immer ein gewisser Faktor des Geglaubtwerdens liegt, da die breite Masse eines Volkes im tiefsten Grunde ihres Herzens leichter verdorben als bewußt und absichtlich schlecht sein wird, mithin bei der primitiven Einfalt ihres Gemütes einer großen Lüge leichter zum Opfer fällt als einer kleinen, da sie selber ja wohl manchmal im kleinen lügt, jedoch vor zu großen Lügen sich doch zu sehr schämen würde. ..., ja selbst bei Aufklärung darüber noch lange zweifeln und schwanken und wenigstens irgendeine Ursache doch noch als wahr annehmen: daher denn auch von der frechsten Lüge immer noch etwas übrig und hängen bleiben wird - eine Tatsache, die alle großen Lügenkünstler und Lügenvereine dieser Welt nur zu genau kennen und deshalb auch niederträchtig zur Anwendung bringen."

Here are a few quotes from Donald Trump's hour-long speech to the crowd assembled on January 6 in The Ellipse within the National Mall.<sup>1</sup>

"They rigged it like they've never rigged an election before. ... All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical left Democrats, which is what they're doing and stolen by the fake news media. ... We will never give up. We will never concede, it doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved.

By the way, does anybody believe that Joe had 80 million votes? Does anybody believe that? He had 80 million computer votes. It's a disgrace. ...

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<sup>1</sup> For the full text, see <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-election-2020/trump-speech-6-january-transcript-impeachment-b1786924.html>.

It's a disgrace.... For years, Democrats have gotten away with election fraud and weak Republicans, ... Unbelievable, what we have to go through, what we have to go through and you have to get your people to fight. ...

Our media is not free. It's not fair. It suppresses thought. It suppresses speech, and it's become the enemy of the people. ... Now it is up to Congress to confront this egregious assault on our democracy.... We're going to walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators, and congressmen and women. .... You have to show strength, and you have to be strong....

... In every single swing state, local officials, state officials, almost all Democrats made illegal and unconstitutional changes to election procedures without the mandated approvals by the state legislatures, that these changes paved the way for fraud on a scale never seen before.

...think of this: .... You will have an illegitimate president, that's what you'll have. And we can't let that happen. ... Let them get out. Let the weak ones get out. This is a time for strength. They also want to indoctrinate your children in school by teaching them things that aren't so. ... It's all part of the comprehensive assault on our democracy and the American people are finally standing up and saying, 'No.'

Together we are determined to defend and preserve government of the people, by the people and for the people. Our brightest days are before us, our greatest achievements still wait. I think one of our great achievements will be election security because nobody, until I came along, had any idea how corrupt our elections were. ... And we fight. We fight like Hell and if you don't fight like Hell, you're not going to have a country any more.

... So we're going to, we're going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue ... and we're going to the Capitol ... But we're going to try and give our Republicans, the weak ones, because the strong ones don't need any of our help, we're going to try and give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country.

T T T T

Did you say insurrection? What insurrection? "All President Trump did was call for a peaceful assembly and protest for a fair and audited election." (Darin Smith, Wyoming Republican hopeful - *Cheyenne Post*, 6 February 2021)

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in it" (Shakespeare *Hamlet* II 2)

# T T T T

Trump's lies were, however, not limited to 6 January and have attained a life of their own with the help of QAnon, a baseless conspiracy discourse spread on the Internet by a person calling him/herself "Q".

## Plain Crazy

The followers of QAnon are among Trump's strongest supporters. Trump has refused to denounce it. According to Reuters (24.8.2020), Russian government-supported organizations are playing a small - but increasing - role in amplifying its conspiracy theories,.

Here are a few of the things that QAnon followers believe: <sup>2</sup>

- Q is someone from the Trump administration, an anonymous high-ranking military official, a Michael Flynn-type character or even Donald Trump himself.
- John F. Kennedy staged his death and may now also pose as Q.
- A cabal of Satan-worshipping Democrats, Hollywood celebrities and (mostly Jewish) billionaires runs the world while engaging in pedophilia, human trafficking and the harvesting of a supposedly life-extending chemical from the blood of abused children.
- The children are being sold through the website of the furniture retailer Wayfair (originally from the basement of a pizza shop, Comet Ping Pong, in Washington, D.C.).
- Child Protective Services and other government agencies actually operate child trafficking rings.
- Trump is waging a secret battle against this cabal and its "deep state" collaborators to expose the malefactors and send them all to Guantánamo Bay. All these figures are secretly wearing location-tracking ankle monitors, so their whereabouts can be checked at all times,
- The "deep state" includes Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff John Podesta, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Microsoft's Bill Gates, philanthropists such as George Soros, and celebrities such as Madonna, Ellen DeGeneres, Tom Hanks and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
- One day soon the "storm" will come and Trump, with the help of Q, will round up members of the deep state, arrest them, and possibly have them

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<sup>2</sup> Sources: *Wikipedia*, *CNN*, *The Guardian*, *Snopes*, *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, *Reuters*, among others.

executed. The USA will then enjoy a period of enlightenment as the evils of the deep state are destroyed.

- The killing of Osama bin Laden was a hoax and Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden worked with Iran to have bin Laden transferred to Pakistan as "Obama's trophy kill".
- The Rothschild family controls all the banks.
- "Big Pharma", Bill Gates and Anthony Fauci invented COVID-19 to gain money and political power.
- All news is fake, scientists are wrong, vaccinations dangerous and anyone who voiced opposition to the Trump administration is likely in, or at least being controlled by, the deep state.
- The 6 January assault on the Capitol was undertaken as a "false flag" operation by antifascist protesters dressed as Trump supporters.
- Jan. 20 was to be the day of "Great Awakening" or "The Storm" when Trump would expose the supposed cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophile cannibal elites and declare martial law, meaning he would remain in power, and leading to mass arrests and executions of top Democrats or other supposed members of the cabal.
- Trump will come back to power, and be sworn into office on March 4th.
- The Dominion Voting system, designed for Hugo Chavez to win fraudulently the Venezuela Presidential election in 2004 with the help of George Soros, was used in the 2020 US Elections and changed the results in all swing states.
- Special counsel Robert Mueller didn't actually investigate Trump and his 2016 campaign for their possible ties to Russia. Rather, Mueller was appointed by Trump to investigate Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and other top Democrats, such as former Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, for links to Putin.
- Mass shootings at high schools and colleges were faked by actors in order to promote gun control.
- etc., etc. *ad nauseam*.

### **Batshit crazy <sup>3</sup>**

For truly unhinged conspiracy theory, we have to turn to Marjorie Taylor Greene, newly elected Congresswoman for Georgia who, in addition to support for all of the above, believes that "solar energy collected in space and beamed back to Earth by lasers is what sparked California's worst wildfires in

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<sup>3</sup> Comment on Marjorie Taylor Greene by the conservative commentator Erick Erickson, quoted by Charles Behtea in *The New Yorker* - 9.10.2020

2020. The Northern California utility provider PG&E partnered with a company called Solaren Corp. in 2009 to buy solar space energy captured on satellite solar panels, [*actually true*] but, allegedly, lasers beaming the energy back to the Earth intentionally missed their mark and started a wildfire as a way to clear land for California's stalled high-speed rail project." (*Huffington Post*, 30.1.2021)

T T T T

As an illustration of the malign and tentacular influence of the QAnon campaign and Trump's lies, polls by Quinnipiac, NPR/IPSOS and YouGov revealed respectively that more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Republicans and one-third of Americans currently believe that voter fraud helped Joe Biden win the 2020 election and that 45% of Republicans support the storming of the Capitol..

T T T T

In all this darkness, there is at least some humour:

*The Borowitz Report* WASHINGTON February 2, 2021—Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene has blamed the blizzard currently battering the East Coast on “orbiting Jewish space snow machines” controlled by the Hungarian-born billionaire George Soros.

In a series of tweets, Greene claimed that the snow machines had manufactured the blizzard to make it impossible for her to get out of her driveway and reach her office at the U.S. Capitol.

“I will not be silenced by Jewish snow,” she defiantly tweeted.

Expanding on her theory, Greene wrote, “ ‘Snow’ and ‘Soros’ both begin with the letter ‘S,’ and also prominently feature the letter ‘O.’ Only an idiot would miss this connection.”

At the Capitol, the House Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy, said that he had responded “swiftly and decisively” to Greene’s Jewish-snow-machine theory by giving her a seat on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

T T T T

“The evil that men do lives after them” - Shakespeare *Julius Caesar* III 2

~ Robert Middleton 2021

Cartoons from *The New Yorker*

e-mail [robert@middleton.ch](mailto:robert@middleton.ch)

Visit my website [www.pamirs.org](http://www.pamirs.org)

*All editions of Christmas Pudding etc. can be found on*  
<http://www.pamirs.org/Christmas-Pudding.htm>



# Humour may help to restore sanity

## Public announcement by the International Psychiatric Association

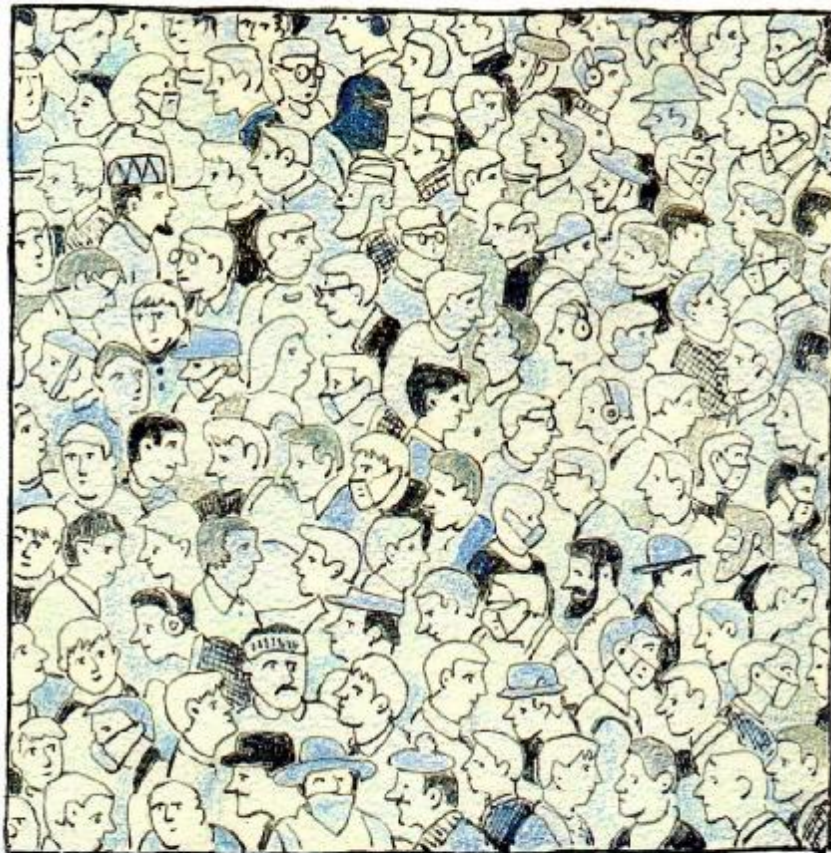
### To all citizens

As a result of the very large number of enquiries we have recently received, we wish to give the following guidance:

During confinement in any form (quarantine, working at home etc.) it is quite normal to speak to plants, walls and kitchen utensils.

If, however, they answer back, do not hesitate to call us.

Thank you for your attention.



I THOUGHT THAT NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME  
TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

*Glen Baxter*



***"Remember when this was the only thing that kept us inside."***

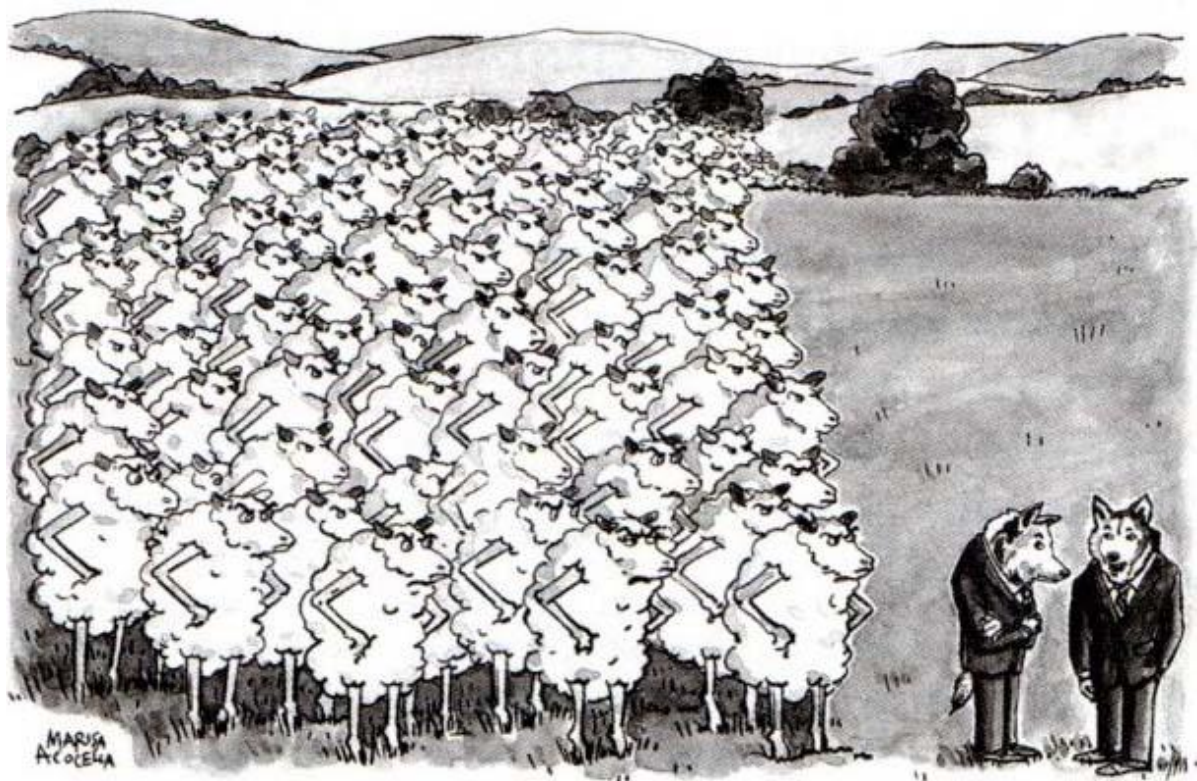


***"You have to say Hi to them. My parents saw you wander into frame."***





***"Personally, I worry that, with everyone wearing masks, readers won't be able to tell who in the cartoon is speaking"***



***"It seems you promised them herd immunity, Sir."***

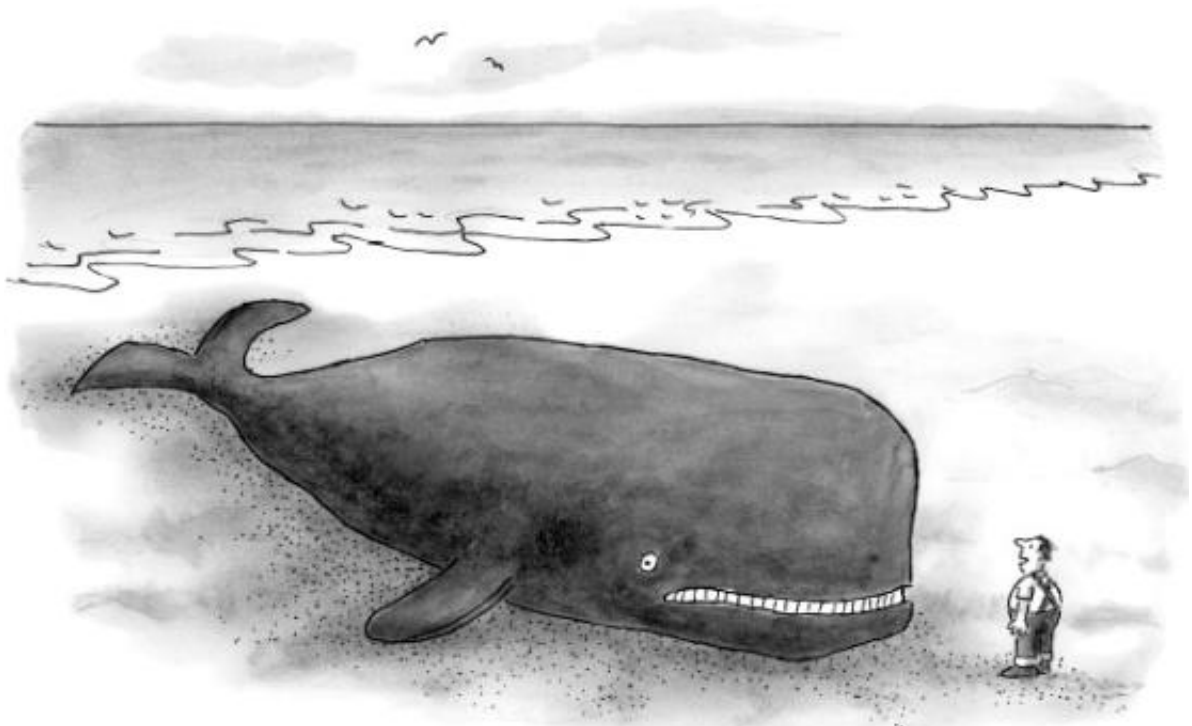


*"Still no vax - go back to sleep."*

## Animal Antics -they're good company



W. McNeil



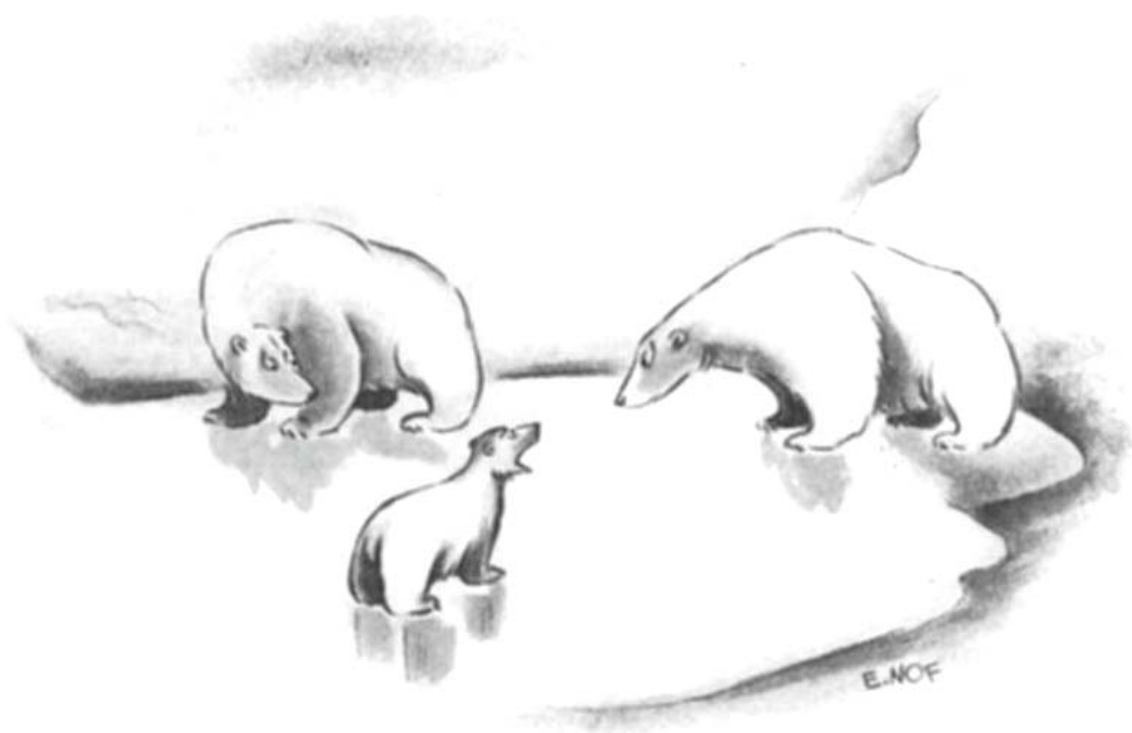
S. Gross

*"Hang in there! The polar ice cap is melting."*





*"He's my best friend and he works hard all day.  
 Couldn't you at least wag your tail?"*



*"I don't care what you say—I'm cold!"*

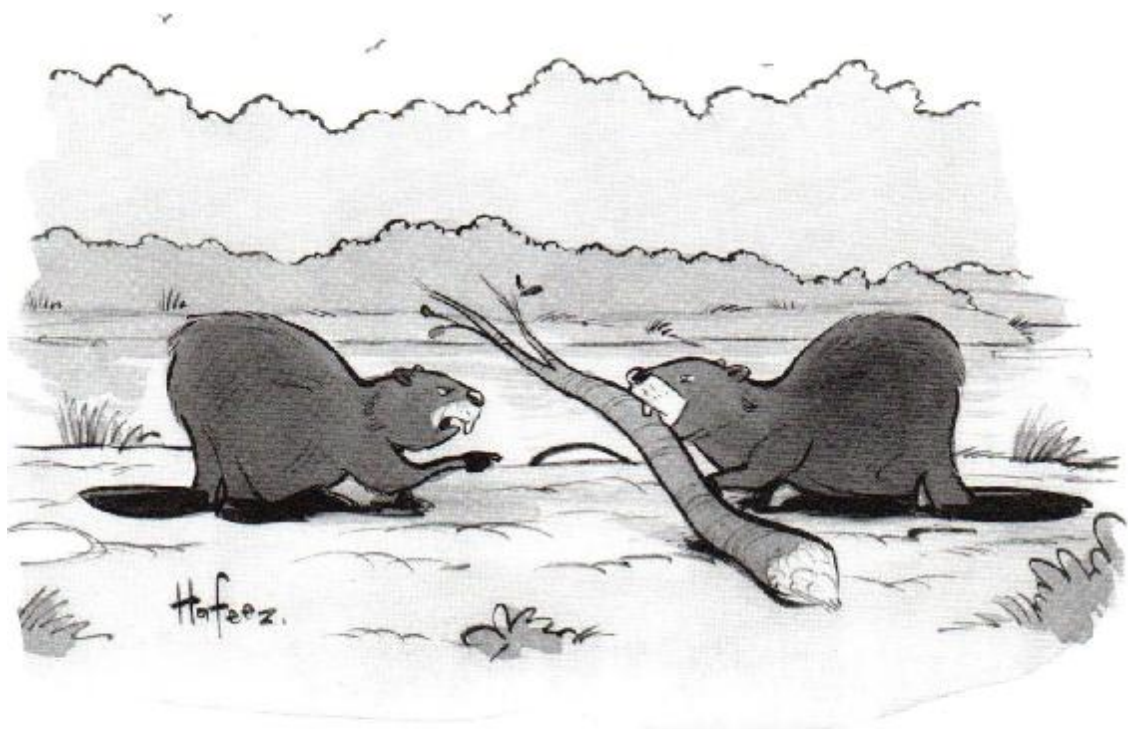
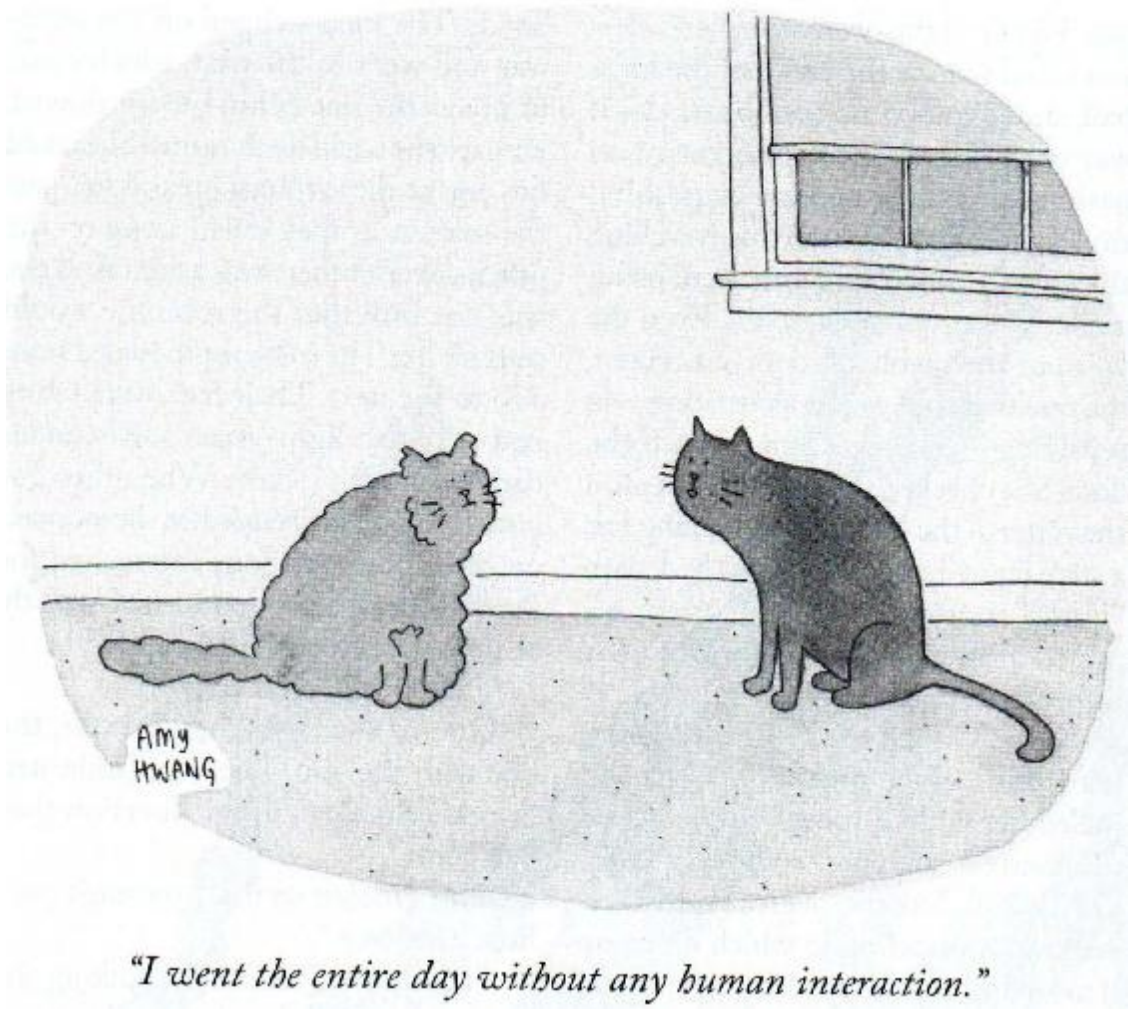


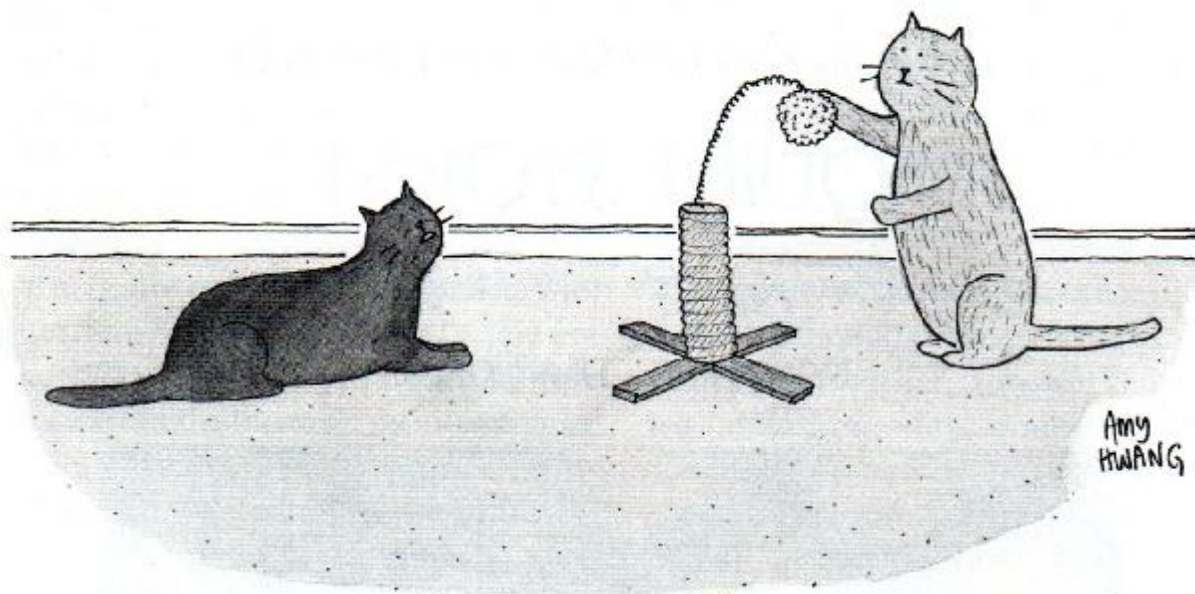
*"It looks nothing like him."*



*"He's at that awkward age—too old to be cute, but not dead yet."*







*"Take it easy. It's the weekend."*



*"We just haven't been flapping them hard enough."*

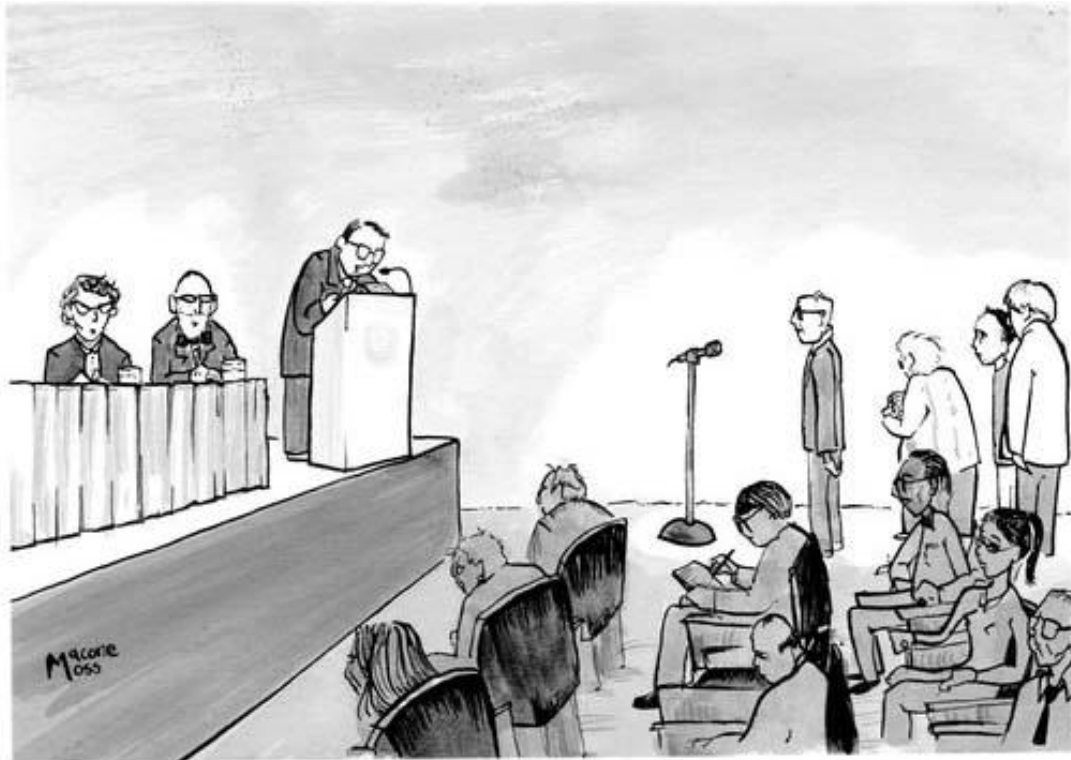


Dear Lydia,  
Oh how I longz to folm yot.  
The da5 have beef too mong  
and the nreeps even zoncer...



*"Relax—it's all online."*

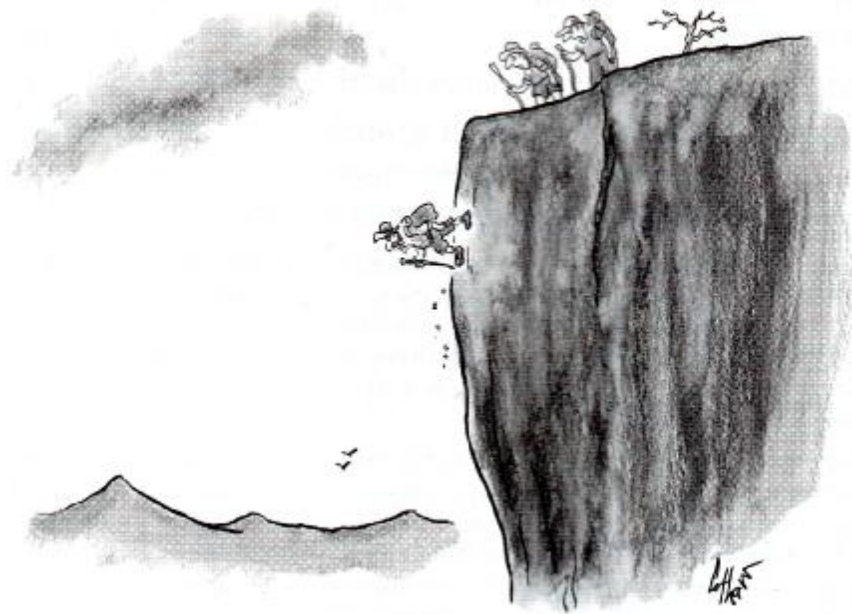
## Office Life and Bosses - don't you miss them?



*"We'd now like to open the floor to shorter speeches disguised as questions."*



*"I know we didn't accomplish anything, but that's what meetings are for."*



*"Let's not mistake his confidence for leadership."*



*"I know by outward standards I'm successful, but a voice inside my head keeps saying, 'Where's your private plane?'"*





*"Publicly, we're still saying there are no side effects."*



*"The system was already feudal when I inherited it."*



*"Any other strengths?"*



*C. Barzotti*

*"Sure, we were dysfunctional, but, by God, we were royal."*



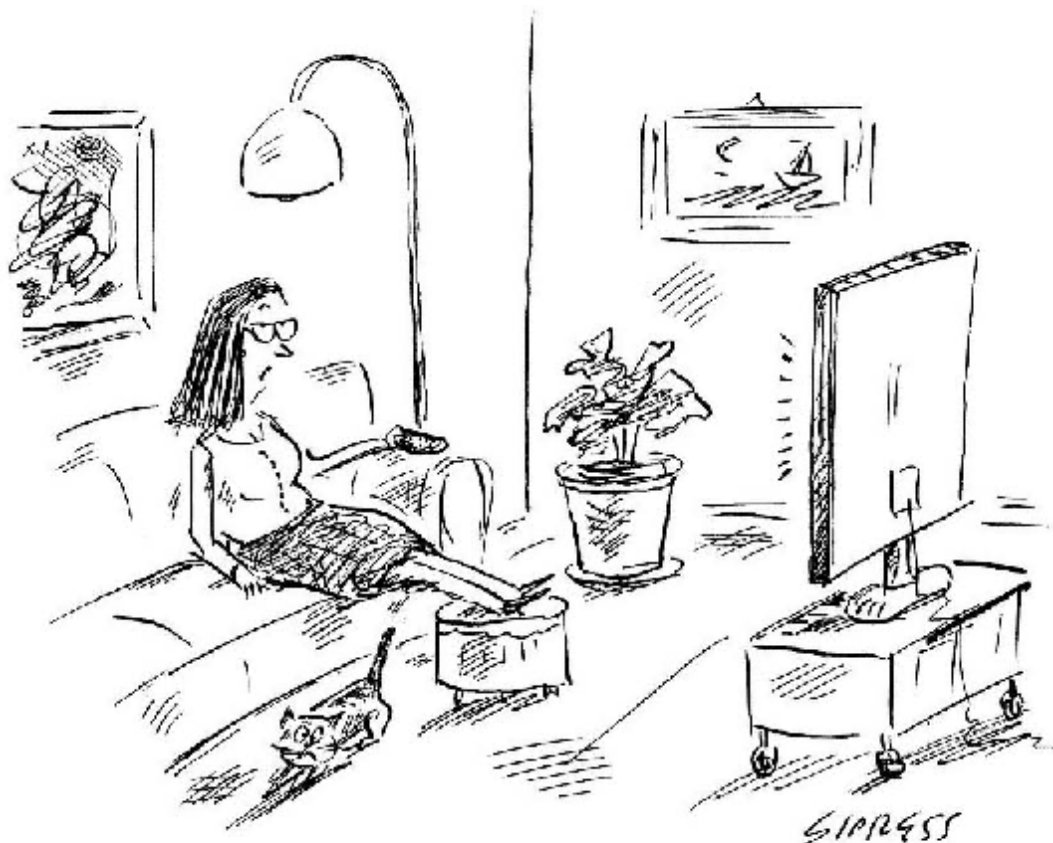
**WEF - ECONOMIC VISION (NZZ 29.1.2011)**



***"Some day all of this glass ceiling will be yours."***



## Doctors - get vaccinated



*"Ask your doctor if taking a pill to solve all your problems is right for you."*



*"It's just that if you lie to me about flossing how can I trust anything else you say."*



*"We lose a little dexterity, but we gain a lot of confidence."*



*"Dead? He gets that a lot."*

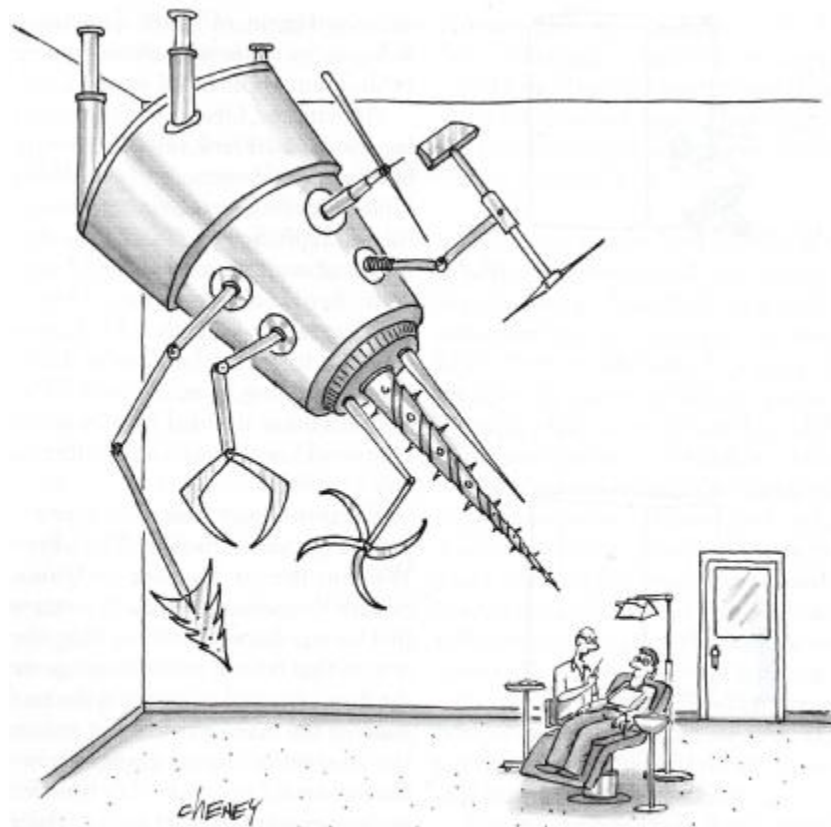




*"You've been eating again."*



*"That's great, but you still have to walk more."*



*"First, let's get you nice and numb for this procedure."*



*"We're running a little behind, but we'd be happy to have our anesthesiologist put you under for a few hours, until the doctor is ready to see you."*

**Food and Drink - enjoy with as much moderation as you can manage**



*"It tastes and smells just like a glass of wine."*



*"Hold on, Jed, this may actually be a Malbec."*



*"They know me here."*



*"Perfect. Kate and Eli are suckers for bold graphics."*





*"I said, 'Fetch Chardonnay,' not 'Riesling.'"*



*"Sometimes all you want is a mediocre place to eat something you could have made better yourself if you weren't so lazy."*

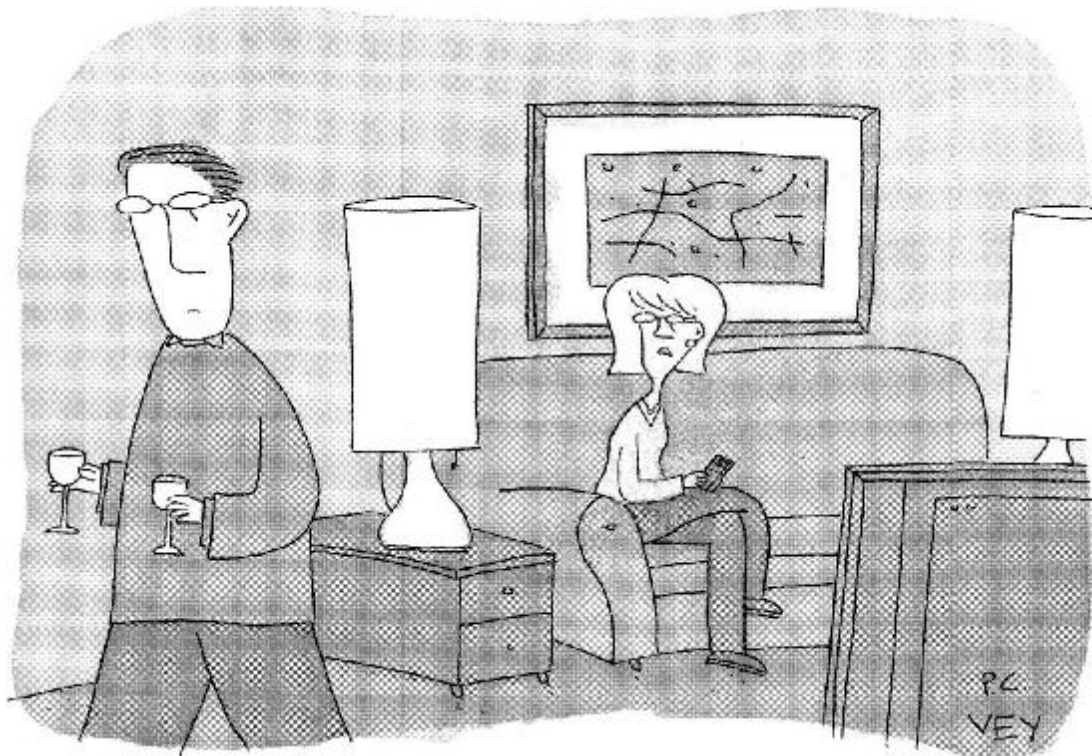




***"It's your ribs. I'm afraid they're delicious."***



***"I take the fun out of everything What do you do?"***



*"Open a wine that will make me want to watch the shows you want to watch."*



*"It's mostly sweater weight."*

## God and Co.



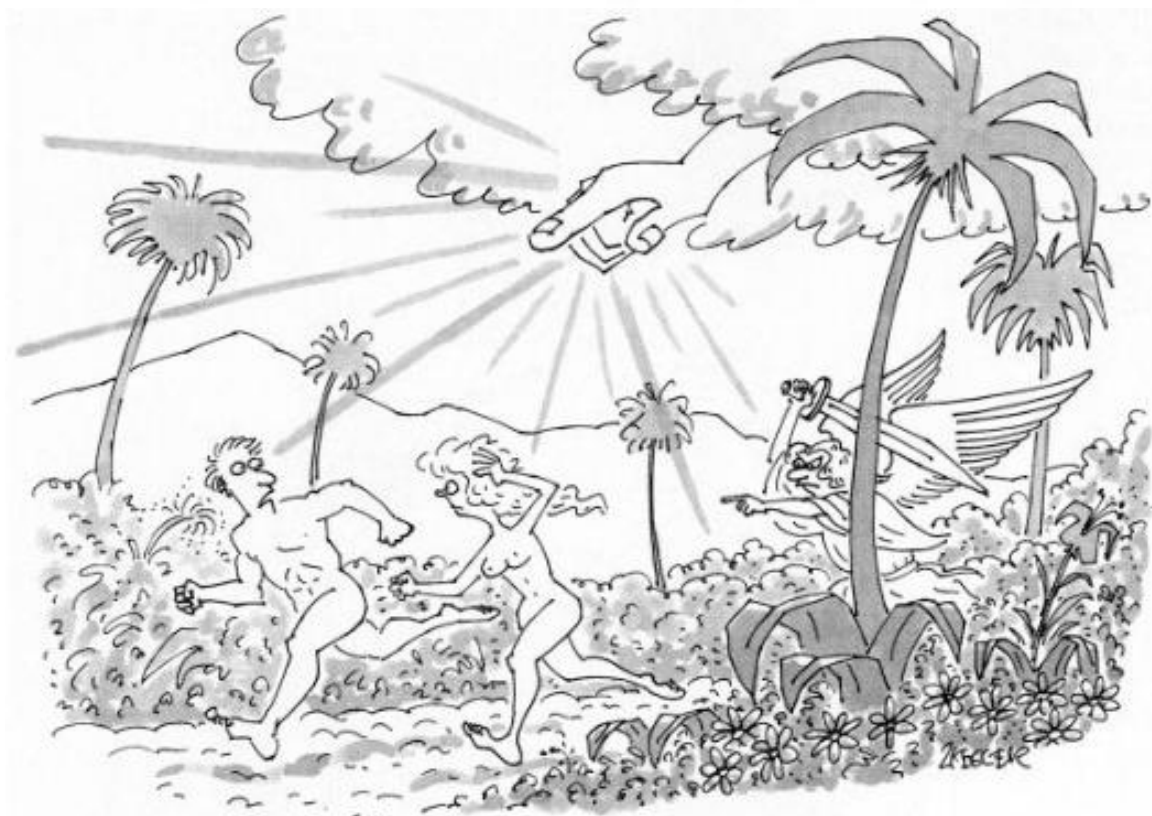
*"What do you think—capitalize 'Me'? Or too much?"*



*"Everyone else is going apple-picking."*



*"Just call now and then, to let us know you exist."*



*"At least, we don't have to sit through some big, prolonged trial."*





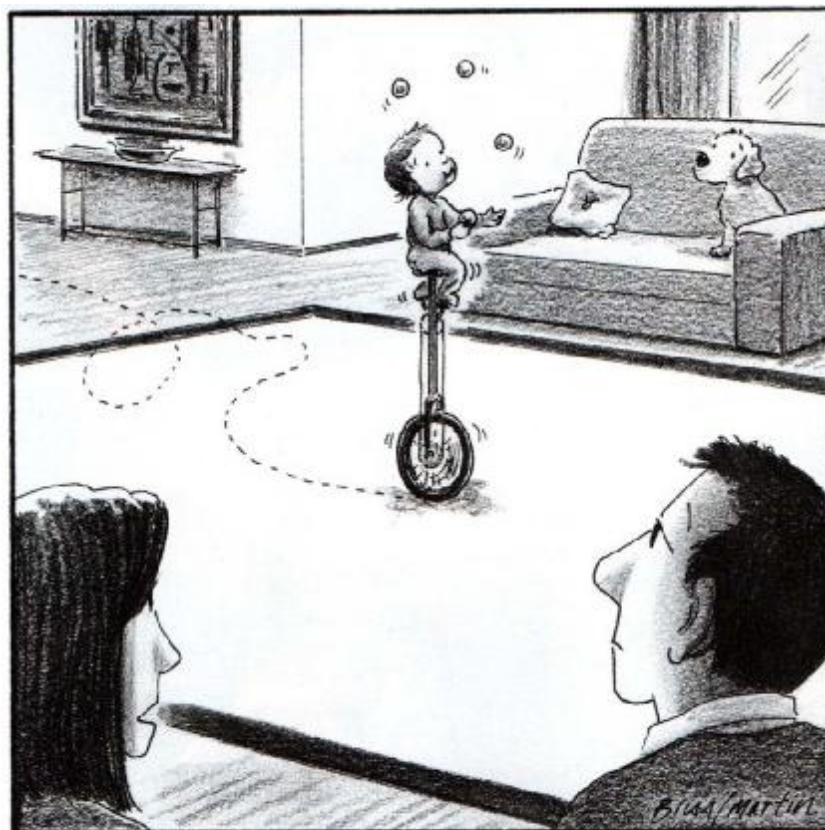
*"Thanks, but we decided to go ahead without the apple."*



## Kids - are they back at home?



*"He can't play this game, because I'm playing Only Child."*



*"Encourage or discourage?"*



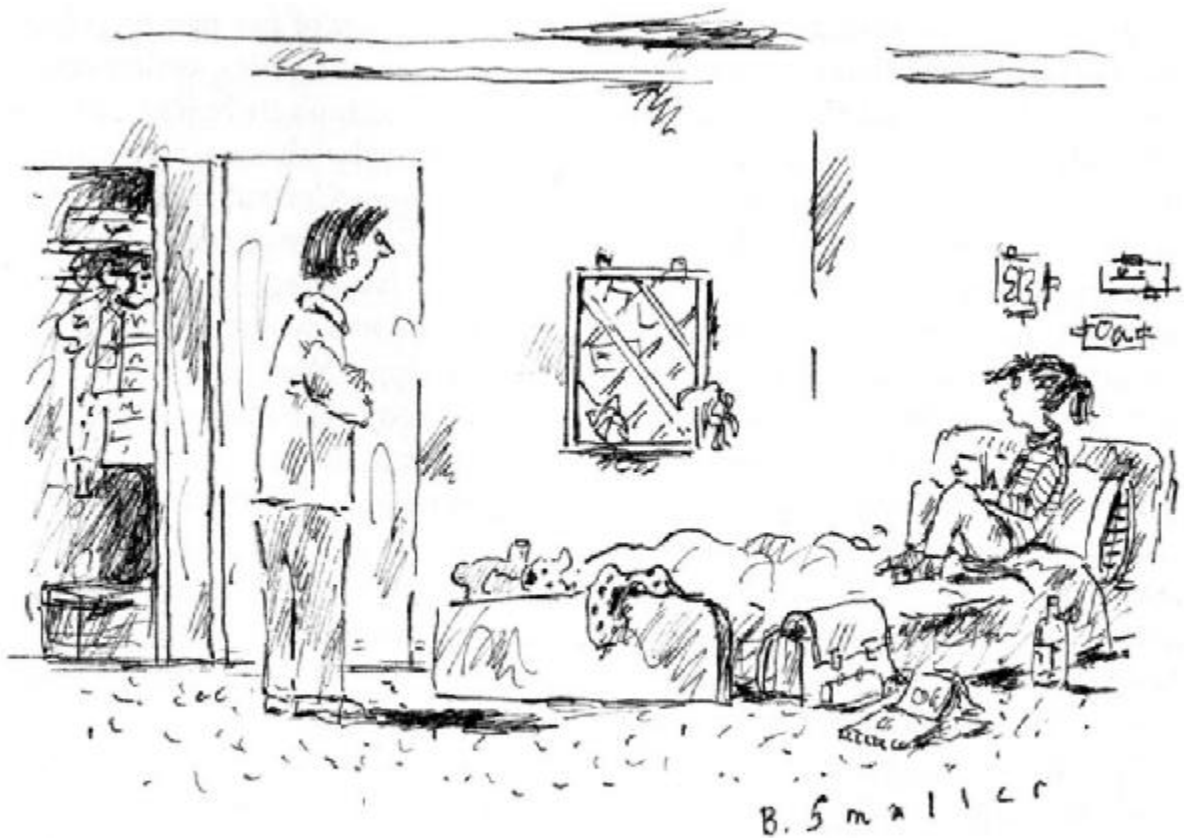
*"If I leave them in there with a bottle, I can usually get a little time for myself."*



*"They pay the bills, but you and I basically run the place."*



*"Listen, we can risk sending them back to school, but, honestly, these are the skills they're going to need most in the new world."*



*"Big deal, you were in labor for nineteen hours.  
I'm sure it was no picnic for me, either."*





*"Where were you between the hours of beddy-bye and nighty-night?"*



*"I feel I need to take a break from academia."*

## Marriage and Love - we need all we can get



*"I think I'd look better without you."*

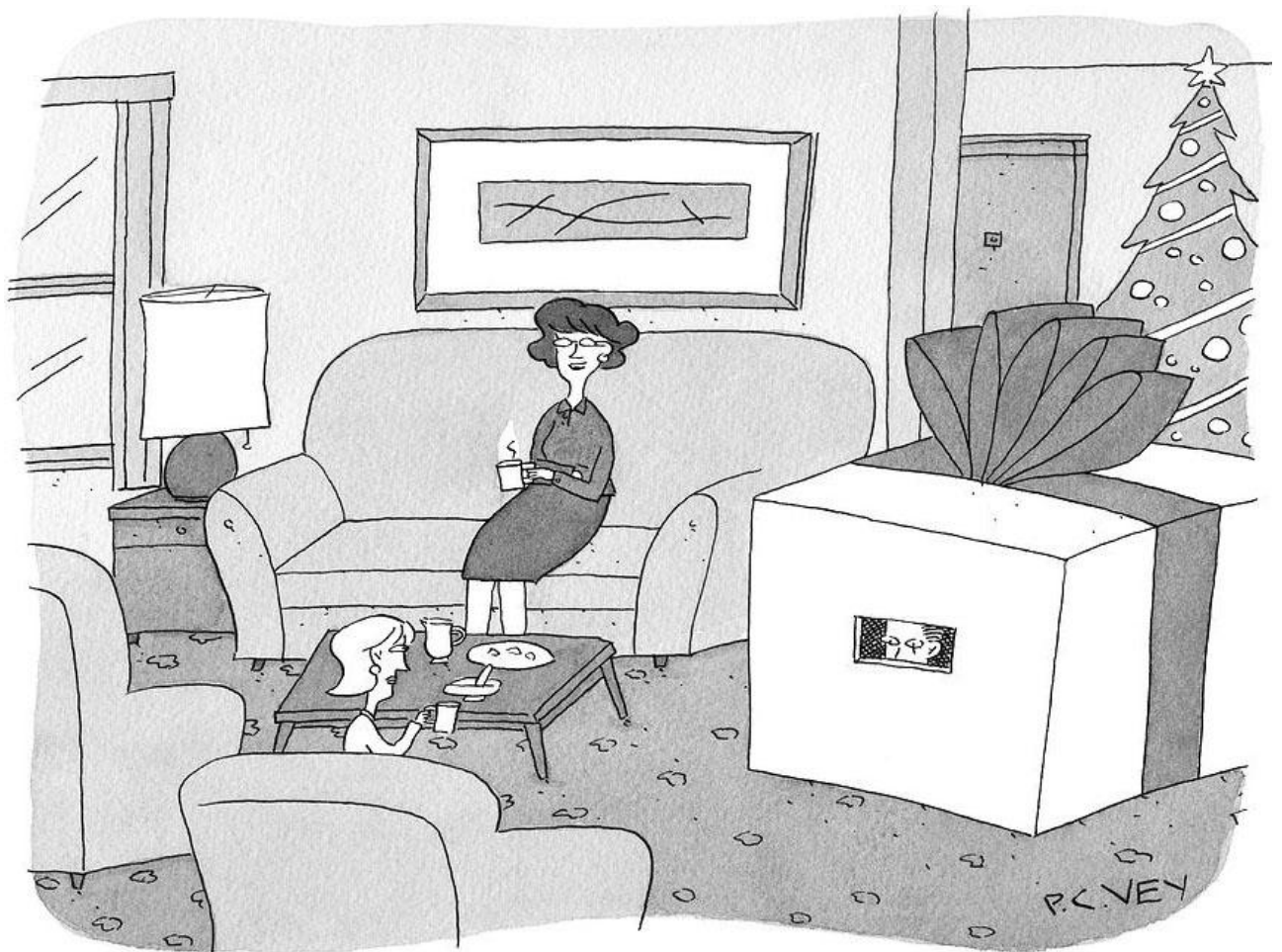


*"Make me that happy."*



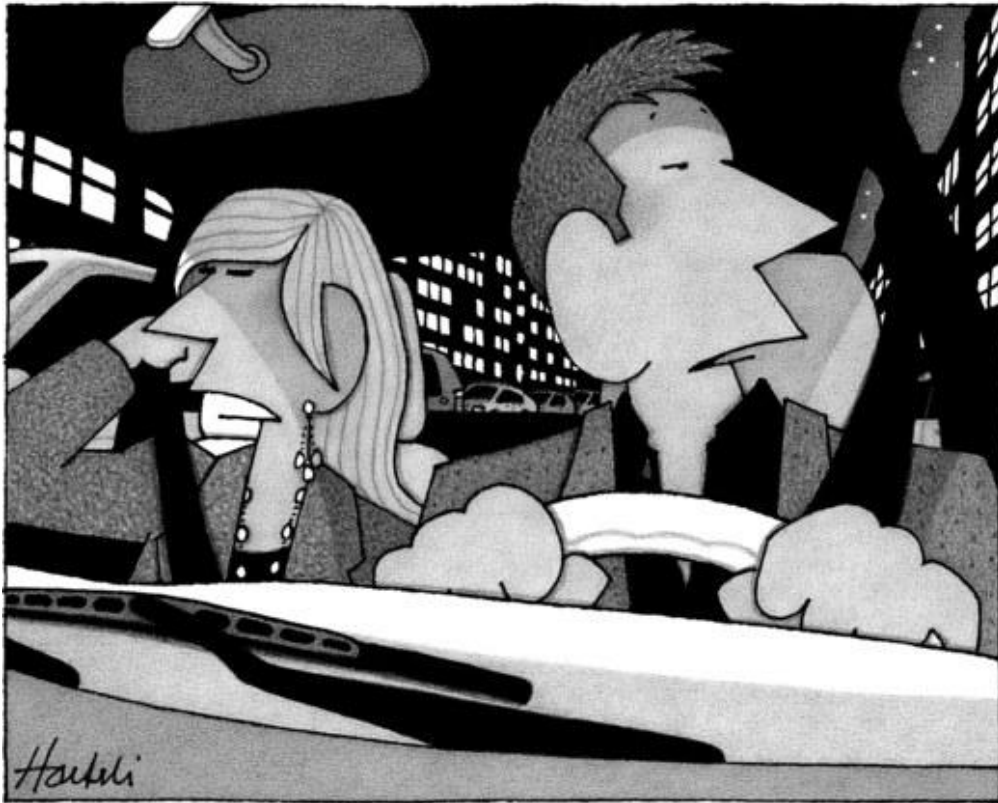


*"Either cheer up or take off the hat."*



*"Every year he regifts himself to me."*





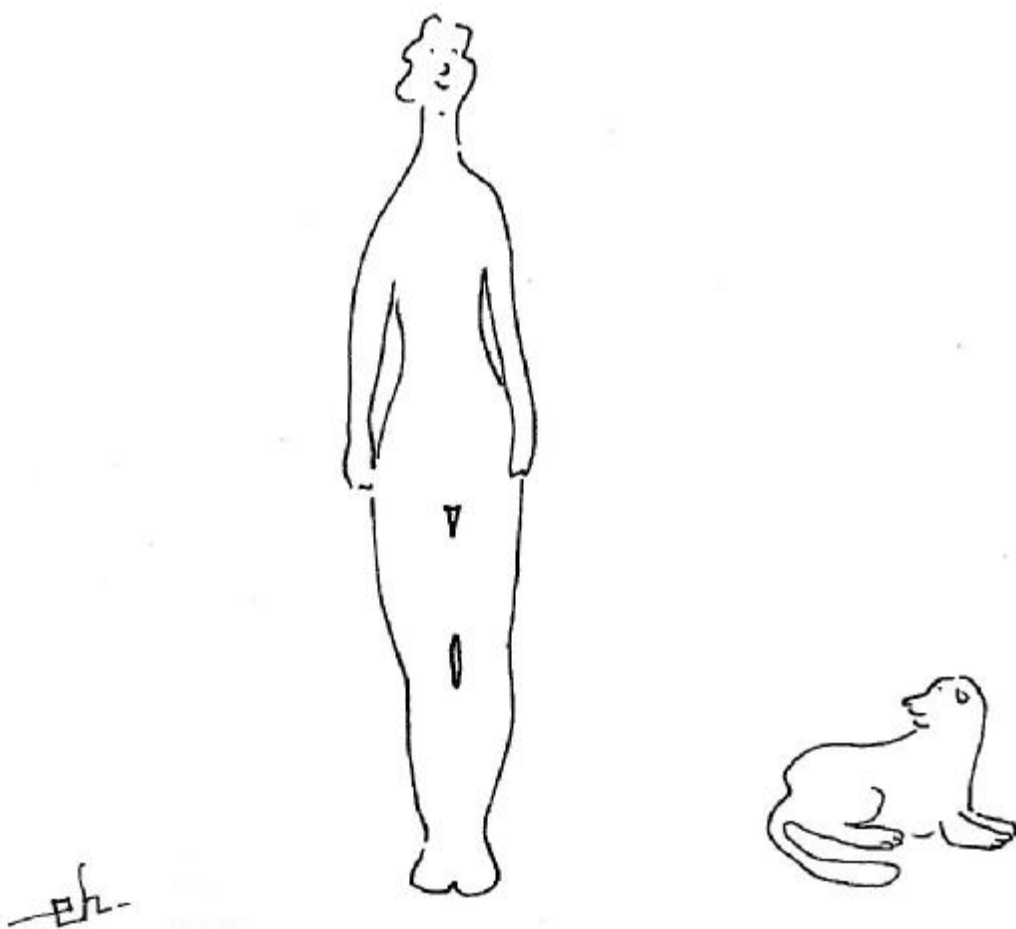
*"It's O.K. I didn't marry you for your parking karma."*



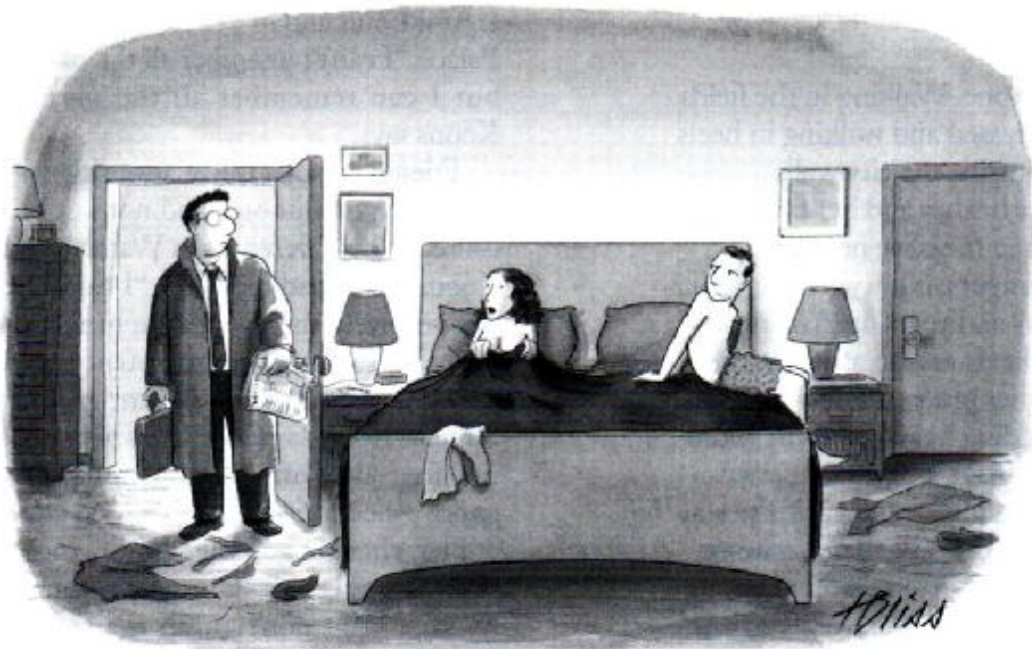
*"He gets so dramatic when I lower the thermostat."*



*"I've decided to leave my family to devote more time to myself."*



*"Everything about her spelled trouble, but it was dark, and I thought it spelled 'truffles.'"*



*"I know what you're thinking, but let me offer a competing narrative."*



*"... and if anyone here suspects that the algorithm that put these two together might be flawed, speak now..."*



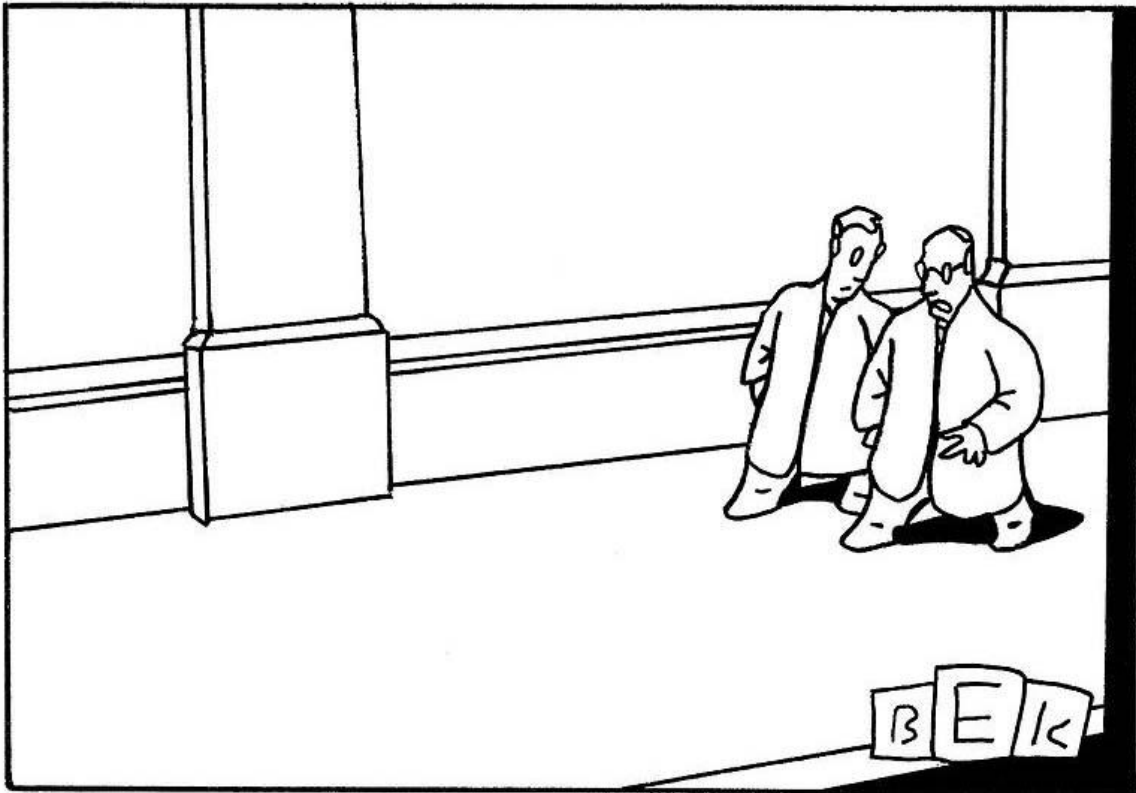


*"Let's make a pact—I won't tell you about my day  
if you won't tell me about yours."*

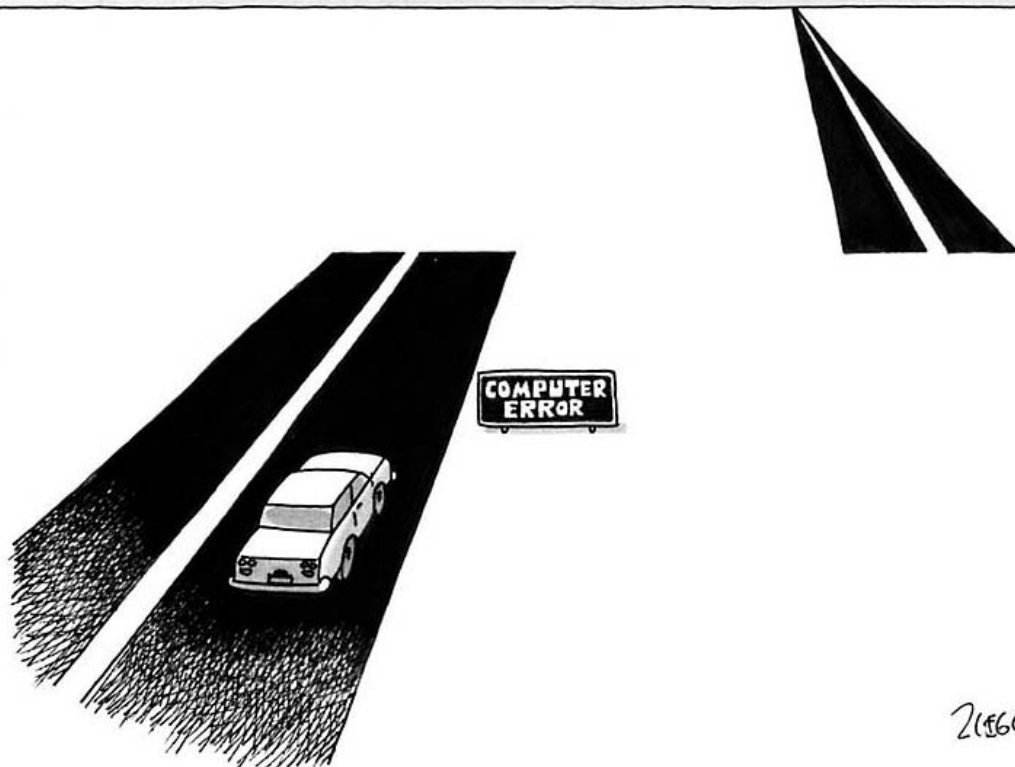


*"I'm doing some reorganizing—are there any of your  
possessions that you want to keep?"*

## Modern Living - let's rethink our priorities



*"I always gain five to seven enemies over the holidays."*

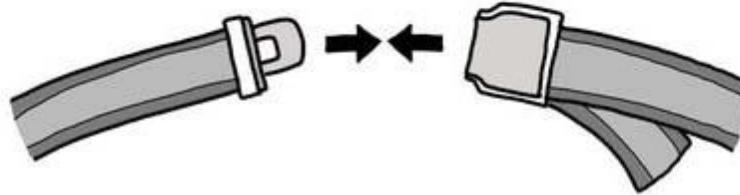


ZIGGERS

# HOW TO WATCH THE NEWS

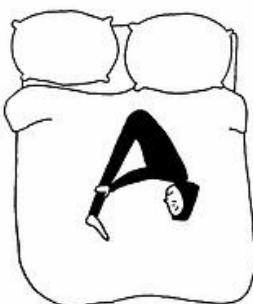
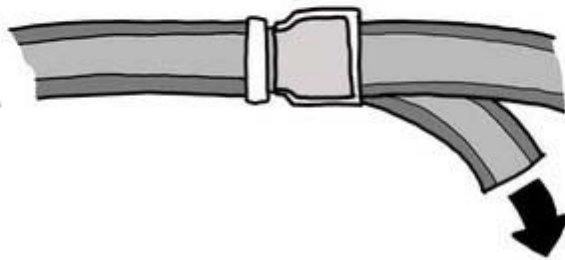
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TIGHTEN FOR DEAR LIFE

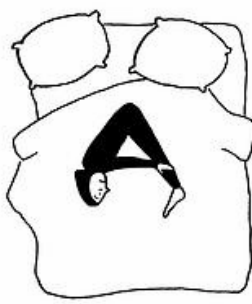
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12:00AM.



1:30 AM.



3:00AM.



4:30AM.



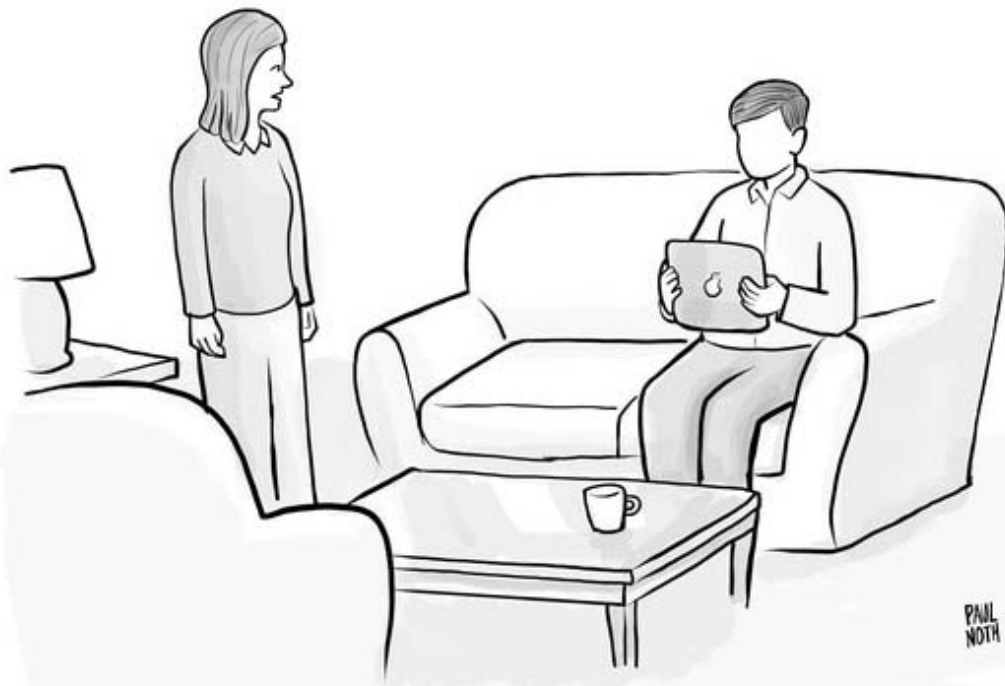
7:00AM.

MAGGIE L.





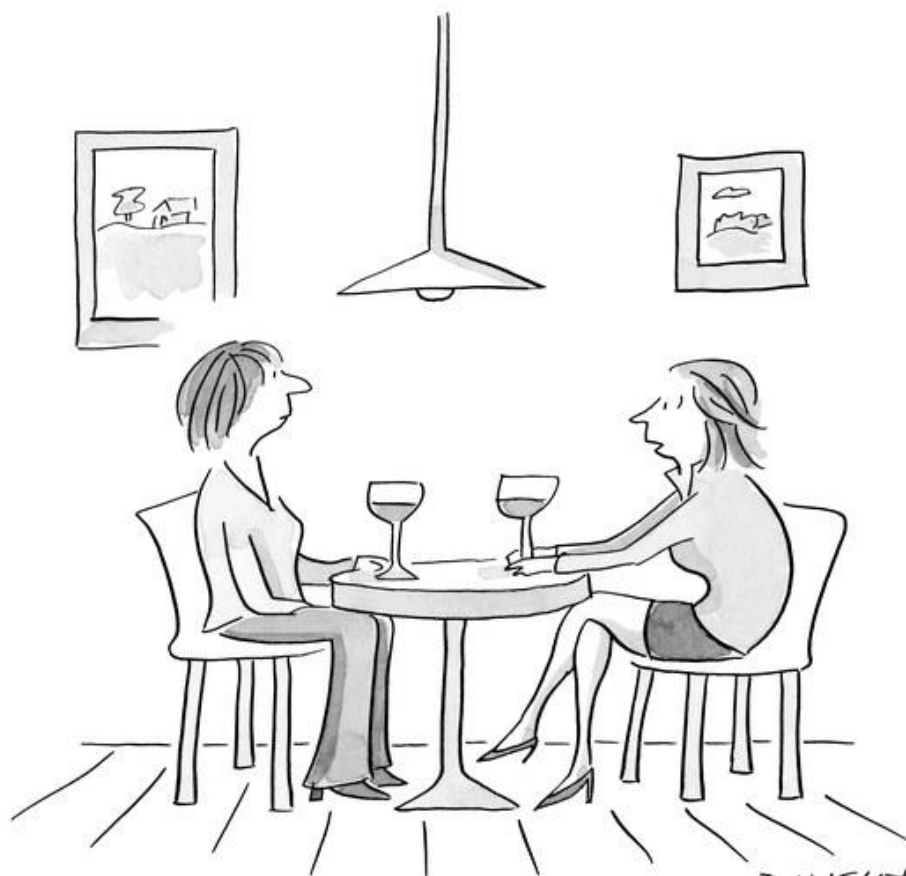
*"Can you juggle a household, three kids, and a career?"*



*"Did you read the terms and conditions before you deleted Facebook?"*



*"This isn't about your stealing anything. It's about your not buying anything."*



*"I want to stay friends, Janine, but not in the same book group."*

## Some Good Advice

1. Stay in touch and be healthy - get vaccinated..
2. Send *March Madness* to all your friends; there will be no print edition.
3. Look up back numbers of *Christmas Pudding Easter Egg Nuts in May, June Moon, July Butterfly* and *Autumn Leaves* on <http://www.pamirs.org/Christmas-Pudding.htm>
4. Greet everyone with a wave and a smile but avoid crowds.
5. Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.
6. And don't forget to take a subscription to *The New Yorker*:  
<https://www.newyorker.com/>



*"Hear that? No Trump."*