

She's still suspicious of boyfriend Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend and I are in our 60s and have known each other since high school. We reconnected five years ago, and for the past 18 months, we've been living together.

At first, my boyfriend was loving and sweet and promised all sorts of dreams for our future. But after several months, he changed. He became distant, sometimes even cruel in his actions. I begged him to tell me if there was another woman, but he always denied it, in spite of rumors and the fact that things just seemed off.

The problem is, even after all this time, I still have moments when I'm convinced he had a fling with a certain woman, and I can't get over it. He still denies it, and I am confused and hurt. But when I ask, he will respond by withdrawing from me for months.

I believe he did have an affair and never got over her and that's why we have so little intimacy now. I have been praying and am seeing a counselor, but I can't seem to let it go completely. Is there something wrong with me? Or is my intuition telling me that he deceived me and is continuing to lie about it? All my friends say either to let it go or to end it, but I don't want to leave him, and I have no control over my thoughts and feelings. Please help. — Louise in Louisville

Dear Louise: Actually, you do have some control over those thoughts and feelings, but it takes effort and willing-

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



ness. Your intuition is telling you that your boyfriend is not being completely honest, and you have become fixated on knowing something that he probably will never tell you. And it could be that there is nothing to tell. Because you wish to stay with him, please talk to your counselor about how to forgive him, and then do the necessary work to get there.

Dear Annie: I would like to write a note to all smokers: News flash. You smell like a dirty ashtray. Always. You try to be nice and go outside to have your cigarette, but when you come back in, you still smell like an ashtray. You smoke in your car so you can have your cigarette before you arrive at your destination, but when you walk into the room, you still smell. Your clothes reek of smoke — always. No amount of perfume covers it up.

Just thought you'd like to know. I know I'm tired of smelling you. — A Nonsmoker

Dear Nonsmoker: Although what you say is true, it is not so simple. Most smokers are well aware of the lingering odor, not to mention the yellowing teeth and nails, frequent cough, and looming lung cancer. The downside has been well-documented and -publicized. But smoking is highly addictive. For some, giving it up is nearly impossible, no matter how much effort they put into trying. Though smoking in the car or outside the office is not ideal, it is better than nothing.

Dear Annie: I'd like to offer a more positive response to all those mothers who complain about their daughters-in-law.

My son is married to a wonderful woman. She is a great mother to their two children and stepmother to his daughter. I love this woman with all of my heart. I am always welcome in their home as they are in mine. I can have the grandchildren whenever I want. When their daughter was born, my daughter-in-law gave me the most wonderful gift: She allowed me to be in the delivery room for the birth. What a precious woman my son married.

I called her "daughter," because to me, that is what she is. My own mother-in-law was not very kind to me, and I vowed I would be different. Sometimes it takes a little work, and sometimes your son marries an angel. — Mother-in-Law of an Angel

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be giving a few directives. It's better to tell people what to do, and not how to do it. Everyone has a unique method, and you'll learn by watching what they come up with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's actually good that people mostly disagree today. If they understood each other too clearly, it would cause grief. The communication of civility mostly lies in body language.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You crave an aesthetic experience, and yet you also want it to fit into your life in a logical, useful way. This is a lot to demand of your environment, but you'll find what you seek.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you largely act out of intuition, your decisions sometimes won't make sense to other people. Their puzzled faces will pepper your experience, but pay no attention to that. Your intuition could save the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If there is a great deal of petty quarreling, it's a good indication that the job at hand isn't big enough. Big challenges have a way of centering people and getting them to focus calmly on what they can do to make things better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you walk around and look at the world, you make connections with people everywhere you go. Even if it's just noticing a person, it's a connection. The quality of minor connections will mean more to you today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The rule today is that if you can say it in fewer words, do. People will lose interest very quickly, especially if your focus is on something they have a hard time relating to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your reluctance to make new associations has to do with the hurt of a past experience and a vibe you are getting about a certain person. You can't put it into words yet, but it's real, so don't disregard the feeling.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may accidentally attract people who will take advantage of your compassionate nature. Take a step back. Your gifts are valuable, and you shouldn't give them to someone who discounts that value right off the bat.

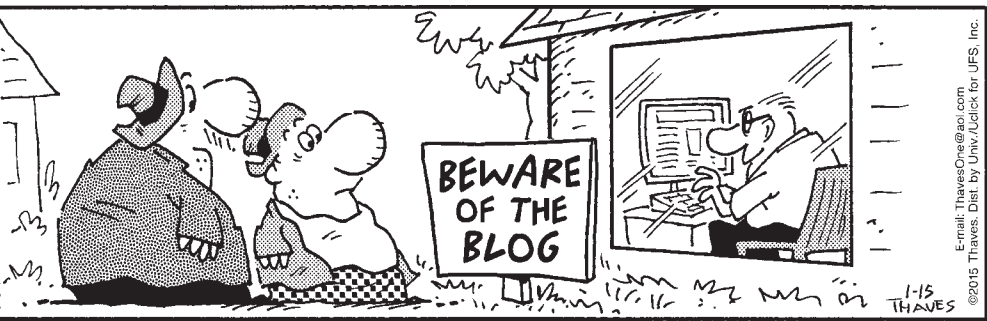
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). By nature, you are an executive and a manager, even though your life doesn't always reflect that part of your talent. Today brings a bit of chaos you'll enjoy sorting out for someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Telephone addiction will cause people to lose opportunities. You'll be lucky when you're the one looking up and connecting. It's really not necessary to pick up every call.

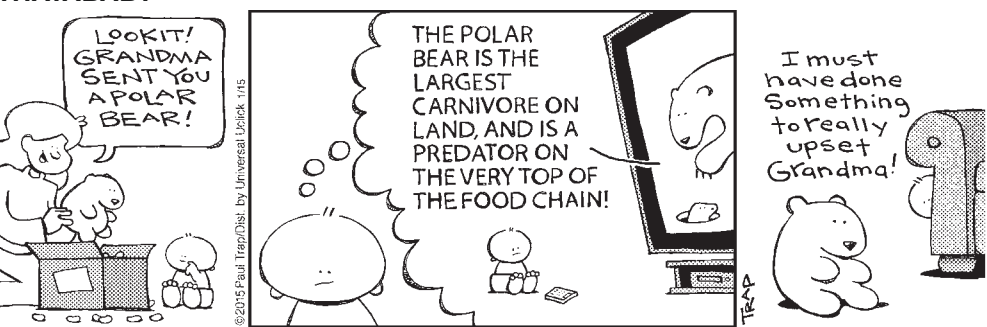
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The main issues have to do with control. There's a line to walk. If you too often dominate, it's repellent. But if you never take over, it's even more repellent. Stay in the moment.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 16). You're teetering on the edge of adventure going into this new year. Not knowing what's next adds to stress. Make a plan in February, and whether or not things follow, you'll feel terrific. March will feature new friends and responsibilities. You'll prove your strength. A July wedding will be significant. Scorpio and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 12, 13 and 28.

FRANK AND ERNEST



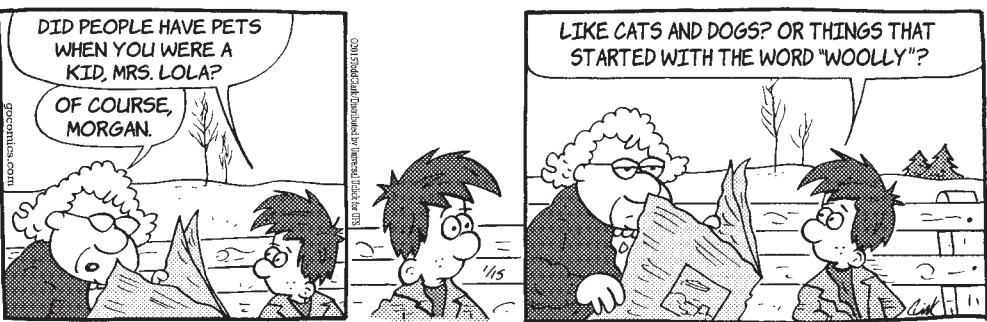
THATABABY



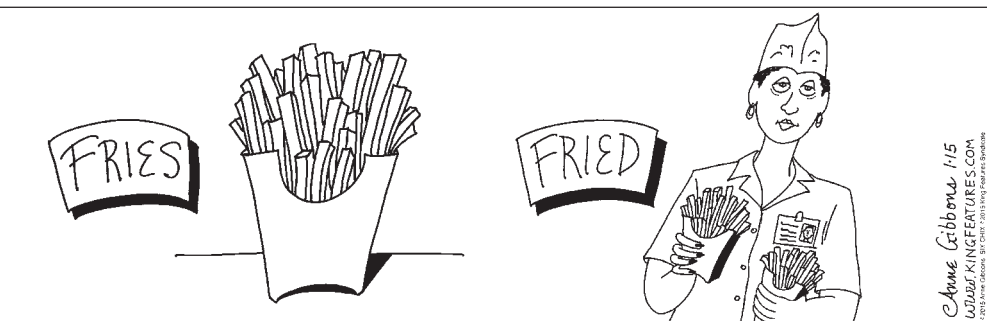
STONE SOUP



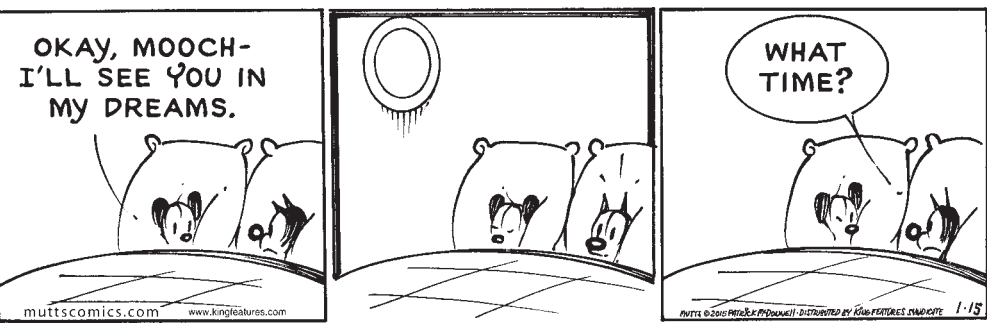
LOLA



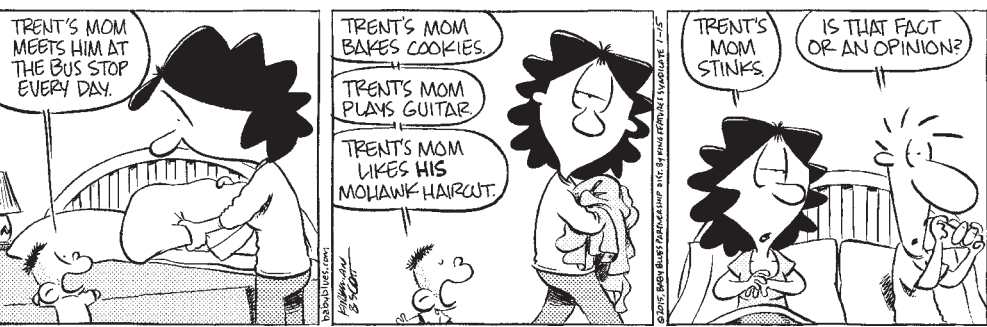
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



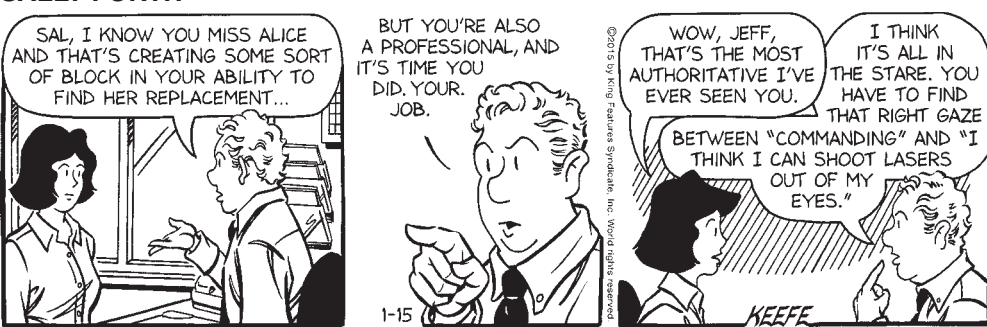
ZITS



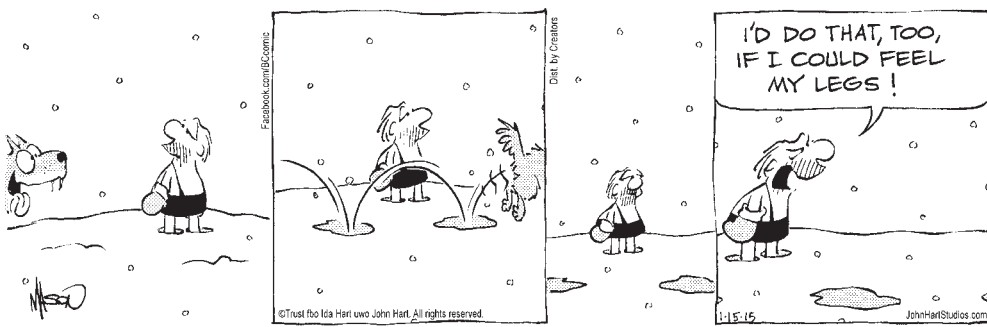
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



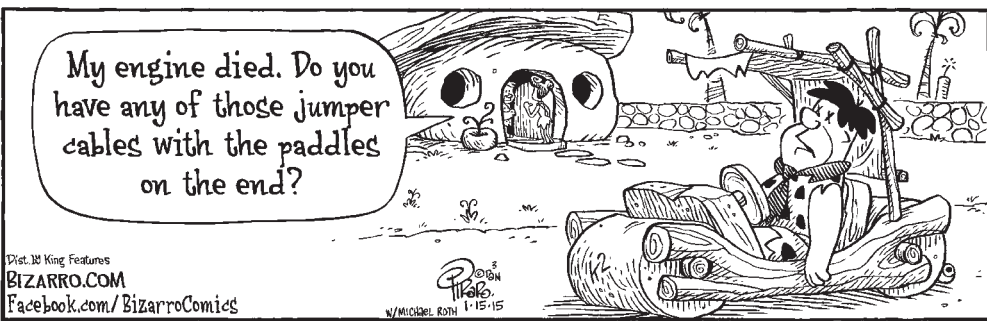
B.C.



DILBERT



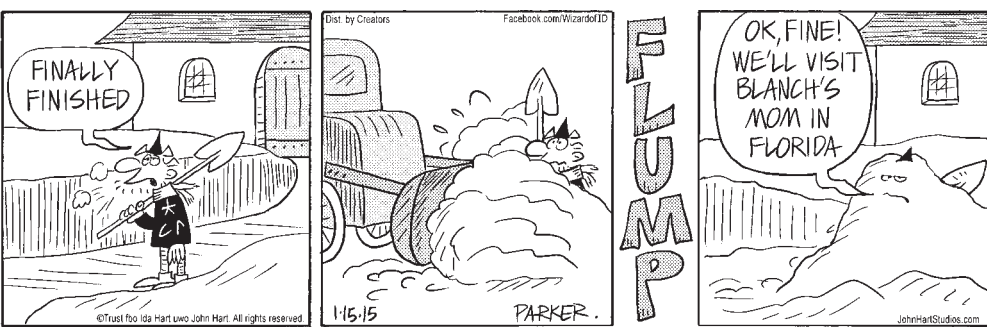
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

