

Discovery of abuse pains parents

Dear Annie: My wife and I are in our late 70s and we raised four children. We lost our second son to suicide when he was 7. He suffered from major depression.

A few years ago, our daughter wrote us, saying that her eldest brother had sexually molested her when she was very young. She said we knew about it and covered it up. We knew nothing about it and were very upset. I confronted our son, now 42, and he admitted to it and was so sorry for what he did all those years ago. He also said he is not the same person he was then.

I told our daughter that her brother admitted everything and felt terrible about it and that I hope at some point, he will tell her directly how sorry he is. Since he became an adult, this son is the kindest person and has the closest relationship with us of all our children.

Last week, our youngest son and his family came to visit. It turns out that his eldest brother also had molested him when they were children. But he never appeared as devastated as his sister, and moved on.

What are we supposed to do at this stage of our lives? Do you think our eldest son could have been molested at an early age and then acted out like this on his siblings? We found out later that there was a pedophile priest in our local parish. Our son has never admitted to

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



any molestation when he was a boy and we are afraid to ask him. Any advice? — *Distraught*

Dear Distraught: This is a terribly disturbing situation, but please don't hide from it. Your son has already admitted the abuse. He needs to apologize to both of his siblings and ask for forgiveness. We are glad that he has changed for the better, but that doesn't help his sister or brother come to terms with what happened. We strongly urge you to get into family counseling and work through this. All of you would benefit, including your eldest son.

Dear Annie: You recently published a letter from a woman who was complaining that her husband recently developed anxiety about traveling in a car.

This onset of anxiety, particularly in midlife or later, could be a symptom of Parkinson's disease. If the anxiety is accompanied by terrible nightmares (including yelling, punching and kicking) and/or by constipation that seems

to develop where it didn't exist before, Parkinson's could well be the reason.

I watched these symptoms develop and didn't understand why — until the twitching started in one thumb. Then a neurologist confirmed that these symptoms were, indeed, indications that Parkinson's was at work. Her husband should get to a neurologist now. — *Wish We Knew*

Dear Wish: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to mention some of the symptoms of Parkinson's. Parkinson's is a progressive and chronic neurological disease that interferes with the body chemicals that control movement and mood. It usually begins with mild symptoms that advance slowly, so they are often ignored.

Symptoms include tremors or shaking in any part of the body when it's at rest, changes in handwriting, loss of smell, trouble sleeping, muscle tension and rigidity, changes or difficulty in walking, constipation, a muffled voice, feeling dizzy on a regular basis and depression. If you are experiencing any of these things, even in a very mild form, please talk to your doctor about Parkinson's.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Getting It Off My Chest," whose major peeve is that family never comes to visit: If you buy the plane tickets, you will have plenty of company. — *G.*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just because we are all works in progress doesn't mean we shouldn't stop and celebrate the unfinished, imperfect people we are. Someone wants to help you do so today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting rid of what you don't want creates a vacuum that will pull what you do want right in. It won't happen immediately, so you'll have to have patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in the mood for the company of people you don't know well. The bridge between acquaintanceship and friendship is a fascinating one for you, especially when Sagittarius is involved.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll perform a quick save without even thinking. You'll swoop in and help someone with your strength, balance and just the right words. Your everyday heroism is so appreciated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What some people call stubborn, you call tenacious. Your persistence is working for you now. Do not give up. Your best ideas about what you can do — and what others can do — can still be realized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The contradictions of life will be apparent at every turn. By now, you know better than to expect people to be a certain way without leaving room for other possibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's an obstacle you need to clear before you can progress along your spiritual path. For today, it's enough to poke around a bit and get acquainted with what exactly you're dealing with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Affirm your status. You may feel as if it shouldn't matter, but the others need the comfort of your title, expertise and/or authority. You'll rise to the occasion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Experience is a mysterious teacher; it can give you the lesson even when you don't consciously remember the experience itself. Your unconscious knowledge is alive in your body. Trust its response.

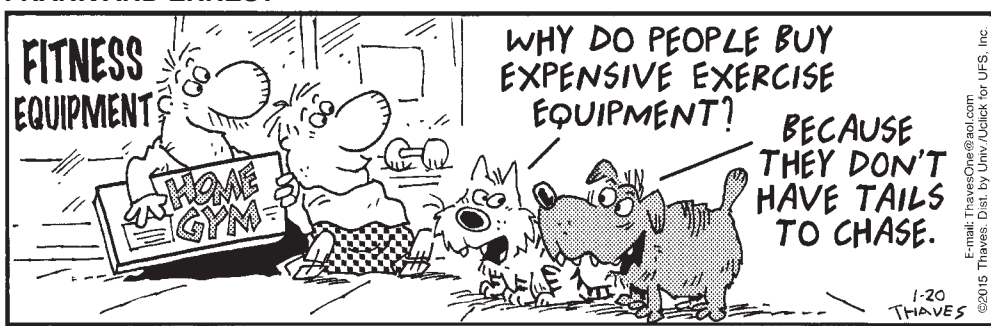
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You could witness the situation alone, but you wouldn't see it all. Someone with an insightful and decisive point of view will extend your sensitivities and awareness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The love affair in your mind is not going the same in real life. If only you could use your television remote to back things up and try again. Hold the loving space in your heart, and love will eventually settle into it.

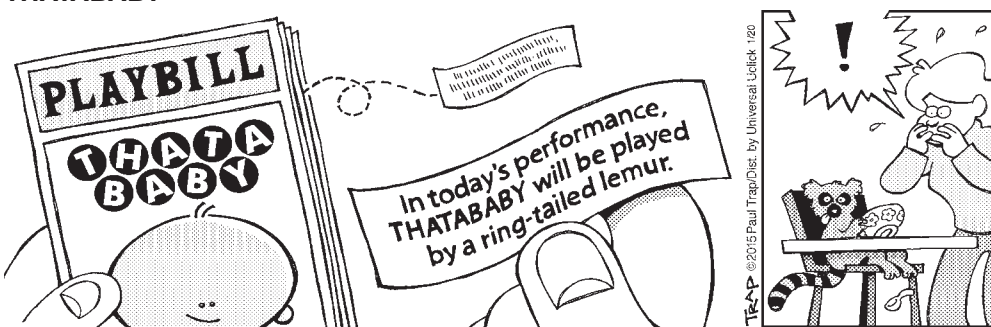
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting lost can be enjoyable under the right circumstances. As you follow a whim, you won't be sure where you're going until you get there.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 21). The next six weeks will bring a slow awakening. You'll forget yourself and take a playful approach to life. The realm of your control will grow in March, along with your responsibility. A loved one's life will be better for what you do. Let things fall from your plate in May so you can enjoy an adventure. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 19, 13, 50 and 42.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



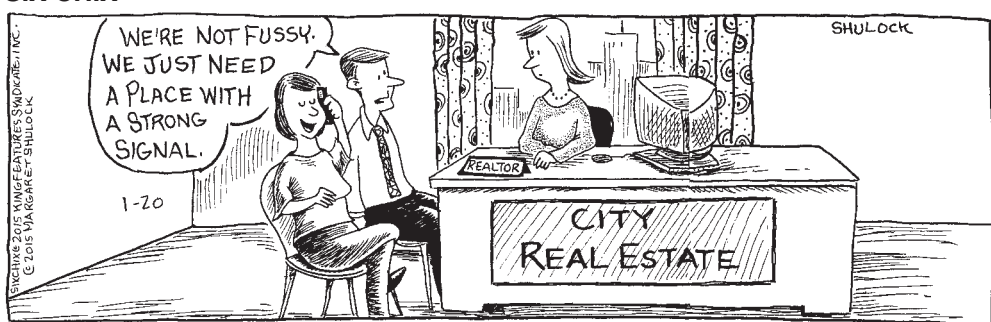
STONE SOUP



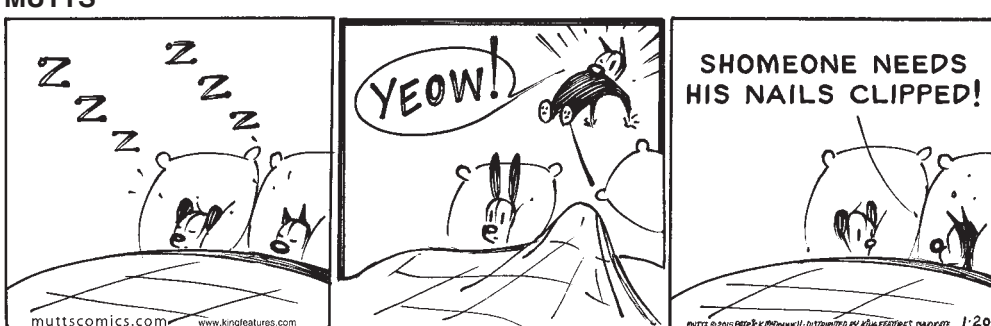
LOLA



SIX CHIX



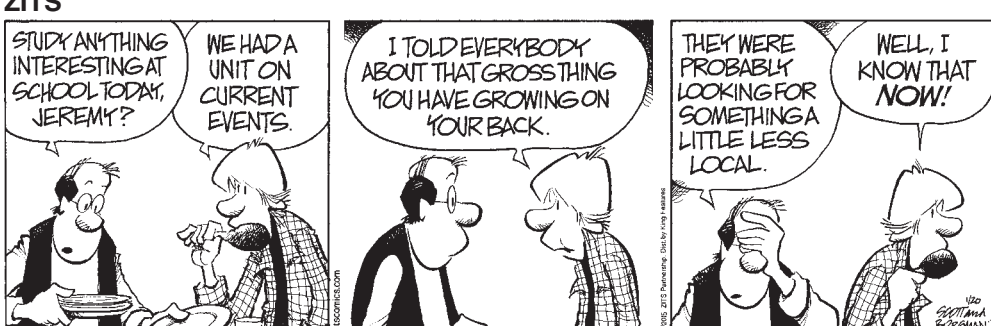
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



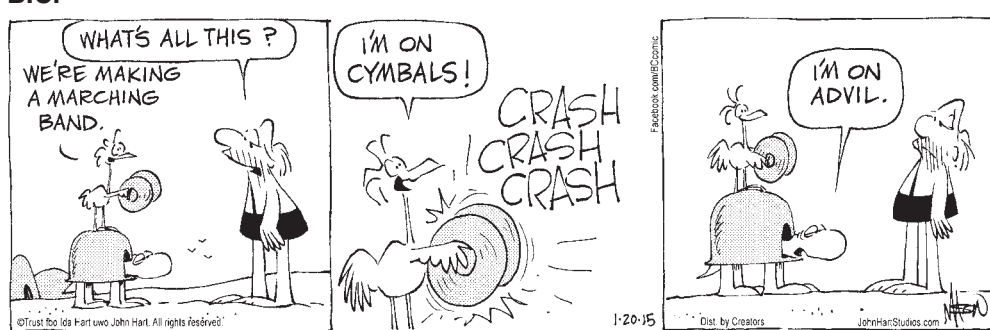
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



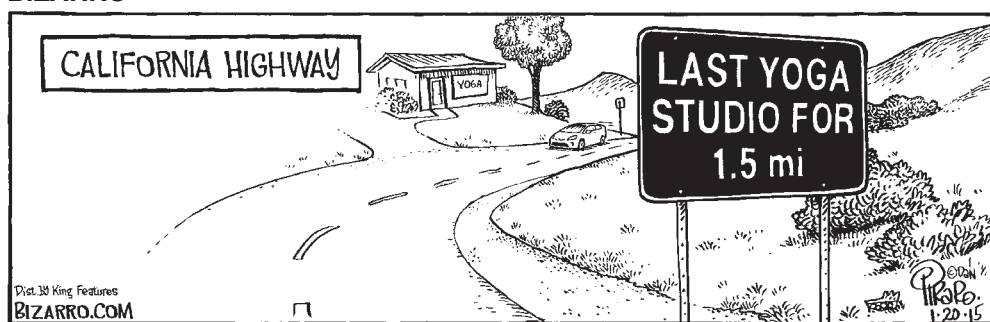
B.C.



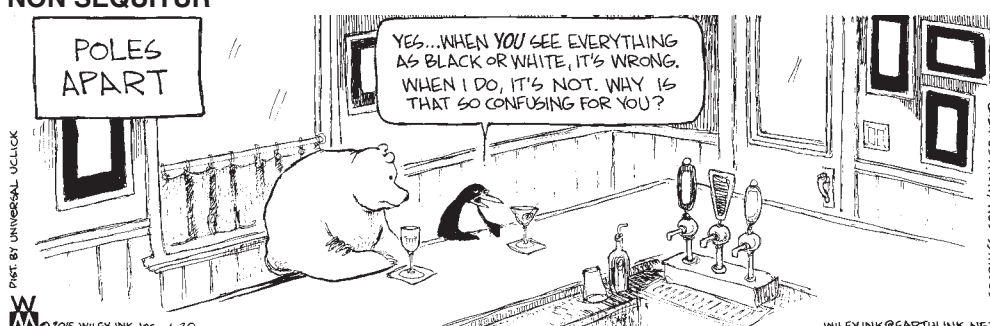
DILBERT



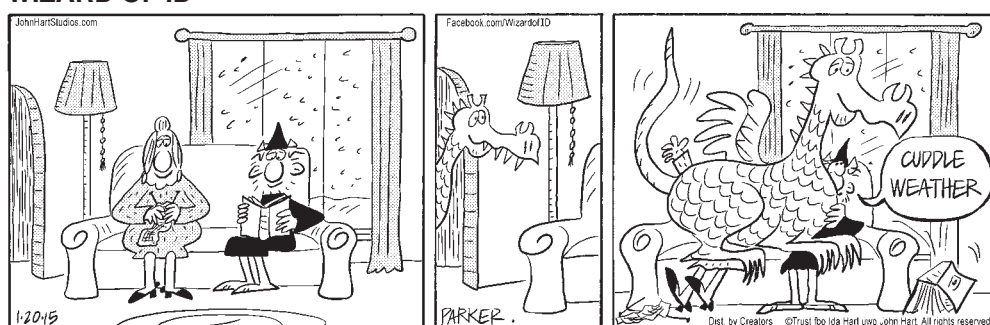
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

