FEATURES

Kissing has gone by the wayside Tomorrow's horoscope

Dear Annie: I am 53 years old and have been with my boyfriend for four vears. The first year was awesome. We would hug and kiss hello and goodbye. and often say "I love you."

Now? Nothing. We don't touch at all. I am so unhappy. We have sex once a month and only when he wants it. During sex, there is no kissing or embracing. When I talk to him about this, he becomes angry and says I live in a fantasy world and have unrealistic expectations. He says he is not going to crawl all over me. He then says he loves me very much.

It's not that I want sex all the time. but a little affection would be nice. Other than this, things are good. We get along well and support each other. I just wish it could be like our first year. I don't want to start all over with someone else, but lately I'm asking myself, "Should I stay or should I go?" — *Ursula*

Dear Ursula: Embracing and kissing during lovemaking is normal. Please ask your boyfriend to see his doctor to check out any hormonal problems that could possibly be resolved. If he refuses to go and will not discuss it with you, you must decide how important physical affection is, because he isn't likely to provide it.

Dear Annie: I was born in the middle of the baby boom generation. My dad was a Pearl Harbor veteran. There were hundreds of heroic acts performed that day, and one of them involved a friend

Annie's **Mailbox** Creators Syndicate Inc. Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

of my father's, whose destroyer took a direct hit. Even with severe injuries, he lowered himself into the harbor and dog-paddled out to keep an unconscious seaman alive until help could reach them.

That day, my dad decided that if he had a son, he would name him after this friend, whose name was Richard. The common nickname is "Dick," which brings me to the reason for this letter.

Seventy-five years ago, Dick was a common name, but not so much today. For years, I have put up with people making lewd comments about my name. At 6-foot-3, I can get in anyone's face if I choose, and that usually ends the matter. But I don't want to do that. Instead, I'd appreciate it if you could provide a concise response that leaves little room for additional interaction with marginally literate people. — *Richard*

Dear Richard: We are not miracle workers. The Beavis and Butt-Heads of the world will continue to snicker at your nickname because they never matured past adolescence. We favor the world-weary sigh, along with ignoring them. An eye roll is optional. You also could introduce yourself as "Rick" or "Rich," both common nicknames for Richard that will elicit fewer asinine reactions. But we will open the floor to our readers, who are sure to come up with a greater variety of responses. (Please keep them printable, folks.)

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from "Wish We Knew," and in your response, you mentioned symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Sometimes those same symptoms can indicate other conditions.

My 83-year-old mother started twitching, shaking, feeling nervous, having trouble sleeping and becoming dizzy. When her ankles began to swell from fluid buildup, she was finally diagnosed with a very high CO2 level. She had been on oxygen for years, and even her lung doctor missed the signs, including rapid breathing. He thought she needed more oxygen, but in fact, the problem was too much. The only way to test for a buildup of carbon dioxide is with a special blood gas test. This is a treatable condition.

Anyone with these symptoms, especially those on oxygen, should ask their doctor not only about Parkinson's, but also about CO2 levels. — Joan in Lou-

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your work is shaping you in remarkable ways. It's as though the partition separating you from your work is becoming increasingly porous until you are one and the same.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For you, territory is about feeling connected. Foreign territory is where the connection is lost. The boundaries are fuzzy at best, and that's why it's important that you map them in your own way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As dangerous as it is to climb Mt. Everest, hundreds of people do it every day. You have your own version of a dangerous quest you'd like to accomplish, and this is a fine time to sort out the details and make a plan.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In this age of unmanned space missions, drones and the like, you wish you could send a robot to perform some of today's more tedious duties. Alas, your human touch will make all the difference to someone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The unfortunate consequences of carrying out bad instructions must always be weighted against the rival set of unfortunate consequences that come with questioning and challenging the one giving the orders.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even though you are impressively persuasive when dealing with rational people, there are those who can't be reasoned with. It's pointless to try! Remain polite, keep your distance and ignore

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Haven't you noticed that you often get the thing you were going for? Don't take this for granted! On the other hand, not getting what you want can be painful, but at least it helps you appreciate

your successes

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What if you believed that you are now who you most wanted to be and you knew exactly what you were doing when you decided upon it? How would that change your approach? Have con-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love and happiness are the central point. If you're not getting enough of a chance to love, be loved and pursue happiness, it's time to rethink your lifestyle.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The rule is always to dress a step above your rank, and when you apply it, you'll be seen as someone who is going places. Such things matter today, and your execution will be flawless.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People seem more interested than they should be in your choices, but that doesn't give them the right to be nosy, bossy or controlling. Follow the old hippie maxim: "It's your thing. Do what you want to do."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People around you will be making decisions based on the emotional tone they want more of. When you embody that tone, you'll move them to take action, join your efforts or simply to love

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 13). You believe in family and in sacrificing for love, and that's the reason for the beautiful event that happens in March. March also brings financial luck. April begins a study that will go on for many years. Practical wisdom will win over fancy titles in June, and you'll be promoted. Domestic upgrades are worth the cost. Capricorn and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30. 1. 22. 37 and 18.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE







THATABABY





SALLY FORTH



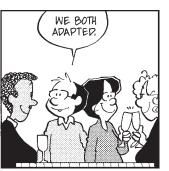




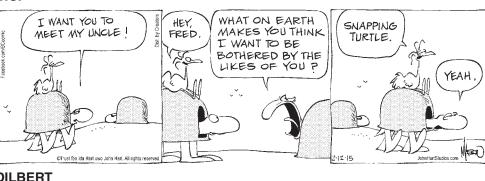
STONE SOUP



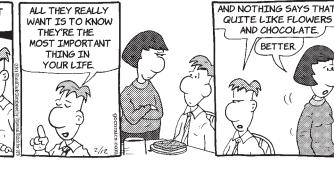




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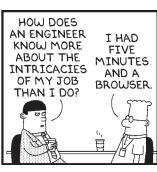
DAD, WHAT DO GIRLS WANT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY? SAMMY.



DILBEKI



UM, I WAS GOING TO SAY \$27,500, BUT YOU BEAT ME TO THE ANCHOR, AND NOW I CAN'T HELP THINKING THE FAIR PRICE IS CLOSER TO \$5.



SIX CHIX



BIZARRO

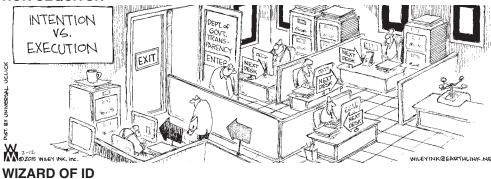


MUTTS





NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES

















ROSE IS ROSE





