

She's tired of husband ignoring son

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Bob" for 11 years. Once we had our son, "Jack," everything changed. Bob found excuses not to be home, worked all kinds of overtime or had to "go somewhere." I can count on one hand the times he did anything with Jack or was even home on a weekend during our son's first five years.

Jack is now 8 and has no real relationship with his father and no desire for one. When he was little and asked where Daddy was, I covered for Bob, but now that Jack is older, he knows what's what. The kid is no dummy.

Things continue to get worse. Bob accepts no responsibility for his son. He makes nearly twice my salary, but won't give me a dime toward Jack's clothes, shoes or school supplies, let alone birthday presents, although he wants his name on the gifts. He even tries to get out of paying for groceries and babysitters. Bob pays the mortgage and the taxes. Everything else is my responsibility. I carry Jack on my health insurance.

I also don't like to leave Jack alone with his father. If anything goes wrong, Bob blames Jack and ends up hollering at him for ridiculous things like forgetting to turn off a light or not wanting to go to the store with him, and then lays a guilt trip on the boy, saying, "Don't you want to spend time with me?"

I have tried talking to Bob about

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.
Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



this. I tell him it is the parents' responsibility to make time for their children, not the other way around. He refuses counseling, saying he doesn't need anyone to tell him how to raise his kid.

Jack already has anger issues and acts out. I am ready to give up on our marriage. Bob and I are more like roommates than spouses. I sometimes think Jack and I would be better off on our own. Any advice? — *Sinking Ship in Pennsylvania*

Dear Pennsylvania: Bob withholds funds for the support of his family and either neglects or yells at his son. These things can be interpreted as forms of abuse. Bob has no interest in counseling because he has no interest in being a better father. Sometimes leaving this type of situation is healthier than staying. Please get counseling for yourself and for Jack and decide your best course of action.

Dear Annie: I've been dating "Joe" for a year. We are both divorced parents.

My children are in college, and Joe's 17-year-old daughter lives with him. "Tawny" is a nice young lady, but she relies on us to provide her with a social life.

Tawny attended one semester at a nearby community college. She was fired from her job and basically sits at home all day. She rarely does housework. I understand that she is bored and lonely and have suggested she do some volunteer work to get out and meet people. Joe is as frustrated as I am. He has spoken to Tawny about it, but nothing has changed. I don't mind including her in our plans once in a while, but she expects to go everywhere with us and has attitude if she's not invited. She even follows us from room to room.

Joe has asked me to move in with him, but I don't want to end up resenting Tawny and creating problems with our relationship. — *Help*

Dear Help: Please do not move in with Joe. Instead, suggest that Tawny get counseling for what could be depression and to help her gain focus. That girl needs guidance, and Joe isn't providing it.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Concerned Daughter," whose recently divorced mother was suicidal and even held her brother's gun to her head. Your advice was good, but you didn't mention the most important thing: Lock up and hide the damn gun. — *Connecticut*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You cannot change another person. However, when you offer your assistance without the expectation that the other person will change, you will make a difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You refuse to see any situation as tragic or futile and are determined to find whatever advantage might exist. You'll be successful in this quest, brightening the world for you and the ones you love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you connect with a person as well as you can with a certain someone, you can communicate profoundly in total silence. Therefore, don't worry about what you'll say.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fantasies become realities. It happens all the time, so why not for you? Some small occurrence that you wished would happen will materialize in front of your eyes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Needing validation makes you vulnerable. If there are words you long to hear, then hearing them will only weaken you. Be strong on your own, keep your power, validate yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You wish everyone well — yes, every single person. That doesn't mean you have to like them all. When you don't expect to have a great affinity for most people you have to deal with, the way becomes smoother.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes you feel so connected to nature and the energy of it around you that you wish you could go live in the woods. Appreciating natural beauty makes you more naturally beautiful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a protocol, but don't feel overly obligated to follow it. Pretending won't work today, but doors will open to you when you show who you really are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Territorial issues will come up. There's a lot you can let slide until next week. Everything that irritates you about others can lead you to a better understanding of yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You genuinely want to make the world a better place for people, but your methods don't always project that intent. Let them know that your actions are aimed at the greater good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll search for the value in interactions, and it shouldn't be so hard to find. When you click with people and you are where you belong, the value will be glaringly obvious.

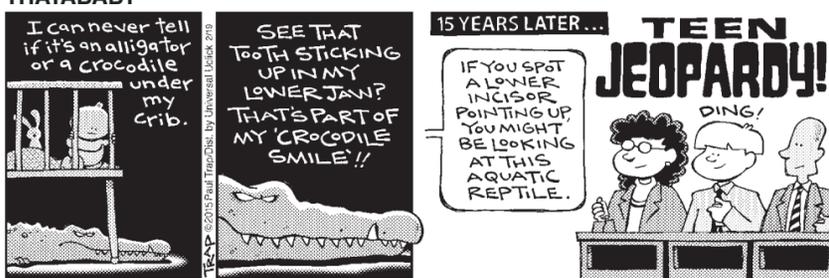
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing when you're in over your head is one thing; admitting it is quite another. With a bit of humility, you'll attract a teacher who is willing to help you in your quest to make more money.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 20). Love embraces you all year. How do you know it's the right plan for you? As it pulls you along, it seems to reverse the effects of gravity. Your strong choice in March starts a new career trajectory. A magical experience in your personal life in April will escalate a relationship. Your expenses will be paid in August. Taurus and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 45, 28, 15 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



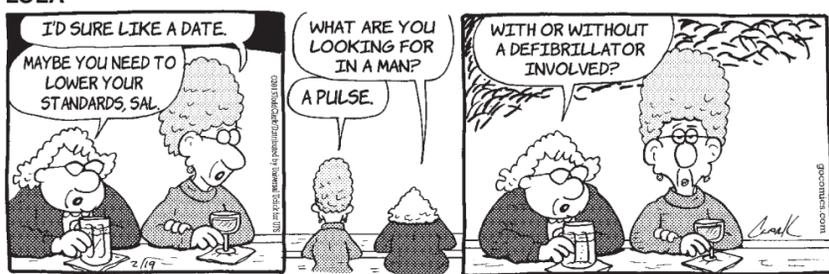
THATABABY



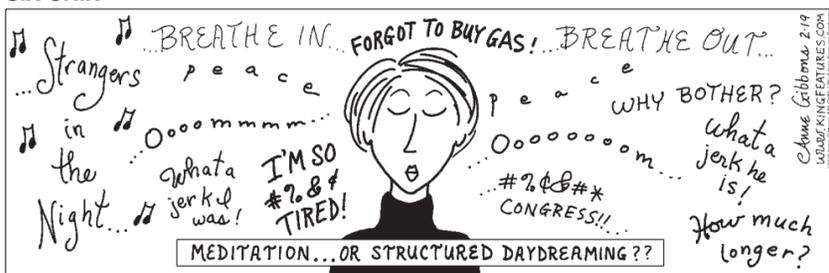
STONE SOUP



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



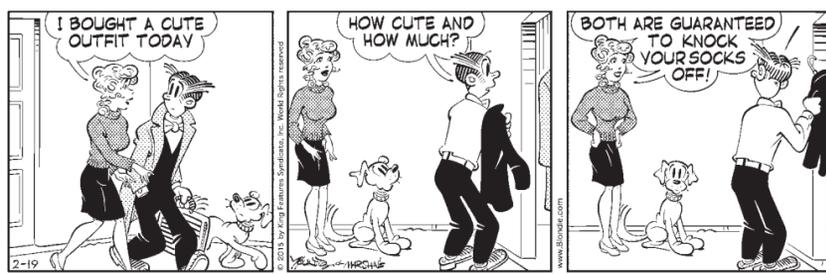
BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



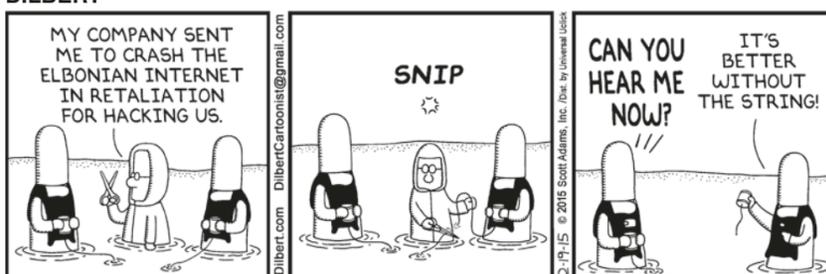
SALLY FORTH



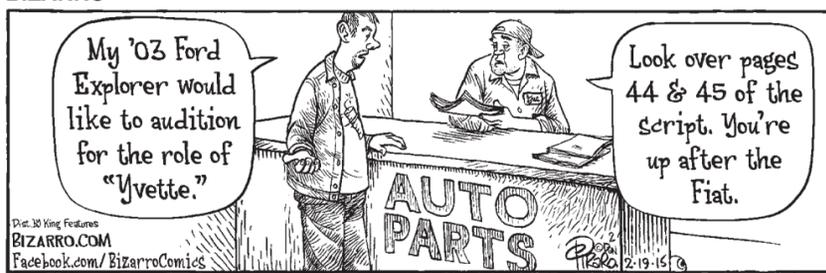
B.C.



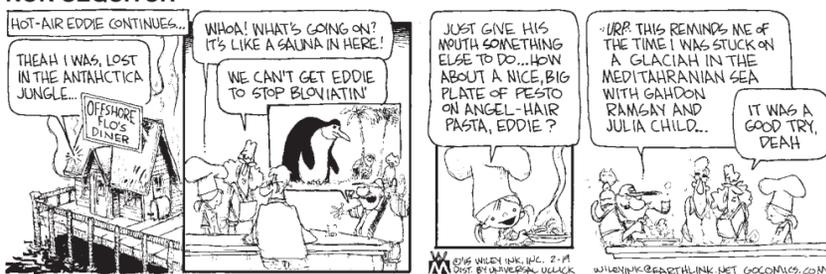
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

