

# She is walking on eggshells

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 10 years, but I sometimes wonder whether I love him or am just used to having him around. We have no kids, and I've started thinking of how my life would be without him.

This all began when he first displayed an awful temper. He never gets physically violent, but he hurts me tremendously with the things he says. He pays some of my bills, but always puts his wants and needs before household things that are more important, like fixing the car or filling my prescriptions. I have to walk on eggshells most of the time. When it's a holiday or Valentine's Day, he expects me to get him something, but he never does anything special for me.

My friends think I'm still with him because I'm afraid to be alone. There are times when I enjoy his company, but not that often. I'm not even sexually attracted to him anymore. Should I continue on because it just might be a phase I'm going through? — *Tired of It*

Dear Tired: While all relationships go through ups and downs, yours includes verbal abuse and what appears to be a total lack of consideration. This is not acceptable behavior between loving spouses. If your husband is willing to go with you for counseling and work on this, there is hope for the relationship. If not (and we suspect not), please talk to a counselor on your own and try to clarify your feelings enough

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



to make decisions about your future. There are worse things than being alone.

Dear Annie: I have a friend who dominates every conversation. Upon sitting down to eat, she immediately starts talking about whatever is on her mind and never pauses to let anyone else get a word in. She never asks how anyone else is doing. If not interrupted, she can go on for hours.

Ironically, she complains about how her sister talks on and on about herself. She can see these traits in her siblings, but doesn't realize she is just as bad. Some days, I feel more like her unpaid therapist than a friend. Evenings out have become unpleasant to the point that we don't socialize much anymore.

I have two other friends who behave in a similar manner. I notice that all three come from very large families, so I wonder whether that contributes to their need for attention. Still, we are in our 50s, and they should be more socially mature by now.

Don't suggest confronting these people. They would be so offended, I would lose their friendship forever. I am not looking to change the relationships. I am writing because I wish each person reading this would ask themselves, "Could this be me?" When you sit down with people, ask how their day was. Listen intently until they are done. Don't interrupt with something you "just have to" tell them. Maybe their conversation isn't fascinating, but neither is yours. Everyone should be allowed to share and be heard. — *Bored in the USA*

Dear Bored: Amen. Some folks ramble on and on because they need to be the center of attention. Others have hearing problems and cannot clearly make out the conversation of others. Some fear they will forget what they intended to say if they don't blurt it out immediately. We hope they appreciate your tolerance.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "A Kansas Caregiver," who asked people to lend a hand to the caregivers. I cared for my husband who had dementia for seven years before he died. My lifesaver during that time was my caregiver support group.

Since then, I have facilitated a caregiver group, and we meet monthly to share happy and poignant stories, medical progress, information about resources, etc. Mostly, meetings are a safe place filled with understanding, nonjudgmental people who are all on the same journey. — *Baton Rouge, La.*

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** An African proverb says, "He who is carried on another's back does not appreciate how far off the town is." That's why you only carry those who truly need the lift.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You wonder sometimes whether you are making a choice or the choice is making you. This is the dilemma of the day, and your mindfulness of it will profoundly affect the future.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Do not proceed under the supposition that it's supposed to be a good time. Is family involved? Weird friends? Difficult co-workers? Expect that it's going to be a problem that's just the right size for you to solve brilliantly.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** If you put the effort into being extremely clean, tidy and organized, you will also reap the benefit of this. You'll be respected and well thought of. You'll be chosen for something important.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** When life teeters on the edge of boring, surprise chaos will liven things up. Whew! That was close. It will take extra effort to set things straight again, but you'll be laughing the whole time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You are favored for the win in whatever games and battles you take on. Before you agree to the fight, make sure the win is worth fighting for. Make sure it's something that would benefit you in the long run. Think it through.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The good thing about getting more money than you were expecting (a rare and wonderful cosmic gift of the day) is that it not only gives you more options, but it also gives you more hope.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You don't

practice childish ways, because you are past that age. As for your colleagues, you'll have to set an example and hope that they will follow. The day will bring a minor intervention.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Animals puff up when they are threatened. Fur or feathers stand on end; fish take in more air to appear bigger; people do the same thing. When you see this reaction, ask: What is this person afraid of?

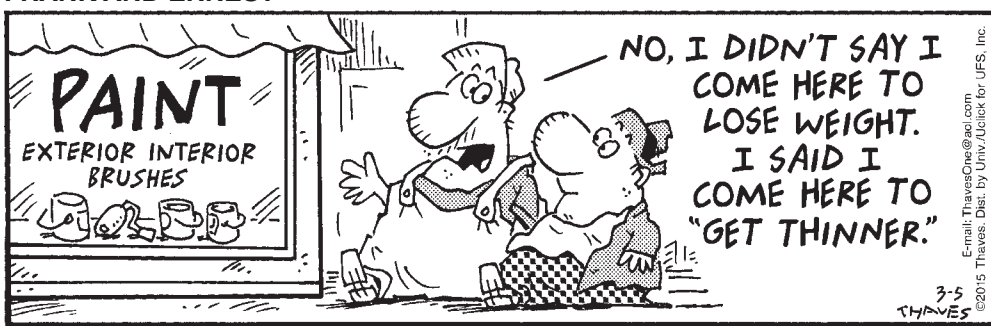
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Partnerships are either a pain or an adventure. There is no in-between today, so don't expect things to coast along. Tonight, open up your mind and heart, and something unexpected will happen.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You want to present something different to your people, but before you do, it's good to adjust your expectations of their reactions. Some like change; some don't. Everyone will need time to process the information.

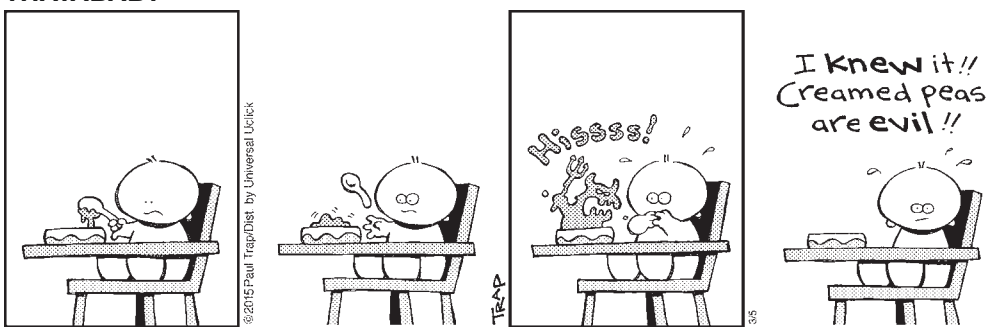
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Stick with the funny people. Laughter not only heals; it massages your insides. That's why the silliness and comedy you pursue (even when you are supposed to be working) are worthy endeavors.

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 6).** This year you adapt to different circumstances. At first you'll fit in, and then you'll take charge, and ultimately you'll thrive. The next seven weeks show you getting a specialized education. Invest in June. You'll be promoted in an arena that matters to you in August. Family will celebrate you in September. Cancer and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 2, 29, 48 and 50.

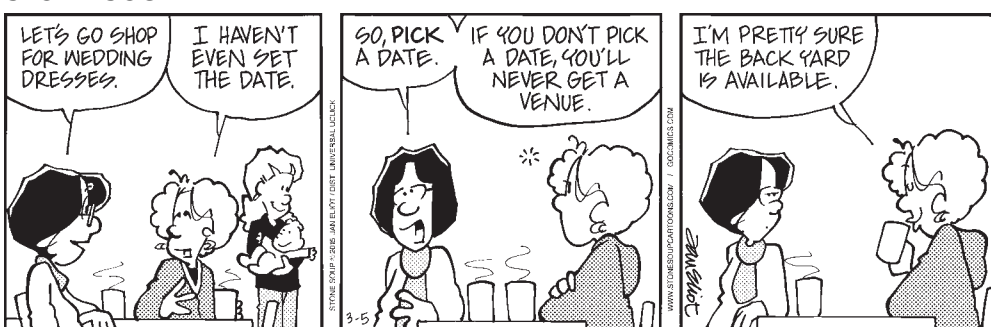
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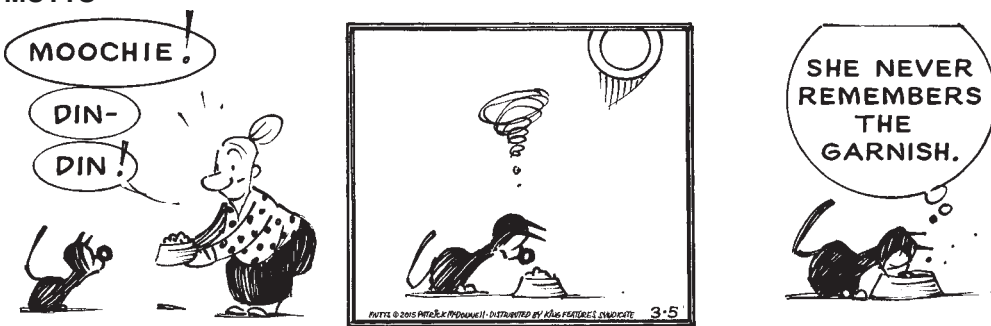
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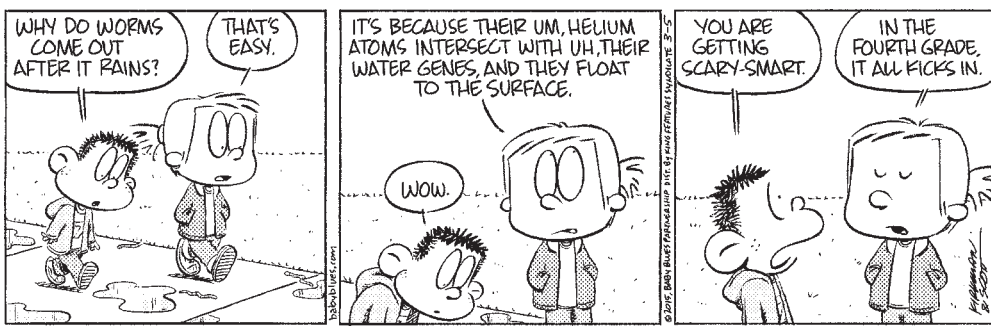
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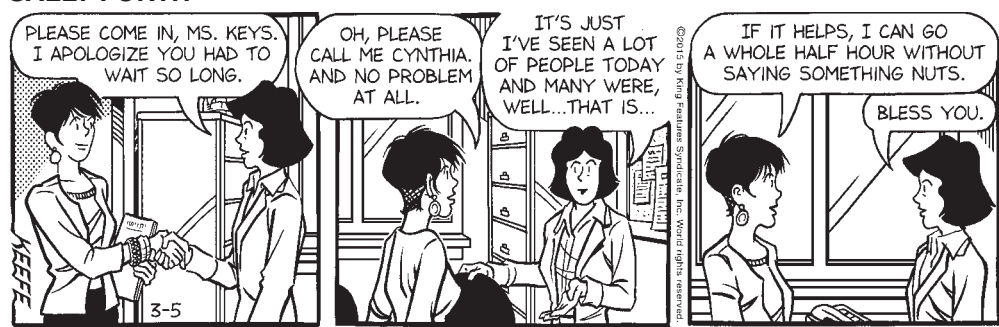
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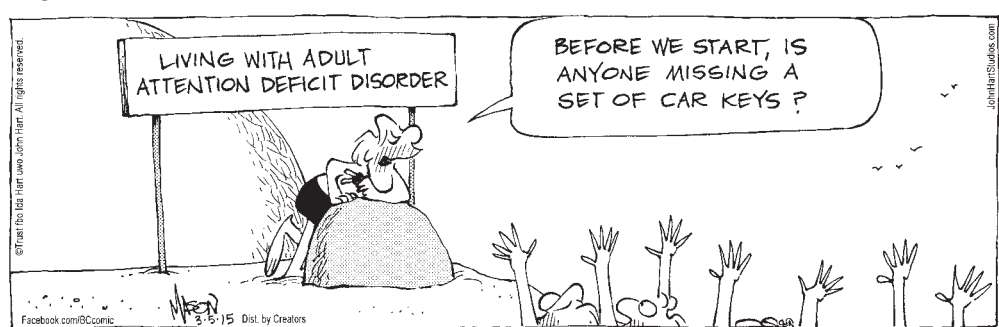
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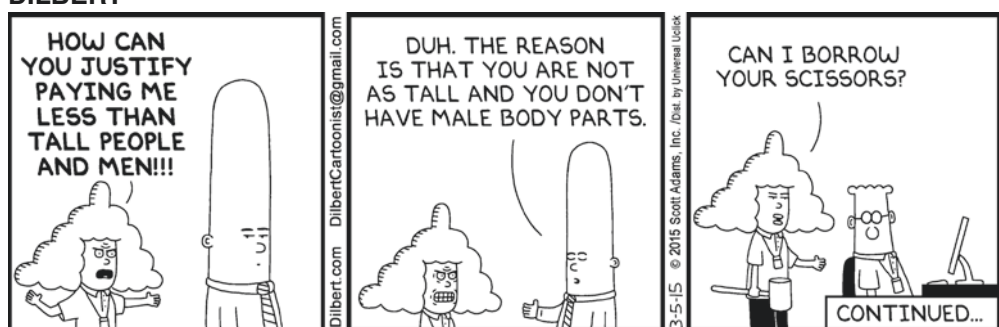
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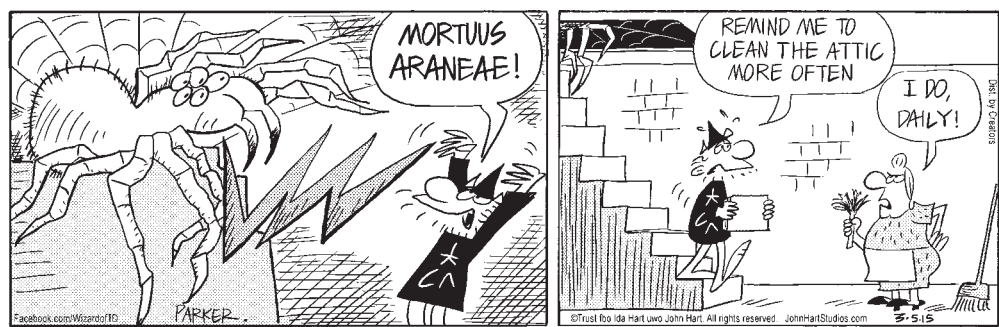
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

