

# Antisocial teen is lonely

Dear Annie: I am very antisocial. I don't go to parties as often as most teens, I hardly ever invite friends over, and the few friends I do have no longer attend the same school. I don't belong to any clubs or do other extracurricular activities. I spend most of my days at the computer, watching TV or pacing back and forth in my backyard.

My parents have noticed my lack of social skills. My older sister is the same way. I know I can make more friends if I try, but I don't know how. So, Annie, how does a 14-year-old who's never had a circle of friends, never been a partygoer and never had her first kiss learn to be normal? — *Lonely for Life*

Dear Lonely: You are not as abnormal as you think. Many teens have difficulty with their social skills, even though you may not see it. Plus, it sounds as if there is a family history of social anxiety. The fact that you want to change is a good sign, and we have every confidence you can take charge of your life. First, make an effort to get out of the house more. Force yourself to sign up for at least one extracurricular activity at school. Make a

## Annie's Mailbox

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vow to smile and say hello to as many classmates as possible. Invite a new friend to go with you to the mall or come to your house and watch a movie. Be interested in what others have to say. All of these things require effort, and you will have to push yourself at first, but it will get easier over time.

Dear Annie: I met my girlfriend three years ago and learned that her stepfather had sexually abused her when she was young. Her mother knew but never did anything to help her.

We now live together and have a child. On several occasions, I have suggested she get counseling, but she either refuses or puts it off. The stepfather is still married to her mom. I can't stand the fact that she doesn't realize how this infuriates me.

This man should be taken off the streets regardless of how long ago the abuse happened. How do I get her to seek counseling? — *Concerned*

Dear Concerned: We know how upset you are, but please remember that this is not about you, and the constant pressure on your girlfriend undoubtedly makes her additionally uncomfortable and stressed. We urge you to call RAINN (rainn.org) at 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673) and ask how you can best help her.

Dear Annie: When I was 18, I found out I had genital warts, and my world came out from under me. I thought only bad girls got STDs. Mom called me names and insisted no one would ever want to touch me again. She asked the doctor if I was allowed to use the same toilet seats as the rest of the family.

Mom was wrong. I have been married for four years to a wonderful man. "Sad Mom" is doing the best thing for her daughter just by being there for her and not letting her beat herself up for the mistakes she has made. Someday someone will see the beautiful person she is. — *Mending Relationships*

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** There's a shift happening inside you. Your interest in one subject wanes while your interest in another waxes. Much will be illuminated in the next 48 hours.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's pointless and stressful to argue with what is. When instead you agree, readily accepting what you can't change, suddenly new, invigorating energy will sweep through your scene.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The best partnerships might not make your life easier at first. The collaboration might take more work than you expected. But once you figure out how to groove with one another, the results will be brilliant.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Strong emotions make you more willing to lose the familiarity and comforts of the past. This is your admission price to a better future. The progress you desire is worth the sacrifice.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There's nothing you fear more today than the possibility of regret. That's why you'll make the bold choice and risk playing the fool. Your motto now: Go big or go home.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll lead with your principles, practice sportsmanship and maintain high standards for even the seemingly small details of the day. It's becoming easier and easier for you to be extraordinary.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Favors are tricky. Small ones work best. Don't accept a favor that requires great effort or expense from another, as it will only cost you dearly in the end.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're getting to know the intricacies of a process. The more you learn the sweeter your experience. This education will help you take things to a whole new level.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Don't wait to feel grateful or lucky. Let it happen regardless of external circumstances. The fortunate feeling will come first, and the good fortune will come second.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A little more effort, a little more patience — that's what it will take to turn this experiment into a success. You can do this. Breathe deeply; coerce a smile from yourself; go at it again.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** If you keep letting them make the rules for you, they'll keep doing it. You have more freedom than you are owning. Claim it now. It's the only way to get where you want to go.

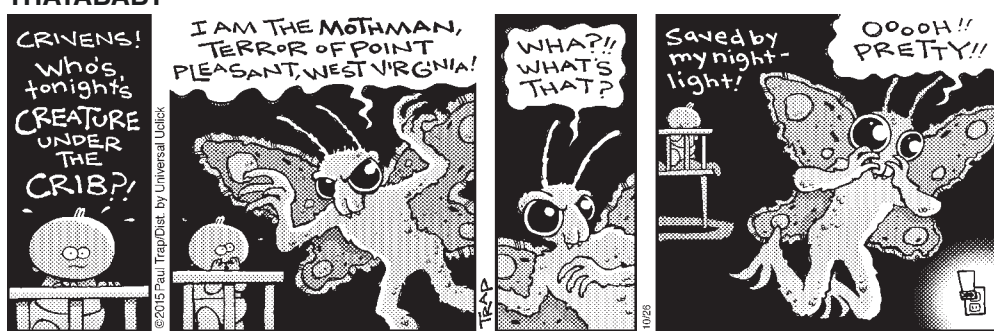
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll flex your mental muscles. You're a problem-solving machine today. It will get to the point where you'll think this is so much fun, you'll actually go looking for problems to solve.

**TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 27).** It's like the wind is at your back most of the year. You'll get the sense that you're collaborating with mysterious forces and powers far beyond what one person could muster. You'll revel in social attention at the end of the year. In early 2016, you'll be too involved in a special interest to notice such things. Cancer and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 42, 28, 19 and 33.

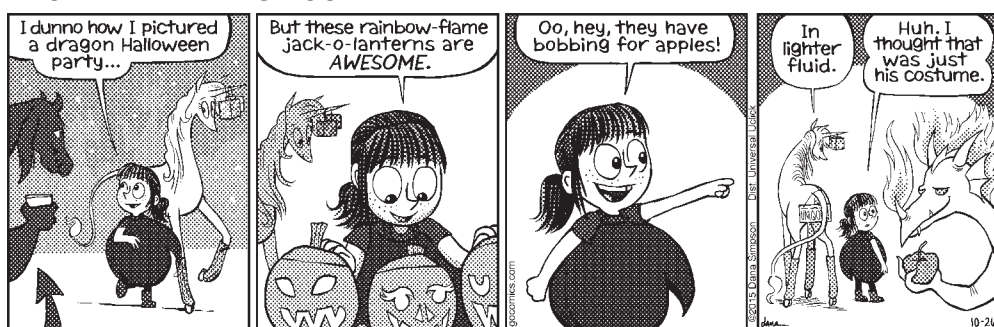
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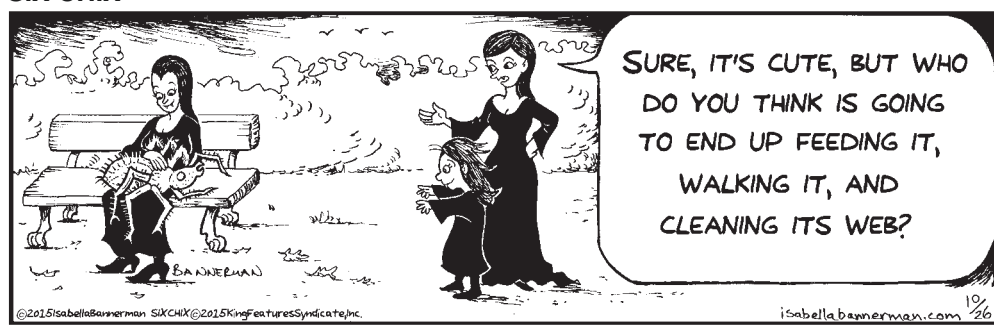
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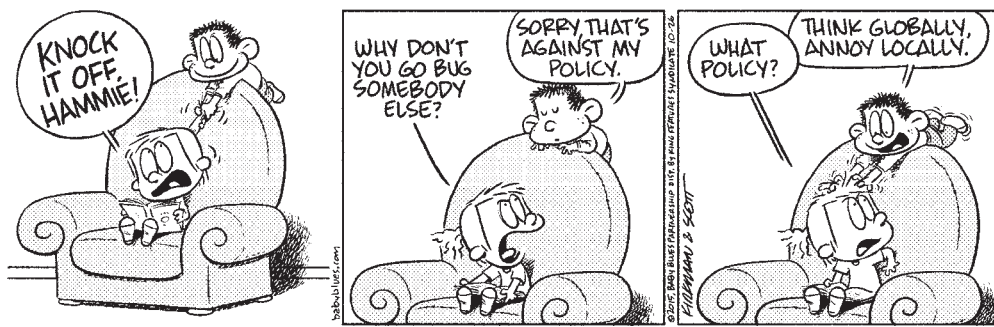
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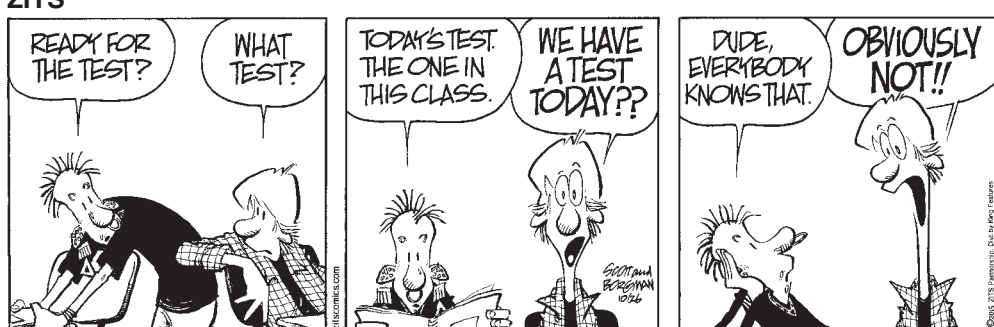
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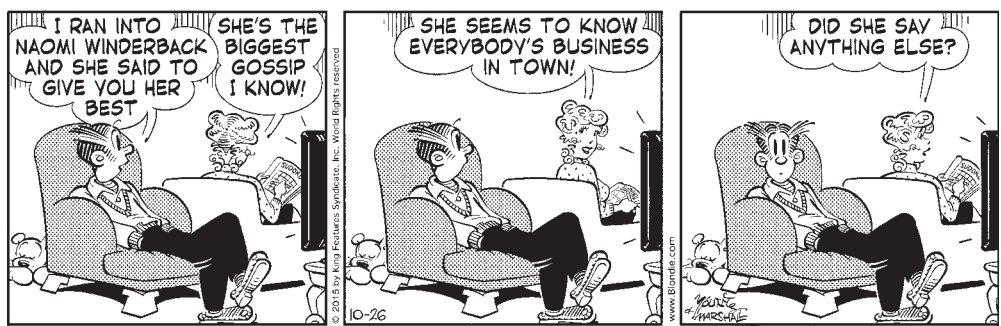
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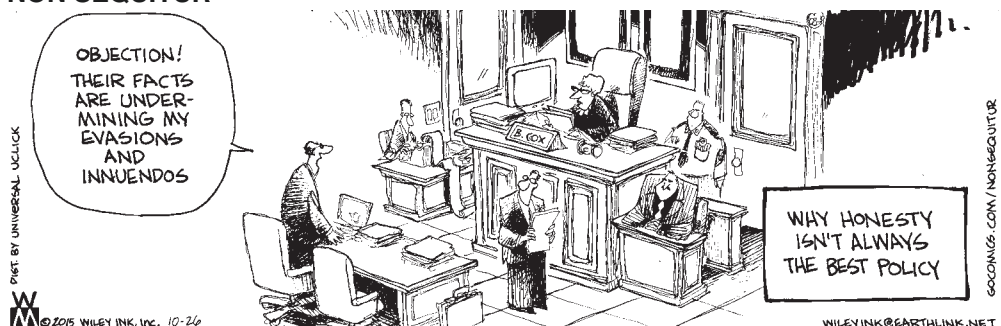
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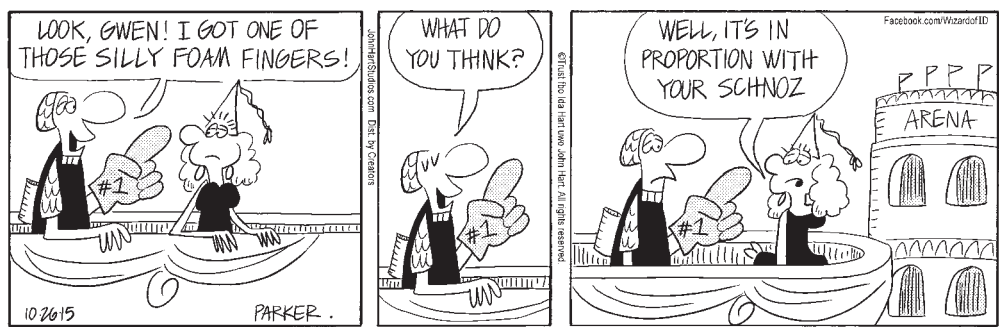
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

