

Wife won't answer his calls

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been together for 10 years and married for two. I still work full time, but my wife took early retirement last spring and now she spends weeks at a time visiting different members of her family.

When she is gone, she rarely answers her phone. I've noticed that when she's away, I sleep and eat more, rarely socialize and don't get things done that I should. I believe I'm depressed without her. Sometimes I pretend that I have no partner and don't care that she's away. I get through those weeks much better that way.

I believe it would be easier if she called me daily or at least answered my calls, so I don't feel cut off and alone. She doesn't understand this. She says phone calls interfere with her visits. Annie, wouldn't any normal person understand calling her spouse to touch base once a day?

Is it right for couples to be apart so much? I really want this marriage to work, but it seems rather one-sided. — *Lonely and Depressed in the Midwest*

Dear Lonely: Most couples check in once a day or at least

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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every other day when they are apart. The fact that your wife doesn't want to do this for weeks at a time worries us. We know some readers will question whether she is even visiting relatives or doing something altogether different, but we think your wife considers time away from you to be her vacation, and she is reluctant to be reminded otherwise.

When she next returns home, you can ask her about this. You can consider counseling together. But we also recommend that you stay active while she's away. Find something to do that will keep your mind busy so you are less depressed and lonely. Take up a hobby. Work on a project around the house. Go to the gym — exercise is good for raising endorphins and making you feel better.

Dear Annie: I have three adult granddaughters, and I have been sending them \$50 for each of their birthdays and at Christmas. They never thank me, but I know they have cashed the checks. I also send gifts for my great-grandchildren with no acknowledgement.

I am struggling with whether to continue this tradition. I never get a Christmas card or birthday card from them. Also, I had breast cancer and a double mastectomy a few years ago and they never ask how I'm doing.

I feel bad if I don't send them a gift, but don't you think this relationship should work both ways? — *Disappointed in Them*

Dear Disappointed: Many grandchildren think gifts and cards only flow one way. You have to tell them. But all gifts should be acknowledged in some form, and if your grandchildren don't do this, it's time to stop. When they ask why they didn't get a Christmas gift from Nana this year, simply say you never hear back from them, so you assume they don't particularly like your presents. That should take care of it.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll do all that is expected of you and then you'll do more because that's just how you roll. Success comes from standing out as someone for whom "good enough" isn't good enough.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Without conflict there is no drama. Also there is no story. And since everyone will be looking to you at the end of this day for a good story, welcome the little bit of conflict that comes your way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't trust the reviews today. Whether the reviews are good, bad or indifferent, they will paint the wrong picture for you. You'll only find out how things really are by diving in and tasting them yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've been known to listen so actively to another person that you forget yourself completely as you become immersed in this person's world. This is a talent, really, and a rare one at that!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The wish you made long ago is still filed away in the archives of your heart under the category "unfulfilled." Pull it out and work on it. There's no reason this can't happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Many different cultures exist inside the culture of your workplace. Learning to communicate in the "language" of others will lead you to increase your influence, effectiveness and power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can and will complete the hard job. Every little incremental step will help, even if it's a step backward. This is to be expected. The most important part will be to keep moving in faith.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You and your group agree on the big picture so you'll likely go along with some of the finer details that you don't find particularly pleasing. Someone has to compromise. It's just your turn; that's all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In nature you will feel connected to all things. This connection is made easier by comfortable, weather-appropriate garments. If you needed a reason to shop, here it is. You're welcome!

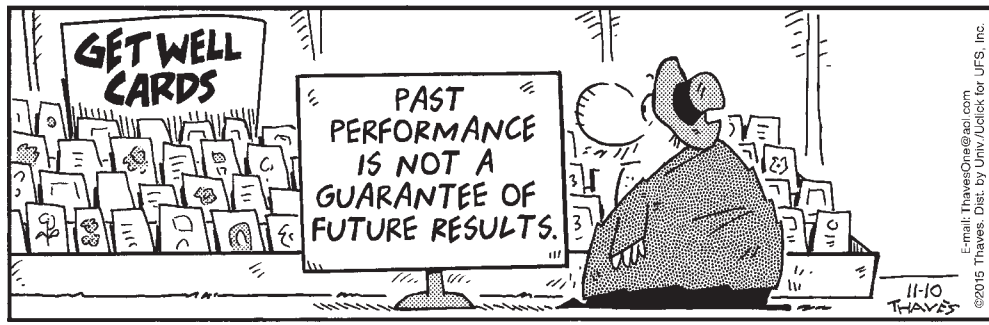
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's nothing standing between you and love except the limits of your own thinking. Know that you deserve a pure embrace, full attention and unconditional affection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a time for playfulness and a time to let others know that you have serious regard for them and their contributions. A social genius, you'll gracefully toggle between these two tones.

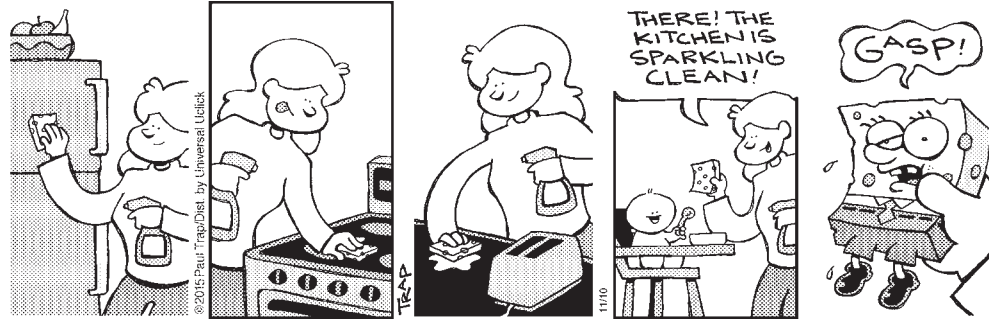
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It will happen quite naturally. You'll put your foot down and stop going along with the unsatisfying status quo. Things need to change and you have very little to lose.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 11). There's a lot of magic that happens between now and the end of the year. Your hard work will pay off, and the way you use your resources will favorably influence future deals. Creative people will bring out the best in you, and you'll make memories together in February. You'll celebrate family additions in April. Capricorn and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 9, 44, 16 and 25.

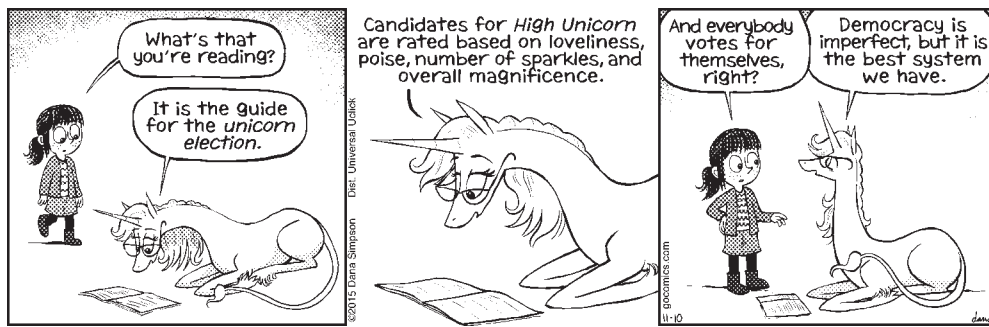
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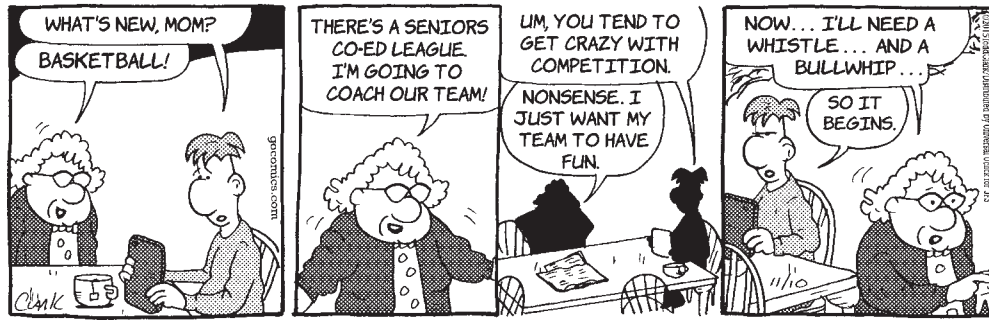
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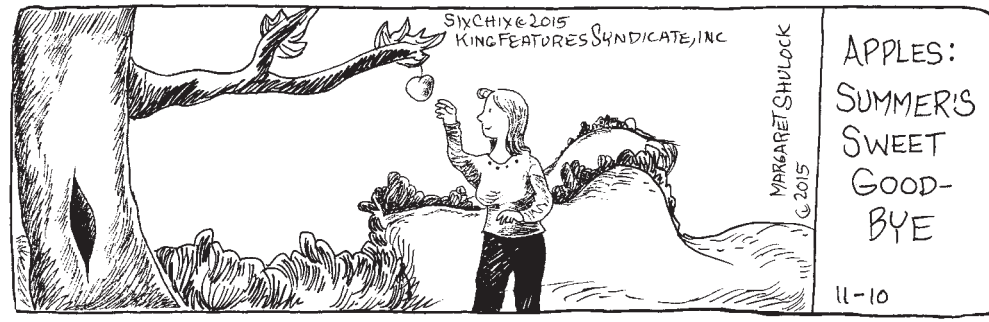
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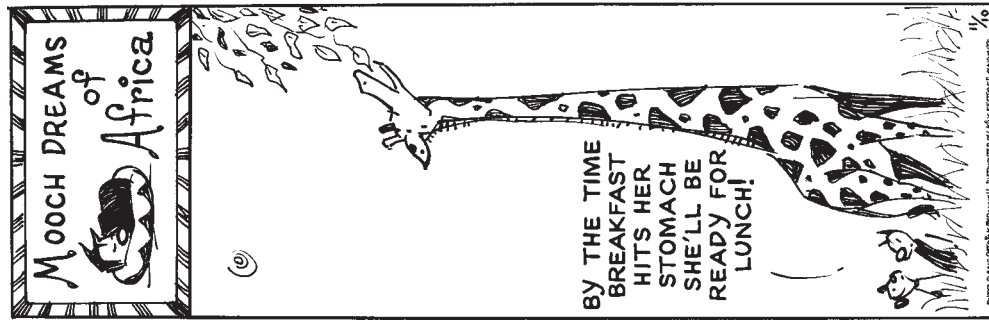
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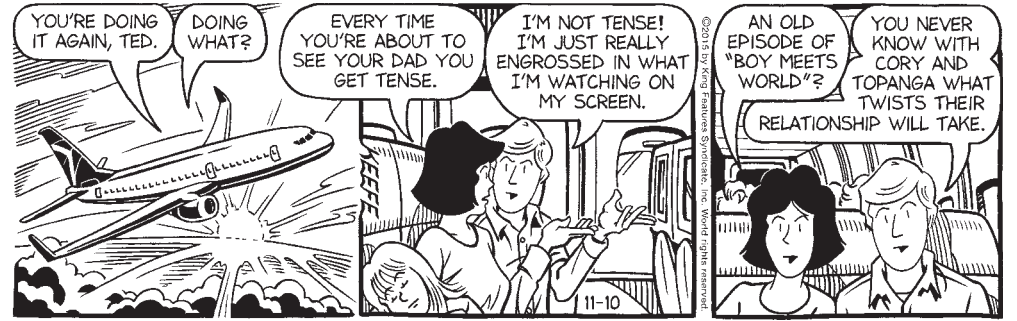
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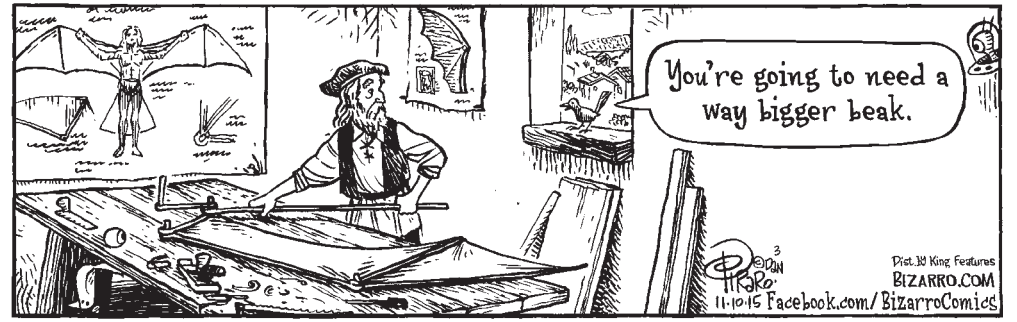
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