

Wife discovers bad behavior

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 15 years. During our first year of marriage, he cheated on me with an old girlfriend. I was pregnant at the time. He promised never to do it again.

Several months ago, I noticed that my husband seemed distant, irritable and less interested in sex. We have three children, and I work two jobs and very long hours. So, I will admit that I haven't been the most attentive wife. Several months ago, he said he needed more of a social life, so he would go out at night and not return until the wee hours. When I questioned his whereabouts, he said he was with the guys at a sports bar.

One night when he was out late, I looked at his Internet browsing history and found searches for strip clubs, as well as a notebook with comments on how to seduce specific strippers. I also discovered he'd been calling and texting the strippers.

When I confronted him with this information, he denied that he had done anything wrong. Then I told him that I had hired a private investigator, and this stopped him in his tracks. He swore that nothing sexual had taken place,

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



and that he was only talking to the strippers to get to know them. I asked him if he wanted a separation or an open marriage, but he declined, saying he's been faithful but has an interest in making connections with females on a platonic level.

He has since stopped going to the strip clubs, but I still find it hard to trust him since he lied so vehemently before. I feel stupid. I blew my chances of finding out anything more. He has covered his tracks and trashed the notebook. What should I do? — *Wary Wife*

Dear Wary: The only excuse for making connections with strippers on a platonic level would be if he's writing a book or a screenplay.

Your husband may not have done anything yet, but it sounds like he was working up to it. The

best thing would be to get into counseling so your husband understands how he has destroyed your trust and what he needs to do to regain it. You also need to do some work, so your husband doesn't feel you are neglecting him. As always, if he won't go with you, go without him.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "K," who was frustrated about the toll worker who didn't understand how to make change.

When I worked in a fast-food place, the other employees (usually younger) would ask me to help them count out change for their customers. I am 51 years old and learned all of this in school, including how to balance a checkbook. They really need a basic math class to teach these things. — *A*

Dear A.: The problem is, schools are already cutting back on what they offer in order to cover the required material, the list of which gets longer every year. How to balance a checkbook and make change are things that parents and grandparents can teach the kids, and we highly recommend they do. These are useful skills, and patient, loving instruction provides a bonding experience.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You believe something you've been told, and this will tease you into action today, searching for a kind of missing treasure. Maybe you won't find the stuff of legend, but what you will find has value.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You like routine — your sign thrives on it — and yet even methodical Taurus fears falling into a rut. That's why you'll obey your inner rebel, take an unexpected turn and enjoy the surprising results as well as anyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A person's energy can't help but get imprinted on anything and everything that a person touches, and you'll feel this as you pick up a project where the last person left off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's easy to be bold when you're with the majority. You won't be today, so it will take more courage to state your view. By sharing in a calm and thoughtful manner you could sway public opinion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you can stay a bit detached, many things will be easier for you. You'll see that though the situation is imperfect, everyone is trying hard to contribute to the very best of his or her ability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll go fast when you're alone, but do try and slow down when you're in the group because, for starters, many will have a difficult time keeping up with you. Also, you'll enjoy the slower pace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It was likely a wise (-cracking) Venus-ruled individual who once said, "Chocolate, men, coffee — some things are better rich." With your opulent appetites lately, you can relate to the sentiment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The days

events require you to be more patient, respectful and forgiving toward a loved one than usual, which will come naturally to you. You'll be similarly received should you ever need such mercy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The "frenery" situation you have on your hands will prove to be a healthy and productive force in your life. The tension between you may be occurring because you two are more alike than either of you cares to admit.

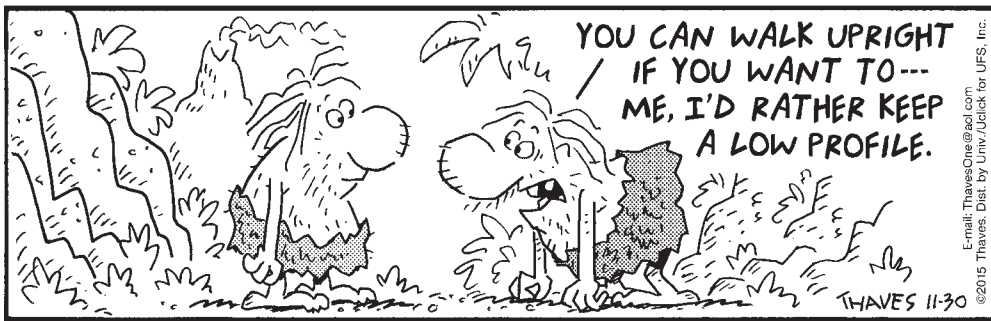
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The more you learn the more you realize that your previous way of thinking was too narrowly focused to realize all you could gain from a situation. New insights inspire your move in an unforeseen direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Once upon a time you found financial balance by learning how to want less and earn more. You've also found it by wanting more and figuring out a way to make enough to afford it. Right now either way will work.

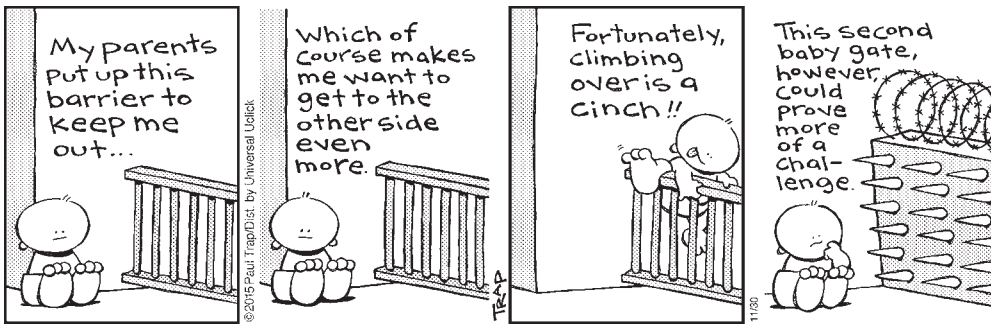
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You enjoy the respect of your peers when you think you've earned it, but you don't require approval to keep going. The plan you're imagining won't make sense to everyone, but if it makes sense to you, that will be enough.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 1). You'll close out the year feeling rich in love, vitality and possibility. You'll assemble a dream team in January, each member with his or her own individual talents and perspectives. Together you'll win a victory. April and July are the best for making lucky deals and investments. Distant lands offer opportunity in May. Taurus and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 14, 44, 38 and 49.

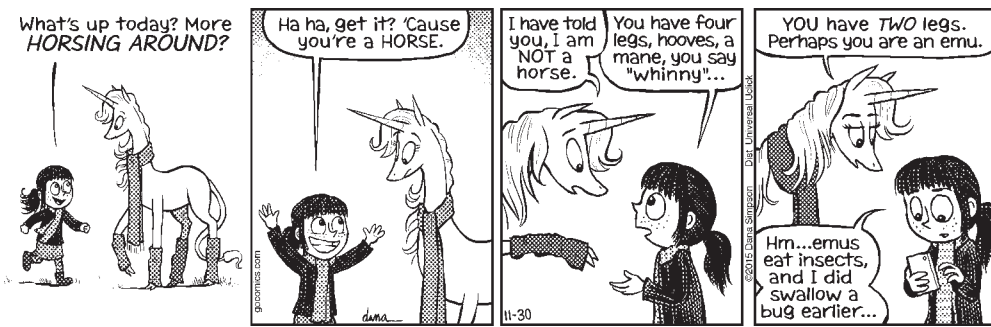
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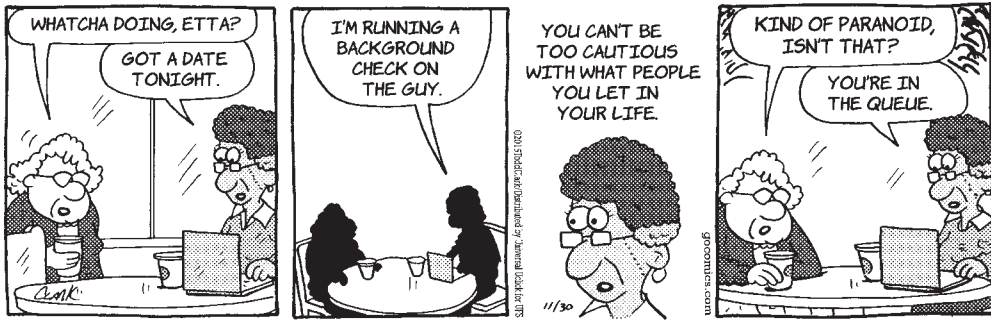
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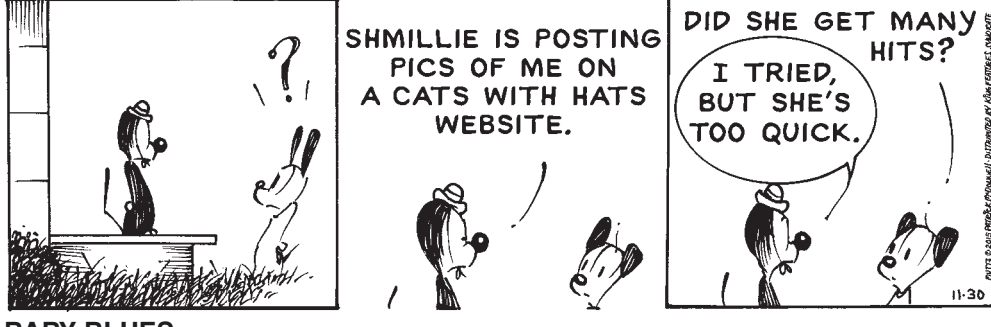
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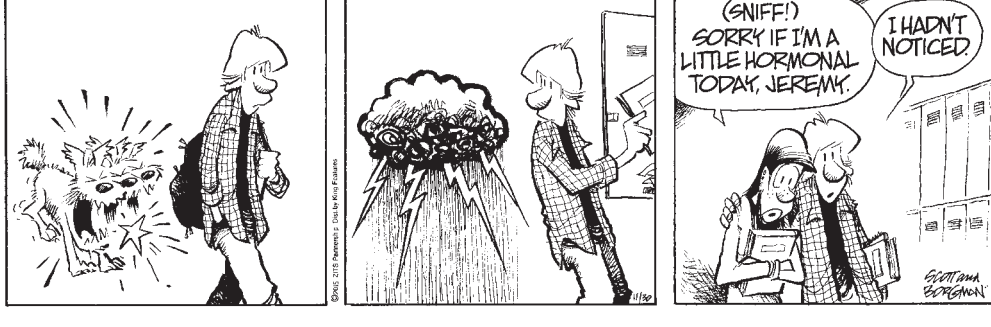
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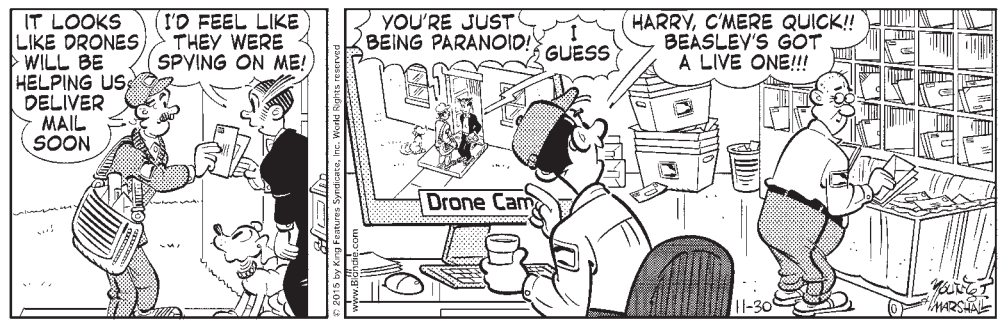
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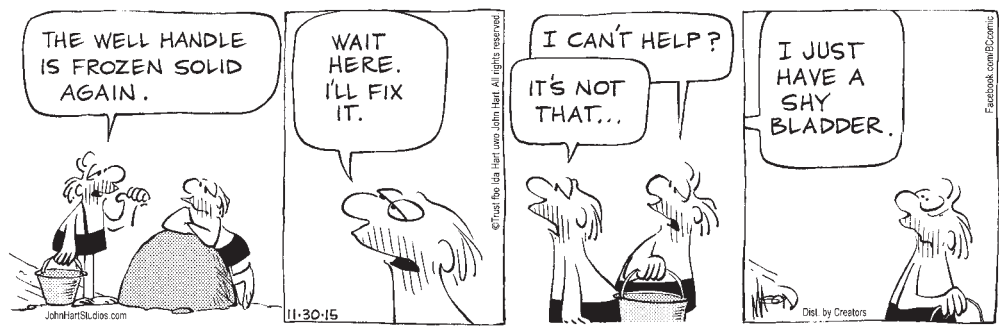
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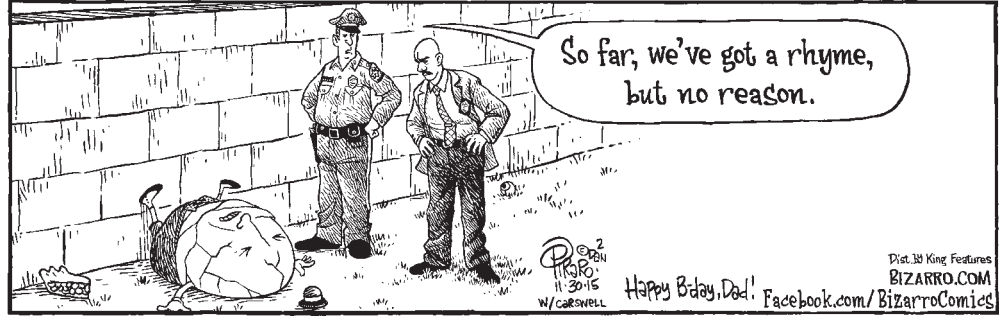
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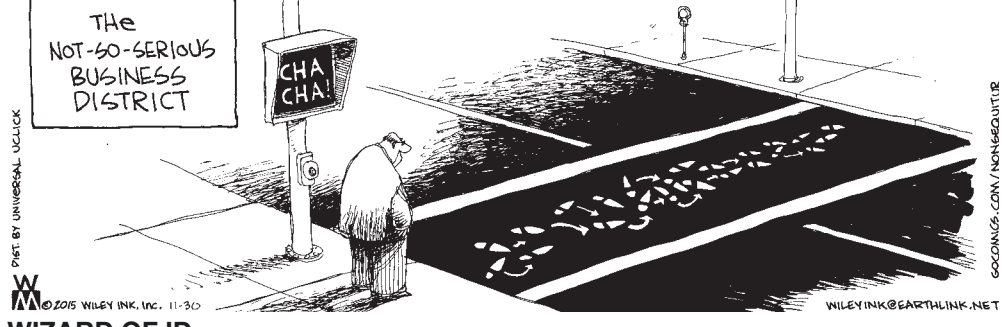
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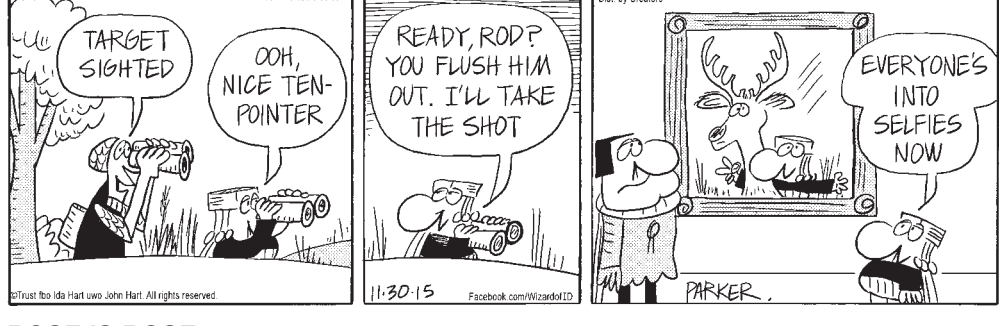
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