

Should she tell about affair?

Dear Annie: Several years ago, I had a much talked about affair with an older married man at my office. It lasted for several years. I was single at the time, and I met him at a very low period in my life. He told me I was smart, pretty and fun to be with. He showered me with flowers and gifts. He led me to believe his marriage was loveless and his only happiness was seeing me at work and talking to me on the phone. We did everything leading up to sex, but never actually completed intercourse due to religious reasons.

After a few years, I met the man I am now married to. The older man became very angry and began harassing me, emotionally and verbally. I reported him to my supervisors several times, but it only made matters worse. He has finally retired, but I still feel him watching me. I can't prove anything, and I can't tell my husband because he has no idea how involved we were. Aside from warning other women to beware of married men bearing love and gifts, what can I do? — *Learned My Lesson*

Dear Learned: If your affair did not include intercourse and it happened before you met your husband, he may be more understand-

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



ing than you think. Everyone makes mistakes. Also, if the people in your office are aware of the relationship, your husband may find out about it anyway. A loving spouse can be a tremendous source of support, and your husband may be perfectly willing to forgive this lapse in judgment. Nonetheless, it will help you to talk to someone, and if your husband is not the right person, please consider discussing your fears with a counselor or clergyman.

The more serious problem is the possibility that the ex is stalking you. If you ever catch him following your home, car or office, or following you anywhere, please notify the police immediately and, if necessary, get a restraining order.

Dear Annie: I have read many letters in your column from mothers-in-law who don't understand why they have a strained relation-

ship with their daughters-in-law. May I add a perspective from the other side?

We lived a couple of miles from my in-laws. We had a good relationship until our children were born. Then my MIL dropped in unannounced at least once a day. She refused to call in advance, despite numerous requests to do so. Her attitude was overbearing and critical. She had nothing positive to say, and criticized our house, child rearing and financial decisions. She loudly and repeatedly accused me of putting my kids in front of the TV all day, which was blatantly untrue. A new job across the country helped separate me from her venom.

Her terrible behavior and her efforts to hang on to her son cost her a decent relationship with my husband and any connection to her grandchildren. Perhaps the letter writers need to honestly examine their own behavior to determine the cause of their family strife. It isn't always the daughter-in-law. — *Been There, Survived*

Dear Been: How sad for everyone. We hope all estranged family members will make a genuine effort to consider whether their own actions need adjusting before placing the blame on the other person.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Since you're not dead-set on a certain destination today, why not take hints from the environment? Figure out which way the wind is blowing, and angle yourself to put this weather to your greatest advantage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't believe your worth, undervalue yourself or simply settle for far less than you want or deserve then there is a great potential to make mistakes. Don't let it happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The road to greatness isn't always a rough road; often times it's just a long one. Even though you are easily distracted by the pretty things, people and ideas around you, you also have tenacity. Dig for it. Find it. Resist temptation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Would you be surprised to know that you are on the mind of a certain someone as the first thought of the morning, the last thought of the day and at least 700 thoughts between those? Well, it's true.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't waste time getting angry, or even frustrated, with those who can't help but be who they are. You're the same. Why become disheartened? You're not always going to get it right. Have patience. Be inwardly gentle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is much that is well within your rights, within the available opportunities and within what is socially acceptable that you will nonetheless refrain from doing, out of modesty. This is commendable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You try and look at something for what it is and find only contradictions. Now try looking at yourself. You'll find that you don't altogether know what you are capable of. There is great potential in this day

to astound yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can handle your work well and still pace yourself. Don't spend all your best energy between 9 and 5, because from 5 to 9 will offer some prime opportunities for you to shine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of your challenges in this lifetime is to balance an unshakable confidence in your talents with the humility necessary to develop them to their full potential. A hard teacher will come along to help you with this.

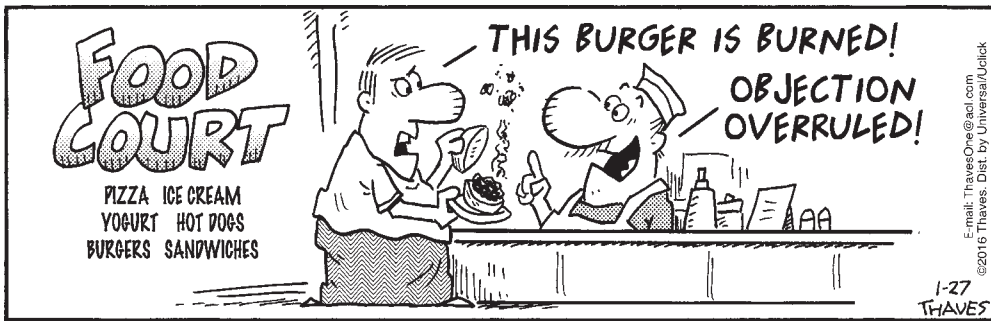
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is nothing to be gained by pushing against the minor setbacks of the day or giving them even one iota more attention than they deserve, which is very, very, little indeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though you are probably finding yourself in a position of defense, a defensive stance will only cause offensive action from the other side. Lay down your arms, stay calm and add a little feeling in with all those facts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are certain things you may never learn, if only because they are so outside of your nature that you can't begin to figure out how to emulate the motions. There's a better fit out there; all you have to do is choose it.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 28). However much love you've felt in your lifetime, you'll know a greater one this year. This will inspire you to take better care of yourself and to apply your talents differently, too, in February. The spring will bring travel and new friends. June is a chance at the position you've had your eye on; be aggressive. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 32, 31, 48 and 16.

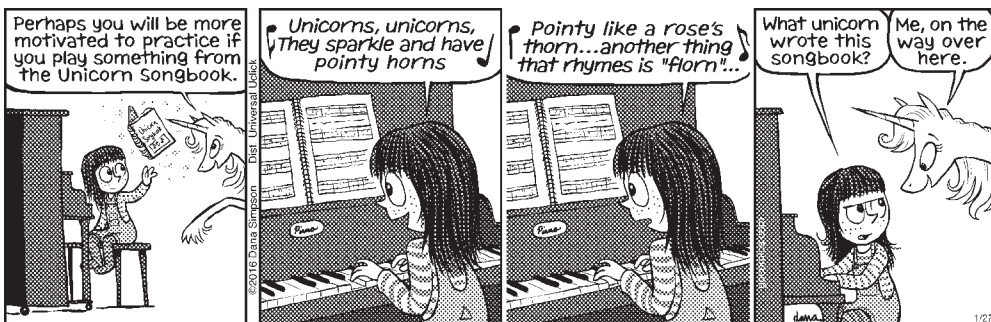
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



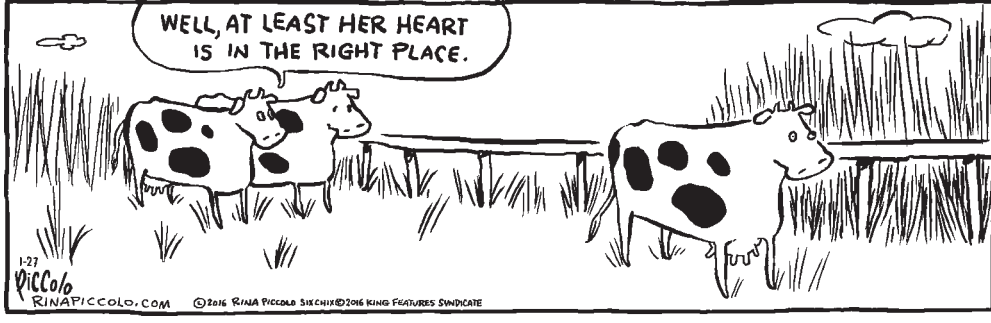
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



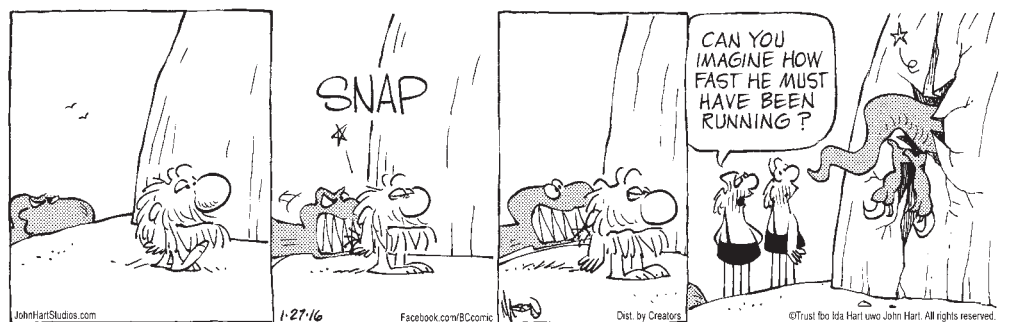
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



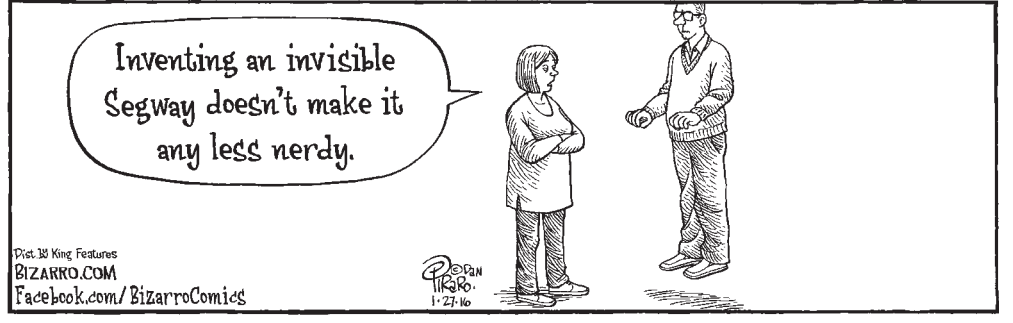
B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

