

# Stuck in a cold marriage

**Dear Annie:** When I met my husband many years ago, he had just returned from Vietnam. His mind was shaky, and he was a chain smoker and a serious alcoholic. We have maintained a comfortable, peaceful relationship. I could not tolerate drunkenness, so he stopped. But what seemed left was an unaffectionate, unemotional robot. He has never hugged me, held my hand or actually kissed me (only quickly, during our silent, intimate moments). Compliments? Never. He never bought a ring for me, which not only is embarrassing but also makes me feel as though I have no value to him.

He is kind to the children, provides meagerly but adequately, and makes no waves. We simply exist. I settled for this and it would hurt too many nice people for me to go my own way. But my point in writing to you is to save other women: Think before getting involved with a cold, unfeeling person.

Counseling is out. We never have a conversation. I truly believe his lifelong chain-smoking has affected his mental and physical health. — *Too Little, Too Late*

**Dear Too Little:** We wouldn't be so quick to blame the chain-smoking. While it has undoubtedly af-

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



fecting his health, it is more likely that his experience in Vietnam (and possibly his upbringing) had a greater impact on his emotional health. Many of those who have served in wars suffer from PTSD and never asked for or received treatment. Your husband could be one of them.

We're not going to give you a lecture on expecting an unaffectionate, robotic man to change once he marries. It's too late for that. And of course, if you could get your husband to visit a nearby VA to ask about PTSD counseling, that might be tremendously helpful. But you are the one who wrote. We think you deserve better. The fact that leaving him might cause "nice people" to be hurt is not a good enough reason for you to make such a lifelong sacrifice. Get counseling for yourself, and see what choices you have.

**Dear Annie:** I am a hunter, and

I understand how important each of the very few days available for deer hunting is to a fellow hunter. "Left Out in the Cold" said her husband misses holidays and Mother's Day because they interfere with hunting season. She didn't say how far away her husband travels to hunt.

If he is not too far, he could perhaps hunt close to home in the morning and return for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner later in the evening after legal hunting hours. However, if he is unable to compromise and insists on missing holidays, then I suggest that she just go to the relatives without him and enjoy herself without giving him a second thought.

I have to say, the only time I could justify having Christmas postponed would be if an important family member were in the service or in the hospital. Sounds to me that "Left Out's" entire marriage might need some professional intervention. — *"Dear" Beats "Deer" Anytime*

**Dear Anytime:** Compromise is always possible, but only if both parties are agreeable. When one person is not, the other has the choice of changing one's situation, accepting what cannot be fixed or being perpetually upset.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your ruling planet, Mars, is more than the planet of aggression, survival and war. He also governs the protection of resources, especially food. Today you'll do your part to set you and yours up for future bounty.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** While the others are busy gabbing about what they think of each other, you'll be following your curiosity to bigger and more meaningful topics, mostly having to do with ideas instead of people.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Whether or not you are looking forward to that big event, it's going to happen. You may as well get psyched up for it. A fellow fire sign (Leo or Sagittarius) will help in this regard.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** All it takes is a smile and an encouraging word to boost team spirit. They may want you to volunteer for more responsibility. You are not obligated! Lost objects will turn up tonight.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're a fast study. Too fast, sometimes, because you get it on the first try and expect that it will always happen like that. It won't. In order to do things better the second time, you have to do them a second time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Is someone trying to control you? It is very unwise for any to attempt this, as your bristles are serious. You're in the mood to resist authority and delve deeper into a strain of independent thought. Go with it and you'll be lucky.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Perhaps you don't even like the admiration you secretly feel for that roughish someone who, for all his or her wicked ways, still manages to win your affection. Alas, your heart has its own rules. The question is, what's next?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It's like your battery hasn't quite kicked in and you might have to push this car some to get that motor running. Helpful friends will push you. Once you get it moving, it's smooth sailing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** It's only natural that the others are thinking of their own stories instead of getting things right in yours. That's why it's imperative that you stay in charge on your end. Get on your own side! It's not selfish!

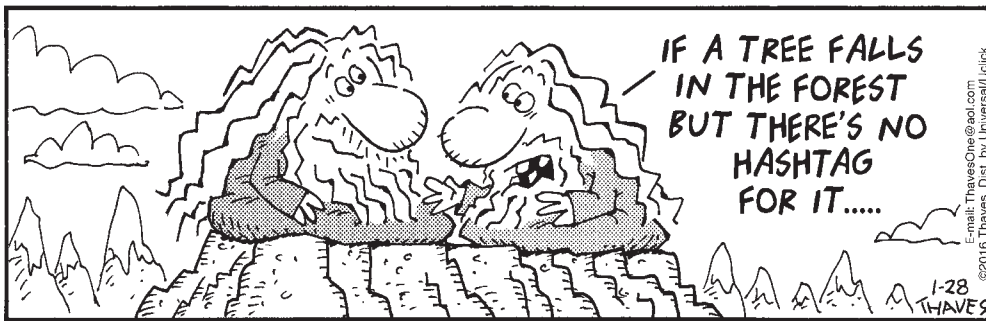
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll give the others a sense that you are confiding in them, and this charges the relationships with a special, private energy. Whether or not these are really secrets you're divulging is another matter.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** For the specific job of the day, you have no real competition. This is you, doing what only you can, and doing it at the highest, most unique level. These are all reasons to keep your eyes on your own page.

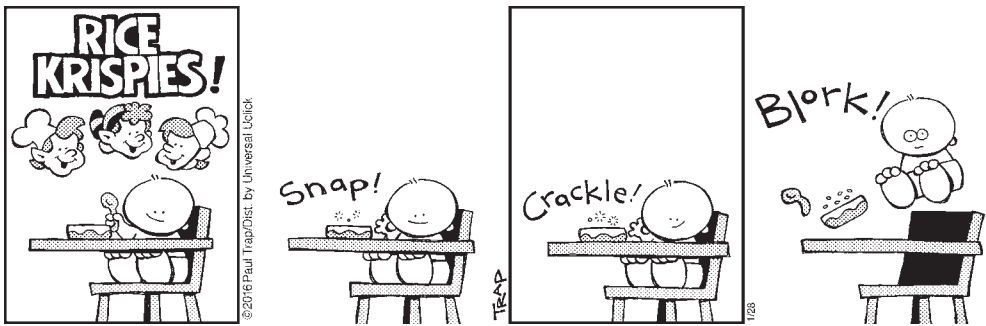
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The spotlight swings to you, sets you aglow in a way that makes you feel like the star you are, and then, only moments later, moves again. That's why you have to seize the moment when it's on you!

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 29).** You know that unfulfilled dream you were seriously considering giving up? Well, not so fast. You just weren't ready before, but you're getting there now, and when you apply yourself in February, a new development will make you so happy you hung in there. Abundance comes in March; romance in June! Scorpio and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 45, 33 and 41.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



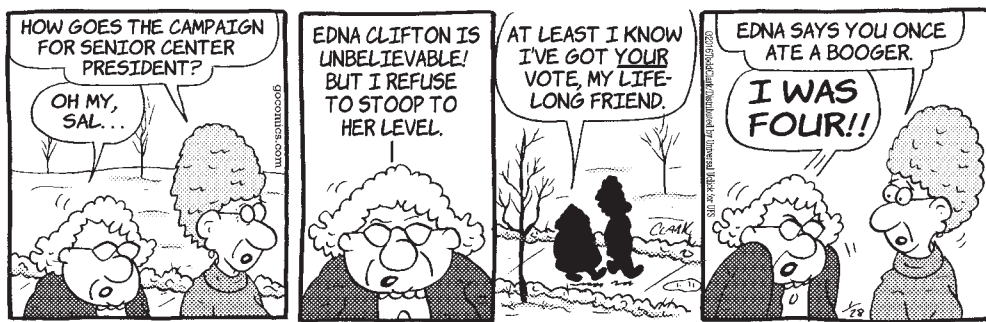
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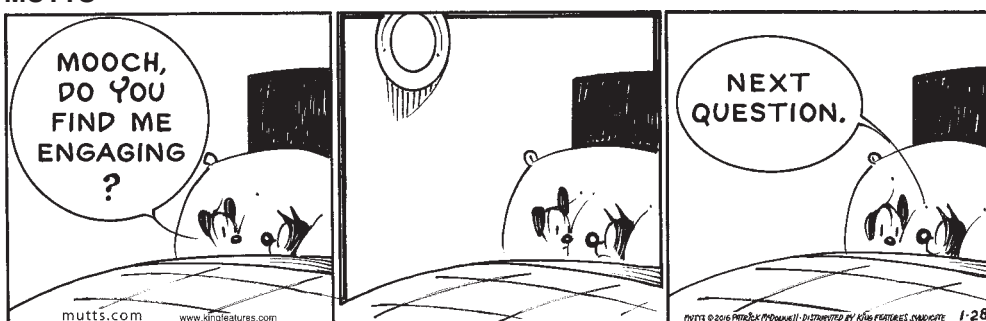
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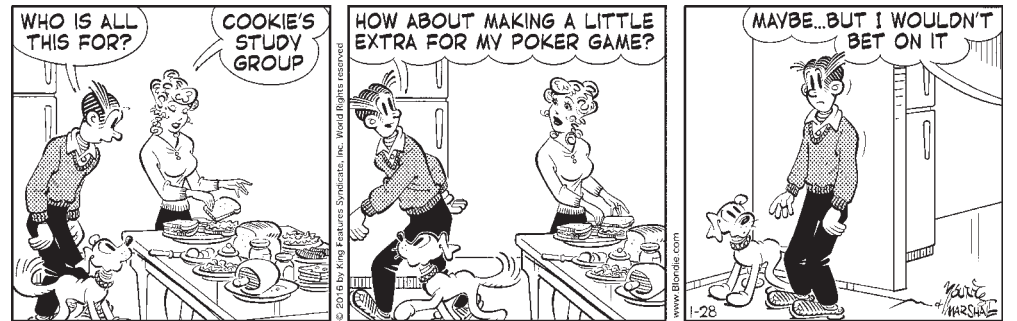
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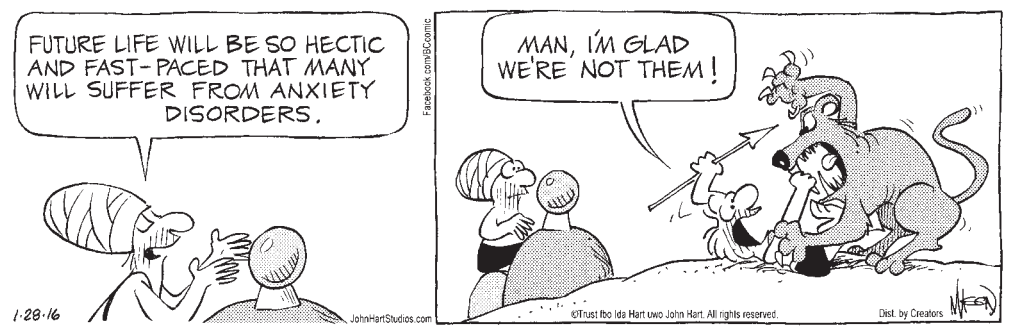
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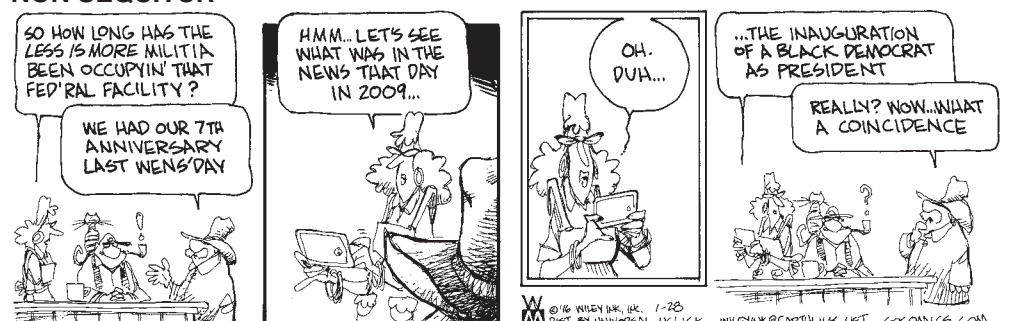
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

