

Wife feels like piece of meat

Dear Annie: My husband, "Derek" and I have been married for 18 years and we have four children. Lately, I feel like a piece of meat. Derek wants sex every day and grabs my breasts constantly. If I refuse, he pouts.

Derek recently lost his job and we were evicted, so we moved in with my mom. The longest Derek has ever held a job is four years. He looks for work, but then sits and plays games on the computer while my mom and I do chores and help the kids with their homework. I was raised with a strong work ethic, and have been the primary breadwinner for most of our marriage.

I resent Derek for not respecting me when I say no to his constant demands for sex. Even in the midst of a kidney infection, he still wanted me to mess around. I am ready to leave him over these issues. Please help. — *Indiana Sex Object*

Dear Indiana: We think Derek feels inadequate as a provider, and instead of fixing that, he uses sex as a way to control the relationship and keep you in what he sees as a subservient position. But lest we be accused of practicing psychiatry without a license,

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



we strongly urge you to get into counseling and figure this out. Derek may have adult ADD or some other problem that interferes with his ability to hold onto a job. Obviously, it would be best if Derek would go with you for counseling, but if not, go on your own. Check to see if your workplace has an employee assistance program that can help. There also are low-cost counseling options available through your clergy person, United Way, Catholic Charities and the Department of Children and Family Services.

Dear Annie: Wow, I was so surprised by your comment to "Outraged in Pennsylvania," that her husband's girlie calendar was none of her business.

Most women I know would be upset if their husband willingly encouraged the exploitation

of women by allowing this calendar to hang for all the other boys to ogle in the bathroom. This is sleazy.

If a woman has any class or values, this would bother her, as it goes against everything women have been fighting for — not to be looked at as sexual objects and to be taken seriously. It's offensive at any workplace, whether women are present or not.

If it were my husband, this would be a huge character issue. For women like you to say this is OK is shocking! — *K.*

Dear K.: Please read more carefully. We did not say this was OK. In fact, we agree with everything you say about it being sleazy and exploitative. Here is where we differ: She should not be telling her husband how to run his office. We would say the same if her husband objected to something at his wife's office — it's none of his business. She has registered her complaint with him, but how he deals with it is entirely his decision, not hers. If she finds his response to be inadequate or offensive, and it changes how she feels about him, that is a different matter and should be taken up with the nearest marriage counselor.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Humor is magic. If you don't have enough laughter in your life, you don't have enough magic. The funny people you know are golden treasures, and you will treat them as such because you're an emotional genius.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Social graces are so much more important than they seem. Reach out to that shy person. It's not that big of a deal for you, but it will be huge in the other person's lens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Go ahead and orient yourself to your own needs. This isn't the least bit selfish, you know. It's actually smart, and you're doing someone else a favor by providing for yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you didn't make the kind of impression you wanted to make on someone, you'll get a second chance. So think about it this time — exactly what are you going for?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The talkers will annoy you. It's because this isn't your nature. You can't see the point in talking a good game. In fact, you prefer not to talk at all as you get down to whatever it is you need to do to produce your deliverables.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The other person clearly isn't asking what can be done to help you out. Maybe it's because you're so self-sufficient. Anyway, if you want help, you're going to have to ask directly for exactly what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have the best ideas, and perhaps you'll have more of these ideas than others know what to do with. Keep track. Write things down and you can figure out your presentation later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Have you

gotten away from the basics? Food, water, rest, warmth — and, of course, love. Check each box. You'll be surprised how much better things go when you are, for instance, properly hydrated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stress isn't attractive or interesting to others. That's why you never lead with "stressed out" you are, even if it happens to be true. Being fun is harder than being anxious, but you make the effort and get the payoff, too.

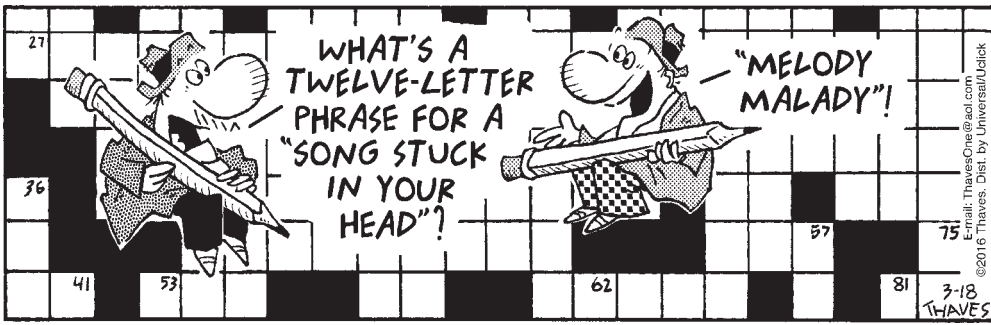
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't accept the pressure someone is putting on you. For the pressure to be real, you both have to agree to it. Don't agree and it goes away. It's really as simple as that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The one who says sorry is actually testing the waters. Listen between the lines. Is this an apology or a way to find out where the boundaries are?

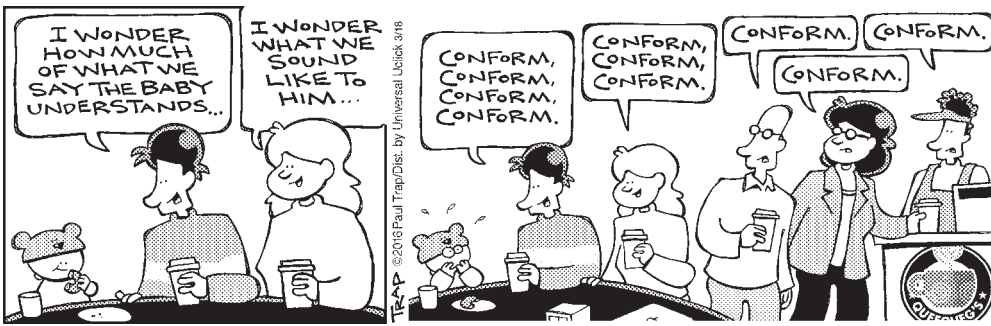
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Romance, for all its beauty, also has the effect of threatening your comfort zone. You're grappling with this in your mind, trying to figure out how far you're willing to stray from the pleasantness you're used to.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19). You don't have to take physical risks to prove that you're brave. Yours is a different sort of courage. You're willing to let someone know you. You're willing to be vulnerable, and to be bad at things for the sake of your own learning and development. Passionate love and popularity are part of your cosmic birthday gift. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 16, 27, 38 and 44.

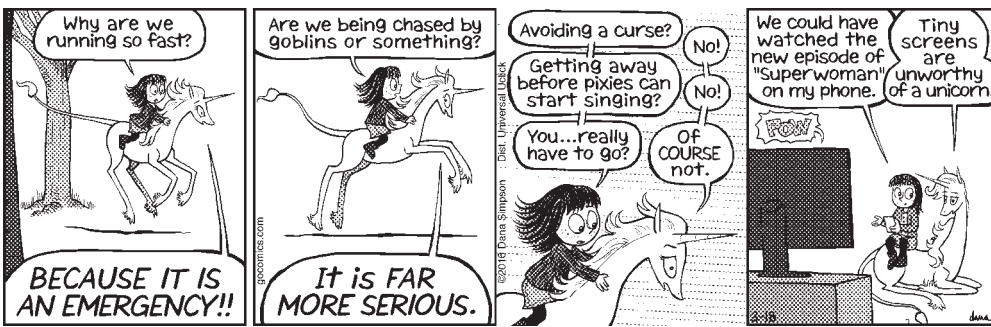
FRANK AND ERNEST



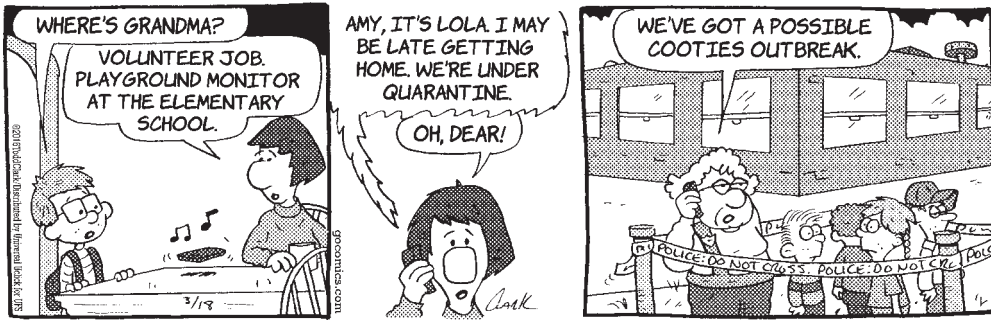
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



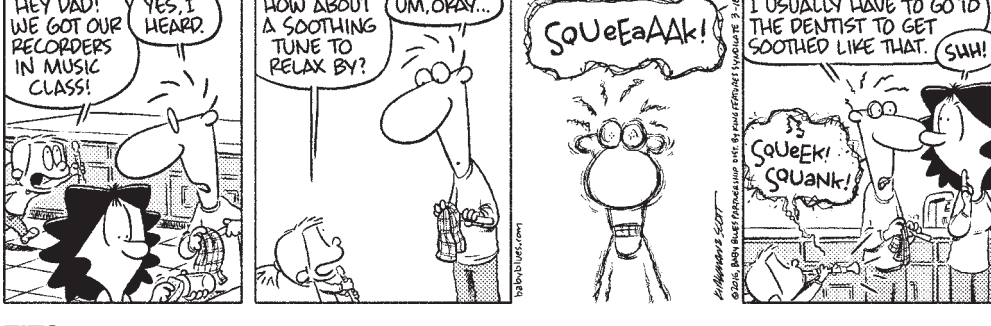
SIX CHIX



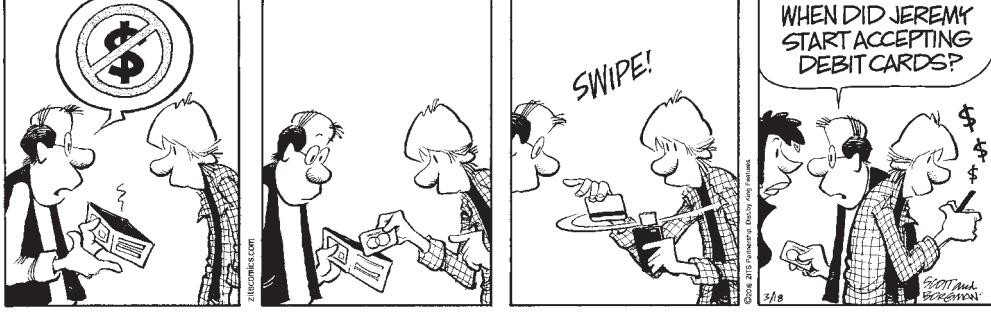
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



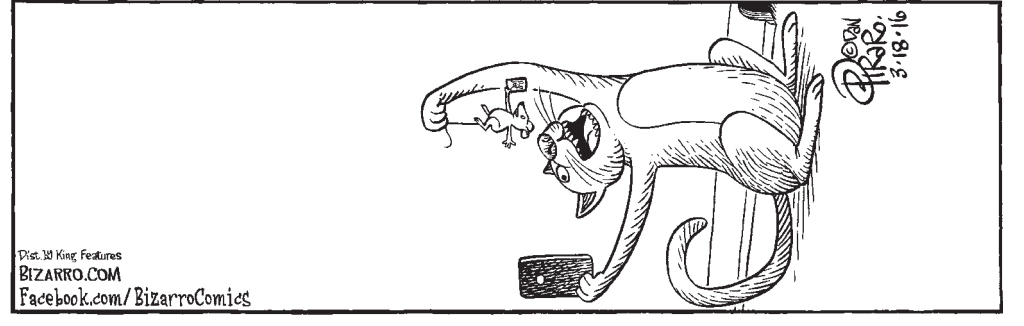
B.C.



DILBERT



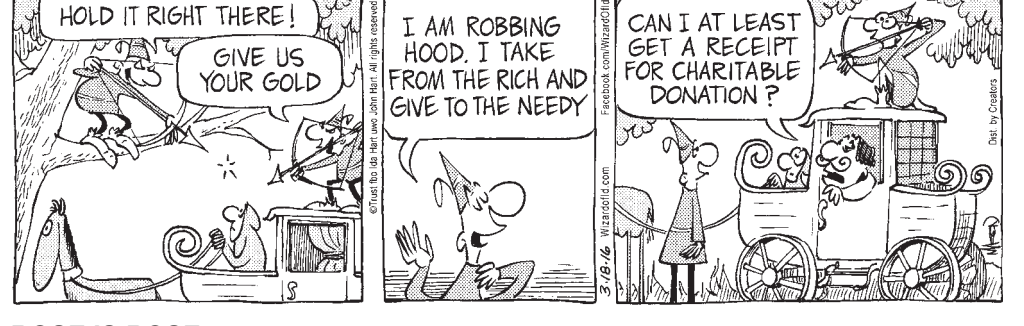
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

