

# His ex is still hanging around

**Dear Annie:** I have a brainteaser for you. My husband and I have been married for nearly 11 years. He was divorced from his first wife about 15 years ago; they had no children. His family has welcomed me with open arms.

However, his ex-wife continues to stay in touch with family members. They even visit her and host her at their homes. Never has she been invited to family gatherings, and no one talks about her in front of me, but I still find out about it. My husband has made clear to these family members that this is awkward and not healthy for the ex-wife, but they persist.

I have two concerns. One, it feels as if someone is lurking in the shadows, and two, it seems odd that she has not moved on after so many years. I gave up connection to some lovely people when my ex-boyfriend and I split up, because it felt like the right thing to do for both of us. What's your take on this situation? — *Scratching My Head in NH*

**Dear Scratching:** It's bizarre that she's still hovering around, 15 years later. By now, she ought to have buzzed off and found her

own hive. When you say goodbye to a partner, you say goodbye to his family, too. (If there were children involved, it would be different.)

But clearly, some of your in-laws are encouraging her. So that raises the question: Who? Is it just one person? A sister who always got along well with this woman and connected with her as a friend? If that's the case, try to let the friendship remain and just ask that they continue to meet only at times other than family functions.

If several of your in-laws are doing this, it's time for your husband to step up. He needs to make abundantly clear that their maintaining such a close relationship with his ex-wife is not just awkward but also hurtful.

**Dear Annie:** I want to address "Sleepless in Anywhere, USA," "Sick and Hurt" and others who are hurt by spousal affairs.

There are various reasons committed and loving spouses have affairs. I was married to a loyal husband, but our marriage was scarred with emotional abuse that went unaddressed despite my continued pleas for dealing with it. Instead of

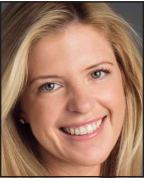
being cherished, I was made to feel worthless.

From what I could determine, he suffers from emotional injuries inflicted during his childhood. He built an emotional barrier around himself. He refused to go to counseling; I went on my own, with mixed results.

I didn't want to get divorced, so I tried other means to get through the situation. In the end, I had an affair. We are near the end of divorce proceedings. I am saddened by the whole story, and much of what is important to me has to be left behind.

So, for those loyal partners who find their spouse in an affair, please step outside yourself and look at the whole picture. How could better communication and self-honesty improve your relationship? Are there past harms — which have nothing to do with a current relationship — hurting the present? If you have chosen to share your life with another, then really share life — the good and bad. A loving spouse wants to help carry the burden, heal and move past these destructive ills. I did — though here in the end, I'm the "evil gal who had an affair," while the other side of the story remains a secret. — *Made to Move On*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
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## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** What would you tell your best friend to do? Not your actual best friend — your fantasy best friend who needs to make a few decisions just like you do. You love that crazy-cool person! Advise then apply it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Maybe you want the same thing they want, but that in and of itself won't help you get there any more easily. Their reasons will barely move you there. Figure out your reasons. Your reasons will be big time motivation.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Some will be threatened by what you believe. Some will challenge you. This is good. Beliefs should be tested. Otherwise, how will you know which ones aren't stable enough to support you?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Many great works of art infuriated people at first then were gradually accepted and appreciated after the minds of the audience caught up with the ideas of the art. You'll be an early adopter.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You honor your commitments to the people in your life and your social circle grows from there. You don't always get to choose who you're around. That's what makes the friends you do get to choose so special to you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Remember when you got some long, consecutive, non-interrupted time chunks to organize your life around? Boy, that does seem like a thing of the past now, but don't worry, it will also be a thing of the future.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There's a logic behind your attraction to certain people and things. Those motives are worth investigating. What feels natural isn't always the best

choice, but today it will be a pretty solid one.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're ready to get deep, but your life is filled with a million shallow tasks. Let your heart provide the depth. Later you can avoid any source of shallow work, but right now it's pretty unavoidable.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Stay relaxed as you make your requests of others. Your charisma is turned up and people will be inclined to make you happy. They will go to extra lengths to see you smile.

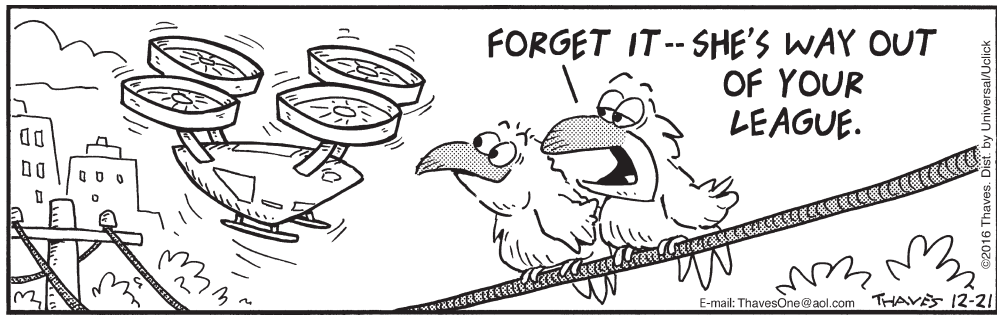
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** So much will be subject to interpretation. Assume that things mean what you want them to mean. Choose the meaning that energizes you; the more energy you have, the better you'll enjoy yourself.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Here's what holds you in place: family, work, routine, the "boring" stuff. But it's not really boring, especially when you consider that all the best bits of life will spring from these sources.

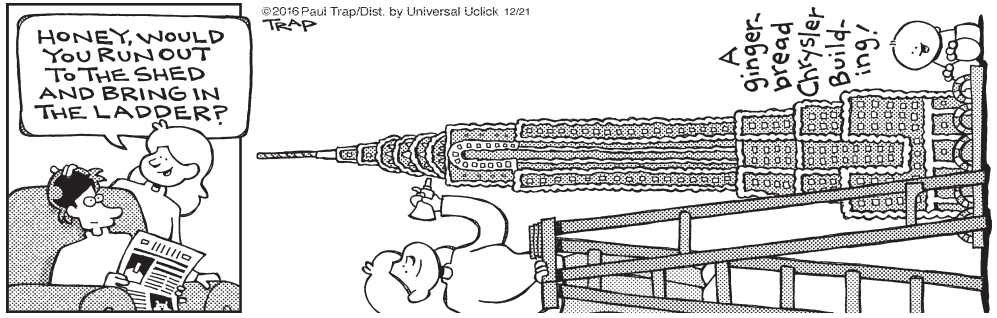
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're embroiled in a fantasy about not having to compromise, doing it your way and actually being supported in it. Truly, the compromises are good for you, and yet too much of anything makes you long for the other things.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22).** You'll learn new disciplines, methods and ways of thinking this year. Kindred spirits working together will bring immense pleasure to your world. Lifestyle preferences come into play in February and March, driving you to travel to find inspiration. January and October represent financial highs. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 2, 22 and 16.

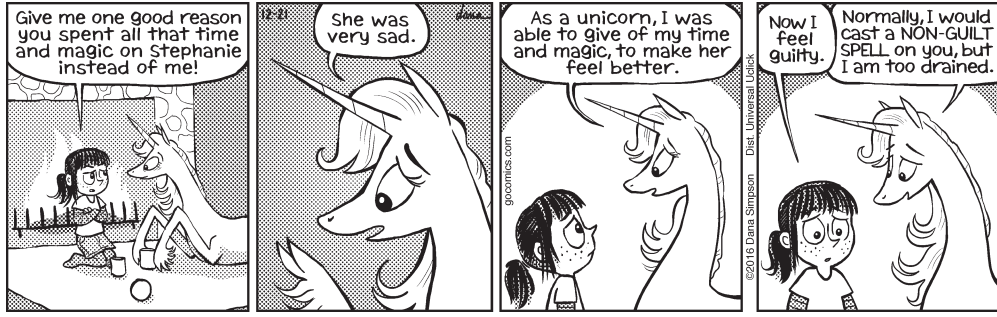
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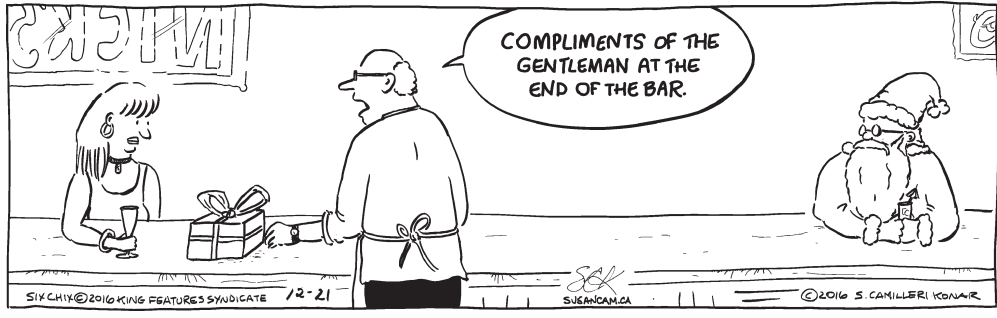
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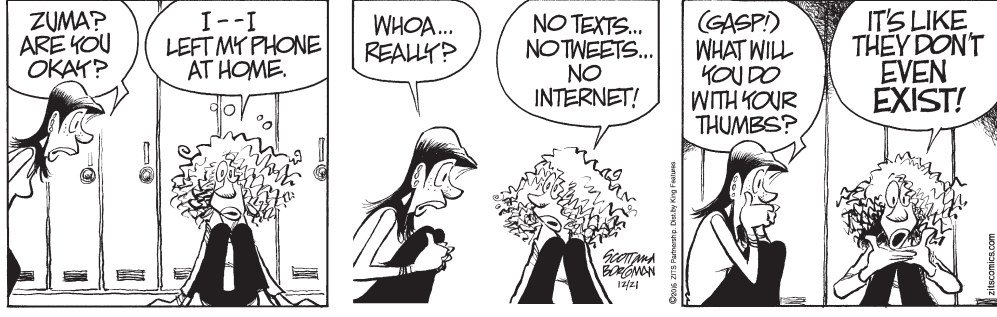
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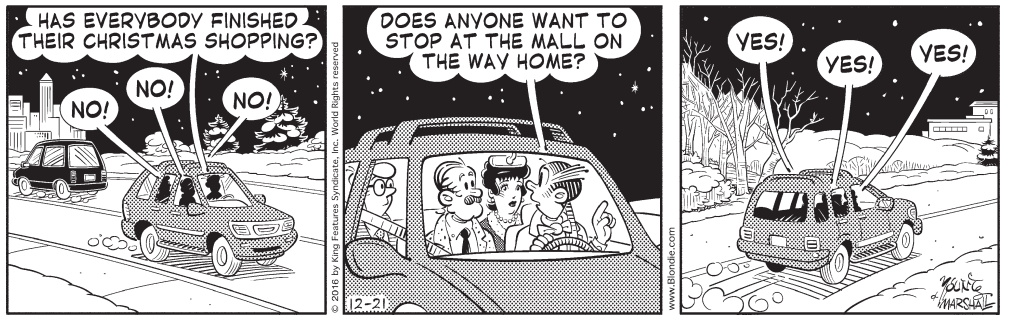
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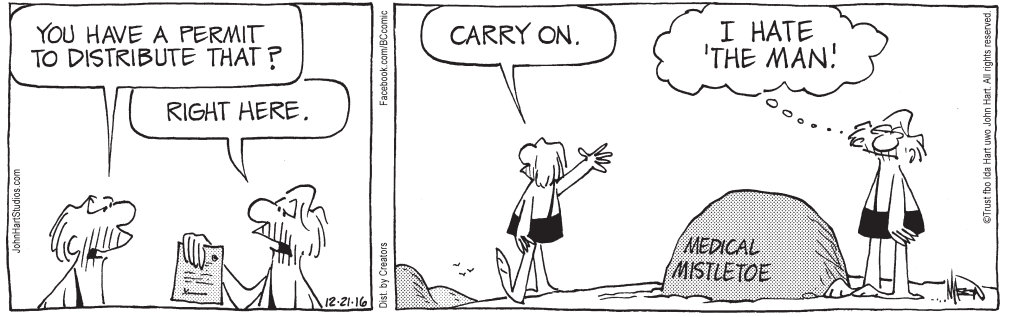
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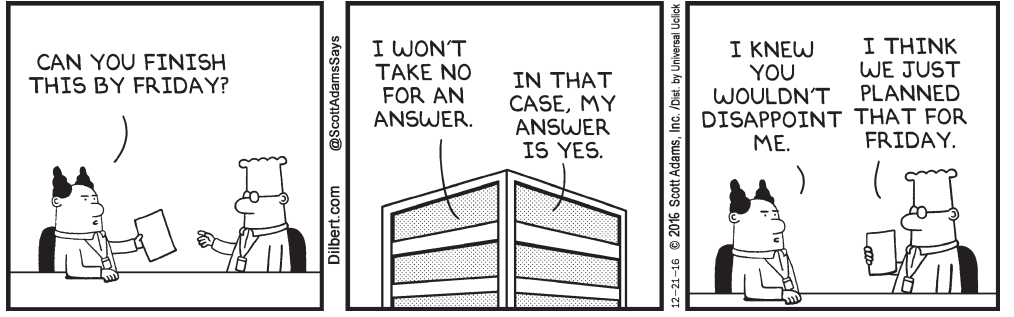
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## B.C.



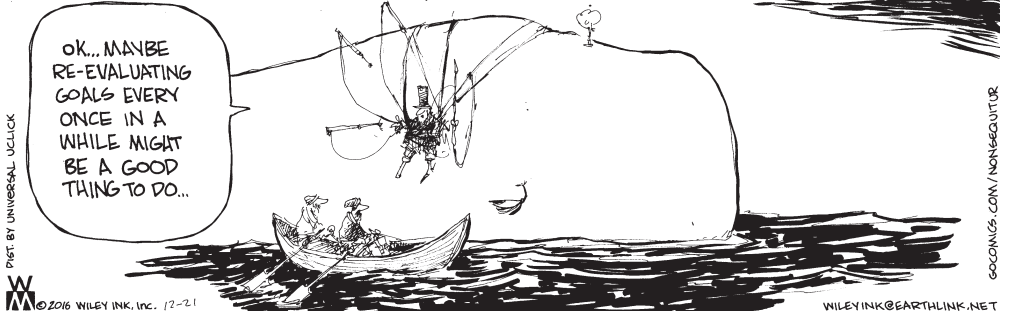
## DILBERT



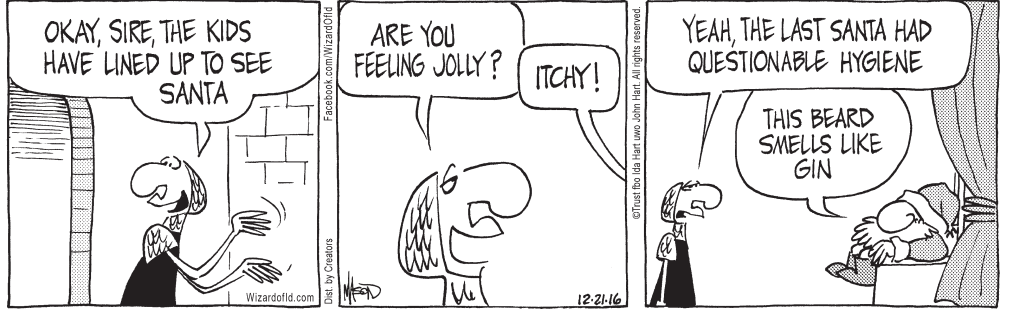
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

