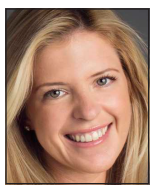
She's missing intimacy

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for over 30 years. In many ways, we are very compatible and have shared interests in music, books and movies. However, we no longer have a sex life or any form of intimacy. It has been almost 10 years since he expressed an interest in being with me. He also refuses to discuss the issue.

In the past few years, whenever I try to talk about my unhappiness, he maintains that I am narcissistic and asks me not to nag him about it. I know he has performance problems, and it doesn't help that he drinks every night. He has also told me that although he loves me, he is not in love with me and considers us companions.

I have gone for counseling, but I feel as if I say the same things over and over with no resolution. I think my husband hopes I'll forget about sex and learn to be content with the situation. Because I am near retirement age and used to living with a family, the idea of living alone scares me, but I can't continue living in limbo. — *Sad and Fed Up*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Sad: Your concerns don't make you a narcissist; they make you normal. Ten years is not part of the normal intimacy ebb-and-flow all couples experience. A fulfilling sex life is part of any healthy marriage — and so is communication. Your husband is shutting you down on both fronts. Rather than talk about the problem, he blames you for even caring. He's using the tired old defense mechanism called deflection. Don't fall for it.

It sounds as if your husband is suffering from depression. Tell him that whether he wants to recognize that there is a problem or not, his refusal to get help is hurting you. Implore him to seek counseling.

It also may be that he is an alcoholic. At the very least, his drinking bothers you. That's reason enough for you to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (by yourself), where you will find a roomful of people who can relate to what you're going through. I wish you all the best.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Hopeless," whose son turned against her and sided with his grandparents (who were abusive to his mom when she was growing up).

I had a similar situation. My daughter's father and stepmother tried (and succeeded for several years) to cause separation between my daughter and me. I fought it. I tried to stick up for myself. I tried to explain things to her. (I left out the parts about her father's abusing me.) Nothing mattered. I was just the awful person who left the marriage and broke up the family.

Eventually, I had to just let go and let God take control. Once they no longer had to fight with me to keep convincing her of how awful I was, their true colors showed. My daughter and I have a relationship, and she sees her father and his wife for who they are. Please let Hopeless know to keep her head up and just be patient. My thoughts and prayers are with her. — *Vindicated in Indiana*

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a pair of vintage shoes that perfectly completes an ensemble, your past makes the you-of-the-moment more interesting, authentic and comfortably worn-in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are compromises to be made, and you won't be a lesser person for making them, much to the contrary: You'll be (SET ITAL) more (END ITAL) of a person. More empathetic, wise, experienced — and wealthier, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're a unique individual. The more you realize your quirks, figure out your preferences and honor your dislikes, too, the happier you'll be. The thing to do is to stop seeking societal rewards and replace them with personal rewards.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take pride in your progress. Maybe you still don't know what you want, but you know what you don't want, and that's even more important at this point. You'll use this information to make a new plan.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The obvious route is too easy for you. Besides, people are starting to expect you to do something different. Also, you'll probably find that the main road is blocked. Everything is aligned to get you to take the road less traveled.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're so relaxed today that you're practically unexcitable, which makes you a rock for your loved ones. That doesn't mean you lack enthusiasm. It just means that you administer it in measured doses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a thrill in being a beginner — starting at the very bottom and working your way through each stage. Use the distinct advantages of the starting line. It is a place where everything is still possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't have to be in an elite group to feel special. You purposely distance yourself from involvement in cliques who enjoy judging others from a "superior" position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't seek trouble. But if it culminates like storm clouds above your head, you won't run from it, either. Adversity, when faced head-on, is precisely what will make you strong.

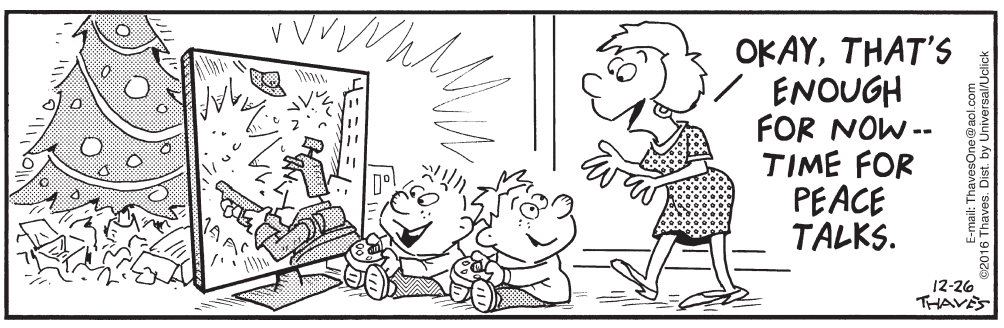
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Deconstruct a situation to understand it better. Cause problems on purpose to test your skill at fixing them. Like a child learning the world, you are naturally inclined to experiment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're in charge of you. Others might be bossy today, because you've attracted people want to be a part of your next move. Get distance from the crowd. Let your next move be all you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Here's one thing certain about your future: You can and will rise to the occasion. Part of the reason is that you're practicing for it: You are practicing for it, aren't you? If not, this is a fine time to start.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27). This year represents a clear "before-and-after" scenario. Your year will be the bass note of the chord of your life. In the future, you'll reverberate against it, resonate with the memories, speculate on the implied trajectories. Love is the focus of the first quarter. Business is the focus of the next. When in doubt, go with less. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 3, 28, 44 and 6.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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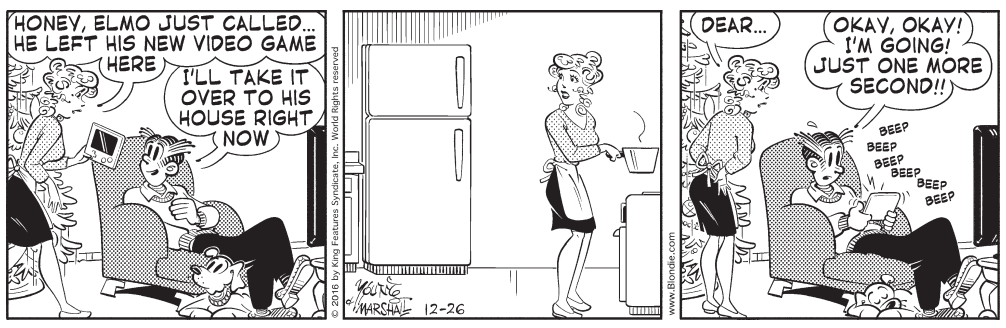

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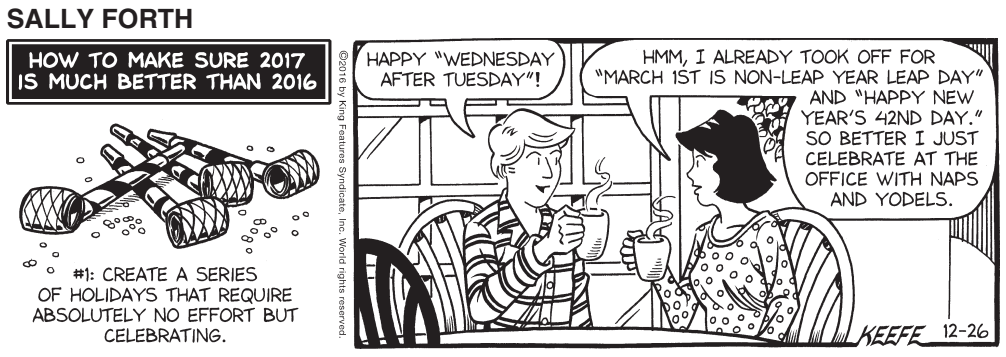
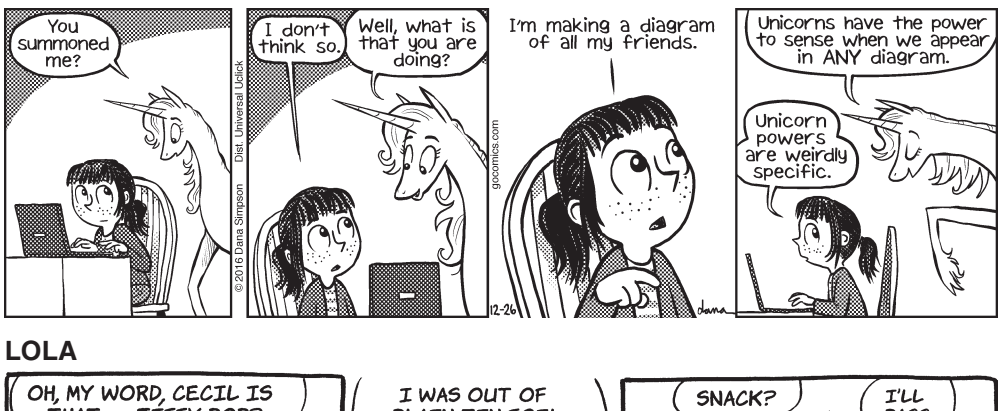


PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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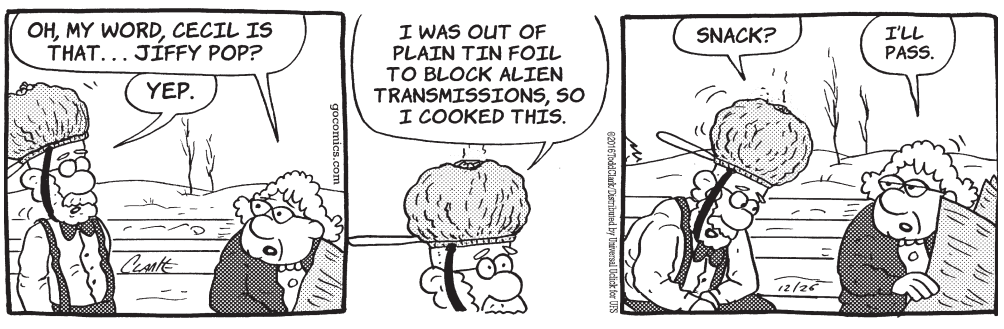

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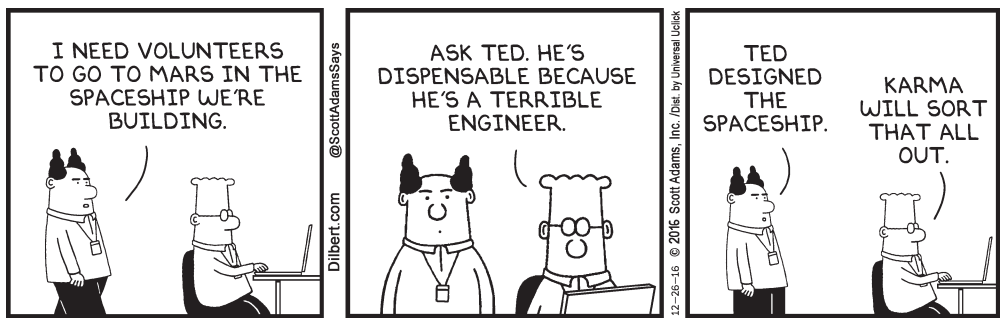

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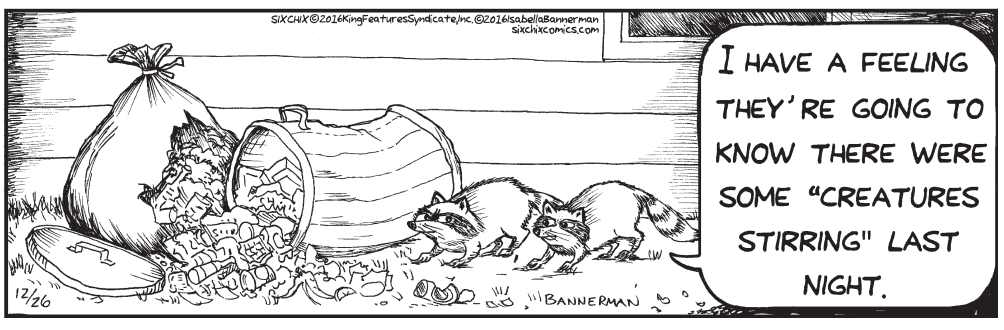

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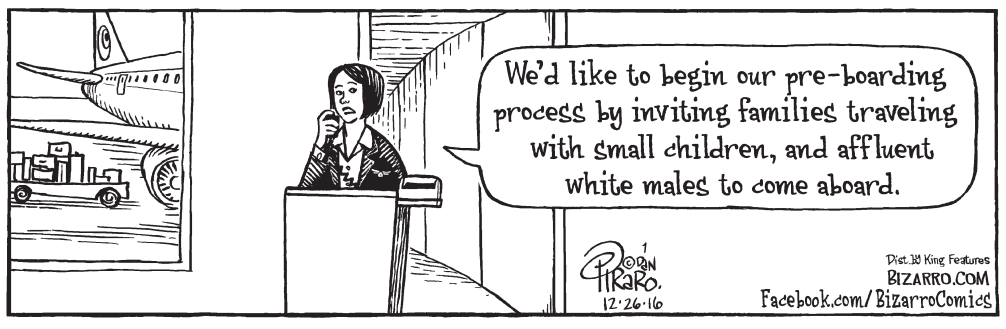

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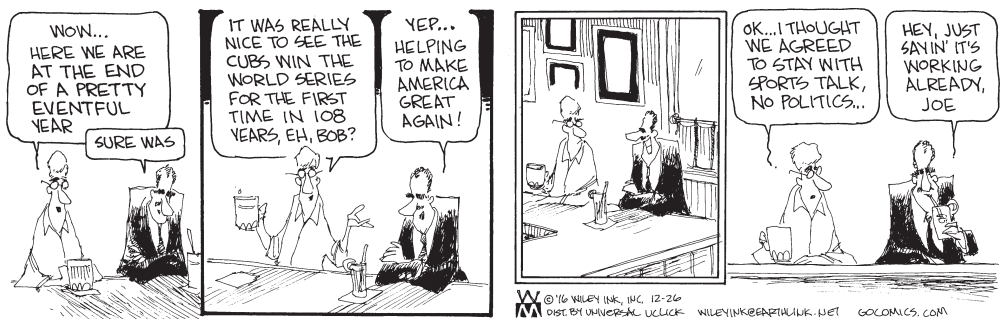

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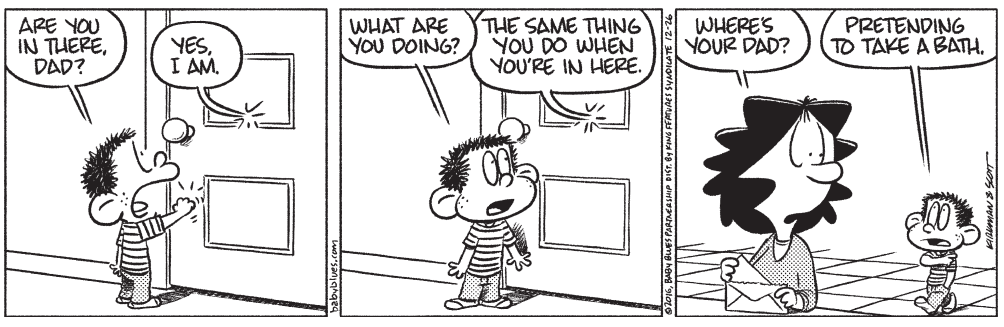

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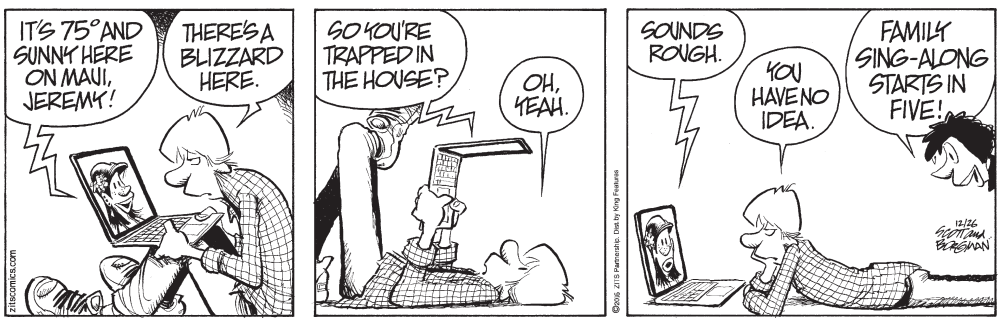
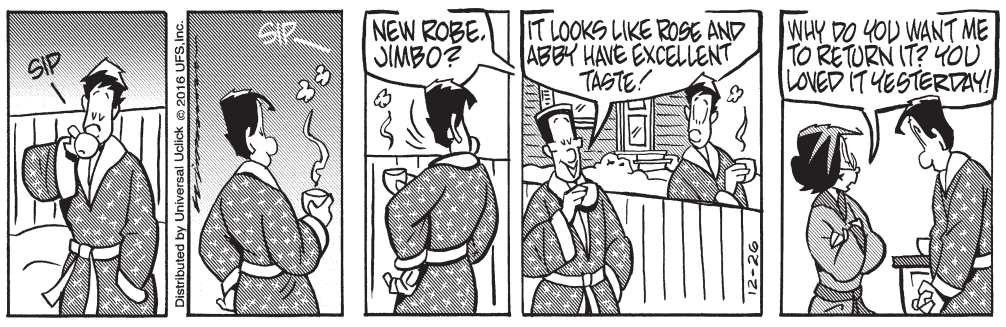
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