

She's just a little too close

Dear Annie: A woman recently started to get close with my husband at work. She always finds excuses to ask him to do things with her alone. From what I heard before meeting her, she sounded smart and fun. My husband said that she often asked about me and said she wanted to meet me.

I know my husband and trust him. We love passionately. So I wasn't bothered by it at the beginning and was happy for him to have another friend at work. But when I invited her to our home with other friends, she always couldn't come for a funny reason.

Then one day, my husband and I ran into her on the street. I was excited to finally meet this amazing woman, but she barely talked to me, looked at me or used my name. She kept seeking eye contact with my husband, saying his name and walking next to him closely so that I had to be squeezed out from the middle and walk behind them. She acted as if she were the wife and I were the third person.

I like to see the good side of

people, but I was not able to see that nice person my husband described to me at all. I found her behavior toward me rude and aggressive. If her only intention were to be a good friend of my husband's and she truly had wanted to meet me, she wouldn't have acted so hostilely. I think she is just manipulative.

When I shared my thoughts with my husband, as expected, he didn't want to believe me. Instead, he said I am paranoid and jealous. Of course. She had succeeded in presenting this perfect image of herself to him. Now the more I say against her the more she'll be the innocent victim. It's a trick that all women know, but very few men are capable of understanding the complexity of women's nature.

I can't stand this disrespect, and I don't want my husband to be around a fake person. How can I get him to realize that she is not what he thinks? I look forward to reading your advice. It will be easier for my husband to get the message when it comes from an independent voice. — *Frustrated*

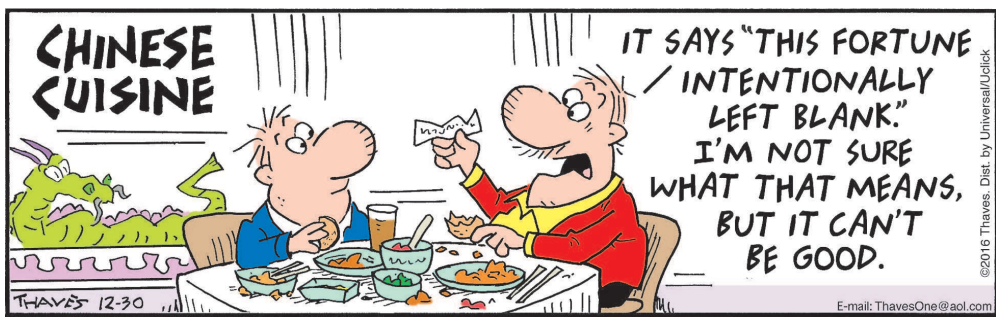
Dear Frustrated: This lady has two faces, and neither one is pretty. With one, she is trying to manipulate a married man into believing she is a sweet pal; with the other, she's grimacing while all but elbowing his wife into the gutter. Trust your gut, and ask your husband to trust it, too.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Sick of It," who related that an acquaintance is "crazy," "ridiculous," "filled with hate" and "acting like a spoiled brat." As a clinical social worker, I would like to suggest that this acquaintance may, in fact, be mentally ill. In both the letter and the response, the word "crazy" was used in a pejorative manner, as if it were an acceptable bad name to call someone. If this acquaintance is, in fact, suffering from bipolar disorder or borderline personality disorder, she may not be able to control these behaviors. This wouldn't mean you have to put up with them; some distance might still be the best idea. However, within our culture, "crazy" remains one of the labels we casually damn people with. Mental illness strikes 1 in 4 Americans. Isn't it time to be more sensitive and aware of this? — *Edwin Cole*

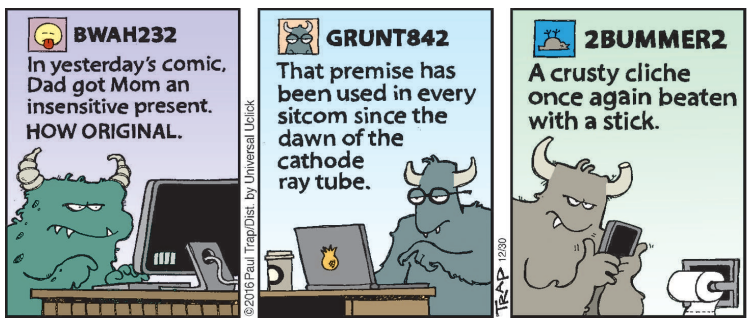


Annie Lane
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FRANK AND ERNEST



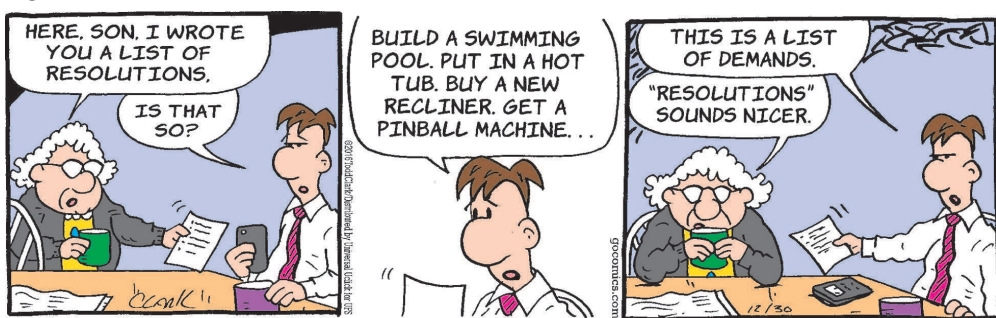
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



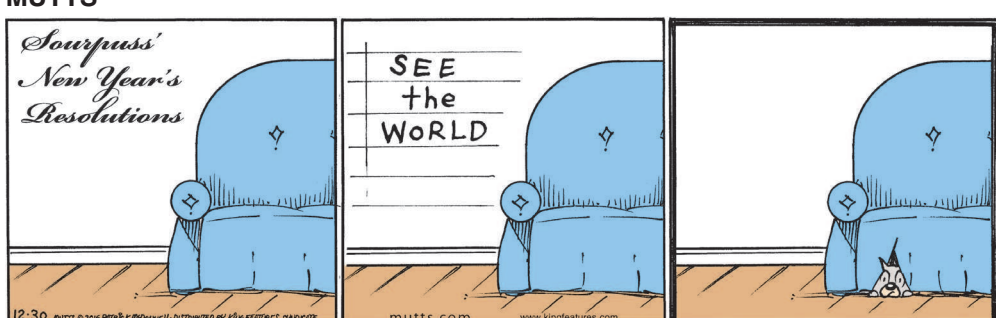
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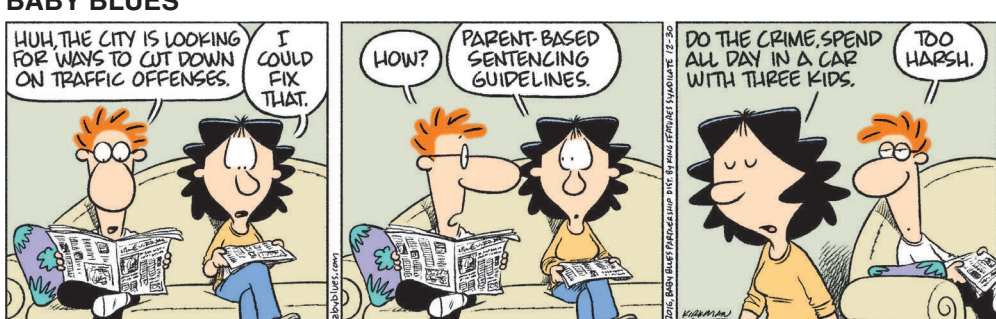
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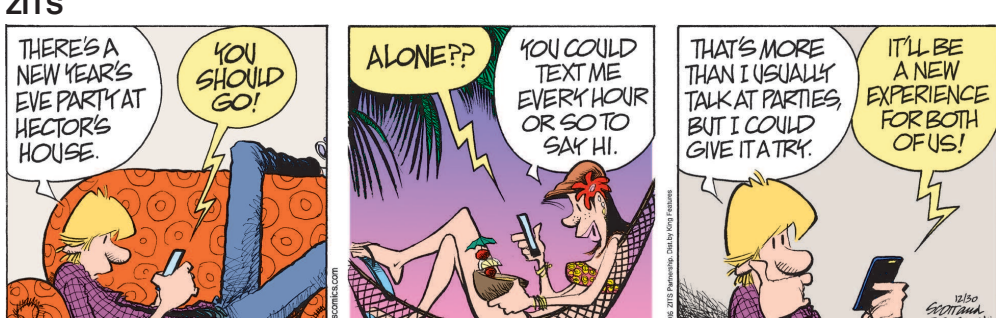
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Wanting is an affirmation that you lack something, and it only creates more of the same. Instead of wanting, feed the seed that already exists in your life, in the spirit of practical nurturing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This tug on your heart is just part of the fun. Enjoy the push-and-pull game of romance. You have to admit: It would be boring if all attractions were mutual and perfectly timed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your responsibilities sometimes get in the way of relationships, but they enhance your relationships, too. Your loved ones appreciate the ways the rest of the world appreciates you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you're wondering whether or not to telegraph your many mood changes, just don't. You have a sympathetic core of supporters, but why would you want to wear them out? Stoicism will serve you well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your love will be felt even in silence. Cooking is another quiet way you express your passion. You'll be inspired by new ingredients. You'll be motivated by people who need your kind of food.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You imprint yourself on others, even when merely passing in the street. It's an interesting thing to think about, your casual impression. To understand the effect you create is no small matter of mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Any daily activity can be a path to peace. True — any activity at all! Slow down. Breathe. Be mindful. Your attention to experiences will involve all of your senses as you completely join with the

moments of your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Value. It's different for every person. He wants a thing and sees a thing as valuable. She wants and sees it, too, only with a different style of energetic placement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't rest on your good looks these days. Your good acts will make up the difference. If you keep going in this direction, you may just make it to social superstardom!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Headlines, as a rule, have to be juicy. But you, as a rule, can bite into whatever you want. Choose carefully. There may be a lot of big words around you stacked up to provoke anxiety.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your patience will be tested again and again. Sweeties will press your buttons — an understatement, to be sure. They will actually dance on your buttons or stomp them into bits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're smiling because you love what just happened. Tomorrow will bring more of the same. Today is a resting bit: a time to process, organize and relax.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). It's your year to live like it's heaven on earth. State your wishes; make your preferences known. This is your moment to state yourself and let the rest of the world adjust. February will bring an interesting alliance. In March is an investment opportunity. April will meld your ideas with the karma of your family. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 6, 44, 43 and 28.

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

