

The fruit of an affair long ago

Dear Annie: Last month, my wife of 60 years admitted to a five-year affair that occurred 55 years ago. I would call it a tryst — with sex the same time and the same place almost every day in a five-day workweek. Count 'em! About 1,000 encounters, taking time out for the birth of three babies, vacations, etc.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

The hurt has been indescribable. I think about it constantly. Fortunately, I have found a psychologist I can vent to. I keep telling myself it was 55 years ago, but it seems like yesterday. I still have my unfaithful wife; she has no place to go, and alas, I still love her.

During that five-year period, three boys were born. The last one I am sure is not mine. He is aware that he is different from his siblings and has asked me whether he could have been switched at birth. The biological father is dead. I think our son should know who he was, but his mother does not. We are 80 years old, and time is running out to tell him. With doctors using DNA information and with Ancestry.com, etc., it is only a matter of time before he finds out he has different genes than his siblings.

I love him very much and don't want him to think I was involved in wife swapping or a party to the affair. It is bad enough to know that he is the product of a cheating mother. My wife tells me she has no remorse, guilt or shame, but she cares about what our son would think of her. Tell him? Your opinion, please.

— *It Was "Only" Sex*

Dear Only: Should you tell your son? I'm inclined to say no. There's no point in upsetting the balance and making him feel more like an outsider. Besides, he already knows who his real dad is: you.

But if his biological father suffered from any conditions of which genetics are a good predictor, then your son should be aware of that medical history. Raise that concern with your wife. She should want him to be equipped with all the best information to lead a long, healthy life.

I can't imagine the range of emotions you must be cycling through on a daily basis. I'm happy that you've found a therapist who can help you process things. Keep going. The sting of your wife's revelation will lessen with time.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Inbox Infinity," who was stressed out by having nearly 7,000 unread emails. I understand completely. I procrastinate, have generalized anxiety and attention deficit disorder, and am a perfectionist.

Please suggest to "Inbox" that he or she can start the culling process painlessly by signing up for Unroll.Me, which was suggested to me by a website for adults with ADD. It is an amazing, simple program that will compile your incoming emails into a "daily digest" and make it easy to unsubscribe from what you don't want.

Unroll.Me will not do anything about the emails already archived in your inbox, however. It only organizes incoming mail. For those 7,000 pesky emails, I would suggest some tough love. Delete them. Simple as that. If they haven't been looked at in a week, a month or a year, they most likely are not important or have expired. Don't even look at them. Just delete them!

As for family members, consider emailing them after the purge, explaining that you want to reconnect but recently deleted a whole bunch of emails. They will understand, as they probably have several thousand archived emails also!

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not where you want to be? Your progress is good enough. It's meaningful; it's on time. Reinforce it time and again until you believe it. Any other belief will rob you of the opportunities of the current moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Hiding your true feelings will only intensify them. However, when you look back on this day, you may be very happy that you kept some things to yourself. Timing is everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If the fight inside your head is making you tired, get out of your head. Do something different. Get away. Travel. See something new. Let the world engage you and you'll stop engaging yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It can't be totally comfortable and new at the same time. New requires leaving the old; that's a risk, and risk is inherently uncomfortable. Agree to be inconvenienced by life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't worry about the whole night, the whole trip, the whole month/year/life. Just worry about the next thing. Make the next right choice; then make it again and again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today is like throwing a party. There's that moment before people start coming when you're worried that no one will. Then there's the equally anxious moment when everyone is there at once. You'll look back on both with fondness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a danger in thinking too large today. Break it all down into smaller chunks of time, effort and emotional investment. The future is made just like the past is made: one moment at a time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Is socializing a pain? An escape? A mystical art? You won't know until you get out and start talking to people. Helpful and necessary ingredients for the endeavor will include emotional courage, empathy and patience.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One way to drive yourself to absolute frustration is to focus on what they "should" be doing. Obviously, there's a disagreement of terms or intentions there. Instead, focus on you.

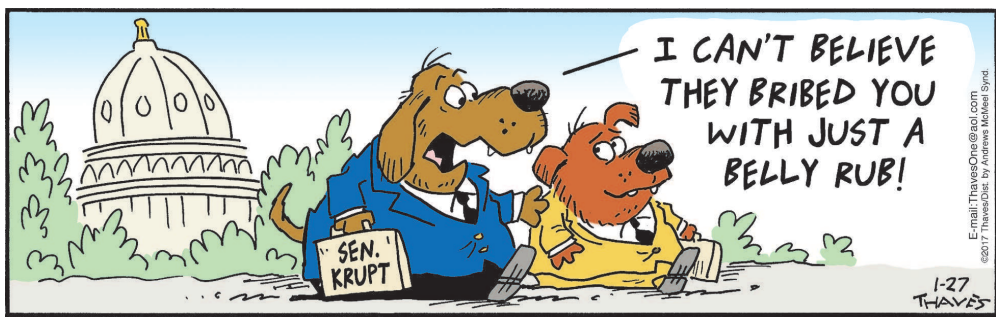
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Where you want to be can't be mapped with a longitude and latitude. Your destination is feeling, a state of mind, an attitude. Though you'll never be able to run it on Google Earth, you'll certainly arrive there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You chased it, and it got away from you. That was a long time ago. You've really grown since then. Try again. This time you'll be quicker, smarter and luckier.

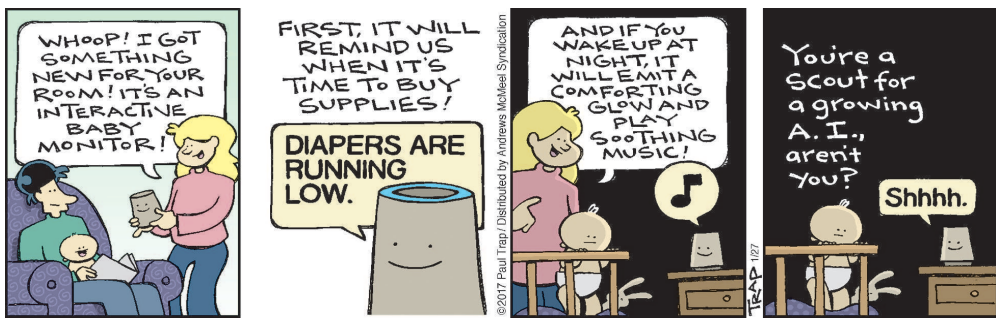
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're a disciplined person, it's not about picking and choosing the tasks that most appeal to you but about doing what you know needs to be done to get where you want to go.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 28). Your experience and talent will be acknowledged. In February you'll be chosen for a job. After that you can make the leap you've been considering for years. Training will be necessary in May, and it will be worth the expense. There will be a financial bonus in June and October. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 14, 37, 10 and 20.

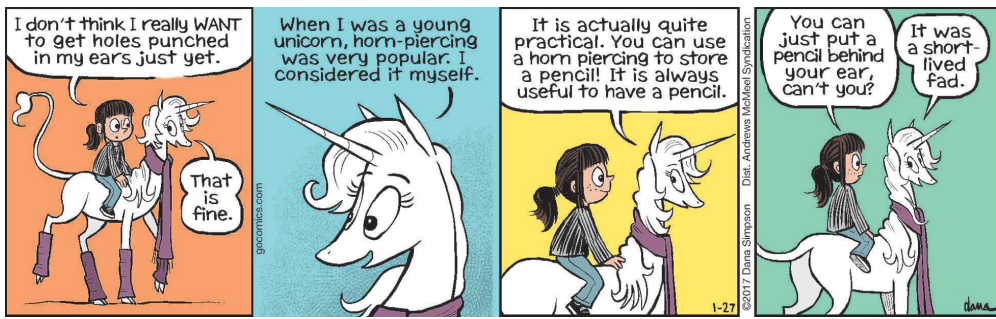
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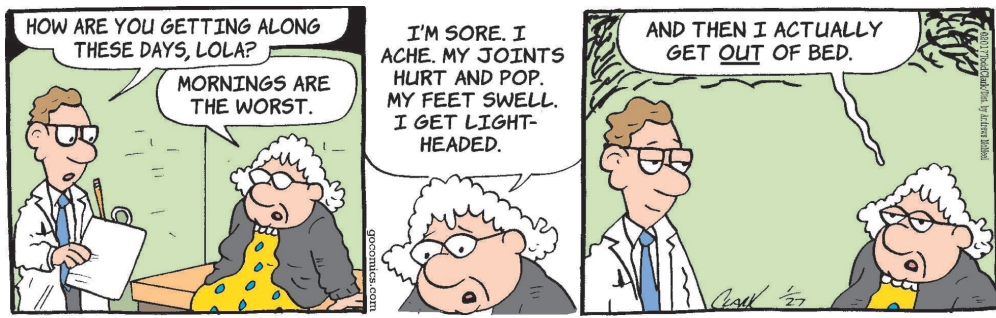
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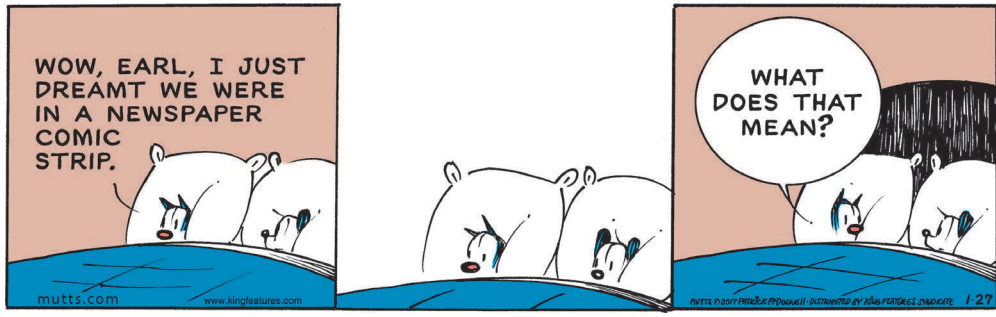
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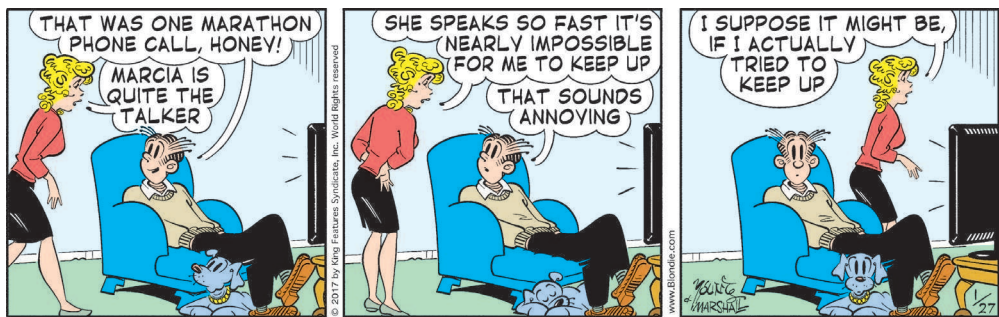
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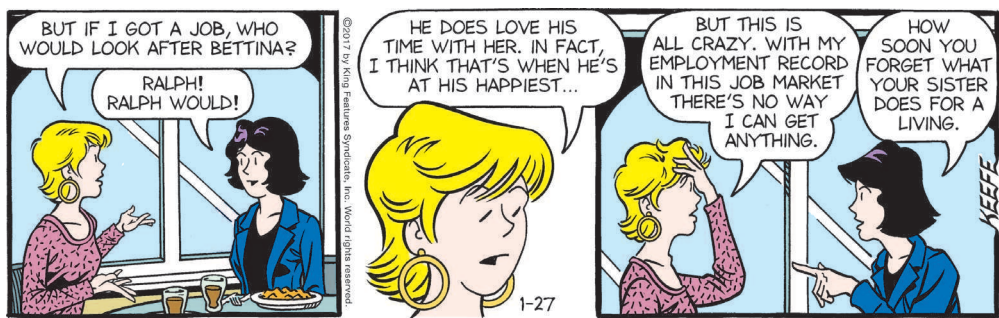
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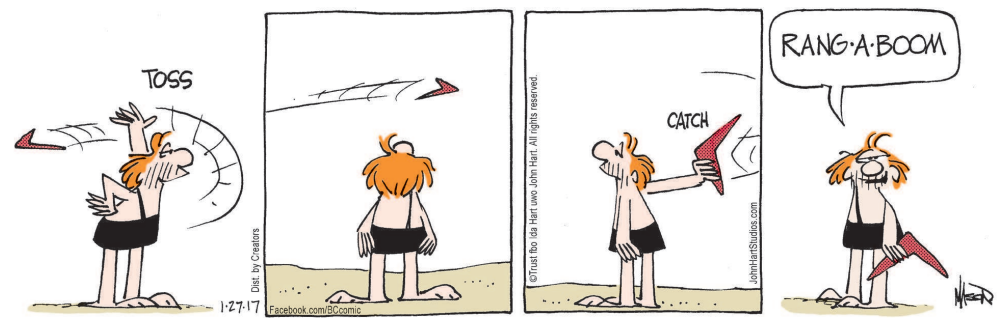
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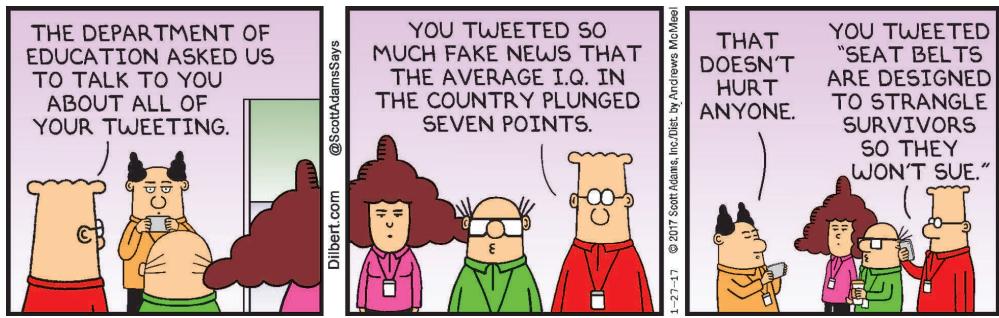
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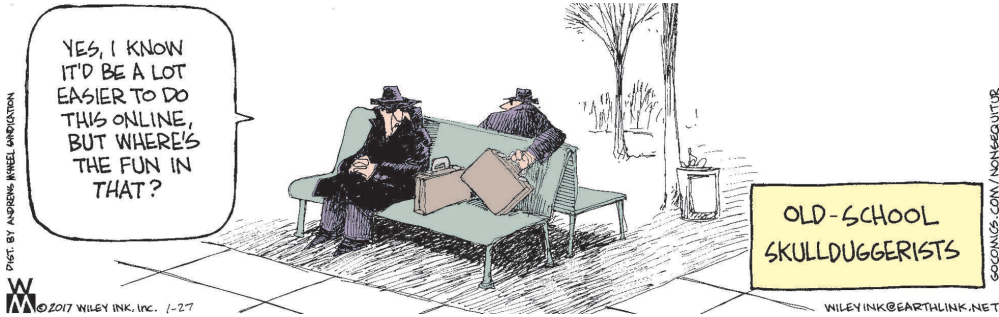
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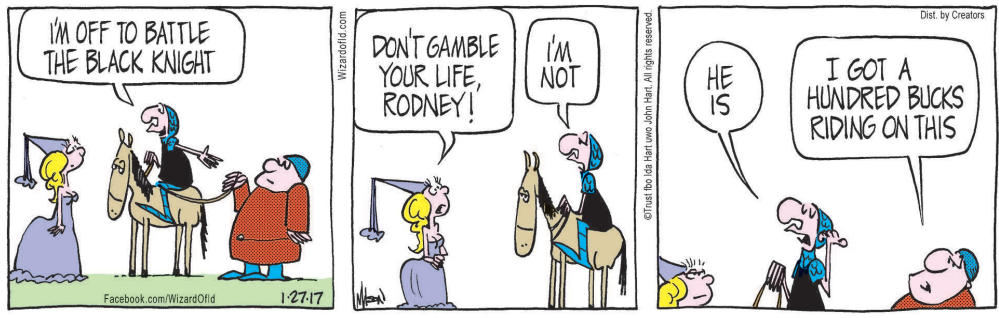
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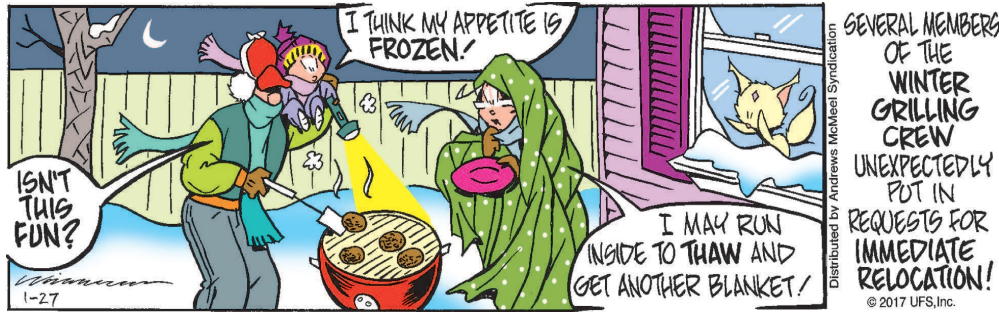
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