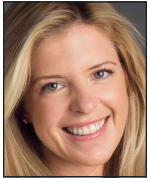


Friend was overlooked

Dear Annie: I am so upset I'm beside myself. Every time I think about it, I get so angry I could spit!

A neighbor and walking buddy of mine for many years, "Marie," died last year, and no one in our circle of friends knew about it. We knew she was in failing health with Alzheimer's disease, but no one knew she was as bad off as she must have been. All contact we had with her was through her husband, "Bill," who had assured us that other than her ability to remember, she was fine.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

One day, I was driving past the house of Marie's sister and stopped as she and her husband were coming down the driveway. They confided that their brother-in-law never invited them to visit, and sometimes he sent them away.

What's really got me going is that last week, there were two obituary notices in the local paper. One stated that Marie died last year and that a memorial service was to be held at a veterans cemetery later that day. The second announced Bill's death and said he would be receiving military honors at the

same cemetery, inviting all their friends and neighbors to attend to honor Bill and pay their respects. Because of the short notice, I wasn't able to attend.

Even if I could have gone, I'm not sure I would have liked going to honor her husband. Marie was kept pretty isolated from us most of the time, and her husband walked with us when he could, much to our dislike. He was a very controlling and verbally abusive husband.

How can I pay respects to someone I had no respect for whatsoever? What should I say to his family members if I see them? There's already a "for sale" sign on the lawn. — *Feeling So Bad*

Dear Feeling: I am so sorry for your loss. If you see his family members, stop and talk to them, but only with words of compassion. Don't vent to them about Bill and how angry you are over his treatment of Marie. They are grieving a beloved member of the family.

I think that what is causing you the most anger is the feeling that your friend was forgotten. Try orga-

nizing a way to remember Marie. Perhaps you and your other walking buddies could pool money to sponsor a bench or another memorial marker in her name, or you could all organize a walkathon to help victims of domestic violence.

To anyone who suspects that a friend is being abused: Please call The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

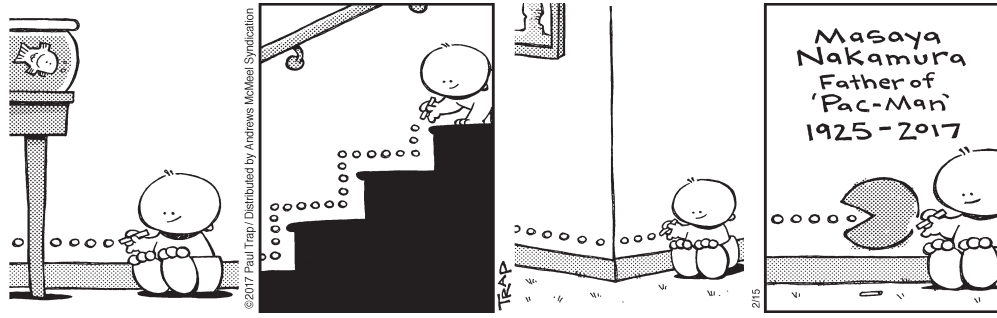
Dear Annie: Let me add my voice to all the others I hope are telling you just how wrong you were to advise "It Was 'Only' Sex" not to tell his adult son his true biological origins. People always deserve to know their true biological heritage, for reasons too obvious and incontrovertible to list. In fact, informing the son is the only decent reason for this wife to have caused such great pain by telling her husband at this late date. — *Mental Health Professional*

Dear Mental: Thank you for weighing in, and I have heard from others. My only caveat is that if this man decides to tell his son, I think he should explore his wife to be on board. It would be best for the two of them to sit all the kids down together so they can work through the pain as a family.

FRANK AND ERNEST



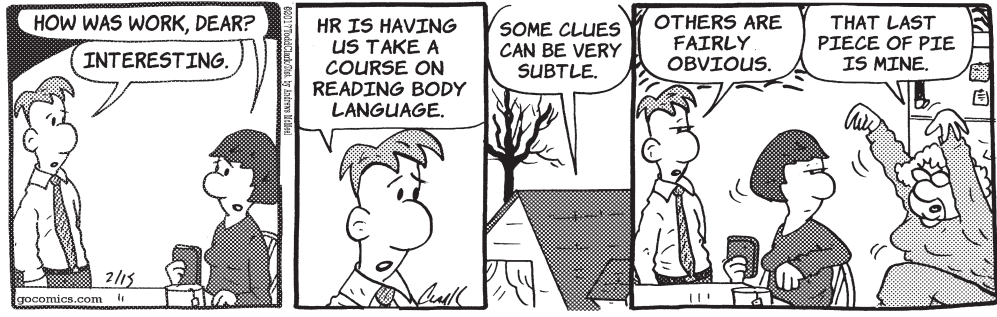
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



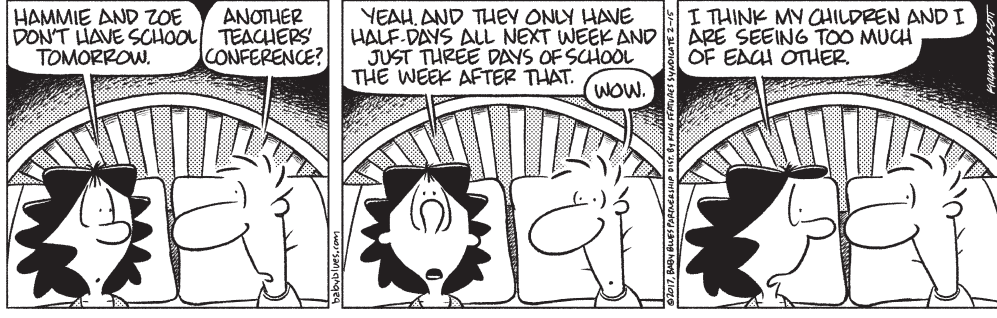
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There will be such interesting people around you now that you will forget yourself entirely and get lost in their lives and stories for short stretches of time, only to return to your own life much richer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). They've told you what to do, but they didn't tell you how to do it. No matter — this is what you're best at today. What you'll come up with (which only seems logical to you) will be surprising ingenuity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To learn about independence, self-possession and the social imperviousness necessary to make a unique stamp on the world, look to the cats. To learn unwavering loyalty and the appreciation of simple joys, look to the dogs.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know that you don't need to impress anyone to be loved; nor do you have to maintain a certain image to be accepted. But there's something in you that wants to do these things anyway. Chalk it up to personal expression.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To be of use for the greater good is your sincere wish. If that can happen in a way that applies your talents, develops your strengths and makes you smile, it's a truly fantastic day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Getting from place to place has its challenges, but nothing can revoke your ability to smile in transit. "Happiness is not a station you arrive at but a manner of traveling." — Margaret Lee Runbeck

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a very secure feeling in having a little extra to buy your favorite delights. And if the things you do to get happy don't cost very much, you'll be rich indeed!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just as you can't say it's always raining or always hot, it would be unwise to define yourself based on how you feel now, tomorrow or next week. Your moods, like weather, will pass.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your fellow Sagittarius Mark Twain suggested, "In his private heart no man much respects himself." Do you believe these sentiments? Though you appear confident, you struggle with doubt, only because you are human.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Groups move slowly: The bigger the group the slower they move. When you travel alone you're beholden to no one. Make a decision about whom to align with based on when you need to get somewhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll invite someone to engage in a contest. This could be an official invitation, a casual verbal suggestion or an unspoken — but very clearly communicated — dare.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When the cards are properly and fairly shuffled and dealt, there is nothing anyone can do about which ones end up in hand. With today's gaming mindset, you'll play whatever you get with great style and results.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 16). You'll get enough of a wonderful thing in the next 10 weeks. The trick is to be appreciative and moderate about what you do next. Your determined attitude combined with diplomatic skill will move you up at work. The love wells run over in April and June when you'll be moved to express your heart creatively. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 37, 41, 25, 16 and 49.

BLONDIE

