**DEAR** 

**ANNIE** 

**Annie Lane** 

# **FEATURES**

# Ambivalent about abusive mate

Dear Annie: My husband and I recently put our house on the market and moved to the South to spend our retirement there. I am 64, and he is 73. It is my second marriage and his third. The house went under contract, and I went north to

clean up and sell everything. He stayed home with the animals. The house sale fell through, and I am relisting. He wants me to come home and close up the house. I do not want to keep it empty. He cries every night that we talk.

The problem is that I don't miss him. We have been married for eight years. We did not live

together before marriage. When we got married, I knew he drank a lot, but I didn't realize that if there is something on his mind while he's drinking he becomes verbally abusive. On average, he verbally abuses me every other week, depending on whether anything is troubling him. He calls me names using bad language. He has severe obsessive-compulsive disorder and sleep apnea. He does not take medication for either. We cannot sleep together because of the apnea.

We do, however, have some

mutual likes. Since we moved south, his verbal abuse has decreased. We attended counseling before the move. The counselor said that he needs to stop drinking and that his abuse is alcohol-driven. He will not give up drinking. He hit

> me once, and I left him; I only agreed to go back if we went to counseling.

He has made my life very comfortable, and I have given him the companionship he needs, but there is something missing. We have many friends. I am not destitute, by any means, but my lifestyle would be compromised if I divorced him. I am a

very young and active 64-year-old with many hobbies and talents. My physical feelings for him are cold. He treats me like a daughter. He is a good man, and all of his friends tell me what a great catch he is. They know he drinks but think nothing of it. He is a retired state trooper. I am not unhappy with him, but I am not happy, either. Please advise. — Stagnating in the South

Dear Stagnant: It is unacceptable for your husband to abuse you, verbally or physically. Do not downplay the importance of your own well-being. You deserve to feel safe, happy and free. Reach out to counselors at Safe Horizon (800-621-HOPE), who specialize in assisting victims of verbal abuse, for more guidance on the subject, and if he ever physically abuses you again, call 911.

The "something missing" you mention is something that's missing not from your relationship but from your husband. You can encourage him to seek help, but you cannot control the outcome. Please consider attending an Al-Anon Family Groups meeting in your town. Try a few different groups.

Dear Annie: I have been a reader of advice columns since approximately 1958, when I first learned to read a newspaper.

I want to compliment you on doing a great job. You show compassion and good sense daily. Your printing "B.R.'s" response to "Feeling So Bad" — about how people deal with terminal illness triggered my note. My mother also cut everyone off during her final illness. I thought it was a mistake, but it was her choice.

And you are clearly a feminist! You don't let men or women get away with much! Just sign me... -*An Older Fan of the Newer Wave* 

### **TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The question on your heart is a good one. So good, in fact, that there are more elements affecting the matter than you can imagine. Just keep thinking like you are. You'll be a part of a change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). At any point in a relationship, someone loves harder. Which one is loving harder? You. You seem to be always loving harder. What is going on with this? Back off. Receive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Health has many levels. Certainly it's not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The health you are striving for is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your day will center on one idea. This contemplation will guide your action. It will change your conversations. It will change the order in which you do things

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The heart of ambition beats loud in you today. You'll get up to the mountain peak and realize there's a higher one over yonder. A panoramic view from the top will make all of this climbing worth the effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're very careful about what you require of others, asking only things that you've personally endeavored. "Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself." - A.H. Weiler

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some say knowledge is good and ignorance is evil. Others suggest that there's nothing more dangerous than a little bit of knowledge. Since you can't unknow things, be careful about what you try to learn. Follow your moral compass.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Much can be accomplished through lists and organized efforts, but even the most extensive list cannot control the uncontrollable. You'll be dealing with forces that can't be tamed via writing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whatever the problem is, you can make it better. Maybe you can't solve it today, but you can improve things. Take the big issue and make

it smaller. If it's still too big, make it smaller

still, until it's small enough to solve. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've done the research, and you've put your theories to the test. Now you know how to go about the job. In order to take it to the next level, teach your way and learn theirs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's pretty clear that the people around you have a different set of rules. If you play by those, you won't achieve to the heights of your ability. Take charge. Set the bar for yourself, and set

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll swim between two schools of thought today. One is very logical; the other is intuitive. The numbers won't lie, but they'll never tell the whole story, either.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 4).

You're serious about your goals, and yet your tone is so joyous and light that you create a happier world with your laughter. Next month brings money to your pocket. June is your chance to seize love. July will bring a small but meaningful change that you'll be assimilating thereafter. Happiness flows from the August love. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 29, 28 and 1.

### FRANK AND ERNEST



### **BLONDIE**







### **THATABABY**















### PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN







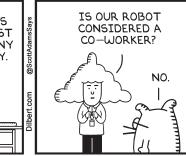


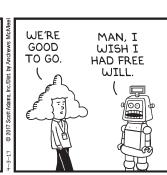








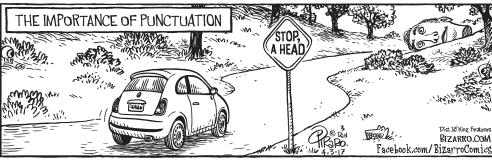




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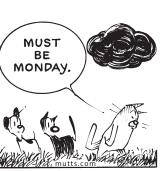
**BIZARRO** 



### **MUTTS**







### **NON SEQUITUR**



## **BABY BLUES**







# WIZARD OF ID ALAKAZAB FLIMINY GLIM-GLAM.





### **ZITS**







**ROSE IS ROSE** 







