

# Kids don't see dysfunction

Dear Annie: I divorced over a year ago after a 35-year marriage that was very dysfunctional — although my adult children and ex-husband did not see it that way. Initially, I did not handle the divorce with any tact or finesse, I'll admit. I am sorry for that and have apologized, but my kids still refuse to have any contact with me.

My middle daughter is extremely angry because I got the family home, and she tells me, "Dad is destroyed." Ironically, he has moved on already and is engaged to be married to the woman he was "seeing" while we were married. I spent most of my free time with my kids and grandkids. I thought we had a good relationship, but this divorce has shown me differently. I have reached out to the kids and offered to go to counseling, meetings, etc., but have gotten no response. My counselor has advised me to figure out how else I can be happy in my life and move on.

I am really struggling with this! Any other advice from you

or someone reading this who has been there? I am so sad and heartbroken. I wish now I would have just ignored the affair, beatings and sexual abuse just to keep my kids and grandkids in my life. — *So Lost and Lonely*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Dear So Lost: The last line of your letter is devastating. Leaving your husband was the right thing to do. You didn't deserve that awful treatment, and abuse is not a price anyone should have to pay to be close to her family. Divorce is messy. Perspectives get muddled, but clarity often comes with time. It's only been a year, though I'm sure it's felt like an eternity for you. Let's hope your children will see things more clearly in the future and reach out to you.

In the meantime, commit entirely to your own healing process. Continue going to therapy, even when you feel as if it's not working. Join a support group for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse or even a support group for divorced women. (Your therapist can refer you to groups

in your area.) You must learn to love yourself, first and foremost.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to the letter from "Mary," the person who is offended by her good friend's interrupting their personal conversations at church to greet others. There is a difference between hospitality and fellowship. When we are in a place of gathering, especially at church, and there is a good possibility of newcomers in our midst, we exercise hospitality. When we are in a group and know everyone in the group, we exercise fellowship.

Before or after church is probably not the best time for deep personal conversations. Instead, hospitality toward the newer folks should be the rule. Please advise the writer to be hospitable to others at church, especially those who may be less than comfortable. There is a time and place for friends to visit, but church may not be the place. Focus outward, not inward, during these conversations. — *BJEC*

Dear BJEC: I appreciate your insight, and I feel you've offered a nuanced, accurate reading of the situation. I've passed it along to "Mary" for consideration.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If you're in a place where second-guessing is second nature, you need a place of solace too — a home base you can count on, doing work you understand well.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're willing to face rejection. It's something you have to muster up, but this willingness is harder than most people pretend, beyond the reach of many, and it's the single most useful trait in increasing your influence today.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Making money doesn't make character. Doing work builds character, and often the work will bring money. It's important to make the distinction today. The riches that earn respect may not be gold.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Know your reasons. This is the difference between resolutions that fail and resolutions that succeed. When your reasons are good and deep enough, your resolve will make things happen.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** When the unexpected thing happens it can be exciting in a good way — something to tell your friends about. Or it can be unsettling and hard to recover from. You're sensitive to this as you set up expectations in those around you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're keeping track. In everything that happens, you're the equivalent of the black box of an airplane accounting for it. Flames and floods and love and war couldn't change the account of the faithful, honest witness inside you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Taste what you eat and get the full impact of what you touch. Treat your daily life and routine as though you'll have to do a report on it later. This level

of attention will serve you well.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your family of origin has much to report about the mettle you're made of and the frailties stamped on you but in no way does it define the whole of you. The self-made part of you will shine today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There are those who do the right thing when the eyes of the world are on them, and there are those who do the right thing when they're all alone. Align yourself with the latter and all will be well.

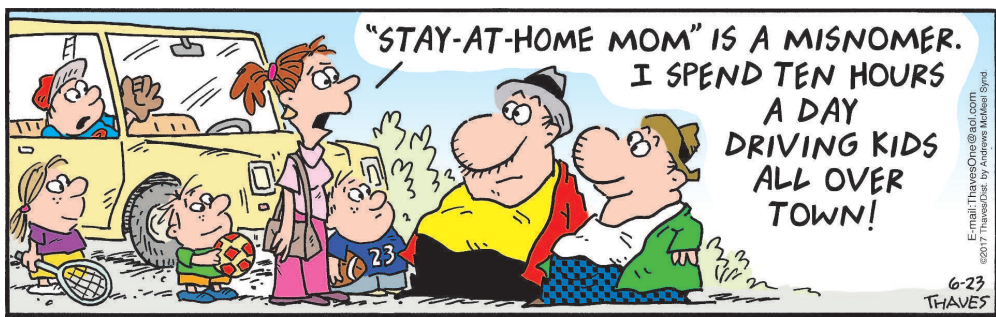
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** If you're going to launch yourself into the hard challenges, you'll need your own thoughts and feelings supporting you. Convince yourself. Encourage yourself. Get on Team You.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** When passion ignites, it's a stroke of luck but not necessarily a blessing. Passion is the spark, the beginning. It has to turn into something sustainable to be a gift.

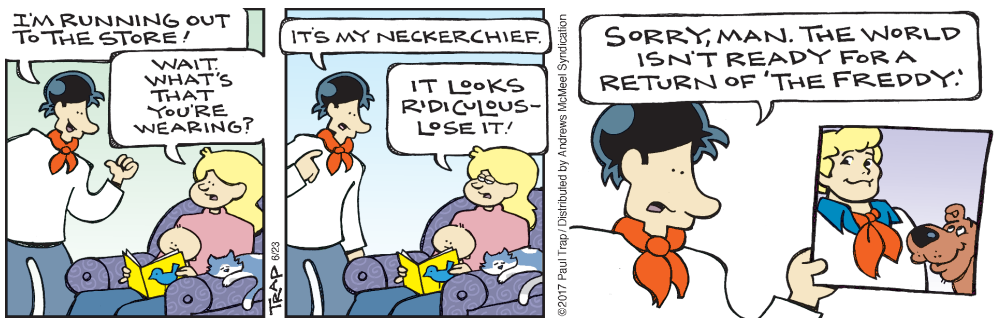
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's an ethical decision to be made. The morality of the situation isn't deep but it is complex. Getting away with it doesn't make it right, and getting caught doesn't make it wrong.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 24).** The mission drives you. At times you'll be hyper-productive, singlehandedly accomplishing more than whole teams do. Respect your need to hibernate and rejuvenate; it's how you'll stay healthy. Lifestyle upgrades are cemented in November. A new study will delight you in 2018, and you'll be paid well, too. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 48 and 17.

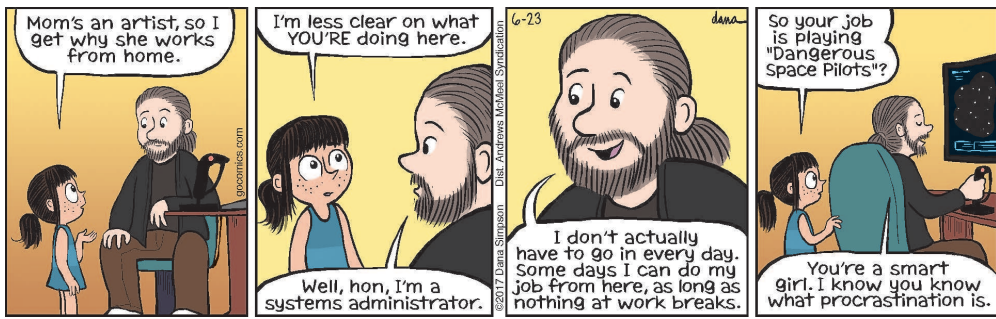
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## THATABABY



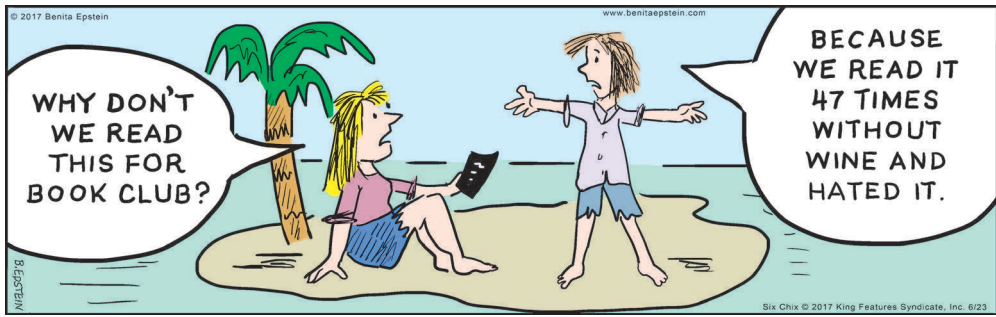
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



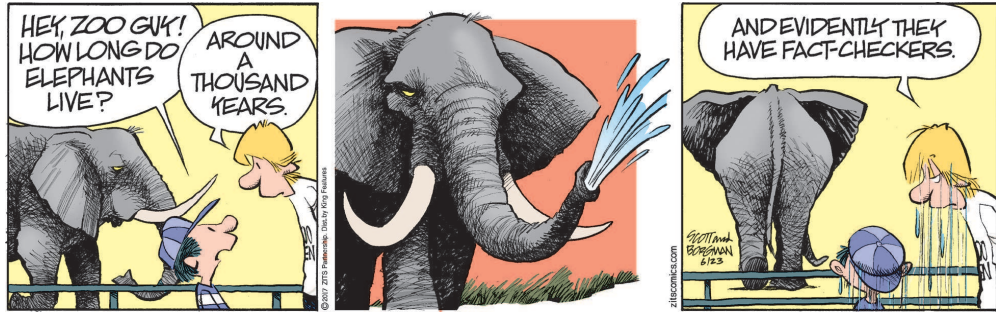
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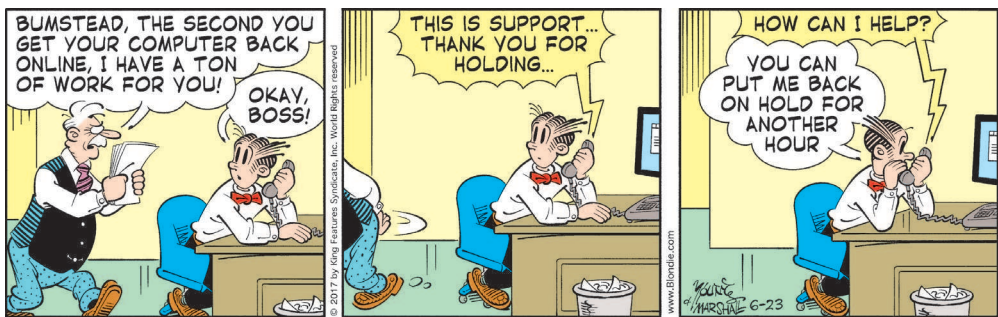
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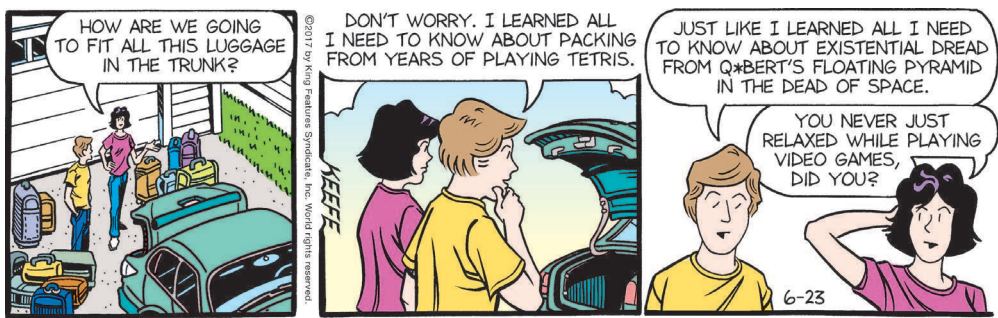
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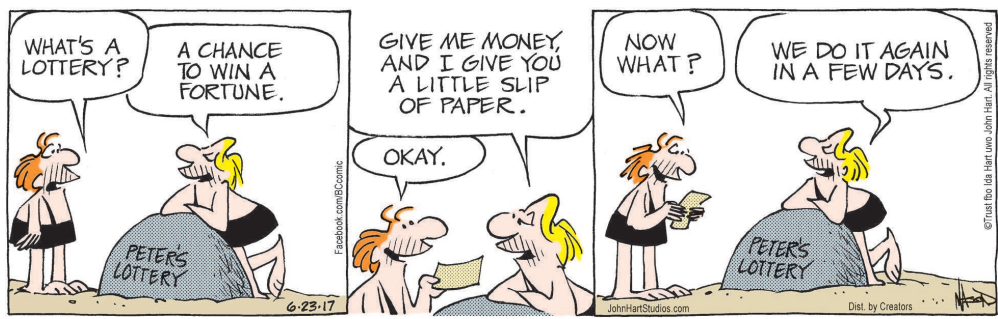
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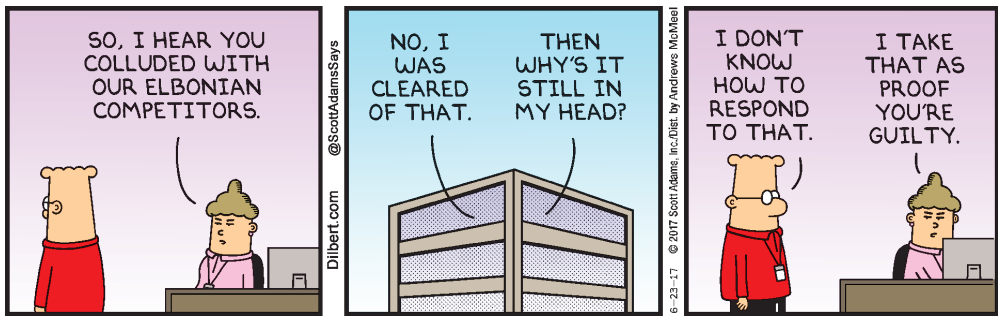
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



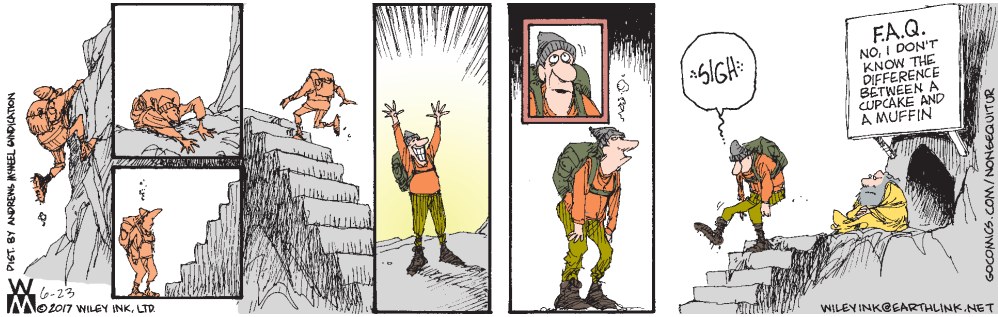
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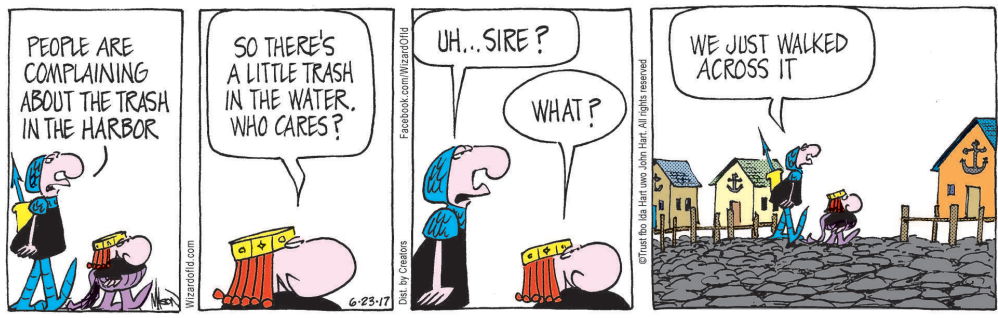
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

