

# Feeling alone in marriage

**Dear Annie:** After more than 25 years of marriage, I still feel more alone being married to my husband than I would if I were actually alone.

Throughout our marriage, he has maintained the same lifestyle he had before we got married. He often takes weekend outings and even vacations with his guy friends. He tells people that he does not enjoy doing anything with me, his wife.

There is nothing that is joint in this relationship: He refers to many possessions as his and refers to our friends by saying, "My friends." He will decline or accept social invitations without even telling me about them. If he accepts an invitation, he tells me that he was invited and will go to the function excluding me. He turns his back to me to block me out of table conversations when we're out to dinner with a group. I am not treated as a spouse or companion. If I want to have a conversation and ask any questions to start, he accuses me of nagging. He's argumentative with other people, too. His motto is, "I'm

right; you're wrong."

This is not at all what I expected out of a life together. The loneliness and pain never leave. I just try to endure each day of the same thing over and over. — *Missing Life and Happiness*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Missing Life and Happiness:** Give him some of his own medicine and you might end up healing yourself in the process. What I mean is to focus on you. Make new friends or strengthen your existing friendships. Go out for girls' nights; maybe even plan a weekend away with them. Stop focusing on the things he's not giving you, and start giving them to yourself. Once you've built up a healthy sense of self-esteem and personal identity, it will be easier for you to talk to your husband about issues in your marriage.

**Dear Annie:** I am a school psychologist with many years of experience and I read the letter from "Torn in Wisconsin" about her ADHD daughter and the problems she anticipated with an upcoming family reunion. While

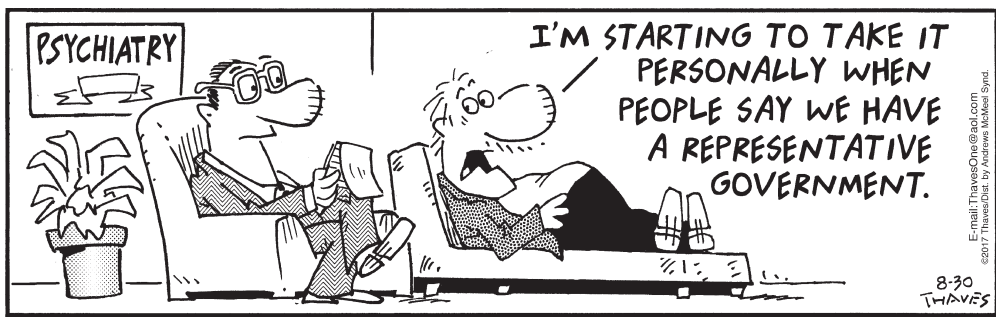
I would never assert that I can discern all the details of a situation and diagnose someone from a short letter, there were some aspects of the problem that suggested that this child could be on the autism spectrum. Saying that she doesn't have the social skills for a reunion is practically a flashing light to have her child assessed for ASD.

There is a good chance that her daughter is receiving school services for her identified disability. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, she would have a category of eligibility, probably flowing from a doctor's diagnosis of ADHD right now. But IDEA also allows for ongoing assessment and adjustment of services.

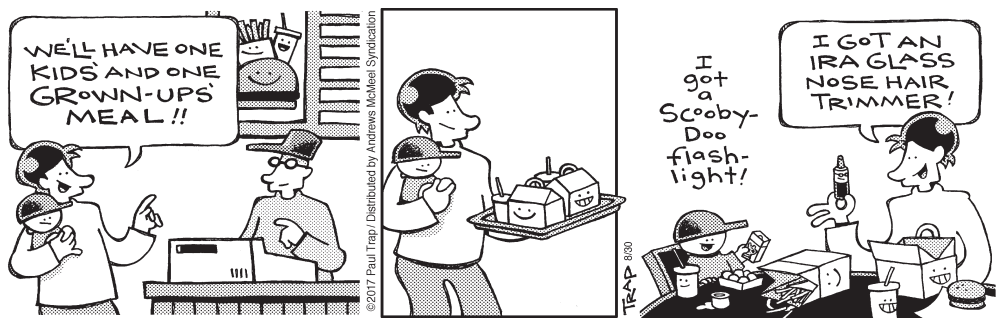
"Torn" should contact the school staff and ask for a meeting to discuss her daughter's anxiety and social skill deficits. A school psychologist should be invited to the meeting to answer questions about whether there should be further assessment of her daughter. — *Amy S., District School Psychologist*

**Dear Amy:** Thank you for sharing your wealth of knowledge on this important subject.

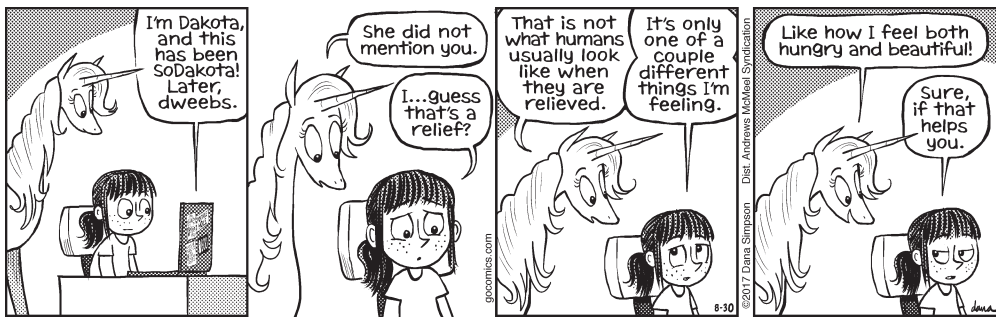
## FRANK AND ERNEST



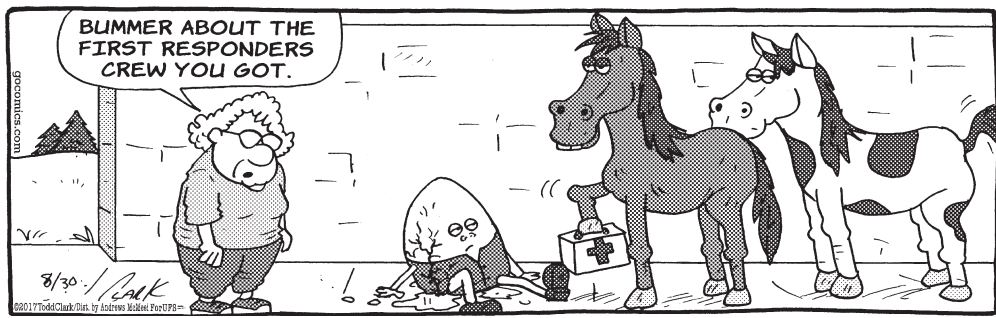
## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



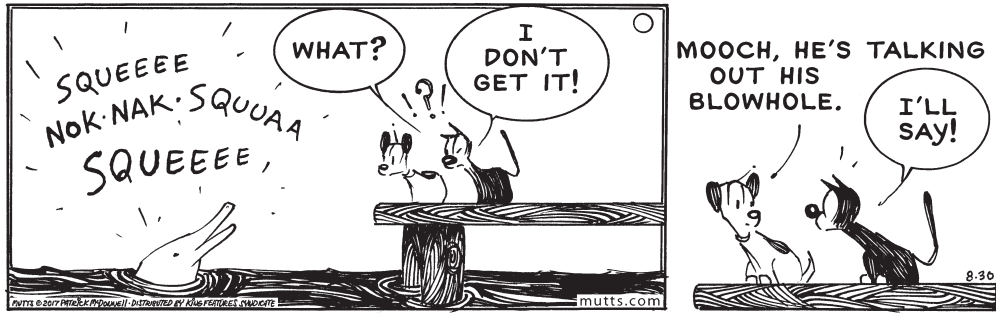
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



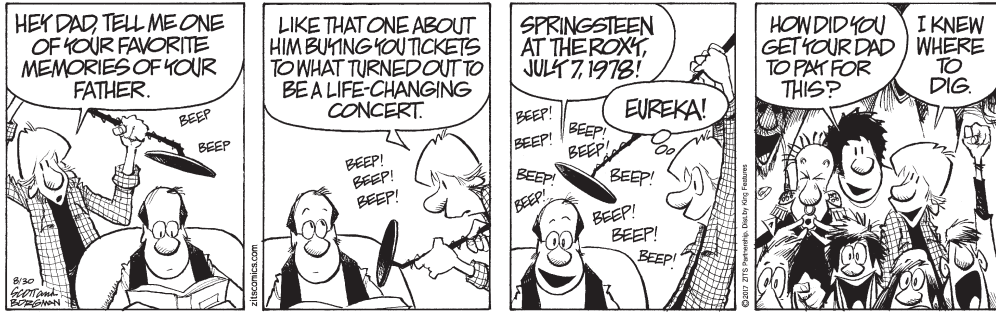
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Don't let things grate on your nerves. Make adjustments. It won't be easy, but the alternative is to think the same irritating thoughts again and again. Make a move instead.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If you didn't feel and respect the risk involved, it wouldn't be exciting. You'll do creative and experimental things because you decide not to be ruled by your trepidations.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Ambitions don't end. As soon as you wrap your hands around one glittering fruit another one higher on the tree will catch your eye. Ambition is not about being satisfied but about embodying pursuit.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Some keep trying to bring your attention back to a rather dismal trajectory, and they call that "reality." Reality has many trajectories. Don't automatically accept the dark ones just because they are offered.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** When you pray for someone, do you pray to their god or yours? These and other spiritual questions are the order of the day, but don't worry about coming up with answers. All the benefit is in the pondering.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll be magnetized by your work, a wonderful dynamic, really, as it satisfies many people at once. It's good to know there's something in your endeavors with the power to keep you coming back.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Any one part of your life doesn't have to be the best part of your life. So when one area isn't going right, don't worry yourself too much about it. Things will even out for you; they always do.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You are in control; you're also trapped. You have the power, but you're not sure how to seize and use it. Accept the complexity. Be gentle with yourself. Do what you can to increase the flow of good.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** What you do for your happiness you also do for your health. Another thing you may not realize is that your efforts to take excellent care of yourself are being watched. By caring for yourself, you inspire others to take care.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The old-school way has to do with priorities and goals. Of course, if you don't know where you're headed, you're not going to get there. The new way has more to do with setting up systems and rhythms that work for you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There are some things about yourself that are not likely to change. When you've so many talents and abilities, why would you waste time even worrying about those things? Build up your strengths.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're seeking inspiration — as much of it as you can get. You want to learn how people face adversity and set themselves up for success. Books lie. People lie. Still, you'll find enough truth to use and use well.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 31).** A strong sense of purpose will be with you all year. Anyone can see that it would be extremely difficult to sway you from your path, most will just clear the way for your arrival. Artistic people spark your creativity. A stress is lifted in November. Big money comes from cumulative efforts paying off in 2018. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 1, 18, 50 and 14.

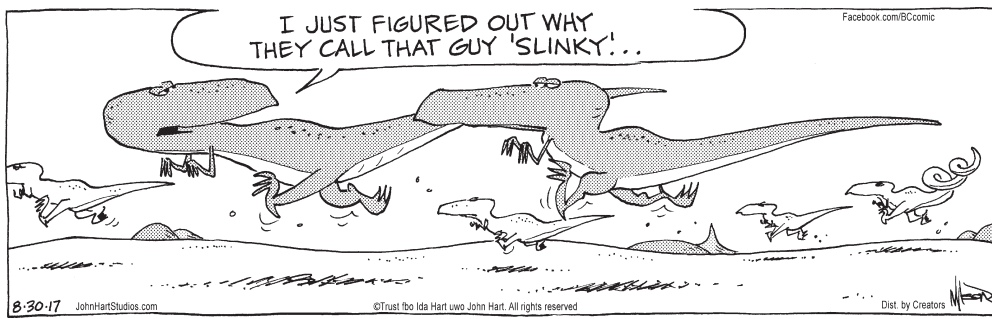
## BLONDIE



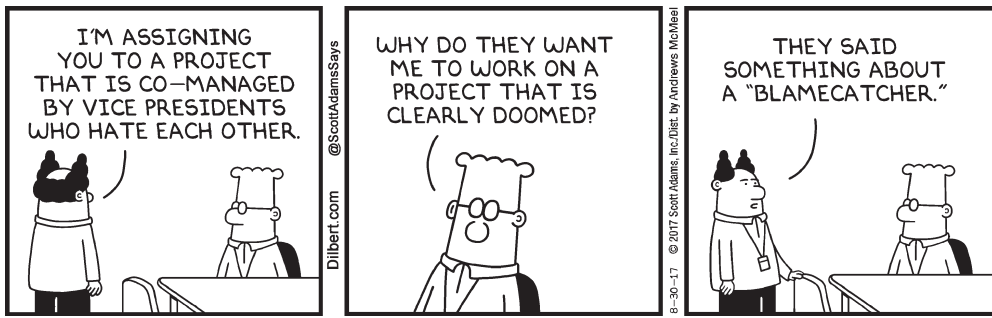
## SALLY FORTH



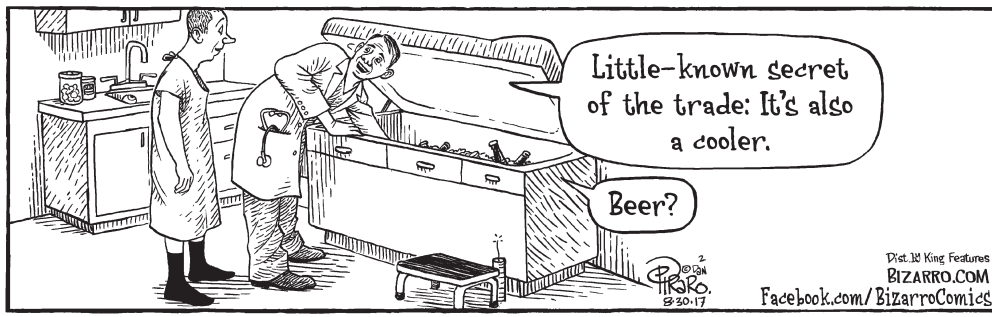
## B.C.



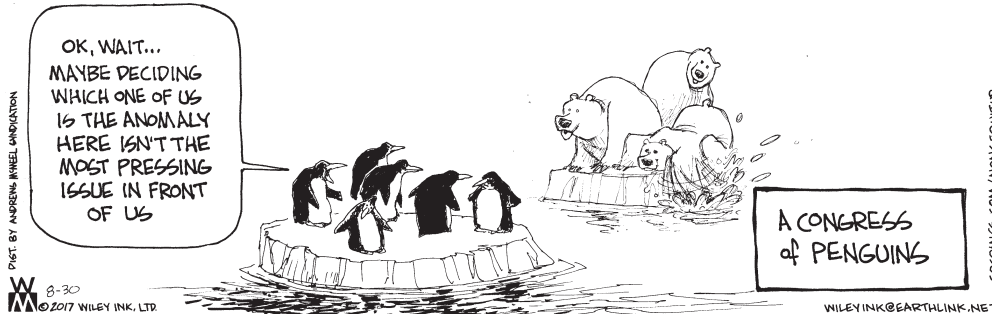
## DILBERT



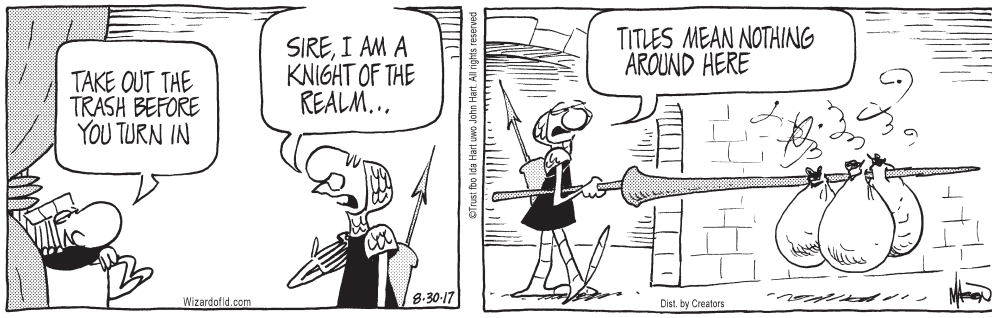
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

