

Twisted test of loyalty

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for more than 40 years. During the first five years of our marriage, he confessed to several instances of infidelity. He begged for forgiveness. I forgave him.

Well, recently, I found out he was lying and never actually had slept with other women. He told me that he had been questioning my loyalty and made up situations to see whether I loved him enough to forgive him and that I had passed the test. Well, yes, I forgave him each time because I loved him, but my feelings about him did change a little from the hurt of the supposed infidelity. I went through hell internally back then, but I didn't let him know.

I don't understand what would make someone do that. He has been an excellent husband for the past 35 years, but I could have had a much better marriage had he not lied the first five years. I can't stop thinking of how things could have been and what the real truth is. What

would you suggest I do? — *Happy or Sad*

Dear Happy or Sad: If he truly was making up these lies about cheating as some kind of test of your loyalty, that's pretty twisted. If he did cheat but now has decided to rewrite history and pretend he wasn't an adulterer, that's pretty twisted, too. Which is true? At this point, the more important question is why he would jerk you around like this at all. Such emotional abuse is unacceptable.

Tell your husband that if you're ever free yourselves from the tangled web he's woven, it will be through marriage counseling. If he refuses, I encourage you to attend counseling on your own.

Dear Annie: "Ongoing Unhappiness" wrote to you complaining that her daughter-in-law is a hypochondriac. She may not be.

For 30 years, I suffered pain and surgeries that I later understood most likely could have been avoided had I had a true diagnosis of fibromyositis, now

known as fibromyalgia. It took 30 years to diagnose. Pain happens all over. It can feel like a bruise when someone touches you. It can cause debilitating pain when you bend over — which is the impetus for unnecessary gallbladder or kidney surgery or a hysterectomy when a doctor is mystified by the pain. I became uninsurable because of those pained years. I was misdiagnosed numerous times, had surgery after surgery and took medication after medication. None of it stopped the pain.

Too many people are considered hypochondriacs by those around them because they've never had a day free of pain. That is not to say "Ongoing Unhappiness" daughter-in-law is in that category, but it sounds as if she could be. — *Been There, Understand That*

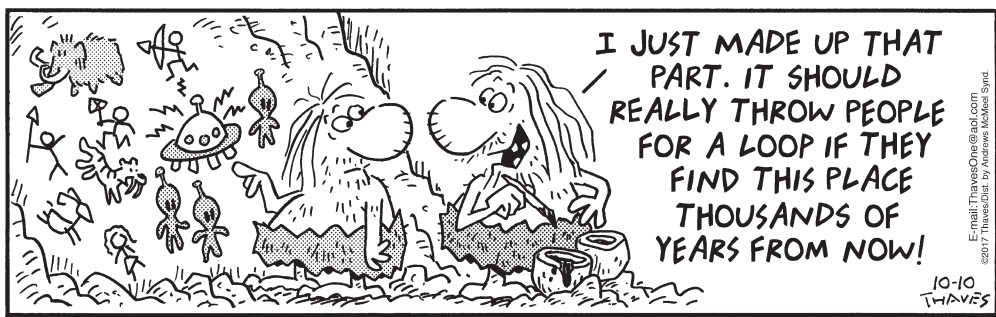
Dear Been There, Understand That: Chronic undiagnosed pain can have an incredibly dispiriting impact on one's life and outlook. I'm glad you eventually got the correct diagnosis. Perhaps your letter will inspire someone suffering similar pain not to give up looking for answers.

DEAR ANNIE

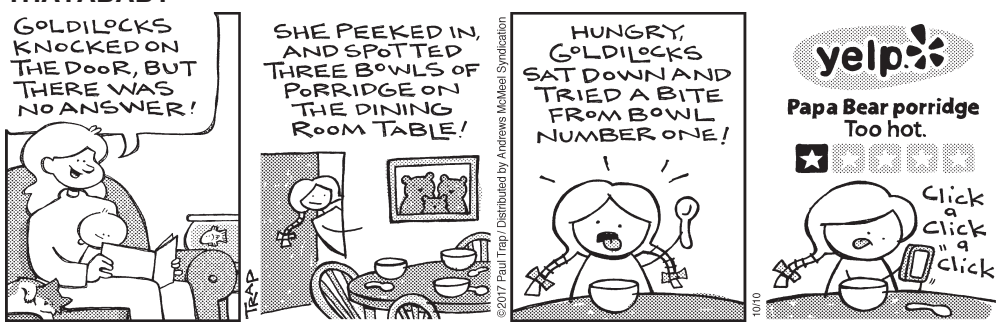


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

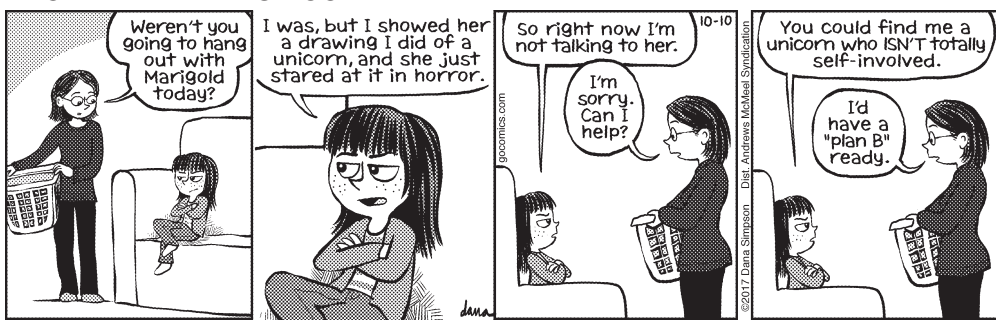
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



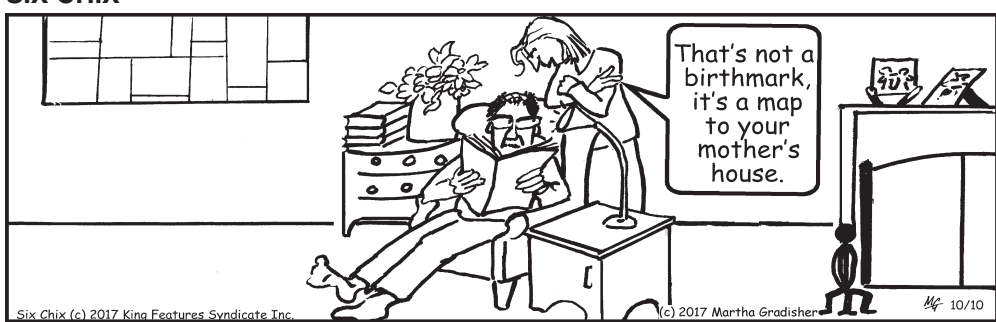
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



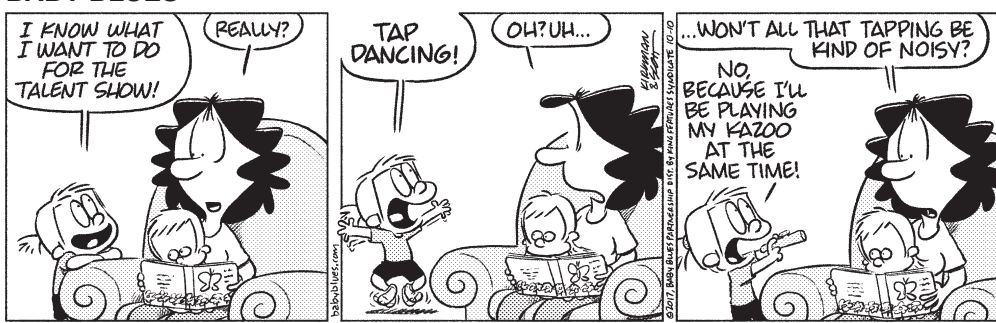
SIX CHIX



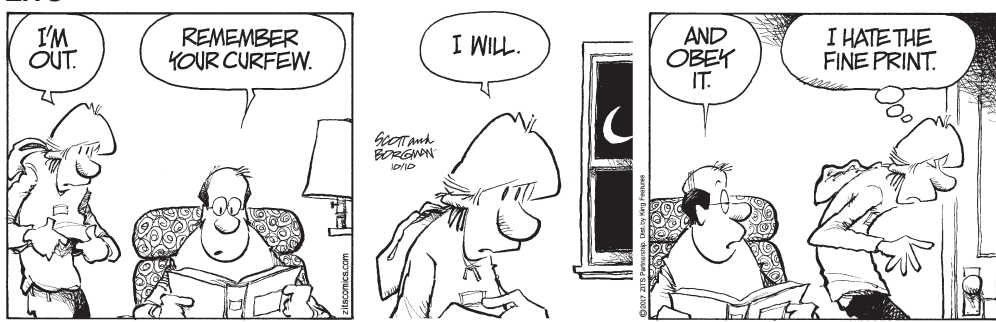
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If it's good, it will be good in many situations. You'll be able to present it with pride. You won't have to wonder whether or not it's going to hold up. Look for what's good. What has integrity. Look for it, and honor it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The takeaway isn't always something neat and clean that you can tuck away in a wallet like a business card. The takeaway might be a messy little feeling.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You work this way, they work that way... now how does it all work together? That's the question to be answered today, and you'll answer it best when you collaborate with a Taurus or a Sagittarius.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is no perfect partner. The list of qualities that might make up such a person go out the window as it becomes clearer to you what really matters now — namely chemistry and compatible lifestyles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your loved ones appreciate you, though you can't feel it at all times. When do you feel it most? When there's enough space and time between you for them to get some perspective on your wonderful qualities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a habit you've been trying to break, and you certainly can. The answer is right in front of you. All it will take is one good you-to-you talk to sort it all out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People think they can help you, and yet they have no concept of what it is you really do. It goes against all you're thinking, and yet it really is true: The only one to fill the role the way you do it is you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The saying goes, "You can't hunt two hares with one dog." There will be multiple options available to you, but only one viable one. Which one is that? Either, really, as long as it's the only one you choose. So choose one and chase.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Work on. Work how you are. Work when you're up, sluggish, inspired, tired, enthused or used. Work for you. And work because the real glory is in the work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's so easy to explore new worlds these days; you're only a few keyboard clicks away from it. You'll dive into a virtual adventure and learn so well about what's there that you'll soon be able to give a tour on the subject.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The critical thinking might not serve you so well right now, and you shouldn't let the details weigh you down. If you refuse to get mired in minutiae you'll get a powerful big-picture perspective.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will solve problems and generate ideas while your brain is in a kind of default mode, occupied gently by some kind of low-stress rhythm, such as the type created by walking, driving, showering and the like.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 11). You'll meet the people you want to know right at the start of this solar return. Love fills your life with joy. It all happens for one reason — because you're paying attention, seizing opportunities to connect. A perspective shift and a new way of setting up your days will make you more productive in 2018. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 1, 13, 7 and 41.

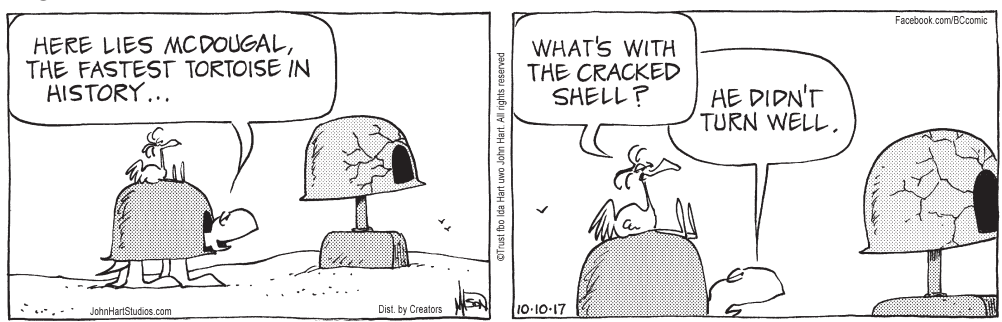
BLONDIE



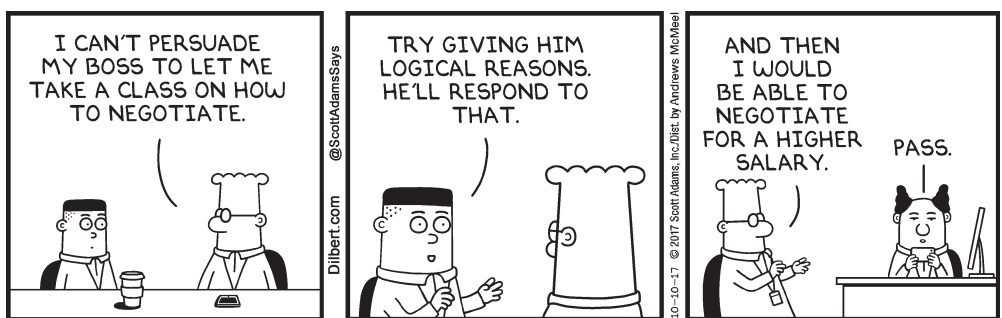
SALLY FORTH



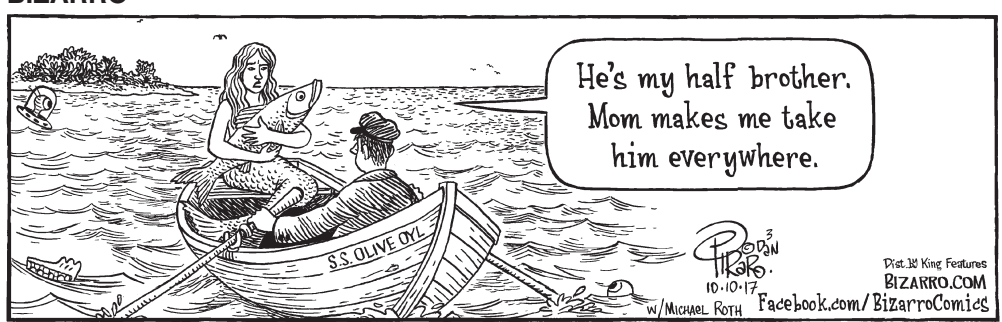
B.C.



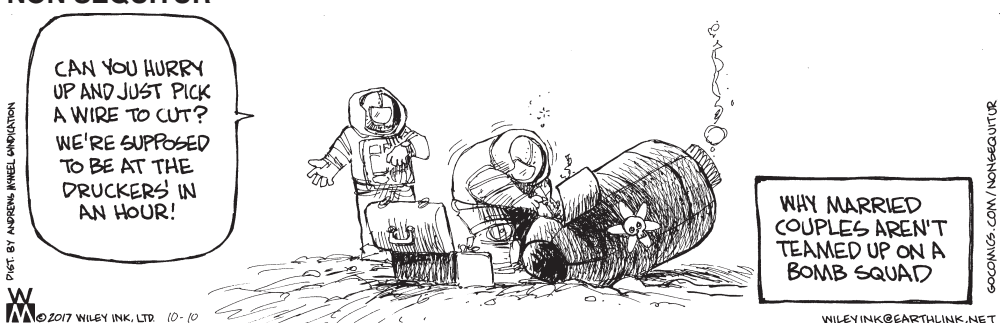
DILBERT



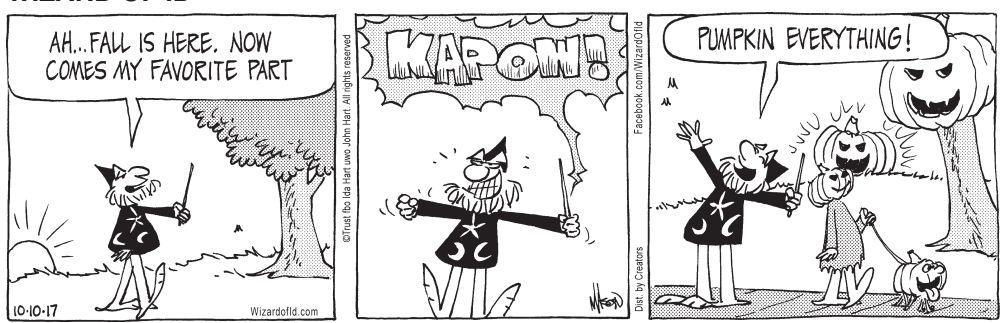
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

