

Husband is a nudist at heart

Dear Annie: I'm a man in my 30s who is a nudist at heart. Though I enjoy doing things clothes-free, my wife, "Jamie," does not. Jamie has gone with me to a nude beach — and "participated" — only once, and that was as a gift for my quitting smoking.

Jamie reluctantly allows me to attend one nudist event a year, but I have found myself wanting to do more — doing online research about different nudist sites in my area.

I know that Jamie would not want to go to any nudist events herself — though I would love it if she changed her mind — so I'm trying to figure out how best to broach the topic of my wanting to go alone.

The problem is that she, like so many others, mistakenly believes that naturism is a sexual thing. For me and the vast majority of nudists, it's not. I simply enjoy the freedom of being able to be outside naked. Also, most nudists are quite a bit older than I am.

How should I let my wife

know about my desire to go to more nudist events? — *Free Bird*

Dear Free Bird: I would say to continue this dialogue with your wife about why you enjoy it and what the benefits are for you as an individual. Marriage is about compromise and seeing things from the other perspective, so it does put a small damper on just how free of a bird you can be. Continue to talk to her about the importance of it to you, and be grateful that she does not object to your annual nudist event, especially because she has no interest in participating. You can never force someone to do something she does not want to do, but you can continue to communicate to her about why it is so important to you.

Dear Annie: My wife of 30 years moved out of the home a year and a half ago and into our adjoining apartment. We had not been getting along for a while. I am not a bad person; I have never gone out on my wife. But she is always angry with me, and it seems I can't do

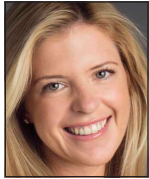
anything right.

Originally, our plans were to eventually sell our house, retire and travel. My thinking has changed over time. I love my wife. But it seems unrealistic to consider selling everything to retire with someone who doesn't like me and can't even live with me under the same roof.

I feel our relationship needs to be fixed before there is any discussion of retirement and selling the house. She is angry with me for changing our plans. She sends me emails accusing me of being a liar. We're seeing individual counselors and a couples therapist together. The couples therapist says my wife is full of wrath. My counselor says that it sounds as if she has deeper issues than the relationship and that I need to take care of myself. I would appreciate your perspective. — *Blamed and Alone*

Dear Blamed and Alone: My perspective is the same as your counselor's. Your wife's profound unhappiness wasn't caused by your marriage and certainly won't be fixed by it. She needs to decide for herself that she's tired of being miserable and really commit to treatment.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



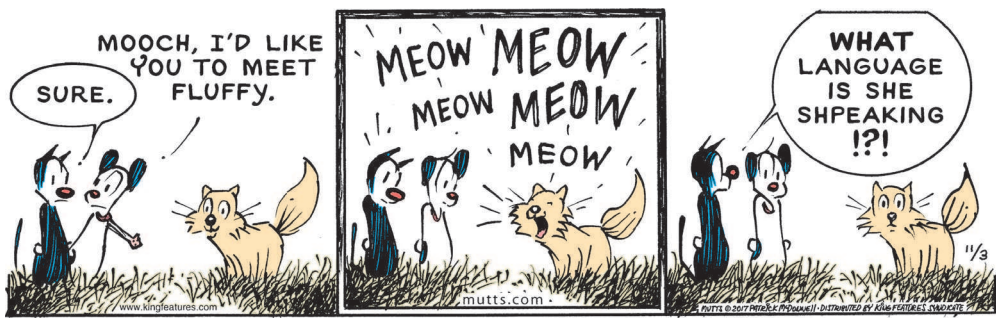
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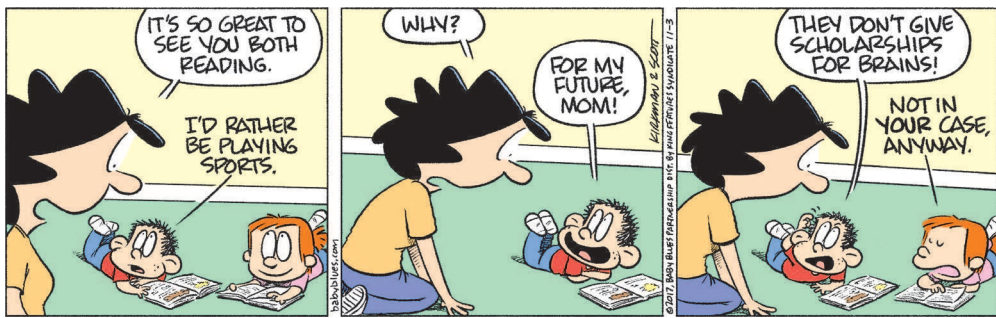
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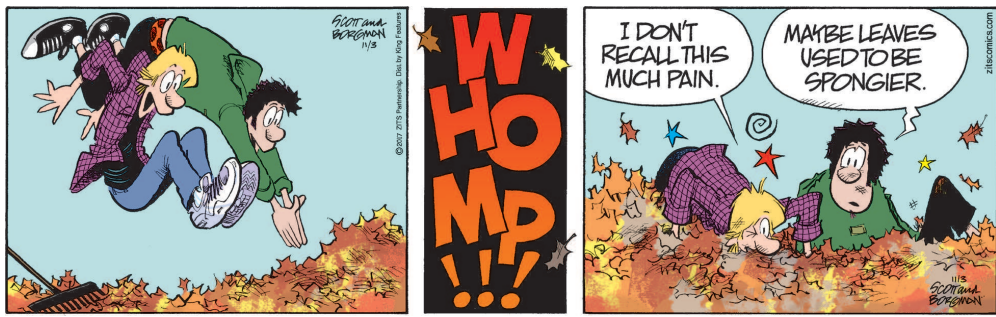
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you fear that you're bothering someone by reaching out, it's a sign that this person hasn't made you feel comfortable and accepted enough to relax. Not your fault. Also, probably not a good match for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Thinking ahead will help you play your moments better. A lot of moments won't even happen unless you make a plan. Just don't get stuck there. You don't live inside the plan; you live inside the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're a very responsible person. You'll take charge of the situation as far as it should be taken charge of, all the while keeping in mind that some things are better left alone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Inspiration will come in the form of people you may feel competitive with. It's something you'll likely keep hidden, and wisely so. Let it burble up in you to be examined and turned into improvement-fuel later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll look back and laugh at some of the rules you used to give yourself. It's a good time to ask: "Am I doing the same thing now? Is there a rule I'm imposing on myself that is unnecessarily holding me back?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). That tough person you admire (but wouldn't exactly want to be exactly) will help you find the courage to cut out a piece of nonsense and get down to what's important to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your fantasies are the celluloid that will project onto the real world like film to the silver screen. Shift what you think about toward a topic that makes you feel giddy, warm and inspired.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Friends are blessings. You wouldn't take that for granted. And yet, you really should be able to feel free, even a little bit careless around them. Shake off the uptight energy and, hopefully, they will, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though you can tell when someone is lying, it's not always wise to call the person out right away. Going along may give you a strategic advantage. You can watch and understand what's really going on today.

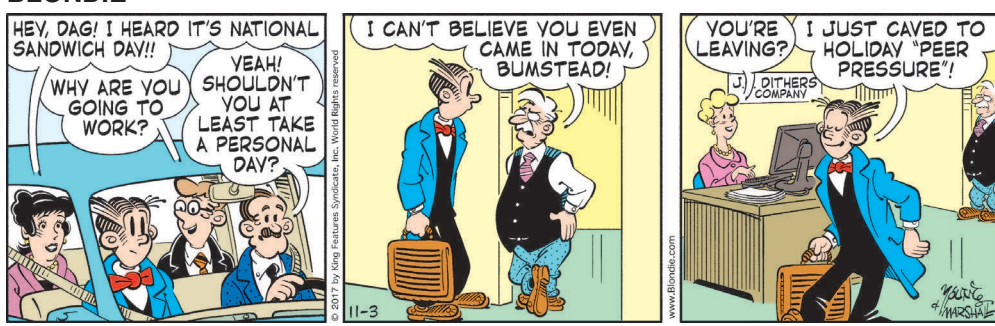
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may feel a little bit irritable. Do you need more excitement or less excitement to get back into the zone? Let intuition speak to you and then take action (or inaction as the case may be).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're ready to admit, if only to yourself, what makes you feel secretly superior. Then you can release the belief and let compassion take its place. The more equal and connected you feel to others, the easier life will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Synchronicity happens so often in your life that it's almost de rigueur by now. Nonetheless, it will be a delight to learn the one you think of is also thinking of you. You could even show up randomly at the same place.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 4). You'll give your all to projects, so choose them carefully. A brilliant solo mission will end in satisfaction, money and a prize. Once you know what you can handle alone, join a team. In 2018, first safety and security will invigorate you; then travel will ignite a new passion. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 17 and 9.

BLONDIE



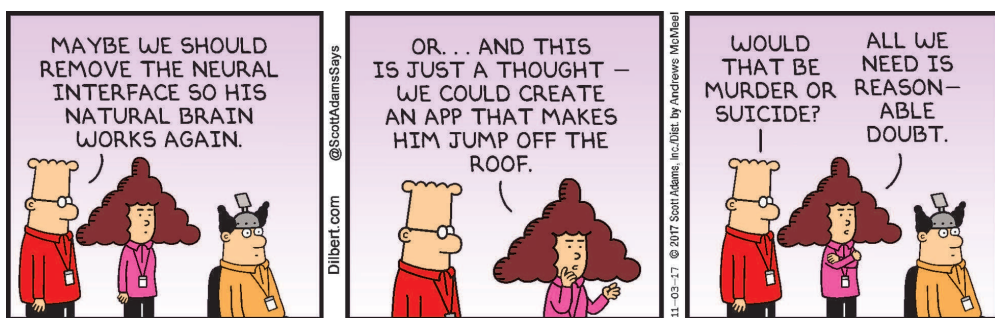
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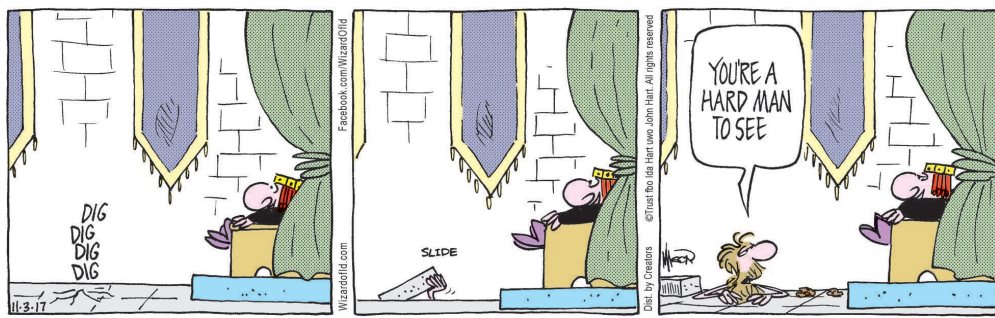
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ROSE IS ROSE

