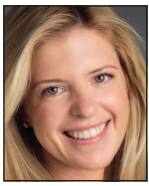


Ex-husband still controlling

Dear Annie: I divorced an extremely wealthy, abusive and narcissistic man five years ago. My divorce was a horror. He hacked my phone, email and Facebook account and put a tracking device on my car. He put listening devices, maybe even cameras, in my home and had private investigators follow me. (I have witnesses to all this.) He told me he would "ruin" me when we got divorced, and believe me, he has tried. He has taken my mostly adult kids away on almost every holiday (great trips they don't want to turn down) since the divorce, even flying them all out of town on my 50th birthday. I want to add that I was a faithful wife during our 30-year relationship, while he was a cheater. I left him once in the marriage for having an affair with a friend of mine.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I was a good stay-at-home mother, highly involved in my three kids' activities. My kids were and are my life. My eldest daughter called me "a dream mom" before the divorce. But since the divorce, that daughter has turned on me, calling me

crazy. She's blocked me from communicating with her in any way. I also have had problems getting ahold of my college-age son. (I found out his dad blocked my number on the cellphone he pays for.) I believe they learned to abuse me from their father.

I feel that my ex is still controlling my life. And there is nothing I can do, considering his power and money. How do I get back control of my life? How do I ever get my daughter back? I have tried writing her snail-mail letters explaining my hurt, but that has not solved this problem. How do I get through to my kids? Do I ever get my kids on holidays? They are all older than 18, so going to court would not help. — *Ostracized*

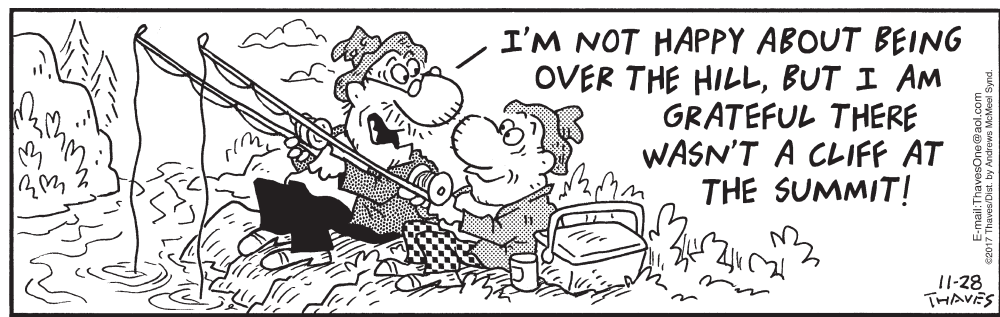
Dear Ostracized: First, I'm so sorry for what you've gone through. I understand that you're extremely focused on getting your children back in your life; any parent would feel the same way. But right now, I'm more worried about you. You were in an emotionally abusive relationship for 30 years. Those psycho-

logical scars don't heal overnight — especially when your ex-husband is doing everything he can to see that they don't. Before reconnecting with your adult children, who are still under the spell of their father, you must learn how to love yourself and set boundaries. I strongly encourage you to seek counseling.

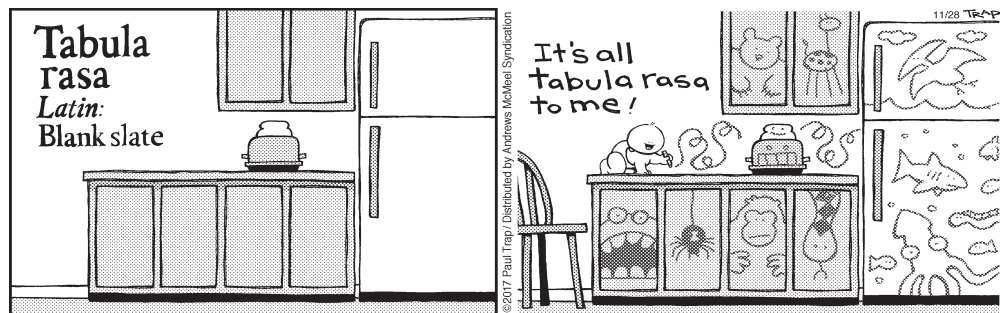
Dear Annie: One year ago, I notified my sister about my daughter's wedding so that she could save the date. She just received the formal invitation, and she called and said that her best friend had asked her to be maid of honor in her second wedding on the day before my daughter's wedding and that she had decided to accept her friend's invitation. She still can fly in the next morning and make the late-afternoon wedding. I'm totally stunned and deeply hurt. I thought she was a loyal family member. I flew my three children and wife to her daughter's wedding at quite an expense, so you can see why I'm shocked over this. Any suggestions? — *Snubbed by Sister*

Dear Snubbed by Sister: As long as she still makes it to your daughter's wedding, I say let this one go.

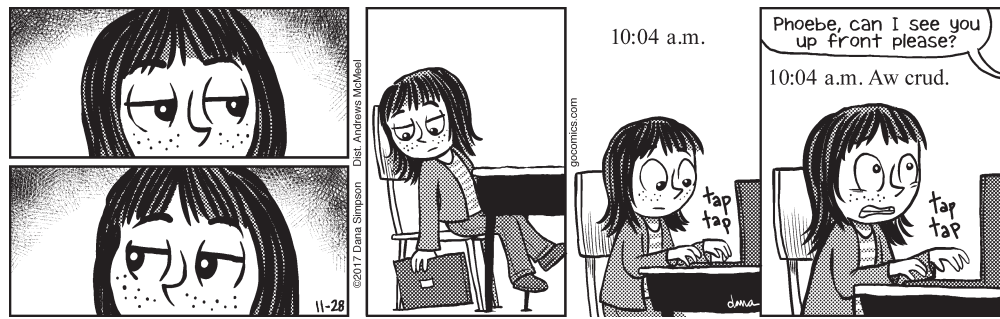
FRANK AND ERNEST



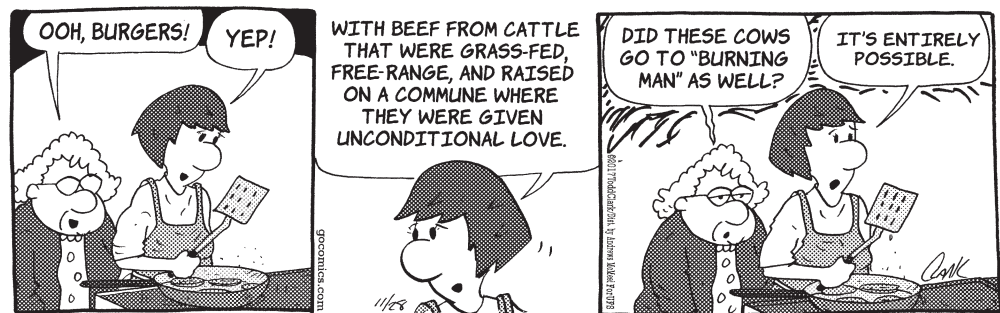
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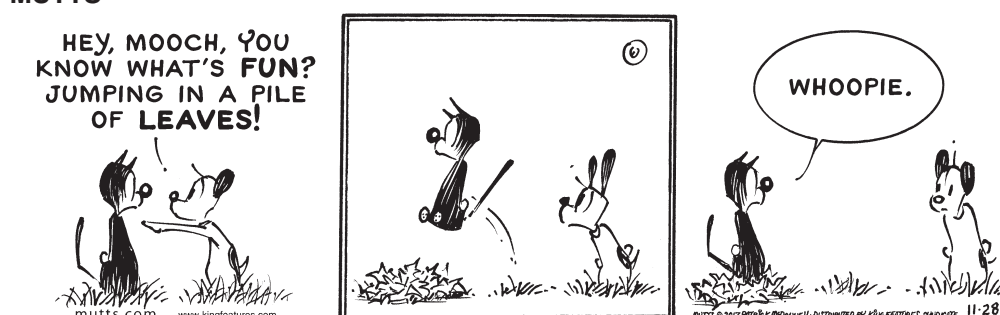
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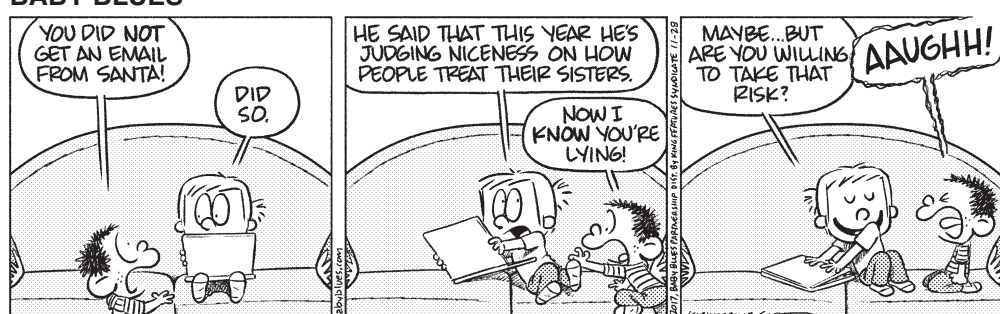
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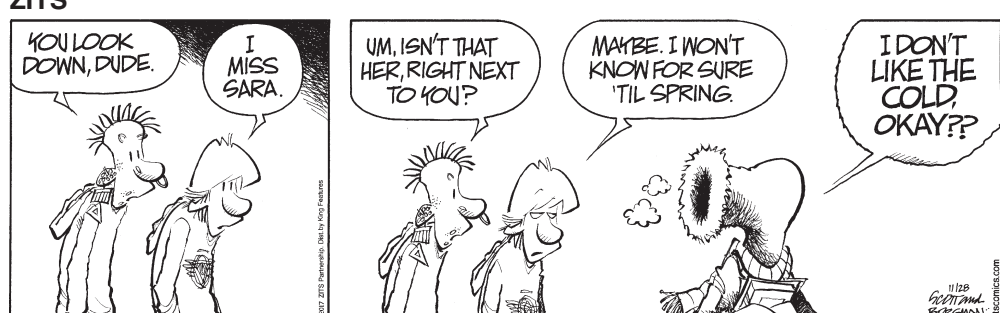
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your goal really is to find the solutions that are best for everyone, and that's what you'll do — just as soon as people understand that your aim is true. Trust and rapport are built slowly. Put the other person first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've been compromising quite a lot lately, mostly effectively, causing satisfaction throughout the group. This is excellent for your social life, but it's time to do something just for you, exactly the way you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The feeling that you'd like to escape will likely come when circumstances seem either too boring or too exciting. So go. If you can't remove yourself physically, a book or movie will do the trick.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be no lone geniuses today. Any greatness that happens will be a group effort. It doesn't even have to be a particularly good group to bring out your best today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to be seen in a certain way. Making that happen will be grueling, tedious, expensive and thankless work. So think about whether the result is really worth going all in, because that's what it will take.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to like what you're asked to do to approach the request with good cheer. Your attitude will be what helps you rise to a new level of respect and prominence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll have your reasons for doing more today. You're not trying to impress anyone. This is about finding out what your limits really are. So go on and push yourself into uncomfortable (but not painful)

territory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll switch the channel in your mind from the doubt and worry network to the action channel. Better results will come from overworking than from overthinking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You think you're arguing about the truth, but if you're like most people, you aren't. Most arguments are to serve or eradicate a feeling. The truth will outlast the argument. The truth is inarguable.

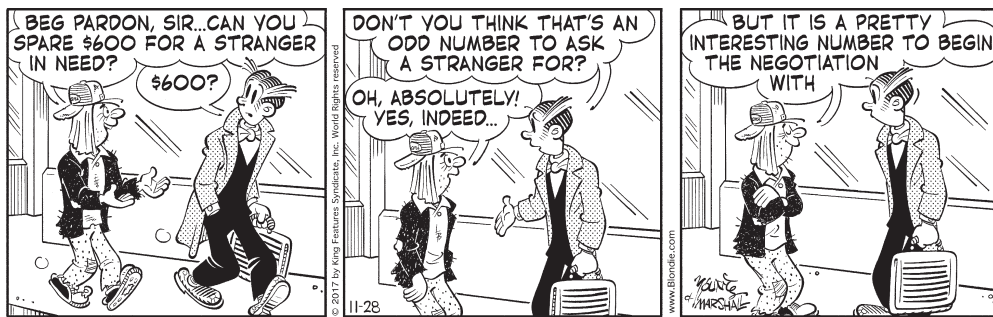
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Oscar Wilde once put it like this: "The world was my oyster, but I used the wrong fork!" Ignore social formalities at your own peril. If you don't know then read, ask or observe until you pick up on what you're supposed to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When people want what you have, it's both flattering and frustrating. They often act as if you got there by luck. Outsiders just don't realize the effort that went behind all this. It will be your job to enlighten.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Think it over; write about it; talk about it with a trusted friend. Self-reflection will help you uncover your motivation for upholding bad habits and help you find a healthier way to meet your needs.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29). Happiness is not the goal. To change something, help someone, make a lasting impression on the world and set up a future you can be proud of — that's the goal. Happiness will, however, be a byproduct of your efforts — as will sweat and toil. The more you can tolerate, the richer you'll be (financially and otherwise). Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 11, 19 and 32.

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

