

Husband is always looming

Dear Annie: I am concerned about one of my friends, "Amanda." She and I are both middle-aged housewives with only part-time jobs. For the past six months or so, we've been having lunch together once a week.

Amanda comes from a much more repressed background than I do. She was raised to believe that wives should be submissive to their husbands, etc.

Our weekly lunch is in a restaurant that's located inside a supermarket. I like the food there. Amanda used to say she liked the location because when her husband asked about her day, she could truthfully tell him she had only gone to the grocery. She said it would take time for her to let him know about having a new friend.

Amanda has complained about her controlling husband. She told me he checks her phone and email all the time. However, she has such an upbeat, happy disposition, I thought she was exaggerating. About a month ago, she told me that since she's gotten to know me, she's had the courage to speak up to her husband about some things for the

very first time, and it has led to some positive changes in their marriage.

The next week, Amanda's husband just showed up with her at our lunch. I welcomed meeting him because I knew he could see that I'm a straight woman who poses no threat.

Since then, however, he has come with her every week. He owns his own business, so he must have rearranged his whole schedule to lunch with us! He sits with us but doesn't say much. He mostly plays with his phone. Of course, my conversation with Amanda is quite different with him sitting there. This whole thing seems weird to me. I'm afraid that if I were to say much, our lunches would end altogether. Do you have any suggestions? — *Silenced in the Supermarket*

Dear Silenced: Though you might be limited in what you can say to Amanda, your mere presence speaks volumes. It tells her she's not alone — that someone cares. To someone in an abusive relationship, that's an invaluable message. And that's why the best thing you can do for Amanda right now is to continue attending these lunches and pretend-

ing her husband's presence is welcome. Any perceived rejection of him would be used to separate you from her. Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) for more guidance.

Dear Annie: I certainly sympathize with "Concerned Legionnaire's Wife." Many years ago, I attempted to sign up for an American Legion post but was told by a misinformed individual that women could not join the organization. Rather than judge the entire organization by the erroneous view of one individual, I found another American Legion post. Today I am the national commander of The American Legion, and that original post displays my official photograph with the words, "She could have belonged to this post. Remember, women are veterans too!"

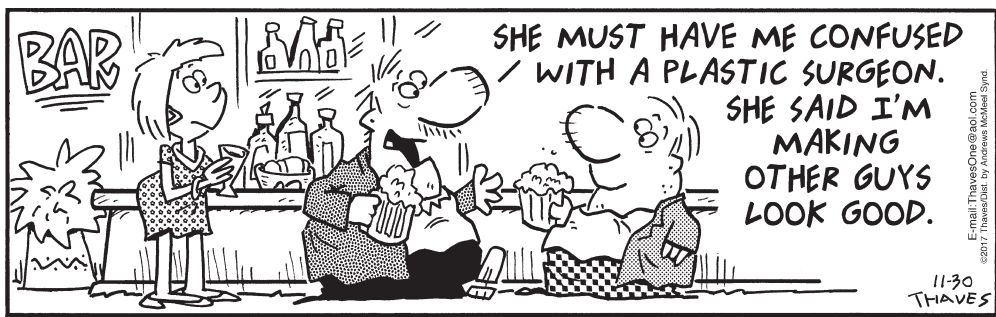
Though I cannot speak about the specific allegations that "Concerned Legionnaire's Wife" mentioned, I would like to encourage her to report any malfeasance to her state's American Legion headquarters. With 13,000 posts spread throughout the United States and even overseas, there will be some personalty conflicts. But I encourage people to visit our website, at <https://www.legion.org>, to learn more.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

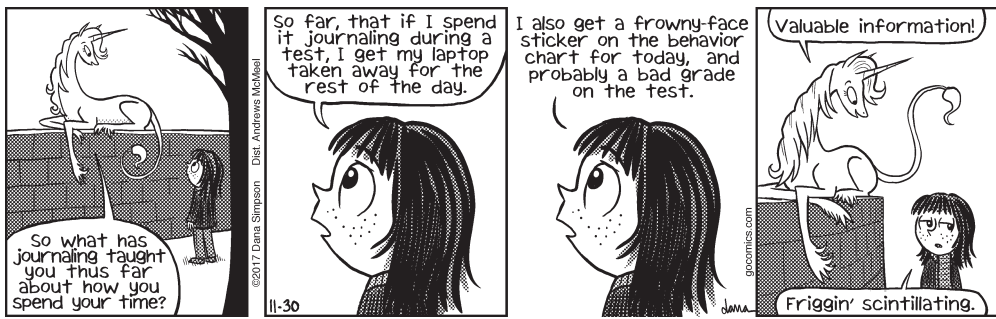
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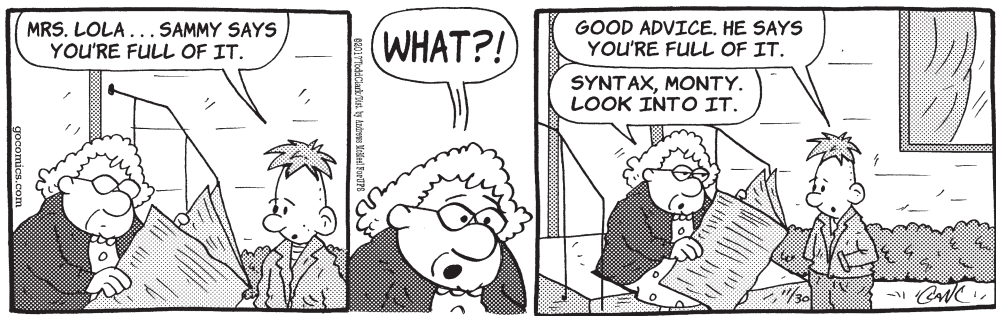
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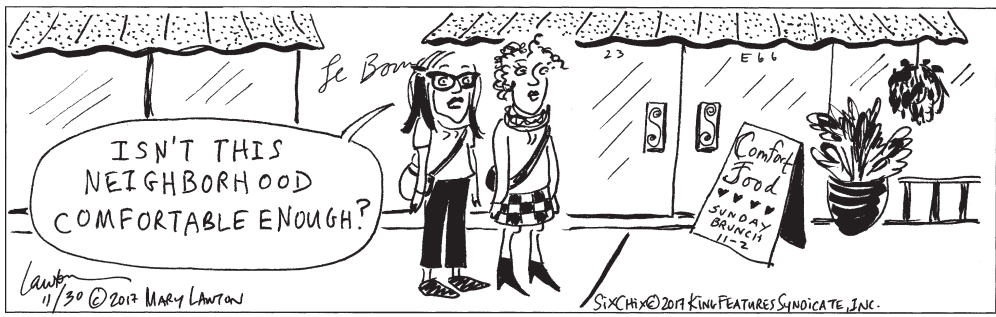
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've earned the chutzpah you have, but you need a little more for what you want. You don't get to have the confidence for free. The price of confidence is doing what scares you. First you dare; then you become daring.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's hard to put a price on learning. But if you gain even one insight that changes you, makes you think differently, gives you a degree of comfort or inspires you to be more, whatever brought you to that was worthwhile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's something you keep locked away in your heart that's become a part of you, reflected in your every move. Take it out; re-examine; and decide if it still belongs there. If not, toss it. If so, polish and return.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What keeps you good even when you don't feel like being good? Principles. Your principles will now be the restraint keeps you on the path of being the best possible version of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everything moves, not necessarily forward. Some backward slides are a positive relaxation of hypervigilance. Some backward slides are dangerous regression. Know the difference. In the latter case, take preventive action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you believed that whatever or whomever you'd like to add to your life was within the realm of possibility, what would you do to get ready? Do that. Because with this kind of clearly defined wish, amazing things can happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's hard for some to clock the moves you're making, because you're simply going too fast for them. You're a

blur! There's no reason to slow down, either, since there are plenty at your pace who will keep you company.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you write your priorities down, much will become clear about your life, what's working and what's not. Today, the tic-tac-toe model will work well. If you have more than nine priorities, it's too many.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some people don't know the value of a thing until other people point it out. But if it's not apparent to them, is it really valuable or not? Maybe good things are only good to those who see the goodness.

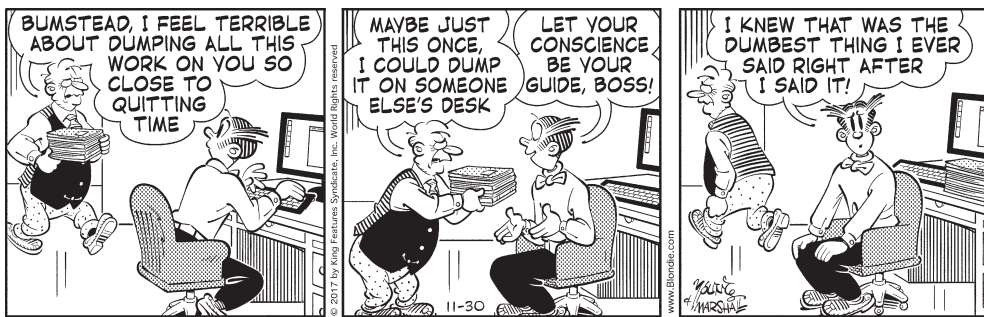
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When others throw stones at your ideas, don't even bother throwing them back. It's a waste of time and energy. Collect the stones as if they were a gift. Use them to build your empire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your cravings will be informants that point to an underlying need, a nutrient that your diet is lacking or an emotional nutrient that is currently absent in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may not know exactly what you want to do now, and that's OK. As long as you have a framework that guides you, you'll be in a fine position. Opportunity will arise that you had no idea was in the realm of possibility.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 1). You give yourself to your loved ones, and you're a cherished part of the group. But to live for them is to deny the one life you've been given: your own. In summary, you're a person, too. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 40, 45, 21 and 18.

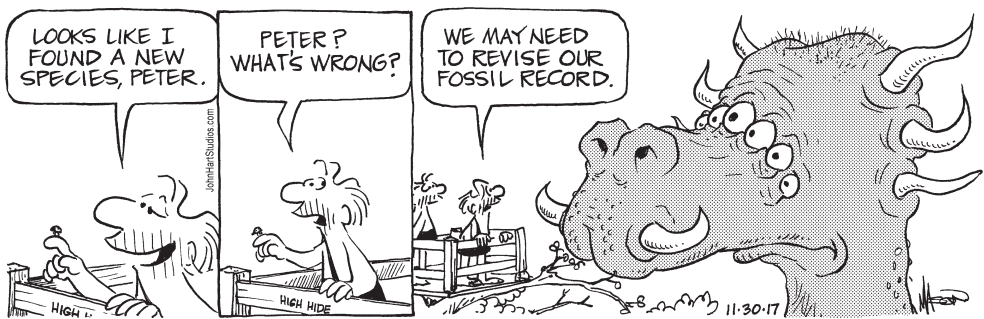
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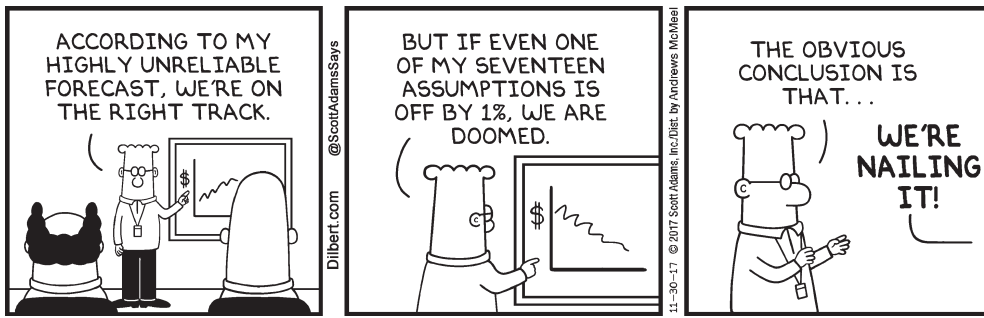
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ROSE IS ROSE

