

Married, but still alone

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for almost 30 years. Sometimes I think I don't know him at all. He hardly calls or texts me when at work, but he would call his siblings at any time of the day. He doesn't answer my calls or respond to my texts messages, either. He is often late from work, usually arriving two hours after he's done even though it's 30 minutes away.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I feel isolated and lonely. I'm often perplexed by my husband's reaction whenever I tell him how I feel. Recently, I told him, "I don't think you love me." And he replied, "Go tell your friends that." He isn't happy if I go out for dinner with my girlfriends. He seldom goes out, because I caught him lying once.

I feel trapped and tired in this relationship. What should I do? — *Is This Married Life?*

Dear Is This Married Life?: Trapped, isolated and lonely — so much sadness in such a short letter. Whatever

is going on with you and your husband, it's clear the status quo isn't acceptable. Partners should not begrudge each other for having dinner with friends or talking often to siblings. It sounds as though you're both stuck in a toxic cycle, and it's going to take an outside force to break you out of it. Ask your husband to attend marriage counseling. If he refuses, seek therapy on your own; websites such as BetterHelp and Talkspace connect patients with health care professionals via video

chats, text messages and phone calls, so you don't even need to leave your house to get help. But please, do get help. It could change your life.

Dear Annie: I disagree with your answer to "Doctor Mother," who noticed a lump on her son's girlfriend's neck. My husband, "Bob," was sitting next to his boss, "Roger," who is a doctor and health commissioner. Roger noticed that Bob's neck bumped out when he swallowed. Roger exam-

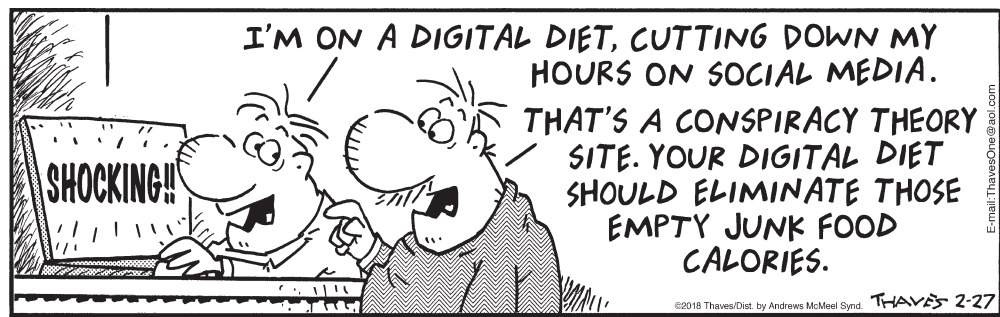
ined Bob's neck while he swallowed again and said to go for a biopsy. It was thyroid cancer in both lobes of his thyroid, which he then had removed.

A year later, I noticed a lump in my daughter's neck during a visit. She was in her early 20s. She followed my advice and had it checked out. A biopsy revealed cancer in a lymph node that had come from her thyroid. She had the thyroid removed one month later. Had I not insisted, the cancer could have spread even further. I don't even want to think of that possible outcome. Today she is 39 and cancer-free. My husband is also cancer-free.

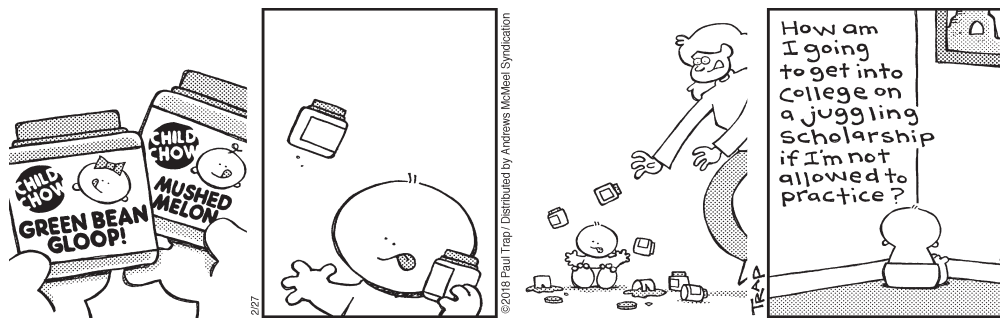
So my advice for "Doctor Mother" is to speak up and tell her son's girlfriend to get it checked out. Better to be safe than sorry! A lump isn't always a skin condition. It could be a swollen lymph node. — *WNY Reader*

Dear WNY Reader: You're absolutely right. I should have more seriously considered the stakes. I'm printing your letter to correct the record. Thanks for writing.

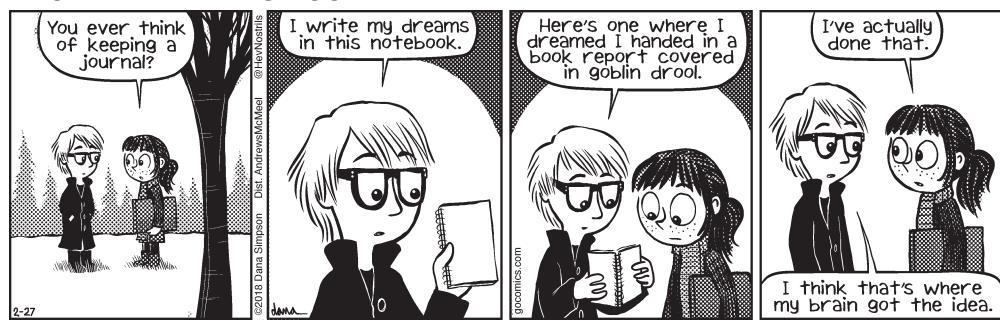
FRANK AND ERNEST



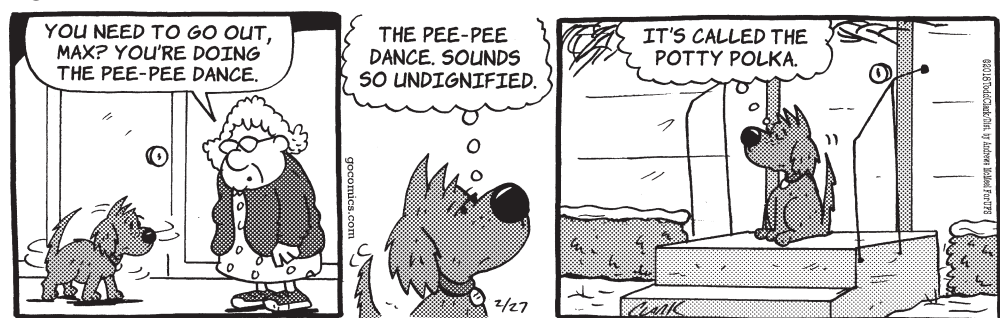
THATABABY



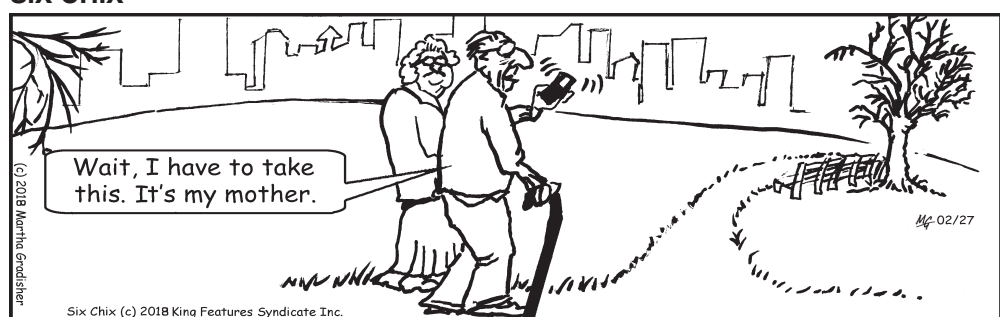
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



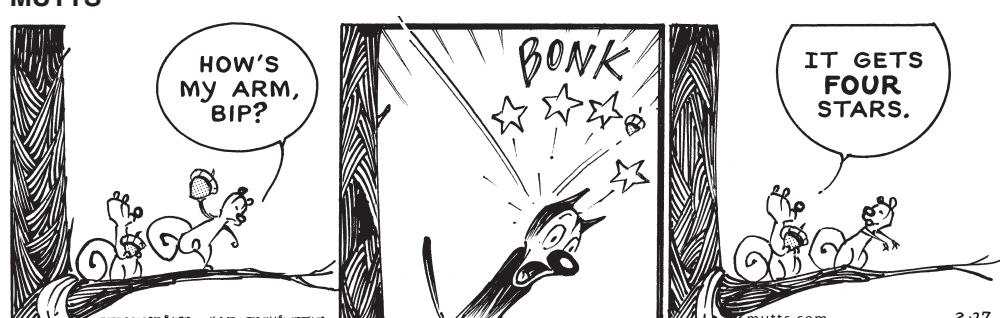
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You won't be able to put your finger on exactly what's changed. You're you, only happier. With a cursory look at the situation, it will be hard to say why. But closer examination just might reveal the culprit: love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The joke suggests we are all equal, but some are more equal than others. While you don't believe you're superior or special, you'll get so much validation from the outside world today that it will be challenging to remain humble.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Should you do it? Someone in the media is doing it. A friend is doing it, and it's working great for that person. But is it right for you? The question is, is it affordable for you? This one is really only worthy of a small risk.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Revel in your amateur status in some regard today. Amateurs are not bound by the rules of taste or commerce that experts are held to. They can express more freely their unique take on the subject.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you listen to a band, you may be actually hearing five to 60 different instruments playing parts, but what you experience is a song. Don't get too caught up in the elements today. None of them are all of you. You're all of them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll find yourself in a position to defend, confront or dance around an issue. Consider employing the enormously useful power of misdirection, as a distraction will do wonders for the situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). They'll tell you they need it sooner, that you should move faster, that it's not quite enough. Before you move to

appease them, consider whether or not these are truly reasonable requests.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Language will be the difference. It will make something happen instead of nothing. It will be the reason A happens instead of B. Put some thought, planning and intention behind your choice of words.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Since you can't very well surprise someone by giving them what they were expecting, you'll think broader and more creatively before making your move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The yogic Triangle Pose, or Trikonasana, requires open eyes. Today will require similar balancing tactics. Find a point of focus in your sky-high dreams while grounding yourself. Reach up and down at the same time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The power move will be to recognize where you're not as strong, and where there might be gaps in your resources or knowledge, and then plan a way to solve for those gaps.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've been surprised before by your friend's uncharacteristic behavior, only now it's not surprising because it has indeed become a part of the character you now understand your friend to possess.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 28). Let your loved ones celebrate you. This will strengthen relationships and keep them from taking you for granted, too! You're getting faster at delivering stellar results, and your profits will reflect it. Next month brings three new friends. Sign a deal in May and/or December. In June, invest in a lifestyle that suits you better. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 33, 27 and 11.

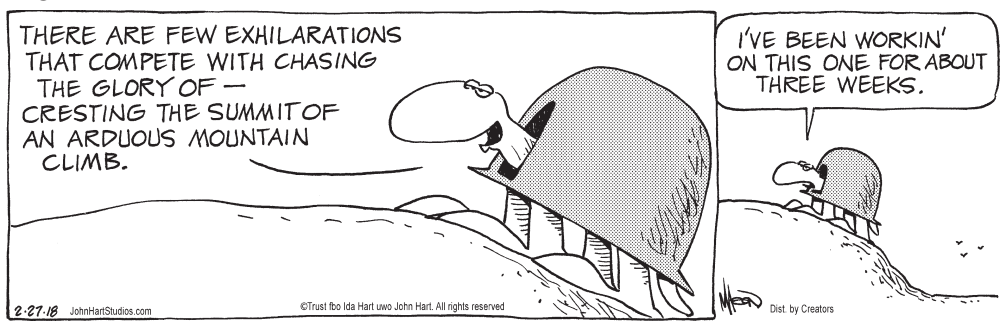
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



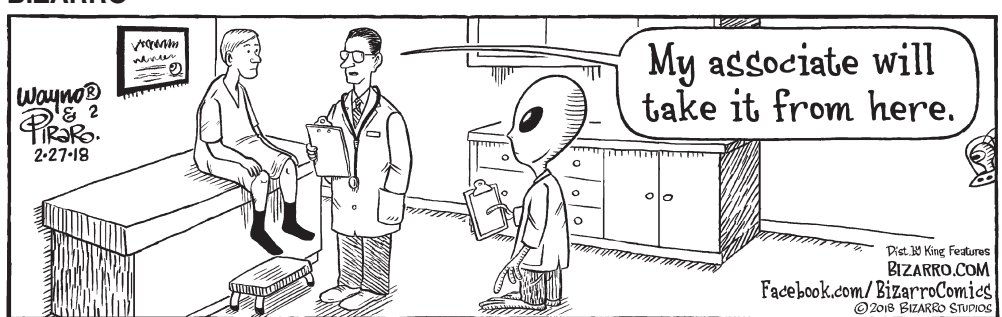
B.C.



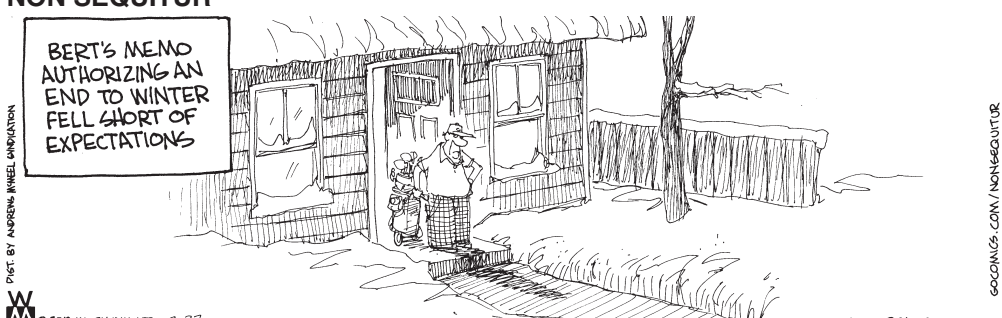
DILBERT



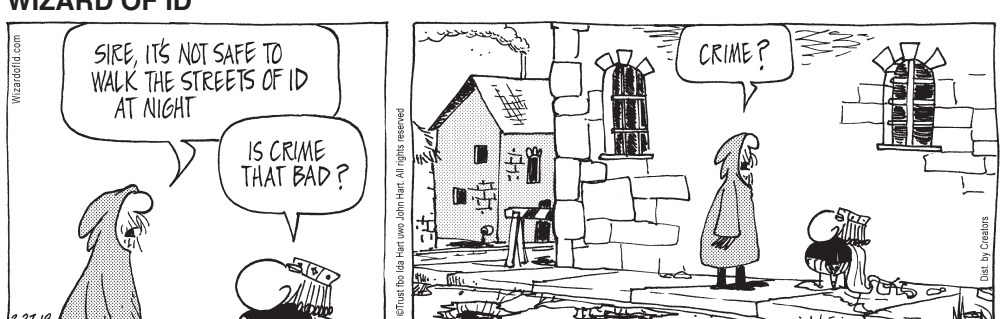
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

