

Might tea just be tea?

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for nearly 30 years. We're both in our 50s and attractive. I work with him as his administrator. He's a real estate agent. Our receptionist is about 30 years old and very beautiful. She's been with the office for five years. They talk and are office friends.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Recently, my husband bumped into her on the road. He honked to get her attention and asked her out for tea. I just so happened to call him while he was having the tea in her car, as it was a drive-thru coffee shop. When I called him, he did not disclose he was with the receptionist. He just said he was on his way home. I was suspicious, so I drove down the road he usually takes home from work. I noticed that both cars were parked near the coffee shop and that my husband was in the receptionist's car having tea with her.

When I talked to him later, he said he hadn't told me he was with her because he thought I would have been angry. He said he wants to have a relationship with me in which he can be completely hon-

est but knew I wouldn't understand that it was just a friendship thing and nothing more. I talked to both of them and said it was very inappropriate behavior and it should never happen again. I have also told my husband that his phone and whereabouts should be an open book right now until he gains my trust. I do believe it was only a friendship thing, as my husband does talk and socialize with both men and women all the time. Any advice would be appreciated. Do you think it's OK for a married man to have tea with his secretary? — *Miffed*

Dear Miffed: Having tea with a co-worker is perfectly OK. So why would your husband lie about it? Maybe there's something going on between them, but it's more likely he was trying to avoid the sort of embarrassing scene that ended up transpiring.

Take a step back and look at your actions. You immediately jumped in the car and patrolled his commute route. Then you scolded him and your longtime mutual colleague. Then you set rules he must follow

to earn back your trust. All over the "very inappropriate" act of having tea with a co-worker in public. Yes, it was wrong of him to lie — but if this is any indication of your past behavior, you can't fully blame him.

If you believe that your husband has been unfaithful, I encourage you to explore the issue together in marriage counseling. But it sounds as though, even by your own account, he's given you no cause for real concern. If that's the case, consider seeing a counselor on your own, someone who could help you dig up the roots of your insecurity. Whatever you do, don't let jealousy run rampant through your relationship. Love withers among those weeds.

Dear Annie: I've noticed that you often recommend Families Anonymous and Al-Anon to people struggling with a loved one's drug addiction or alcoholism. Both organizations are extremely helpful. Please consider also suggesting SMART Recovery Family & Friends meetings, a science-based, secular alternative to Al-Anon. — *Hope This Helps*

Dear Hope This Helps: Thank you for offering up yet another resource for the friends and family of people with addictions.

FRANK AND ERNEST



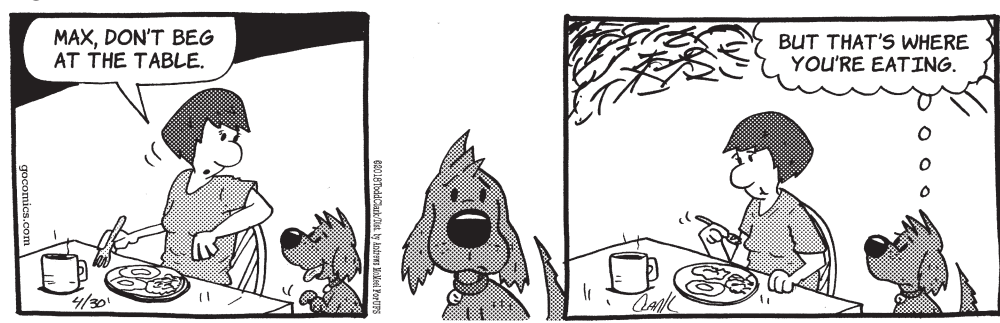
THATABABY



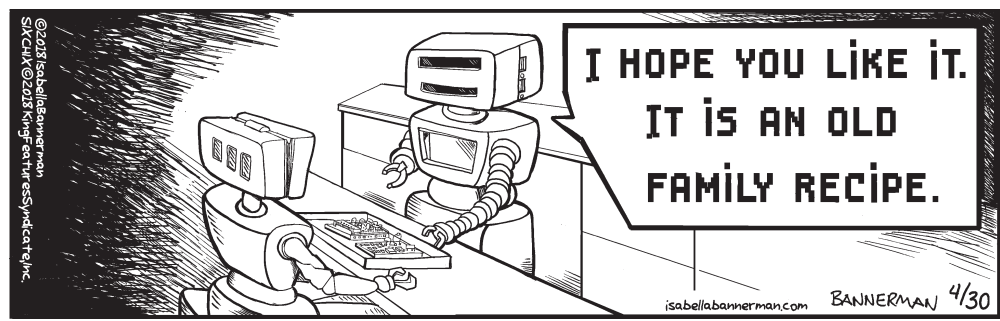
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



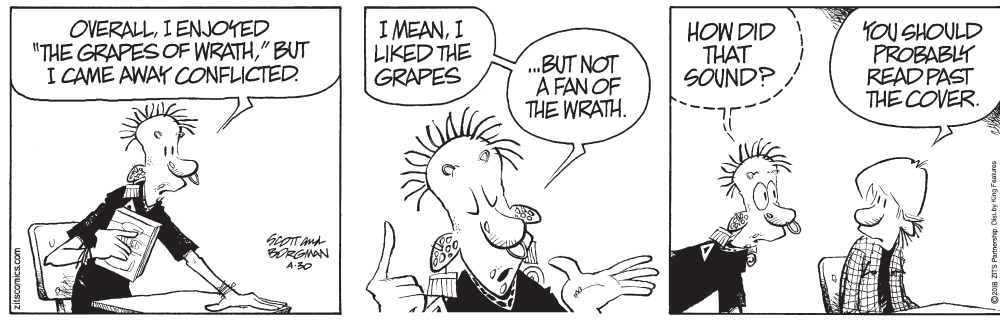
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Undoubtedly, your reaction can give power to an action; In fact, it is sometimes the one and only power source of the thing to which you are reacting. Therefore, if you want a situation to discontinue, consider trying a non-reaction as your next reaction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Unpleasant circumstances are the ones that teach the most valuable lessons. For instance, had you never been neglected or abandoned, you wouldn't be so self-sufficient. You'll be celebrated for your strength.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll have to pivot from the usual in order to embrace new possibilities. Actually, you'll have to make the pivot to even see the new possibilities at all. This next turn will have to be made in faith.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The demands of the day won't be burdensome. If the day's tasks are trying, either you misunderstood what was required or someone is asking way too much of you. Mountains invite you to climb them, not carry them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The minute you feel yourself competing, pull back and ask whether the situation is really a good match for you. Those who appreciate what you bring to the table won't ask you to compete for your spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Not all inaction is alike. There's doing nothing out of fear, laziness or confusion; then there's doing nothing out of principle — having the discipline to be still when inaction is the best choice for the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To contrive for self-advantage is the folly of children and those who behave like them — an individual is usually best served within a thriving group. You'll work toward making the group great and be lifted

along with it.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today it may seem that your loved ones think of you as a genie in service to them. They make their requests and expect you to magically fulfill immediately. But what about the other plans you had made? Drop them at your own risk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Since comparison and judgment have no place in today's proceedings and can only lead to anger, you'll be looking for ways to appreciate the contributions of others without putting yourself in a position to rate them.

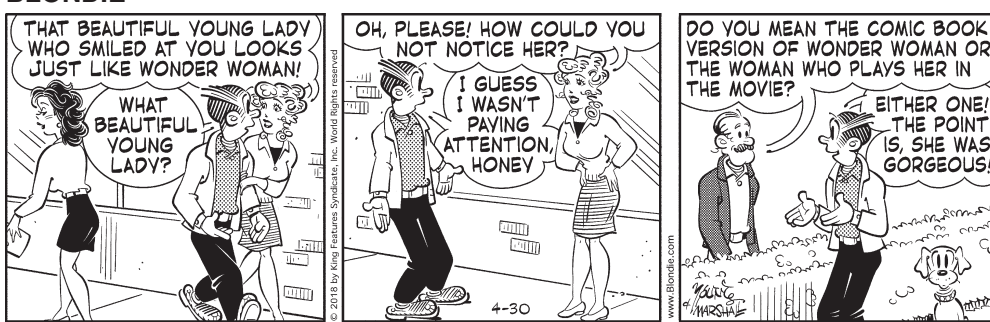
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know what it's like to stand amongst a group that you don't truly belong to. Because you've tasted that unique kind of loneliness, you can really appreciate the abundant warmth in the bonds you have now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've done the work; now enjoy watching your plan play out. It will be satisfying to see things go off without a hitch because you implemented the lessons of the past.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The way you talk to yourself in your own head will be extremely important. The level of kindness of your inside voice will dictate the level of kindness in your outside voice.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 1). The very thought of your happiness inspires happiness in many others. Therefore, making your own happiness a priority will be a kind of public service. You'll have a breakthrough over the next 10 weeks, but don't rush ahead because of it — slow and steady business will continue to benefit you for years to come. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 2, 28, 13 and 40.

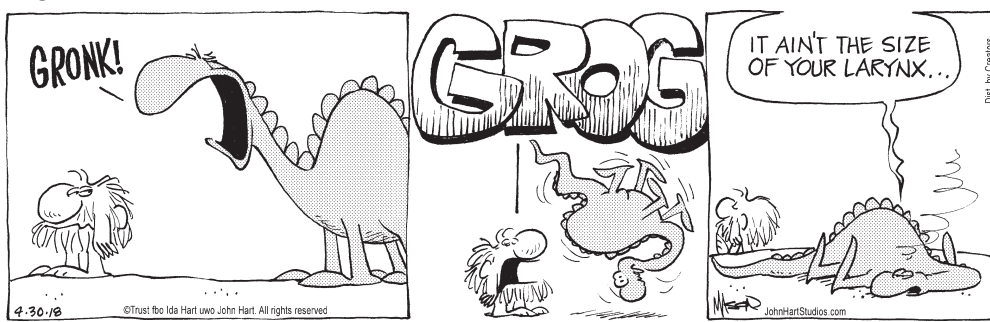
BLONDIE



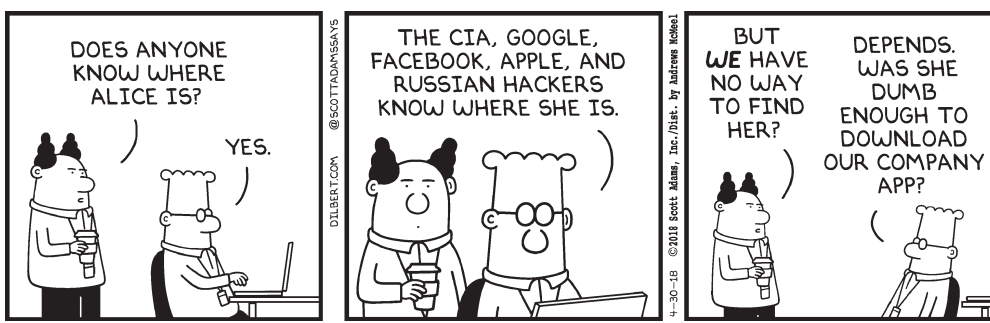
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



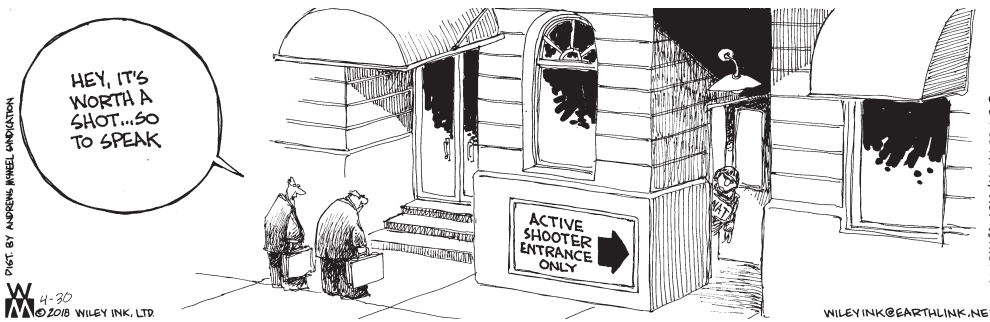
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

