

Husband torn apart by adultery

Dear Annie: Many years ago, I was in the U.S. military. I was sent to Southeast Asia and served three six-month tours. On my last tour, I suspected my wife had an affair, but I had no proof. While I was in training for a job after I was released from active duty, I heard that my wife had spent the night with one of the men from the base. I confronted her, but she lied to me; her good friend eventually told me the truth. I believe she was faithful to me after that for maybe 15 years. But our relationship was strained. There was passion, but there was always that element of distrust.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

One day, I returned from a business trip in the middle of the night two days early and went to the lower-level guest room to sleep. That morning, the phone rang. I picked it up, and she was on the phone with a man. I heard him describing things he wanted to do to her that night. I went to her bedroom and told her what I had heard. She repented. I forgave again.

Five years later, I bought us a house in another state. I had to go back to our home state every other month for two to three weeks for

business. We had a suite on the second level and rented it to a single man. One time, I returned early and found him coming out of my bedroom in my robe. That was all I could take. I filed for legal separation and moved back to our home state.

After five years of legal separation, I met a widow who was a bit younger than I was and asked my ex to file for divorce. We had been married for over 40 years. I knew she couldn't support herself, so I gave her several thousand dollars a month and all the cash investments I had.

My second wife and I have been together now for over 15 years. She insists I have no communication with my ex. It has been very hard to persuade the ex to not communicate. We had a son, who is now deceased. His children, my grandchildren, do not know the truth. They blame me for the divorce. I have not told them all the sordid details and probably never will. They do not care to have a relationship with me.

I write this in hopes that someone who has experienced a similar case of dishonor will recognize the situation and get counseling for the

wayward spouse and himself or herself to salvage their family and their relationship. — *Still in Misery in Missouri*

Dear Still in Misery: Thank you for being so vulnerable in sharing this to help others. But it's not too late to help yourself. I would encourage you to take a more proactive — rather than reactive — role in your relationships and life.

For instance, it does sound as if it is wise for you to keep your distance from your ex-wife, as toxic relationships have a way of retaining their potency long after their end. However, if you don't talk to her, it should be because you recognize it's healthiest for you not to, not because your current wife forbids it. Also, if your grandchildren are adults now, you might try writing them letters expressing your side of the story. No sordid details are needed. Just tell them that things aren't so cut-and-dried as they seem and that you wish you could be closer to them. You've got nothing to lose by saying that much.

Lastly, I hope you yourself are currently in counseling, as there is understandably a lot of emotional scar tissue from everything that's happened. Perhaps you and your wife could go together.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your social savvy will serve you nicely. You'll know when someone is lying or telling the truth. You'll build on the truth and leave the lies alone, as those aren't worth chasing. They'll spin in circles and collapse on their own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The thing that used to keep you from doing what you felt like doing no longer applies to your situation. You're free, if you want to be. Go be a part of whatever is pushing or pulling you forward. Get the experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If ideas were stars, there's one that's your North Star right now, constant and bright. Follow faithfully and you won't have to be worried that you're going in circles. Keep your eye on it, and you'll know where you are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In some areas you may feel too inexperienced to help another, but even a 5-year-old has something to teach a 4-year-old, if not those much, much older. Don't underestimate the value of your observations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In movies, the devil shows up bearing gifts, but he always winds up taking much more than he gave. "A fool judges people by the presents they give him." — Chinese proverb.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Who would savor disappointment? For starters, it's not savory. In fact, it often tastes bitter. But if you can stomach it, a closer examination of a past disappointment will absolutely prevent a future one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's very easy to sing the praises of people so far away (physically distant, famous or dead) that they can't possibly be proven unworthy of the accolades. But the good reputation of our nearest and dearest is

hard earned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As you think more about it, you may not be so sure that what you want will really satisfy you. Take a short pause before transactions. An honest moment of self-reflection will save you money and trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As fun as it would be to be the primary controller of the universe, the challenge of the day will have to do with adapting to the fact that there's an ample portion of life that can't be bent to human will.

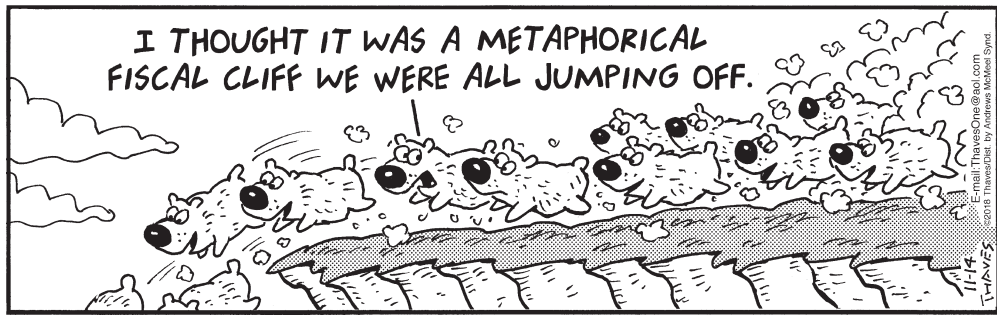
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The conflict is in each side wishing the other would behave differently, a wish that is basically useless today. Accepting the other person's behavior and building on it ... that's the start of productivity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When the struggle is about being "good" or "bad," it's an opportunity to consider the unmet needs at play. There's something you need that makes the "bad" thing so appealing, and it could be filled in less risky or harmful ways.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll feel it's unnecessary, but speak up and be assertive anyway just to make your presence known. There's a balance to be struck. You want people to feel comfortable around you but not so comfortable they're inconsiderate.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 15). Count this among your more ambitious and curious years. You'll be driven to move beyond the many things you already do well. Highlights include: the resources necessary to explore new avenues, a perfect application for obscure talents and knowledge, and the assemblage of a tight team to do lucrative work. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 33, 24, 16 and 9.

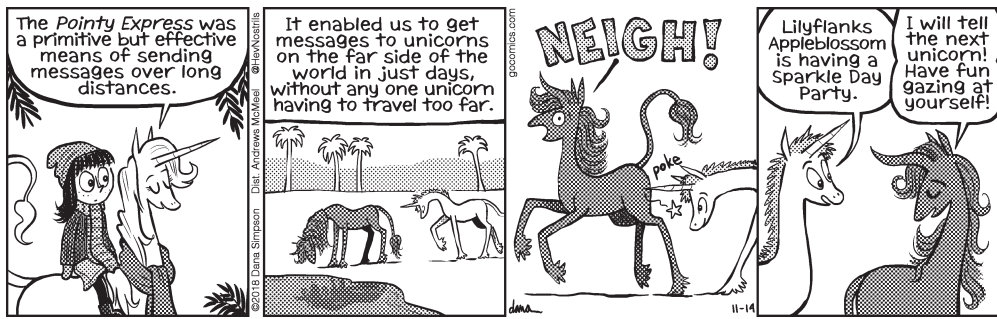
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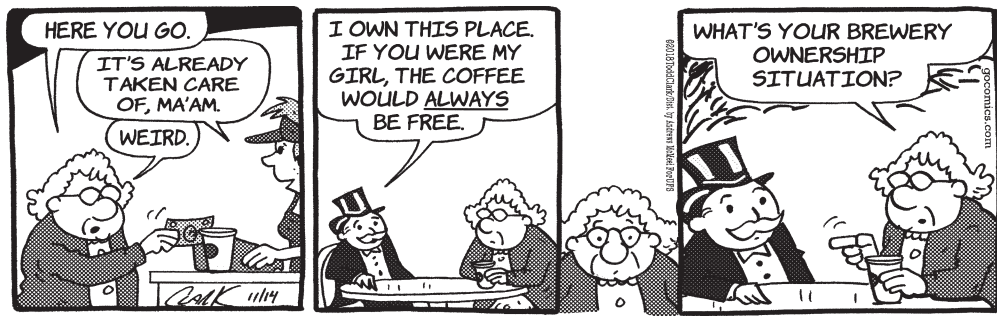
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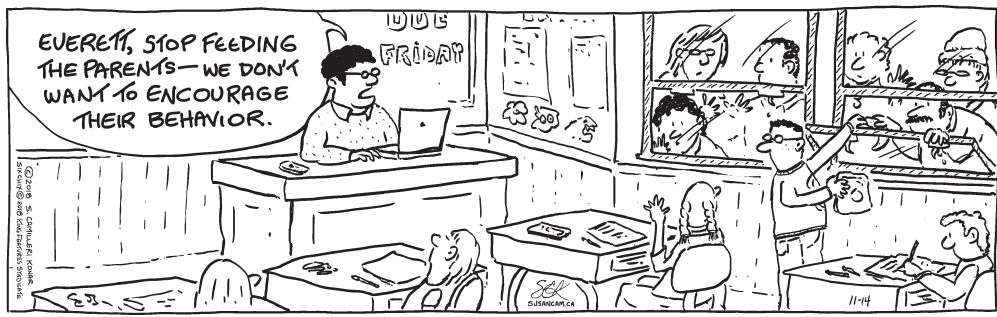
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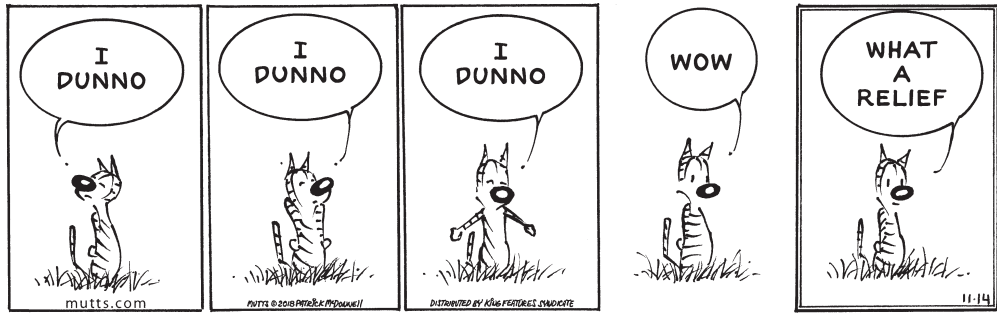
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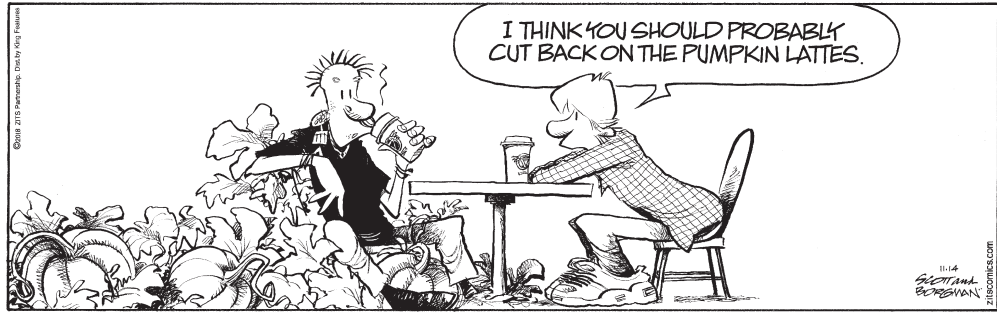
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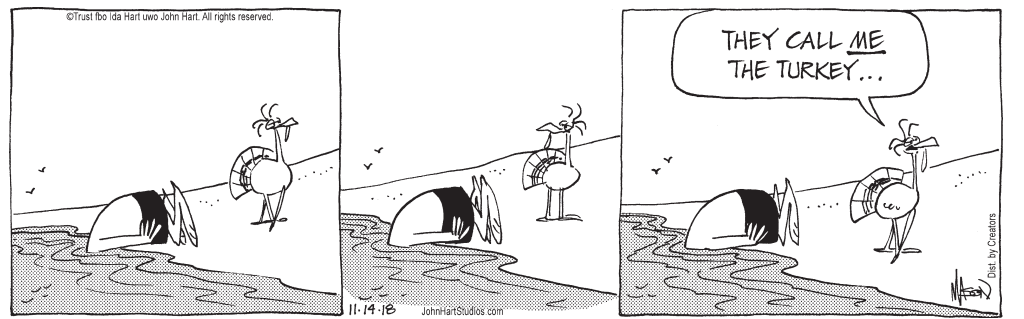
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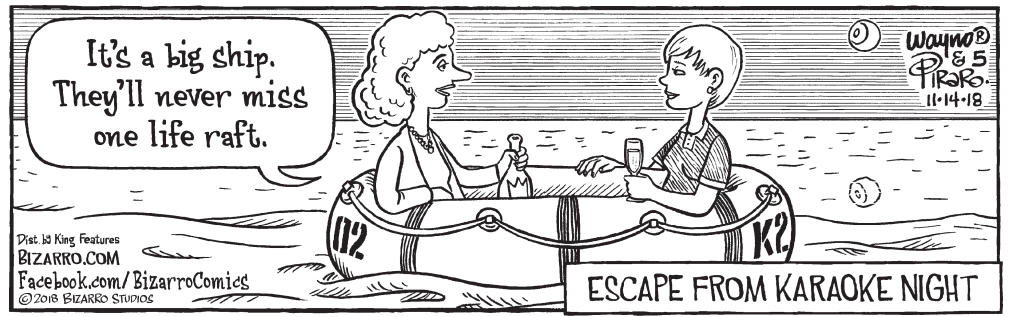
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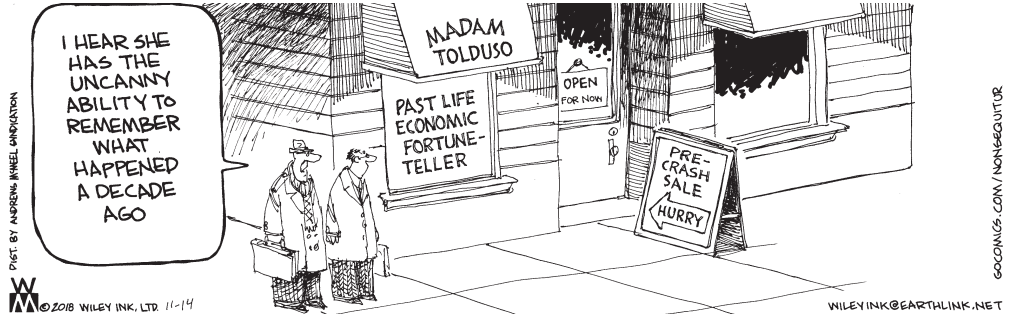
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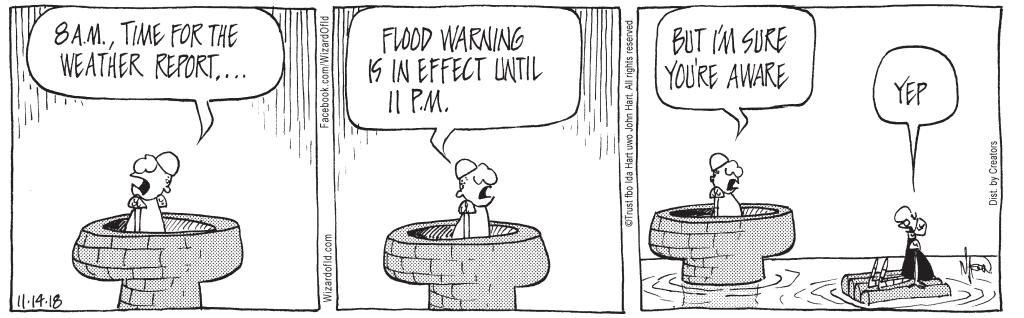
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