She has feelings for husband's ex

Dear Annie: I have a tricky problem going on right now. I am married and have been for a while — 20-plus years.

It's been a typical marriage, with its ups and downs, but I'd say I've been fairly content and things have been pretty good.

Right now, I would say I am in the middle of my life, so this issue could very well be a midlife crisis.

I have a great relationship with my husband's ex-wife. We have always gotten along famously.

Lately, I have been having strong feelings for her that I shouldn't be having.

I have four stepchildren, and there is always some function or get-together with all of us. We typically have a wonderful time together. I find myself thinking about her all the time when I'm not around her.

I know that nothing can come of these feelings, and it seems ridiculous to me, but I can't seem to stop them. I never felt this way in the early days of my marriage.

It started a few years ago. I'm not sure what brought it on, but she is a great person, and maybe I've just started to realize that. I'm even dreaming about her at night.

DEAR ANNIE

Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

I have had same-sex feelings off and on my whole life and was in a brief relationship with a woman before I met my husband. It was quick but intense.

When I met my husband, I only had eyes for him, so I didn't think anything more about women until now.

I am sure I should probably talk to a therapist because this can't be normal. I've tried everything to stop the thoughts, but they just seem to be getting stronger.

I don't want to be consumed with this any longer. My husband and stepchildren would be shocked to know about this, but I am very good at hiding my feelings and would never say a word to them. I wonder, though, whether any of my feelings show when I am around the family. I'm open to any suggestions you might have. — *Pining Away Day After Day*

Dear Pining Away: Before deciding whether to act on your feelings, you should talk to a therapist, as you acknowledged in your letter.

Developing strong feelings for another person could be a sign that there is a lack of intimacy in your own marriage. If that's the case, then the next person you should talk to is your husband. The type of uncontrollable thoughts you have could also be a sign of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The way around them is through them. The more you resist intrusive thoughts the more they come. That which we resist persists. You sound pretty calm, considering the catastrophic potential of your acting on your feelings, and you will know so much more and be ready to act — one way or the other — after you have talked this through with a professional.

Dear Annie: A while ago, the issue of noisy children in restaurants was discussed in your column. You have yet to discuss the more ubiquitous problem of noisy adults in restaurants. — *David B.*

Dear David: I have no solution to your problem, unfortunately, but thank you for the chuckle. Here's to remembering to use our indoor voices more often, no matter how excited we are to be out to lunch with friends.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When people mean well but don't make the impact they hope to, it's usually a function of misreading the situation or simply not knowing enough about it. The best move you can make now is to sit tight and learn all you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In nature, the bull goes with the herd; it suits the bull and it suits the herd. But if it doesn't suit the bull, the bull leaves. Be the same. Only stick with the herd if it is what's in your heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There you go again, moving forward as if unafraid. What the onlookers don't know is your internal dialogue and how you quiver inside your boots. And that's what makes you truly brave. You feel the fear and do it anyway.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Public speaking is easier for some than others. There will be shy ones who aren't sure if it's worth the trouble to stand and be counted. You've felt like that in the past, which is why you'll be a most encouraging presence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are some decisions you'll make that you'll never really know the consequences of. That's why today it will be most satisfying to get evidence that a choice you made long ago was the right one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Bringing people together will be your specialty today, though you may not be consciously aware that it's what you're doing. Your inclusiveness starts a ripple of happy effects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you see is not only what you get; it's what you'll keep getting. So if you don't like it, make a quick change. It will be way easier to set things on track in the early stages of an arrangement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The best ones to spend time with today will fall into one of two categories. Either they are people you're sure to have fun with, or they are people who genuinely need you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For some, loneliness is a palpable problem, an actual chill that your fire sign energy can thaw with the stretch of a smile. Don't underestimate the good a little warmth and kindness can do.

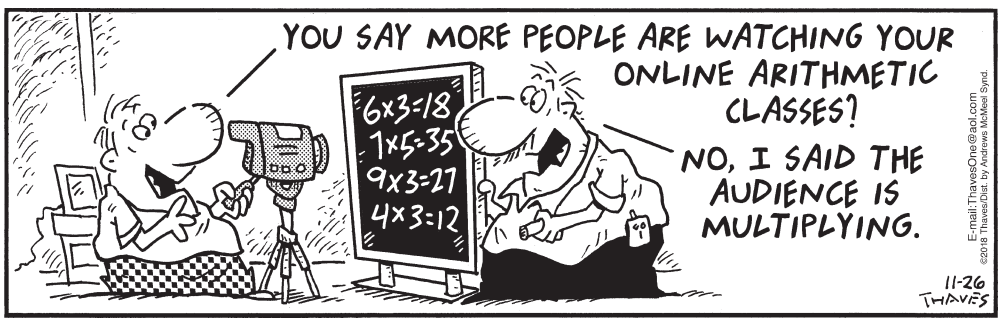
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). They're better because of you, and this much they'll tell you. Nothing could be more soul-fortifying than knowing you improved the lives of those closest to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People make mistakes, but people are not their mistakes. For learning purposes, separate the person from the deed. Examine each factor separately and then reassemble and reconsider.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Before you leave the house, or go into any dealings at all, consciously set an expectation for what's to come. In doing so, you'll take a more assertive, conscious role and get clearer outcomes as a result.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 27). This solar return, you ride in on a bubble of freedom and then bounce along for months working your advantages. The hard work begins in February. But don't worry; this will actually be your favorite part of the year. You'll see what you're made of and be ionically bonded to colleagues in the process. Capricorn and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 33, 31, 29 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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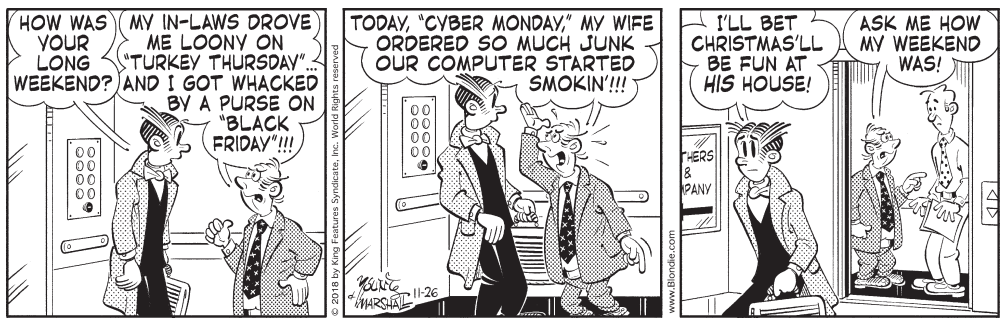

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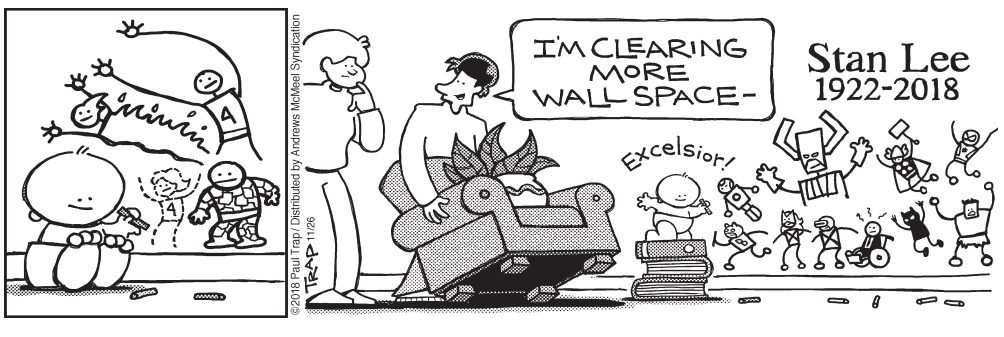

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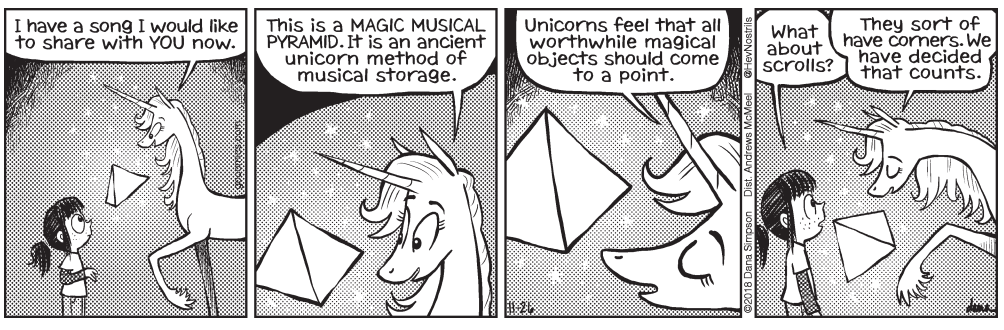

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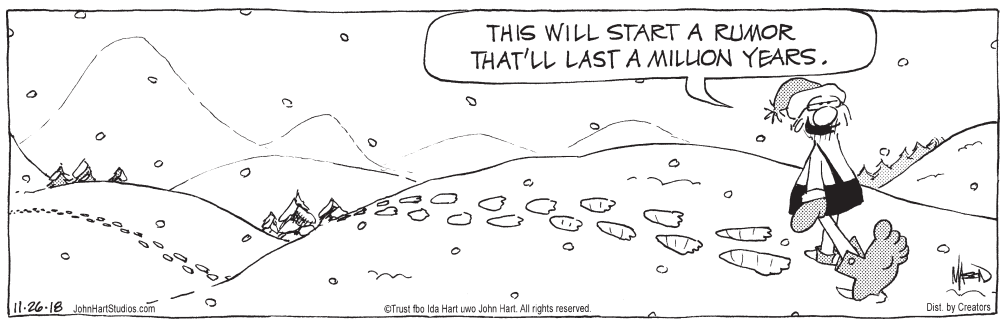

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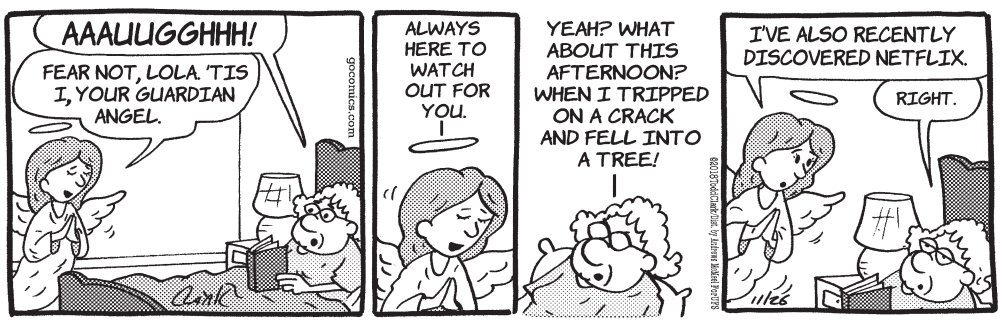

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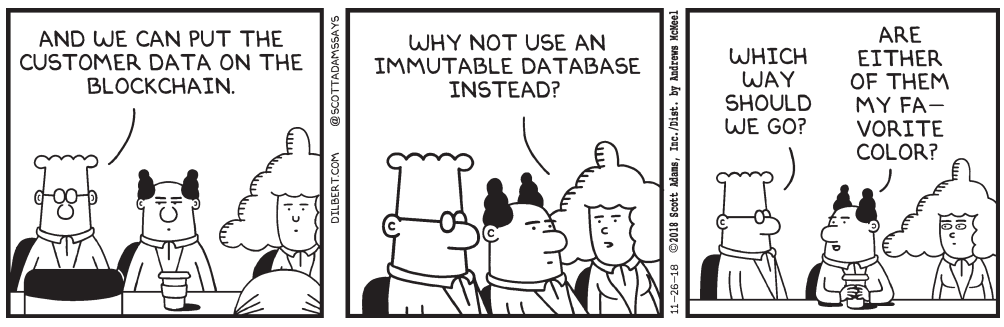

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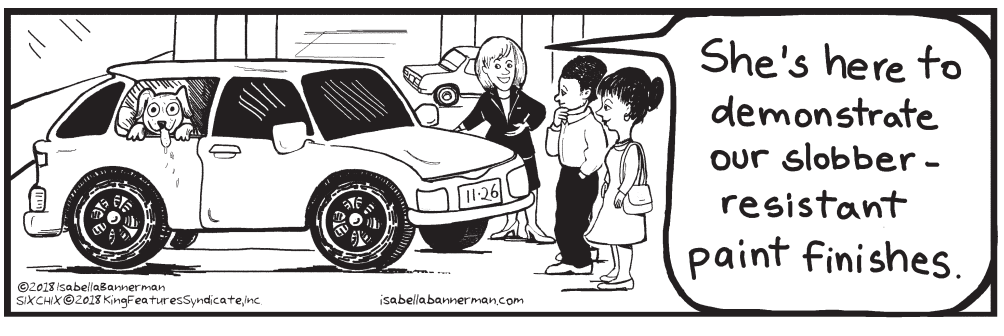

BIZARRO

MUTTS

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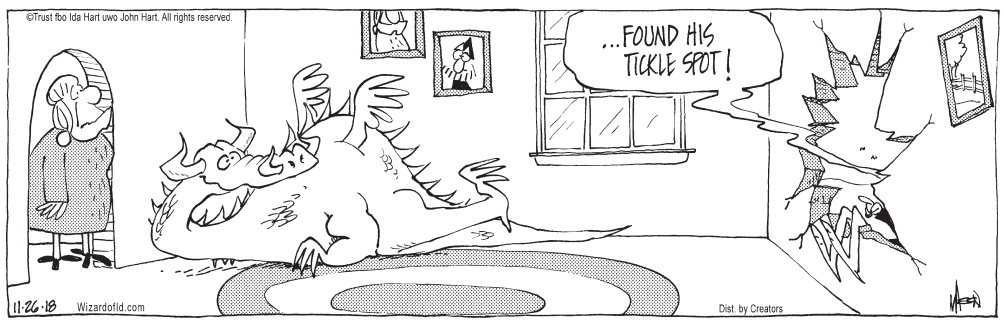
WIZARD OF ID



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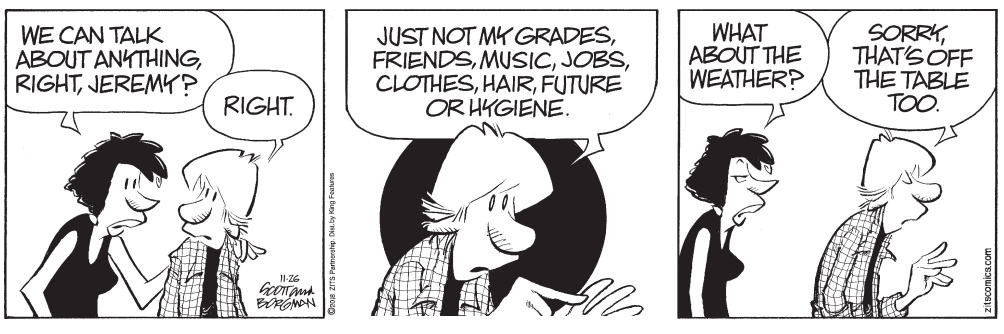

ROSE IS ROSE