

How should I handle his family?

Dear Annie: My husband of two years was divorced from his ex six years ago. They had no children. The divorce was the result of infidelity on his part. When we began to date, he was very upfront with me about his dysfunctional marriage and about how his infidelity was the result of his being shut down by his wife in the bedroom for several years. They split, and she bought a house 1 mile away from him. He was honest about what happened and was very clear he had nothing to hide.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators Syndicate Inc.

She has suddenly become all about "the family." It is as if she is taking out her anger over the divorce on me. 1) I wasn't the girl he was seeing back then. 2) It isn't her business.

Now it has been made perfectly clear that his family recognizes her as family and not me, and he is also treated like an outcast. She is front and center of everything, attending all family events.

I have tried to be nice and civil to her, but she is always

rude to me. My husband's sister finally came around and apologized, recognizing that the ex's being around all the time does pose a problem. I love him, and I hate to see him hurting like this. How should I handle his family when we both feel like outcasts? — *Outcast*

Dear Outcast: Though you can't control other people's actions, you can control your reactions to other people. Try to be sympathetic to your husband's ex-wife. Clearly, she has struggled to move on from their marriage. By focusing all of her energy on his family, she is wasting opportunities to meet a new partner and move on with her life. As far as how your in-laws are treating your husband and you, all you can do is lend your support and love to him.

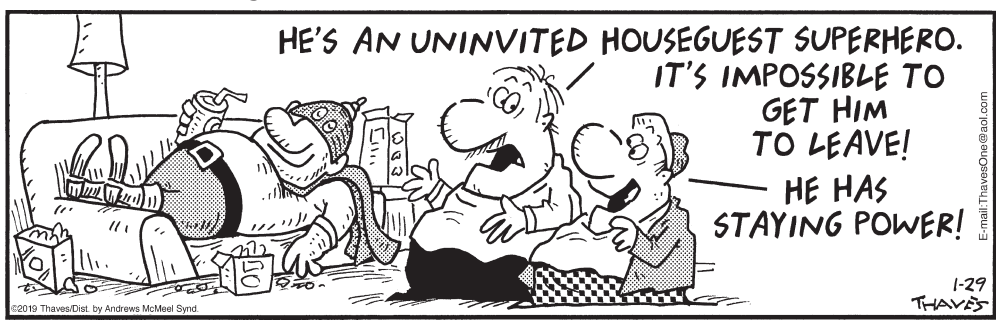
It sounds as if you're off to a good start toward repairing your relationship and, in turn, your husband's relationship with his family, given his sister extended an olive branch and

apologized. Try as best you can to be the bigger person and accept her apology. Let go of any resentment you hold. Let's hope that in the future, he will once again feel close to his family. As is always the case, communication is key. When your feelings and expectations are clear — and you are clear on everybody else's — then the situation will go more smoothly.

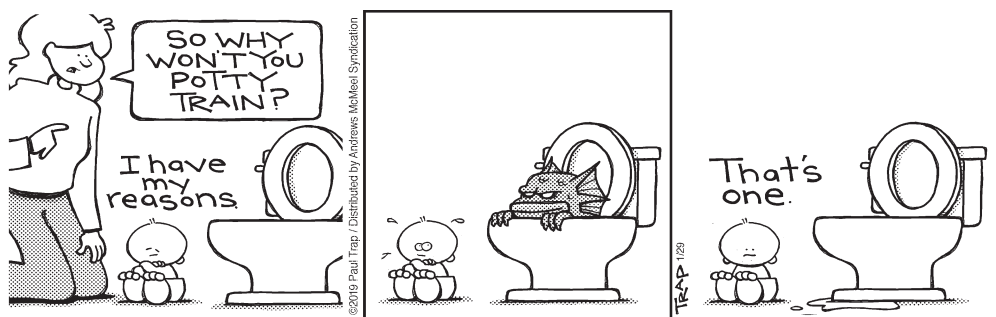
Dear Annie: This is in response to "Blindsided by Blue," who's losing her eyesight from looking at a computer screen all day. Many years ago, the company I worked for rented office space to a lighting company. The woman running the lighting company suggested that we put some sort of secondary lighting by our computers so our eyes could adjust to different levels of light. I did this. I have been retired for over 20 years, and I still have a lamp by my computer. I've had no loss of eyesight. I hope this helps. — *Still Seeing*

Dear Still Seeing: Thank you for your insightful (no pun intended) advice on protecting eyesight.

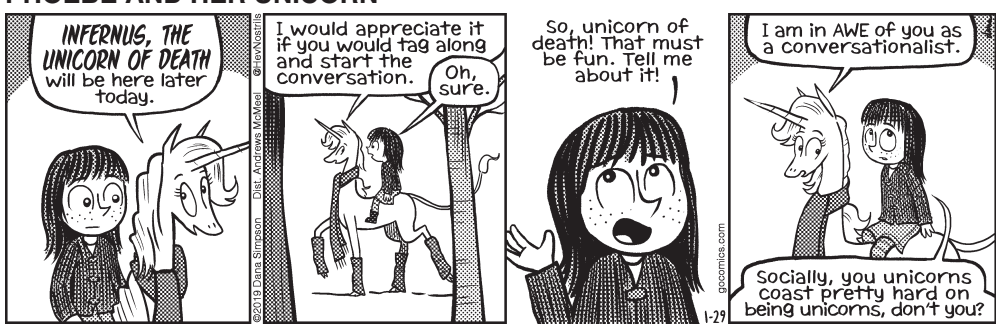
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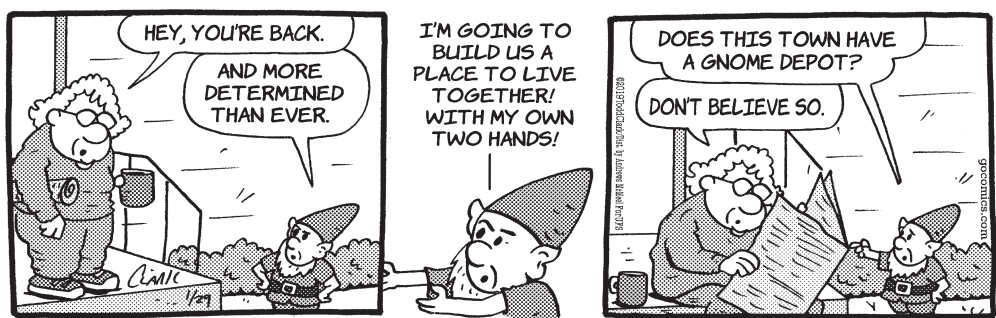
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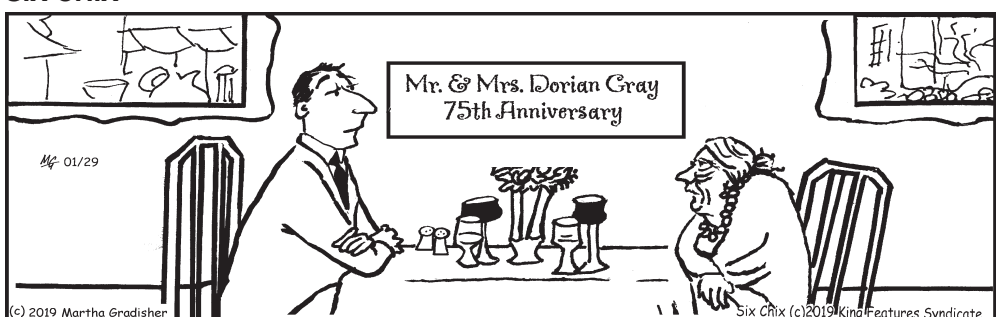
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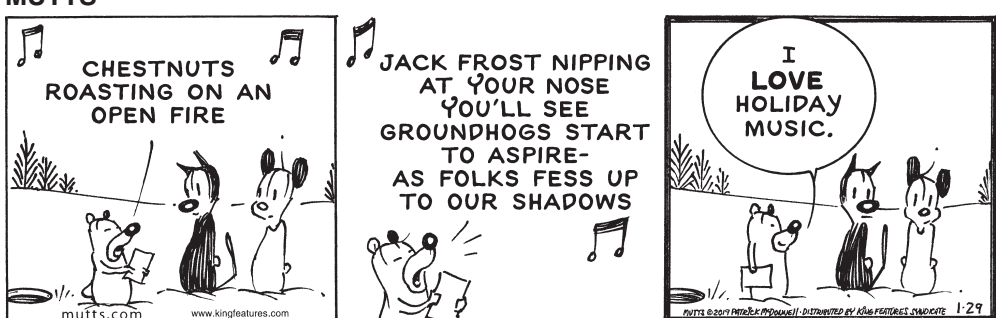
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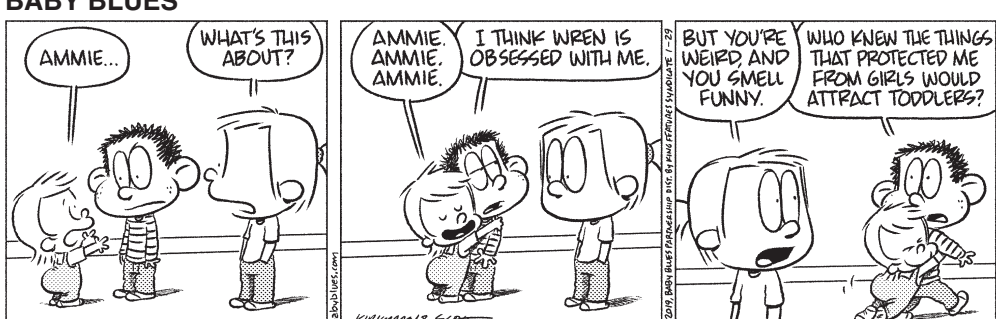
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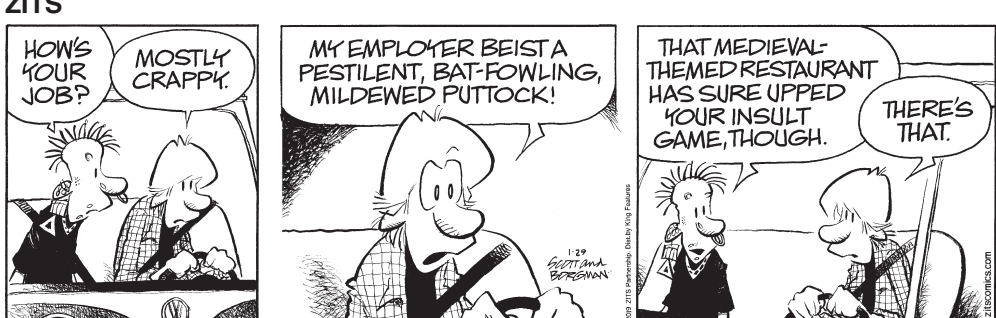
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is a social adjustment to be made — an addition or subtraction to help you stay on the road of health. Pinpoint what needs to be done, make a plan and execute it. This won't take time so much as will.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Where the physical space is tight, you can make emotional space. Think: passengers on a plane who wear headphones. Where emotional space is tight, make physical space.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You could distill things down to dollars and cents, but it wouldn't be an accurate assessment of the situation — far from it. In fact, mostly the situation is about invaluable things.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not about to use guilt as a tactic. While it may work well enough, it's just not an emotion you want people to feel. Either they get you, or they miss out. Guilt doesn't need to play into the equation in the least.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To get momentum, there must be a push. That push comes today and not a moment too soon. You're in a good position. It's going to be even better once you use this push and get to work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). For today's approach to relationships, the most critical things to get right all begin with a "T," that is to say, truthfulness, tone and timing. Be honest, keep it light, stay aware and wonderful things will happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While many can do what they're told, fewer can figure it out on their own and even fewer can see the opportunity on their own and then figure it out from there. You're in the final category, and without much competition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The hard worker will win against the "gifted" person every time. And if you have both going for you in a category, it's something to bank on. Believe in yourself, and put your resources behind it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your friends are the ones who stand by you when you need it, when you don't, when you're right, and when you're wrong. Your best friends are the ones who tell you you're wrong and stand by you anyway.

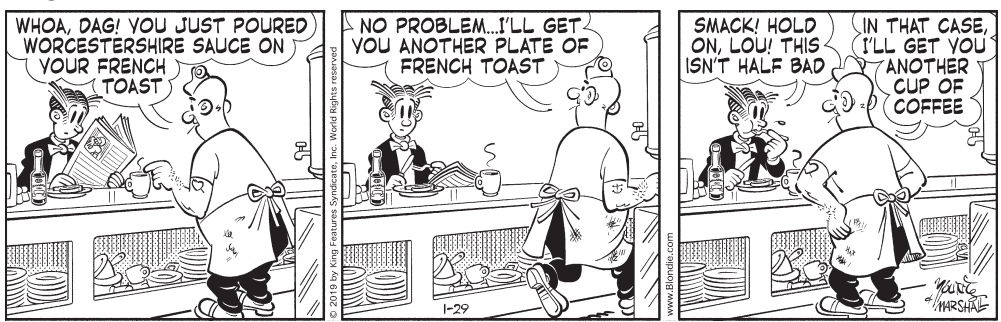
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The control freak is not very much fun. Why? Because this person is trying to insure against mystery — every risk calculated, every move audited. What a bore. Embrace mystery, relinquish some control, have fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Adults usually have a purpose for moving and rarely wander without a destination. But if you have the time for it, such wandering could benefit you today, as it will allow you to access an unreasonable sort of knowing.

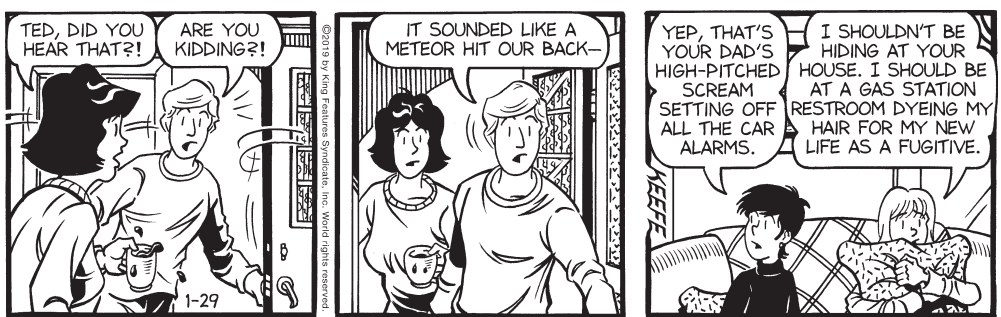
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Patience and long-term thinking are the orders of the day. The big problems will be solved through creating systems that will work for you every day. The big problems will be solved over time.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30). You're not worried what people think of you, which liberates you to either experiment and try new approaches and identities or to go deeper into the old ones — whatever you want. You're incredibly free, and yet more purposeful than ever. The trust you have in yourself translates to awesome confidence and action. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 42, 20, 1 and 17.

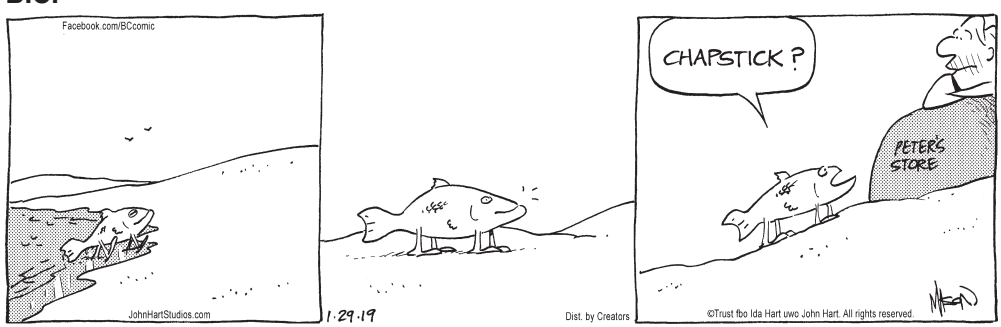
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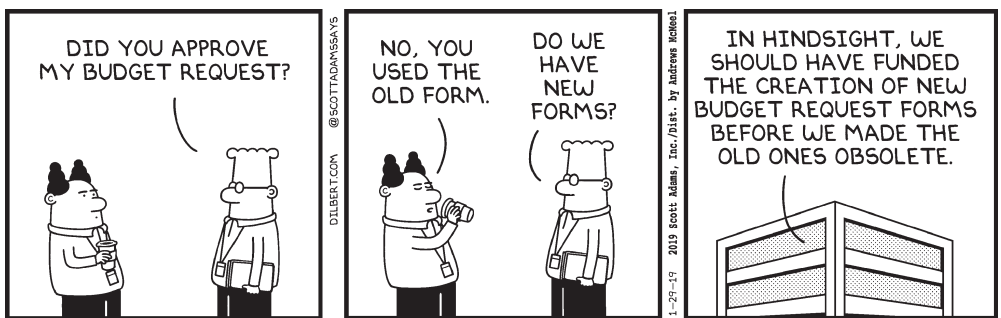
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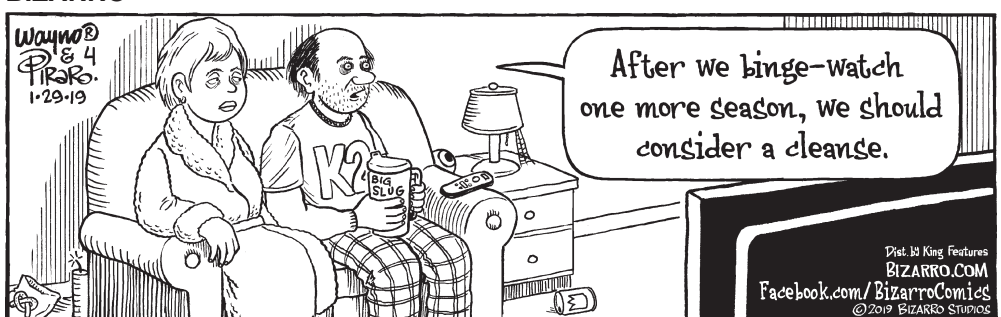
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

