

Wife closes conversation

Dear Annie: I am in my 70s, have been married for 42 years and have three grown children. I found out two years ago that I had a child with a woman I had dated 10 years before I met my wife. Her daughter tracked me down and contacted me. She said that he had been put up for adoption, but she tracked him down because her mother was ill and wanted to know how he was doing. She said that she had contacted him and that he was interested in finding out about his birth parents but did not want to cause a problem. She then gave me his contact information.

I was shocked and did not know how to proceed. After a couple of months, however, my empathy won out and I contacted him by email. He is 50 years old, successful, with two young daughters and a wife. I sent him information about my grandparents and health, and he never pushed for anything more. Over the last two years, we have emailed back and forth and gotten to know each other. I even had the opportunity to meet him and his wife when we were on business trips in the same town. I must

say that I like and respect him. The problem involves my wife. A few months after I first started communicating with him, I was bothered that I was keeping this important information from her. After all, with the internet and everything, the mother's daughter was able to track me down after 50 years. And these kinds of secrets always have a way of surfacing. When I finally told my wife, she became very upset and said that she didn't want to talk about it and asked me never to bring it up again. I have taken her at her word, but I have continued my communications with him.

The advice I need concerns the fact that I would like to tell my other children about this discovery. They are in their 30s and established, and I don't think that they would be upset. I just don't want them to find out some other way and know that I kept this secret from them. I would totally leave it up to them if they want to communicate but they would have the information.

I want to tell them in the next few months, but I dread how my

wife will react. I am thinking about telling them and explaining that their mother knows but doesn't want to hear anything about it. Is that a good approach? Any advice will be greatly appreciated. — *Concerned Father and Husband*

Dear Concerned: Telling your grown children about your recent discovery of your 50-year-old son is a brave and honest thing to do. It sounds like despite a rough beginning to life, your son has done very well for himself. With DNA testing companies such as Ancestry and 23andMe, there is a high likelihood that your children will eventually find out on their own. It is much better to hear the truth from their father. Your wife seems to be in denial about this.

While some partners don't like to think about their partners' pasts, your past is what makes you unique. And your wife married you — and your past.

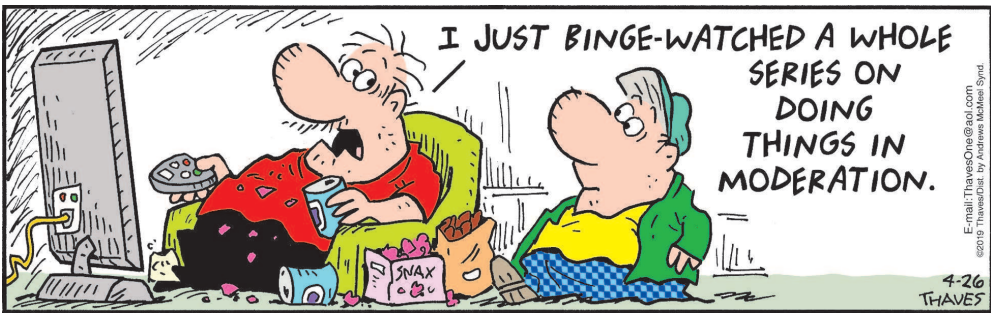
Walking on eggshells around your wife about your son will eventually lead to a crack. Try to ask your wife why she feels so uncomfortable talking about him. Reassure her how much you love her and how proud you are of what sounds like a fantastic family you've created together.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

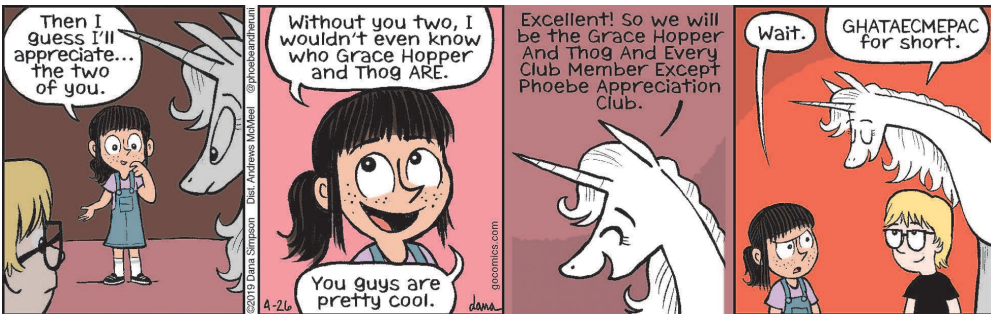
FRANK AND ERNEST



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). No need to downplay your assets, nor should you worry about speaking to or not speaking to your virtues. Your many gifts are already speaking for you today, loud and clear.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The simplest way to keep the group together is to all march in the same direction. Once people start peeling off and doing their own thing, unless there's excellent choreography involved, it's going to get complicated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a spark of excitement, and you're not sure yet where it's coming from. Your subconscious mind is ahead of the game, picking up on something good to come.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your favorite is when a friend can tell a really good story. The bonus is when it involves you, and makes everyone laugh and feel bonded by the sweet memories.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). First, you'll help someone with what you know. Next, you'll be really glad for the experiences you've had, the mistakes you've made, and all you've had to overcome to be able to help people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People know what to expect from you, and you deliver it, plus a little more, a bit different, or some kind of twist. You wouldn't want them to get bored — or worse, so comfortable they forget to lavish you in compliments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). That superstar is actually just a human like everyone else. You'll see the vulnerabilities and notice the holes in the knowledge, cracks in the facade, etc. And you'll love the person even more for this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Every master has to put the time in that it takes to be masterful. You're not sure you want to master this thing you've been doing. You just don't want to be terrible at it. You'll have fun and success this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't like having to rely on others, but it's actually a good thing. Think about it. You'd rather help someone than be helped, right? Well, the other person feels the same way. Give them the gift of being your helper.

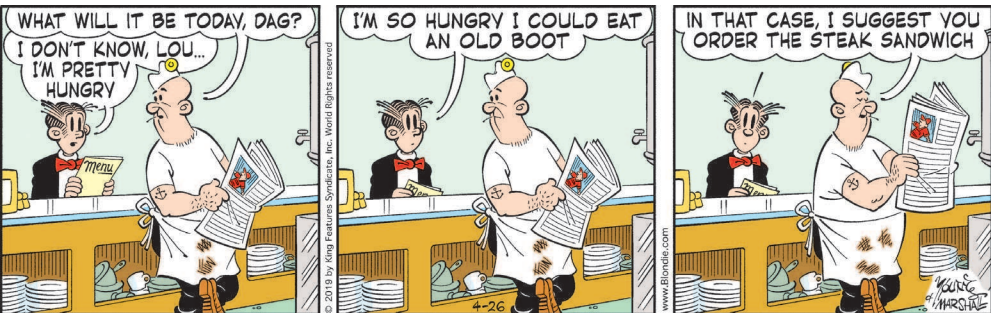
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've something to sell, but you haven't quite figured out how to position it yet. It's like a flag. It's exhausting to stand there waving it around yourself. You need a pole you can run it up and let the wind do the rest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You admire those who treat the helpless and the vulnerable with great care and tenderness. You are such a person, and you deserve to have people around you who share your big-heartedness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'd like to be there for friends when they call but they'll call so much today that answering each one would through you off of the main thrust of your day. Stay focused.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 27). You go into this year lighter. Things you used to take seriously now seem fun or trivial. It's like you're running the place. Then "the place" gets bigger and you run that, too. There's a move in August that will have you really interested, challenged and feeling new again. Finances are best in October and next February. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 38, 16 and 39.

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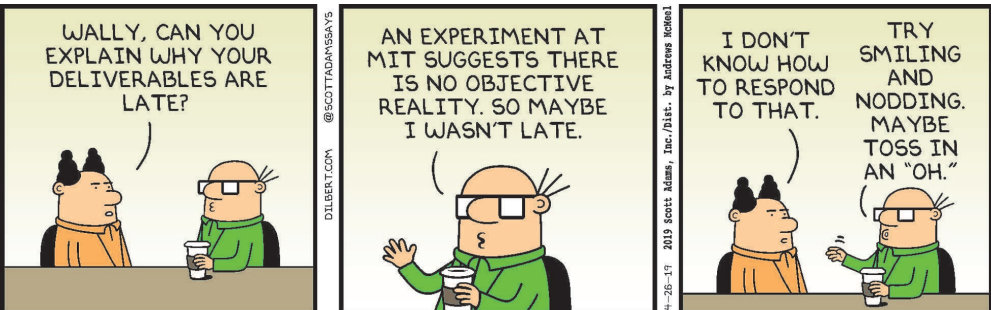
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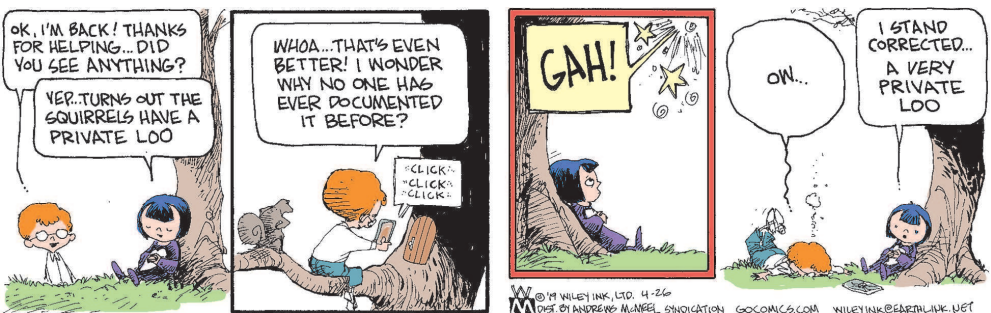
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

