

**(U) Ask Zelda!: Farewell**

FROM: "Zelda," Dispenser of Advice on Workplace Issues

Run Date: 12/17/2014

Approved for Release by NSA on 09-20-2017, FOIA Case # 81057

(U//~~FOUO~~) **Editor's note:** This is it: Zelda's final farewell. After five years of advising and admonishing the SID workforce (and many others) on such varied topics as *Tormented by Twisted English*, *Suffering from Neglect on Planet Schmooze*, and *Rising from the Ashes of a Ruined Reputation*, NSA's Queen of Q&A is stepping down. As always, she gets the final word, but we at *SIDtoday* want to thank her and let her know that we'll miss her -- and judging by the amount of feedback we received upon announcing her departure, she will not soon be forgotten. If you would like to wish her well or provide any other feedback, don't miss the link to our blog at the bottom of this article. Good luck, Zelda!

(U) This article is unclassified.



Dear Readers,

When the announcement went out that this advice column would be terminated at the end of the year, I was touched by all the people who wrote in to express their dismay. To those who sent their kudos to *SIDtoday* for supporting the column and appreciation to Zelda for all the entertaining advice over the last five years, I wish to say, "you're welcome" and "it was my pleasure." I feel honored to have been given this opportunity, month after month, to connect with members of the workforce on matters that matter to you.

Since quite a number of you wrote in with questions about this decision, I will briefly answer them here.

To "Will Really Miss Your Sage Advice": no I am not the owner of the car with the license plate "ZZZZELDA," but my thanks to the owner for the (unintentional) advertising! 😊

To John, who wondered about Zelda's identity: the *SIDtoday* editor is correct. I am no longer willing to reveal my identity, now that Zelda has been reprinted and speculated about in the press. Sorry to leave you hanging!

To the person who said he was "horrified to hear that Zelda's column is ending" and asked if illness was the reason: no. I'm happy to report that I'm quite healthy, and thank you for your concern.

To the people who asked if there will be a new Zelda: I doubt it. See the next question.

To the many people who speculated whether the media leaks had anything to do with terminating this column: the short answer is yes.

Here's the longer answer.

This was a mutual decision between *SIDtoday* and me. While I still enjoyed answering the letters, the leaks added a new level of complexity to things. What used to be a fun, lighthearted advice column was taken out of context and sensationalized. Now that the columns have been leaked and released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I feel the need to write everything with FOIA in mind. That really stifles my "voice" which, as you know, can be somewhat sassy at times. 😊 I also took into consideration the extra work for the people who have to answer these FOIA requests and who continue to prepare my articles for publication on our **external website**.

It's a shame that the media have resorted to spreading opinions under the guise of journalism these days. They've become more about putting their own spin on the information, rather than reporting the truth. And because of this, I--as well as many others--have become sensitive to anything that could be taken out of context or twisted to make us look bad.

So there you have it. It's been a lovely ride, but sadly, it's over now.

Out of curiosity, I looked up "good-bye" in the dictionary. I found it interesting that the term first came into use around 1580 and originated from the expression "God be with ye." I like that. It means so much more than "I'm off!"

So I'll leave you with that parting phrase. *Good-bye*, faithful readers. Be good to each other; be patient with your co-workers, supervisor, and employees. And whatever your spiritual inclinations, may God/Allah/The Force be with you.

Your friend and co-worker,

*Zelda*

If you'd like to leave a message for Zelda, you may do so by writing on the **SIDtoday** blog.

(U) Looking for some of the older "Ask Zelda" columns? They are filed away in the archives under the "Ask Zelda! 2010" and "Ask Zelda! 2011" and "Ask Zelda! 2012" and "Ask Zelda! 2013" series.

(U//~~FOUO~~) *SIDtoday is a forum for open communications. The views expressed in articles are those of the person(s) or organization listed in the **byline**; they are not necessarily the official, corporate stance of the SIGINT Directorate (messages from SID leadership excluded).*

■