

Boyfriend excluded by her friend Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I am currently in a two-year relationship with "Alison." Both of us are recently divorced. During Alison's marriage, she became a confidante to "Will." They have remained friends, and she insists nothing of a sexual nature ever happened.

When we first got together, Will was in a new relationship and had limited contact with Alison. However, eight months ago, that relationship ended. Now he and Alison text each other multiple times a day, all day long. He lives with his parents, and Alison stops by a couple of times a month to visit with his family.

Will has made it very clear that he doesn't want to be around me at all. Every time he gets into trouble, Alison is right there to help. At least once every few weeks, he drives 15 miles to eat at the restaurant where she works.

I am not sure how to handle this friendship. I trust Alison, or I would have left already. Any advice, or am I foolish? — N.

Dear N.: There is nothing wrong with having friendships, even those that include confidences. The problem is when one person's significant other is unwelcome and entirely excluded from these relationships and the confidences shared are intimate and interfere with the primary relationship.

We think Will is a bit possessive of Alison, but that shouldn't alarm you. Does Alison show you his texts? She should

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



(but you do not need to comment on them). If you trust her and she is not hiding anything from you, we'd let this run its course. It is important, however, that Alison understands the boundaries of this friendship so she isn't leading Will on or damaging her relationship with you.

Dear Annie: I take both Pilates and yoga classes. One student loves to chew gum during class. It was ingrained in me by my father that loudly chewing gum is considered bad manners. It drives me crazy.

I find it hard to concentrate when she is popping and chomping away on her gum, and I know I'm not the only one in class who feels this way. Any suggestions on how to get her to stop? — Cringing in Exercise Class

Dear Cringing: People do a lot of boorish things during exercise classes. Perhaps the gum helps her concentrate or keeps her from having a dry mouth. She probably isn't aware of how loud and

annoying it is. Unfortunately, you cannot eliminate all behaviors that drive you crazy. You can, however, register a complaint with the instructor, move into a different class or ask the woman nicely whether she can make the gum chewing less noisy.

Dear Annie: I'm responding to "Outvoted," who is caring for her abusive mother and arguing with her siblings about replacing the batteries in Mom's pacemaker.

I, too, have been a caregiver for a person with dementia who became verbally abusive. Another option is to seek the assistance of a geriatric psychiatric professional. He or she can prescribe medication that will calm the abusive tendencies and allow the siblings to care for their mother in her home with much less stress. — Been There

Dear Been There: Putting Mom on medication that will calm her down could help. It's quite possible that she should have been on some type of antidepressant for most of her life. After all, her abusive personality isn't recent or due to dementia. She has always been this way, and the dementia simply makes it worse. Medication may not completely resolve the issue of replacing Mom's pacemaker batteries, but it could make the siblings less stressed when working on these decisions.

To our Baha'i readers: Happy Ayyam-i-Ha.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In some cultures, subordinates check in with their superiors before making any decision at all. You would rather not have this dynamic. Each person empowered to do their thing independently — that's what works for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). All over the world, when people fold their arms in front of their chest, it means they feel defensive. It's usually a mild barrier, and when you see it, you'll work a little harder to get someone to open up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's only one like you; therefore, you needn't worry about saying something that's never been said before. Even if you repeat someone else's message, you'll personalize it in a way that's all you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because of your stellar work ethic, if you spend time following, enjoying and studying your idols, it feels like you are loafing off. That couldn't be further from the truth. This is how you get inspired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Theoretically, the sun is in the process of setting just after it reaches its highest point in the sky. But those pretty colors splashed across the horizon only last a few minutes. It will be lucky, inspiring and love-attracting to watch the sunset.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Before you get discouraged or start spending money on the unnecessary, there are resources right under your nose that you haven't tapped yet. Think about who you know and who they know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are so connected to a certain someone that you can understand what each other needs without a

verbal exchange. And when you want to talk, you can say everything without saying much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Truth be told, you don't always play to win. Sometimes it's more polite, fair or kind to let someone else win. You'll assess today's opponent with an open heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you interact with someone while he or she is in a bad mood, this person will associate you with this negative state of mind in the future. That's why, when you see a dark cloud, you should turn the other way.

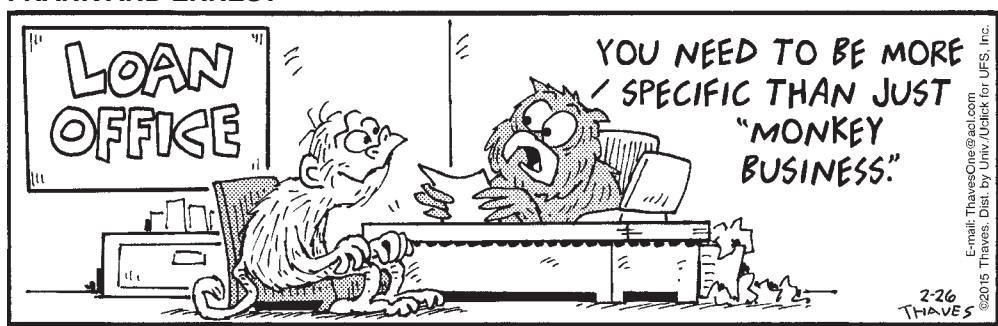
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you take advice, check credentials. Is your adviser using the same strategy and winning? You could potentially waste a lot of time following the wrong person, so be careful!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your naturally affable personality will attract many, some of them needy, and you don't have an unlimited amount of time for socializing. But you don't have to be friends with everyone to be friendly to everyone.

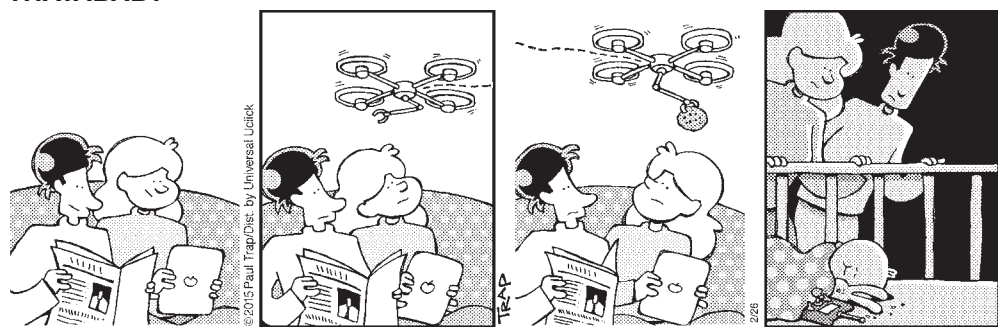
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just as reading happens in a different part of the brain than television watching, each event of the day touches your mind differently, thus shaping your creativity in a totally unique way.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 27). You'll approach your work with love and your love with the attitude that you will keep working to build the bond. That's why neither gets old to you this year. Next month is for travel and making friends. April brings back a problem from last year, and you'll handle it once and for all. June features family celebration. Aries and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 23, 1, 39 and 16.

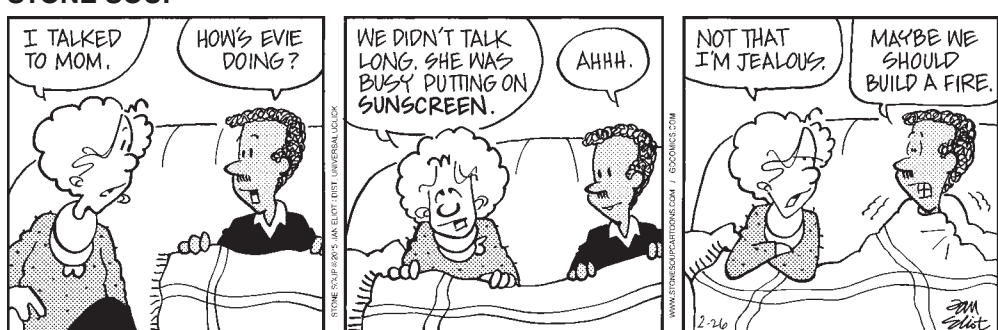
FRANK AND ERNEST



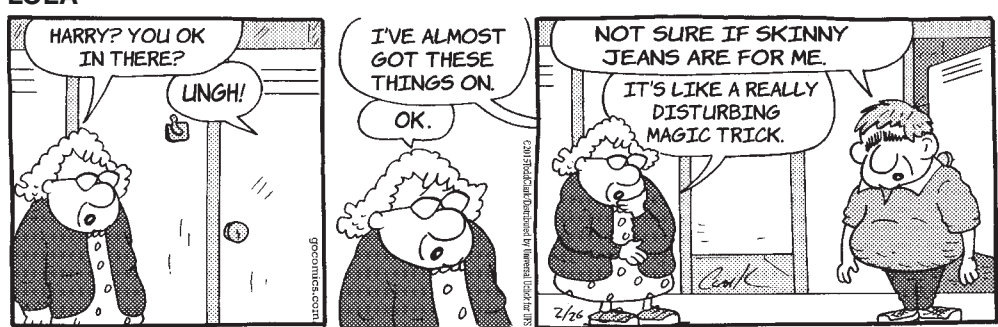
THATABABY



STONE SOUP



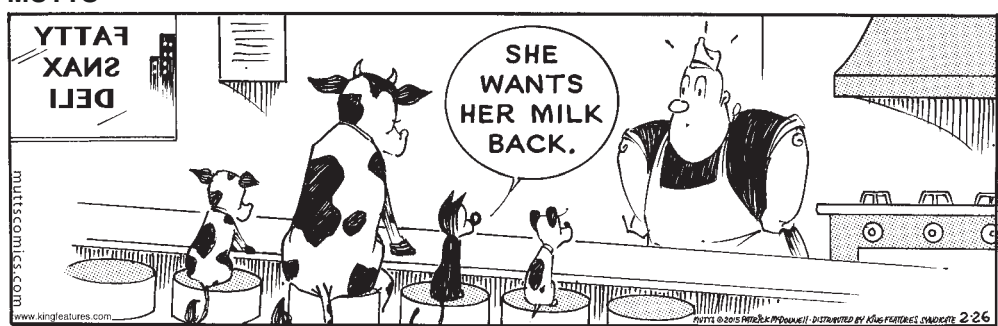
LOLA



SIX CHIX



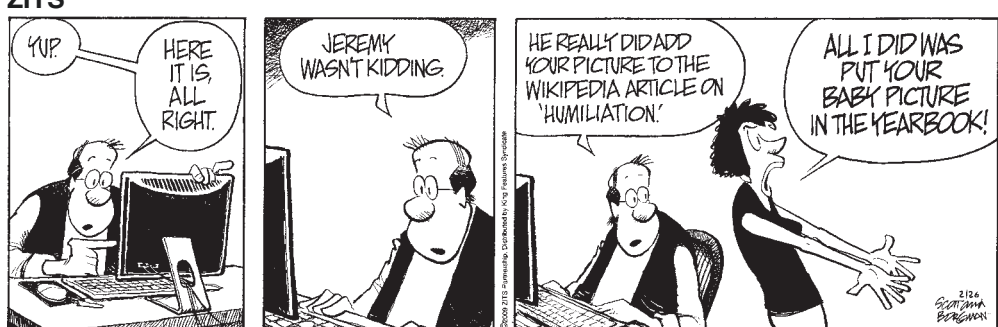
MUTTS



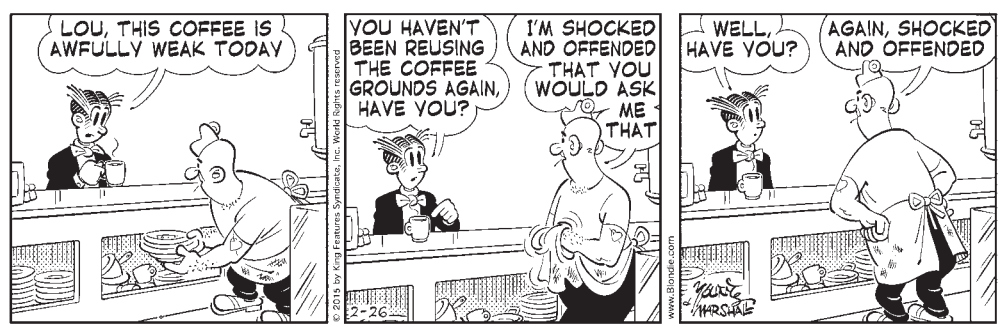
BABY BLUES



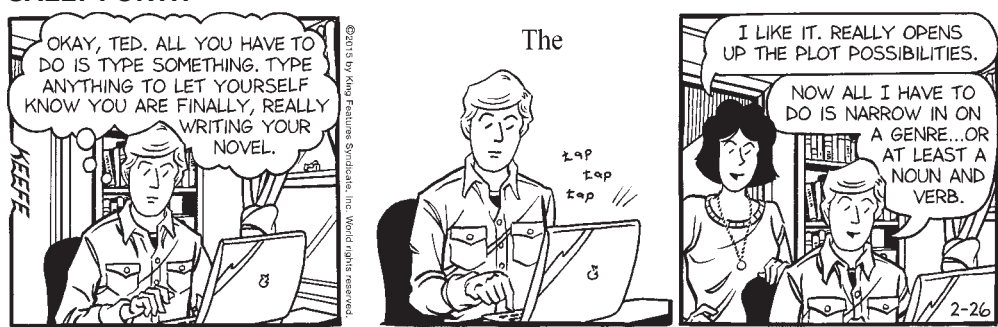
ZITS



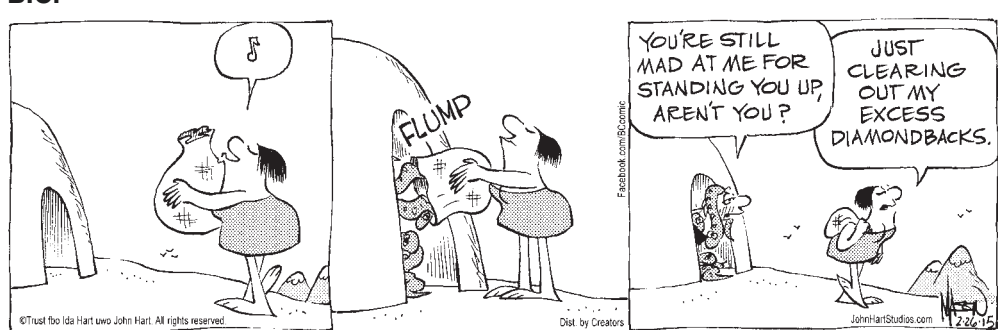
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



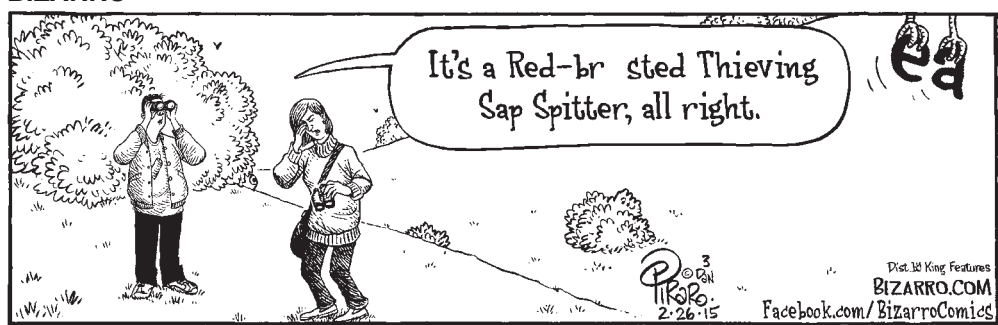
B.C.



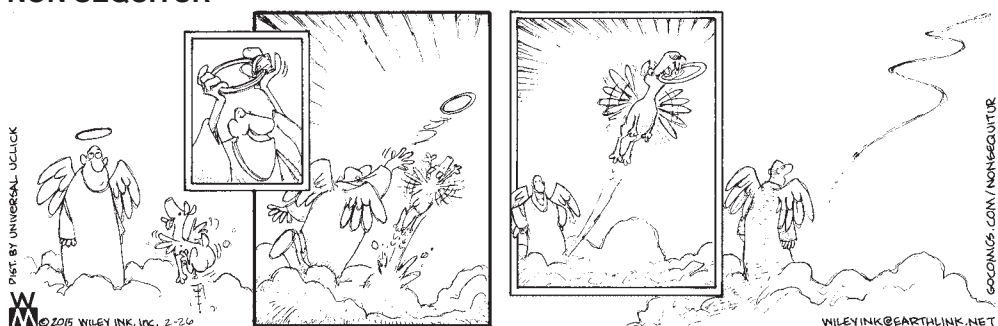
DILBERT



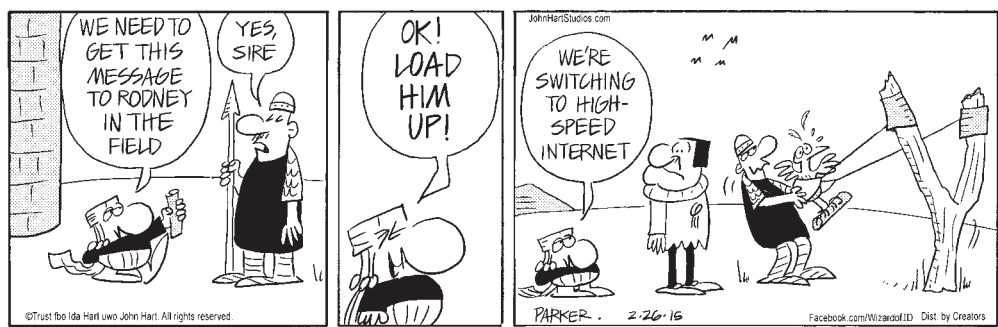
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

