

She's concerned about nieces Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I am very concerned about my brother's daughters, ages 18 and 20. My brother and his wife divorced when the girls were young. He and his ex do not get along and communicate poorly. She often berates him, and he remains silent.

Their daughters were shuttled back and forth between their parents' homes, but they lived mainly with their mother. Last fall, she announced that she had had enough and the girls would now live with their father while they attend college nearby.

The girls have been with my brother and his wife for several months, and they are miserable. They have no friends there. They communicate very little with their father and stepmother and remain in their bedrooms most of the day. My brother's wife has reached out to them, to no avail. The older girl is doing well in school, but the younger one dropped out. She promised to get a job, but hasn't found one yet. I don't think she is very motivated.

My brother buys his daughters whatever they want, but they have little respect for him. He buries his head in the sand when it comes to the problems in his home. My

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



nieces have no direction and little self-esteem. The atmosphere in their house is toxic, and I can't stand by and do nothing. What do you suggest? — *Concerned Aunt*

Dear Aunt: We can tell that you care a great deal about your nieces, but they are both adults. They do not need to live with their father unless they choose to. Dad seems quite willing to support them financially, and their stepmother has tried to help. If the atmosphere is as toxic as you say, both girls would be eager to relocate.

We think a lot of this is the girls' choice and unconnected to Dad's home. If you truly want to help, please spend more time with your nieces, either in person or online. See what's going on. Perhaps you could give the younger one pointers on finding a job.

She may be unmotivated because Dad doesn't demand that she find employment, which he should. At the very least, you would be another source of emotional support for them.

Dear Annie: When my husband and I married, his family let me know they didn't like me. He already had an ex-wife, and their two children were the only ones who counted.

My husband and I adopted several children of various races and nationalities. It amazed me that my in-laws acted as though I had adopted them by myself, "burdening" my husband, when, in fact, he loved them unconditionally. We loved all of the children, including the kids from his first marriage.

Our children picked up on the fact that the grandparents cared little for them. My husband seldom visited them because of it. When he died, I found his mother's obituary, which he had hidden from me. I was hurt all over again when it listed by name two surviving grandchildren and "five step-grandchildren." — *Over It Now*

Dear Over: In situations like this, it is always the grandparents who lose out. How sad for everyone.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Stop worrying about whether you're original enough. You can't help but be original — there is no other you. Deliver and let the others do the analyzing. They will anyway!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Ultimately, planning will save you time. Work on your blueprint before you start to build. When you take the time to map out your main objectives, you'll be successful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone is working hard to make you proud. Maybe your opinion shouldn't matter so much to this person, but it does. Your sensitivity in this matter will contribute to harmony in your environment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Acknowledge human fallibility and accept your own. No one is expecting you to be anything other than who you are. If you don't allow yourself to make mistakes, you're not allowing yourself to grow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friends get the benefit of your generosity. While they may not be able to repay you monetarily, their appreciation will make you rich in ways you were not expecting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Feel that financial squeeze? You might say it's an invitation to do what it takes to become more solvent. Review expenditures. A few adjustments, and you'll be better off than before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your environment and your emotions are linked together. You'll be at your best in a cheerful place filled with natural light and happy music. Take yourself there!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your nu-

tritional needs change from day to day, year to year. Check in with yourself to be sure you're changing with them. Also be honest with yourself. Are you using food for sustenance or for another purpose?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This game you're playing has many rounds, and the scoring is overly complicated. Instead of waiting for the judgment, rate yourself as you go. Your self-assessment is what will matter most anyhow.

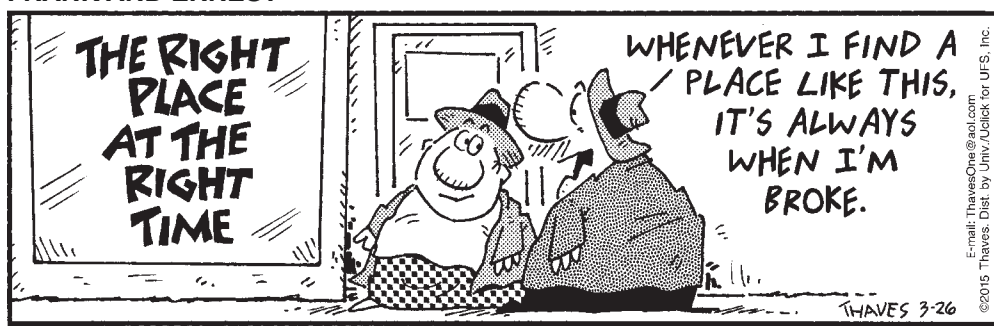
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're too talented to waste time in groups that operate way below your skill level. You are not running a charity, after all. It will take extra effort to find a worthy group, but it's an effort you should make.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have something important to say. You may even be bold enough to mention what others wouldn't dare voice. Yours isn't the only perspective, but it is honest and thought-provoking.

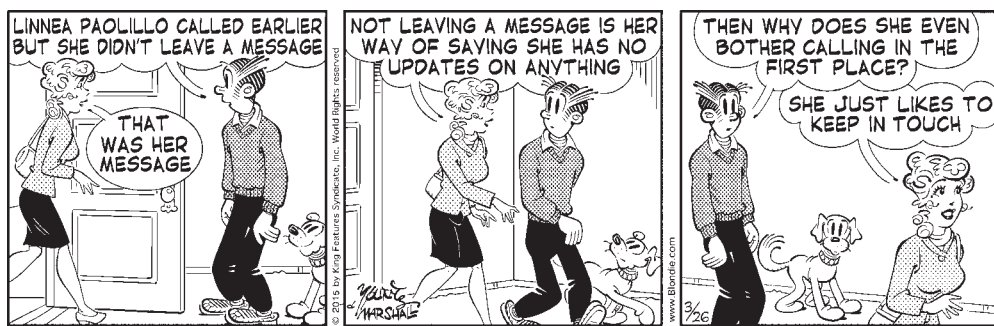
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Too much introspection will get tedious. Throw the attention off of yourself and onto a project. You'll still learn about yourself, but you'll have more fun doing it.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 27). You're strong, but next month, when the stars send you someone to help you carry your load, don't turn down the assist. Give up some baggage, and you'll be in a position for a May adventure. Family business is favored in June. July brings competition, romance and an investment in your education. Virgo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 11, 7, 45 and 39.

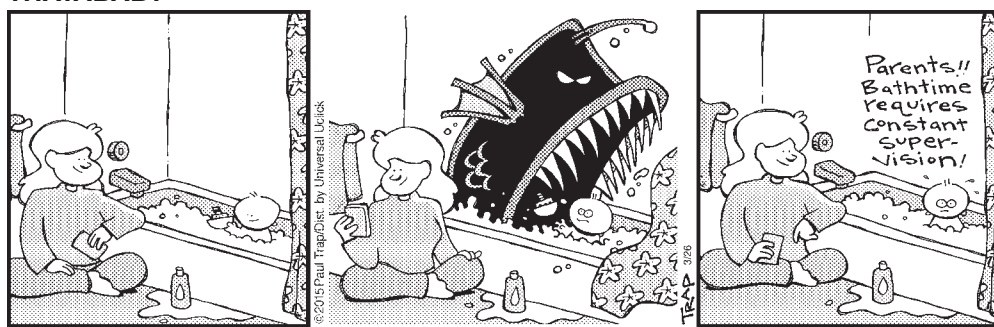
FRANK AND ERNEST



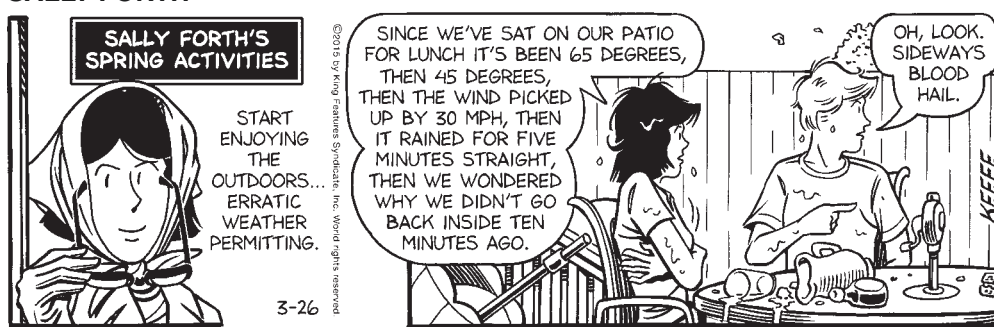
BLONDIE



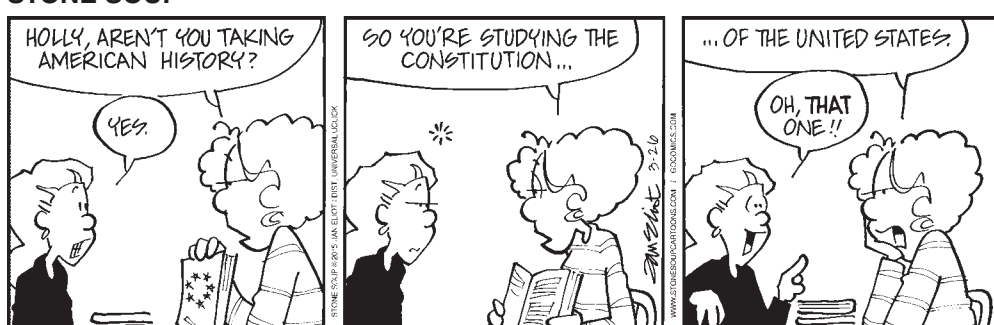
THATABABY



SALLY FORTH



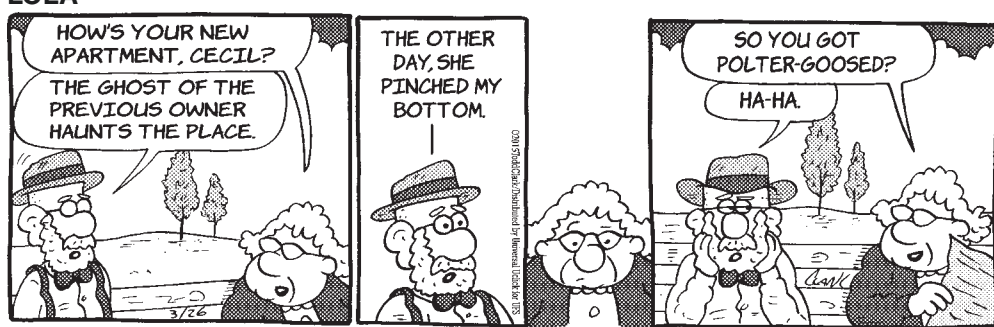
STONE SOUP



B.C.



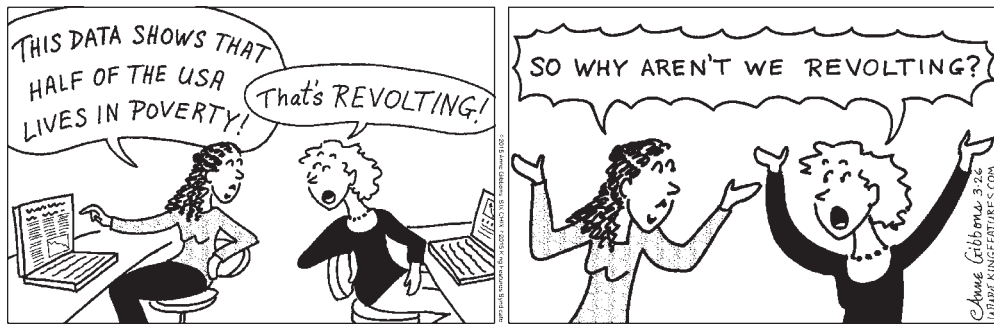
LOLA



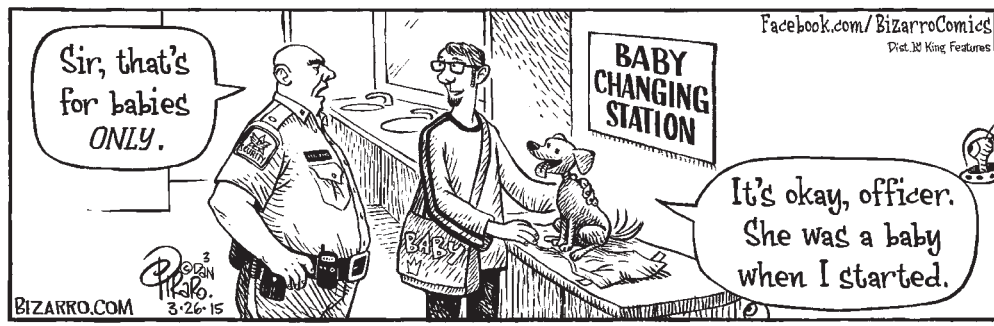
DILBERT



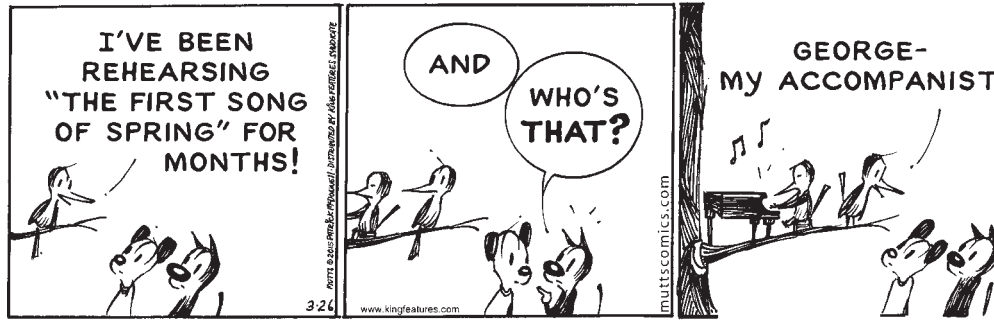
SIX CHIX



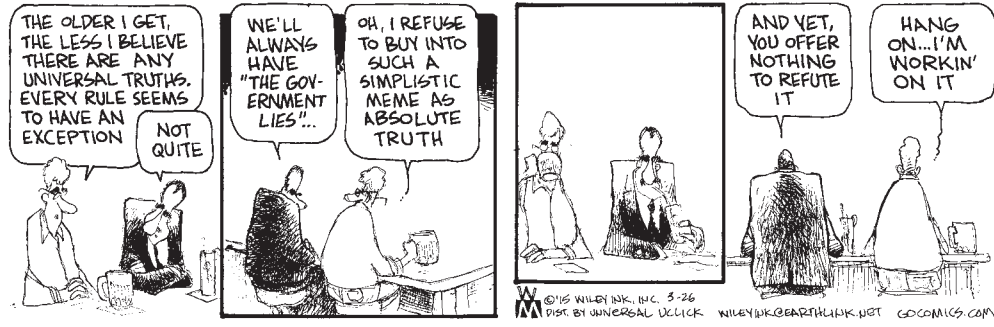
BIZARRO



MUTTS



NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE

