

# Freeloaders frustrate daughter

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Annie:** I am running out of advice for my daughter, "Katie." She lives with her fiancé. Last year, his middle-aged, disabled father moved in with them. A month ago, his sister, her fiancé and their two toddlers also moved in. The children wreak havoc on her clean, organized home. Neither the sister nor the father will clean up after themselves when they use the kitchen. The sister lets her kids get into everything. The father sits in his room all day.

To keep the peace, Katie chooses to keep quiet until she comes to see me. Then she unloads all of her aggravation. I don't know what to tell her. How does she get these lazy, sloppy people to pick up after themselves? — *Katie's Mom*

**Dear Mom:** Katie isn't asking you for advice. She is frustrated by her home situation and is venting to you because you are her safe refuge. If she truly wants the freeloaders to help out (or leave), she needs to discuss how to handle this with her fiancé and reach an agreement before it overwhelms their relationship. Simply allow her to air her feelings, listen attentively, nod your head and make sympathetic sounds. If she asks what to do, tell her to talk to her fiancé. If she is

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



reluctant to do that, she is setting herself up for a lifetime of marital misery.

**Dear Annie:** I am recently divorced from an abusive man after 25 years, and I decided to try online dating. The first site did no background checks and when I did a Google search on the photos of the men who approached me, I discovered they were not who they said they were. The second dating site verified my photo and account info, so I felt more secure. However, there are scam artists there, too. One of them drew me in, but after a month of texts and emails, I have come to realize he, too, just wants money. My heart is broken, but I know time will heal it.

Here are my words of wisdom for your readers who try online dating: These sites are rife with con artists. Make sure the site does

background checks or verification of some kind. Do not give prospective suitors your email address. Communicate only through the site. Meet only in a public place and have a friend accompany you. If he keeps coming up with excuses to change the date, drop him. If he tells you he's in love after one or two emails, drop him. He's a phony. If he asks you for money, even a small amount, drop him. If he tells you he has to leave for an overseas trip and then needs money to get home, drop him.

I was so drawn in by this guy's beautiful words and romancing that I let my heart rule my head. Warn others. — *Know Better*

**Dear Know:** Happy to. There have always been "romance" scams, but the Internet makes it easier. Entire industries exist to take advantage of lonely people, even on legitimate sites. There are ways to verify someone's photo online — as well as those flowery, romantic statements — to see whether they are stolen from another source. No matter how wonderful someone seems, NEVER meet them in your home or theirs, or allow them to drive you somewhere. And NEVER send them money. Be careful.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** As the planets settle into a new lineup, a pecking order will be established. You will disagree with this. You'll wonder why anyone should get pecked at all. Your presence will change matters.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Learning only makes you want to know more. An interest is turning into a passion. Follow your passion, and you'll soon be an expert. Follow your expertise, and you'll soon be rich.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Giving your love unconditionally will help your loved one grow and blossom. This exchange has the added bonus of fulfilling a deep purpose in you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** One way you can tell your true supporters from your fair-weather friends is that your true supporters will try to understand what's important to you. If it's important to you, it's important.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The cosmic forces favor you this time of year. Because you are so focused, your professional life and personal life will intersect in interesting ways, increasing your luck on both fronts.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You are brilliant on your own, but your true genius emerges when you work with others. You're happy to support family and friends in any way that is needed. Modesty is your trademark.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** In the current cosmic milieu, dramatic choices get noticed, and subtle ones sail over the heads of 90 percent of the audience. So go big or go home.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Imagine

the situation being better. Envision what life would be like if this were entirely fixed. Don't worry about the "how" right now. The intensity of your thoughts will set improvement in motion.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You may privately decide that your work is pretty stellar, and this is a good thing. If you're not a fan of you, how are you going to get other people to be fans?

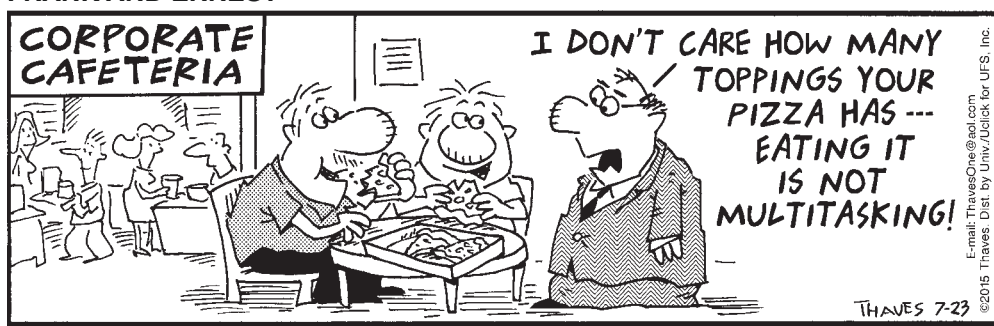
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** So, you don't believe the same thing you believed yesterday. So what? The world is flexible, always moving and forever changing. And for as long as you're here, you're a part of that.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Good people review the bad things they did with regret. Bad people aren't capable of self-reflection. If you feel bad about what you did, at least you can feel good about who you are.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You may not be an authority on the subject you are asked to talk about today. The best way is to admit that right off the bat and then to know that you are the No. 1 authority on your own thoughts. So why not share those?

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 24).** Your attention is in high demand at the start of this solar year. Instead of rushing around trying to please everyone individually, find the collective heart of your group and speak to what everyone needs. Professionally, you raise your game at the end of 2016. You'll be thrilled to see how your family plays into your plans. Pisces and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 12, 2, 6 and 13.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



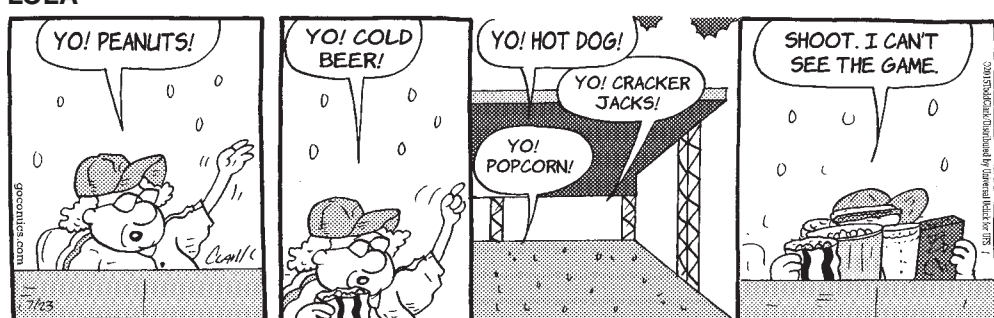
## THATABABY



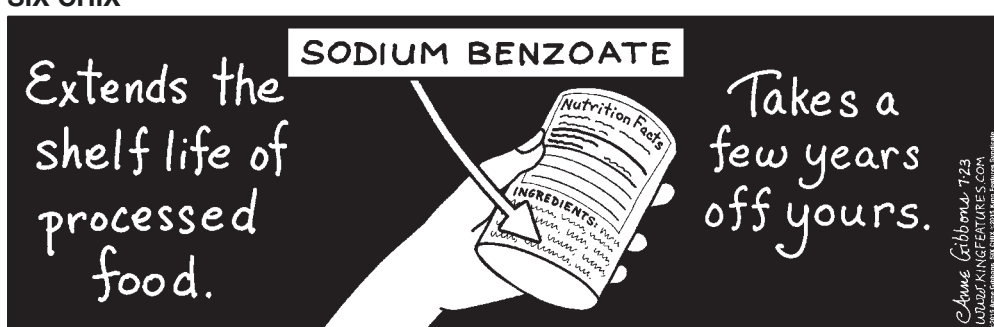
## STONE SOUP



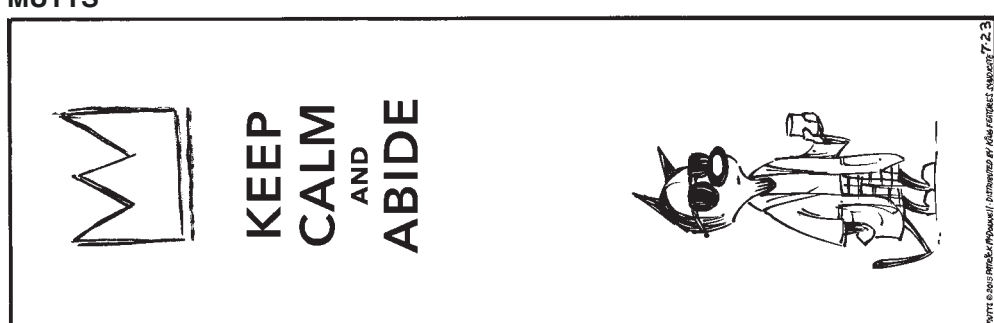
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



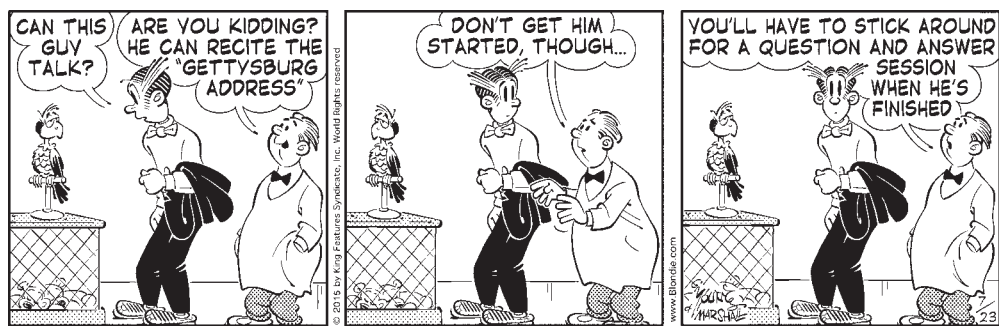
## BABY BLUES



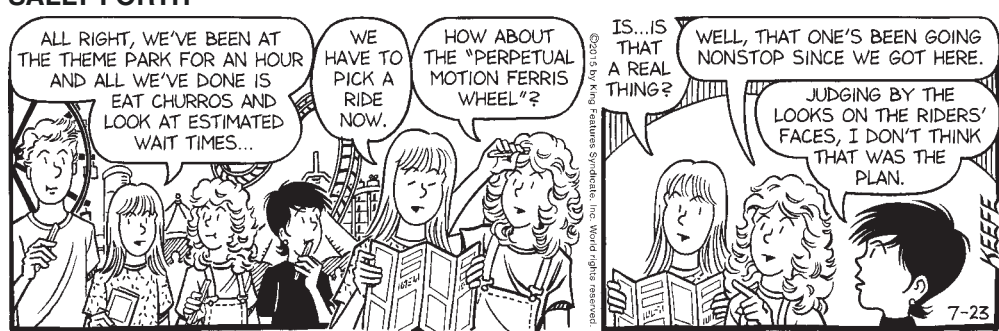
## ZITS



## BLONDIE



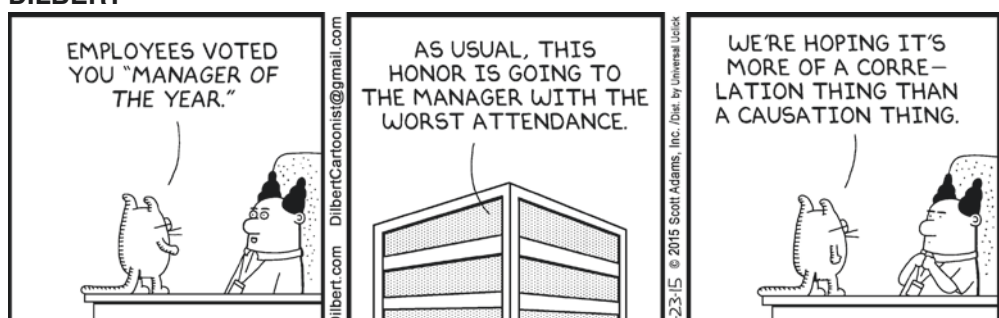
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



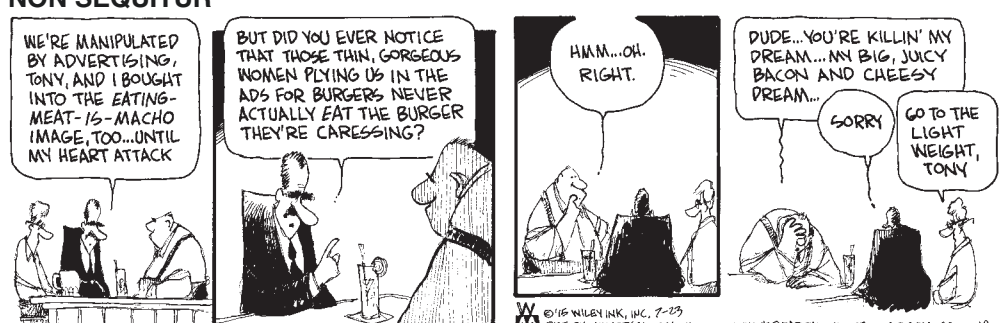
## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

