

Nephew struggles with herpes Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My nephew recently found out that he has genital herpes. He is a fine young man and had been dating the girl for a while. When they parted ways, neither of them knew she had a sexually transmitted disease.

Since finding this out, my nephew has become so depressed. He is convinced that no one will ever want him and that he will spend the rest of his life alone. We are worried about him and have looked around for support groups, but could not find any.

I am sure he cannot be the only person in this position. Could you ask your readers to send in some encouraging words or some advice for him? It would mean so much to him to know he is not alone and that there is hope for a future with someone. — *A Concerned Aunt*

Dear Aunt: We can assure you that your nephew is not alone. Roughly 1 in 6 people ages 14-49 in the U.S. have genital herpes, and many are unaware of it. While it is not curable, there is medication available to treat symptoms, control outbreaks and reduce the risk of transmission to a partner.

Please tell your nephew to check the website of the American Social Health Association at [## Annie's Mailbox](http://ashsexual-</p></div>
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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



health.org or their Herpes Hotline at 1-888-411-4377. They offer information, encouragement and support, along with relationship advice about how to tell one's potential sexual partners about the infection.

Dear Annie: A year ago, I accepted a friend request on Facebook from an old boyfriend. (My first teenage crush from 35 years ago.) I was glad to see photos of his wife and children, and to chat with him about our lives.

Over time, he began sending me private messages, which eventually took a sharp turn toward flirtation and then became downright suggestive, to the point where he thought we should meet up. I stopped that in its tracks and told him in no uncertain terms that I had no interest in him as anything but an old friend. After a few months of no contact, he agreed that I was right, and we

had several more chats, solely about family and life.

Yesterday, his son posted on his Facebook page that he had died. I was stunned and shed many tears for his family, plus a few for myself. Feeling sentimental, I opened up our chat page and started re-reading it, and lo and behold, saw all of those earlier conversations — the ones that would devastate his family. I deleted the entire conversation immediately. I only hope no one in his family saw it.

The best gift I could give to his grieving family was to leave them the loving husband and father they knew, with no stains on his character. Please remind people that these things stay online forever and that one never knows whether the next person looking at that page could be your spouse or child. — *Another Distant Survivor*

Dear Survivor: There have always been instances of surviving family members discovering evidence of inappropriate behavior (love letters in a desk drawer, receipts for hotels and gifts), but the Internet allows simple conversations to live forever. Thank you for reminding folks that Facebook pages can be accessed after death. Our condolences.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you want a cool accent, you have to go somewhere else in the world where the people don't talk like you. It's something to consider now, taking your act worldwide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). No one who is adorable is trying to be, as adorableness relies on a certain unself-consciousness. You'll fall in love with some adorableness today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not always better to give than to receive. Anyway, you have to understand the receiving end of things to give well. You can practice today by accepting the help you're offered.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). They're all counting on you to bring the surprise, the distraction, the exciting thing that shakes up a routine that would, without you, be mind-numbing. You won't disappoint.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wisdom can come from foolishness, even stupidity. Instead of seeking to follow a wise person, right now you will benefit more from being open to the ordinary people around you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can anticipate trouble without borrowing it. The trick is in anticipating a few different outcomes, most of them not troublesome at all, and having a prepared response for each.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). With your feet at home, your eyes are on the world. You have a feeling that what you need most right now is out there. You may find it on the Internet. Be sure to ask the people at home for an opinion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may be older than you were yesterday, but you

are better, too. Things are looking up, and you're taking the big strides you couldn't have taken before. You know more, and so do you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not sure you're being taken for granted, but that's the way it feels. Test the theory. Stop offering all that comes with being in a relationship with you. Pull back for a while to see what happens.

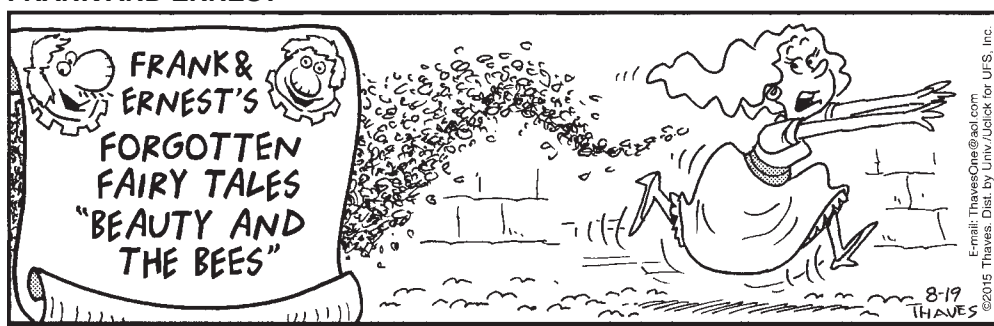
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Friendship is fortified in laughter. The best part is that you don't have to try hard to make your friends smile. Hilarity comes as a natural extension of your bond.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have specialized knowledge — you just don't realize it right now because you haven't needed to use it in your current environment. Get out there. Meet more people. Only then will you understand how unique you are.

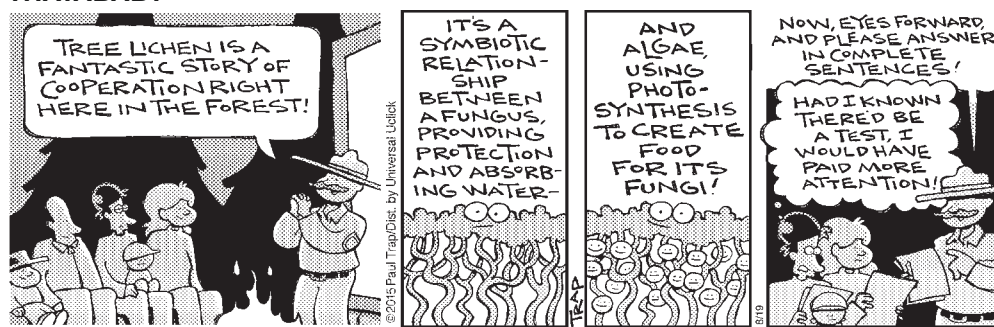
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). That adventurous spirit of yours sometimes leads you to swim with the sharks. Other times, like now, such a swim is simply necessary in order to get where you're going. Luckily, not everyone in the tank will be ferocious.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 20). You've been honing your powers of attraction, and so you shouldn't be surprised with the results. Multiple romantic options for singles are part of this. Job offers and social invites will also be your lucky problem. The road to a fulfilling career is fraught with challenges, which you'll handle brilliantly at the end of the year. Aquarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 24, 9, 28 and 18.

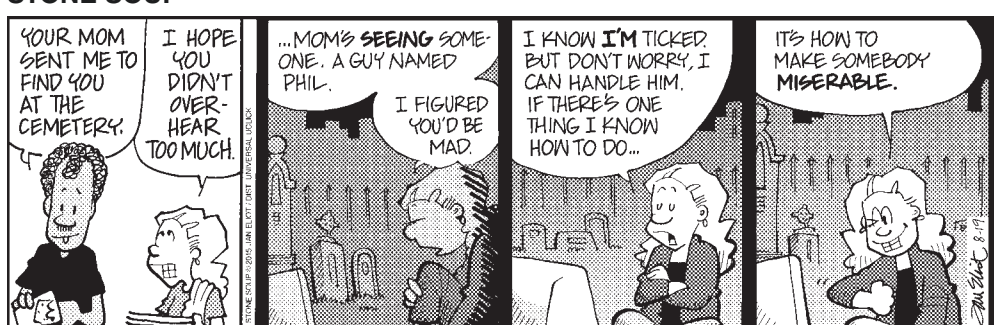
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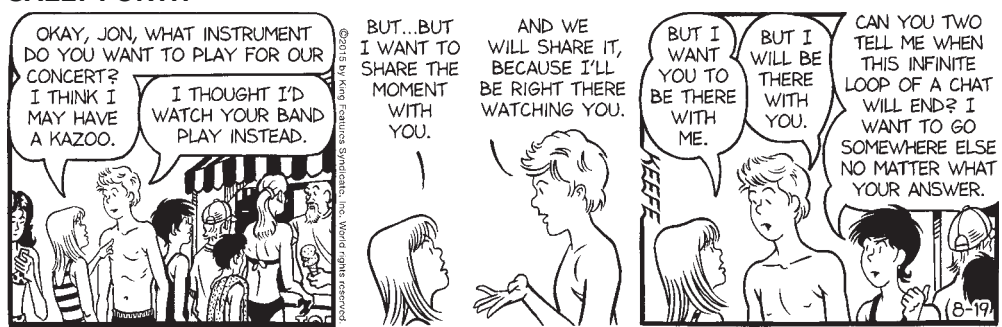
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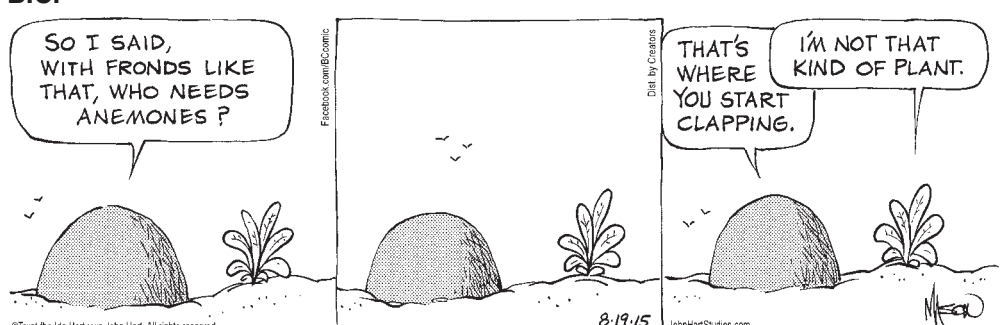
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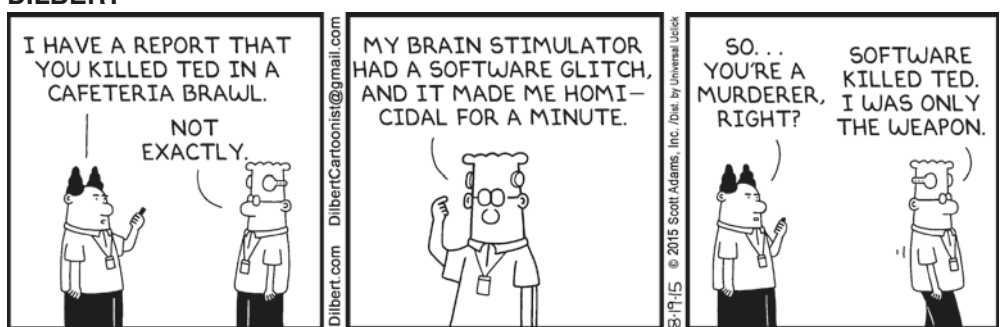
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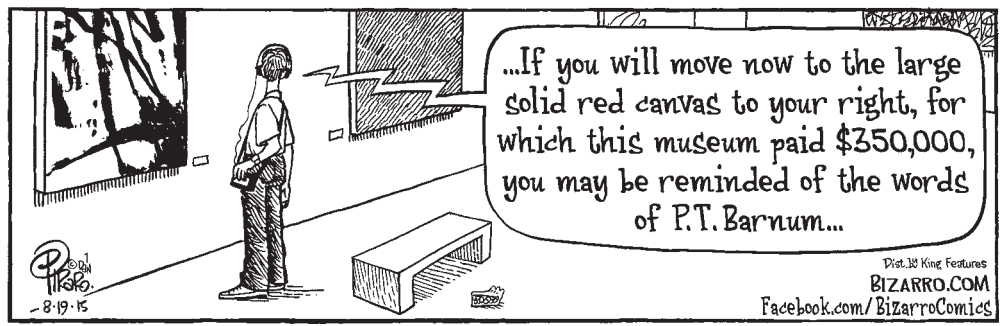
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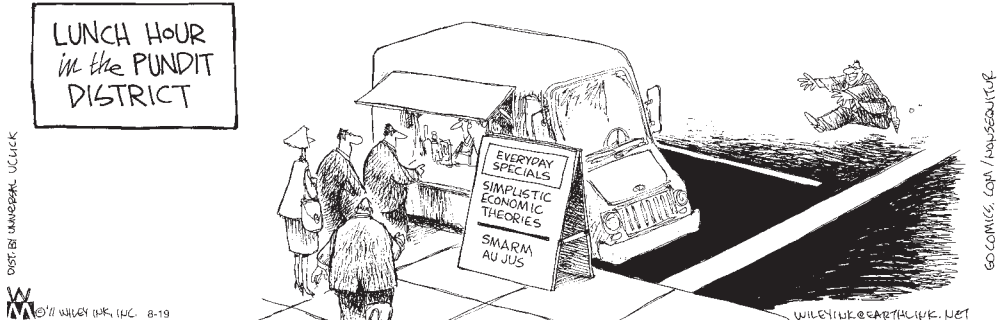
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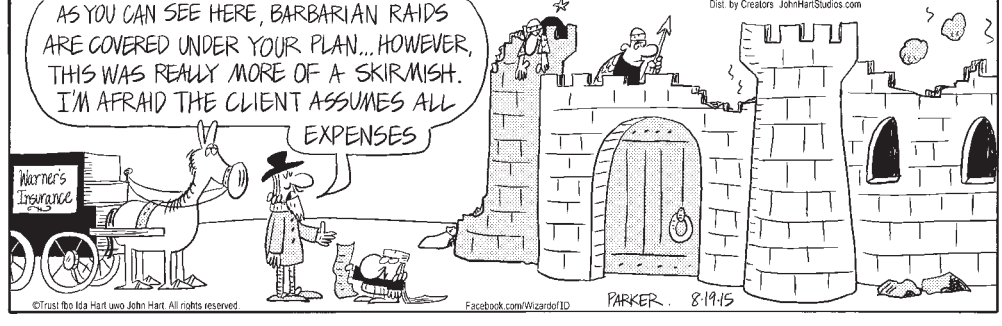
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