

Houseguests overstay welcome

Dear Annie: An acquaintance recently lost his job, and we invited him and his wife to move into our home on a temporary basis. We all agreed they would live with us until one of them found another professional position.

It's been only three months, but it's already uncomfortable. "Sue" and "Bob" do small household chores and pay a minimal amount in rent, but that doesn't counteract the interruption they have added to our daily lives. They have taken over the fridge, the cabinets, the laundry room, the living space and the kitchen. We have no private time anymore and cannot trust them to lock doors or turn off the dryer or coffeemaker when they leave the house. They parade around the house seminude, make a lot of noise when we're sleeping and talk while we are reading or watching TV.

We have discussed these issues and others as they have come up, but it hasn't helped. We've asked them to keep out of our bedrooms and home office, but the other day I found both of them coming out of the office. We do not want to put locks all over. We want to trust them, but it seems unlikely. They have made comments about our bills, which indicates they have looked at

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



our private mail.

They are supposedly applying for jobs, but so far haven't found anything that pays what they feel they deserve. We worry we'll be stuck with them forever. They have severance pay, unemployment and money from family members. They spend it on manicures, personal trainers and new electronics. Here's the kicker: They are actively seeking a divorce.

How do we tell them they have overstayed their welcome? — *Bad Roomies*

Dear Roomies: You need to set a deadline and stick to it. Tell Sue and Bob that you hadn't anticipated the job search would take so long and you can no longer accommodate them. Give them one month to find other arrangements. Bring home boxes so they can pack (and help them along). At the end of the deadline, if they make no attempt

to leave, tell them you will put their belongings on the front steps. Then change your locks.

Dear Annie: My husband and son have chronic lung problems. Our son has asthma, and my husband's lung health has gotten worse over the years. We have never been smokers, but we have tolerated our relatives who are. Lately, however, family gatherings are proving difficult. Exposure to cigarette smoke can cause my husband to have a setback and my son's asthma to flare up.

I have mentioned that their smoking causes problems, but they don't seem to pay attention. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. If I were a smoker, I would feel terrible if I thought I caused someone else to have health problems, but they don't seem to feel the same. Yet they would be upset if we didn't attend these functions. Any suggestions? — *Smoked Out*

Dear Smoked Out: Your husband and son should not be subjected to cigarette smoke, period. Tell the relatives you love them and would enjoy spending time with them, but your family's health comes first. Ask if they would please smoke outside. Otherwise, sorry, but you won't be able to come.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your choices are likely to reflect the great ambition that is your heart's desire. Know that what you want doesn't have to come at the expense of other things that are important to your well-being.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The requests coming your way are not all as important or feasible as those making them assume. Lucky for them, you are very good at filtering what you hear, knowing what's essential and prioritizing accordingly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can be counted on in a crunch, and that's one thing people have come to know you for. It explains the flurry of activity today. It's good that people trust you and need you. It's making you stronger.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a certain person you want to make happy, but you haven't quite hit on the magic combination for doing so. Too much experimentation in this regard is not advised. At this point, you're better off just to ask.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relationships need on-site care. Insecurity melts as soon as you meet face to face. So save all of your important communication and your best stories for when you're physically in the same room.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People will ask you things that, quite simply, are not their business. Whether you want them to know is up to you. Once you open the door, you'll set a precedent. It's just something to keep in mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Rumination is a dangerous habit that must be broken in order for your happiness to return. Luckily, today it won't take much to distract yourself

from negative mental cycles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can't force people to love or not to love. Love won't be pushed around. It does its own thing. Love will flaunt its autonomous nature at you. You'd be foolish to argue with that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just when you thought you were dealing with mature adults, someone calls "dibs" and gets a prime position that really should have gone to you. No matter. Where you land will be even better.

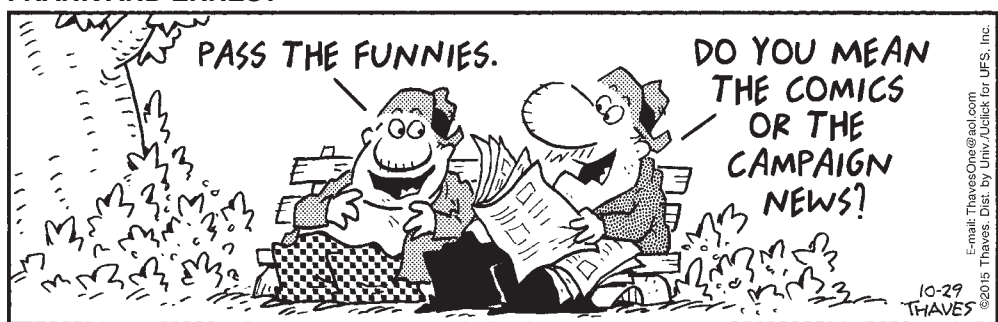
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Put your question into a search engine, and viable, helpful options will come up. Just know that study can only take you so far. To get to your goal, you'll need real-life application, trial and error. Especially error.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll follow your heart, your gut, your itch to find the work you love. You won't find it today, but you're getting warmer. Read the clues. Keep track of how different tasks make you feel.

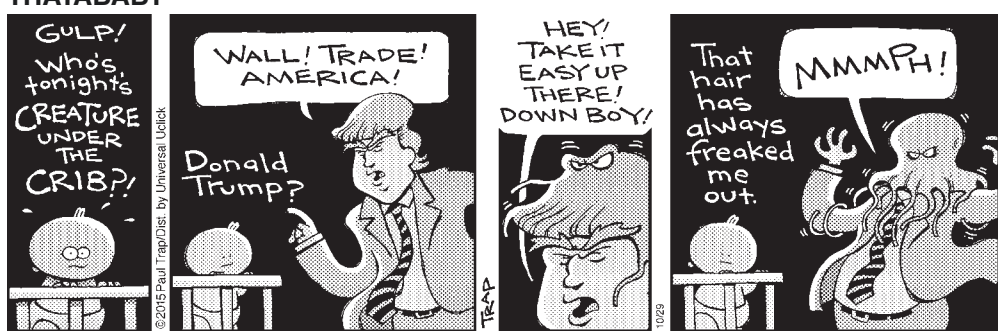
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's fun to pretend you're someone else, and in a weird way, that leads to learning more about who you really are. You'll be a master of humor and social graces tonight.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 30). You refuse to let anything hold you back. You'll see the opportunities, overcome the obstacles and gather a group of supportive souls along the way. Love is prime on your agenda, and improvements in how you see yourself accompany the turn of the year. Financial breakthroughs come in November, December and May. Cancer and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 1, 19, 44 and 35.

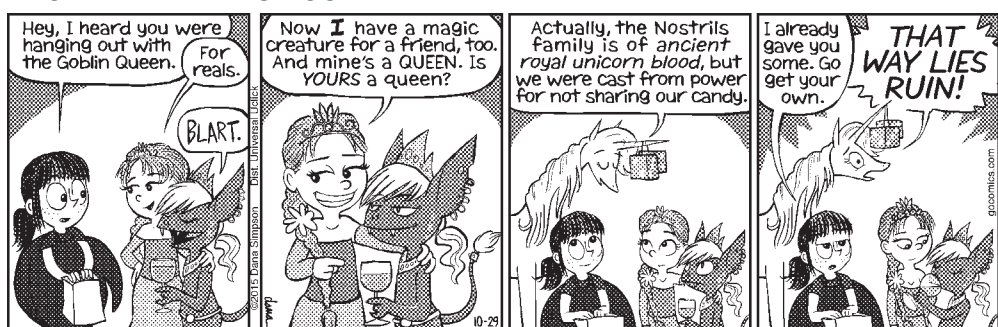
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



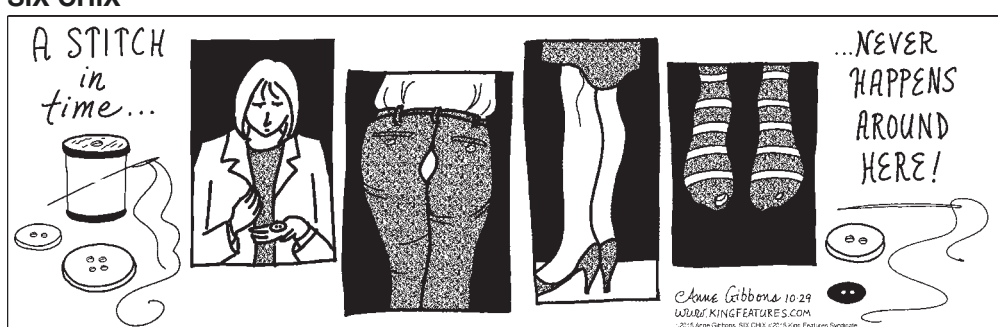
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



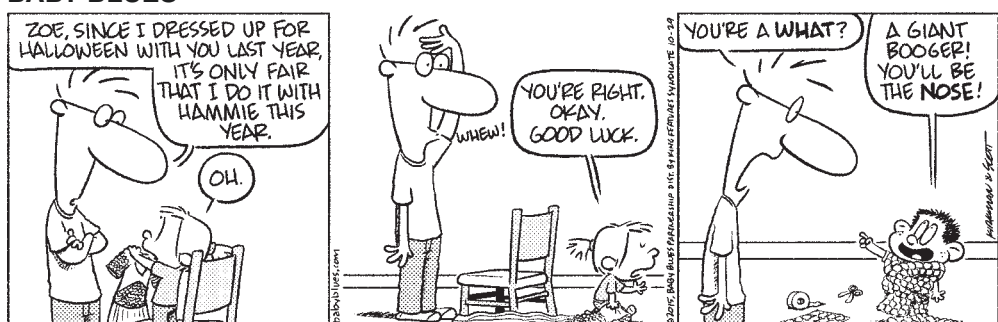
SIX CHIX



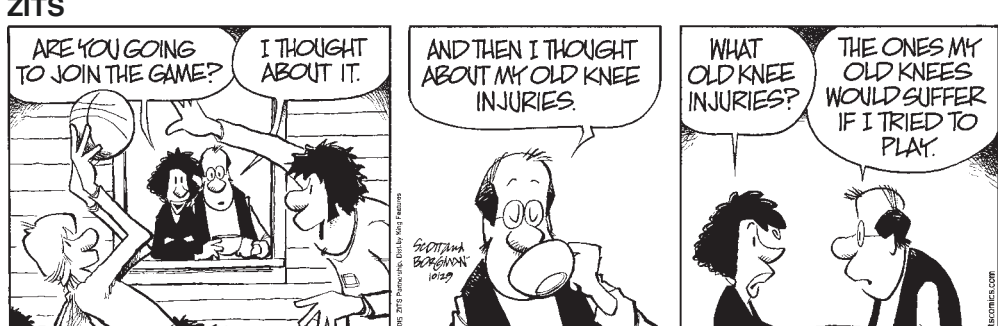
MUTTS



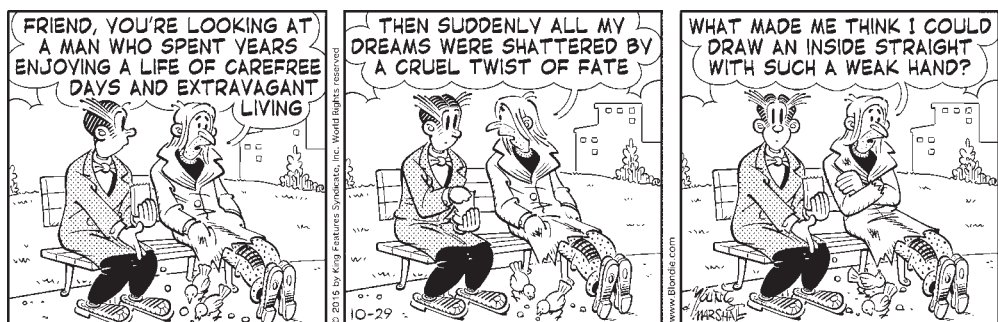
BABY BLUES



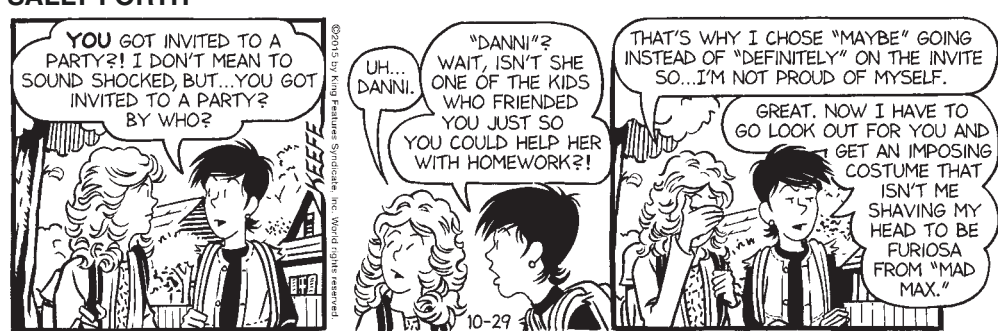
ZITS



BLONDIE



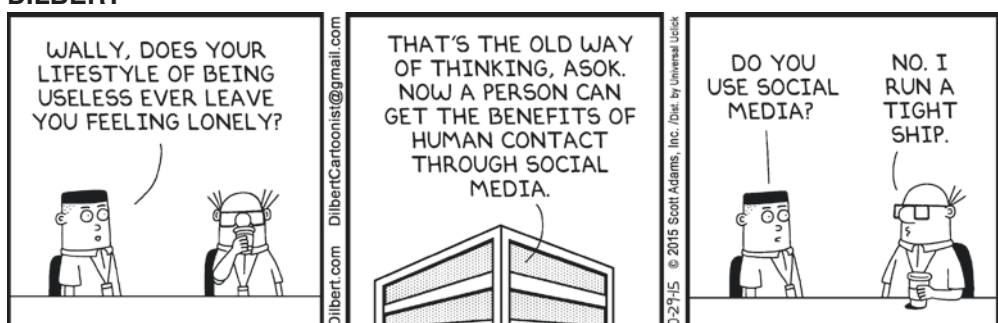
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

