

Roommate not into sharing

Dear Annie: I'm getting sick of my living situation. After college, I moved in with a very close family friend. He has an awesome house right by the beach and was kind enough to offer me his spare bedroom for very cheap rent while I'm still looking for a full-time job. It was really perfect for the first few months; he's a really mellow, simple guy who generally keeps to himself. But lately, I feel as if I'm walking on eggshells at home.

You see, he's a bit older — in his 40s — and he has never been married. All of the furniture and appliances in the house are his. It's a pretty tiny space, so we agreed to just share appliances and things when I moved in. I've always been respectful of his space. At night, he likes to cook for hours and play video games in the living room until 11 o'clock or so. Lately, if he comes home to me watching a movie on his TV or cooking on his stove or even just stretching before a workout in the living room, he gets all bugged up and passive-aggressive. I'm only comfortable when confined to my room. What's the best way to handle this? — *Tiptoeing*

Dear Tiptoeing: To think — a 40-something single man who prefers to be alone and play video

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

games doesn't like sharing his space?! Shocking.

You have a right to feel comfortable, so talk to him and see what happens. It's unrealistic for him to expect you to live like a ghost. But at the end of the day, you are in his home, and this was supposed to be temporary. So enough with the tiptoeing. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps and march on to a new apartment.

Dear Annie: I'm finally finding my stride in life. I have a good job, am completely financially independent and am constantly busy working on projects. I feel good about my accomplishments.

I have a formerly close friend — let's call her Christine — who hasn't really grown in my direction. She met a 35-year-old wealthy artist last year and has been a kept lady since then. She casually floats between

jobs and spends almost every day just doing yoga, going to the beach and smoking marijuana. It's as if she has no clear picture of what she wants to do with her life.

I was initially sad when she stopped putting in effort to hang out, but I've been sort of ambivalent since realizing we don't have much in common anymore. I would rather spend my time with people who are actually doing things with their lives.

She recently reached out to me and apologized for being off the radar, and she said she wants to hang out. I'm not sure whether I really want to rekindle the friendship. She'll probably show up high anyway. What do you think? — *Losing Touch*

Dear Losing Touch: How's the boyfriend's art? Any idea? Have you given her new life a chance, or are you dismissing it out of hand because it's not what you would choose for yourself?

We're all on our own paths. Perhaps hers is a meandering one. There's nothing wrong with that. You shouldn't compare your life, scoreboard-style, with anyone else's life — especially not a friend's. Christine no doubt senses the judgment, and that's why she's been distancing herself.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One effective strategy will be to come in to the situation with big energy to make sure everyone knows you're on the scene, then adjust to what's happening, back it down, and go nice and slow to earn their trust.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Where are the other people (especially the ones you admire so much) getting their inspiration? This is what you're curious about, and finding out will open new avenues for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A one-sided deal isn't a deal at all; it's a proclamation. Deals include the agreement of multiple parties, hopefully equally committed to making something happen. So whom else do you need to include?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As far as the other person is concerned, your choices define you. But your self-definition is also shaped by the things you wanted to do but thought better of and didn't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The exceptional work you did last week will lead to a new assignment this week. Keep this up and you'll have more jobs than you can handle alone. Luckily there are also capable helpers coming your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Nature can be stronger than man, although man is a force of nature, too. Don't think of yourself as nature's opponent. Align yourself with the elements and use them instead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No one will be giving out awards for the cleanest house today. You might consider letting some of that domestic work go in favor of devoting yourself to a task that's closer to your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Seeing

something being made out of nothing is a thrill. What's even more exciting is making this happen yourself. And when you see the thrill in another person's eyes because of what you've done, it's even better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a restlessness stirring in you — a reaction to recent changes in you and in your environment. So what do you need to do to feel the soothing embrace of calm?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Something with which you're displeased becomes a topic of conversation. Much to your delight, you're not the one who brings it up. Yes, you have a partner in the grievance, and also in creating the solution.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a way to make the external conditions work for you, though that method may be temporarily disguised by the external conditions themselves. Take a breath and try and look past this. What are you missing?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being positive doesn't always come easily to you, but it's your natural reflex to support those you love and be compassionate toward those who clearly need help. Your habit of thinking the best of people will serve you well today.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 14). You'll find yourself incredibly happy for no good reason this year. August will bring a shift in your professional realm and an exciting opportunity therein. November and January bring remarkably fast personal growth and the expansion of your influence, largely through the completion of a course or set of books. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 30, 27 and 9.

FRANK AND ERNEST



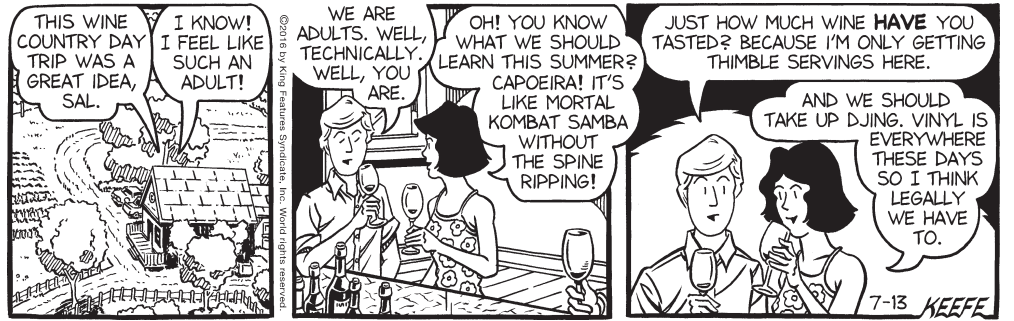
BLONDIE



THATABABY



SALLY FORTH



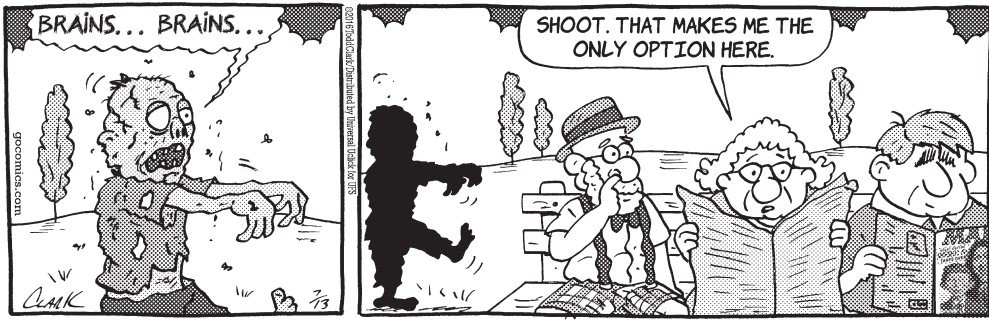
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



B.C.



LOLA



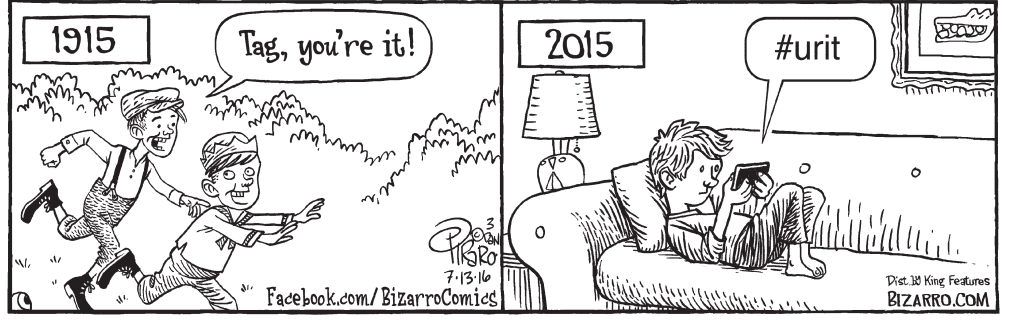
DILBERT



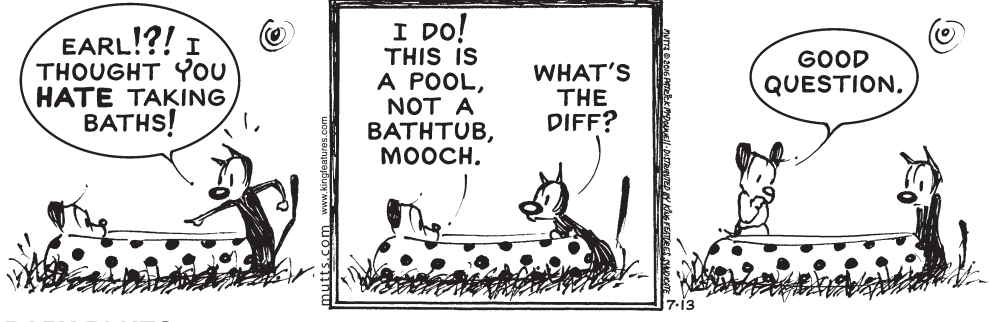
SIX CHIX



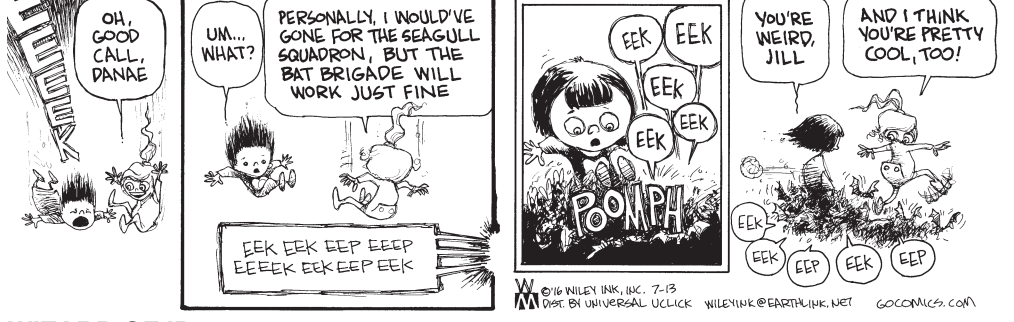
BIZARRO



MUTTS



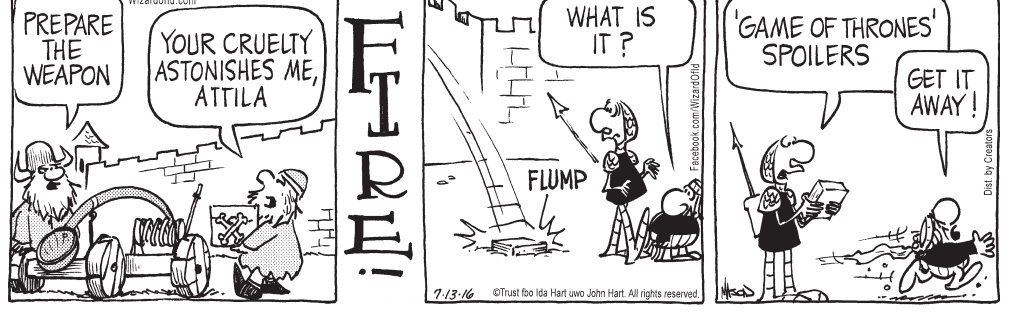
NON SEQUITUR



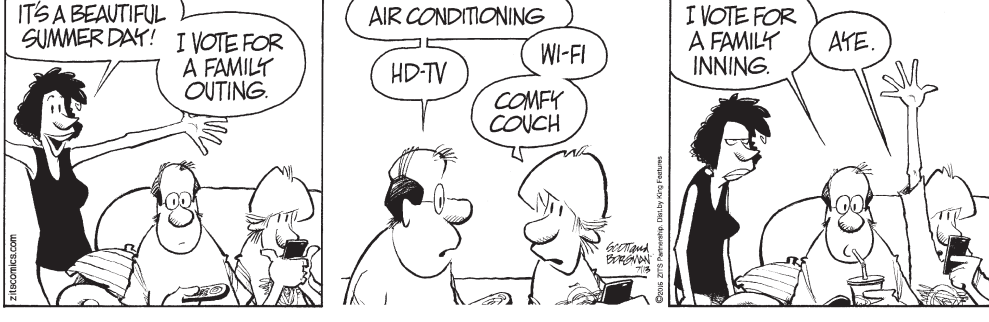
BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE

