

His parents don't approve

Dear Annie: Our eldest son is getting married in three weeks to a gal who is 13½ years younger (23). She has never been married but has a 4-year-old. She also has bipolar disorder and has left him at least three times. The most recent time was in March. She took off with a co-worker for the coast, halfway across the country. After a couple of weeks, she decided to call our son, and he said he wanted her to come back. I believe that the guy ditched her and she didn't have anywhere to go.

Long story short, she is now pregnant, and her parents are wanting her to marry. As far as our son knows, the baby is his. We all feel that she will continually leave, and we have doubts that the baby is his. Our son was married before and has two children. He asked the eldest, who is 12, to be his best man, but his son said no, as he does not like her. No one on his side likes the gal, and we are wondering whether we need to attend the wedding. My husband says we shouldn't because it would show support. I told our son we would go but are not in support of the marriage.

I feel we should attend only because he is our son. It is a tiny wedding and has been quickly put together. Her parents are doing a barbecue for the reception, but we will not attend that. Our

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

son is a very kindhearted person who helps out everyone. His first wife was from another country and was not good to him. Should we go or stay home? — *Reluctant Mother of the Groom*

Dear Reluctant: Go to your son's wedding. It's a regrettable situation, to be sure, but you'd regret it much more if you were not to be there for him. He's a kindhearted and emotionally vulnerable person, susceptible to other people's manipulations. As much as you want to express your opposition to his life, if you were not to be around, he'd feel isolated and only fall further into this trap. Keep the door open for him. It's possible to support him without supporting the partnership. He needs you.

Dear Annie: A very close friend has a daughter who got married quickly because of a pregnancy. She and her husband are stable and very happy. I

don't know the modern etiquette but would like to buy them a wedding present, as would a few other close friends. We would like to do this to show love, happiness and joy for them. We don't want to pick out patterns or anything like that without knowing her tastes. Any suggestions would be welcome. — *Need Assistance in Florida*

Dear Need Assistance: Cash might not be the most fun gift to pick out, but it's the one people most like to receive — especially if they're new parents. If you'd like to give a more traditional gift, such as something for their home, ask her mother what sorts of kitchenware they might like. Whatever the gift, your thoughtfulness will shine through and the couple will no doubt appreciate it.

Dear Annie: I'm responding to the letter from "Meaty Mike." He needs to embrace his vegan love mate! I've been married to a staunch vegetarian for over 33 years, and it's the best choice I've ever made. My diet has become healthier, and I still get my meat. I have a gas grill on the deck outside for my meat meals, which I use even in the winter. And I've developed recipes to cook meat without smelling up the house.

Meaty Mike's guilt trip is his own, so he should just own it and move on. — *Vermont Meat Mate*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter what age you are, you've the ability to examine the situation with young eyes. Would you believe there are some parts of your past that remain unexamined? This is the perfect use for those young eyes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe it's not you and never was you. Maybe you're dealing with a very flawed system and people who are either blind to those flaws or are contributing to them for their own nefarious purposes. Stay positive. Make the change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You sometimes wonder if the other person loves you. Why is it so important that this person experiences and expresses love the same way you do? You are in different places developmentally. One place is not better than the other.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It used to be that when you found a penny on the street, you picked it up and put it in your pocket, not because you needed the money, but for the luck involved. Don't pass up today's pennies. Who couldn't use a little more luck?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are so many who are sick, starving and downtrodden in the world. Misery is often as close to you as your outstretched arm. Is it really fair to be this happy? Well, someone has to be. When it's your turn, take it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you knew what exactly was keeping you stuck, you wouldn't be. Pondering won't help. If this were a physical issue, you'd wiggle and pull until you could figure out exactly the sticking point. That's what you need to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In many ways you're easygoing, though in certain ways you are absolutely ruthless. For instance, your op-

timism about a certain project is unrelenting. You're fully invested and nothing can stop you from seeing it through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The trouble with people who make you feel special and valued and elevated through their praise and attention is that one can get addicted to the high. Expect withdrawal pains when the energy level inevitably dips.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are those who only want to interact with you when you're ready to do so within the qualifications they specify. This isn't as bad as it sounds. When you're in compliance, you're at your best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People will want to know about you. Get ahead of this. What do you want them to know? "Tell me about yourself" is a prompt you'd be wise to have a good response to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your energy will likely feel scattered at different points of the day — and not in a poetic way. Deep breathing, a short walk or a nutritious meal will bring you back into clear focus within the hour.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To make things more mysterious and magical for the others you must, ironically, demystify them for yourself. You'll figure out the real deal then glamorize, sensationalize and spin it. That's entertainment.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 11). Your creative side is thirsty for a shot of great art. Your spiritual side needs nature. Your sporting side craves competition. All sides will be satisfied with this year's explorations. As the calendar numbers turn to 2017, your heart will seek sustenance, provided by old and new friends alike. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 17, 39, 12 and 42.

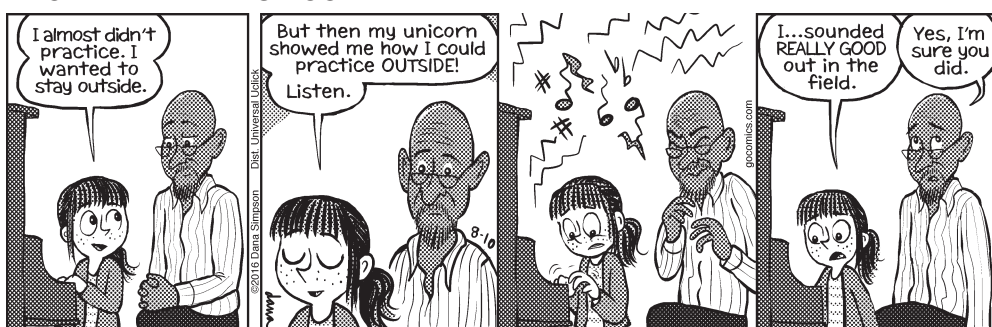
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



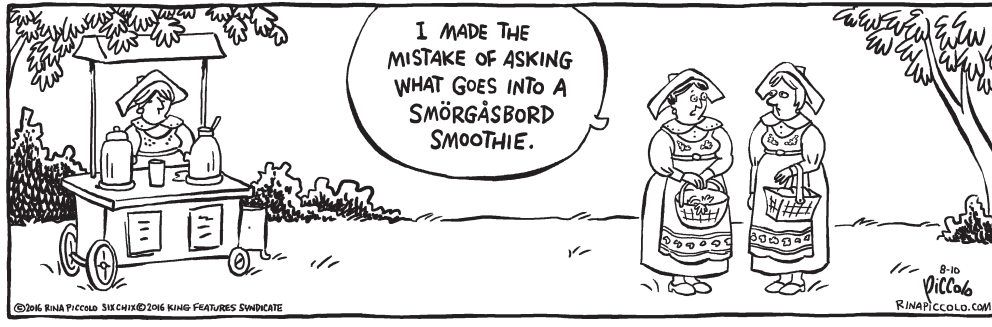
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



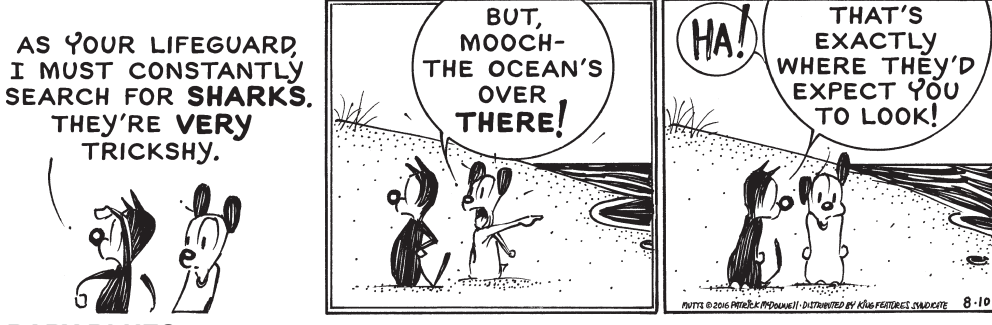
LOLA



SIX CHIX



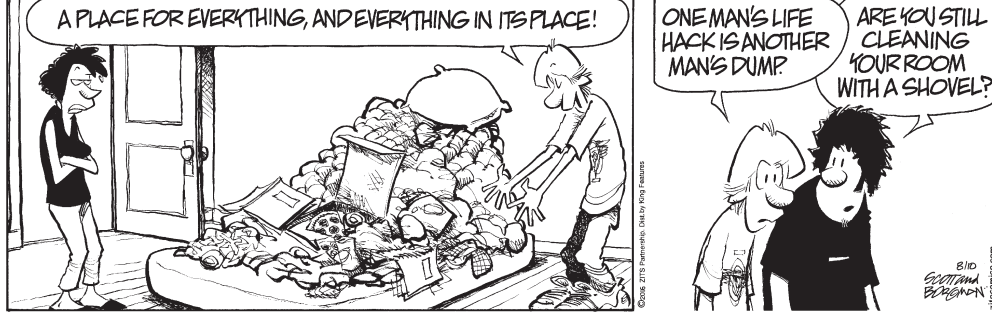
MUTTS



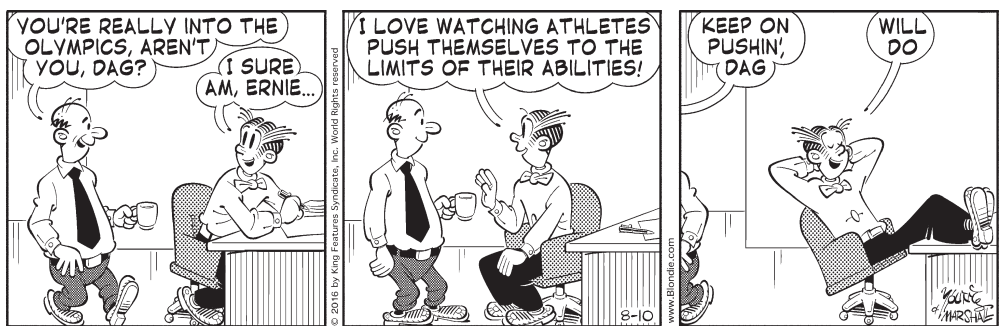
BABY BLUES



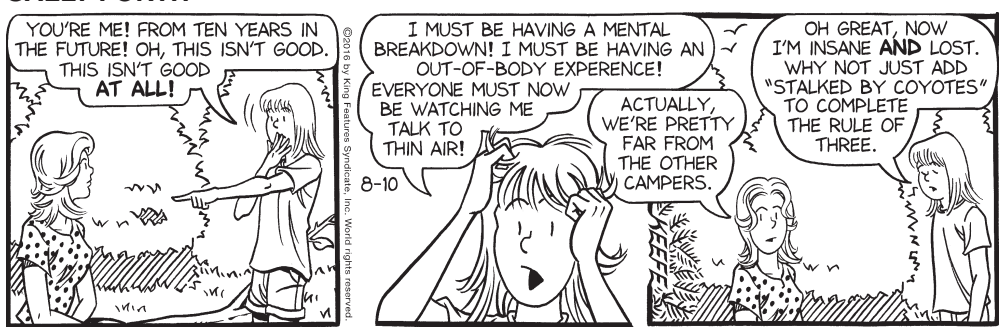
ZITS



BLONDIE



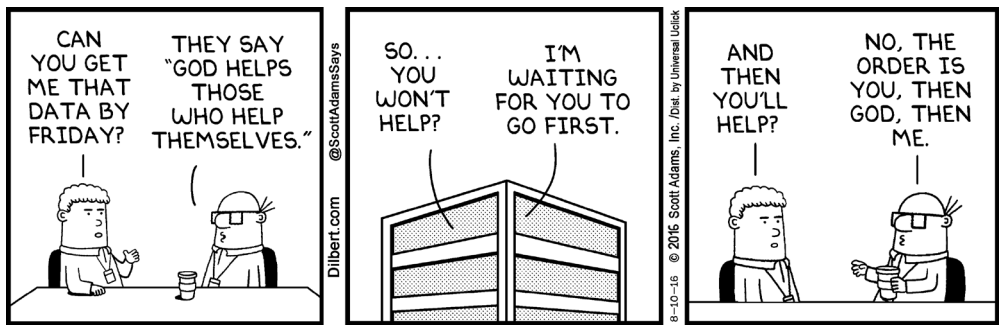
SALLY FORTH



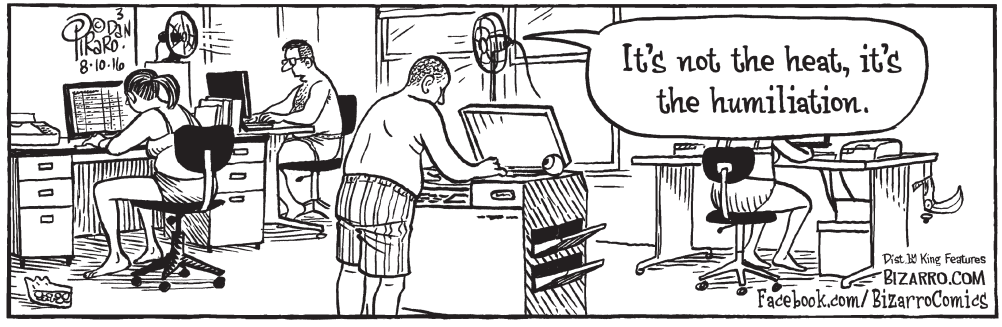
B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

