

Stop with the subtweeting

Dear Annie: My best friend and I have been friends for over 15 years, and we get along well and definitely know each other better than anyone else. However, we are very different people. I guess you could say that I am a lot simpler than she is. I don't really beat around the bush, whereas she is passive-aggressive; and I am on the quiet side, while she likes to be heard.

She has been complaining to me a lot about the drama she has in her life, and I don't mind. I am always there for her, whether it's to give my opinion or just to listen to her rambling on the phone. When we are communicating openly, it's great. But, Annie, the issue is that she has taken things to another level. She is very active on Twitter, and I don't have an account.

A few close mutual friends have been telling me she has been passive-aggressively tweeting about me in a negative way. I don't understand. I am always there for her, and I am open and honest when we communicate. I would like to ask her what her deal is, but I don't know how to do

so because I'm obviously pretty miffed that she is being so publicly passive-aggressive and I am offended. But I also don't want her to get upset with our other friends, because they shared the information. I am in a bit of a strange

pickle here. I don't want there to be any unspoken issues between my friend and me, but I don't know how to deal with this rude and immature behavior. — *Anti-social Media*

Dear Anti-social: Rude and immature is right. Passive-aggressive behavior has always been exasperating. Social media have taken it to a new level.

The best approach in dealing with such people is to refuse to play their game. Be positive but direct. Tell her that you saw her Twitter page (no need to mention that your mutual friends told you) and were concerned by the tweets. Don't let her wriggle out of it. Try to get her to admit that she's upset with you, thus denying her the ability to keep silently sulking. At the end of the day, she should respect you for holding her accountable. Friends don't let

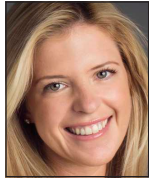
friends get away with passive-aggressive behavior.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Wits' End," whose adult daughter has been verbally abusive to her. This poor woman does not need this daughter in her life, period. I, too, have daughters who hold their hands out, lie, are dishonest and rarely ask how they can help or do something for others. My husband and I choose to stay away from both of them and all the unpleasant negativity they bring. We own businesses and are busy raising their little brother and my mentally handicapped sister. We are very happy with our lives; our days are filled with dates, flowers, laughter and more.

Are we disappointed that our grown daughters choose to act so self-centeredly and uncaring? Of course. But people do not change unless they want to. We are no longer subjecting ourselves to their behavior. If others did the same, they would save themselves a great deal of heartache.

"Wits' End" can make it clear to her daughter: "I deserve happiness, too, and unless you want to be a positive loving force in my life, you are not welcome." — *Happy to Let Go*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though of course you want to succeed, there's a down side to knocking it out of the park. It sets up a future expectation that you may or may not want to live up to. Think carefully before you set a precedent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To avoid wasted effort, get more clarity around what you're attempting to do. Improved communication will be key and this includes communicating with your own feelings and instincts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). All will be enhanced by social connections. Instead of connecting with people haphazardly when it's convenient or when there's a pressing and obvious need, create a structure that will allow you to engage others often.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though the result of someone's efforts to impress you may not have the impact on your psyche that was intended, it will still feel pretty flattering to know you're the cause of such a fuss.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Time is the currency of productivity. How you manage yours today will be the difference between a hit and a miss. You've a strong instinct for what's important. All you have to do is honor it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll clear up a misunderstanding within seconds, as long as you are aware that there is one. Go over recent communication. Check in to make sure that you've heard and have been heard correctly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whether winning or losing, for those who are in the battle, life is about fighting. The real victors today will be the ones who forgo the fight in favor of finding something to agree on and

accomplish together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Rituals are a way of symbolically processing life so you can realistically process it with greater ease. A ritual you create to help you move past your sticking point will be most effective, resonating deeply to free you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Exaggerated fears can cause social discomfort. It doesn't have to be this way, though you may have to make a few mistakes first to understand that it's not that big of a deal to flub here and there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you provide people with reasons to accept you, you'll earn acceptance but feel nothing. If you don't make any effort and are accepted anyway, you'll feel loved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't waste the day by trying to prolong it. Efficiency will be the enemy of passion. Burn the hours in exciting, pointless ways and you'll make lasting memories, too.

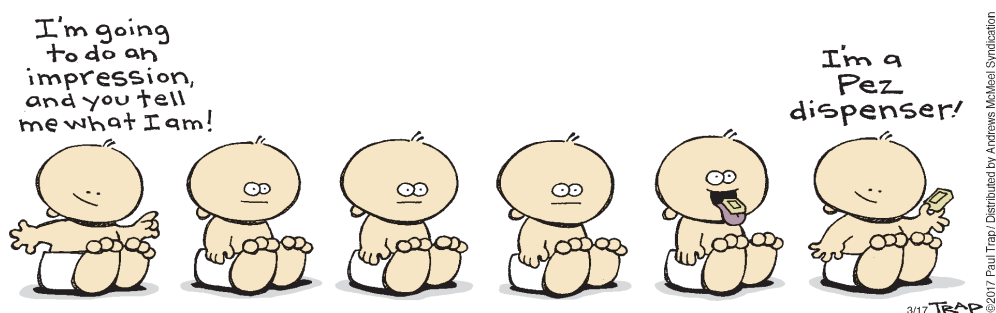
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Chances are that you are imagining a risk as much greater than it really is. You are, in a sense, "elevating the plank" that you'd theoretically walk were you to be punished. There is no plank, really, just an optional diving board.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 18). Balance and moderation are the norm this year, and yet there are some things you simply won't be able to do small: for instance, love. The more you invest, the more you feel. You'll have terrific luck with a sale in June. September renews old relationships. December will be a lucky time to move or build. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 22, 49 and 11.

FRANK AND ERNEST



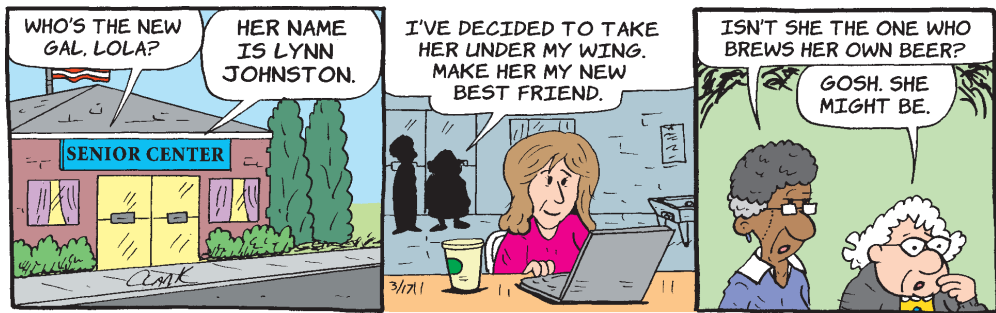
THATABABY



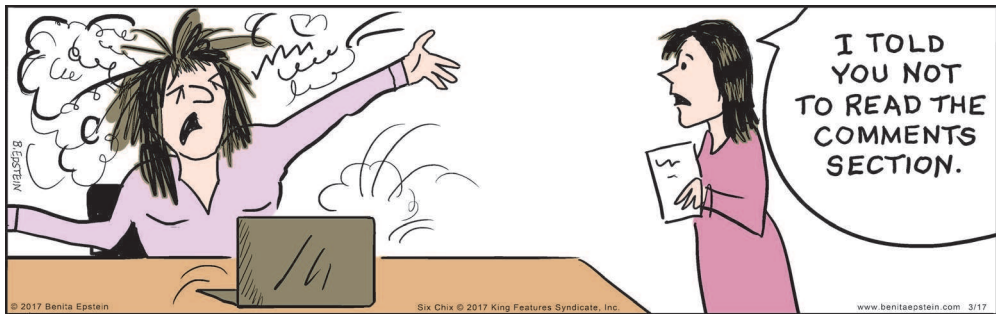
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



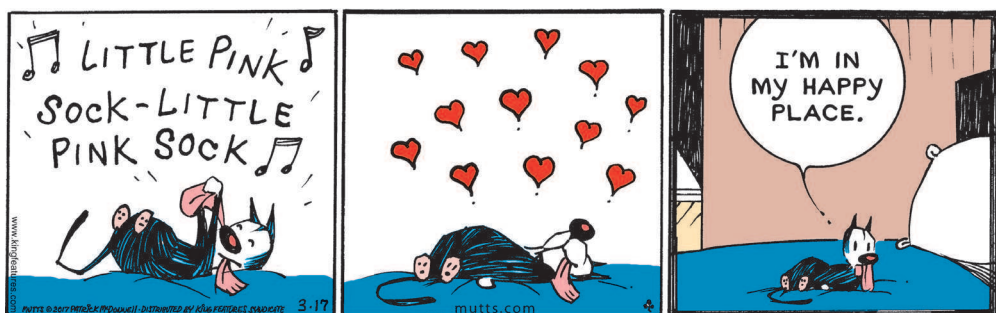
LOLA



SIX CHIX



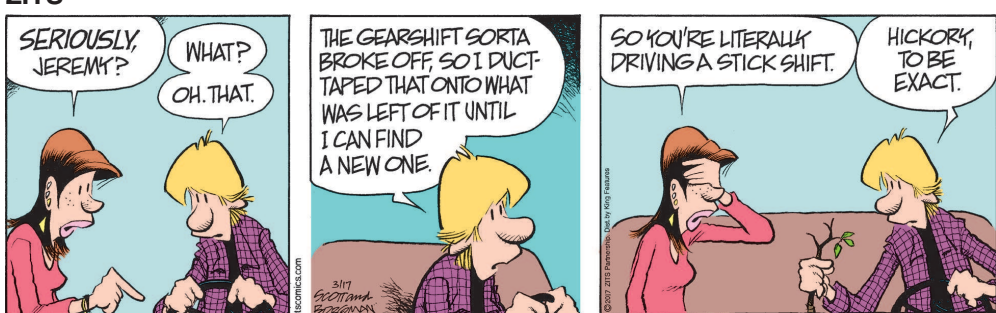
MUTTS



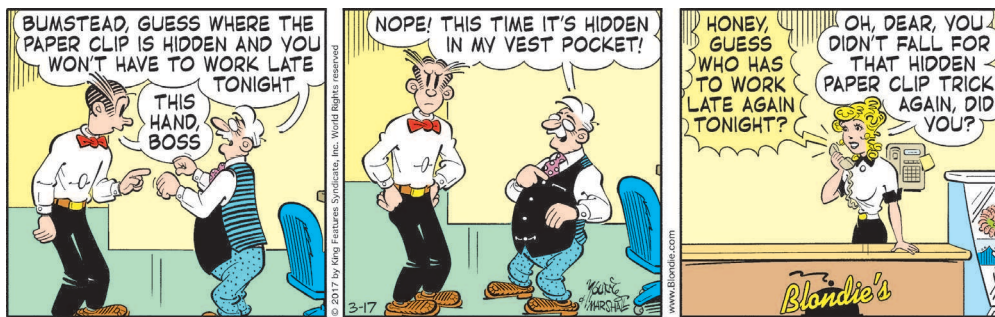
BABY BLUES



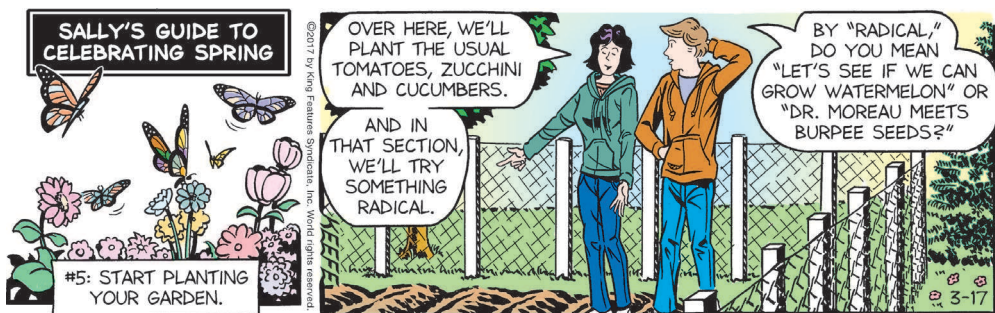
ZITS



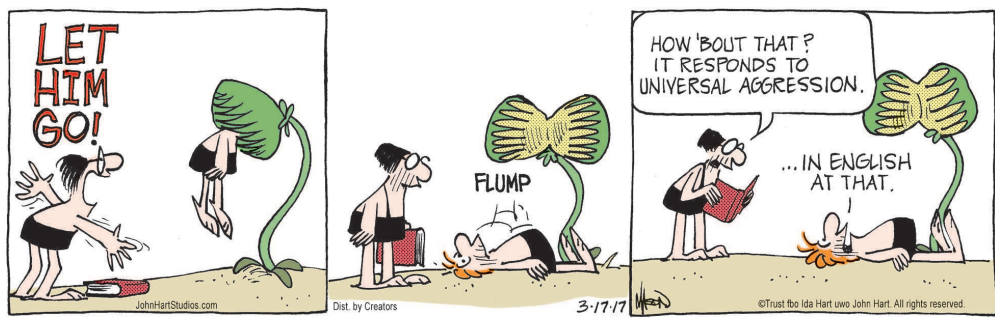
BLONDIE



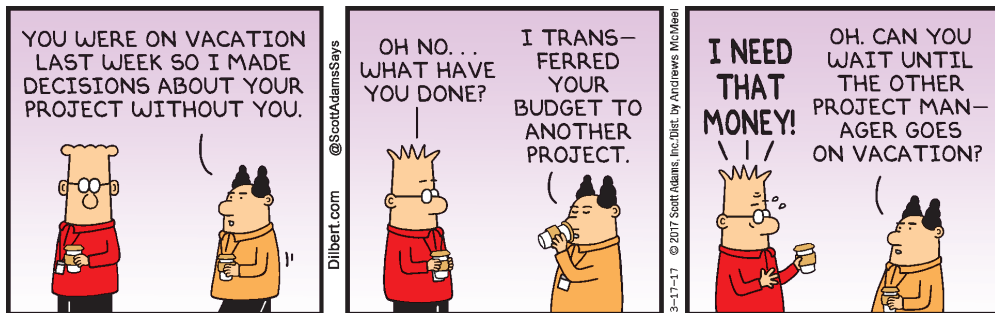
SALLY FORTH



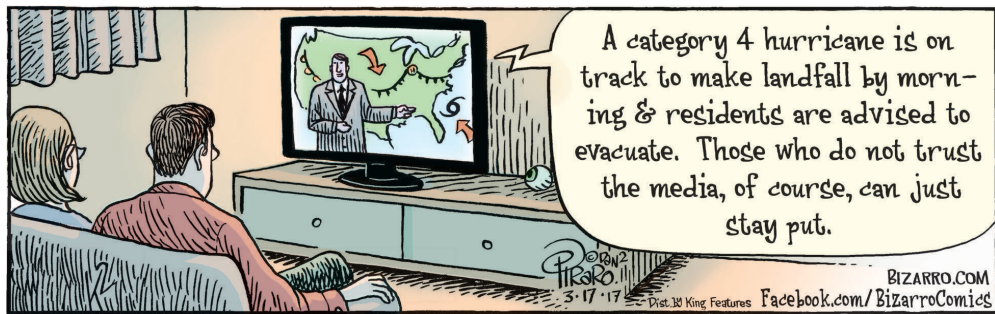
B.C.



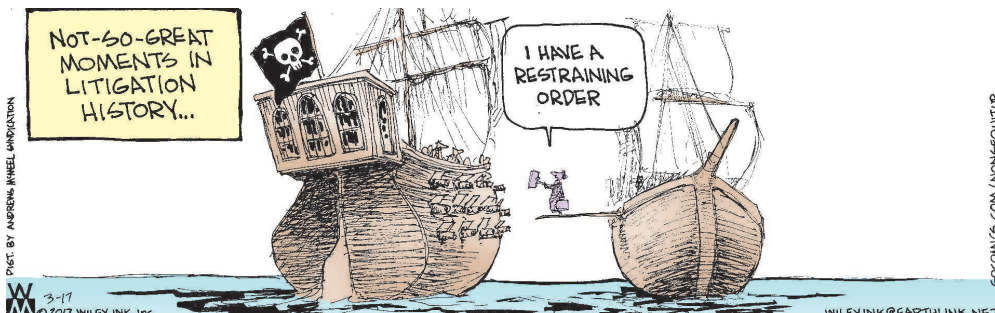
DILBERT



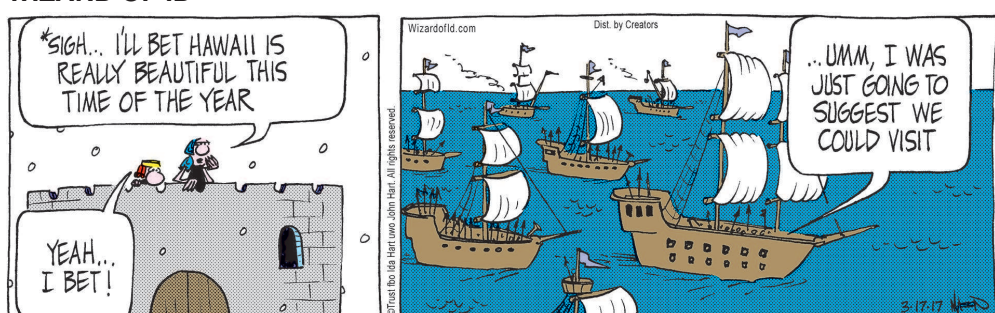
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

