

# Overbearing and intrusive

**Dear Annie:** Our 39-year-old son is married with three children. Ever since he got married, he has been dealing with overbearing and intrusive in-laws.

My son and daughter-in-law were house hunting a few years ago, and there was a home going up for auction they wanted to check out. They mentioned it in her parents' company. Before the auction took place, her father, "Steve," had purchased the home for them to live in. They might not have purchased the house after seeing it, as it was termite-infested, had no working fireplaces and had a roof that needed replacing. They used the money they made selling their previous home for upgrades for this home. Steve would not allow them to secure a loan for the home to pay him back, so the house remains in his name.

Our son has a job with which he can support his family, a great head on his shoulders to make great family decisions and good credit, so he can get loans at the bank on his own without any help. His wife goes along with whatever her parents say or want her to do. It is causing strife in the marriage, plus it's putting strain on

our relationship with our daughter-in-law. My husband and I support a loving family relationship, and when asked for advice on family matters, we give it. But we do not interfere to her parents' degree, because neither of us was raised that way.

The issue now is that our son's job is relocating him to a different state. His employer will allow him time to visit his new job location and look for housing. My son secured a Realtor in the area to start the house-hunting process. My daughter-in-law started looking online at homes in this city. She found a home that she liked online and told my son she wanted it because it had all the right amenities. He insisted that they wait till they could look at the houses in person and find one that really met all their needs.

Our son notified us today that Steve purchased the home our daughter-in-law found online, sight unseen, for them to live in. This behavior is not allowing our son to be a husband, partner in decision-making and father to his children. Steve grants all of his daughter's wishes. We want to support our son because we know he is hurting. What advice would you recommend we give him in this troubling

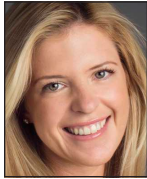
time? — *Concerned Parents*

**Dear Concerned:** Wow. I had to pick my jaw up off the floor a couple of times while reading your letter. I can't imagine what Steve's financial situation must be like, to give away houses like candy. But I digress.

You're right that this Daddy-to-the-rescue dynamic is not conducive to a healthy marriage. But from the sound of it, your son hasn't expressed any of these frustrations to his wife. That lack of communication is even more toxic than intrusive in-laws. Marriage counseling would offer him a safe space to express his feelings to his wife. And given that she's grown up thinking her dad's behavior is normal, it might take an objective third party to help her see that it's not.

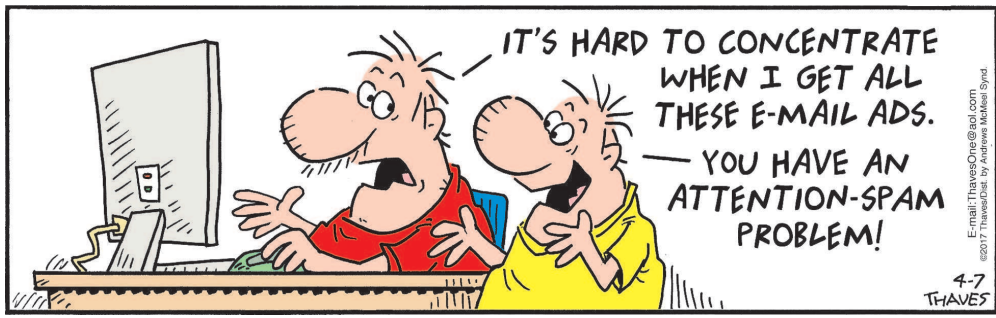
**Dear Annie:** A recent letter writer, "MM," said she has lost confidence in doctors because they don't seem to be knowledgeable in any field other than their own. My husband, an ophthalmologist, has recommended that patients see a dermatologist immediately for skin abnormalities and has even sent patients directly from his office to the hospital after checking their carotid artery. I'm sure that lots of specialty physicians take the time to keep up with the world of medicine and that her experience is not the norm. — *Sarasota, Fla.*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

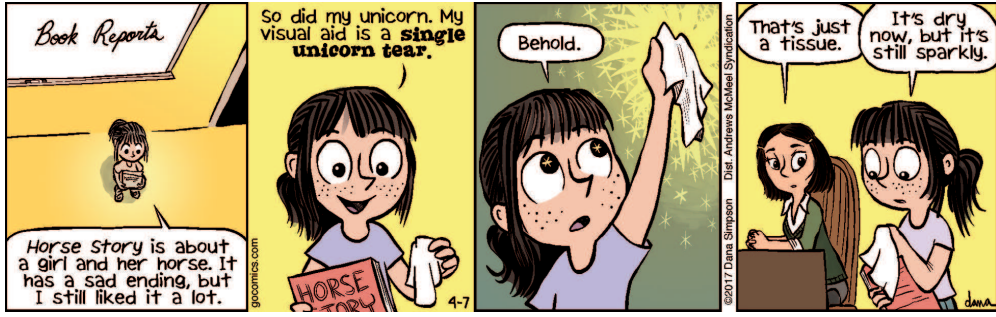
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



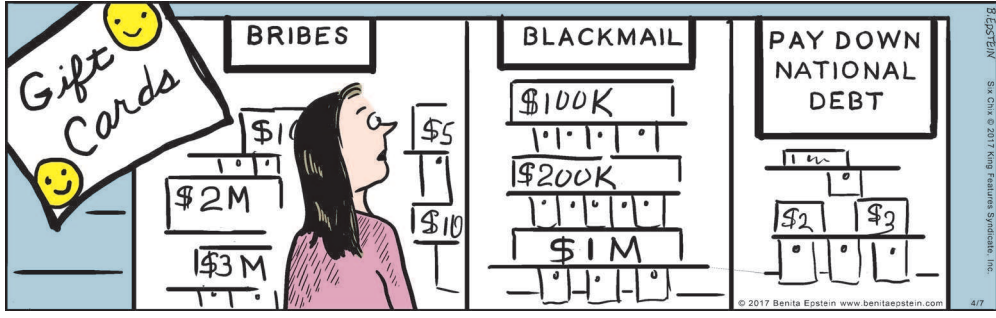
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



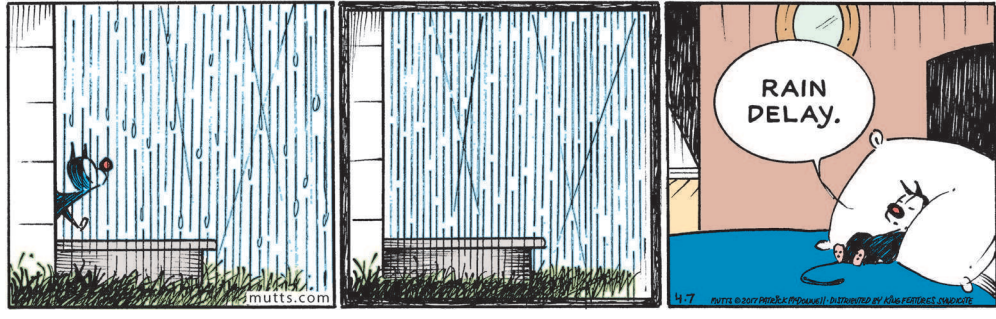
## LOLA



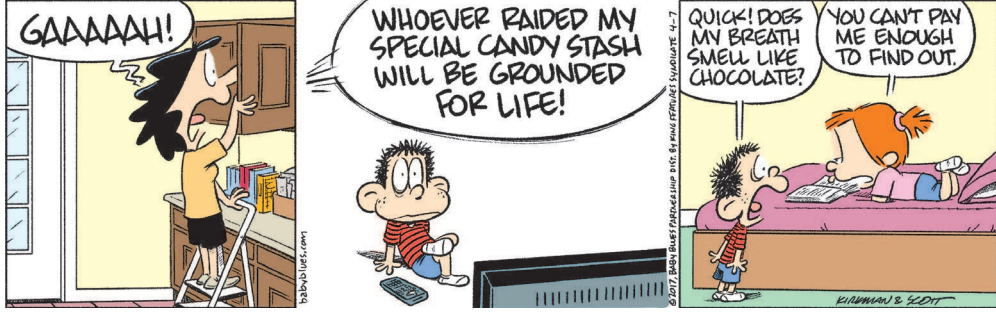
## SIX CHIX



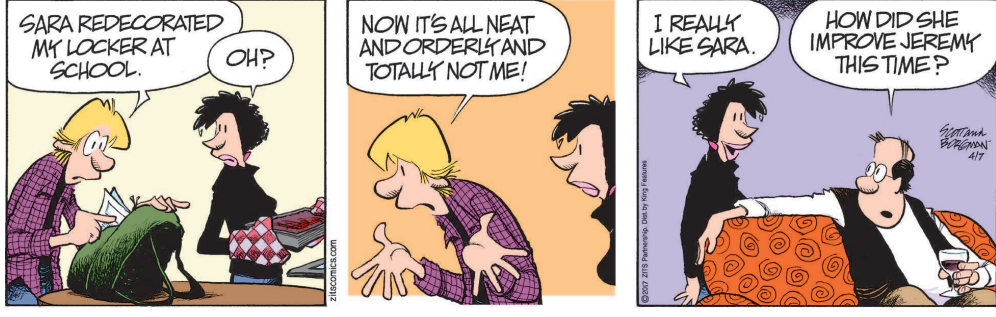
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Maybe you forgot something simple. Did you? Such good news. All you have to do is figure out what you missed, supply it, and then put one foot in front of the other. This will be easy!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** This is an incredibly special situation. Happiness is seeing it in the way that happy people do. Can you see it that way? Walk around it. You probably can. It's a matter of perspective.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your need to please is strong these days. Who else will be pleased when you get to the goal? Tie other people into your plans. This is how great things will get accomplished.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Don't give your trust or your money to an unproven entity. What people say doesn't matter at all unless it's backed up by what they do. Time will tell.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Make quick decisions. Navigate the day. This is the kind of scene that you probably invented, and thereby should un-invent in the moment it doesn't suit you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** If there isn't a deadline, the job won't be accomplished. Also, how about involving a person and setting a date? Time and place stamps matter. By a lot.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** How will the thing work? Not like you want it to. This is where compassion comes in. Someone will be your hero in a strange moment. You don't want this, and yet it's

happening.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll get someone to open up by making it feel safe for him or her to do so. Stay pleasantly neutral and make it known that you won't judge. Soon the truth will come out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Eventually, all those who stand on the pedestals will have to come down. That's just the way it is. They will, at some point, need to do the inelegant, creaturely things.

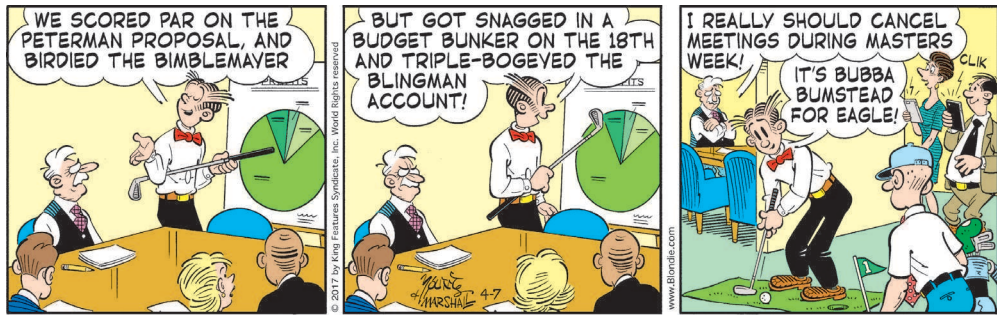
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Laughing leads to laughing. This is the secret and the remedy. Don't wait until you're feeling bad to look for the funny. This is not hard. Comic treasures are everywhere when you're looking for them.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You've earned your network, one relationship at a time. The people you know trust and respect you. You have connections that another person wants, but some relationships are nontransferable.

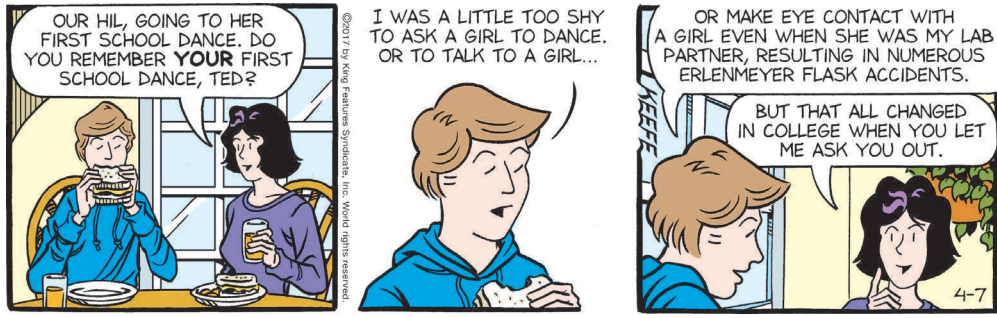
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Accomplishments need to be acknowledged immediately. You'll receive timely compliments, and they will have great power. The same words said in an untimely fashion wouldn't have counted.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (APRIL 8).** Your belief is profound. You will make it happen. Your life will explode, fantasy-style, in 2018. Up until then, you need to be extremely vigilant, keeping up with your commitments and being strongly self-possessed. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 45, 39, 29 and 44.

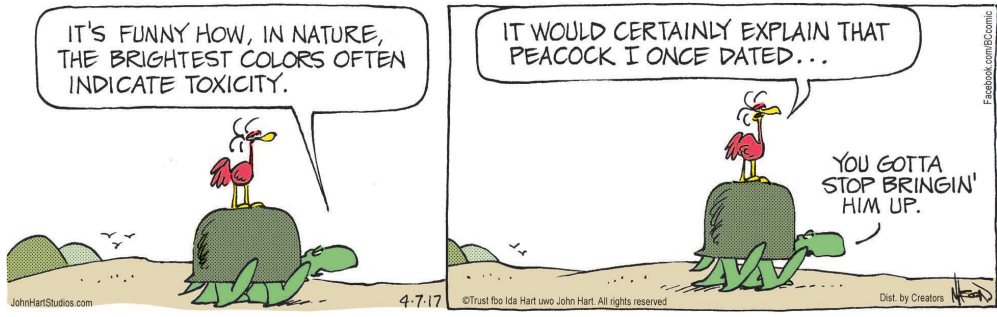
## BLONDIE



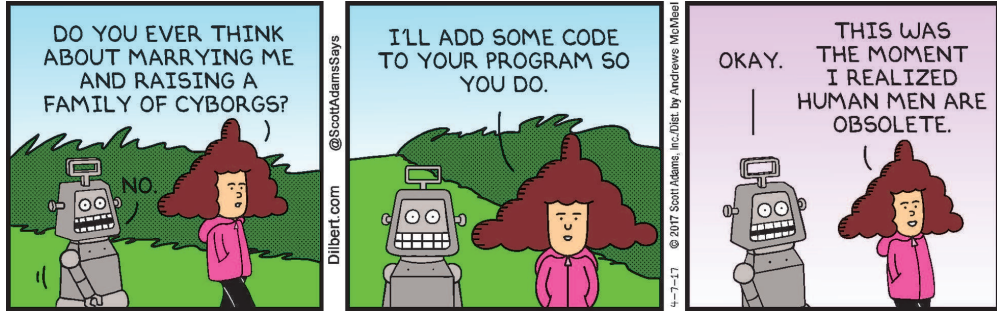
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



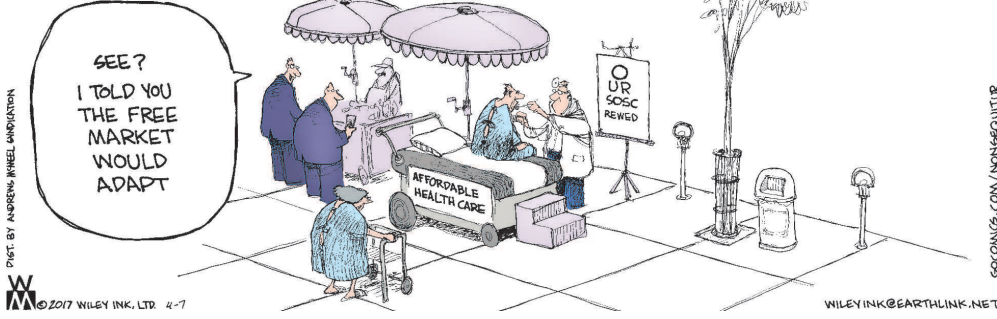
## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

