

# Sexual assault aftermath

**Dear Annie:** Shortly, I will shower and prepare to spend the day with my ex-boyfriend. "Pat" is 60, and I am 67. He started drinking when he was 14 and has always been a drinker, but it didn't interfere too much with our lives until last spring, when he started drinking heavily and stayed drunk for weeks.

It was about a month into his bender when I invited my grown daughter "Elizabeth" to stay while her apartment was being fumigated. That night, Pat went downstairs to the sofa and attempted to sexually assault her. She left screaming. I was in shock. An hour later, my other daughter, "Samantha," called and told me to leave and get to her house, that I should not stay with Pat.

By the time I got to Samantha's house, the police were there to interview Elizabeth. She had called them. (I did not have any say in this, but I was OK with it.) They arrested Pat that night.

The next morning, Pat called to ask me to bail him out. I said no. I started moving my stuff out, and I moved in with my daughter.

Now comes the hard part. He wants me to be his support while he recovers from all his years of drinking. He does not have

any friends. I don't have any friends anymore, either.

My girls have told me not to see him or talk to him. They have made very clear that if I do, I won't be part of this family. But I feel so bad for him. Is there a way to open dialogue with my daughters so I can do this? I will not return to him as his girlfriend. I will not move back to that house or spend a night there. I am seeing a counselor, and so is he. Should I try, or should I walk away for good? — "Margaret"

**Dear Margaret:** If you've written to me looking for the answer your counselor won't give you, I'll have to disappoint you. You must run, not walk, away from this man and into the arms of your loving daughters. It sounds as if those two can offer the clearheaded perspective you so badly need right now. Do not alienate them by spending more time with the man who attempted to assault Elizabeth. What he did is unforgivable.

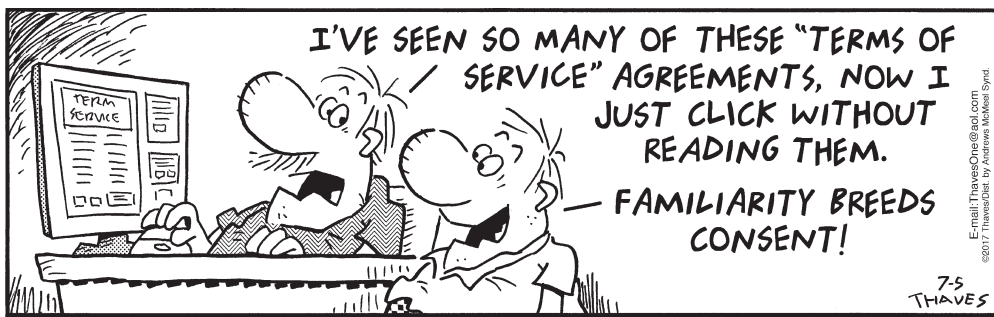
Your desire to rescue him, your belief that you're responsible for his happiness — these are classic traits of people who live with alcoholics. Please seriously consider attending an Al-Anon meeting. You can find one in your area by visiting <http://www.al-anon.org>.

**DEAR ANNIE**

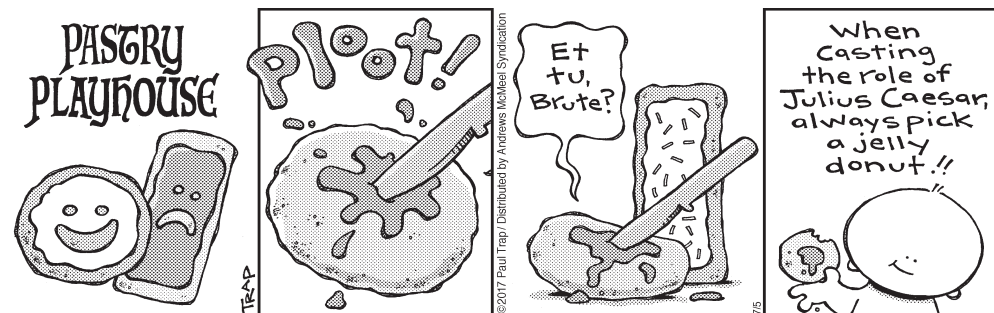


Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**FRANK AND ERNEST**



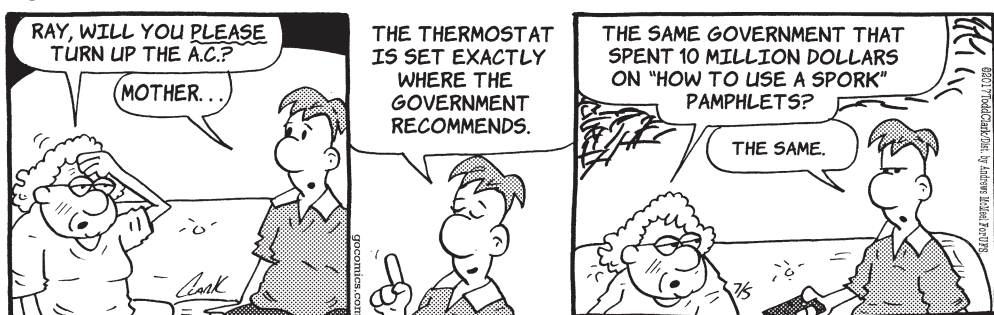
**THATABABY**



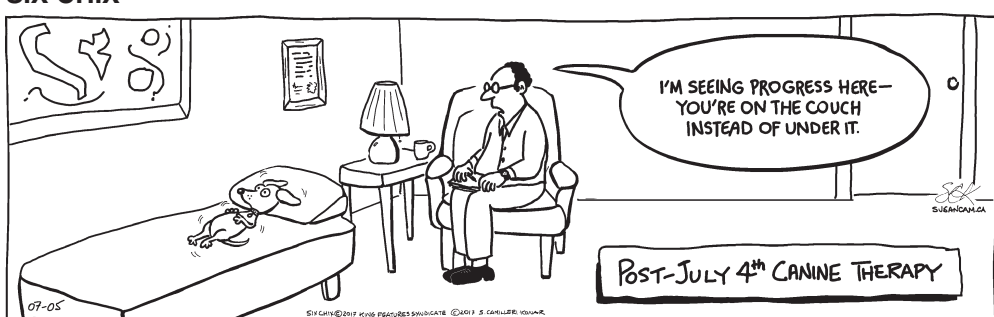
**PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN**



**LOLA**



**SIX CHIX**



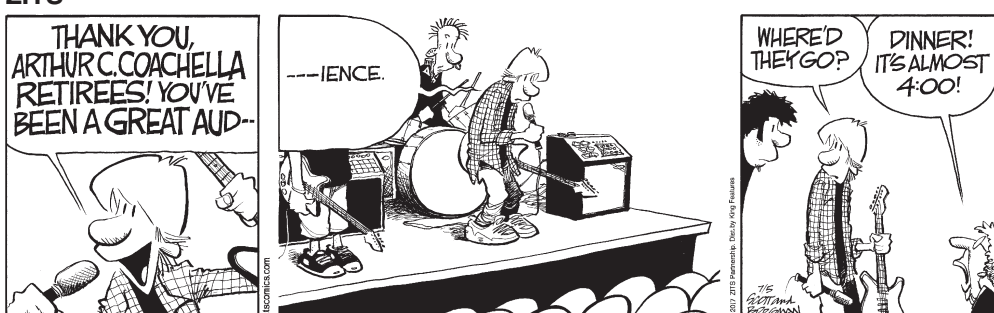
**MUTTS**



**BABY BLUES**



**ZITS**



**TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Holding on makes a person strong, and so does letting go. It's just a different muscle group. There is no decision to be made here, really, just grace to be claimed in whichever situation applies best.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When the facts don't match up with what you thought they'd be, this presents a challenge. Many people deal with this simply by shoring up the facts until they match their preconceptions. Watch out for that, and don't take part in it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You've qualities that come from your cellular lineage and other qualities you picked up along the way. Then there's a part of you that can't be claimed at the cellular or psychological level. You'll act from that spiritual truth today.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Actions have consequences and yet can seem to be strangely inconsequential, too. Mostly it's a time-lapse issue. What feels like excruciating minutiae in real time will be revealed to be meaningful work in retrospect.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If you're going to have a dispute, be sure to define the terms of it — the narrower the better. There's little influence to be gained by taking people on with broadly different views, although you'll sharpen your arguments in the process.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Time is supposed to prevent everything from happening at once, and yet it may fall down on the job today, at least in your case. Your popularity surges — a hard thing to keep up with.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Much will be asked of you: things you don't want to do, things you do want to do, things that fit both categories and seem inextricably linked. Just remember, there are

usually more options than the ones first presented to you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** In the same way that a shoe sets the tone for an outfit, there are some foundational beliefs and attitudes that set the mood of this whole day. Just because a terrible old shoe fits doesn't mean you should still wear it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** While you make something (a plan, a picture, a bed, the sale) you're having an experience. Whatever the outcome may be, the experience will stand on its own merit if the endeavor is a worthy one.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** What you once thought of as work now seems more like a form of prayer. That's not to say it's automatically easy. Praying can have its own difficulties, especially if you're new at it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** At times the work laid before you seems absurd in a way that only you are seeing. This is made plain when you laugh and they don't or when you tilt your head at what they unquestionably accept.

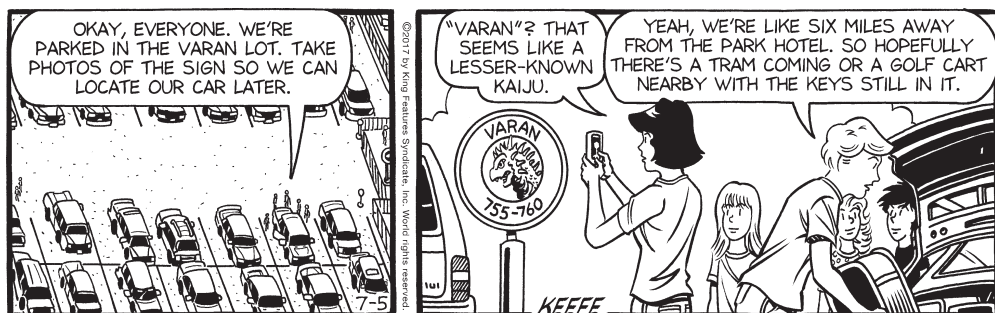
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll be making room for the next generation to contribute, not because your turn is over, but because you appreciate the influence and realize the importance of staying ever fresh at every stage and age.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 6).** You're so loved, but that's not even the best part. The best part is that you appreciate and fully receive the gift and pure energy of this. You'll acquire new tools and resources in August. You'll be put in charge of more people, and you'll contribute positively to the lives of others. Travel and winning sports teams will be the fun of 2018. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 3, 39, 14 and 25.

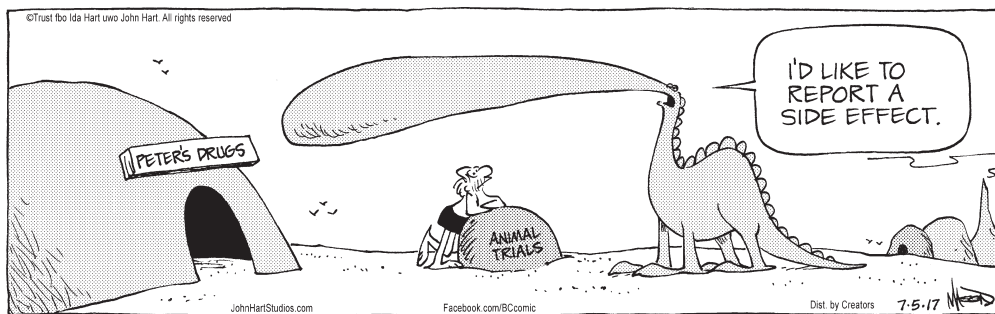
**BLONDIE**



**SALLY FORTH**



**B.C.**



**DILBERT**



**BIZARRO**



**NON SEQUITUR**



**WIZARD OF ID**



**ROSE IS ROSE**

