

# She wants friends to back off

**Dear Annie:** I have many close friends from different groups. My time with each of them is very important, and I don't want to be tied down to one friend. My partner has many wonderful friends he enjoys spending time with, too.

Recently, we got acquainted with another couple at my young son's football match. The new-found friendship is moving too fast. They are already talking about doing weekends away together, planning several weekend trips for us all. We've only known them for a few months and been friends for a month.

I'm a pretty easygoing, kind-natured woman; I fit in with all types of crowds. But I don't like to be pushed into things or backed into a corner. I like things to take a slow, natural course, and I never rush the process of becoming close with someone.

I don't believe friendships or relationships work well when they progress quickly. My partner and I were friends for seven years before we started dating!

I feel uncomfortable with

what's developing. I have this uneasy feeling about the progress of this new friendship. My hunches are normally accurate, and I'm an OK judge of character. Am I being a little childish about this? What should I do? — *Too Fast for Me*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Too Fast:** What's stopping you from pumping the brakes? There's a simple solution here — saying "No, thank you" or "We're busy" to the weekend-getaway invitations. As you don't seem to have entertained that option, I'm guessing you're the type of person who has a hard time saying no. I'd encourage you to do some self-reflection regarding why that is. Perhaps you value being seen as easygoing more than you value your own needs and wants. Work on setting boundaries.

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to "Tired Loving Daughter," who isn't able to fully enjoy her life because of her caregiving duties. I use a camera in my mom's retirement apartment to keep up with her. I bought a nest camera about three years

ago, and I can monitor her from my phone and my computer. If there is anything suspicious, I notify the staff.

The camera is set up in her living room. I see when she leaves for her meals and when she comes and goes. I see what time the staff members come in to clean her room.

One time, I noticed that her dinner came two hours ahead of schedule; the evening chef hadn't shown up for his shift, so the manager decided to use leftovers from lunch. That meant she would have gone hungry later that night. I and several other family members took food to the residence that night, and other patients were expressing how hungry they were, too. I was thankful we had the camera so we knew what was going on. Because of that footage, I was able to report this incident to the upper management.

The cameras will hold the footage for up to a month. I spend a small amount each month for the service, and it has been a great investment for me. — *GSP Smith*

**Dear GSP Smith:** What a great use of technology. Thank you for sharing the tip.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Be patient enough to do what it takes to solve a problem once and for all. The first answer you come up with may not be the best. Go deeper. Ask, "What else? How else?"

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People want to share with you. Show-and-tell time will start out interesting. Brevity is the way to keep it that way. Ward against over-sharing and stick to the safe topics.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Life won't provide you with incentives, but you're so creative that you can come up with some pretty awesome ones when you're at a loss. Keep the momentum up today: Know what you're looking forward to and envision the prize.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Most children don't think so, but life really is better with fewer sweets, less screen time and more fresh air. You'll tap into your grown-up instincts and feel wonderful for the effort.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Long-term thinking isn't always so fun, and thinking only of the moment is foolish. There's a sweet spot in the middle of short- and long-term thinking that will be wonderfully accommodating to your plans.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your incredible gift of adaptability will kick in today. You'll stretch, flex and grow yourself in order to meet the new situation. Your lack of ego is what makes this possible.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Gather information. Get clarity on all communication. You are mighty intuitive now, but you'll learn more by asking than by assuming

you already have the answers.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** If you're constantly standing up for yourself around a certain person, it's a red flag. Don't ignore the signal that a person doesn't accept and support you as you are.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Start making plans for the upcoming event. It's a lucky time to free-associate about how you want this to go. Gather inspiration and ideas. Talk to the ones who have done it before.

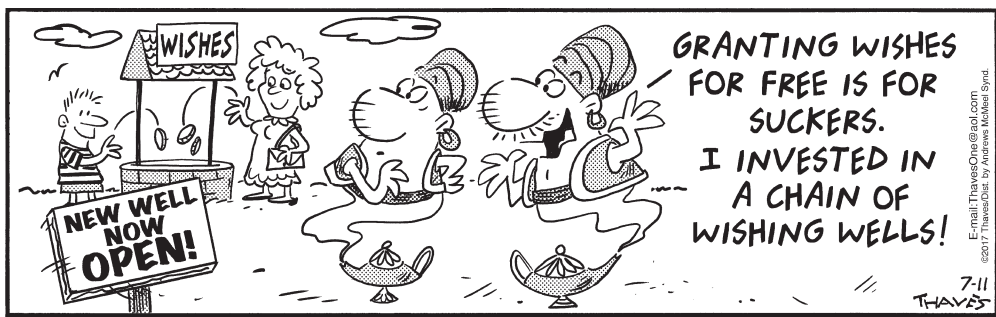
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll listen to different philosophies, some of which will be easier to relate to than others. Your open mind will hold some of this information for later when it better applies.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your active mind may also become restless tonight. Just remember that sleep is an important part of any mammal's life. Instead of lying awake with worry, outline a plan.

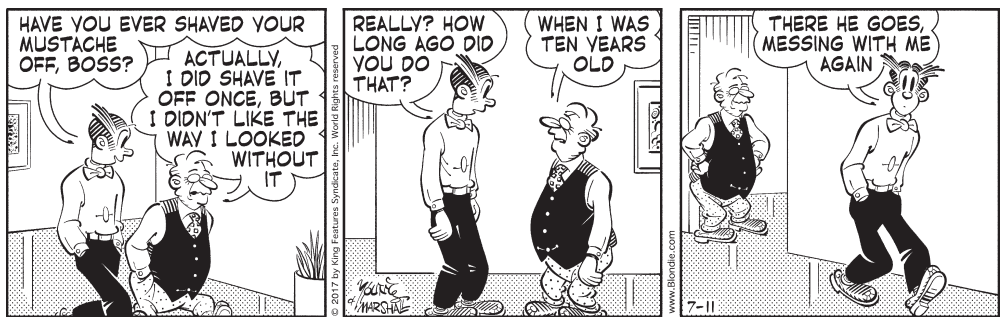
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Getting back to basics is a very personal process, since what is "basic" to you is not even in the realm for someone else. Honor your own essentials regardless of whether the others understand what you need.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 12).** You have healed yourself and will now assist others in feeling better and functioning at a higher level. You'll spend work hours wisely and be paid well for your efficiency. The financial trend will help you to become more comfortable. Improved communication makes new relationships possible. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 30, 9, 28 and 25.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



## BLONDIE



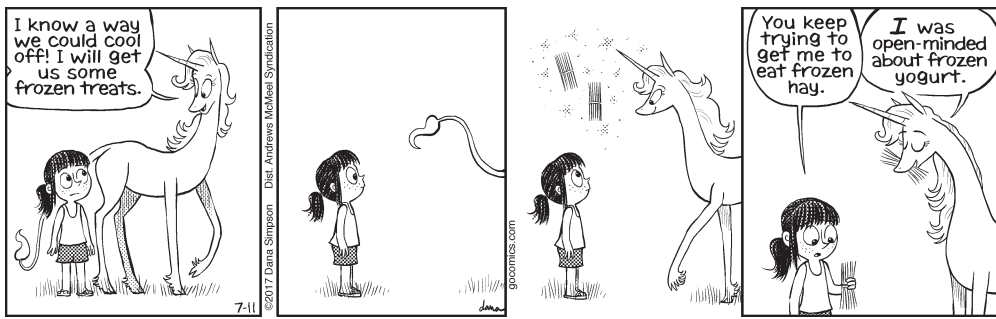
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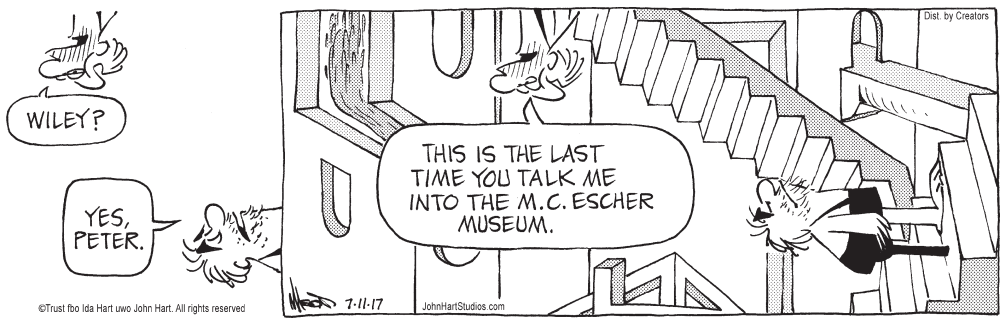
## SALLY FORTH



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## B.C.



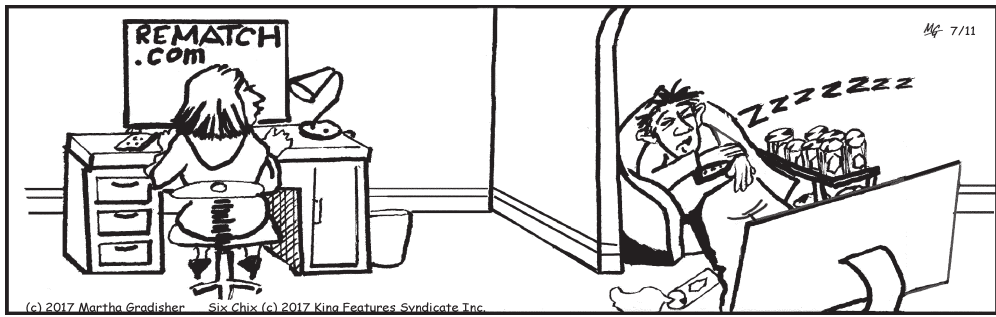
## LOLA



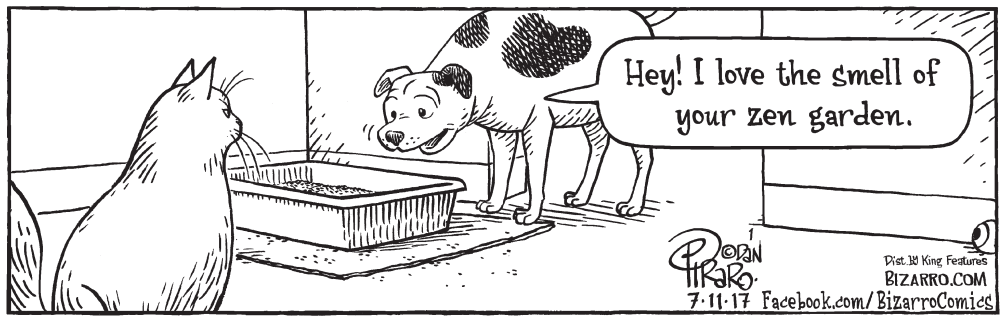
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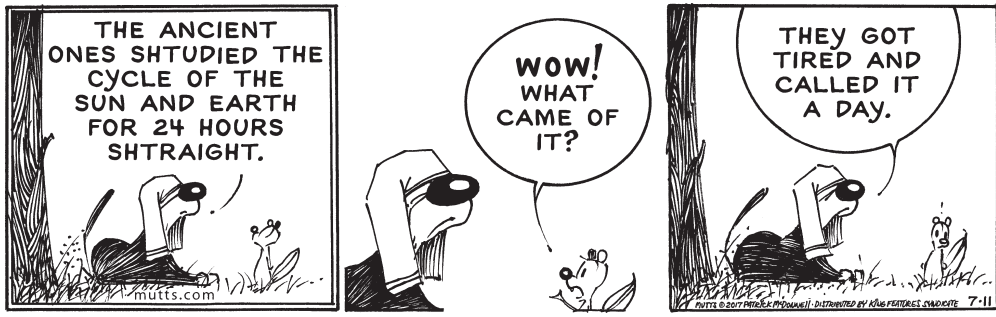
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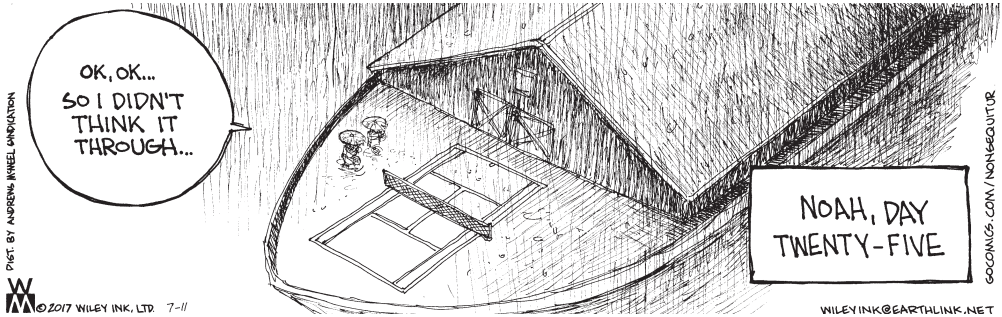
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## MUTTS



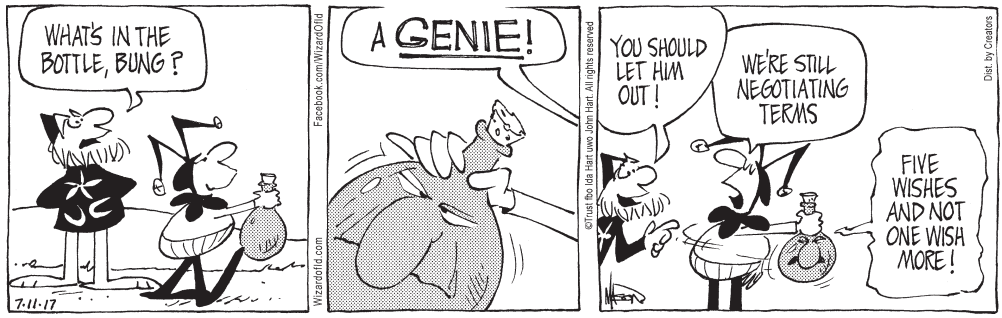
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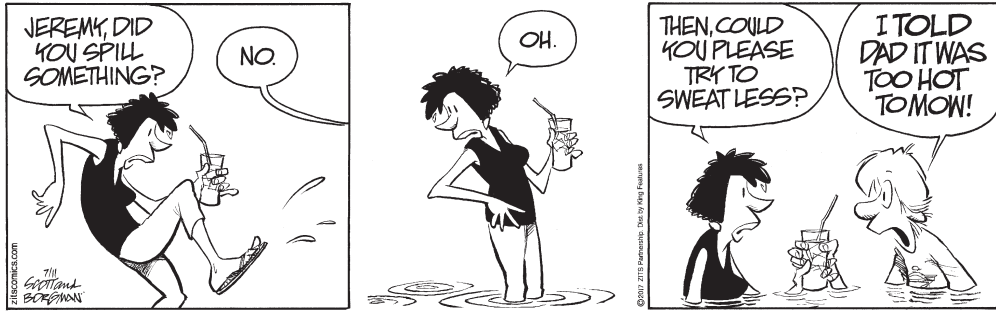
## BABY BLUES



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE

