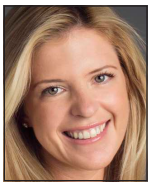


Newsworthy or not?

Dear Annie: I'm a writer and photographer for a regional magazine. In my town, there's a local celebrity whom I think has gotten a big career on not-so-big talent. He gets press coverage everywhere for almost everything he does — except in my little corner of culture writing. I have not pitched any articles about him and instead cover lesser-known people. In my mind, I'm lending credence to the those who have actually worked hard and don't just market themselves well, but I worry that my pettiness is apparent and will limit me career-wise. Which way should I go? — *Rolling My Eyes*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

is newsworthy and would be of interest to your readers. If deep down you know the answer is yes, put aside your own feelings and feature him. If the answer really is no, then stop worrying about being perceived as petty.

By the way, these days, people with mediocre talent can exceed if they're savvy at self-promotion, and that's really not your local celebrity's fault; it's simply the times we're living in, for better or worse.

Dear Annie: There are renters who recently moved into our neighborhood. They have two children around the age of 8 who help with chores and seem very well-mannered. Lately, a neighborhood boy around the same age has become a frequent visitor at the house and constant playmate. The boy, whom I'll call "Johnny," is well-known ... and not for good reasons. He has vandalized property, purposely walks out in front of cars, uses bad language and

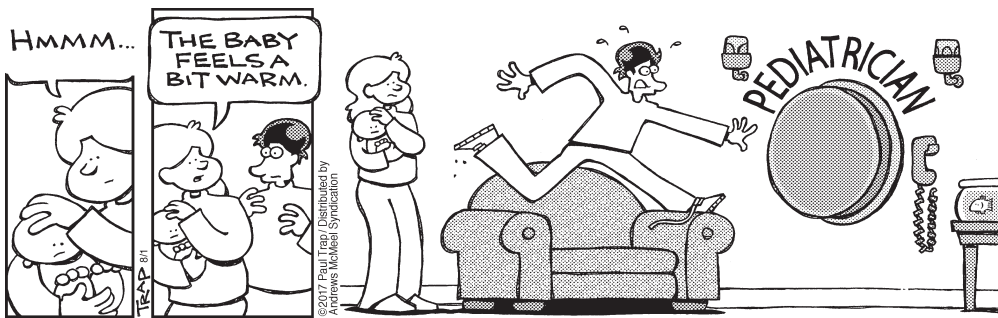
defies authority. Johnny used to hang out at another house in the neighborhood but is no longer welcome there because the father decided he was "a bad influence." I feel for Johnny. He is being raised by elderly grandparents who are in bad health and offer little oversight. However, I also wonder if I should warn the neighbor's parents about Johnny's history. What do you think? — *Concerned in Georgia*

Dear Concerned: Your intentions are good, but you know what they say about good intentions. Keep your thoughts to yourself for now. Your new neighbor's children sound wonderful, and it's two well-behaved children with one not-so-well-behaved child. They might end up influencing Johnny for the better, setting him on the straight-and-narrow. Regardless, with whom your neighbor children spend time is completely up to their parents. If their parents should come to you with questions about Johnny, then offer up your two cents.

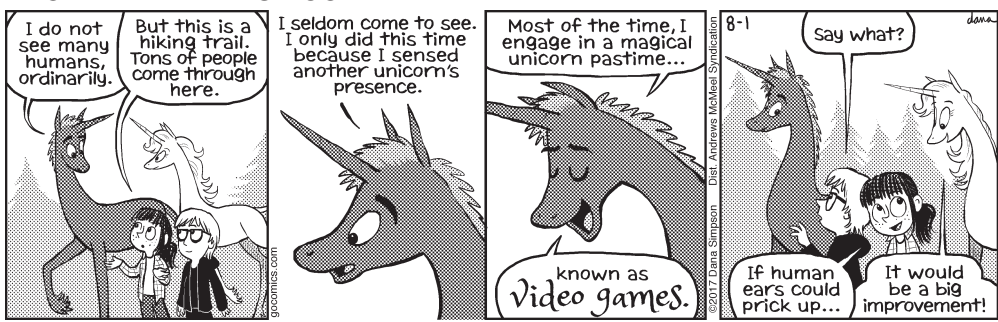
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



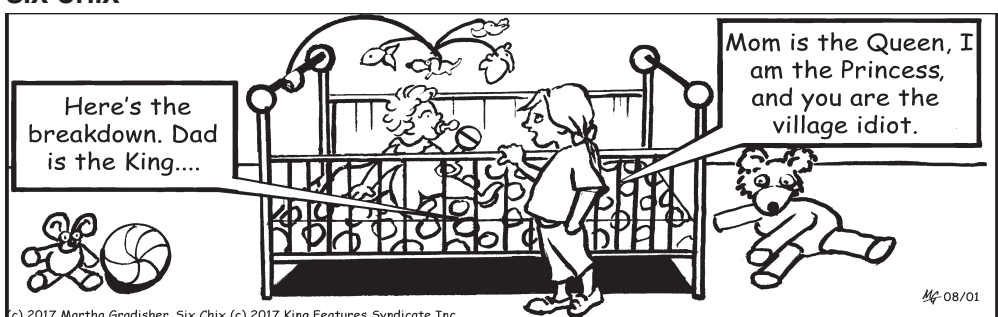
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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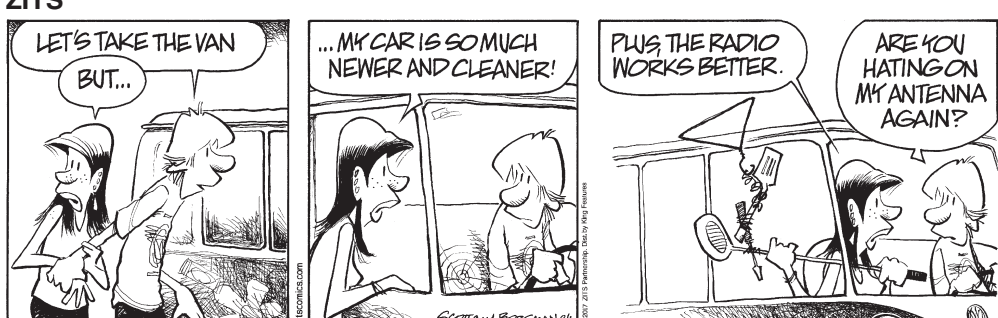
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't necessarily want to be the leader. You don't desire more power and influence than you already have. And yet, you will still model the attitudes and behaviors you want to see in others. This is the heart of leadership.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Agree to deal with people as they are. More importantly, deal with yourself as you are. Personality traits are easier to enhance, shape or highlight than they are to shed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Greed is boring. Those who are interested only in the sale miss the fun of the game. So while a driven person is more attractive to you than an idle one, a person who is only driven by his own self-interest is the least attractive of all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Making a good impression and helping others feel good about themselves (and you) is serious business. There is nothing casual, hasty or accidental in your approach to this today. It matters to you — a lot.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you like something, you immerse yourself in it. Because you take on your subjects of interest with gusto, you'll be able to present a case for them that's lively, challenging and convincing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). One of the many positive things about social media is that it nudges us to celebrate the minutiae of daily life. The voice inside that asks, "Is this worth sharing?" has us more aware of the merits in a coffee cup or a sandwich.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Opportunities are gifts. To seize the opportunity and run with it is a living, breathing thank-you note. Such interplay will unfold beautifully today and you'll show impressive grace in the exchange.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Of course you prefer pleasant emotions. Who doesn't? You also have the courage and patience to accept whatever feelings come up. Laughter and joy are as essential to being human as are frustration and tears.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Grand gestures are punctuation marks in the sentence of a love story. They are not the story itself. The small, specific gestures that only the two of you understand bring greater proof of love than the big events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is difficult to track your progress when your pursuits are varied and many. Focus in on one goal. What is the measurement that will prove you've made it? Keeping record of this will help you stick to the plan and carry on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't help but be influenced by the people you spend the most time with. You're either already like them or you'll become like them. Even a very slight change in your social lineup will make a big difference.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life is a balance. Part of that balance is being unbalanced from time to time. Today you'll see quick progress precisely because you focus all of your energy in one direction.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2). This solar return you will endeavor to create special experiences for people and be mightily effective. The next 10 weeks show you getting healthier. September's hard work will be delayed but ample pay. In 2018 you'll hit it off with new friends like a candle and a match, softly, warmly illuminating each other's lives. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 18, 33, 31 and 27.

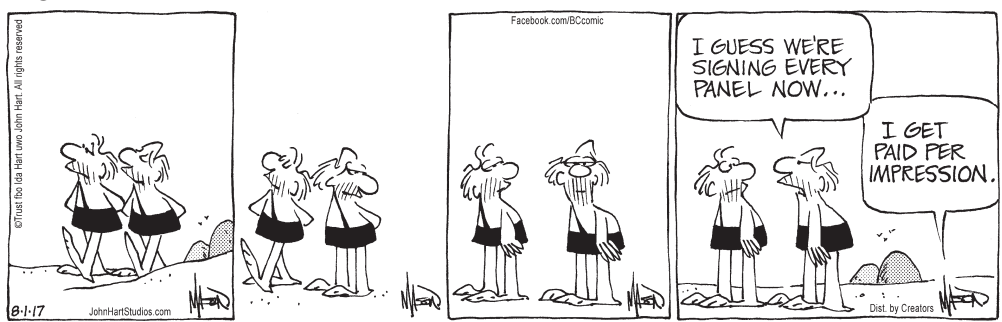
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



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NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

