

# He's into his ex's sister

**Dear Annie:** I was in a toxic relationship with a woman, "Melanie," several months back and am really happy to be out of it. But I guess that really has nothing to do with what's happened recently.

About a month ago, Melanie's sister, "Laura," "slipped into my DMs" — sent me a direct message on Instagram — and I got pretty excited. I think it's supposed to be kind of flirty to do that — ostensibly scandalous, even. We talked for a little over Instagram and later on Facebook, and soon we were texting plans to sing karaoke together. And eventually, we did.

Apparently, I sing really well, because I took her home and, after moping for a while about my having dated her sister, we wound up collapsing into each other's arms. And so it goes.

So, I really like this woman. She's really funny and open-minded and independent. She's also way hotter than I am, and I think I'm pretty good-looking to start with. And most importantly, she's really nice. That's the most important thing to me.

I've always said that all is fair in love and war. And I believe that. But

it's also, I guess, inconsiderate of me to date my ex's sister.

It's early. We're talking and being physical occasionally; that's about it. But I really want to cultivate more with this summer fling. I think she's great. Annie, what should I do? —

*Wishy-Washy Walter*

**Dear Wishy-Washy Walter:** Of all the women in the world, why did you pick your ex's sister? And why did she pick you? I have a feeling she's got a problem with her sister and you're merely a pawn in the game. But that's neither here nor there.

The main point is that this won't work. For one, you and your ex had a toxic relationship; you need to create distance between yourself and her, not proximity. For another, this could cause a huge rift in their family. If you care about Laura at all, you should spare her that angst and end things now. There are plenty of fish in the sea whom you could catch without hurting feelings.

**Dear Annie:** I'm so happy to see that meditation is helping "Working on My Perspective in Pennsylvania," who originally wrote to you about her speech problems. I'd like

her to know that she's not the only one who has difficulty with saying the letter R. I have the same issue. But I have refused to see it as a problem ever since my mother bravely walked over to the school after I'd come home from sixth grade crying one too many times and told the speech teacher, "Leave the kid alone. She talks the way she talks." I can even laugh now about my high-school counselor's calling me in, at the request of the company where I'd applied for a summer office job, to find out whether I had a "fake English accent!"

My friends know that even though I sound as if I were from England or the other side of our great country — New England — I was born in California. If it's someone I don't know asking (as if it were any of his/her business) where I'm from, I sometimes respond, "Guess." If the person says "Boston" or "New England," I make his or her day by smiling and replying, "You guessed it!" Hope this helps. — *Been There*

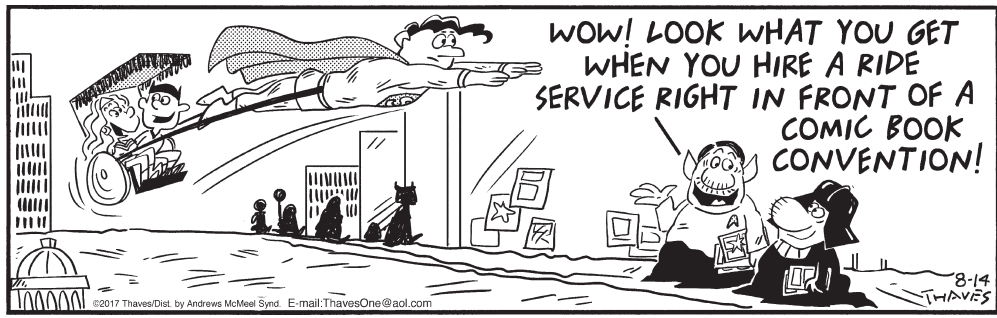
**Dear Been There:** You've a great attitude, and I commend you for having patience with strangers. I'm printing it here as encouragement for "Working on My Perspective" and anyone else who struggles with being different from the rest.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

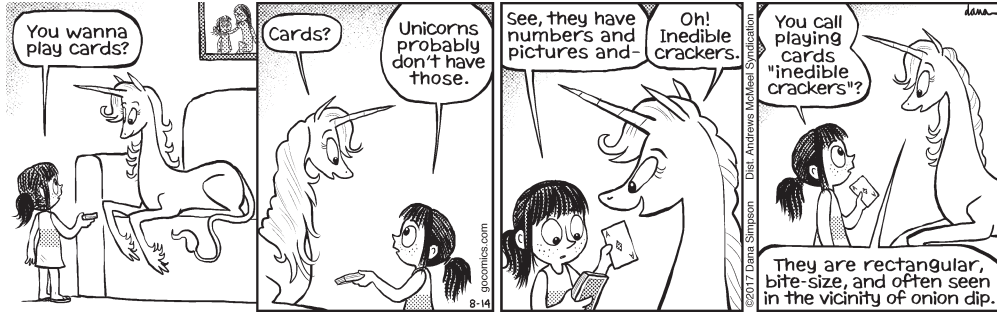
## FRANK AND ERNEST



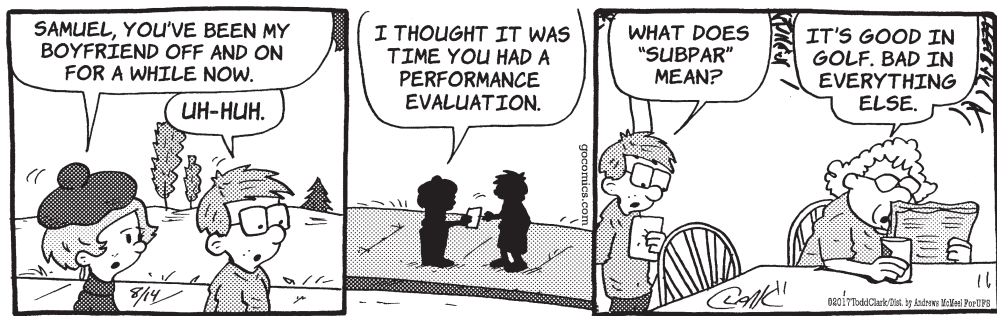
## THATABABY



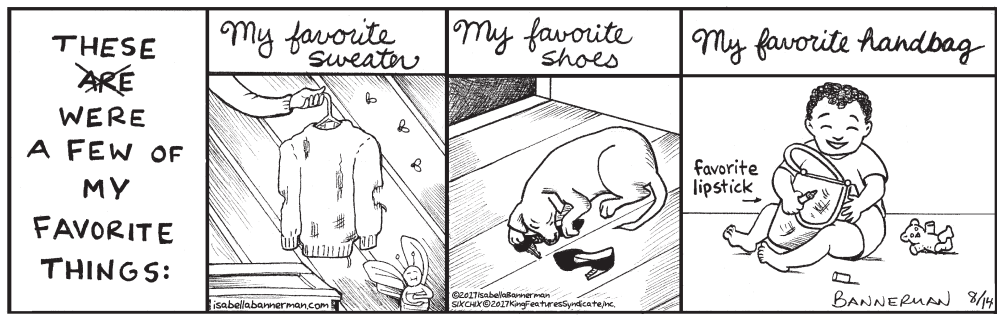
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You know what you're best at, right? If you're still stuck on that, here's a hint: It's either the opposite of what you're worst at, or it's the same thing, just a different facet of it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's said that happiness is a way of traveling. You certainly carry it with you today, a hum of vitality that lends a quickness to your stride, a playfulness to your approach.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Beware: There are some things (and people) that are very difficult to experience in moderation. You have but the smallest amount and they leave a hunger inside you for more, more, more.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's so much easier for a relationship to develop if there's an outside structure, such as church, school or work, that keeps people in contact. Alas, if you like a person enough you'll invent reasons to get together.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Just when you think there's nothing new under the sun, the cosmic DJ comes along to mix up what's already there in such a wondrous way as to make everything seem fresh.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Think of everything you want in life as a moving target. The way to reach the goal is not by aiming at it, but by aiming beyond it. And don't be surprised if you need greater effort, sharper skill and more resources than first calculated.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** People laugh at clowns and people laugh at geniuses. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between the two, if there is any. Some foolishness is pure folly. Then again, folly is often what leads to the breakthrough.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll want to make a powerful impression. Go slower. Move less. Be still. People who are still are thought of as poised. Composure shows restraint and confidence.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Don't worry so much about what you're going to say. Your silence, when it is full of supportive, heroic and/or loving intent, is more desirable than beautiful music.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You like giving gifts. It energizes you. So it's wonderful that today you'll be so filled with the intent of service that your work won't feel like a job; rather, it will feel like a gift you're giving.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You've helped others and now they want to repay you. Maybe you'd prefer they didn't. Maybe you don't need repayment. Accept it graciously anyway, as all will feel better when this giving cycle is complete.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Before you rush to sign up and learn, consider going at it without training for a while. In fact, maybe you should wait as long as you can to learn the rules. If you don't know what can or can't be done, you'll be creatively free.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 15).** The forces of felicity fall in love with your attitude and gumption. You'll transfer the knowledge you've gained from things that didn't quite hit for you in the past into new ventures with a higher probability of success. See, nothing you've done has been a loss. Developments with family will inspire a move or travel in 2018. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 1, 7, 12 and 3.

## BLONDIE



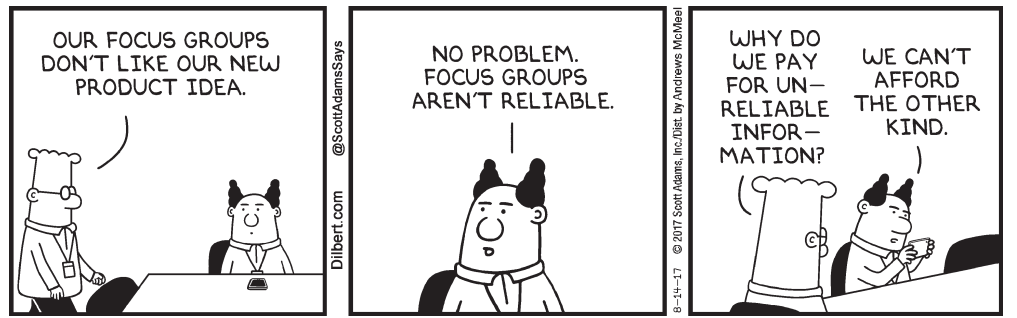
## SALLY FORTH



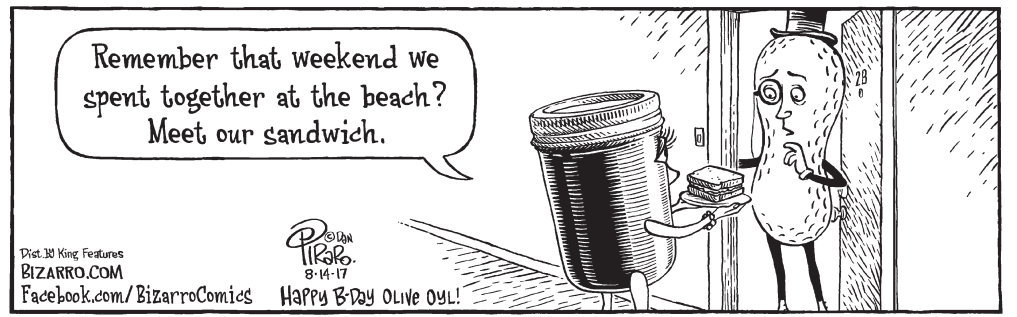
## B.C.



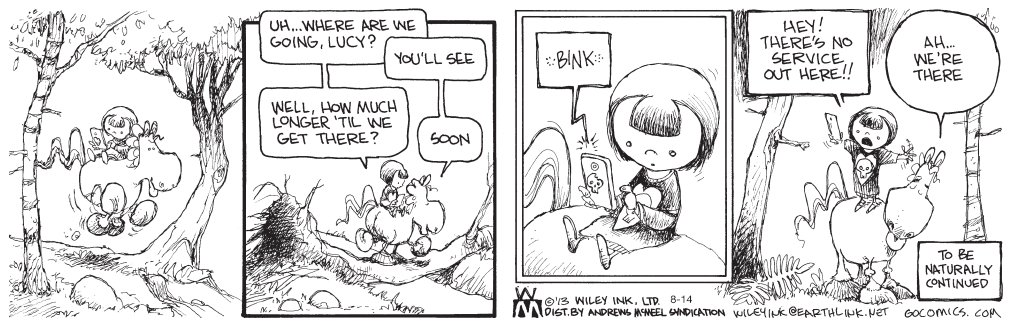
## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

