

# Co-worker can't stop talking

**Dear Annie:** I have a co-worker who, for many reasons, drives me up the wall. "Lana" is older than I am by at least 35 years and sits across from me at work. This would be fine, except she will not stop talking. No matter how little interest I show or how many times I say "You told me this before," she will natter on and on and on.

She talks about everything and anything — her pets, her friends, her friends' marital/financial/health problems, what she had for dinner, "funny" things she's found on Facebook. Even if I have headphones on or am clearly not listening, she'll keep talking. It's infuriating and very distracting for all of us in the office.

To add to this, she has a serious case of one-upmanship syndrome. No matter who in the office is having a conversation — we have an open floor plan — she has to butt in with her own unsolic-

ited opinion and make it about her. It's gotten to the point where I can't have a single conversation at the office with any of my other co-workers without her interrupting and taking over the conversation.

For example, a younger co-worker and I were discussing housing in our town. (We both rent.) She barged into our conversation with her own horrible landlord experiences, though we hadn't asked her opinion or advice. Her experiences were also 30 years out of date and thus not even relevant.

How do I politely tell her to shut up and mind her own business? — *Tired of Interruptions in the Midwest*

**Dear Tired of Interruptions:** I have a feeling you'll have a hard time politely telling her anything, because your fuse is about a centimeter long at the moment. Talk to human resources instead. This problem affects the whole office, not just you, so it should be of concern to

management.

**Dear Annie:** My brother, executor of my father's will, and I had a falling out a few years back. To punish me, he took \$3,000 from my inheritance, claiming it was for an alleged loan I took from my father. He has no proof of this, nor did it ever happen. And he did not deduct the expenses of major purchases Dad made for my sisters, which were common knowledge among the family.

Do I have any legal recourse? Or should I just let it go and write him out of my life for good? — *Wondering*

**Dear Wondering:** It's unfortunate that estate settlement winds up tearing so many families apart when the most important thing parents hope to leave their children is not a thing at all; it's a legacy of love and kindness.

I'm sorry to hear what your brother did to you. Though it's hard to say without the details, it sounds as if there's a very good chance you have legal recourse. Contact an attorney to explore your options.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

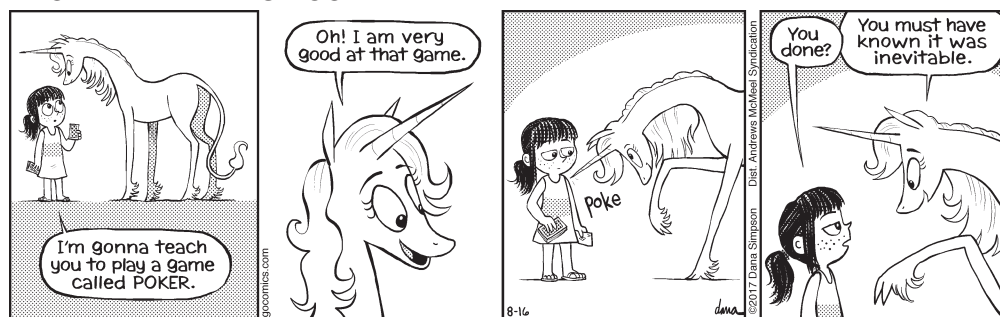
## FRANK AND ERNEST



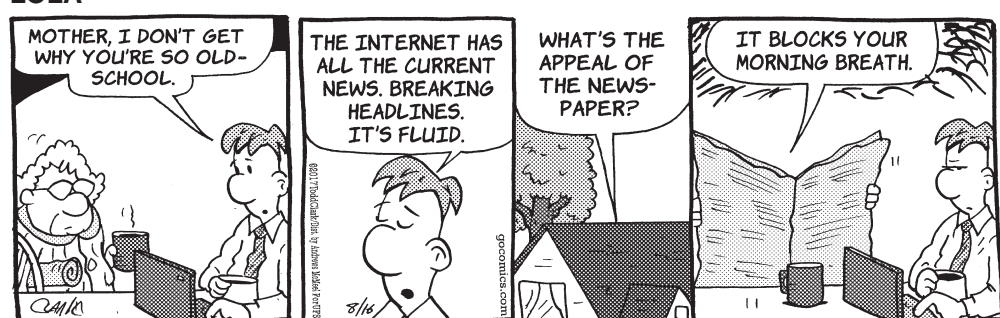
## THATABABY



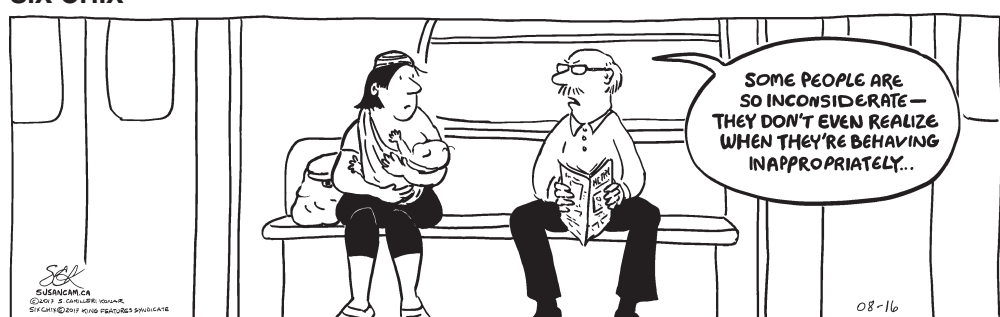
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



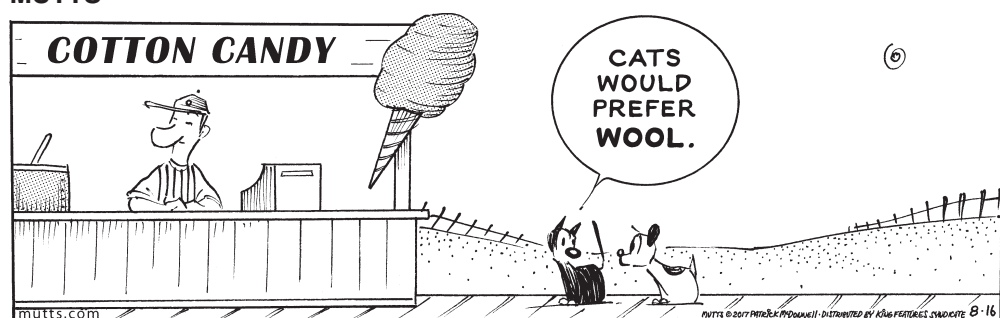
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Unless this story is a melodrama, the hero won't be the seemingly perfect character who always does what's right, and the villain won't be sheer evil, either. The hero is flawed but bold. The villain is well-meaning but ill-advised.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Your needs, wants and future projections are changing. Don't be intimidated by accounting! You're probably doing fine, but you won't really know until you shore up the short-term gains against the long-term costs.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The mind at work won't be a tight essay or neat math problem; rather, it will resemble a rambling, shapeless amoeba gaining organization as it finds the direction of growth. In other words, be patient. The ideas are still forming.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are certain qualities that are more universally attractive than others. Still, there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to love. Generic attributes aside, affinity will be created through your individual intelligence and sparkle.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** On your way to fun and success you'll blow past obstacles that used to stop you. Maturity is realizing that most inconveniences are not catastrophes and unfortunate events don't define you or automatically dictate your mood.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Growth is uncomfortable. It entails understanding what you couldn't conceive, feeling what you've never felt, doing what you haven't done. Be patient in these early stages. Maybe this whole lifetime is just one long early stage.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** No one gets into the boxing ring without getting punched. No one gets into pool without getting wet. The correct time to

be aware of the tone of a place and the game that's being played there is before entering.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When dealing with yourself, try and provide the same atmosphere of warmth you so hospitably use in your approach to others. It will make change less scary. The change most needed is small, specific and personal.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're large and in charge sitting at the royal throne of your life, and yet you realize, as most rulers do, much that happens in your kingdom is beyond your control. Calmly handle what can be handled.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's an art to giving and receiving. Wasted is the opportunity given to one who is ignorant of its significance. If you're going to ask for more of anything today, ask for more wisdom. You just might get more happiness, too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Professionals see rejection as inevitable. Superstars see rejection as a skill. When you're good at rejection you learn more, take the idea to more people, pitch more and ultimately succeed more.

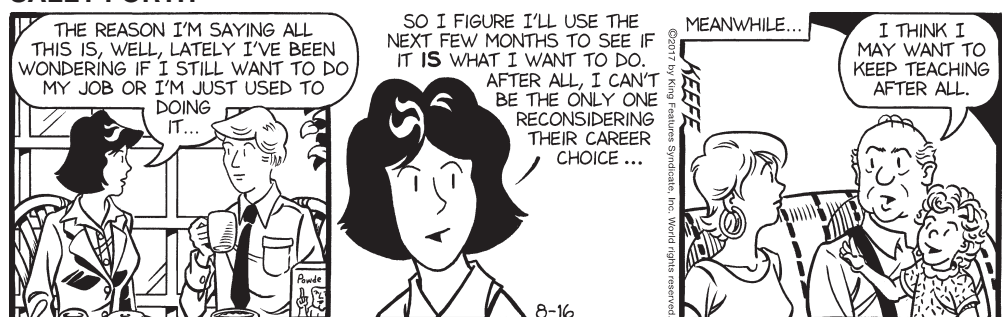
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Like most people, most of the time you're the one on your mind. Hey, taking care of your own needs and happiness serves all. That said, the hours you spend focusing on someone else's enjoyment will be the best of the day.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 17).** Truly your life is becoming more beautiful. Social stars are rising. Love is at the helm. You'll invite people to visit your work and living space, which will inspire new designs and systems. November brings promotion. You'll spend on yourself in 2018 (without guilt!) and the investment pays in unexpected ways. Taurus and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 18, 44, 9 and 12.

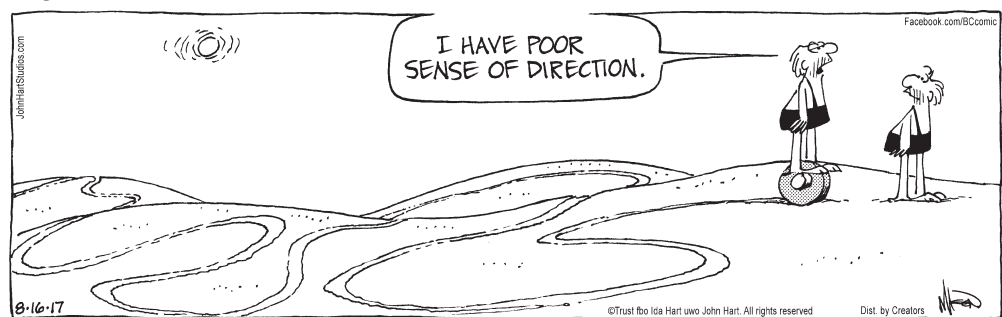
## BLONDIE



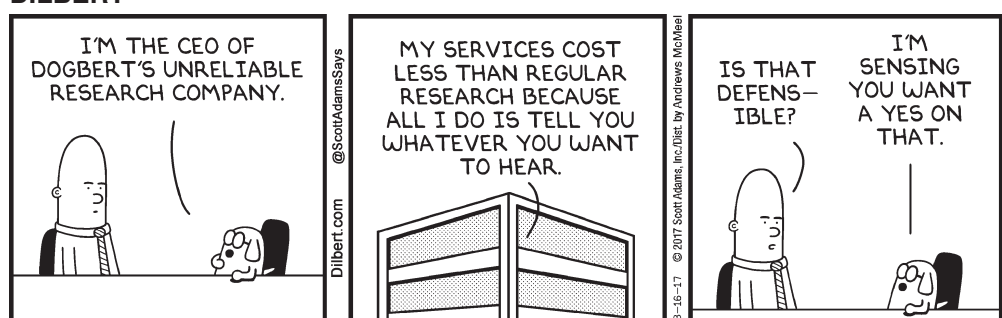
## SALLY FORTH



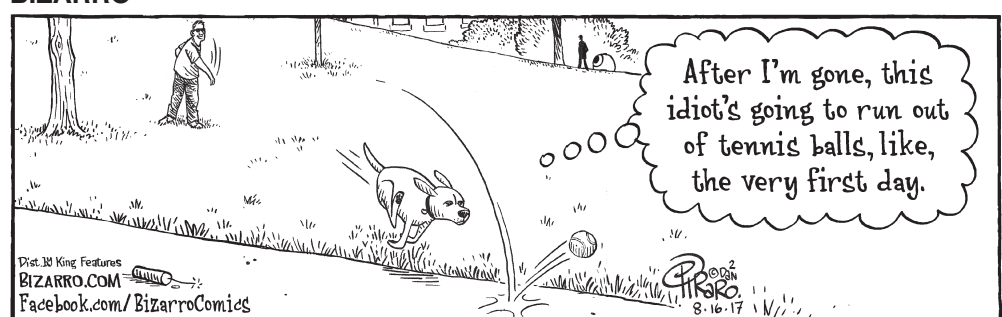
## B.C.



## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

