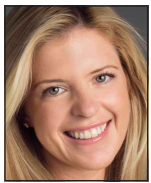


Cutthroat board gaming

Dear Annie: I would like some help with this problem. I recently joined a board game group. A friend had told me to come and play. Two women in the group are very competitive; one is my friend. I haven't played these games since the 1970s. So much has changed. They even play these games online to practice now. One warms up for our weekly games by playing a game at the computer at the center where we meet.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

This week, we had an extra person when I came, so we made two teams instead of playing individually. One of the competitive women said I should play with another woman who doesn't score high. She wanted to play with another of the top players so they could score really high. I felt that I was not wanted, and so did the other ladies. Now I do not want to go to this group anymore. The other woman gets upset if she does not win. Should I continue to go and hope I can

do better or leave the group? — *Undecided*
Dear Undecided: You don't need to improve your score; they need to improve their attitudes. Try talking to your competitive friend about your feelings. If she and the other poor sport in the group can't be kind, relax and enjoy themselves while playing board games with girlfriends, it's their loss. Start your own group with like-minded women who are looking to have fun, not just to win.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Trying to Stay Afloat," the parents who are falling behind on everyday chores in their efforts to be great parents and excel at their jobs.

I absolutely agree with your advice to use Mint. Automatic bill pay can be such a timesaver and can take the worry out of this chore. I liked the Blue Apron or Green Chef idea, as well. That's a great way to cook healthful meals.

I would like to add one observation. As parents, one of our biggest jobs is teaching. And we teach by example. We are teaching our children how to be adults and what they will need to do to survive in our society. No matter the age of a child, we can incorporate our chores into their daily lives.

When they are young, you can make it into a game. When cleaning, give them a dust cloth. Tell them they are chasing down the dust monsters with their magic cloth. Get them toy vacuum cleaners and brooms. If doing the laundry, teach them colors as you sort the laundry. As the children get older, the lessons can become more technical. But always spend good quality time making what you might otherwise see as a chore into a lesson on being an adult. I think we do a disservice to our children by letting them believe life is all fun and games.

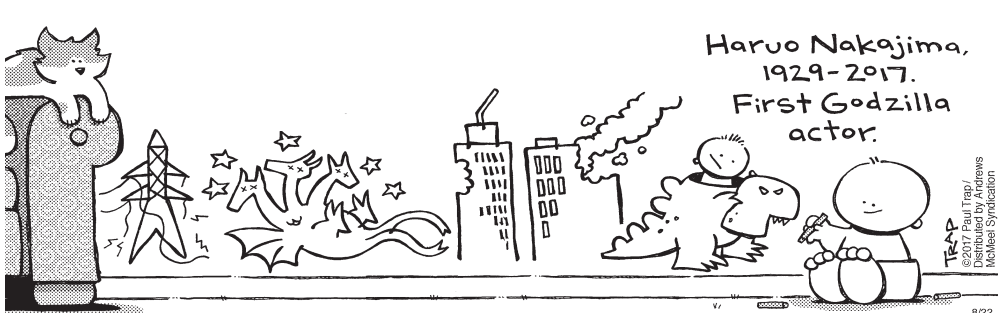
Thanks, Annie, as always, for your good advice. — *Betty*

Dear Betty: You've found teachable moments in everyday chores. I absolutely love your suggestions. Thank you.

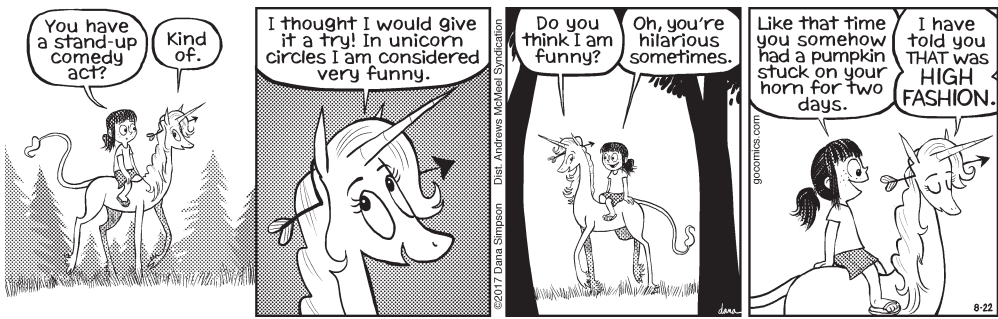
FRANK AND ERNEST



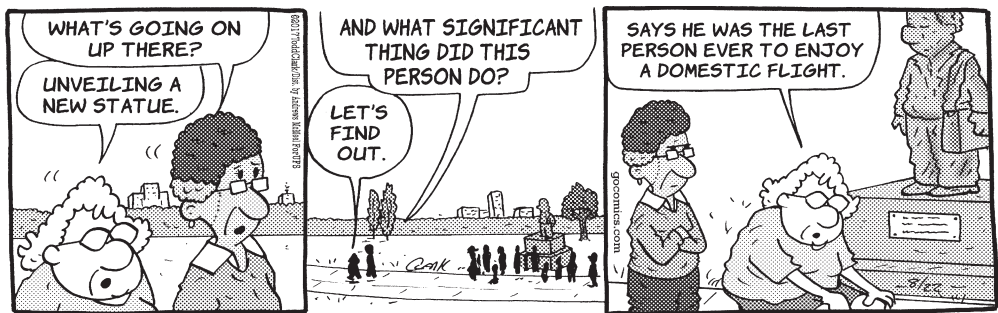
THATABABY



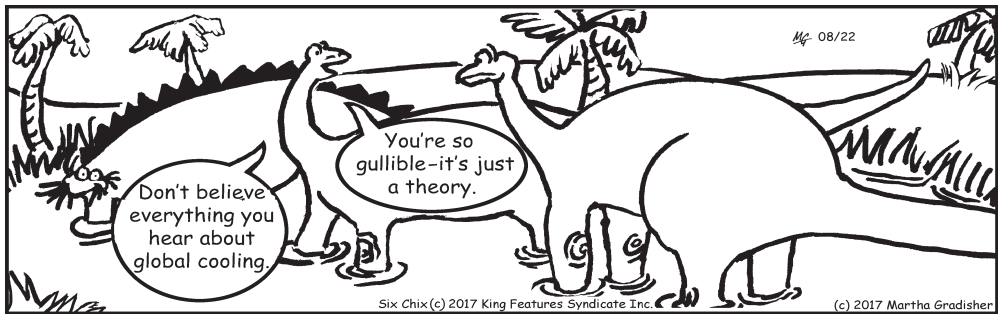
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



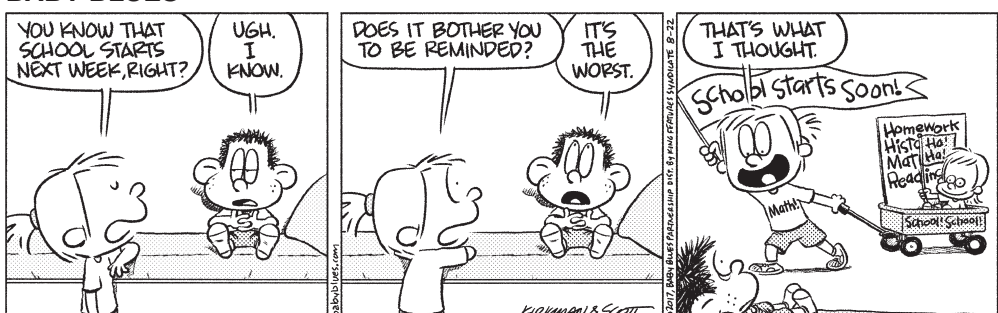
SIX CHIX



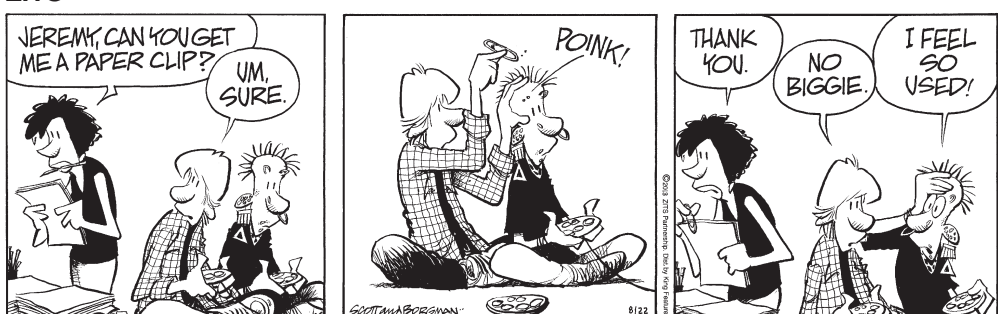
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Most days you get somewhere by doing the hard things first, while your energy is fresh. Today it's the opposite. You'll need to coax yourself along. Ease yourself into it by taking on the next small step.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Know many things; teach one thing. Your editing skills will be as important as — if not more important than — your ability to get one message across. You'll be a godsend to an eager student.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've access to many creative people. Let them inspire you, but don't hand the work over to them. Trust your own creative instincts and skills. You'll enjoy the outcome better when it's entwined in your own learning process.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mind can be an unreliable ally. Instead of jumping to your defense, it sometimes trips you up instead. That's OK. Minds can be trained, and it's easy to do so because your heart is the right place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've been known to write things down, keep receipts, refer to a calendar and more — habits that could use some tuning up now. These systems allow you to offload certain mental functions, freeing your brain up for what you really need it to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You aim to spend less time on mundane things so that you can spend time more creatively. Oddly, the mundane things may bring all the inspiration and rewards you were missing. It's the approach that matters, not the task.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A large number of the things you've ever thought or experienced are still in your memory banks or have been moved to an ancillary storage space somewhere in your body. It will be useful to trust that you know what

you know.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are on an adventure, a true co-creation, and the options multiply with each person you add to the team. Just make sure that everyone has a defined role and something key to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The brilliant circumstances won't be designed out of wishes and built out of expert plans. They will be discovered through trial and error or settled upon because they work well toward a desired end.

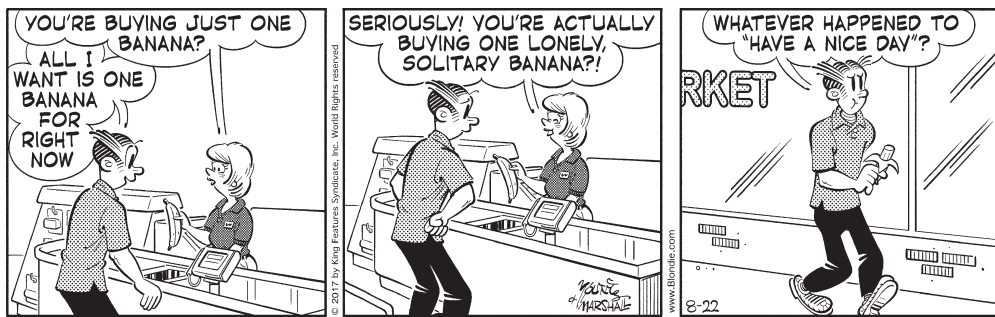
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There will be much meandering before the idea. Even then it may not be a good one. It will need to be tested. So be patient with your day. Listen to people. Take the time to relate. Don't be in a hurry to get anywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Hesitation projects the wrong image. The good news is that you don't have to worry so much about making the wrong decision; most of your inclinations will work. So just make any decision, and do it quickly.

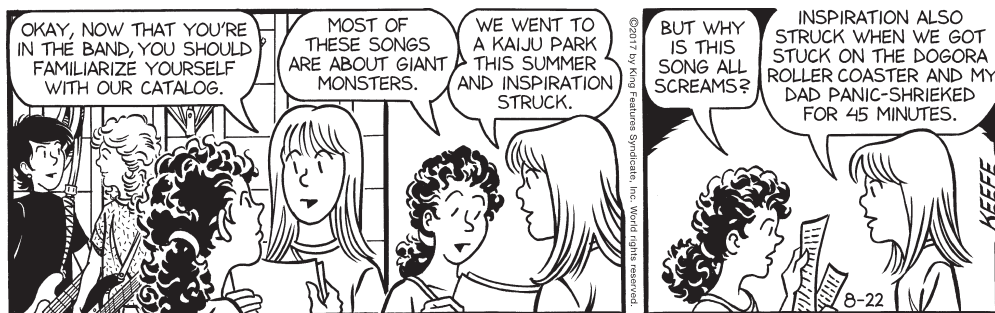
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In all things there's a kind of cost-benefit analysis that's at the heart of finding satisfaction. All that's required is that you work until it's more or less good enough, reaching a kind of equilibrium between effort and benefit.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 23). The world got better when you were born, and the next six weeks bring increasing amounts of clarity as to who you are and the life you want. There's something very lucky going on with work the last part of 2017. January brings an exciting reveal. February involves new friendship circles and influences. Gemini and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 29, 30 and 15.

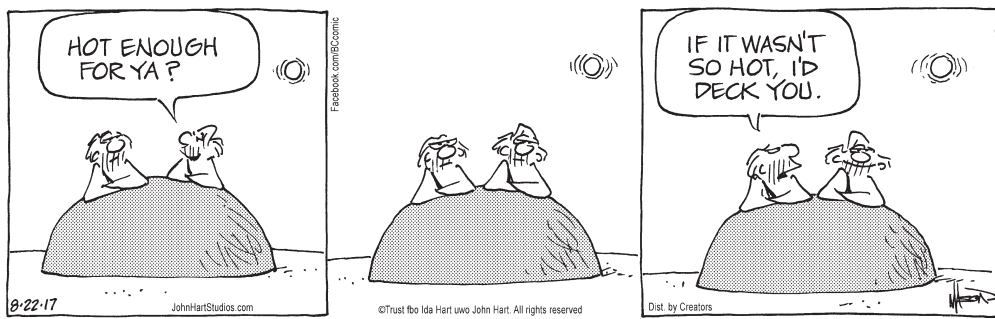
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

