

# Ostracized big brother

Dear Annie: I am 13 years old, and I live in Kentucky. I have a problem with my parents that I can't fix.

I have an older brother, "Greg," whom I love and look up to as a role model. He is 24 years old and my favorite person in the world. Six months ago, he came out as gay to my parents and me. He told us he has been in a secret relationship with "Harry," his best friend since he was 15 years old. They have been sharing an apartment for three years.

My parents went ballistic and disowned him. They said he was no longer welcome in our home. I got really upset and biked over to his apartment a few times to see him. When my parents found out, they banned me from seeing him or talking to him in any way. They threatened to accuse him of kidnapping if he ever sees me again.

I got into a big argument with them and begged them

to let me see him. My dad said Greg is a danger to me and is a disgusting person. Greg has always been nothing but a great older brother to me. Since he moved out three years ago, I have had a bunch of sleepovers at his apartment. Neither he nor Harry has ever done anything in front of me that even made me think they are a couple.

Annie, I love my brother so much and miss him. He is so cool and the best person I know. I don't care that he is gay.

Dad said that it is his job to keep me safe and that if I want to see Greg, I will have to wait till I am 18. My brother tried to talk to my parents about this, and they slammed the door in his face. I tried to talk to my school counselor, but she said I must accept my parents' decisions because they only have my best interest in mind. Please help find a way to change

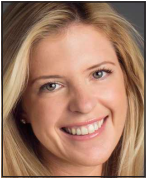
their minds. — *Missing My Brother*

Dear Missing: I am so sorry you've been separated from your big brother. I know your heart is hurting. I would encourage your brother to speak to a lawyer about options to protect him against kidnapping charges, should that arise in the future. I'd also suggest you call the LGBT National Youth Talkline (800-246-7743), which provides factual information and resources for cities and towns across the country.

Dear Annie: Thank you so much for publishing the letter from John, the retired Marine. It was so uplifting and spot on. Many thanks for your wonderful column. Your advice is always so pertinent to the situation. — *Cindy in Louisville*

Dear Cindy: Thank you for writing. I received a great deal of positive feedback regarding John's letter. I'm printing your response so John might see that he's made someone smile.

## DEAR ANNIE

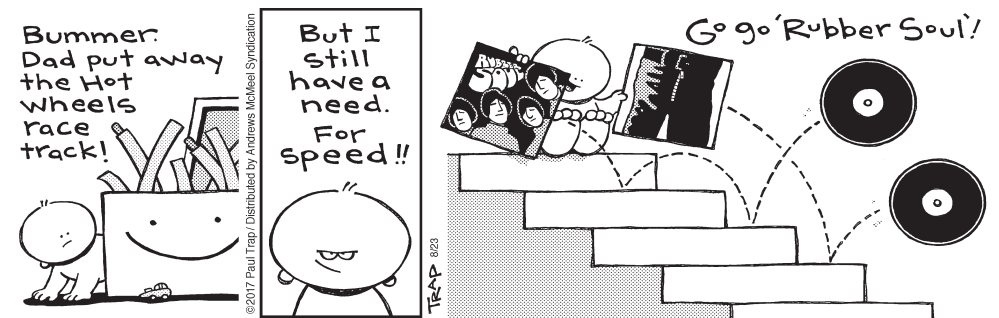


Annie Lane  
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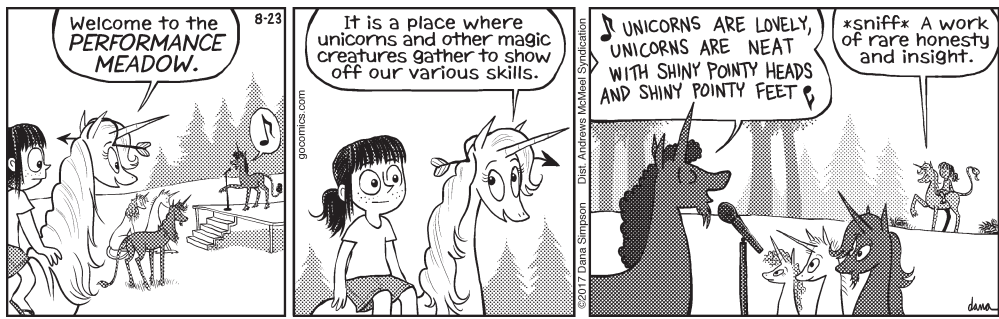
## FRANK AND ERNEST



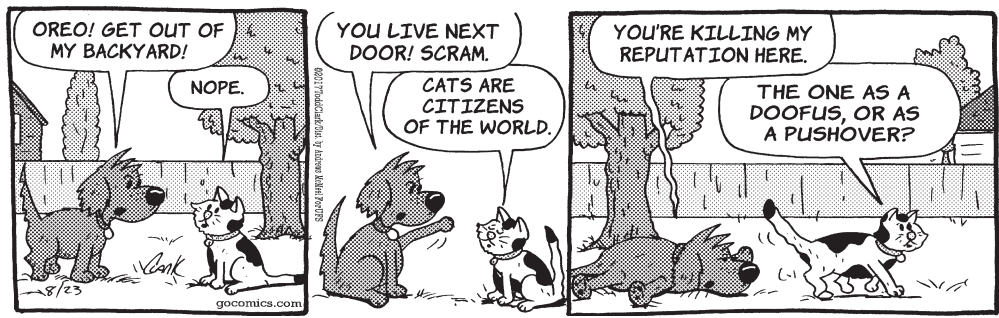
## THATABABY



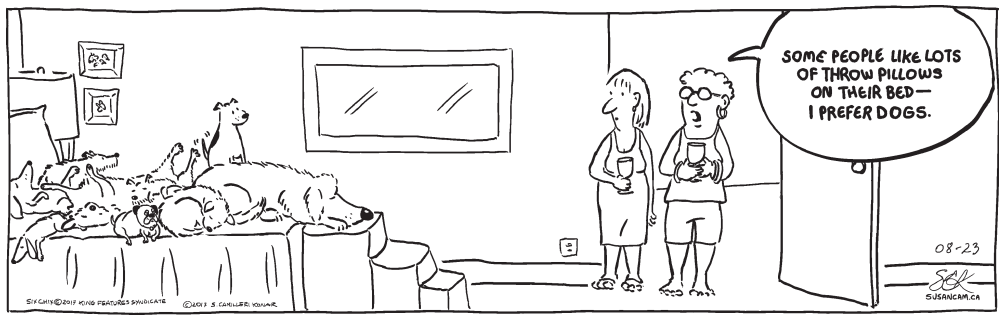
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



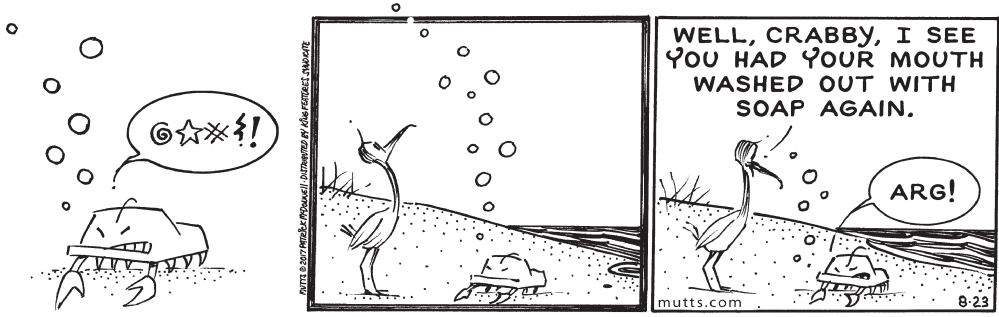
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You can. Somewhere along the line you got a totally different message, and that message was a lie, based on assumptions and partial information. You can. And furthermore, you will.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Everything you get to call your own in this world comes with maintenance, including friendship. For those less socially inclined, friendship maintenance takes effort, but for you it's as it should be — just plain fun.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Keep track. Then later, when you slip into one of those "what am I doing, what have I accomplished, have I wasted my life" type of moods, you'll have plenty of reminders.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** All the improvement starts in your mind. Thinking better is doing better. New research will help you to harness the latent power of your brain to deliver higher levels of achievement.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Many of our broad-based opinions and feelings are inherited from the culture we know best. But if that inheritance is causing stress or even anguish, lose it. A belief's popularity has nothing to do with its rightness.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Universally, flying is commonly thought of as a peaceful experience. Pictures of the Earth from space bring fascination and calm. Serenity flows naturally from a heightened perception. Spiritually, rise up and look down.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** "You have to dive down, as it were," the great Bohemian novelist Franz Kafka wrote in his diary. "And sink more rapidly than that which sinks in advance of you."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Defend what you're doing. Maybe this is just about keeping the distractions and interruptions at bay, or maybe your process and product will come into question. Anyway, while going to bat for yourself you'll learn something.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Boy, will your brain be busy today, assaulted with way too many facts, plenty of jibber-jabber, a dash of rumor and a pinch or two of speculation. The peace of this afternoon will come as a big relief.

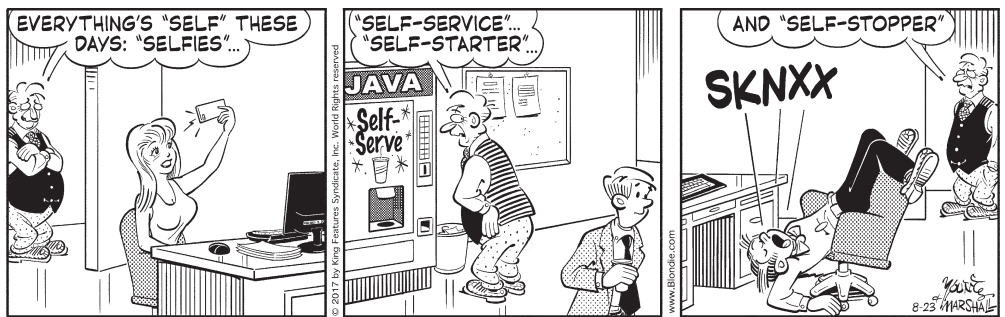
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Though you must see this project through, and it's definitely worth sticking with for all the learning, fun and profits it will yield, don't think for a minute that this is it for you. The best work is the work you haven't thought of yet.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There are circumstances, your opinion of them and a thread of tension suspended in between to carry your emotional reaction. To change your emotion, tweak either the circumstances or your opinion.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You've a sense that some of the ride has been kept from you, and you're now eager for the full experience. You want to know what's behind not just some of the doors but all of them.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 24).** A personal win right at the top of this solar return will be a game-changer. You've been working toward this a long time, but that didn't prepare you for the decisions you'll have to make. Worthy mentors will help you through. Seek those with qualities of kindness and compassion as well as worldly success. Taurus and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 28, 3, 46 and 12.

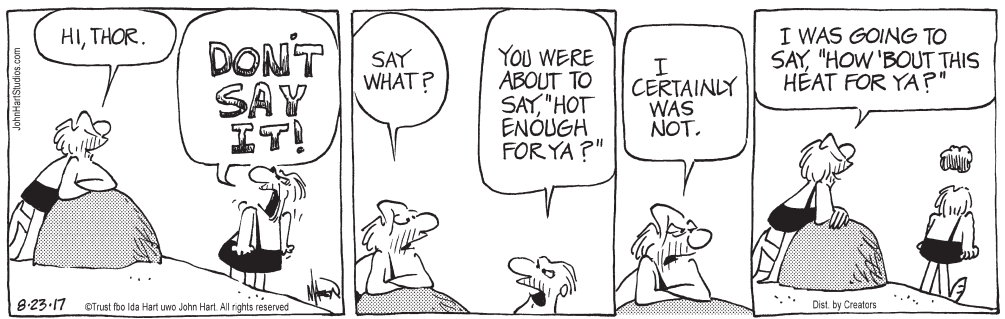
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## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



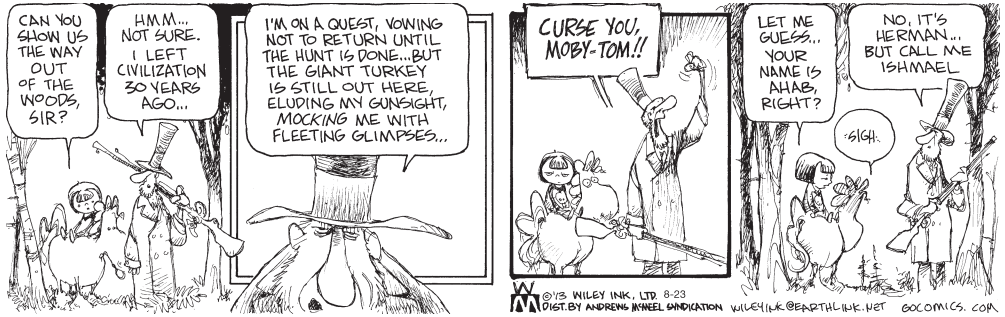
## DILBERT



## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

