

# Rearranging the furniture

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have been married 34 years. He's a wonderful man. His sister, "Debbie," is awful. My husband remodeled our old house, and as soon as Debbie saw it she started hounding him to come do hers. She lives three states away. She wants him to remodel her kitchen and add a bathroom. She told him that she would pay him \$10 an hour to do it. He said no: He knows that she is never happy with the work anybody does on her house.

You can erect boundaries, but because your husband is closer to her, he needs to do the heavy lifting. Express to him just how much Debbie's visits impact you, between the furniture-rearranging and the binge-drinking. And with regard to that second point: She clearly has an alcohol problem. If you and your husband continue to host her even when she's drinking, you could be enabling her. Make her staying with you conditional on her not drinking. Tell her if she drinks and drives, you will call 911, because she's a danger to herself and everyone else on the road.

**Dear Annie:** I have written scientific papers on a variety of cancers, including skin melanoma, which takes more lives every year. Unless caught early, the prognosis remains grim. While the shape, color and size of a blemish might suggest a malignancy, only a surgical biopsy can secure a

diagnosis. Here's my problem: While in a crowd — usually on a beach or by a pool — I have noticed someone with a suspicious blemish. Though I'm tempted to suggest an exam by a physician, two fears have made me hold my tongue: the distress caused by a total stranger confronting a person in such an intimate way, and the needless anxiety if a biopsy shows no sign of a malignancy. — *Heads-Up on Melanoma*

**Dear HUOM:** Perhaps you could print out some cards that say something to the effect of, "I'm a medical doctor. I am giving you this card because I noticed a blemish on your skin that I believe you should have examined by a physician." Keep them in your wallet to discreetly hand out when necessary. This would give them space to decide whether to see a doctor, without having to get into a conversation about it. No doubt it will still be a little uncomfortable — but if it saves even one person's life, it's worth a thousand awkward moments.

## DEAR ANNIE

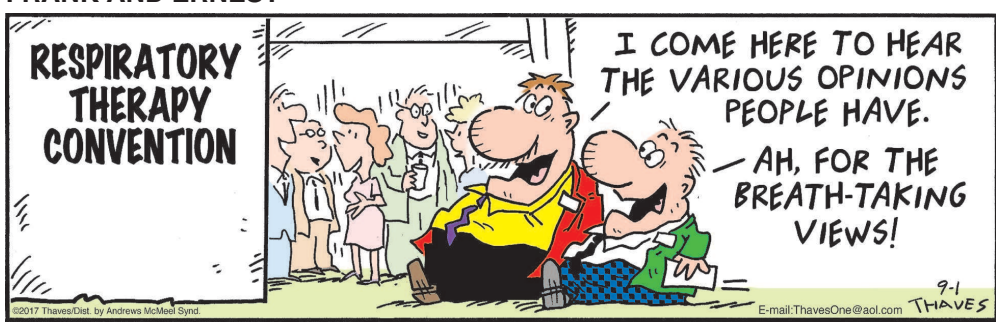


Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

She also has a drinking problem. From the second she rolls into our driveway, she has an open beer in her hand. We've seen her drink five beers and call each one her "first beer today." I can't decide if she thinks we are stupid or blind. My husband and I have tried to talk to her about her drinking problem, and she just accuses us of stretching the truth. — *Way Past Annoyed*

**Dear Way Past Annoyed:**

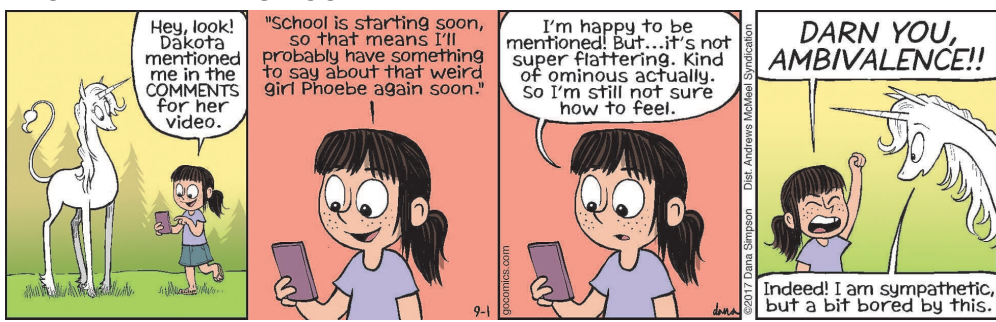
## FRANK AND ERNEST



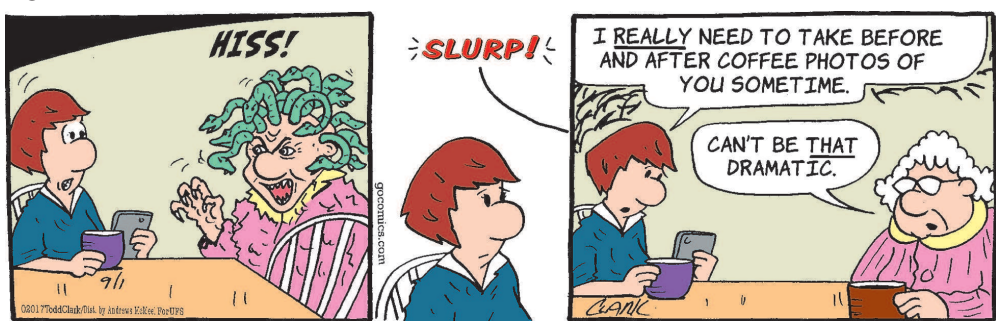
## THATABABY



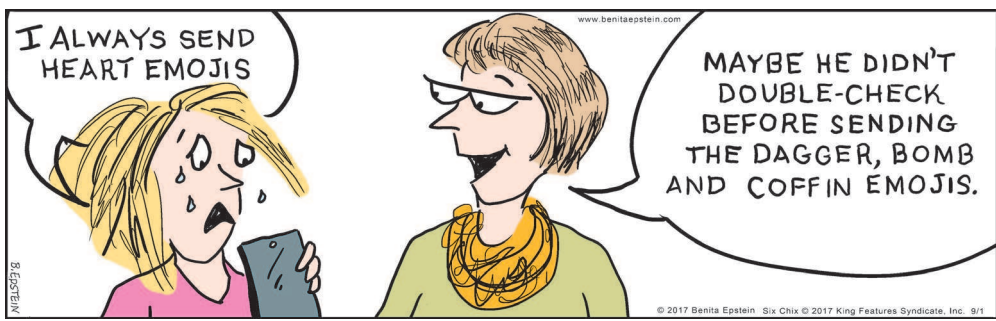
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



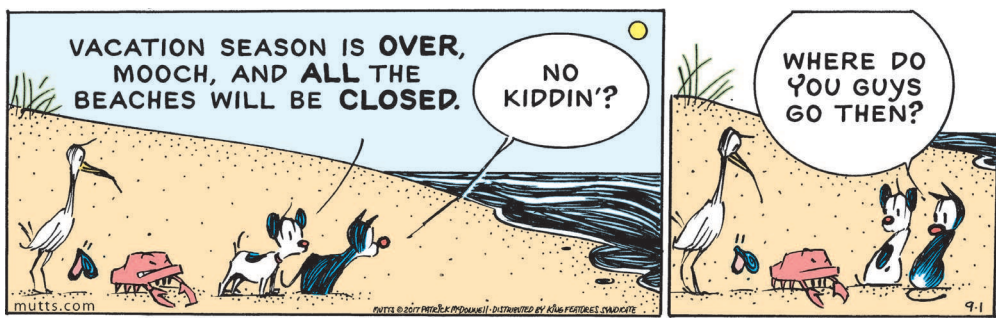
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



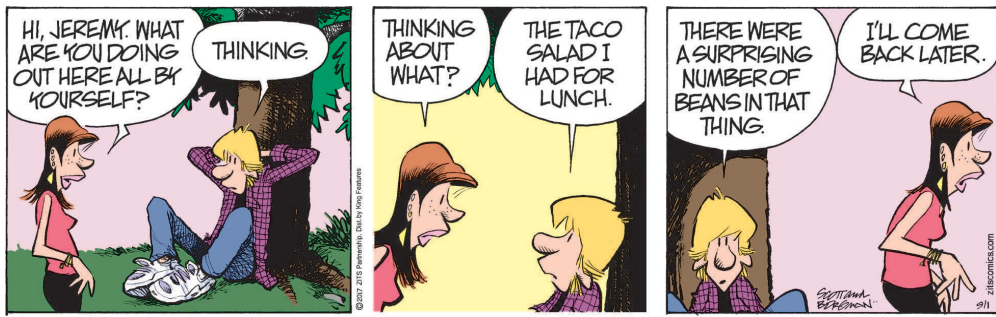
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Modes of mind can be triggered automatically before you even notice or know what's happening. For this reason you can't be blamed for your moods, though you're still responsible for managing them.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There are people who are just better for you. They bring out the better side of you. They make the stresses of daily life seem like no pressure at all, because you see yourself as they see you — strong and capable.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's possible you'll think more deeply than clearly, which won't be helpful. So when you feel yourself getting very ponderous without a direction, simply stop asking questions and do something physical, such as walking.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You've a very upbeat attitude, and there's nothing petty that can bother you or throw you off your game. Truly, optimism makes you immune to 80 percent of the things that bother those around you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You command attention, sometimes uncomfortably so. Sometimes you'd rather deflect it or hide out than take your moments. It's fine to feel shy, but is this a missed opportunity to channel awareness to what's important to you?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You are dedicated to your chosen work and willing to apply yourself more intensely than before. In fact, the subject of your strong feelings may take over your life in the next few days.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Serenity is not some distant ideal. You already experience it many times a day. It's just a matter of letting those

moments spill into the rest of the hours.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Remember the moment when you owned the room, though quite by accident, making people laugh and want to play? Well, it gave you a taste for being the center of attention, and you'll figure out how to get back there today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Memory is kind. Happy ones get better over time, and sad ones fade. What happens over the course of this day will be a perfect package for nostalgia to wrap itself around in the future.

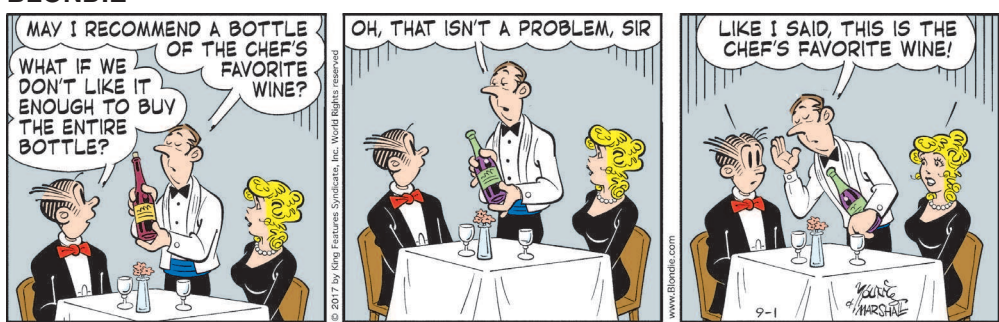
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Emotional states are infectious. Yawns, laughter, nerves and just about anything you can feel have the possibility of rubbing off on others. Associate with the happy and fortunate people and be one yourself.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Since there will be people around you who have expertise they either don't mind sharing or would absolutely love to share, you'll be in a lucky position to learn — and possibly have your problem solved for you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Don't worry about willpower. Your imagination is so vivid today that when you direct it to see and taste what your work will bring you, you won't even need willpower to move toward that gleaming prize.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 2).** You've seen enough plans come to fruition to think a little bigger and enough dashed hopes to respect the risk and sweat investment that must be made on the regular. Family celebrates together in December and May. You'll get a fresh start for a relationship that's been through a lot. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 22, 7 and 31.

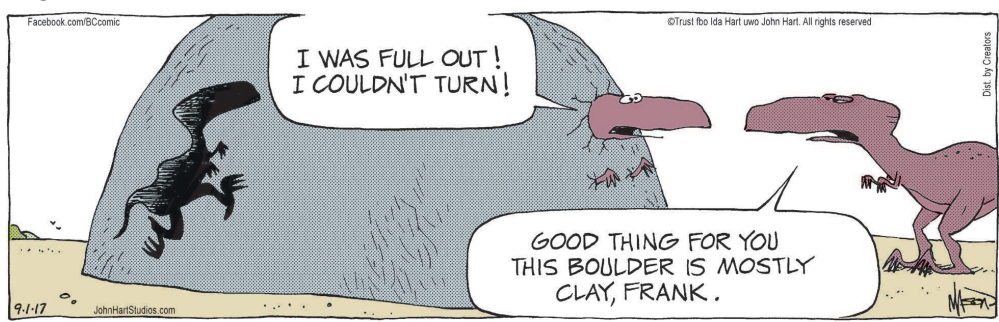
## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



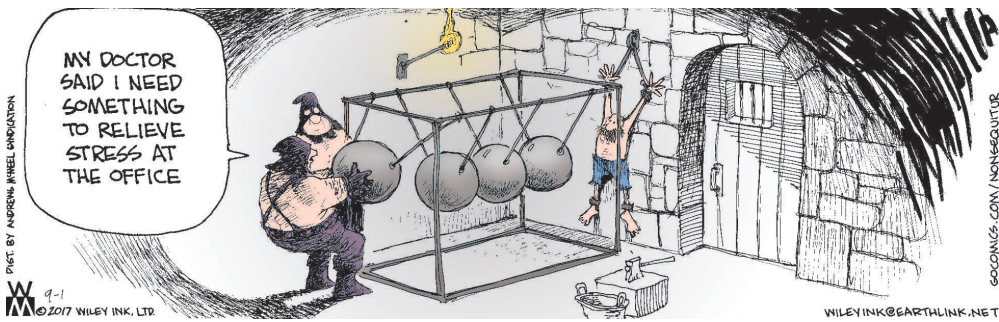
## DILBERT



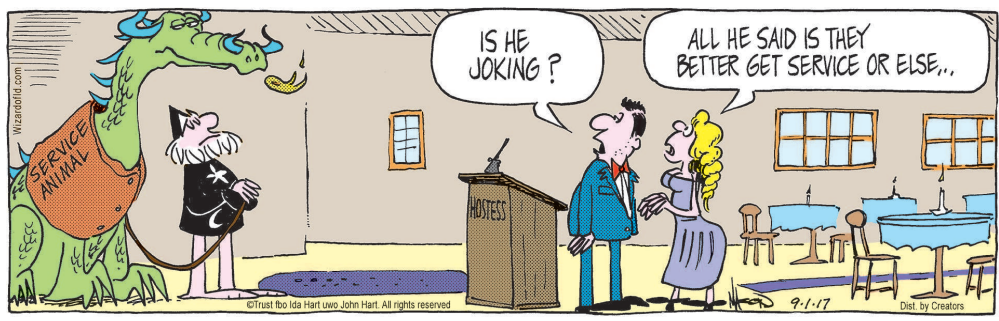
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

