

# Focused on mom's finances

**Dear Annie:** Our family is like most families — dysfunctional. Our father worked two jobs most of his life to better himself for the good of his family. My mother was a spender, but my father controlled the money. When my father passed, my mother was finally free to live as she wanted.

Yet my eldest sibling, "Dan," suddenly controlled all her money. Never was there a family meeting to discuss finances. Recently, we learned that Dan has taken liberty with our mother's money. Almost everything my father worked for is gone. Our mother needs assistance, and now she cannot afford it. I feel that Dan cheated not only my mother but also the rest of our family, because now we have this added burden of her care. Dan has never shown remorse. Our mother could press charges for elder abuse but has chosen not to go that route.

The burden has mostly fallen upon me to care for our mother. I really enjoy our time together. But I am struggling now because the rest of the family wants to find peace and has let Dan back into the fold. He is a bad person who is a real

con. He's stolen from people outside the family, too. I cannot seem to accept this decision. I have forgiven the crook, but I cannot forget.

I am keeping my distance from the situation and asking all other family members to assist with our mother's care. My family has no idea of the stress this situation has put on me. I have lost some of my hair; I constantly break out in rashes; and I hardly ever sleep at night because I worry about our mother's finances.

I am wondering whether I am wrong to start thinking of myself and to stop worrying about our mother's future. I know there are ways to get assistance for our mom, but without her pressing charges against the person responsible, it might be difficult. I would like all of us to find peace with this situation so there will be a legacy of love and kindness left by our mother. Can I just go on and pray that my other siblings will see that I need to separate myself from all of it? — *Heartbroken*

**Dear Heartbroken:** You might want to consult an attorney about your situation, just to be sure you've

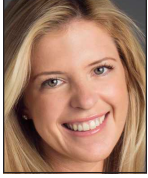
exhausted every avenue regarding your mom's finances and your brother's mishandling of them.

That said, the person I'm worried most about is you. It is not wrong at all for you to start thinking of yourself. In fact, it's imperative that you do. The rashes, hair loss and lack of sleep are symptoms of severe stress. Consider seeing a therapist, as it could greatly improve your quality of life. If not therapy, at least take other steps to improve your mental health — whether that means planning a vacation, taking a fitness class or simply spending more time alone. Self-care is not self-indulgence.

**Dear Annie:** I would like to make a public service announcement for all office workers. Please, for the love of all that is good, wear shoes! I don't care how hot it is or that you chose to purchase uncomfortable shoes; keep your feet covered at work! Also, flip-flops are not appropriate footwear for an office. Please choose one or more of the thousands of other summer footwear options out there. — *P.U.*

**Dear P.U.:** I'm printing your letter because summer is still going strong in a lot of the country. Unless you're a yogi, keep your shoes on at work.

## DEAR ANNIE



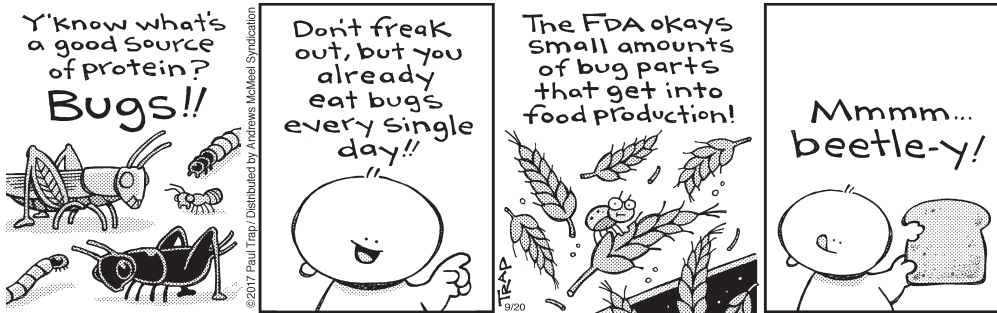
Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

## FRANK AND ERNEST

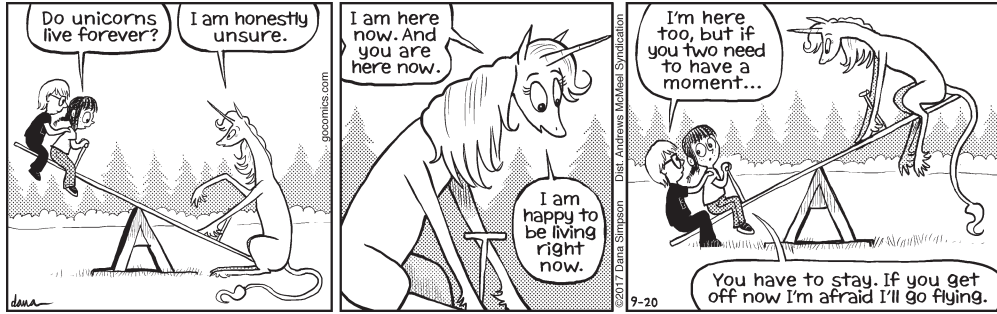
### DISAPPOINTED VULTURES



## THATABABY



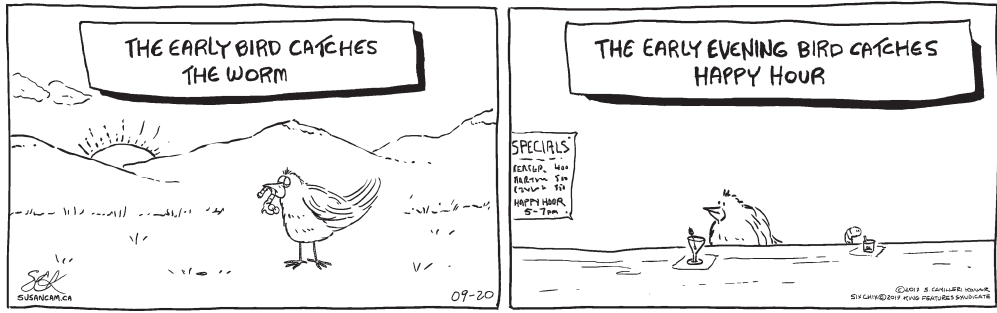
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



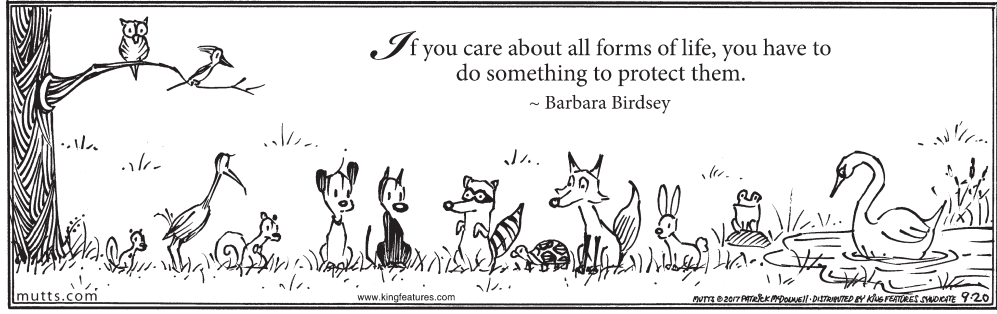
## LOLA



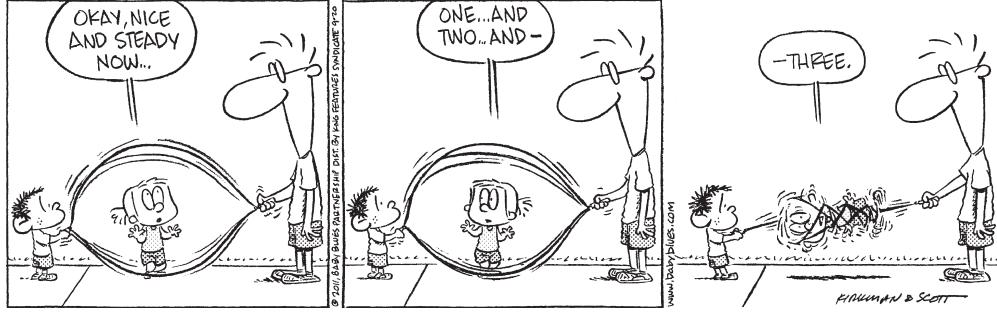
## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It's said that words should be weighed, not counted. The tone of your messages today will be clearly felt and with the precise intensity level that you meant.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Can love really make impossible things happen? Extraordinary things, for sure. Love is your super fuel today. You apply yourself differently when you're powered with love's high octane.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Science tells us a lot these days. Just keep in mind that science thought it was telling us a lot 200 years ago, too, and we didn't even know about germs then. Stick with what works for you, whether or not it's scientifically sound.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You've experienced injustice in your life so you know, when you see it happening to others, the gamut of emotions that are involved, especially the fear. This is why you help to right the wrongs.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** When you admire the way a person thinks, you want to be near the person to share your appreciation and to understand better, maybe even adopt, that manner of thinking.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Reasoning is option one; force is option two. Force can be effective, but it also produces an equal and opposite reaction. It will be better to walk away and do what it takes to recharge powers of reason before deciding on option two.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Those close to you really don't care how many of your personal goals you reach. They love you beyond such things. You will be loved dearly whether or not you accomplish anything. But this isn't about them; it's about you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Even the best conversations will eventually peter out if you don't introduce new topics. Relationships are the same. New focus keeps them from going stale. Today's introduction will keep things fresh.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Problems cause moods and moods cause problems. Regardless of the origin, foul vibes will be fixed. Exercise solves problems unrelated to health and so does inspirational reading, power posing and positive thinking.

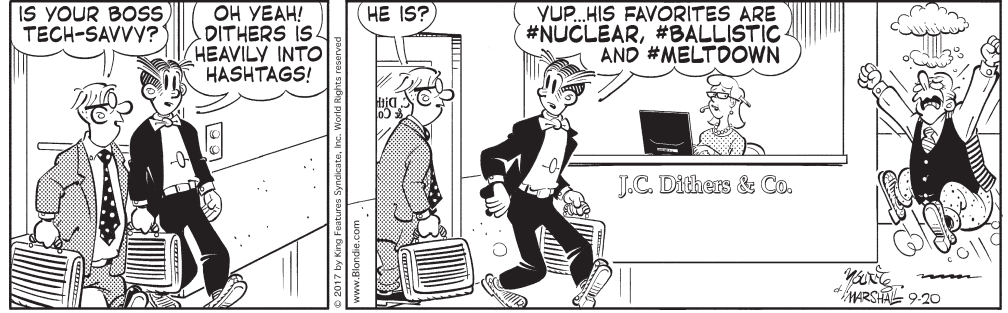
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your super talent today is that you're thought provoking. People will ask for your evaluation and you're likely to give a strong and truthful answer, different from the ones already on the table.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You don't have to share a person's belief system to understand, respect and apply it to helping the situation. Sometimes the mere act of accepting another person causes that person to bend a little in your direction.

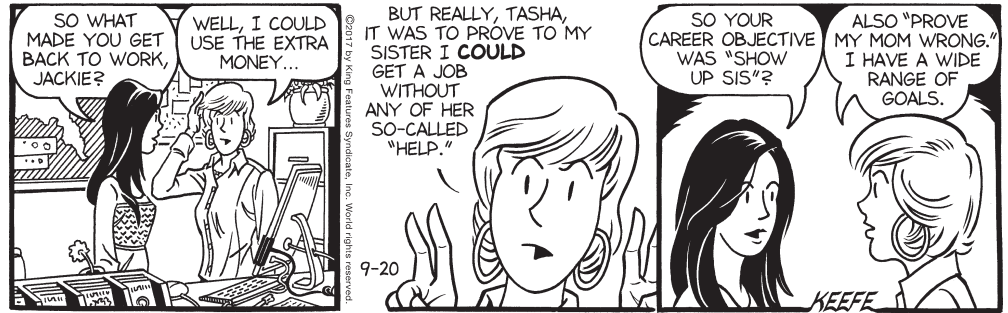
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** In the interest of tracking your learning process, identify milestones and celebrate those milestones. Keep this trend up and you'll soon be a masterful expert.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 21).** You care deeply about others and now self-care — not selfishness! — will be the focus. Self-discovery allows you to give the best you to the world. Faulty learning of the past will be overwritten in October. Freer than ever, you'll begin a new hobby. Your earnings multiply in 2018, a reflection of your confidence. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 27, 31, 26 and 5.

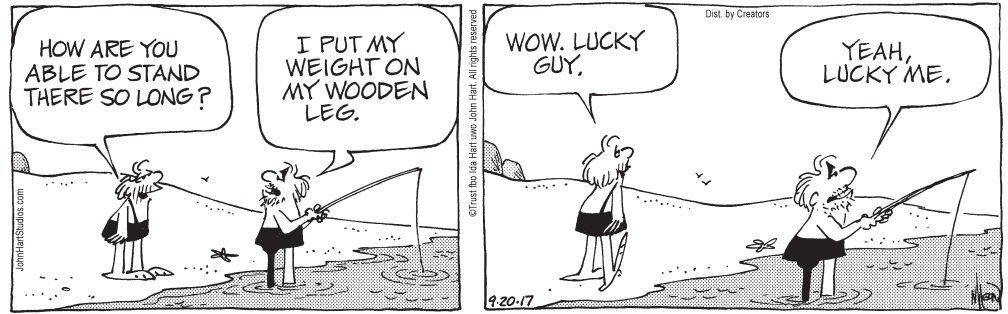
## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



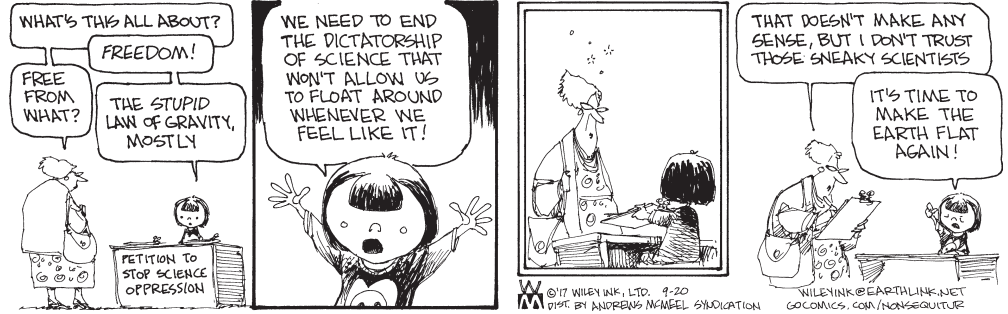
## DILBERT



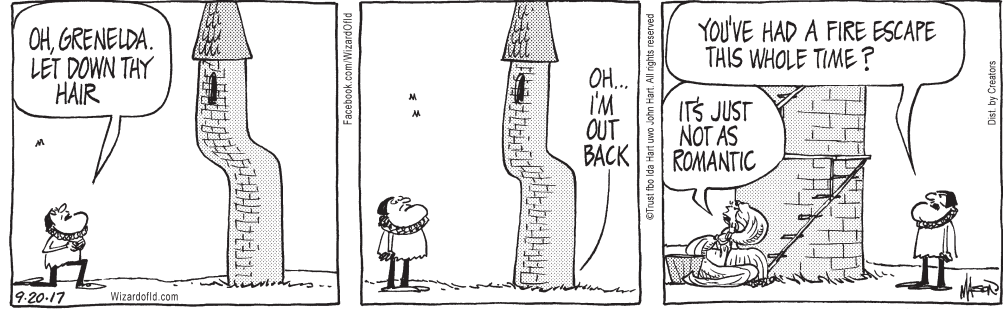
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

