

# Ex is still in the picture

**Dear Annie:** About two years ago, my wife of 20 years, "Cynthia," and I divorced. Our two children are grown and out of the house. Our divorce wasn't the norm; we did it without a lawyer or mediator. Everything was civil; no one cheated or was abused. I think we both just changed over time.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

About four months after the divorce, I met another woman, "Beth." Having already had my cry, I decided to give it a shot. Long story short, we were great for each other, and now, a year and a half later, we're engaged.

The problem is that Cynthia doesn't really have a family other than mine. My sister and the rest of my family are sympathetic to Cynthia and want to include her. I don't mind being around her, but the awkwardness comes in when Beth and Cynthia attend the same family events. Beth understands that it's unavoidable during big occasions, such as weddings and funerals. But she feels that it isn't normal for Cynthia to be around for our casual family gatherings, which are more frequent. She feels that once people divorce, they

should start to move on with their lives and shouldn't hang around an ex's family gatherings.

I'm very torn. I want Beth to attend these events. However, if I asked Cynthia to stop being around so much, it might get back to my family, and then Beth and I would be deemed as spoilers in the family. But she may already be seen as an outcast by excluding herself from these gatherings.

Is Beth having anxiety over nothing, or should I ask my ex not to be around so much? — *Ex In or Ex Out*

### Dear Ex In or Ex Out:

Your ex-wife was a part of your family for 20 years, and that bond doesn't disappear once the ink dries on the divorce papers. It's understandable that she wants to stay in touch with her former in-laws, and it's understandable that they want to include her. But it's important that your fiancée really get to know and love your family, and she's having a hard time doing so with your ex-wife around. Rather than disinvite Cynthia, talk to your family members about your concern and plan additional outings with just them and Beth. Once Beth

feels more settled and secure with her place in the family, it will be easier for her to relax at family gatherings, even when Cynthia is there.

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I own a boat that takes tourists on short trips. Three years ago, he fell in love with the only woman on board. When I realized something was up, I said, "If she is so wonderful, what is stopping you from being with her?" Without hesitation, he said, "The age difference."

I have not been able to stop thinking about that every day for the past three years. I am becoming upset even writing this to you. She is not interested in him. I guess he is old enough to be her father. But what if he meets someone his own age? I think I'd better see my lawyer. What do you think? Should we get a divorce? — *Seasick*

**Dear Seasick:** I can't tell you whether you should get a divorce based on your letter. But I can tell you that you can't keep living this way. One comment has been eating away at you for three years, and you need to put a stop to that before it swallows you whole. Have you tried talking to your husband? In any case, I'd strongly recommend marriage counseling so you can open up the lines of communication.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** When the sun rises, it rises for everyone and shines on all creatures alike. Those who feel special and above the rest will be humbled by the current cosmic climate in the best way possible.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People don't necessarily want to hear the most honest interpretation of things. What about compassion? What about catering the message to the audience? If you must talk hard facts, speak the truth and then duck.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Even if you have a self-driving car, you still can't drive two of them at the same time. Choose. It may be difficult, as many options seem equal, but if you don't make the choice now, someone will make it for you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Imagine if you believed that there was nothing wrong with you and there never has been, that nothing needed to be improved, that there was no "better," only "different." Would you then still make the same choice?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Intellectual powers surge today. You enjoy thinking things through and coming up with the perfect explanation for why they are the way they are, or how they might become something else.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're ready and willing to learn, and that's not even the best part: There is someone very skilled who will be willing to teach you! You're the one who must make the first approach, though.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Do you get the sense that you're coming into your own? Don't dismiss this as merely a good mood. Instead heed the intuition as a harbinger of the very lucky times you're stepping into.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You could put something in the world that wasn't there before. Note that creative ventures do require more than a good idea. They require time and study and practice. That said, a few minutes here and there will add up.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The thing about chasing mirages is that no matter how much distance you cover, you'll never arrive. Illusions threaten to waste your time. Separate actualities from fantasies, truth from fiction.

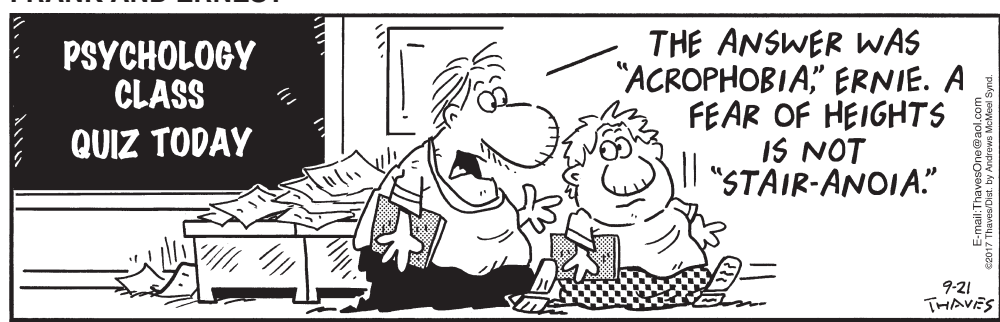
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You genuinely want to do something well. Your attitude will appeal to others who have been masterful. In a stroke of luck more fortunate than money falling from the sky, the right teachers will be attracted to your potential.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** In some ways you are on your own, but this freedom has many perks. You can go in any direction you wish, for starters. Furthermore, your best guess is pretty stellar. Act on it and your luck will compound.

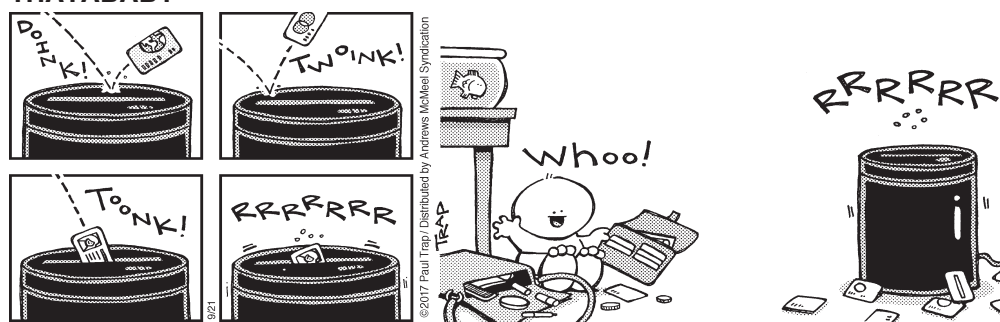
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** When you can right a wrong situation you feel personally successful. Indeed you are! And those who help you celebrate achievements of justice are your true friends.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 22).** You're exceptionally lucky over the next four weeks. In November, shake up your professional scene some. What seems like a lateral move will actually lead to something much better. You don't really know yourself until you try new things. Your personal life percolates with fresh activities and interests in 2018. Taurus and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 42, 38 and 14.

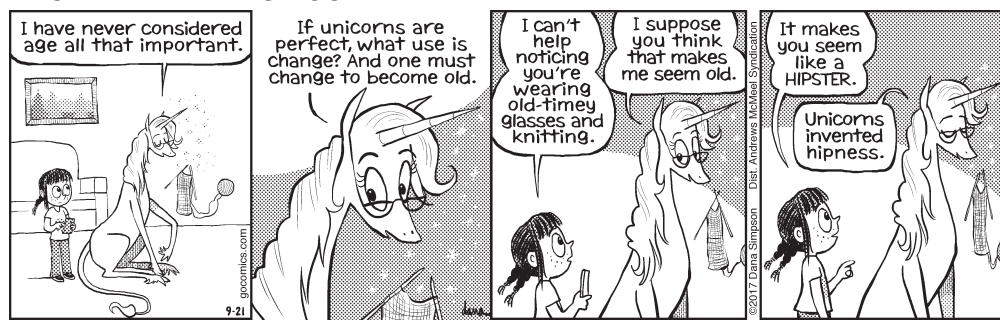
## FRANK AND ERNEST



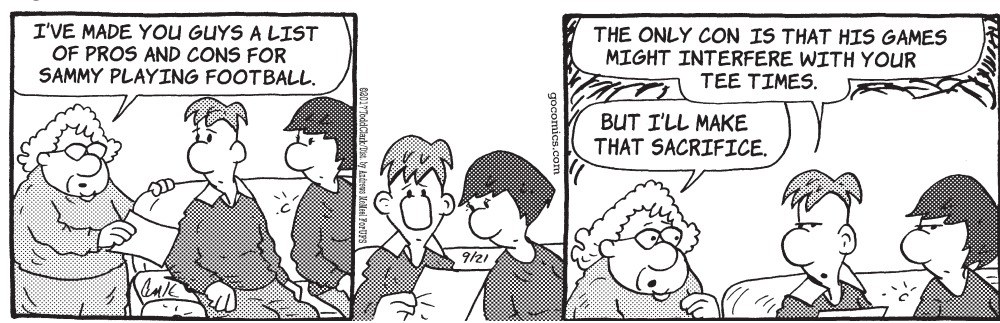
## THATABABY



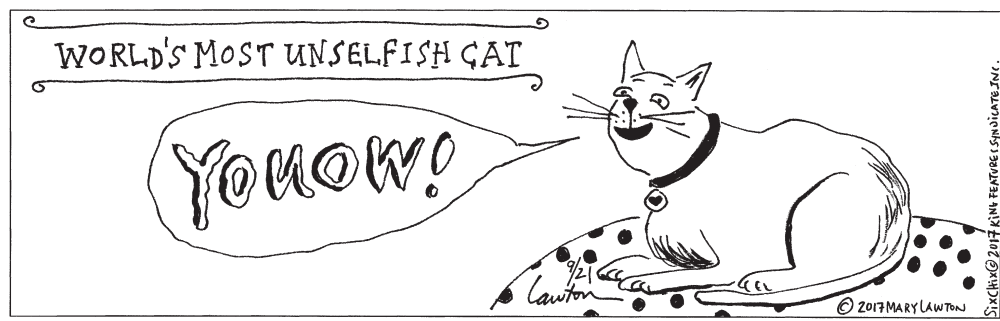
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



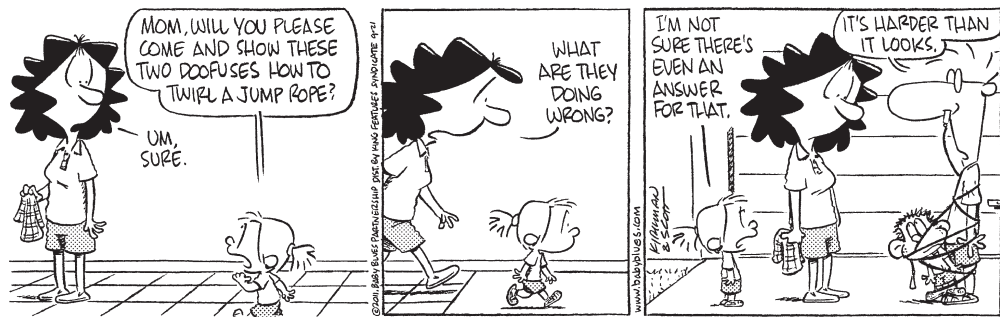
## SIX CHIX



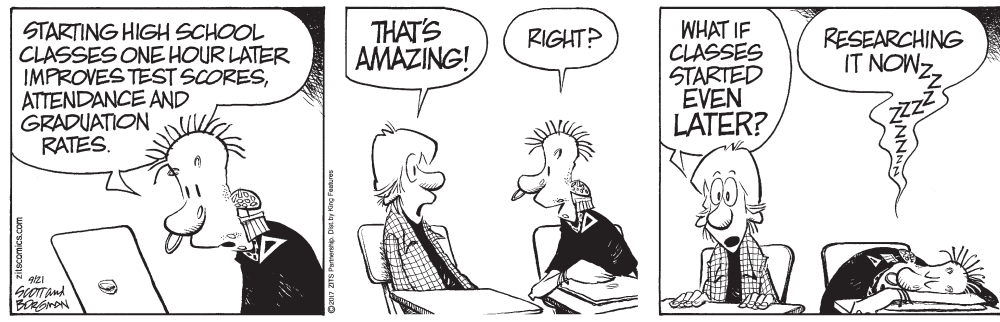
## MUTTS



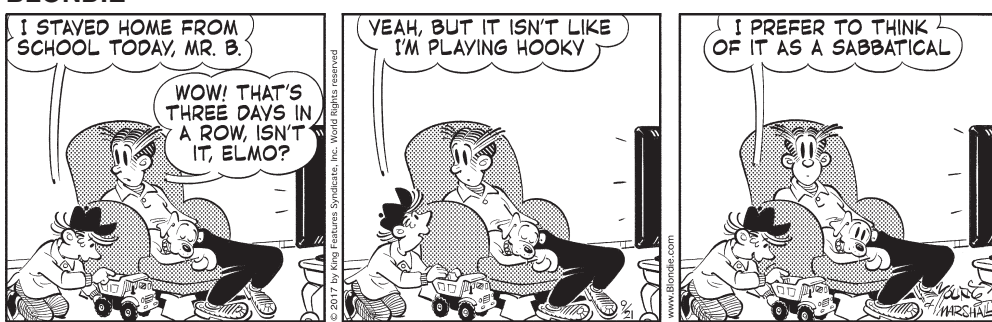
## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



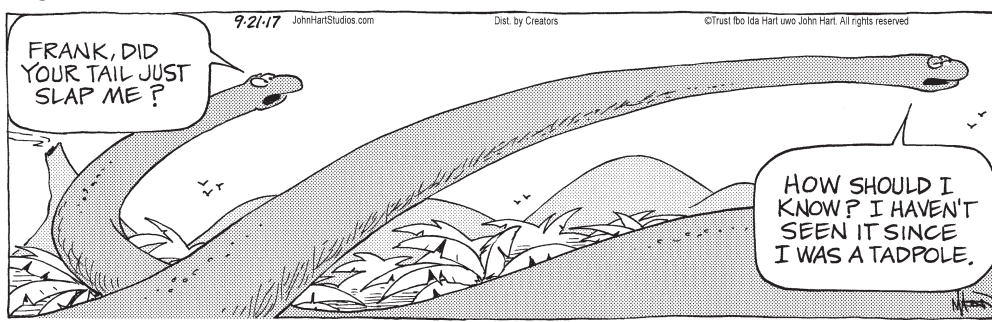
## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



## DILBERT



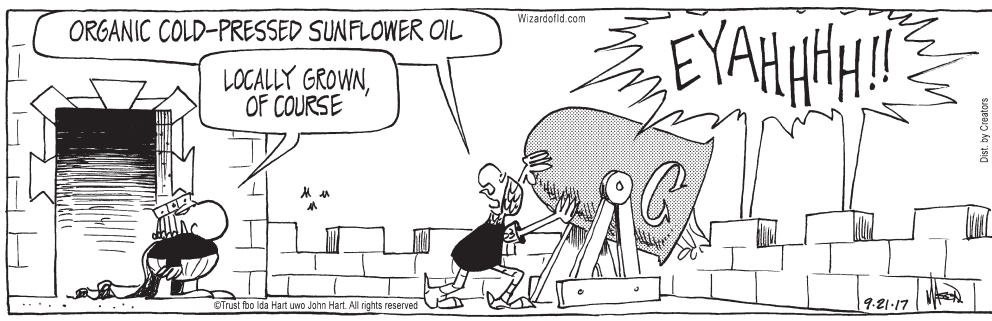
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

