

# Help a soon-to-be-retired guy out

**Dear Annie:** I am 57 years old. My wife and I have been married for 20 years, and we don't have kids. My wife always had nieces and nephews to occupy her time and now spends time with their children. I was self-employed and recently got a lucrative hourly position that takes a lot of my time, even more with forced overtime and travel back and forth.

I have always been swamped with projects, both mandatory house maintenance and updating and forward-looking projects on my properties and a hobby car. Lately, I have been reflecting on my life and where I'm at. I cannot find a single instance of a project in which my wife did anything to benefit the house. I can understand not helping on my other properties, but the house where we both live? Yes, she takes care of the laundry, cooks dinner and mows the lawn, albeit with a push mower that takes her five times as long as the riding mower would.

I have done remodeling and left the debris lying out just to see how long she would step over it before sweeping up. In one case, it lay

there for a couple of months. It was her little niece who finally noticed it and immediately grabbed a broom. There's a door to our house that's had tape around the glass for four years. She's been saying for four years she is about to start sanding, staining and varnishing it.

Do I bring this partner along with me into retirement to enjoy the fruits of my labor? Currently, while I am swamped beyond belief with work, she is literally at the park flying a kite with her niece.

Yes, I've snapped at her before. I've told her that a sandwich at noon, at least, would be nice. —

### Overwhelmed in Michigan

**Dear Overwhelmed:** You've snapped, but have you tried speaking? It's possible that your wife has no idea how profoundly this is bothering you; she may even think you like doing home improvement projects. The only way to know is to talk about it. I get the impression that you see your home as an extension of your relationship. Explain that to her, and tell her how when she neglects projects and doesn't pitch in, it feels as if she just doesn't care. Give her the chance to step up

and show that she cares.

Keep in mind that you can develop a peculiar type of farsightedness after living with someone for a long time. You have 20/20 vision when seeing that person's flaws but blindness when it comes to your own. So have some more compassion, and recognize the things your wife does do for the house. Step away from the tally board while you try really working this out.

**Dear Annie:** Here is an additional response to "Sickened," the man who became distant with his wife after finding out about relationships she had before they met: The greatest disservice in your unloving attitude to your wife may have been to your son. You wasted a lot of years in which you could have been his greatest role model for his marriage. Instead, he learned from you how to be distant and unfaithful to one's marriage vows. How very sad. It may not be too late. That's up to you. — *Toni*

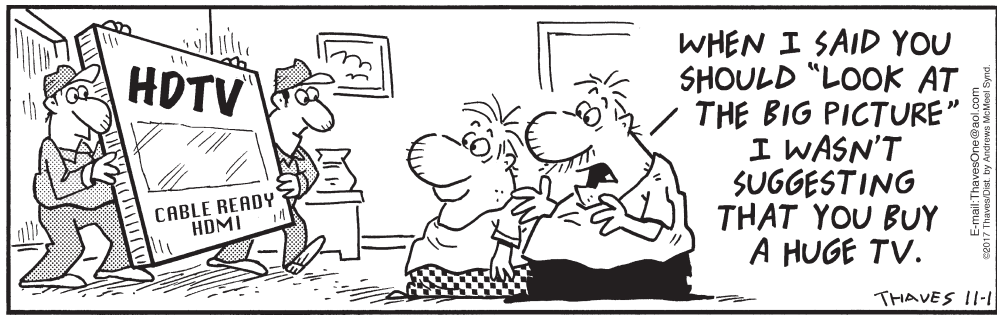
**Dear Toni:** I was so focused on how he had neglected his marriage that I didn't think to address the way this surely impacted his son. I agree with your suggestion and encourage "Sickened" to make this right. Thank you.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

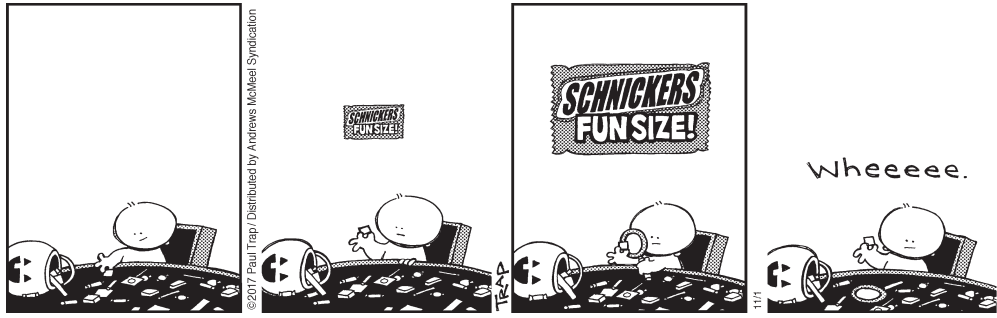
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## BLONDIE



## THATABABY



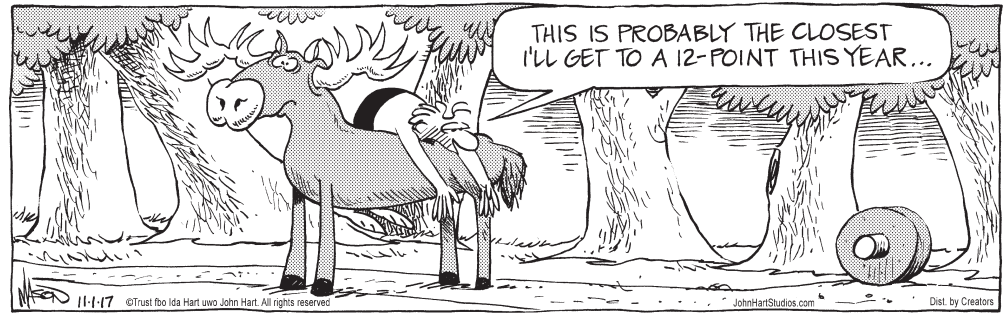
## SALLY FORTH



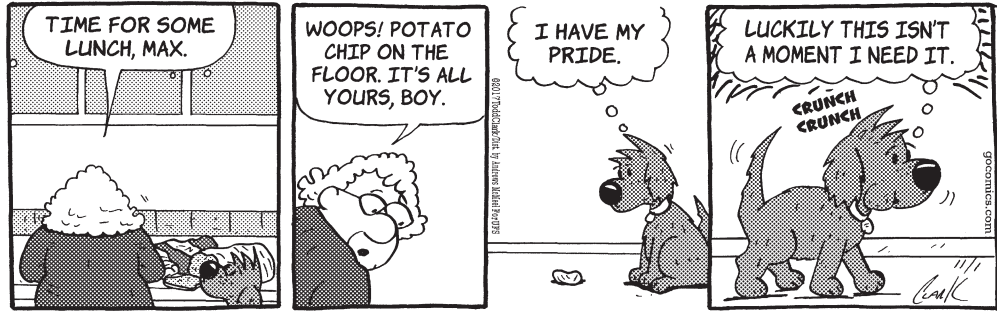
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## B.C.



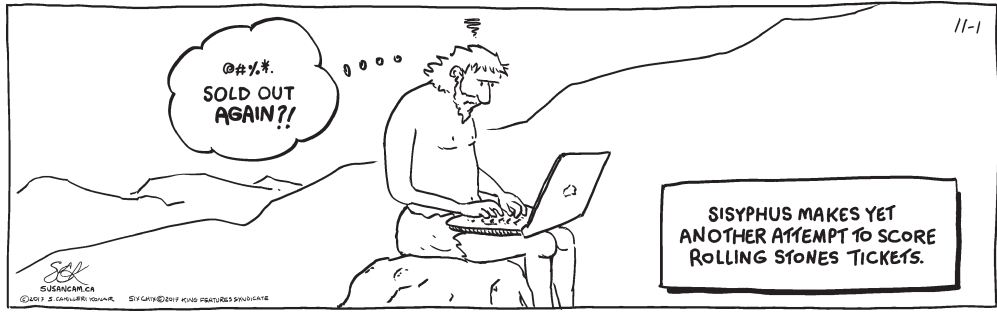
## LOLA



## DILBERT



## SIX CHIX



## BIZARRO



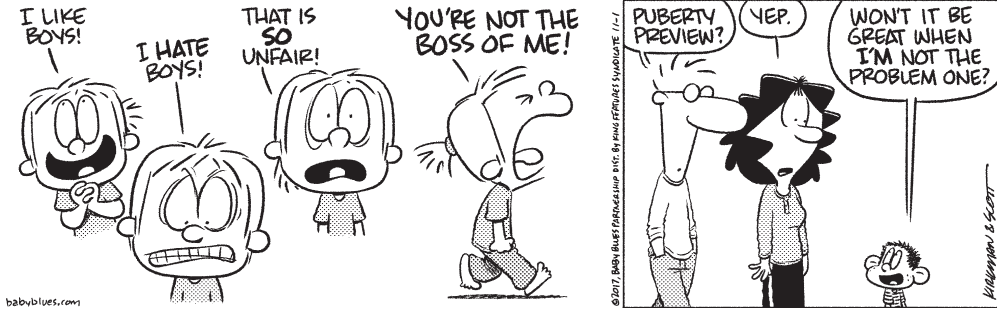
## MUTTS



## NON SEQUITUR



## BABY BLUES



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** With so much going on in your life, it may be challenging to pick out which is the most relevant thing to discuss with the different people with whom you'll interact. Make a shrewd choice. There will be a prize for getting it right.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** In order for someone to really understand you, they need a little context. Tell them where you're coming from so that they can have a glimpse of who you were before this time you're experiencing together.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Like Dorothy on the farm, you've the sneaking suspicion that there's something better out there for you. Are you willing to follow the yellow brick road knowing that it's going to lead you right back home?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The tension will rise. There's more to gain; there's more to lose. Then again, you never were in this for the easy glory. And there's nothing that beats the confidence you get from having walked through the fire.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The magic number will be, once again, three. You'll need to try three times before you give up, include three examples to support your idea and work in groups of three wherever possible.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A longer story isn't a better story. Too much information can dilute your purpose. You'll be remembered and respected for keeping things short and to the point.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You've been pursuing a goal for a while, and today your work will take a major turn toward completion. This home stretch of a project or working dynamic

is an excellent time to focus on the purpose and meaning of it all.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** As of now, you're probably still not sure what the best next step will be. Brainstorming with a pen and paper or conversing with trusted friends will be the ideal way to begin forming your plan.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Formalities will get in the way of forming bonds. Wherever possible, use an easy, natural manner of being. Forget the fussy extras that distract people from the main goal, which is to make a connection.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Dynamics aren't just for musicians. Your attempts to change up the pace and volume at which you live your life will make things mighty interesting for you and yours.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You don't have to always be the same person. Part of the fun of interacting with total strangers is that you can reinvent yourself on the spot and they won't know the difference.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll be happy with some parts of what you're doing and disappointed with other parts. This is a process. Take the best; chuck the worst; and rework whatever you can to make it better.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 2).** Your desire to maximize your potential will be answered by a teacher and a path to doing just that. You'll find new ways to express your feelings, work through your frustrations and make your joy contagious. There will be a favorable financial shift in 2018 after the spotlight swings to showcase your talent. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 28 and 35.