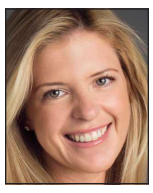
Father in all ways but biological

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I recently discovered that the man I called Dad all my life was not my biological father, after he passed away last year. "Jack" always treated me the same as his other children, with kindness and love. I will always think of him as my father and have no desire to know who my biological father is.

He loved my children, and they were extremely lucky to have him in their lives. I am not sure whether I should tell them the truth, because he was such a wonderful part of their lives.

Seeing as he kept the truth from me, I don't think he wanted anyone to know. — *Grateful for Him*

Dear Grateful for Him: You're probably right that he didn't want anyone to know, but he sounds like such a supportive parent that I'm sure he would want you to make whatever decision is right for your family.

Dear Annie: I am a very private person, but I have a family member who asks too many questions (of everyone) all the time — silly questions, personal questions, medical questions, etc.

I have spoken to her privately about this — telling her that I am not comfortable with the constant questions — multiple times. However, she will not stop. She says it doesn't bother her. I have tried to change the subject when she gets into a line of questioning; she brings it back.

It has gotten so that I try to avoid being around her. However, this is impossible at times.

How do I stop the invasion? — *DC*

Dear DC: You've told her that this behavior makes you uncomfortable, and she responded by saying it "doesn't bother" her? Either this woman is hard of hearing or she has a mental illness that causes compulsive talking. You might want to talk to some other relatives regarding the latter concern.

And the next time she starts the game of 2,100 questions, be extremely direct. Just say: "Stop." If she won't, excuse yourself and walk away. It's nice when relatives take an interest in our lives, but an interrogation is no conversation.

Dear Annie: "Stressed Out in Middle America" wrote to you about her friend "Jenna," a hoarder. You told "Stressed Out" to encourage Jenna to see a mental health specialist. Well, I know from experience that trying to tell a hoarder to see a counselor does no good. My son and his wife are hoarders. They refuse to even believe that anything is wrong with them. They have not cleaned certain rooms in 20 years. They just keep piling up stuff and collecting more. We used to go clean the home every six months. However, we are elderly now and are unable to do it. It is so very sad that their children have to live like that. I wish we could have gotten custody of our grandchildren when they were born, as their mother does not even care for them, but our son does care for them. The whole situation is very sad. — *Hard to Watch*

Dear Hard to Watch: Seeing as your son does care for the children, you could tell him that you think the situation is so serious that if he doesn't seek counseling, you will have no choice but to call the authorities. The children could be in danger. Contact their local government to see what agencies, such as Child Protective Services or Adult Protective Services, could intervene.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not about having better cards than the others at the table. It's about knowing when not to sit at the table at all, and if you do sit there, knowing when to get up and go home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though you've been to this place hundreds of times already, you have all the excitement of a person arriving for the first time. Your open mind makes it so. From this mindset springs your endless creativity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Thinking of the world that was long before you and the one that will be long after you will accelerate your spiritual growth. You'll act out of a responsibility to tomorrow and the next decade and the next century.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What is standing in the way of your ability to give others what they want and need from you? Figuring this out and acting to improve the situation will make your life easier in at least 10 ways.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Forces of destruction don't always come in ugly, terrible packages. They are often captivating, seductive and beautiful, in fact. Beware of what falls into these categories today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're different because of your work title. Your profession obligates you to act in a way that goes beyond what the law, morality or public opinion demands. It's something you can't shake even when you're not working.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you got into voluntarily won't be gotten out of with as much ease. Think about this before you raise your hand. Would you still volunteer if you knew you couldn't undo it later?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some relationships are like video games. You have to "die" a few times in the game before you realize how it's played. You're confident and ready to learn. Your ego can handle a few blows, and you'll be better for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Younger people than you may be doing it, but that doesn't mean you're too late. The train may have left the station, and that doesn't mean that you're too late, either. Maybe you're just early for the next ride.

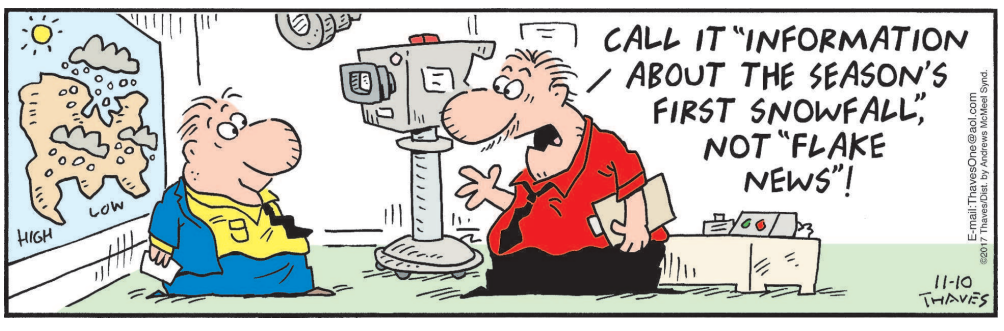
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's something very intense about the kind of love that exists only theoretically, without physical interaction or real-life obstacles. This kind of dreamy love has something to teach you this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's freedom in privacy. That's why you don't always tell people where you've been, what you're up to and where you're going. You might take this a step further and go completely undercover.

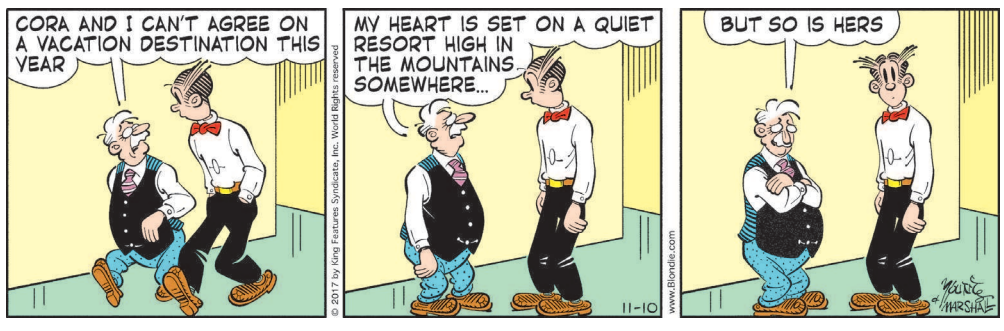
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll lose a mindset without losing your mind. Or another way to think of it (as many neuroscientists do) is that you have many minds inside you, so it's really OK to lose one from time to time.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 11). You're a favored child of the universe. The year stretches out like a vast bridge to carry you over both the troubled waters and the peaceful depths. You don't have to work for the luck that lands in your pocket next month. You're the star of someone's dreams: No pressure, but it will affect decisions in 2018. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 33, 39 and 45.

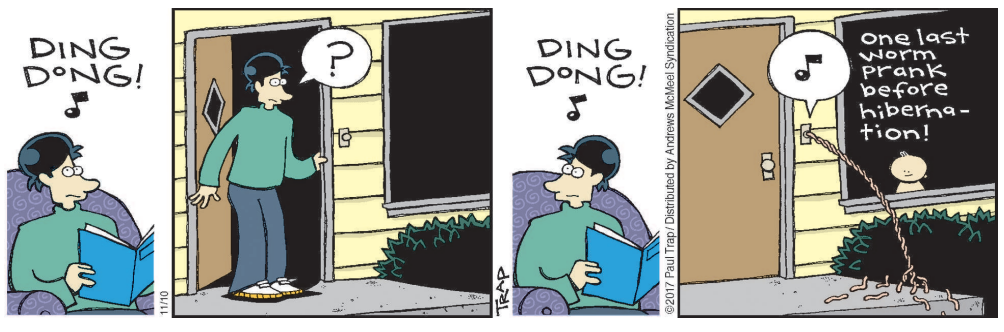
FRANK AND ERNEST



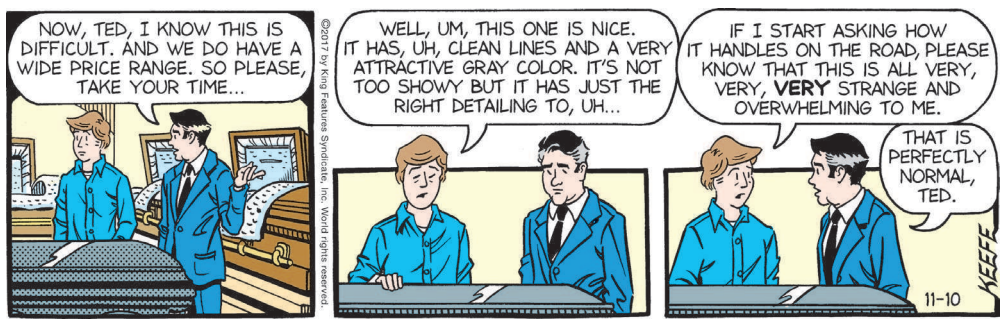
BLONDIE



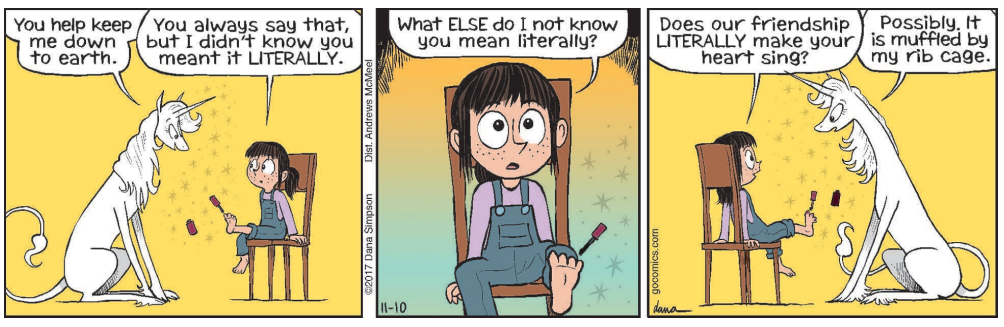
THATABABY



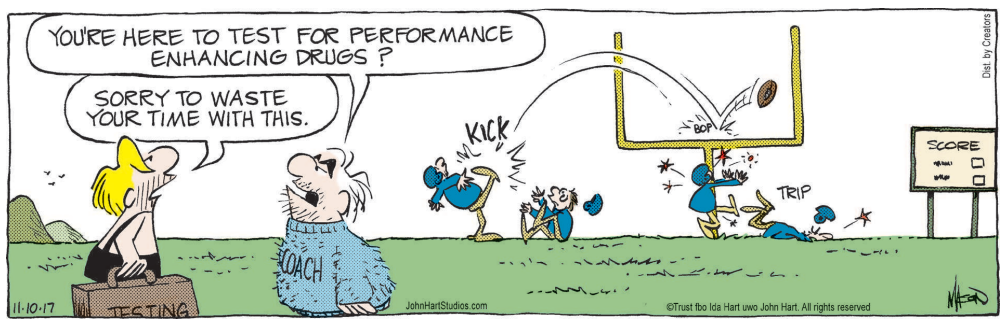
SALLY FORTH



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



B.C.

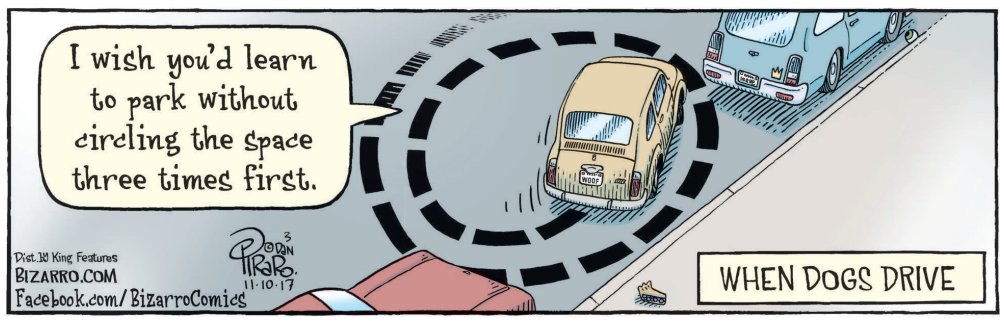


LOLA

DILBERT

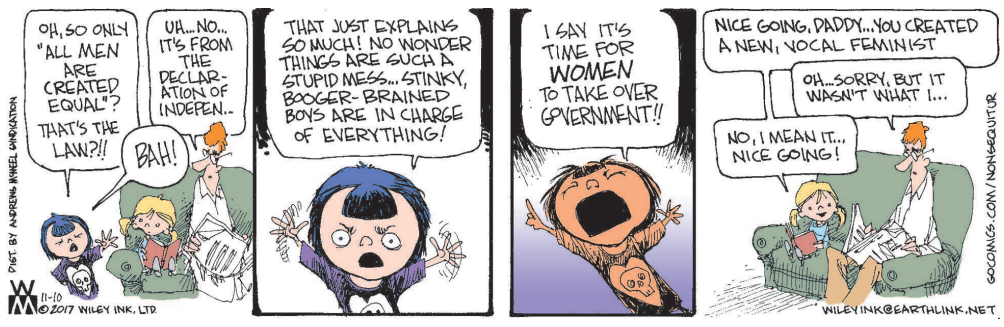
SIX CHIX

BIZARRO



MUTTS

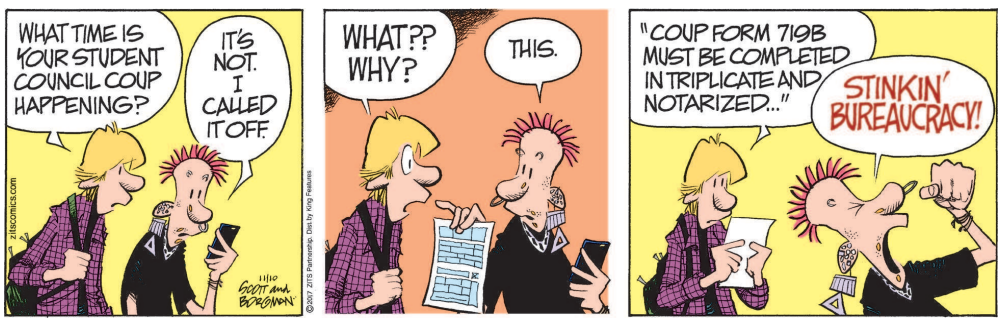
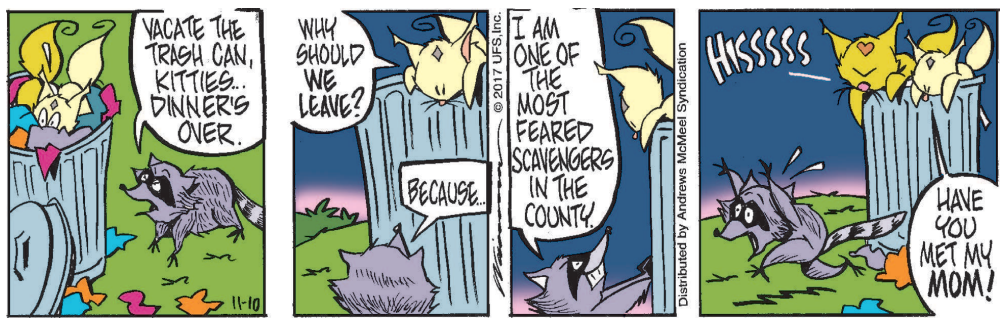
NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES

WIZARD OF ID

ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE