

# Boyfriend running to mommy

**Dear Annie:** My boyfriend, "Mike," and I are in our late 20s and have been together for five years. Our issues stem from his calling his mom during every argument we have — whether it's small or large. It adds strain and stress to everything, but he doesn't see it. I have asked him several times to stop, but he either gets defensive and accuses me of not liking his mom or just ignores me. I actually really like his mom, but when she only hears the bad stuff, it makes it harder to keep a good relationship with her. Don't get me wrong; I value her opinion, and I think she's a very smart woman. But I can't take this any longer! I love him, and I really want us all to get along, but I feel that they team against me during arguments. I don't know what else to do. — *Michigan*

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Michigan:** It's time for this mama's boy to become his own man. By calling his mother every time you fight, your boyfriend is not only being unfair to you but also doing himself a disservice, because it's in his best interest for his mom to like his girlfriend. Seeing as he seems inclined to get an

outside authority figure's opinion on each of your fights, perhaps he would be open to the idea of seeing a couples therapist. Though your issues might not seem so serious, couples can always benefit from having more tools in their shared communication toolbox. A counselor could also help him see the way his mother-son venting sessions are holding back his relationship and personal development.

**Dear Annie:** I am writing in response to the letter from "One-Upped," whose friend tends to one-up her stories. I am trained as a counselor, and during my schooling, I learned to empathize with clients by sharing in the form of "I experienced x, and I found y." I have also been told by friends that I reply to their stories with my own similar stories, and I can assure you I never intend it to be a one-up. It is a matter of difference in communication styles. So I agree with your suggestion to kindly mention that it bothers her but also to have mercy with her new friend because old habits die hard and intentions are usually good.

Also, regarding the friend's repeating stories, I wonder what age her friend is. I ask because my mom has repeated the same stories every night for a while now. It frustrates me, too, and I am ashamed to admit I do cut her off and tell her she already said that. But I try to have mercy because it could be dementia, stress or a combination of the two. And aging is scary. We all will most likely be in that place one day if we are lucky enough to live a long life, and I hope I am treated with mercy when I am the one doing it.

Just wanted to give some more food for thought. As I've aged, I've found that good friends are few and far between, and none of us is perfect, so if we are lucky enough to find a friend who is interesting, is kind and shares our interests, we should overlook minor flaws. This world could use a lot more kindness, more than ever right now. — *Been There and Will Be*

**Dear Been There and Will Be:** You make a great point about your training as a counselor. Perhaps the perceived one-upmanship is just an attempt at empathizing. It's at least worth considering. I second your call for kindness, and I wish you and your mother the best.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Glittering generalities sound impressive to those who desperately want them to be true and the utterly gullible. You'll hear past the hyperbole, see beyond the sparkly stuff and help people understand what's real and reasonable.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You have something so special. Many would love to claim it. And the weird part is that you hardly see it anymore. You've had it for so long! Adjust your perspective so you can better love what is already yours.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Today you'll be rather susceptible to flattery, but so what? You also deserve to be paid attention to. You worked hard to get where you are. So how about you soak it all up? Don't deflect compliments. Just say thank you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The saying goes, "Never let them see you sweat." But if you make it look too easy, they'll heap more work on you. Of course, you don't want to seem like a hectic mess, either. You'll find the middle ground on the matter.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Moods come and go like weather. You're like a region unto yourself. There are typical weather patterns for the region of you, and then sometimes there's unseasonable anomalies. That's what's happening now.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Add this to your routine: a generous pat on the back, from you to you. Of course this is best done privately, but rest assured it's not the least bit self-centered to recognize your own talents. If you don't do it, how will others know to?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Philosophizing has its time, place and purpose. The big-pic-

ture thinking can seem like an indulgence when there's so much practical work to be done, but go on and indulge, because it will be essential to getting things right.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Since you're still not totally sure about your next move, don't make one. You can afford to hang out in this phase a while longer. Write down the ideas. Talk it out. Ask questions. Research. Brainstorm.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You have your agenda; they have theirs. Honestly, there may not be a compromise that will make you both happy, so don't waste too much time in negotiation.

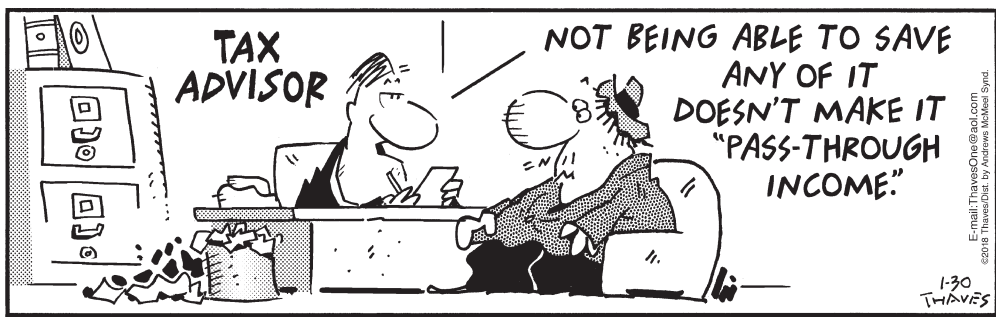
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You may get an unusually large number of requests made of you today, and a few demands will be thrown in there, too. This is what comes with getting suddenly popular.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Go often to the well of positive energy. You'll find it in quotes, books and songs. You'll find it in the small talk you make with strangers and in the fellowship of friends.

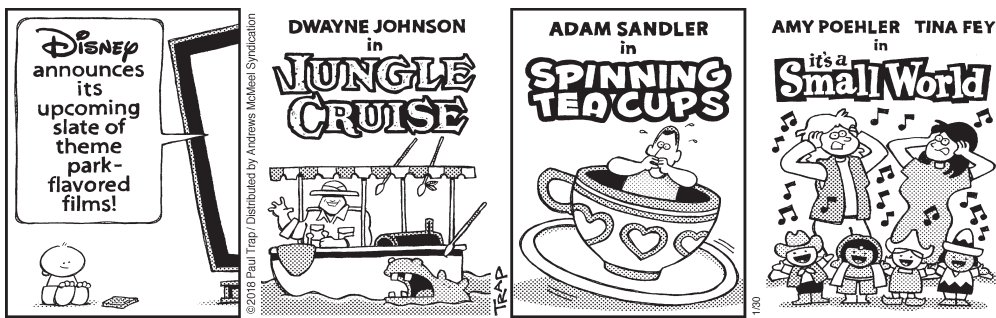
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You might be surprised at what you're willing to do to please a person who happens to be exceptionally charming, attractive and funny. Also, you might be surprised at what people are willing to do for you for the same reasons.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 31).** This year you strive for reasonable idealism. You'll serve your values well and you'll also aim for a few impossibilities, because pushing yourself has historically led to remarkable achievement. Gemini and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 3, 30 and 15.

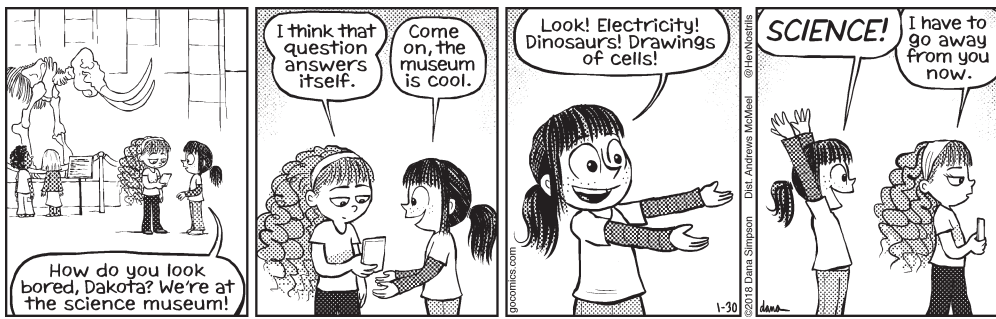
**FRANK AND ERNEST**



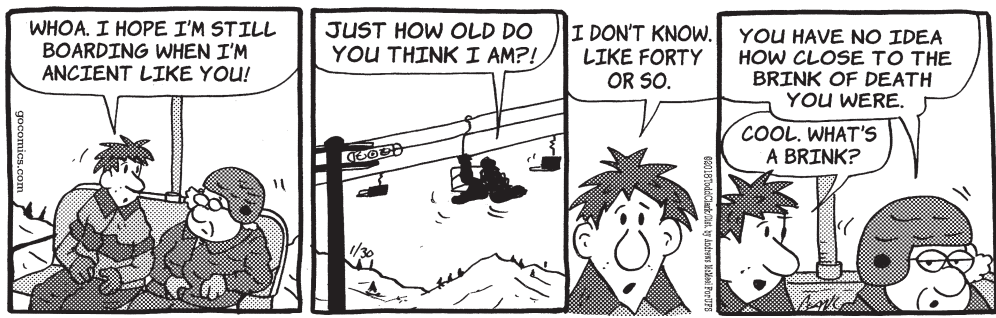
**THATABABY**



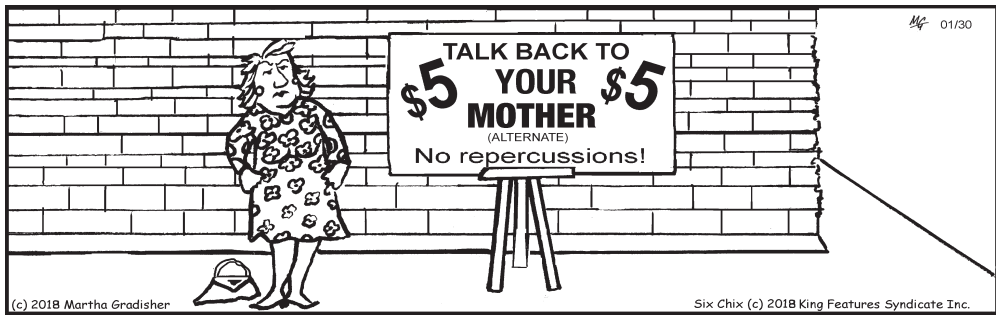
**PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN**



**LOLA**



**SIX CHIX**



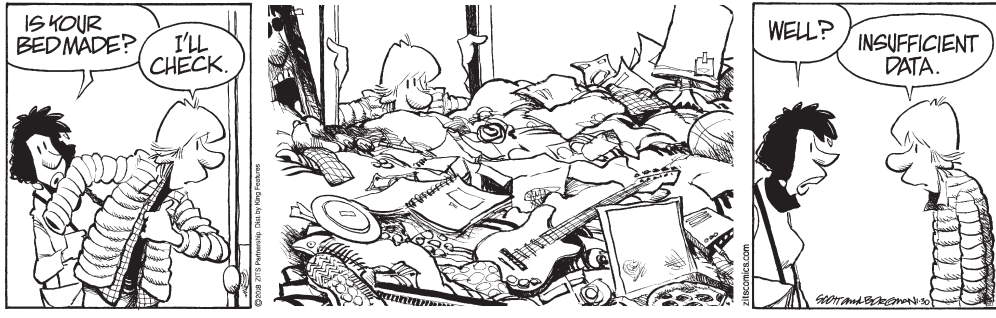
**MUTTS**



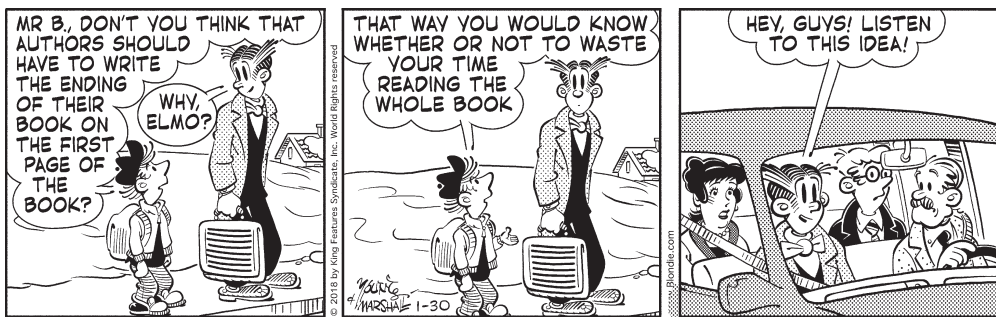
**BABY BLUES**



**ZITS**



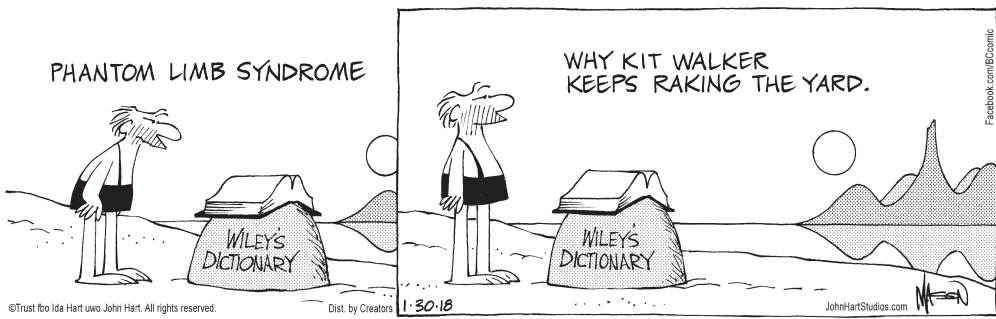
**BLONDIE**



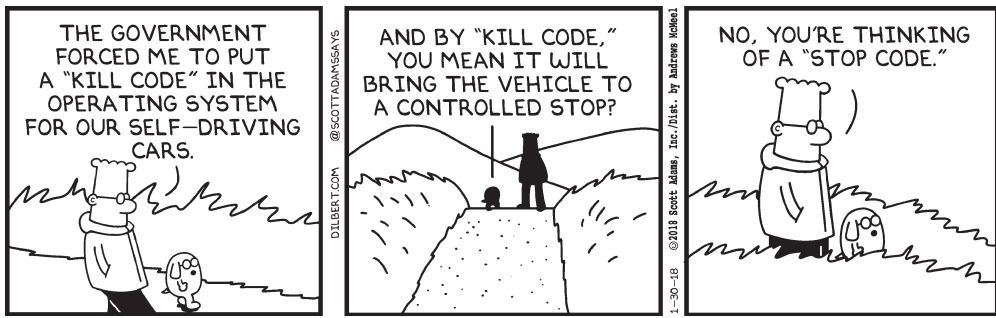
**SALLY FORTH**



**B.C.**



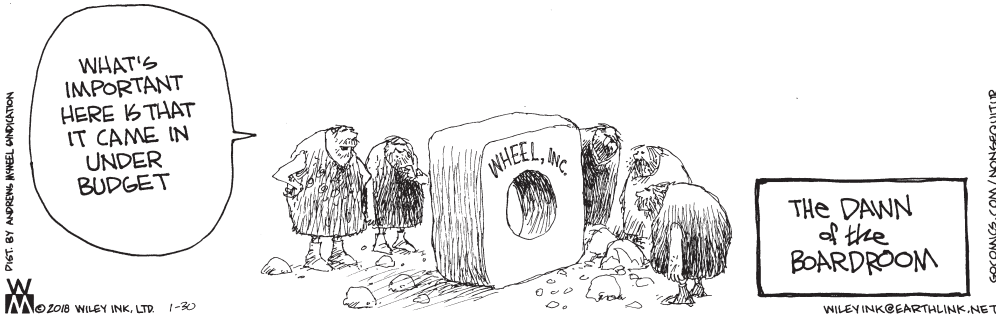
**DILBERT**



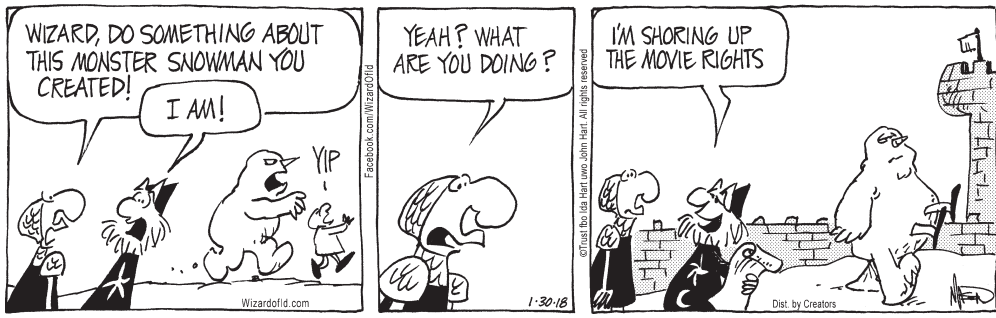
**BIZARRO**



**NON SEQUITUR**



**WIZARD OF ID**



**ROSE IS ROSE**

