

Be happy for your mom

Dear Annie: Why can't children of widowed parents be happy when their surviving parent finds a new companion? As a recently divorced senior citizen, I have re-entered the dating scene. I have dated a couple of widows whose children (in their 30s and 40s) have proved to be a real challenge. These ladies have been widowed for three to 10-plus years, yet their children are a real obstacle. Why can't they be happy that their mom has found a new companion instead of resisting it and, in one case, preventing their mom from continuing the relationship? I think this is very selfish and even harmful to their parent. What would you tell these adult children? — *We Deserve Happiness*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

anger over the loss of a parent, taking it out on the new love interest. It might help if you were to take care to respect the memory of their fathers and make clear that you're not trying to replace anyone.

Lastly, I'm not saying this is the case with you, but sometimes grown children pick up on signs that new partners don't have their parents' best interests at heart, and their protectiveness is justified.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend has a friend named "Melissa," and I'm wary of their relationship. I've seen Melissa put her arms around my boyfriend's neck while his hands were on her hips. They've kissed repeatedly on the lips in front of me.

I privately and calmly complained to my boyfriend about the kissing and how disrespectful and hurtful it is to me, and I asked him how he would feel if I were kissing another man like that. His answers were: "It's a Southern thing" and "Melissa's mother

just died." (Her mother died a few months ago.) He then accused me of being jealous.

I told him that at least where I come from, we have boundaries, have respect for other people's feelings and treat others the way we would like to be treated. Now whenever a grandmotherly friend gives him a peck on the cheek, he brings up the Melissa incidents with me, trying to say it's the same thing. And every single time, we have a disagreement and I burst into tears.

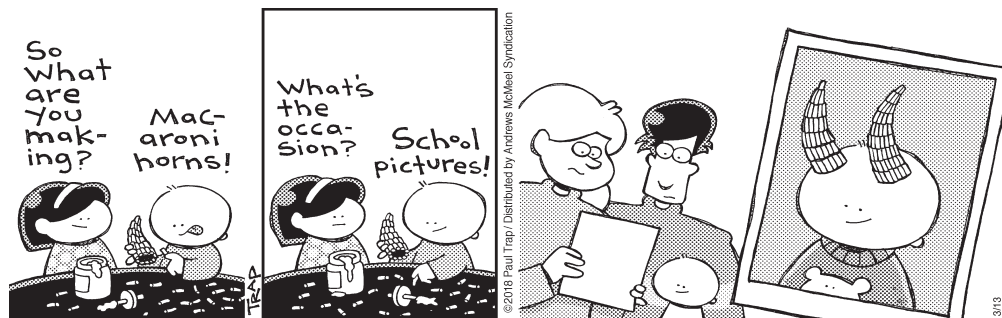
Is this a "Southern thing," and how should I handle it if it happens again? — *Southern Exposure*

Dear Southern Exposure: Rounding first base with friends is not a "Southern thing," and there isn't enough Southern charm in the world to sell that whopper. This man's behavior and his disregard for your concerns are both billowing red flags. If he's not willing to hear out your (perfectly reasonable) request that he not kiss the lips or touch the hips of other women, it's time to move on.

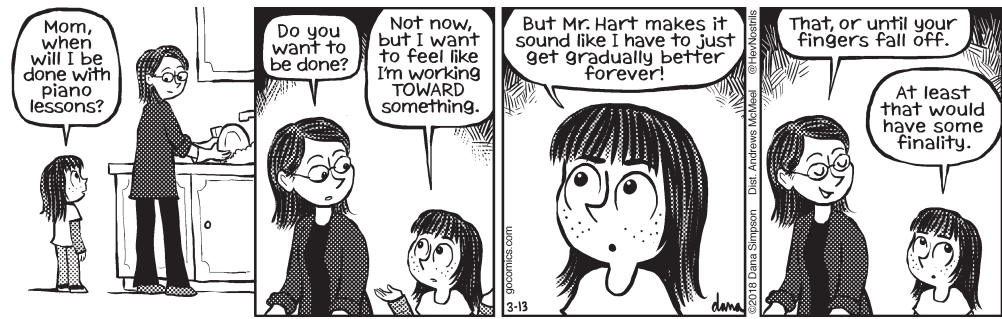
FRANK AND ERNEST



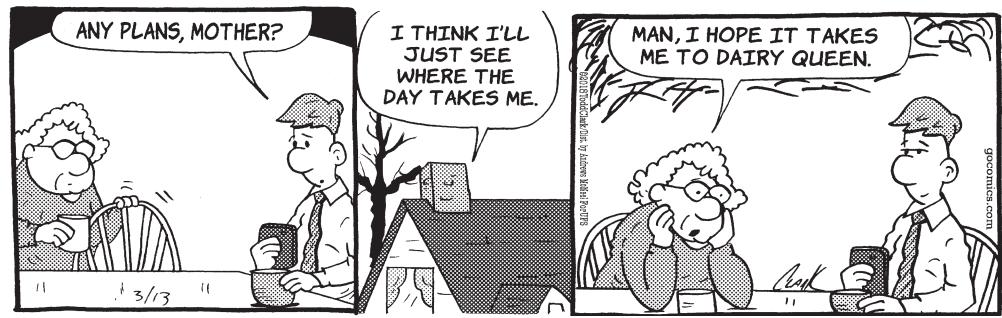
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



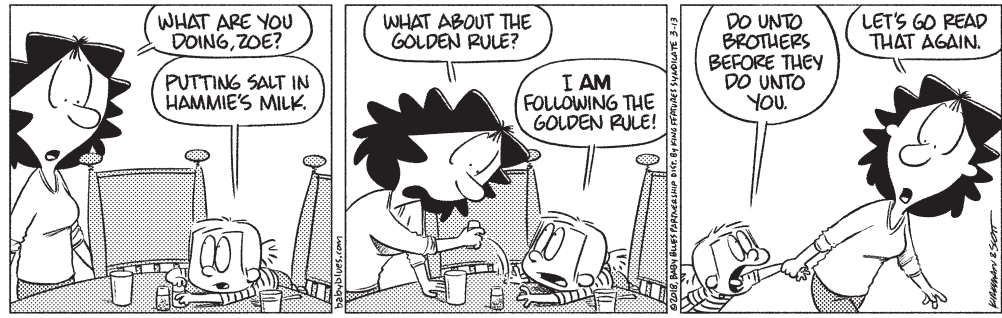
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There will be a gap between what people think you know and what you actually know. Mind that gap. You can use your insights strategically to awe your subjects and maintain your advantage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Complex thinking is best taken on earlier in the day. (A particularly good time will be two hours after you wake up.) Do the hard tasks before the easy ones and you'll minimize the threat of procrastination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In theater, the lights, sound, scenery, props, even the scent and temperature of the venue — it all makes a difference to the success of the show. Setting the stage for your life will be no different.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stories are the way we pass on knowledge from one generation to the next. There are stories alive on the earth now that started thousands of years ago. Your story matters. Believe it. Work on it. Refine it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Mirror neurons in the human brain fire when imagining or watching an action, and they also fire when performing an action, allowing for both experience and vicarious experience. Hint: some experiences are best left to the movies.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Snap judgments may feel like instinct, intuition or even divine impulse, but they are much more mysterious and nuanced than any of those things. This is not a day to blindly heed your gut reaction to things. Buy time. Decide later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be moments of stress that you'd do well to shake off as quickly as you can. One way is to get grounded, literally. Find a spot of earth, put both hands on your head, and jump repeatedly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's been a long time since you had to ask permission to do the things you really want to do. And yet, now that you can do what you want, you so seldom do! Change that dynamic today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). "It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then," said Alice in Wonderland, and you ... well, something similar at least. The option of going back in some way exists, but you'll probably think better of it.

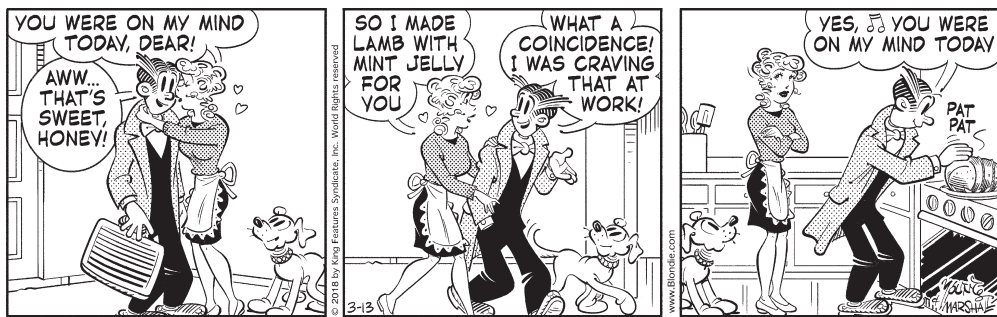
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Familiarity brings comfort — until it doesn't, that is. Boredom can be very uncomfortable indeed! You'll stave it away with a friend who craves novelty and adventure as much as you do today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You had ideas about what was in store, and ... surprise! None of them were quite accurate. Luckily, you're confident enough to let go of your preconceived notions in favor of being present to the needs of the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anxiety — even the brief, momentary variety — causes people to forget to breathe. When people around you are letting the wrong things get to them, you'll stay centered and calm with a few deep breaths.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 14). You have more fans than you know, and your base will grow both in numbers and in affection this solar return. Your relationships grow strong because you serve people better, answer their needs and questions and relate to the issues you have in common. There's a new kind of work in July. August ends a kind of trial period. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 4, 44, 9 and 38.

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



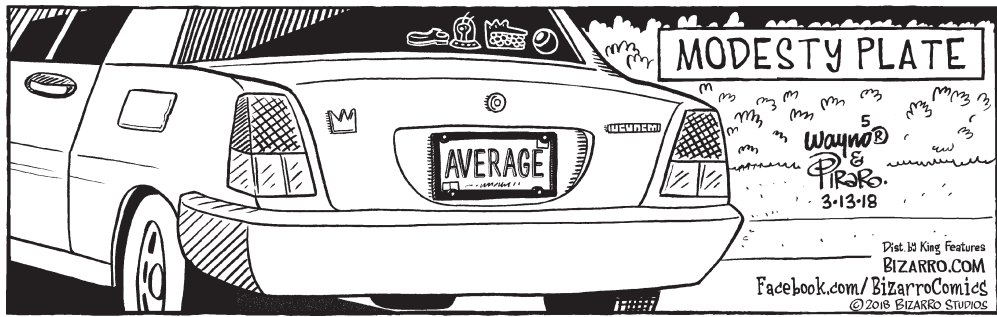
B.C.



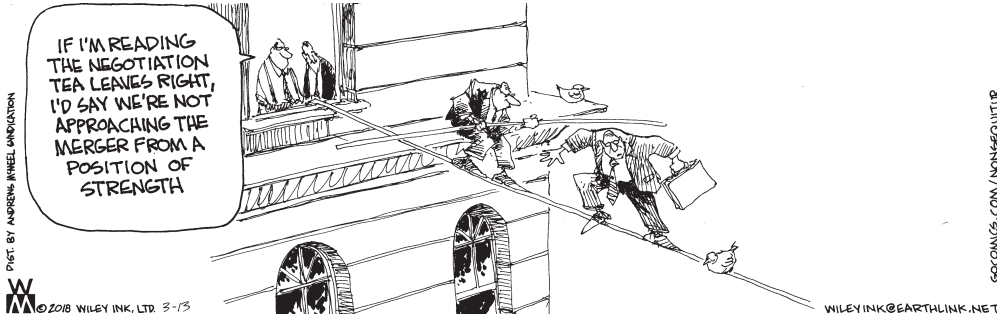
DILBERT



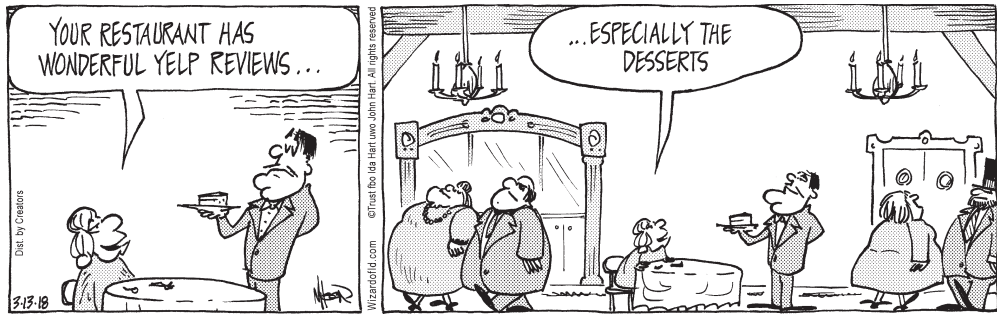
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

