

# Divorce blocks grandma

**Dear Annie:** I am hoping that you can help me solve this problem. My son recently divorced the mother of his two children. My former daughter-in-law has decided to unfriend me on Facebook and talk negatively about me to others. I would like to still be able to show my friends pictures of my grandchildren from her Facebook page. I am very sorry that their marriage did not endure. I have not treated her negatively. Do you have any suggestions that would help me reconnect with her? — *Blocked Out*

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Blocked Out:** The divorce was recent, and the wounds are fresh. When she speaks negatively about you, that's probably her pain talking. Rather than call, text or email, take a gentler, less invasive approach: Write a letter. Tell her exactly what you told me — that you're sorry the marriage ended but you still care about her and the grandkids. Once she has had some time to heal, she may be better able to see the benefits of having you in her children's lives.

**Dear Annie:** I agree that "Distressed in Utah" should set bound-

aries for family members regarding what she will do in retirement. I can speak to the importance of this as someone who has guarded my free time in retirement. Many family members and friends assume that the newly retired person will have nothing to do and will be bored and lonely. And 50 years ago, that might have been true. But today, most of us retirees have hobbies and activities that keep us occupied, and we feel confident enough to treat ourselves to the luxury of sleeping in if we want to, after years of having that luxury only rarely.

I love my family members, and I love my grandchildren, but I am determined to maintain those boundaries and protect my ability to finally live a life I choose. I want to be a grandmother, not a baby sitter or a surrogate parent.

I assume this woman's children think she will be bored and lonely, and they probably like the idea of having the grandchildren with someone they can trust without question. But that doesn't mean Grandma should give up her long-anticipated freedom. And if

Grandma's husband, who wants her to be a full-time servant to his elderly father, believes that his father's having care is so important, perhaps he should quit his job instead and take care of his own father. I'm guessing her husband would be more than happy to pay for a housekeeper or order Meals on Wheels if faced with that option. After being retired for a while, if "Distressed" feels she'd like to spend a day a week with her grandchildren, she certainly could offer that option to her kids — but it's hers to decide and to offer, not theirs to expect or demand. — *Love Being Retired*

**Dear Love Being Retired:** Beautifully said. Bravo for boundaries!

**Dear Annie:** In response to "Just Saying," who holds the door for female customers and then stewes if they queue ahead of him: When you don't want to be passed, simply enter first but hold the door ajar behind you for the next customer to take. It's still a nice gesture, for which women today are unlikely to fault you. — *Adaptable*

**Dear Adaptable:** This is the sort of solution I like: practical and polite. I wish I'd thought of it. Thanks for writing.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You want to be in the conversation, not the star of it. You want to be seen, not feared. You want to serve and be served, not acquiesced to. Aim to hold your own and you'll stay right where you want to be.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It is natural to want to bask in the indirect glory of a friend's win, a partner's achievement or a child's accomplishment. But you are more likely to celebrate people for who they are, not for how successful they are.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** When people don't live up to our hopes, the fault is usually in our expectations. People are generally just being themselves and cannot help if that doesn't match up with others' incorrect notions.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You won't always make the right decision. And when you're the leader, it's even harder to recover from a poor decision. But you're doing your best. That's the important thing. Also important: Don't waver, and don't get defensive.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your load is heavier because of a relationship. Is that fair? Maybe not. But you agreed to this arrangement, either verbally or implicitly. There may be a way to change the arrangement and still keep your word.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You don't have to try to be unique. You're effortlessly original. You'll love what happens when you take the pressure off of yourself to be anything other than that which you can't help but be.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's mostly going just fine, but for the small part that isn't, you'll take responsibility. You know you can't control what others do, so you'll work on your part of it. That's more than enough to make a

difference.  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll hear stories of adversity overcome. The reason you identify with the heroes is that you are one, too, and more than capable of the same sort of victory.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** It's always a pleasure to watch another person grow, but when that person is older than you, it's even more touching: maybe because it's unexpected; because it gives you faith in the ever evolving nature of humanity.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your tendency lately is to be stricter than you need to be, especially with yourself. In a sense, it keeps you on track, but over time this could inspire a rebellion. Consider easing up.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll observe a lot of waste around you, mostly because people are ignorant, misinformed or haphazard in their management of resources. They need you. Give it your best shot.

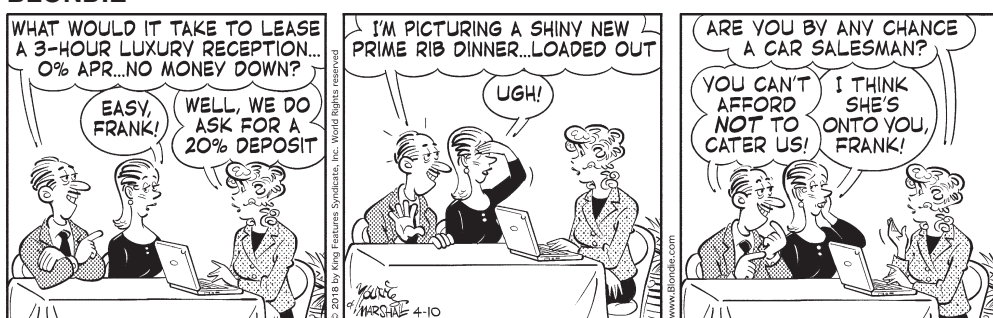
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and yet it's also the most difficult to swallow. It's weird to observe people trying to be like you. Hopefully you won't mind it too much when it happens today.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 11).** You'll be spotlighted for something you do beautifully; then you'll be connected with others who have related talents. You'll co-create something you all will be proud of. The financial deal you make in June will be great for your personal life, too, as long as you consider people for their character and heart above all else. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 27, 9, 16 and 40.

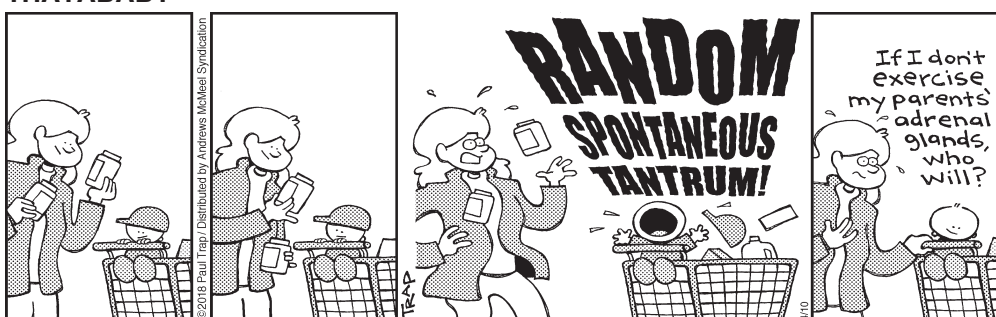
### FRANK AND ERNEST



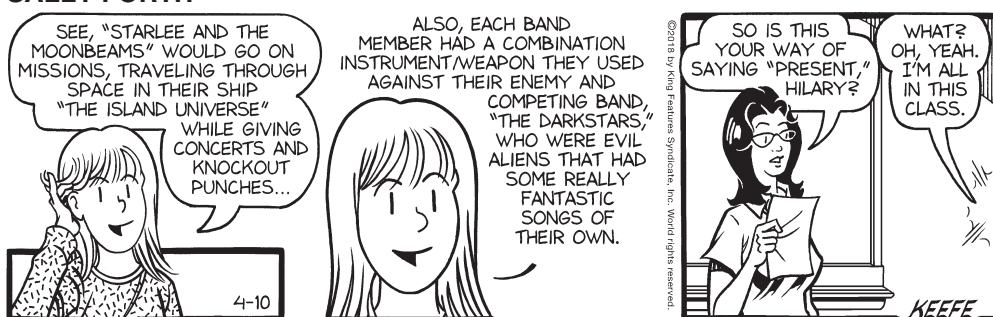
### BLONDIE



### THATABABY



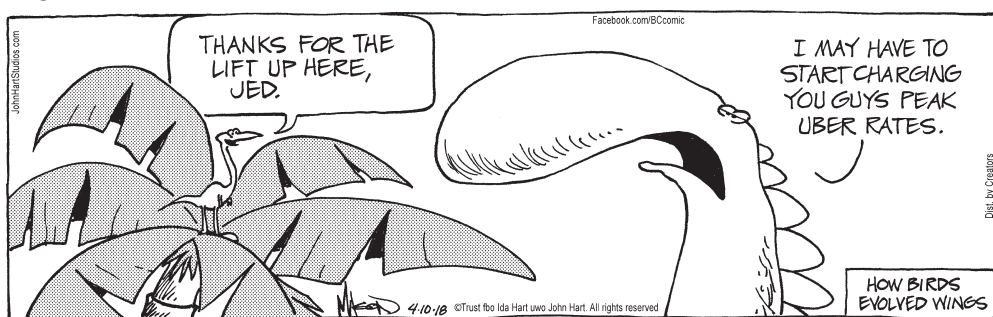
### SALLY FORTH



### PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



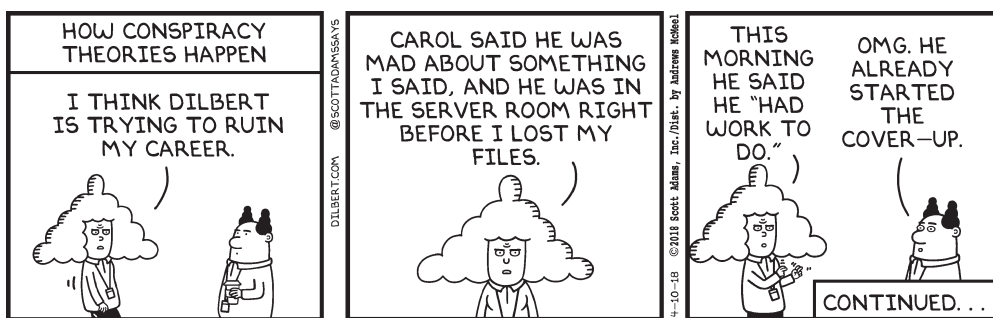
### B.C.



### LOLA



### DILBERT



### SIX CHIX



### BIZARRO



### MUTTS



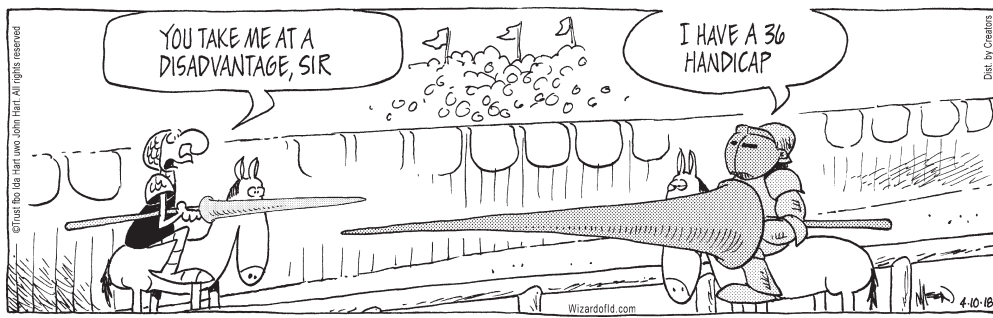
### NON SEQUITUR



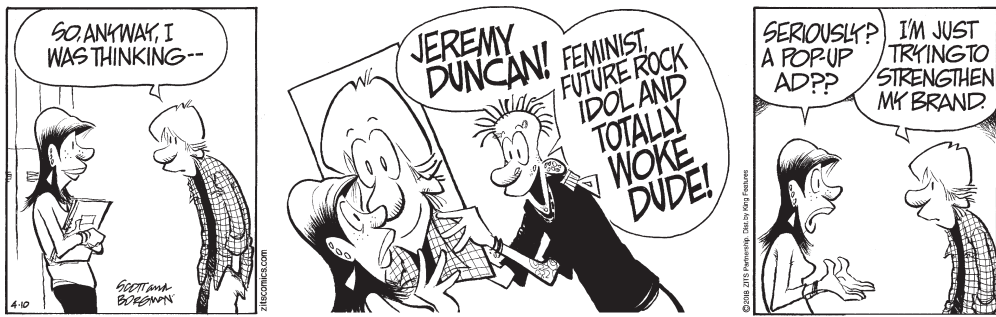
### BABY BLUES



### WIZARD OF ID



### ZITS



### ROSE IS ROSE

