

Dealing with unresponsive RSVPs

Dear Annie: You get lots of questions about weddings after the fact. Here's one that's before the problem happens so you can advise us. We're getting married in June. We sent out about 100 invitations, each with a note requesting a reply by June 1. So far, we've gotten only a handful of responses. As I'm writing to you, there's still plenty of time, but what do we do come mid-June with people who haven't responded one way or the other? Is it tactful to contact people, maybe pretending that we think their invitations got lost in the mail? If we do contact people, should we call or write a letter or email or what? Obviously, the caterer needs to know the number of people, and we need to decide on the seating arrangements.

— *Soon-to-Be Wed*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Soon-to-Be Wed: Congratulations on your nearing nuptials! It's customary to start going down the guest list and calling anyone whose response you still haven't

received two days after the deadline. (So if there's anyone you haven't heard from by now, it's time to get dialing.) Take note of guests' meal preferences so you can get that information to the caterer ASAP, though the guests should still mail back their replies, too.

And let this be a reminder to anyone reading this who's got an RSVP card gathering dust on the fridge. An anxious couple is awaiting your reply.

Dear Annie: I was kind of disappointed that under reader pressure, you retracted your advice to "Miffed," the jealous wife who objected to her husband's platonic friendship with a female co-worker. I thought you had it right the first time.

Perhaps it is because I am a man that I sympathized with the husband, and perhaps it is logical that your female readers would instead react by saying, "If there's smoke, there's fire." But the thing that jumped out at me in "Miffed's" letter was that she did not think

there was anything "funny" going on between her husband and his co-worker; she just did not like it that he had a female friend. That "Miffed" would jump in a car and drive all over town to catch her husband in a lie when she didn't think there was anything untoward going on strikes me as pretty zany behavior, and their marriage must be a nightmare. What would we be saying if it were a husband acting that way toward his wife?

The idea that men and women can't be just friends is outmoded foolishness, but many still believe it, unfortunately. I suspect that "Miffed's" husband will indeed leave her someday, but it won't be because of the co-worker.

I would like to say more, but I know I need to keep it short. If you use this, just sign me "Somewhere in Arizona."

Dear Somewhere in Arizona: I'll refrain from flip-flopping, but I do want to share your letter with readers. The more perspectives the fuller the picture. Thank you for writing.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). "It gets easier," they say. That's the shorthand version. The real truth is that "it" stays about the same and you don't. You get better and stronger and more creative and faster until "it" seems like child's play.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easy to be fooled by words, and it's quite possible to misread the actions a person takes. Consider taking note of what you hear and see without rendering a judgment. This isn't about one incident; rather, it's about a trend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). An array of options will open up. This won't be difficult for you. You've known your choice for a while now. Like someone on a scripted reality television show, you'll go through the motions, explaining your reasons.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Natural attractions are difficult to resist, but today it will be appropriate to try your best. The old standby, "Out of sight, out of mind," could be the ticket. Redirect your attention. In time, what's relevant today will no longer be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Part of a loving relationship is being good at being loved — appreciating what others do without trying to control it, and letting them show you instead of being so capable that you never need their help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Let someone know that imperfections are not only acceptable but also necessary and even desirable. We're all in this together. Sometimes we forget to help one another until we see the reasons we must.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've come to an impasse. Neither person is right; neither person is wrong. Nonetheless, someone has to move, or the flow of life will be needlessly and frustratingly blocked.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people feel better, they behave better. Therefore, your strategy of helping people to feel good will keep you headed toward peace, harmony and productivity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People promise you so much that if they make good on even half of it, you stand to gain greatly. Tonight, you'll be confronted with the past. Nostalgia will play into your current feelings about someone.

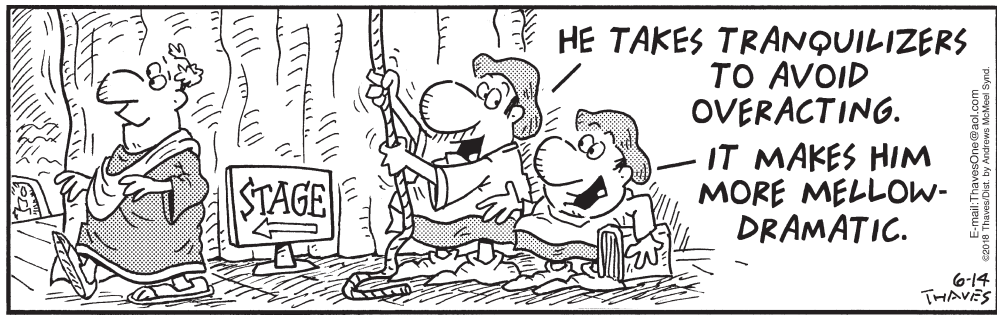
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To think, wonder, imagine, obsess ... there have been times when these modes served you very well. Such times will come again! As for today, a peaceful, quiet, content mind will better serve the situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you genuinely want to help but don't understand enough about the situation to be truly useful, the most helpful thing you can do is observe and seek greater knowledge.

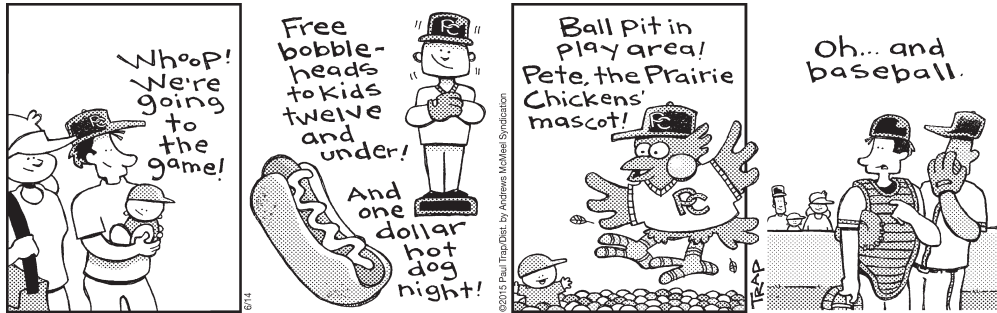
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's strange. You alter your appearance, and for some reason it changes the dynamics of a relationship. Why? Because even a slight change of costume means you're playing a slightly different character.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 15). Because of the new people coming into your life, coupled with a willingness to let go of any pettiness that was holding you back, the months to come feature an expansion of your heart. What you do out of love will not follow the usual course, and that's part of why it's so memorable. There's a windfall in August. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 29, 42 and 6.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



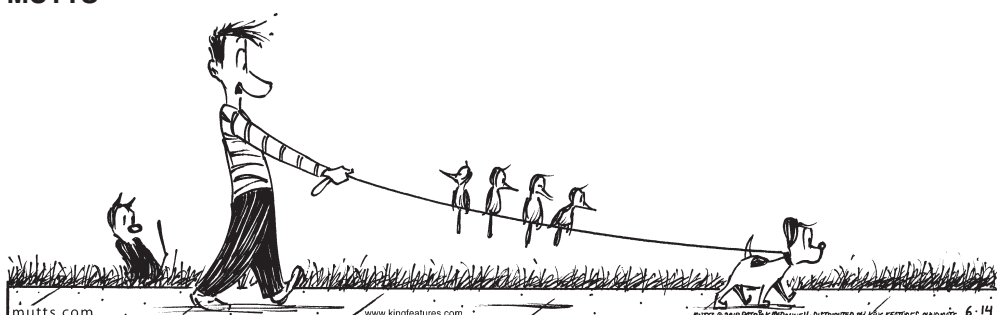
LOLA



SIX CHIX



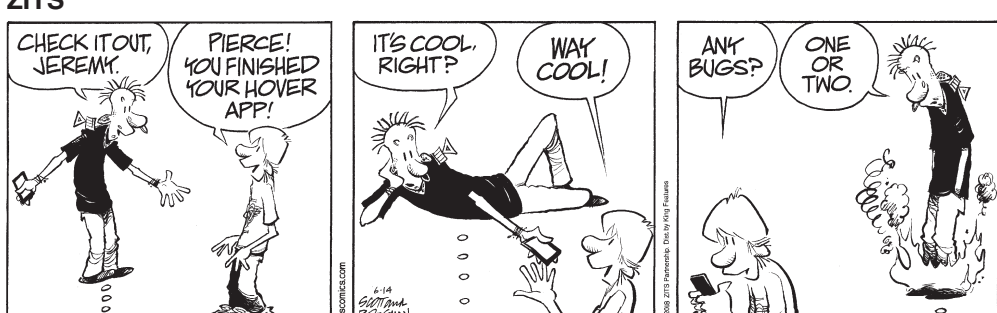
MUTTS



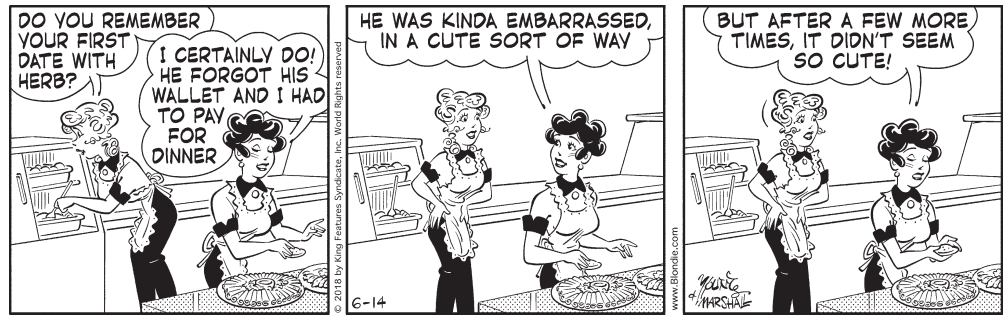
BABY BLUES



ZITS



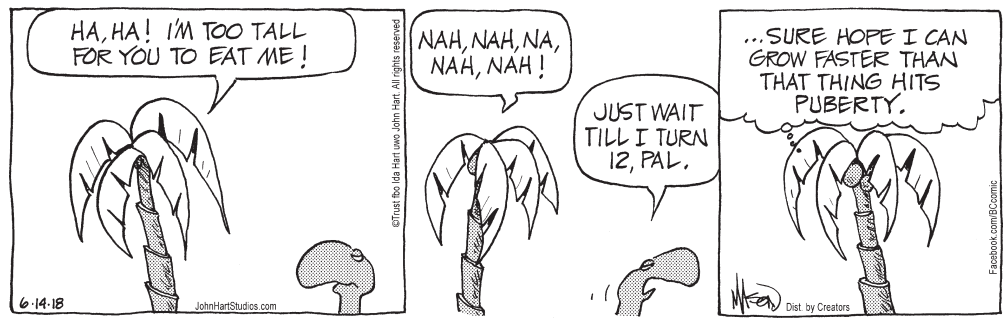
BLONDIE



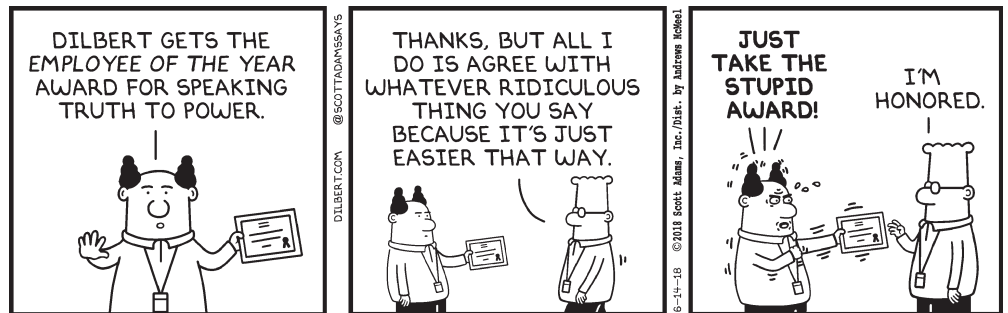
SALLY FORTH



B.C.



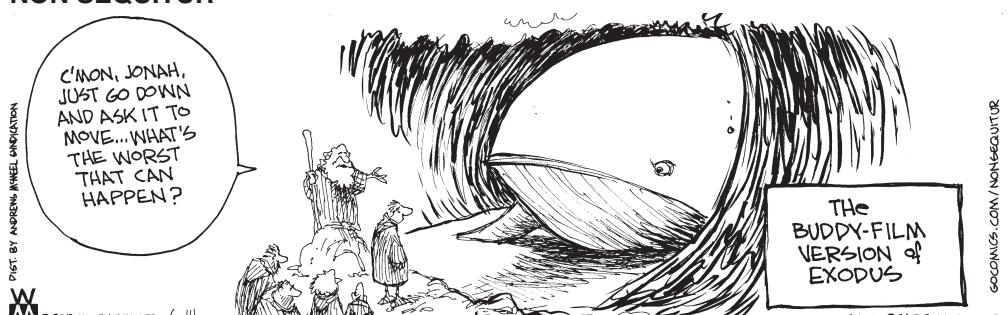
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

