

# Boyfriend enables his son

Dear Annie: I've been dating "Grant" for a few months, though we have known each other for 20-plus years. He has two kids, ages 25 and 21, and I feel that they run all over him. Their mother died about five years ago. She and Grant had been divorced for a few years before that. His youngest son, "John," lives with him, and Grant got the boy a job at his company. I feel that he needs to stop treating the kid as if he were 15.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

does nothing around the house to help. He doesn't want to help prepare food, and he doesn't want to clean up after himself. I feel that his dad needs to let him make his own decisions and pay his own way as far as his personal bills go, but I feel I'm fighting a losing battle. What to do? Thanks for any advice you can give me. — *Frustrated at Home*

**Dear Frustrated at Home:** Your problem is Grant, not his 21-year-old son. Seeing as Grant insists on treating John like a boy and allows him to run all over you, it is time to put your foot down. Tell Grant that either his adult son helps with the household chores and acts responsibly — rules to be enforced by Grant — or you will move out. You don't have a choice at this point. It is good that your relationship is in its early stages.

**Dear Annie:** I dealt with a lot of trauma in my life, bottled it all up and smiled

my way through the pain. We often believe that we are the only ones suffering from mental trauma of some kind or another. The truth is that if we step back and look at the big picture, we can begin to understand that we are not alone. Just because my husband never hit me doesn't erase the fact that I was abused. When a friend persuaded me to tell her what was wrong, she guided me in the right direction, and I got out of that situation (more than 25 years ago) and into a wonderful marriage. Therapy helped me to recognize my situation and accept that I can live a happy life. To anyone reading this who's going through hard times: Give therapy a chance, and don't be afraid to walk away and try again if you find that your counselor is not a good fit. — *Stronger and Happier*

**Dear Stronger and Happier:** Therapy really is a wonderful thing, and I think everyone could benefit from it. Thank you for sharing your story of hope and triumph after trauma.

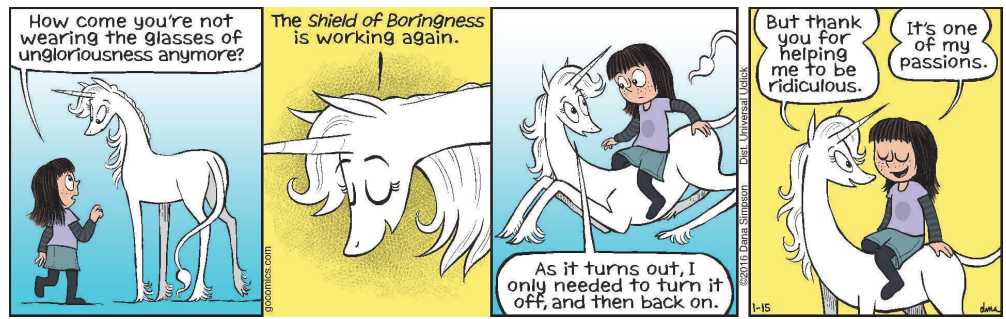
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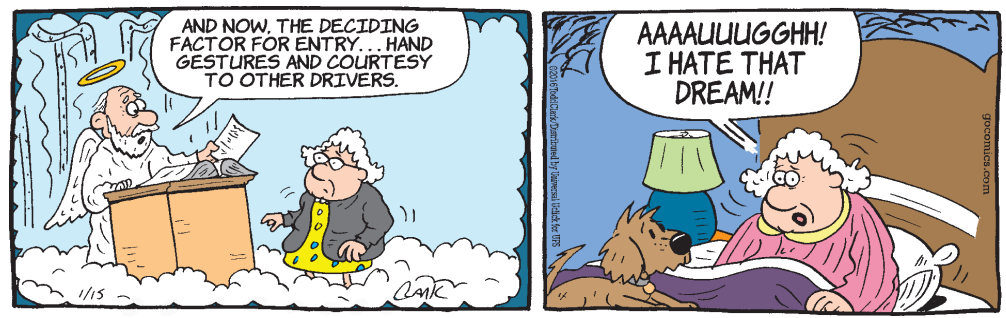
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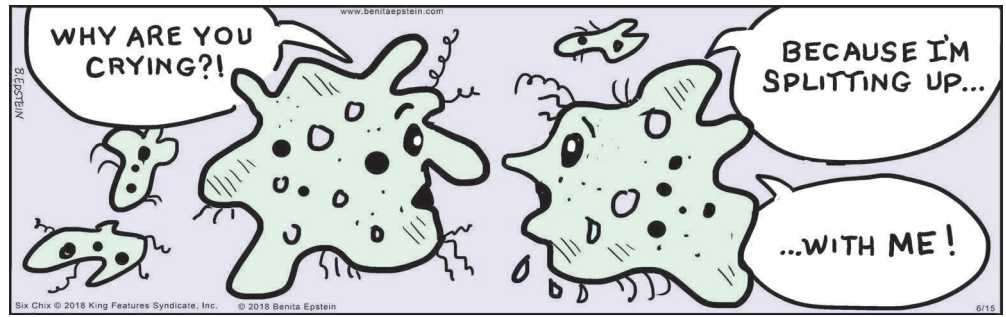
**PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN**



**LOLA**



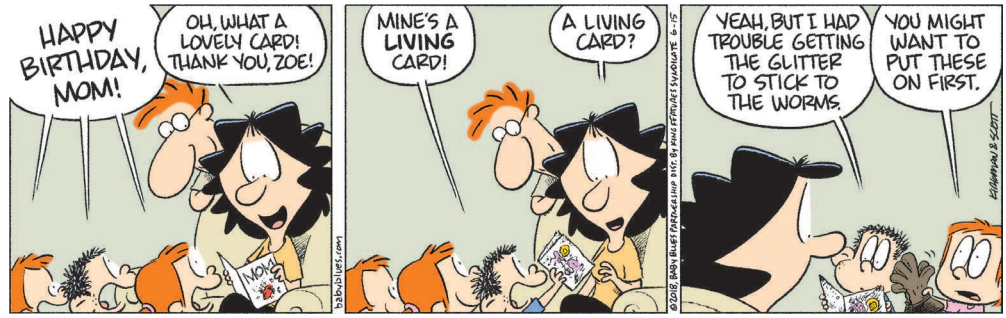
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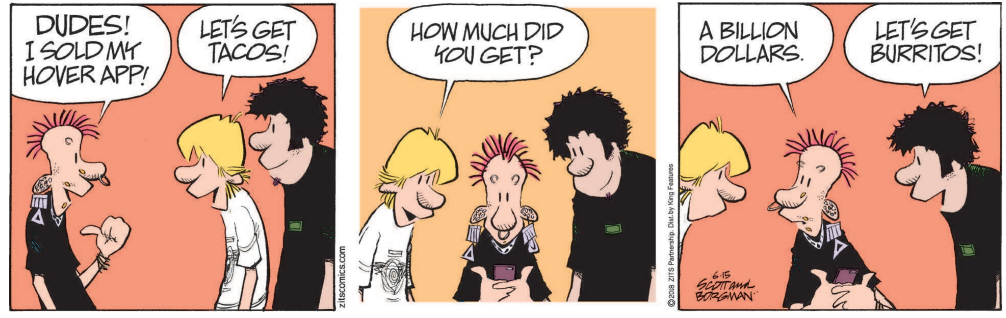
**MUTTS**



**BABY BLUES**



**ZITS**



**TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Like a hot air balloon, you'll reach the new heights with a combination of wind, fire and the willingness to release a sandbag or two. The more baggage you get rid of, the higher you'll go.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It won't be important to agree with your partner on every little thing if the big things are fairly in line. The question is, can you let the small stuff go without micromanagement?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Acting from a primal place, insecure people will try and weed out the competition through various means, such as exclusion, gossiping and aggression. The "kill 'em with kindness" approach will be most effective.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Are your expectations unreasonable? It really doesn't matter. There's what is; then there's what isn't. It's only two categories. Hold your expectations up to what's happening. Anything that's not a match needs to be adjusted.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You may feel as though you're hanging on to an arrangement for only one reason, or until one outcome makes it all worthwhile. There are other situations out there that would give you fuller satisfaction.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The last step of a project is to properly document it. Take this seriously. It would be bad to skip it. When you document something well, later it could serve as proof, entertainment, validation and more.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The random events mean nothing until you spot the pattern. But once you see the pattern, it changes everything. The pattern becomes a map, and you can see exactly where the relationship is going.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Well-meaning

loved ones may place limits on you. They're afraid of what will happen when you change and grow. Don't withstand these subtle restrictions. Call out the behavior while it's still of minor consequence.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A name keeps coming up in conversation, an indication that someone has nestled into your thoughts, whether or not that was your desire. The conversation can't help but follow your thought stream.

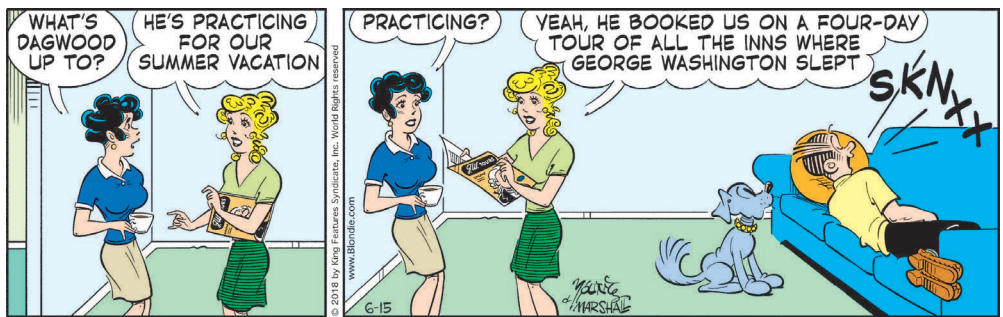
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's a dynamic of mild jealousy playing out — harmless, flattering, but still in need of due process. Don't ignore this! Whether you're the one experiencing the emotion or you're the recipient of it, work through the feelings.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The morality of today's options will be black and white. With such an obvious right and wrong, the way of good character won't be hard to find. However, many value personality over character — a rating system to be resisted.

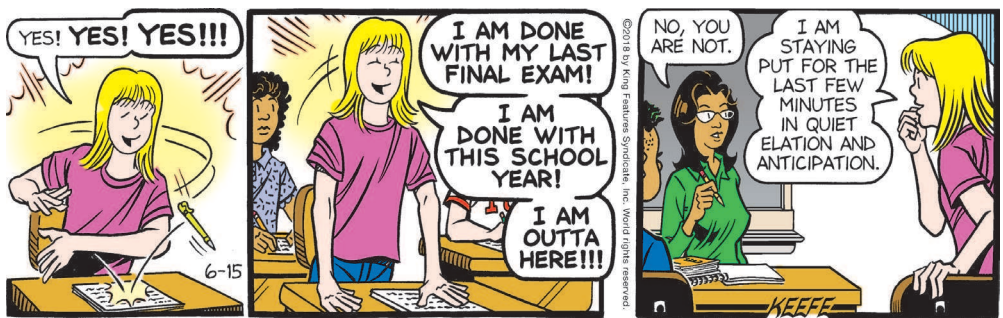
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's a lot of different advice out there, but the best advice will come from an internal source. It's a message from your heart to your head. The only thing keeping you from following it is fear. Summon your courage.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 16).** It's the ones who don't seek validation who tend to get it. The principle works in reverse, too. This year you don't seek attention, approval, respect, affection or remuneration — and yet you get all of it. August brings a notable award. Financial highs are July, January and February. Vows and deals go down in October. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 33, 28 and 17.

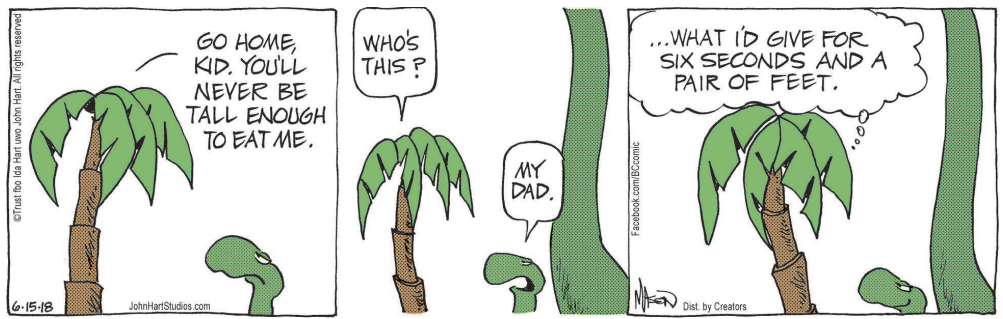
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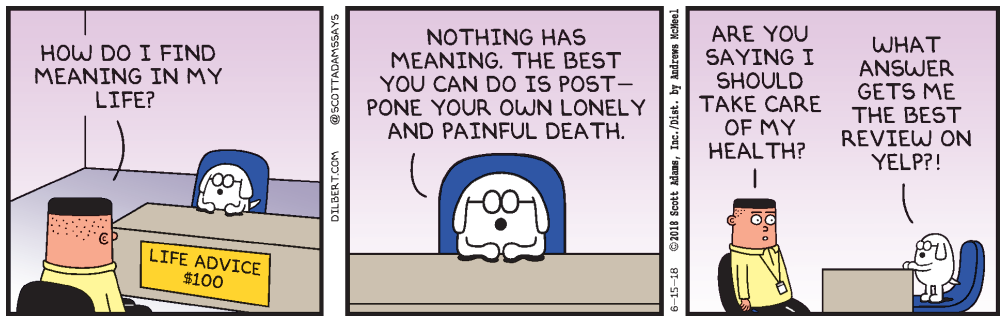
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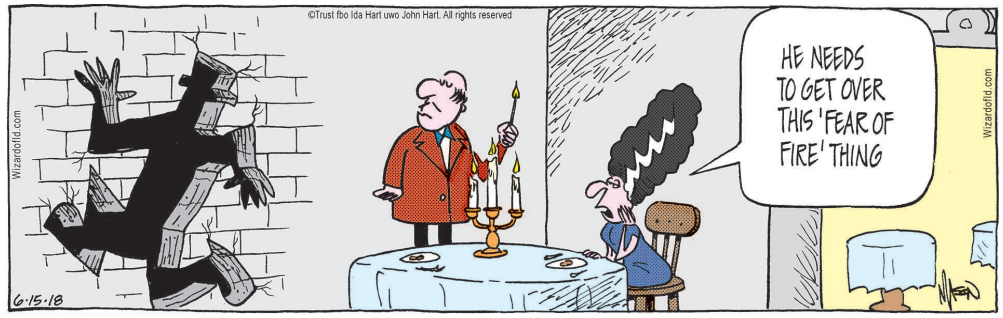
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**ROSE IS ROSE**

