

# Special needs require love

**Dear Annie:** I have a 3-year-old grandson with autism who is nonverbal. "JT" makes a lot of noises (i.e., yells) to let us know what he needs.

ilies with kids who have special needs deal with a lot. Show some compassion. — *Where Is the Love?*

**Dear Where Is the Love:** I wish the people at the next table had been the ones to write me a letter, because they're the ones with the problem. Your family handled the situation just fine.

As for how to respond in the future, the benefit of the doubt is a good place to start. If it seems possible they really don't realize JT has a disability, simply say, as your son-in-law did, "He has autism." You might even try smiling to underscore that there's no problem. If people are just plain being cruel — well, there are no magic words that can transform them into compassionate people. But you can tell them exactly what you told me: Families who have kids with special needs deal with a lot, show some compassion.

If I hear from other families who have struggled with this and come up with good come-

backs, I will print them here. In the meantime, to answer the question posed in your signature, the love is clearly in your family, especially JT.

**Dear Annie:** I have a friend who was in a similar situation to "Refrigerator Robberies." His roommate's brother, "Hank," crashed on their couch for most of a summer. Hank would eat their food and never replace any of it.

My friend fixed that one day when he realized that the large can of dog food was the same size as the "hearty beef stew" can. He switched the labels and put the "stew" back in the cupboard. Later that day, when my friend smelled something strange, he found free-loading Hank heating up the "stew." "This smells a little funny," Hank said. My friend replied, "No, that smells fine. That's really good stew." I believe that solved the problem. — *Pete in Cape Cod*

**Dear Pete:** If there's one thing this job has taught me, it's that people get pretty resourceful with their revenge. I suppose all is fair in love and fridge wars.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

My daughter, her husband, their kids (they also have an 18-month-old) and my husband were recently at a family-friendly restaurant for lunch. JT was in a really happy mood and making noises to show that. The table next to them asked whether they could quiet him down or remove him from the restaurant. My son-in-law explained that he has autism and there was nothing they could do to quiet him. We always try to engage him and keep him entertained to quiet him, but sometimes he's too happy to quiet down. I know it can be irritating and annoying, but how do we answer these judgmental people? I need an appropriate comeback to let these people know that although they think JT ruined their lunch, they in fact ruined his family's. Fam-

## FRANK AND ERNEST



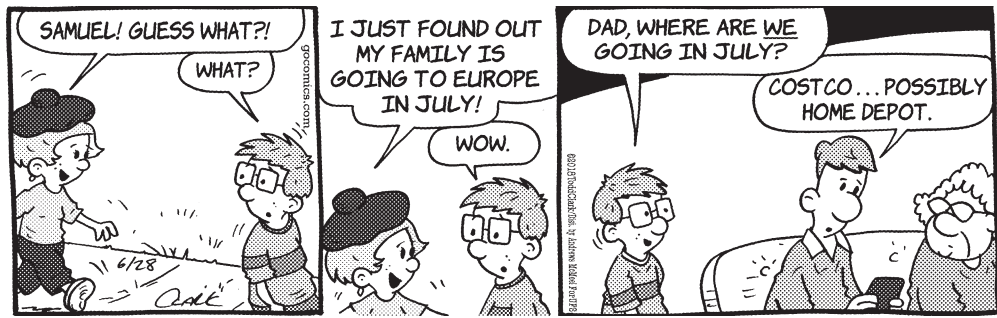
## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



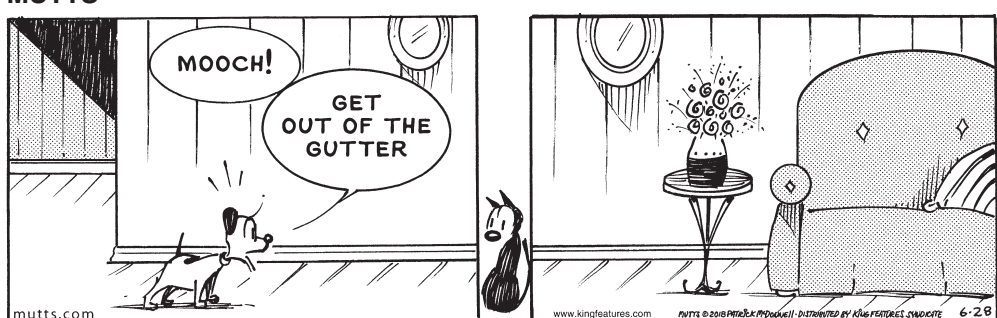
## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



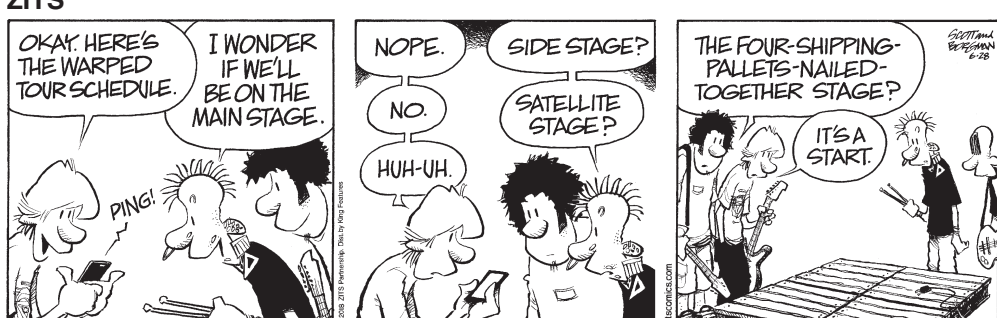
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Knowing that your reputation will precede you, what do you think it should be? What could they believe that will set them up for a fulfilling experience with you? To a great degree, you'll be able to shape this story if you choose to.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** To know what you do — the value you bring and the possibilities that lie in a relationship with you — makes for confidence that speaks better than your words could today.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your soul's code is like DNA. While it might be interesting to study, you don't really need to understand it to operate by it. Ask questions if you must, but the answers you seek will be revealed through action, not questions.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The subgroup you know so well has its own set of very specific problems — problems that other people don't even know are problems — and you'll solve more than one of them in the weeks to come.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** A meditation for the day: At any particular time, you're either feeling connected or disconnected from the love source. You can be with people and feel disconnected from love, and you can be alone and feel connected to love.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There is so much that you share with others, and there's really no need to highlight differences. The peaceful way is to focus on how we are all essentially having a similar human experience.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The muses will come and go on their own schedule, like birds flying overhead. You can do certain things to attract them. Put out a feeder, so to speak, to invite inspiration to land and stay awhile.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** One can use many different rulers to measure success, such as the ruler of finance, of social media numbers, of fitness ... but it is the ruler of inner peace that will tell you the true measure of your success.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Instead of asking whose responsibility it is, assume it's yours. It's really "ours," but you can't do "ours." You can only add the "y," and maybe others will do so, too. In this way, you cultivate a sense of universal responsibility.

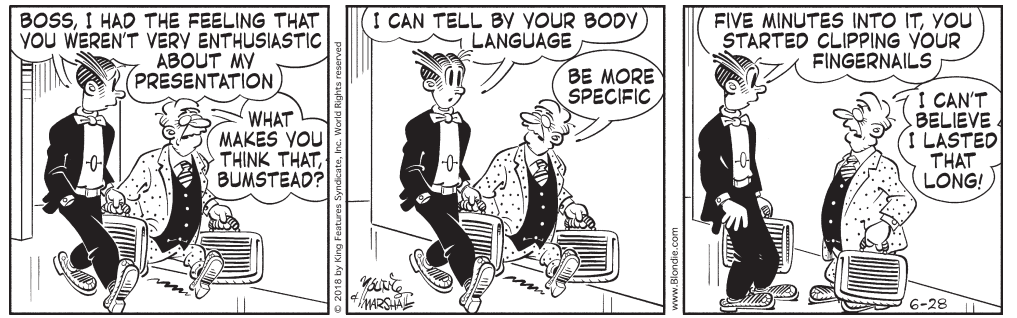
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Modesty isn't always meek; nor is it always mild. You'll stand tall without bragging and people will feel the weight of your presence, which is not heavy so much as substantial.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You've been known to go to great lengths to stay out of conflict, and this is often for the best. But there are some things worth fighting for. You won't have to fight for them today, but you'll make note of what they are.

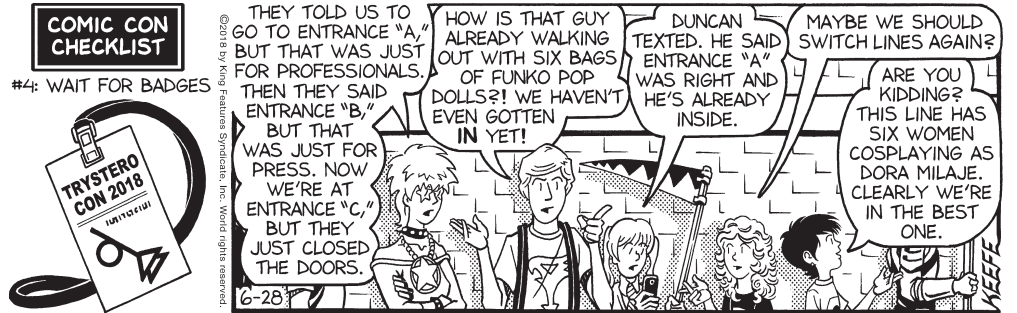
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** It's pretty easy to tell the bad habits from the good ones. The answers are always the result of a long-term formula. Bad habits ultimately deplete you, and good habits ultimately grow you.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 29).** Your vocabulary changes this year. The words you use most and least often will be different as you progress along the path to your goals, picking up new knowledge and changing your priorities as you go. Adventures with family will be the stuff of legends. September and November bring cash-outs. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 6, 24 and 38.

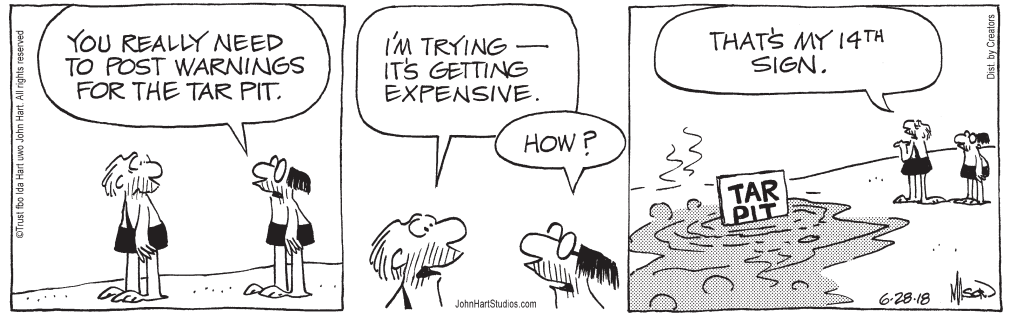
## BLONDIE



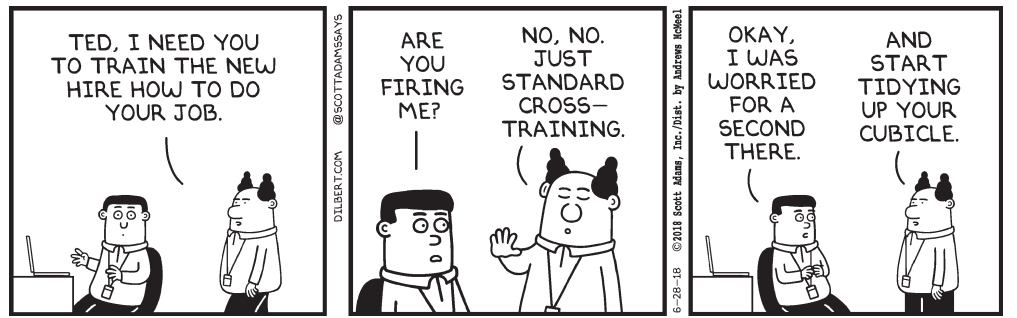
## SALLY FORTH



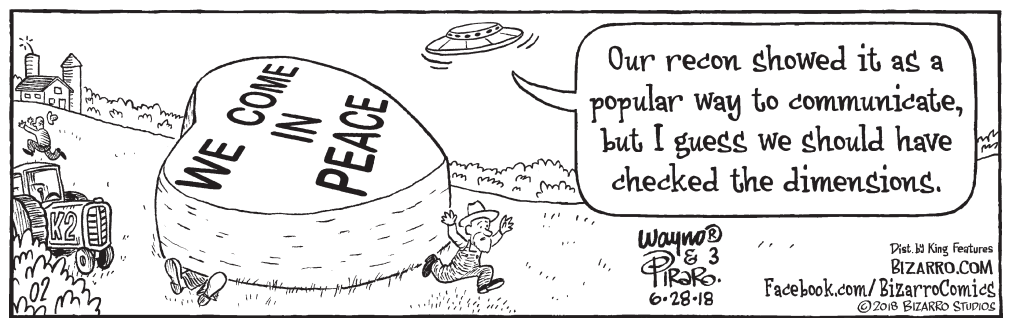
## B.C.



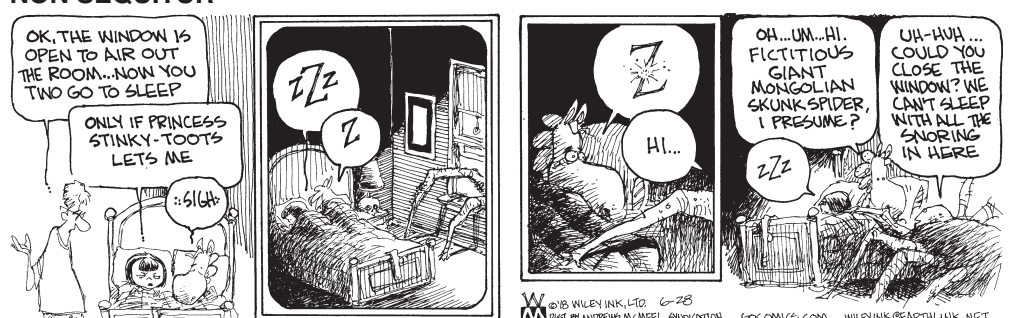
## DILBERT



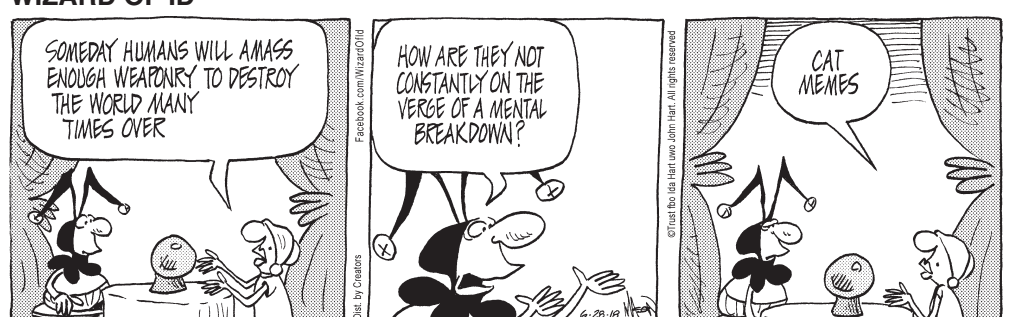
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

