

Should I edit my journals?

Dear Annie: I need some advice on what to do about my daily journals. I keep a daily journal and have for many years — including during a time when my husband was an alcoholic. He's been sober for 27 years. (We are in our late 70s.)

In those journals, I wrote about the times he got drunk — of his stumbling around in a drunken stupor, of his passing out in his lounge with our children sitting in the room, of his lying about going to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and instead going to the club and drinking for hours. I wrote about all these times and more, describing the family's embarrassment and frustration and adding my own angry comments.

Now that he's been — so thankfully — sober all these years, I'm wondering what to do about those journals from the times when he was not. They contain not only com-

ments about the difficulties I went through dealing with his drinking but also information about the family's normal daily life — for example, children's sports games.

I'd like to save my journals in case my grandchildren or great-grandchildren would like to know, in the future, what their grandmother's or great-grandmother's life was like, but I wonder about the wisdom of making it possible for them to read about their alcoholic grandfather or great-grandfather. Should I leave the journals unabridged, or should I take only the good excerpts from them to preserve my husband's sober image? His grandchildren only know him as a loving sober man. I don't know whether our children have ever enlightened their own children about how their grandfather used to be before he stopped drinking. I have a hunch they have never said anything about it.

So, what do I do? At my age, I'm thinking that if I'm going to change anything, I'd better start doing it now. — *Deliberating Diarist*

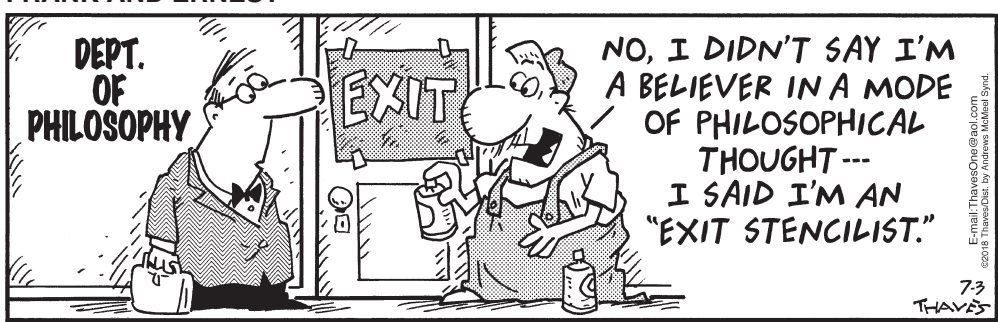
Dear Deliberating Diarist: Your family's struggle with alcoholism is not something you or your husband should feel ashamed of, and it might actually be helpful for your grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be made aware of it — when they're old enough — as they may be genetically predisposed to the disease themselves. Even if they're not at risk, they will inevitably face some hardships of their own. How special it would be for them to be able to look to the pages of your journal and remember their heritage of perseverance. You're passing these journals down because you want your descendants to know what your life was like, so let them know what it was really like: thrilling, exasperating, challenging, fulfilling, maddening, awe-inspiring — not always pretty but ultimately still beautiful.

DEAR ANNIE

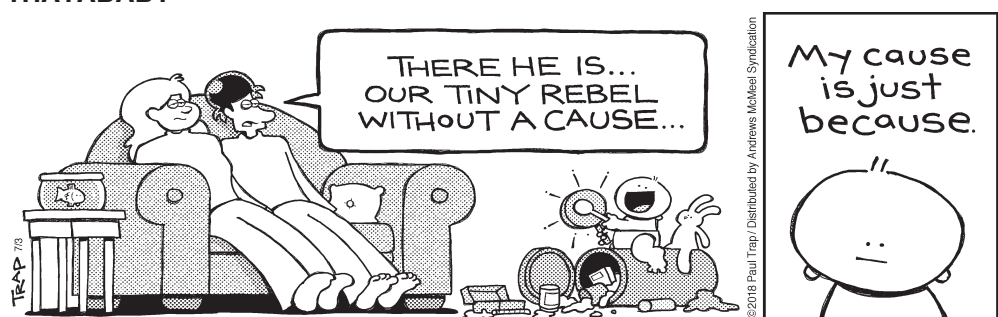


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

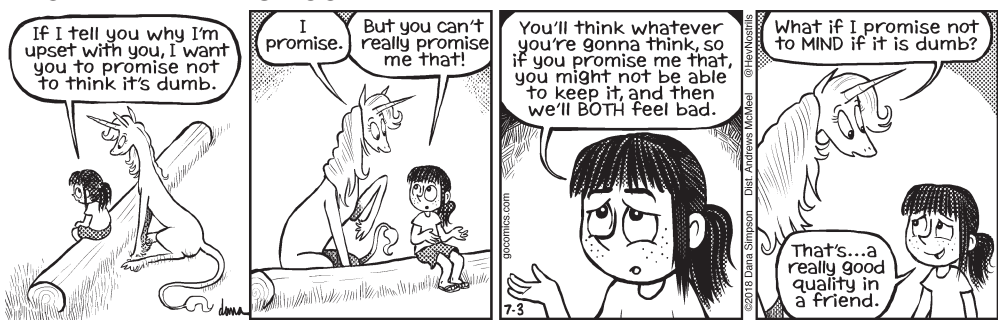
FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



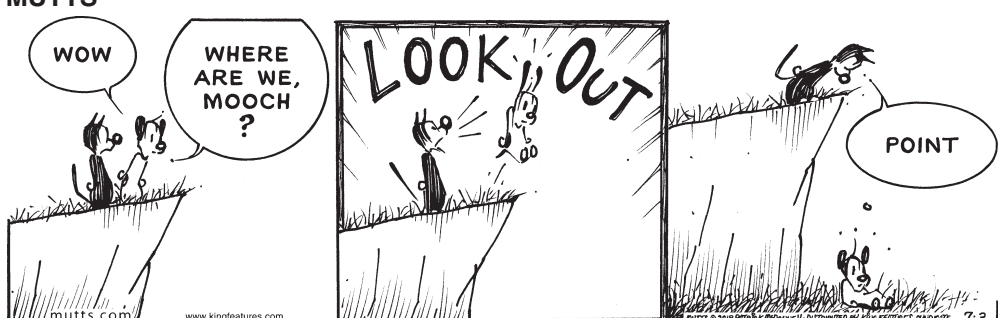
LOLA



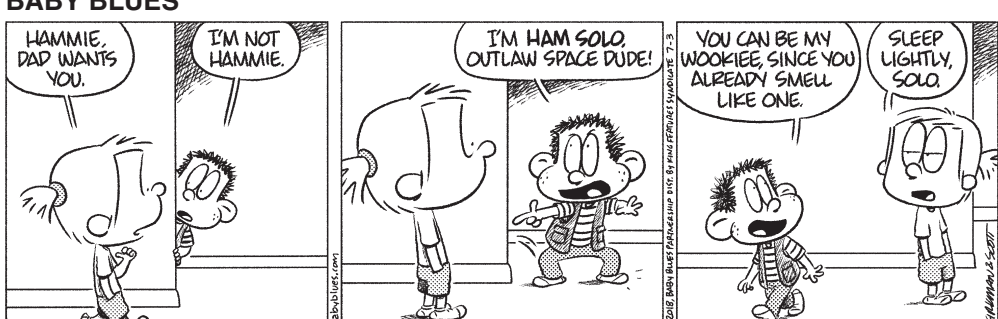
SIX CHIX



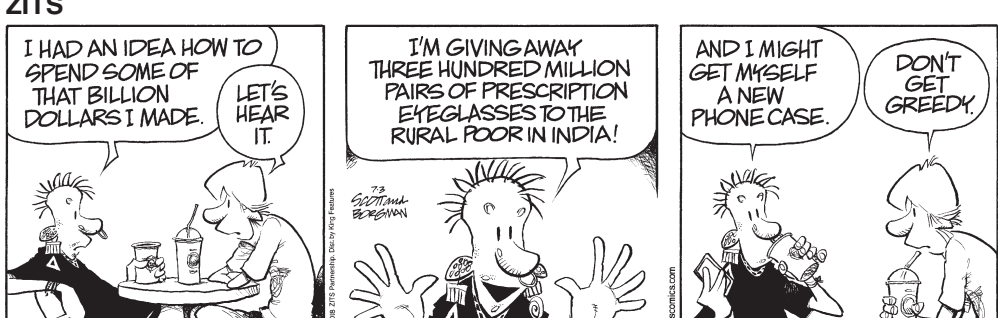
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Greed is the black hole of sins. It always wants more. It cannot be satisfied. It can, however, be combated. It will happen today by way of a reversal. Greed will be broken by generosity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Repeating a thought doesn't make it more true or more likely to become reality. Looping thoughts need interruption, which can be achieved by distracting yourself with a task that requires a high level of concentration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You now understand that you don't need what you thought you needed. In fact, you can get by with less and/or different. You may be able to make a trade today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you're not looking after yourself properly, it will be like opening a door to negative thoughts and low self-esteem. What do you wish your fairy godmother would do for you? Whatever it is, do it for yourself. It's an excellent start.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Conflicting advice will be part of today's challenge, and also part of the fun. How will you know what to choose? There's no right or wrong choice; it's a matter of taste and fit. And you're the expert on what you like and what feels good to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you can eliminate the absolutes from your vocabulary today, all of the things you "always" or "never" do will be off the table and you can focus on the lovely shades and specifics between extremes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in the business of making things happen. However, it will be very beneficial to put that business aside for some time because it will be in the moments in between, when nothing happens, that you will

feel most fully alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The magic combination is roughly the same as it was yesterday. With the right attitude for the job, the amount of effort necessary to make things happen and reasonable expectations, you will continue to succeed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let the cynics make fun of the world; you'd much rather make fun of yourself. People will appreciate your honesty and vulnerability. You'll make them laugh as they relate to your story.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This thing you want is going to take more work than you thought. A coach can help you work smarter and faster. Unambiguous feedback is what you'll need, and you're tough enough to hear it, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Know what can be done and what cannot be done. These are facts; it's nothing personal. But as you do what can be done, more will fall under your jurisdiction.

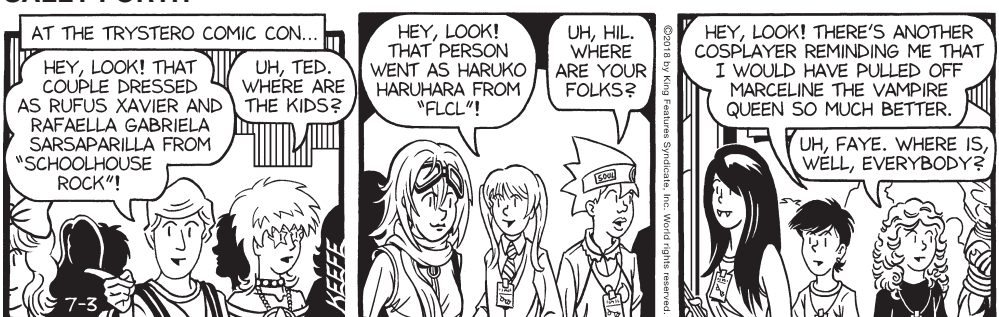
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a starring role in someone's thoughts. Though this person's casting of you may be a bit unrealistic, it's not entirely off. You'll have fun stretching yourself into the part, as long as it's close to who you want to be.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 4). There are no limits on your dreams, and your achievements are within your reach. Creating an environment that will consistently support you is a commitment; don't expect it to happen overnight. Stay compassionate. Get a new coach or teacher to help you transition into your new life. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 8, 9, 33 and 40.

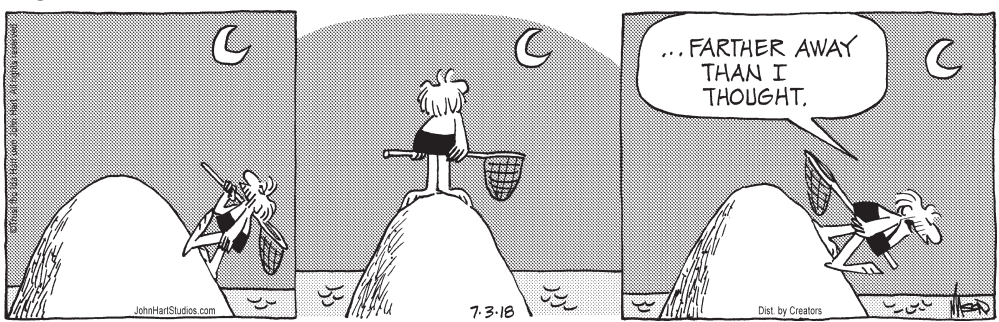
BLONDIE



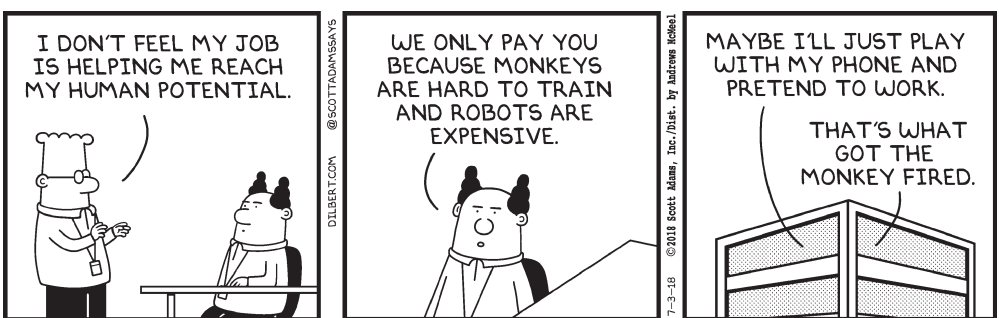
SALLY FORTH



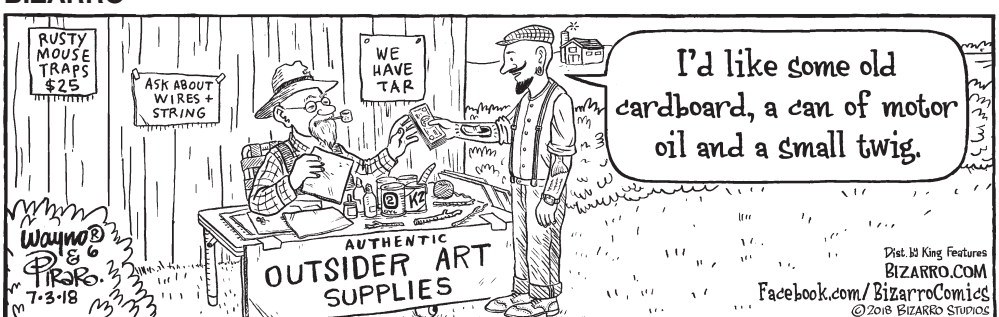
B.C.



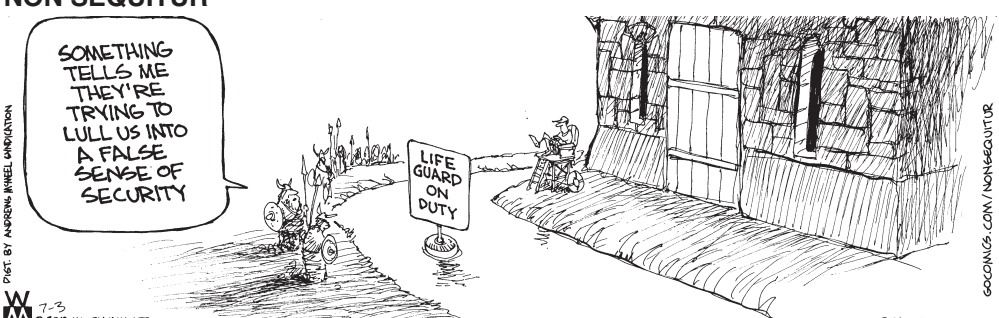
DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

