

They're disrespecting him

Dear Annie: What advice would you give to a divorced man regarding "moving on"? My boyfriend and his ex-wife have been divorced for 10 years, yet she continues to manipulate him and behave spitefully toward him. She and their adult children show no consideration for my boyfriend's wishes. And I see him do a lot of tiptoeing because God forbid he upset the "posse." He tried to establish that he'd like to see his adult children in settings other than his ex-wife's home, but that rarely happens. And he is expected to still go to her house for birthday gatherings.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

He has made some minor changes, which I hope, for the sake of his sanity, he adheres to. I suggested that he seek counseling, but to no avail. He puts his foot down, but as soon as she says "sorry" once, he picks his foot back up and goes back for more of the same disrespectful treatment. It is completely absurd that he thinks he has a good relationship with his ex or even with his adult children. The kids show him no respect.

I have learned I can't change anyone but myself, but how do

you coexist with someone who, because he feels guilty, keeps punishing himself? It's not my place to tell him what to do, I have learned through my own counseling. When I try to help him work through the many incidents that occur, he tells me that I'm biased because I "don't like them." What I don't like, Annie, are their actions. They show such disrespect, and if they can't respect their own father, really, whom are they going to respect?

Could he end up taking this nonsense until the day he dies? Will he ever free himself? I'm afraid that without counseling, he will never truly just put his foot down, say what he needs to and free himself of this abuse. Enough is enough! — *Anonymously Bewildered*

Dear Anonymously Bewildered: The advice I would give to this man matters little if he's not the one who's asking. And there's the rub. You seem to recognize this — you mentioned that you know you can't help anyone but yourself — so I imagine your letter was written more out of exasperation than anything else. I certainly sym-

pathize. It's frustrating to watch the people we love go through the same painful episodes again and again. But unless and until he himself decides that enough is enough, I'm afraid you're in for a lot of reruns. My advice to you, seeing as you're the one who wrote me, is to change the channel — if not by ending the relationship, then by disengaging from his family drama. I strongly recommend that you continue going to counseling, because it sounds as though it's providing you helpful self-insight.

Dear Annie: I get a therapeutic massage in my chiropractor's office and a dermabrasion treatment in my dermatologist's office. Recently, someone in the latter office suggested that I should be tipping for these personal services. I never imagined that tipping in a doctor's office would be expected or even appropriate. I am hoping some of your doctor readers will respond. — *Tipped Off*

Dear Tipped Off: I've never heard of tipping at a doctor's office. You're a patient, not a customer. The fact that someone there told you that you should be tipping sounds a little fishy to me, but stay tuned, and I'll let you know if I hear from doctors on this subject.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Beware of collective delusion. When you have an unpopular opinion, it's easy to think that you're the delusional one — when you're actually the only one who understands the reality of what's going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Take a picture of the moon or a sunset and it becomes clear that life often looks a lot better than the picture of life. But then there are times when the picture looks better. You'll go out of your way because of a photograph.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In the animal kingdom, enemies are simply other creatures competing for resources. In human terms, enemies seem more nefarious. Are they? Figure out if the opposition is sinister or just competing for the same thing as you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be wise to spend several hours cultivating good fortune by way of talking with others, sharing your heart, serving, helping and cleaning and clearing your environment to make way for good luck to drop on in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friendship is the most valuable thing that the day has to offer. A spontaneous opportunity to connect will pop up and it will be worthwhile for you to veer from your original plan and be social.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been paying attention. Your best guess is a strong one. Act on it. Don't talk about it first or you could talk yourself out of it. Action will begin a fortunate chain reaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll gravitate to the strong personalities, the intimidating presence, the people who are sure to impress and even intoxicate you. Get ready: They're sure to throw you off balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Dissatisfaction is part of the human experience, so don't blame yourself or anyone else. Offer yourself some kindness, and wish the best for everyone around you. You'll be surprised how that turns it around for the better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can only experience life from your own point of view. So even though you know that you are not the center of the universe, you have to live as though you are, taking the very best care of yourself that you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Socrates said, "I know only one thing: that I know nothing." And if Socrates (widely regarded as one of the finest minds of antiquity) knew nothing, then you really have to excuse yourself for being under-informed today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is not a game you win once and become champion of forever. Life's battles are fought over and over. Truly, some of them are getting old. But persist anyway.

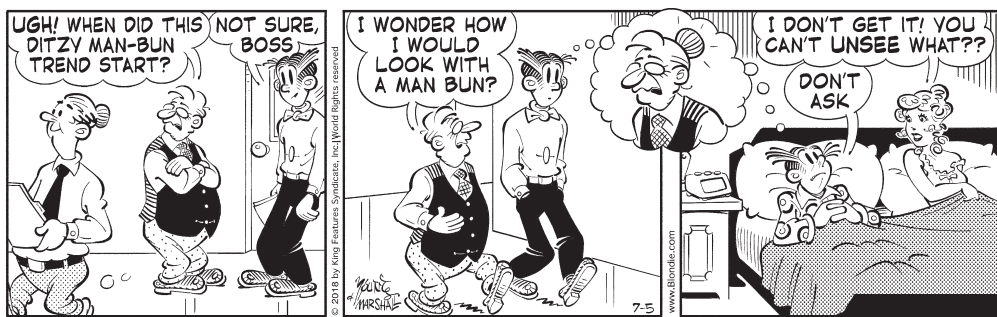
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't skimp on the details today. It's important to be faithful in your attention and commitment to small things because it's the small things that will build your strength.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 6). Your life will reflect certain trends of the time, though in many ways you'll be a thought leader. You'll be heard, admired, followed and loved. The money is extra good in September and November. You'll travel to win deals and more in 2019. Personal vitality will increase because of the change you make in February. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 28 and 40.

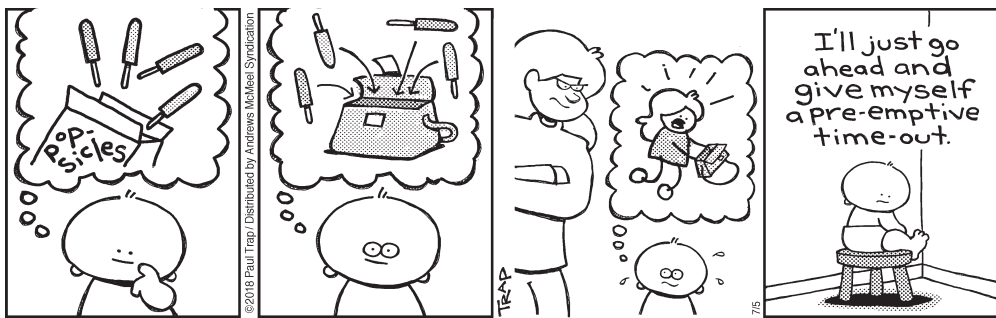
FRANK AND ERNEST



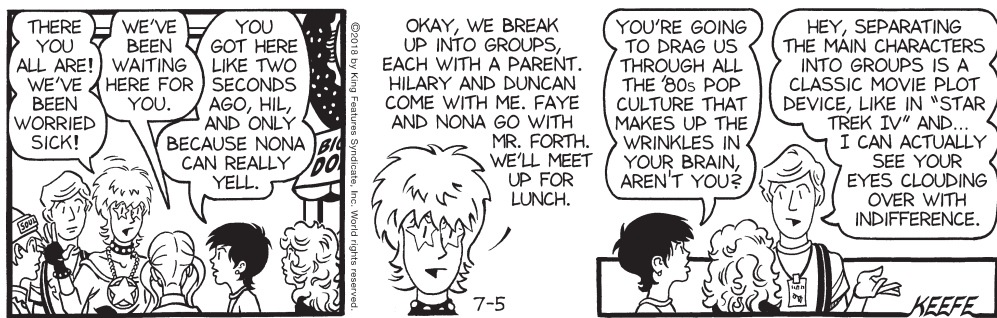
BLONDIE



THATABABY



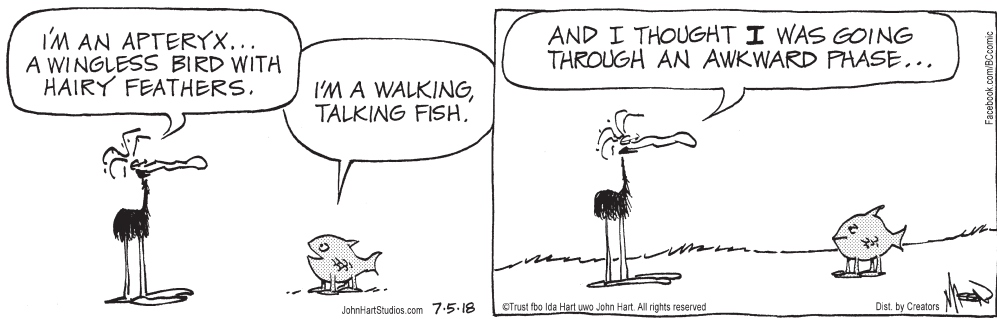
SALLY FORTH



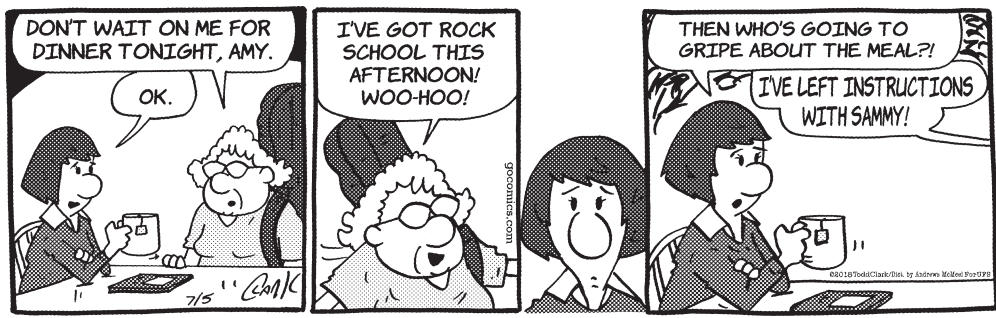
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



B.C.



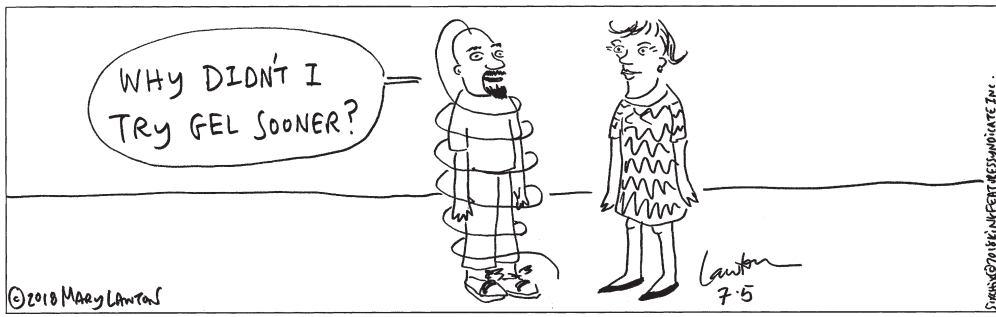
LOLA



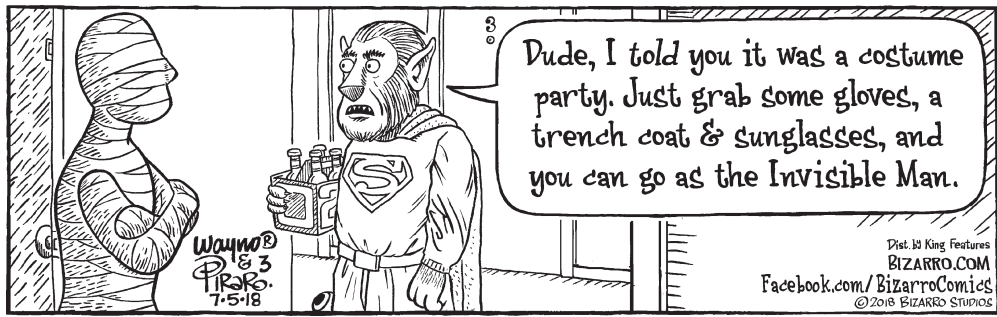
DILBERT



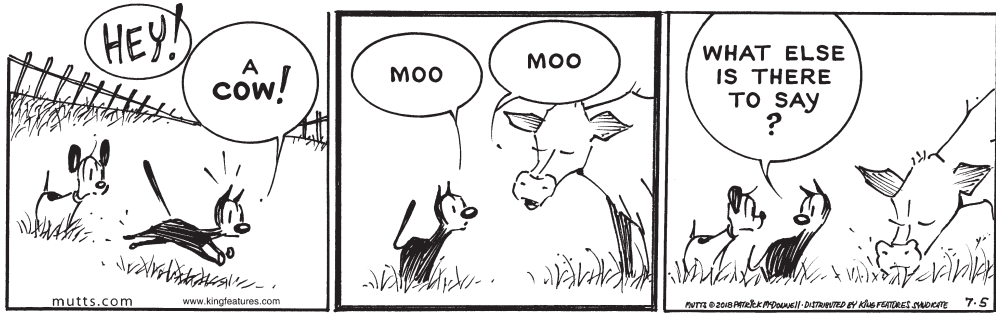
SIX CHIX



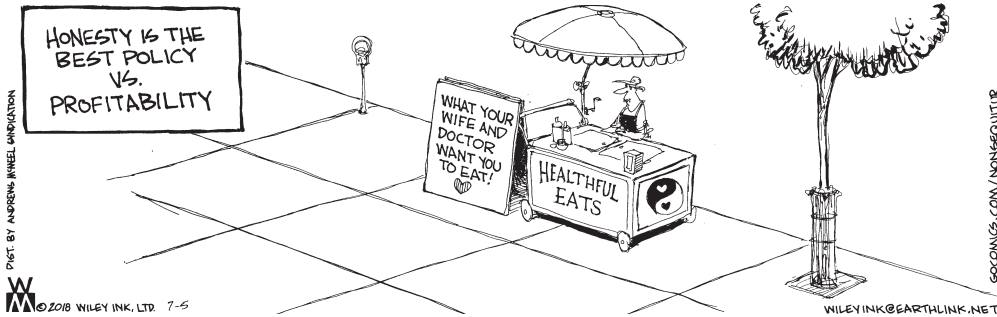
BIZARRO



MUTTS



NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE

