

# Suspicious caregiver

Dear Annie: "Pete" was a friend of mine. He was 20 years older than I and died at the age of 87. He worked hard his entire life and retired with his wife, and they lived in a small but nice house in Palm Springs. They didn't spend much money and had just enough for a comfortable retirement. Their main source of wealth was their house, which was valued at \$600,000, and they owned it free and clear.

I live in Los Angeles, a little more than 100 miles from Palm Springs, and we kept in touch by phone at least once a week. I would visit him in person three or four times a year. The point is that I did not keep track of Pete day to day.

You can imagine my surprise when one day I woke up to find three voice messages from him saying that I must fire his new caregiver, "George." I called Pete back but could not reach him. I found out later that he had been taken to the hospital and had died several hours later, alone in the hospital room with George. I was immediately suspicious because Pete had been in excellent health, but I could prove

nothing. The hospital said he died of "heart failure," and considering his advanced age, that was that.

Pete left me various personal items in his will, and when I went to his house to retrieve them, I was shocked to discover that George had moved into his bedroom. George is younger than I am, but he was suddenly having an affair with Pete's widow! I was too disgusted to comment, especially by the timing.

They never had children, so I told my wife that I wouldn't be surprised to hear that she died and George inherited the house. Well, that is exactly what happened, within six months of Pete's death.

I am writing to you to warn your readers about what can happen to the elderly — at least what happened in this one case. I wish I had done more, though I'm not sure what I could do from afar, and I was never close to his wife. Elder abuse is becoming a major problem in our country, and the consequences can be tragic. — *Heartbroken for My Elderly Friend*

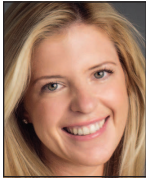
Dear Heartbroken: What a terrifying story. Thank you for

sharing it. Seniors suffering abuse — and anyone who suspects that an elderly loved one is suffering abuse — I implore you to call Adult Protective Services' hotline (800-222-8000) or local law enforcement. For general information about elder abuse, its different forms and symptoms, visit the National Institute on Aging's elder abuse page, at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse>.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "Twenty-Something," who is dreading his or her 30th birthday. My longtime friend, a psychiatrist, gave me this advice when I was turning 30, and it holds for all difficult milestone birthdays: Learn to do something you've always thought you might like to do. In my case, I decided at the ripe old age of 29 to learn to play the clarinet. I got so wrapped up in my new skills that 30 came and went almost without notice. It doesn't matter what the milestone birthday is; it's not too late to spend your time learning something new. — *Becky in Sublimity, Ore.*

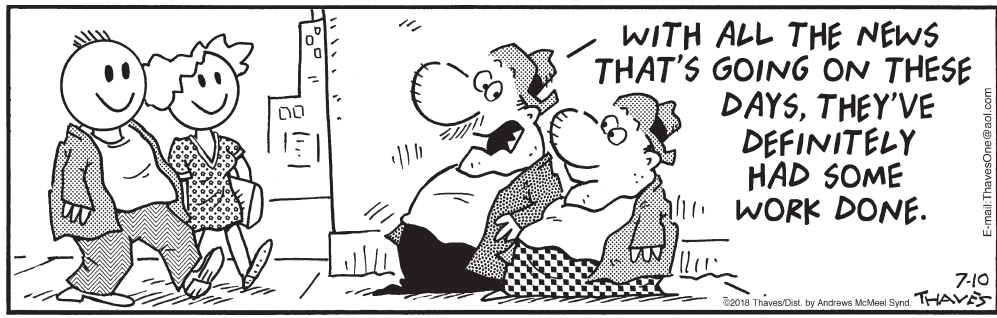
Dear Becky: Beautifully said. May we all spend more time doing things that make us forget to look at our watches (or our phones, as the case may be).

## DEAR ANNIE

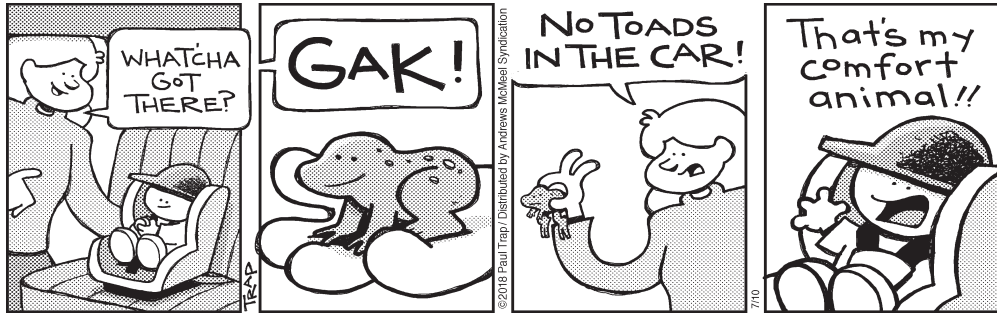


Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



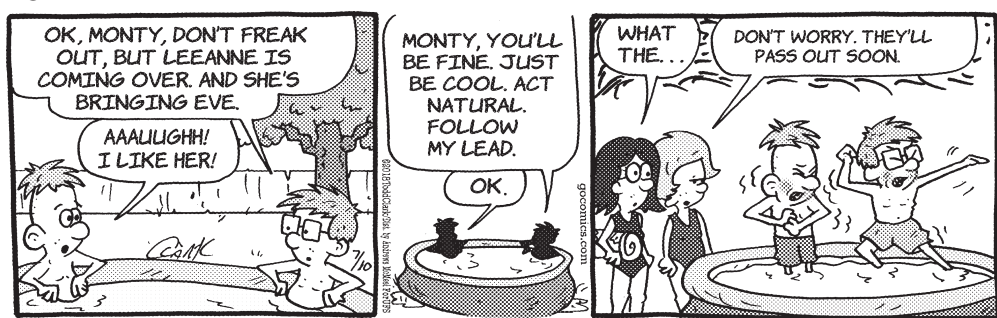
## THATABABY



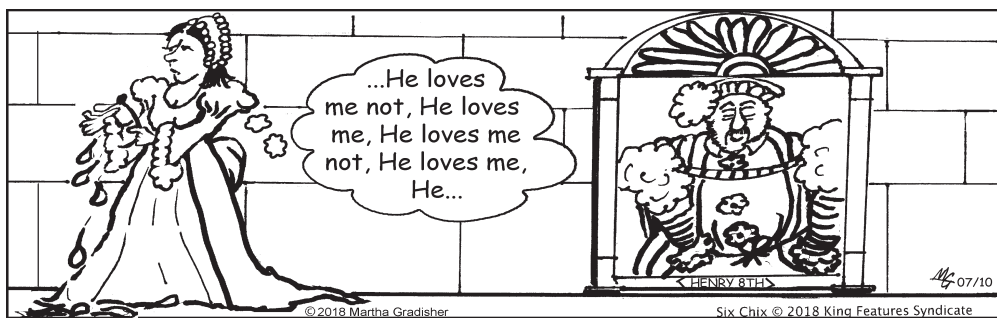
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



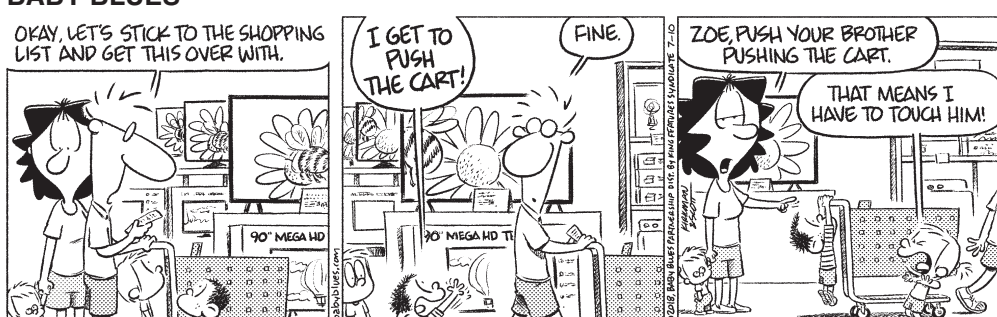
## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



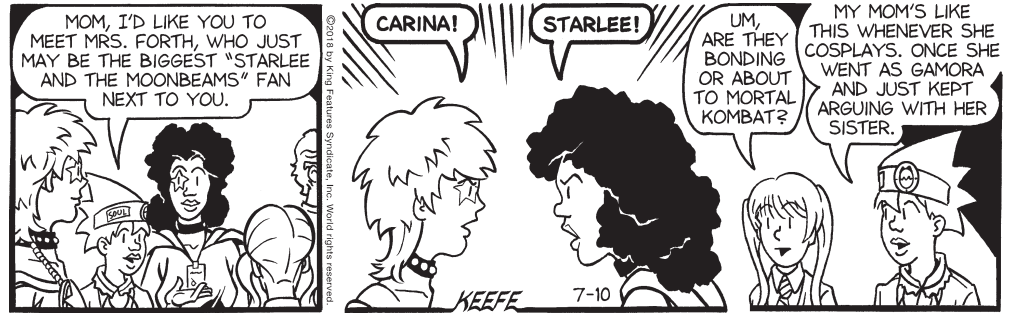
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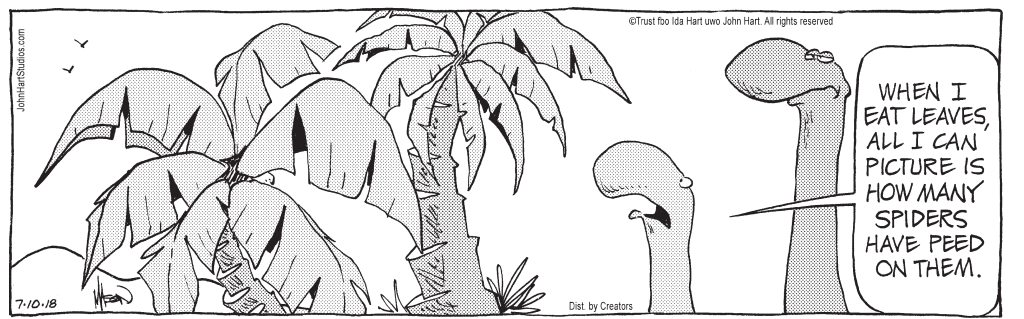
## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



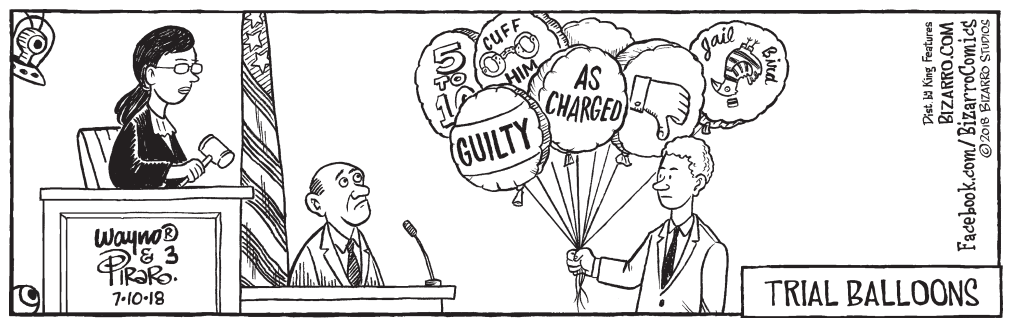
## B.C.



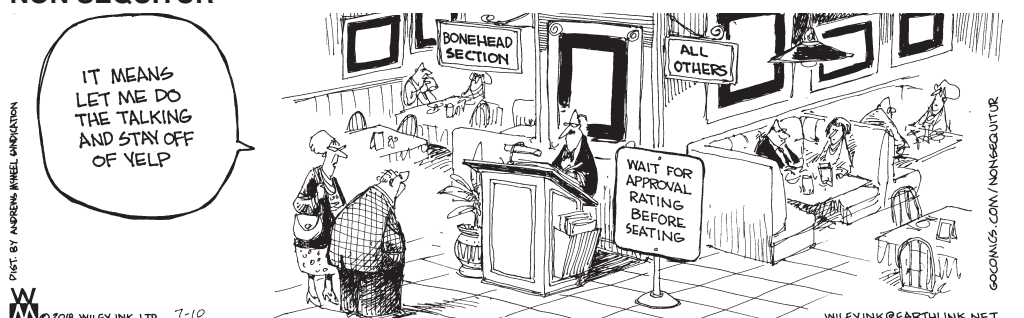
## DILBERT



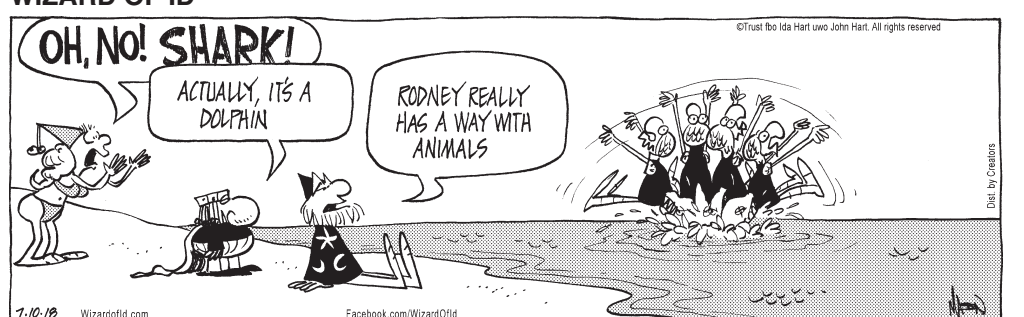
## BIZARRO



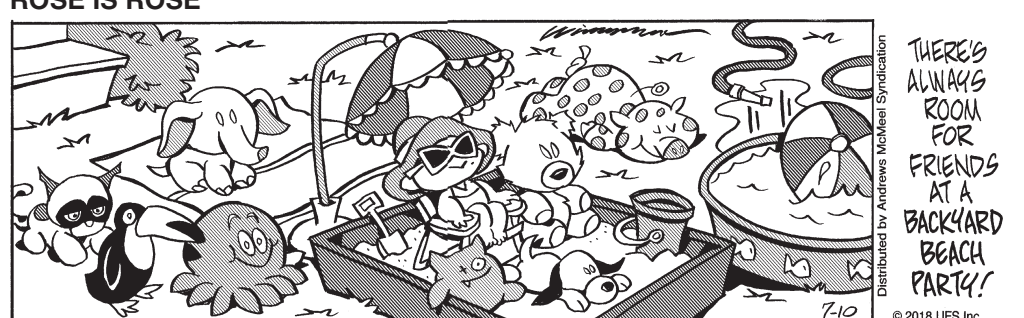
## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Once you thought you knew what you wanted to be when you grew up, but not anymore. Anyway, it's not what you should be but what you should do that matters. The action is an expression of you but not totally who you are.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Can you feel two things at the same time? Maybe. Or maybe every emotion is a mix. Let the feeling flow, because it will be cleansing. Feel it all so you can close the curtain on this act and move on to the next one.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Good food, music and conversation deserve special notice and thoughtful consideration. You don't take any of that for granted. You want to know what goes into it. You'll use your leisure as a means of mental development.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** As for that task that seems to be making you so unhappy: Maybe you can't cut it out completely yet, but there's a way to do less of it. There's also a way to react differently to it. Take this on. Find the way.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** What you're looking for will be found soon — or rather, it will come find you shortly after you stop looking. So give it a break and do something else for a little while.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The love, care and respect you give yourself will show others that you're someone to treat with love, care and respect. You'll attract only those who are ready and able to give you what you so deserve.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There are people who make your life better by being in it, and people who make your life better by staying out of it. Don't force it either way. Trust the social process, and what happens naturally will be to your benefit.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Being alone and enjoying it prevents you from using others as an escape. You've been used in that way before, and you didn't like the pressure. So you take pleasure in solitude, just to make sure that you can.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Trying to forget doesn't work, because the harder you try, the more the thing occupies your thoughts. The only way out is through. Remember; process; and release.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Be very choosy about what you add to your life right now, be it a possession or a person. Only add what you love. If you love it, you'll care for it. And both possessions and people need a lot of care.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** To get into a creative mindset will take a conscious effort. You'll have to plan it, follow through and protect yourself from distraction and diversion. The rewards will be rich. Your heart opens as you create.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You will be tempted to give your attention and time to people who, though well-meaning, are currently limited in their capacity to be curious about others and to put others before themselves. Don't make this costly mistake.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (July 11).** Increased vitality is your cosmic birthday gift. By being healthier, you inspire others to lead healthier lives. Your help matters to family. They will be a source of pride and promotion for you. What you accomplish by the end of the year will put you in the running for an award. Love and adoration will be lavished on you in 2019. Taurus and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 4, 44, 48 and 13.