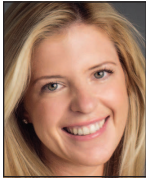


# He has two on a string

**Dear Annie:** I have known "Jeffrey" for six years. For four of those years, we were just friends, and for the past two years, we've dated on and off. At first, we dated for six straight months. He started to slowly stop calling and texting, and then he stopped coming around. Then, all of a sudden, he moved in with another woman. After a month, he started contacting me again.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Long story short, for the past two years, he's been going back and forth between the other woman and me. He apologizes to me every time and tells me he thought the grass was greener on the other side. I always fall for it. Recently, he moved in with me for a month, but when the other woman started texting him, he went back to her. He called and said he had gone back because he didn't want to see me unhappy and didn't want to bring that trouble to my home, saying he had sacrificed his own happiness for me.

I'm trying to let go, but it's so hard. I think of Jeffrey all day long. He's tall, dark, handsome and charming. I'm probably hooked because I hadn't been in a relationship in over

18 years. Because I had four kids to raise, I didn't have time for dating. (They are grown now. They all went to college and are working.)

What should I do? Everyone we hung around is saying to just be patient and give him time because he loves me. — *Dazed and Confused*

**Dear Dazed and Confused:** He was sacrificing "his own happiness" for you by returning to the other woman? This man is such a master of spin he should go to Washington. But he did (unintentionally) get one thing right: You'll be much better off without him in your life. It's time to cut him out of it once and for all. Block his number, his social media and any other potential mode of contact. Don't bother having a "closure" conversation, as he'd just use that as an opportunity to weasel his way back into your heart.

If this sounds impossible to you right now, I recommend giving therapy a shot. Sometimes we need professional guidance to find our inner strength — and I promise you that you are stronger than you realize. Don't let anyone make you forget that.

**Dear Annie:** I am a professional hairdresser in Virginia and have been for 26 years. I'd like to respond to the letter from "Needing a Change," who was wondering how to "break up with" her longtime hairstylist. I am occasionally asked about how to leave a stylist or make a change. It is a tough situation. Having someone do your hair is very intimate. Of course a relationship of sorts develops. But a professional hairdresser knows that ultimately, it is a business relationship. You are contracting this person's services. If you weren't happy with any other service, you'd say so or simply take your business elsewhere.

"Feelings" shouldn't make anyone stay with a stylist who's doing a lousy job. Also, as a stylist, I realize that I am not the best stylist for everyone, and ultimately, I'd rather you see someone who provides you with a service that you love.

My ego isn't nearly so important to me as the client's happiness. And any stylist who considers himself or herself a true professional will tell you the same thing. — *Kevin M.*

**Dear Kevin:** You sound like a true professional indeed. Lucky is the lady (or gentleman) who sits in your chair.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Creation takes time; destruction can happen in an instant. You may think long and hard about how to take your life to the next level. Reality will quickly shoot down some (not all!) of those ideas, but don't let that stop you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Happiness and simplicity will be linked up today. The minute you feel that things are involving too many elements or getting too complicated, busy, messy, fast or expensive ... stop. Start over.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's not just that one solution doesn't work for everyone; it's that one solution doesn't even work for anyone all of the time. Each moment and circumstance is different. Stay sensitive and awake and you'll do great.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Disillusionment is the thing that happens when you find out that what you thought was real involves a manipulation of perception. Knowing that tricks abound is a necessary step in understanding the nature of reality.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The habit of trying to get things in order to be happy is an addiction, and it should be broken. You really don't need anything else. The expansion of your spirit is the happiness, also the work, also the prize.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** After careful consideration and planning, the best plan may be no plan. It's one of those rare days when all you need is your openness and a belief that the best will happen.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're a wonderful self-editor. You know that it brings you luck, love, relationships and more. Unfortunately, those who don't self-edit are prone to say too much, confuse people, and make them afraid to

approach the next time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You hate to overpay for a thing that will disappear in a moment. To forgo perishables in favor of a lasting memento will be your action — also a metaphor for other choices you'll make in the near future.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Two people will try to tell or sell you the exact same thing, and you'll much prefer one to the other. Why? It boils down to style. Tone is a part of this. Go where the resonance is, and don't look back.

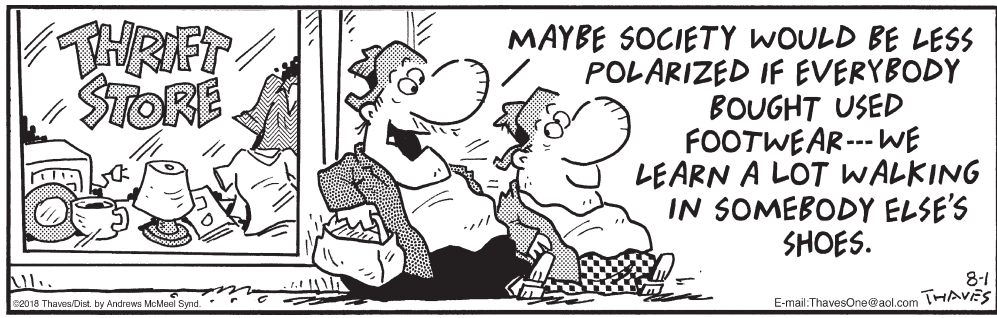
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** People want you to go one way or another, so they psychically lean on you, trying to get you to sway in that direction. Be strong. Go where you want to go. Don't be guilted. Tell others to stay in their lane.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your life could be much like yesterday, or it could be something very different. The choice is yours. A new start won't require a big effort, merely a mental shift that happens once you claim this as "day one."

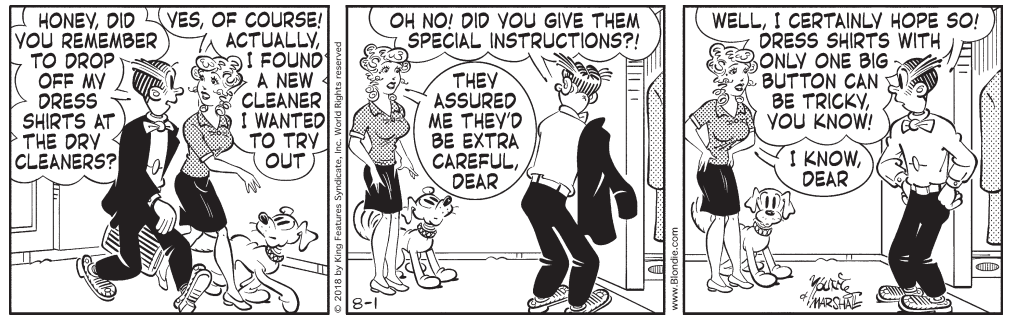
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** When people want something, but they're not saying it, you can feel that. It will seem to have an actual weight. Encourage others to unburden themselves from the weight. Make it OK for them to speak up and say what they want.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2).** You've made a discovery, and you'll keep expanding in knowledge and skill with it. This is social in nature, having to do with transmuting the abundant love lavished on you this year into an effective, creative and powerful force for good in the world. Your way of organizing life and work is totally brilliant. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 46, 23, 1 and 28.

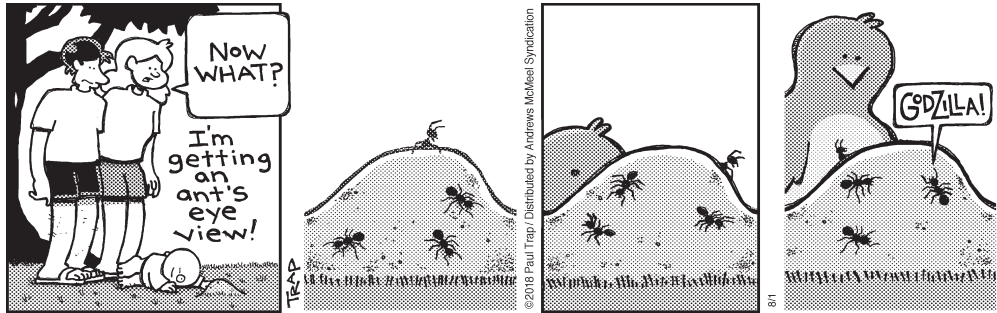
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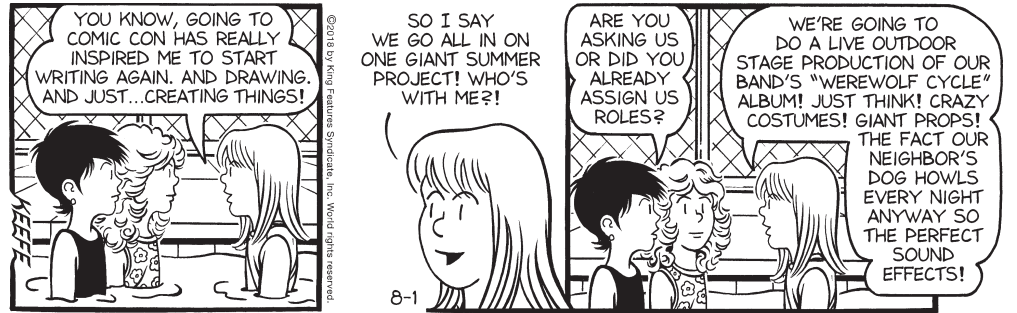
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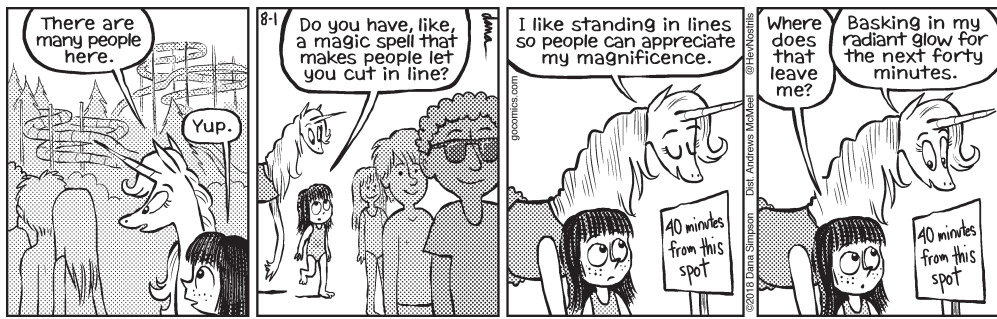
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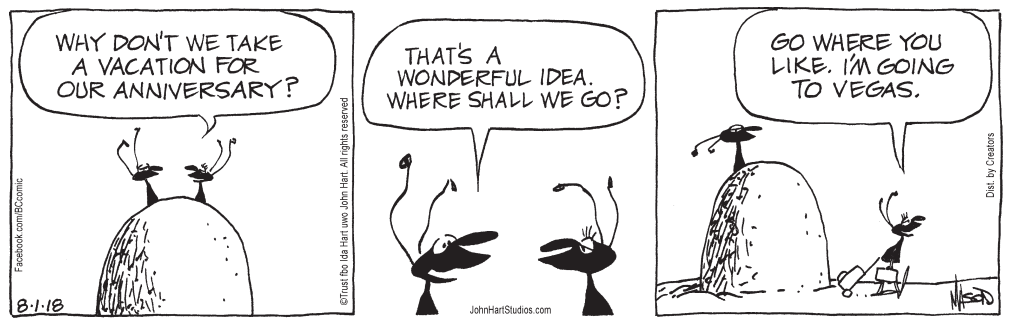
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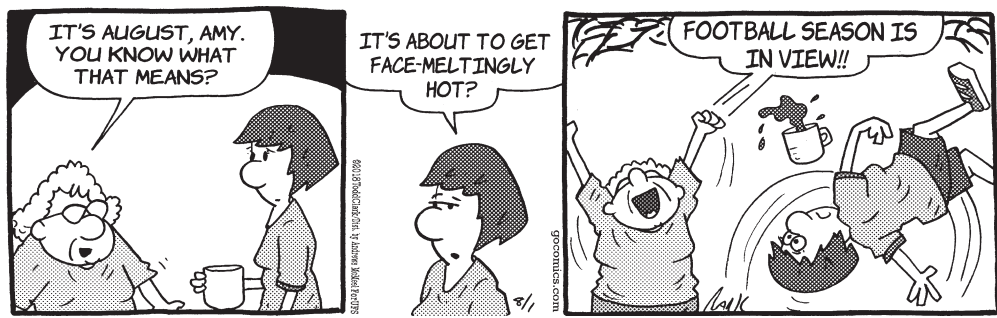
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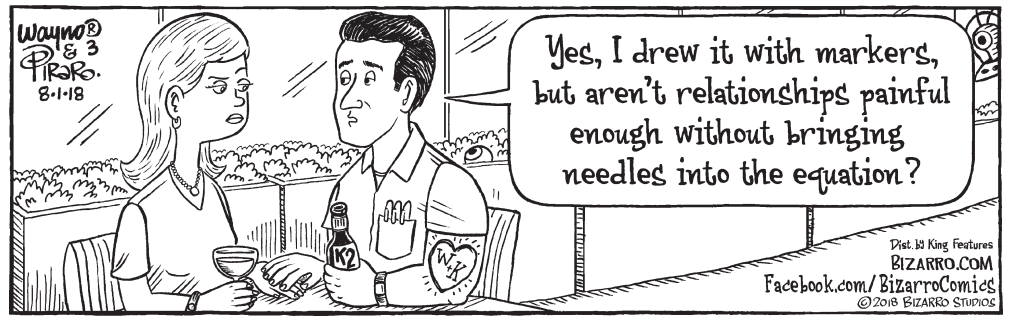
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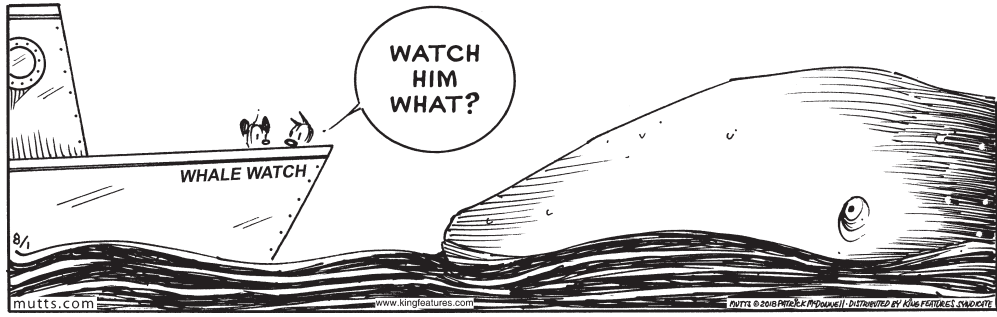
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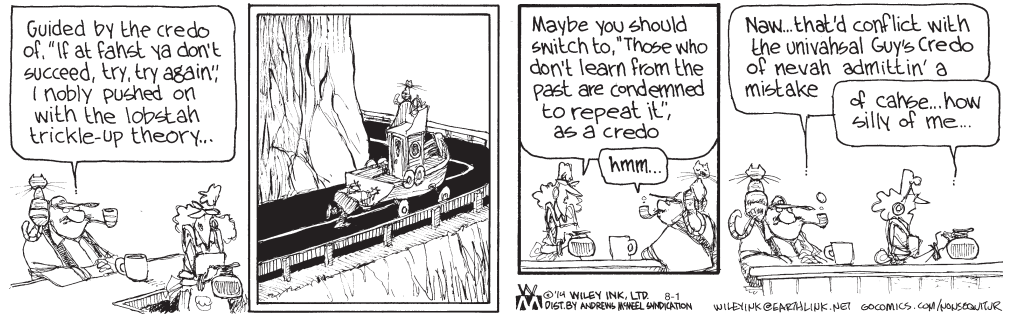
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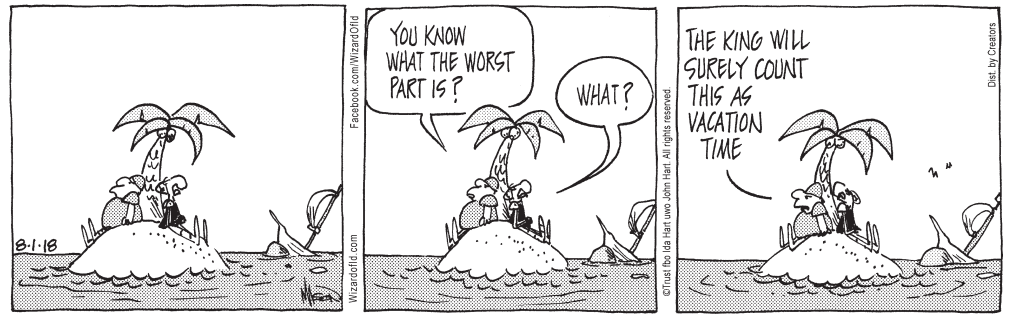
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## ROSE IS ROSE

