

Father missing face time

Dear Annie: My husband and I are in our 70s, and he is experiencing depression from lack of contact with his children. I don't mean Facebook, because he sees them on there. They do not call like they did in the past. I am sure they feel that since he can actually see them on the screen, he knows what they are up to and what they are doing. Thus, they think this is all we need to do.

We do not text either. We used to Face-Time but not anymore. When he calls them, usually he can only leave a message because they rarely answer the phone. If he does get hold of them, the typical response is that they are busy but they will call back, and then they almost never do. We do not live in the same state, so we don't see them often.

New technology is wonderful for many things, but what ever happened to actually hearing someone say, "I love you, Dad," or "I love you, Grandpa"? I am sure we are not the only

people who are feeling left behind with the new tech world. — *Hope to Hear One Day*

Dear Hope: It is understandable that your husband's feeling disconnected from his children is causing sadness. But I am not so sure that it is technology's fault so much as the fault of miscommunication. Technology is a blessing and a curse — a blessing because it makes communication instant and easy, and a curse because it throws up a barrier to interactions that only come from being together in person. I would encourage you and your husband to plan a trip to visit his children face to face and talk to them. Tell them how much you enjoy talking on the phone and hearing their voices. Communicating via text and social media is no way to maintain a relationship, especially an important and special one with wonderful parents.

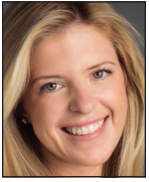
Dear Annie: I have a daughter who is a lovely person but has become very bossy and

super opinionated. She has not always been this way. She is married, but she and my son-in-law have no children.

My problem is that every time she comes home, she rearranges the items in my pantry and refrigerator and throws things away. She's very critical. So far as I know, she doesn't treat others this way. And my other children do not act this way with me. What do you think is motivating this, and what do you suggest I do? — *Miffed Mom*

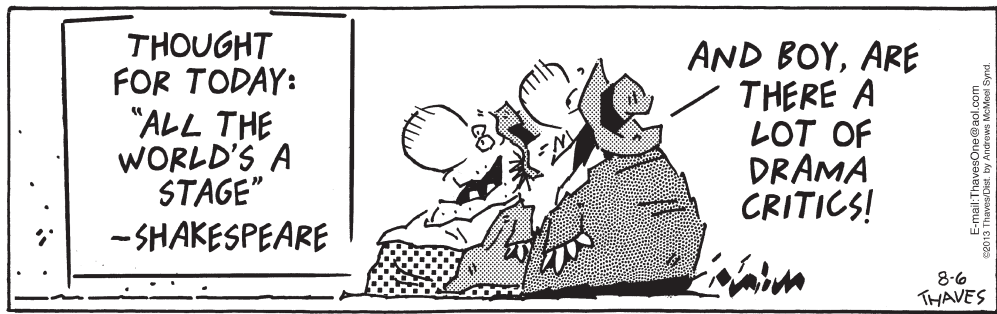
Dear Miffed Mom: I'd be willing to wager that your daughter is checking for expired foods and getting rid of them out of concern for you. Even so, there's no need for the criticism, and she really should ask your permission before throwing anything away. Talk to her about how this makes you feel. Acknowledge that you appreciate her desire to help but you don't appreciate the way in which she conducts these pantry purges. Set some boundaries you can live with. In the end, it is your house, your rules. Your daughter should respect that.

DEAR ANNIE

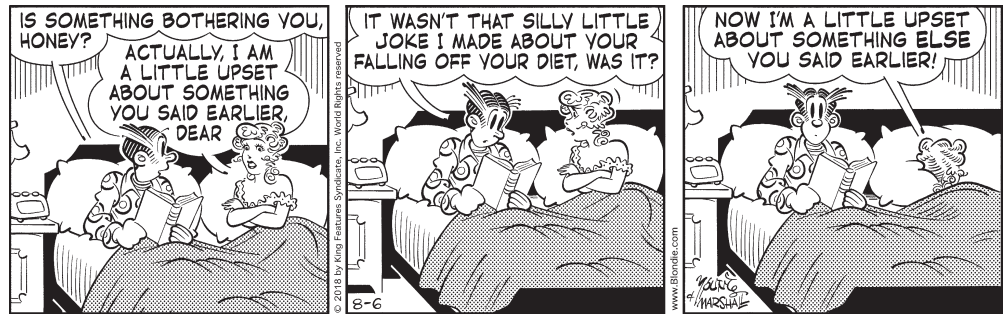


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



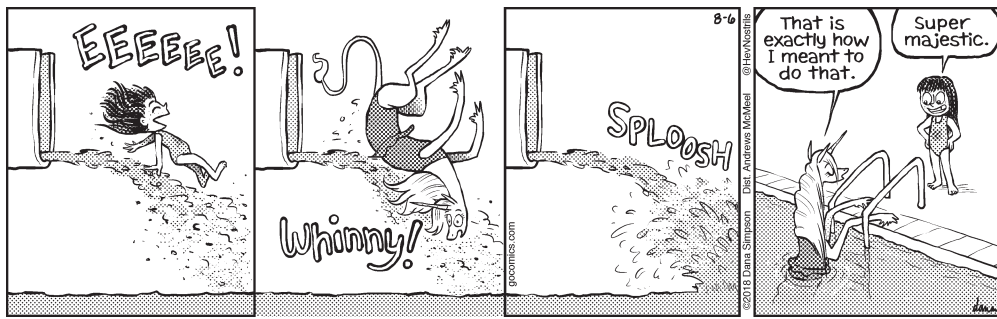
THATABABY



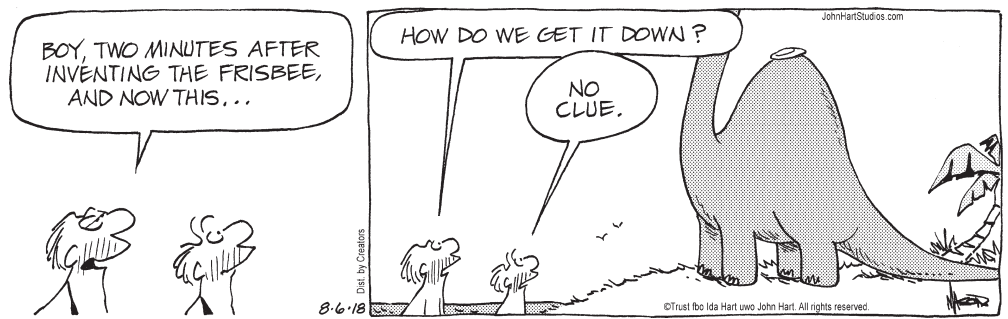
SALLY FORTH



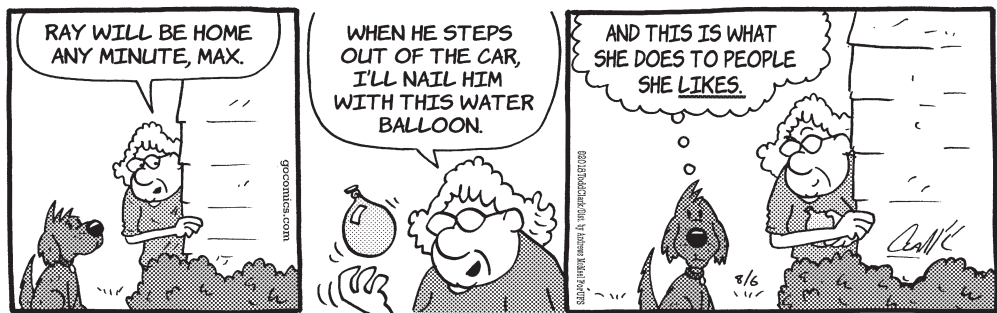
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



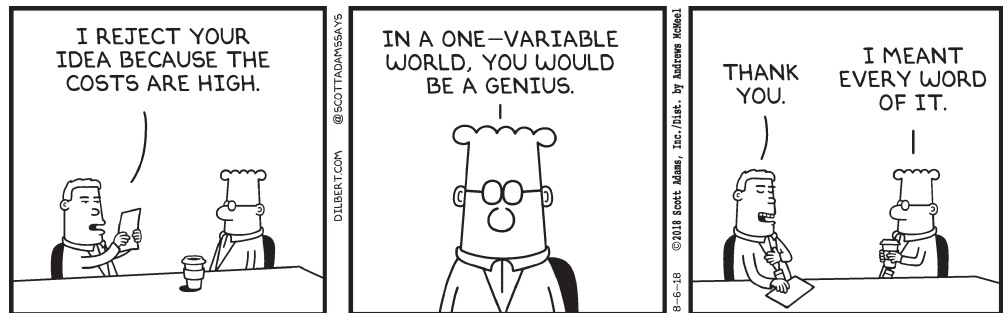
B.C.



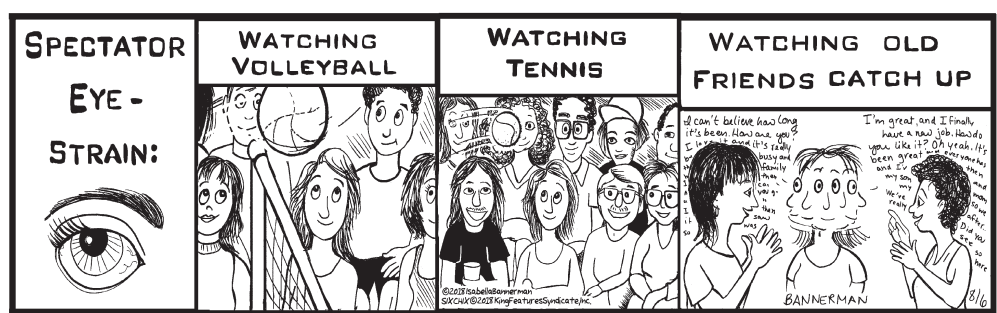
LOLA



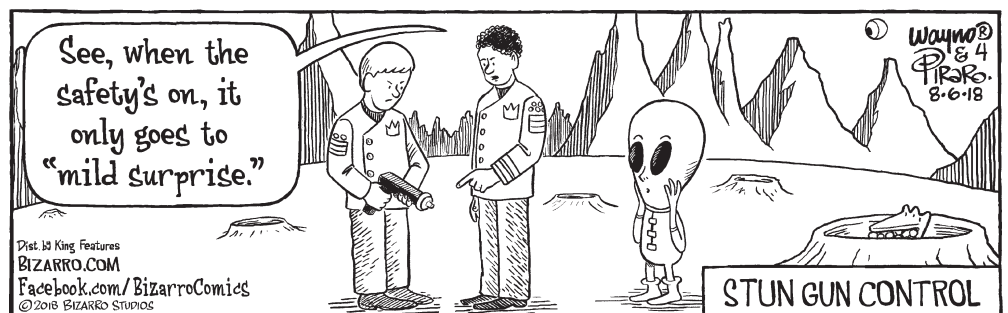
DILBERT



SIX CHIX



BIZARRO



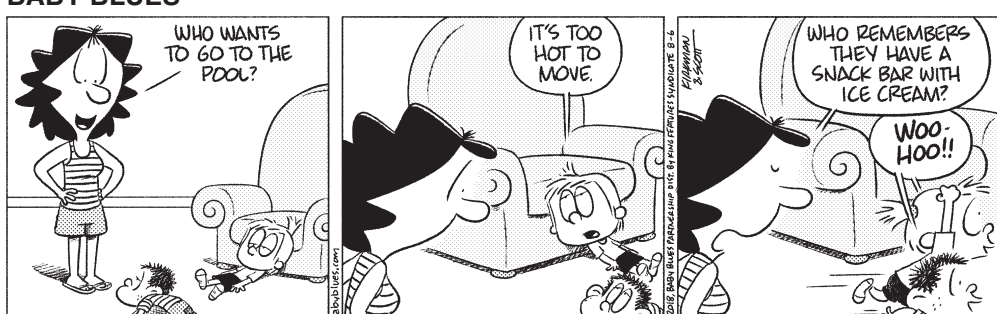
MUTTS



NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Paint the day with bold strokes and leave the detail work for another time, if it even comes to that. It's a day of experiments. You won't know until you jump in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're in the thick of a complex task and still trying to get your bearings. It will be a wobbly ride for a little while, but soon enough you'll develop a knack and this section will seem like a mere blip.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Interaction doesn't have to be intense or constant to be meaningful. Sometimes just being near one another, in the same room, doing your own thing is more than enough to bring a sense of comfort.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've a new interest. It's intriguing but difficult. Don't worry; you can be talented at something without being good at it. Sometimes the talent is just a curiosity that drives you to practice and inevitably improve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone likes you, thinks you're bright, admires you and wants to be around you more. Is that so surprising? Perhaps — because either this person may not readily show affinity, or the timing just hasn't seemed right yet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're excellent at mixing, matching and merging, and when people go along with your suggestions everybody wins. You'll finally get the go-ahead to do something you've wanted to do for a long time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Think about it; you're actually living some of your childhood schemes. Why stop scheming now? Let yourself dream outrageously. Outcomes that, at the moment, seem unlikely may not be as far-fetched as you imagine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want to lay the foundation for a big change. The trouble is that you don't really know how things will culminate and what will develop. You only know that it will be different from what's happening now. A sense of readiness is all you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A good friend will nurture your idiosyncrasies and love you for the parts of you that don't conform to her expectations or his beliefs. A good friend wants you to be more of who you already are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You sometimes wish you were better at affairs of the heart. Then again, people who seem to be in control of their "feels" are possibly not feeling them as deeply as you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Surprising events wake you up like cold water to the face. You'll wonder why you didn't see it before. You were looking at other things. No matter. Now that you're aware, new options will open for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What good is a support system if you never lean on it? Sure, it's nice to know it's there. You'd do well to test it out every once in a while, too. Check in and let yourself be a little vulnerable with the people who love you.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 7). You have advantages you've never considered. Someone will show them to you, or cause you to see them for the first time, so that you may use these talents and boons of position to leverage you into the place you most want to be. This mix of luck, talent and opportunity will repeat no less than 10 times this year. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 22, 18 and 45.