

She wants to keep her ring

Dear Annie: My husband has adult children from his first wife. My new daughter-in-law has become quite vocal about jewelry items that I wear. Lately, she's been commenting on a diamond ring, and it's the second time she's made remarks at family gatherings about it, saying, "I want that ring!" I find that rude and unsettling. How should I respond? Right now, I don't say anything. — *Puzzled in Texas*

Dear Puzzled in Texas: It's one thing to compliment you on your ring or jewelry, and it's another to give the impression that she wants for you to give it to her.

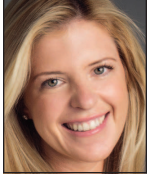
Complimenting one's mother-in-law on her ring is a nice gesture. Tell her you're flattered that she likes it, and then tell her where you got it so that she can get one like it for herself. If she replies that she wants the ring that is on your finger, tell her to keep her mitts off.

Your husband needs to back you up, because she is from his

side of the family. It is your ring, and you should enjoy it.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Shy," who wrote to you about witnessing bullying but being too scared to do anything.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

When I was 9 years old, my family moved to a new town, and I immediately became the target of bullying at my new school.

My teachers and parents coached me on how to handle this, but the truth is that only bystanders can have a lasting effect when it comes to stopping bullying. The victims are powerless.

After a year of my enduring this torment, one of my classmates stood up on my behalf.

It's been 15 years since then, and while many memories from that time have faded, I still remember her name and how grateful I was to her. She stood up and said she cared about me when I felt so incredibly alone. I consider what she did nothing short of heroic.

I hope "Shy" will find the

courage to stand up for these victims. The world needs more heroes. — *Forever Grateful*

Dear Forever Grateful: Wow — what a beautiful letter. I hope it inspires someone reading this to stand up for a classmate who's being bullied. Thank you so much for sharing your story.

Dear Annie: As an elementary school counselor, I work often with students around bullying. The bystander who wrote to you has another option that might be just as successful as intervening as you advised. "Shy" could ignore the teaser and interact with the victim. She could say something supportive or something neutral — for example, "Are you heading to art class now? Let's walk together." There are more difficult and easier ways to intervene. — *Sarge*

Dear Sarge: I'm printing your bright suggestion. This is a great way for students who are afraid of confrontation to still help their bullied peers. I appreciate your writing, as well as all your work helping children over the years as an elementary school counselor.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Melodramatic people will avoid you (they thrive on theatrics and therefore don't want problems to end), freeing your time for maximum positive productivity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It turns out that a few of your tangents were unnecessary, but no regrets. Your story is better for journey, even though, as Glinda the Good Witch once said, "You've always had the power."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When everyone does the assigned job, things go smoothly. The trouble occurs when jobs haven't been assigned. Who isn't working and could be a great asset to the cause? Put everyone to work.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While you'd love to help everyone who asks, some of the requests you'll get are out of your jurisdiction or just don't feel right to you. Your intuitive response will be correct. Set limits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your lion heart will lead you around today. You'll give generously of yourself. Also notable is your access to excellent teachers. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Explore the nature of a problem, goal or objective. Analyze what has been tried, what worked and what didn't. Take a straight-forward, scientific approach to making things better and you'll succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you concern yourself with getting to higher levels of rapport and trust with the people around you, you'll skip over a lot of other kinds of problems that could arise to engage with what really matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a holistic view that allows you to see the entirety of people to whatever extent is actually possible. You'll be appreciated for your clear, honest feedback.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're sensitive to a wide range of social styles, and you will match your approach accordingly as a gesture of goodwill. This also happens to be an excellent way to build rapport that will serve you well later.

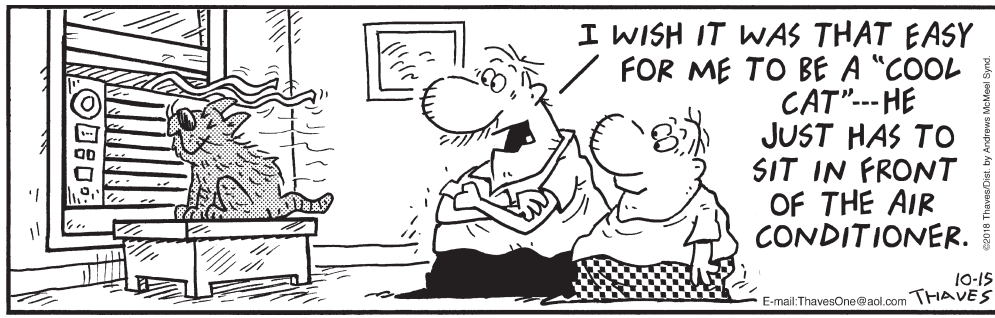
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't get snared into the myth of confidence. Any fool can be confident, and many are, while the wiser and smarter may be riddled with doubt. Take confidence out of the equation. Strive to do what's right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People will support what they create, not necessarily what they are paid to support, and of course not what's been forced upon them. Co-creations will be much easier to float than solitary plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To form the bonds of loyalty, humans need to connect on many levels including the emotional, intellectual and physical. Usually that is complicated, but today it will seem to happen naturally and effortlessly.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 16). You'll gain greater control over your own mental state this solar return and often be able to change it to suit the opportunity at hand. Other exciting events include attending a party that will be legendary, the celebration of your growing family and being entrusted with an honorable responsibility. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 14, 20 and 11.

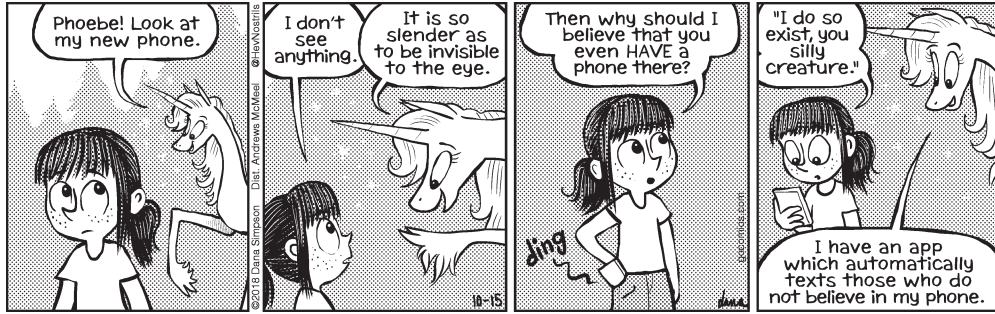
FRANK AND ERNEST



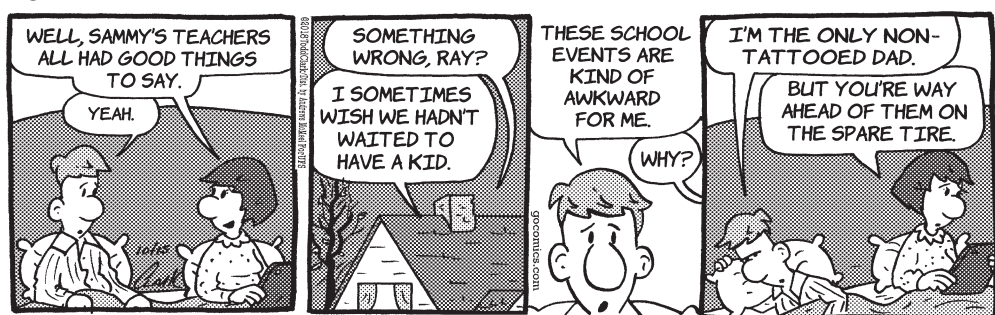
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



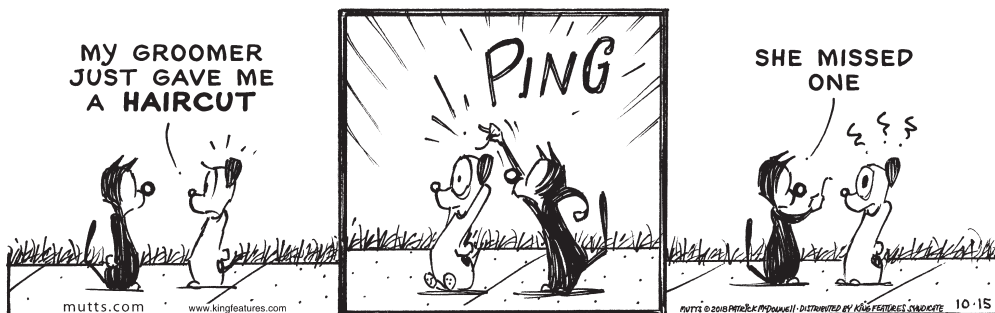
LOLA



SIX CHIX



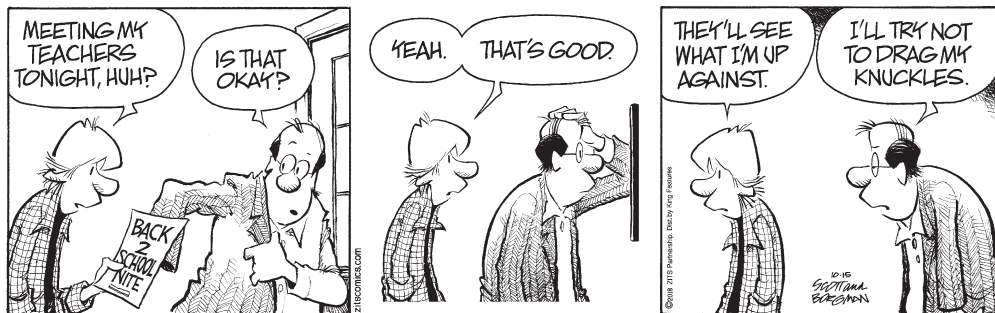
MUTTS



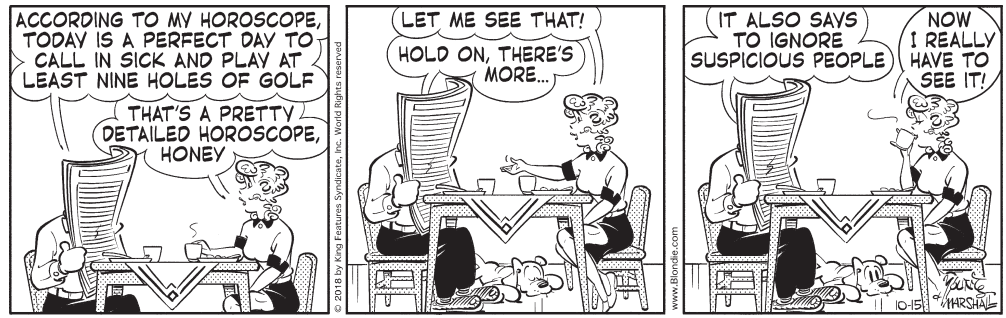
BABY BLUES



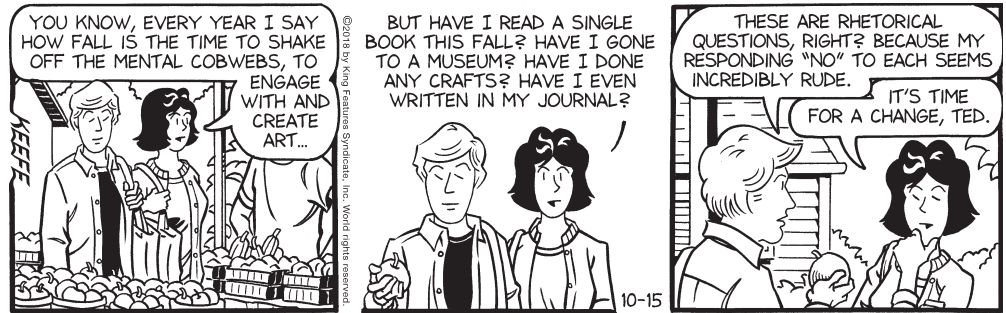
ZITS



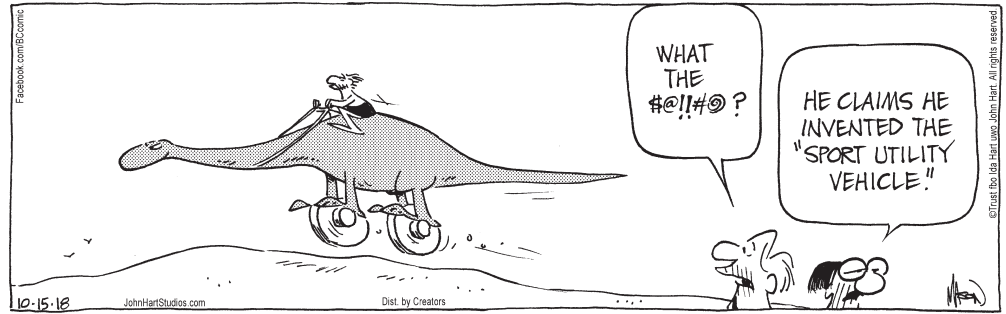
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



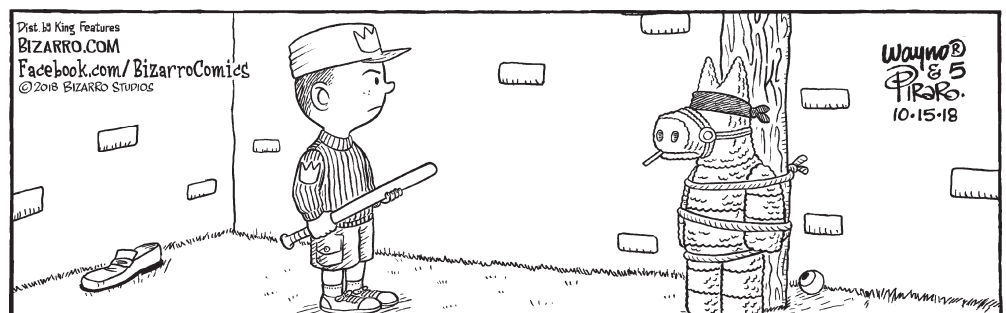
B.C.



DILBERT



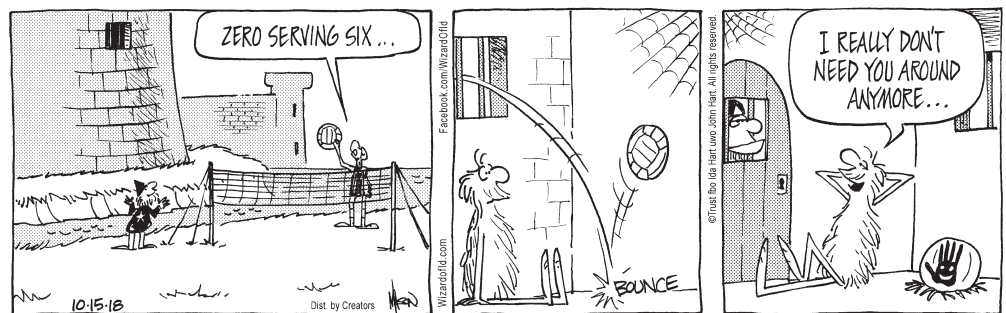
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

