

How to help a problem son

Dear Annie: I am writing to you about the adult son of a friend of mine. This young man, "Dwayne," has had a bad couple of years. He was kicked out of the military, divorced and had terrible child custody problems. My friend loves her son very much, but he is rather lazy. He has had several jobs but doesn't keep them, mainly because he is too lazy to get to work on time or even go on a regular basis. Dwayne is addicted to sleeping pills. My friend wants to kick her son out with no car, no money and no place to go, but she is afraid that if she were to do this, he might not survive. I do not know what to say to her. It is very easy being on the outside looking in with advice. I have told her that Dwayne sounds depressed. She has taken him to a doctor to be put on medication, but after a few weeks, he stopped taking it. What is my friend to do? Please do not suggest counseling, as he

won't go. — *Afraid for My Friend*

Dear Afraid: As much as your friend is trying to help her son, her efforts are most likely getting in the way of his truly hitting rock bottom and learning how to help himself. Kicking Dwayne out would be the healthiest decision for both of them. It might be what spurs him to seek help — though your friend can't hold herself responsible for that either way. For parents watching their adult children struggle with addiction, the idea of letting go often seems crazy and impossible. It's for this reason that I recommend seeking the strength, solidarity and guidance that support groups such as Al-Anon, Nar-Anon, LifeRing and SMART Recovery offer. Encourage your friend to attend a few meetings.

Dear Annie: In response to "Love to Read," who is upset at seeing the F-word appear in contemporary novels, you sided with her and said, "Usu-

ally, anything said with the F-word could be better said without it. More than anything, it's lazy." I think this stance is a bit too harsh. As a person, I avoid profanity and completely agree that such words are a lazy means of expressing oneself, but as a writer, I try to represent my characters and who they are as people. And some people swear — so in dialogue, I must represent such characters truthfully. Although there are many book genres that are more prone to violence and profanity — suspense and crime novels, for example — many book genres are less prone to profanity, such as women's lit and inspirational romance. I suggest that "Love to Read" be a little more selective in her genre choice when reading. Not every genre is for every reader, but there are so many genres to choose from that I'm sure she will find novels more suited to her taste. — *Love to Write*

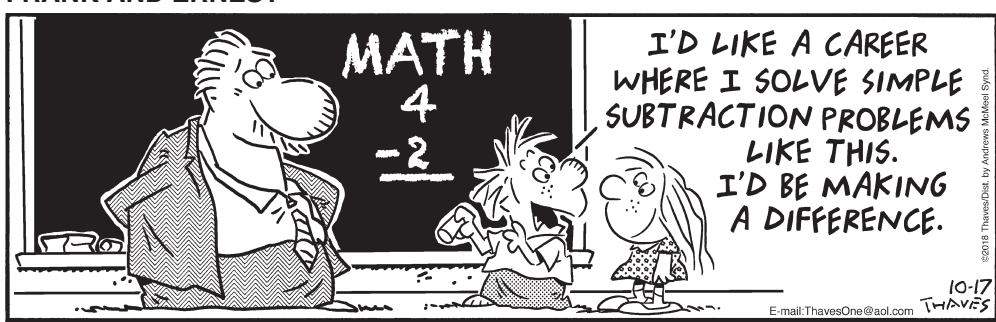
Dear Love to Write: A fair point, and I'm happy to have a novelist's take on this issue. Thank you for writing.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



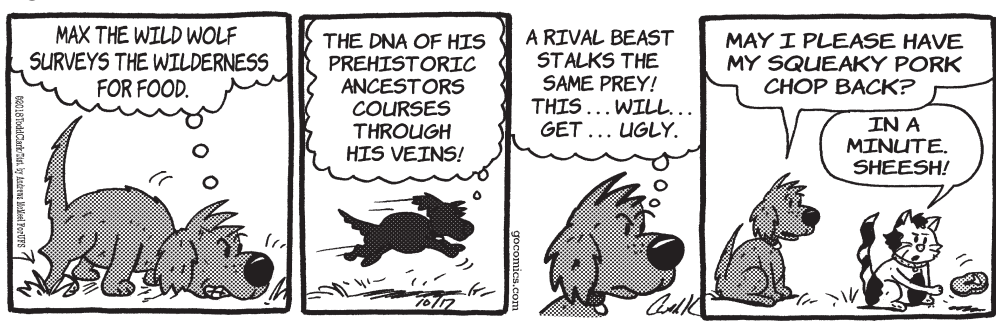
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



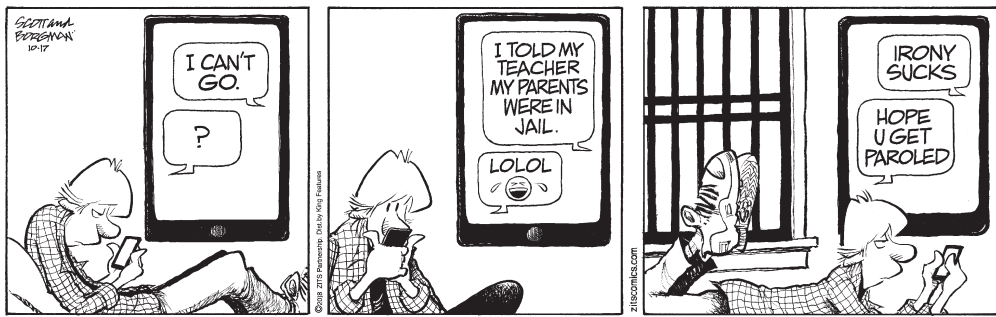
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be happiest while in the process of learning something new. Embark on an educational venture to spark your creativity and reignite your sense of wonder.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being grateful is not just something you do; it's something you are. No matter what you take on, you're coming from a place of appreciation and that's what makes this day great.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Are your actions working toward the goal you have in mind? You'll want to know how you're doing. There's nothing wrong with just asking. The question might actually be charming and disarming.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Extra energy and vitality is yours to play with. It's as though you've tapped into an energy field and are being compelled, not by your own volition, but by the very force that fuels the spinning of the planets.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Others may do things in a way that clearly works great. Still, never discount what you know or reject your own roots. To accept and love where you came from is essential to feeling comfortable in the world.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Write it down so you don't have to worry about remembering. Set a timer so you won't procrastinate. Lock the door and turn off the Wi-Fi so you won't get interrupted or distracted. The best solutions are simple and obvious.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It used to be that people believed the answers were blowing in the wind. Now they believe the answers are trending on Twitter or Reddit. Just to be safe, check everywhere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In the nan of getting things done, you might have to limit your mental scope. There will be enough to do with what's actually happening without also worrying about what might happen or what could happen.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your heart may cherish your friends, but it's t rest of you that really lets them know. Yc deeds speak volumes. They'll be warme by your actions.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). By simply sharing your honest appraisal of a situation you'll do more good than you could possibly know. If this sort of thing also happens to be your job, the result v make you money today.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Not everyone wants to be famous, and you'll b living proof of this today as you choose do your thing without taking a picture or otherwise submitting some representati of it to the eyes of the world.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll do a thing and then cross it off your list. But don't let that be the only reason to cross things off. If you know you'll never do it, that's as fine a reason as any to put a p slash through it.
TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 18). When you think of the best thing that's happened to you, what pops to mind is something you would have predicted — random bit of luck you turned into some thing exceptional. This sort of astounding joy will repeat before the year's end. Als notable, an investment will pay off, as w a mutual attraction. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 26, 1, 20 and 44.

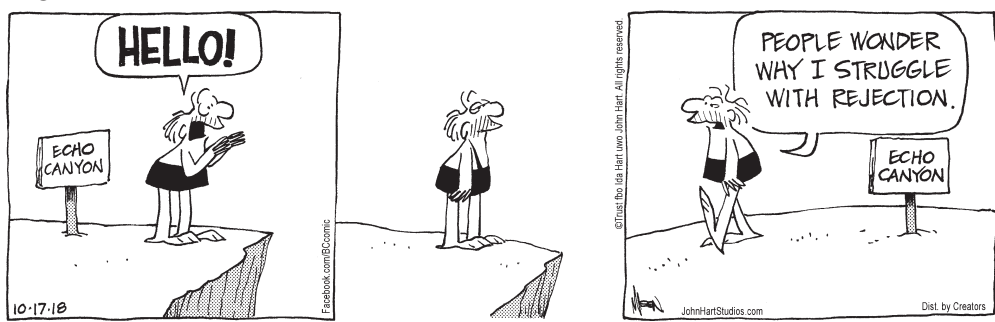
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



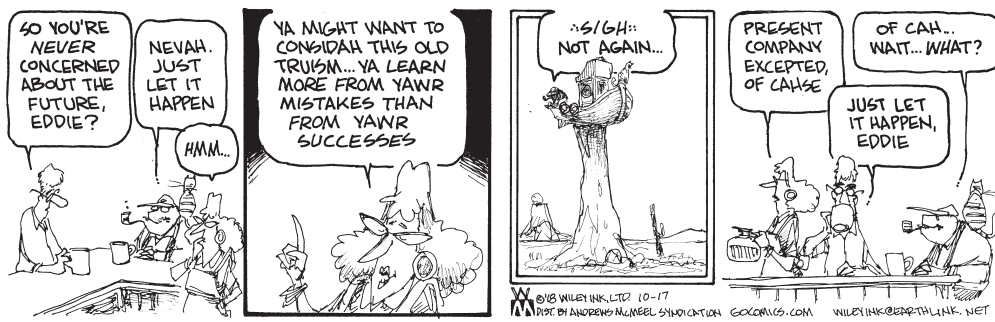
DILBERT



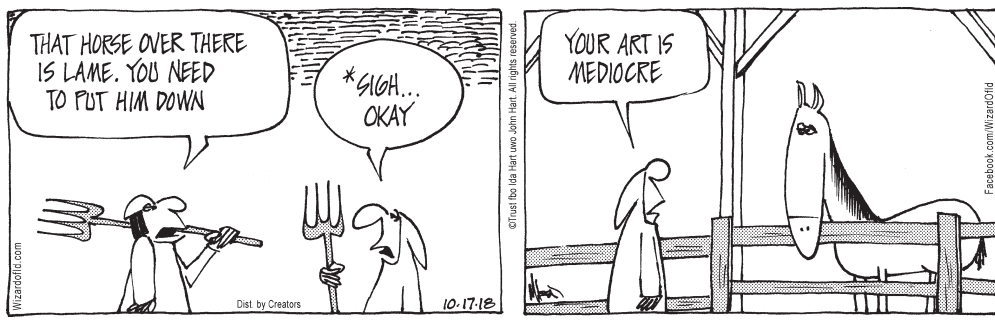
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

