

When words fail a writer

Dear Annie: I am a published author and have been struggling to write my next book. I've written a handful of adult-oriented fictional

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

go back and read your writings immediately. Let what you've written age a bit, and start the next day anew. Speak with your spouse, a close friend or your therapist about the meaning behind these writings. Inspiration and meaning will find you as you let go of the search for the perfect topic and uncover what's already hiding inside you.

Dear Annie: My dad is full of interesting stories. And he's getting older; he'll be 70 soon. Though he's in great health, I know that my time is running out with him. And I want to preserve his stories so that they don't die with him. Do you have any advice on how to go about this? — *Mulling Over Memoir*

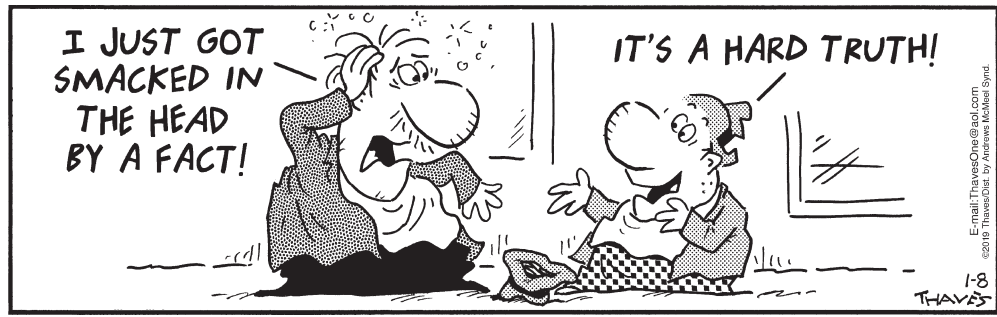
Dear Mulling Over Memoir: It is terrific that you're thinking of this. What a gift it would be to your father, yourself and future generations of your family to preserve these stories. On top

of that, the process of gathering this information will bring you and your dad closer than ever before.

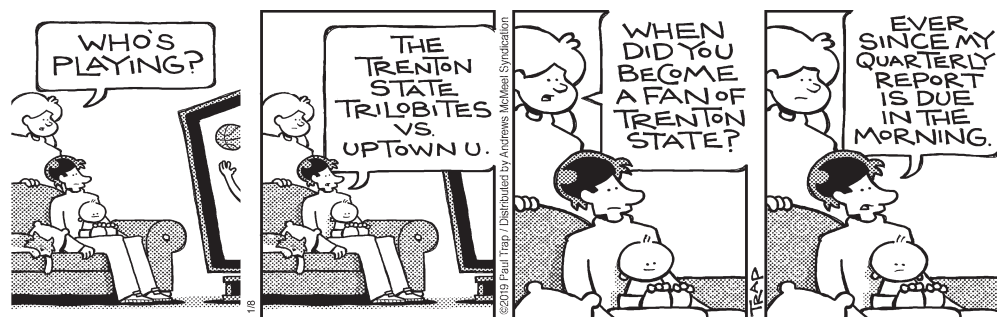
Try to set aside one afternoon a month to conduct "life interviews" with your dad, accompanying him on a stroll down memory lane. Record the conversations using your smartphone or a recorder. If you're not sure where to start, the website <https://legacy-project.org> has a helpful list of questions.

Dear Annie: As a therapist specializing in eating disorders, I applaud your telling "Supportive Sibling" to talk with her sister who has an eating disorder before holiday dinners and to devise a safe word to use in conversations if the sister becomes uncomfortable. I would add that "Supportive Sibling" should ask her sister what would help her rather than guess and should urge her to find a therapist to help her overcome her problems. Most people with eating disorders cannot and do not resolve them without therapeutic help, as this is a biopsychosocial problem.

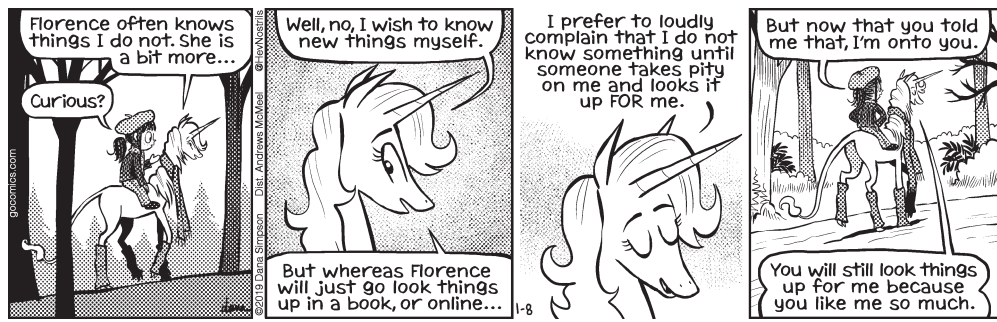
FRANK AND ERNEST



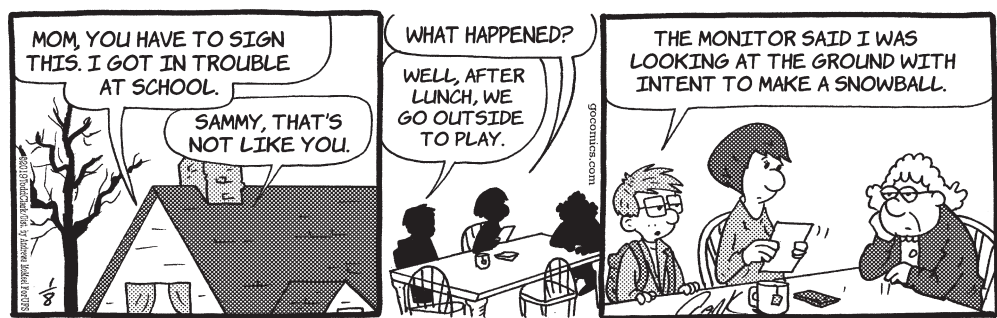
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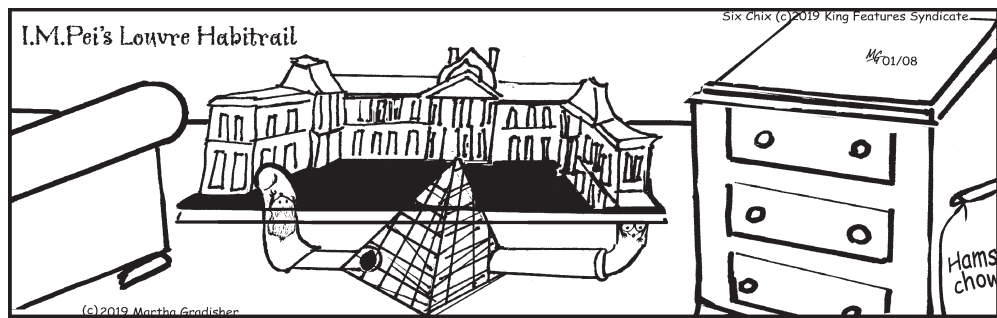
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



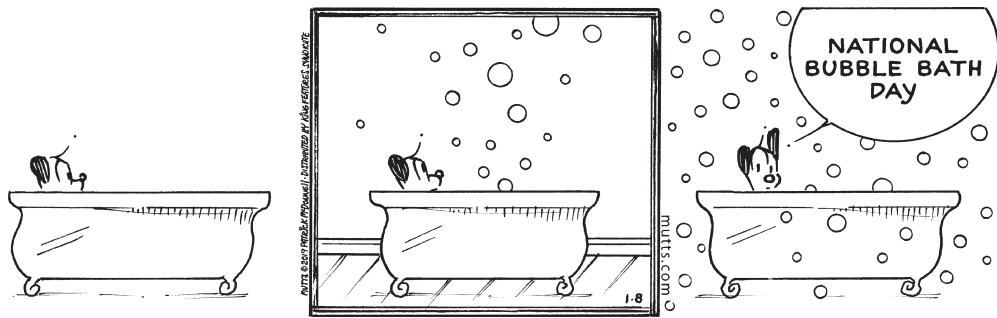
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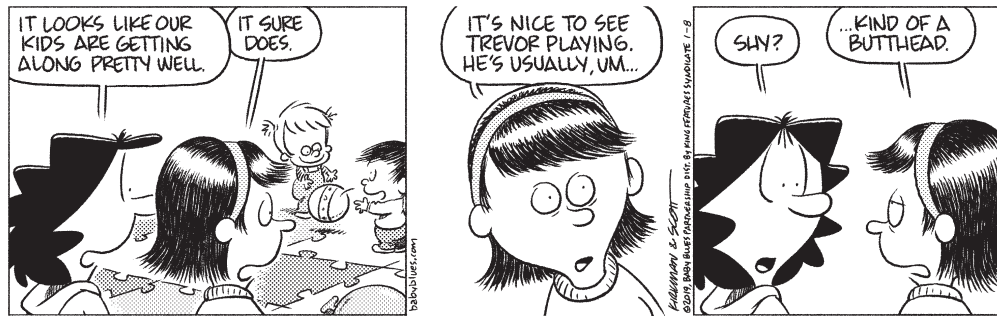
SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you want to know something, you ask. Many are too afraid to admit what they don't know. They'd rather continue to be ignorant than risk appearing foolish. To be a good teacher, provide more information than is asked for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are those who lend their endorsements to products and services in exchange for financial gain. You make recommendations for more integral reasons — to help others and to promote the good things in life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It will feel like you are doing almost nothing, though you're getting plenty accomplished. It's as though some other force is doing the work through you. This is the freedom of letting go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is said that if you treat people as though they are great, they will be. This has sometimes worked for you, but not always. You've also been burned by giving others the benefit of the doubt, which is why you're a bit cautious today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This thing you're trying to do isn't that easy. If it were, you'd have done it ages ago. Take a step back and ask, "How can I cater to myself better?" Be selfish, or it's not going to work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your role will go far beyond your job description. It's more like you're playing the composite of many roles: coach, parent, psychologist, partner, cheerleader and more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sophisticated sensibility is often just outside the boundary of what's expected and appropriate, while within the

boundary of the law. In other words, "Epater la bourgeoisie."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For the integrity of your work you'll be recognized, maybe not with praise or awards but with lives touched by your life, goodness rippling out in unexpected ways.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every breathing soul gets technically older with each tick of the clock. Meanwhile, your state of mind gets younger with every new thing you learn.

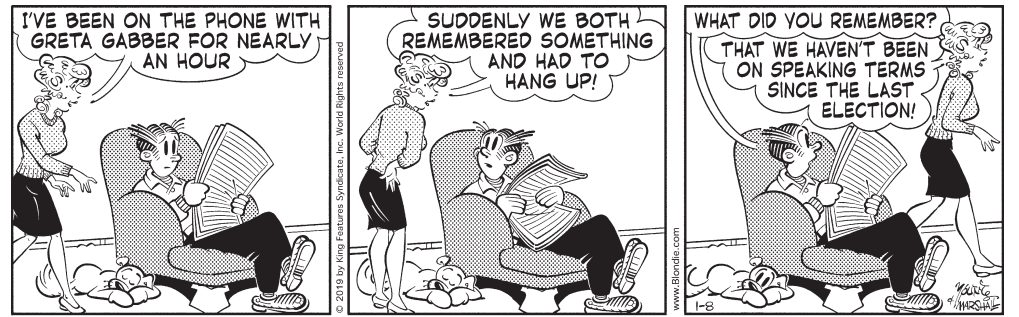
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While budgeting may strike you as boring, a loose financial plan will serve you well. And no matter how much you know about money, it behooves you to check out what other savvy folks are doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can think what you like and you can say what you think, though you'd be wise to use careful judgement on the matter of when, where and how you do it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When someone says, "Don't even get me started," it usually means, "Do ask! I'm dying to talk about it." But you knew that already. This kind of social intelligence is why you have so many friends.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). Leadership is your destiny in 2019. You're not overly concerned with being popular; you're just trying to do the right thing, which is usually the loving thing. For this reason and many others you'll be promoted, befriended and cherished. More highlights of the solar year include a new professional chapter, a domestic upgrade and communion with distant family for a happy occasion. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 47, 21, 8, 16 and 9.

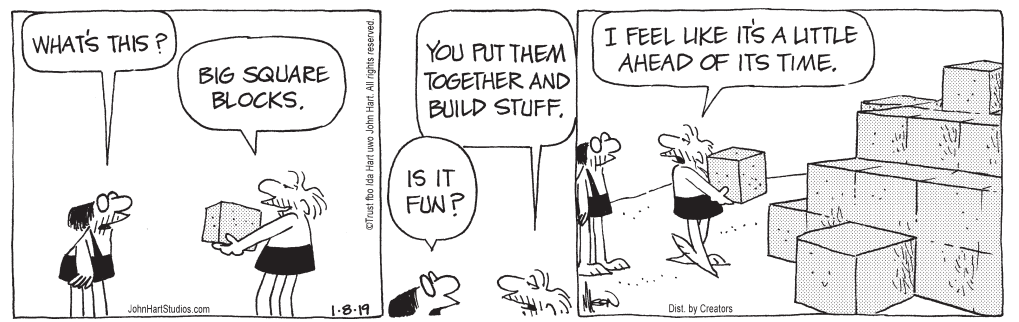
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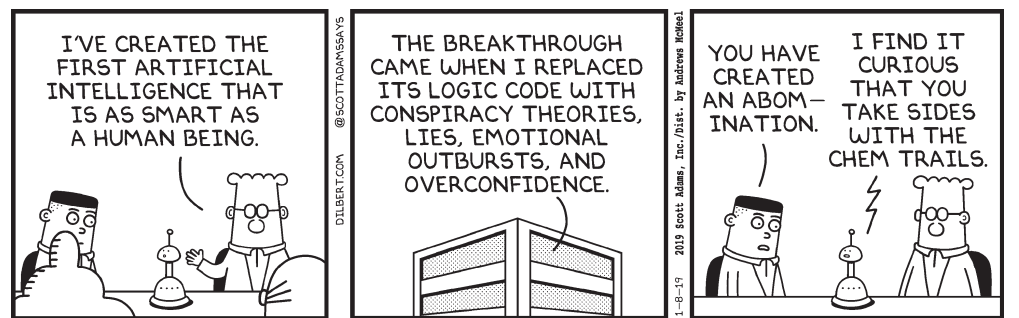
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B.C.



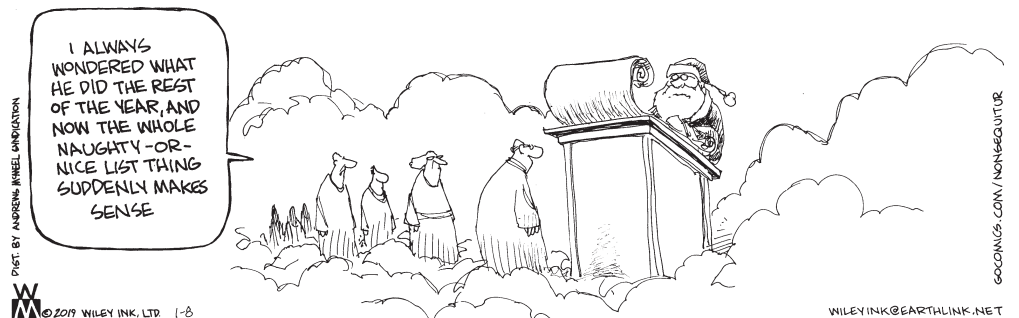
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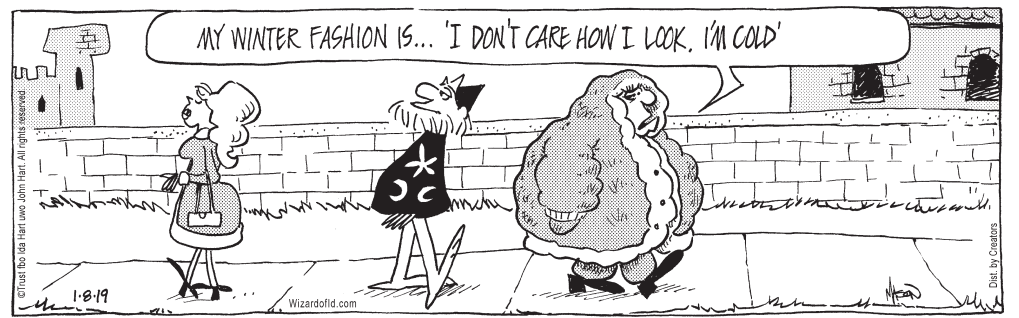
BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

