

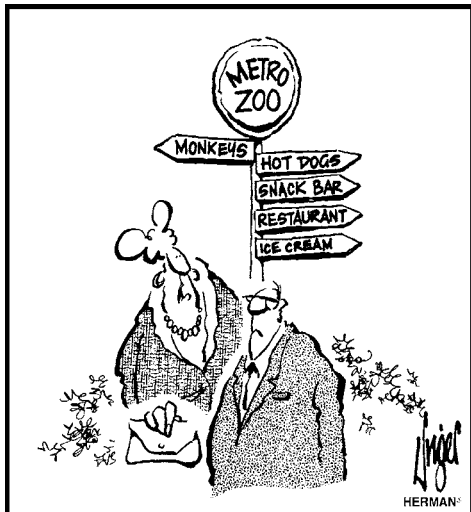
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"We might as well get up. There's no snooze alarm with Marmaduke."

HERMAN



"I'll meet you in an hour."

REALITY CHECK



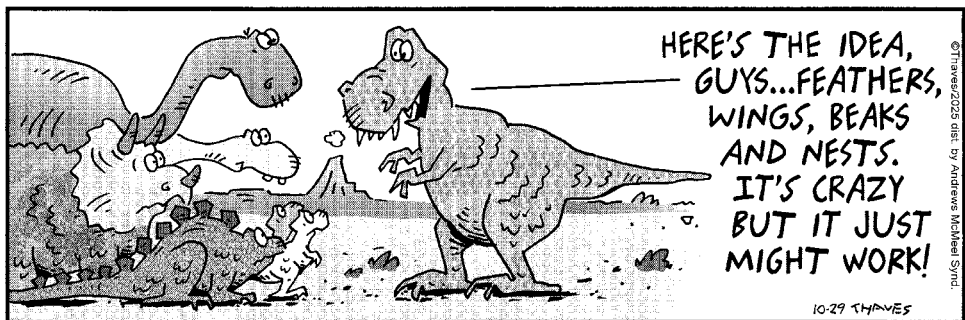
HOW CANDY CORN HAPPENED...

MODERATELY CONFUSED



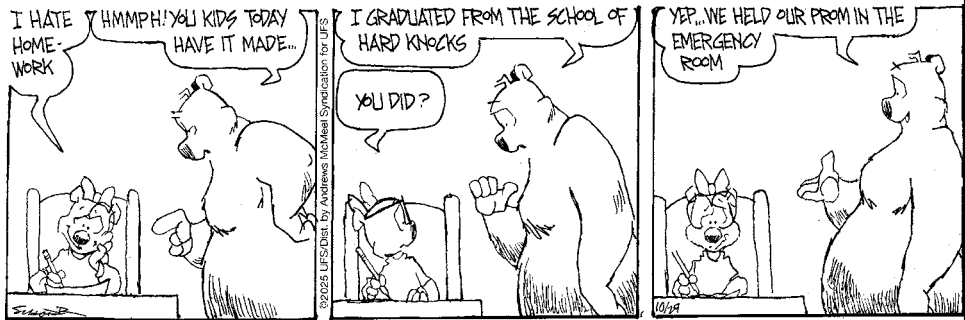
...AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE RADICAL LEFT DID IT.

FRANK & ERNEST

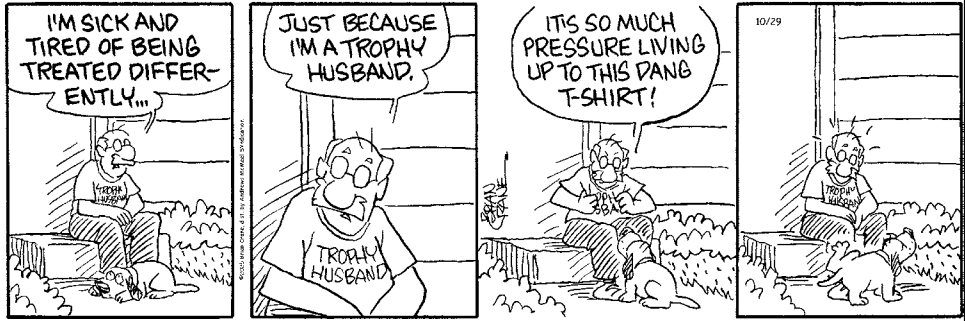


HERE'S THE IDEA, GUYS...FEATHERS, WINGS, BEAKS AND NESTS. IT'S CRAZY BUT IT JUST MIGHT WORK!

THE GRIZZWELLS



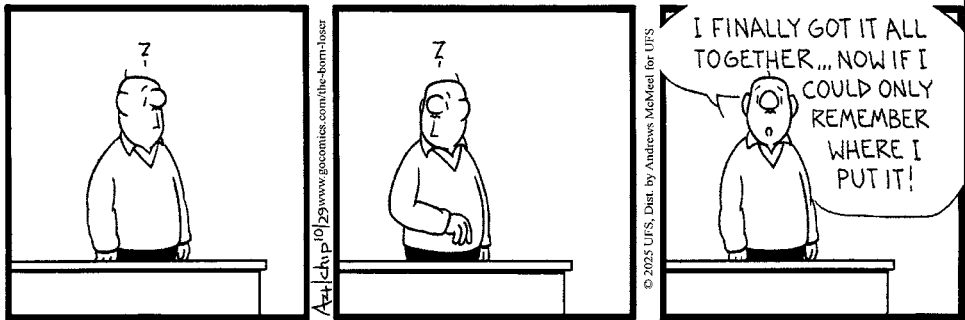
PICKLES



BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Family Ties After the Breakup

Dear Annie: My granddaughter dated a young man for four years before breaking things off about a year ago. During that time, he became part of our family in many ways. Even after the breakup, he continued coming to church with us every Sunday. In fact, we've grown closer in the past year, sharing pews, Sunday lunches and family stories. My granddaughter usually joins us, too, and while it hasn't always been easy, we've all managed to find a rhythm.

Now, however, things are shifting. My granddaughter has been seeing a new boyfriend for about six weeks, and she has asked that her ex stop coming with us because her new boyfriend wants to start attending church alongside her. She says it feels awkward, and her new boyfriend has made it clear that he is uncomfortable sitting beside her ex at Sunday service.

Here's the tug at my heart: I see her ex almost like another grandchild. We've shared holidays, celebrated milestones and supported one another through tough times. I feel deeply conflicted -- torn between respecting my



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

granddaughter's wishes and wanting to continue offering kindness and belonging to someone who still feels like family.

How do I balance loyalty to my granddaughter with compassion for the young man we've welcomed as one of our own? -- Conflicted Grandma

Dear Conflicted: You are in a tender spot, and it's easy to see why. After four years, your granddaughter's ex became woven into the fabric of your family. When a young person shows up every Sunday, shares meals and is treated as a grandchild, that bond is real -- and it doesn't just dissolve because the romance ended.

But your granddaughter has moved on, and her new relationship deserves respect. If her boyfriend finds it uncomfortable to sit beside the ex at church, that's understandable. At the same time, it is not your

job to "banish" anyone from the pews. Church is a place of faith and community, not ownership.

The best course is to step out of the middle.

Encourage your granddaughter to speak directly to her ex about what she needs.

Meanwhile, you can offer the young man kindness without promising him the same place in your weekly routine. A gentle message such as, "We care about you and always will, but things may look a little different now," allows him to feel valued while making room for the new chapter.

Relationships change shape, but compassion never has to. Your role is to model grace, protect your granddaughter's comfort, and keep the door open without being caught in the tug-of-war.

Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

What's the rush? Take a deep breath, relax and consider what's truly important to you. It's time to put yourself first. A change can help you revitalize your energy and encourage you to follow your heart. It's time to let go of what's no longer advantageous and replace it with what makes you feel alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Express your needs. It's time to implement positive lifestyle changes. It's up to you to create the life that suits you. Travel, educating yourself and new beginnings are in the stars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Build toward a brighter future. Let go of what has no meaning for you and gravitate toward what excites you and makes you happy. It's time to invest in yourself, your dreams and what fills your heart with passion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Rethink your motives and intentions, and how the choices and actions you take will influence others. How you handle matters will determine your success. Do what's right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Make health or fitness a goal, and you won't be disappointed by the results. Self-improvement, personal growth and financial gains are on the rise.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Keep your plans to yourself until you have everything in place. Check into the legalities and protocols necessary to get your ideas and goals up and running.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Send a message with your actions. Change what you don't like and keep moving forward.

Utilize your intelligence, conduct thorough research and adapt to meet your specific needs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Update time-sensitive documents and schedules that require attention. Spend more time at home taking care of repairs or moving things around to make your space flow better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Take advantage of any opportunity you get to learn something new. Put your best foot forward, but don't feel pressured to exaggerate to make a lasting impression; truth matters.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Avoid overspending on entertainment or when trying to impress someone. You are best off investing in yourself rather than letting money slip through your fingers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You'll devise a unique plan to help a cause or people searching for solutions. Your kindness will offer hope and help you recognize what you can do to make a difference in your community.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Invest in your space or your future. Make changes for the right reason, not because you are bored. Maintain focus and discipline, and say no if someone crosses a line or asks for too much.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You are ready to undertake an adventure. Ensure you are following a path dedicated to your advancement or something you are passionate about. You'll get higher returns investing in yourself and your happiness.

ACROSS

- 1 Politico — London
- 4 Word of woe
- 8 Approached
- 12 Rocky hill
- 13 "Better — than never"
- 14 Actor — Epps
- 15 Kimono sash
- 16 Stringed instrument
- 17 Fastener
- 18 Annoyed
- 20 Gully
- 22 Desert region in Israel
- 24 Factor in heredity
- 25 Marsh bird
- 27 Press
- 29 Annex
- 30 Theater section (Abbr.)
- 32 Engrave
- 36 "Thirty — hath ..."
- 38 English school
- 40 Color
- 41 Designer — Chanel
- 43 Extraterrestrial
- 45 Pole on a ship
- 47 Revolving machine part
- 49 Small piano
- 51 Golf club
- 54 Type
- 55 Maple genus
- 57 Yale student
- 58 Ancient
- 59 "Doctor Zhivago" character
- 60 Dine
- 61 Rind
- 62 List-ending abbr.
- 63 Opposite of SSW

DOWN

- 1 On the peak of

Answer to this puzzle

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- 2 Ear part
- 3 Amiable
- 4 Brisk and lively tempo
- 5 Summa cum —
- 6 ABA member
- 7 Crystal-gazer
- 8 Meet

- 9 With full force
- 10 Pine Tree State
- 11 — Stanley Gardner
- 19 Flight formation
- 21 Past
- 23 Triumphant one
- 25 Join
- 26 Apple pie — — mode
- 28 Letter after pi
- 31 DVR button
- 33 Unlucky number
- 34 Hint
- 35 Farm bird
- 37 Public disgrace
- 39 Lifelike
- 42 Mineral
- 44 Destiny
- 45 Book part
- 46 — -nez
- 48 "Aida" is one
- 49 Leave out
- 50 "The Winter's —"
- 52 — vital
- 53 Ceremony
- 56 Popular pet

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