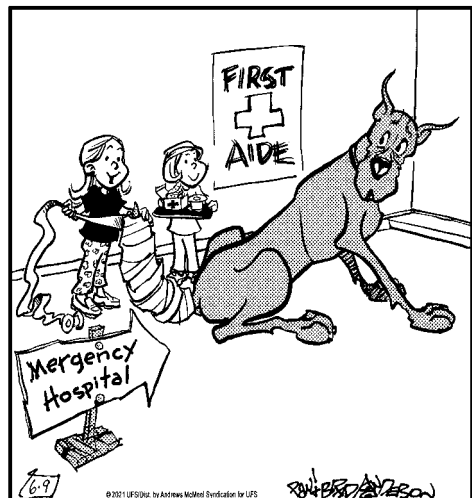


COMICS

MARMADUKE



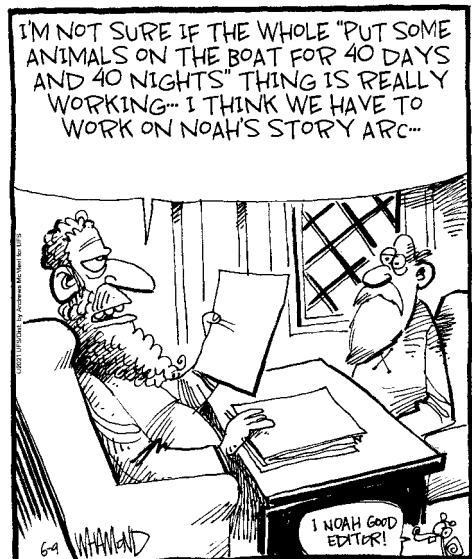
"Do you have any more boo-boos we can make all better?"

HERMAN

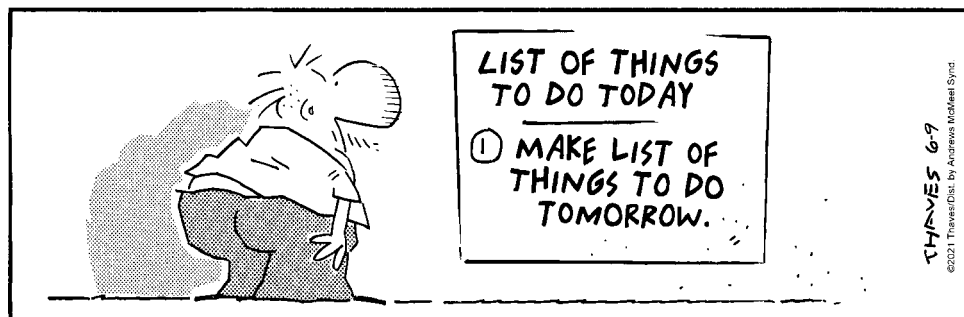


"These all suddenly disappeared about 2 million years ago."

REALITY CHECK



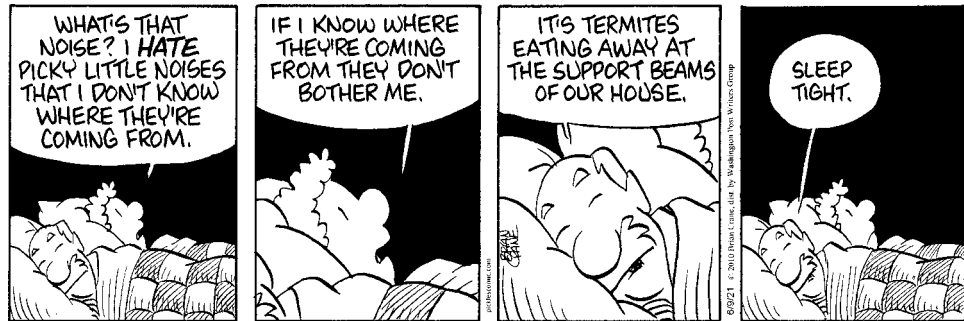
FRANK & ERNEST



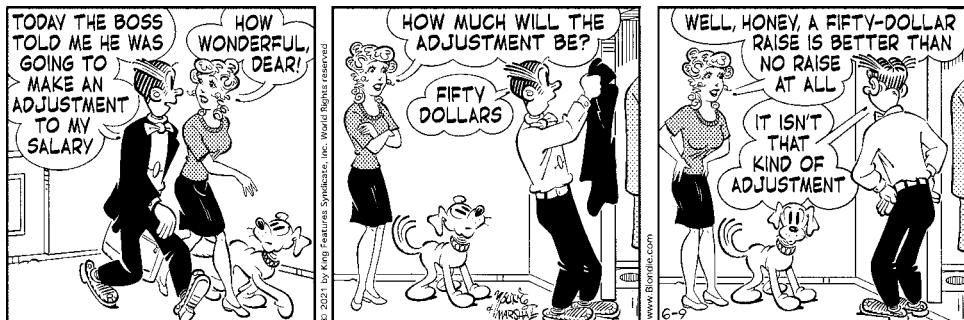
THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



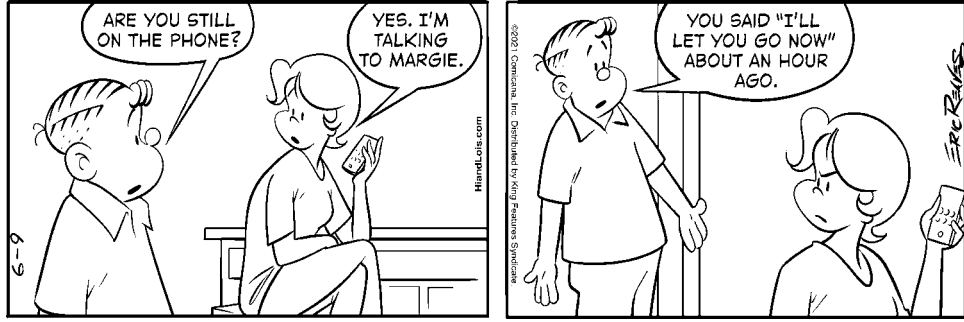
BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



DILBERT



Distant Daughters-in-Law



ANNIE LANE
DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: For years, I have tried to have a relationship with my two daughters-in-law, and at some point, I finally gave up. Now, when we get together, the family gatherings are not horrible. But at best, they are superficial.

It is very difficult to have conversations when they text nearly the entire time -- which I never address -- or converse back and forth between each other and ignore me, even when I interject into conversations. It is as if I'm invisible or in a cone of silence.

When the holiday or event is over, then it's goodbye with a kiss and a hug and out the door until the next major birthday or holiday. I have, in the early years, tried to meet them for lunch -- on my dime -- or go shopping, but they have always respectfully declined.

This apathy has carried over into my grandchildren. All of them are so close and personable with the other grandparents, who are wonderful people, and I do understand how daughters are just naturally close to their moms, so it stands to reason that the grandchildren would be closer to them since more time is spent there.

I am a grieving mom and grandmother who has tried, to no avail. I feel loved at a distance and pray for a better

connection and relationship. I am thankful for the moments I have had, even with the feeling of distance. At least they haven't gone out of my life completely. -- Grieving Grandmother

Dear Grieving Grandmother: You are wise to be grateful for the good moments you have had. If you focus on what you appreciate, you will attract more of that. In the meantime, where are your sons? I would suggest that you take them to lunch, rather than your daughters-in-law, and let them know that you are feeling left out.

Along the same lines, if your daughters-in-law are texting and ignoring you during a holiday dinner, why not use that as an opportunity to talk to your sons and grandchildren?

Dear Annie: I am a woman in my 50s who always thought I had good manners. Recently, I have had several appointments with a new physician, who is in her 30s. She knew she had been recommended by my friend and next-door neighbor, who

is a physician of the same specialty but does not see private patients.

She immediately addressed me by my first name, which I thought was friendly and lovely. When I reciprocated and called her by her first name, she informed me that it was not appropriate for a patient to call a doctor by her first name.

Did I miss something in my junior high etiquette classes, or did she? Is there a rule about how people in a professional relationship should address each other? -- Just Wondering

Dear Wondering: Since she was referred to you by your neighbor, who is a doctor and who, I assume, you call by her first name, it is understandable that you addressed this young physician by her first name. However, as a general rule, it is better to err on the side of caution and address doctors as "Dr." until they tell you otherwise.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2021

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Consider a simpler lifestyle. Practice minimalism, and you will find a way to make the most out of what you already have. Truth, honesty, good health, exercise and love will lead to peace of mind and happiness. Be the one to make a difference and lead the way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't labor over the impossible. Concentrate on how to use your skills and knowledge to move forward with your plans. Discipline will help you promote the changes you want to implement.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Put an emotional matter to rest before you miss out on something special. Make whatever adjustments are necessary to fit something unique into your schedule. A partnership is favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Rely on your stamina and ingenuity to get you through your day. Don't let what others do unsettle you. Align yourself with people who are upbeat, share your beliefs and want to bring about positive change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Be cautious when dealing with partners, superiors or joint ventures. Someone will not be forthcoming with valuable information. Do your due diligence before you sign up for a new venture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Avoid anyone who agitates you. Put your energy into learning and communicating with people who have something of interest to share with you. Avoid taking a health risk or taxing yourself physically.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Look for a cost-efficient, easy-to-handle opportunity, then proceed. Don't get involved with ventures that you cannot control. Someone will mislead you if

you are too eager or gullible. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Gravitate toward individuals who offer stability and security. Choose a healthy, moderate lifestyle that puts your mind at ease and encourages you to look and do your best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Push for what you want. Conversations that address pending matters will help you clarify your position and resolve issues that make you feel uneasy. The more direct you are, the better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Size up situations before you respond. Keep your input moderate and practical. Refuse to let emotions escalate into something you cannot control. Rely on your experience and ability.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Indulgence will drag you down. Take time to review what you have, what you want and what it will take to reach your goal. Actions will speak louder than words. Keep your promises.

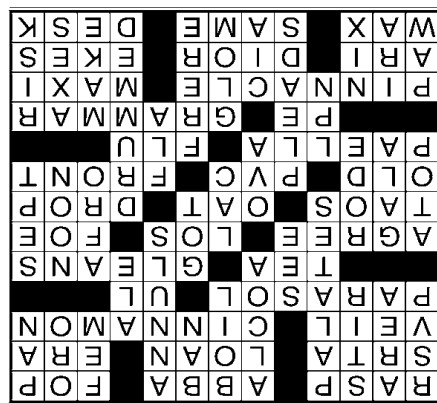
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Turn up the volume and do your happy dance. If you let the little things get you down, you'll have trouble accomplishing what you set out to do. Dismiss anyone trying to disrupt your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Indecisiveness will disrupt your day. Use your imagination and skills to overcome any doubts that surface. A personal change will boost your confidence and give you a needed push.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Grate
 - 5 "Take a Chance on Me" group
 - 9 Dandy
 - 12 Mlle. in Barcelona
 - 13 Advance, as money
 - 14 Baseball stat
 - 15 Face cover
 - 16 Kind of bun
 - 18 Shade provider
 - 20 Appliance-tag letters
 - 21 Mild brew
 - 22 Gathers after harvest
 - 26 Come to terms
 - 29 — Angeles
 - 30 Opposing force
 - 31 Town near Santa Fe
 - 32 Nutritious grain
 - 33 Lemon candy
 - 34 Stale
 - 35 Pipe material
 - 36 Facade
 - 37 Saffron dish
 - 39 Common ailment
 - 40 HS class
 - 41 Syntax
 - 45 Lofty peak
 - 49 Skirt length
 - 50 Onassis nickname
 - 51 Designer label
 - 52 Barely gets by
 - 53 Car-wash option
 - 54 Likewise
 - 55 Workstation

Answer to this puzzle



- DOWN**
- 1 Host's request
 - 2 Field of study
 - 3 Recipe verb
 - 4 Tastes
 - 5 Bauxite giant
 - 6 Seethe
 - 7 Keep off the air
 - 8 Cancels
 - 9 Not masc.
 - 10 Galleon cargo
 - 11 Prospect for gold
 - 17 Stout
 - 19 Understand
 - 22 Obtained
 - 23 1960s hairdo
 - 24 When shadows are shortest
 - 25 Fall mo.
 - 26 Standing on
 - 27 Dressy event
 - 28 Grabbed a cab
 - 29 Resin
 - 32 Zoologist's eggs
 - 33 Tapped one's fingers
 - 35 Argues earnestly
 - 36 Gator Bowl st.
 - 38 Hosp. staffer
 - 39 Pierre's brother
 - 41 Latch (onto)
 - 42 Fabricate
 - 43 Fires, slangily
 - 44 Peril
 - 45 Cat's foot
 - 46 Keogh relative
 - 47 Slangy refusal
 - 48 Undercover org.

