

COMICS

MARMADUKE



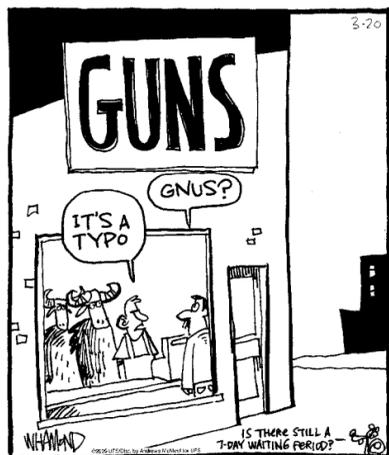
“Remember, we are not allowed anywhere near the meat department.”

HERMAN



“Take him straight down to X-ray.”

REALITY CHECK



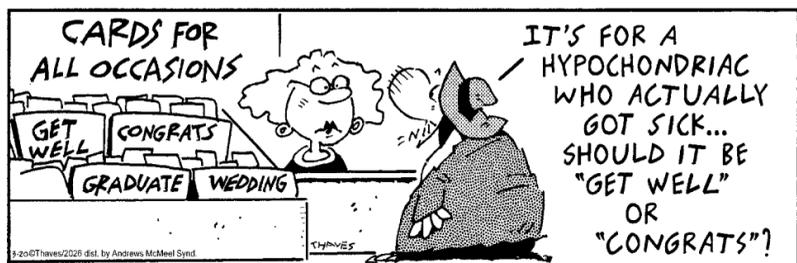
IS THERE STILL A 7-DAY WAITING PERIOD?

MODERATELY CONFUSED



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FRANK & ERNEST



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THE GRIZZWELLS



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PICKLES



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BLONDIE



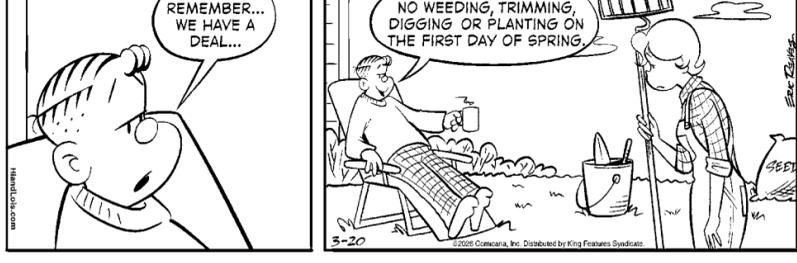
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BORN LOSER



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HI AND LOIS



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CRABGRASS



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Teasing or Tearing Down?

Dear Annie: My younger sister is getting married this fall. I'm happy for her. The problem is her fiancé.

At family dinners he makes little digs at her -- jokes about her cooking, her spending, even her weight. When she laughs uncomfortably, he says, "Relax, you're too sensitive." Last Sunday, he teased her about "finally locking him down before 35," and everyone chuckled. She smiled, but I cringed.

I pulled her aside once and asked if she was ever offended by some of his "jokes." She told me I was overreacting and that this is just his sense of humor. The wedding invitations have gone out. Do I have to trust that she knows what she's doing, or should I try to talk to her again? -- Worried Big Sister

Dear Worried Big Sister: You've already voiced your concern once. That was loving and appropriate. Repeating it now, especially with invitations mailed, is unlikely to change her mind -- but it could push her away at a time when she may need you most.

So here is the balance: Stand by her. Don't criticize him publicly.



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Instead, strengthen her privately. Make sure she knows she deserves respect, not ridicule disguised as charm.

If the teasing is harmless, time will prove it. If it is not, she will remember who treated her with steady kindness.

Dear Annie: I just read a letter from one of your young readers struggling to pick the right career choice. I want to note that a career choice should be looked at as dating. It's trial and error, and realizing what we don't want helps us figure out what we do want.

Viewing it this way will take a lot of pressure off the upcoming generation, especially as they enter an unstable job market with lots of technological changes. I'm 67 years old but recall the needless stress I put on myself in my 20s. I changed my major and had a few jobs early on that weren't the

right fit but eventually found a job that was perfect for my skills and kept me challenged and engaged for the past 38 years. I retired a few weeks ago with no regrets. I know I got here because I was never afraid to reinvent myself. -- Looking Back

Dear Looking Back: Very few lives unfold in tidy, uninterrupted lines. Most are zigzags -- and the detours often teach us the most.

Thank you for reminding readers -- of every age -- that thoughtful wandering is not wasted time.

"Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness" is out now! Annie Lane's third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged -- because forgiveness isn't for them. It's for you. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

A passionate attitude will encourage positive change. Do some research, discuss your concerns and solutions, and seek out people who share your beliefs. Leave nothing to chance. Present proof that your words are authentic and that your ideas are doable.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Imagination, desire and discipline will carry you forward. Say no to excessive behavior and overspending. Trust your instincts and choose your associates wisely.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Choose health, fitness, exercise and proper diet over inactivity and overindulgence. Change is in your hands; it's up to you to pick a path and reach your goal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Invest in what makes you happy and explore how to use your skills to advance while doing something you enjoy. Balance helps you blend what's essential with what's rewarding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Spontaneity will undermine you. Let things unfold naturally and adapt to each scenario as it presents itself. An honest assessment of a problem will help you dodge discord.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Refuse to let others test your patience. Stop worrying about things you have no control over and start living for what brings you joy. A simple rule: Be honest, good and kind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Reach out with a smile and a helping hand, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Someone you

least expect will have hidden feelings for you. Handle with care.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Volunteer, participate in meaningful events and do your best to make a positive impact. A change in how you use your skills will open doors to things that interest you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Pay attention to home, family and meaningful relationships. Maintain balance and integrity to avoid criticism and setbacks. An opportunity that comes your way will have a downside attached.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put your energy into dismantling negativity and forming a team that shares your vision and has the skills to implement your plans. Don't be generous to a fault.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Keep your money and possessions in a safe place, and don't share personal information readily. Keeping up with technology will help you advance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Problems with communication are apparent. No matter how you proceed, your words and responses will determine how situations unfold and what others expect of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You'll have to maintain a balance between budget and quality. Go back to the drawing board and adjust your projects to fit your schedule and financial plan.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swiss mountain
 - 4 Diving duck
 - 9 Angry crowd
 - 12 Ripken of baseball
 - 13 Racket
 - 14 Mil. address
 - 15 "Got a Secret"
 - 16 Lubricated
 - 17 Sloe -- fizz
 - 18 Clergyman
 - 20 Like seawater
 - 22 Slangy greeting
 - 23 Shoe ties
 - 24 Steep
 - 26 Wave top
 - 29 Glass piece
 - 30 Succor
 - 31 Dance genre
 - 34 Fore-and- --
 - 35 "Most Wanted" org.
 - 36 Yield
 - 37 Invite
 - 39 Get news of
- DOWN**
- 40 Tree with fluttering leaves
 - 43 Perch
 - 44 Touch lovingly
 - 46 Agreement
 - 49 Weekday abbr.
 - 50 Texas landmark
 - 52 Cravat
 - 53 United
 - 54 Ending in death
 - 55 "Act your --!"
 - 56 Sprinted
 - 57 Correct, as a text
 - 58 Take it on the --

Answer to this puzzle

W	A	T	D	N	E	M	E	N	V	A	R
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E	D	E	C	E	D	E	F	B	I	F	T
		T	A	P	A	I	D	E		P	A
S	E	S	T	S	T	C	R	E	C	R	E
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N	I	G	I	D	E	L	I	O			
A	P	O	A	I	S	E	I	O			
M	O	B	A	U	P	S	C	A	S	A	L

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