

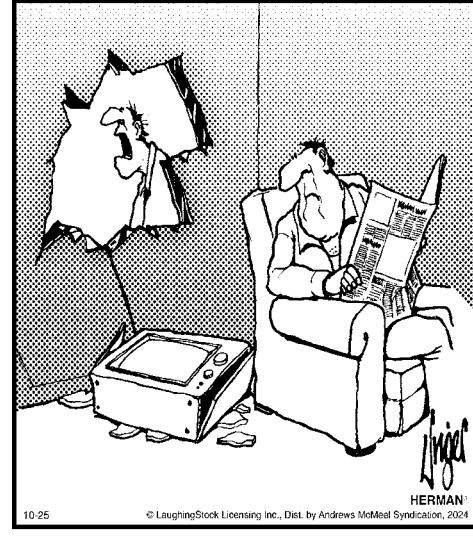
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"Will you stop being so friendly?"

HERMAN



"MISSSED!"

REALITY CHECK



I HAVE MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES, SO TECHNICALLY I'M A WEE WOLF
THAT SUCKS

MODERATELY CONFUSED



YOU'RE REALLY NOTHING TO LOOK AT.

FRANK & ERNEST



HALF THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE THINK I'M GOING TO DROP YOU.
HALF THE PEOPLE UP HERE THINK SO, TOO.

THE GRIZZWELLS



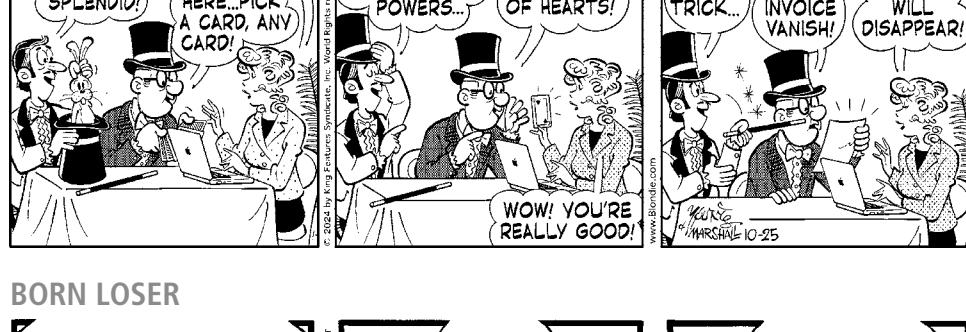
NO MATTER HOW BAD YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS IT WORSE
I AGREE
...WHICH IS WHY HANGING OUT WITH YOU ALWAYS MAKES MY DAY
YOU'RE WELCOME

PICKLES



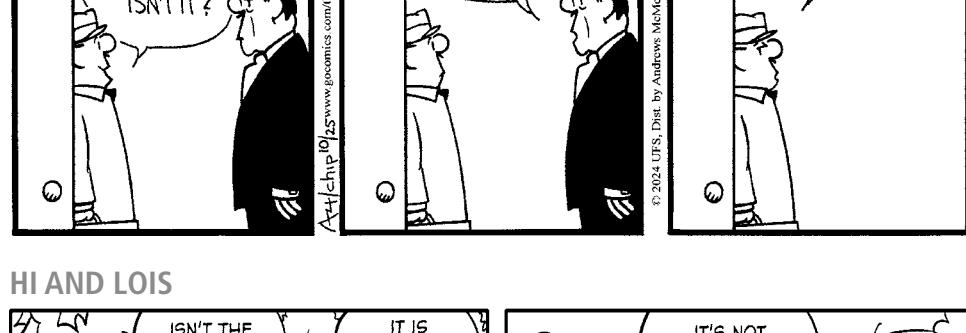
I BOUGHT MYSELF A NEW PEN. IT'S A TACTICAL PEN.
TACTICAL?
IT'S GOT A MULTI-TOOL, A FLASHLIGHT AND A RESCUE WHISTLE.
WONDERFUL. PUT IT AWAY. I NEED YOU TO TAKE ME TO THE FABRIC STORE.
TWEET!!

BLONDIE



THIS IS MY FIRST TIME CATERING A MAGICIAN'S BANQUET!
SPLENDID!
HERE...PICK A CARD, ANY CARD!
ACCORDING TO OUR AMAZING MIND-READING POWERS...
VOILA! YOU HAVE PICKED THE QUEEN OF HEARTS!
FOR OUR NEXT TRICK...
WE'LL MAKE THIS INVOICE VANISH!
AND, THUS, THIS BANQUET WILL DISAPPEAR!
WOW! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD!

BORN LOSER



GOOD MORNING, CHIEF!
BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?
BAH!
WELL, IT WAS.

HI AND LOIS



ISN'T THE FALL FOLIAGE LOVELY?
IT IS WHEN IT'S ON THE TREES.
IT'S NOT SO PRETTY WHEN IT HAS TO BE RAKED.
AND WHERE ARE THE DESKS? ALL I SEE ARE BEANBAG CHAIRS AND PLUSH CARPET!
OKAY, MAYBE "AVERAGE" WASN'T THE RIGHT WORD.
DO THESE WINDOWS ACTUALLY OPEN?

CRABGRASS



SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, MILES, IT'S JUST AN AVERAGE CLASSROOM, THERE'S NOTHING FISHY GOING ON IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.
ARE YOU KIDDING? WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE GREAT BOOKS AND GAMES? YOU EVEN HAVE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT!
AND WHERE ARE THE DESKS? ALL I SEE ARE BEANBAG CHAIRS AND PLUSH CARPET!
OKAY, MAYBE "AVERAGE" WASN'T THE RIGHT WORD.
DO THESE WINDOWS ACTUALLY OPEN?

Supporting a Struggling Friend

Dear Annie: I have a friend I'll call "Scott." We have known each other for 15 years or so and have been retired for the last few years. He enjoyed working before he retired due to a plant closure.

Now Scott drinks from 8 a.m. until 2 or so in the afternoon. He is in good spirits in the morning but is an absolutely depressed person by 2. He tries to tell you that the world sucks now compared to when we grew up. It's so hard to listen to him go on about this.

I want to tell him that he needs help, but I am afraid to do so. I can't even hang out with him due to his problem. I know where to send him for help but have no idea on how to send him there. -- Want My Friend Back

Dear Want: Your concern for Scott is totally valid. It sounds like he's been stuck in a bad place for quite some time, and he might not even realize how out of control things have gotten.

When he's sober, share your worries with him. Let him know you want to help him if he's open to it and that ultimately, you just want to see him happy again. You can't force Scott to stop drinking, but the reminder that he has you cheering in his corner might do more



ANNE LANE

Dear Annie

good than you know. Check out an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, too. You are sure to hear helpful suggestions from people who have been there.

Dear Annie: My husband and I are in our 70s. We have friends who are in their 40s, with two kids (6 and 4). We have gone out to lunches with the four of them, and it's always been a bad experience. The kids tear through the restaurant and scream. It's becoming very embarrassing. The next time they invite us, we don't want to be in a restaurant again.

We don't want to go to their place because the wife is a hoarder and there is only one room we can sit in -- and besides, the kids still run and scream in their own home. They can come to our place, but they still tear around.

What do we do or say the next time they invite us for lunch? -- Tired of Chaos

Dear Tired: The energy of young kids is unmatched, so

it's understandable that you're frustrated. Next time your friends invite you to lunch, why not suggest a place with ample outdoor space so the kids can run around? Some restaurants offer outdoor areas with lawns and sometimes even a playground. Or perhaps you could organize a picnic in a park, so the children can get all their energy out without disrupting the adults.

Another option is to invite them over to your house and, provided the parents are OK with it, put on a movie for the kids, complete with popcorn and blankets.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology -- featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation -- 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.

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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Watch how you earn and handle your money. Changing your routine, budget, investments and qualifications will help you decrease stress. Choosing a lifestyle that suits your personality and reflects what life means to you will lead to peace of mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Listen before you respond. Make sure you grasp what's bothering others before making a judgment. You are overdue for a change. Stop procrastinating; it's up to you to initiate your next move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Making a statement that honors your beliefs and who you are while outlining what you are willing to do is essential. Don't let money slip through your fingers or be taken from you. Protect yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Protect your reputation from those trying to make you look bad. Put your energy into personal growth and bring about positive change. Sign up for something that excites you, and you'll meet someone special.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You require time to digest what's happening around you before you weigh in with your thoughts and plans. Make a focused effort to develop something that will help you advance.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Get out and about. Sign up for something that allows you to network or expand your interests or circle of friends, but refrain from getting involved with someone trying to take your cash.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Don't expect others to do things your way; temper your anger when things aren't to your liking. Change begins

with you. Look inward and adjust what you don't like.

T AURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Concentrate on whatever offers the highest return. Work hard, play hard and distance yourself from emotional drama. Seek out what's essential and satisfying to your soul. A change of heart is apparent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Uncertainty and confusion will develop due to others' words and actions. Sort through your differences and make lifestyle changes that add to your comfort, convenience and emotional well-being.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Look for unique ways to stand out. How you present what you do best requires pizzazz, passion and persistence if you want to captivate your audience. Live in the moment, and something good will unfold.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't count on receiving help, and you will avoid being disappointed. Turn a negative into a positive and show your capabilities, and you'll outshine any competition.

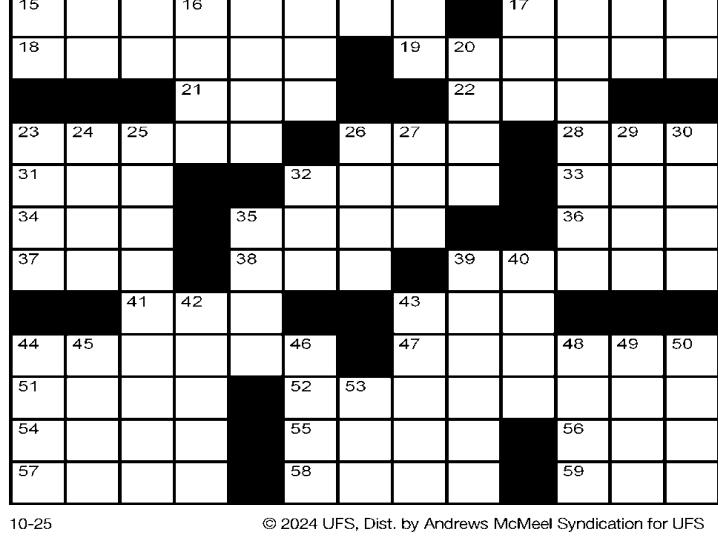
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Make plans to do something that stimulates your mind, body and soul. Entertain the thought of exploring a venue or engaging in an activity that encourages you to learn something new and congregate with like-minded people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Put your energy where it counts and brings a high emotional, physical, mental or financial return. Put a savings plan in place instead of squandering your cash. Surround yourself with people who have something to offer.

ACROSS

- 1 — tide
- 4 Purple color
- 8 Hammer part
- 12 — in the hole
- 13 Gentle hill
- 14 Mortgage do-over
- 15 Thinker
- 17 Mild oath
- 18 Crafty
- 19 Holy Roman
- 21 Pole
- 22 Part of TGIF
- 23 Brilliance
- 26 Butter bit
- 28 Fond du —, WI
- 31 Curse
- 32 Section
- 33 Wing
- 34 Rage
- 35 Thin layer
- 36 Cask
- 37 Likewise not
- 38 FedEx alternative
- 39 Motif
- 41 "Survivor" network
- 43 Exist
- 44 Youthful
- 47 Illusion
- 51 Good fortune
- 52 Aped
- 54 — of Wight
- 55 Gambling town
- 56 Undivided
- 57 Look
- 58 School jacket
- 59 Word play

Answer to this puzzle



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