

COMICS

MARMADUKE



"Remember, let the players do the fetching."

HERMAN



"I can't sleep with all that crunching. If you must eat those things, take your teeth out."

REALITY CHECK



ALWAYS LEAVE THEM WANTING MORE...

...DOESN'T APPLY TO LIFEGUARDS

MODERATELY CONFUSED

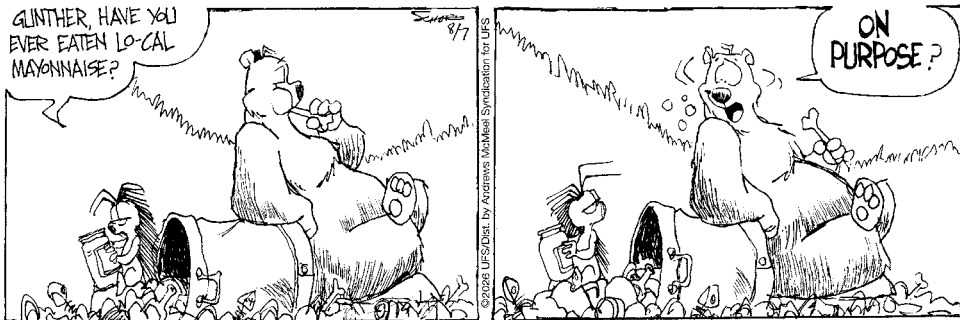


MY GRANDPA'S FAVORITE LINE IS: "WHERE IS MY... OH, THERE IT IS."

FRANK & ERNEST



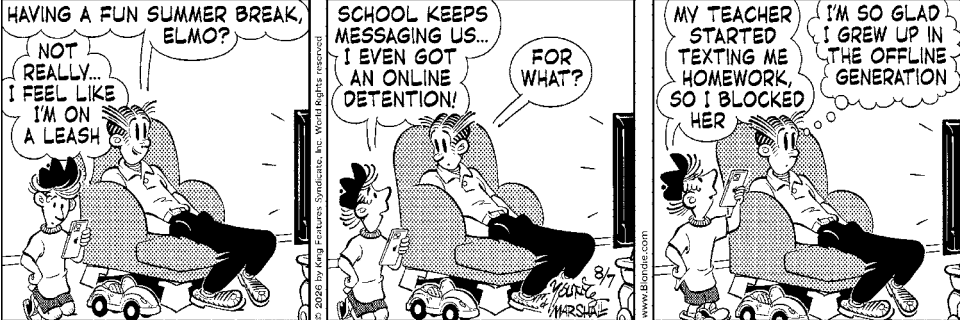
THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



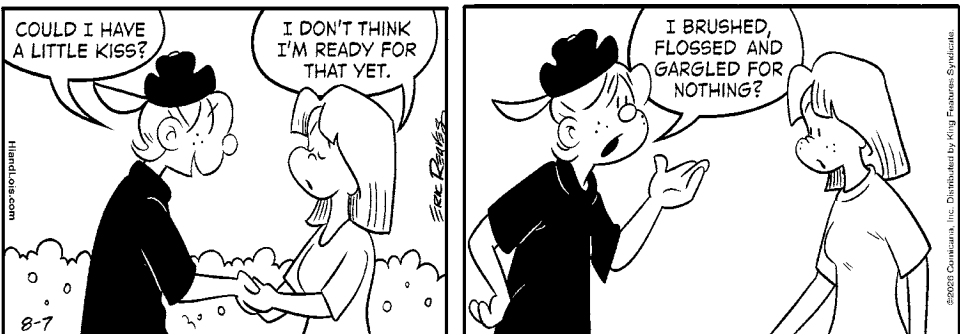
BLONDIE



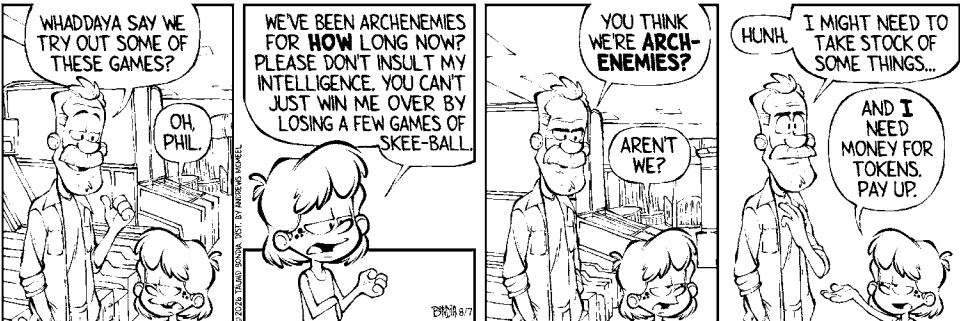
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Missing My Built-In Best Friend



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: My sister, who is also my roommate, started a new job that is keeping her super busy. She doesn't come home from the office before 10 p.m. most nights, and she's gone again early in the morning. Her last job was remote, as is mine, so I'm used to having her around all the time. Now I can't even get her to respond to a text.

I know it's nothing personal. She just needs to be focused on work right now. But still, I'm left feeling like I lost my best friend. I can barely get any time or attention out of her these days. Should I say something, or should I just wait for this season of life to pass? -- Missing My Sister

Dear Missing: You can say something, but say it as a request, not a complaint. "I miss you" lands very differently than "you're never around." Ask her for something small -- Sunday morning coffee, even 10 minutes before bed. New jobs demand a lot early on, and this crunch will likely ease once she finds her footing.

Until then, don't let your social life orbit her alone. Call other friends and make plans that don't depend on her calendar. A fuller life of your own will make the time you do get with her feel like a bonus, not a lifeline.

Dear Annie: My 86-year-old mom recently had a fall. I rushed her to the ER, where doctors found a small brain bleed. She was home within 48 hours, saying she felt fine

and that the bleeding had stopped. But three days later, she developed stroke-like symptoms, and I called 911.

She spent the next month in the hospital and rehab, suffering a second brain bleed and seven seizures. I was there every day helping feed and care for her. Not one of her friends visited her the entire time.

Now that she's home, one friend has suddenly started coming around again, even though she never visited early on in my mom's recovery. It's made me question the friendship. Mom will fight you for every bill when eating out or pay for the ticket at any event, which they do often, and I'm beginning to think she's being used by this person.

Should I mention this to my mom or talk to her friend directly? This friend has a daughter who no longer speaks to her, and I can't help wondering if this is why. I'm very concerned as my mom continues getting older that this "friend" is setting herself up to take even more, possibly stealing money from her in a bigger way down the line. I'm seeing red flags everywhere

here. Am I paranoid? -- Worried Caregiving Child

Dear Caregiving Child: After everything you and your mom have been through, it's no wonder your protective instincts are in overdrive.

It's disappointing that this friend -- and the others in your mom's circle -- disappeared during her hospitalization, but that alone doesn't prove she's taking advantage of her. Some people simply don't know how to show up in a crisis.

For now, keep your eyes open, but don't accuse anyone without evidence. If you notice missing money or belongings, or anyone pressuring your mom financially, take it seriously. In the meantime, talk with your mom about protecting herself money-wise and keep checking in. Sometimes the best safeguard is simply a loving family member who's paying attention. Your mom is lucky to have you.

"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

Happy Birthday: Set your plans in motion. Attend functions related to something you find intriguing. Mingle with people who share your interests and concerns, and you'll connect with someone who influences how and when you move forward. If you take the road less traveled, you'll discover talents, skills and attributes you didn't realize you have. Trust your instincts when opportunity collides with hard decisions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Your strength lies in knowing when and what will give you the upper hand and the opportunity to head in the direction that's best for you. Discipline and originality will outmatch any competition you encounter.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Do your best to avoid unsavory situations that can impact your personal or professional life. Be content with watching what's happening around you without offering your input.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Being receptive will lead to interesting alternatives. Tweak what you hear to suit your situation, and you'll find a perfect fit for something you want to pursue or make your own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put up barriers, limitations and boundaries. Protect against temptation and those who are bad influences regarding money, overindulgence and questionable situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Gear up and get ready to have some fun. If you engage in activities that stimulate you physically or spiritually, your entertaining attitude will attract attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you push your intelligence to the max, you'll

discover how capable you are of reaching the standards and expectations you hold dear to your heart. Embrace learning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Rebuilding or hitting the reset button will open a window of opportunity that encourages you to focus on fitness, health, nutrition and your personal happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- If you act in a heartfelt manner and offer a positive response, you'll deny others the chance to gloat or to take advantage of you. Choose kind words, a smile and an intellectual facade.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Be bold, consider what motivates you to be your best and turn an OK day into something spectacular. You've got the go-ahead from the universe to make decisions that can map out your journey forward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Rethink your strategy before you take on a challenge that can influence your lifestyle or your professional goals. Don't put your reputation on the line for someone else or to prove a point.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Keep everyone guessing. Don't share too much or give away your secrets. Put your energy into being at your best, and you'll be a magnet for success, love and friendships that can help you get ahead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Distance yourself from anyone who uses manipulation or pressure tactics to take advantage of you. Let your intelligence and memory guide you in situations that appear unfair or put you in a vulnerable position.

ACROSS

- 1 Glass container
- 4 Crow's cry
- 7 Starting from (2 wds.)
- 11 Past
- 12 Soft drink
- 13 "— 911!"
- 14 Slowly — surely
- 15 Surrounded by
- 16 Perpetually
- 17 Withdraw formally
- 19 Writer — Hemingway
- 21 Acquires
- 23 Actor — McKellen
- 24 Fancy neckwear
- 27 LummoX
- 29 Mil. rank
- 32 Corporate VIP
- 33 Unadulterated
- 34 Musical ability
- 35 Sprinted

36 Gloomy

- 37 "Act your —!"
- 38 Conclude
- 39 Tolkien monster
- 40 Composition
- 42 Doctrine
- 44 Draw, in a way
- 46 Dog's young
- 49 Football team number
- 53 — Minor
- 54 Province in Can.
- 56 Dined
- 57 Stringed instrument
- 58 Sour
- 59 "— about time!"
- 60 Feudal serf
- 61 Mineral spring
- 62 Fanatic

DOWN

- 1 Pokes
- 2 Chills and fever

Answer to this puzzle

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

- 3 Campus mil. group
- 4 Orbiting body
- 5 Boxer Laila —
- 6 Walk through water
- 7 Hippodrome

- 8 World's oceans (2 wds.)
- 9 Singles
- 10 Army post
- 12 Officer-in-training
- 18 — ideal
- 20 Abundant
- 22 Origin
- 24 "God's Little —"
- 25 Actor — Penn
- 26 State
- 28 Big boat
- 30 Singer Lady —
- 31 Card with three spots
- 33 Golf standard
- 36 Round roof
- 40 Brilliance
- 41 That girl
- 43 Hackneyed
- 45 Aquarium fish
- 46 Wash
- 47 Wife of Osiris
- 48 "Darn it!"
- 50 Futile
- 51 "—, Brute?"
- 52 Aerie
- 55 Once around a track