

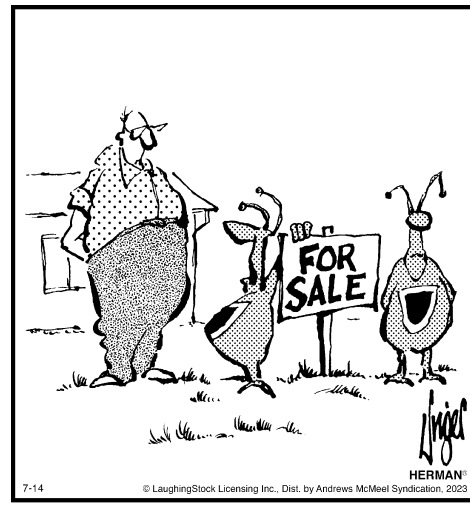
COMICS

MARMADUKE



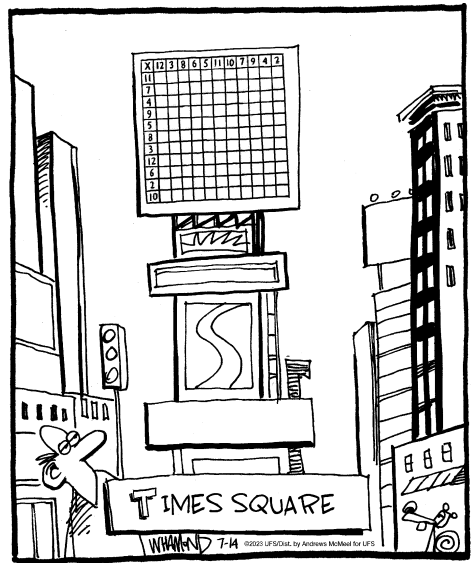
"I'm not showing you a menu. You ate the last one."

HERMAN

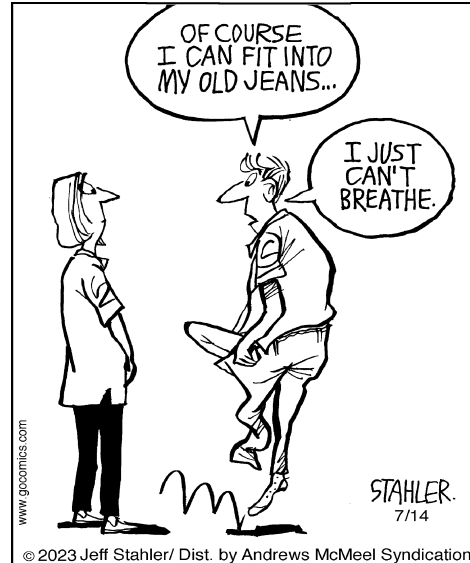


"We're not trying to sell your house; we're selling the planet."

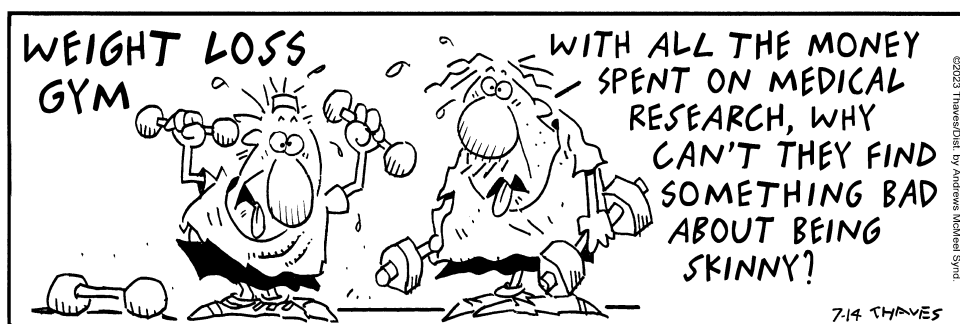
REALITY CHECK



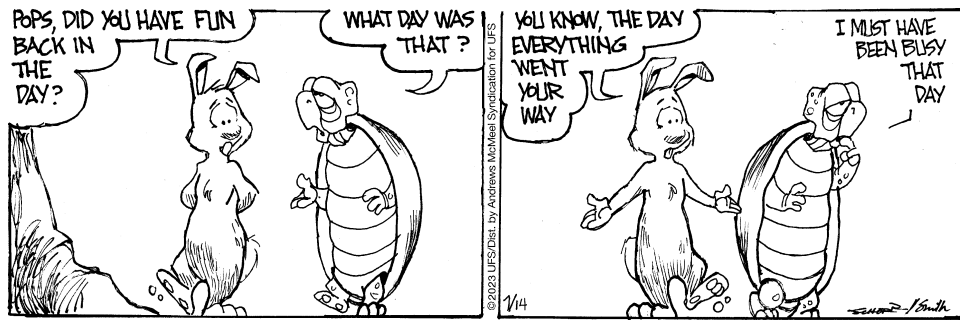
MODERATELY CONFUSED



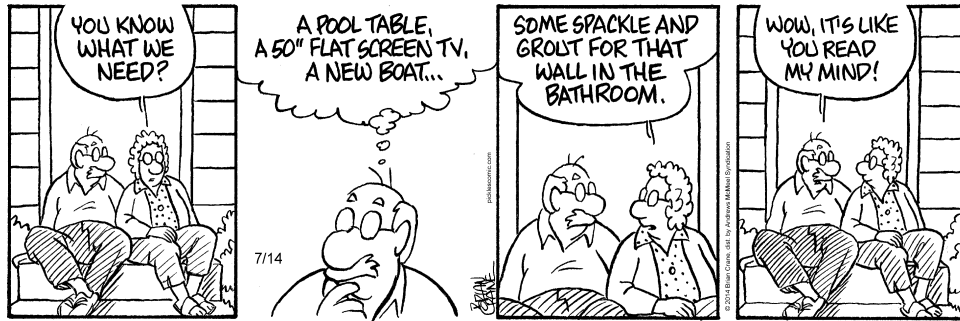
FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZLELLS



PICKLES



BLONDIE



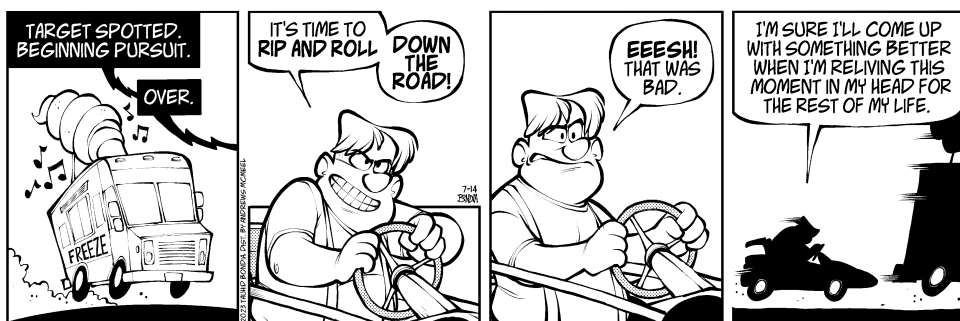
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Growing Up and Growing Anxious



ANNIE LANE
DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: "Tom Between Passion and Stability" reminds me of my own story. As a college freshman, I studied accounting, which seemed the destiny of many young men like me. I found it boring and totally uninspiring. However, I felt locked into this career path because of family pressure to study "business" and be successful.

During the summer after freshman year, I talked with the guard at the entrance to the food warehouse where I had a summer job. He was an elementary school principal who was working for the summer at the warehouse. We talked, and I thought about how much I loved elementary school as a child.

I returned to college and changed my major field of study to a path leading to licensure to teach in elementary schools. I was delighted with the course of study and after graduation embarked on a long and thoroughly joyful career. I am now retired but reflect daily on the happiness I experienced and the beautiful memories of a career filled with human interaction and the rewards that come with helping others to have a more fulfilling life. -- Follow the Joyful Path

Dear Follow the Joyful Path: What a beautiful letter. I'm sure you have created many beautiful memories for your

students over the years as well.

Dear Annie: I'm a 16-year-old girl and I just finished my junior year of high school. I've been excited for summer because it means we get a break from school and because I have a lifeguard job at the community pool. Even though summer break has been a lot of fun, I'm starting to feel pressure from my friends to drink and do drugs. I was invited to more parties during junior year than ever before, and I know of a few boys who just graduated that are planning parties these next few months before they go to college.

At these parties, I've noticed how many of my peers are hooking up, drinking beer and smoking pot. I've never been interested in any of those things and can usually brush off getting involved (I smoked a cigarette once, but I didn't like it). But I'm starting to feel like I'm going to be left out if I don't join in. I know what they're doing can be dangerous, but I'm not sure how much longer I can keep

telling my friends no. I'm worried they'll either make fun of me or get mad at me.

I feel at a loss. I don't want to get in trouble, but I also don't want to lose my friends. -- Teen Tired of Not Fitting In

Dear Tired Teen: Anyone who pokes fun at or gets mad at you for sticking to your boundaries isn't a true friend. It's perfectly OK to attend social functions and bond with your peers without drinking, smoking or doing anything else that makes you uncomfortable. A simple, "No, thanks, I'm not interested," politely shuts down offers on the spot and accurately represents how you feel.

You should be proud of honoring and staying true to yourself. A lot of other kids your age would give in to the peer pressure despite how they feel deep down. It's not always easy, but it's the right choice to make.

"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

Remember what's important to you this year. Letting outside influences get to you will set you back. Wanting to help others is admirable but not in your best interest. Put your needs first, and you'll be in a better frame of mind when helping others. Change begins with you. A steady pace will take you where you want to go.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Being methodical will help you gain leverage. Pay attention to detail, be diligent and present yourself with strength and courage. The influence you have on others must come from your integrity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Simplify your life. Avoid controversial situations. Use your intelligence and experience to navigate your way forward. Progress depends on what you are willing to contribute.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Pressure will mount if you don't have a plan. A positive attitude will help you manage the possibilities and encourage forward motion. Stick to your guns and don't lose momentum.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Hone your skills to fit your chosen pursuit. Give others space, and you will buy yourself time to flesh out what's important to you. Control your spending and avoid getting involved in joint ventures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Question everything and figure out how to move forward using the information you receive. You can create opportunities if you are innovative and willing to put your reputation on the line.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Open your eyes when dealing with manipulative people. An emotional incident will leave you

confused about what to do next. Respond to what others want, and protect yourself from hidden costs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- The early bird catches the worm. You'll be ready to take on the competition if you keep up with what's trending. A moneymaking opportunity will help you lower debt. Don't fear making a change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't believe everything you hear. A change someone makes will be a sign of their intentions. Stick close to home and nurture meaningful relationships. An affectionate gesture will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Back away from anyone causing emotional uncertainty. Look at every angle of a situation before agreeing to something. A creative outlet will ease stress and give you time to think.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Social events will lead to an introduction you won't want to miss. The connections you make will give you hope for a better future. Offer your services to someone you'd like to work alongside.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Be a good listener, and you'll be privy to information that can help you bypass someone who gives you a hard time. Be willing to put your energy where it counts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Give your all, but don't trust others to do the same. Take responsibility and do things yourself, and you won't be disappointed. Back away from anyone trying to manipulate how you do things.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sort
 - 4 Old TV hookup
 - 7 Country addr.
 - 10 Roomy vehicle
 - 11 Flapjack franchise
 - 13 Unalloyed
 - 14 Gladiator's hello
 - 15 Card enclosure
 - 16 Androcles' pal
 - 17 Bouquet tosser
 - 19 Tennis star Murray
 - 20 Stale
 - 21 Beatles drummer
 - 23 Karachi language
 - 26 Overact
 - 28 Corral
 - 29 Pay dirt
 - 30 Some hermits
 - 34 Rattle
 - 36 Radar-gun info
 - 38 Daily record
 - 39 Google rival
 - 41 Penny
 - 42 Tripoli's country
 - 44 Slugger's stat
 - 46 Orchid-loving Wolfe
 - 47 Places
 - 52 Horror-film servant
 - 53 Industry, plus
 - 54 Bark or yelp
 - 55 Sonar's sound
 - 56 "Ick!"
 - 57 Debate side
 - 58 Shoat's home
 - 59 Tofu base
 - 60 Choose
- DOWN**
- 1 — the Terrible
 - 2 Wash
 - 3 Had down pat
 - 4 Upholstery choice
 - 5 Thick soup
 - 6 Habitual
 - 7 Feeling remorse
 - 8 Tolkien hero
 - 9 Refute
 - 12 Guerrero of baseball
 - 13 Shop tool
 - 18 Mr. Gehrig
 - 22 Problem with hives
 - 23 Mdse. bars
 - 24 Fam. member
 - 25 Spiral molecule
 - 27 Brief message
 - 29 Not super
 - 31 Draft order
 - 32 — Jovi
 - 33 Police dept. rank
 - 35 The Terminator, for one
 - 37 Stoa
 - 40 Impulsive
 - 41 KGB counterpart
 - 42 Authentic
 - 43 Biting wit
 - 45 Cumbersome
 - 46 Barely beats
 - 48 Poker players' markers
 - 49 Printing error
 - 50 Wyatt the lawman
 - 51 Detect

Answer to this puzzle

