

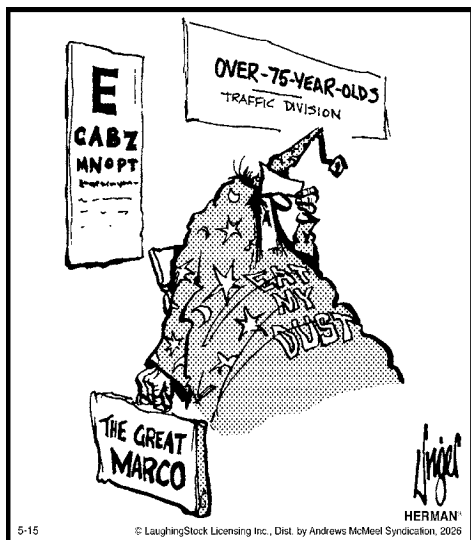
COMICS

MARMADUKE



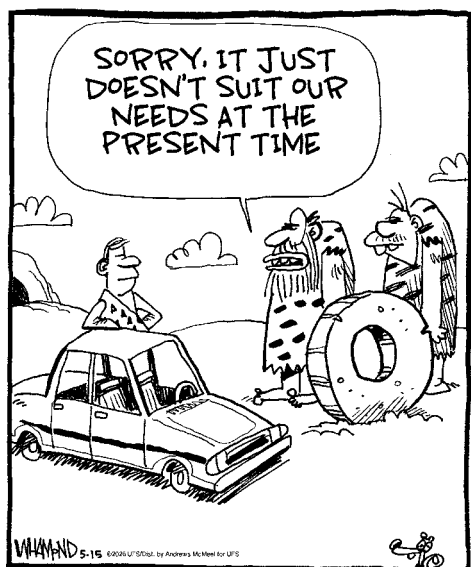
"Do you have to make friends with absolutely everything?"

HERMAN



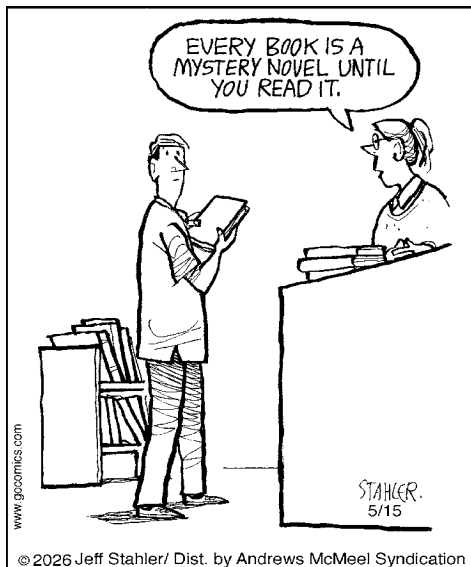
"E, C, A, B, Z, M ..."

REALITY CHECK



SORRY, IT JUST DOESN'T SUIT OUR NEEDS AT THE PRESENT TIME

MODERATELY CONFUSED



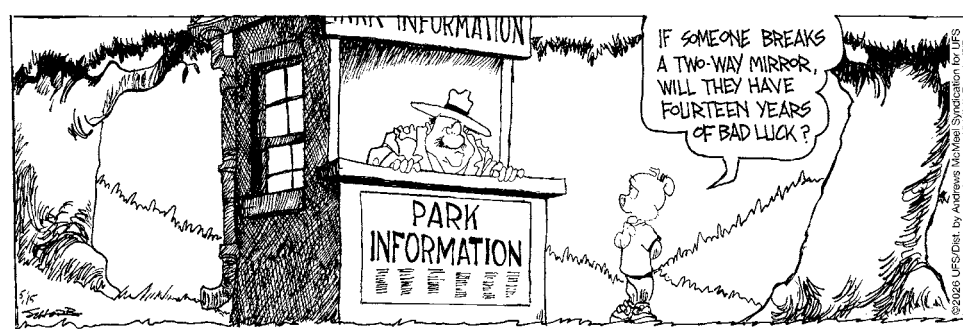
EVERY BOOK IS A MYSTERY NOVEL UNTIL YOU READ IT.

FRANK & ERNEST



IT'S NOT THAT WE MIND THE WORK; WE JUST DON'T LIKE WALKING AROUND LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.

THE GRIZZWELLS



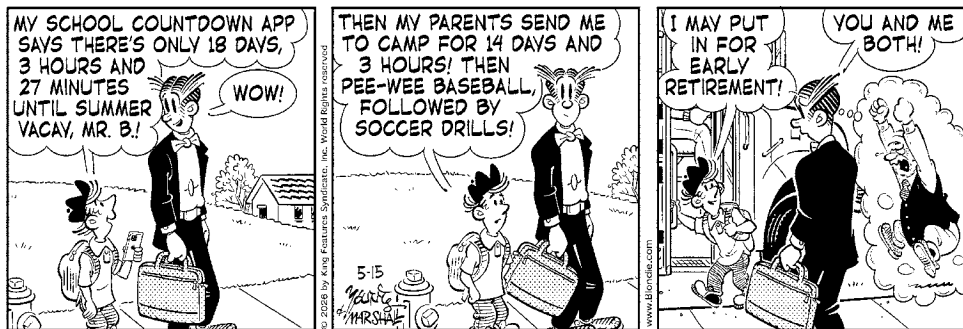
IF SOMEONE BREAKS A TWO-WAY MIRROR, WILL THEY HAVE FOURTEEN YEARS OF BAD LUCK?

PICKLES



ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LAUGH OR ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME? I'M SORRY, EARL, BUT I CAN'T DO ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER. HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET YOUR ELECTRIC TOOTH-BRUSH TANGLED UP IN YOUR MUSTACHE? I HAD TO SNEEZE WHILE I WAS BRUSHING MY TEETH, AND THINGS WENT HORRIBLY WRONG FROM THERE.

BLONDIE



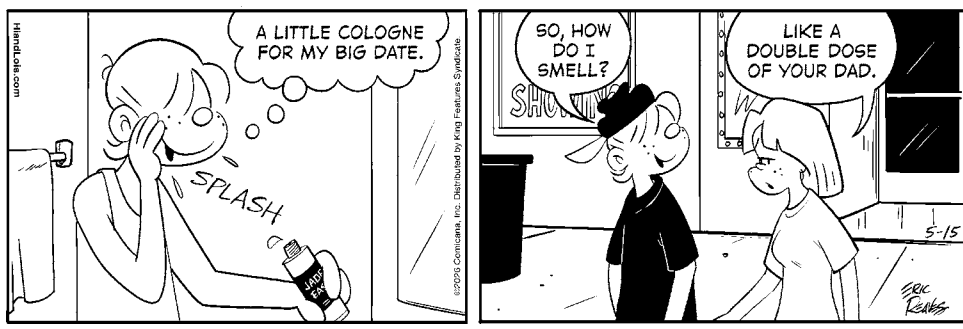
MY SCHOOL COUNTDOWN APP SAYS THERE'S ONLY 18 DAYS, 3 HOURS AND 27 MINUTES UNTIL SUMMER VACAY, MR. B! THEN MY PARENTS SEND ME TO CAMP FOR 14 DAYS AND 3 HOURS! THEN PEE-WEE BASEBALL, FOLLOWED BY SOCCER DRILLS! I MAY PUT IN FOR EARLY RETIREMENT! YOU AND ME BOTH!

BORN LOSER



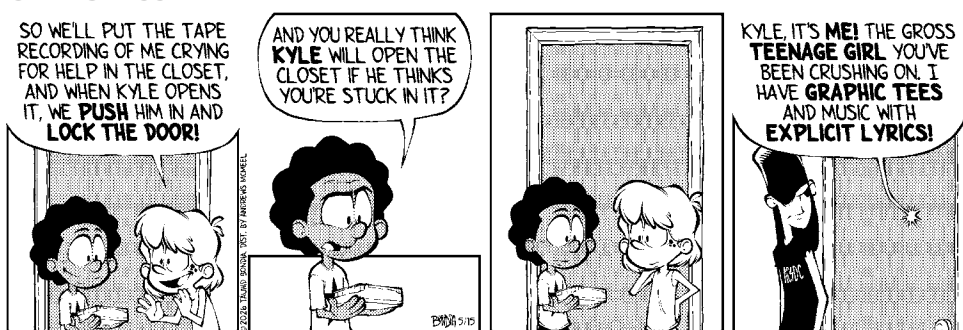
I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED YOUR FUDGE BROWNIE, BUT YOU'VE LEFT HALF OF IT SMEARED AROUND YOUR MOUTH! HERE, LET ME CLEAN THAT OFF FOR YOU. NO WAY! I'M SAVING THAT FOR A SNACK LATER!

HI AND LOIS



A LITTLE COLOGNE FOR MY BIG DATE. SO, HOW DO I SMELL? LIKE A DOUBLE DOSE OF YOUR DAD.

CRABGRASS



SO WE'LL PUT THE TAPE RECORDING OF ME CRYING FOR HELP IN THE CLOSET, AND WHEN KYLE OPENS IT, WE PUSH HIM IN AND LOCK THE DOOR! AND YOU REALLY THINK KYLE WILL OPEN THE CLOSET IF HE THINKS YOU'RE STUCK IN IT? KYLE, IT'S ME! THE GROSS TEENAGE GIRL YOU'VE BEEN CRUSHING ON. I HAVE GRAPHIC TEES AND MUSIC WITH EXPLICIT LYRICS!

Reality Check on a Changing Friendship



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: I've been friends with "Mark" since high school, which was over 15 years ago. He actually feels more like a brother than a friend. But over the past year, there's been a shift in him. He's gotten deep, deep into conspiracy theories. Every conversation somehow turns into a rant about the government's hidden agenda or the evils of the pharmaceutical industry.

I brushed it off for a while, but it's constant. It makes me not want to be around him. I've tried joking it away and even telling him directly it makes me uncomfortable, but he either doubles down or says I've been "brainwashed."

I'm not really sure how to save this friendship. I think I might just have to keep my distance and hope this is a phase. Unless there is something else I can say to really get through to him...?

Dear Miss My Friend: Probably not. He sounds like he's gone deep down the rabbit hole, and any attempt to reason with him will only widen the distance between you.

Make your boundary very clear: "When it turns into this, I'm out." You're protecting the part of the friendship that still exists. Whether that part survives depends on what he's willing to meet you halfway on.

Dear Annie: I know this is

the age-old problem of being single for many years, but do you think statistically there's a chance to meet a decent guy at 66? I have many doubts.

Dating sites are a horrible option for women unless you want casual hookups, which isn't what I'm looking for. I also know there are differences in attraction between men and women. Men look at a picture of an attractive woman and that's what they want. I look at a picture and that's all it is to me -- a picture.

I have many emotional scars from men who badly mistreated me, starting with an abusive, alcoholic father. I can't afford therapy at \$100 a pop. Any advice? -- Tired of the Freaks Who Find Me Attractive

Dear Tired: Yes, there's absolutely still a chance for you to find love. It just may not look the way you expect.

At 66, many people meet new partners not through mutual apps but through mutual interests and routine: volunteering, classes, community groups, shared

faith. These are places where connections grow naturally, beyond a photo and a short bio.

If therapy isn't affordable, look into local support groups, such as Al-Anon, which can help you work through some of your history. Your hesitation makes sense, given your past. But those experiences give you the wisdom to know what you will and won't accept now.

Your doubts come from what you've been through, but don't let them get the final say. The right man won't make you feel the way the wrong ones did.

"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: Cap your spending, redirect your plans and begin something that motivates you to make the most of your time and talents. The choice is yours: You can let situations turn into something uncontrollable, or you can use your intelligence to maintain balance and equality in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Cham, understanding and optimism will guide you to the winner's circle. How you respond to those closest to you will unveil what you get in return. Put your energy toward getting along, and erase any anger brewing in the background.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Push for change. Do the groundwork, and don't overestimate or underestimate what others will do to get in your way. Pay attention to how you look and feel, and say no to temptation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Take a moment to study your options, and dedicate more time to what's important to you. Trying to cram too much into your day will contribute to falling short of your expectations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Dig in, learn all you can, build momentum and initiate plans. Seeing something through from beginning to end will satisfy your soul and put you in a position to further your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Sign up for something that offers insight into new possibilities. Finding unique ways to apply your skills will open a window of opportunity to engage in a project that's new and exciting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Connect and

collaborate with people who share your interests, skills and plans. You must be innovative, selective and constantly searching to find ways to use and market your experience to accelerate what's trending.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Pay attention to detail. Taking on too much will leave you vulnerable. Look for opportunities involving people you already know and trust. Put your energy into development, offering hands-on help and letting your creativity shine through.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Indulge in something you enjoy doing with people who bring out the best in you. How you use your space at home, or the social places you frequent, will set the stage for a unique experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Don't put yourself on display. Lie low, engage in self-improvement projects or sign up for activities or events that give you a chance to meet people who share the same likes and dislikes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Self-improvement will be uplifting. Participate in activities that help you look and feel your best. Explore friendships.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Be honest with yourself and those close to you regarding how you feel and the changes you want to pursue. Be aware of how your decisions will affect others, and offer compensation or a way to include them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Walk away from emotionally explosive situations before they have a chance to erupt. Direct your energy into something that makes a difference.

- ACROSS**
 1 Commotion
 5 Wooden shoe
 9 Aged
 12 Charter
 13 -- -de-camp
 14 Feather scarf
 15 Like a bump on --
 16 Abound
 17 Paddle
 18 Dangerous person
 20 -- - my heart ...
 22 Violent flow
 25 Sets of garments
 28 Apparent
 32 Volcano on Sicily
 33 Town in Belgium
 34 Dove's cry
 35 Sedan
 36 Long time
 37 Highlander
- DOWN**
 6 Fib
 7 Lyric poem
 8 Zodiac twins
 9 Woodwind instrument
 10 Do nothing
 11 Flit
- 38 Play area**
41 Play part
42 Big cat
44 Photography event
47 Lacking the skill
51 Trouble
52 Region (Abbr.)
55 Billiards game
56 Badly
57 No good at all
58 Actress -- Falco
59 Mauna --
60 Cincinnati team
61 Unit of force

Answer to this puzzle

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

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