

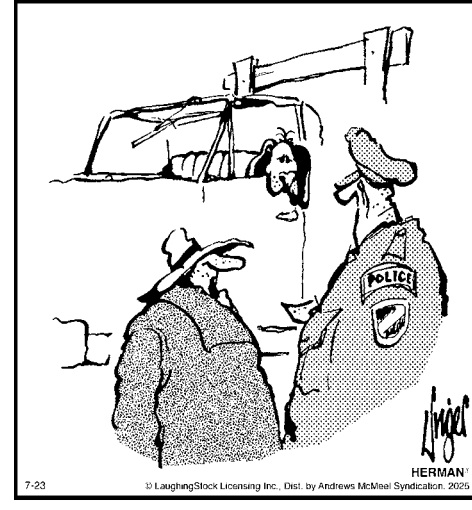
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"It was cute when you first taught Marm to ring our doorbell."

HERMAN



"I know it's a dog license! He was driving."

REALITY CHECK



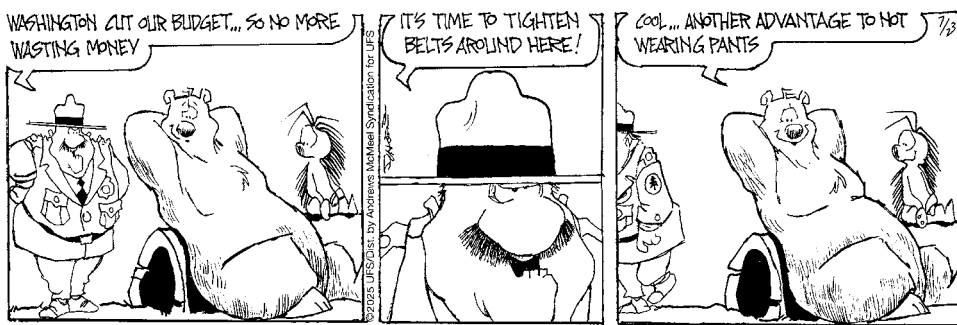
MODERATELY CONFUSED



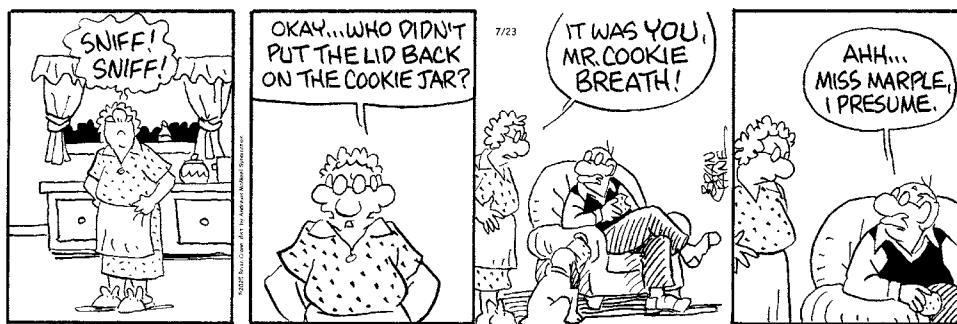
FRANK & ERNEST



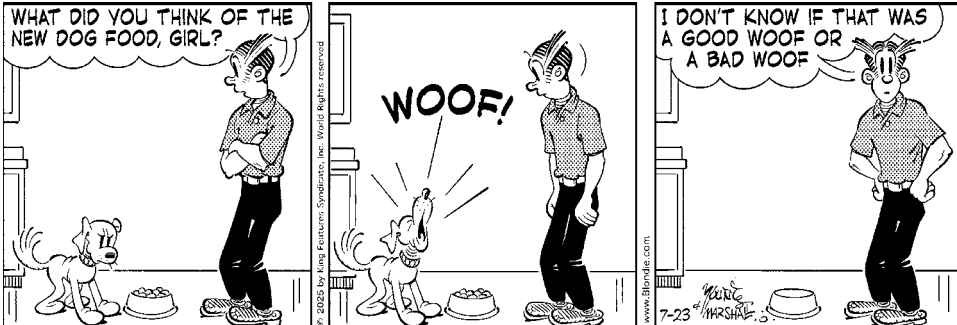
THE GRIZZLELLS



PICKLES



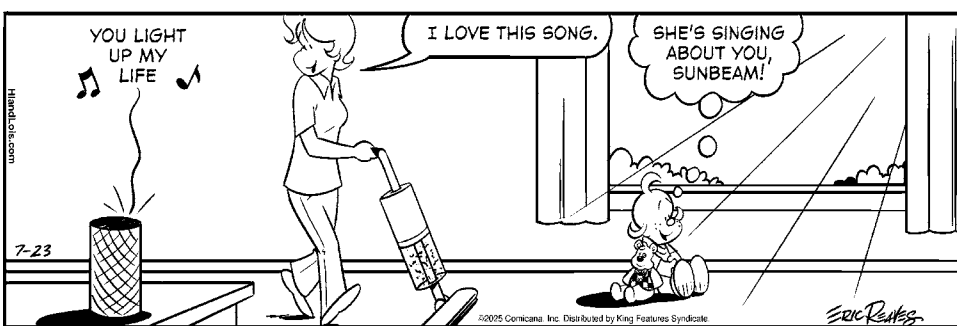
BLONDIE



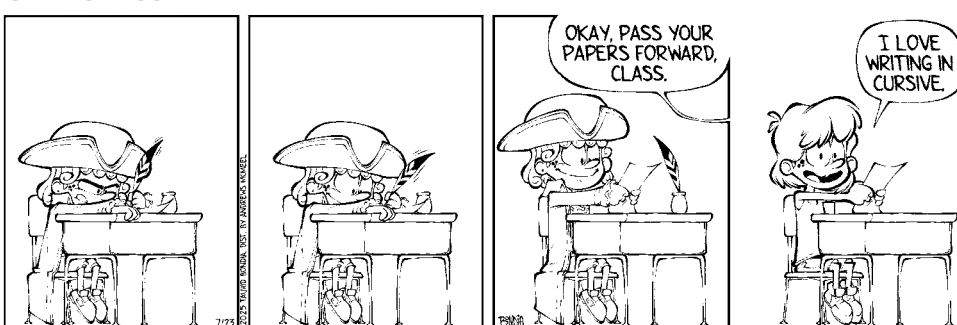
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Awkward Arrangement With Husband



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: I've been reading your column for a long time, and I admire how reasonable and nonjudgmental your advice seems to be.

My husband and I were childhood sweethearts. We are currently separated, and I am concerned that this might lead to divorce.

This is my second marriage. We have two children. Our first child was born in February 2016, and my husband decided to quit his job of 17 years to stay home with the baby and me while I healed. We were married a few months later, in June 2016. I returned to work that September, but not my husband. He hasn't worked a real job -- meaning, any work situation longer than three months -- since the birth of our first child. Our second child was born in May 2019. Then the pandemic hit.

We started living in separate homes in September 2020, and we are still both in New York but each living separately with our mothers. The children live with me and visit him every other weekend.

Hubby had a history of alcoholism. He's been sober over nine months now. I bought a house in December

2021, but he refuses to live with me and my mom. I completely understand that.

I have no interest in being in another intimate relationship with someone else, but I dislike catering to him as a wife and not getting 100% of the benefits of having a husband. No Social Security is building up in his account. I pay for every date night or family trip. I don't even have the pleasure or luxury of waking up to Hubby's face in the morning.

My question is -- how much longer should I wait for him to get a job? Is our separation leading to divorce? -- Anxiously Separated Wife

Dear Anxiously Separated Wife: Whether your separation is leading to divorce is a question you need to ask your husband, and if you don't get a straight answer from him, a therapist. If your husband continues to be evasive, talk

to a lawyer.

It is entirely possible that his withdrawal -- from his family and work -- is nothing more complicated than the disease of alcoholism rearing its ugly head again in his life. You might profit by checking out Al-Anon.

Regardless of what is going on, if he doesn't want to reach out to you, then you can't force him. But what you can do is take care of yourself and your babies. Continue to focus on that, and remember that your husband has not earned the endearing term "hubby" because he is acting the opposite of kind toward his family. He is acting selfish and entitled. He either ships up and gets help, or ships out, and then it would be time for you time move on.

Annie Lane's second anthology -- "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" 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.

COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Rethink your strategy, and you'll devise a long-term plan. Forcing issues will not get you to the finish line, but taking the path with the fewest obstacles will ensure you reach your destination. Apply your energy to physical aspirations. Concentrate on professional advancement and financial gains.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Engage in events that stimulate the mind and motivate you to be and do your best. Working alongside others will encourage new friendships and provide opportunities to experience different lifestyle choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take precautions when dealing with financial, medical or contractual matters. Pay attention to detail and negotiate any changes you want to implement before proceeding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Walk away from anyone demanding too much time, patience and talent. Concentrate on doing more for yourself. Change your work or living space to accentuate your lifestyle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- If you want more money, focus on careers that pay top dollar. Including educational pursuits on your resume when applying for your dream job will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Live, learn and appreciate whatever comes your way. Let your charm work its magic on someone you want to get to know better. Persistence, playfulness and patience will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Take time to rethink your next move. Numerous

outside influences can deter you from achieving what you want. Bide your time, watch how others respond and learn from the experience you gain.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Turn up the volume, direct your energy and play to win. Kindness and confidence will carry you forward with the class and poise of a winner. Believe in yourself and your actions.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- You'll thrive in environments that feature something you enjoy. Refuse to let anyone play with your emotions. Rise above it all, know your worth and use your energy to ensure every move is right on the money.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Pursue your interests. Don't wait for someone to beat you to the finish line. Keep whatever you do simple and affordable, and you will see long-term benefits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Tidy up loose ends and complete whatever task or responsibility you receive from your superiors. What you do and how you do it will be what counts, not the promises or compliments you make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Sticking to facts and figures will help liberate you from the people most likely to attempt to take advantage of you. Making personal improvements will boost your confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Your imagination will be in overdrive. Don't overreact; give others the benefit of the doubt, but keep your guard up just in case. A little charm will go a long way.

- ACROSS**
- Tiny —
 - Sleeveless garment
 - Killed
 - State near Wash.
 - Case for small personal items
 - Poi source
 - Rocky hill
 - Back of the neck
 - Govern
 - Perfectly timed (2 wds.)
 - Colossus of —
 - Before
 - Luis Obispo, California
 - Chinese puzzle
 - Domed dwelling
 - "Dies —"
 - Grizzly
 - Black bird
 - "Ad Astra — Aspera"
 - Lasting mark
 - Cain's brother
 - "If you —"
 - Sartorial specialists
 - Rainbow shape
 - Masculine title
 - Large fabric sign
 - Wading bird
 - Abbr. in footnotes
 - Jacob's twin
 - "— Town"
 - Air
 - Unadulterated
 - Sporty truck
 - Headliner
 - Town in Oklahoma
 - eye to eye
- DOWN**
- Dorothy's dog
 - Metallic element
 - Soldier for hire
 - Top layer
 - Zeta follower
 - Have a meal
 - Rows
 - Muscular
 - Praise
 - Writer — Stanley Gardner
 - Troubles
 - Encourage
 - Tresses
 - Pointers
 - Length x width
 - The rudiments
 - Edible part
 - Toilsome
 - Unmatched thing
 - Painter's paints
 - Macaws
 - Angry
 - Landed on a branch
 - Shop tool
 - Published
 - Thin pancake
 - Drill attachments
 - Touch on
 - Ship of 1492
 - Old instrument
 - Sapling
 - "The — Also Rises"
 - "Exodus" hero

Answer to this puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19			20	21			
	22				23					
24	25			26	27		28	29	30	31
32			33		34			35		
36			37				38			
39			40		41		42			
			43		44		45			
46	47	48				49			50	51
52				53	54	55		56		
57				58				59		
60				61				62		