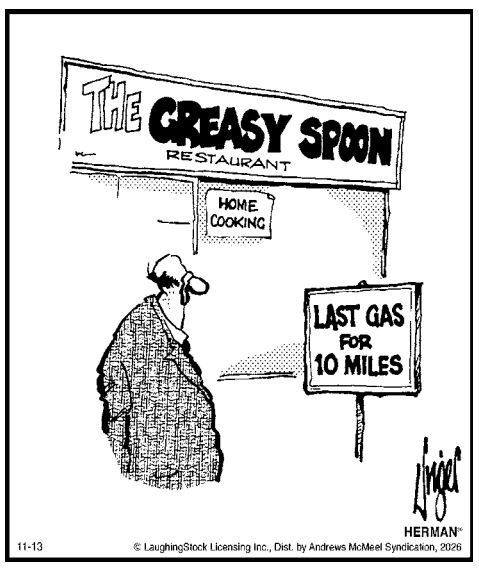
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"No all-you-can-eat buffet for you!"

HERMAN



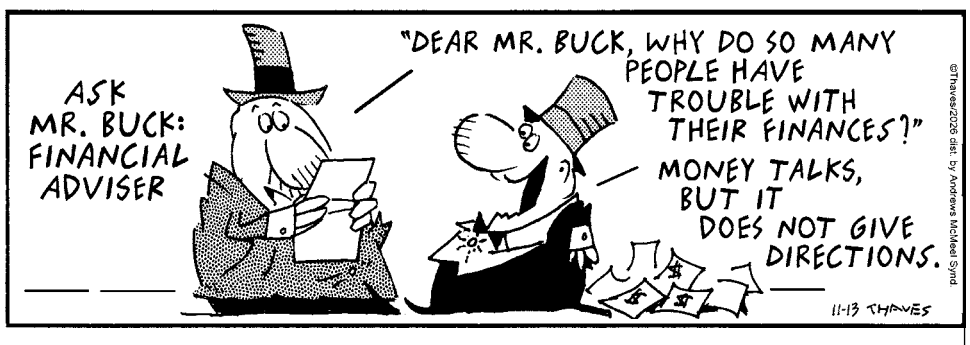
REALITY CHECK



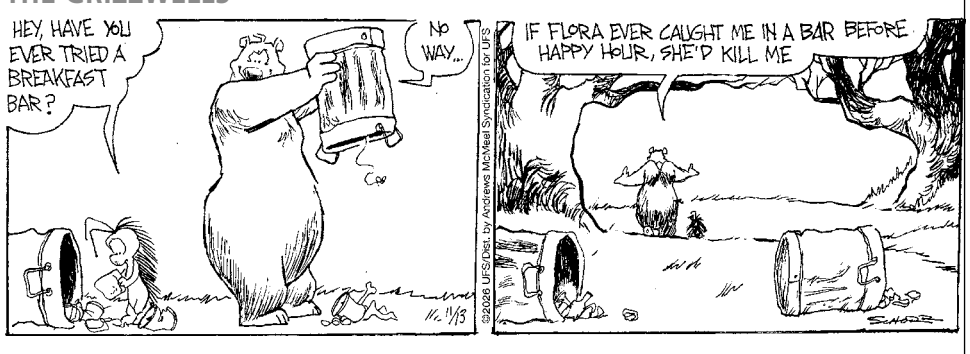
MODERATELY CONFUSED



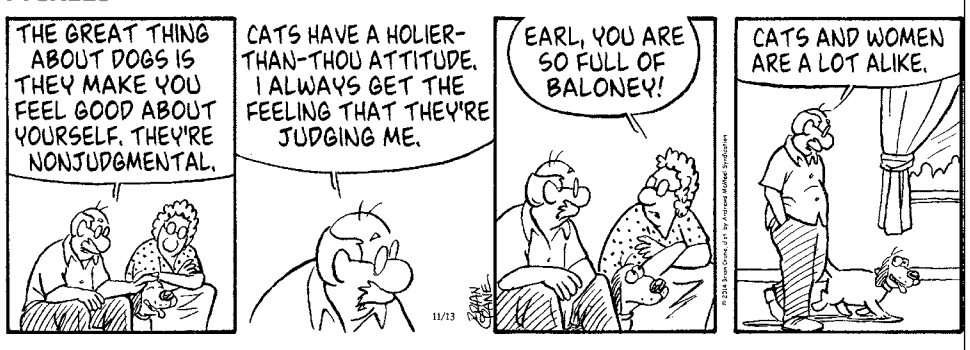
FRANK & ERNEST



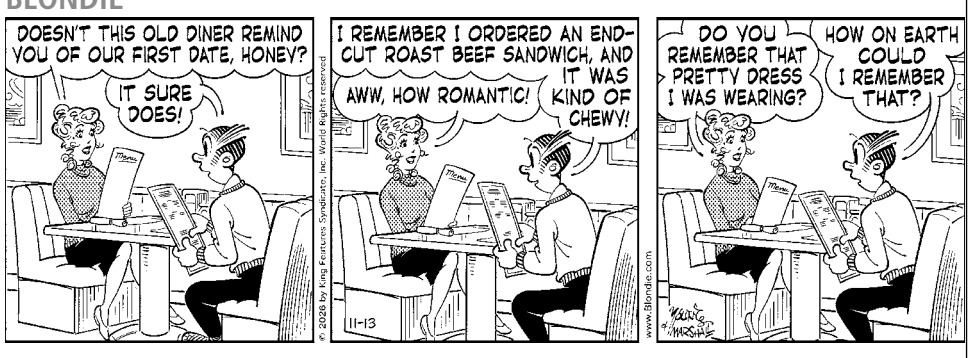
THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



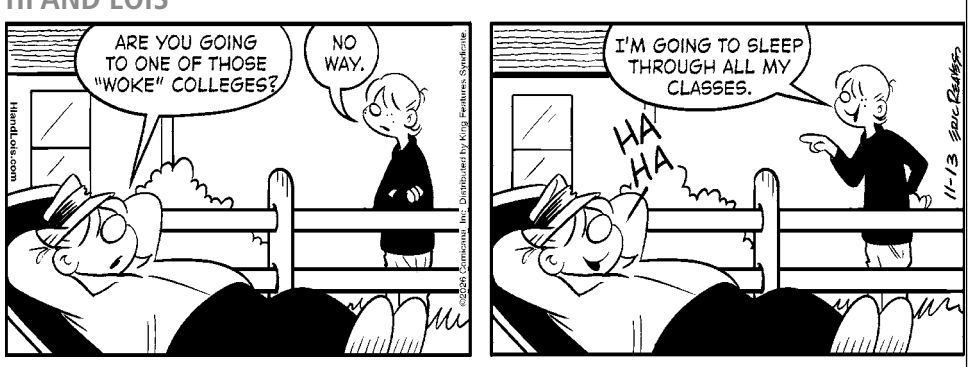
BLONDIE



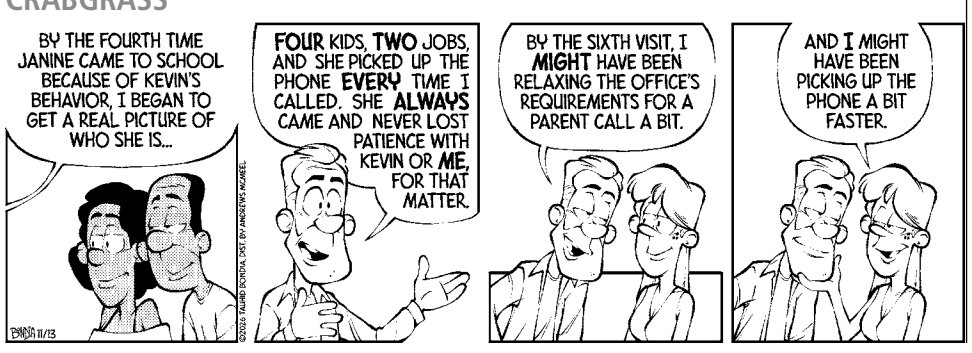
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



When Keepsakes Become Hard To Keep



ANNIE LANE
Dear Annie

Dear Annie: My husband and I are empty nesters, and we've begun the very slow process of downsizing our home. I wasn't expecting it to be so emotional. Going through decades of family memories has been harder than I imagined. I just can't believe how quickly time goes by.

I admit I'm a bit of a hoarder when it comes to my kids. I still have their elementary school art projects, their Halloween costumes, baby clothes and more photographs than you could imagine. Some of it obviously needs to go, but some of it I can't bear to part with.

I don't have room to keep it all. I'd hoped each of my three children would take what belongs to them. In my mind, who wouldn't want a box of childhood memories? But each has told me they have no use for it and no space to store it, which breaks my heart a little. I'm not sure whether to keep pushing, find a way to take it all with me or let it go. -- Getting Sentimental

Dear Getting Sentimental: Reminiscing about your children would make anyone misty; wanting to keep it all is not a flaw.

The solution doesn't have to be all or nothing. Choose a firm number of keepsakes -- maybe five per child -- and let only the best costumes and finger paintings make the cut. Photograph the rest before it goes. If you want, you can make a photo album or a scrapbook you can actually enjoy.

Clearing out the old stuff will make room in your home for new memories.

Dear Annie: Our grandson and his wife have been trying to conceive for 10 years, and they're now in the middle of the adoption process.

Her sister-in-law recently held an adoption baby shower for them. I was invited to attend, but I live 2,000 miles away. While I'm thrilled they will soon be getting a child, they have no idea the age or gender of the child. She went online and registered for everything under the moon and beyond for a newborn. Needless to say, I didn't attend the shower, not only because of the distance involved but because they may not receive a newborn. I did send a nice, generic gift.

Was this shower a bit out of line and premature, or am I just being sensible or old-fashioned? What is the proper etiquette for these types of showers these days? -- Expecting Great-Grandma

Dear Expecting Great-Grandma: There's no hard-and-fast rule about when to hold an adoption shower. Some families celebrate beforehand, while others wait until the child is home. Neither approach is wrong, and the etiquette remains the same: It's the thought that counts.

You were kind to send a gift, and I doubt anyone expected you to travel 2,000 miles to attend in person. As for all those newborn items on the registry, your grandson and his wife may know more about the adoption than they've shared.

Focus less on whether the shower was premature and more on the happy reason behind it. After 10 years of hoping for a child, who can blame them for being excited? The best gift you can give them now is your love and support.

"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

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Speak and react from the heart. Choose honesty, and deal with friends, relatives and neighbors succinctly. It's time to clear up unfinished business and to put the past behind you. The fastest route forward is to make amends and to carve a path forward that is meaningful to you. A no-mess, no-fuss attitude will help you harness what you want out of life and encourage you to be true to yourself moving forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Tone down the rhetoric and remain calm. Keep situations and communication simple, direct and factual. Be cautious when dealing with professional matters. Overreacting will make you look bad.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Broaden your horizons, try something new and engage in activities or events that interest you, and you'll connect with someone who appeals to you. Changes to where or how you live will turn out better than anticipated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Participate in an event that offers insight into something or someone you want to pursue. Getting the lowdown will help you come up with a plan to move forward or offer warning signs that encourage you to pass.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Consider what's doable financially before you commit to changes. Put more time and effort into your physical and financial well-being. A budget will put your mind at ease.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Avoid temptation and overspending. Pay attention to legal documents that are time sensitive. Take a closer look at subscriptions and where your money goes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Proceed with caution. Don't let your emotions flare up, causing stress and conflicts between work and personal matters. Distance yourself from anyone pushing you to do or to pay for something you don't want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Slow down, investigate and get the facts before initiating a change or making a commitment. Don't dominate conversations; you'll gain more if you ask questions and listen attentively.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Do your best to be part of the solution, not the problem. Lend a helping hand, and look out for those less able. Put your energy into strengthening your position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Take care of yourself and your relationships. Choose your words wisely, and offer kind gestures, patience and love. Don't limit what you can do due to fear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Choose a direction and follow through. If you want to get ahead, you must do the legwork. All talk and no action will paint a poor picture of how reliable you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Set your mind on what you want, and put a plan in place that helps you reach your destination. Talk to experts, but don't let their words lead to premature actions. Follow through.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Mixed emotions will lead you down the wrong path. Take a back seat, breathe and give yourself a chance to digest whatever situation you face before making your next move.

ACROSS

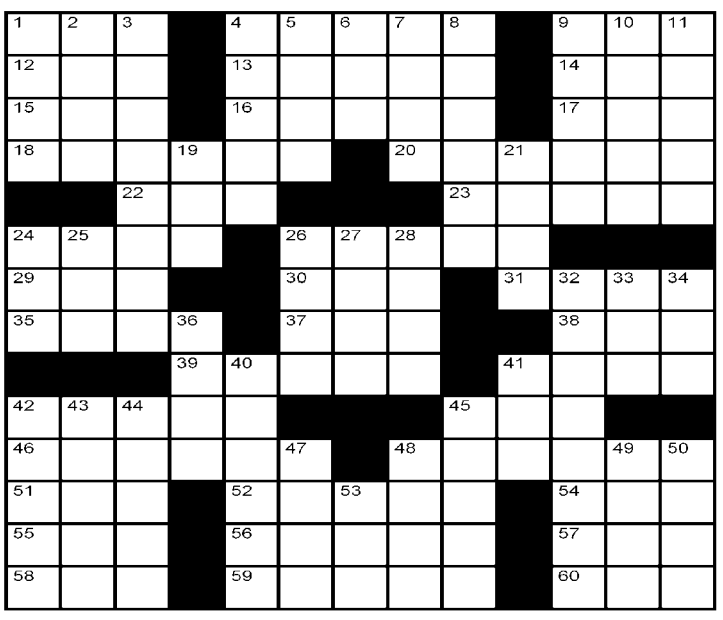
1 Set on fire
4 Actor — Earl Jones
9 That lady
12 Honest —
13 Run off to wed
14 Rotating part
15 Relatives
16 Bar mixer
17 Massage
18 Landed property
20 Clergyman
22 Saute
23 "Message received"
24 Young equine
26 Juliet's love
29 Santa — winds
30 Macaws
31 Imperfection
35 Outdoes
37 Japanese honorific
38 Fire remains
39 Put on
41 Error in print
42 Scrub
45 Mandible
46 Sitting room
48 Swamp
51 Cover
52 Dyeing technique
54 Have a late meal
55 Anger
56 Draw forth
57 Dead heat
58 Rocky hill
59 Hinder
60 Much-used abbr.

DOWN

1 Erie or Huron
2 Sacred bird
3 Opening in a canvas shelter (2 wds.)
4 Wharf
5 — vera
6 Calendar abbr.
7 Long story
8 Free from danger
9 Scrawny animal
10 — couture
11 Glowing coal
19 Skill
21 Housetop
24 — -o'-nine-tails
25 Artist Yoko —
26 Coarse file
27 Exam type
28 Numerous
32 Destroy (2 wds.)
33 Venomous viper
34 "— cares?"
36 First king of Israel
40 Investigated
41 Seaman
42 Divide
43 City on the Nile
44 Command
45 Jester
47 Talk wildly
48 Actor — Faist
49 Business attire
50 Design detail, for short
53 Kid

Answer to this puzzle

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



11-13

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