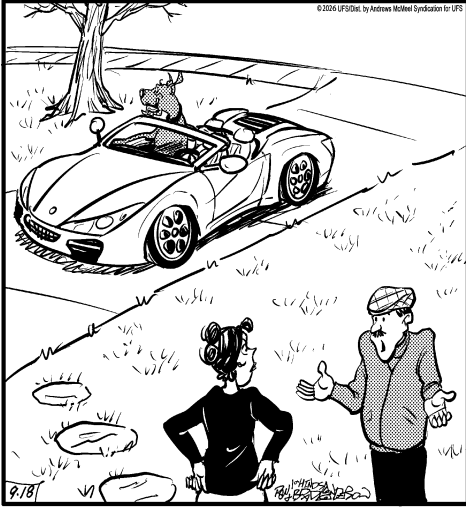


COMICS

MARMADUKE



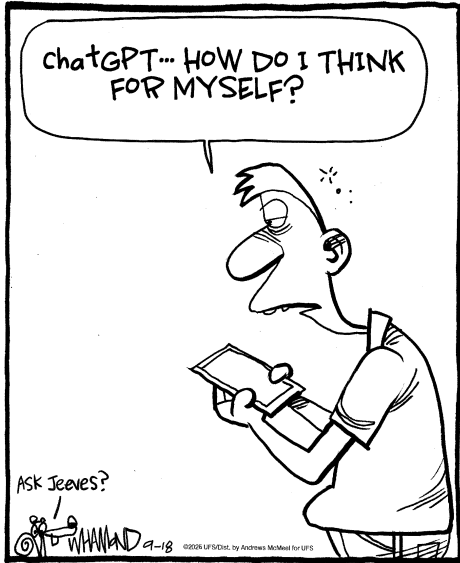
"But I had to get it. It was the only one Marmaduke liked."

HERMAN



"I'm trying to get enough for a lottery ticket."

REALITY CHECK



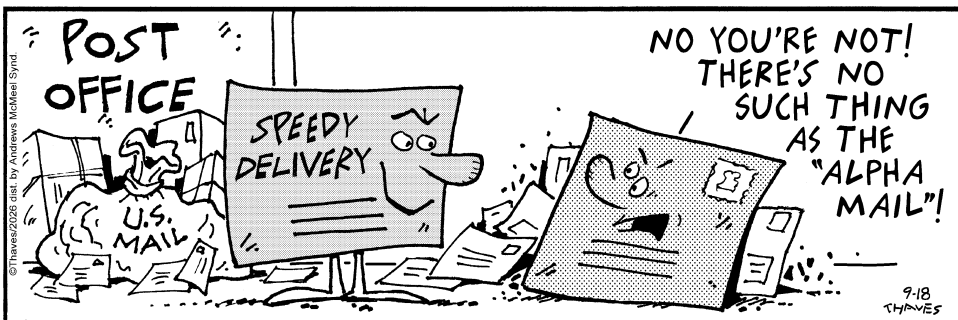
ASK JEEVES?

MODERATELY CONFUSED

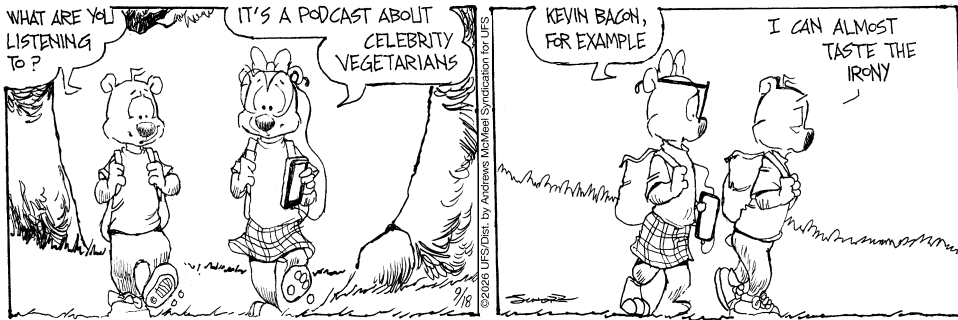


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FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



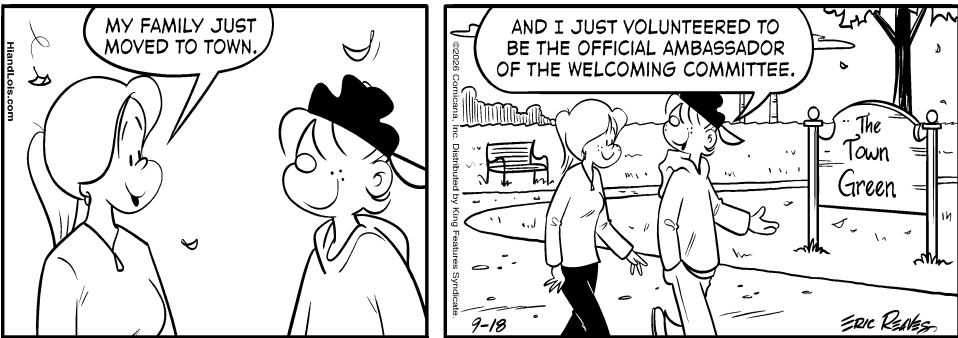
BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Going for Gold in Grief

Dear Annie: I have two sisters, and one of them, “Joanie,” tragically passed away from cancer last year. It’s obviously been hard, but what’s making it harder is my remaining sister. She has always been competitive. And she has somehow turned even grief into a competition.

For example, a few weeks ago I mentioned I hadn’t slept the night before out of sadness, and she shot back, “I haven’t slept *at all* since Joanie died.” I know she’s sad, but I also know this isn’t true.

It was the same at the funeral. She insisted on speaking longest and loudest, then collapsed so dramatically later on that two people had to walk her to her car. I have somehow been roped into this competition for Most Bereaved Sister that I never wanted to be a part of. — Grieving in Second Place

Dear Grieving in Second Place: Nobody hands out medals for suffering, but your sister seems to be channeling her grief into melodramatics. It’s not *wrong* — everybody processes loss differently — but it can certainly be insensitive to the grief of others.

Grieve at your own pace and at your own volume, and let her performance be hers alone to carry. Joanie isn’t



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

keeping score, and neither is anybody else.

Dear Annie: When my mother passed away, she left my sister with a few beautiful pieces of jewelry, and I got some too — a brooch, her pearl earrings, her wedding band. I’ve always treasured mine, but I’ll admit I envied my sister’s haul: a sapphire ring and a set of silver bangles that suited her perfectly.

Last month, I was over at her house for dinner and noticed she wasn’t wearing the bangles. This was strange — she usually wore them almost every day. When I asked why, she admitted, sort of sheepishly, she had sold them to an antique shop!

I was floored. Those were one of the few things we had left of our mother. I would have cherished those bracelets forever. I would have even bought them from her had she given me the chance! I know it’s just jewelry, but I can’t shake how upset I feel every time I think

about it. — Betrayed

Dear Betrayed: You’re allowed to be hurt, and your sister deserves to hear it plainly. Tell her what those bangles meant to you, and ask if that antique shop still has them. Stranger things have happened.

If you can’t find the bangles, mourn them if you must. But remember that jewelry can always be lost, sold or melted down. What your mother actually left the two of you can’t be pawned.

“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: Put your differences and emotions aside, and be detailed and realistic regarding matters of importance this year. How you divide your time and the effort you put in will be what count and bring you the rewards you are hoping for. Refuse to let the changes others make curb your desire to do your own thing. It’s time to satisfy your needs instead of putting everyone else first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Put your plans on hold until you have everything in place. Acting prematurely will cost you as the day unfolds. Pay attention to detail, and get what you want in writing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Learning from past relationships will help you become a better partner and encourage you to make wiser decisions. Spend more time listening and less trying to charm others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Less anger and distaste toward those you encounter and more strength and discipline toward becoming the best version of yourself will pay off. Say no to temptation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Broaden your horizons, connections and goals. Choose what makes you happy and who you enjoy spending time with most, and adjust your calendar to ensure you schedule what’s most meaningful to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- No matter who you share time with or what you do, enthusiasm will make the time spent more vibrant, interesting and entertaining. Form close ties with people who bring out the best in you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Think about

what you want to do next. Build your future using your skills, experience and intellectual talents, and you’ll find your niche. Set up interviews.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Sensitive issues will make communication difficult. Be bold and direct, and fact-check information before you follow through. Participate in events or activities that encourage you to use your skills.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Gather information. Whether you research, attend a lecture or sign up for what interests you, it will lead to something that stimulates your mind. Share your thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Take better care of yourself, your relationships and your reputation. Work from home, if possible, and deal with institutions. Pursue any financial help available that can help you with home improvements.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Go where the action is and experience the excitement of being part of a movement you believe in. Your input will be welcome, and what you take on will help you gain insight into something you want to pursue.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Spend more time and effort on home and personal care. A routine will help you reach and maintain healthy goals that encourage you to look, live and feel your best. Be honest with yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Life lessons can be the most effective way to redesign how you live and what you do next. Be open to suggestions and eager to try something new. Your attitude will set the stage for a positive alternative.

ACROSS

- 1 “Oops! ... I — It Again”
- 4 Family docs
- 7 Ponder
- 11 Debtor’s letters
- 12 Worry
- 13 Oklahoma city
- 14 Abbr. on a map
- 15 Corporate emblem
- 16 Sand hill
- 17 Lessen (2 wds.)
- 19 Bleach
- 21 “You said it!”
- 23 Fall mo.
- 24 Smooth transition
- 27 “To — is human ...”
- 29 Newt
- 32 Quid — quo
- 33 Flabbergast
- 34 Regret
- 35 The “I”
- 36 Mongrel

DOWN

- 37 Curve shape
- 38 Food fish
- 39 Metal source
- 40 Officer in training
- 42 Snooze
- 44 Portal
- 46 Wound about
- 49 Cause to act
- 53 Endorse
- 54 State near Ark.
- 56 Flop
- 57 Tennis great
- 58 Perceived
- 59 Japanese sash
- 60 Soaks, as flax
- 61 Cup handle
- 62 “— bygones ...”

Answer to this puzzle

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

- 5 Pin
- 6 Pack
- 7 Battlefield doc
- 8 Not spoken aloud
- 9 Trig function
- 10 “East of —”
- 12 Logging channel
- 18 — Claire, Wisconsin
- 20 Trumpet
- 22 Earned as profit
- 24 Design detail, for short
- 25 Therefore
- 26 Words spoken late in the evening
- 28 Furrow
- 30 Firecracker part
- 31 Exam
- 33 California’s Big —
- 36 Be gloomy
- 40 Sir Arthur — Doyle
- 41 Curved path
- 43 Queen — lace
- 45 Cargo ship
- 46 Russian ruler of old (Var.)
- 47 Sapiient
- 48 Prescribed amount
- 50 Graven image
- 51 Toothpaste holder
- 52 Redact
- 55 Mauna —