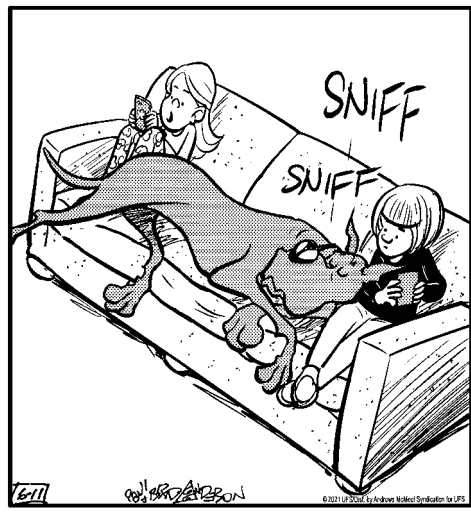


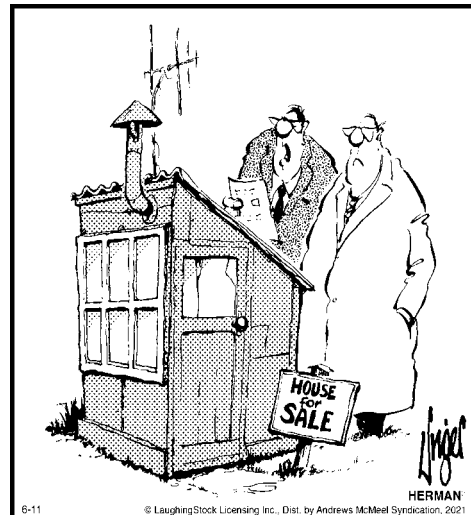
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"Even when he's asleep, he stays alert for snacks."

HERMAN



"Two bedrooms."

REALITY CHECK



MODERATELY CONFUSED



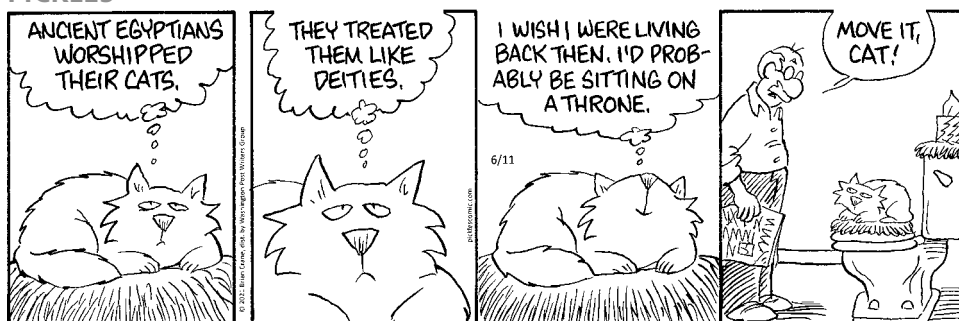
FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZLELLS



PICKLES



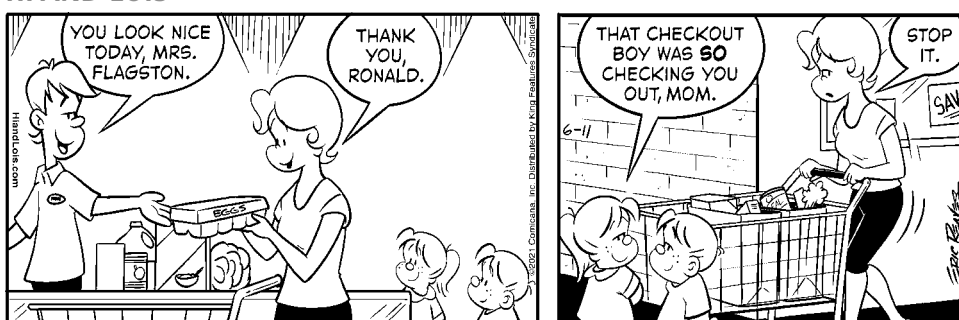
BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



DILBERT



Let her go

Dear Annie: I am a man in my late 50s. Until recently, I was in a long-distance relationship with a woman -- let's call her "Maria" -- who lives about a thousand miles away from me. Last month, out of the blue, she accused me of cheating on her with her cousin, who lives about 45 minutes away from me. This is 100% not true. I met the cousin only once, when Maria was in town for a visit last year. I have not seen or communicated with her cousin since!



ANNIE LANE
DEAR ANNIE

Because of these accusations and Maria's insistence that she is right, sadly, we have split. I love Maria, and I have always told her that and showed her in every way I could. We haven't talked in weeks, since our conversations kept ending in arguments. She says she has "proof," which she has yet to show. She absolutely cannot have proof, because it didn't happen! But how do I prove that something did not happen? Maria and I talked or texted every night, and I told her to call me or video chat me anytime to show I was alone at night. In past relationships, Maria has had trust issues and cheating partners, so I'm thinking that might be where this is coming from. Is there any hope? -- Wrongfully Accused

reason to believe such a thing. Either way, my advice is to let her go. A loving partner doesn't make baseless, hurtful accusations.

Dear Annie: I am new to online dating. I started up with it after my husband's sudden death last year. He died just before the COVID-19 shutdowns began, which left me feeling even more isolated and sad. I moved away from my hometown to be closer to my oldest son, but I don't know anyone in this town aside from him.

Being so lonely, a few months ago I started going on Facebook and a dating app to try to meet men. I connected with one man I was interested in. Instead of stopping there, though, I kept chatting around and connected with seven more guys. They all say that they'll love me forever, but not one has come to meet me in person yet. I'd prefer to have a boyfriend whom I could actually meet in person.

I like all of them, and I love something about each of them, but I feel torn, since I can only marry one man. I hate to hurt seven men. Do you think that I

made a big mistake by talking to eight men? I feel bad that I've been holding up their lives just to break their hearts. -- Lonely Widow

Dear Lonely: I'm so sorry for the loss of your husband. It's wonderful you've taken initiative to reach out to others to alleviate your sense of isolation. But you won't find real companionship in men who can't even be bothered to meet you in person (and who could be scammers).

Rather than wasting your time chatting with these men online, get outside and get to know your new town. Join a book club, walking group, tennis clinic -- anything that piques your interest. The point is to plant your seed and let a social life take root.

If you do decide to try meeting men online, stick to well-reputed dating sites such as Match.com, and when you think you have a connection with someone, promptly make plans to meet in person in a coffee shop or other public place.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- 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 2021 CREATORS.COM

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Do things your way this year. Refuse to let someone step in and take control. Have a plan in mind and a schedule in place. Leave nothing to chance or open for criticism. Face challenges head-on, and don't lose sight of the big picture. Get in the game and play to win.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Do what you do best. Own the stage instead of letting others crowd your space. It's time to embrace what you enjoy doing most and take on a leadership role. Think big, but live within your means.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Look for the silver lining in any situation you face; you'll find a way to parlay it into something valuable. A physical change or an image update will result in positive attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Pay attention. Observe what others are doing. Don't rely on others to do things for you. Invest time and money in yourself. Put more effort into the way you look and upgrading your qualifications.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Display what you have to offer, and interest will grow. Making a move in a new and exciting direction will give you the boost you need to resurrect something you enjoy doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Keep gathering information. Being tech-savvy and knowing what's possible will give you the advantage you need to avoid getting involved in a risky venture. Be wary of temptation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Expand your interests, knowledge and flexibility. Take precautions to ensure you stay healthy and fit.

Put your energy into educational pursuits and improving the way you manage your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Your emotions will lead you in one direction and your common sense in another. Stick to the guidelines suggested when dealing with financial, health or legal matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You'll gravitate toward situations that are unique, sensitive and changeable. Be open regarding your feelings, and ask questions if someone's response is confusing. Romance is on the rise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Put your money, time and effort into building a solid home base. How you deal with domestic issues will determine how much you achieve. Set your standards and goals high and keep striving.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Safe socializing and networking are favored, as long as they don't subject you or your loved ones to unpredictable situations. Contact someone who shows interest in the unique way you do things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You'll gain perspective regarding what's possible and what isn't. A change in direction looks promising. Reach out to someone who can offer sound advice or help you get ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Reach out to people who can help you reach your goal. A personal change will lift your spirits and give you the confidence you need to take on a new challenge. Love is featured.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

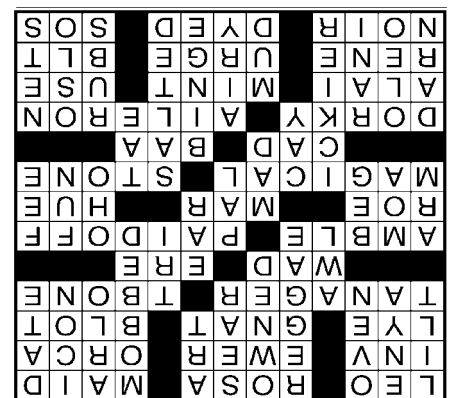
- Tolstoy's name
- Santa —, Calif.
- Apron wearer
- Packing doc.
- Still-life subject
- Porpoise relative
- Caustic solution
- Biting fly
- Stain
- Pretty songbird
- Carnivore's delight (hyph.)
- Gob of bubblegum
- Previous
- Leisurely walk
- Brought a big return (2 wds.)
- Fish eggs
- Sully
- and cry
- Enchanting music
- Rock
- Scoundrel

- Lamb's plaint
- Socially inept
- Airplane flap
- Kyrgyzstan range
- Tea herb
- Do something with
- Magritte's name
- Try to persuade
- Deli order
- Roulette color
- Did a salon job
- Distress call

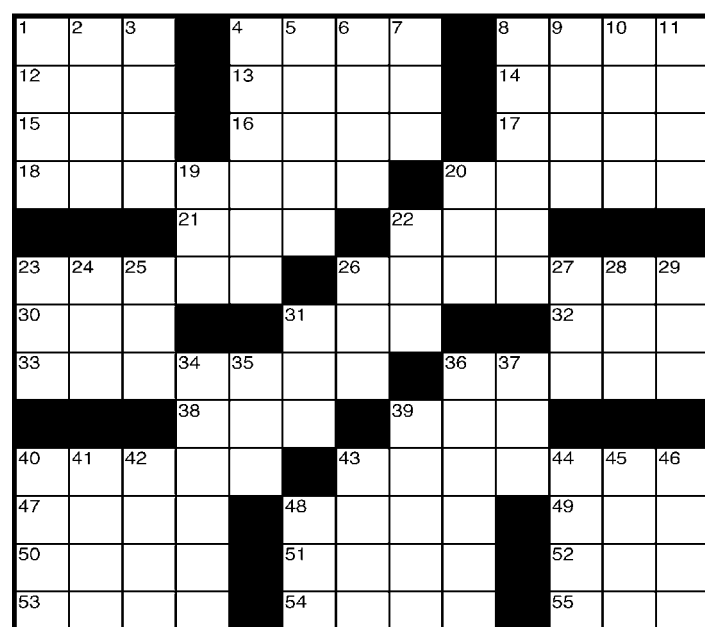
DOWN

- Cheery tone
- "Watermark" chateaux
- Range part
- Jamaican music
- Bought
- Char

Answer to this puzzle



6-11-21 © 2021 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS



- PC screen image
- Evening out
- Hole puncher
- Star Pictures
- Corn serving
- Upper limb
- Kiwi's extinct cousin
- Canine command
- Bosom buddy
- Melodramatic cry
- Enjoyable
- Cost
- Infuriated
- More yucky
- Coral island
- Seasoned
- kwon do
- Spree
- Fix a hole
- Mock butter
- Asian princess
- Breezy
- Gives a massage
- Ibsen's home
- Tennis court dividers
- Soggy ground