

COMICS

MARMADUKE



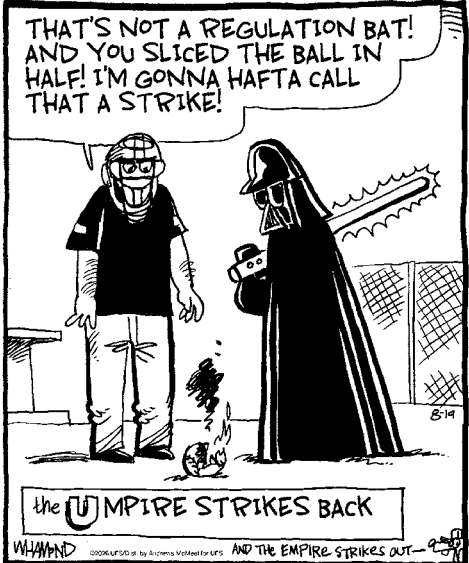
“Have you noticed how he gobbles his food so he can run to our house and beg for dinner?”

HERMAN

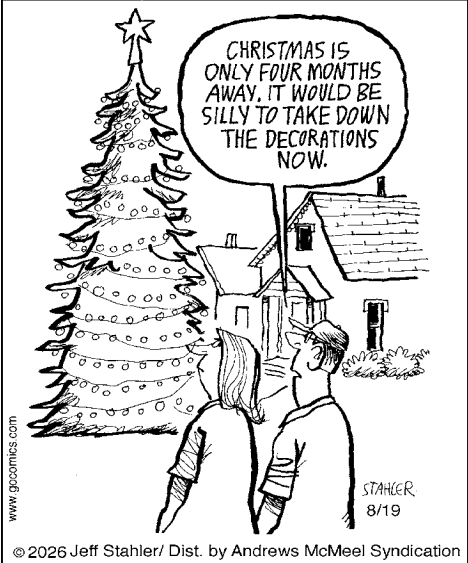


“If you’re *that* worried about catching it, sleep in the KITCHEN.”

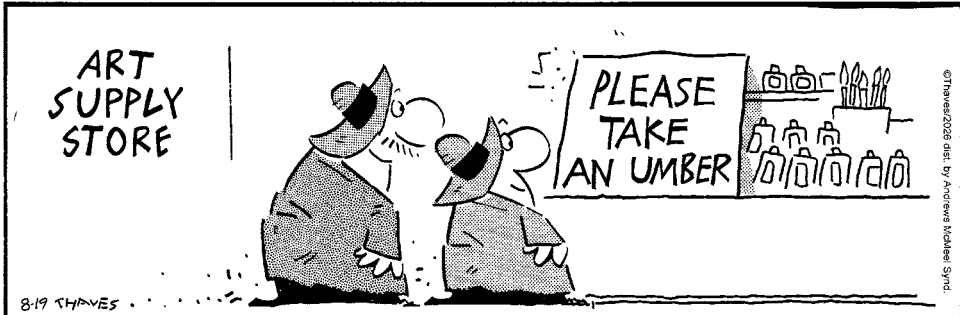
REALITY CHECK



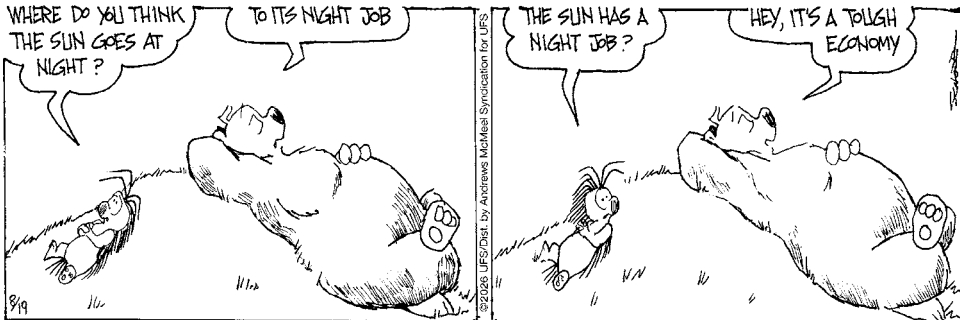
MODERATELY CONFUSED



FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZWELLS



PICKLES



BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Dispirited Da Vinci

Dear Annie: I recently turned 27 and feel as if life is just passing me by. I try so many different things to find career opportunities and to meet other people but nothing leads to anything, and I am always stuck back at square one.

It seems like nobody ever gives me a chance (social and economic). Is there a way to move on in life without sacrificing your identity? Right now, I’m terribly alone. Outside of a few family members, I have no social life, no love life and no career opportunities. It wouldn’t be so bad if I could just have one of those pillars. I’m stuck in a small town where I haven’t met anyone my age since high school.

I’ve participated in and studied politics, history, theater, film, acting, writing, literature, journalism, economics, music, songwriting, music business, building inspection, psychology, the Bible, athletics and general business. I’m a better person for being involved with these various subjects but they haven’t led me anywhere. It hasn’t gotten me anything or anybody. There’s got to be more to life than being the wrong person in the wrong time and place.

– Lonely Renaissance Man in Training.
Dear Renaissance Man: Be kinder to yourself. You are young and have so much life



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

ahead of you. When reading your question, all I could hear was someone who believes that he will always come out the loser, when I see someone who has a great deal to be proud of. Leonardo Da Vinci, one of the giants of the Renaissance, was an artist, architect, scientist, philosopher and many other professions. Knowing a lot about different subjects is a great thing – so long as you know a lot about yourself. I would encourage you to speak with a therapist. One of my absolute favorite quotes came to mind as I was considering your letter:

“The most interesting people I know didn’t know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives; some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don’t. Get plenty of calcium. Be kind to your knees; you’ll miss them when they’re gone. Maybe you’ll marry, maybe you won’t; maybe you’ll have children, maybe you won’t; maybe you’ll divorce at 40, and maybe you’ll dance the funky chicken on your 75th

wedding anniversary. Whatever you do, don’t congratulate yourself too much or berate yourself either – your choices are half chance, so are everybody else’s. Enjoy your body; use it every way you can. Don’t be afraid of it, or what other people think of it; it’s the greatest instrument you’ll ever own. Dance, even if you have nowhere to do it, but in your own living room. Read the directions, even if you don’t follow them. Do NOT read beauty magazines; they will only make you feel ugly. Get to know your parents; you never know when they’ll be gone for good. Be nice to your siblings; they are the best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.” – Mary Schmich

“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: Take the high road. If you let outside influences set in, worry and emotions will disrupt your world. Know when to walk away, and learn how to comfort yourself and to refocus your energy on getting positive results. Put a strict plan in place and enforce discipline to ensure you not only sidestep negativity, but you also harness the strength and courage to enforce positive energy into everything you pursue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Pause, monitor what’s happening and resist temptation. The information you receive will be misleading. Pay attention to taking care of responsibilities that can ease stress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – References will pay off in conversations. Managing details with precision will help you handle any unexpected changes you encounter. Look for the positive in everything and everyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Making emotional purchases are apparent. Put your credit cards away, and avoid malls and places that tempt you to spend. You can have fun without going overboard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Keep your thoughts to yourself. Expressing your opinion will draw you into something you will regret. Pay more attention to how you look and feel and how you handle your investments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Consider your budget for self-help or lifestyle improvements, and pursue something that interests you. Engaging in physical activities or educational pursuits will improve your awareness about health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – If you

- ACROSS
- 1 Did the backstroke
- 5 Wise
- 9 Greek vowel
- 12 “Lady in the —”
- 13 Streetcar
- 14 Kitchen item
- 15 Running shoe brand
- 16 Rights org.
- 17 Fall mo.
- 18 Offer
- 20 Trousers
- 22 Table scrap
- 23 Painful
- 24 Circus performer
- 27 Honor with a party
- 29 Burst
- 30 Looked after (2 wds.)
- 34 Unconditional
- 37 Anger
- 38 Letters
- 39 Blended
- 41 Math course
- 43 Uncle —
- 44 Kind of monkey
- 46 Cowardly
- 50 George Gershwin’s brother
- 51 Muffle
- 53 Turnstile
- 54 Actor — Beatty
- 55 “— go brag!”
- 56 Sufficient, formerly
- 57 Essential
- 58 Denomination
- 59 Dispatched

- DOWN
- 1 Louver
- 2 Move back and forth
- 3 Related
- 4 Pasture
- 5 Commence
- 6 Rainbow shape
- 7 Some square dancers
- 8 Strive to equal
- 9 Historical period
- 10 In poor taste
- 11 Insects
- 19 Directional suffix
- 21 Scored 100 on
- 24 Books pro
- 25 High tennis shot
- 26 Harvest goddess
- 27 Singer — Singer — Domino
- 28 Sooner than
- 30 Pool stick
- 31 Repair
- 32 Mine’s output
- 33 Wine type
- 35 Singer — Redding
- 36 Peas and beans
- 39 Damage
- 40 Pictures
- 41 “— Men and a Baby”
- 42 Prepare
- 43 Fragrance
- 44 Skating surface
- 45 Certain
- 47 Wind indicator
- 48 School in England
- 49 Salamander
- 52 Twitching

reach out to someone you lost touch with, you will rediscover some of the people, places and pastimes you miss. Exploring the past will help you revise your to-do list.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Take the road less traveled. Explore what’s new, exciting and available to you. A change will make you aware of what you’ve been missing. Focus on getting along with others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Mingling and observing what others do and say will lead to positive personal changes that will draw interest from those who can help you transform your lifestyle into something that brings you greater peace.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Chill; take a little “me” time. Eliminate what’s causing you distress, and change your schedule to accommodate the projects and pastimes that make you feel good about yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Take a moment to contemplate the consequences before you act. Your energy will serve a better purpose if you jump into learning and finding out what you enjoy and who you want to spend your time with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Explore all avenues, and confront situations that require an adjustment before you carry on. Choose the journey that appeals to you most, and live in the moment. Update your look.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Honesty begins with you. Rate yourself, consider your concerns and address issues that will give you the boost and confidence you need to live life by your rules. Pay attention to people.

Answer to this puzzle

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