COMICS

MARMADUKE



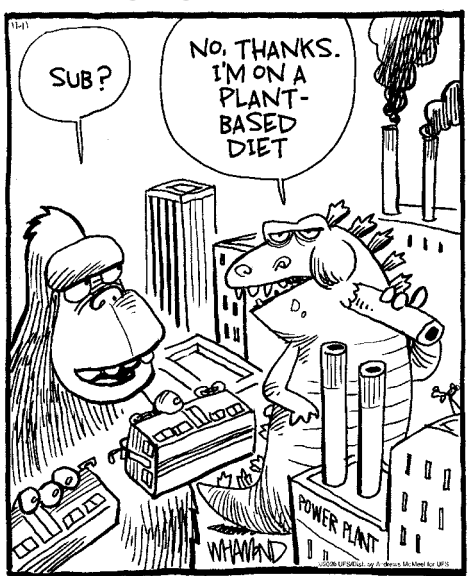
"You're the one who did not want to get a little dog that would get on your lap, remember?"

HERMAN



"He said I have three more free karate lessons."

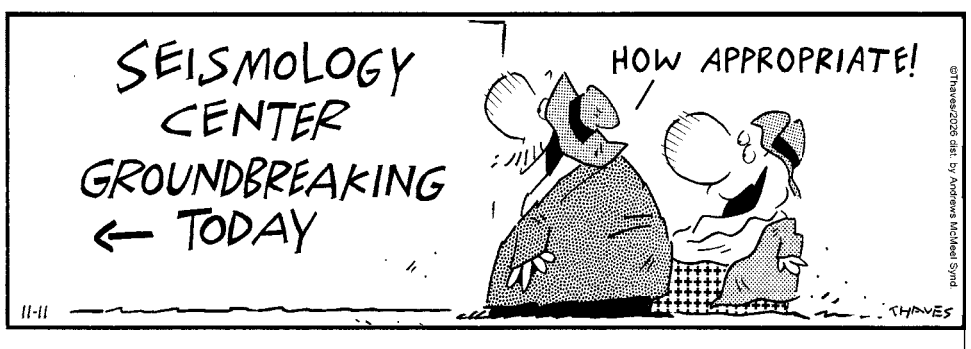
REALITY CHECK



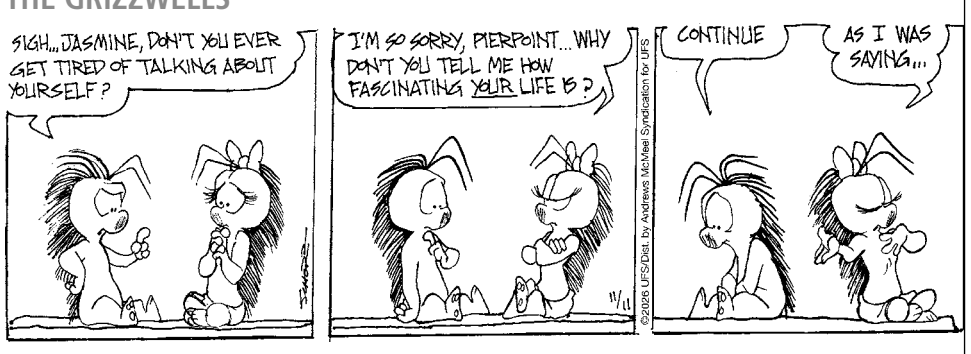
MODERATELY CONFUSED



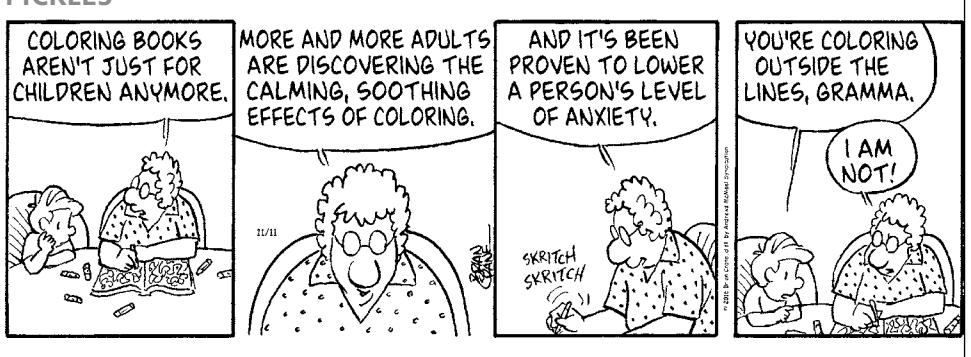
FRANK & ERNEST



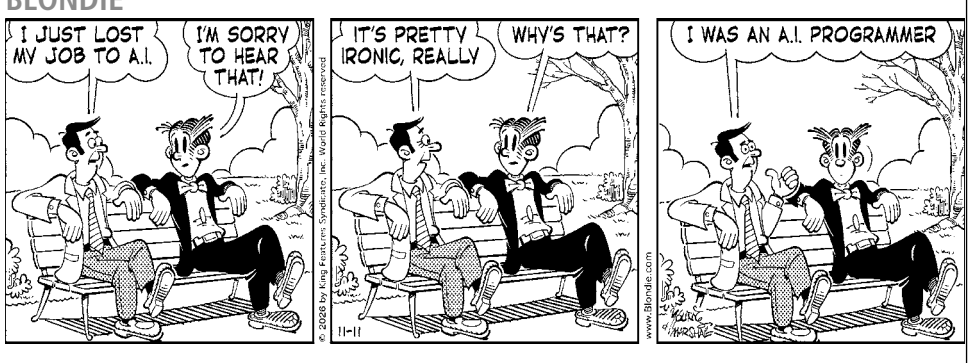
THE GRIZZWELLS



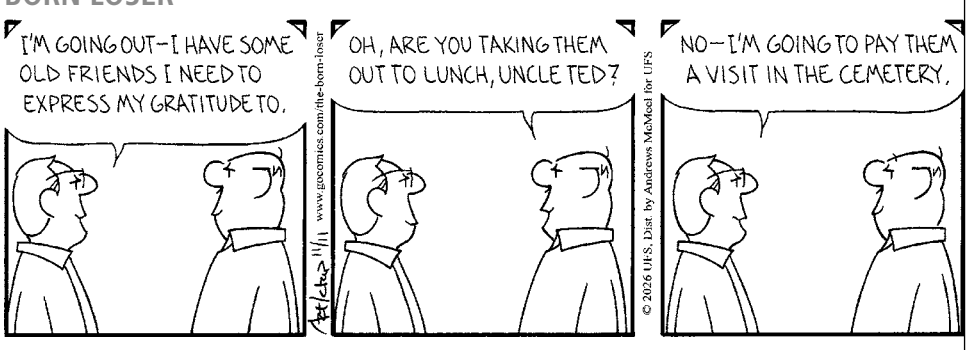
PICKLES



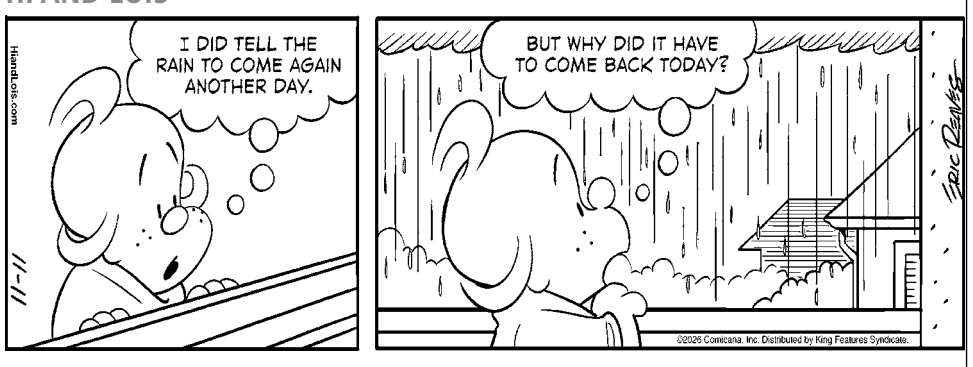
BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



Exhausted Over Caring for Elderly Mother



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: I am 62 years old and the oldest of four siblings. For the past three years, I've been the primary caregiver for our 87-year-old mother, who has become increasingly frail and can no longer manage on her own.

I love my mother dearly, but I'm exhausted. I take her to doctor's appointments, manage her medications, buy her groceries, pay her bills and make sure she has dinner every night. I also work part-time and have a husband, children and grandchildren who barely see me anymore.

What makes this so frustrating is that I have three siblings, and two of them live less than 30 minutes away. My brother always seems to have a golf game or a business trip, and my sister says she's too busy with her grandchildren. Yet somehow, they both find time for vacations and weekends away.

Last month, I asked my sister if she could stay with Mom for one weekend so my husband and I could celebrate our anniversary. She told me she couldn't because she had dinner plans with friends. I ended up canceling our trip.

The final straw came at a family dinner when my brother announced that I was "lucky" to spend so much time with Mom. I nearly fell out of my chair. He then suggested I should be grateful because I'd probably inherit more of her belongings. I don't want her belongings. I want a day off!

Whenever I bring up the subject, my siblings accuse me of keeping score or remind me that I chose to take on this responsibility. But I never chose to do it alone. I simply stepped in when Mom needed help, and everyone else stepped back.

I don't want to resent my siblings, and I certainly don't want my mother to feel like a burden. But I'm beginning to feel angry all the time, and I'm afraid that resentment will destroy our family.

How do I get my siblings to understand that caring for our mother is everyone's responsibility, not just mine? -- The Exhausted Daughter

Dear Exhausted Daughter: You didn't volunteer to become the family caregiver. You stepped up because your mother needed you and your siblings did not step up to help.

It's time for a family meeting. Don't just ask for help. Be specific. Tell your siblings which days you need covered and what responsibilities they can take on. If they can't give their time, perhaps they can contribute toward hiring some help.

Do not feel guilty about needing a break. You can't take good care of your mother if you're running yourself into the ground.

Your siblings may never fully appreciate everything you do, but don't let their lack of gratitude turn into bitterness. Remember, you can love your mother with all your heart without sacrificing your own health and happiness.

Being a good daughter doesn't mean you have to be the only one.

"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. Channel any pent-up energy you harbor into something constructive this year. Hostility will get you nowhere, and temptation and excess will set you back. Concentrate on what's meaningful, whatâ€™s insightful and what can carry you forward with dignity and grace. Take the initiative to live a healthy lifestyle. Pay attention to how you look and feel, and stick to the rules and regulations to avoid penalties.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put your plan in place, and follow instructions mindfully. Turn what you enjoy doing most into something fruitful. Don't allow anger to consume you when a positive attitude and spreading joy are the paths to victory.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Sidestep things that don't interest you. Time is precious, and making sure you can pursue what accommodates your desires will set you on the right path. Personal gains and growth are within reach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Live up to your promises, and pursue your goals. Maintaining a stellar reputation will depend on who you associate with and how factual you are. Leave nothing to the imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Judging will come back to haunt you. Keep your thoughts to yourself, listen and take notes, and concentrate on home and self-improvements rather than dealing with others. Look for opportunities to find happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Be careful not to let your emotions infiltrate your professional or financial affairs. Rely on your intelligence, go through the proper channels and remain calm. When in doubt, refrain from making a move.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Following your heart, adding to your credentials or heading into a position that gives you the chance to pursue something that makes you feel good about yourself and what you achieve is apparent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Keep a low profile. Take care of your responsibilities, and leave nothing unfinished. Too much of anything will leave you in a vulnerable position. Keep your life simple.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Concentrate on gathering information, formulating a plan and being secretive regarding your intentions. Once you have every detail in place, carry on with confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Aim to simplify your life. Think twice before you bring up issues that are none of your business. Distance yourself from responsibilities that don't belong to you, and focus on pastimes you enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Physical activity will help you blow off steam. Keep busy, avoid confrontations and look for positive ways to express your talents. Be careful how you handle domestic situations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Direct your energy into fact-finding and assembling a plan. The less time you spend dealing with drama, the easier it will be to use common sense and do what's best for you.

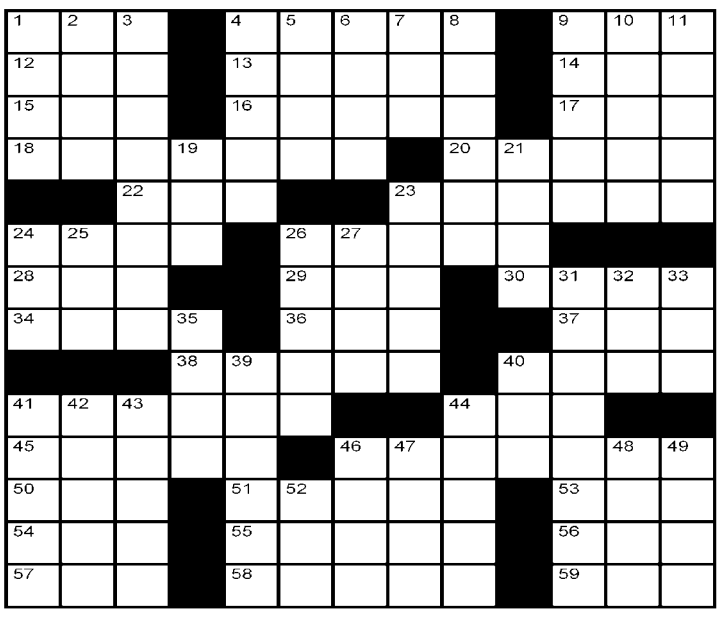
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Don't hesitate to change direction. Learning something new will be rejuvenating and spark your interest in something you find fascinating. Rethink your space and how you can make it work for you.

ACROSS

1 Sound booster
4 Like a bull in a — shop
9 Beige
12 Tavern
13 Also-ran
14 Fuss
15 Signal
16 Knight's protection
17 Confucian path
18 Vatican's — Chapel
20 Particulars
22 Doctrine
23 Disinclined
24 Art movement
26 Ell
28 Frost
29 "The — Bang Theory"
30 Those people
34 State of disorganization
36 Porter
37 Before
38 Stand for artwork
40 Catch on
41 Go over again
44 Cul-de- —
45 Kilns
46 Actor — Broderick
50 Sailor
51 Application
53 Actress — West
54 Peculiar
55 — the Riveter
56 Deadly snake
57 In medias —
58 Praise
59 Openwork fabric

DOWN

1 Fundamentals
2 Hawaiian island
3 Leads a meeting
4 Assertion
5 Trumpet
6 "Woe — —!"
7 Role in "The Matrix"
8 Get to
9 Spud
10 John Quincy —
11 Loop in a rope
19 Airport screening org.
21 Written words
23 Cherub
24 Poorly lit
25 Playing card
26 Disconcert
27 Long river in Africa
31 Thuggish assistant
32 Time
33 Actress — Ryan
35 Actor — Connery
39 Convince
40 Perched
41 Helicopter blade
42 Sidestep
43 Animal groups
44 "Man of —"
46 Sail support
47 Exchange fee
48 Facilitate
49 Sobbed
52 Boston Red —



11-11

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Answer to this puzzle

