

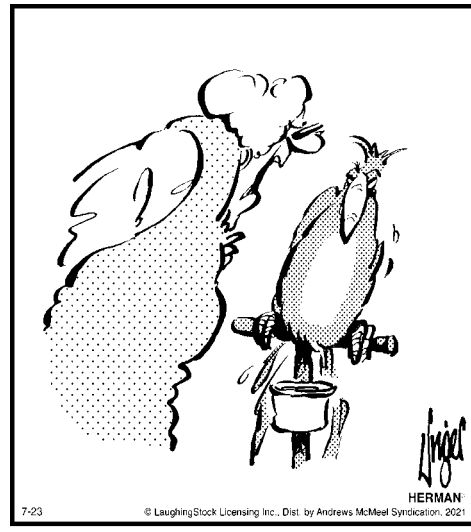
COMICS

MARMADUKE



"It looks like we have a standoff."

HERMAN



"Where did you learn a word like that?"

REALITY CHECK



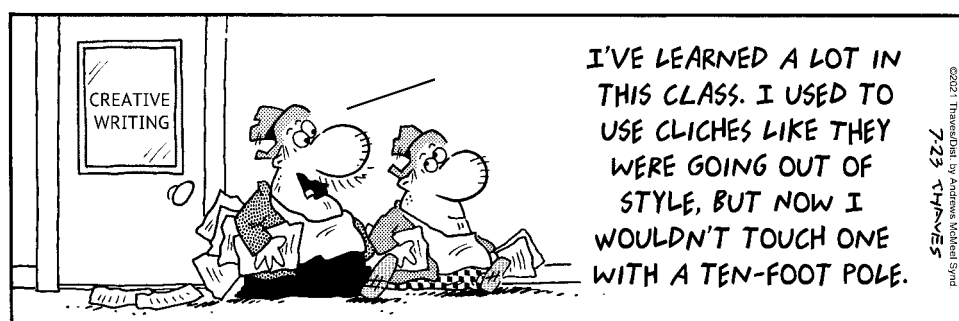
LESSER-KNOWN SUPERHEROES: **SOCCERMAN**

MODERATELY CONFUSED



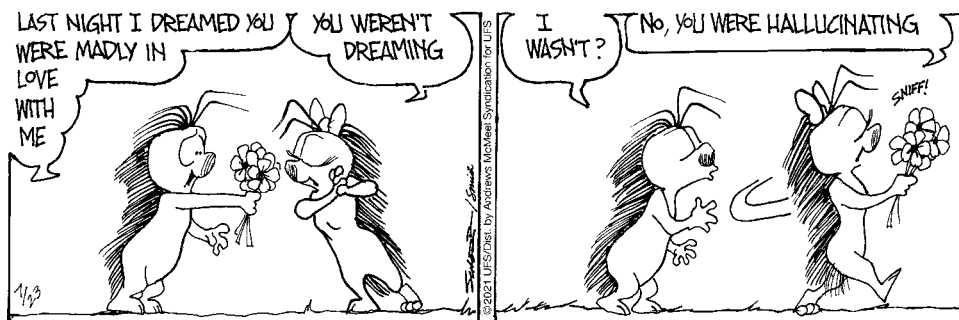
YOU HAVE SOME BIG EXCLAMATION POINT ENERGY!

FRANK & ERNEST



I'VE LEARNED A LOT IN THIS CLASS. I USED TO USE CLICHES LIKE THEY WERE GOING OUT OF STYLE, BUT NOW I WOULDN'T TOUCH ONE WITH A TEN-FOOT POLE.

THE GRIZZLELLS



PICKLES



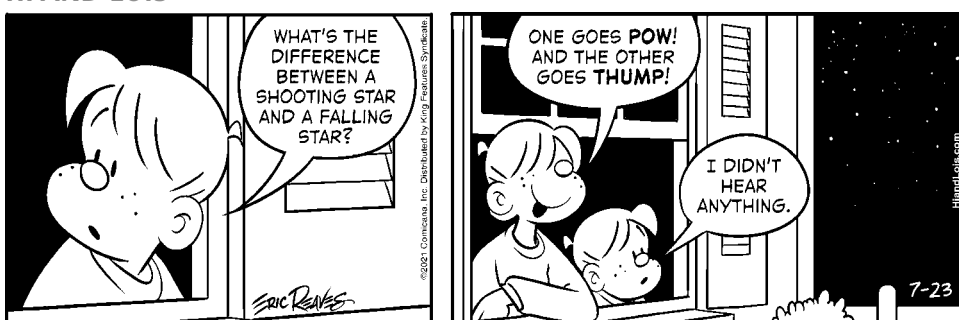
BLONDIE



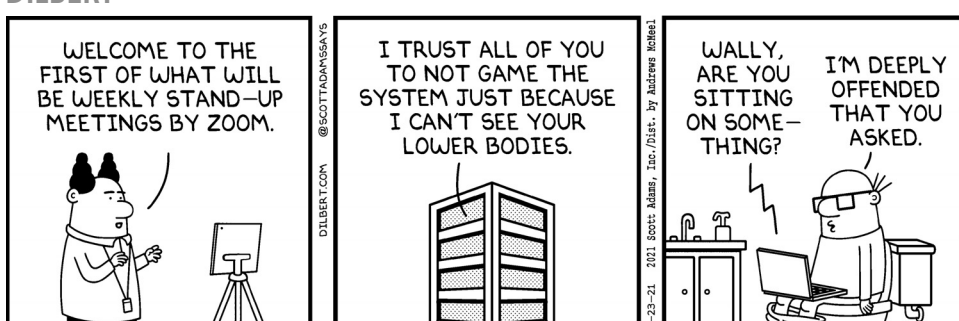
BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



DILBERT



Do I Share Family Drama With My Son?

Dear Annie: I'm a father of two amazing children and completely loyal husband of more than 20 years. But I have an ongoing issue with my parents-in-law, especially my father-in-law.

About 15 years ago, when our oldest child was a toddler, my in-laws became upset that I wasn't pushing religion hard enough in the household. They told my wife I was a "bad father." When I confronted my in-laws during a future visit, they denied saying it until my wife agreed with me in front of them. After that, they agreed to leave it to my wife and me to educate our kids in all matters religious. Unfortunately, not only did they continue to interfere with our parenting, but they also continued to speak negatively about me to my wife constantly. Years of such comments have caused great strain on my marriage, and I believe, at this point, divorce is inevitable.

The way I see it, my in-laws forced my wife (who is an only child) to choose between them and me. She's tried to remain neutral, and I do my best to ignore their snark, but I've come to believe there's no solution to this problem other than to split up.

And on top of all they've done to our marriage, my father-in-law has taken to saying he has our oldest child "in the palm of his hand." He's extremely manipulative, and this commentary troubles me greatly, as our teenager seems



ANNIE LANE
DEAR ANNIE

blissfully ignorant. My question to you is: Should I enlighten our 18-year-old as to what has occurred in his family, or leave things as they are because I'm overly sensitive? -- Am I Wrong

Dear Am I Wrong: You're not being overly sensitive. But I see no need to tell your son what a miserable old crank his grandpa is. At this point, he's probably figured that out for himself. Likewise, you should give your wife more credit. We don't get to choose our families, but we do get to choose our partners, and your wife chose you. Don't lose sight of that fact. While it's hurtful that she hasn't stood up for you too much until that point, you should try expressing that to her constructively so that you might have the chance to work through it. Twenty years of marriage warrants at least a few hours of couples counseling before throwing in the towel, I would think.

Lastly, though it's easier said than done, try not to take your father-in-law's jobs personally. I guarantee he would have found fault with any man your wife might have married. Some people are so

unhappy with themselves that they derive joy in deriding others. That's his problem, not yours. Don't take the bait.

Dear Annie: I am disturbed to still see people leaving their dogs in hot cars. Whenever I see this happening, I go into the nearest businesses and have announcements made over intercoms to try to track down the owners. If I can't find them, I call 911 -- because it truly is an emergency. Here are some relevant data points from Redrover.com.

"Dogs are especially vulnerable to heat-related illness because they can only cool off by panting and through the pads in their feet.

"Even on seemingly mild days, an enclosed car can be deadly. In a Stanford University study, when it was 72 degrees outside, a car's internal temperature climbed to 116 degrees within one hour.

"A dog can only withstand a high body temperature for a short time before suffering nerve damage, heart problems, liver damage, brain damage or even death.

"Studies show that cracking the windows has little effect on a car's internal temperature." -- Friend to Fido

Dear Friend: I'm happy to print this reminder, which is always relevant but especially urgent as we enter the dog days of summer.

COPYRIGHT 2021
CREATORS.COM

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do this year. Analyze situations and find the best way to stabilize your life. Look for opportunities to work in conjunction with people who share your beliefs and concerns. Positive change comes when you do what's best for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Hidden matters will surface. Don't ignore what's going on around you, or you will miss an opportunity to excel. An innovative idea will put you in the spotlight and lead to a positive collaboration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Expand your interests, and you will discover opportunities that will encourage you to follow a new and exciting path. Self-improvement projects are encouraged. Romance will enrich your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid getting into a battle. Channel your energy into something that makes you feel good about yourself. An opportunity will unfold if you take part in community events.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Touch base with people you don't see often, and you'll receive valuable information. Choosing to follow a path that is out of the ordinary will give you something to work toward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Time is on your side. Slow down, enjoy the moment and refrain from participating in events that promote indulgent behavior. Keep your money in a safe place, and avoid unnecessary expenditures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Plan something you can enjoy with a friend or loved

one. An opportunity to discuss your intentions will lead to a long-term plan and positive lifestyle changes. Speak from the heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You are heading in the right direction, so don't start making changes to accommodate someone else. Do your own thing and stand behind your dreams, hopes and wishes.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- A proactive approach will help you maintain leverage when trying to get your way. Rely on experience and knowledge to back your plans. A positive change looks promising, as long as you don't hesitate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Take a moment to look at every angle of a situation before you make a move. Patience and discipline will help you navigate your way through situations that can determine how your life will unfold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Embrace change, learn all you can and make adjustments that will help you reach your goal. Refuse to let your emotions stand between you and what's correct or best for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Listen carefully. Take your time, and make decisions based on facts and figures, not on hearsay. Don't get involved in something just because someone close to you does.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- If you look for a good deal, you'll find one. Ask questions, negotiate on your behalf and don't settle for less than what you want. Change begins with you, so don't let anyone push you.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

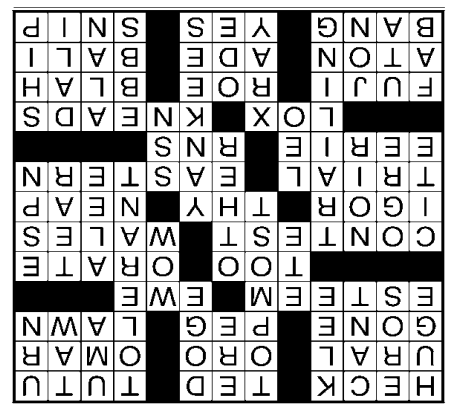
ACROSS

- 1 "Aw, shucks!"
- 5 Turner or Danson
- 8 Ballet costume
- 12 Russian river
- 13 Pizarro's quest
- 14 Rubaiyat author
- 15 Used up
- 16 Hat room fixture
- 17 Grassy area
- 18 Respect
- 20 Woolly one
- 22 Also
- 24 Hold the floor
- 28 Competition
- 32 Where Cardiff is
- 33 Mr. Stravinsky
- 34 Your, old-style
- 36 Least-varying tide
- 37 Court event
- 39 From Asia
- 41 Paranormal, to some

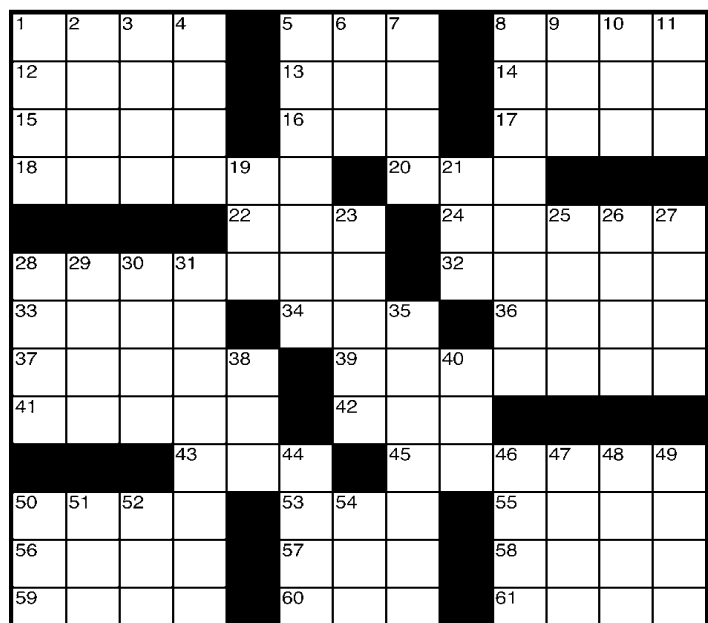
DOWN

- 42 Hosp. personnel
- 43 Smoked salmon
- 45 Messages
- 50 Famous volcano
- 53 Unhatched fish
- 55 Mediocre
- 56 Nile sun god
- 57 Lime cooler
- 58 Romantic island
- 59 Explosive noise
- 60 Survey choice
- 61 Bob
- 1 Colossal
- 2 Mythical archer
- 3 Pessimist's word
- 4 MOMA artist
- 5 Highest
- 6 Prior to
- 7 Venetian magistrate

Answer to this puzzle



7-23-21 © 2021 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS



- 19 Summer in Cannes
- 21 Cry of amazement
- 23 Something else
- 25 Nautical position
- 26 Run like crazy
- 27 "Around the Horn" ailer
- 28 Issue a summons
- 29 Monster
- 30 Roulette color
- 31 Lagging behind
- 35 Bronx baseballers
- 38 August kid, maybe
- 40 Form 1040 info
- 44 Fracture photo (hyp.)
- 46 Flows back
- 47 "Growing Pains" Painter
- 48 Salvador —
- 49 Freight
- 50 Tide competitor
- 51 Ms. Hagen of films
- 52 "Garfield" guy
- 54 Poetic tribute