

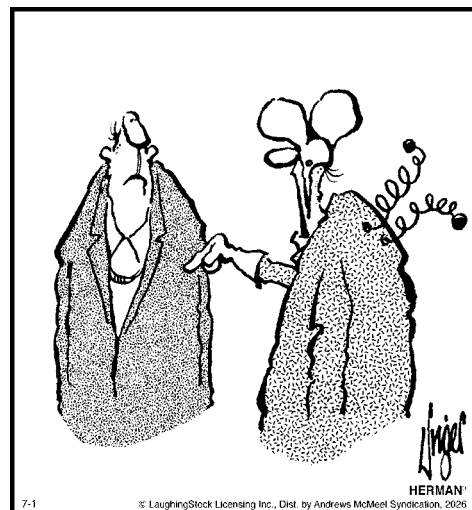
# COMICS

## MARMADUKE



"Here's one that's perfect for hiding under."

## HERMAN

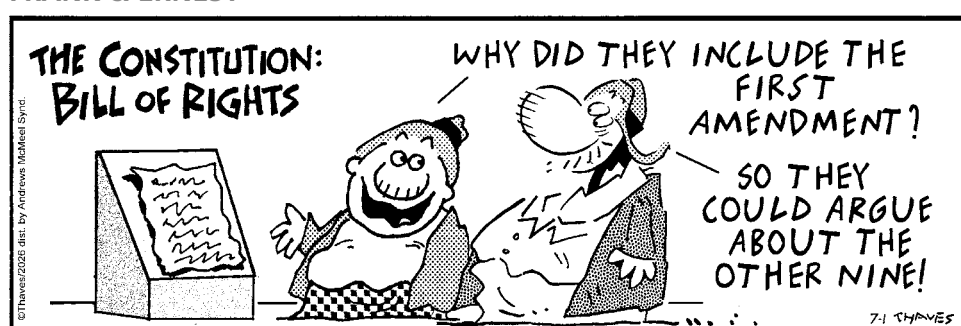


"Aha! I knew there was life on this planet."

## REALITY CHECK



## FRANK & ERNEST



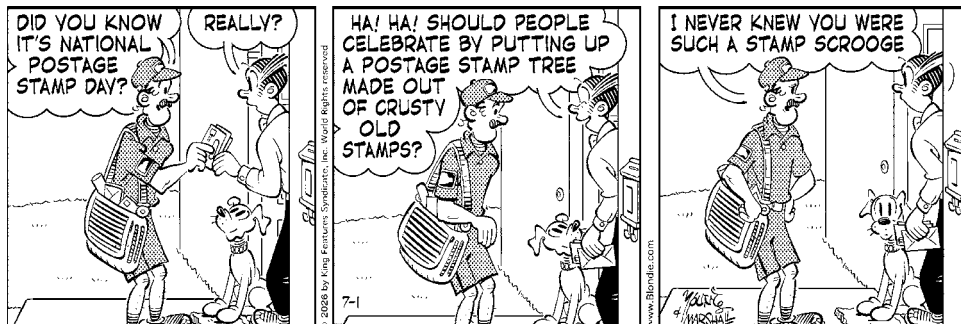
## THE GRIZZWELLS



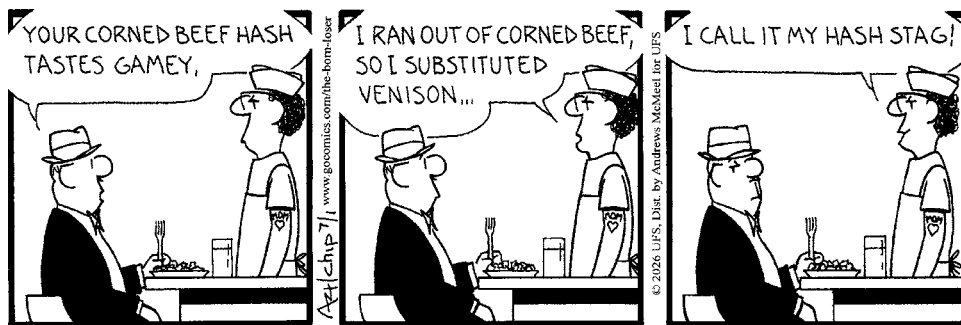
## PICKLES



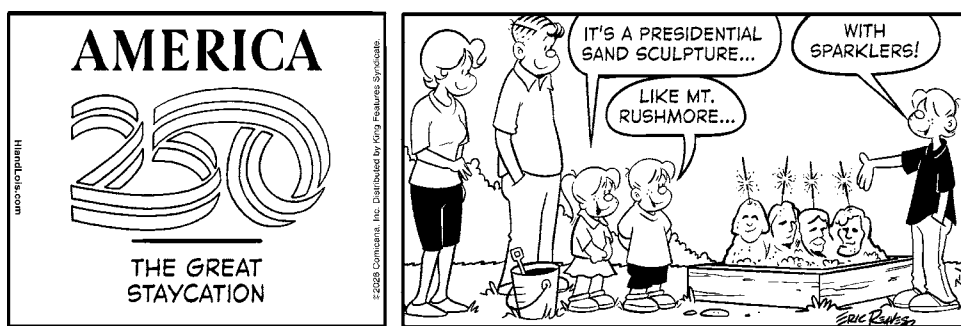
## BLONDIE



## BORN LOSER



## HI AND LOIS



## CRABGRASS



# A Father on Hold



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: My wife (40) and I (53) have been married for almost a year and a half. A few weeks ago, she moved out and took our daughters, ages 3 and 4, with her. When she left, she said they'd be back that evening. They haven't returned. I haven't seen or spoken to my girls in almost a month.

When I ask to see or talk to them, my wife says she's asked the children and they've said no, and that she doesn't want to pressure them or cause them stress. My wife insists she's protecting them because they've heard arguments between us. We've disagreed in front of the children before, but our arguments have never involved screaming, threats or physical violence. The girls would know from our voices that we were upset, but that's all.

I have a loving relationship with my daughters, and our family and friends have seen that. I keep asking my wife to help the girls feel comfortable seeing or talking to me. She says she will, but I don't know whether she's done anything.

My wife hasn't filed for divorce or sought custody, and all their belongings are still at our home. I don't know what her plans are or where she sees our future going. Right now, I just want to see and talk to my children.

What should I do? -- Heartbroken Father

Dear Heartbroken Father: Taking your children and refusing contact for weeks is a serious matter. Based on what you've shared, it's hard to see how a few marital disagreements would justify keeping you from seeing or speaking to your daughters for

this long.

At 3 and 4, your girls are too young to decide whether they should have contact with their father. If your wife has concerns about conflict, those are issues for the adults to work through.

You've spent weeks asking and waiting. It's time to consult a family law attorney so you can understand your rights and take steps toward restoring contact with your daughters.

In the meantime, keep your communication with your wife calm, respectful and focused on the kids. Your girls need both parents acting in their best interests, especially right now.

Dear Annie: Is it normal not to remember every significant date or detail in a relationship? I've been engaged for more than three years, and my fiancée seems to remember everything -- the day we first started talking, the day we stopped using the dating app, social events we've attended together and even details about my life that even I've forgotten.

I've always had a bad memory and maybe I'm not putting in enough effort, but sometimes I worry that my inability to remember things the way she does makes me seem uncaring. I often find myself in awe and jealous of how much she remembers. The truth is my mind can only hold

so much without a notepad of paper in front of me.

This brings me to another question I have about the past. Is it wrong to remember former girlfriends in my prayers from time to time? I don't have romantic feelings for them, but they were once important people in my life, and I still wish them well.

Am I worrying too much? What do you think? -- Selective Memory

Dear Selective Memory: You're worrying too much. Not everyone is wired to remember every date and detail. What matters isn't whether you remember the day you deleted a dating app but whether your fiancée feels loved and cherished.

If your memory needs a little help, use that notepad. Keeping track of important dates is easier when you don't leave it all up to memory.

As for your exes, no, saying a prayer for them isn't a betrayal. The people who shape us often stay in our memories long after they leave our lives. Remembering someone from your past isn't the same thing as wanting them in your future.

"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](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Money and emotions won't mix. Spending for the wrong reasons leads to stress and denial. Face situations head-on, and you'll discover you have opportunities to flourish if you choose discipline and hard work. Be honest with yourself, face facts and push forward with gratitude.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Shed any conflict you face by being straightforward, decisive in your actions. Choosing the path that feels right for you is better than letting someone else push you in the wrong direction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Pick up the pace, switch your mind to autopilot and let your intuition lead the way. What you accomplish will put a smile on your face and help you maintain your momentum.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take a pass if you don't feel comfortable with what's unfolding around you. Being a friendly observer will offer insight that can lead to something more suitable and inviting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Mix business with pleasure, network and engage in conversations that can initiate change or make a difference to something that concerns you. Apply more friendly pressure to those slowing you down.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take greater interest in your friends, neighbors and relatives. How you conduct yourself and the suggestions and help you offer will have an impact on you as well as those you chat with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Pay attention to detail when dealing with matters that

affect your cash flow or your health. Setting up guidelines to ensure those you deal with are of the same mindset as you will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Research is essential if you want to avoid interference. Ask questions, and find out how you can accommodate others without disrupting your plans. Conflict is likely to develop if anyone decides to become pushy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Shine brightly in all your interactions, and you'll turn into the go-to person in your circle. Improving your surroundings will bring you joy and invite new friends or lovers into your life.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Handle others with care. Socializing with people who share your concerns will produce good results. You'll discover what's possible if you volunteer your time to help bring about positive change.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Sort through any differences you have with those close to you. Being straightforward will spare you unnecessary grief. Don't choose to ignore issues that affect your relationships or domestic situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Overlooking what's available or doable will be your downfall. Question everything, and apply your intelligence and open-mindedness to ensure you achieve the best results. Don't jeopardize your health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Hurry up, time is of the essence, and structuring how and what you accomplish will eat up valuable time. Reach out to those who can help make whatever you choose to do easier and more efficient.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "So —, so good"
  - 4 Nap site
  - 7 Ship's staff
  - 11 Id counterpart
  - 12 Trick
  - 13 Olympian goddess
  - 14 — Vegas
  - 15 Jot
  - 16 Town in Oklahoma
  - 17 Currently in fashion
  - 19 Swindle
  - 21 Outdo
  - 23 Work unit
  - 24 Grouchy Muppet
  - 27 Tried for public office
  - 29 Pointed tool
  - 32 Mal de —
  - 33 Actor — Lancaster
  - 34 — volente
  - 35 Wrath
  - 36 Salty drop
- DOWN**
- 1 Touched
  - 2 Culture medium
  - 3 Valentine's Day flower
  - 4 Keeps afloat
  - 5 Superlative suffix
  - 6 Unhearing
  - 7 Gladden
  - 8 Deserters
  - 37 Cessation
  - 38 Brewed beverage
  - 39 — Arbor, Michigan
  - 40 Glue
  - 42 — Aviv
  - 44 Hoodlum
  - 46 House of worship
  - 49 — Conan Doyle
  - 53 Learning
  - 54 Musical work
  - 56 "— Maria"
  - 57 Oil cartel
  - 58 Healthy upstairs
  - 59 French article
  - 60 Daring exploit
  - 61 Dynamite letters
  - 62 Butcher's trimmings

### Answer to this puzzle

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

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11				12				13			
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				42	43			44	45		
46	47			48		49		50	51	52	
53				54	55			56			
57				58				59			
60				61				62			