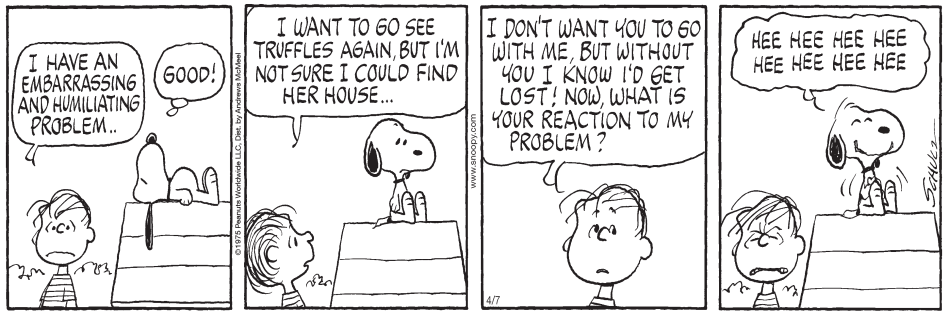
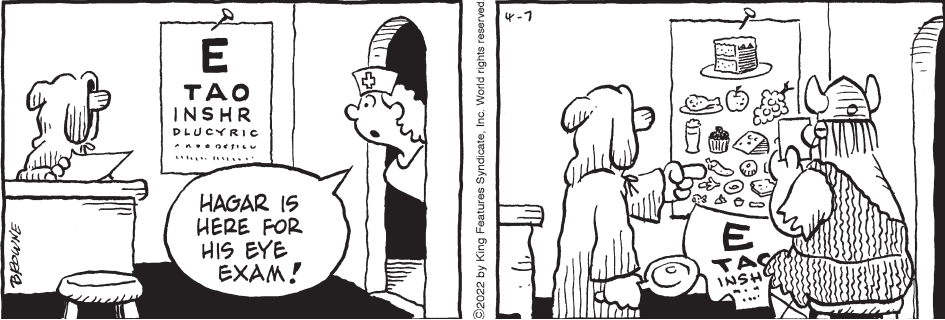


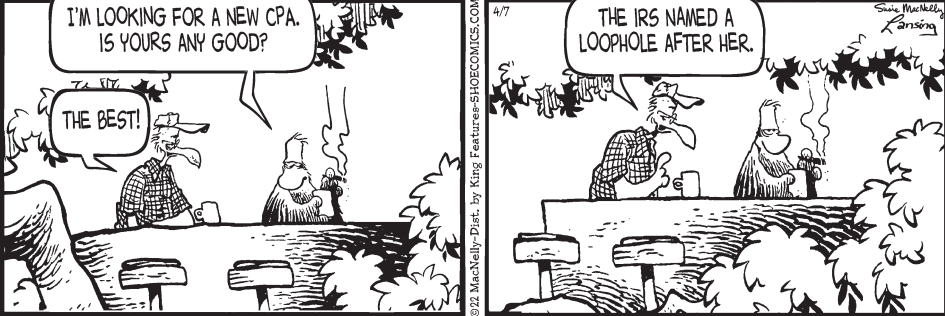
Peanuts



Hagar The Horrible



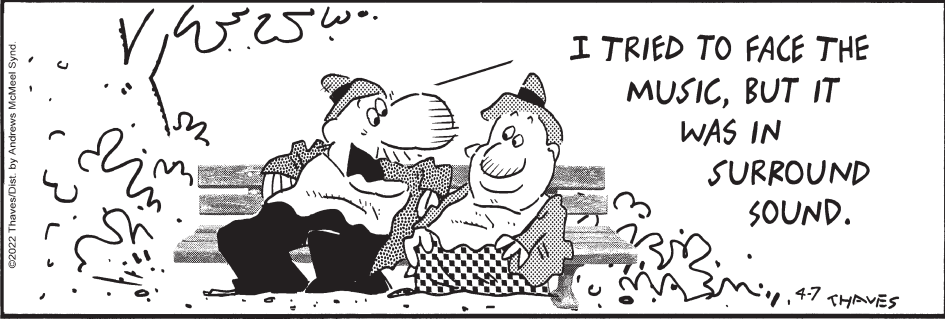
Shoe



Garfield



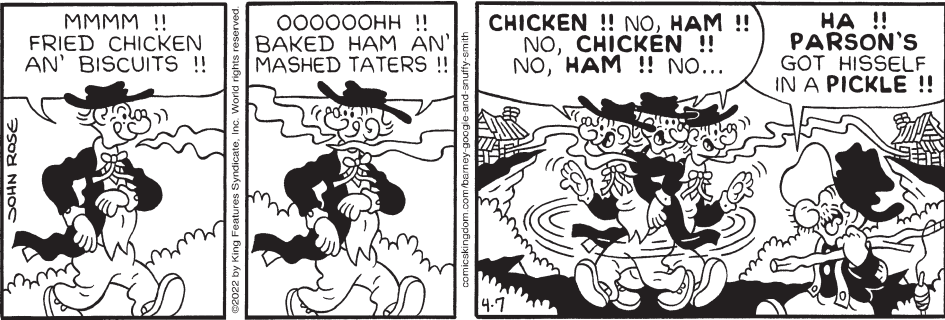
Frank and Ernest



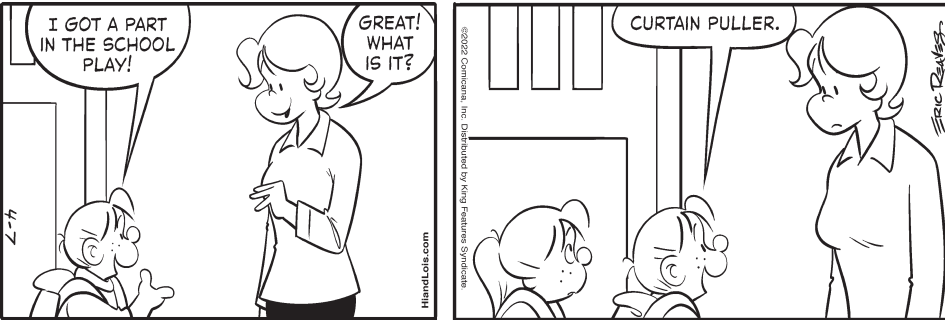
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



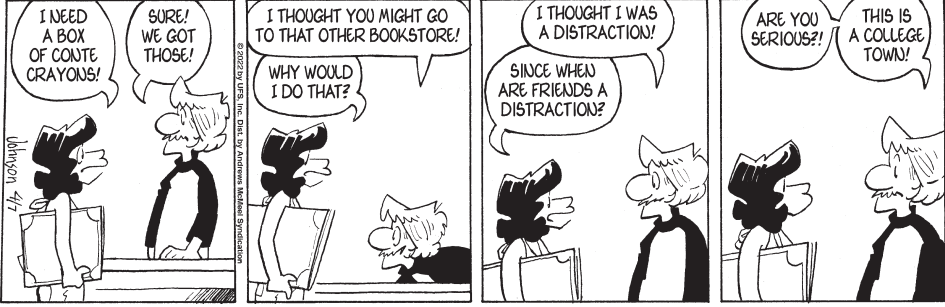
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Your Birthday today:

An energetic approach to life, love and happiness will take you on a journey you won't want to miss this year. Press forward with your plans and engage in anything that offers insight into what brings you satisfaction and joy. Live life your way and make decisions based on intelligence and common sense.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Listen to what people are saying before you respond. Don't get involved in a debate with someone stubborn or vengeful. Don't take on someone's problem, debt or fight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Discuss sensitive issues openly and honestly. Ignoring problems will lead to assumptions. Be assertive and get to the bottom of any situation that can hurt your status or reputation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Target your goal and test your skills. Refuse to let an emotional situation escalate or keep you from pursuing what's important to you. Set expectations, and don't lose sight of your destination.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Practice makes perfect. Hone your skills and use them to impress someone who can improve your life. Don't let self-consciousness or introversion stand between you and what you desire.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Share your experience and put your expertise to good use. A diligent approach to using what's available to you will enhance your chance of success. Don't spend money to impress someone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A physical display will make your objective clear and conclusive. Don't beat around the bush when time is of the essence. Think outside the box and make your dreams a reality. Avoid second-guessing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Curb your emotions. If you are too revealing, you will distract from what you are trying to achieve. Be smart, use common sense and work independently. You can reach your dreams!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put your plans in motion. Invest in yourself, your surroundings and your long-term goal. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Seek out people who share your vision. Networking will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Put your energy where it counts, and don't waste time on people who are bad influences or on indulgences that will slow you down financially or physically. Think things through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Don't invite trouble. Make changes that don't require permission or help from others. Put your energy and time into taking physical action and doing the work yourself. Keep your emotions out of the mix.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Set your goals high and keep your mind fixed on the best route forward. Embrace supportive people and offer positive input. A good plan and a disciplined attitude will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Check what everyone is doing and offset anything that might deter you from pushing forward with your plans. A change will help you put things in perspective and adjust your plans accordingly.

DEAR ABBY

Advice written by
Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old gay man. I'm well-educated, but there's something I can't figure out. Why do straight guys NOT want to be friends? I never hit on them, I enjoy a lot of the same pastimes like games, working on cars, etc. I want to be transparent, but when I tell them upfront, they disappear.

Sometimes it gets back to me that they thought I was asking them on a date if I invited someone to go to a ballgame, for example. I have plenty of female friends, but what I really want is a male best friend or, hell, just a male friend, period.

Of course, everyone has their own opinions on what I should do -- "join a meeting, a group, social activities and blah blah." I have done all of those things, and I can't figure out what's wrong. I have now learned to just keep my mouth shut and not invite anyone to do anything.

Any suggestions would be welcomed, but I have pretty much tried everything, including seeing a counselor. -- CURIOUS IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR CURIOUS: The problem you're having with straight men may be that they are nervous about being perceived as "gay by association" if they are friendly with you. Some may also find the concept of being friends with a gay man to be threatening.

Taking part in group activities and outings is certainly a way to connect with others regardless of sexual orientation. Eventually, you'll meet people and form friendships. In the meantime, appreciate those female friends of yours and ask them for some input, too.

DEAR ABBY: This has been a rough pandemic for all of us. We have all experienced the constant fear of disease, job loss and the pressure to react to those stresses in prescribed ways that aren't always easy. For those of us who deal with mental health issues on the best of days, it has become a real struggle.

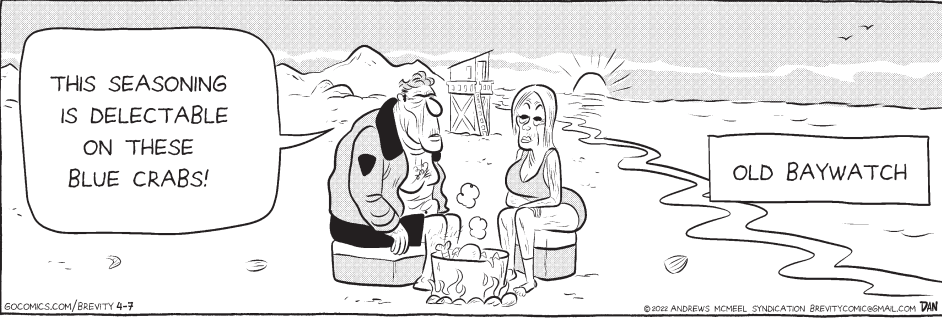
I have a group of friends who have not managed to do well through it all. Previous issues multiplied, and their lives have become pitiable messes. Early on in the pandemic, we attempted to keep moods up with weekly Zoom hangouts. It helped a little, but because my mental status has always been a little better than theirs, I was never a focus of support.

As the world has begun to open up, we have been able to see each other in person, and it has become obvious to me that I need to distance myself from them to protect what I have worked so hard to maintain. Do I owe them an explanation about why I cannot be with them? I worry that pointing out that things are not good would drag them down further.

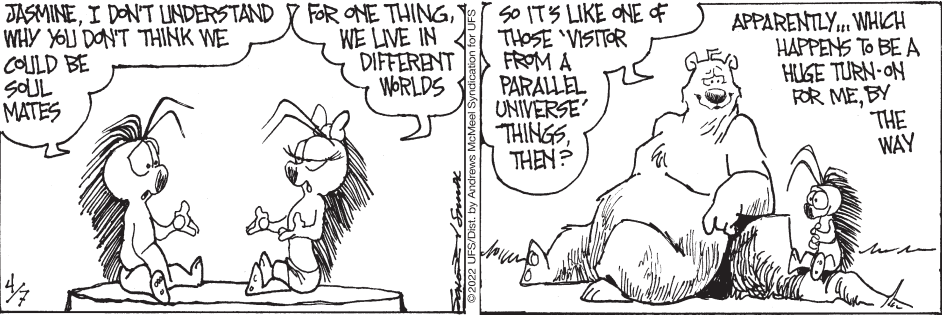
These are people I have known for decades, but I don't have the energy to act as emotional support for them anymore. I'd like to leave them in the best shape I can. What should I say to them? -- CARING FRIEND IN THE EAST

DEAR CARING FRIEND: Be less available when you are contacted. When you do, your excuse should be truthful. Say you need time to yourself to work on your own mental health issues and therefore will be less available. You do not have to apologize for it, nor should you feel guilty for taking care of yourself.

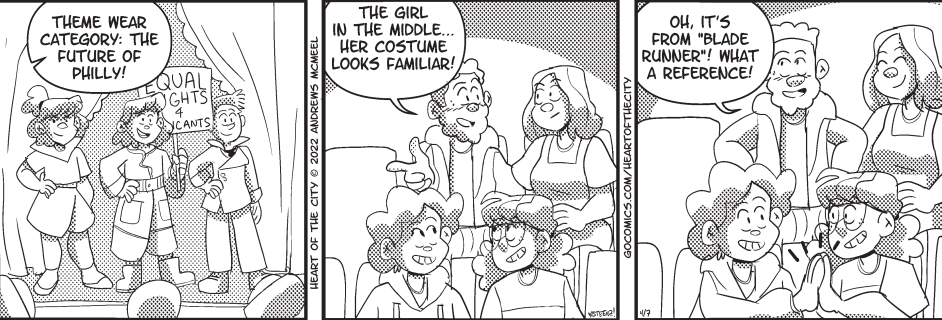
Brevity



Grizwells



Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



Born Loser

