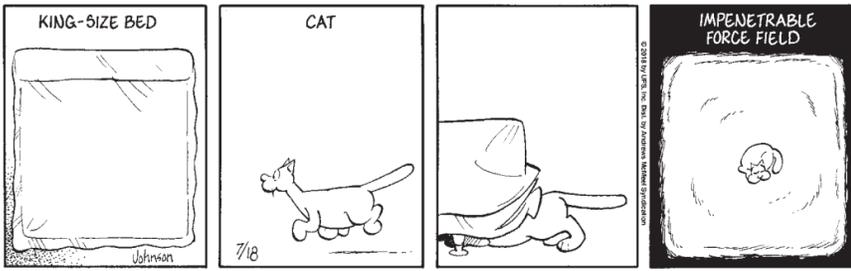
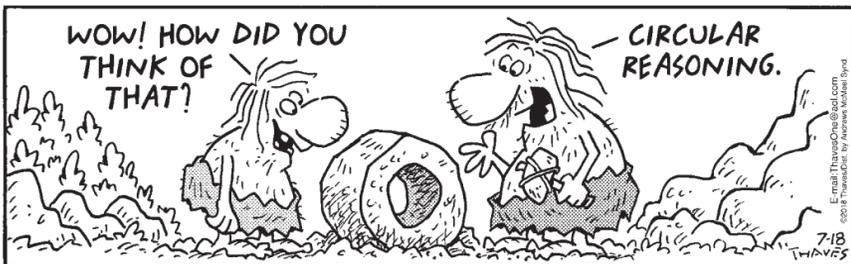


**ARLO AND JANIS®** by Jimmy Johnson



**FRANK & ERNEST®** by Bob Thaves



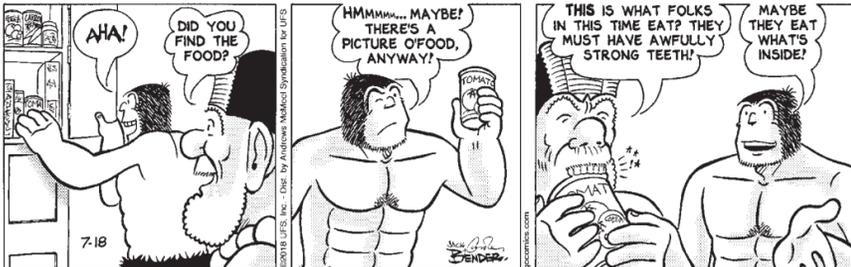
**THE GRIZZWELLS®** by Bill Schorr



**BIG NATE®** by Lincoln Peirce



**ALLEY OOP** by Jack and Carole Bender



**HEART OF THE CITY** by Mark Tatulli



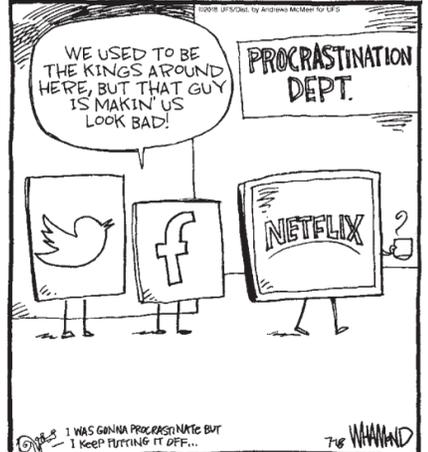
**THE BORN LOSER™** by Art & Chip Sansom



**HERMAN®** by Jim Unger



**REALITY CHECK®** by Dave Whamond



**SENSE AND SENSITIVITY**

By Harriette Cole

**African-American girl faces bullying in school**

DEAR HARRIETTE: I'm a 17-year-old African-American girl who attends a mostly-white boarding high school in Ohio. My parents are very successful politicians and want me to get the best education. I'm thankful to go to my school, but I get picked on for being black, and I feel lonely most of the time. I have one friend, and she helps me get through the days, but most of the time I get pushed, called names, and once I even got things thrown at me. I don't want to worry my parents, but I'm so unhappy here. What should I do?

toward me. They always tell me I'm a disappointment and that I don't do anything, but I contribute to paying bills and make sure to bring food to the house. I understand that it's their house and their rules, but I think I should still be respected. What can I do to change this?

-- Need to Move, Austin, Texas

-- Lonely Girl, Columbus, Ohio

DEAR NEED TO MOVE: It sounds like you are living in an unhealthy environment. It does not help for your parents to disparage you. This is tough on your child as well, and could have lasting effects.

DEAR LONELY GIRL: There is no way your parents can help you if you keep this abusive behavior a secret. You are not expected to handle this on your own, even though you are in boarding school. Sit down with your parents this summer, and tell them what you have experienced. Be specific and name names. Your parents will need that information in order to address this. If you have spoken with any school officials about the egregious behavior, share that information as well. Part of the discussion with your parents needs to be an evaluation of whether you should stay at that school or go somewhere else.

What can you do? Start by speaking to your parents and reminding them of what you are doing to set your life on course. Point out the ways in which you help in the home, and acknowledge that you appreciate them letting you and your child stay there.

Unfortunately, racism still exists in our country, and you have been the victim of it. Your parents cannot shield you from it entirely, but if you are miserable at that school, you can find a more welcoming place to finish your education.

Tell your parents that it is upsetting to you that they continually disparage you. Explain that it hurts your feelings and makes your child uncomfortable. Ask them if they can try to be kinder. At the same time, start looking for another living situation. Look for a roommate who would be comfortable with a mother and child. Explore your options until you find something that is affordable and suitable for you. Your plan must be to find a place of your own.

(Harriette Cole is a stylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.)

DEAR HARRIETTE: I am 27 years old, and my son is 6. I work and make a decent amount of money, but not enough to move out of my parents' home. I'm tired of living under their roof because of their negative attitude

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS

- Off-limits
- Like fallen logs
- Eye part
- Not blatant
- Short-order fare
- Bowling lanes
- Fiery gems
- Young Guthrie
- Quick reminder
- Academic stat.
- Fastener
- Bubble —
- Domed residence
- be an honor!
- Blatant
- Wet dirt
- Not worth a —
- Meeting's location
- NNW opposite
- Sandy's master
- Coin to stop on?
- Smooch
- Ike's rank
- Reputation
- Made time
- Quiver filler
- Wild feline
- Road company
- Each
- Dealer
- Gets healthy again
- Blanched

DOWN

- City near Phoenix
- First-stringers (hyph.)
- Flap in the breeze
- Singles
- Nose-bag bit
- Ponder
- Rectangular
- Sault — Marie
- Cagey
- "Of course!"
- Motel vacancy
- Cakedom's — Lee
- Tacked on
- Collapsed
- Mendicant's shout
- Chits
- Veinlike deposit
- Wander
- Gossip tidbit
- Meryl, in "Out of Africa"
- Pop's — Tennille
- Grayish horses
- Colosseum, now
- Published
- Matriculate
- "Primal Fear" star
- As — (generally)
- Scooter kin
- Jug
- Felt boots
- Survey finding
- Wedge in
- Fossey friend
- 50 Tonic partner
- 51 Salt meas.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	O	B	E	B	S	A	V	E
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O	R	E	L	S	E	E	S	T
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I	D	L	E	S	A	S	E	A
T	E	E	N	T	E	D	Y	S

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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