

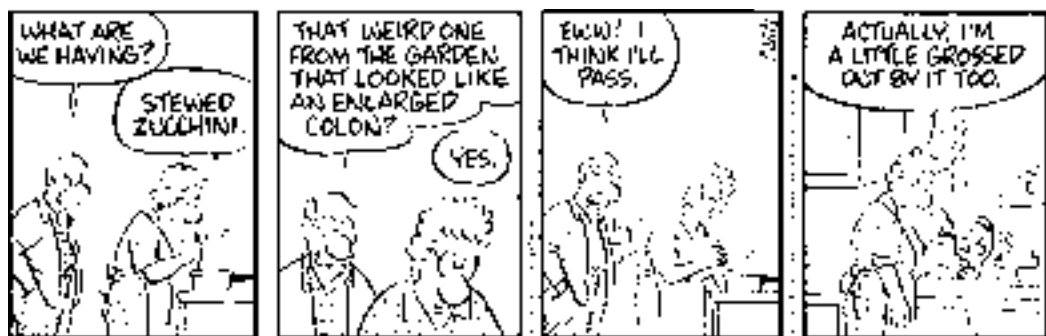
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### Blondie



### Pickles



### Garfield



### Classic Peanuts



### Beetle Bailey



### Baby Blues



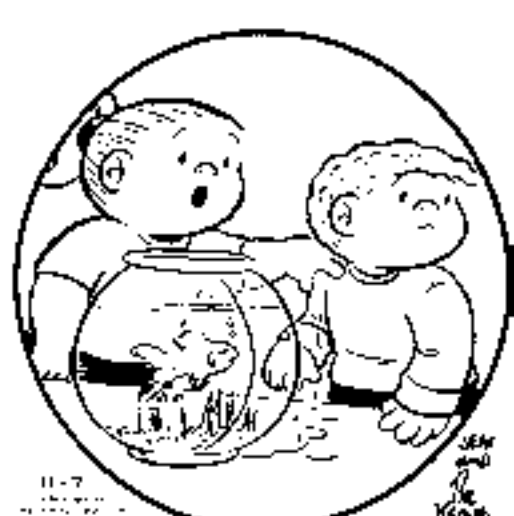
### For Better or for Worse



### Zits



### Family Circus



### Rubes



## Sick dad's new wife pushing kids away

Dear Annie: My parents divorced 18 years ago, and Dad has had numerous partners and wives since. Three months ago, Dad found out he had stage-four colon cancer. Two weeks after his diagnosis, he married "Sue."

Here's the problem: Before he was sick, Dad didn't get along that well with Sue. They argued a lot, and my sisters and I thought he'd eventually break it off. Still, we were all polite to her and invited her to family gatherings. As soon as they married, Sue started pushing us away. Her family members had confrontations with my sisters at the hospital, telling us we were butting in too much.

Dad recently came home. We are determined to do whatever we can to help and be with him until his final day. We used to come over to take out the garbage and mow the lawn, but now Sue has hired people and says we don't need to come by anymore. When we told Dad how upset we were, he said he is too sick to argue with Sue and she can do whatever she wants.

Dad just had a birthday.

### ANNIE'S MAILBOX



Your Problems

We gave him a puppy since he told us in the hospital he wanted one to sit with him through chemo. Sue got rid of it. We think she is emotionally abusive to him. I know he's terribly depressed because he keeps asking for his gun back. We don't want to create problems. We just want to be part of Dad's life before we lose him. Any ideas? — Confused in Michigan

Dear Confused: This type of situation is sad but not uncommon. Sue needs to control everything in your father's environment in order to cement her position as his wife. She fears you may influence him in a way that does not benefit her. If you think she is truly abusive, call the authorities.

Otherwise, do your best to give Sue the control and respect she thinks she deserves in order to find a way to see your father and offer him some comfort.

Dear Annie: I was angered by your answer to "Confused Mom in Omaha," whose husband told his boss their infant daughter had died so he could collect money. You asked, "In spite of his greed, is Alex otherwise a good father?" Are you kidding?

Yes, a child should have a father involved in her life, but only if he is a good, stable person. This father obviously is not. You should retract your advice, apologize and suggest "Confused" consult an attorney. — Angered in Tallahassee

Dear Angered: We understand, but disagree. Dad did not try to hurt his daughter. He was simply pulling a con job. And while that may not make him a very good person, it doesn't mean he doesn't love his daughter, and we don't believe he should be prevented from having supervised visits. For her sake, not his.

## Warm hearts, wagging tails are out there

Dear Heloise: A while ago, you had a column about many pets losing their homes in the foreclosure crisis, and how adopting one of these homeless pets could end up adding a very special member to your family.

Last year, we adopted a Chihuahua puppy, Isabelle, whose owner was losing her home, even though we already had "two" many dogs.

Several months later, our little schnauzer died, and our little poodle passed away later that year. I cannot begin to express how much of a

### HELOISE



Hints

comfort Isabelle was during these times, and how fortunate we are to have her.

She has indeed become more special than I ever could have imagined. — Jacky in Omaha, Neb.

Jacky, so sorry about losing your two beloved dogs, but am glad to hear that an adorable adoptee now has a loving home and a place in your heart. Folks, visit a shelter — you might find the right fit for your home. — Heloise

Dear Readers: Christi Palmer of Wichita Falls, Texas, sent a photo of her 15-year-old white domestic long-haired cat, Bear, resting in a tent made from newspapers. To see Bear in his homemade tent, visit www.Heloise.com. — Heloise

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	40 Civil	2 Sonata	23 Sponsor-
1 Hurdly	War	ingles	ship
Mr Right	fighter	3 Work	25 Illustra-
6 Stretched	42 Ancient	unit	ions
11 Gilche	porridge	4 Slithery	27 Cow's
Gurree	43 Id	5 Preen-	chew
12 1781	44 Allegation	trims	29 Kin
discovery	6 Mela-	sort	of the
14 Snarl	46 Soil	phical	sand-
15 Bracelet	47 Resort to	cat	pipers
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16 Anti-	51 Teeter-	8 Ashen	for a treat
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19 Pub	54 Loosen a	blurt	34 Shell
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20 Cat call	13 Ruppee	wares	meal
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39 Oodles			

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-7

## Coming Up This Week



### Library Line

Tuesday

### Linda Brown

Wednesday  
Hold me up a little longer Lord

### Rebecca McFarland

Wednesday  
Reaching Out

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