

She's thinking of leaving

Dear Annie: I have been living with my partner for 36 years. By all outside appearances, he is a very good man. And in many ways, he is. But in the important ways, he is not. Birthdays and special holidays are never acknowledged; he makes snide comments about my weight; he's never been there when I've really needed him; he drinks until he is drunk every night, an average of 10 drinks; he smokes weed every night; and he watches porn at least three times a week. He is never mean when he is drinking; he just forgets things he says and stumbles around and makes stupid comments.

He is not only destroying his life and his brain but also making my life intolerable. I do everything for him. Many of my friends have told me I do too much and need to stop.

I don't want to leave, but I feel I am at the point that I may need to. He will probably find another relationship, but I sense he has no idea of the kind of woman he will draw into his life — most likely a weed user, a drinker and one who finds regular use of porn acceptable. I

am none of those things. I never have been and never will be.

My soul is so fractured by trying to figure this out. I am extremely depressed. I would not know where to go. I have no family nearby, and starting all over on my own seems physically impossible because of my broken spirit. Infringing on friends is not something I want to do. — *Veronica*

Dear Veronica: There is so much to address here, but I'll start with the biggest red flag. This man is an alcoholic. He needs to seek treatment. And you should attend an Al-Anon meeting on your own, as it would help give you some perspective, especially if you were to stay with him. But I really hope you don't stay, because even if this relationship was healthy at some point, it isn't now. And having a history with someone is not reason enough to have a future. Close your eyes and picture yourself still with this man in 10 years. Do you look happy?

I'm guessing your friends would be overjoyed to help you get out of this relationship and would get right to making up a bed for

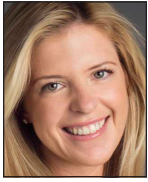
you. Reach out to them. (You can alternate friends every week or two, if you're worried about overstaying your welcome.) Also, consider seeing a therapist. It can make a world of difference just knowing you have a place to pour your heart out every week.

Leaving him won't be easy. In fact, it will be excruciating — for a little while. But if you push through the pain and heartache, you will find bliss on the other side.

Dear Annie: I recently read a letter from "Not Good Enough." I am very concerned by the parents' response to struggling grades. This is never a small thing to a child, especially a teen, who is not only beginning to develop a sense of identity but also dealing with a changing body. Parents who have this attitude need to refocus their priorities. Parents, please, instead of whining about not being able to brag about your kid's grades, offer to help. Encourage your kid after a job well-done. A small compliment can go a long way. As this young man stated, he just wants to know he's valued and appreciated. Isn't that what we all want — and need — in this life? — *Bewildered*

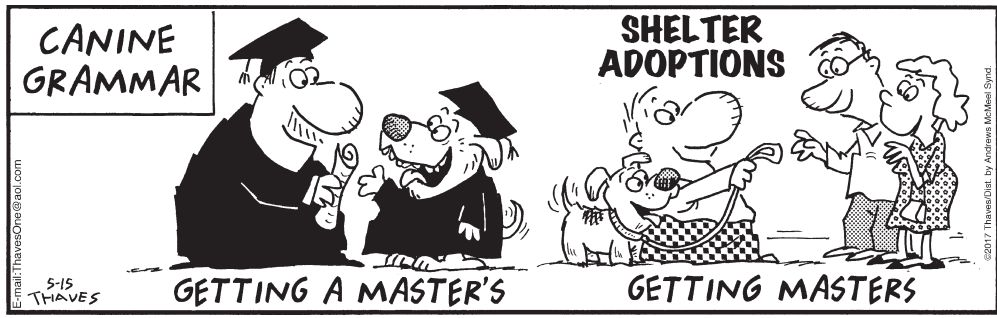
Dear Bewildered: Amen to that.

DEAR ANNIE

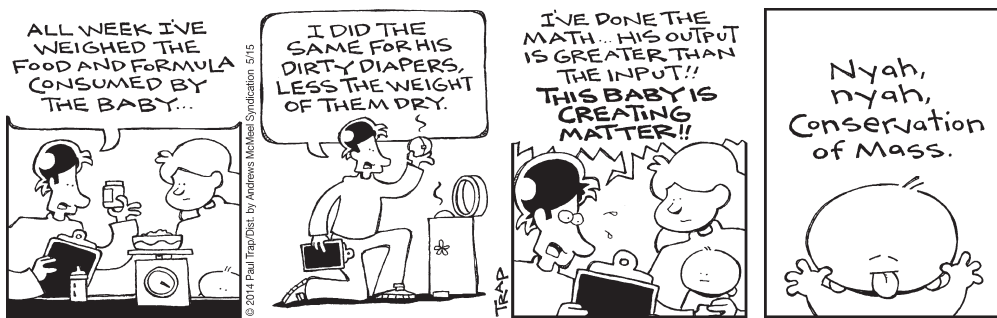


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

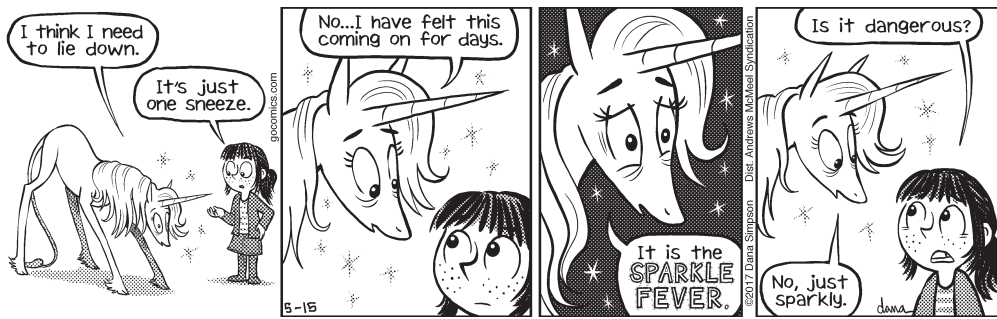
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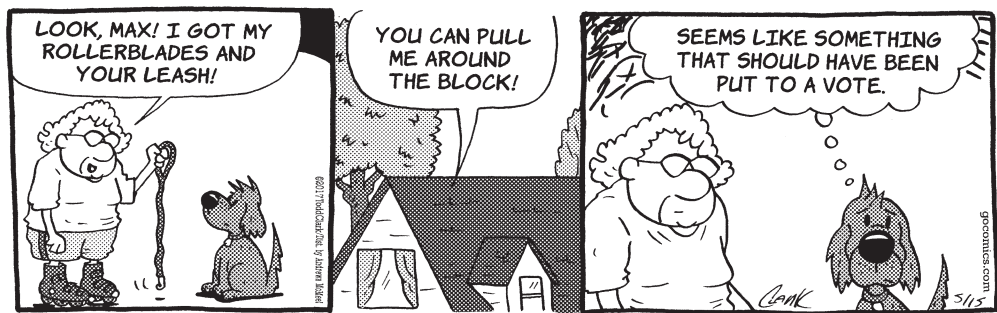
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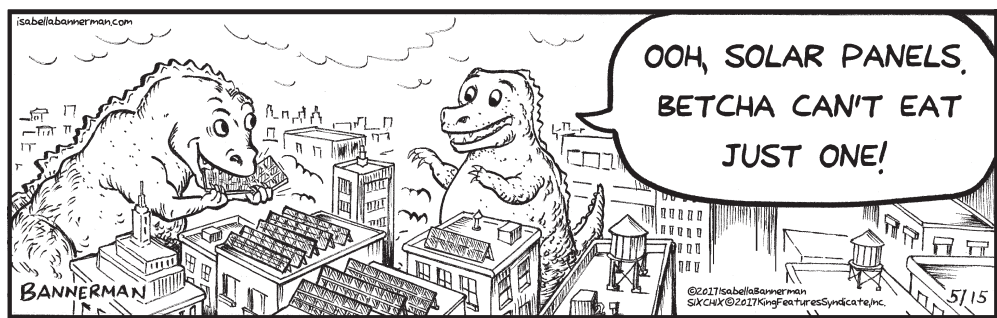
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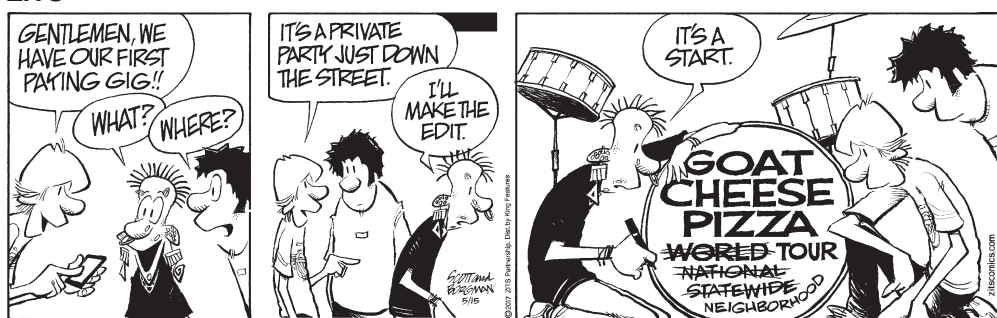
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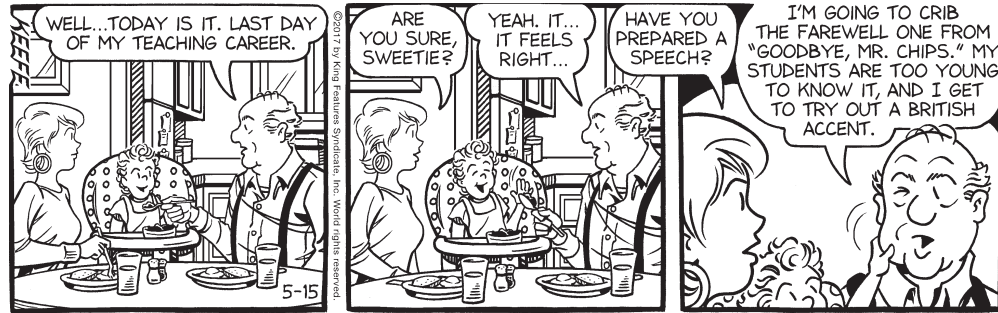
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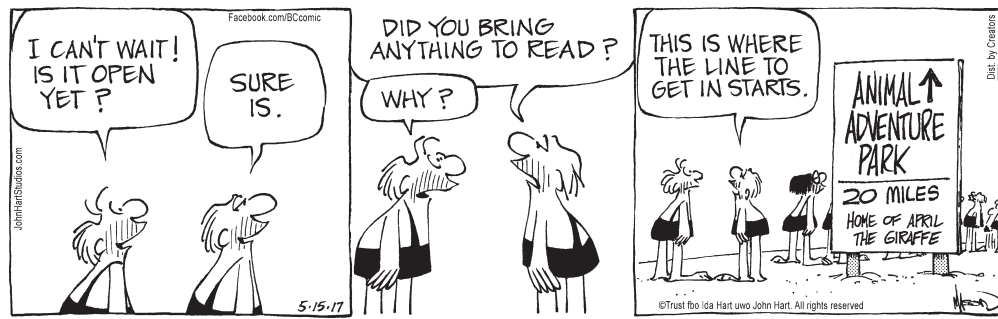
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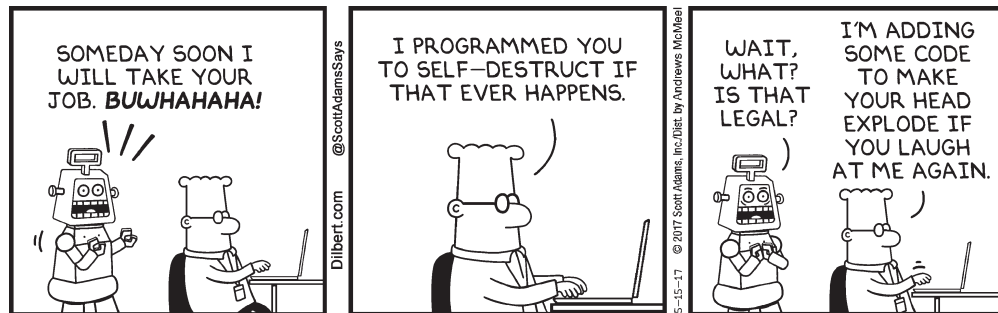
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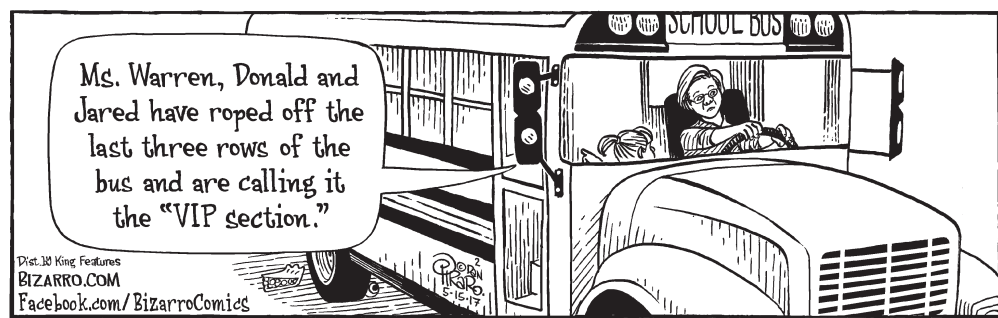
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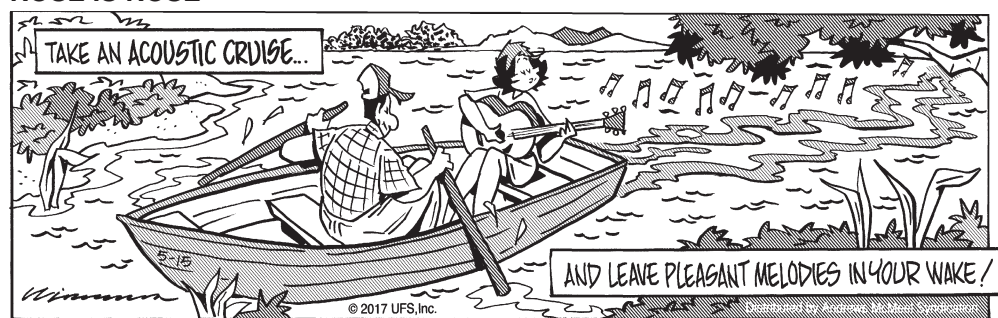
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It does absolutely no good to be irritated by every little thing that happens. Being sensitive is a blessing and a curse and is helpful only in so far as the sensitivity can be adjusted appropriately to the situation at hand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you go to new places, you aim to go as a traveler and not a tourist. You want to experience a place for what it is, not what it pretends to be for the money. Your plans will reflect this aim.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't expect to come to a certain conclusion today, and this is why you'll learn a lot more than those who are seeking definitive answers. You'll be made knowledgeable by your willingness to dance in the shadows of probability.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you can't seem to improve your external conditions to the level that matches your goal, try changing how you experience these conditions instead. Some things have to be accepted before they can be changed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Go on the quest: You can't lose now. In the search for the greater truth and more profound beauty, you will find yourself. In the search for yourself, you will find greater truth and more profound beauty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). No one is the same as anyone else. We are all different. The evolved way is to stop comparing, shaming and blaming and start working together for mutually satisfying results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everything is emotional. Business is emotional. People buy and sell things for emotional reasons. Emotional intelligence isn't just a skill for your personal life; it touches everything you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Think about turning some of your recent experiences into a story. Stories are a key way we make sense of the world, so it only makes sense that we should get good at telling them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To get clean, you must withstand some scrubbing. It's the friction that makes for good results. You'll tolerate another person's vigor, as it will lead to your transformation to becoming polished and shiny.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People should not be made to feel less than just because they do not have the same gifts as others. Even twins with the same DNA have different gifts. Find out what's there; put it to use; honor and celebrate it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Return to the project you had to leave incomplete. You'll have a better perspective now. You don't need the extra stuff you thought you needed in order to finish. You'll be able to shape what's there into something new.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know that you're not going to magically end up with your big reward in hand. However, with the right plan and the strength to work it, much will be achieved and rewards will come. Today is about investigating the plans.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 16). Truly, your tenacity is unparalleled; you'll hit more than one unforgettable milestone this year. Through July you'll need to make a conscious effort toward moderation, as personal connections will have great intensity and situations will bring out heightened emotions. Big, glamorous events go down in August and November. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 44, 6, 27 and 31.