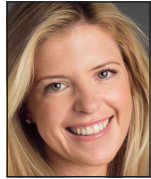


# Dish washing debate

**Dear Annie:** This is a constant debate in my house, and I am sure it is in others. I would like to know your opinion on this.

I say that if you clean dishes under running hot water (with soap, of course), you can get them cleaner. My son believes the best method is to fill the whole sink with soapy water first and then wash all the dishes in the same water. I personally think this wastes time, because in the time it takes to wait for the sink to fill, I could have half the dishes done if I were to clean them my way. Also, I think his way is unsanitary; even though you are using hot water and soap, the water still collects residue and germs from what was on the plates previously. So I find filling the sink not only a waste of time but also unsanitary. What is your opinion? Fill the sink or clean the dishes under running fresh hot water? — *Washing Well*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

much as I hate to be wishy-washy, I have to say it depends. Filling up the sink, as your son does, is more environmentally friendly because it uses a lot less water. So if you're concerned with saving the planet or reducing your water bill, that's the optimal method. Personally, I prefer using running water, for the reasons you mentioned. It's faster, and it just feels cleaner.

**Dear Annie:** Your advice to "Motherless in the Midwest," whose mother has inexplicably always been cruel to her, was spot on. I really liked your line, "Your head must be a friend to your heart." Having been raised by an unloving, toxic mother, I can also offer a line: "Live with no regrets."

I was in my 40s (I'm now 64) before I finally realized that there was nothing I could do to change this unhappy woman, so I had to change how I let her get to me and had to keep a loving distance, for my sake and my family's. (I often neglected

my family members over her needs and wants.) After my loving father died, I continued to check on her and address any needs she had that I could help with from a distance. I knew that if I repaid ugly with ugly, I would regret it. That's just not me, and it's just not right.

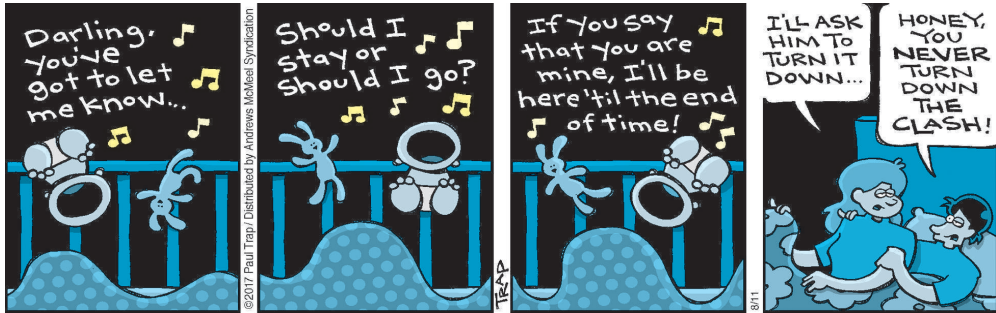
I realized I had to love my mom even though her behaviors made it impossible to like her. When she passed away, I had a most unexpected reaction: relief! How sad is that? People say I am a kind, loving and caring person. I still miss my sweet dad, but to this day, I do not miss her. On Mother's Day, when social media are blowing up with emotion, I still can't work up an "I miss her." I know she had issues, and I did love her. I joke with my sister that I hope I can count on heaven's having "many mansions" — with mine being in a different neighborhood than our mother's. — *Relieved in the South*

**Dear Relieved:** Life is too short to live with regrets. Kudos on your positive attitude, and thanks for sharing.

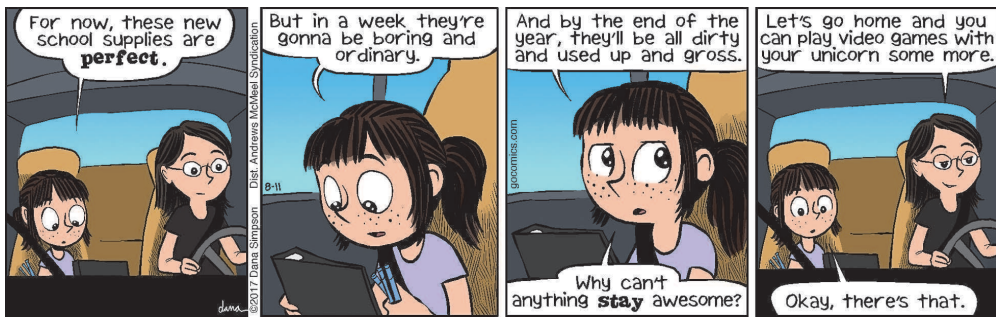
## FRANK AND ERNEST



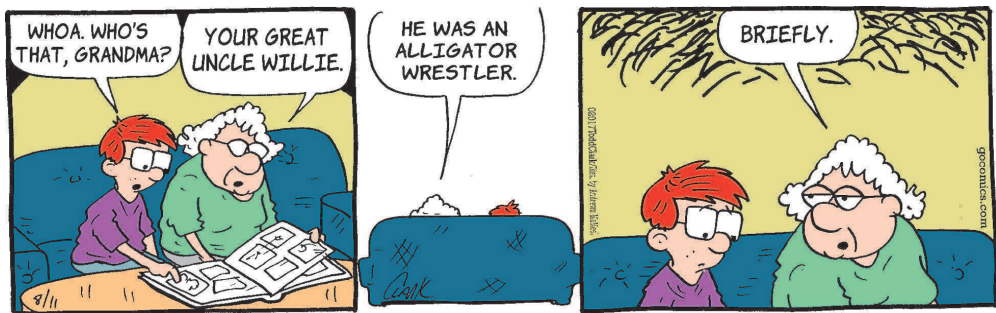
## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're building a fortress of love around you now. Love cannot immunize you against all future sadness and emotional pain, but it will definitely make it much easier to bear.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You've plenty around you who, like dogs, love you unconditionally and are excited to see you. It's the cat-like people who are featured today, though. They might ignore you until they're suddenly in the mood for attention.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If you were a flower you wouldn't be a rose with protective thorns to keep people from hastily plucking you up. You'd be a wildflower that grows where it wants. Being picked or not picked isn't the point for a wildflower.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It's hard to do things just for your own self-improvement. Therefore, you don't call it "fun." It certainly isn't selfish, as no one selfishly causes their own discomfort. Do things just for you anyway, if only as an exercise to prove that you can.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There's no shame in leaving the party at 9:30 p.m. Once you've done what you set out to do, found what you were looking for and gotten what you came for, there's no reason to stay.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Some endeavors are like the carnival that comes to town to delight you then takes its music and roller coasters to the next location. So what? Play the games; lose some money; ride the rides. It's more fun than staying home!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** To give your heart to another when you feel the impulse to do so is usually the right choice. That doesn't mean it will work out. No one is guaranteed the joy. But

regardless of what happens next, you'll be better for it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You so freely give your love to everyone who needs it. What about you? You need it, too, possibly more urgently than anyone else around you today. Turn it inward.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Do you wonder why the cold people seem to gravitate to you? It's because you're fire and they sense they'll be able to warm up around you. They're right about that today.

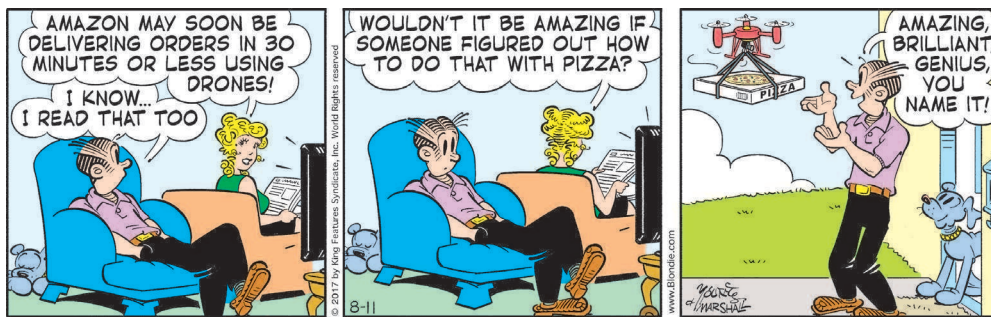
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Any attempt to control essentially uncontrollable forces will fall somewhere between laughable and futile. Disturbing elements are part of the landscape of life. The trick is to go around them, paying as little attention as possible.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The bleak eventually gives way to sparking interests — or does it create them? It will be your restlessness along with your enthusiasm that give meaning and color to your work and relationships.

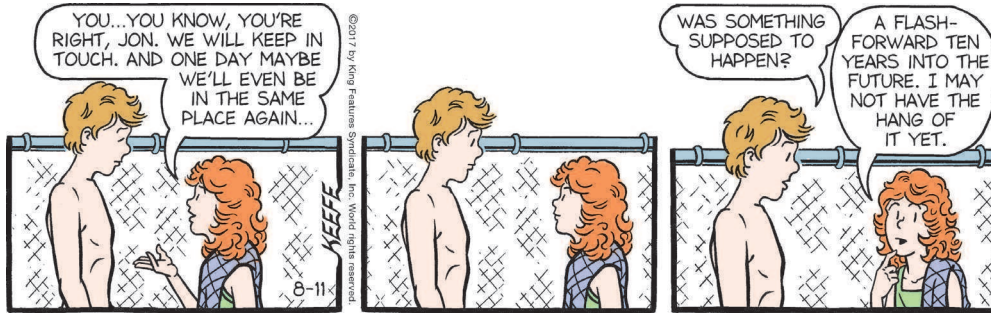
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The damage we do over the course of a relationship or a job can't always be put right again, but when it's beyond repair we can still rebuild from scratch. The important thing is to have a hopeful attitude.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 12).** To sum the world up in a word: magic. The spell is in this bit of knowledge: Most problems are caused inside the relationship with the self — a relationship that will be healed, nurtured and well-tended this solar return. With great daring and caring, you'll help yourself become the hero of your own story. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 22, 28, 1 and 18.

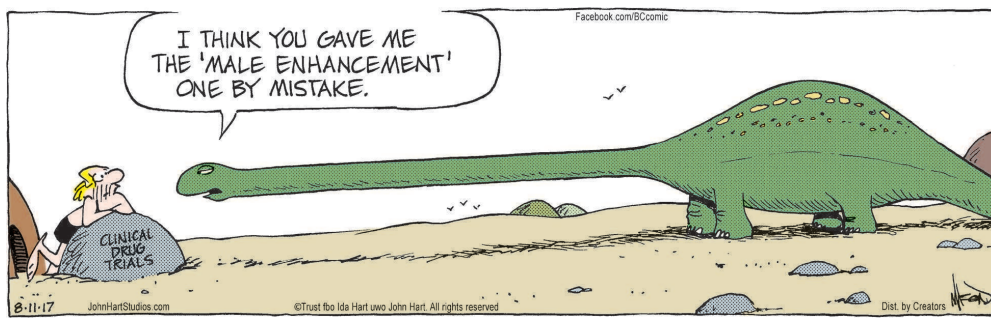
## BLONDIE



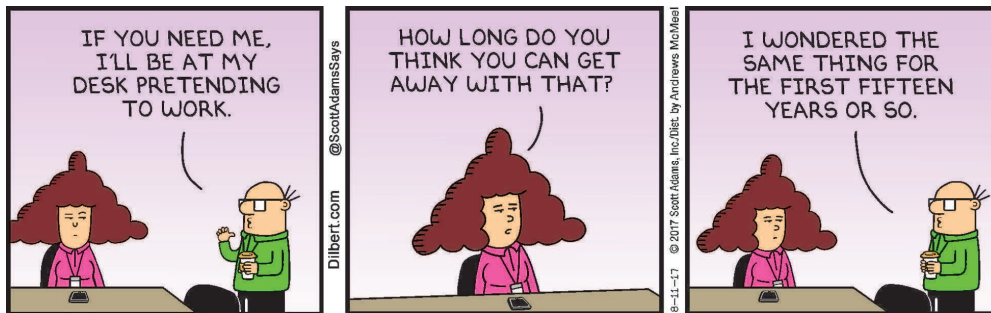
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



## DILBERT



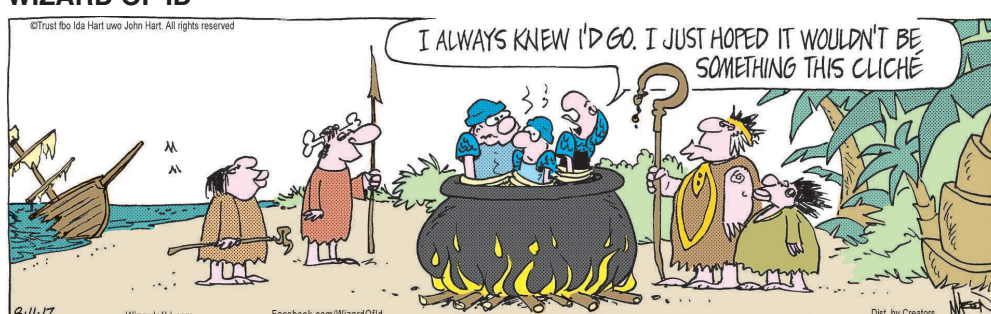
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

