

An uncomfortable question

Dear Annie: A friend and I enjoy shopping for clothes together. We always have fun.

Over the past few years, she has put on weight. Objectively, she has become obese. That doesn't matter to me. But here is the problem now. Every time she tries on new clothes, she asks me, "Does this make me look fat?"

whether she looks fat, you could ask her whether that's a concern for her and then let her lead the conversation from there.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
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The clothes don't make her look any fatter than she is. So I just say "no" and leave it at that. But the question makes me uncomfortable because I worry that I am not being totally honest. What should I say? — *Feeling Awkward*

Dear Feeling Awkward: Take this as your friend's asking whether the clothes flatter her or not, and be honest so you can help her pick outfits that look good on her. If she persistently asks

Dear Annie: A while ago, you had a poll asking people whether they'd decide to have kids if they could go back in time. The following response is specifically directed toward women.

I have spent my whole life believing in love and faith, only to have it challenged at every level. If you are ready to sacrifice yourself for the betterment of others, then by all means have children. If you don't think you want to do that, don't have kids. Your choice, but get the facts before you take the plunge.

No one tells you how hard it's going to be, and there is no pamphlet out there that can prepare you for the rough road ahead if you decide

to have kids. Go in with eyes wide-open. And if you think you can handle it, just wait and see what life throws at you. You'd better have lots of money, patience and fortitude and a self-sacrificing nature, or you will have regrets aplenty. I won't saddle you with the thousands of things that can go wrong, but believe me, there will always be something to challenge you. I am not sure good moments outweigh the rest. Motherhood is the most underappreciated job on earth.

Good luck in whatever you decide. You can't give them back, so make sure you want them. — *Tired*

Dear Tired: I won't argue with you that moms work incredibly hard, often without thanks. But not having children is not a guarantee for a smooth road. There will be bumps in our paths, no matter which path we take. It's how we react to them that counts.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are many instances in your social life when the currency being exchanged is not the currency being measured. It's something to be aware of. Keeping the balance depends on this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Believe it or not, the hassle is part of what makes an experience great. So don't go out of your way to create the most convenient experience. Inconvenience makes you think on your feet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Get ready for the life you want. It will be here soon enough, and it probably won't stop to let you board either. You'll have to run alongside and leap into it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can plan what you're going to say and do, but when the moment comes, another part of you leaps forward with surprising results. It's as though you resist being a puppet, even when the puppeteer is also you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In regard to your current creation, it will be as though life meets you to collaborate at every turn. Ease gives you something. Conflict gives you something more. It's really taking an interesting shape.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whatever mood you find yourself in, you're likely to get more of the same. So the ability to take hold of the mood and mold it into something favorable will be key to your well-being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want the prize, not because it's so great in and of itself but because it symbolizes the journey you took and what you were willing to trade to get to the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Should a flaw be hidden, improved or highlighted? Only you can decide which flaws are mistakes and which are the imperfections from which real art is born.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Settling into who you are takes a kind of relaxed strength akin to settling into the motion of a galloping horse. With time and practice, you will learn to anticipate your natural rhythms.

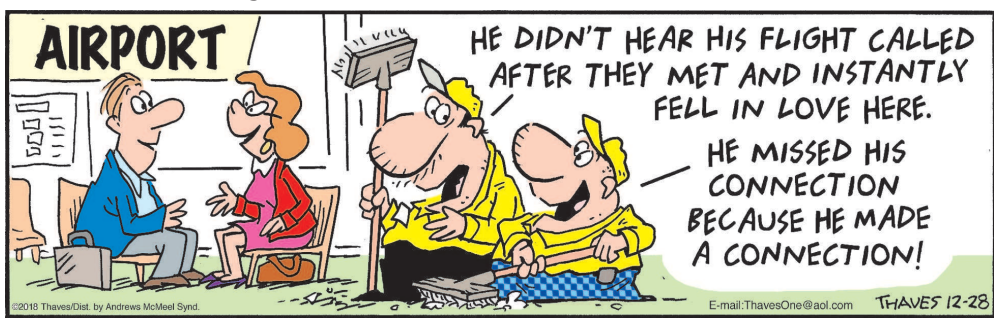
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've a broad view, a kind heart and moral compass that's not swayed by what everyone else is doing. For these reasons, you're an indispensable asset to the group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are two ways to improve your history. One way is to report it in a good light, framing it to highlight the best aspects. The other way is to live it right the first time so you don't have to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you resist the thing you want, for a while it will command your thoughts, calling you back in the most distracting way. But if you ignore that long enough, the temptation will pass and you'll be better for not having given into it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). The year opens with a touch of mysticism that has you transcending your typical experiences and enjoying that which cannot be easily explained or completely understood. Other highlights include an educational certificate, a bump in salary and a mentorship that brings a new agenda to your days. Libra and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 3, 14, 36 and 44.

FRANK AND ERNEST



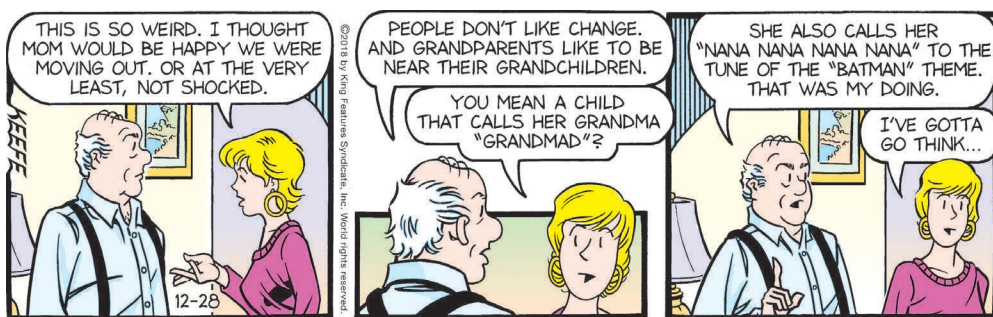
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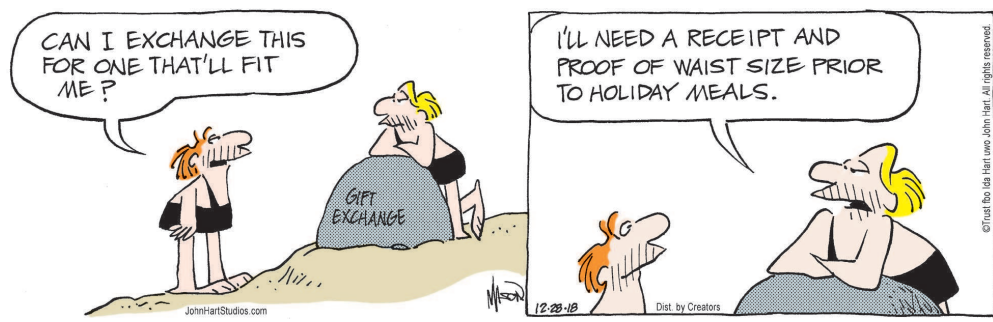
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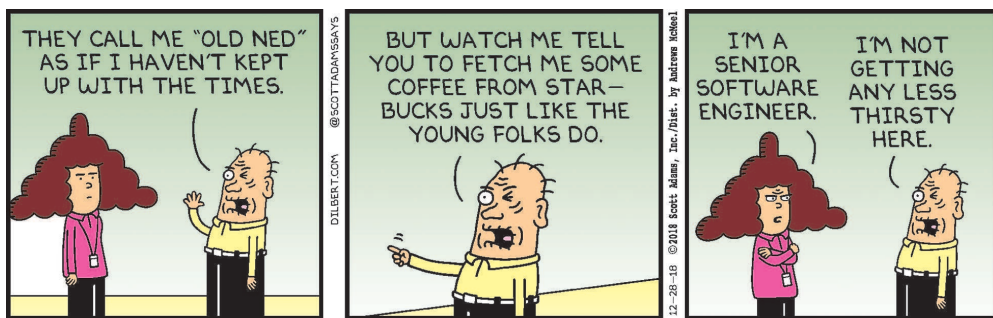
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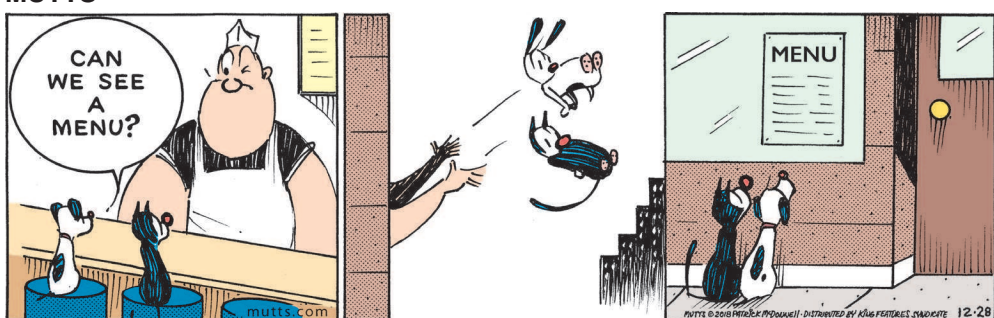
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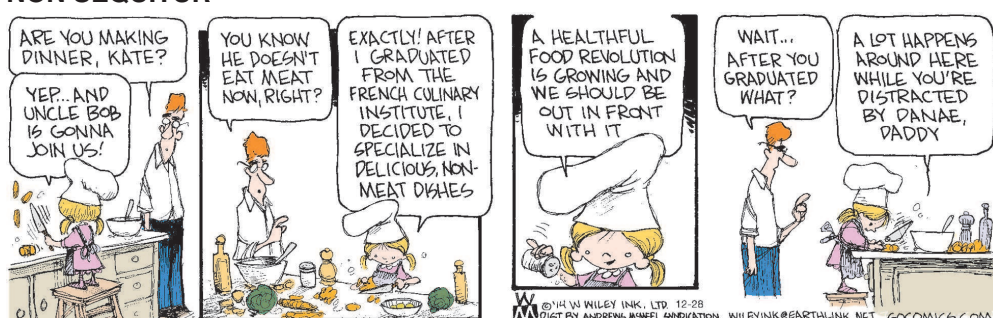
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BABY BLUES



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ROSE IS ROSE

