

# Hurtful comments about kids

**Dear Annie:** I care for my brother-in-law, “Steve,” but both he and his wife, “Tracy,” are a tad egotistical — your classic know-it-all types, the kind of people most can handle only in small doses.

Here’s some backstory before I get to the matter at hand: My husband and I didn’t always plan on having kids. Honestly, our son was a surprise. Steve and Tracy always planned on having children. My mother-in-law, having three sons and always wanting a girl, was hopeful for a granddaughter one day. Steve also strongly wanted a girl. Shortly before our son was born, my husband got a promotion and job offer, which resulted in our moving from Connecticut to Washington state. Although it was best for us financially, it’s been hard being away from our family members, who rarely get to see our son.

About a year ago, my mother-in-law posted a picture of Steve and his little girl on Facebook. A relative commented

on how awesome it is that she became a grandmother twice in one year. Steve, knowing that I would most likely see this, commented, “She’s going to like our kid better, though.”

I tried not to take it too seriously at first, saying something along the lines of “Hey, that’s not nice!” He responded, “It’s just a nice change after so many boys all these years.” The more I’ve thought about it the more annoyed I’ve become. Whether he was joking or not, I think it was a completely unnecessary and rude thing to say. And truthfully, I don’t believe it was a joke. Steve was not a fan of the idea of our moving so far away, so I’m sure that was a factor in the comment he made. Regardless, we’re talking about a child, and I think it was a lousy thing to say.

I’ll admit that I’m very sensitive and I have trouble letting things go. My issue is now that we live across the country and we don’t get to visit home that often, our time with people is

limited and precious. I personally have no desire to see Steve and Tracy. I would never stop my husband from seeing them, but I want no part of it.

Should I say something now or let it go? — *Hurt in the PNW*

**Dear Hurt:** I’d tell you to try to let it go — to realize that his attitude is his own problem, to make peace with his pettiness and move on, satisfied with the knowledge that you’re in the right — but the fact is you’re going to be thinking about this. If it’s already stayed under your skin for a year, it’s likely to be lodged there for the rest of your life, so I think it would be well worth trying to talk it out. Enlist your husband as an intermediary. Try to begin from a place of understanding and common ground: “I know you probably meant this as a joke, but it really hurt my feelings.” Open up a dialogue about how it’s hard for you to be so far away and how the distance is something you don’t take lightly. If Steve and Tracy are as egotistical as you say, it may not be enough to bring them back down to earth — but I have a feeling you’ll feel better for having tried.

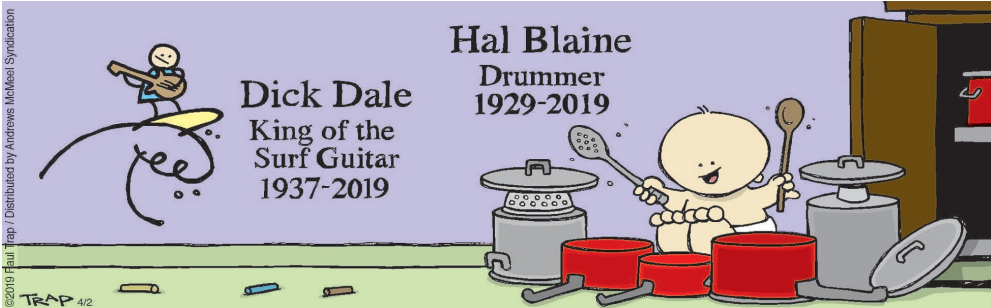


ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
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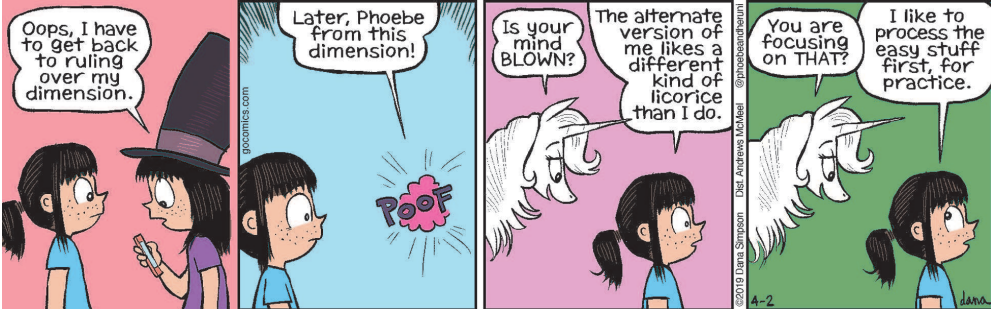
## FRANK AND ERNEST



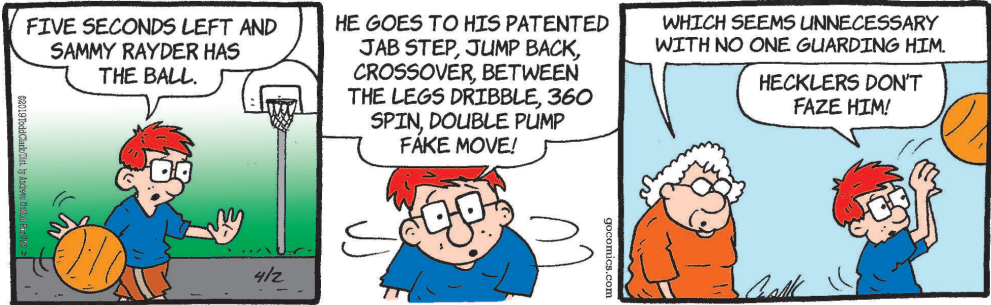
## THATABABY



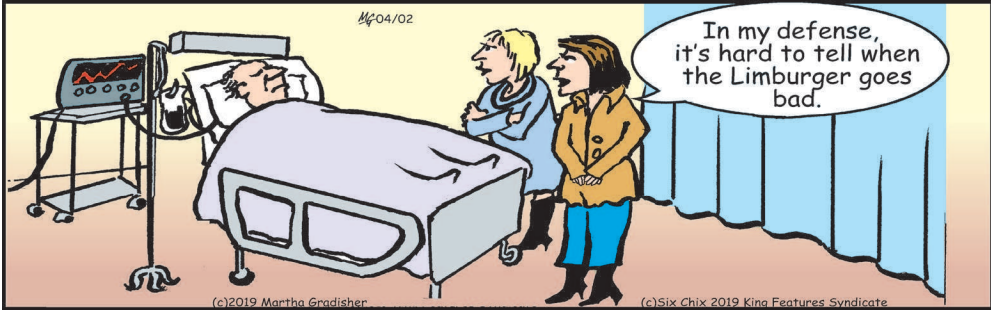
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



## LOLA



## SIX CHIX



## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If you're going to forget something about an interaction, forget the bad parts. That won't be the natural thing to do, but it will be the move that will make you happier and more effective.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Don't mix up mistakes and crimes. Give yourself and others the wide margins for error that everyone needs when learning something new. This awkward phase will be over soon enough.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's a strange thing to ask yourself to consider your emotions from a less emotional perspective, but some amount of detachment will benefit you as you sort through recent happenings and decide how you'd like to react.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Getting out, active and moving in the world will be so crucial to your mood and progress. You'll need the influence of other people, as well as some fresh air and sunshine, to be your best self.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Swap nostalgic stories with people you've known awhile — it cements the bond, brings good cheer and lends a healthy perspective of time to everyone's mindset.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The goal is no longer seeming doable, but this is not a sign that you should drop the goal. Change up your action steps. A different approach will yield different results.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're not thinking about your own interests as you go into today's venture, ready to do whatever you can to make things better for everyone else. It just works out that by helping the others, you wind up

helping yourself.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Remind yourself of your own happy history. You've much to be proud of. It's one of those days when the active efforts you take to bring yourself up will work well to keep your heart buoyant and your mood resilient.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Tune in to what's going on inside you. When you can find peace in your own heart, there is nothing to worry or fear about any other place on the Earth.

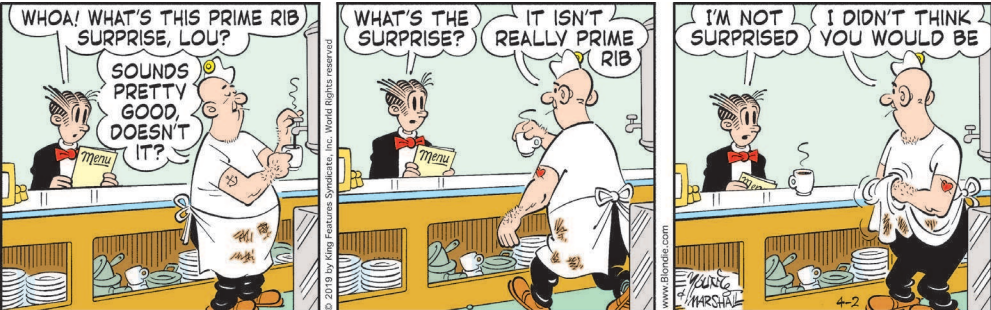
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Decision paralysis is caused by having too many options to choose from. But when you really analyze your choices today, there are far fewer that make real sense for you. In fact, there are but two.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You don't absolutely have to complete each and every daily task in order to feel happier, but it helps! Things left undone weigh disproportionately on your mind, and handling them gives you a lift.

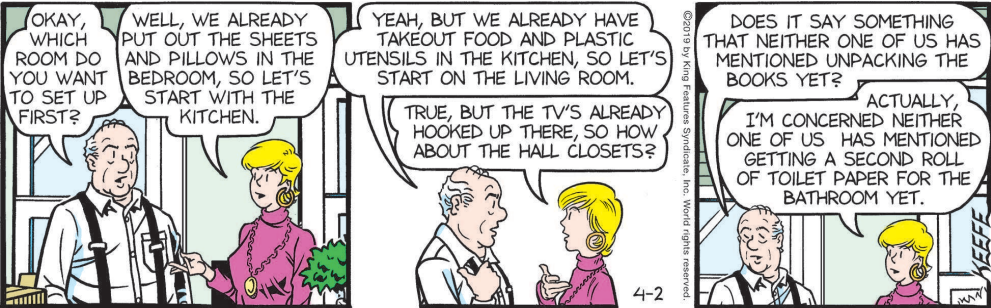
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Negotiations ensue. The values on the table being haggled over are not the sum total of what is at stake. With wisdom, this can work better than expected for all involved.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 3).** Your people already know the value of what you bring to the table, but they'll appreciate you even more as outsiders take notice, praising and promoting you in the glow of your solar return. You'll get the support you need for your special agenda in June. You'll see more of the world in 2020 and get special travel deals. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 33, 14 and 28.

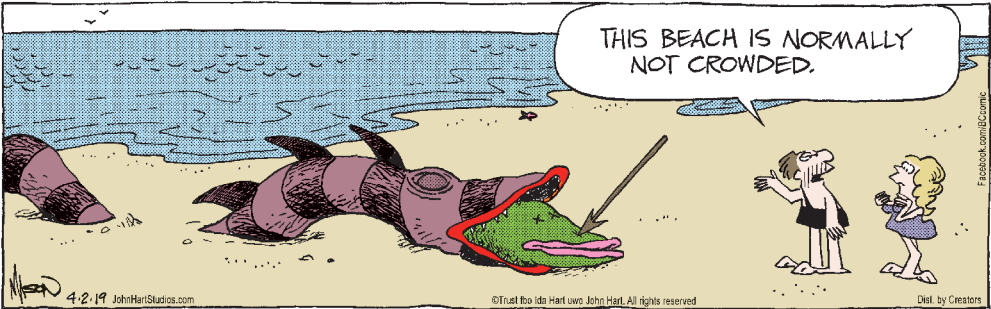
## BLONDIE



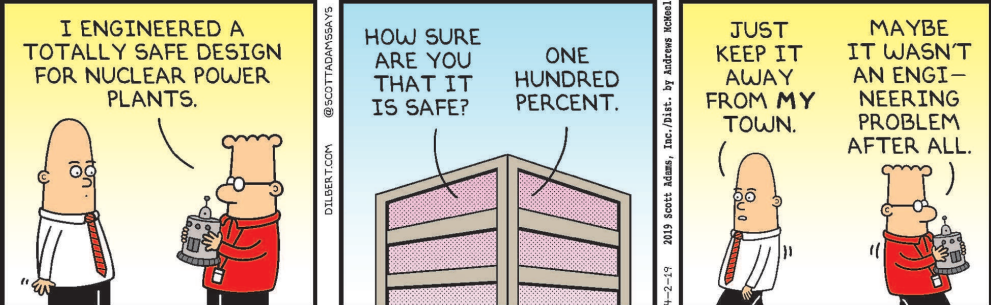
## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



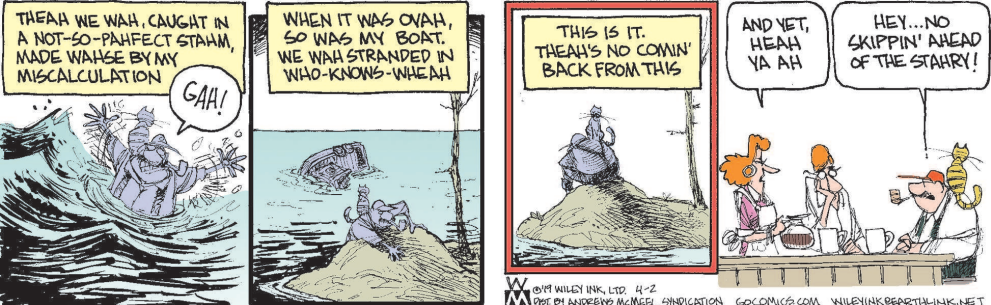
## DILBERT



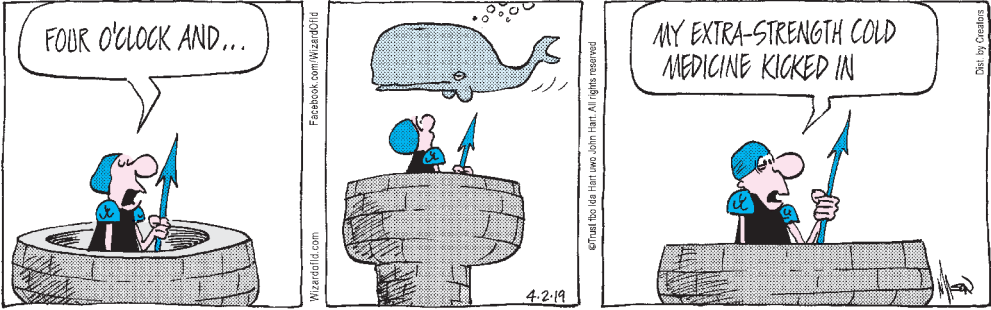
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

