

Too late to buy a house?

Dear Annie: Usually active and energetic, I will be turning 80 in the spring. How I dread that birthday! Once my favorite season, spring now haunts me.

A fine artist, a painter, I still have dreams of finding a house to buy — one where I could hang my paintings and invite people in to see them. I’ve been looking for several years. I’m finding that houses are either in undesirable locations or too expensive.

I never married and have rented and lived in apartments for many years. But I want to have a garden and be more involved and attend more activities.

I feel younger than I am, and people have told me that I look younger. Is it too late, I wonder, to have such goals? — *Young at Heart*

Dear Young at Heart: Go for it and buy your first home. Why dread spring? You feel and look like a spring chicken. You may have to make some

compromises when it comes to the location of the home, but at least it will be your own house. You really are only as old as you feel, and you sound youthful and excited about new adventures, such as cultivating your own garden. People are living much longer these days, so passing 100 years old is not out of the question. You could enjoy your house for 20-plus more years!

Dear Annie: I’m writing to you because of a disturbing fact that my dentist revealed to me. I’m about to have some major work done in my mouth. I am a person who lives as close to an organic life as possible, so I wanted to be reassured that nothing harmful is going to be left behind in my mouth. I asked my dentist, “So, there won’t be any plastics with BPA in them put into my mouth, right?” Bisphenol A has been taken out of all plastic bottles and toys because of government regulations. Imagine my shock when the dentist said,

“We still use plastics with BPA in them.” On a follow-up visit with a periodontist, I asked him the same question, to which he replied: “Your dentist was right. We are allowed to use plastics with BPA in them. It’s a discussion that more people should be having with their dentists,” because not as much money is spent on researching dental patients as is being spent on other types of research.

How could this be?! Isn’t it illegal to put BPA into plastic consumer products? How is it OK for a dentist to leave a plastic product in your mouth that will leach BPA slowly into your bloodstream 24/7?

My dentist, fortunately, respects my opinion and has promised me that he can build the prosthetics for my mouth without using any BPA plastics in them. Please tell everyone to ask the question. — *Pass on the BPA, Please*

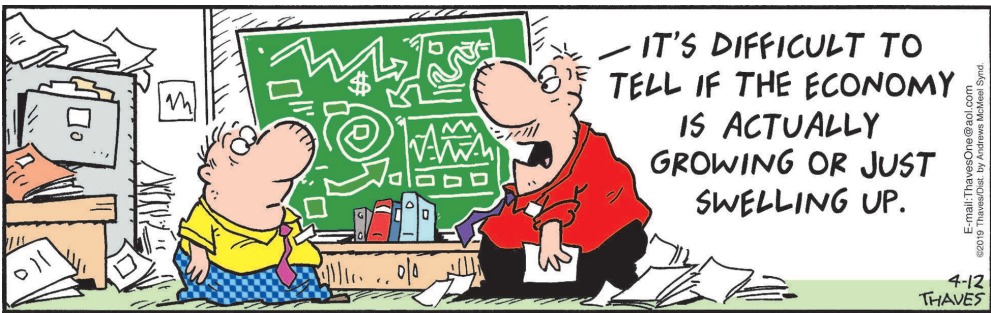
Dear Pass on the BPA: Thank you for bringing this fact to my attention. If any dentists out there have experience with this, I would love to hear from them.

DEAR ANNIE

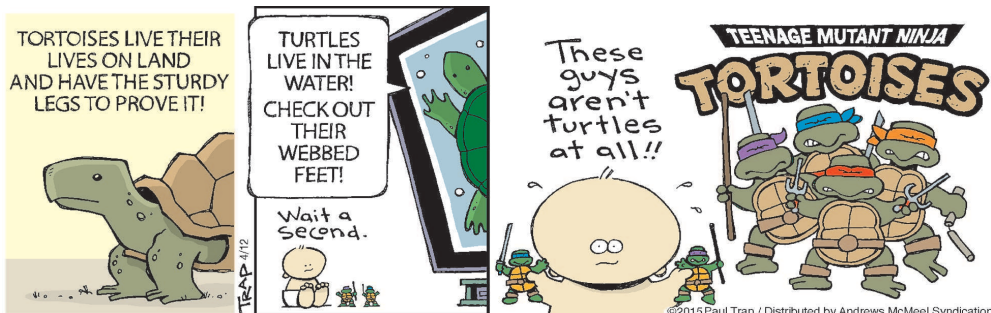


ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

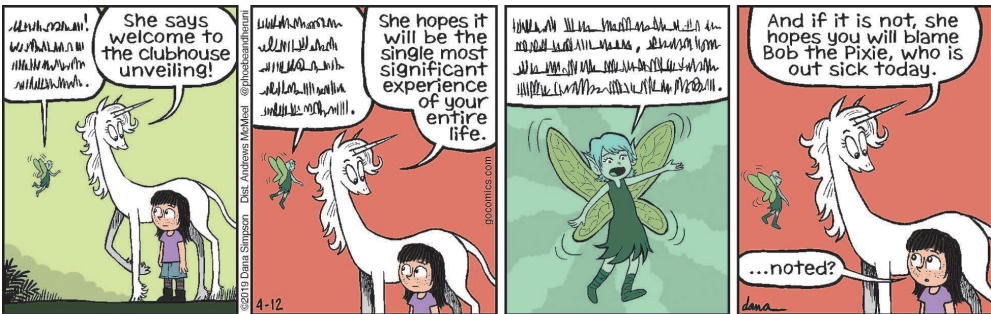
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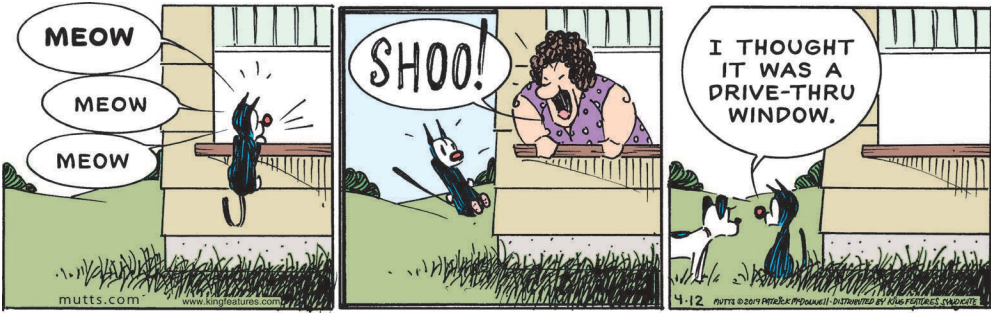
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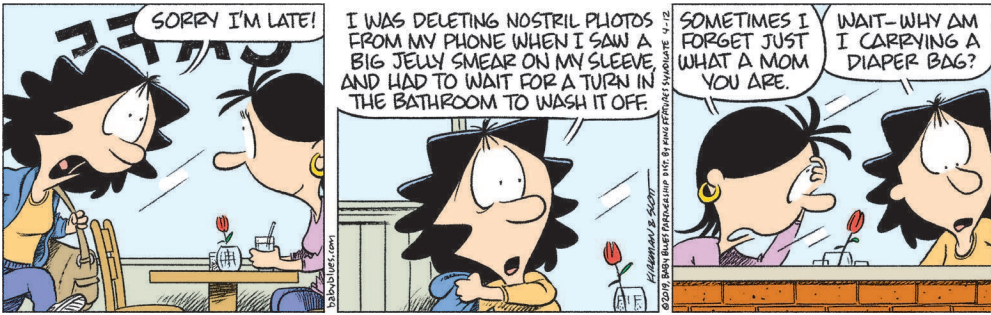
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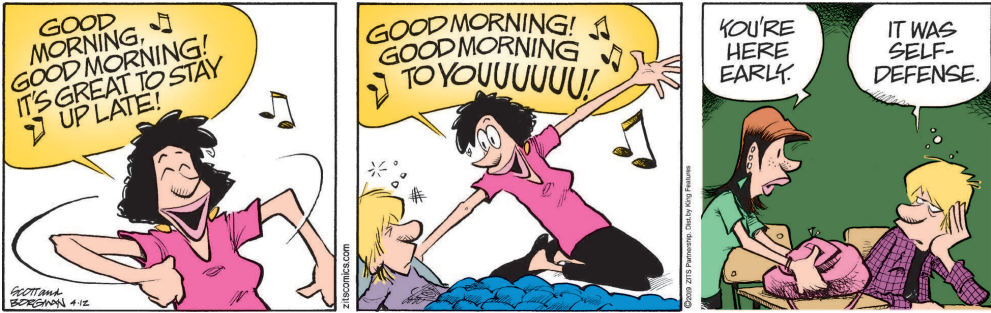
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BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're willing to fight for what's right but not overly focused on finding out what's wrong. There's a time and a place for digging around to find the problems and solve them. Right now it's more about breezy rapport building.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maturity comes from experience — often, not always. Those who don't mature also reflect on what happened, make decisions about what to do and lose, and keep going forward getting older without getting wiser.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For some reason you're struggling against what you want. Maybe it presents a conflict with what you wanted in the past, or with how others see you. Dig deeper for enlightenment. Ask, "If I get this, what will it do for me?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just because someone is in a position of authority doesn't make that person better than someone who is in a low-status position. In fact, there are many benefits to being on the ground level today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Social time is not wasted time, though it can verge on that if not commandeered to some extent. Things go better when you know your purpose for the interaction, even if that purpose is just to relax and have fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The saying "these are the good old days" is completely true. So take pictures, not just of people's faces but of the ordinary things. The kitchen in the morning and the parked car will be future nostalgic details.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To learn that your expectations were unrealistic and adjust your thinking — that's maturity. But what about when your expectations were well within the realm of reason and still not met? That's character building.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The problem may be that you're taking too much responsibility for the actions of others. The line between helping and enabling can be hard to see when you're standing on it. Ask a trusted friend for a second opinion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Children fantasize about who they'll be when they grow up. Grown-ups do the same. Our identities are in continual development, to which you can attest. You're seeing yourself differently, moving in a new direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A most fulfilling day awaits during which you're likely to act in support of another with the full knowledge that it will not progress any goal of your own, except the goal of being helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The thing that will add to your repertoire and broaden your vision is not harder work in the same direction. Rather, it's a recognition of more parts of yourself, specifically the acceptance of your shadow.

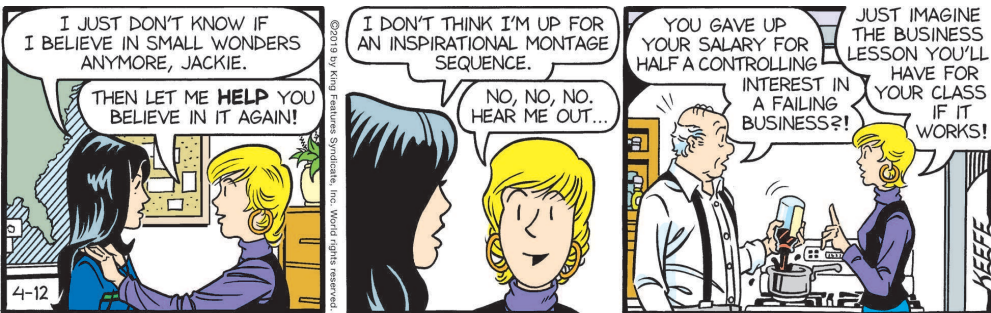
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's as impossible to have a real relationship with a fantasy person as it is to have a fantasy relationship with a real person. Perhaps there's a reason to have both kinds of relationships in your life. Just keep the categories straight.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 13). You're careening toward a new level of self-actualization in which you'll do things you've wanted to do for a long time as well as things you never imagined. The people you surround yourself with matter a lot. Be proactive in this regard, and enjoy numerous benefits to your personal and professional life. Pisces and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 8, 14 and 6.

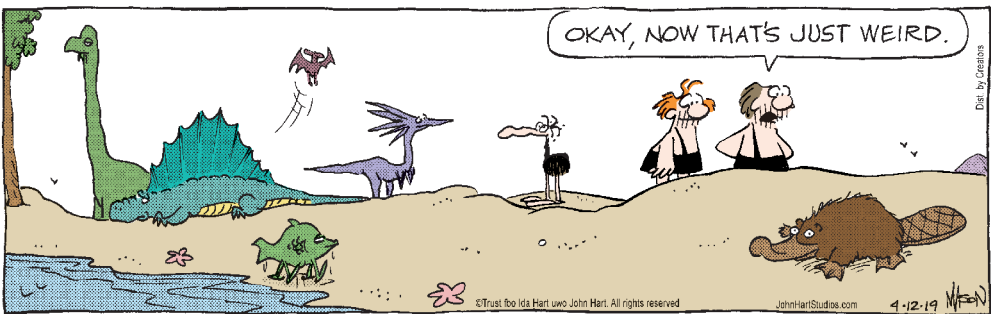
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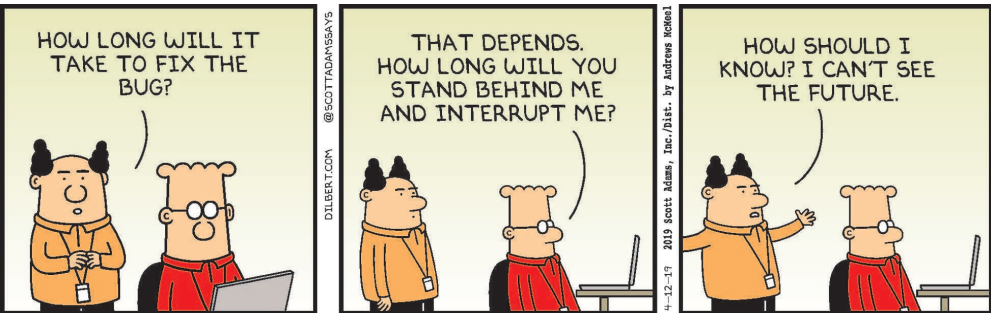
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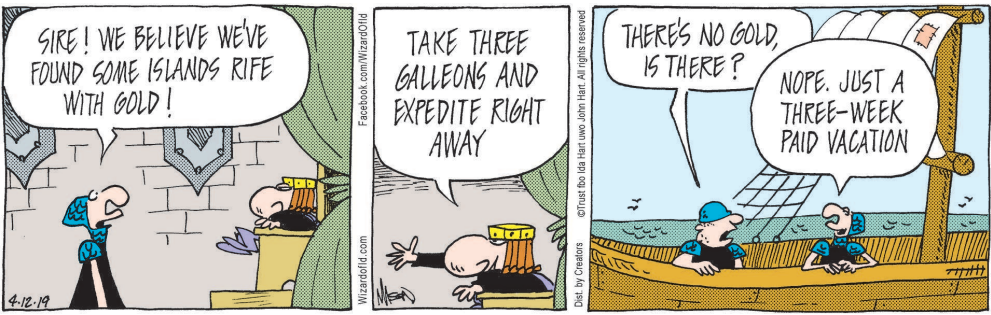
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ROSE IS ROSE

