

# Worried about cat adoption

**Dear Annie:** I am hoping you can help me sort this out. I am an avid animal lover, and I have had animals all my life. I am now on the brink of turning 65 and have no pets. I am in very good health. Also, I am on the autism spectrum (high functioning). Despite 30 years of counseling, I have no friends (and no family). I am yearning to adopt a cat! However, I have reservations because of my age.

What if I suddenly had to go in the hospital for a few days or even a week? I have no one to look after my pet. What happens to my cat if I pass away? I have no one to take care of her/him. I am so worried about this that it has delayed my going to the shelter to bring home a precious friend.

Do you know of any programs available for people like me? Perhaps there is a service that I can call (or they call me) to make sure I am alive and well, tending to the needs of my cat. If you or your readers have any ideas, I would be quite grateful. I really love animals, and I have had veterinarians tell me any animal I

adopt will be “lucky indeed.” — *Missing Out on Friends*

**Dear Missing Out:** It’s a wise idea to have a system in place so that someone will know if you’re in a bind — not just for your future cat’s sake but also for yours! It would be beneficial to get plugged in to some form of community, even if human company isn’t something you crave (based on your letter, I’m not sure). Perhaps volunteering at an animal shelter would be a good option: You’d be working alongside people who also love animals and would be likely to check on your cat for you, should you run into obstacles.

Also, you might consider adopting an adult cat (i.e., 5-6 years old) instead of a kitten if you’re worried you might not be able to care for a cat for 16 years (the average lifespan of an indoor cat). Adult cats have a harder time finding homes than kittens — only 60 percent of cats older than 18 months get adopted, while more than 82 percent of kittens do — so you’d be doing

an extra-great thing. I’ll let you know what other tips I hear from readers on adopting pets as a senior. But I don’t think you should wait to hear those tips to proceed with adopting. I concur with the veterinarians: The cat who lands in your lap is a felicitous feline indeed.

**Dear Annie:** I was bullied in high school. Recently, I was messaged through social media from someone I knew in high school, and I made the mistake of responding. It turns out that she is on the committee for the reunion, and she will not stop pestering me about it. When I politely told her I had no interest, she should have moved on. Instead, she keeps pestering me. Her prodding makes me determined never to attend any reunions.

There are hundreds of reasons why people might not attend, but none of these reasons are owed to anyone. — *Living My Life Forward*

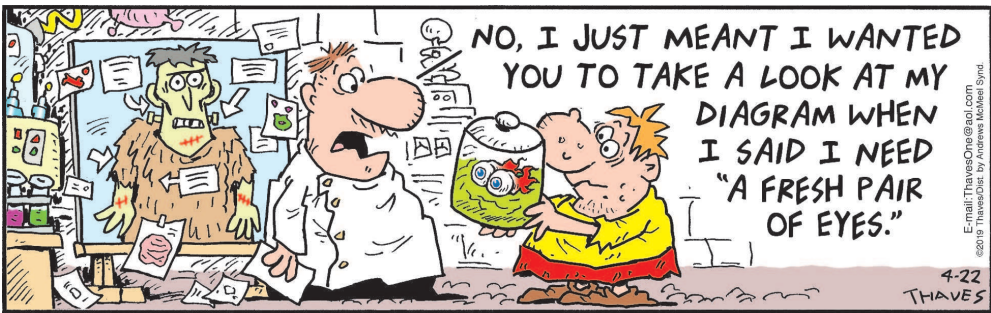
**Dear Living My Life Forward:** Food for thought not just for your old classmates but also for anyone hosting an event. A declined invitation is not a personal attack. Thank you for writing.

## DEAR ANNIE

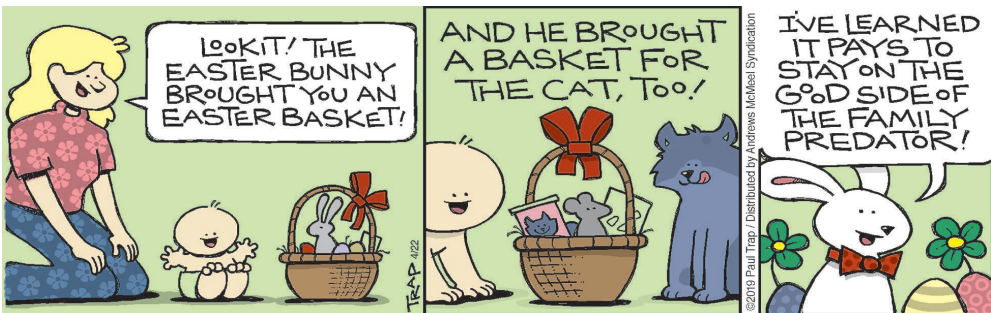


ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

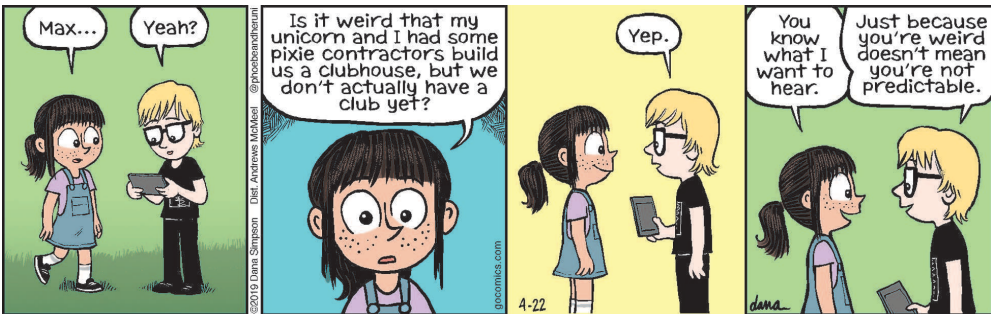
## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



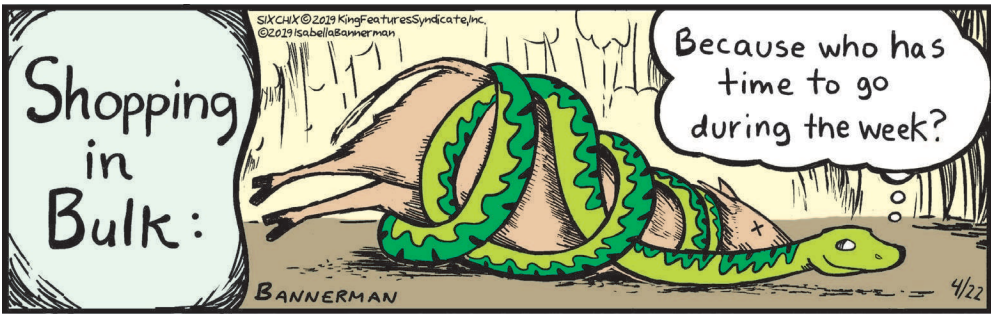
## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



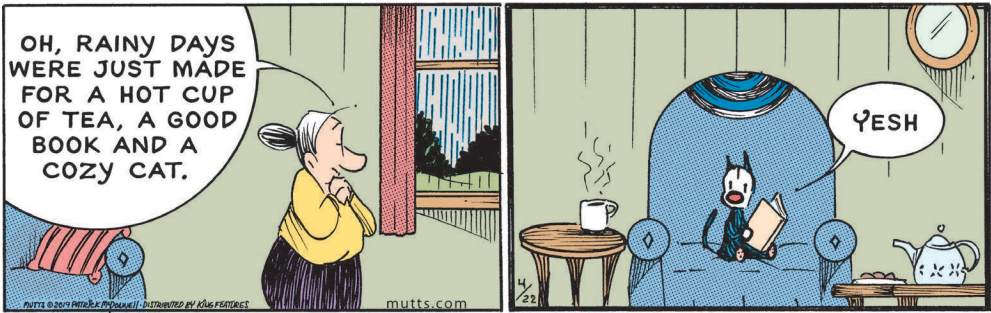
## LOLA



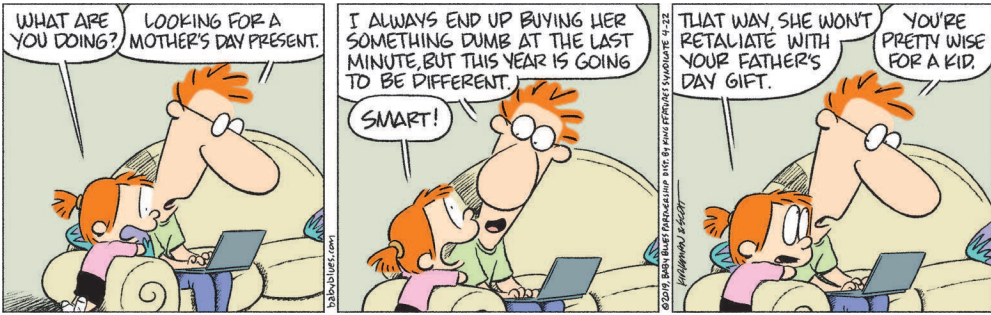
## SIX CHIX



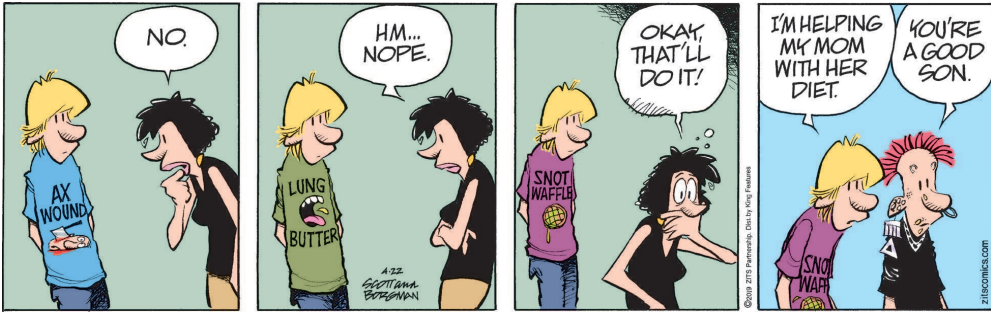
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Sometimes you have to spend time with people who just aren't a good influence on you, but more often you have a choice. When you think and plan ahead, it's easier to avoid having to spend time in ways you don't prefer.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The truth moves you, even if the truth happens to be fiction. It's the *emotional* truth of a thing that rings out or doesn't. Just be aware that this can be manipulated by skilled actors, liars and storytellers.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You love people in different ways and for different reasons than you once did, which is the natural progression of love — to move with the changes, whether they be toward depth or friendliness or familiarity. It's nothing to fear.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Just by being you and doing the next right thing, you will build up the trust others have in you. You'll do it enough times and in as many different ways as possible.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your fresh, playful attitude makes it possible for you to live long without growing old. It also attracts attention from interesting people. The conversation is terrific!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're doing something that you would do whether or not you were paid. And yet, maybe you shouldn't offer this service for free. It's possible people will value it better if they pay for it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** As you work, don't be afraid to make your tools your own. The same goes for the rest of the resources. Forget about what a thing was designed to do. What matters is what you're *using* it to do.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It's one thing to understate things out of modesty or social grace and quite another to hide your light because you're afraid to show people what you're up to. Talk about your work. The support you get will do you good.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Showing your love isn't always romantic, like the gift of flowers, or glamorous, like being on a fantastic trip. Mostly, showing your love is as small as spoonfuls, as diligent as washing dishes, as moving as a carpool.

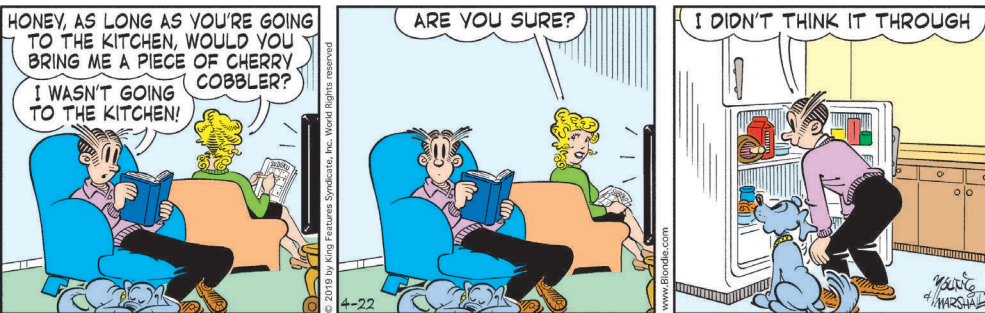
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You can't change other people, but you can make them want to change and then watch as they do the changing all by themselves. This is through fear or inspiration. Inspiration is better.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Perfectionism can be a form of fear. To collect your "points" in whatever form they are available today, you need to get the product out the door. Know when to say, "Good enough."

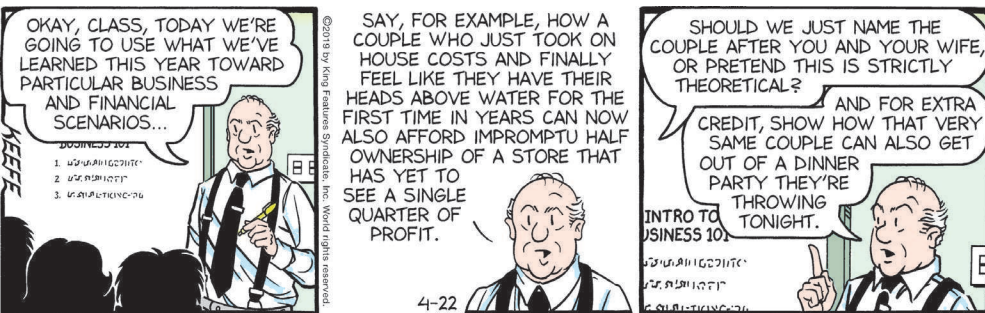
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Fun is contagious, but it's also subjective. Read the room. And if you're not in the room, as in an email or text situation, this is impossible. Jokes are risky unless you already know your audience well.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 23).** It starts with a 10-week stretch of cosmic boons, many and varied, including a lucky friend, fantastic tickets and an open door to a better position. You'll have the means to get what you want, but be careful, as an acquisition becomes, to some extent, a taskmaster, requiring attention and maintenance. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 40, 28, 1 and 19.

## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



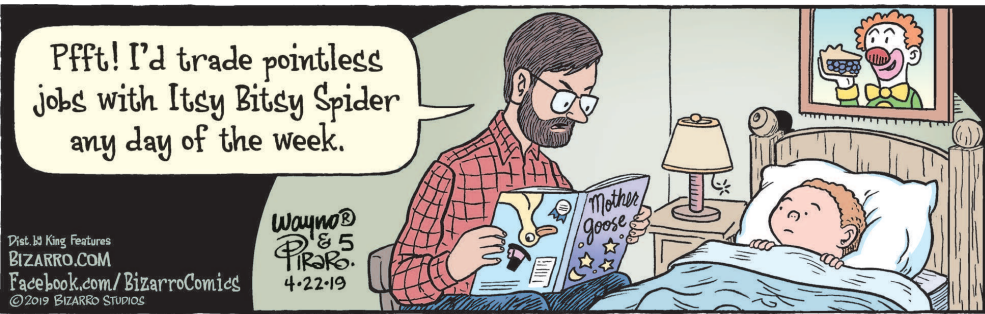
## B.C.



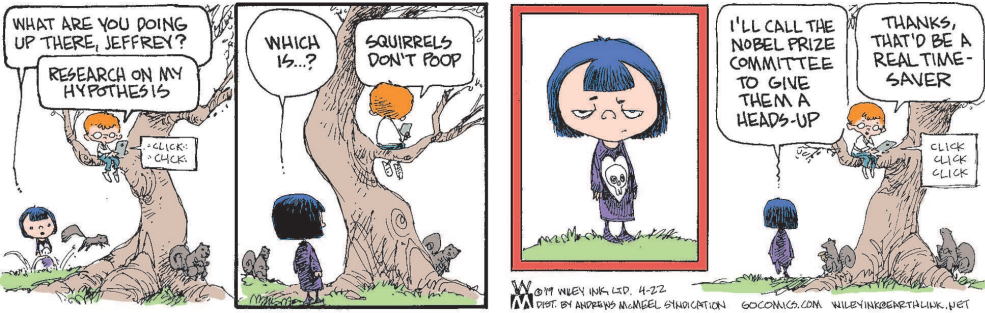
## DILBERT



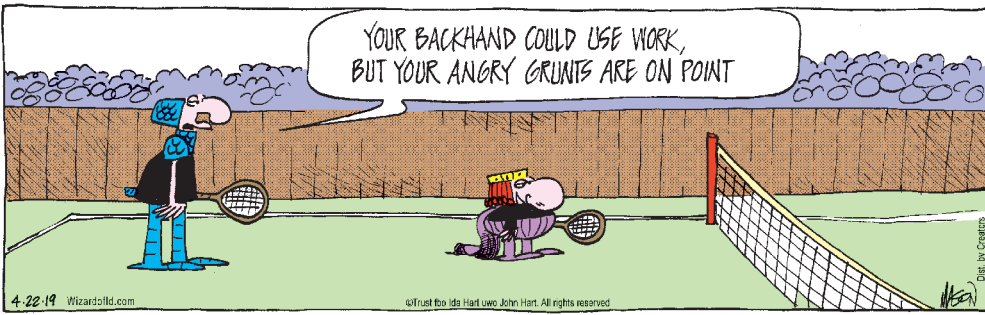
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

