

# Making a good choice

**Dear Annie:** I had my 14th birthday two weeks before I gave birth to my son. The hardest thing I have ever done was to sign the paper for him to be adopted. The entire time I was pregnant, I tried to think of any way I would be able to keep and raise my son. At 14, I completed my first semester in ninth grade but had to drop out my second semester.

I cried and prayed each night for a way to keep my son, to be able to take care of him. For years, I would look into the faces of boys and then men to see if I recognized my son. I silently celebrated each birthday, and prayed he was OK and in a loving home. I didn't actively try to find my son as I didn't feel I had any right to look for him, to interrupt his life, or to have any claim to be a part of his life. I never gave up hope and never gave up praying that he was happy and healthy and that he would somehow know from all the "talks" and "love" that we shared while I was carrying him that he would somehow feel that love and not feel abandoned or unwanted.

The best day of my life came more than 45 years later when I received a phone call, and it was my son!

Many times a birth mother really has no choice or is unable, for whatever reason, to raise a child, and if a loving family is unable to have a child of their own but is able to give that baby a loving home, it is a truly great thing.

I still regret that I was unable to be the mother my son needed, and I am grateful that he had a great life with his adoptive parents who loved him, and that he does not hate me for my choices. — *A Loving and Thankful Mother*

**Dear Birth Mother:** Your letter is extremely touching. You sound like a beautiful person and mother. May your letter help people who are wondering if their birth mothers wanted them.

**Dear Annie:** We know that schools and food manufacturers are cognizant of nut (or peanut) allergies, and we all can have empathy for those suffering from these allergies and the limitations it puts on their families and

themselves, but we have a condition in our family and it is not being addressed in public places — obesity.

My granddaughter has Prader-Willi syndrome and has an insatiable appetite, which can cause obesity and early death. She is hungry 24/7 and will never, ever feel full even after eating.

When visiting a school I am appalled with the overabundance of candy and treats everywhere. Gingerbread houses at Christmas decorated with marshmallows and candy — a treat for children but a torment for my granddaughter.

I would love it if schools could take food out of classrooms and back in the cafeteria. It would help my granddaughter, but it would be a blessing for all children to place food as an option only in certain places rather than in the classroom. — *Empathetic Grandma*

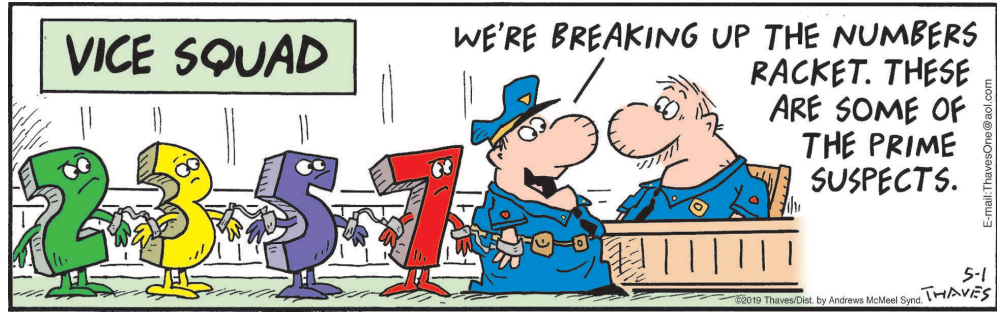
**Dear Empathetic Grandma:** I certainly empathize with your complaint and think that you raise a valid point. However, food has long been at the center of many traditions in our society. Rather than trying to do away with that altogether, we might try using more healthful foods.

## DEAR ANNIE

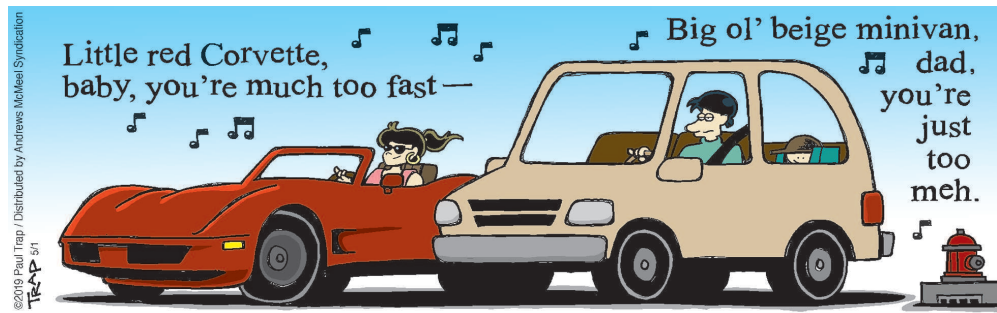


ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

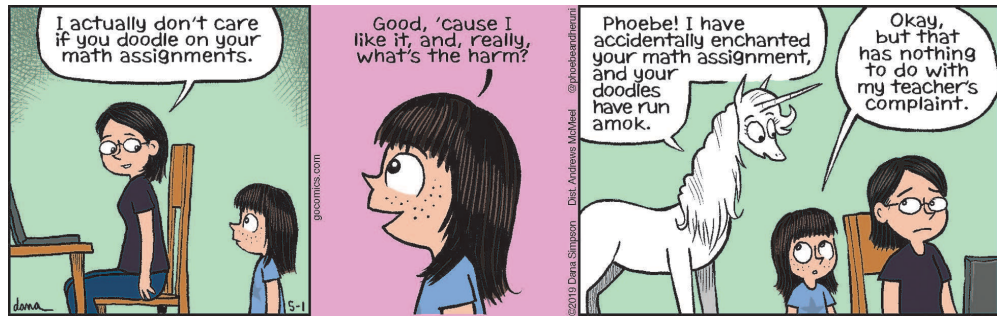
## FRANK AND ERNEST



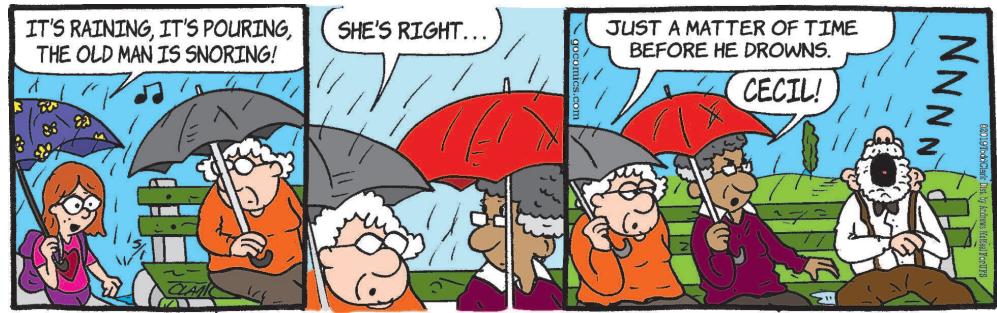
## THATABABY



## PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



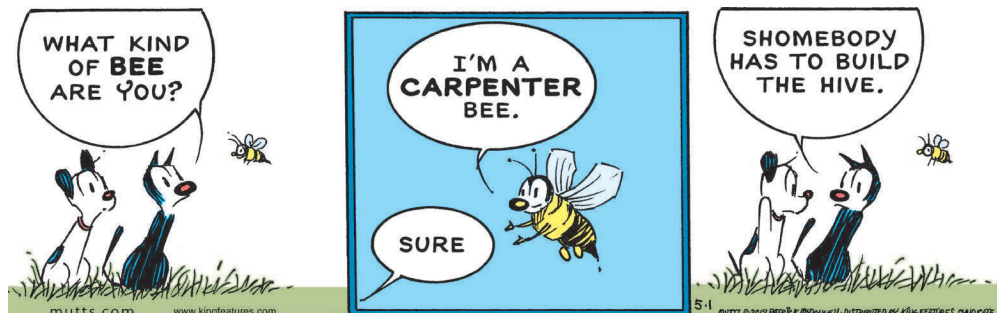
## LOLA



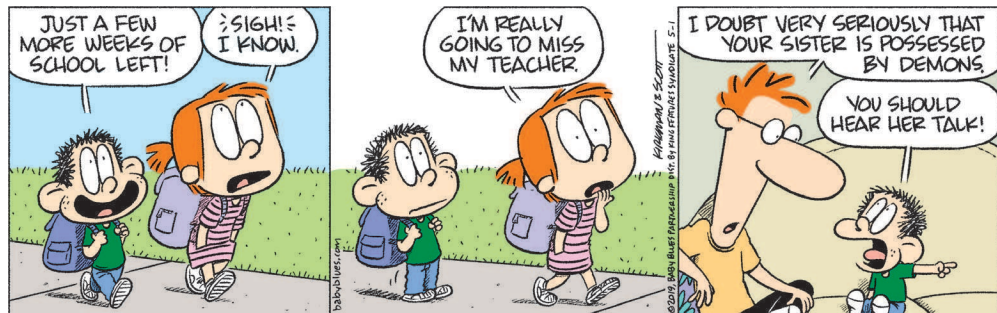
## SIX CHIX



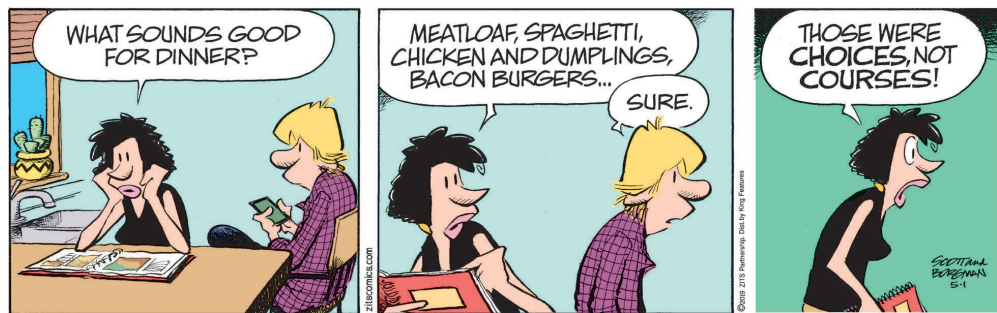
## MUTTS



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** What gives the others a right to command your time? It's not a "what," it's a "who, and the "who" is you. Your time is yours and, arguably, among the most precious things you own. You'll deliberate before giving it away.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Where you want to be is not so different from where you stand, but great courage is still needed to rise up and make the few key changes necessary to get there.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Maybe it's not fair that people expect more of you than they do of others, but it's only because you keep doing such a fantastic job, raising that bar to new levels.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Happy relationships seem to come so easily to some. Then again, who really knows? Everyone has a public and private face. The only way to really find out what's going on in the inside of a relationship is to tend to your own.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Clutter isn't just a little mess to be cleaned up whenever; it's a representation of disorder and wonky alignment. Cleaning it up, even a little, will cause seemingly unrelated and magical good fortune.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're starting to think of things in their broader context. You're seeing how they relate and affect their environment, what they are connected to and what they cannot do without. New insights come from this big-picture thinking.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Ask a scientist — the act of observing changes what's observed. You can't interact without influencing the situation. But with a quiet, neutral approach, you might glimpse the version that was there before you

arrived.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** One way to stop worrying is to write things down. Make lists. Make a list of things you can control about the situation and, just to remind yourself, another list of things you can't.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You made your choice. Or did you? It felt like a semiautomatic response to your environment motivated by basic human needs like survival, identity and belonging. Can you really be credited or blamed for that?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Like an elevator in a high rise, you have many buttons to push. And people who push a lot of buttons are going to have a very slow ride to where they need to go.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Because you're so creative, you can make sense of the illogical, find links between seemingly unrelated things and weave together disparate ideas — all skills that will serve you well over the next three days.

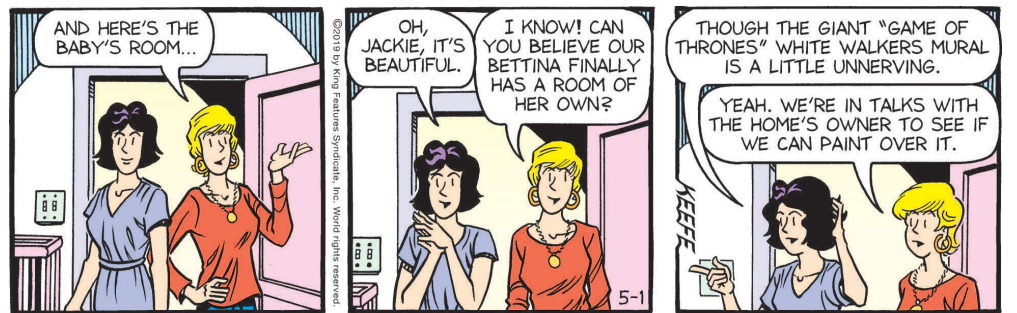
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're not always inclined toward the spiritual advice to meditate, pray or seek enlightenment. There are practical ways to get to the same place. Anything that helps you grow as a person also expands your spirit.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 2).** You'll heal your pain, overcome fear and create a different sort of daily flow. All this helps you manage the things that used to hold you back. By July, you'll feel so successful that you won't crave any exterior trappings to prove it, and yet they'll show up anyway. You'll get family together for fun and memory-making. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 46, 6, 7, 38 and 44.

## BLONDIE



## SALLY FORTH



## B.C.



## DILBERT



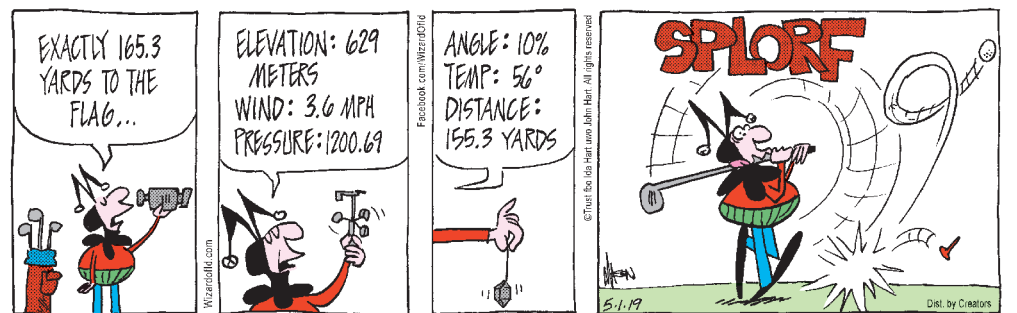
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

