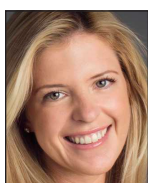


Neighbor's touch is disturbing

Dear Annie: I have a problem with my neighbor that I don't know how to handle. We have been neighbors for three or four years. "Mr. Yates" has a seriously ill wife who is homebound. He does everything for her, in addition to doing all the work on the property. He has been helpful to me.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Here's the problem: He can't ever seem to talk to me (a woman) without touching me. It's always on the arm or shoulder, nothing inappropriate. But I hate it, so I end up avoiding him (and his wife). I think it is a habit he has formed and he doesn't even realize he does it. But I don't know what I can say to him to get him to stop. Can you give me a suggestion? — *Wanting to Be a Good Neighbor*

Dear Wanting: Being a good neighbor does not mean being subjected to physical contact that makes you feel uncomfortable. I'm not saying that is your neighbor's intention, but it's the effect nonetheless, and that means it's got to stop. Some people suggest feigning a sneeze or a cough whenever you run into a "hugger"

whom you don't want to hug. A similar trick might help prevent any unwanted contact from Mr. Yates. You could also try standing far away from him, keeping your arms folded against your chest, offering cues that you're not open to contact. If all else fails and you'd like to try speaking with him about the issue, I would step away from him when he tries to place a hand on your shoulder and say something like, "Please don't take offense, but I'm not a touchy-feely person."

Dear Annie: I am privileged to train and place psychiatric service dogs with our military veterans who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. Your response to "Frustrated," who is annoyed that people seem to take dogs everywhere, was spot on — because you shamed people who falsely represent their pets as service dogs and because you reminded the general population that not all symptoms of disabilities are visible.

Service dogs are growing as a treatment option for a variety of conditions beyond their origi-

nal use as guides for the sight-impaired. Service dogs can be trained to alert hearing-impaired individuals to certain sounds and can calm children who have autism. Through training, they can detect and alert their handlers to highs and lows in blood sugar, impending seizure activity, irregular heart rhythms and impending panic attacks and road rage.

Please encourage your readers to visit the government website dedicated to the Americans With Disabilities Act, specifically the page about service animals. The site, ADA.gov, features informative Q&As that clearly explain the rights and obligations of service dog teams and of the public entities those teams wish to access.

Please encourage people who are interested to talk with their government representatives and support legislation that would make it a crime to falsely represent a personal pet as a service dog. This could give merchants and local law enforcement a means to prevent people from misrepresenting their pets as service dogs. — *Dog Trainer*

Dear Dog Trainer: Thank you for your important work training and placing service dogs.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This week features the cosmic equivalent of an invitation to a fancy dinner in which you'll be around new people you'd be keen to impress. Your choice of attire will be equally important to the topics you pull out of your conversational hat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's hard to "hate the sin and love the sinner," when both the "sin" and the "sinner" happen to be forwarding your interests. Take a look at what you might be complicit in by simply wanting what you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The reckoning your soul longs for may be with someone from long ago. That moment has passed, and it will be impossible to get back to it, but there's still a way to make things right going forward.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While the welfare of others is a worthy investment, don't give your resources out of a sense of guilt or obligation. Anyone who makes you feel like you're indebted is incorrect and possibly conning you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It may feel as though you are toning down something about yourself to avoid challenging, upsetting or offending people around you. It's true that what you really want will cause waves, but it's nothing you can't handle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The universe will be persistent with you. What starts out as a suggestion, if not taken, will later be presented to you as a challenge. If you still do not take on the idea, it will present as more of a demand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If your leisure time doesn't provide the stress release you need and your work keeps ramping up the tension, perhaps both need a serious look. Don't passively live out the default version of your life. Go for the juice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The words that help you reason your way through a problem will mean nothing to your emotional brain, which speaks a different language. To get your whole mind on board, engage through your senses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People will often go to greater lengths to avoid boredom than they will to avoid pain. You can use this fact to your advantage and get good results by applying your knack for entertaining.

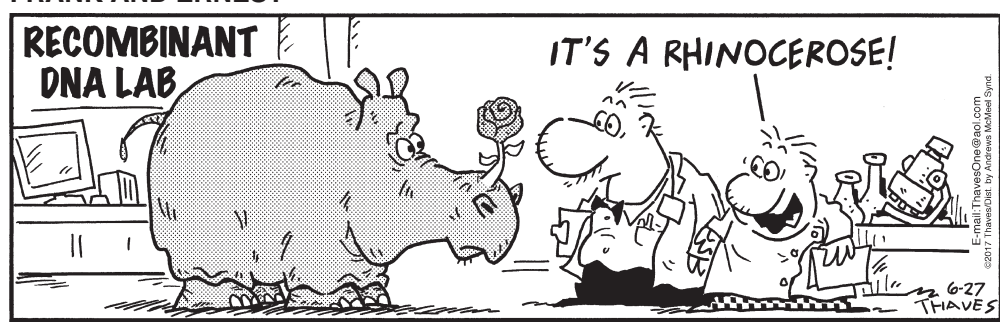
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will take more than hard work to win at this game. Momentum will help. It's a matter of reducing friction and aligning yourself with maximum congruence; get all the elements aligned in the same direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). More than any other time in history, people have come to expect to be entertained at every juncture. Finding reasons to be engaged (instead of waiting for the obvious captivation cues) is a sign of special intelligence.

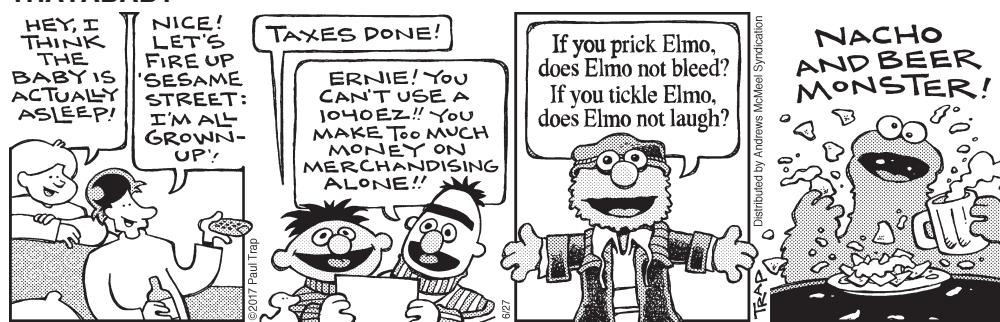
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In those times when your life feels completely filled up and yet oddly unfulfilling, identify the activities that are the equivalent of eating junk food — i.e., quantity rich and nutrient poor.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 28). It may seem like the consequences of one direction or the other will alter life drastically. Don't let this paralyze you. The reality is that you'll come out smiling either way. Lighten up and choose. Companionship is rich, though September calls for a solo mission. Professional breakthroughs happen in January and June. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 4, 44 and 15.

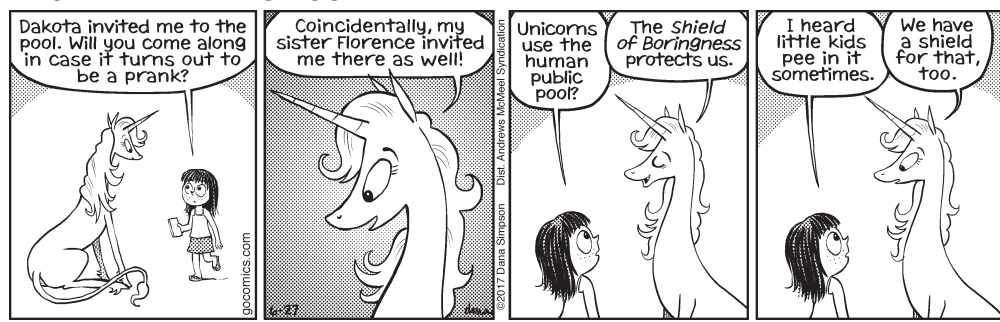
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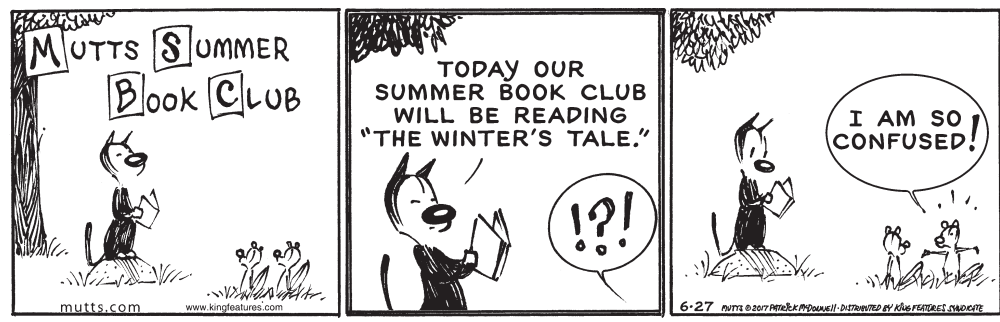
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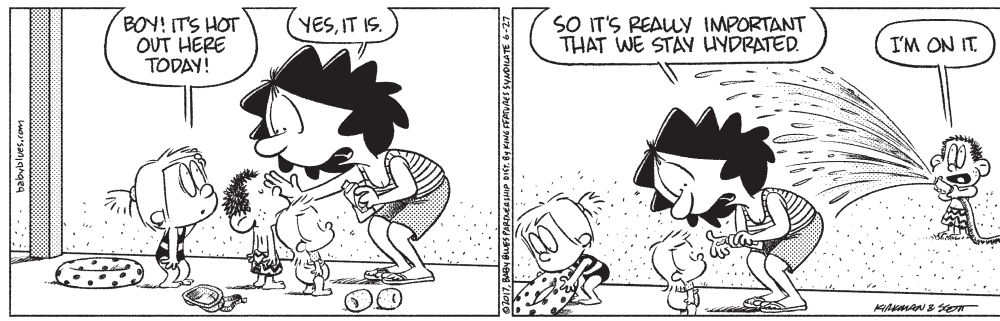
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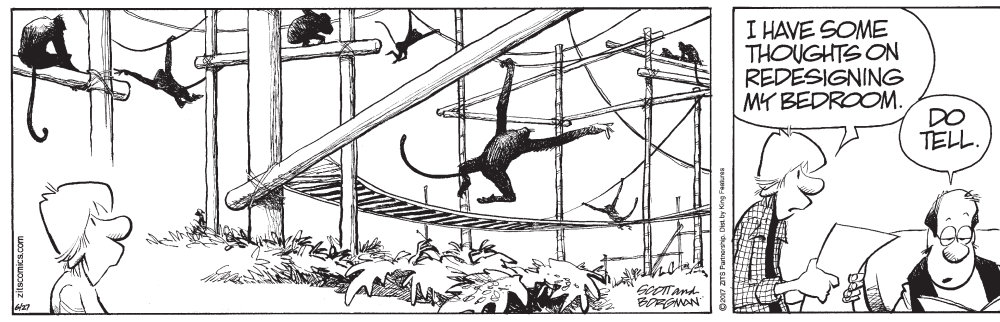
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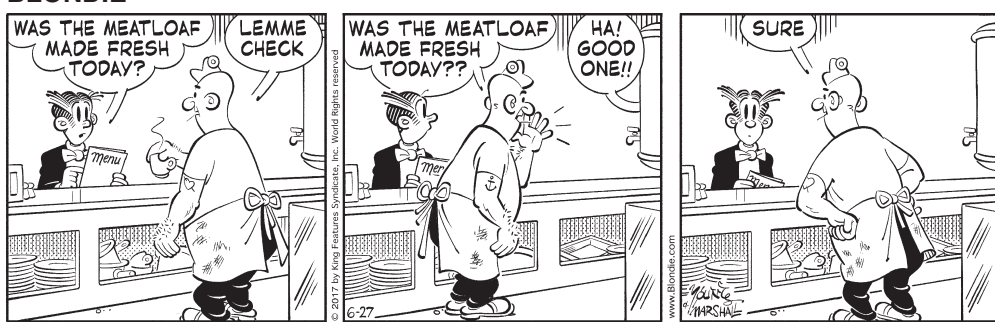
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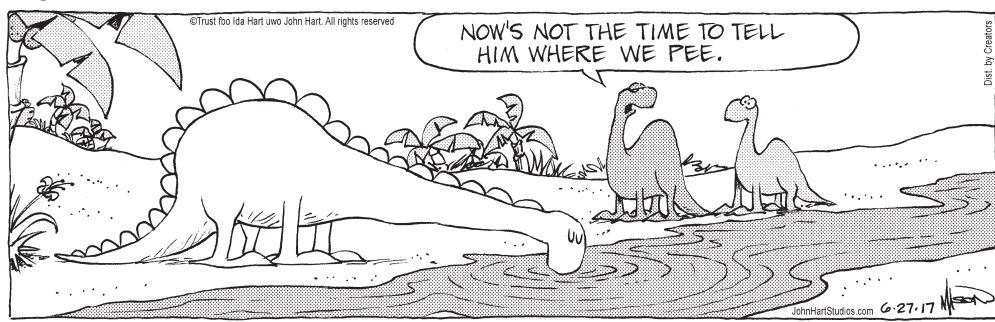
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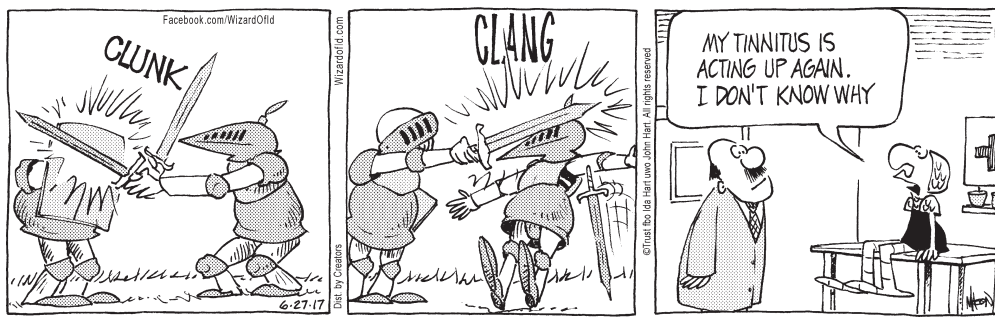
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