

Husband won't consider compromise

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Six years ago, our daughter left her dog with us. We've grown to love "Lassie" and would never give her back now. But she wears down the furniture, scratches the floors and leaves lots of hair all over.

Last year, we were blessed with grandkids, so now our living room is gated off from Lassie. We keep her in a large crate, which is very comfortable and that I refer to as her "apartment." She seems to like it, so when she is not playing outside, I put her in the crate so she doesn't roam the entire house.

Well, my husband is having a fit. He says I am cruel to "cage an animal." I now sleep alone in my bedroom while my husband and Lassie use the rest of the house. My husband has no interest in my feelings on the matter and refuses to consider a compromise. What do you think? — *Can't Stop Crying*

Dear Crying: According to the Humane Society, crating a dog is a perfectly appropriate way to train the animal not to destroy the house. The crate becomes the dog's "home." Even so, it is not recommended that you leave the dog in the crate too many hours at a time, because all animals need

Annie's Mailbox

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exercise and human interaction, and you don't want the crate to become a punishment. The point is to train Lassie not to scratch the furniture or do other destructive behaviors. But a certain amount of wear and tear is to be expected from any animal companion. If you are trying to prevent Lassie from leaving hair around the house or wearing down the furniture through normal usage, you are being unfair. Of course, your husband is being equally unreasonable by banishing you to the bedroom while he cavorts with the dog. Tell your husband that you are willing to rethink the issue if the two of you can discuss it with a dog trainer and both promise to abide by the professional advice given.

Dear Annie: My sister has been in long-term care for more

than a year as a result of several strokes and a broken hip.

I recently ran into her brother-in-law. He asked me how she was doing. He said he didn't know where she was staying. So I told him. This brother-in-law lives one mile from his nephew, my sister's son.

Please, people, don't forget about your loved ones. Don't give excuses. And if you decide to visit, refrain from carping about your lot in life. My sister can't tie her shoes, dress herself, cut a piece of chicken or use the bathroom without assistance. I guess you could say she's in her own kind of prison without parole. — *Her Sister*

Dear Sister: A lot of people are reluctant to visit relatives or friends in nursing homes because they don't know what to say or how to spend the time with someone who may not be communicative. They feel awkward and avoid going. So here are some suggestions: Bring photographs of people they know, play music they grew up with, read from a favorite book, ask whether you can take them for a walk. Once you see how simple it is and how gratifying it can be, you will be more inclined to go again.

a deep inner life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's said that it's not what you know but who you know. Today it won't matter what or who you know. Knowing things won't get you through like feeling things will. Be compassionate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whether the job is big or small, your aim is to do it right. The only trouble is, you need good instruction. Your Internet search engine will be your best friend.

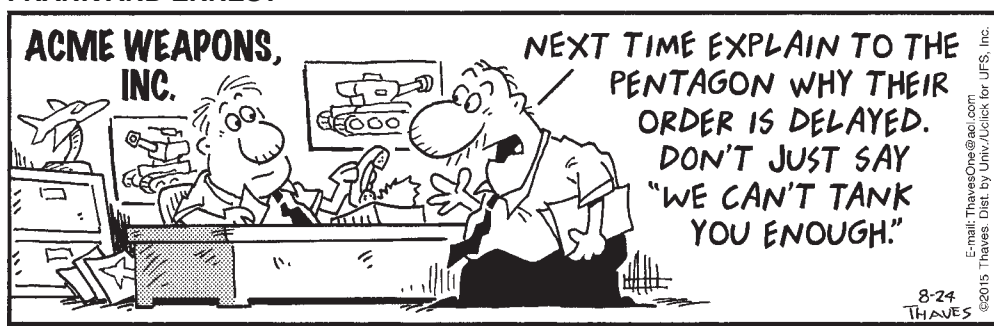
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). New birth brings with it a sense of optimism. Whether the birth in question is a being, an idea, a company or a friendship, the result will be the same: hope.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When the farmer was deciding on the evening meal, he wisely left alone the goose that laid the golden eggs. Remember who or what the "goose" is in your life, and don't mess with it.

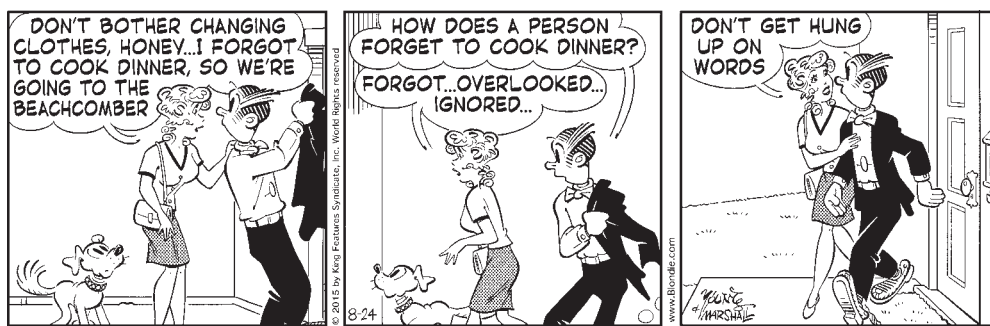
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). They want to talk of past glories; you do not. The thing you haven't done yet is the most glorious. It holds for you the potential of what you may yet become in your life.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 25). You haven't always had the care you needed to help you blossom to the fullest degree, but that changes with this generous support system around you this year. A financial boost in October helps, too. Get training in January because sharp skills will earn you a prize. The theme for 2016 is: love reciprocated. Sagittarius and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 17, 10, 50 and 21.

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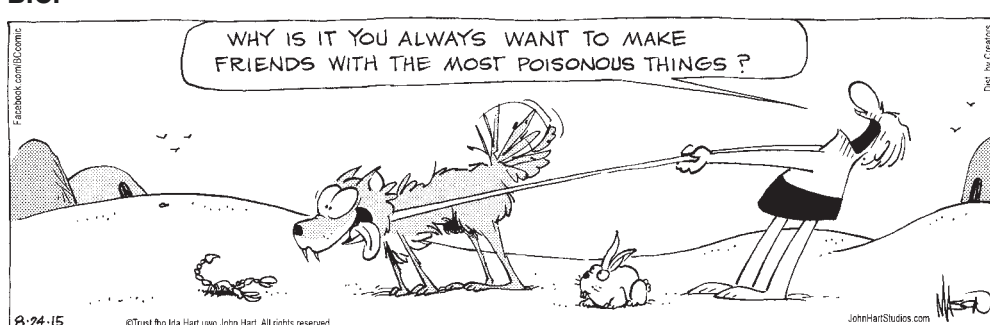
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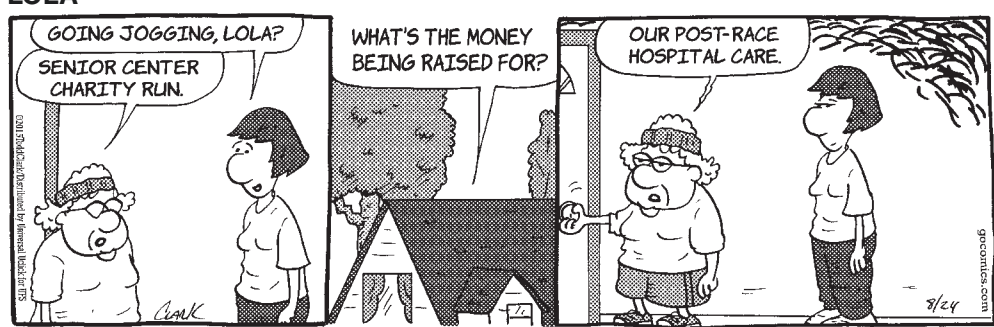
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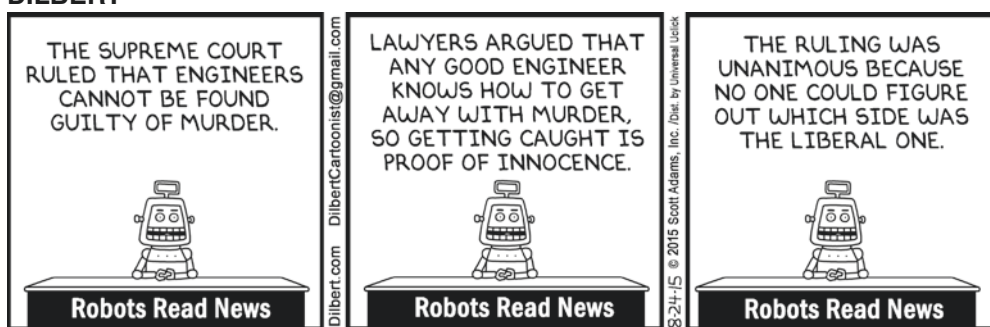
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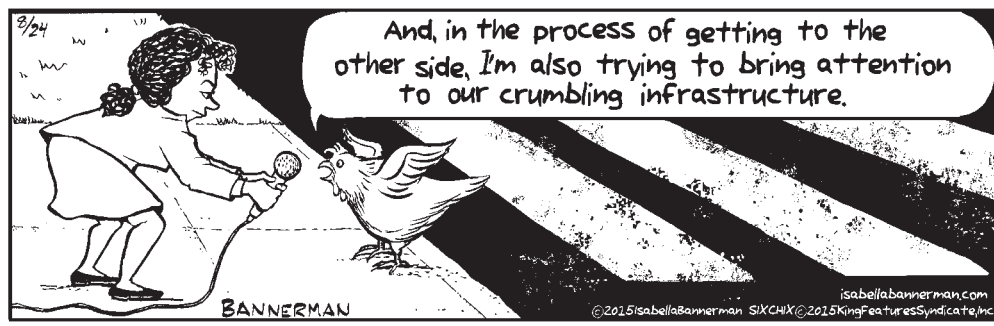
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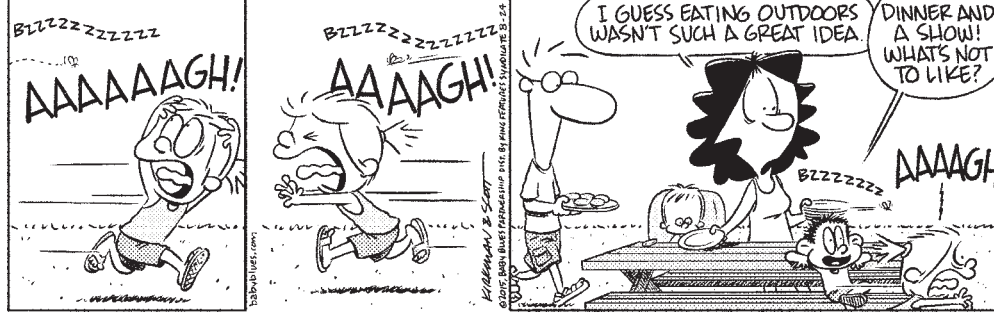
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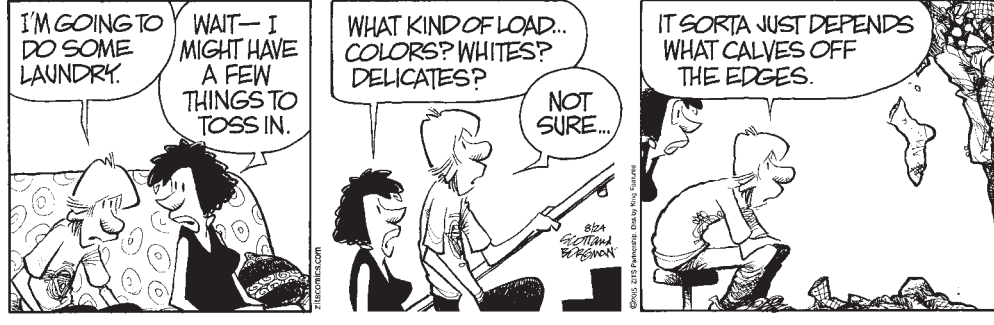
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