

# Should families kiss on the lips?

**Dear Annie:** I see many parents teach their children, from a young age, to kiss on the lips. Do you feel this is correct?

For some reason, I am uncomfortable with this. I was raised in a family where you always kissed on the cheek, whether it was your brother, sister or parents.

I would be interested in what your readers have to say. — *Maine*

**Dear Annie:** This is not an issue of "correct." It is about family custom. As long as there is nothing salacious about the kissing, it is perfectly OK to kiss family members on the lips if this is how you have been raised. Those who were brought up to kiss on the cheeks would naturally find it awkward, and you certainly don't have to do it.

**Dear Annie:** Our oldest son married the most wonderful woman. "Kate" has two children from a previous marriage, ages 8 and 3, both of whom we love dearly. Our son has three children from his previous marriage and Kate loves them like her own. The problem is Kate's ex-husband and his parents. This is an open letter to them:

We love the children just

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



selfish, insecure feelings? He is terrified to be left alone with them, knowing what your false accusations can lead to.

I hope you will see this letter and recognize that it is meant for you, and that you will fix the wrong you are doing. Please let the children love us. My son's children are being partly raised by another man and I thank him for loving and treating them like his own. I wish you and your family could think the same way.

We cannot change the past, but we can move forward in a positive fashion. I hope you will do this for the children. — *Grandma from Guam*

**Dear Grandma:** How sad for those children that their father and his parents are so filled with jealousy and resentment that they use the grandchildren as weapons and are willing to damage them emotionally. We hope Kate is keeping a written record of these accusations and rumors. If necessary, she should take her ex to court. This could affect his visitation rights and those of his parents. Such toxic people should not have access to young children.

as you do. As a grandmother, I would want only the most loving and nurturing relationships for all of my grandchildren. When you spread nasty rumors and sick lies and plant poison in people's minds, you are not only hurting us. You are hurting your grandchildren.

You make the children feel that they need to choose between us. You make them feel conflicted and they shut themselves off. And let me tell you what your slanderous words about my son do: You have managed to destroy with your poison any potentially healthy and loving relationship he can have with these kids. When you tell your little circle of friends that you are "concerned he might molest the grandchildren," what exactly are you trying to accomplish besides satisfying your

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You'll sense what people need most, and if you can provide for those needs, you will (regardless of what's in it for you). Compassion pours through your hands, eyes and spirit.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There are people around you who know but won't say what they know. Maybe it's out of modesty; maybe it's out of fear. The question becomes: How badly do you need the information?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** When people believe that you're fantastic at your job, they will give you more work. Some of the results you'll get have to do with flash, but mostly this is about you putting in the hours it takes to get good.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** What if the hierarchy is fictional? The cosmic gift of the day will be the ability to test this premise by poking around the situation without ruffling too many feathers.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Love is being there for someone. If you can't be there, love is communication of your sincere desire to help in whatever way you can. If you can't communicate, love is a prayer.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You try to see it from the other person's point of view, but that's tough for you today because your own vantage is so stellar. It will feel like giving up front-row tickets to the concert of life.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you're not so sure you love what's coming your way now, consider carefully what you're putting out. For as long as you keep provid-

ing, they will keep coming back.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** In every relationship, at any given moment, there is a selfish and an unselfish partner. Accepting the natural push-pull of love means taking your turn at selfish. Let others delight you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your heart's desire is in peril today. You may be able to rescue it by taking a heroic risk. Sometimes the most heroic thing you can do is speak the truth out loud.

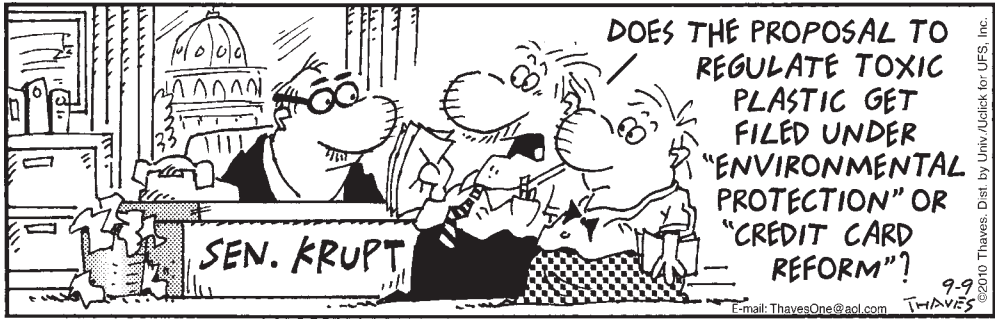
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The people around you are invested in a certain way of doing things that will be very difficult to change. You'll have to really sell your solution, namely because the others may not have noticed there was even a problem.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Everyone would be better off to follow your lead — the question is how much better off. If you can convince them that life will be 10 times easier than the status quo, they will be in.

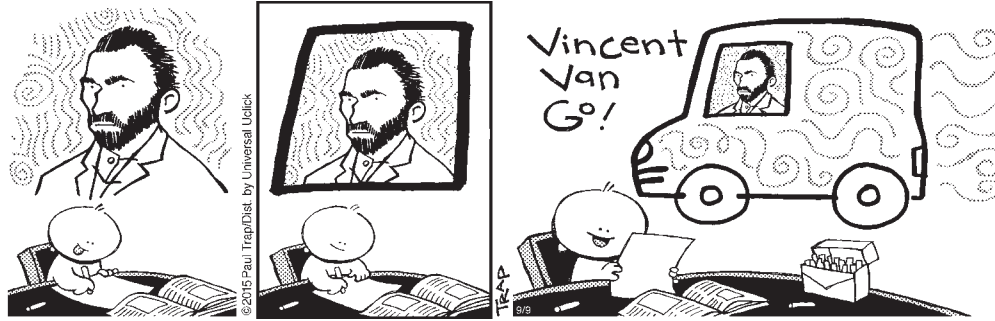
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Different people are influenced in different ways. Some respond to prizes; others, to the threat of loss. Your talent of the day is finding the exact trigger.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 10).** The next six weeks are about handling the details of your life to set yourself up for a win. In October, they will need your participation to win, and you'll gladly give it. November and May will bring the most enticing invitations. Pisces and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 1, 39 and 19.

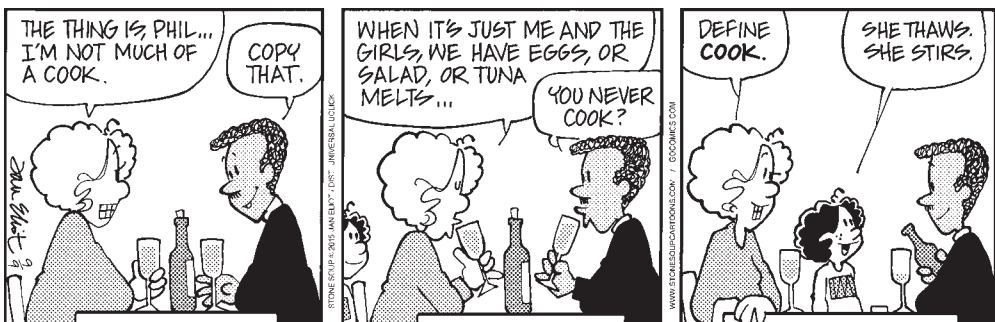
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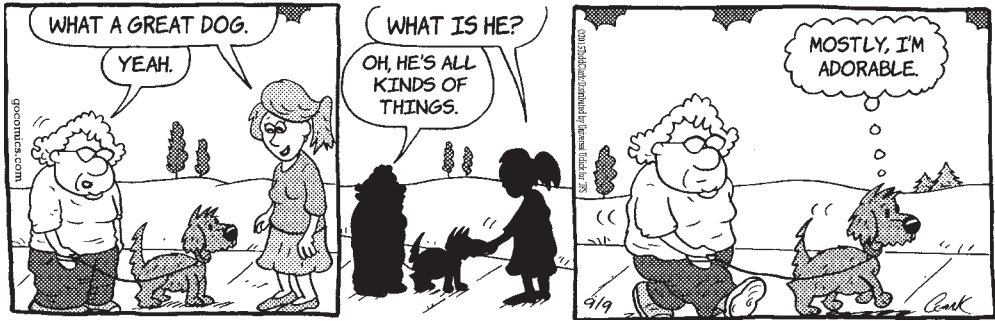
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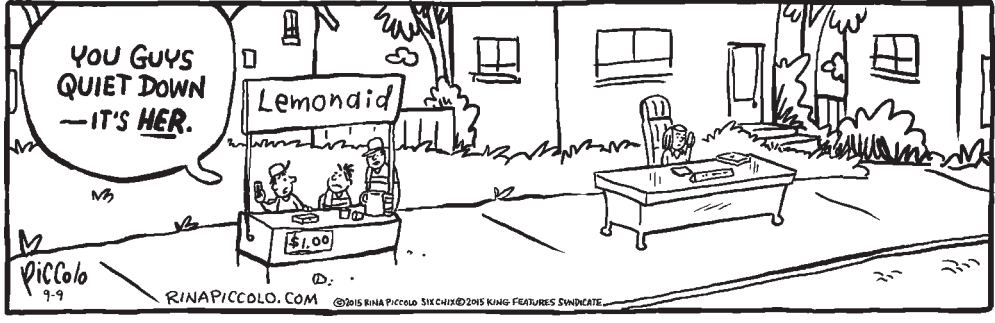
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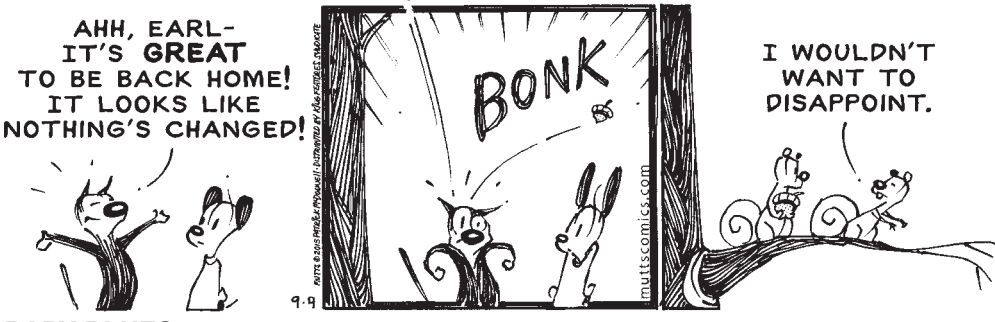
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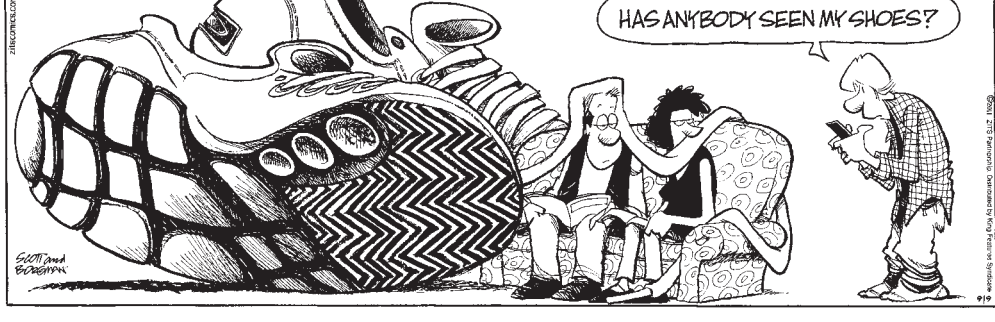
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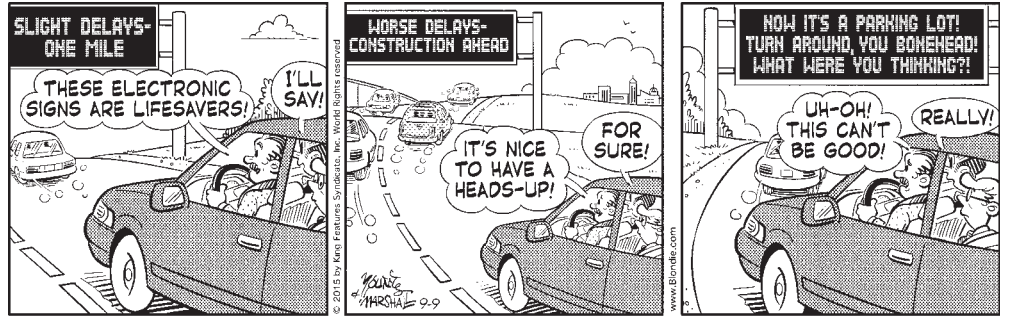
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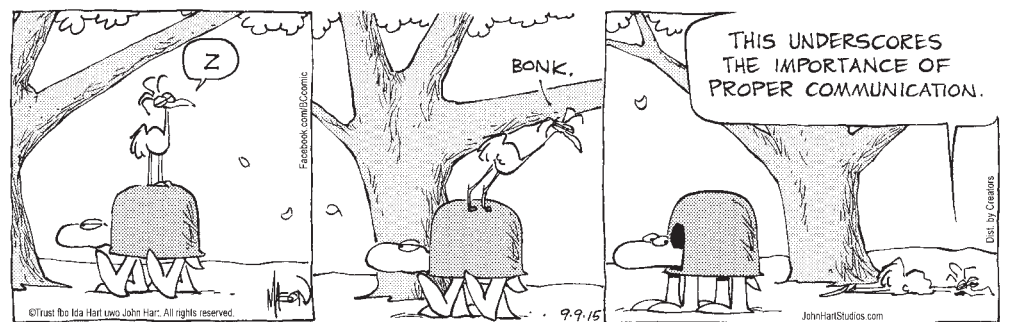
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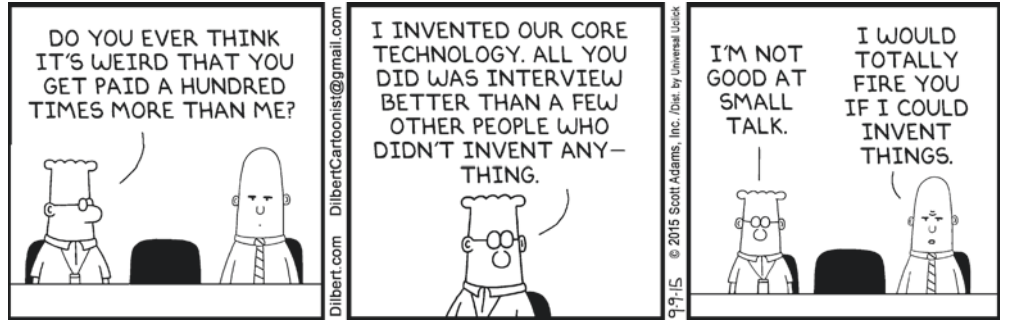
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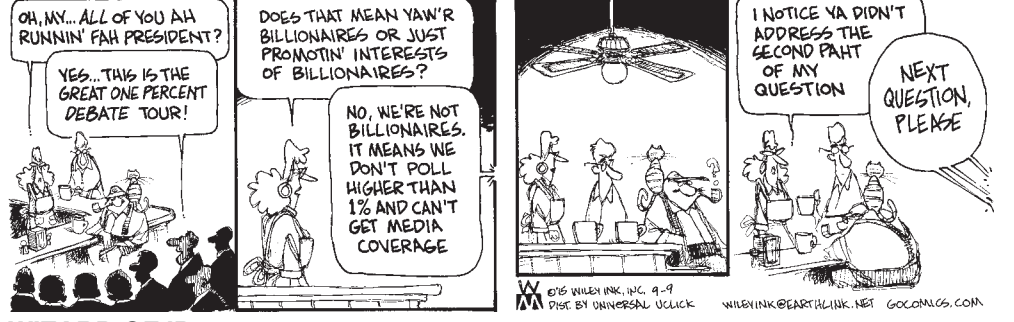
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