

Pets in stores put others at risk

Dear Annie: I would like to know why stores allow people to bring their pets inside. I have seen dogs sitting in the carts with their blankets as the owners push through the store. I often see one particular owner at the same store. She appears to like the attention the dog brings, as she stands and talks a lot to anyone who passes.

My grandson is allergic to dogs and cats and would get quite sick if he were put in the same cart after an animal has been in it.

I have had many cats, dogs, pigs and horses over the years and have loved them all, but would never think to bring them into stores where they could cause someone else to suffer respiratory distress. Maybe these pet owners don't think about the people they could adversely affect. — *Please Leave Animals at Home*

Dear Home: Of course they don't think about other people's sensitivities. They are too focused on their own. Many stores now feel obligated to allow pets because so many folks claim they are "comfort animals" with legal protection. This is often not the case, but stores are reluc-

Annie's Mailbox

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tant to challenge their patrons. Instead of expecting others to be more considerate (good luck with that), those with allergies must take their own precautions. Many stores now offer disinfectant wipes for their carts, but we recommend you bring your own, just in case.

Dear Annie: I am tired of you saying "try harder" to women who, like me, are past the age of 50 and tired of the sexual demands of our partners.

I like sex, provided it is satisfying to both partners. The "slam bam thank you mam" type doesn't count. I would like a little foreplay. I would like to be touched at other times. I would like to be respected and appreciated. I would like to be given some attention during the hour it takes for the Viagra to take effect and not

jumped on when he's ready.

Oh, sorry, I didn't intend to make this about me. Because it's all about him. It was all about him when he was 20 and had the sex drive of a rabbit. It was all about him when he was 30 and trying to prove he was adequate. And it is still all about him. There are things I refuse to do because I find them distasteful. There are things he cannot do, and then he blames me for his inadequacies. And he looks at porn online, saying I "don't give him what he needs."

I refuse to be treated like an object any more. We've already been to counseling. It doesn't work because he "doesn't need it." He just wants more sex. — *Tired of Sex, So Blame Me*

Dear Tired: Our advice to "try harder" is for women whose husbands are kind and loving, but the women's libido is non-existent and they have no interest in any sexual activity. This is obviously not the case for you. Your husband seems selfish, and your reluctance to please him has nothing to do with sex and everything to do with feeling unappreciated. Counseling is for you, not him. Try it on your own.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you agree to another person's qualifications, you'll lose. Take charge of the game. Make your own qualifications. When it's your moment, don't let anyone else control the scene.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Yes, time is money, but it's so much more valuable than money, really. In the end, no dollar amount can buy a person more time. So to whom will you give your time? That person is lucky indeed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones will go out of their way to assist you, mostly because you are warm, open and appreciative every time they do. Helping you is rewarding for them. You make yourself fun to help.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your cosmic gift: objectivity. Give some thought to how you'd like to be perceived, and work on promoting this aspect of yourself in all of your dealings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This day won't seem special at first, but it is. It starts with your appreciation for the gift of life. When you think of the lives of others, you feel mighty grateful that you get to live yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Use your dramatic flair to bring people together. Your instinct about how to create a mood won't fail you. Set the stage for a wonderful experience, and then invite people to enjoy it with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In an ideal world you would see with perfect clarity before you made your decision. This isn't practical. It's not even possible. There is no way to take in all the factors. Go with

your gut.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be amazed at what others do to help you, though you should know that you would do the same and more for them, and probably already have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ask to get paid for your work. If you don't, people will devalue your contribution. You don't have to charge a big sum, but do charge something.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like a porcupine, you are capable of shooting quills in self-defense. Yours are emotional, of course, but that doesn't make them any less painful to those who are on the receiving end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). However disconcerting it may seem to be out of step with the others around you, this is actually a good thing. It will keep you objective. You'll be immune to group hypnosis.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe it's for the best that hearts have strong intelligence but cannot think. As one 17th-century philosopher put it, "The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of" (Blaise Pascal).

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 21). This year will bring your favorite challenges — the type you feel confident, but not sure, you can surmount. You've a secret advantage in December's competition. You could get used to the sweet care you receive in January. In fact, you'll have to. You'll be rewarded greatly for what you teach a younger person in 2016. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 7, 13, 28 and 17.

FRANK AND ERNEST



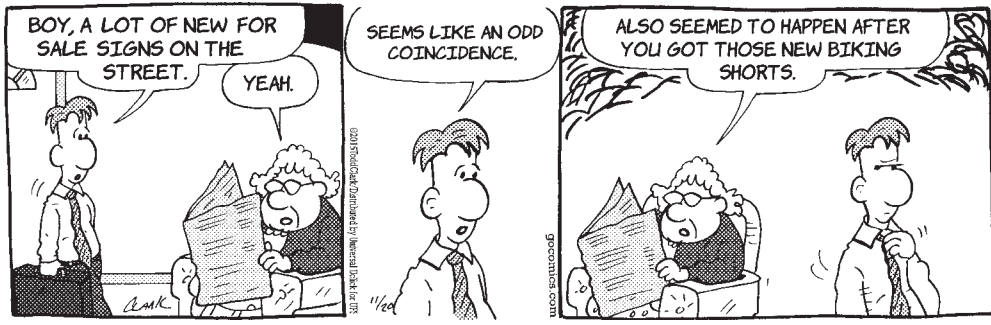
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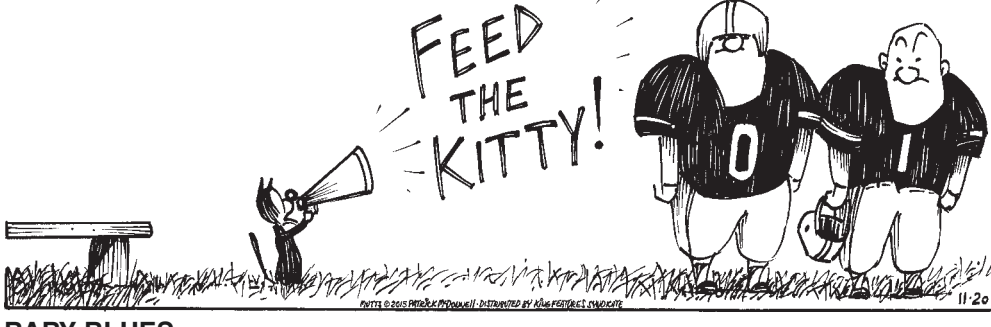
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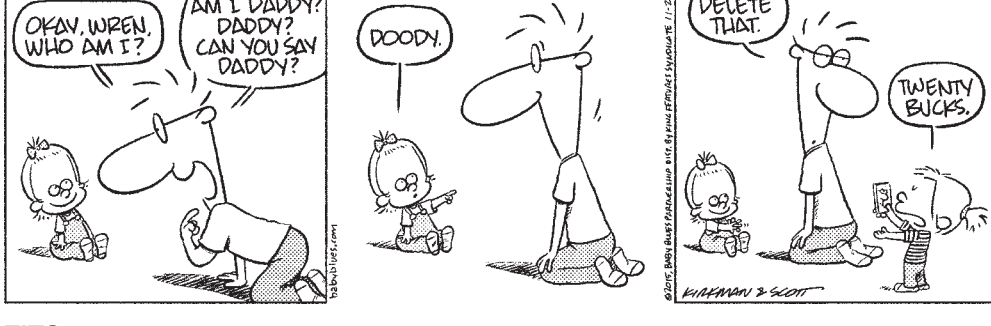
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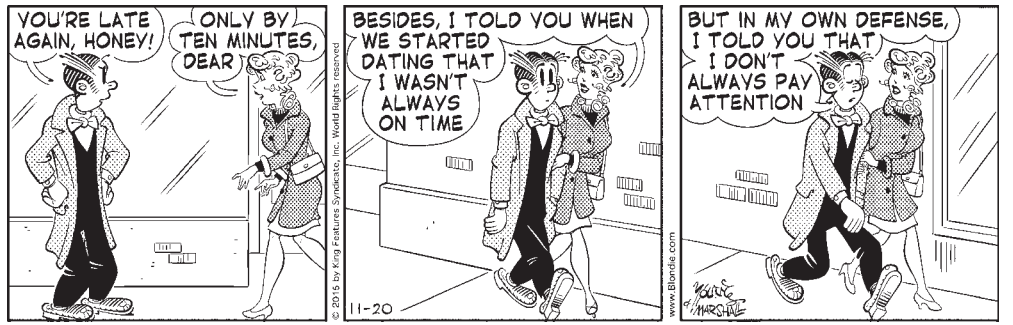
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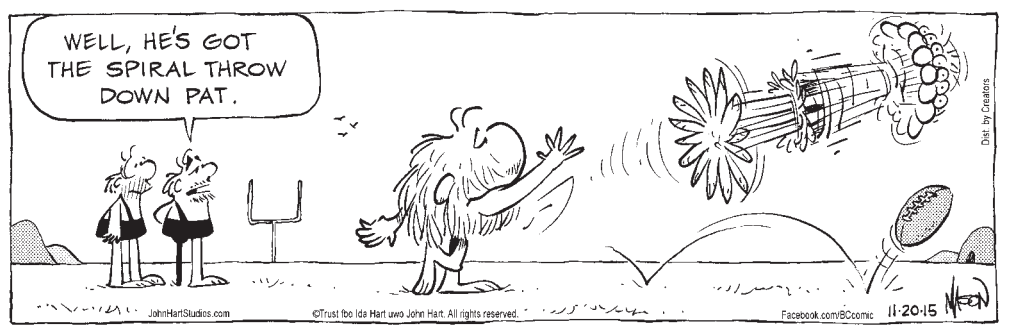
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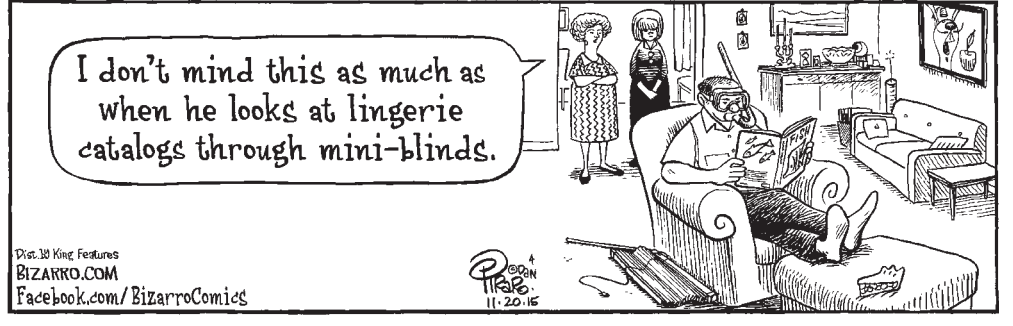
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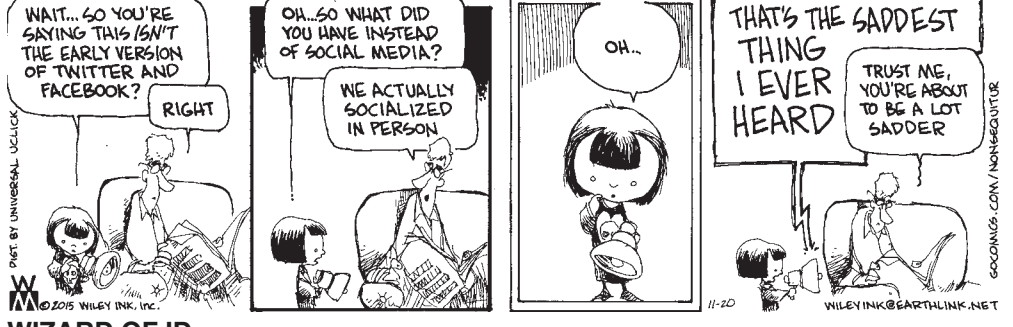
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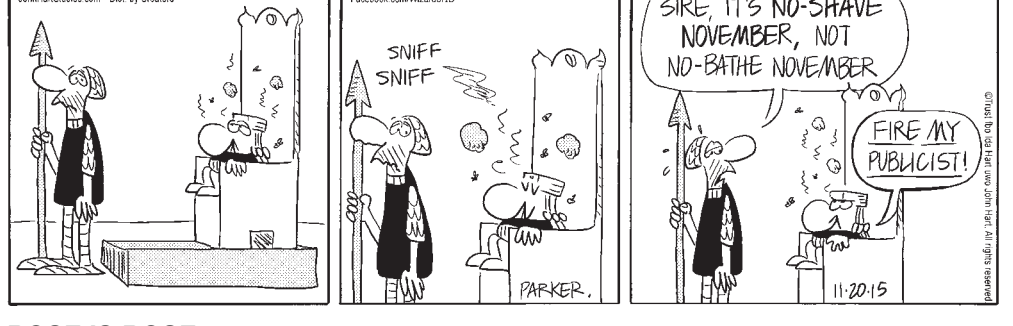
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