

Is nursing in public OK?

Dear Annie: Am I out of the loop or just a prude? It bothers me to see a mother cradling her infant child, one latching off and on to mom's exposed breast? This was the recent scene in the crowded men's department of a popular store.

I am certainly in favor of nursing an infant, due to the enormous benefits to both the child and the mother. I nursed all three of my children. But this total exposure seems extreme. When in public, a scarf or a small lightweight blanket would be perfectly fine to cover the infant. I find the mother disrespectful of others and going too far in making her statement.

I'd love to hear other comments on this subject. — *Wondering Mom*

Dear Mom: And you'll get them, we assure you. We covered this topic a few years ago, and we heard plenty. Let us stipulate — we are in favor of nursing. We have no objection to women who nurse in public places. Our concern is the need some women have to expose their entire upper bodies while doing so. Why? There is no added benefit to the child if Mom is naked from the waist up, so we can only assume

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



the mother is making a statement about public nudity, likes to flaunt her body or thinks modesty is old-fashioned. That is her choice, but there are lovely nursing tops and cover-ups that allow Mom to nurse comfortably anywhere and we recommend they be used.

Dear Annie: Our daughters, now in their 50s, have always given us a wish list for Christmas. In years past, I have made it known that this doesn't constitute the true meaning of Christmas. A year ago, we gave each daughter cash, hoping it would send a message. I also sent cash to my granddaughter, with no acknowledgment.

Well, at the end of November, we received an e-list containing a description of each article and a link for purchase. Some of the items are e-books. I also received a similar list from my 27-year-old

granddaughter for herself and her significant other. In addition, she sent a note apologizing that she would be unable to join us this year.

How do I address her lack of acknowledgment or thanks? Also, how does one prepare the Internet gift to be given on Christmas Day, when, for example, the e-book goes directly to the receiver's email?

I feel as if I have missed something. Thanks for your advice. — *Out of the Loop*

Dear Out: First of all, wish lists of any kind should not be considered demands. They are suggestions. You don't have to get anything on those lists unless you want to. In some instances, the links will provide you with a product that you can purchase in a brick-and-mortar store. As for e-books, and any other gifts that are sent via the Internet, most allow you to request that they be sent as gifts so that the recipient will get the item along with a note from you. If you find it necessary to hand them something tangible, it is perfectly OK to give them a card saying you have sent them a gift that they will receive in the mail or their inbox.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People make mistakes; they suffer and often try to change. That usually makes for a better human. You don't have to watch out for the ones who make mistakes. You have to watch out for the ones who don't try to change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's lucky when you're able to shop around and/or try the beta version, but you'll never know until you get your hands on the real thing. This is your day for diving into it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Did your heart just go flutter, or was that just a pleasant passing interest you experienced? It's too soon to tell, really, but your attractions are certainly worth investigating.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Here you go again, putting yourself in challenging environments that make you feel small. If this isn't brilliant and brave, nothing is. You'll rise and surprise yourself. (By now maybe you shouldn't be so surprised!)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You love to be adored, but you do not like to feel like you belong to anyone. They may ask for information, explanation or detail, but you don't owe it to them. Maintain your autonomy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are plenty of influential people who never lived: Sherlock Holmes, Cinderella, James Bond. And then there's that character you've been toying with in your mind, a kind of alter ego who does the things you would love to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some people are just earnest, plain and simple. You love that quality and it's becoming rarer and rarer these days. You'll relate to such a person, and the honesty you share will refresh your spirit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want to

be bold, but it's hard when you're not sure of the scale you're dealing with. Are these monsters or mice, lions or kittens? Talk to your mentor. And if you don't have one, isn't it about time you get one?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You focus well — so well, in fact, that you could start to obsess in a way you're not sure is healthy. Well, it's not the first time, and some good may come of it. Let a Capricorn or Gemini distract you so you can get perspective.

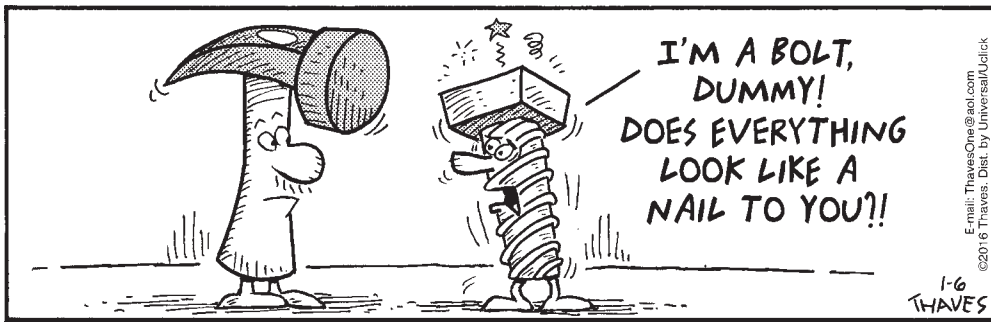
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The attraction secret you embody is so obvious, (SET ITAL) why doesn't everyone know it? (END ITAL) When you make someone feel smart, beautiful or interesting that person will keep coming back to you for more sunshine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love is: wanting the other person to have fun, joy and happiness even if you don't get to be a part of it. That's difficult. It takes maturity. You may still be debating whether you want to be this selfless, and that's fine, too.

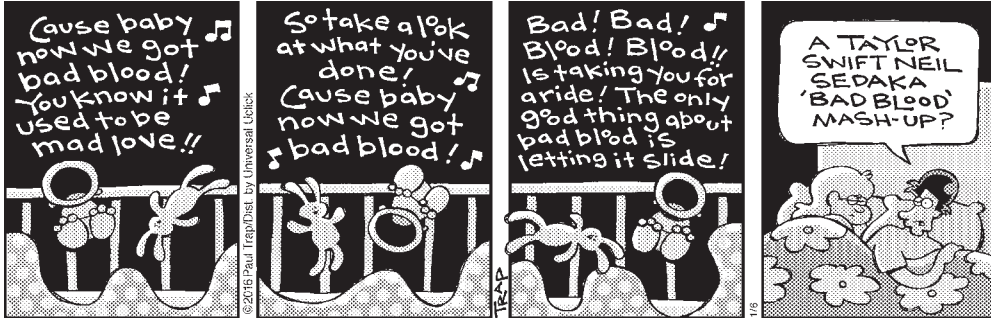
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have every right to go where you want to be and vanish into thin air when you don't want to be there anymore. Sure, there are rules, expectations, etc. Just remember your freedoms, and you'll feel better about everything.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 7). You'll never know how much you truly mean to someone and yet you'll enjoy the big displays of attention and affection that come to you this year. New professional doors will open in March. The needs of your family will coincide wonderfully with a June opportunity. Try to see more of the world in August. Aquarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 15, 42, 27 and 6.

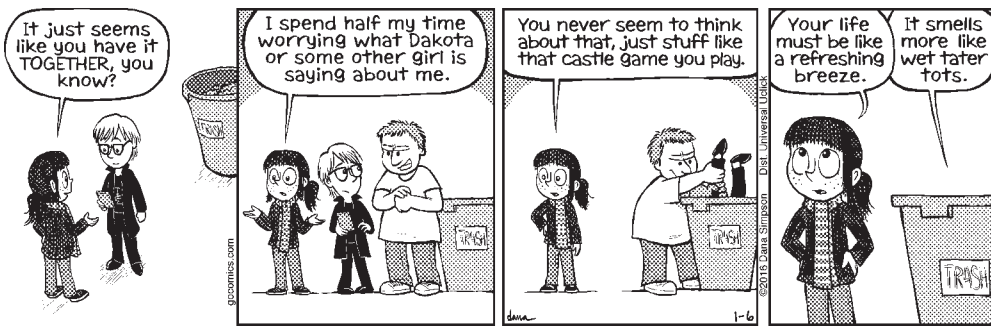
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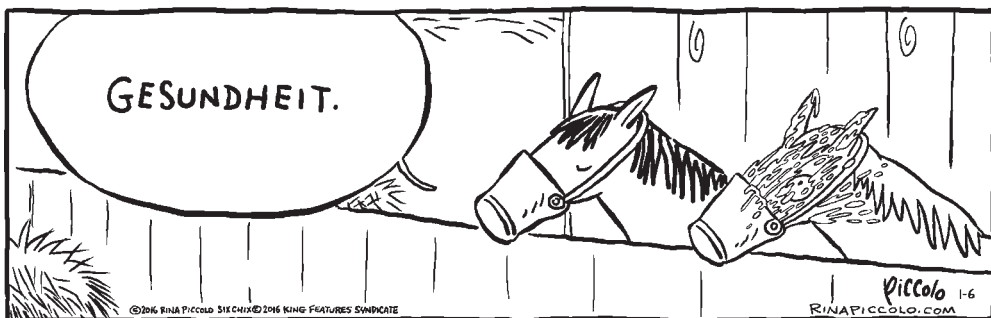
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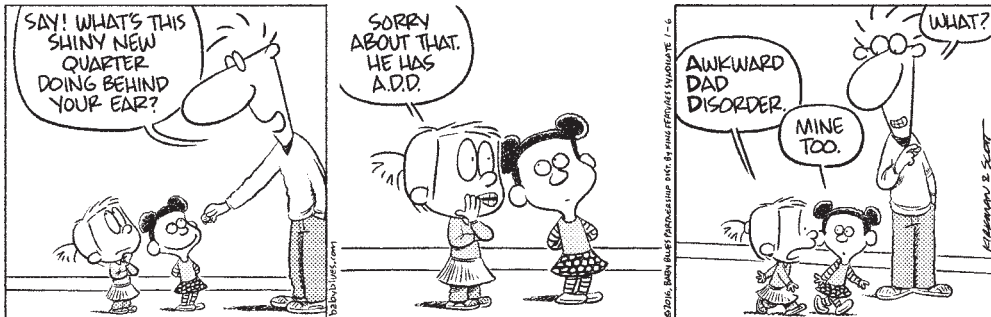
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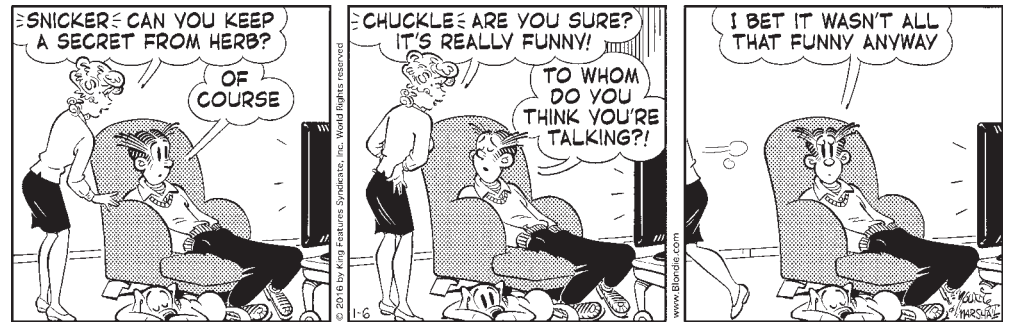
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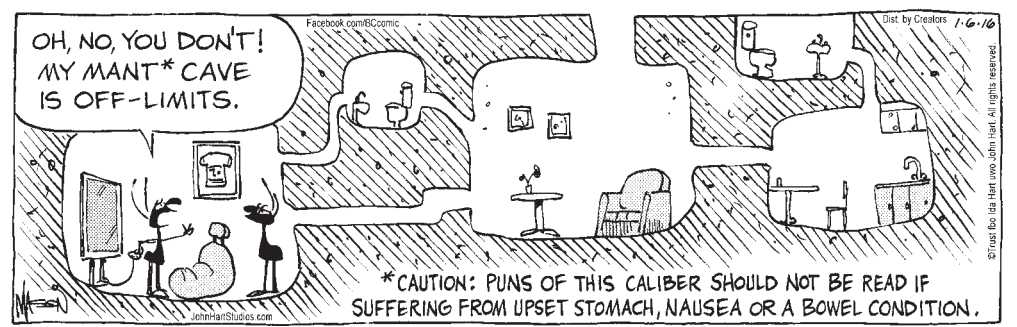
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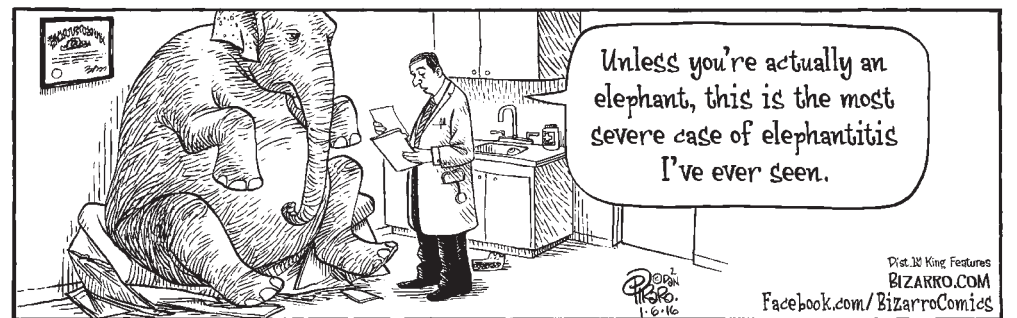
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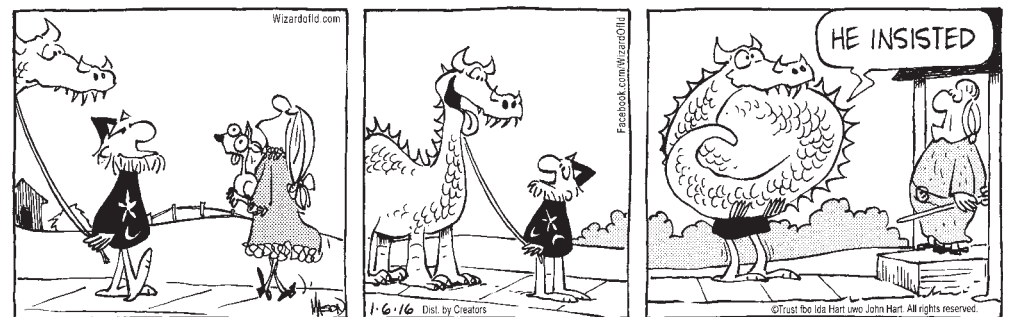
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