

# Please don't pet the dog

Dear Annie: While my leashed dog and I are bonding and enjoying our time together, people will virtually block our way and — without asking me — begin to vigorously pet my dog and interact directly with her. My dog is small and fluffy, and strangers, particularly kids, feel free to approach and play with her.

These encounters are often not welcome or convenient for me. Sometimes I only have enough time to walk the dog before I have to be elsewhere, and other times, frankly, I'm just not in the mood. My dog doesn't care one way or the other about the attention, but her long hair gets sticky, smelly and dirty when it's stroked by unclean hands continually.

I know other pet owners experience similar problems, but feel too guilty to deprive dog lovers of their fun. Are there any tactful and effective ways for me to keep people's hands off my dog without sounding hostile? — *Need to Get Moving*

Dear Need: No one, particularly children, should approach and pet a strange dog without permission. It is dangerous. It's per-

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



fectly OK for you to say, "Please don't pet my dog." If you say it nicely, but firmly, most people will not consider it hostile. They will think you are protecting them or your dog from potential harm. We have also heard about pet owners tying a yellow ribbon on the dog's collar to indicate that the dog needs to be left alone. If this is not common practice in your area, feel free to inform everyone that when your dog is wearing the yellow ribbon, it means she needs her space. We think they will appreciate the information and respect your decision. Kids especially love having "special knowledge" and will be sure to pass it along.

Dear Annie: This is for "Sad Nana," who says her granddaughter isn't allowed to bring presents back to her Dad's house

because it might create resentment with her stepsister, who rarely gets presents.

Nana needs to step up to the plate. How can any grandmother buy gifts for one child and not the other, even if she is not a blood relative, when they are living in the same house? She is just pitting the girls against each other. I want to tell her to open her heart. This is an opportunity for her to have a second granddaughter. She could be a special person in this young girl's life, providing a true gift of friendship and love that will last a lifetime. The girl will always remember Nana's kindness, and hopefully she'll pass on the same thoughtfulness when she becomes a grandmother.

We should be building bridges and teaching our young the right values in life. These girls are now sisters and should be treated as such. Nana should be helping to cement this family, rather than separating them. If money is an issue, both gifts can be smaller. Kids don't need so many things anyway. — *Nana of Seven*

Dear Nana: We are with you 100 percent. It is so much better to be kind to one another.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Go at the project with a mix of two parts logic and one part intuition. Why so heavy on the logic? Well, you don't want to discount your inner knowing, but you need to test and measure extra carefully on this one.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're kind to the one who is kind to you, and you're also kind to the one who is not. This is further proof (if ever you needed it) that kindness is who you are, and not the means to an end.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your optimism, based on nothing at all, is nonetheless wholehearted. This blind and buoyant optimism is the best kind of optimism you could have today, and you will be richly rewarded for your faith.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Just because you hold a certain belief for many years, that does not make it automatically true. But because this belief has been with you so long, even when you declare it false, it will take some time to fall out of the rotation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Keep the receipts, because there's a good chance there will be some returns later. This isn't about making mistakes; it is about getting closer and closer to the very specific answer to your problem.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A feeling about a special relationship will come over you this weekend. It may even seem to you that the whole universe exists just to bring this magic combination together.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Nope, it's not your imagination. You are being tested, and even scored in some way. When you do well, you'll be let deeper into a situation or

relationship. This is where all the gold is, by the way.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Irritants can come in many forms: perfumes, pollen, people. Ultimately, it doesn't matter what or who is to blame. You still have to rise above the irritant. Tolerance will set you free.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your physical sensations are important, but not overly so. Be careful not to magnify their impact on the situation at hand. You'll make gains by being tough, able and focused on the bigger picture.

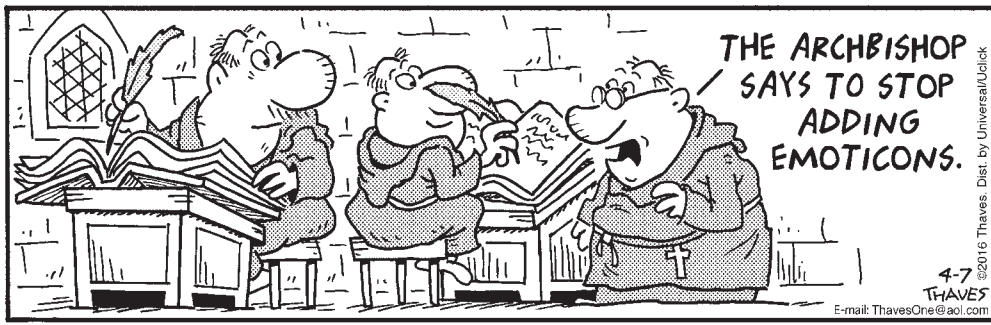
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The worry is positive if it causes you to make an action plan. For that matter, mistakes can be positive, too, and so can arguments. Forward momentum will be caused by disruption.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There is more around to cause alarm than harm. Resolve not to let yourself get so apprehensive that it keeps you from the excitement of exploring exciting new avenues.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The grass grows all by itself. Good! You appreciate this landscaping development, but you also know better than to waste your precious energy focusing on what is out of your control.

**FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 8).** This will be an ambitious time for you, as you see gleaming potential in a situation that's just out of your reach. Education will close the gap. Put your time and money into that in June and don't stop until you have the certificate in your hand. You'll take a road trip, meet like minds and find much inspiration in August. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 2, 41, 48 and 37.

## FRANK AND ERNEST



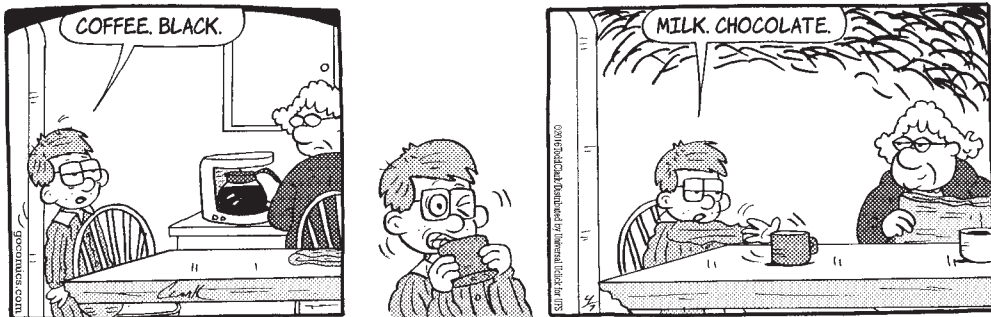
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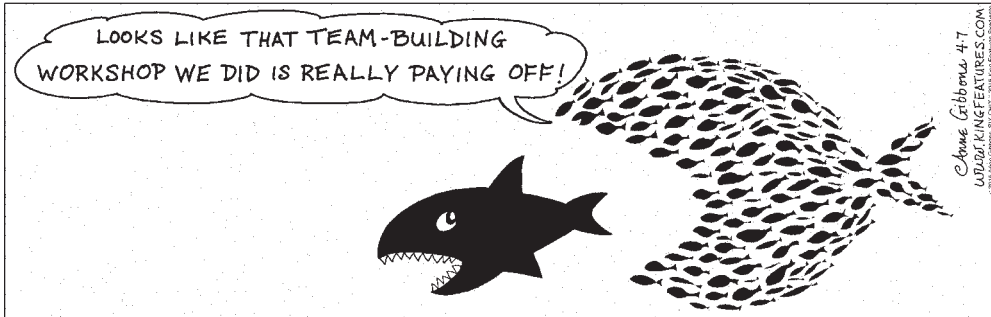
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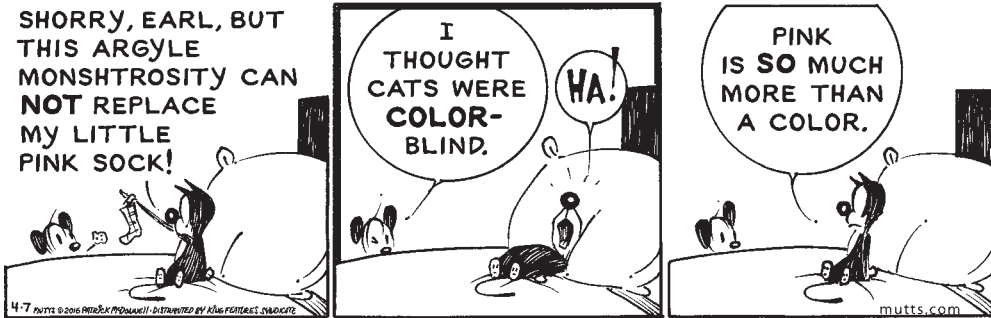
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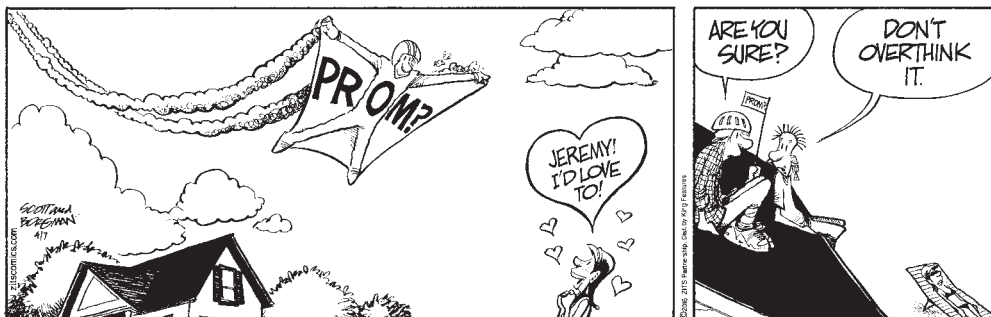
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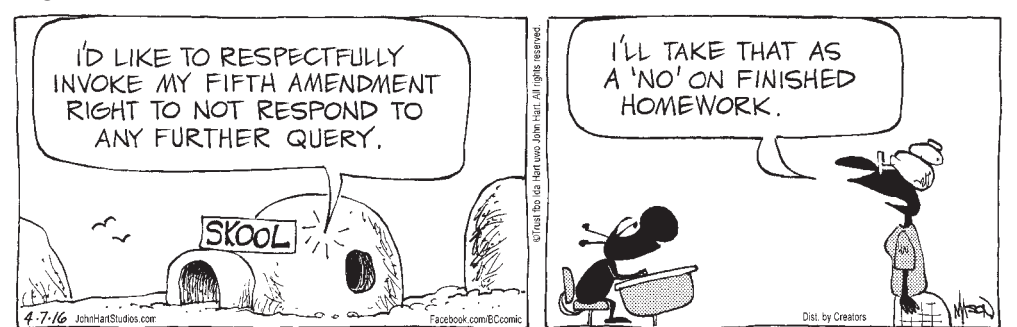
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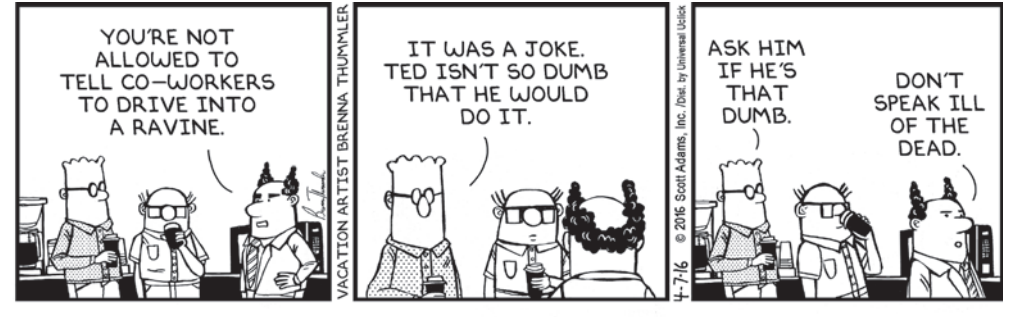
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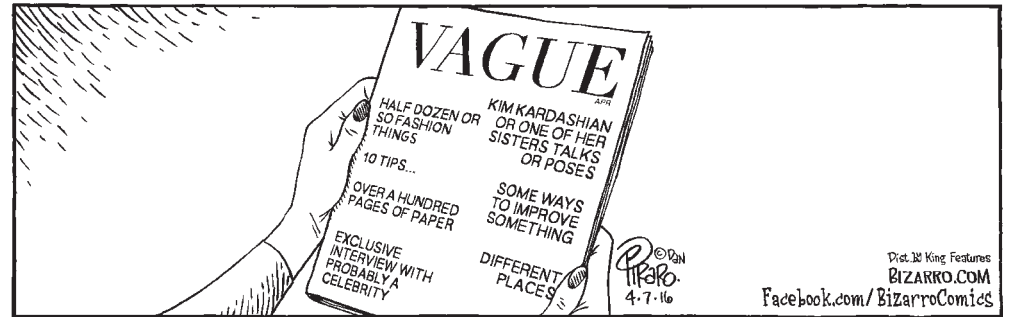
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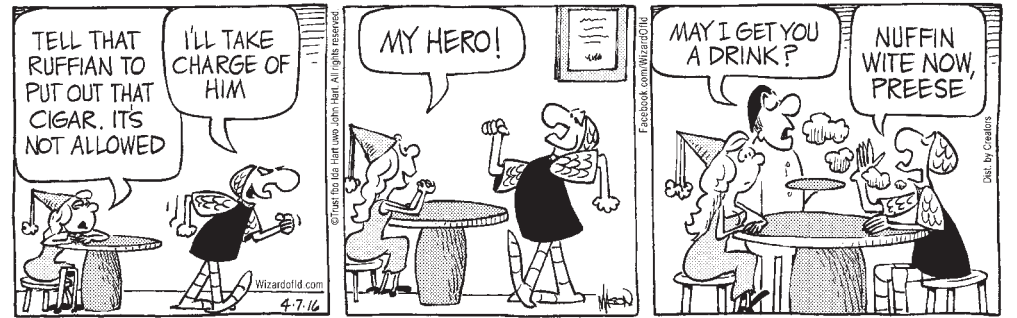
## BIZARRO



## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

