

Send your best for contest

Dear Annie: I just heard about your contest to write a poem for July 4 that is more balanced, and that mentions women, as well as men. Why would you print something like that in August, when school is out and kids can't participate? It would have been an excellent project for my classroom.

Could you please rerun the original request and extend the deadline? Maybe a few of my middle school kids could write something special that merits being printed in your column. Thanks. — *Teacher in Florida*

Dear Teacher: It didn't occur to us at the time that the contest request would run during summer break. You are right that it is perfect for the classroom, as well as would-be poets, so we will extend our deadline until June 1. (That's absolutely the latest, folks.) Here is the original letter:

Dear Annie: I appreciate the patriotic intent of your July 4 column, but what would my daughter and seven nieces make of the mention of 27 men but just two women? The author overlooked Sacagawea, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the myriad other female contributors

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



to our nation's progress.

Maybe next year you could share someone's writing that does a better job of recognizing the meaningful roles many courageous and capable women have played and continue to play in shaping our nation. All credit to Ginger Rogers' high heels, but Sacagawea did everything Lewis and Clark did, but she did it post-partum and carrying a newborn on her back.

If no one has written anything more balanced since Mr. Whitaker's piece appeared in 1955, consider the gauntlet tossed. — *A Loyal Reader*

Dear Loyal Reader: We agree that an updated version is long overdue. Several readers suggested a writing contest and we love this idea. So readers, put your creative caps on and send us

a poem or essay that expresses the contributions men and women have made to our country's history. This also might be a good project for teachers to give their students.

Send your efforts to Annie's Mailbox at creators.com or Facebook.com/AskAnnie. We will print the best one on July 4, along with your name.

Dear Annie: I'm puzzled by the apostrophe in "Annie's Mailbox" combined with a photo of two women. If both of you are named Annie, then the apostrophe should be after the "s" ("Annie's Mailbox"). If only one is Annie, why are two women pictured? — *Your Fan, the Grammar Cop in Sarasota, Florida*

Dear Grammar Cop: We love these questions. They are so unexpected. For the record, there are two of us, and neither of us is named "Annie." One of us is Kathy and the other is Marcy. The Mailbox was named in honor of Ann Landers, with whom we both worked for many years. Hence it is "Annie's Mailbox" with an apostrophe. Hope that clears it up. After all, there can be only one Ann Landers. We simply do the best we can to honor her legacy.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Certain people who know the facts all too well are likely to exaggerate and distort them for their own entertainment. If you take it too seriously, it's confusing. If you don't, it's fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You strive to leave the world better than you found it, preferably with many smiles in your wake. Your commitment to add good cheer wherever you go will be the side project that becomes a main part of your legacy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your leisure time is too precious to spend on entertainment you're not that into. Your work time is the same: Just because you're getting paid doesn't mean you should settle for being less than totally excited.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are quite vigilant about showing up where you're expected. Don't go soft when it comes to your own schedule! You have one hour to spend on your favorite activity. Plan it; then support and protect the plan.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not expecting anyone else to bring you to life, and yet you cannot deny that being around certain people just makes you feel better, more vibrant and more joyful. Bump up the frequency of this with a few invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be working on something uncomfortably exciting today. Are you really qualified? No! There is no way for you to be qualified except by taking it on now. That's what makes it a bold adventure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's your curious attitude that opens the world to you. You never have to worry where this is going next. Being genuinely interested in one thing will immediately link you to the next thing. Trust your intelligence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The great skill that trumps all the other skills right now is listening. When you do that well, you give yourself a distinct advantage, standing out in a sea of self-involved individuals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Discussing and accounting for your time will be a key component of this day. It will be useful to keep a log of your activities, especially if those activities involve reading. A thorough approach will produce a rich opportunity.

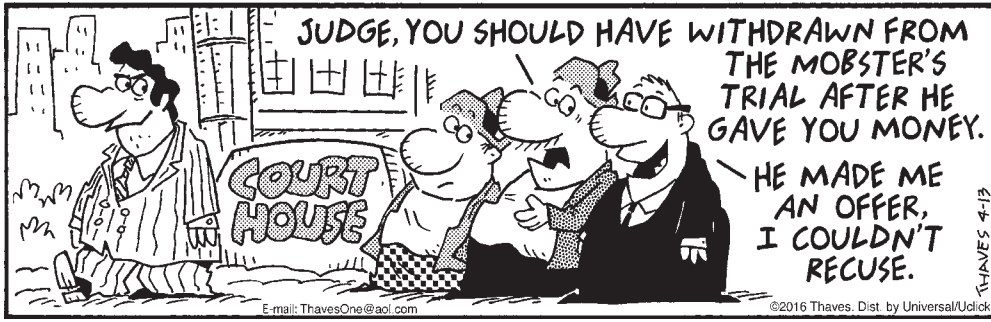
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It happens every so often that you find yourself in a predicament you don't quite understand. You've achieved many years of wisdom and yet maybe you're still too young for this one. At least it's helping you to ask better questions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Impatience and laziness are the evils to combat now, as they will lead to far worse sins. Any tendency in this direction needs to be rooted out and replaced with compassion and usefulness.

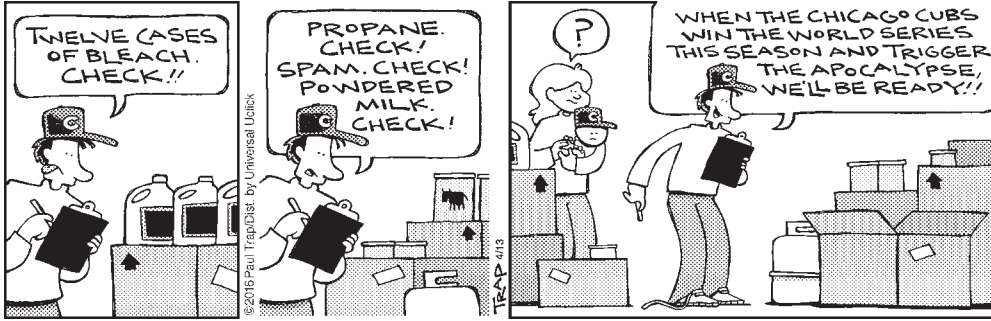
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe you were going for a certain prize in the beginning, and it's still very important to you that you get this, but the joy of achievement is the true treasure you'll take away from the experience. You'll slow down and savor it.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 14). This year's theme is the cultivation of wisdom. Kindness draws people to you and they stick around to help you build something beautiful in May and June. Love relationships intensify in August. You'll work closely with a mentor in October and solve a financial dilemma. One goal will turn into a journey through Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 50, 2, 11 and 18.

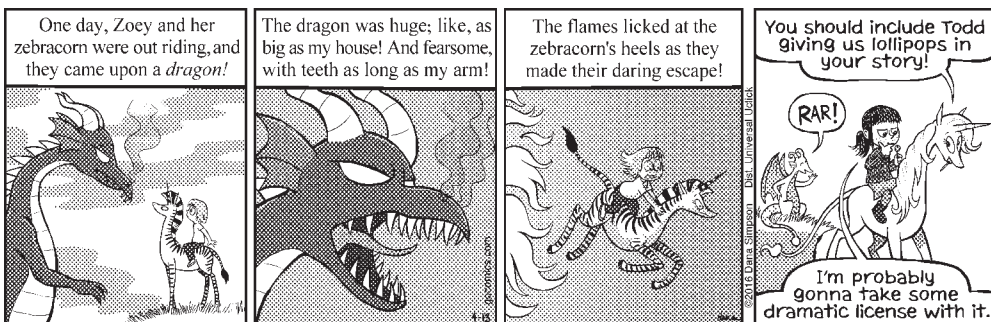
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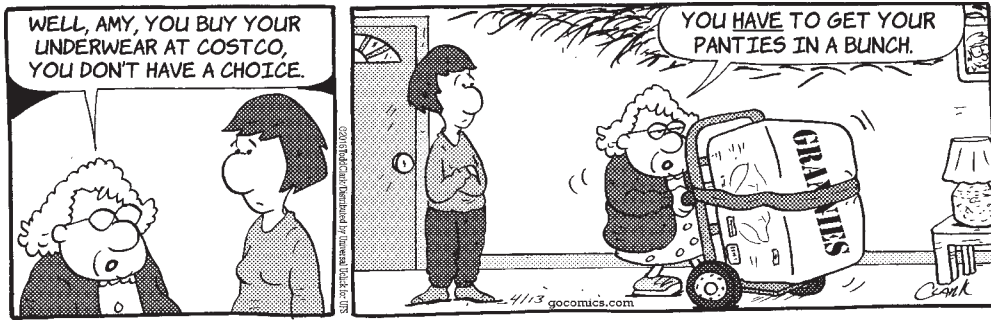
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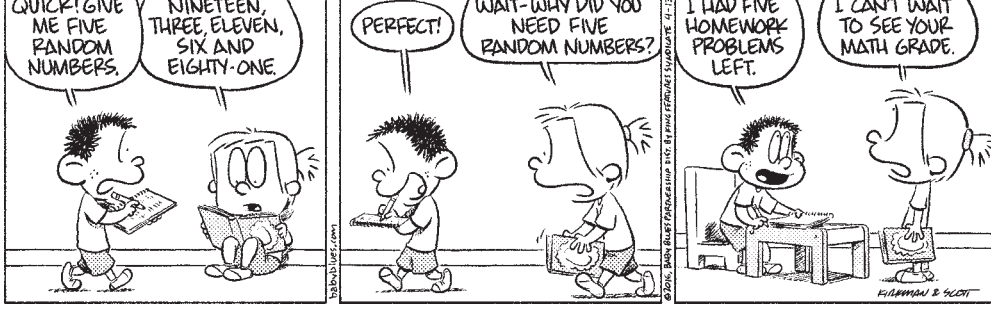
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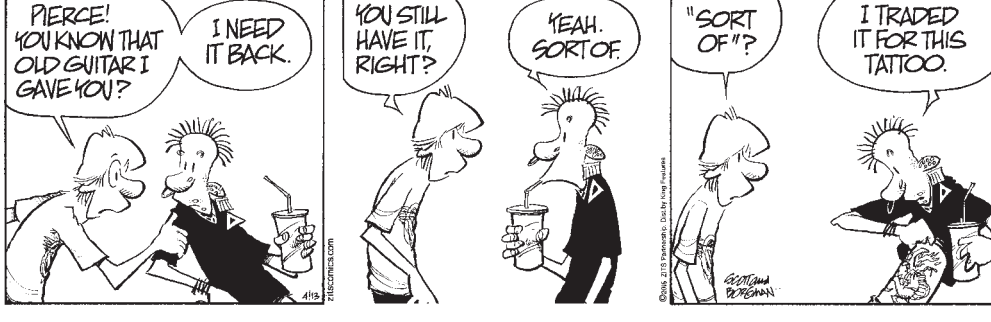
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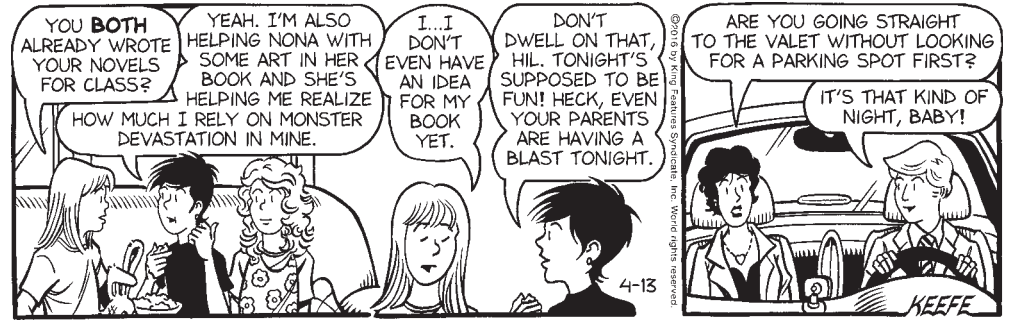
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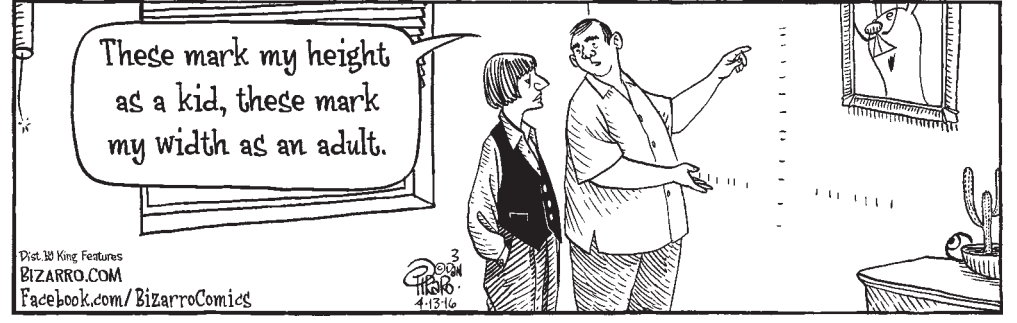
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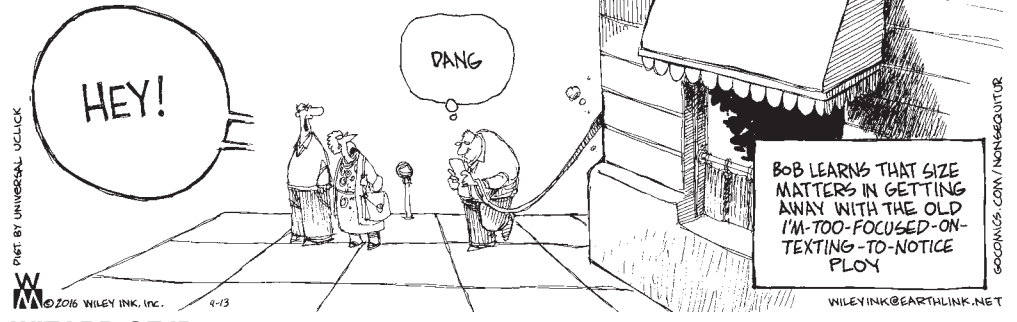
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