

# Young people are assets

**Dear Annie:** Young people are ready, willing and able to tackle the world's most difficult challenges, and yet are vastly underrepresented as active citizens, decision-makers and problem solvers. From the third-grader in Detroit distributing meals to the homeless, to the high schooler in Jakarta collecting gently used books to develop literacy programs, to the soccer team in Atlanta leading an anti-bullying campaign, all of these remarkable youth have a common goal: to raise awareness and solve the problems facing the world today. Today's social and environmental problems are immense; we need youth around the world to be leaders and problem solvers today, not just the leaders of a distant tomorrow.

Last week, the world witnessed the 28th Global Youth Service Day. During this three-day event, thousands of community partners in the United States and 125 other countries activate millions of young people to strengthen their communities. Global Youth Service Day recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities 365 days a year. When given the opportunity, young people are great assets and resources to their communities, providing unique

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
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Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



perspectives and skills. Moreover, youth who are engaged as active community members are more likely to grow up to volunteer, vote and donate to charitable causes.

Please inform your readers about the service grants and volunteer opportunities available to young people and the organizations that support them year-round. They can visit [YSA.org/grants](http://YSA.org/grants) for available opportunities. You can also find us on social media at @YouthService on Twitter and Youth Service America on Facebook. Sincerely — Steven A. Culbertson, President and CEO, Youth Service America

**Dear Steven Culbertson:** We hope all of our readers, young and old, teachers and students, will check out your website to see how they can participate in these wonderful opportunities. Thank you for letting us know.

**Dear Annie:** I'd like to respond to "Not an Exhibitionist," who said that an 8-year-old boy peeked into her shower at the YMCA.

I have a 9-year-old son with severe autism who loves to swim. Our local pool does not have a family changing room. We have to go through the men's or women's locker room to reach the pool. I don't enjoy bringing my son into the women's locker room, but I have no other choice. He would not be able to navigate the men's locker room on his own. He might run off or easily be led somewhere by a stranger. He is a beautiful boy, and you wouldn't know he had autism by looking at him.

Please give women who bring their older sons into the locker room the benefit of the doubt. There may be a good reason why they are there. — Mom with No Other Options

**Dear Mom:** We agree that some children need to tag along with Mom in order to use the pool. But they can be closely supervised and taught to respect a closed curtain. We also think family changing rooms make a great deal of sense these days, and we hope parents (and others) will lobby all such facilities to include them.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The mild degree of weariness you may be feeling today is best described by the French word "ennui." Luckily, all it will take is one interesting conversation to change all of that.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You've great social foresight — you know when two people simply must meet and you make the introduction. The world will be forever altered because of the people you bring together.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** What if you were just as likely to succeed in a small matter as you were in a big one? What problem would you try to tackle in that case? Focus there because truly, the scale of things matters less than it logically should.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your understanding of human motivation and behavior will save you from a hassle — that is if you act on your social instinct. There's no room for self-doubt. Move forward in confidence!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Due to variables out of your control, it's likely that you won't be able to adhere to the schedule. You can, however, keep to an order of events. That's the way to clarity and productivity.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There's a great potential to waste money and an equal potential to strike a rather heroic deal. So before you buy what you need, ask around. Chances are that a friend, neighbor or family member has one you can borrow.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Just because you can enjoy a comfortable silence with someone you're close to doesn't mean you should do it too often. It would be pretty easy to stop trying to break new conversational ground. You're too charming to let this happen.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** One relationship stands out from the rest today, either because it needs special attention or because it brings such fullness and joy to your world that you can't help but focus on it.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The human condition can be so tragic. Because you're willing and able to fully connect with your fellow human beings, you get your heart broken on a regular basis. It's beautiful though. You wouldn't have it any other way.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You could keep on asking questions forever, but nothing would get done. This is a time to stand in what you know and deliver results based on that for a while. Revisions can be made further down the line.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** There have been times when you thought you were destined to always be the one who loves more, sacrifices greater and maximizes whatever small returns come of that. It turns out that's not true. Prepare for huge love.

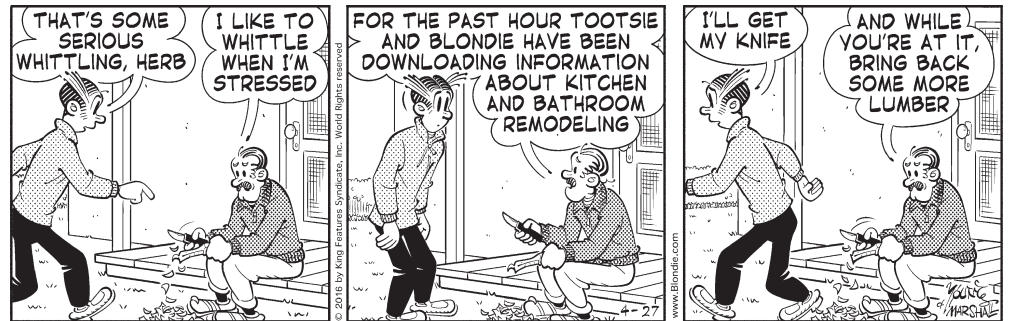
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The day may include a tedious errand or a nasty bit of work, but none of it seems so bad because you've a song in your heart and a very intriguing project or person to spend your leisure time with later.

**THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (APRIL 28).** The support you'll receive from a gifted, creative and kind person will turn your world upside down. You'll soak in the love and become powerful and strong through it. In July, you'll pay it forward by being an advocate for another. August features travel, poetic justice and the start of an education that will be complete in 2018. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 1, 9 and 18.

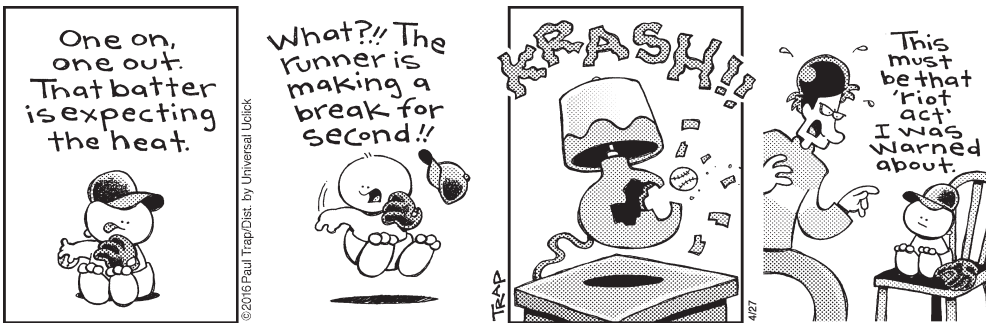
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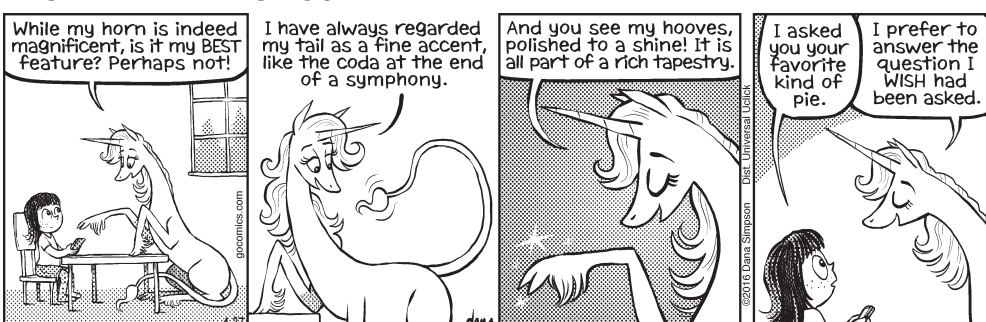
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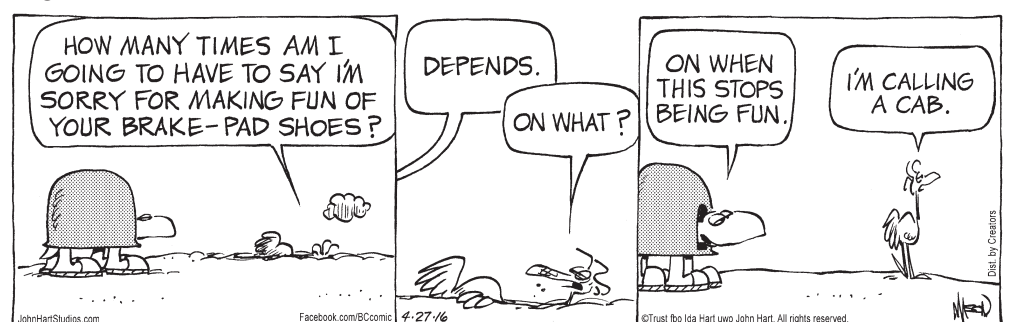
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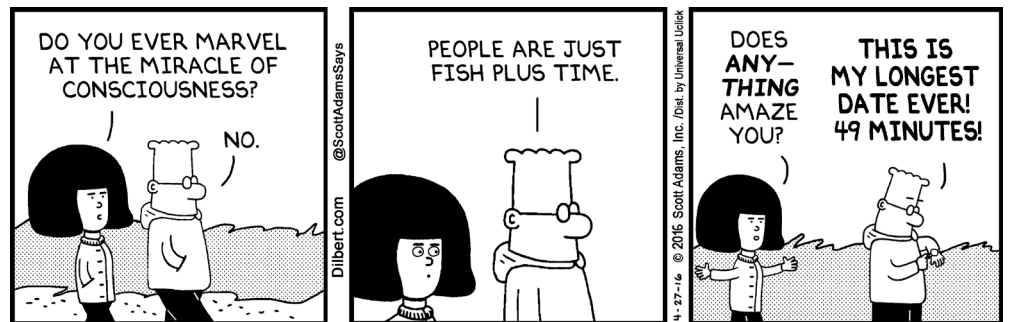
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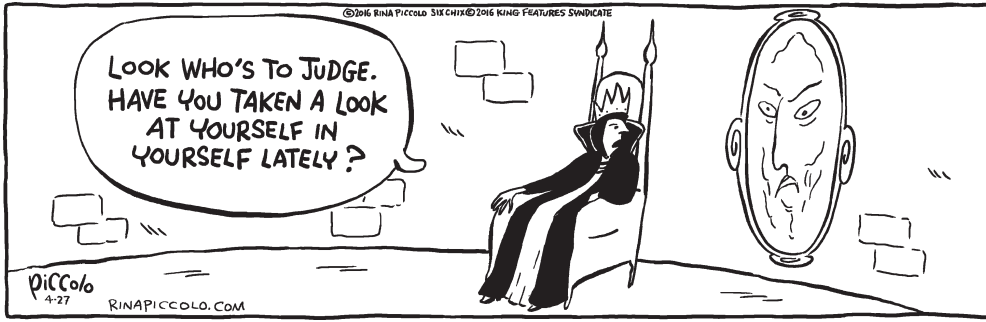
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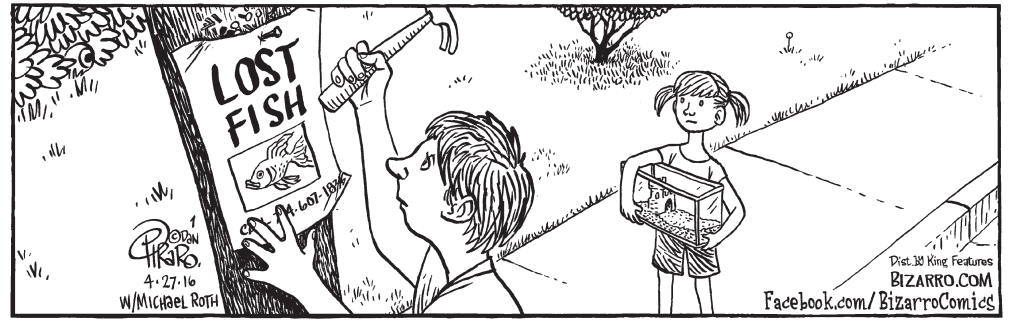
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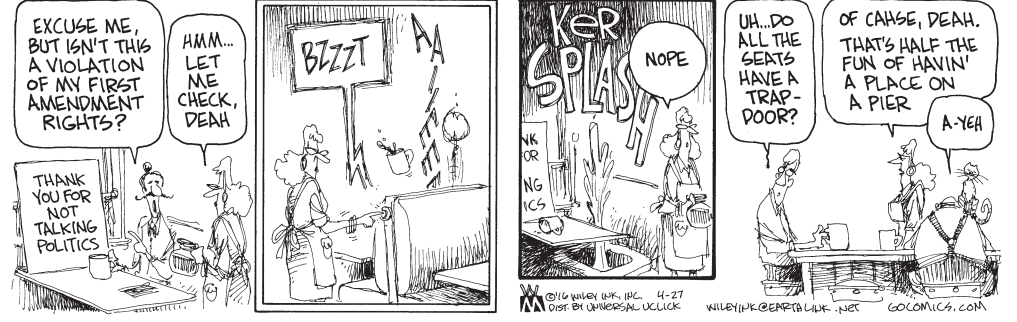
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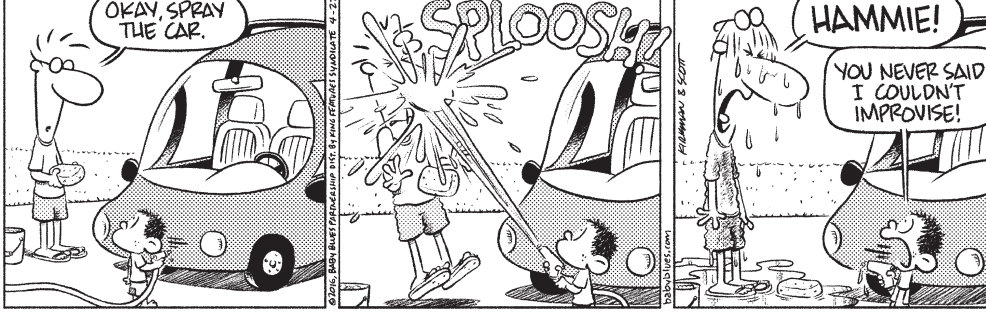
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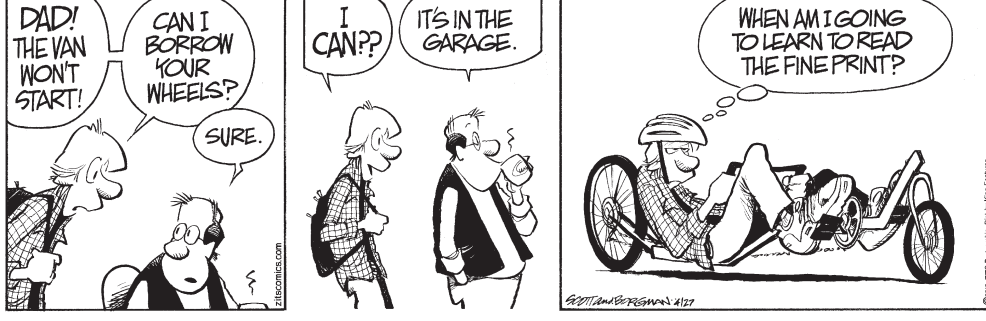
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## ROSE IS ROSE

