

Kids misbehaving isn't cute

Dear Annie: Maybe I am overly sensitive, but there are so many commercials with children doing things that they really should not be doing, and it makes me wonder about the younger adults who find this cute. Currently, there is an ad for a travel company featuring a teacher who is ready for vacation. The kids in the classroom are tearing up the place. One kid is in the fish tank. Others are beating the furniture with bats and sticks. I have seen a commercial in which two girls are kicking in the sides of an air conditioner because it broke down. There is a commercial in which two young boys who are being baby-sat by their uncle destroy the house. They jump on all the furniture, tear up feather pillows. Grandma calls and asks, "Are we having fun yet?"

erty is OK! What kind of values are we teaching our young?

I grew up in the 1950s. If I had done something like that, I would have received a spanking. Spanking is now considered child abuse. Parents need to use some alternative and stick with it. If I see a child who is well-behaved in public and near me, I try to compliment the parent. I'm curious about your thoughts on this. — *Watching in Disbelief*

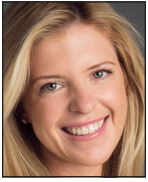
Dear Watching in Disbelief: I grew up in the 90s, and I still don't think that children should be allowed to act destructively or disrespectfully. I'm especially concerned when I turn on the TV and see children being rude to teachers — who have one of the most important jobs in the world. Why advertisements feature such behavior as if it were cute is beyond me. But I think your practice of complimenting

the parents of well-behaved children is a kind and upbeat step in the opposite direction, and I encourage all my readers to start doing the same.

Dear Annie: I'd like to add to your response to the grandmother of the 7-year-old who wanted to invite only her new "besties" to her birthday party, leaving some of her old friends out. You said to invite all of the friends anyway because kids change their minds all the time and they might be best friends again by the next week. You were right. Leaving children out, pushing them to the sidelines, is a bad habit to get into. When we do, we are often creating bullying and other dysfunctional behaviors that can turn truly dangerous. And it's never too early to begin teaching children to be kind and considerate of others' feelings. — *Beth in Oregon*

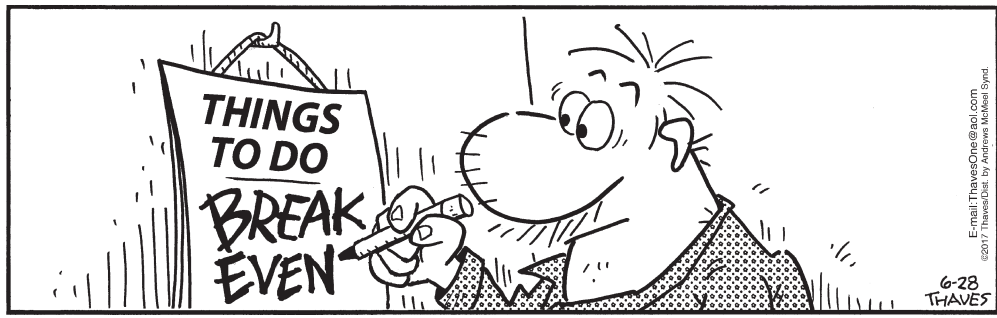
Dear Beth: A million times yes. Empathy is a trait that can and should be nurtured in children early on. Thank you for your letter.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

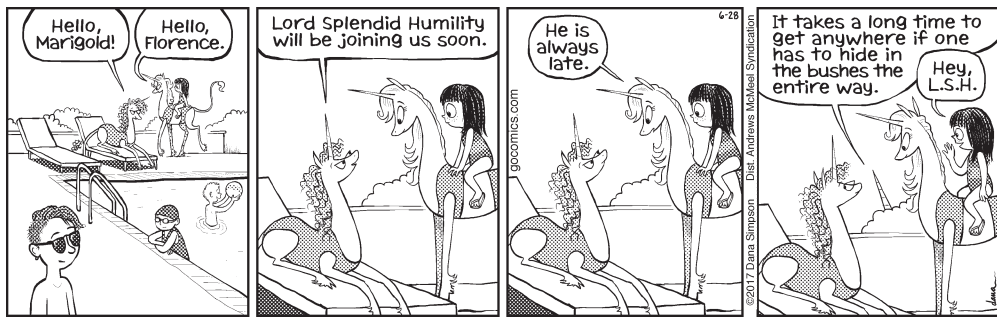
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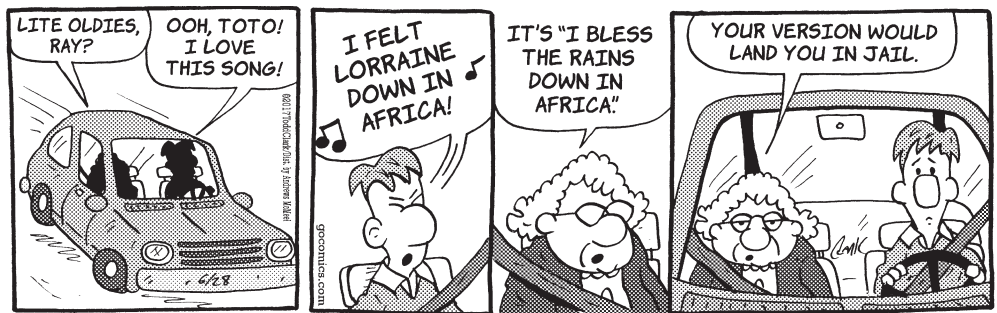
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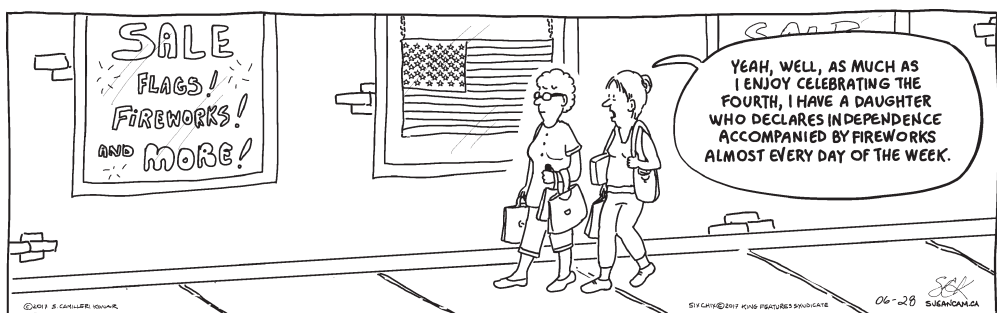
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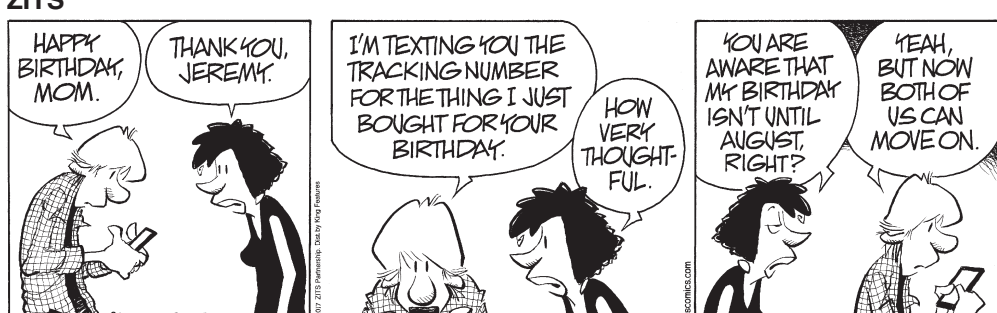
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ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Boredom lacks the fiery passion of other emotions, but it's just as important as many of those super-charged feelings. You won't find your peak creativity, originality or unique genius without tolerating some degree of boredom.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You lived your story; you earned it! That doesn't mean that you want to tell it to everyone. In fact, you'll be effectively choosy in this regard, waiting for the right audience and the moments of maximum impact.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Those who have earned big-time results are the only ones who can afford to talk a big talk — though, usually, because experience has taught them the precariousness of success and the value of modesty, they choose not to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Love the mess. Frame it as you would the artwork of a beloved young child. In many ways, you are the parent and the child all in one, and you're in need of a little praise and enthusiasm for the early attempts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may feel like you're being put on the spot today. If so, consider moving "the spot" off to the side a bit. The sideshow will attract a crowd without having the same pressures and liabilities of the mainstage productions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The nature of marketing is hype. Since you're being marketed to during your every waking hour, it only follows to pick up and use language of hype in your you-to-you communications. Recognize it for the exaggeration it is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). True to his methodical, consistent nature, the tortoise wins the race. Plodding ever forward is harder than it looks — especially for those who are easily distracted (which is everyone) — but it works. You can do this!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Instead of ruminating about what went wrong back there, imagine that it didn't. Think of yourself as saying and doing it the way you would have liked it to go. This increases your chances of getting it right the next time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you're only partway into the situation, it will take energy from the rest of your life and give you back nothing in return. For a proper return you'll have to ramp up your commitment or get out completely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If there's anything you need more of, it's not money or fun, it's meaning. When meaningfully engaged you become more yourself and yet somehow simultaneously more everyone else, too, melding with the universal mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Comfortable ideas about who you are will keep you interacting in a certain way that may or may not benefit you, let alone keep you interested in yourself. Trade comfort for boldness, routine for adventure, worry for curiosity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you laid down the boundary for your friend, you had a good reason. But the scene has changed and so have the both of you. It's time for some new rules that better fit this current incarnation of the relationship.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 29). You're becoming increasingly informed and in touch with your surroundings and yet you're not completely tied to things as they exist. Parameters change. You'll come into a brand new scene and alter it forever for the better. Affection and devotion will be heaped on you in 2018. Travel figures prominently. Sagittarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 38, 34 and 40.

BLONDIE



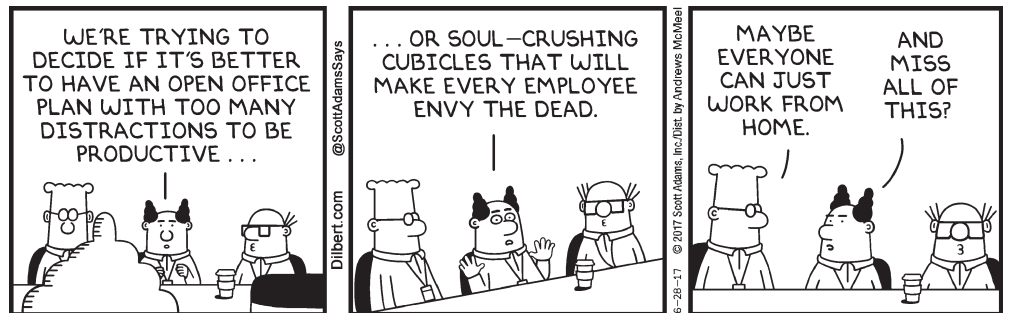
SALLY FORTH



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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

