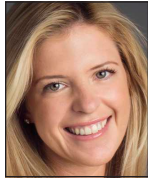


# Get off your own property?

Dear Annie: We have some new neighbors, and our backyards are adjoining. We enjoy sitting out on our deck on nice evenings and enjoying the weather with a drink and snack. Sometimes friends stop by. We are quiet and aren't out late. Our neighbors have several young children, and they are outdoors all the time. We're not thrilled with the constant noise, but we put up with it. We've tried to remain friendly and polite. Recently, there's a new issue: Our neighbors informed us that it's "creepy and inappropriate" when we sit outside when the kids are out playing and that we shouldn't be doing so because it makes them uncomfortable. We're sitting in our lounge chairs and not even facing their direction. We can't put up a taller privacy fence or plant bushes because of a city ordinance, so if we can't use our deck when the kids are outdoors, we won't be able to use it at all.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

We're not sure what to do. We feel that we're being bullied and that we're doing nothing wrong, but if the family were to become angry and accuse us of something,

our lives would be ruined. We love this house but feel that our only option at this point is to move. However, that would leave the next owners in the same predicament. I took some muffins over and tried to explain to the mother that we mean no harm to the children — that we're just enjoying our deck on our property — and she asked me to leave, saying, "The kids will be home from school soon."

I did visit our local police department to talk about the accusation, and an officer said we'd better just stay inside to prevent escalation. But who's going to say these neighbors won't decide (falsely) that we're watching their kids through the windows? This whole situation makes us very uncomfortable, and we're not sure what to do. — *Housebound Through No Fault of Our Own in Iowa*

Dear Housebound: Relaxing on the deck at dusk after a good dinner — that's one of life's simple pleasures. Don't let the oddballs next door deprive you of that. You've done nothing wrong. If you want some privacy for your own

peace of mind, try lining the side of your deck that faces them with large potted plants, or consider installing a canopy from which you could drape some curtains. If they continue to harangue you, tell them you'll stop sitting in your backyard when they show you the penal code that says you can't.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Louise A.," who is having difficulty accepting the fact that she is old. I am also in my early 80s, and I can identify with her.

My husband and I were very active in our former community. My husband had a wonderful career in the medical field. We had a lovely home, and life was so exciting, but we were facing some health issues that demanded we, especially my husband, slow down. We made the decision to move to a wonderful senior independent living community, and we have never regretted it one minute.

There are many people living here who have the same issues we have. — *Marjorie in Tyler, Texas*

Dear Marjorie: Thank you for sharing the great experiences your new community has offered you. It sounds as if you and your husband are living fun and full lives. Your positivity is contagious.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You'll find that you don't have time to do all that's proposed, implied or expected. But if you refrain from anything resembling a complaint or a worry, your energy will double up and you'll be most productive.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** What seems precious and limited is not, it turns out, so rare and scarce after all. So if, in the frenzy of production, you lose a bit of it here and there, don't worry. There will be plenty more very soon. Keep producing.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your inner drive to teach, help and mentor others is stronger than usual today. In fact, if you don't have people around you who need guidance, you'll attract some.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Getting things done leads to confidence. Confidence leads to decisiveness. Decisiveness leads to action. Action leads to momentum. Momentum leads to success. So start getting things done.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You interrupt the pattern and take control. They don't know what you're going to do next. (You do!) They don't know what the whole thing is leading to. (You do!) They're a little off-balance. (They hold on to you.) Lead the way.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Meeting new people will be the highlight of your day. In a way, people are all the same. You find this reassuring. In more ways, people are different, and those subtle differences will be a source of wonderment today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** No one is holding back with you today. It's like there's a collective belief that you're strong, calm and capable — that you can handle the good, the bad, the

truth. They're right.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** People can count on you to behave in a particular way in most situations. Today you'll manage to accomplish something very difficult. You'll be simultaneously appropriate and surprising.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Respect is shown through good manners, common courtesy and adherence to expectations of behavior. Any breach in this regard will pack more punch than usual today, but things go smoothly if you follow the rules.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** When you recognize the lingering shadow of loneliness over a person or over an area of your own life, let it be an invitation instead of a condition. Reach out in compassion. Make a connection.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It starts with curiosity. You really do want to understand your surroundings much better. As you follow your instincts and impulses you capture the imagination (and support) of others along the way.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your attitude is a response to your world view. What you're learning is changing how you see the world. So your beliefs and, by extension, your attitude will change, too.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 6).** Though you're a peaceful spirit, metaphorically you'll change from hunter to trapper this year: You'll stop stalking what you want and build an irresistible lure to attract it instead. After November's victory, your guiding principle will be: How can I help? A path of service will lead to a grand adventure. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 18, 31, 6 and 22.

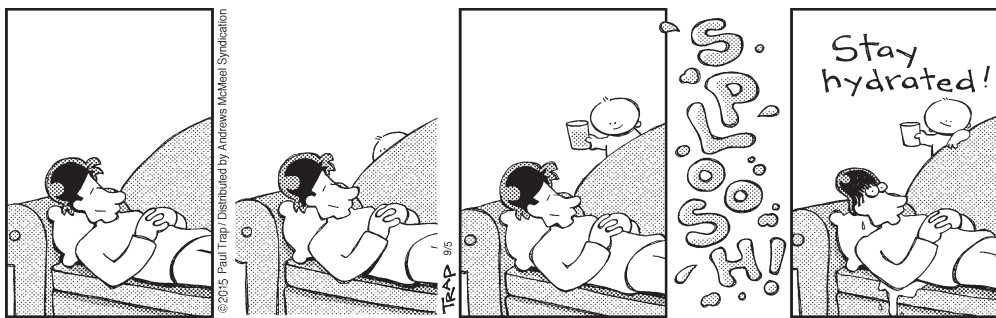
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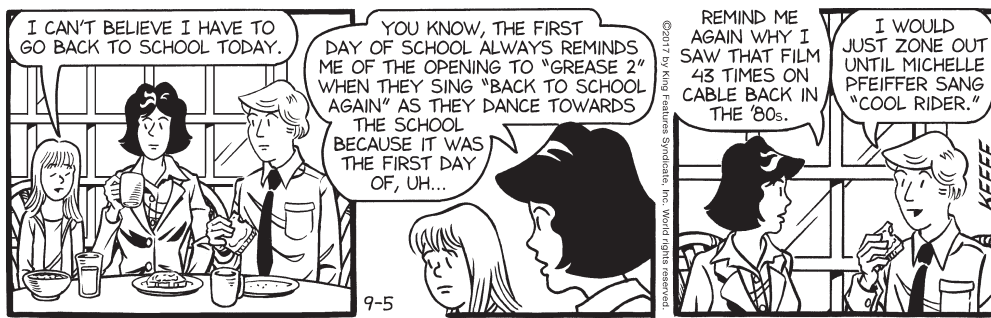
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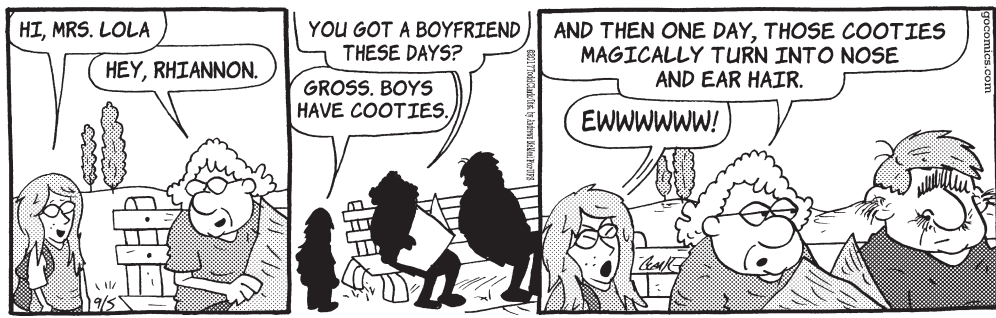
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## B.C.



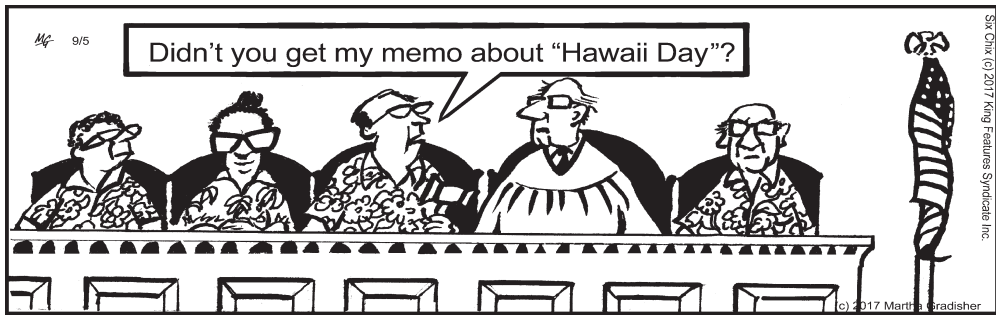
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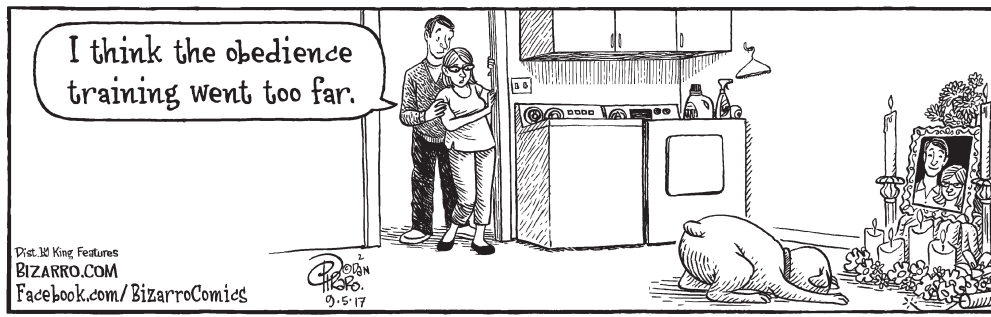
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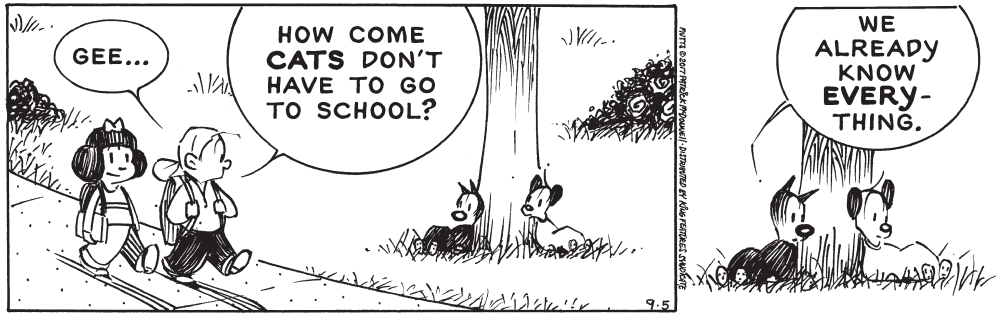
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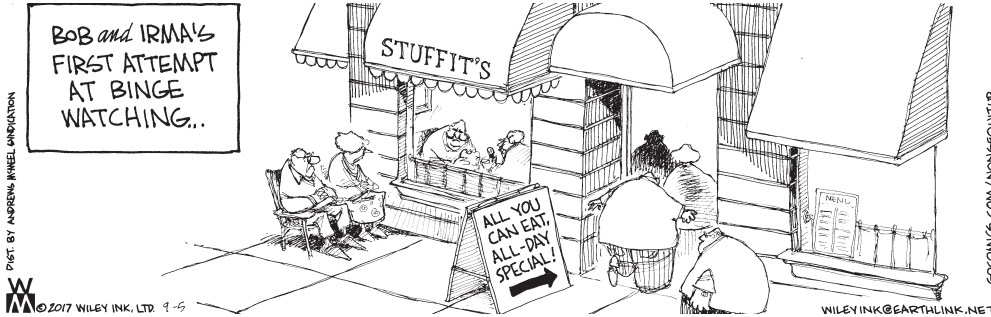
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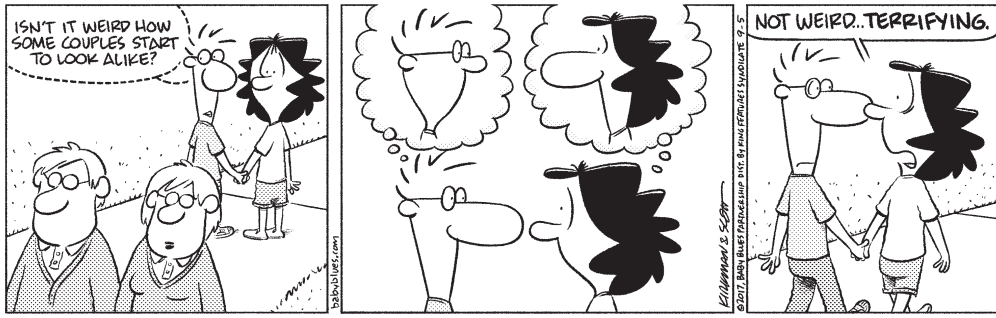
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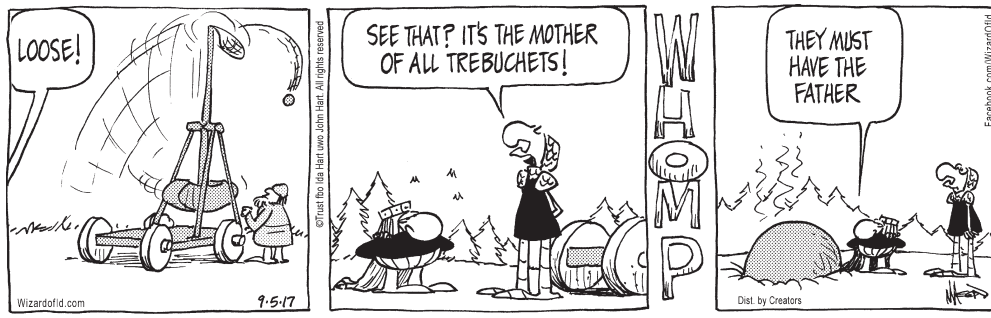
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## BABY BLUES



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## ZITS



## ROSE IS ROSE

