

Animals divide attention

Dear Annie: My husband and I have had a cat for two years, and it is amazing how close we are to that little furry animal. He is a Persian longhair and full of love. He purrs whenever he is held or sits in your lap. Also, we just adopted a Great Pyrenees dog. We did not know much about this breed but are pleasantly surprised at how gentle she is. She ignores the cat and is wonderful with children. Yet she is a fantastic protection dog. I read that Great Pyrenees protect sheep and other livestock and chase away wolves and cheetahs, so you can imagine how powerful they are. We got her because there have been a series of break-ins in our neighborhood and we were advised that a big dog can be great protection against burglars.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

The problem is that our dog, sweet as she is, demands total attention. When either of us holds the cat, she comes over and says, through her body language, "Hold me instead." We're not sure how to handle this so both animals feel loved and appreciated. — *Cats and Dogs*

Dear Cats and Dogs: You are blessed to have such loving animals and smart to take their feelings seri-

ously. In a 2014 study, researchers at the University of California, San Diego found evidence that dogs do in fact experience jealousy. So for the cat's sake, as well as the dog's, it is important to reassure your dog by petting her at the same time.

Either you or your husband can hold the cat while the other pets the dog. If you are alone, then pet both animals at the same time. As long as you pet them both, your household will literally be in good hands.

Dear Readers: One of the many joys of writing this column is finding out which topics resonate with readers. Most recently, it was business cards. I have chosen two of the many letters I received on this issue. Hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did.

Dear Annie: It was very heartening to read that you strongly recommend business cards and thank-you notes. I have found that the younger generation of businesspeople are not very businesslike. The most exasperating lazy habit is that so many don't even sign their email. They expect you to extract their name from their email address. Signature blocks make a business card

valuable, and these cards eliminate the need to Google for contact information. — *Dial Generation Nanny*

Dear Nanny: You are not alone, as you will see by the next letter.

Dear Annie: This morning, my father walked into the office and handed me your column about handing out business cards. We run and operate a family business that was established by my grandfather in 1959, founded on old-school principles. The importance of networking, being involved in the community, and getting your name out there has been preached to me over the years. It was refreshing to read your opinion that business cards hold a lot of importance and value. And I liked that you mentioned sending a handwritten thank-you card. These small things really do make a big difference. I couldn't agree more, and you've helped put an exclamation point on what my grandfather and my father have been preaching to me. I think it made my father's day, judging by the smile on his face when he handed me the article. — *Patrick*

Dear Patrick: You made my day — judging by the smile on my face! Thank you. And you're right; good manners go a long way toward business success.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The mighty warrior knows that battling is one way to the victory, but it's not the only way. Some of the best victories are handed over. Negotiation will serve you well today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To keep the peace you may have to let a few things slide. It's in your best interest not to be difficult. There are so many benefits to playing well with others. Success will be as simple as finding and sharing some fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're excellent at paying attention to others in a casual, low-key way that winds up somehow making them feel very special. Consider dialing up the effort a few notches — turning the gesture into a memorable experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fitting opportunities will be the cosmic boon of the day. You'll find out where to get training to improve an area of life in which you've been ailing or ignorant. This is the start of something good.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You could be feeling uncharacteristically reserved. Counteract this bout of shyness with a friendly action. Start up a conversation. One connection will lead to another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's not like you're searching for tenderness and friendship in this harsh and competitive world, but when you accidentally stumble across it today you'll realize how much you needed it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What starts as a gentle and workable plan will quickly turn into something that creates change in many areas of your life at once. Small improve-

ments will add up to big differences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Certain rituals make you feel in control. For instance, making your bed. Nothing bad happens if you leave it unmade. But you make it anyway, because it reminds you that you're a person who cares about order and beauty.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll hit a pocket of very interesting chaos. Observe, but not too close up, or you'll get sucked into the vortex of this strange distraction, and it won't be so easy to find your way out.

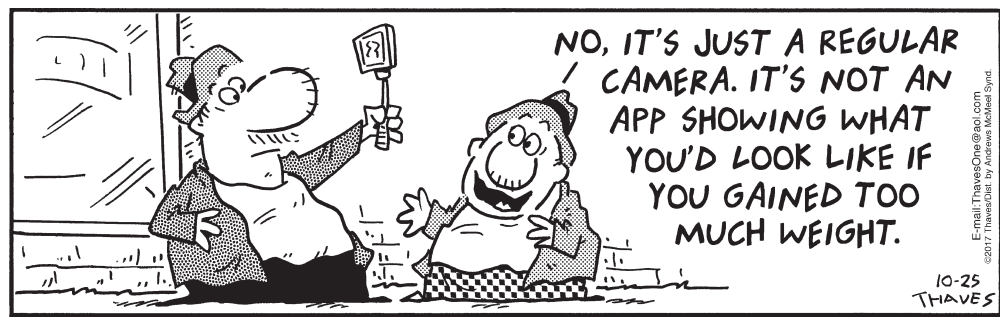
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've an uncanny sense of timing. You pick up on the pulse of things around you and can ride and participate without missing a beat. This talent will serve you well in matters of finance, poetry, comedy, music and flirtation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Things happened in one order, but you may choose to relay them in a different order, which changes things. That's the thing about stories: They belong to the person telling them, including accompanying liberties.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't ask if they know what you mean. The ones who do know will find the question superfluous and the ones who don't are a lost cause. If you know what you mean, that's enough. Go forward in confidence.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 26). You reach out. You give. You build. You're mostly just following the leanings of your heart in all this, though you never can tell whence your next string of good luck will begin. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 49, 33, 12 and 28.

FRANK AND ERNEST



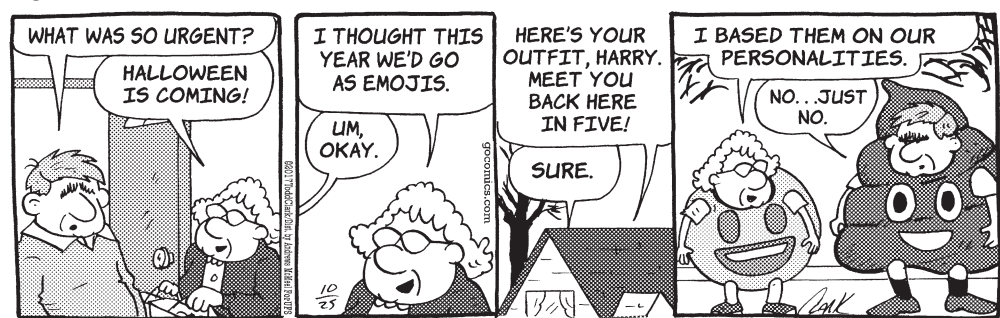
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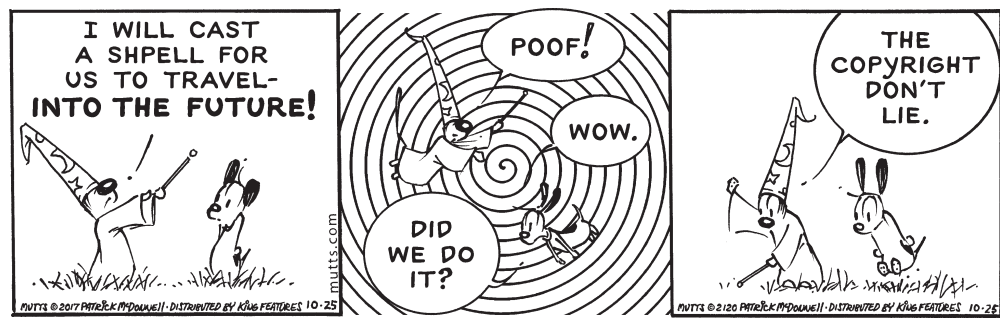
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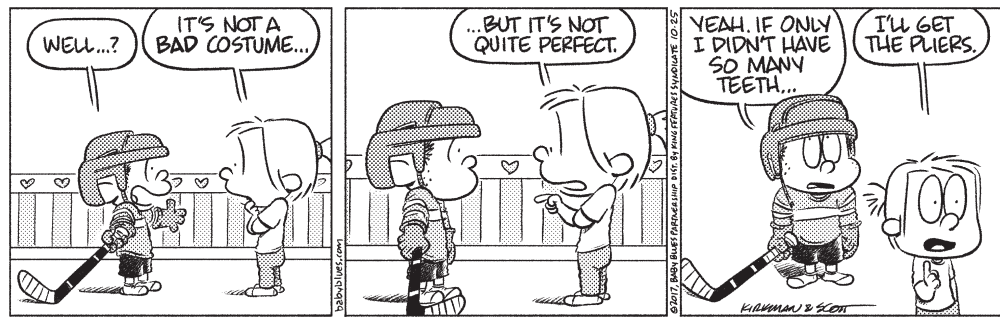
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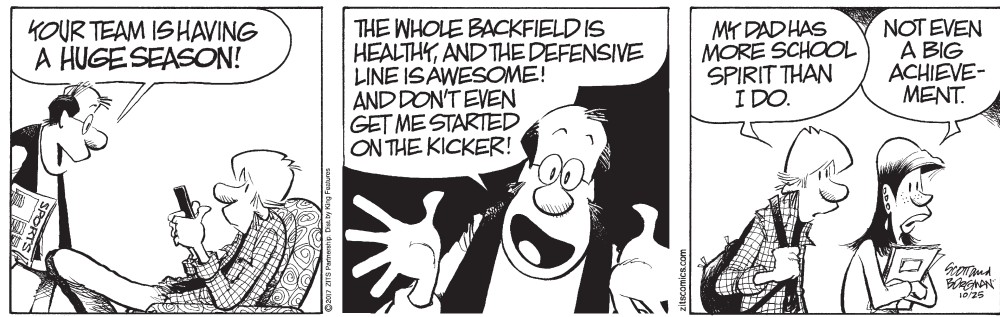
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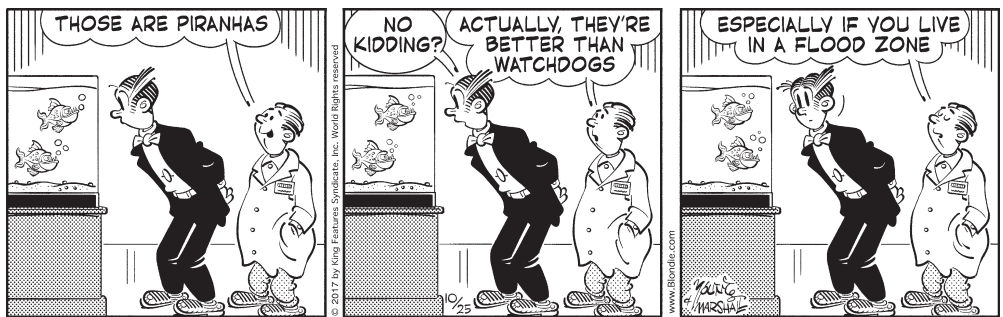
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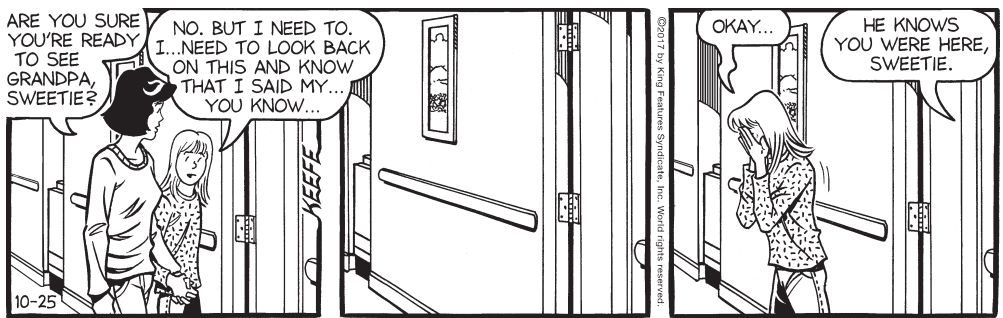
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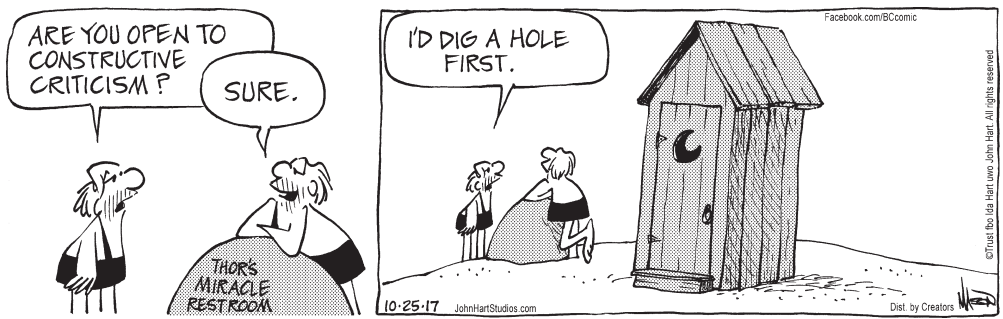
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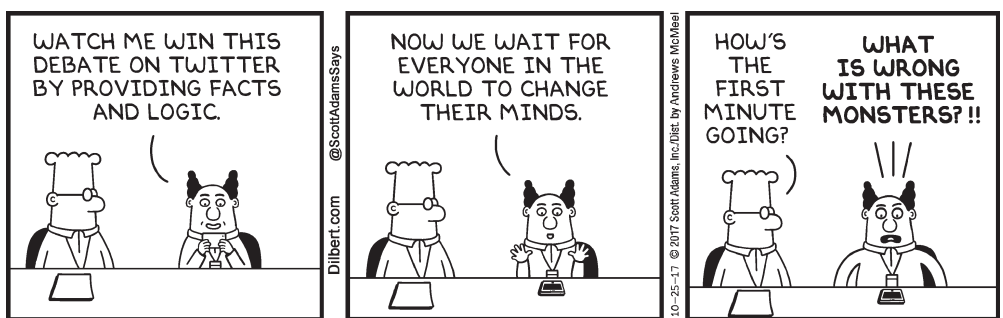
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