

Leave dogs at home

Dear Annie: I have three dogs. I love them and treat them well. In turn, I expect and receive good behavior. I have worked very hard to train my dogs on proper behavior in the house. They are very well-mannered. I keep them groomed, so even shedding is not much of a problem. I wish people wouldn't assume that just because I have dogs, it's fine for them to bring their dogs over when they come by my house.

the Dogs

Dear Gone to the Dogs: What's wrong with saying, "Please don't bring your dog along"? It's not rude — just direct. Let the folks whose dogs are destroying your furniture worry about having more tact.

Dear Annie: Years ago, in the 1970s, I was waiting in a fast-food restaurant for my husband. I noticed a family in an adjacent booth — a mother, a father and their little girl,

who seemed to be about 6 years old. While the father was seated with them, all was normal. But as soon as he got up to go to the bathroom, the woman began to berate the child in an angry whisper that I could hear — telling her that she was all manner of horrible, using such ugly phrases. I was at a loss for words and wished there were some way to show the husband and/or Child

Protective Services what was happening.

A glimmer of an idea came to me. I was verbally abused as a child and an adult, and I remembered how important the kind words of strangers had been to me. I went to their booth and said, "Ma'am, I am sorry to bother you, but your beautiful little girl is so well-behaved and seems so bright. You must be proud of her." I looked at the child directly and said, "You are wonderful."

It wasn't much, but it was all I could think of at the time. — *Janet*

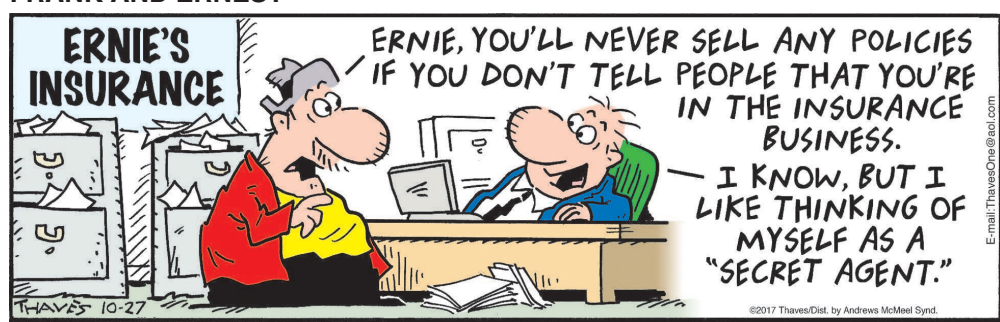
Dear Janet: It wasn't much? It was a great deal. Perhaps it caused the mother to stop berating her daughter, at least for a moment, and you have no idea how much better your words may have made that little girl feel — or for how long. She may even still remember it to this day. Kindness begets kindness, and every bit you put into the world encourages more of the same. Good job.

DEAR ANNIE

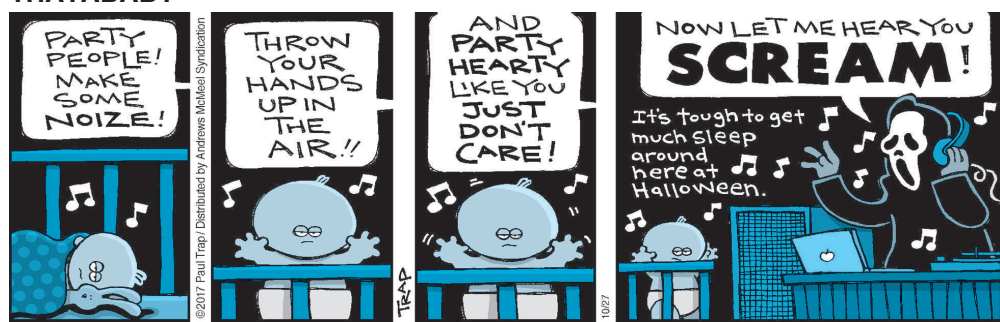


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

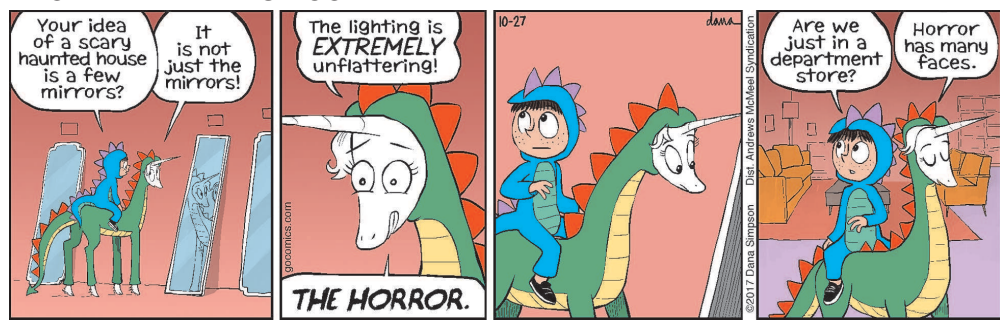
FRANK AND ERNEST



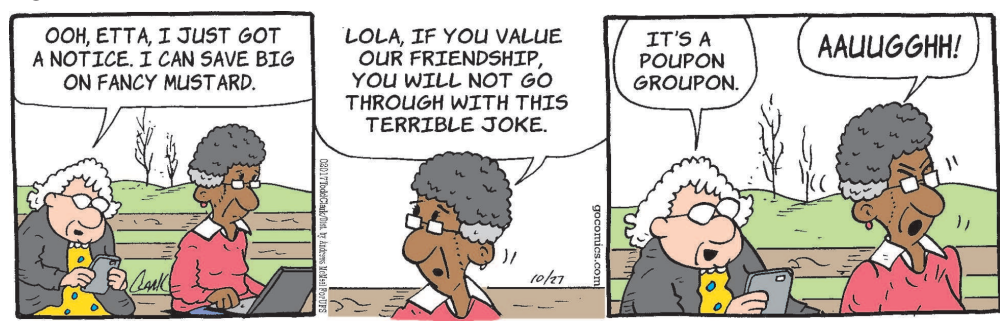
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PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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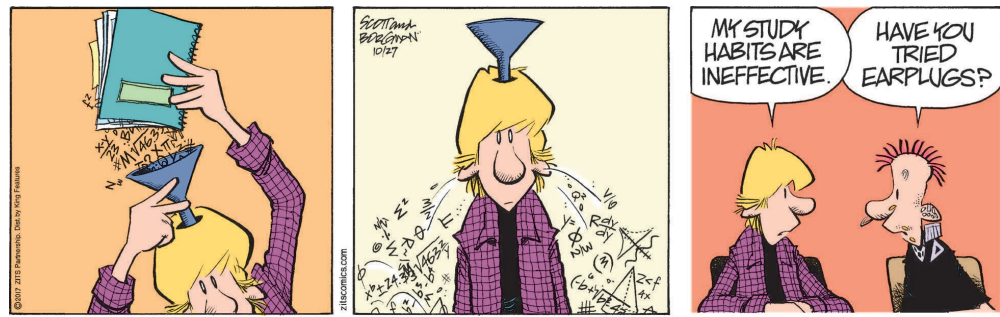
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Nothing is quite as permanent as it might seem today, especially if it has to do with the words of men. Ironclad decisions can be reversed. What's written in stone can be shattered, chipped away or eroded by waves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). On a molecular level, most things are more empty space than solid matter. That's why you shouldn't worry if your wishes haven't yet materialized. Fill the empty space with imaginings. Believe in the potential of things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've worked hard to achieve a certain standard in your work, and now it's time to work just as hard (or maybe harder) to market it. Don't be afraid. A savvy fire sign can help (Aries, Leo or Sagittarius).

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Playing it cool can also just be a form of fear. To engage will be the stronger choice. You progress the relationship when you tell them what you think, express your likes and are warm, not cool.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You won't regret erring on the side of kindness and discretion. You'll probably see a hundred ways to improve a situation, but it would be useless to point that out. People are trying their best given what they currently know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Because misinformation runs amok in the world, people you trust could accidentally lead you astray. Your skepticism is healthy. Do your own research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What works for other people won't necessarily work for you, and what works for you won't necessarily work for others. Still, the recommendations will be appreciated, and a nice way to connect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "I hope life isn't a big joke, because I don't get it," quipped comedy writer Jack Handey. And though you'll be keenly aware that life is no joke, you'll find much to laugh at today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're looking for a role model, all the while acutely attuned to the fact that none will be perfect and the ones who want your money in exchange are likely even less so. Keep your eyes peeled.

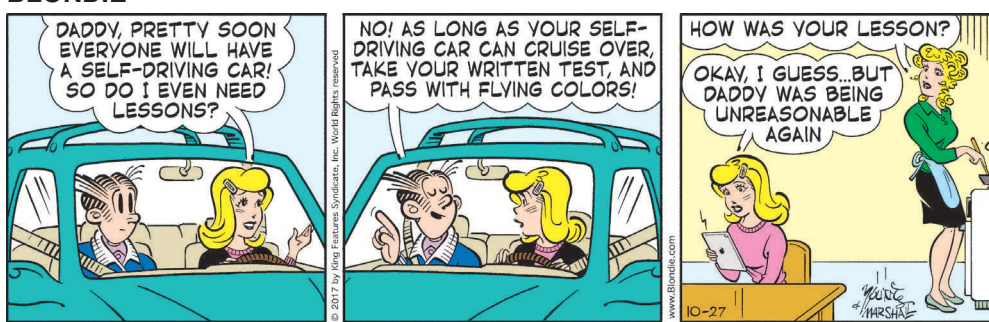
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though it makes no sense to compare another person's strengths to your weaknesses, that happens quite often in your mind lately. You're not the only one. Everybody does this. But it's time to just stop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you could take the other person's pain you would. And it would only be fair that you also took some of the joy and success, too, right? But you can't take either. So hold hands, but bring the focus back to your own experience.

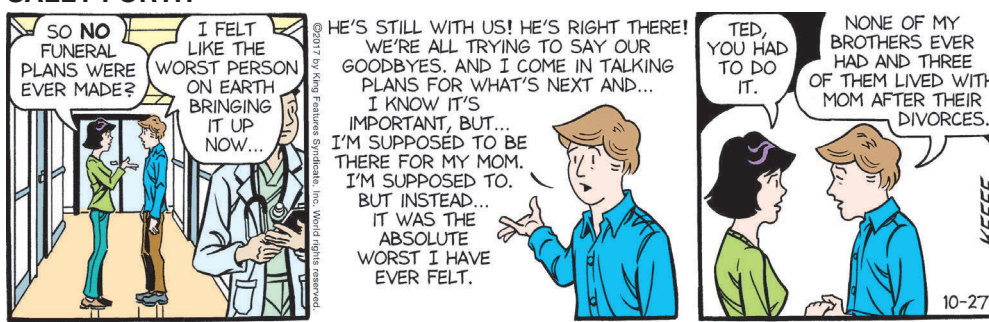
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The Zen master suggests that everything that follows the word "I" is an illusion. If this is true then you can't possibly be right, and the other person can't possibly be wrong. It's all just trading illusions.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 28). In full realization of your uniqueness, you won't even try to be someone special. You'll just be who you are. You'll fill out your potential, and you'll settle into a powerful mode of being. A breakthrough in your work will come in November. There's real satisfaction in love for you in 2018. Family will surround you. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 22, 28 and 31.

BLONDIE



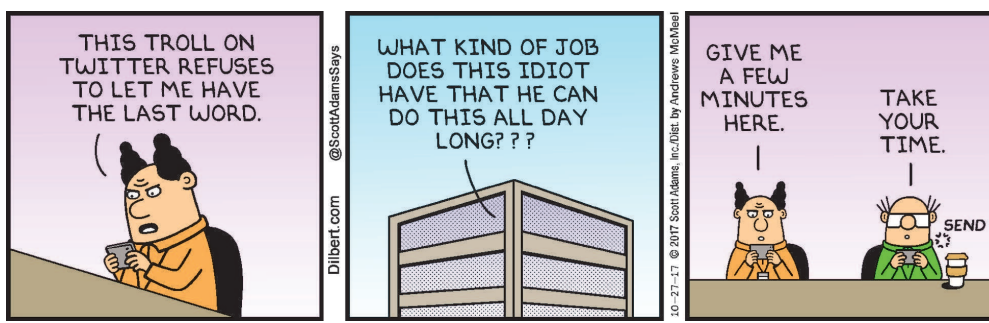
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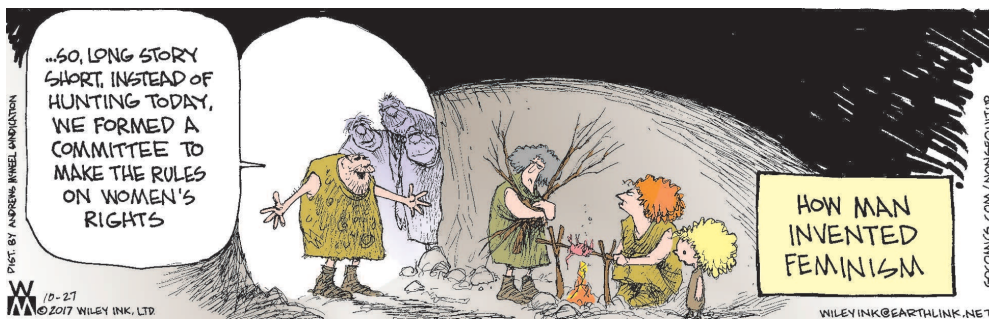
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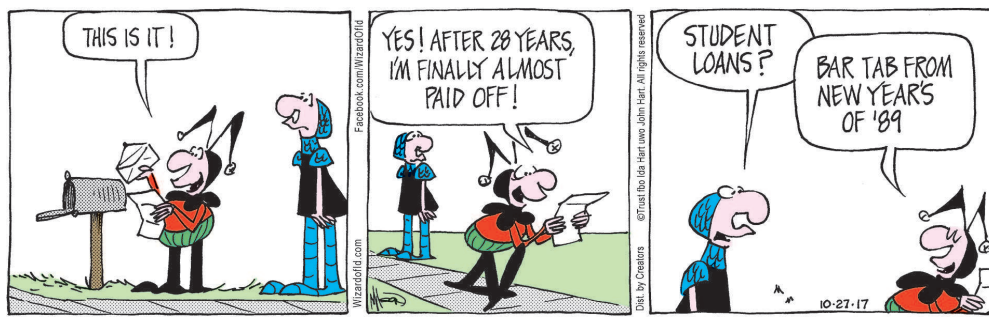
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

