

Grandkids without discipline

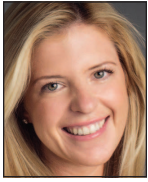
Dear Annie: I am inclined to ask for an outside opinion after spending time with my grandkids at their home last night and witnessing a lot of violent behavior with which they got away. It was an emotional roller coaster. I saw the eldest sibling behaving roughly with his younger siblings. The parents threatened to take away a favorite toy as punishment but then never followed through, nor did they use timeout, which I still think is smart for calming down.

As a grandparent, I was glad to see the sisters, ages 3 and 4, learning to fight back against their elder brother, who is 7, when he was rough with them. But he's still stronger, and there was still a lot of crying. Meanwhile, the 1-year-old boy is watching it all.

My daughter-in-law is a stay-at-home mom. My son participates with the discipline, but he mostly yells at them. The kids laugh it off, and the eldest boy even hits the parents or pounces on them when he feels like it. And again, nothing is done to punish him. The kids are simply told to hug and say they're sorry. This has been going on for at

least three years. When I spend time with the kids individually, they are sweet and very smart. I'm sure they like the calm visit with me. What will happen with them in the future? — *Worried Grandma*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Worried Grandma: You are correct to be concerned. Empty threats help no one. They instill temporary fear in children that they will get something taken away, and when there is no follow-through on the threats, it teaches the children that your word is not worth paying attention to. In the end, they will continue not to listen to or respect your son and daughter-in-law. They need firm guidelines about not hitting, strict enforcement and lots of love.

Dear Annie: I am a veterinarian, and I have read your column since its inception. I usually agree with your advice. However, I must object to the advice you gave to the owners of the cat who got a Great Pyrenees. They believe that the dog is demanding an inordinate amount of their attention, possibly out of jealousy. Though your reply was

well-intended, your recommendations may not have been helpful and could even be dangerous. Dogs and cats have their own methods of communication, with facial expressions and body language that most people aren't trained or attuned enough to understand. They have evolved to respond to these cues in certain ways. Trying to project human emotions, motivations or patterns of behavior onto dogs or cats is largely unsuccessful and can sometimes create even more unwanted behavior.

This couple would benefit from having a professional dog trainer come to their house, observe the social hierarchy that exists and counsel them on the best way to safely modify this dog's behavior. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help people with their issues. I hope this information is beneficial. — *Michigan Veterinarian*

Dear Michigan Veterinarian: Thank you for your expertise. You make a great point about the potential pitfalls of projecting human emotion onto animal behavior. I've forwarded your letter to the owner of the Great Pyrenees, and I'm printing it here for the benefit of all readers trying to keep the peace among animals in their homes.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Walk in the sunshine. Eat delicious food. The sensuality of life will somehow feel like a thrilling escape and the sweet embrace of home all at the same time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You like people who surprise you, even if the surprise is a bit weird. You'd much rather be jolted by the unexpected than lulled into a waking slumber by the tedium of the overly familiar.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The person who has to make everything about himself or herself won't change the pattern just for you. However, you may inspire this person to at least be more aware of that dynamic today, which is a start.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Getting the approval of others, avoiding their disapproval, giving a stellar performance, having things the way you want them ... all of that is nice, but not necessary to your happiness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Avoiding responsibility doesn't make anyone happier or freer. It seems like it should! But there's a great deal of good that comes out of accepting responsibility, and you provide plenty of proof for that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be developing a better way of looking at your life and some more supportive self-talk to go along with that new view. What would you tell a friend to help them if they were your position?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Service makes you feel good about who you are and your place in the world. You'll love what comes out of this today, and you will likely sign up for more in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Goodbyes are important. Whether they are happy, relieving or fearful, it is better to have the closure than not. Today, you'll get closure on a limbo situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When experiencing unpleasant emotions, you know not to get stuck there. You will quickly do something to create a different emotion and this fluidity of feeling keeps the day clipping along.

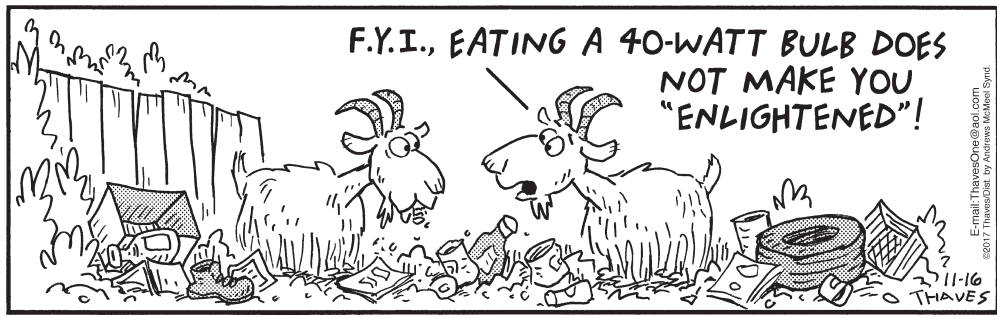
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be especially susceptible to imagery today. Take advantage of this by seeking out inspirational pictures of the life you desire, the person you want to be and the environment of your peaceful daydreams.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're starting to accumulate many positive experiences. It's as though you could stack them high enough to block out the negativity of the past. This is a building project worth devoting yourself to.

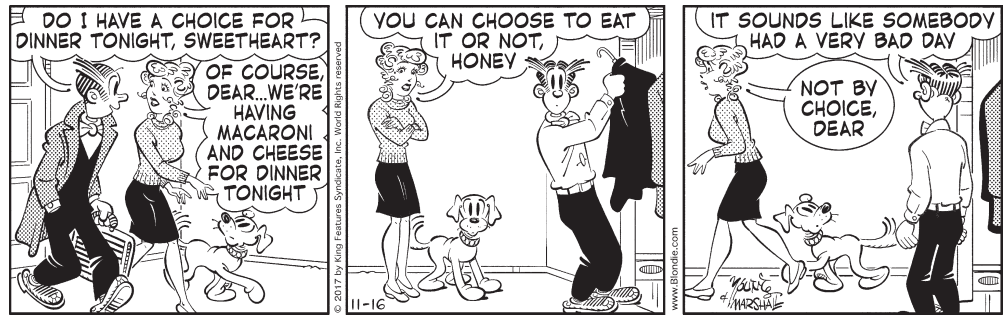
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). How you spend your day is how you're spending your life. You're so aware of this now that you may be moved to cut out an activity for good because it sucks time away from things you would rather be doing.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 17). A new hobby or interest is bubbling up now and will take hold and solidify in 2018. Once you figure out the particulars, your commitment to the endeavor will introduce you to new people and places. Your family will grow in the new year. Your leadership will be often requested and sometimes paid for. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 28, 40 and 15.

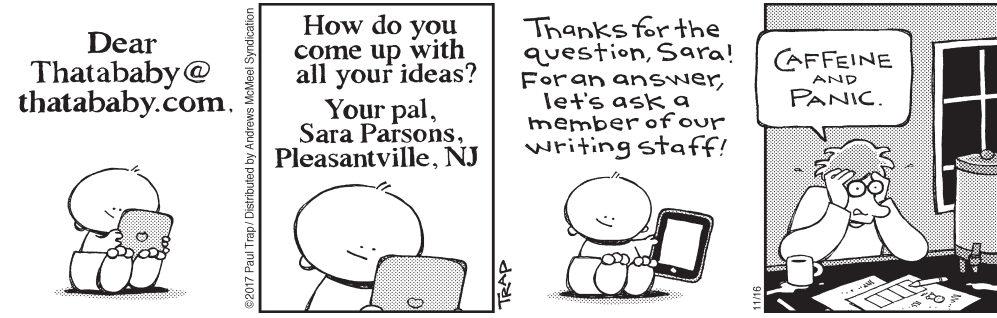
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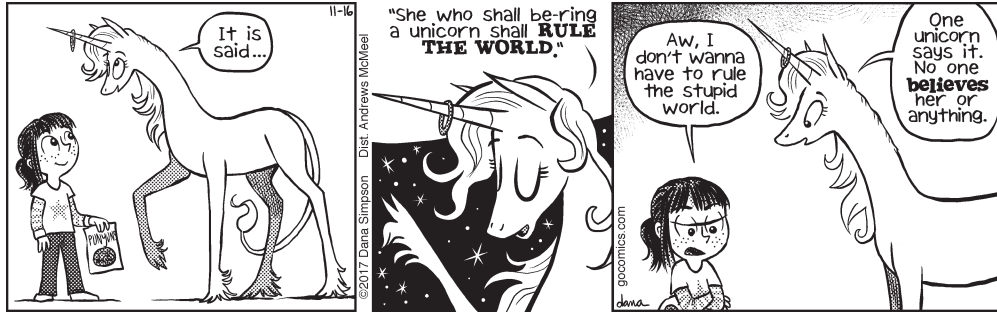
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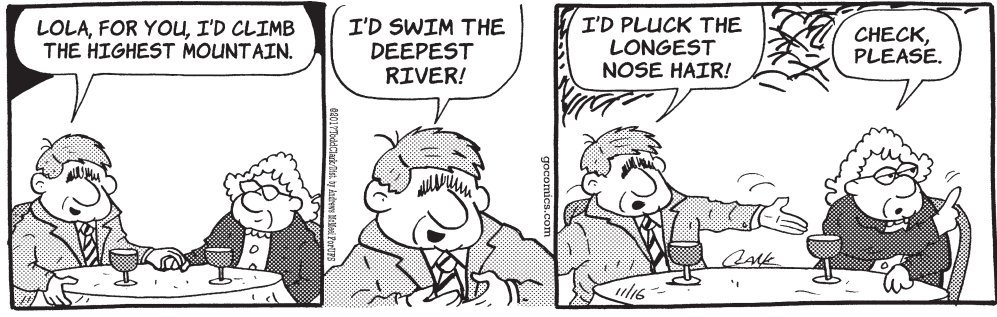
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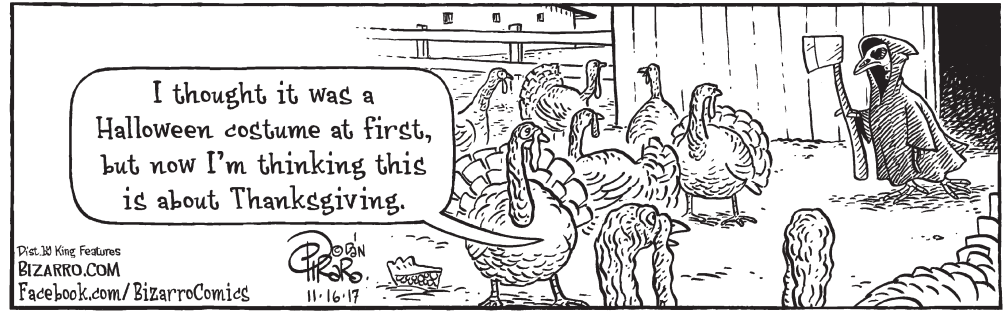
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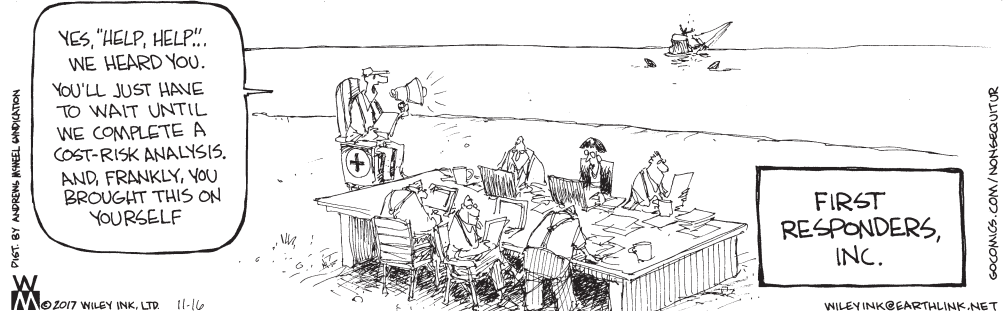
BIZARRO



MUTTS



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ROSE IS ROSE

