

Comments concern neighbor

Dear Annie: I was told recently by a neighbor that the neighbors next door to me call me Mrs. Kravitz, a reference to the nosy neighbor on "Bewitched." I am bewildered and hurt.

My kitchen window is in view of their back door, and when I'm washing dishes or cleaning up the area, they can see me; I can't see them. Now I bend down so if they are anywhere around they won't see me. This is very uncomfortable for me, but I'd rather do this than have them make such hurtful remarks about me.

I never ask them any questions except, "How are you?" or "How's the family?" If this is considered nosy, I won't even ask that much.

What can I do to make them understand? I don't watch them as they think I do. — *Not-So-Nosy Neighbor*

Dear Not-So-Nosy: Who knows if they ever actually called you "Mrs. Kravitz"? It's possible this intermediary neighbor was just trying to stir the cauldron, so

to speak. Even if they do call you that, the health of your neck and back is more important than the opinion of a few petty neighbors. Do not hunch over at the sink. I say stand tall and wash your dishes in peace, knowing you've done nothing wrong. But if this whole ordeal has shaken you up too much to do that, install some cute curtains.

Dear Annie: I read your column with the letter about people abandoning pets. I wrote a poem called "Spay It Forward" a couple of years ago, which you may use if you wish. I hope that it will make someone think twice before abandoning an animal.

*It was just a little cat killed in the street
She just couldn't move fast,
on her tiny frozen feet
The cars were too many, moving too fast
Now into eternity this small creature has passed.
You thought you were being kind,
abandoning her alive
But it is rare in winter that former house pets survive*

*Her last few hours were full of suffering and fear
A creature that once someone held dear,
You couldn't keep her anymore, who knows why.
These things happen, no matter how we do try
The vet's needle would probably have been kinder.
Now that her crushed body lies there, as a sober reminder
Did she die right away, or in pain did she suffer
As car tires rolled over her, rougher and rougher?
She's out of it now, her life gone away
The miseries of life, forever, held at bay
So, if for an animal you can no longer care
Take them to a shelter, because that's only fair
The end result might still be the same
But it will be kinder, and filled with less shame.*

Thank you for sharing. — *Kenneth Brandhagen*
Dear Kenneth: Thank you for your touching poem. If it prevents even one person from abandoning an animal outside, it's done a whole lot.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may not remember exactly what you said or did, but your body remembers it, and certain cues (the most effective being smell and taste) will bring you right back to that memory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a situation; a limit being imposed. Maybe they don't mean to take away your freedom. This could be happening on an unconscious level. But if you don't call it out, this subtle pattern of restriction will continue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is suggested time and again by the gurus of self-help that a life of purpose and meaning leads to happiness. Today's events suggest that "meaning" doesn't have to equal "seriousness." And purpose can be light as a laugh.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The habit you're finding it so difficult to break is serving a very important purpose, as it carries the promise of some measure of order and certainty in an uncertain world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It appears, to the outsiders, that some on the inside operate inside their privilege without merits even close to those being kept out. You will relate to both sides of this fence at different times today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who do not need your permission will nonetheless ask for it out of courtesy. This is how you know that you are respected and also that you have good people around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the sign of balance, it's hard to relate to this, but you'll come across those who don't believe that two powerful people can exist in one relationship. You'll help to change minds, though, as you apply yourself to a mutual aim.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't like a lot of loose ends: It's sloppy, and it keeps people from moving forward. So you'll go back and finish, even if you weren't the one who started it. The result will be, either literally or figuratively, musical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The matter that stressed you out yesterday may still be there today, unchanged. Time to try out some different reactions. You just might find that all the stress is now optional.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Basics of human connection that once seemed innate (such as eye contact and the extension of uninterrupted attention) now have to be learned, due to digital interference. Your good manners will give you an advantage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Huddling in groups, hovering in the background ... these are the places you don't belong on this day of social opportunity. You have much to give and will open yourself (and your body language) to the larger picture.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll feel like you have more knowledge of a person than your time together should add up to. This is your sixth sense chiming in, and it has some information worth heeding, too.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 16). You've been in love with things other than people before — endeavors that make your heart sing, places that light up your imagination — and that will happen for you again this solar return. Loved ones need your teaching in January. Spring will bring opportunity, perhaps through professional advancement. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 12, 2, 18 and 44.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



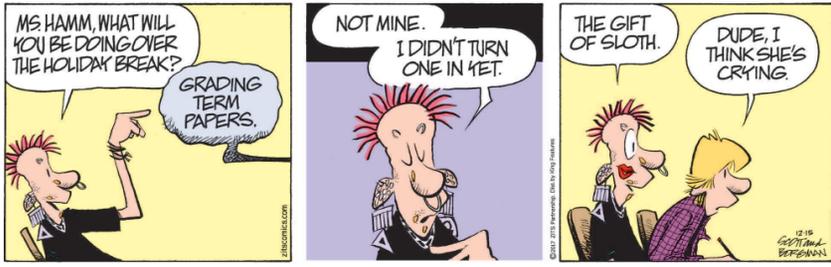
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

