

What about a light touch?

Dear Annie: In this new (and long-overdue) era of “#MeToo,” I’m wondering: Is it always inappropriate to lightly touch the arm of an opposite-sex acquaintance during a casual conversation? I’m not talking about prolonged or repeated touches. I just mean a spontaneous and quick touch. I realize that some people may find such action sexually egregious, but in general, I think such touching is an expression to help emphasize humor, compassion, sincerity or understanding. Personally, I think I’m pretty good at judging whether it’s appropriate for me to touch an acquaintance in such a manner, but my wife insists that it’s never appropriate. Occasionally, I’m on the receiving end of such touching, and I don’t find it offensive. Comment, please? — *Confused in the Midwest*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Confused: It’s not “sexually egregious” to simply touch someone lightly on the arm during a normal conversation. But there are some people who just don’t like physical contact, and that’s reason enough to err on the side of caution. So I’d recommend avoid-

ing it and finding other ways to show your engagement and attention, such as asking good questions, echoing what people have said back to them and maintaining eye contact. Rest assured, you seem like such a conscientious person that I’m sure people can sense your compassion no matter what.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from “W.C. in Waycross, Ga.” and fully agree that more hotels should have handicapped-accessible showers. I am limited because of back surgery I had. Hotel bathrooms are usually retrofitted and useless. The toilets are often older and too low for people with special physical needs. Even if I can use grab bars to get in a tub, there is often no means to sit while taking a shower. And standing while showering is not safe for anyone rated a fall risk. More than once, I’ve had to sit on the edge of a tub while trying to use the shower for water, which, of course, is messy.

My husband and I recently took a very expensive cruise — costly because of my physical needs. Yet I did have a walk-in shower with

a drop-down seat, lots of grab bars and a stateroom large enough to accommodate my electric scooter. — *Love to Travel and Spend a Lot Doing So*

Dear Love to Travel: You and “W.C.” are certainly not alone. Read on for another letter on the subject.

Dear Annie: Absolutely agree with “W.C. in Waycross, Ga.,” who wants to be able to travel and bathe safely. And it is not just elderly people who have these needs. There are tons of people with disabilities who travel or would if they could find accommodations.

All bathrooms should have safety features, whether in the home or on the road. The old saying that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” certainly holds true.

It would be great if a certain percentage of bathrooms in hotels and motels had walk-in showers, etc. Statistically, there are more and more seniors with disposable income, and often they just need to have the products designed for them. — *Senior Appreciative of Grab Bars*

Dear SAGB: I hear you loud and clear, and I hope the hospitality industry does, too.

TOMORROW’S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Routines give us a sense of comfort and purpose. They let us relax and, at the same time, be stronger and work harder within the confines of what we’re doing, knowing that we don’t have to search for or fear what comes next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Since the treasure of this day is hidden inside the dirt of relationships you may have to dig for it a bit. Do what it takes to connect. Mostly this will involve letting someone else be the star.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People are wary of emotionalism, over-righteousness and anything with too much “sound and fury.” That’s why your very subtle and classy pitch will get serious traction today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It doesn’t seem fair that some days seem to rush and blur on their way to nowhere. But nothing lasts like yesterday, on and on and on. Some yesterdays last longer than others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Use your creativity and you’ll get more. You can never run out, actually. The only way you’ll stop being creative is if you believe you have no more ideas, but that belief would be false. Don’t believe false things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you get it wrong, it’s not the end of the world; it’s just another lesson. Take it from your sign mate Bill Murray: You die in the improv five times out of nine. When you get over your fear of dying, nothing really scares you anymore.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Figure out the story and the general direction of your message and then deliver it from the heart. This is how you let people in on who you are and

make them come to love and trust you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you get really close to success, you’re likely to panic. This is normal. It’s just the brain’s way of telling you that you’re about to enter a new level. Breathe, and keep going. The doors will open before you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don’t have to invent anything to solve today’s problem. Recombine the existing ideas until you come up with something that feels fresh to you; then try it out.

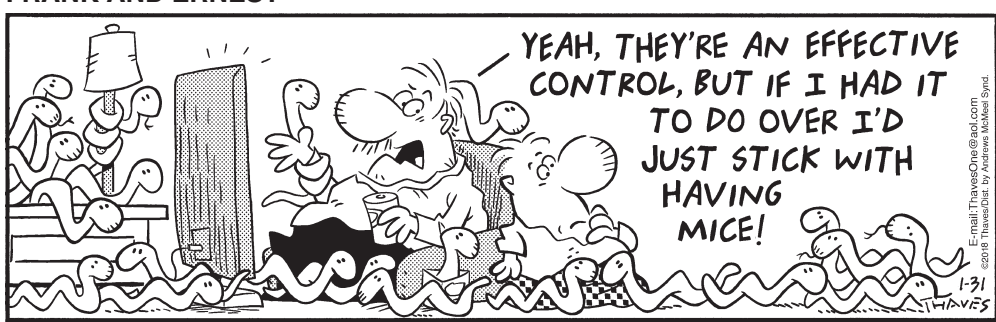
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your loyalty will be rewarded. Your optimism will prove well-placed. And the care you give others will help them a lot and make you 10 times happier, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You resist distraction and opt to look inside yourself instead with the question, “What is it I’m trying to avoid?” This is powerful, and the answer will come to you because you’re ready for it now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Weird new problems crop up — good. These are the type that require you to slip into an innovative part of your brain, and you’ll love playing around in there.

TOMORROW’S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 1). People will be demonstrative in their love for you, and you’ll collect symbols and experiences throughout this solar return as proof. Your comfort zone will undergo a complete rezoning, too, and by May you might be surprised by what you’re capable of, all because you risked, failed, learned and got up again. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 19, 11 and 16.

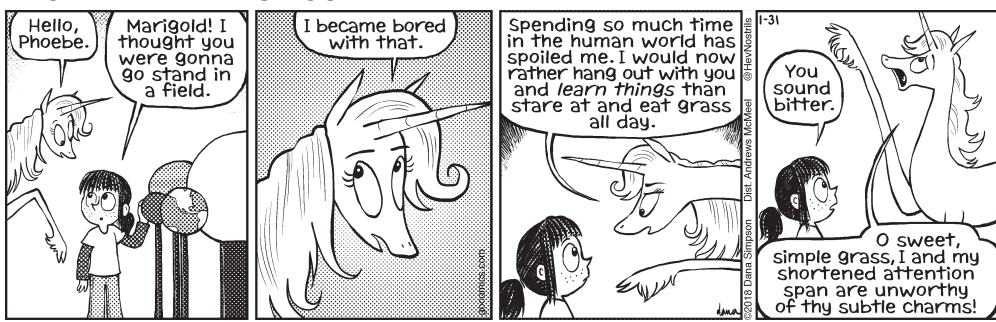
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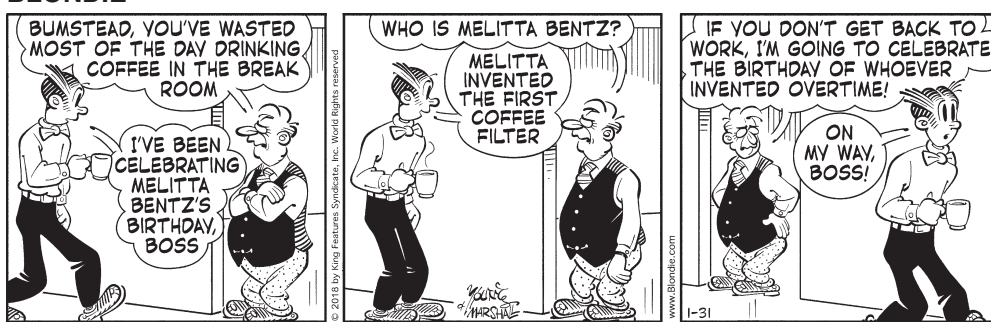
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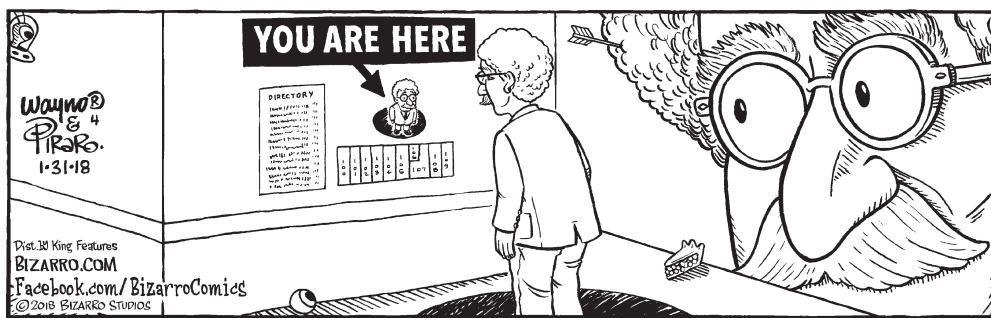
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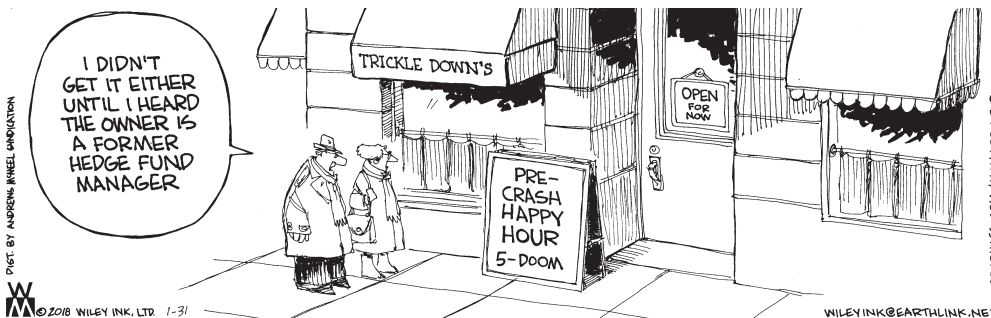
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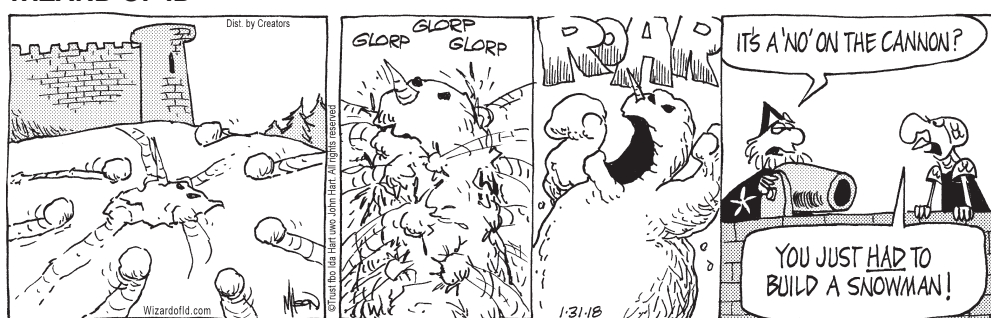
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