

Children won't listen

Dear Annie: My husband and I have four young children. Generally, our children are well-behaved; however, sometimes they don't listen to me or my husband. It is incredibly frustrating for us, and we both lose our patience quickly with them. When this happens, we find that they start playing off one another and revolting against us.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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This tends to get us both angry, and we raise our voices to try to keep our children listening and paying attention. As you can imagine, that makes the situation much worse. They tend to get upset about raised voices and worse moods and focus on that.

It feels as if our children are defeating us. I'm writing to ask how we can better control our tempers. I know the situation in our house could be smoother. Do you have any advice for us? — *Desperate in Delaware*

Dear Desperate: Stay in the moment, and if they're acting harmlessly silly, try to be silly with them. Laughter and

joy are two qualities that seem more accessible to children than adults. If you and your husband can find more moments of laughter in the chocolate that was just wiped on your sofa, for example, your family will be a lot happier. The fact that you wrote your letter tells me that your children are not defeating you. In fact, they are fortunate to have parents who care and are working to develop patience.

Dear Annie: I'm currently a freshman at a local university with a relatively large population of international students. My college is notoriously difficult, which means most of my time is spent at the library. I don't mind the work, but I do mind the clouds of smoke that I have to wave away every time I'm leaving or entering the library. Though my campus is mostly smoke-free, there seems to be an unofficial smoking spot right outside the library doors. I've tried to be patient about the smoke because it only affects me for a few minutes each day and I understand

that smoking is how some people deal with stress. However, I just found out that May 31 is World No Tobacco Day, and I would love to implement something on campus — maybe a health campaign of some kind. But after talking about it with a few friends, they think it could be seen as singling out international students, who tend to be the ones smoking outside. I get that other countries have higher rates of smoking than the United States, and I don't want this to put blame or shame on certain demographics. Annie, do you have any advice on how to balance overall student health with cultural sensitivity? — *Don't Want to Cause an International Incident*

Dear International Incident: You might ask university administrators whether they could move the smokers' huddling place a little farther away from the library doors. That way, the students who want to breathe clean air while entering and exiting the library could do so, and the international students who want to smoke together could still congregate, only it would be in an unobtrusive area.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will figure out how a thing works. This takes time, curiosity, care, patience, intelligence, attention. And for everything it takes, it will give even more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Recharging your brain is as or more important than any of the other activities you do to maintain your health and well-being. Listen to what your body tells you and obey.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The one who puts you on the defensive has something to teach you about what you have to protect, where you're vulnerable and what matters to you. Finding the lesson will be easier in retrospect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's something you want to accomplish that you think should be done right where you are, and you're probably right. But a bit of travel will help you get perspective on it. Don't stay put just because you're "too busy."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Those who belittle others are feeling littler than them inside. Yours is a personal culture of generosity. It hurts you to see people mistreated. You'll do something about it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People see you in one role and don't know how multifaceted you are. But they sense it, and you'll give them a taste today. You're in the mood to shake things up and get a reaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone you love may play the victim. It will not suit you to buy into the game and become the savior. Rather, help others by teaching them to

help themselves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're more worldly because of this day's events. Mainly, you're able to pay attention to them and decide where you stand in it all without leaning in any particular direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll waste no time in getting down to business with the people you know, and this will wind up opening doors for you. You'll bring new people into your world.

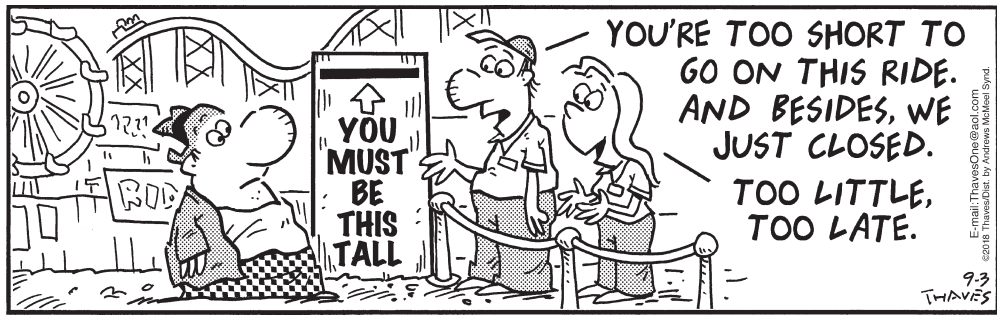
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're the matchmaker of your own destiny. It's a lot of responsibility, and many times it feels like it's not even in your hands. A good match promotes prosperity. A bad match will do the opposite.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The way it's done in the world of theater is to change the setting or the costumes to get noticed anew. You'll do this sort of thing today and enjoy the attention.

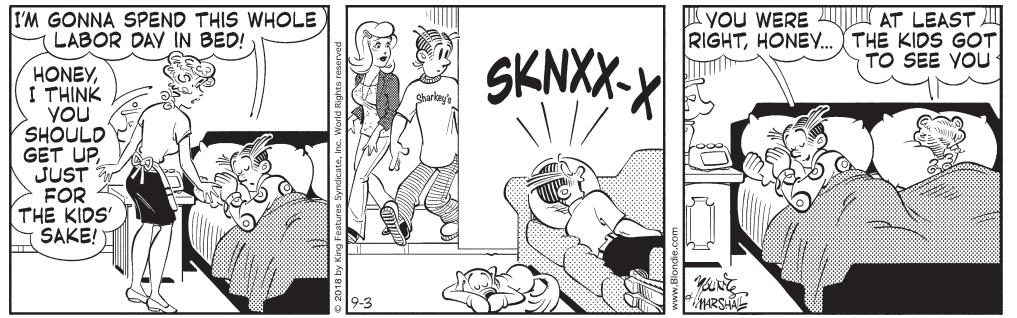
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Considering the present star configuration, here's a question worth asking: "Why am I listening to you?" The answer will provide you with an enlightening answer.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 4). This year you'll have reason to reach higher, believe more fully and push yourself harder. It will pay off. Write to yourself. A diary will give you the clarity to grow into the person the world really needs you to be. The next four weeks bring an improvement in the domestic arrangement that will support your efforts. Aries an Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 33, 31, 28 and 18.

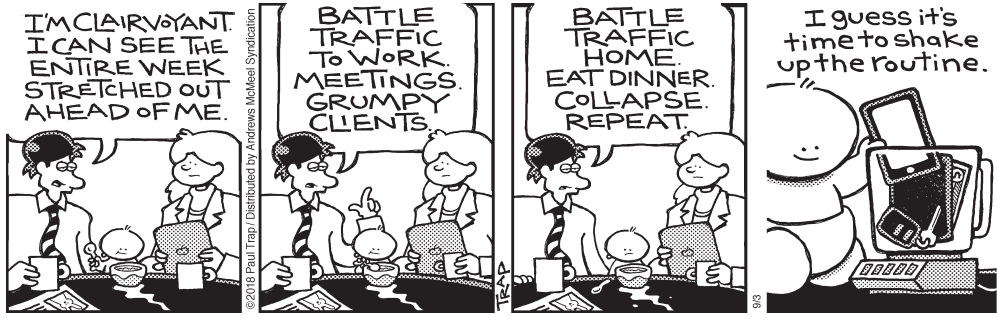
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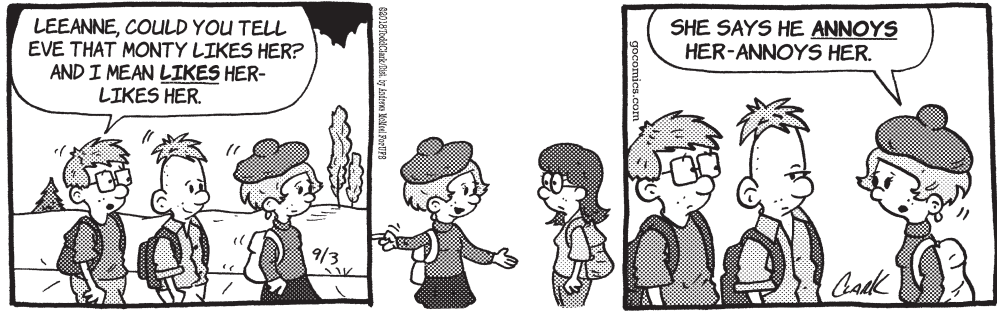
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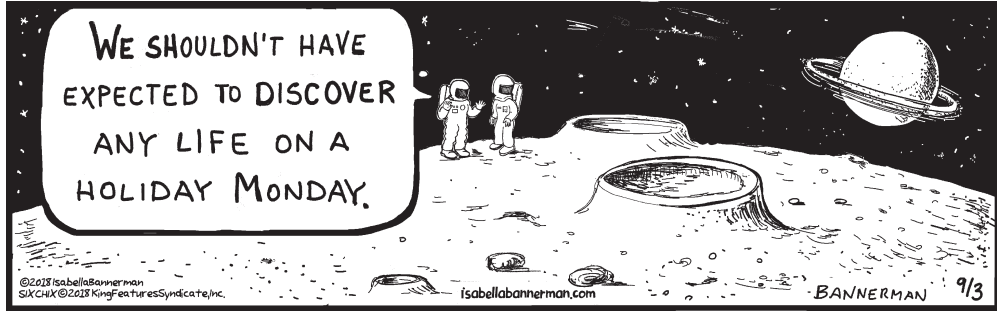
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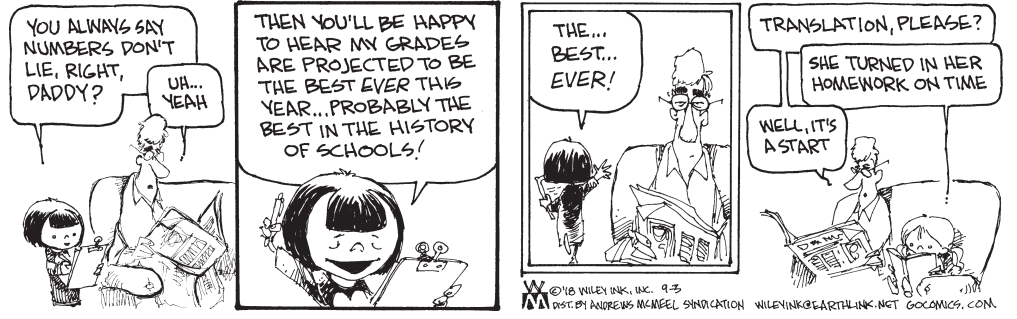
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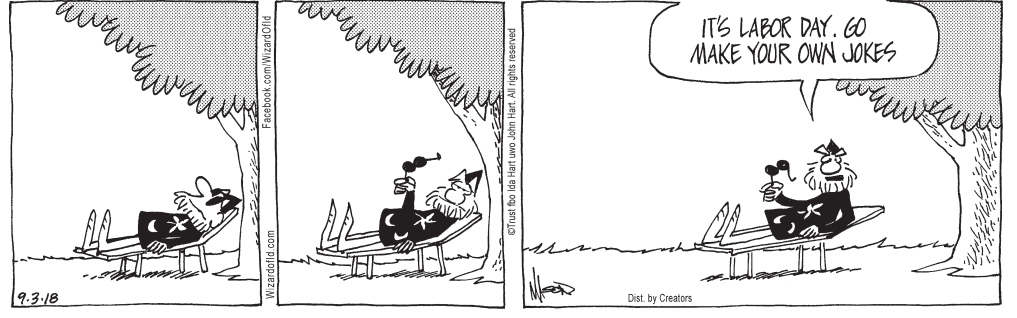
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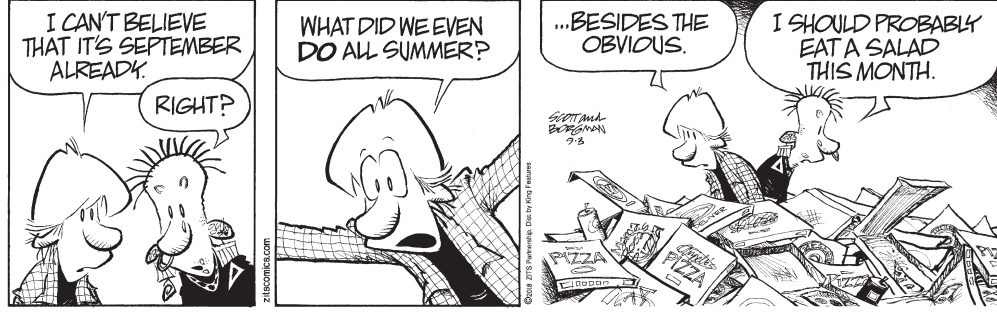
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