

Heavy-handed neighbor

Dear Annie: I live in a neighborhood with two non-state-maintained roads. One is a long, straight, steep hill with about 20 residences. My neighbor “Sally” lives in the middle of the hill. She lets her pets roam free in her yard and has toddler grandchildren. People driving up her hill need to maintain speed to get up. It is hard to go 25 mph where it is steep. Her cat was hit and killed by an unaware driver. Sally will go into the road to challenge anyone she thinks is going too fast. I have told her the law says her pets should not be loose. My road has three residences, with no kids and no pets running free. We have no trouble with speeders.

Sally bought big road signs for about \$80 each that say, “Children and pets. Slow down.” She gave me one of these signs and wants me to put it up on our quiet street. My three neighbors see no reason for us to post a sign. We did not ask for this sign. How do I diplomatically tell Sally

that we’re not interested and that she should have talked to us before she bought expensive road signs? — *Wants to Keep the Peace on Our Peaceful Road*

Dear Wants to Keep the Peace: First, yes, the onus is entirely on your neighbor here. She shouldn’t be letting her pets roam loose beside a country road that many people zoom down, and it doesn’t sound like a great place for her toddler grandchildren to be playing, either. You’re within your rights to simply tell her you have had no trouble with speeders and don’t want to put up the sign.

But I have to ask, Why not just do it? I don’t see any downside to urging drivers to be a little more careful. Even if you’re taking every possible safety precaution at home, sometimes pets get out the front door. You might end up being glad for the sign.

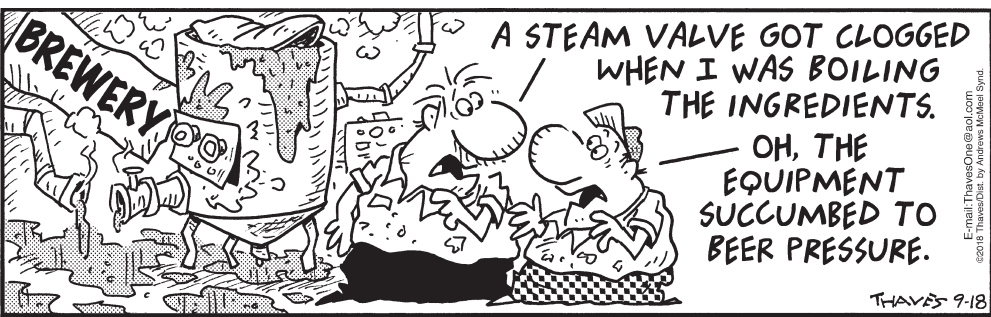
Dear Annie: I am writing in response to “Mind Your Manners, Please,” who wrote

about dealing with a screaming child in a public place. She gave some suggestions, and I would like to offer up another suggestion. How about instead of judging and shaming parents presumably trying to do their best, she and others like her offer compassion, kindness and love? Let’s give the parents with the screaming children in the public store the benefit of the doubt. Let’s assume the parents are doing the best they can. Though those parents’ best may not be what the writer would do in a similar situation, it is nonetheless how they are dealing with the child in the moment. Instead of giving them the side eye and shaming them, let’s offer to help, give encouragement or simply be thankful that we are not the ones with the screaming child. — *Sticking Up for Parents Everywhere*

Dear Sticking Up: I’m printing your letter because I agree: There’s always room for more sympathy in the world, and we should always err on the side of giving one another too much of the benefit of the doubt rather than too little.



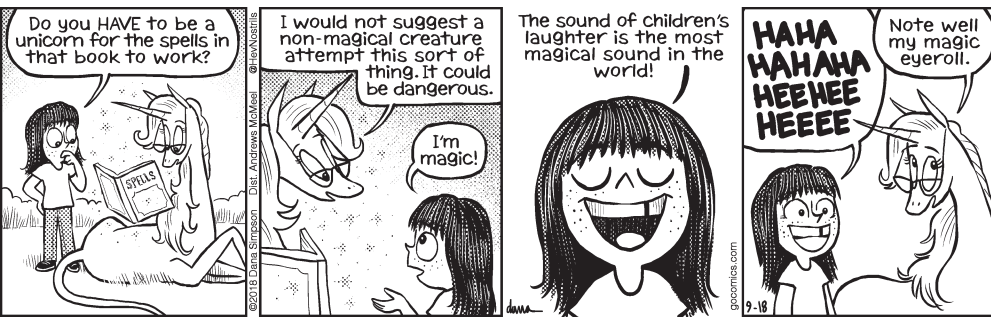
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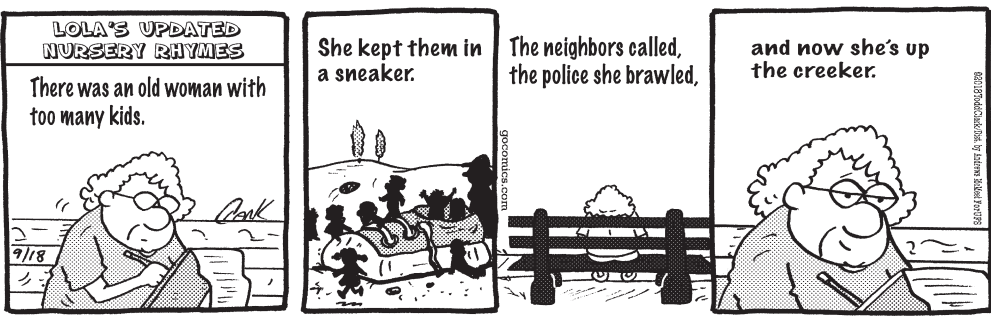
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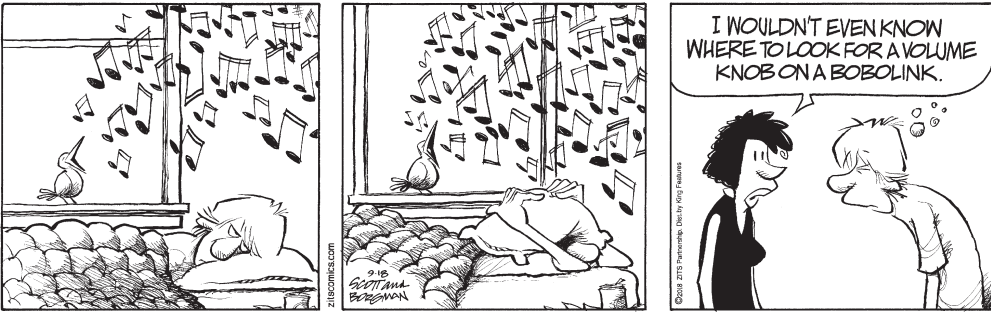
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ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everything will get accomplished whether you hurry or not. If you doubt it, look to nature, which happens in its own time. The bee doesn't complain that one flower hasn't bloomed yet; it goes where the blossom is open.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When what you want turns out to be impractical, the answer is not to accept defeat but rather to think bigger, stranger and bolder. Jupiter will favor those crazy enough to pursue a dream.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Other worlds are projected in glorious golden light on the movie screen of the mind, though beware; foreign places that seem charged with the magic of possibility may provide less promise than what you have back home.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've been nice, sporting and polite. But now it's time to really go for what you want. Be assertive so the less qualified can be respectfully eliminated from the game, free to pursue more fitting positions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The truth isn't yours to determine or discover today, so you don't even have to worry about it. To serve the well-being of all, focus instead on what is helpful or useful and what isn't.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Status quo may seem fine, but it won't be next week. Start looking for ways to expand your horizons. Professional organizations, classes and online research are favored.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once you put in the mirror time, dress appropriately and check in with your heart to make sure you're coming from the right place, you'll proceed without worrying what people think about

you. That is why they like you so much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Many care. Fewer turn this into an action. You are ultimately the one who will be nurtured by your nurturing efforts. Jump in and involve yourself where it seems you have much to contribute.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Among the treasure trove of insights by the great thinker Aristotle is the one in which he suggests that excellence is a habit. You know this instinctively, which is why you won't let the little things slide today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Not so easily impressed, you're extremely selective about whom you like and follow. It takes an exceptional individual to inspire you, and you'll encounter such an influence today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's safe to allow yourself to be seduced by the wonder of distances. Indeed, such an urge to explore has often been the savior of mankind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The attitude you bring to what you do definitely changes your feelings about the work, but not only yours. It's also a part of the experience of others, which will be well demonstrated this afternoon.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 19). This solar return, the excitement will be tinged in glamour. More highlights this year: You'll see the value in a discarded thing and take that insight to the bank. Someone younger will idolize you; this is a chance to make a remarkable difference in the world. And a debt will finally be repaid at the end of 2018. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 7, 27, 32 and 11.

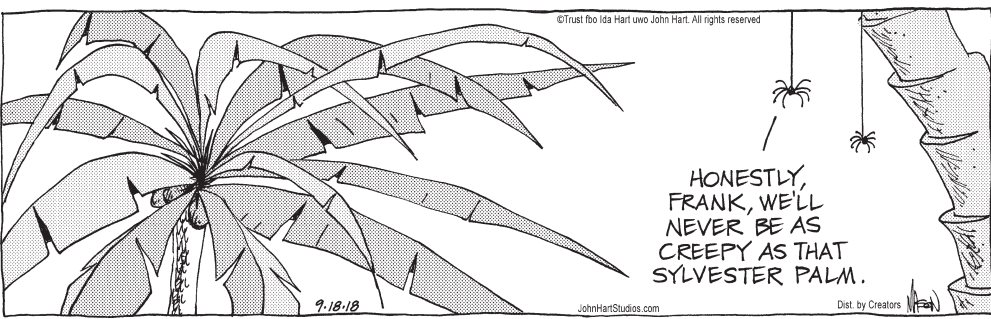
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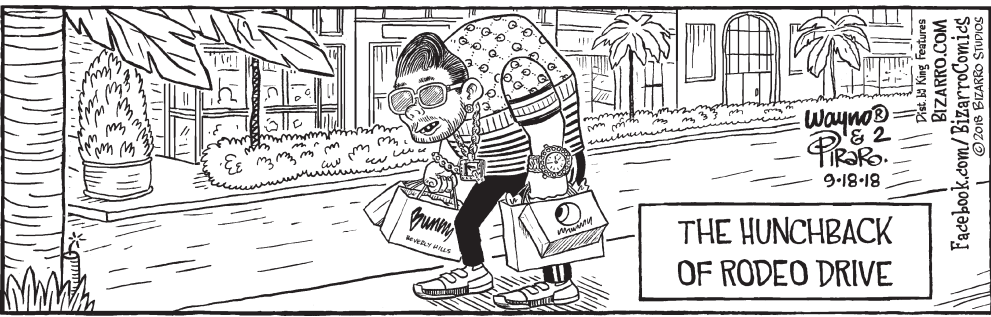
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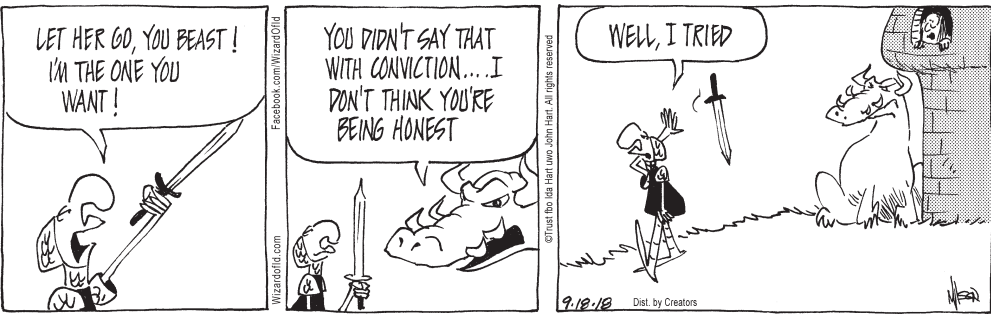
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ROSE IS ROSE

