

Traumatized by friend's death

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Recently, I insisted a dear friend move into my home so I could help him after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. After a lengthy surgery, doctors managed to remove it. Two weeks later, I took him to a rustic cabin retreat so he could rest.

The morning we were to leave for home, I woke up and went to open the front door, but it was blocked. Apparently, my friend had gone out earlier, tripped and hit his head, and had died in front of the door.

Since then, I haven't been able to eat or sleep. I don't know where to turn and am about to have a breakdown. I can't afford therapy. Do you have any advice? — *Devastated in Ohio*

Dear Ohio: We are so sorry for your heartbreaking loss. You thought your friend would be OK and weren't prepared for his sudden death. Please know that you are not at all responsible for what happened. It may even be that the treatment of his tumor affected his balance or visual focus, contributing to his tripping and falling.

Counseling will help you come to terms with this, and it doesn't need to be costly. Check at the hospital where your friend was

Annie's Mailbox

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treated and ask whether they offer grief counseling. You also can discuss this with your clergy person.

Dear Annie: It is summertime again, so I thought I would put in my two cents on what I want friends and relatives to be aware of when they come to my house to swim. Because I'm the one with the pool, I am often expected to host our family and friends, which is fine. I enjoy it. But people don't realize how much work it takes to make it ready to use. Here are my suggestions:

1. Don't show up early. Come at the time suggested.

2. Please bring two towels per person. You use one towel each time you get out of the pool, and when it's wet, you borrow one of mine. Most of the time, I never see that towel again. Bring a

spare.

3. Remember to take all your stuff home with you and please label everything you bring. I don't know which goggles, towels, shirts or sunscreen are yours when you come back a week later looking for them.

4. If you bring food to one of my pool parties, bring enough to share. And if you want to contribute to the meal I make, bring something substantial. I resent spending \$75 on meat and you show up with a bag of chips. And bring drinks and ice. If there are leftovers, take them with you. I can't store everything.

5. Watch your kids. I'm trying to cook, carry on a conversation, maybe swim a bit, and your precious child is running circles around the pool. Don't expect me to keep an eye on the kids, too. Have them obey my pool rules. They're for everyone's safety.

There are probably more things, but that's enough to make me feel better for now. — *Swimming Along*

Dear Swimming: Everyone has different expectations for their pool guests, but your rules are sensible, especially the last one. Thanks for writing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Maybe you've had bad experiences in the past, but now you're due for a good one. An energizing flirtation may be among the day's treats. Even if you're in a committed relationship, you can't help but be flattered.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Low on faith? It's not so wrong to ask for proof once in a while. If you ask for it today, you'll get it — or at least you'll get a symbol of the evidence you seek.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Are you impatient with the process of change? Don't get ahead of yourself. Take steps to return to your usual grounded state. A walk in the sunshine may do the trick.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you are uncertain and act like you are, others will try to take control of the situation. Be a leader instead. Be decisive. It doesn't matter whether you're wrong or right at this point; it only matters that you make a decision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Cooperation is love. Uncooperative situations are not reflections of love. Find ways to get along without giving up your truth. There's a compromise that will be a win for all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships that grow slowly become deeply rooted. You need solid ties at this juncture. They will help you down the road. So be patient with the way things are developing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You attract houseguests. Can you blame them for plotting to stay with you? Your home is cozy, and everyone feels comfortable in the environment you've created.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are not

defined by the goals you meet. You're worthy of love regardless of what you achieve. Tonight, advice may sound like criticism, but there's still something valuable in it if you can get past the tone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every relationship comes with its share of mixed feelings, and they can all be worked through. Replace the not so awesome feelings along the way until there is only love.

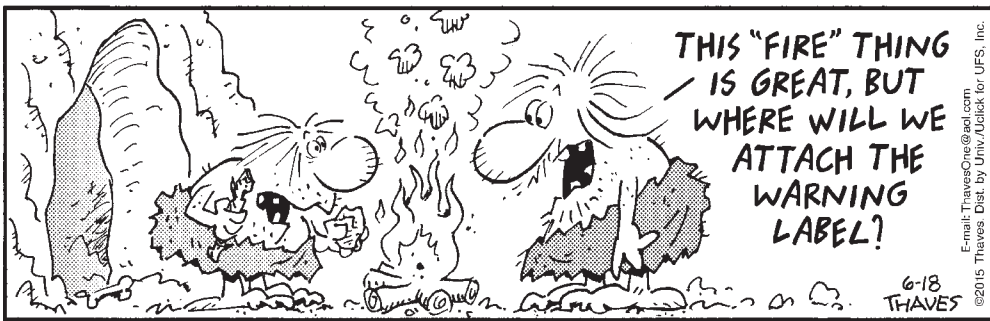
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Think ahead, make a plan, and hold your dearest intentions at the forefront of your mind. Your ability to shut out distractions and focus intently for many hours at a time will win you a prime position or assignment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It may seem like money is flying out of your account, but you can't put a price tag on experience. For now, enjoy yourself without worrying about the cost.

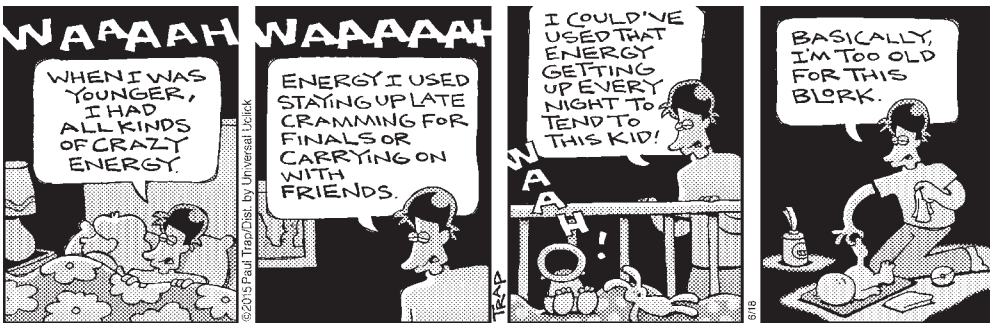
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's quite possible that the voice whispering to your heart is the voice of "future you." Future you just wants to let you know about a few decisions you could make today that would help you enjoy health and happiness for years to come.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 19). You'll be an important addition to a company. The venture you give your energy to in July will grow over time if you invest fully. In September, you'll work on improving your environment, and beautiful things will happen. Your love life blossoms in October. You'll be paid well to solve a problem in November. Scorpio and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 49, 42, 31 and 16.

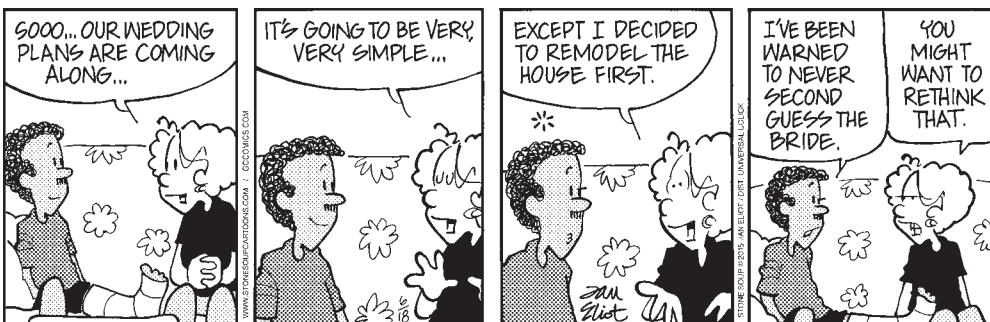
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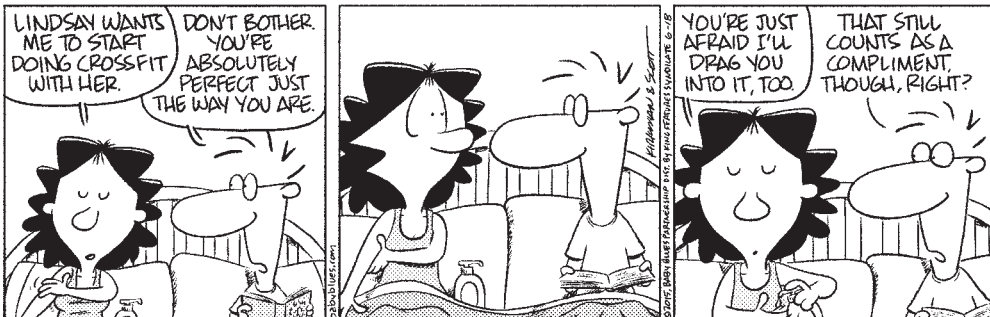
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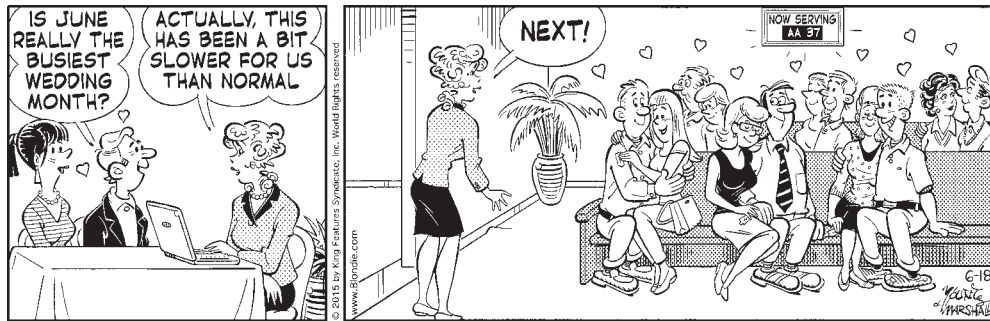
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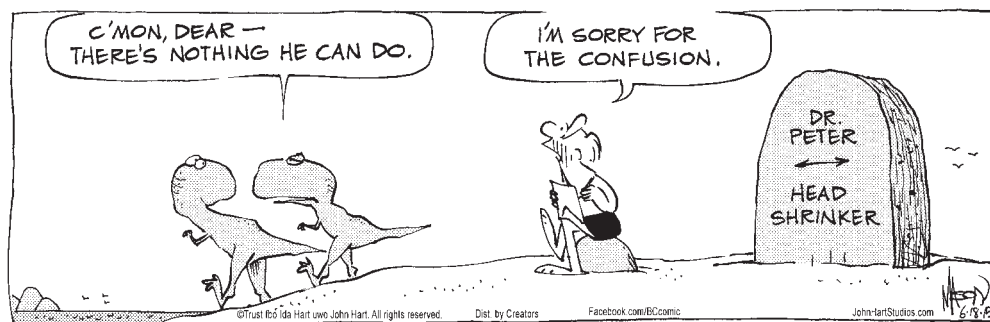
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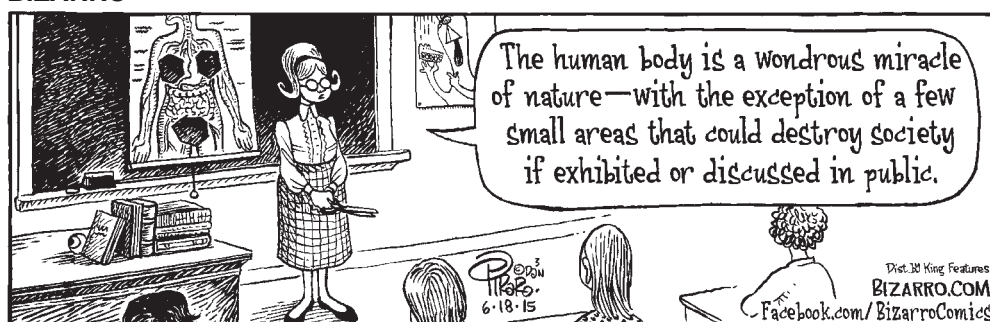
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