

Juggling parenting, careers

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for 10 years and have two children, ages 5 and 3. My wife is professionally ambitious and has built an impressive career for herself at a major accounting firm. I am a technology entrepreneur and have been focused on building my company for the past four years. The new company has been steadily growing and is now profitable.

Prior to our having children, there were never any issues with our having two demanding careers. Once we had children, we hired a fantastic nanny, who has been with us for all five years, and our children adore her. However, both my wife and I notice that our children look to our nanny as the stronger maternal figure in their lives. This has given my wife anxiety and has created stress in our relationship, as she now spends her free time with the children and neglecting our relationship.

Now that my company is established, I've been encouraging my wife to leave her career and stay home to be with the kids. But she does not want to give up her career and lose her professional identity. This is adding to the stress in our relationship and, I fear, creating a more challenging home environment for everyone. What am I to do? — *Neglected Entrepreneur*

Dear Neglected: You and your wife are in a partnership, and it's a

Dear Annie



By
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two-way street. Respect and empathy need to move in both directions. Your wife has a successful career and professional identity, as do you. Why would it be fair for your wife to sacrifice her career for yours? You need to speak with her about her goals and desires and also discuss yours. Then you can mutually craft a strategy that will allow you both to feel happy while optimizing family time. ...

Dear Annie: As we get into the swing of the new school year, my question involves teachers thanking students for end-of-year gifts.

Ever since my children were little, they've enjoyed buying a special gift for their teacher at the end of the school year. I know that teachers stress the importance of good manners to their classes and appreciate a well-mannered child. The reason I'm writing to you is that I would like to

know why most teachers do not take the time to write thank-you notes to children for special gifts.

Because of the many things that take place on the last day of school, I understand that most teachers do not or cannot take the time to open every gift they receive and that they therefore cannot thank the child on that day. But they certainly can respond when school is through for the year. It takes only a minute or two to do. Imagine the look of satisfaction when my child read the note from the teacher expressing her appreciation.

Why don't teachers show students the same common courtesy they expect from them? I'd like to hear from teachers everywhere. — *Perplexed in Ohio*

Dear Perplexed: To be fair, teachers already bring a lot of work home with them. Though they intend to send thank-yous, that item may continually get moved down on their to-do lists when there are tests to grade and rubrics to write. But you're absolutely right. They should take the time to express their thanks to students. It's a "teachable moment" in gratitude and courtesy.

I'm printing your letter as a reminder to us all of the importance of the thank-you note. It's a little card that sends a big message.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll give your word, and then you'll keep it. It's amazing how hard you can work and what marvels you can come up with when you put your mind to it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've budgeted correctly, but it's the unforeseen expenses that get you. Build that into your plan and your life will have an ease to it that few ever get to experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You may find yourself focusing to the point of absurdity. You're not overly serious; you're just serious enough. After all, you didn't get where you are by being lackadaisical about your own success.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You are the commander of your time. No one else should have an exclusive contract on the minutes you spend. You are a free agent, even if there are people who need you and rely on you. Take back your schedule.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): As for the people who intrigue you, assume there is a good reason. Do you really need any more of an excuse to get to know a person better? Your curiosity is all the invitation you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get the small details right and you'll be in. When you know the combination to unlock the door, the password to get into the system and the name of the person you're dealing with, you're golden!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Establish order. Whether it's a messy little corner of a room or a wild social dynamic, you'll do well to get it under control now. This reorganization effort will revitalize your whole scene.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Because you speak well of your peers (even when some of them do not speak well of each other) you'll earn the respect and trust of all you interact with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you need to justify your feelings with logic, there will always be a way and a reason. Sometimes a feeling is just a feeling, though. Today your mood comes first and your justification for it is secondary.

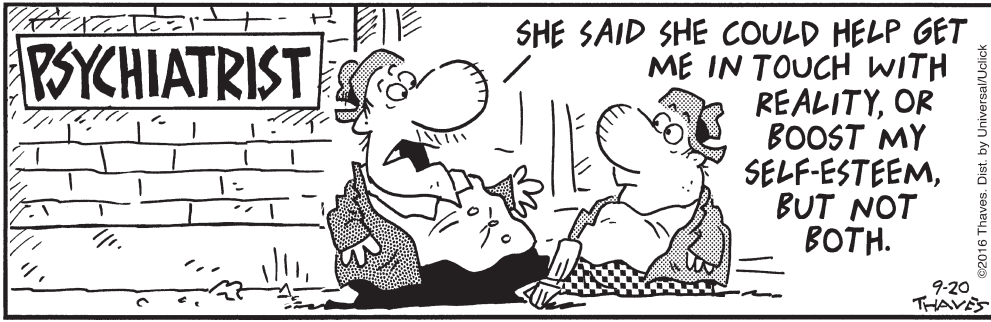
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As for those friends of yours who seem to have far more free time than you have — it's not because their responsibilities are fewer. It's just because they deal with them differently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your diplomacy will save someone from hurt. You can't be an emotional shield to all, but you can make life a little better for some, and that will mean a lot to the ones who are close to you.

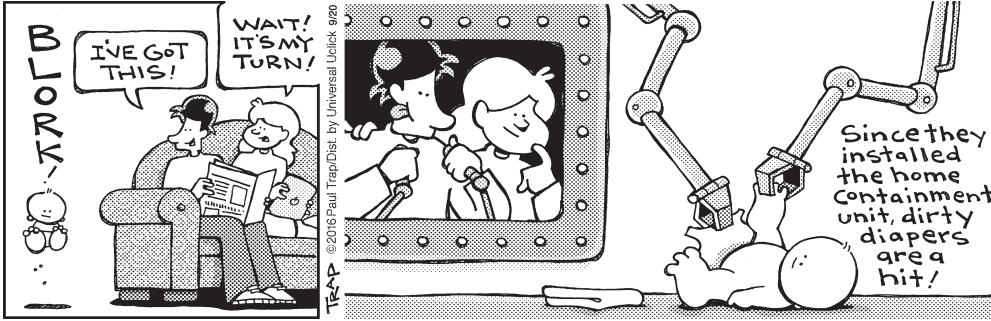
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're the gracious star who knows when to let someone else have the chance to shine. You might steal the spotlight, but you won't hog it. Tonight: Friends compete for your attention.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 21): Your joy will rebound on you — a theme of the year. Next month will bring a deal to teach you to value your talents. In 2017 you'll take care of others and be paid in an unexpected and abundant manner. Special circumstances will favor you, allowing you to travel to a place you've long been curious about. Pisces and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 32, 19 and 45.

FRANK AND ERNEST



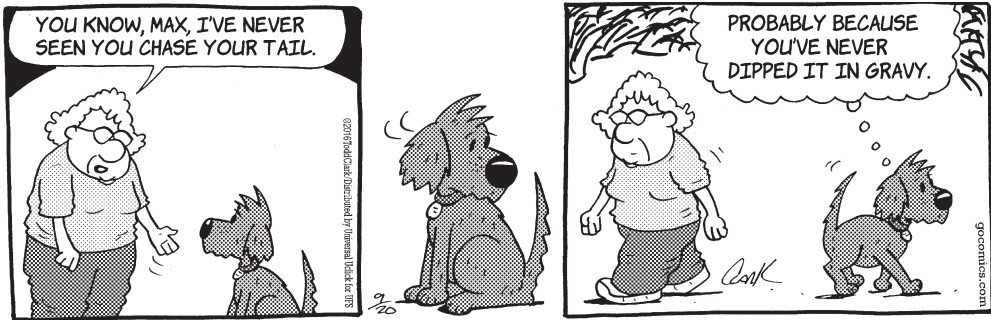
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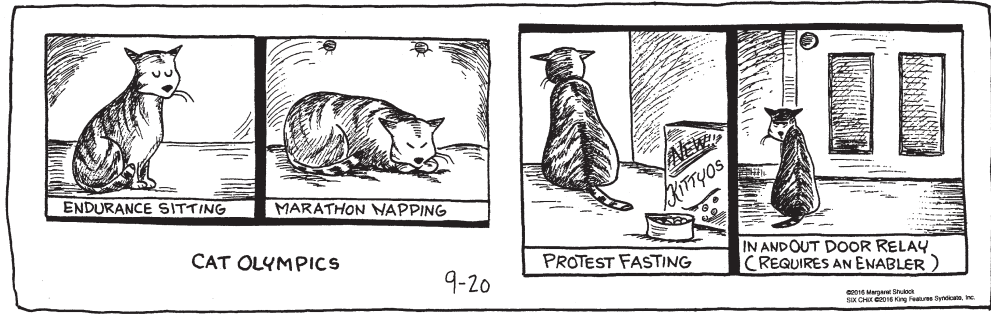
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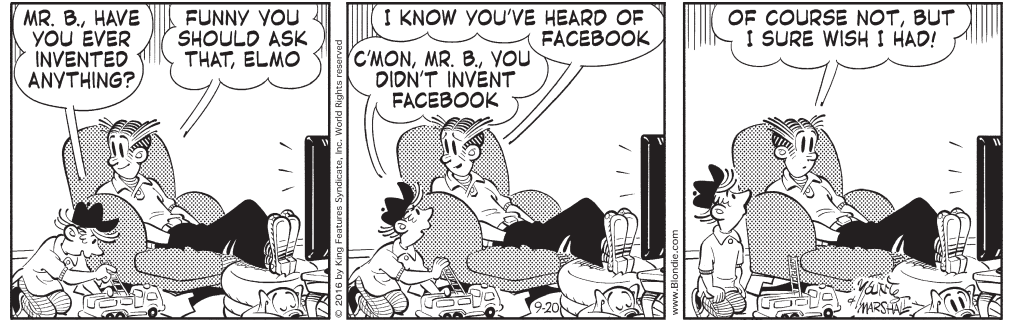
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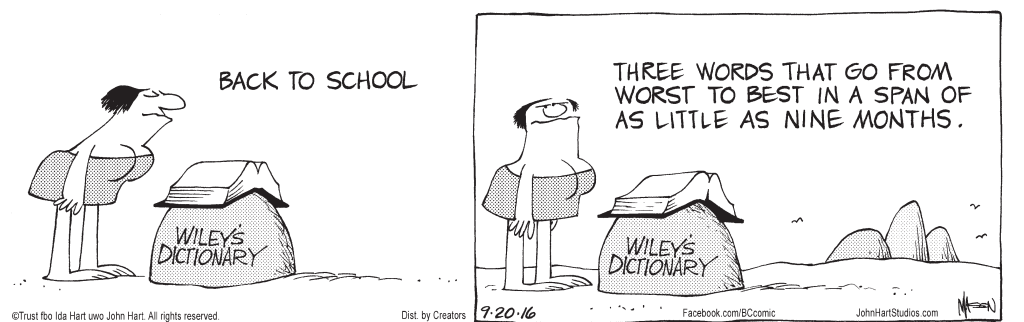
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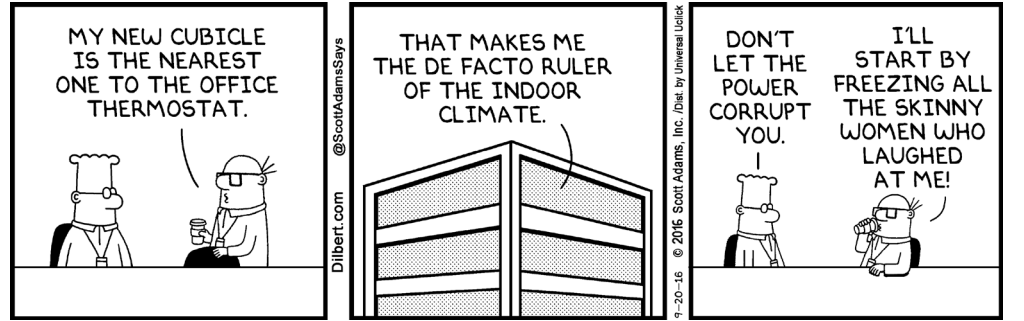
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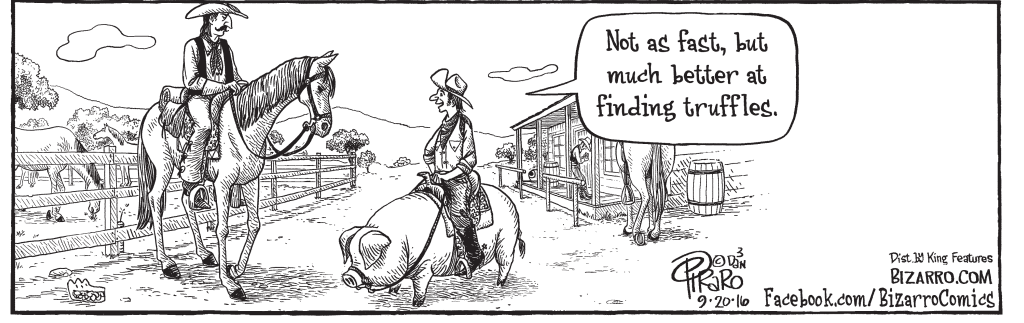
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ROSE IS ROSE

