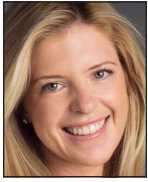


What is etiquette for miscarriage?

Dear Annie: My sister had a miscarriage this week, and I'm at a bit of a loss. I want to support her but fear that I am putting too much of a focus on it. I'm not sure whether I'm expecting a certain type of response unfairly from her — sadness, anger, frustration — but she seems to just want to move on. With the rest of our family, there's a feeling of hopelessness all around, as we're not sure how to be there for her and her husband. I was going to send them flowers and a sympathy card, but my other sister thought it could be too much of a reminder. I think a lot of the uncertainty of what to do stems from the topic of miscarriages being a bit taboo. However, I know they are more common than many think. I've known a few people who have experienced miscarriages, but it's not always talked about openly. I'm not sure why they are viewed as shameful or a secret or something to hide. Annie, I'd love to hear your thoughts on this. — *Unsure in Ithaca*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

for your sister's loss. Tell her one time how very sorry you are for her loss and that you love her very much. Say it only once, and say it kindly and compassionately. Sending flowers would be a thoughtful gesture, and I would encourage you to do so if you are so inclined. Sadly, you are correct that miscarriages are common, occurring in roughly 15 out of every 100 pregnancies, and that it's not something people talk about often. I think that silence is connected to a long-held (and erroneous) societal belief that a woman is somehow to blame for losing a pregnancy.

But miscarriages shouldn't be taboo at all. I, for one, would love to see a world where there is more support for women from women who have had miscarriages. We need to shore them up and recognize that their bodies were actually working perfectly.

Dear Annie: I have a boyfriend, whom I love dearly. But one thing he does makes me crazy. He's always commenting on other girls' beauty. We will

be watching TV, and he'll say, "She is beautiful and has a nice voice" or "She is really pretty but can't act." He tells me I'm beautiful, but I wouldn't say the same things in his presence about men I see. I did that once so that he could see how it feels, but he keeps on doing it. I know guys talk this way to one another, and that's fine. But I don't know why he has to always say this to me. And sometimes it's with facial expressions and hand gestures to indicate how "hot" she is. — *A Secure Woman Feeling Uncomfortable*

Dear Secure Woman Feeling Uncomfortable: You could ask him to stop sharing these thoughts, but it wouldn't stop him from having them. And I have a feeling that would start to nag at you, too, because you'd always wonder, "What's he thinking about her?"

The comments may annoy you less if you look at them as a sign of how open he feels with you. Not only does he think you're gorgeous (and he tells you so); he also feels close enough to talk to you as a friend. Embrace that and you'll feel even more secure.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). All your prophecies will not be self-fulfilling, thank goodness! However, the more you think something, the more power you give it, and that goes double for today, so focus yourself well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Thought for the evening: It's impossible to make anyone feel a certain way, but you can certainly be the wind that blows the sails toward that emotional destination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be a change in your team. This is not a change for better or worse; rather, it's a change that everyone will have to get used to if you're to continue forward as a group.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to be an experienced cook to know a recipe for trouble. Two or more incendiary elements are all that's needed. The real question here: What is your tolerance for trouble?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While it's true that all good things must come to an end, so must bad things, mediocre things and eventually (but not soon enough) dreadfully boring things. You're getting better at wrapping things up and keeping faith that there's better to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A string of good moods will lift you through the weekend as though your heart really does have wings. Of course, the influence of that certain special person doesn't hurt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You learn a lot about people because you don't make assumptions about what's going on with them. Your listening skills are all you need to deepen a connection and

create understanding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You look so good dealing with a less-than-ideal situation that it makes you appear much more competent and attractive than someone who doesn't have anywhere close to the amount of hassles you do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relaxed and playful — that's the way to be. There's hardly a single thing today at work or in your personal life that warrants a stressed-out response.

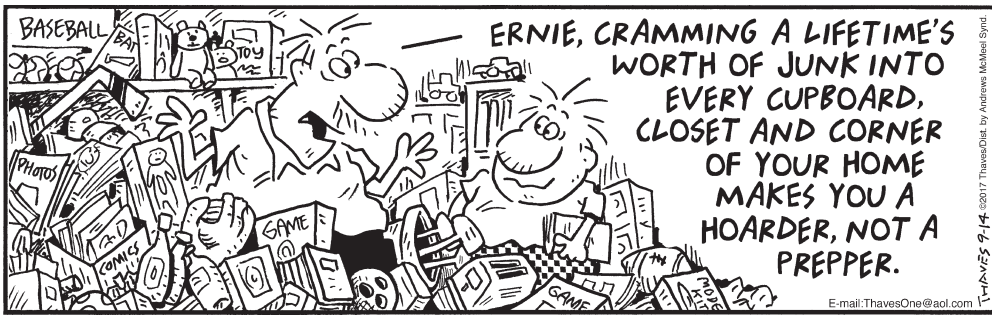
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What's hard for you is easy for another. What's hard for another is easy for you. So exchange work and help each other out, why don't you? Great things will come of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't change them, but you can change you — and oddly that will inspire just the change you were hoping for. So go on and boldly do what you would if they didn't even exist.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because a person possesses something doesn't mean he or she feels good about it, appreciates it or is even remotely confident in it. Just remember that superficial appearances are often carefully constructed.

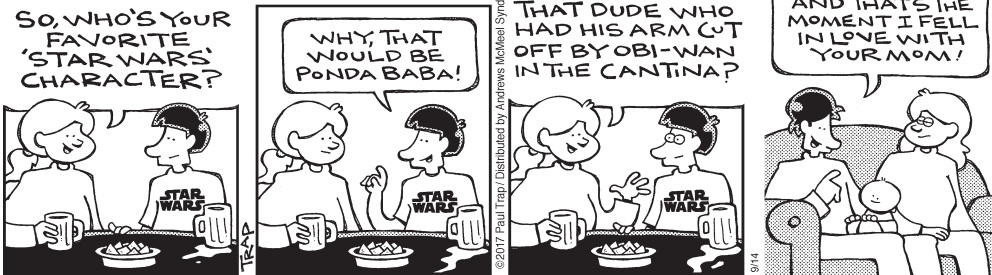
TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 15). You'll be awarded, and rightly so: You've grown stronger, better at what you do and certain enough of yourself to weather the very wind that would have ruffled your feathers long ago. Because of this, you can let down your defenses and accept new love, challenge and more with a lighter, abler attitude. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 13, 30, 48 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST

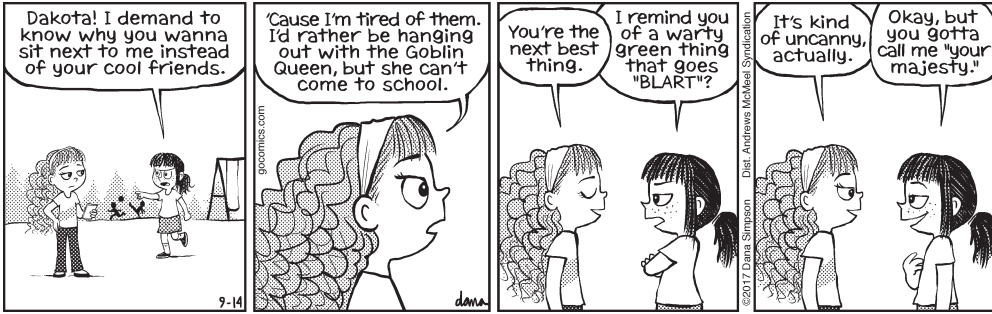


THATABABY

THROWBACK THURSDAY!



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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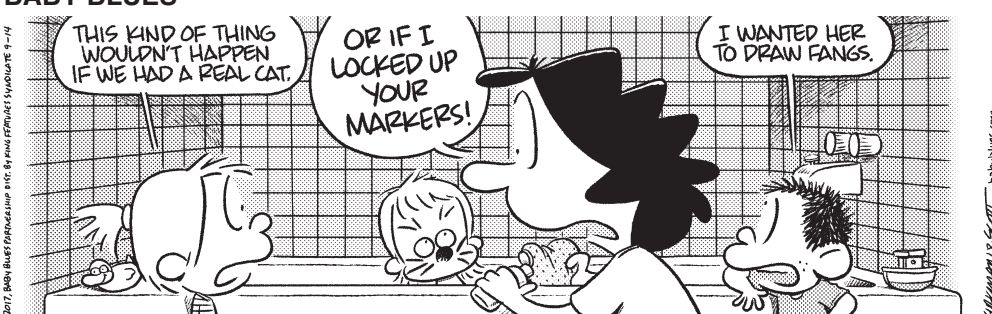
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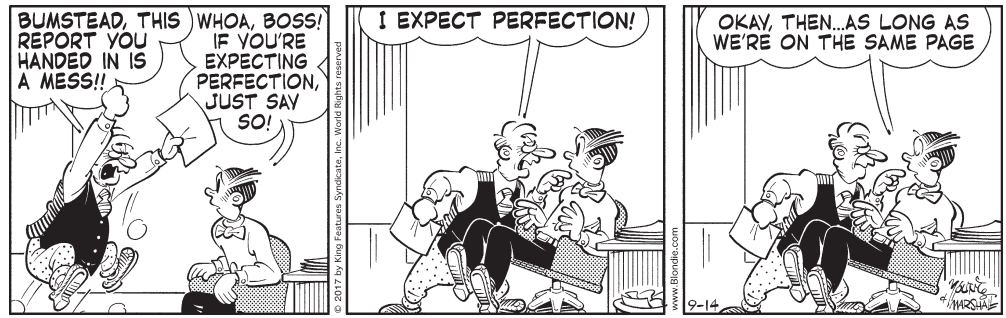
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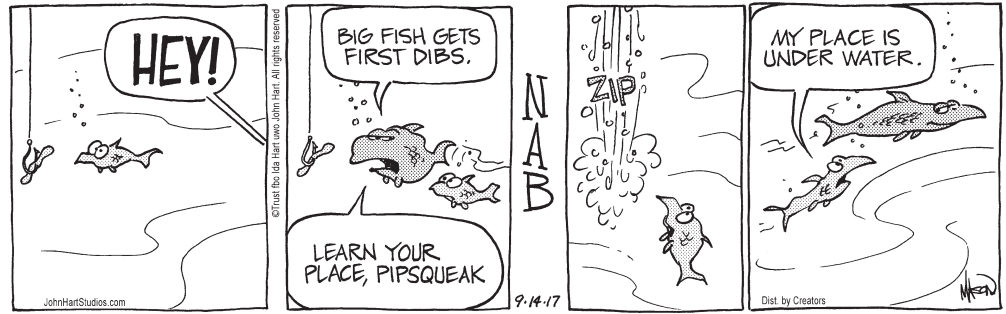
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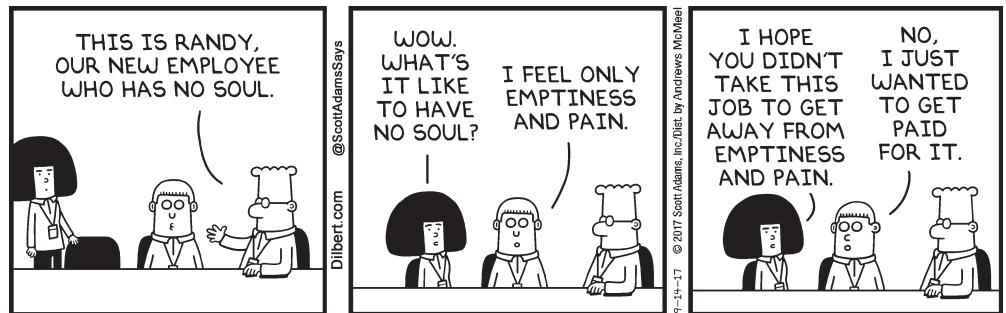
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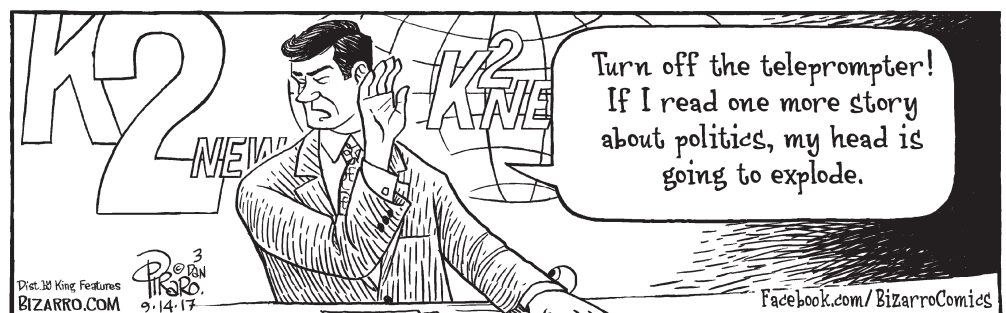
B.C.



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ROSE IS ROSE

