

What about workplace crush?

Dear Annie: I have been at my job for almost 12 years. About three years ago, I met a girl who had recently started working there. I should probably mention that I am a bisexual woman. Well, I kind of developed a wicked big crush on her. I have no clue whether she even likes women, and I'm way too shy to ask. But I can't get this girl off my mind. We only see each other at work, and I hide the way I feel because I don't want to make her feel uncomfortable or stop talking to me. It's been three years, and I still feel the same about her, so I know it's not going away any time soon.

I kind of want to tell her just to get it off my chest. I don't know what to do about this. Do you think she would stop talking to me if I told her? Should I keep it to myself and move

on? — *Seriously Need Advice*

Dear Seriously Need Advice: Dating co-workers is risky business. Sure, we all know married couples whose first date was in an office break room. But confessing your feelings to your co-worker could put you both in an uncomfortable situation, as you note, and might even put your job in jeopardy — all for a crush, and crushes, by their very nature, are built on flimsy intel. So perhaps you should get to know this woman better as a friend. Go out for lunch or coffee. See whether you even really like her or it's just an infatuation born of workplace boredom. Toward that end, I'd also encourage you to ramp up your efforts in looking for love outside the office. It's only natural for your brain to seek a romantic rush, and if you're not finding

that elsewhere, it will work with whatever is available. If your feelings for this woman persist and you get the impression she's interested in you, see what HR policies are in place, and proceed with extreme caution, putting professionalism and politeness first.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "No More Calls for Me," who complained about people not giving their full attention to her when she calls. She should take a look at herself. Is she calling a busy mother whose children are wreaking havoc, someone cooking, someone trying to watch a favorite TV show? Does she ask whether the person she's called is busy or available to talk? Above all, is she keeping people on the phone for hours? These people may be trying to be polite by not telling her that it's time to hang up. — *Experienced on the Other Side*

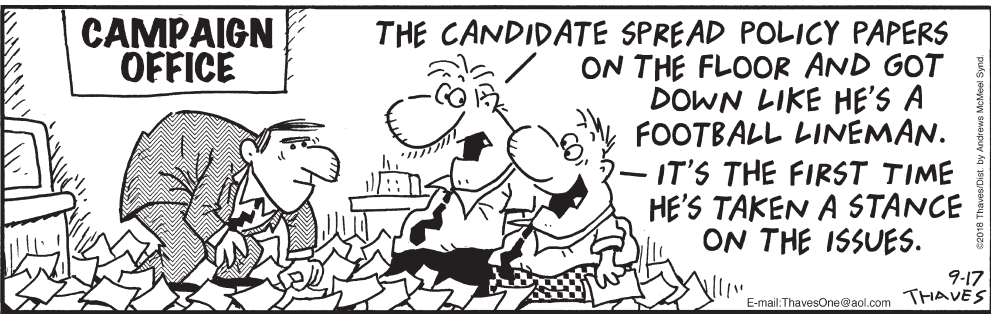
Dear Experienced: Well said. I love a good flip of the script.

DEAR ANNIE

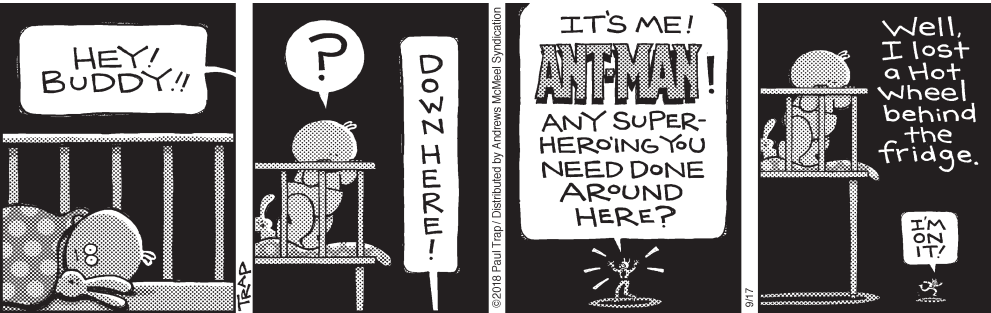


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

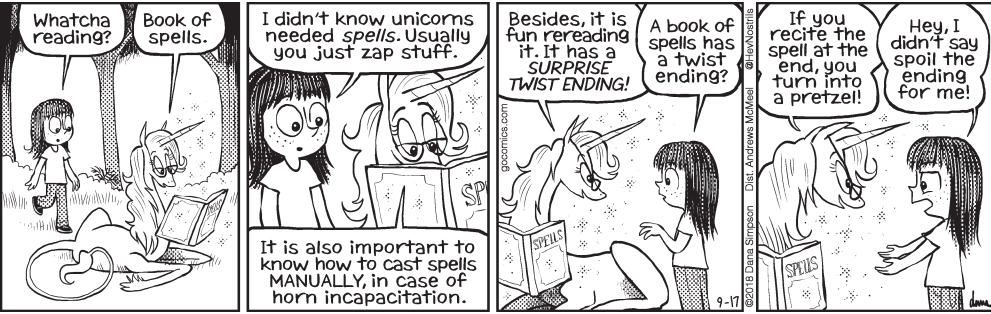
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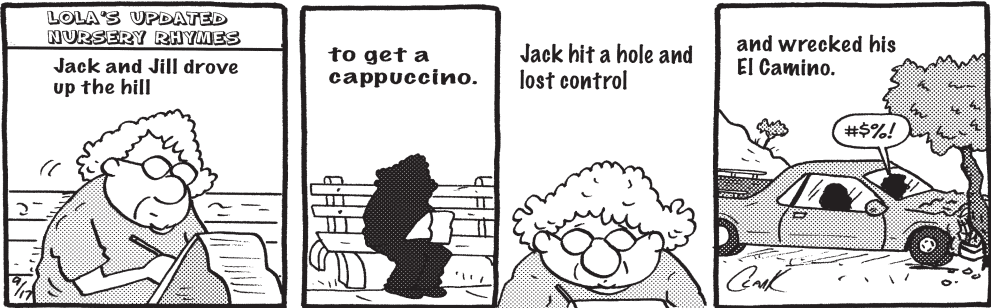
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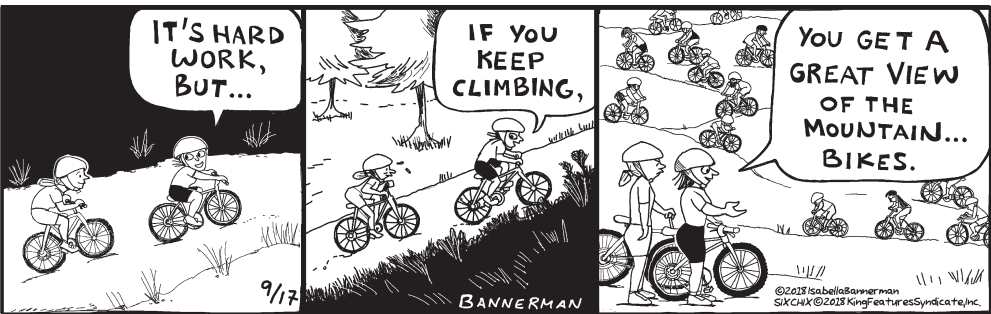
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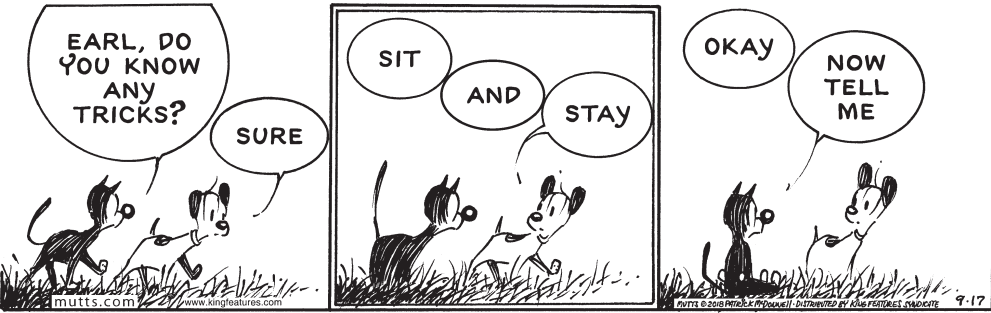
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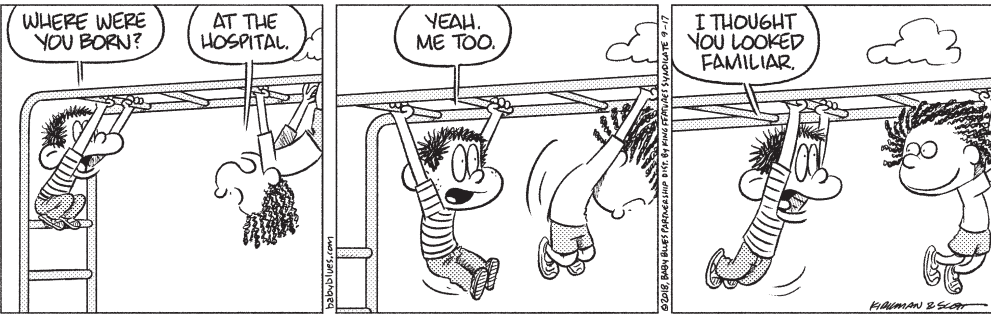
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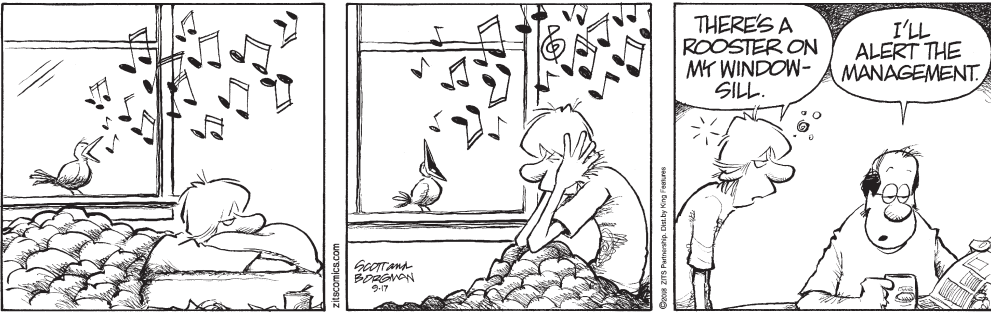
MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Emotional bumpers can go up like air bags, preventing injury but also closeness. These protective cushions have their drawbacks and need only be employed in extreme situations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You and yours will agree about the big-picture items though there will be some major differences of opinion on the topic of how to go about bringing that vision to life. Luckily, it's a fine day for finding compromise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For complicated reasons, you're more easily unsettled today than most days. While there's nothing wrong with this, it could be uncomfortable for you. Consider buffering your emotional core with extra self-care and kindness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Creativity takes courage. By definition, it's doing something new, which means uncertainty, which is the birthplace of fear. Give yourself credit for your creative bravery.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You like to think of yourself as spiritually more evolved than a lot of the ego-gratification-based desires that people around you seem to be chasing. And yet a certain status symbol still appeals to you. Embrace it. You're human.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This represents a window of time when you feel strongly about your choices. Next week you'll see other options and even more open up after that. In this light, flexible and short-term contracts are favorable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's one of those days in which it will be easy to tell others what to do and hard to implement your own plans for your life. Therefore, skip the former and focus all of your energy on the latter, where it will do the most

good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you get to live life on your own terms. Enjoy it fully, realizing that, as a rule, life (being considerably bigger than any individual) doesn't make a habit of acquiescing to any particular person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How do you know what's true? That's the question of the day, and you'll be sure of many true things by sundown. One test of truth: It remains unchanged by weather or moods.

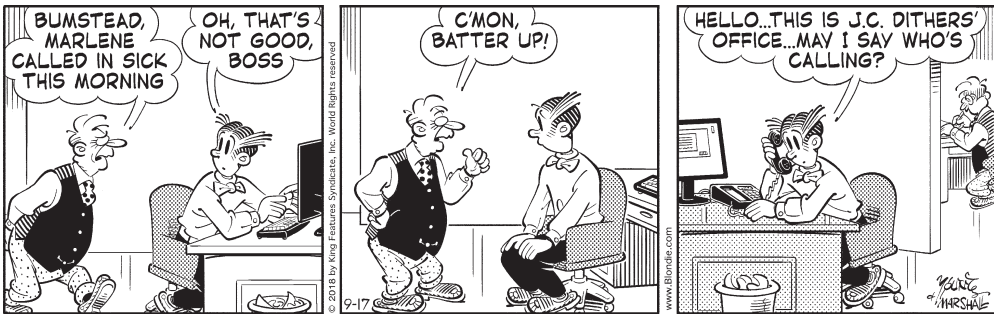
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're really trying to be better than you were yesterday in one particular regard, and you will be. Trust that it happens naturally, whether you try so hard or not.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll stand and face a thing. It's a small bit of unpleasantness you could have easily blown off, but you won't. And this minor act of courage speaks to something major about your character. You're a quality person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As the sign that rules the feet, you realize the importance of being where your feet are. And as the sign of imagination, you don't always follow the dictum, but you'll bring yourself fully to the present moment when it counts.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 18). Though you're not striving for it, you'll still net a fair amount of extra money by the end of the year and do something great with it, too. Other highlights of this solar year include: a voice from the past becoming a figure in your future, a brush with fame that becomes a fun story and a love connection growing powerfully. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 1, 22, 41 and 28.

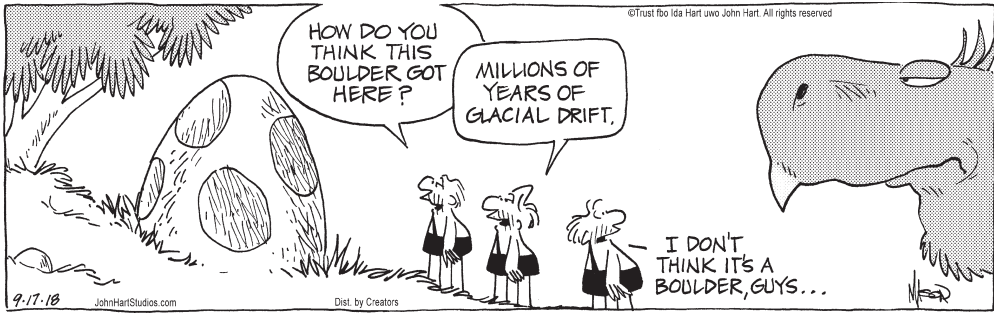
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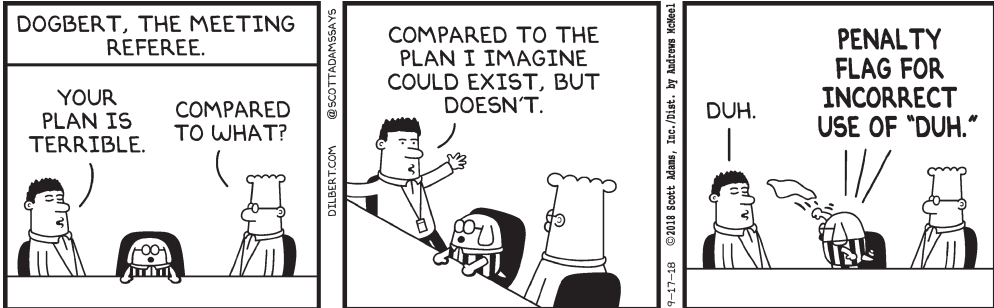
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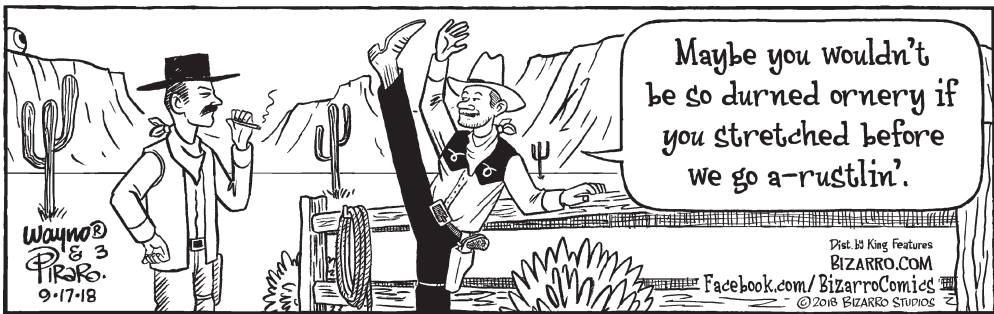
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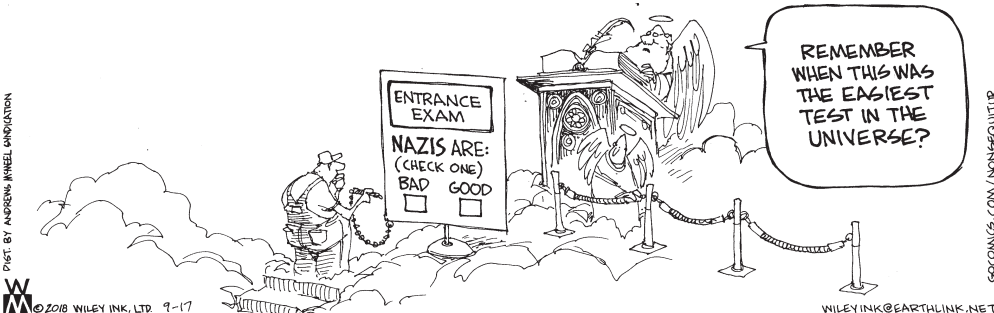
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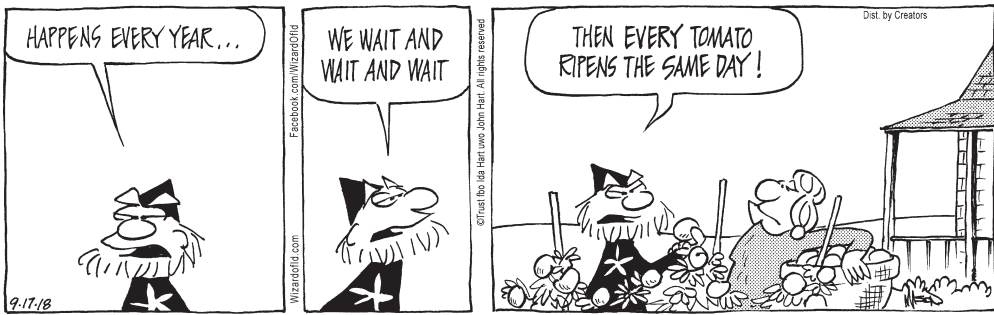
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