‘I apologize’ or ‘I’m sorry’?

DEAR ANNIE

Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: What’s with people saying “I apologize” instead of “I’m sorry”? The former is just used to tell somebody that you know you did something wrong. When you tell somebody that you apologize, to me it means nothing. But when you go up to somebody and say you’re sorry for what you did, that means it’s coming from the heart. If you would please put this in the paper, I would appreciate it very much. — *Paulie*

Dear Paulie: This is a very interesting observation. You may be onto something. I have noticed that “I apologize” tends to come up more in business settings, perhaps because people think it sounds more professional. But you’re right that it just doesn’t quite have the ring of remorse that “I’m sorry” does, especially in more personal contexts. I imagine I’ll hear from a lot of readers on this subject, as these seemingly small linguistic nuances always evoke big responses. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: My husband died suddenly, and we didn’t have a will. I had no idea that it would be so important. So many decisions are out of my hands, and everything is taking 10 times longer than it would have if we’d had a will. So on top of my sadness, I have to deal with lawyers and a judge who makes decisions that are meant to help us but end up costing more and more money. If we’d had a will, I would have been able to keep my husband’s business going. But that is uncertain now. The judge has appointed an extra attorney, in addition to the one I hired, to make sure that the kids’ best interests are protected. I was already doing that, of course.

If we’d had a will, we could have been specific about all of that. But my husband was only in his 40s, so we hadn’t gotten around to writing a will. Never thought it would happen to us.

I started to write this letter as a question about whether you could help me move this process faster, but I know that you can’t. So perhaps you could publish this letter as a reminder to readers to write their wills. Don’t put it off! — *Judged in Jarvis*

Dear Judged: I am so sorry for your loss. And I’m sorry for what you’ve been going through with the business. I appreciate your sharing your heartache and hardship so that others might be spared. When it comes to drafting wills, there’s no such thing as too early; there’s only too late.

Dear Annie: In reply to the couple who moved from their hometown and are now torn between family and friends when returning for visits:

You should not shoulder all the burden for maintaining your friendships. Invite your friends to come visit you so that you can spend “individual” time with them. The highway runs in both directions. — *Gloria in Roanoke, Va.*

Dear Gloria: “The highway runs in both directions.” What a perfect summation! Thank you for it.

TOMORROW’S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When the task is hard, anything can be a distraction. Harness the power of writing to stay on track. Instead of acting on every whim, unload your unhelpful impulses onto a note. It will vanquish the impulse as if by magic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While everyone loves a happy ending, the same happy endings won’t work for all people. No need to settle for the generic version of the story. Work toward your own very specific good result until you have it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It will be a full day of talking to people, and you definitely have the energy for the back-to-back interactions. In fact, you’ll be a wonderful influence on those lucky enough to be around you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Authenticity is a buzzword that gets a lot of play in your world lately. Funnily enough, the people who bring it up most today may be the furthest away from the basic truth. It’s just something to notice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Confident people aren’t thinking of themselves. They’re playing the moment. If you’re thinking of how you’re doing, it’s a sign that you’re not yet confident, but don’t worry, keep going. You’ll learn on the job.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It’s not your job to have all the answers, and neither is that your goal. The goal is to motivate the team want to find the answers, just as you do. It will be very important that you all get there together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There’s no one you need to be beyond who you are naturally. You may choose to grow and to define and re-define yourself as you go, but don’t put conditions on loving yourself. Be you and love that person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You’ll be in a position to appoint, cast or hire someone. To assess how a person would do in the role, check out how they’ve done in their current role. The evidence won’t lie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You’ve weathered scarcity and abundance. Both have their unique challenges. It’s because you’ve figured out what it takes to get through all sorts of circumstances that you’ll step forward in confidence today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It’s a day to think about what you are doing to protect yourself from the world. Consider whether some of that could actually be holding you back from all the happiness you could be experiencing.

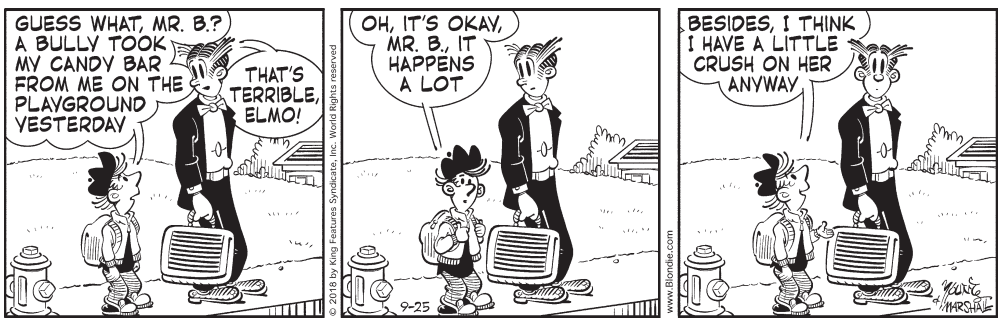
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Advice from the top will help you only if that person started at the bottom and worked all the way up to the head position. What’s required now is the nuanced perspective of a truly experienced individual.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don’t always know when you’re creating change, causing people to think differently or teaching them valuable skills ... but you can assume that’s what’s going on with today’s interactions.

TOMORROW’S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26). Welcome to the year that allows the time and opportunity to use talents that were, until now, underappreciated. More highlights: One stroke of luck will vanquish 10 worries. You’ll be brought in on a very exclusive deal. You’ll follow your social intelligence into a wonderfully deep relationship. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 48, 2, 22, 10 and 13.

FRANK AND ERNEST

BLONDIE



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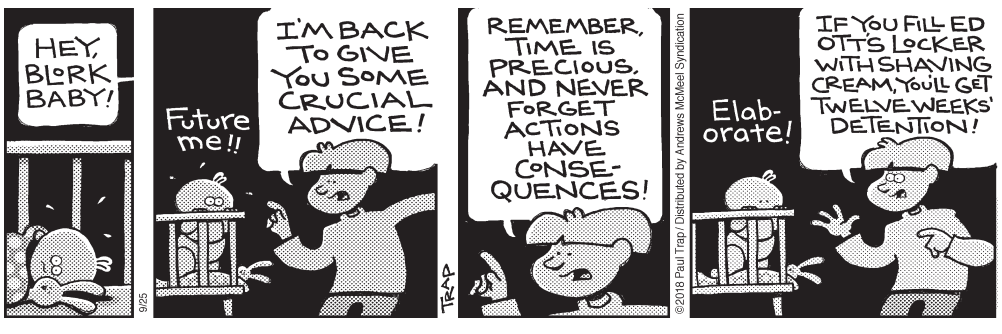
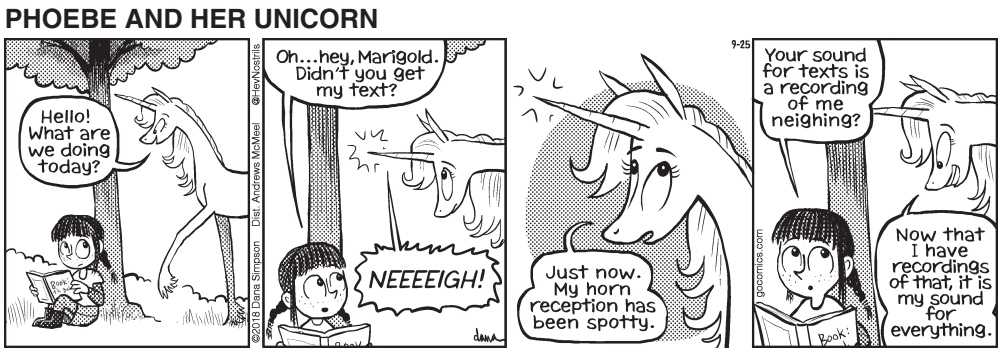


SALLY FORTH

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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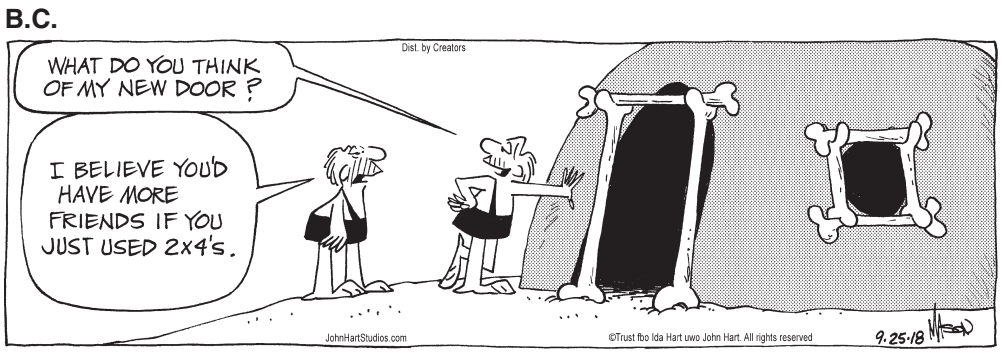

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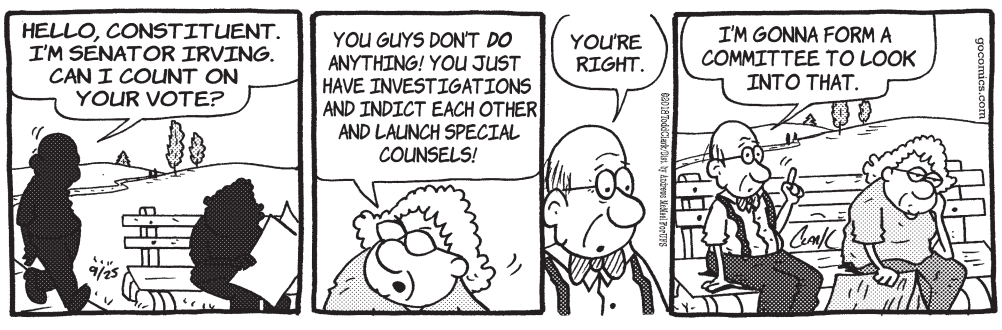

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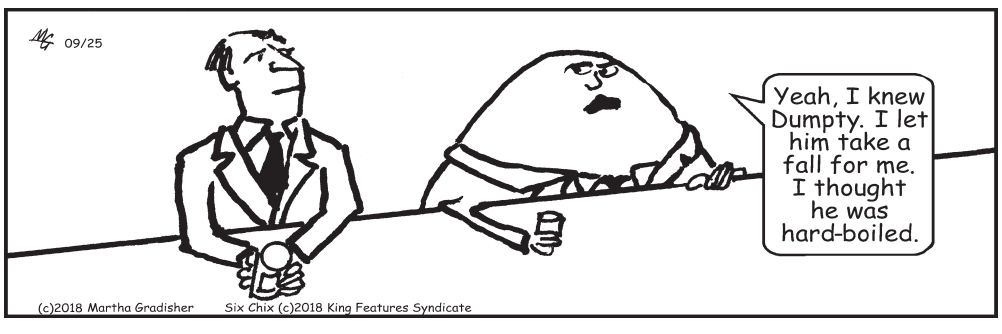
SIX CHIX



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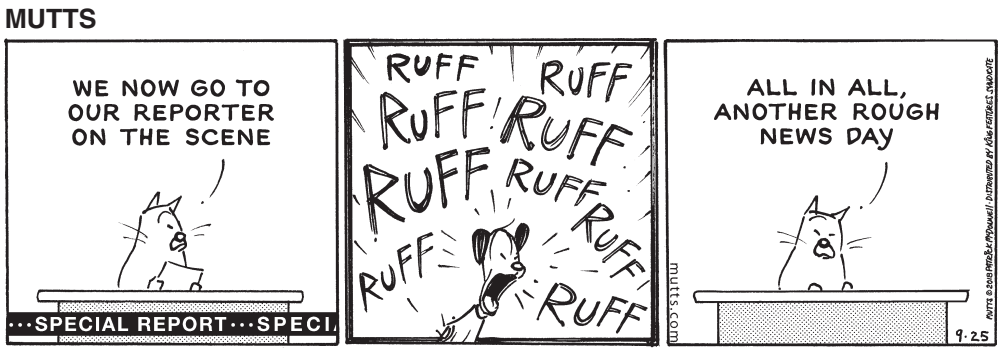

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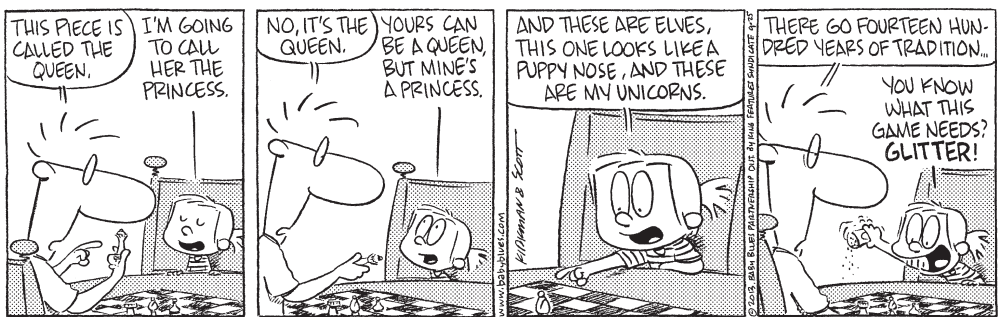

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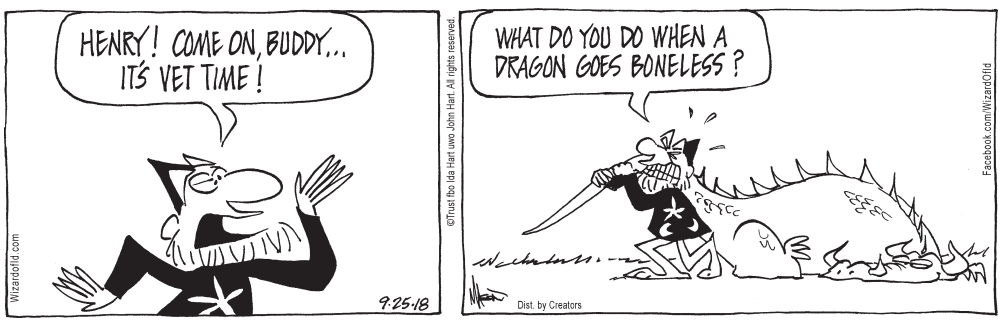

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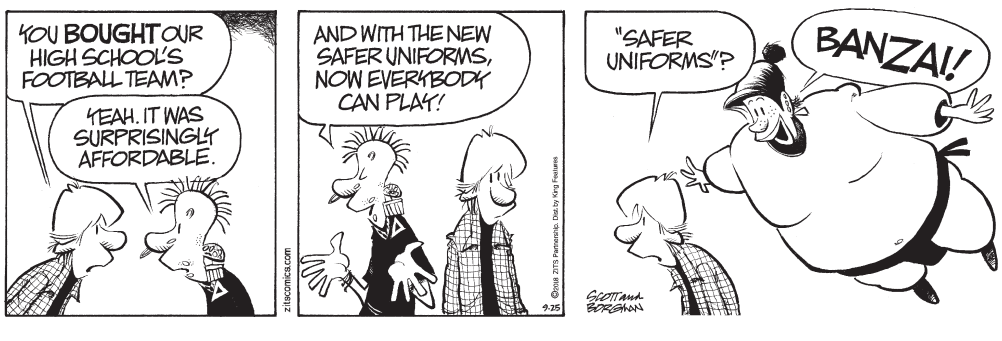

ROSE IS ROSE