

THE CROW'S NEST

'Gone Too Soon'

BY AMY WOBHEMA



"Gone Too Soon" by Daughtry came on while I was streaming music on my way home from Devils Lake on Tuesday.

Tears welled up in my eyes as these words blared through my car speakers: "Who would you be?"

"What would you look like when you looked at me for the very first time?"

"Today could've been the next day of the rest of your life" I'd heard the song several times before, but the second line of the chorus suddenly hit me in that moment. I realized the song was about losing a child you've never met.

I lost a baby when I was in my early 20's, in between our two daughters.

It was a warm, sunny day in July when I got the news. I had been in the ER over the weekend, then learned at a follow-up clinic appointment that I had miscarried our child.

My husband had lost his grandmother to cancer less than a month before, and she had often talked about never being able to meet her great-grandson or daughter.

I think she actually got to meet him first, I really do. I can imagine her taking his hand at heaven's gate, and how they're both up there watching us even now.

I say "his hand" not because we knew the gender. It was too early for that, as I hadn't even finished my first trimester when we lost him. It's for another reason, profound to me even if it is silly.

You see, I had the ring test done on me before my husband and I were married. If you're not familiar, this is the unscientific and utter bologna ritual of having a ring dangle above your stomach and watching it spin one direction for each child - in a circulation motion for a girl or back and forth for a boy - and then stop in between. The ring can predict the family you're going to have, I was told. It was harmless, I thought, and I didn't expect it to be right. Then, I really didn't believe it when the ring predicted I would have four children.

At the time, I thought I would have one, maybe two, kids. Well, that ring test predicted four little snappers in my future, in this order - girl, boy, girl, boy. What started out as a fun pattern became a self-fulfilling prophecy, perhaps.

Our first child was a girl. Then we lost this one, and we had another girl almost a year to the day after we lost him. Then, we had a son. By that logic, the pattern predicted by the ring test was complete and accurate.

I sometimes wonder what he would look like and whose personality he would reflect more, now 20 years old. I can't imagine life without my second daughter, however, who most certainly wouldn't have been the same if he had been born.

I also lost a brother to miscarriage; he was my parents' first child. If he had been born, I would have been sandwiched smack in the middle of four boys and had another older brother to boss me around.

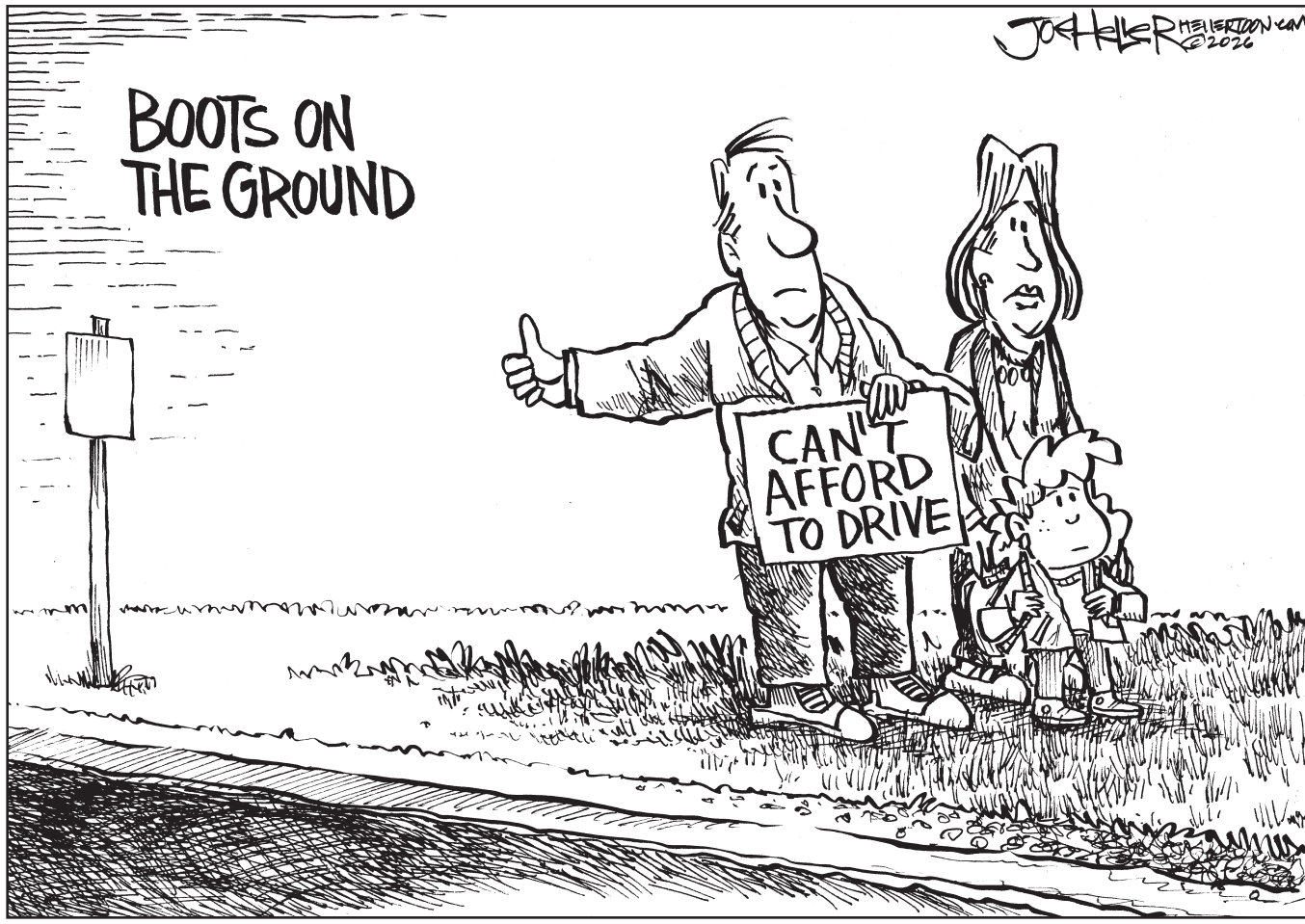
According to The Tears Foundation (thetearsfoundation.org), approximately 10-20% of clinically recognized pregnancies end in miscarriage, with up to 1 in 4 women experiencing a loss in their lifetime.

When my OB/GYN, Dr. Greves at Devils Lake hospital, gave me the news that I had officially miscarried, he explained that as many as one in three pregnancies are not carried to term, as many babies die in utero before their mothers even recognize they are pregnant.

I think of that baby every year when Lily's Hope Ministry in New Rockford announces their annual etching. The beautiful monument recognizing the babies we've lost is at the New Rockford Cemetery so we can remember all those precious children who were 'gone too soon.'

I'm not sure why, at that particular moment on a Tuesday afternoon, I was so overcome. Maybe it was the fact that I was on my way home from Devils Lake, where I had gone for my first prenatal appointment, or perhaps it was all about the lyrics to the music, the warm sun on my face, or everything all at once. Nonetheless, I felt that loss like it had happened recently, not two decades ago.

It's in these moments that I think not only of my own loss, but of all the mothers and fathers who had to say goodbye to children they never met, or only had a few moments or days to spend with them, and I feel grief and support all at the same time.



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

A confusing experiment

BY MARVIN BAKER

Have you ever had a DNA test taken on yourself? Do you ever wonder exactly where you came from or who your ancestors were?

Working on a family tree and finding some mysteries, I decided to be a guinea pig and I actually took a test from two separate companies just to see what would happen.

These genealogical tests are advertised a lot and numerous companies offer them, but I chose Ancestry and MyHeritage for these tests that seem to take forever to get results.

When the results of the first test came back, I was all excited, but not totally surprised that my ancestry is in western Europe. When the second test came back, I was totally confused because they don't match. That's right, two separate DNA tests and they don't match, at least not exactly.

Both show western Europe as the point of my ancestry. However, when western Europe is broken down, that's where the confusing part comes in.

The first test tells me that I have an 11.5 percent Dutch heritage. The second test doesn't mention Dutch at all, in any percentage, nor does it list Belgium, which was once a part of the Netherlands. The first test tells me I'm 5 percent Danish.

The second test doesn't mention Denmark at all. Instead, it says I'm 2 percent

Swedish, which is even more confusing because in two years of researching the Baker family history, I couldn't find any information that would lead me to believe I have any Swedish background.



Two spots that do match are in what one calls "Germanic" and the other calls northwest or southwest Germany. The Germanic map could be anywhere in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Alsace-Lorraine, or even tipping into the far southeast reaches of England.

French and British heritage are also found on both maps, but the percentages are different. The first test said I'm 11 percent French. The second test says 2 percent French. The first test says 9 percent British, the second test says 3 percent British.

I'm quite sure I'm reading the maps correctly. But why would my DNA vary? I always assumed that DNA is exact. Apparently, it isn't. Or, the tests offered aren't completely accurate.

I wanted to find out so I contacted both of these places to ask the question. Long story short, what they tell me is each company uses their own proprietary information and their own mathematical equations to come up with individual results.

A lot of people won't take

a DNA test fearing what they might find; disease risk, family secrets uncovered, law enforcement completing an investigation with a DNA test.

Does something like this mean a DNA test could be argued in a court of law of not being 100% accurate? I'm not an expert on this by any means, but honestly, I thought they would more closely align with each other.

Since I received both results and have talked to some relatives about this, they all ask me the same question. Which one do you think is more accurate?

My answer is the MyHeritage DNA test because it zeroes in on western Europe and breaks it down much more, and it includes Ukraine and Croatia. Ancestry deals

with records coming mostly from the United States or Canada.

It was definitely an eye opener to see separate results. But I feel comfortable with the MyHeritage test because in the two years I've worked on my family tree, nearly everything I've discovered seems to line up more closely with the MyHeritage DNA test.

There are other companies that offer this test. If you are ever interested in something like this, I'm sure if you take any company's test, they'll get you in the ballpark. The question then becomes, how precise do you want it to be?

Marvin Baker is a news writer for the Kenmare News and formerly Foster County Independent.

Letters to the Editor Our Policy

The Editor of the "Foster County Independent" welcomes letters from readers. Below are the submission guidelines for Letters to the Editor.

1. All letters must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published.
2. Letters written on behalf of groups will be published with both the group and individual signer(s) names.
3. Election letters: only one Letter to the Editor will be published per candidate for any local race during an election, and one letter each for and against any local or statewide ballot initiative. Additional letters will be subject to regular display advertising rates.
4. All letters must include the author's phone number and/or email address for verification.
5. Each writer is limited to one letter per calendar month. Additional letters will be subject to regular display advertising rates.
6. We reserve the right to edit or omit any and all letters.
7. Letters reflect the view of the author and NOT of the newspaper, its staff or owner.

Submit letters to: PO Box 138, Carrington, ND 58421 or email fosterconews@daktel.com

- Weekly Crossword -

CLUES ACROSS

1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involve oneself deeply
30. Immobile
34. __ pai dong; Hong

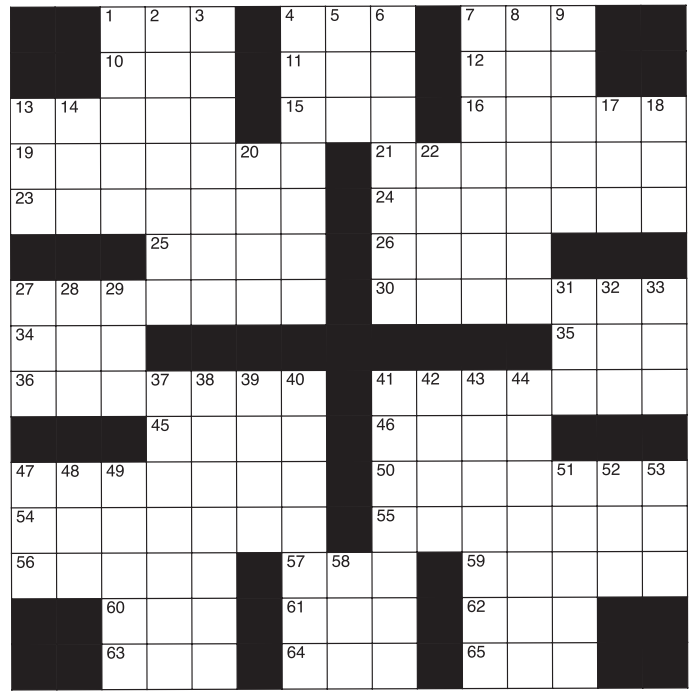
- Kong food stall
35. Move quickly on foot
36. Gathered
41. A way through
45. Another name for Thor
46. Sharp dueling sword
47. The supreme commander of a fleet
50. Seasoned sausages
54. Path
55. Christian hermit
56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
57. Where wrestlers go to work
59. Roman statesman
60. Explosive
61. Licensed for Wall Street
62. Where golfers start
63. Grow old
64. Autonomic nervous system
65. No seats available

CLUES DOWN

1. A legally binding

- command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant in space
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding
9. Strong belief
13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and drivers licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. One's mother (British)
29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind

33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. The Partridge Family actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)50. Type of molding
51. Small, thin or twisted bunch



53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Relating to the ears
58. "To the __ degree"
59. Residue when something is burned
61. It cools a home

Erik Gjovik..... News, Sports, Photography, Design
Leasa A. Lura..... News, Advertising Layout, Design
Kim Watson..... Copy Editor
Kayla Schumacker..... Accounting

Phone (701) 652-3181 : : FAX (701) 652-3286
Email Address: fosterconews@daktel.com
www.fosterconews.com

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