

Adult children won't get jobs

Dear Annie: I have been married for 22 years. I started working when I was 14 and didn't stop until I started having medical issues two years ago.

The problem is my family. My husband doesn't think it is important that our two kids, ages 20 and 21, have jobs. I have tried repeatedly to help them find employment because they won't bother to try on their own. But they'll stay at a job for a month or two, and then they leave. My husband doesn't think there is a problem. When I bring it up, my son yells at me, and my husband doesn't care. He says at least our son attends night classes twice a week. Our daughter's self-esteem is very low, and I am worried about her.

I am sick of the arguments about the kids not doing more around the house and not finding work. I have moved out of the house and in with a friend. Was I wrong to do this? How do I make my husband see that the kids should have jobs? — *Expect Better*

Dear Expect: Well, if you are out of the house, no one will push those kids to find work, and your husband will be supporting everyone. Perhaps he will then realize that keeping the children dependent and childlike is not in anyone's best interest and insist that the kids contribute somehow to the household. But it won't solve everything.

We hate to sound like a broken record,

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



but counseling could help both of you deal more respectfully with each other and more effectively with your kids. Even if your husband won't go, counseling could help you work out better ways of negotiating so that you have other choices besides frustration and walking out.

Dear Annie: My "Uncle Lucius" is 88 and has lived in an assisted-living facility for several years. He's not crazy about living there, but recognizes that he can no longer live on his own. He also has no interest in senior activities or much else.

Here's the problem: When taking him to a restaurant or bringing him to my home, he frequently refuses to leave at the end of the evening. Uncle Lucius has a normal appetite, but spends most of the time talking instead of eating. When everyone is nearly finished and he's prodded to eat, he routinely says he is too rushed, even if two hours have passed, and that he can't chew his food, even if the meal is soup. He'll demand

new food to take home. If he's told there is no food to take, he suddenly has no problem eating everything on his plate within 15 minutes.

Uncle Lucius has become so difficult that I am reluctant to pick him up and take him places. Any suggestions? — *Anonymous*

Dear Anonymous: We think Uncle Lucius is lonely and uses these outings as an excuse to be the center of attention, and he wants to prolong the experience. You are a kind soul to pick him up and have him for dinner, but we can see that your patience is wearing thin.

Let Lucius know that any food he doesn't finish at the time you are ready to leave will be put in a plastic bag for him to take home. Then do it. You also might visit with him in his care facility, asking him to show you around or perhaps visiting at a time when there is an activity you can do together that takes the same amount of time as you would have spent having dinner with him. Please try to be tolerant.

Dear Annie: "Frustrated Pastor's Wife" complained that her husband is not paid for officiating. It seems that customs vary among denominations and even among individuals within denominations.

Our last pastor would not accept any payment, saying that officiating at such occasions was part of the pastoral care he provided. — *Mike*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Integrate your talents instead of choosing between them. Anyone who tries to limit your activities isn't being a friend right now, because you have the ability to do several things at once.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is no success without failure. No one feels good without the contrast of feeling bad. If you keep your attitude on track with the positive, the contrasts in this day will only make you stronger.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You build your reputation with each action you take. Little by little, day by day, your legacy is coming together. Tonight, someone new to your situation will give you a fresh point of view.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't want to "cry wolf," and yet, in order to truly understand the strength of your support system, you have to put it to the test. Implement some version of a fire alarm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Follow an orderly process, and you'll be lucky. It will require more preparation than you think. In fact, most of the day will be spent in preparation for something that will unfold in less than an hour.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Heed the physical manifestation of hesitancy: a tightness in the throat and chest and/or a heaviness in the arms. While your ambition tries to push you forward, your intuition may hold you back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). We all think things that should not be said out loud, but some people haven't developed the social filter necessary to keep conversation polite. Luckily, your friends have you to keep them in check.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You love your family today, and you'll treat most people you meet like they are a part of it. Domestic projects will be lucky, as will anything to do with feeding your people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What's in your mind cannot be observed by anyone else, and today that's a good thing, because you're working on what truly belongs to you. Don't share it. The world isn't ready for it yet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Wishes are not goals, but if you add a timeline, they will be. Tonight features an unexplainable spiritual bond. In the upcoming weeks, you'll become more and more convinced that you belong together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your enthusiasm is catching. Your joy needs no qualifiers. It will open people up and make them feel like unleashing their own natural exuberance.

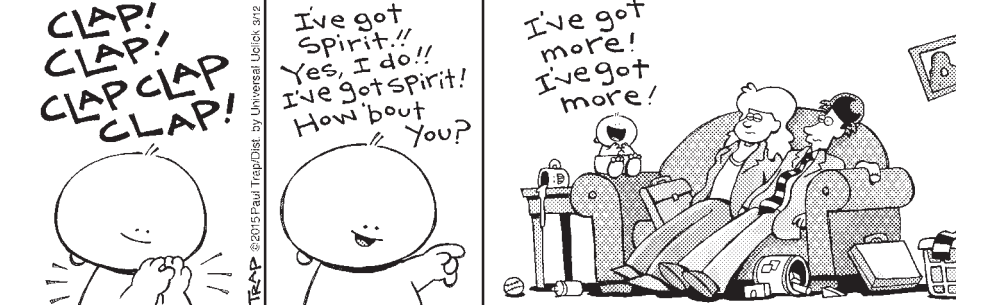
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll get better results when you ease up on yourself. Approve of yourself with that same generous approval you so readily give to others. Tonight will bring the end of a struggle.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 13). The next three months are a makeover for your life. You'll fix the bothersome parts and celebrate three distinct wins. In June, a quest will take you to gorgeous locations where you'll connect with interesting people. July brings a disruption to your plans, and the result you get in August will make it all worthwhile. Capricorn and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 33, 1, 14 and 18.

FRANK AND ERNEST



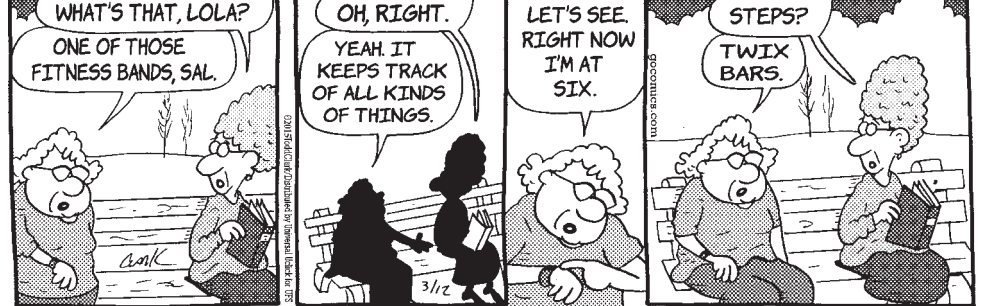
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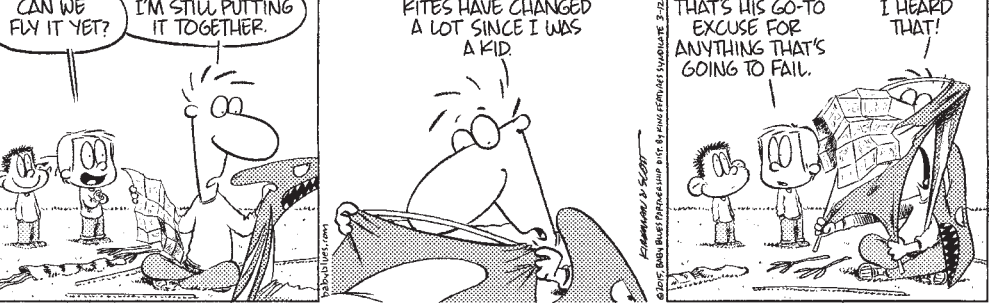
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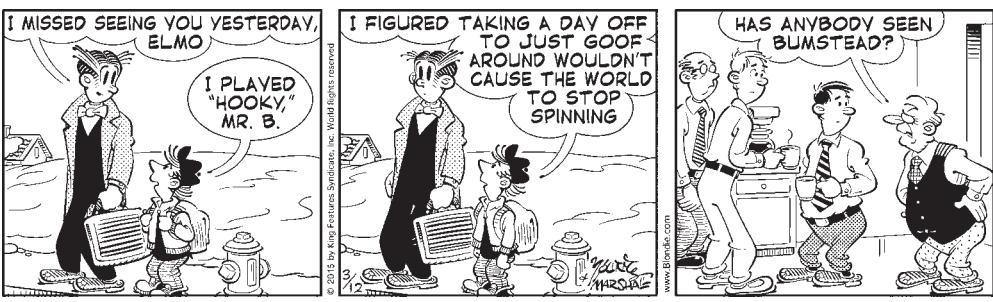
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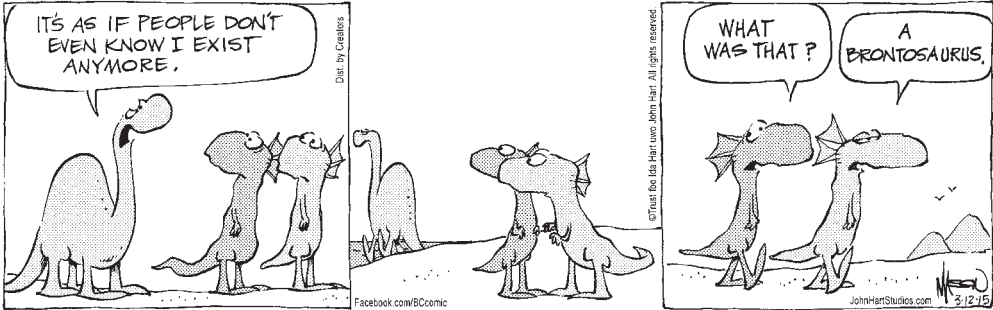
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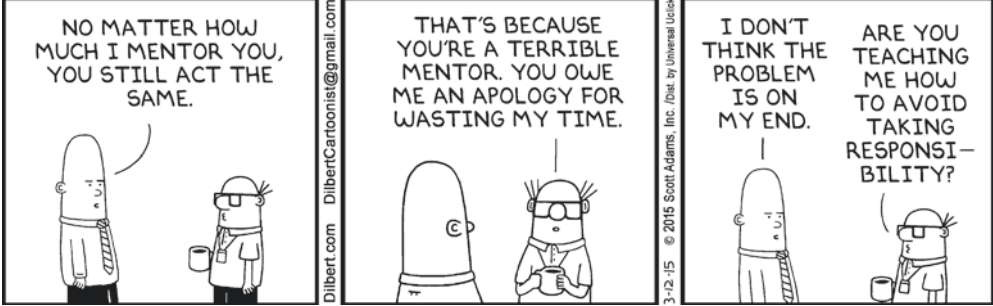
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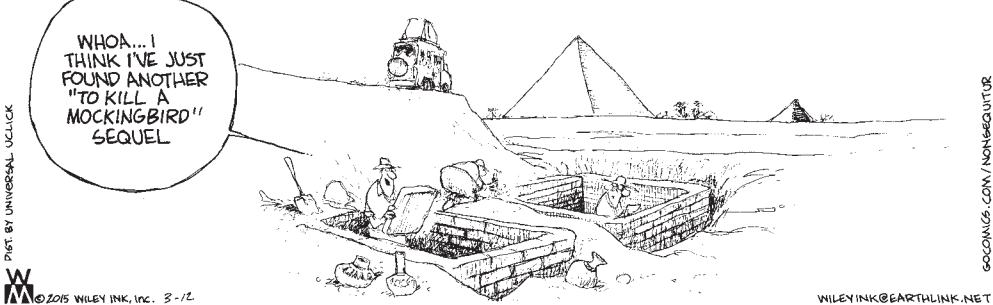
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