

Dad undermines mom's discipline Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I have been married for more than 25 years to a highly respected, professional man. He has always worked hard, rarely taking time off. My efforts to get him to vacation have not been successful. Although he no longer enjoys his work, he continues these habits to support the family.

Our children are 19 and 22 and still live at home. The oldest graduated college but is extremely immature. In the past year, he has been in jail twice for intoxication and pot possession. He also lost a job due to an alcohol-related incident. He found another position, but he rarely shows up on time. He doesn't help around the house, is very messy and refuses all requests to contribute. He makes a student loan payment each month, but the rest of his small income goes toward fast food, tobacco and alcohol.

Here's the problem: I see red flags everywhere with our son but my husband refuses to deal with these matters. Instead, he keeps bailing him out. I feel strongly that our son needs a plan to become independent and accountable for his actions.

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



My husband claims he doesn't have time to talk to him. My children have no respect for my authority because any consequences I impose are always undone by my husband, who says he's tired of me nagging him about it.

My efforts to get my husband on board have exhausted me and made me resentful. I feel cheated of a better relationship with all of them. Allowing these patterns to continue cannot be good for anyone. My husband refuses counseling. I am out of patience. Please advise. — *Midwest Mom*

Dear Mom: You recognize that your husband is an obstruction to helping your children develop into mature, responsible adults. He isn't willing to do the hard work necessary to change this dynamic for their

sake. It's selfish, lazy parenting. You cannot change him, but you can change how you respond, not only to the children, but also to your husband's behavior. Get counseling for yourself. Ask your doctor for a referral to someone who specializes in family issues, and if possible, bring your kids with you. Rest assured, they don't want to be living like this 10 years from now.

Dear Annie: I want to warn "Need Your Help," the 66-year-old gal who has been with "Joe" since his wife died nine years ago. Joe is 75 and verbally abusive. He sounds just like my husband. Tell her to run, not walk, out of that relationship now.

She says Joe is unwilling to change. I can assure her he will only get worse as he gets older. She is still young enough to do just fine without him. It might be hard at first for her to be on her own; but believe me, it will get better. Find a women's group or join a church that is friendly and welcoming. There is help and support out there. Joe and his house are not worth ruining your life. — *A Caring Friend Who Has Been There*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Beyond good and evil, there is love. The decisions made from love can seem complicated — not as cut and dried as the moral code written in books. The heart deciphers its own moral code.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will follow your intellect to whatever conclusion it leads you instead of accepting the answer you are being fed by another. This is the way of great thinkers and truth seekers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what you like, even before the logical arguments have been made. You're working from the gut today and will get more information in the blink of an eye than you would in a lengthy dissertation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No relationship is entirely wine and roses, but you'll experience more than your fair share of movie-worthy moments in the coming weeks — so many that you may even dare to plan some work and/or travel with a loved one now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Shakespeare penned, "We have some salt of our youth in us." It's that salt that has you reacting to someone as though you were much younger than you are. Or maybe you're just meeting that person at his or her level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There have been times when it's been difficult to meld the new with the known people in your life, but right now new friends will fit nicely into the puzzle of your personal life and will connect you to exciting options for love and work. **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The gatekeepers are just doing their job. If they could let everyone in, what would be the point of having a gate? Anyway, you're in the perfect place and will get inside at the

ideal time when you are completely ready. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Keep going on your project, even if you can only spend 10 minutes on it here and there. Ten minutes here and there will add up to significant progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The general cries, "Forward!" and that's the direction the army marches. If it's not happening that way when you cry "forward," maybe you're not the general of this army. Find your army.

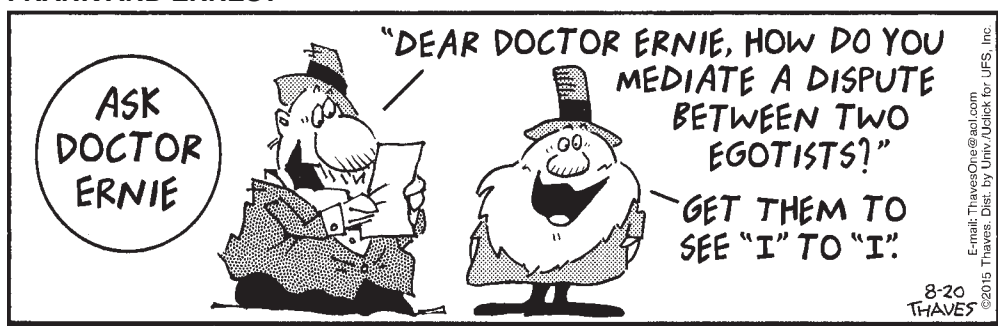
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You could totally win the argument with that aggressive person you know, and yet winning would bring no satisfaction or purpose. Therefore, avoid. Your energy is best spent elsewhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whatever you're in the market for, true shopping wisdom comes after you've left the sales floor for a while. It's hard to listen to your inside voice when someone else's outside voice is booming in your ear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Of course you can't stop yourself from thinking a thought by focusing on not thinking it. Distraction, new focus, a different environment — all of it will work to stop your worries today.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 21). You'll invent and reinvent this year. One of your past creations will be used in a new way, and you'll make more money this time around. October business ventures introduce greater opportunities for romance and excitement. In November, you'll realize what a good job you did in choosing your inner circle. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 44, 24, 32 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



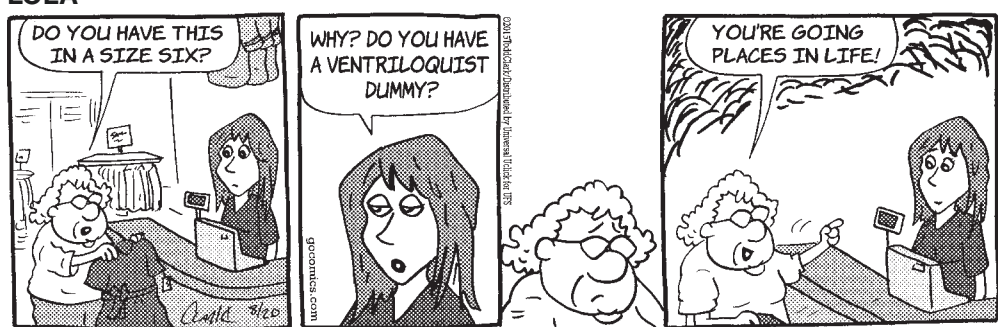
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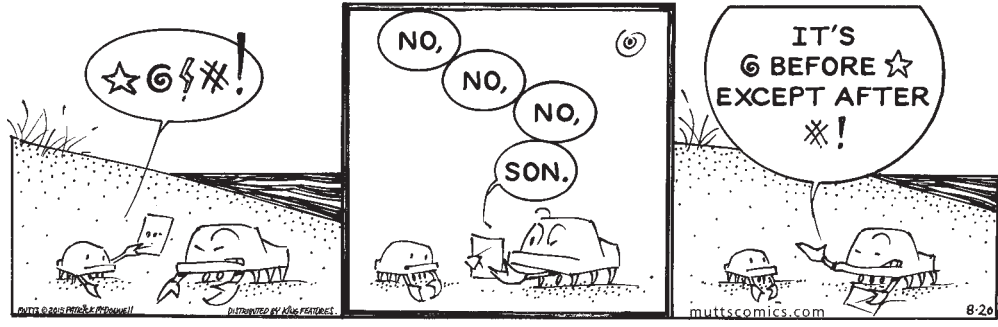
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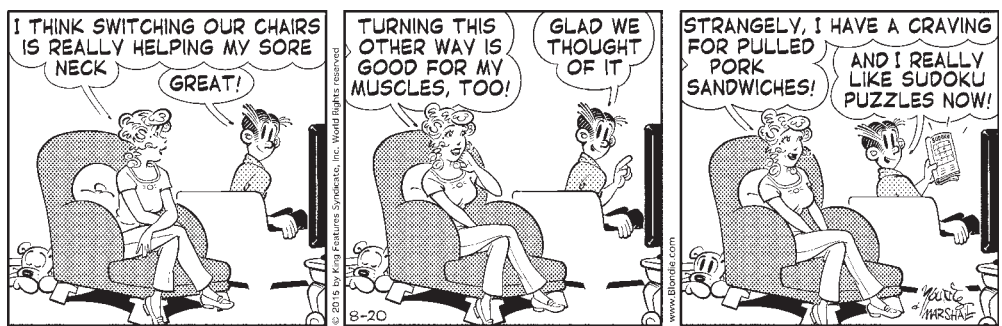
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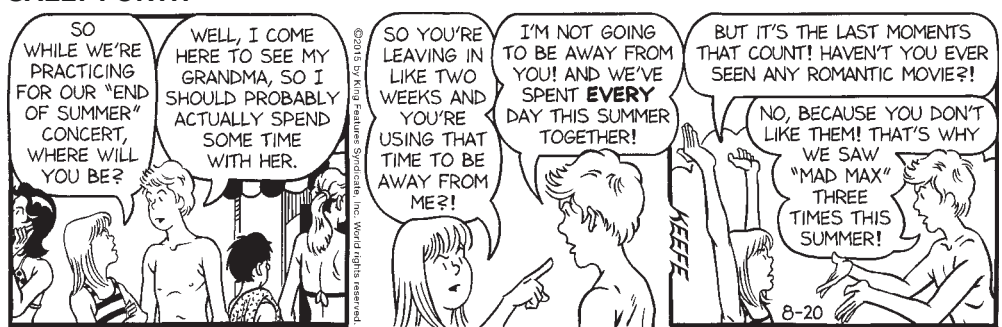
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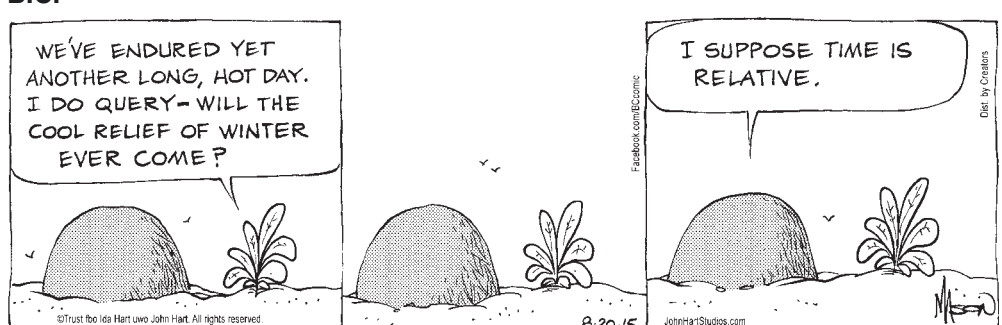
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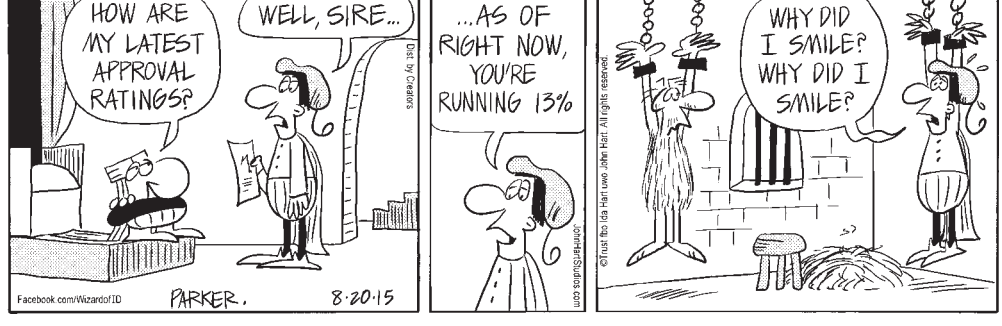
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