

Daughter wants to leave faith

Dear Annie: I am a mother of two daughters in their 20s. Both have been emotionally, socially and financially supported by my husband and me throughout their lives. Both have advanced degrees and are now entering the work place.

What should be a happy time in my life is just the opposite. The older one told us she does not believe in God and is seriously dating a man of a different faith. My husband and I feel the rejection of religion isn't based on deep philosophical reasons, but rather is a convenient excuse to date whom-ever she chooses.

We have sought counseling with our rabbi to help our daughter care more about her faith. But now my husband has drawn a line in the sand, saying if she marries outside the religion, he will have nothing to do with her. My younger daughter sides with her sister. What's a mother to do? — *Torn*

Dear Torn: The Old Testament response is that if your daughter marries outside the faith, she is considered "dead" to you. And we know some parents would follow that. But we doubt this is what you want, and if your husband's ultimatum is an effort to get his

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



daughter to return to the fold, he has to be prepared for a negative outcome.

Please have a heartfelt talk with your daughter. Explain how hurtful this is, intentional or not. Tell her that people often change their minds about the depth of their religious feeling as they get older or once they have children. Point out that raising children with a partner of another faith can cause all kinds of issues down the road and she should consider that carefully before making any permanent decisions. But we know you still want to have a relationship with her, so tell her that you love her no matter what, and that you will do your best to accept whomever she chooses to marry. It will take effort (and a few tears) on your part to do so, but it can be done.

Dear Annie: This is an attempt

to reach out to "Conflicted," the man who said he once coerced a woman into having sex, and has suffered quiet remorse for the past 30 years.

I could be that woman, and I want him to know that all I really want is an apology and confirmation that he has learned a lesson from what was a shame-filled encounter for both of us. His letter of remorse was a surprising comfort. I would like to think he has seen a counselor and contributed to organizations that help victims who have not been able to get past such experiences.

But I disagree that he should confess to his wife. If he's been a trustworthy, faithful husband all these years, confessing this pre-marriage behavior may very well destroy the trust she's had in him and leave her wondering what other lies their marriage is built on. — *Appreciate His Admission of Wrongdoing*

Dear Appreciate: You could be right, but such secrets can be slowly destructive to a marriage. We think he should be able to confide in a loving partner who can help him deal with it, especially if talking to a counselor would bring criminal charges.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your teachers have come in many forms: friends, parents, colleagues, bosses, children, enemies. Some showed you what to do; others showed you what not to do. You'll apply what you've learned very well today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're forte today is your ability to plan well. You'll send your mind as far ahead of you as you can so that when you're doing your thing you can stick as close to "now" as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When your friends are happy, you are happy for them, regardless of the other emotions you may be experiencing throughout your day. When it's your turn to share about your happiness, anyone who can't join you is suspect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're feeling assertive. Ask (very nicely) for the experience you'd like to have. It is very possible that people's behavior will change to accommodate that experience.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When it doesn't work out, your tendency is to blame yourself, if only because you're the only one you have some amount of control over. It's not your fault, but you'll definitely learn from assuming the responsibility.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're gathering facts, figures, evidence, inspiration — all the things you need to move forward with your project. The better you know your subject the better your work will turn out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If it's a show they want (and it is a show they want), then a show you will give them! You'll do this the classy, understated and elegant way your sign usually does things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An unglam-

orous task is up for the taking. This is a hidden gem, and there will be numerous benefits to the one who claims the job. There won't be much competition for it, either. So why not you?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your heart is a locating device that can get you to the kinds of strangely beautiful places that cannot be mapped with longitudinal coordinates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some days it benefits you to deal with reality as it is and not as you would have it be. But today you're better off imposing your reality on the situation. You're so headstrong that it's likely the others will go along with your version.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Strong personalities are part of the day's mix. There is no one right way to interact here. Stay flexible and alert. Sometimes you're the shaper; sometimes you're the shaped.

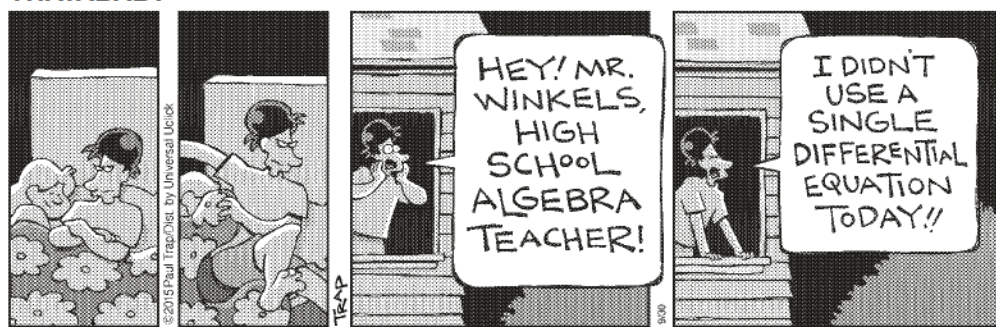
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Wanting too intensely is a danger that leads to grabby hands, which leads to things (and relationships) getting knocked around, ruined or broken. If you're grasping too tightly, let go.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 1). It has felt at times that your talents were eclipsed by the successes of someone close to you. This year brings a spotlight so warm and lovely that it makes up for the past. Your empathy and care will seed a loving relationship. You'll soon be responsible for more beings in this world and will take to the role like a superstar. Virgo and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 48, 32, 18 and 6.

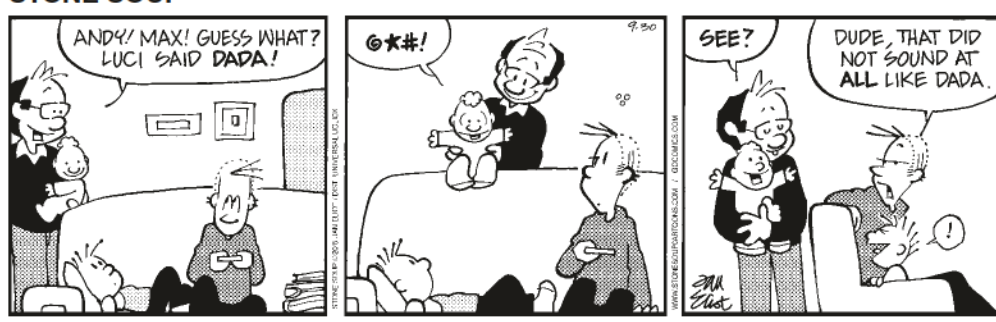
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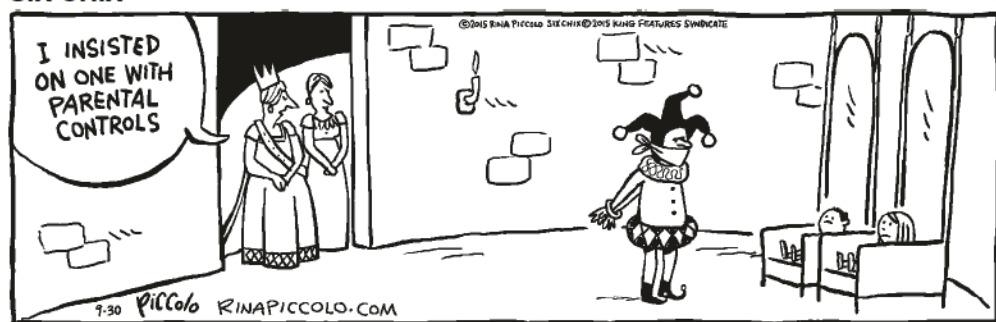
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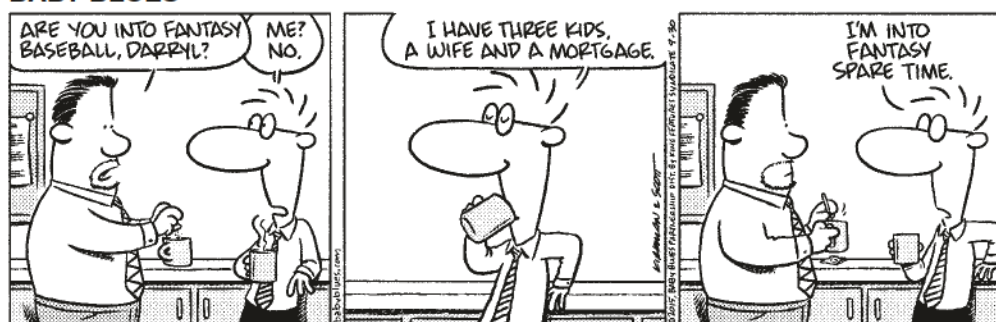
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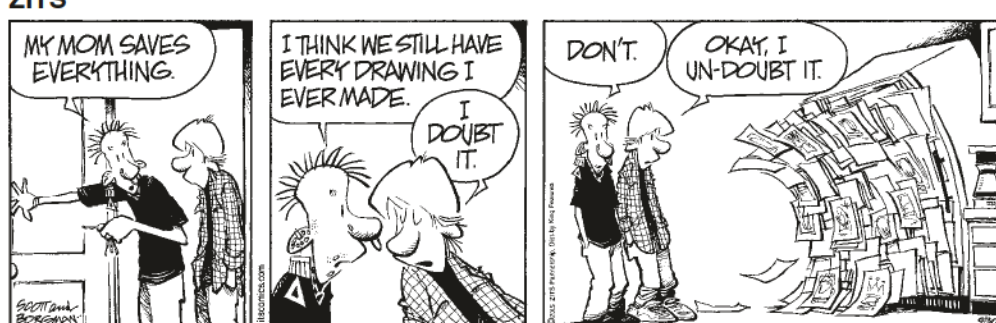
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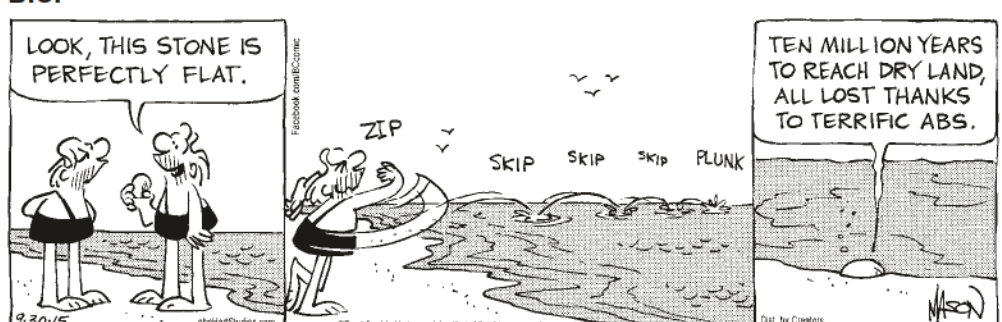
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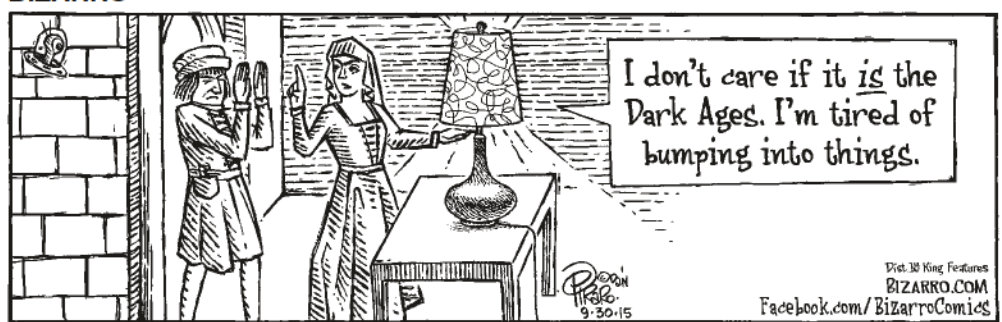
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