

Living situation not working

Dear Annie: My granddaughter, "Tara," is 27 and a single mother of a 4-year-old daughter. I have been the child's caregiver since birth, and we are very close.

When Tara lost her job, we allowed her to move in, with the understanding that she would get another job and pay us rent that we would put aside for a down payment on her own place. But it's been seven months and she hasn't showed much interest in finding a job. Tara doesn't contribute anything for the household, nor does she offer to help much around the house. She gets \$50 a month in support money from her deadbeat ex, which she uses for cigarettes and gas.

We have set several deadlines for Tara to leave, but we know that she would end up living in her car or on someone's sofa. I am worried about the child. I have threatened to ask for custody, but my husband and I are almost 70 and on a fixed income. I don't really want to raise another child.

I feel trapped in my own home, and it's causing conflict in my marriage. I don't trust Tara's judgment. I'm afraid if we ask her to leave, she will take the child and we will never see either of them again. They

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell
and
Marcy Sugar



may not even survive. We have tried counseling, but it didn't help. What can we do? — *Anguished Grandmother*

Dear Grandmother: You keep setting boundaries that you are unwilling to enforce and Tara knows it. However, your fears are not completely unfounded, so we understand why you feel trapped. Where are Tara's parents? Could they contribute to her care? Are there other family members who would take her in on a temporary basis in order to give you a "vacation"?

You are doing a wonderful thing to raise this 4-year-old in a stable environment. While there are limits on motivating Tara, most states provide help for raising a young child. Your state or county may have specific resources in your area, and you can check with your local Department on Aging.

Dear Annie: I read "Drained and Frustrated," and wanted you to know that Medicare pays for most of a 100-day nursing home visit if you have had a qualifying three-day hospital stay. Otherwise, once someone's money runs out, the family should contact the local social services office and ask about Medicaid. Many nursing homes will accept a patient even if the application is in process.

People many times consider themselves a "failure" because they couldn't take care of a loved one. But nursing facilities have many things to offer their residents, along with support for the family. To "Drained and Frustrated": Don't expect your mother to be happy with your decision. But you can have a life beyond caregiving, and your mother will be well cared for. Who knows, she may even make a friend or two. — *Nurse Manager at a Long-Term Skilled Nursing Facility*

Dear Manager: Hundreds of readers wrote to correct us on confusing Medicare and Medicaid. We should have known better. We appreciate your clarifying that, along with providing encouragement to "Drained." Our thanks to all who wrote.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As the lumberjacks know, unless you're Paul Bunyan the first blow does not fell the tree. Luck will favor you as you work methodically, patiently and from any angles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People love to give you advice today — whether or not you ask for it, whether or not you want or need it. There will be so many opinions but none worth acting on immediately. Let it sit. Reconsider in a few days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Likely you won't be motivated to move from your spot, stick to your diet or follow your work plan, but you'll feel so good about yourself when you summon up the self-possession to do it anyway.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are many around you who expect a reward for everything. You'll go the extra mile without expecting recompense. This key difference in you will be what sets you apart and elevates your stock.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Usually you learn by doing, but you probably won't get the opportunity for hands-on training so you'll have to learn all you can from watching. The longer and better you observe, the more astute you will become.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Order what you like from the menu of life. What does it matter if you got the same thing yesterday or last week? You know what will please you and there is comfort and efficiency in that today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You do the same things whether or not you think you're being watched, and people sense that what they see is what they get. Your honesty

makes you attractive to people who are similarly inclined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's harder to tell how fast things are moving when you're moving, too. You have to stand still to feel the rush of another person's pacing. A brief reprieve will give you perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a lot to be said for making a few mistakes in the early part of a project. If you were always correct the first time, you wouldn't make a good teacher later.

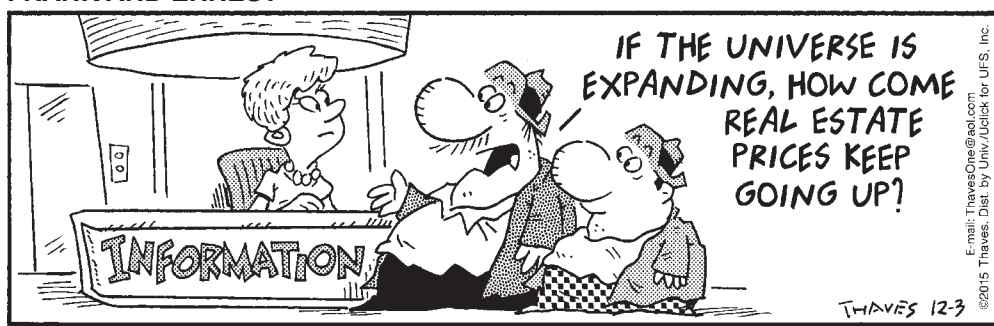
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take measures to protect yourself from the emotional climate as well as the actual weather. Go where there is sunshine, or at least where you can be around people who have sunshine in their hearts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll give someone a chance, realizing that if no one ever gave you a chance, you wouldn't be where you are today. Picking the right someone ... that's where things get tricky. Go where the need is great then trust your gut.

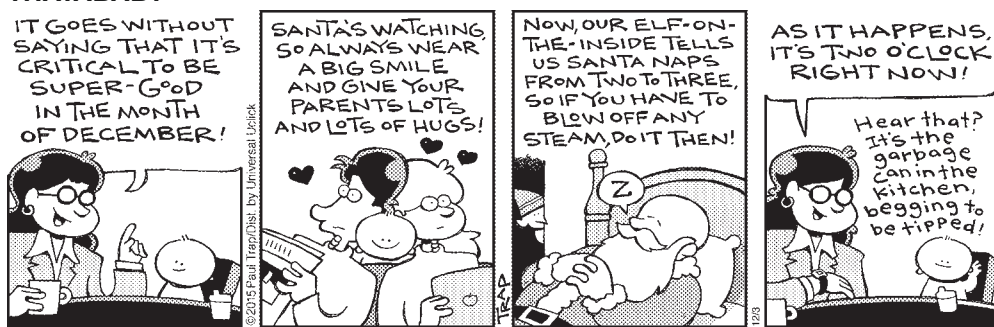
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A person who is genuinely decent doesn't have to go around talking about her recent acts of charity and kindness, and the trustworthy don't make a habit of saying "trust me."

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 4). There's an Aboriginal saying: "The more you know, the less you need." This applies to your year, as new knowledge will have you streamlining your approach, cutting back on expenses and using more efficient tools to get the maximum results out of life. Joyful relationships will get the lion's share of your attention. Capricorn and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 24, 1, 48 and 36.

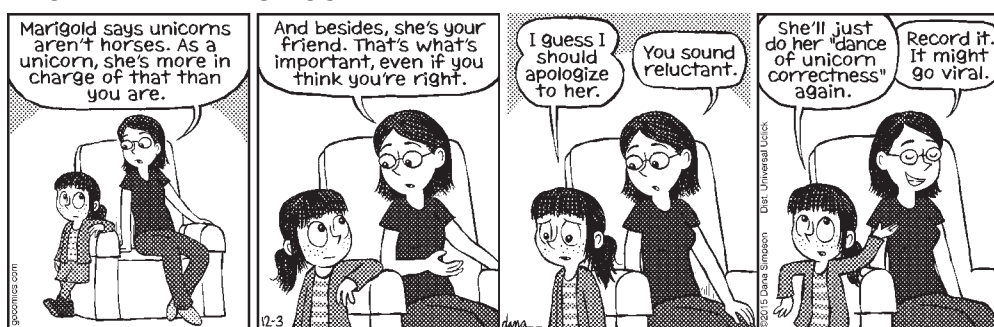
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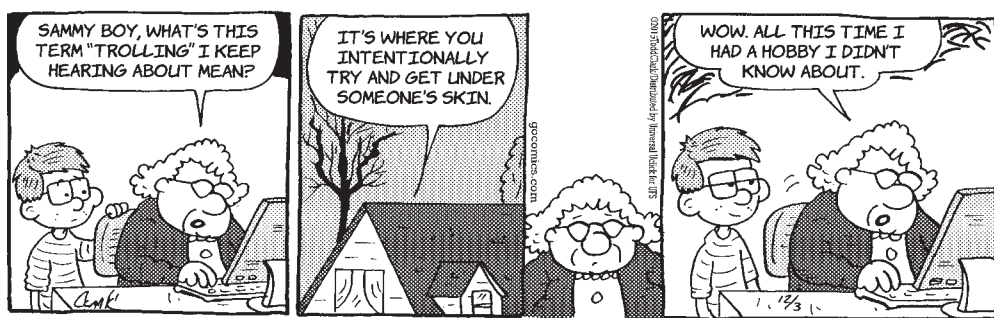
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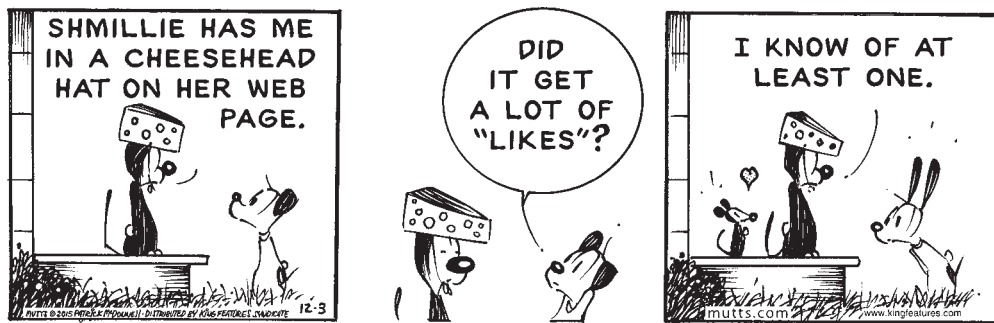
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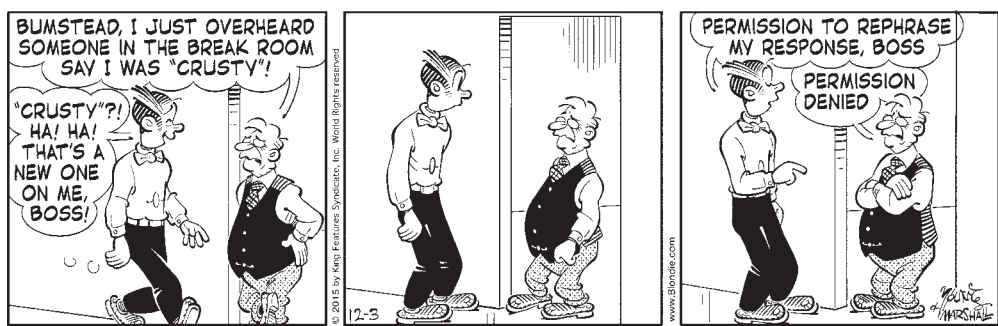
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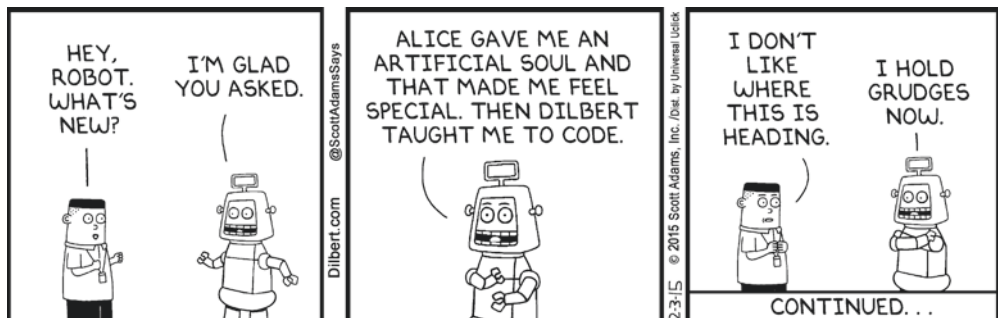
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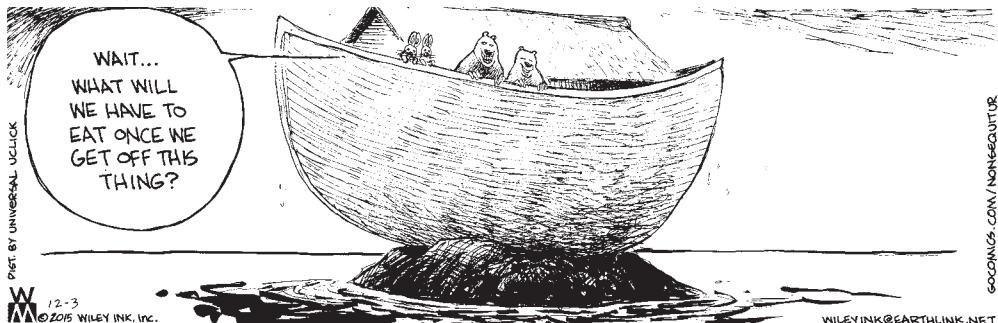
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