

How to help sex offender?

Dear Annie: My ex-daughter-in-law's brother would have been sleeping on the streets for the past two years if it weren't for my husband. He's been paying rent for "Gary," who has not received any help from the other members of the family.

Gary has been unemployed for five years. He was living with my ex-daughter-in-law, her boyfriend and my granddaughter in the basement of their home. But when my ex-daughter-in-law broke up with her boyfriend, she moved into an apartment where Gary could not follow because he is a registered sex offender. This also makes it harder for him to find a job. I don't know the whole story, but some of it sounds like his ex-wife was looking for revenge.

My husband has driven Gary to many job interviews and has sought help from local agencies, with no luck. We have exhausted all avenues. At the moment, Gary collects cans for recycling and does odd jobs when they are available, but it's not enough to pay rent, so he uses the money for groceries.

My husband is retired and I am retiring at the end of the year. We cannot afford to keep paying Gary's rent, but we also don't want to abandon him. Do you know of any agencies that can help find him an affordable

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



place to live? — *Worried in Illinois*

Dear Worried: It is difficult for ex-offenders of any kind to find employment, which then creates difficulty with living situations and increases the risk of recidivism. Sex offenders also have restrictions on where they can live, so this makes things doubly hard. You and your husband seem like caring and compassionate people. Here are a few resources that we hope can help:

National HIRE Network (hire-network.org) offers referrals to local resources for ex-offenders; Sex Offender Resource (sexoffenderresource.com) can steer you toward local state resources; Re-Entry Illinois (reentryillinois.net) might help with housing; and sexoffenderjobs.com is a blog that provides various suggestions, as well as offering emotional support.

Dear Annie: I feel compelled to

give a different perspective about the letter from "Married to a Kvetch," who said her husband complains constantly about various aches and pains. You were right to recommend that he see his doctor.

In my late 40s, I began experiencing transient pain. Every day, the pain was in different places with different intensities. Several years later, I requested a test for rheumatoid arthritis, because there was a family history of the disease. The test came back negative.

I thought I was going crazy, and people assumed I was some kind of hypochondriac. Nobody could be in this much undiagnosed pain. Guess again. I changed insurance companies and needed another complete physical. At age 50, I had a positive test with full-blown RA. — *Damage Done*

Dear Damage: So sorry it took so long for you to get the correct diagnosis, but it proves we are all our best medical advocates.

Annie's Snippet for St. Patrick's Day:

May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.

May the blessings of St. Patrick behold you.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). So you're not who you wanted to be? Excellent — because who you are is the best person to be. You'll get proof of this in the afternoon, and hopefully it will relax you. You are enough!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Boredom can be a positive force. If you were never bored, you wouldn't be half as creative as you are. In order to really feel your boredom, don't rush to fill the void of inactivity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Think ahead to next week. How can you make your life less stressful? It will take some planning, but all the efforts you make today on the matter will be so worthwhile. Future you will be thanking current you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know what you're doing. You're very aware of the big picture and the minutiae, too, and you're able to zoom in and out at will. Because of this, you'll accomplish what you couldn't when you were being less flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're very aware of your most attractive qualities, and you try to lead with them, but it doesn't always work out that way. The ones who you feel very close to will get the real you and love you all the more for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The order you create around you will contribute to an excellent "user experience." This is part of why so many people want to be near you. You're a stabilizing influence. Tend to those systems. They support the best in you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Slipping into an excellent mood is the first order of business. The small challenge you can easily win — that's the one to start with. It will set you up for bigger and better things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll check quite a lot off your list today. This is a good time to remember that the spirit in which things are done is even more important than what it is that you do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While you chew on a hard truth, a white lie is on your lips. This might be the more compassionate thing to say, but just so you know, the truth is going to come out eventually.

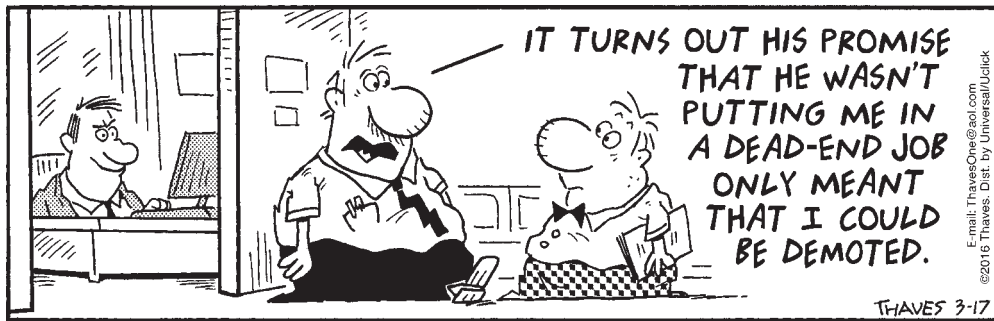
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your contribution is huge, though it doesn't feel that way to you. You have no idea how much your cooperation matters. In fact, you set the whole tone of a group. Everything goes better because of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't always tell the difference between good luck and bad luck, but today it will be extremely clear. Your stomach will let you know. Delays could be very positive, giving you the chance to connect with someone.

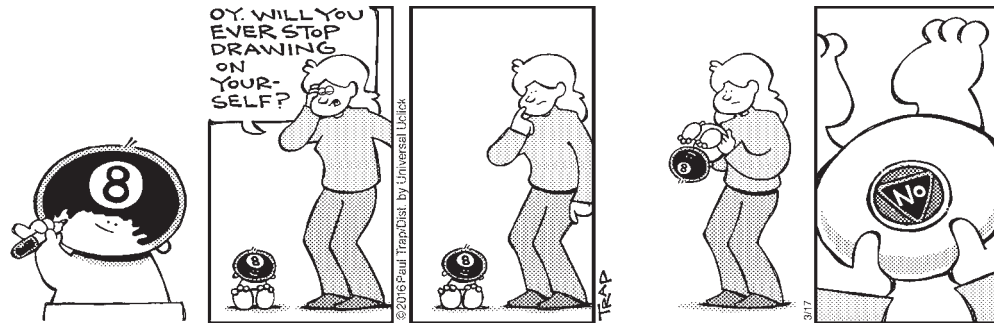
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may feel like you need to go out of your way to explain yourself, but resist. Less is more. You have nothing to prove. Besides, if they don't understand you by now, they might just be the wrong audience for you.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 18). Your efforts to educate yourself on a subject will turn into an entirely new career trajectory. Because you have a tendency to become captivated by your interests, others will find you captivating as well. You could become a teacher in April. June features luck through markets and festivals. You'll travel far in August. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 31, 3, 22, 48 and 9.

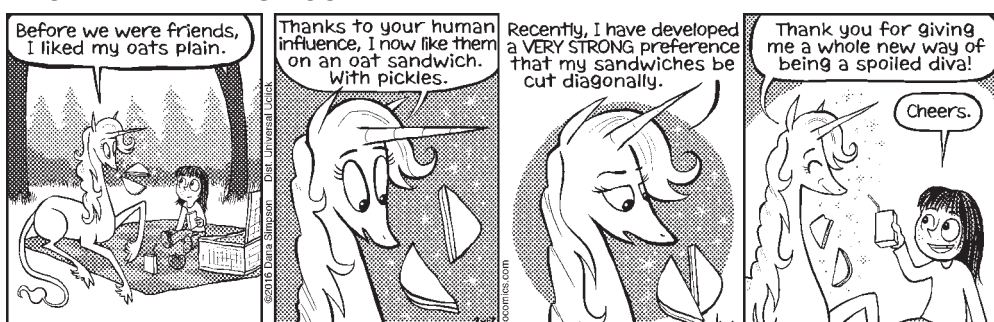
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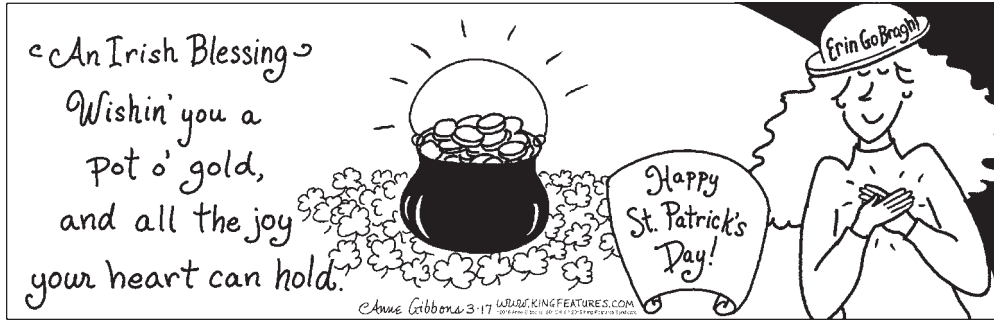
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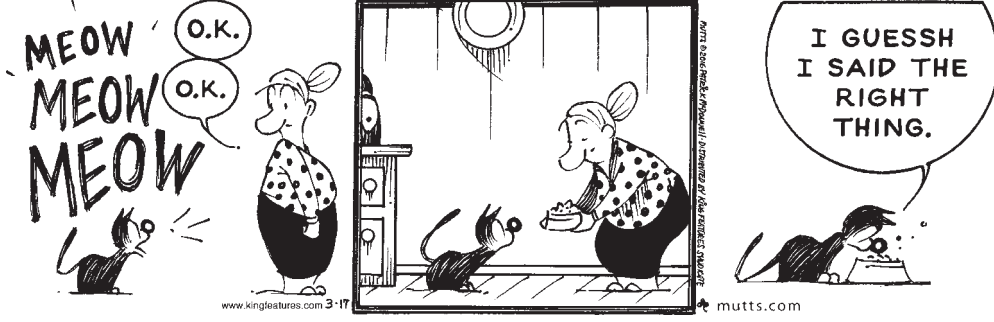
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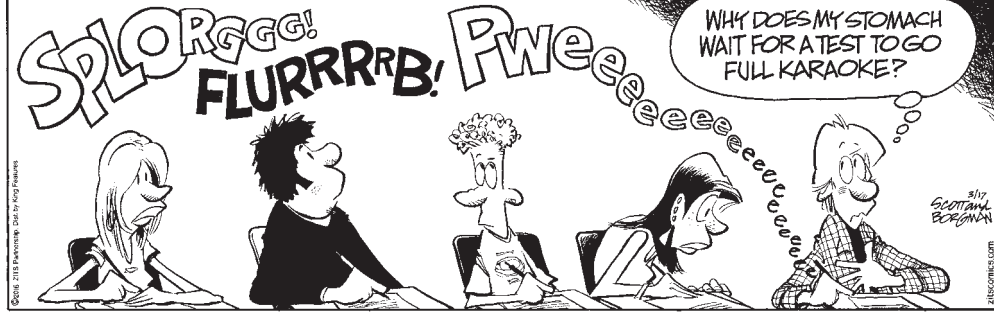
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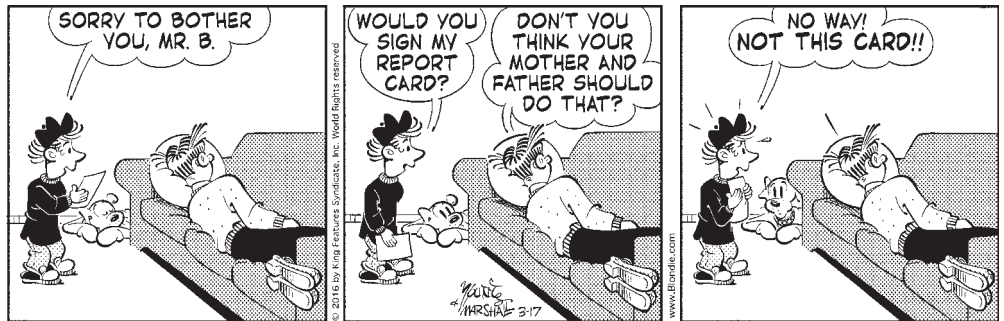
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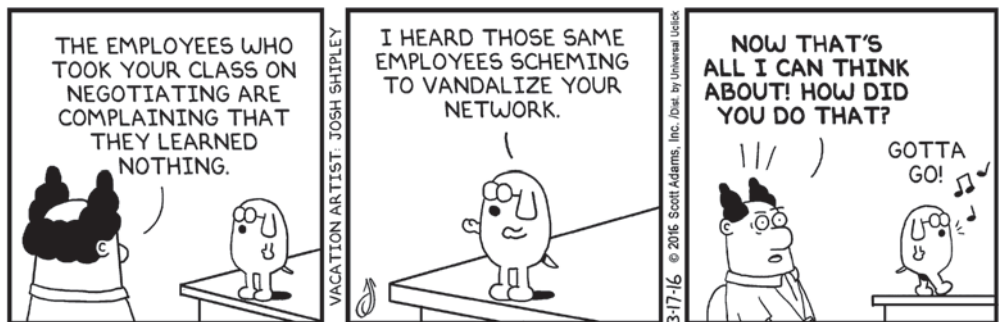
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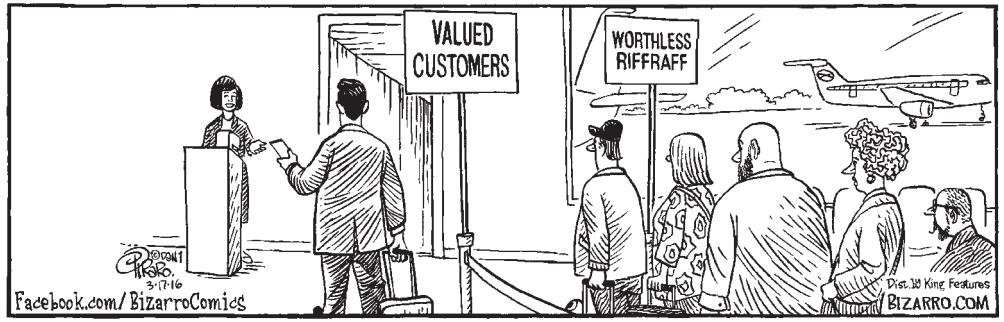
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