

Their bromance is over

Dear Annie: I need advice on how to sever a guy friendship that has become increasingly difficult. We first met on the golf course and played several rounds together. Both of us enjoyed playing and talking about the game of golf.

But it soon became apparent that he has very few friends because of his attention-seeking, self-absorbed personality. He calls me on a regular basis, sometimes to discuss golf on TV and sometimes to talk about his various health issues, real and imagined.

Now that he's given up playing golf, we have very little in common. He spouts outrageous opinions on health topics, women, racial issues and politics. He is an unabashed bigot. He obviously needs mental health counseling for low self-esteem issues. But that would be an impossibly hard sell. Is there any way that I could gently ease myself away from this well-intended but failed friendship? — *Teed Off*

Dear Teed: Your empathy is commendable, but you can't save this man from himself. The next time he asks you to do something together, simply say, "No, thanks." It may feel strange at first, but you

Dear Annie



By
Annie Lane

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don't owe him any more explanation than that. You are not responsible for his emotions.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have a delightful 9-year-old grandson. He is a kind, caring, intelligent child. His parents and elders have taught him to respect everyone and to stand up for himself and others when the occasion occurs. I love him beyond words. My husband had always had a good relationship with him until recently.

A few years ago, my grandson made the decision to stop cutting his hair. His hair now reaches halfway down his back. My husband hates it. He continually tries to convince both my grandson and his father (our son) that the hair should be cut and he should get a "boy" haircut. Because he hasn't

been able to make this happen, he has started to insult and bully both my son and my grandson.

This baffles me because as a teenager, my husband had long hair. I've tried discussing it with my husband, but he can't seem to see our grandson as anything but a walking, talking head of hair. It has gotten so bad that my son has suggested that we limit our time with them.

Could you suggest an approach that will help my husband see his grandchild for what he is instead of focusing on his looks? — *Sad Grandma*

Dear Grandma: Your husband needs to cut it out. Whether it's coming from a kid at school or a grandparent, bullying is never OK.

Press the question of why it bothers him so much that your grandson has long hair. Ask him whether he can remember when he grew his hair out as a younger person, and then ask why he did it and how it made him feel if adults ever gave him a hard time about it.

What matters most is that your grandson is healthy and that you have a relationship with him — something that won't exist if he keeps this up.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've had long enough to sort this out on your own. The bottom line is that you'll work faster and smarter with a worthy partner. All indications point to joining forces.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your energy makes strangers feel comfortable, which is why you'll have some unexpected conversations today in which you learn valuable information that will guide a future endeavor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can roam the world without buying a plane ticket, travel wherever you need to be without moving a muscle. By living fully in the moment you close the expanse. Distance is no longer far.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You would give advice if you thought they would follow it, or even listen to it, for that matter. Your way would most certainly work. In fact, you could apply it to another area in your life right now and get instant results.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Willpower and self-control require energy — a lot of energy, and a type of energy you've only a finite amount of at the start of each day. You can avoid taxing this supply by taking yourself out of temptation's way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You feel, in a sense, that you're training another person to be in a relationship with you. At the end of this day, be sure to reflect back on what has transpired and really ask yourself, "Who was training whom?"

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do not lament the impermanence of beauty. But for its ephemeral qualities, beauty would not exist at all. Grasping won't keep it from slipping away, but there is always a new bud of loveliness waiting to be discovered.

> **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're able to attach to loved ones with a super-glue bond. If you've ever had such a bond on your own fingers, you know to seek the correct chemical agent (or emotional process, as it were) for loosening it before pulling apart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Artistic expression is a stress reliever. Unlike other activities like team sports and social clubs, accountability to your art isn't necessarily built into the deal. Make the effort to create artistic habits and systems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're just not impressed by mediocre efforts to snag your attention. You keep wondering: (SET ITAL) Do I really have time for this? (END ITAL) There's the potential to be extremely charming even as you turn someone down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you have a lot of friends, it's inevitable that some of them are going to be the type who take more than they give. It will balance out, so don't concern yourself too much now, but don't ignore the signals, either.

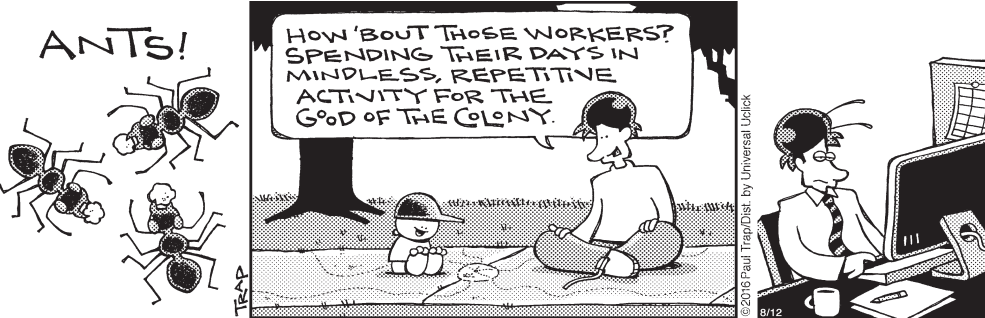
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This is a mental game you're playing. An equal dose of challenge and rest will keep your intellect keen. The challenge will come from handling mundane activities with great style and grace.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 13). Stand up for yourself on the little things this year, because life is full of little things that add up to big things. Examine your close personal relationships with an eye to the future and who you want to be. Regardless of your age, you're still developing and you need to be nurtured. Tremendous luck comes in October. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 22, 1, 15 and 8.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



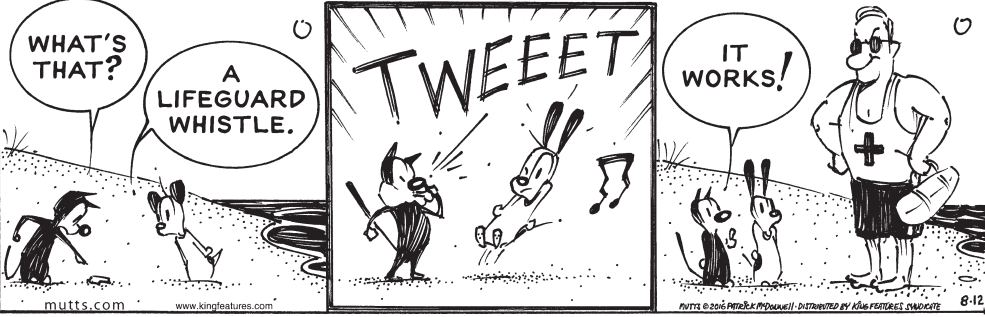
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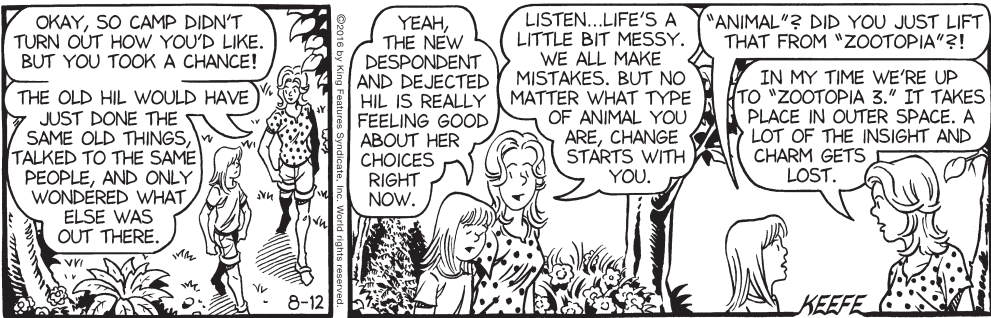
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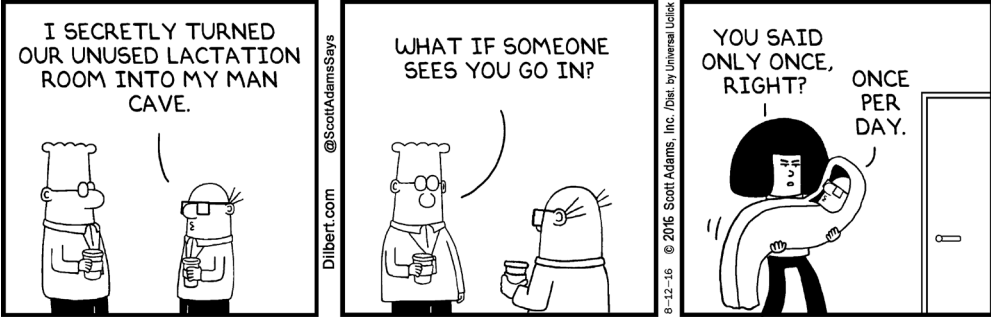
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