

Where's the job placement?

Dear Annie: A year ago, I signed up to do a shadowing certification course at a day care facility. Shadowing involves working as an assistant to a child with low- or high-functioning autism. "John," the instructor of the course, led me to believe that there would be a job placement at the end of the training. However, after several months of following up with him, I was still unable to find a job as a shadow, despite the fact that I had spent hundreds of dollars and many hours of time to finish the training.

Whenever I've tried to contact him about finding me a job, he has always made an excuse of having a personal family tragedy, and when I contacted him two months ago, he told me that he had been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, that he had lost his condominium and that his laptop had fallen in a lake. I would be inclined to believe John, but he exhibits many symptoms of a pathological liar. He told me he would refund me the money I spent on the training, yet every time I contact him, he uses his diagnosis as an excuse for not helping me, even though he said he wouldn't do that.

Dear Annie



By Annie Lane

Creators Syndicate Inc.

I would pursue legal action against John if I had the money, but I just want a straight answer out of him for why he scammed me like this. I've sent him text messages, which he has not answered. I have not phoned him, because I don't want to talk to him on the phone. I did not do this training for fun; I did it to find work, and I could not find this job myself without connections. I do not know whether John really has cancer or not, but I feel scammed and would like to know what I could do about it. — *Feeling Scammed in Montreal*

Dear Scammed: It sounds as if the only course John should be teaching is improv acting. I hate to say it, but I think he's a dead-end in your job search.

Nevertheless, was the certifi-

cation you received legitimate? If so, I wouldn't consider it a waste of money. That training could still land you a job. If the day care facility where you shadowed is still operational, why not go directly to management? You can also look elsewhere for positions that would allow you to work with children with autism. Just present your experience in the best possible light when applying; no need to mention scammers or laptops in lakes. Good luck.

Dear Annie: Please weigh in on people who work in public places addressing senior citizens by "honey," "sweetie" and other such terms. Isn't this a form of senior bullying? Your input on this subject would be appreciated, as I find this practice unacceptable. — *Senior in Connecticut*

Dear Senior: It's all in the tone. Yes, it can be demeaning and rude to call someone "sweetie" or "honey." But those are also terms of endearment. So try to take into account the speaker's intention.

Even so, I understand why you might be offended. So if you don't like it, just politely tell the people, "My name is actually (Mr. or Mrs. X)." That will set them straight.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you choose to speak up on matters (and there's much worth considering that will pull you in the opposite direction) then speak clearly and from a place of total knowledge.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even those who don't believe in intuition have experienced it. They chalk it up to their brain working all-of-a-sudden faster. Maybe so. Or maybe it's just working deeper and wider. Whatever it is, you'll get it today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Strategy is not needed in all relationships. Those open, comfortable relationships are so precious because you don't need to overthink anything. Still, those relationships require care, too: Think of it as maintenance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've developed quite a few ways of working around the people who stand in your way. When these are the same people you love with all your heart, it's harder — but still possible, if that's what's necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This is your life. You're sharing it so nicely, but still... it's yours. What about an adventure you go on by yourself? That hasn't happened recently, if only because you haven't made it happen. Now is as good a time as any!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The "What if?" game is a good way to break out of the confines holding you today. Get thinking about those "ifs," because some of them may actually be true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Impulsiveness can be a good quality or a bad one. You're not usually given to act on impulse, though you'll definitely feel them tapping your psyche today. To feel it is one thing. To

make your move is quite another.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whomever it is you're mad at, make up. Don't do it for them; do it for you. Your energy flying in that direction could be better spent. There are opportunities coming your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's the simple things. Love people who love you back. Eat foods that agree with you. Move your body and you'll move your life. You'll think better when you drink more water.

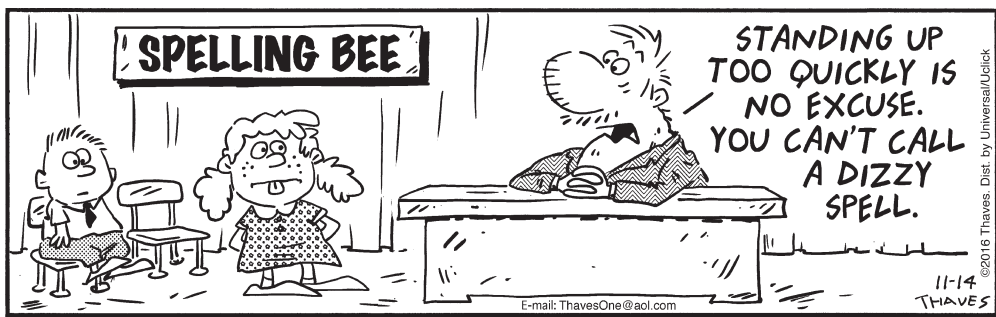
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Not everyone is going to be happy; that's a given. And yet, if you're doing your best, isn't it really *their* fault for setting an unrealistic expectation?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). First, just know that you don't have to have all of the answers. You don't even have to have one of them. Secondly, before you answer, think about how your answer is likely to change things.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Here's some great news: Your best is totally good enough! You have moxie. You have style. You have guts. And you're in the perfect place to use all of that for good.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 15). You're only greedy for the best things in life: love, beauty and truth. Because you seek them, this year will be unprecedented in its good fortune. The next 10 weeks will bring the presents straight to you, but after that you'll have to knock around to find opportunity. The initiative you show will bring you gold! Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 1, 44, 19 and 29.

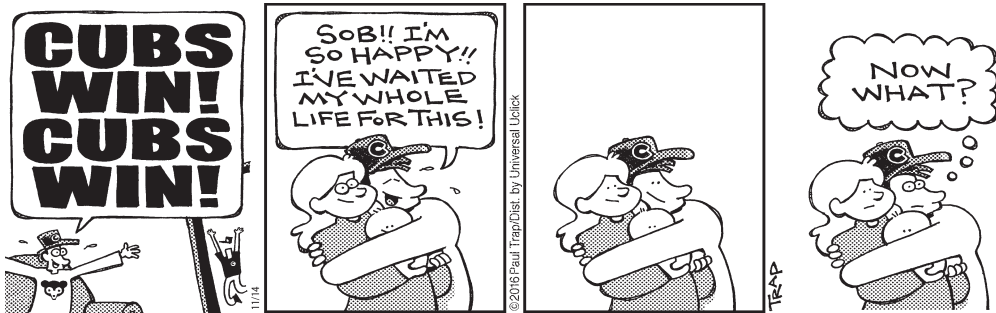
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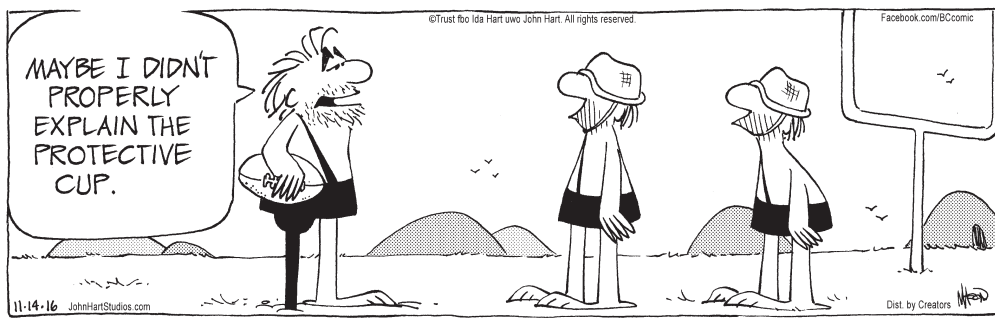
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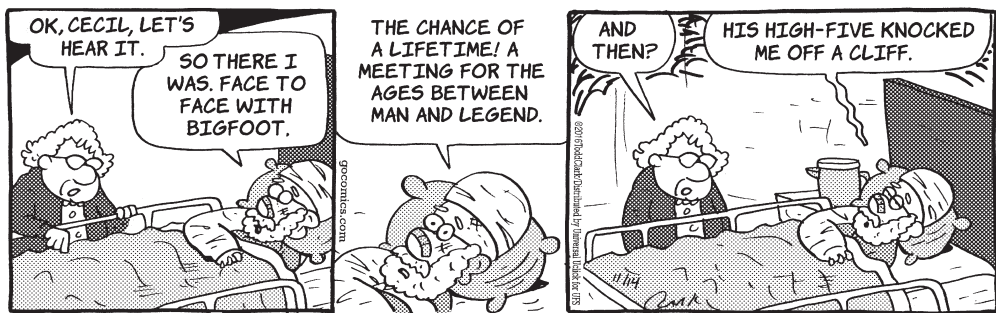
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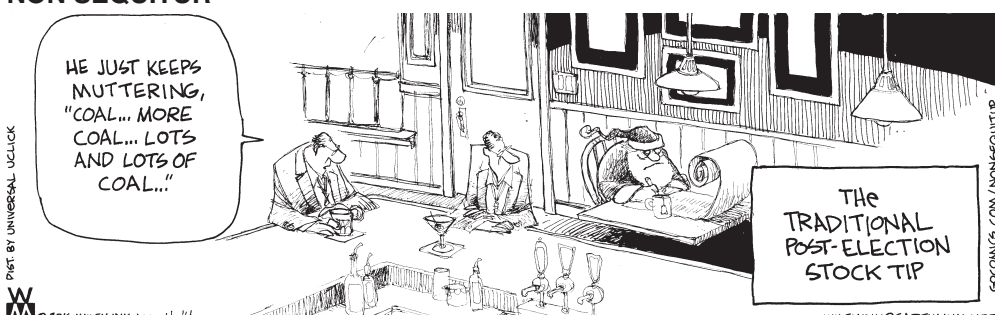
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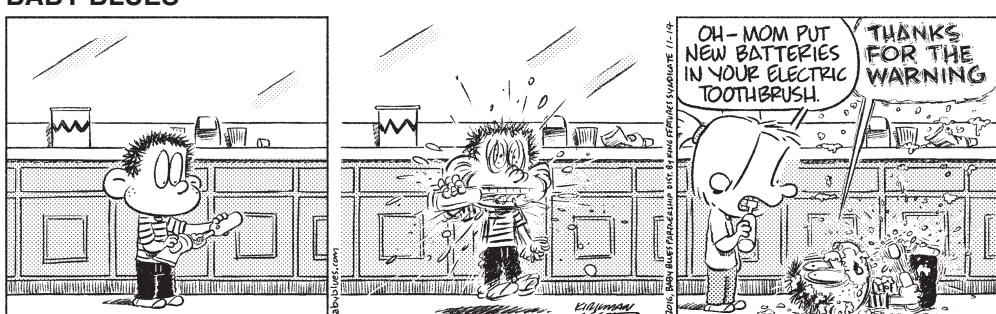
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