

She makes how much?

Dear Annie: I have 38 years of experience in the health care industry. I love my job and co-workers. I've been at my present job for 11 years. "Good work ethics, dependability, loyalty and honesty" is my work mantra. My co-worker "Samantha" has been here for a little over two years. She is doing a great job. Our duties are comparable. I enjoy working with her and care for her.

But she is a very close friend of my employer's and my office manager's, and I learned that she is making the same hourly wage as I. Her past experience was teaching preschool.

Needless to say, it has been hurtful; I feel slighted, and it has rattled my work confidence. Over the past 10 years, I have turned down three job offers that would have paid me a higher wage. My employer doesn't know this or realize my loyalty to the office. Retirement is three or four years away for me, but meanwhile, I would like to be treated fairly. Could you please offer me a solution or some advice?

— *Undervalued*

Dear Undervalued: Your experience speaks to the power of perspective. You went from being satisfied to feeling cheated, not because of any change in your job or the way your employer treated you but because you gained knowledge of your co-worker's salary. Still, I understand why you're irritated.

If you haven't gotten a raise in a while, now is the perfect time to request one. Highlight your dedication and work ethic to your manager just as you did in your letter. And if you don't get the answer you're looking for, make peace with the situation. Get back to your mantra. Keep your eyes on the horizon and the rainbow that is retirement. You're fortunate to have a job you love enough to turn down offers. Not many people can say that.

Dear Annie: So many people write to you about negativities in their lives. I wanted to write to you about a positive.

On Valentine's Day, my wife and I celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary.

In the mid-1960s, I lost a son;

then in January 1969, I lost my first wife. I found myself single, living in a rural area with five children. I was overwhelmed.

In late 1969, I went on a blind date with my current wife. I told her I had five children, and she said, "So?" This was unlike the couple of other dates I had before; those women would not even let me drive them home when I mentioned my five children.

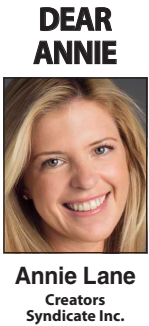
I drove home saying to myself, "I'm going to marry that woman!"

I feel blessed that my marriage has been full of love and respect. We made a vow to each other when we got married never to go to bed angry at each other. It was hard a few times, but we did it.

I am ready for another 47 years with her. I love her. — *Larry G.*

Dear Larry: Thank you very much for sharing your story. Life handed you some pretty sour lemons, and you made sweet lemonade. I am so happy for you and your wife and am sure that your son and first wife are smiling down from heaven.

What I love most about your letter is your gratitude. Having an attitude of gratitude has been scientifically proved to have many health benefits. Stay thankful.



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In an environment with strict rules that most are inclined to follow, new ways of thinking are hard to come by. But since the problem won't be solved without a good idea, you may want to go somewhere different to think about it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You won't be sorry if you err on the side of kindness and restraint today. This will be easier to do when you relax and get a little distance on the day's potentially tense situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It so often happens in life that it's not the best one who wins the prize; rather, the winner is the best fit for the particular prize. This is just one more reason not to take it too personally, win or lose.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just as a tree crashing in the forest does not count as a sound if there is no ear to hear it, your own creative impulses require a sounding board. Find one, or you won't be motivated to continue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Because you're inwardly quiet and outwardly observant today you will witness an instance of touching minutiae capable of expanding your heart like a sail to send you floating on the breezes of the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are many societal rewards being used to bribe you along a certain path. If they only knew that you have your own reasons for being on this journey, reasons far more rewarding than anything they could provide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Handling stress well is the skill to build on, as it will reward you time and again throughout your life. Learn how to better process bodily sensations associated with stress. It will be worth the time and money

you put into it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your happiness will be the result of following an impulse to explore and learn. Your research will lead you to concepts, next steps and, most importantly, people who can help you take them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've seen ravens, maybe hundreds of them, and they've all been black. It suggests, but doesn't prove, the color of all ravens. Use what you learn, but don't assume that all the facts are in yet.

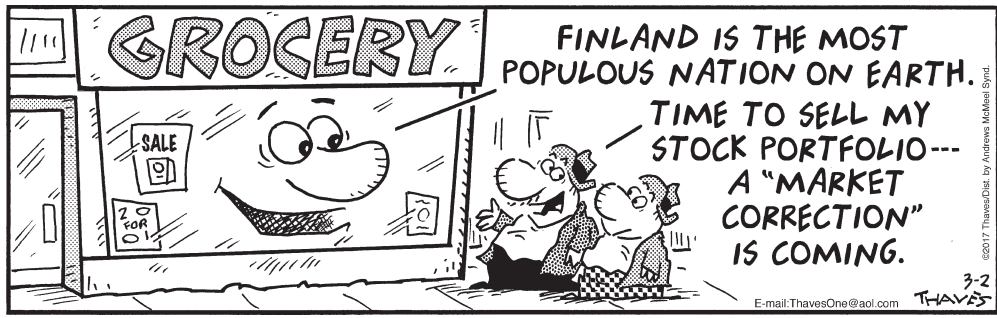
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The people who know you well can anticipate, among other things, your time of arrival, general appearance and the conversational topics you're likely to choose. But today you'll surprise them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though it may not be easy or even possible to change today's circumstances, it may very well be possible to change the way you experience them — a change that will absolutely help you reach your goal.

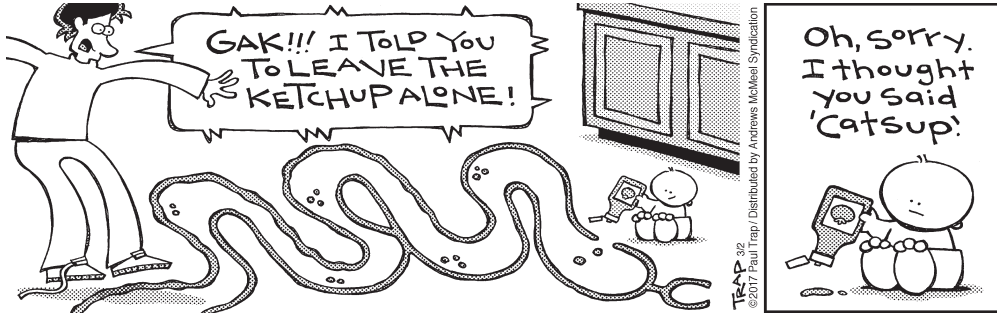
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your closest friends and loved ones are not always your best support system. You are right to cater your sharing to your audience. Let people earn the right to know certain things about you.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 3). Your presence makes hearts grow stronger. You'll never know what a difference you make this year just by showing up! Your powers of imagination are extra strong over the next 10 weeks, so imagine success. A structure around practicing your craft will put you in the running for more money in July and a prize in August. Capricorn and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 44, 48 and 30.

FRANK AND ERNEST



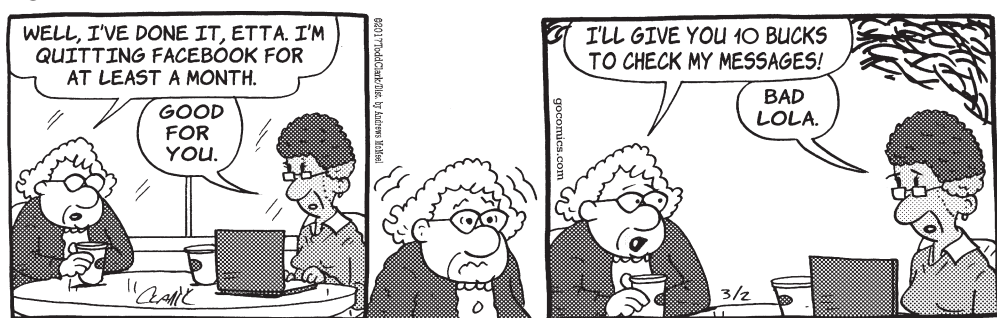
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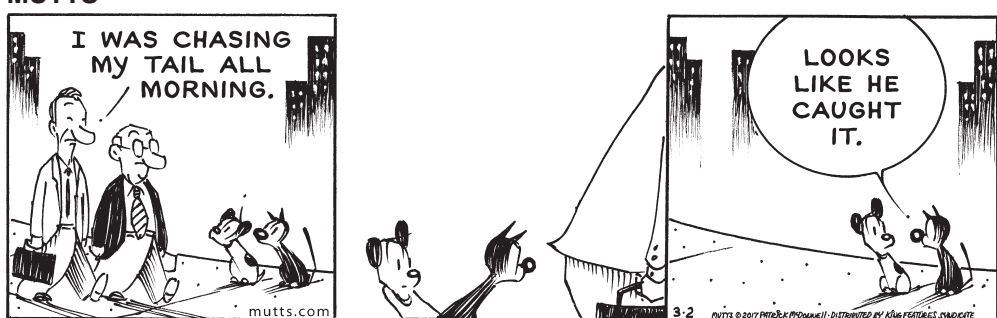
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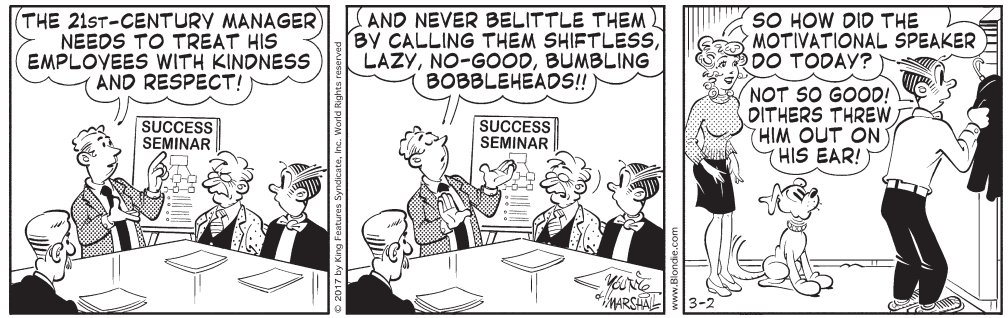
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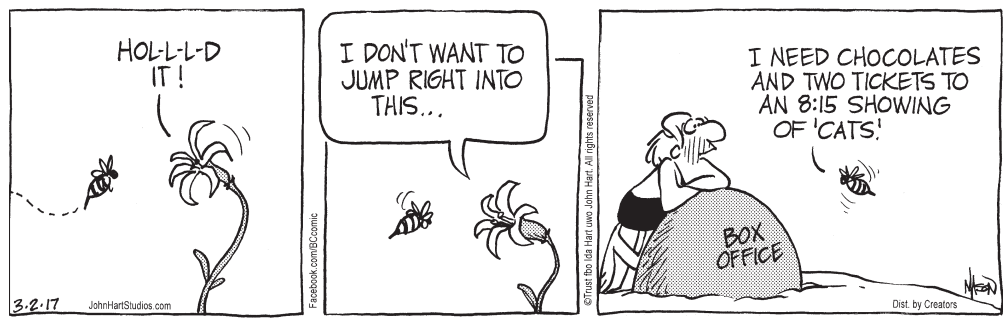
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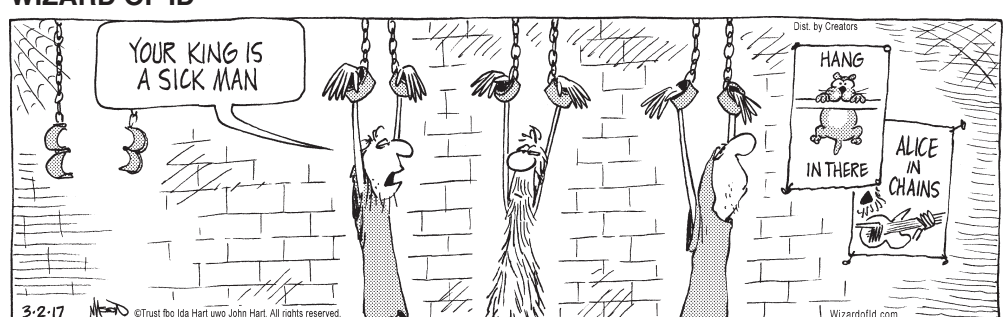
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