

Resource down the drain

Dear Annie: My roommate has an annoying habit. Every time he uses the bathroom, he keeps the water running. We live in a drought-ridden area, and I don't want to think about the amount of water he wastes each day. We've lived together successfully for just over a year now, without any real fights. I don't want to make a big deal out of this, but I do want him to get the impact of leaving the faucet on. We have separate bathrooms, so the first time I heard the running water was a few months into living together. I casually asked about it, and he said he's been self-conscious of bathroom noise since he was little. I didn't want to push it too much because it seemed to be a sensitive issue, but I mentioned the drought and how it might be a waste. He agreed but didn't change his actions. He pays the water bill, and I pay the cable, so it's not a matter of money. But I find myself super aware of every time he goes to the bathroom, which is not a habit I want. Annie, I'm not sure how to approach him about this again or how to stop caring so much. Got any advice? — *Water Waster*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Water Waster: You could suggest to your roommate that he buy a fan or a noise machine so he can get the effect of running water without the waste. But at the end of the day, bathroom habits are highly personal, and you can't control your roommate's. So the most practical advice here: Be the change you want to see in the environment. Compensate for his overuse of water by reducing your usage. Visit <https://wateruseitwisely.com> for some creative ideas on how to do that.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Mom Running in Circles," whose daughter is in her 20s and constantly goes to her with problems yet seems uninterested in solutions.

Years ago, I became a volunteer for a crisis line. Before we picked up a phone to help, we had 60 hours of training by psychologists and other educators so that we could be effective in dealing with our callers. I, being a parent of four children, learned a great deal that stuck with me. One of the major things I learned was to not give out solutions to a problem.

Children whose parents are

willing to solve their problems for them turn them into adults who rely on others to do the same thing.

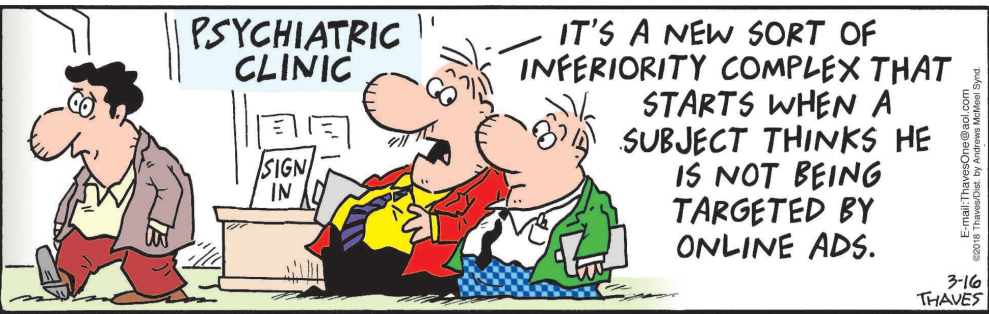
When children have a math problem that they need to solve, do you give them the answer? No! To be successful in math, they have to learn the process and come up with the answer.

When helping adults with problems, we ask, "Have you been in this or a similar situation before? How did you deal with it? Were you successful?" If you solve people's problems yourself, you weaken them in the long run. If you aid people in solving problems themselves, you help to strengthen them.

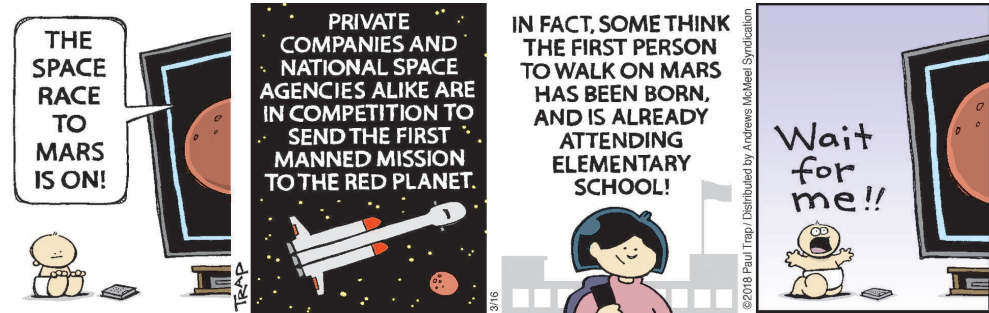
The daughter of "Mom Running in Circles" doesn't need therapy; she needs someone to listen and help her to see the solutions that she can come up with. If you want independent children, help them to learn to solve their own problems. It may make you feel good as a parent of children to solve their problems for them, but not so much as a parent of adult children. — *Not the Solver*

Dear Not the Solver: So well-said. Thank you for sharing your insights from parenthood and your time as a volunteer on a crisis hotline. I agree totally.

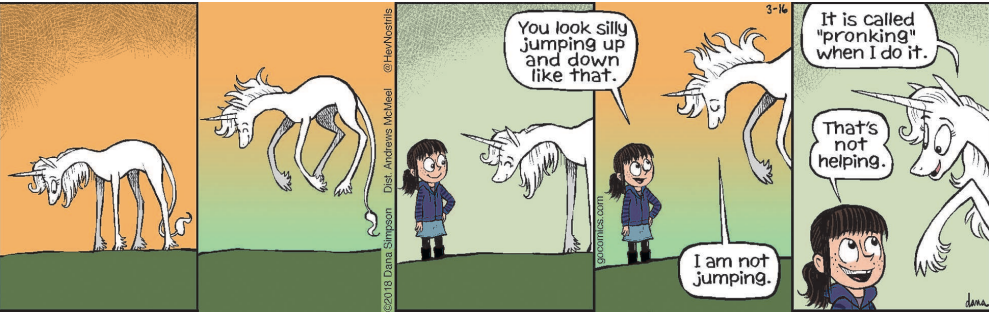
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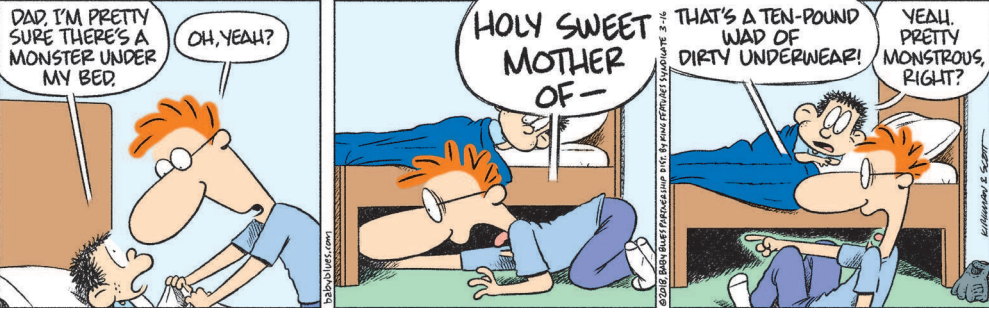
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anticipation can enhance or detract from an experience. The wait can make the experience seem more amazing, or, if it wasn't worth the wait, underwhelming. Before you play the waiting game, calculate your odds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Take the relationship on your terms, not the other person's. Hopefully both of your terms match up pretty well so you don't have to make a big deal out of this. But if it happens that you have to choose, choose yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll prove your value to others then add more value and then double that. It's really not for them. This is like the reps a bodybuilder does to get into top form. Your reps are building your character.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As for grabbing the brass ring, the way to do it is to take a calculated and confident leap. Don't impulsively lunge for it: You may lose your balance. If you're not quite ready this time, let it pass. Wait until it comes around again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're getting increasingly invested in a casual arrangement, and it's time to make sure you're getting something back. Think about what's fair, and then think about what you really want, fair or not.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). For the majority, memory is among the more imperfect record-keeping systems. And even though yours is better than most, don't rely on memory for what's precious to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's an ugly thing when the privileged undervalue their gifts. You certainly wouldn't want to commit that crime. (You might be surprised who sees you as privileged.) Don't devalue what you have

with overly modest words.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your favorite relationships of the weekend will be the ones that promise you excitement, fun, connection and mutual respect. Actually, they don't even have to promise: An implication will be enough to go on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While some scientific evidence suggests that enlarging your social circle may lengthen your life, other studies point to the healthful necessity of solitude. Whether you give love to them or you, love is still the answer.

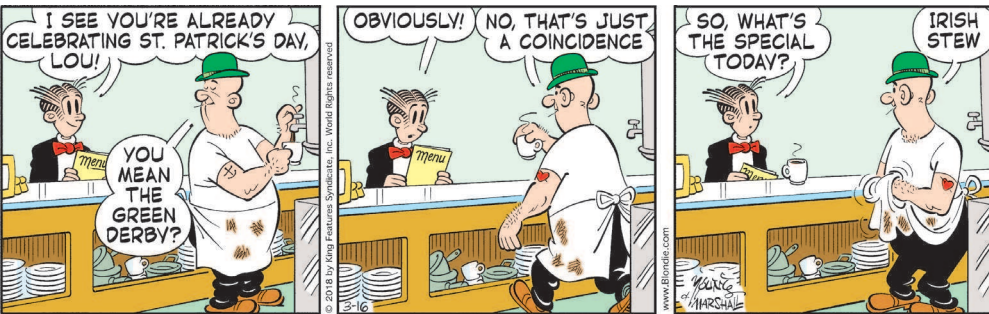
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The energy of judging people is rotten regardless of the semantics. The verbiage is really irrelevant because it all boils down to the same tone of superiority. Leave the conversation. Go where you feel the love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'd rather not give the situation a definition or a label just yet. You're enjoying yourself! The fun you're having is contagious, and your playful spirit keeps it continuous as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are open to the gift of intuition and will be frequently and boldly guided by divine forces. Through this month, keep asking your higher self what the most advantageous next step might be.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 17). Creating your own joy is your chief responsibility. You'll have the guts to decide what's important and dismiss the rest. Because your loved ones mean so much to you, their needs make it on the list, too — but you've healthy boundaries about this. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 13, 49, 12 and 1.

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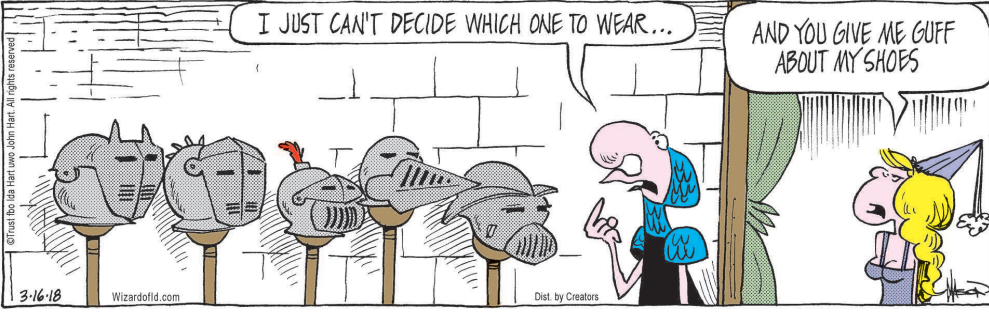
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