

Son not paying back mom's loan

Dear Annie: A few years ago, one of my sons needed funds for support during some difficult times. I explained that I would help but that I needed the funds to be returned. His spouse was checking other avenues to gather it.

It has now been over three years since the loan was given. In that time, they have purchased a second vehicle and even gone on a vacation to Disney World.

Recently, they were having an issue with one of their cars. My husband (my son's stepfather) fixed it for them. When my son asked how much he owed for the repair, my husband said, "Just pay your mom what you owe her."

I have yet to receive the money, and we have had several family functions. I love my family, but I am not an ATM. This hurts me to my heart. I raised my kids as a single mom and a veteran and thought I instilled good values in them. I guess that doesn't apply to all. — *Confused and Disappointed*

Dear Confused and Disappointed: Your son should keep his word and pay you back without your having to prompt him, but "should" doesn't put money in the bank. It's time to speak up and speak firmly. As you said, you're not an ATM. You're an autonomous person with a voice. Now use it. Tell your son directly — not just through your husband — that you expect him to pay you back in full within three months (or however long you deem acceptable). Draft up a contract with a timetable, and have him sign it. There's no guarantee of his repayment unless you want to get an attorney involved, and I don't get the impression you do. But he might be moved (i.e., shamed) to action once he sees how serious you are.

Lastly, don't blame yourself for his lack of accountability. No matter how strongly we impress values upon our children, it's up to them to see that they stick in adulthood.

Dear Annie: I could have written the letter from "Tired of the Tips." I, too, suffer from migraines and am tired of the tips. People think they are being helpful, but what they are actually doing is negating years of pain and making me feel as if I have to justify being in pain. If you want something to say, please stick with something like this: "I am so incredibly sorry. That sounds awful." Please don't mention an uncle who had something vaguely similar or some special treatment or medication you've heard about.

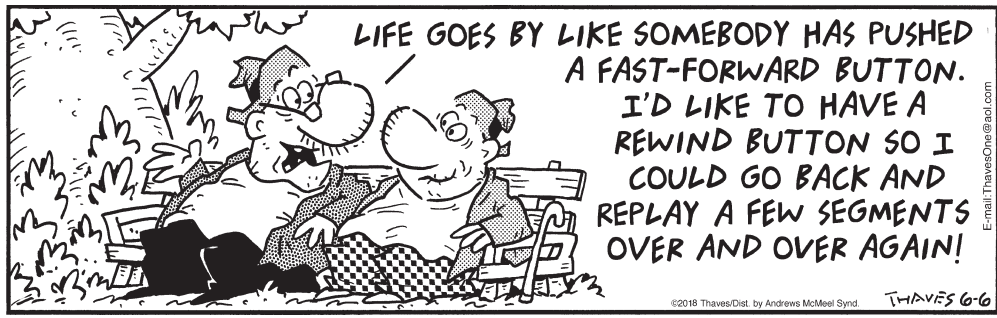
I know "Tired of the Tips" is tired of tips, but if he or she wants a tip for dealing with the constant unwanted comments about his or her migraines, I have found that when I want people to know I will be indisposed for the week but don't want any unsolicited advice, I say I am dealing with chronic paroxysmal hemicrania. It sounds sufficiently painful for people to accept as serious but too medical for them to feel comfortable with offering advice. I hope "Tired of the Tips" can find a little comfort in knowing there are others who have this frustration. — *Yes, I Have Tried Excedrin*

DEAR ANNIE

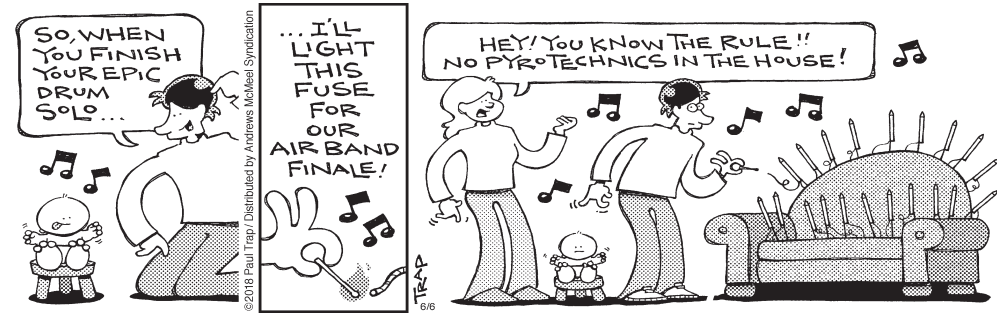


Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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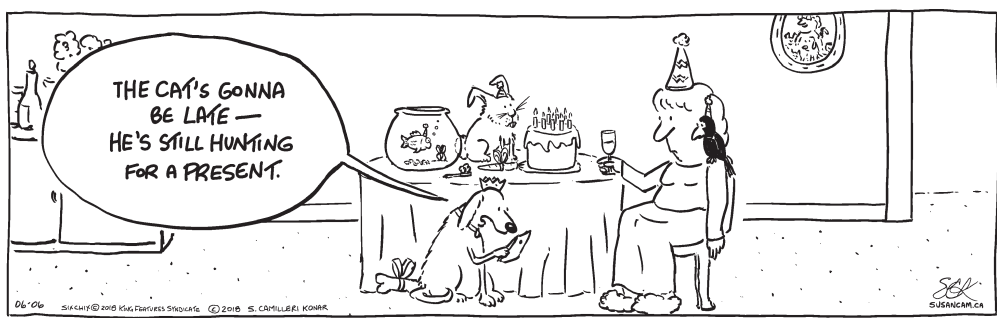
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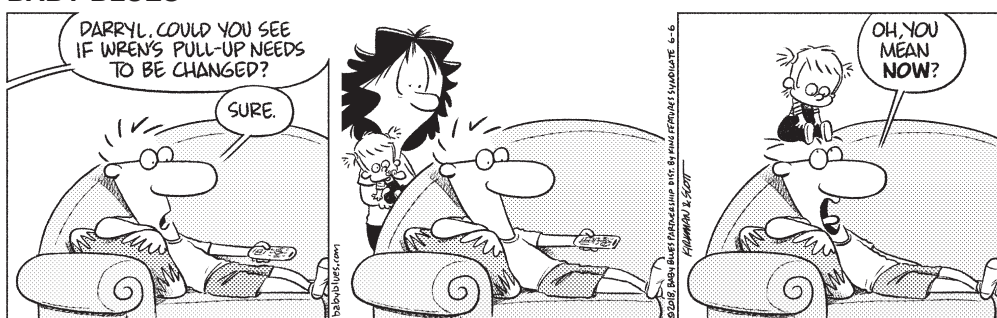
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anyone can listen closely to the story they enjoy, the information that flatters them, the music and people they prefer. But it's those who know how to tune in to the messages and tones they don't like who will become smarter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For business to run smoothly, communication will be essential. Over-communicate. Communicate redundantly! Whether hearing or telling a story, it will be better to err on the side of repetition.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As for the conversation you've been putting off, this is the time to have it. Those who need to hear you will be all ears. Your words, planned and unplanned, will eloquently tumble out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Creation and destruction are part of the same cycle, though they run on different timetables. What takes years to build can be destroyed in a blink. So while destruction is necessary to creation, often the smallest amount will do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may feel that you still have something to prove to yourself, or something you can do to become worthy of your own acceptance. So what would it take for you to become your own best friend and supporter across the board?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you feel that your peers are providing undue pressure, consider that you may be inadvertently giving them reason to believe you're on the brink of agreeing with them. Walk away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the name of smooth business, it wouldn't hurt to spend a few minutes "catastrophizing" — that is to say, coming up with a handful of worst-case scenarios and what you'd do in each case. With preparation comes

confidence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're perfectly capable of rational thought and communication. However, as you wisely lead with your emotional intelligence, logic gives way to something that, on the surface at least, makes less sense: the poetry of the heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't afford to let the vagaries of communication distract from, diffuse or cover up the truth. You can get to the bottom of it with direct questions, as long as you make people feel that it's safe to be honest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be a teacher today, so you may as well be an excellent one. Excellent teachers communicate clearly to impart information and skills in a structure that best facilitates student comprehension and absorption.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've learned this lesson before, but it bears repeating now: If you think someone can't fail and you treat him or her accordingly, the relationship is doomed. Instead, see the flawed humanity and give your love anyway.

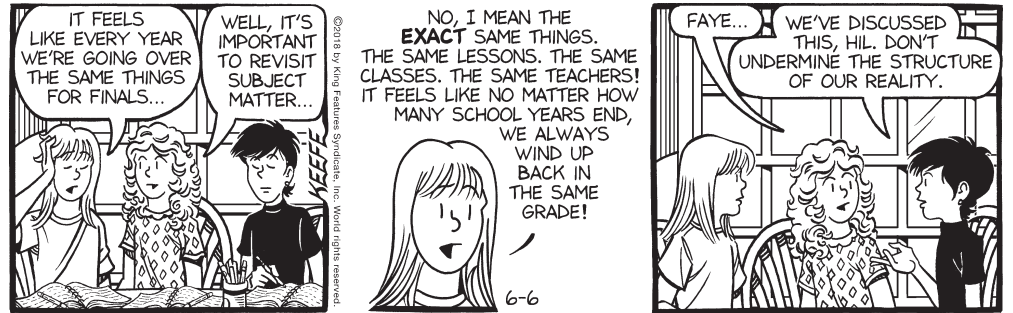
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It will be particularly difficult to see people for who they are because you can't help but be blinded by the possibilities you notice about what they might be able to do for you. Make your expectations known. Accountability will be key.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (June 7). The focus will be on habits. Daily practice will lead to an exceptional performance and financial remuneration. What could be better? You'll achieve a goal, develop your potential and participate fully in your community and wider society. The insights you share in 2019 could alter the course of an entire organization. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 5, 30 and 13.

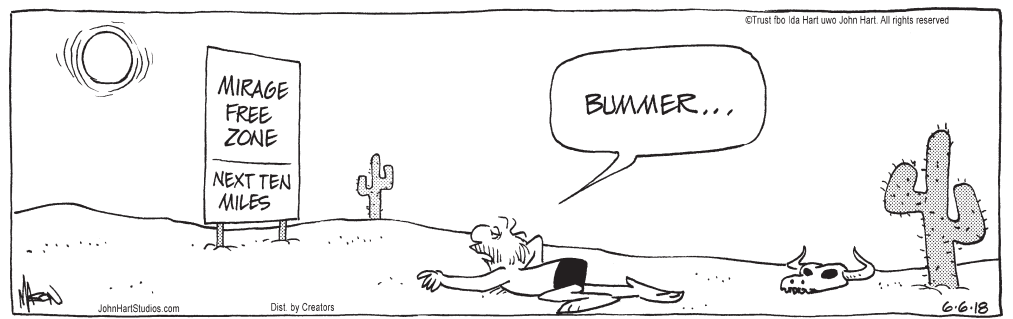
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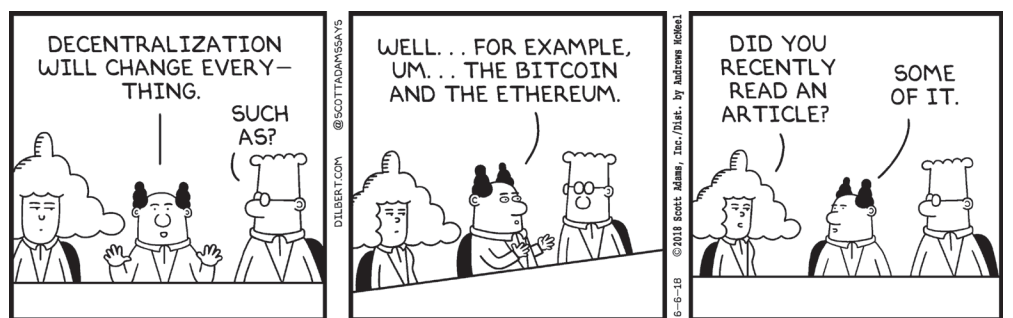
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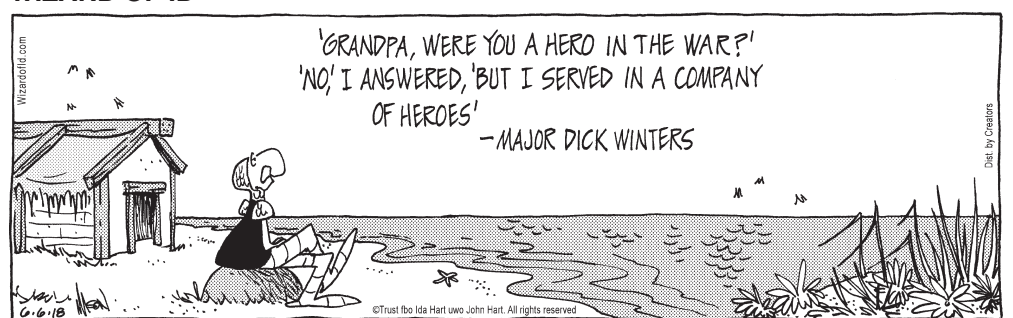
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