

Old dog, new tricks, new job

Dear Annie: I'm an old guy with some advice for other older people in the workforce. I've been a contract attorney working in health care for over 30 years. When I got let go from my company three years ago after 15 years, I'm telling you, finding another job was the hardest job I've ever had. It made the real jerks I had dealt with and stress that had put me on blood pressure meds look easy to handle.

The problem wasn't my expertise or seniority (or maybe it was; companies want young guys who work double the time for half the pay). It was that I had ignored or avoided networking my whole career. I didn't have work buddies. No LinkedIn page. If I had to go to conferences, I'd only be there for the minimum time. Maintaining relationships seemed awkward and unimportant until I had no paycheck coming in and didn't know whom to call for help.

I spent a couple of months in career coaching and found a bunch of colleagues on LinkedIn. (They were surprised to

see me!) My granddaughter (in her 20s) even looked over my resume. I finally got hired after nine months. It was a humbling experience, to say the least. Now I spend one hour a week being active on LinkedIn, and I've helped three former associates find jobs. It's nice to pay it forward.

So to all the other old folks out there, take it from me. Just make the effort. You never know where it could lead you or how important it could be. — *Not-So-Social Social Networker*

Dear Not-So-Social: Congratulations on the new job. I applaud your perseverance. Social networking has always been an important part of job hunting; it's just that now a lot of it takes place over digital networks. I'd also encourage any job seekers who have been resistant to using social media to give it a try.

Dear Annie: I have a different tactic for "Quiet for Now," who is being sexually harassed by her husband's friend. The next time he makes his moves, she should say loudly enough

to be noticed, "Please leave me alone. I'm tired of having to push you away, and I am not interested." Creeps like to get what they can in secret, and shining a light on the behavior will probably embarrass him enough that he'll think twice before approaching another woman like that, and if his wife and the others hear, well, that's probably a good thing.

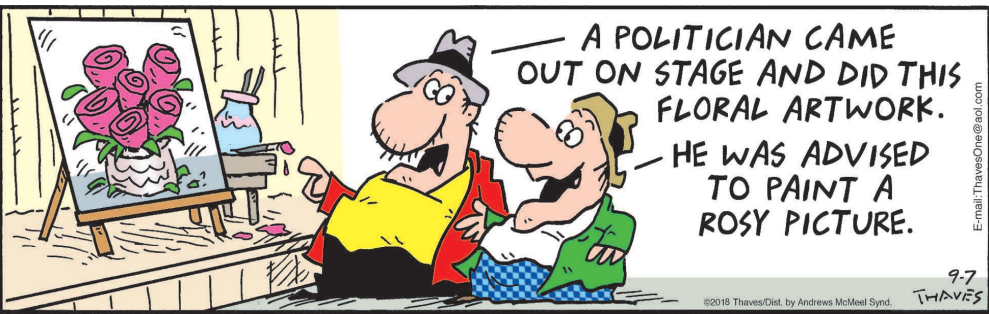
This does not address telling her husband, and of course, she should if not telling him is building a wall between them. However, if her husband were to confront this loser, he'd say it was an accident or he must have had too many drinks or something like that, covering it with an apology. (Experience talking here.) Confrontation at the moment will be much harder for him to lie his way out of.

I teach my daughters that if a boy or man is harassing them, they should tell him loudly and publicly to back off. It's not usually our nature to do that, but it should be. — *Been There, Too*

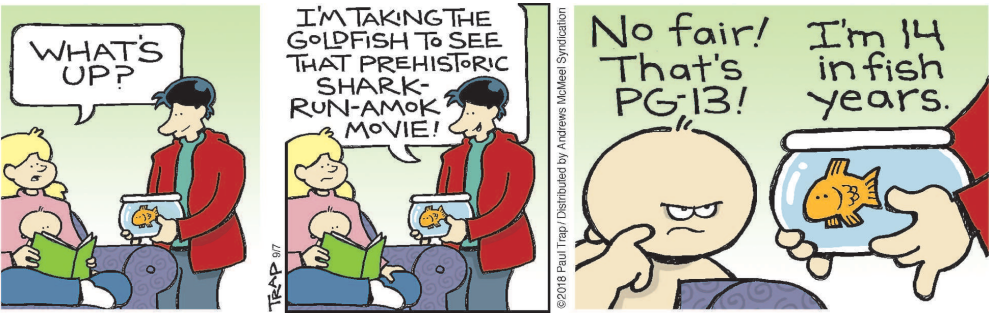
Dear Been There, Too: I'm printing your letter because you make a fantastic point. Thank you for writing.



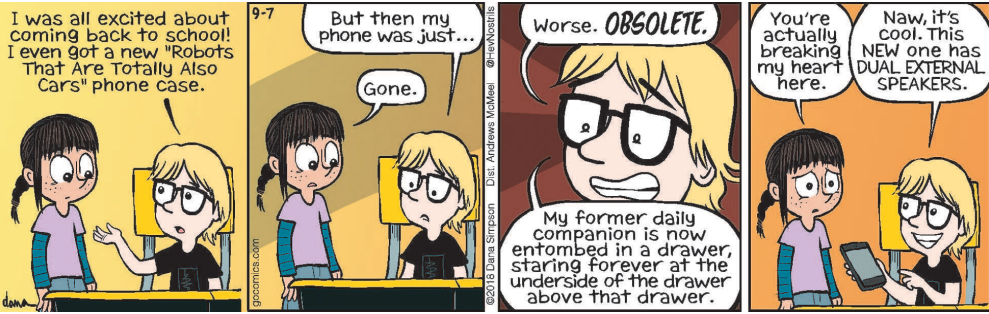
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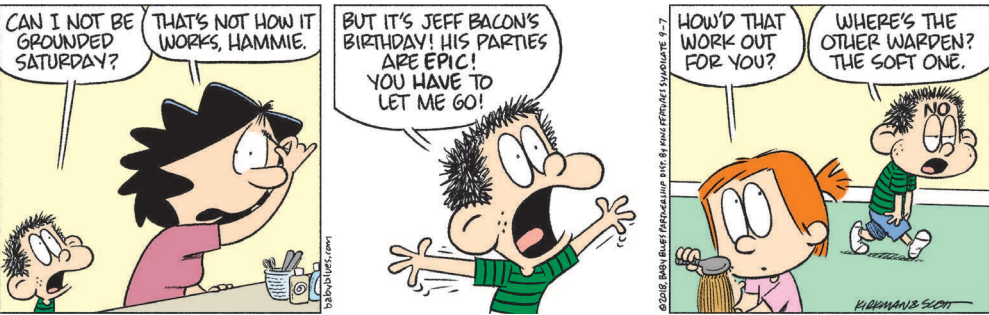
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TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A special friendship is gathering momentum. Not only is it bigger than the sum of its parts but also it's as though the relationship is an entity with a life all its own, independent and distinct of the two of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What matters to you personally matters in the larger scheme, too. How could it not? You're an integral part of this web of life. You may not see or feel that all of the time, but never stop believing it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Moods come and go, but the product of them often lingers. Symbols of good times and bad may be scattered around your psyche and/or your house, and if you can proactively manage them, you'll be better off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Friends will offend and disappoint. This is practically a hallmark of friendship, as a certain level of intimacy is needed for this to occur. The good will far outweigh the bad if you stick with it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are power-ups in this game of life. They come in the form of uplifting people, bright and shining situations, inspiring media and tools to pick up that energize you or give you special powers. Seize the opportunities; they will be plentiful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Subtle power conflicts will be at play, so pay attention. It's all in the face. If anyone can smooth things over with charm, you're the one to do it. You'll ease tensions before they get out of hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you're not sure whether you can do it or not, you're smart. The crisis of confidence only happens to people who live in the real world, observe their surroundings and assess their risks

with skill. A realistic point of view will pay off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who will use a situation for all its worth and then move along when something better comes. Loyalty is important. Weigh your next move carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're a self-creation, but not entirely, of course. And that line you'll walk between forming yourself and adapting yourself will be the main interest of the day.

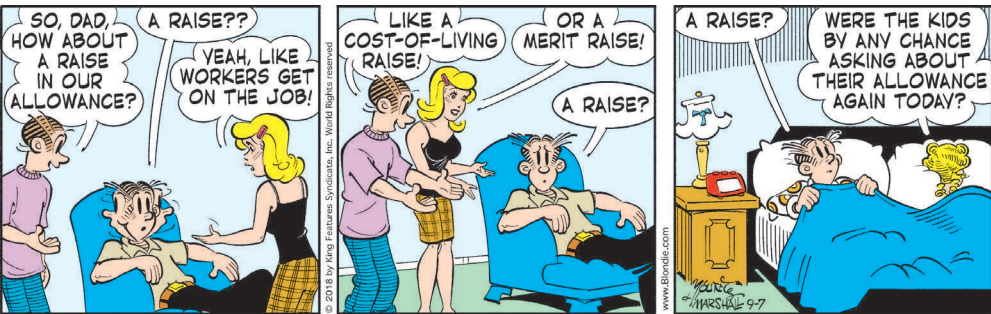
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be surrounded by comfortable, accepting, fun-loving people, and you'll feel free to be yourself. This is a gift. Later, the hard-nosed types come in with their lofty expectations, and that will be a gift of a different kind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You won't just join the conversation; you'll give yourself over to it and let it lift you like a magic carpet into worlds unknown. Ask a good question, open your ears, and get ready to be carried away.

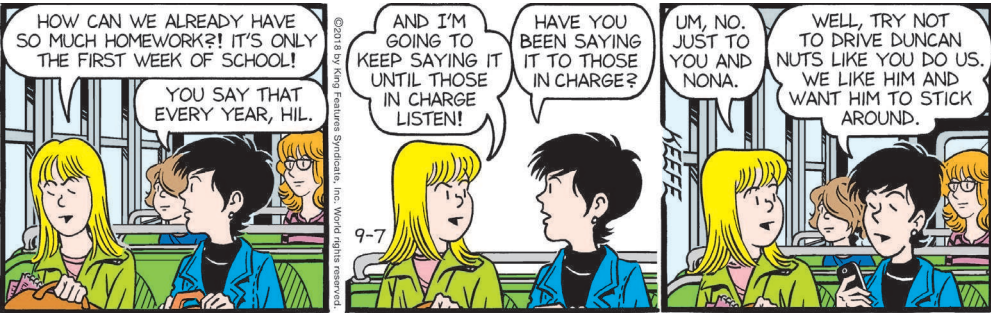
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is sometimes necessary to be very discriminating and critical of the world, though too much analyzing is likely to cut you off from the natural, giddy, carefree joy that is your gift today.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8). This solar return comes with emotional complexity. You won't always understand why you feel the way you do, but it's how you channel these strong feelings into action that matters. Your actions will net you your heart's desire in many categories. Let logic rule the tail of 2018. Then, in the new year, go with your gut. Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 5, 28 and 35.

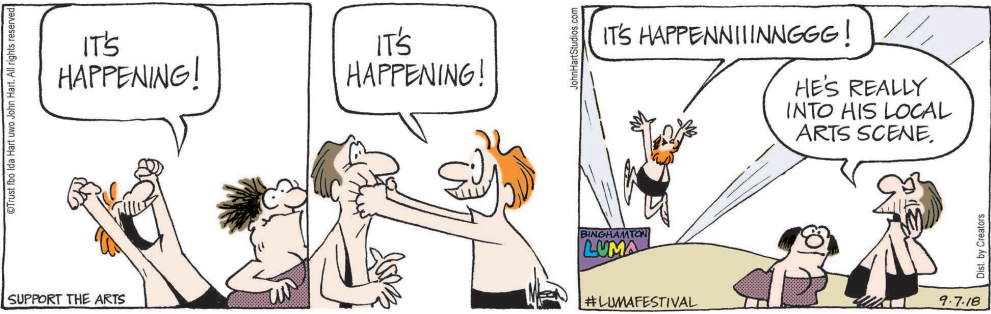
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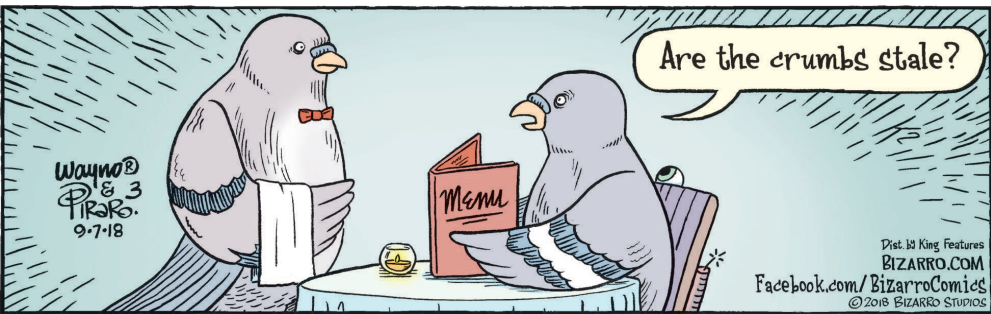
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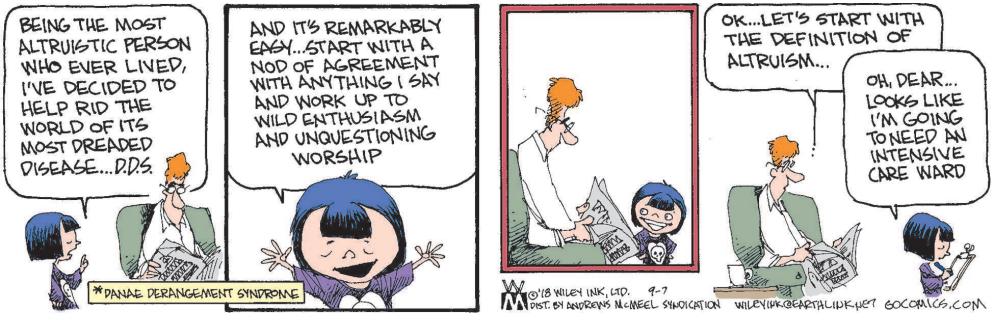
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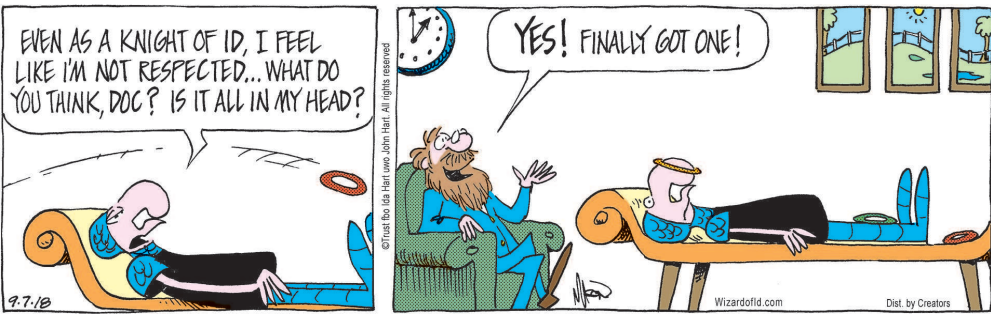
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