

Do parents need to know?

Dear Annie: I wrote to you several months ago. I'm "Trapped by Parents." I have a disability that has caused me to have great difficulty in both obtaining and retaining jobs. The resulting lack of income has forced me to live with my parents. My parents are obsessed with the idea that employment is the only answer. Yet many others have suggested that I apply for Social Security Disability Insurance. My parents have the key to the safe-deposit box with the needed documents and have been refusing to let me access it. I took your advice and quietly ordered my own copies through the relevant agencies. Meanwhile, I have applied for disability and will soon have a hearing. Should I be successful in obtaining it, do you have any suggestions about how to tell my parents? — *Behind Their Backs*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
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parents held your documents hostage before, I think you'd be wise to keep your plans to yourself for the time being. You are an adult, and you do not have to disclose your every decision to your parents, especially when it would very likely create further tension and strife for everyone involved. It's not dishonesty; it's privacy. Perhaps you can be more open with them in the future, once you are settled and have established healthy boundaries. Best of luck with your hearing.

Dear Readers:

Recently, I printed a letter from "Paulie," who wonders why people sometimes say "I apologize" instead of "I'm sorry." She thinks the former is less sincere than the latter. I told her that I was sure I'd hear from a lot of readers on this subject, and hear I did. The following are a few different takes on the topic.

Longtime teacher: As a schoolteacher for 28-plus years, I always tried to get children to own their responsibility

in situations and "apologize" or say "I'm sorry." And I reminded the person who was receiving the apology not to say "it's OK" but instead to say "I appreciate your apology, but I'll believe that you mean it when you change your actions." Words are nice, but they're meaningless unless the individual truly shows he or she is sorry by choosing not to repeat the offense.

JSH: I grew up in the rural South. The word "sorry" was sometimes used to reference someone who was considered lazy or unmotivated. For example, "a sorry, good-for-nothing slob." So I was taught to use "I apologize" to make amends instead, as the word "sorry" carried a very different connotation that one should not use to describe his or her own character.

M. Brown: "Sorry" is an adjective; "apologize" is a verb. Linguistically, verbs are stronger than adjectives, because verbs state actions and adjectives just modify nouns. So an act to "apologize" conveys a stronger position than feeling "sorry."

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). On the one hand you know what you must do, and on the other you just don't feel like it. And getting your feelings aligned in the direction of your goals isn't quite as easy as you'd like, but if you can do this, you can do anything.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationships should not be left unattended for too long. They are like gardens that, untended, will grow in strange directions or not at all. You care, so you'll put the time in to make a thing beautiful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is each person's responsibility to fill up the emotional tank. Do you know what you need? Today it's physical exercise, professional fulfillment and interesting hobbies that will contribute most significantly to your well-being.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The luckiest thing you can do today is to go where you've never been. Don't wait for someone you know to join you. Take yourself. Something as simple as breathing different air will make a big difference to your mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't be surprised if you get what you wanted and find out that it doesn't stop the yearning. It's just a sign that it wasn't what you wanted after all. Strive to understand, in the deepest way, what you really need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People show and feel caring differently. The closer these match up, the happier the relationship will be. Chances are, someone is caring for you in ways you don't recognize as care.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The outside world will feel like a dream. If this doesn't suit your sensibility, turn to your inside world which is where you'll feel most awake. There, discovery awaits you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It would be nice to wake up feeling full of confidence, but it doesn't always work that way. For instance, today it works like this: Someone believes in you, and then you start believing in yourself more, and too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People will inspire you with their stories and maybe you'll even start a program based on the inspiration. Know that things will happen differently for you because every person's journey is different. Just focus on yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will be lucky to stimulate your mind with challenges not found at home. You don't know what exactly these challenges will be, and you don't have to seek them either. Just go out into the world and they'll be there for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're due an apology. Even though many of the mistakes that were made were unintentional, you still feel a deficit — like something has to be made right. Until this happens, there's a sense of being incomplete.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you see it, you take pleasure in the happiness of others. You prefer to do this in person, as even the prettiest picture on social media can be secretly unhappy. You want to see the joy for yourself.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 19). The adventures will have higher stakes and bigger payoffs. It's because you've established a certain basis of trust between you and yours... and more importantly between you and you. Other delights of the solar return will include the sweet revenge of success, a moment of poetic justice and a fun purchase. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 2, 22 and 28.

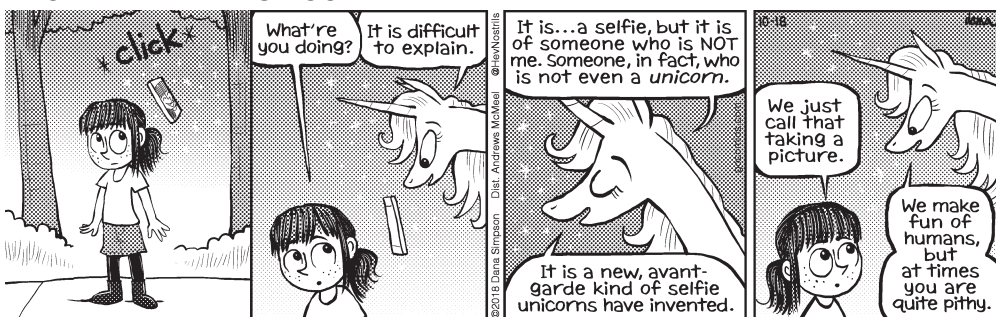
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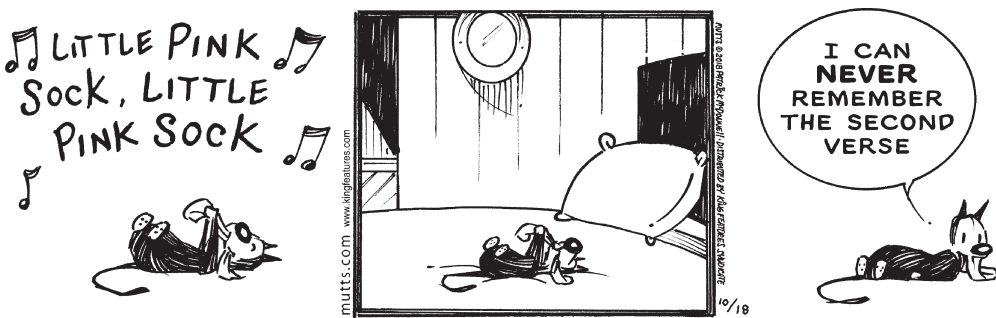
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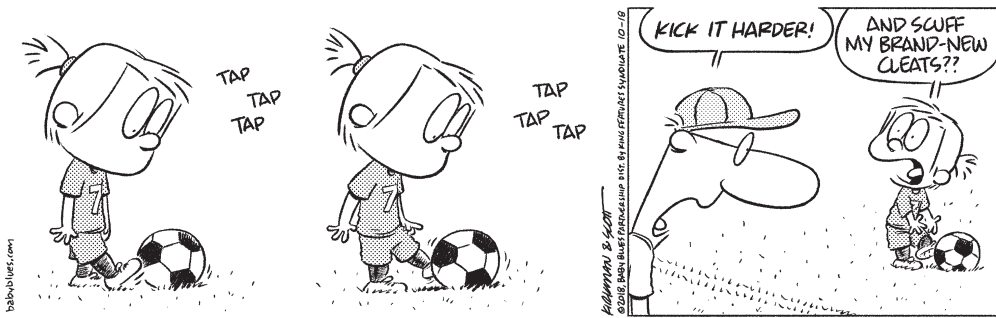
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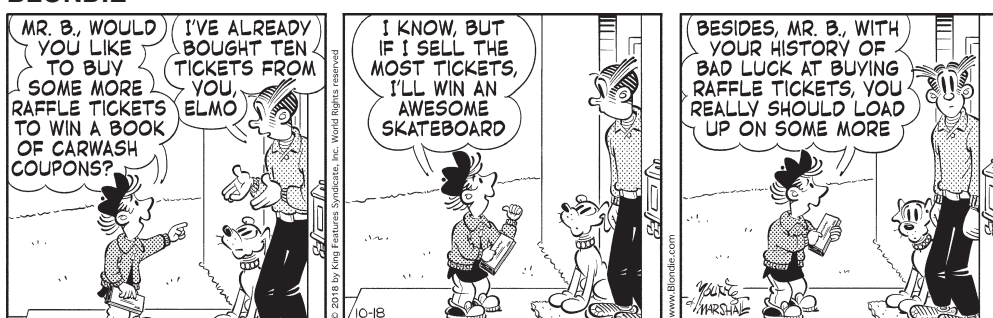
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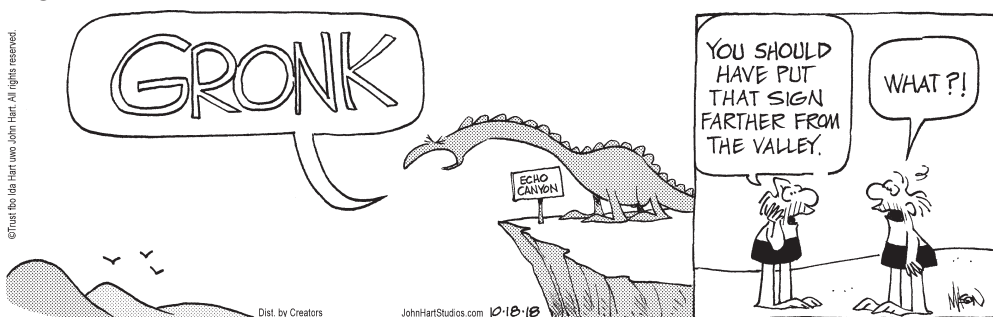
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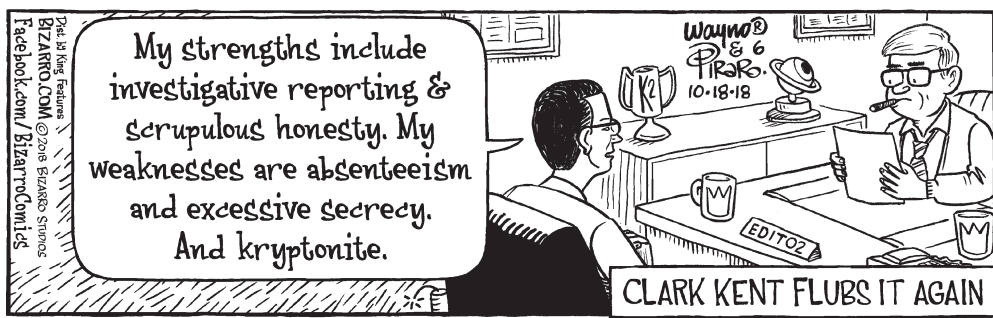
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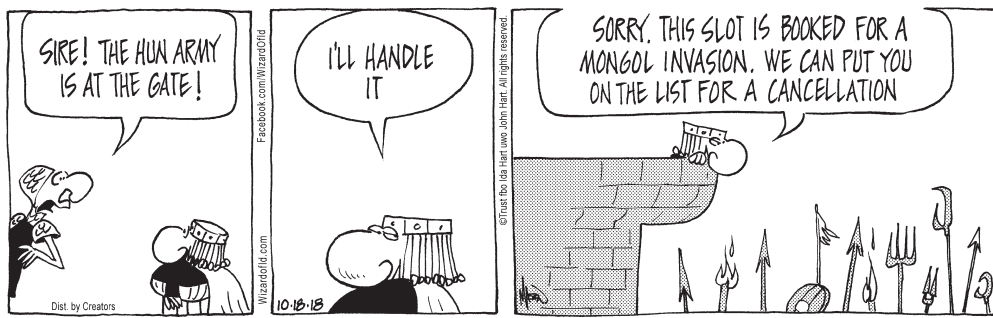
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