

# Assumptions can hurt your friends

**Dear Annie:** I have known one of my friends, "Pam," for more than 50 years, and at times she has been a very good friend. She and her husband introduced me to my now-ex-husband and were both in my wedding party.

Last year, I had a disagreement with a mutual friend, "Sharon." Quite frankly, I thought Sharon was in the wrong, but I decided her friendship was more important than who was right and who was wrong. I apologized to Sharon and took the blame.

When we all had our 50th high school reunion recently, Pam hung out with Sharon and only briefly said hello to me, though her husband came over to talk to me.

More recently, she sent me an email saying that my ex-husband had come to visit her husband and her. She said that he looked bad, and he told her that my children have not been there for him, which is not the truth. She told me I should speak with my adult children and tell them to visit him more.

I feel that in both instances — with Sharon and my ex-husband — Pam judged me without hearing my side of the story. I would never dream of telling her that her two kids were not assisting her or her husband without knowing more. How should I handle this? — *Friends Like These*

**Dear Friends Like These:** It is inevitable that people will make assumptions and judgments about one another's personal business. It's petty, foolish — and utterly human. Trust yourself and your decisions and put no stock in others' uninformed opinions of your life. You can't manage everyone's perception of you, and you'll go crazy trying.

That said, you can and should tell a friend when she's been hurtful. Share with Pam what you shared with me: You would never

presume to tell her how she should manage her personal affairs, and you hope she will put herself in your shoes and see how her comments could come across as judgmental.

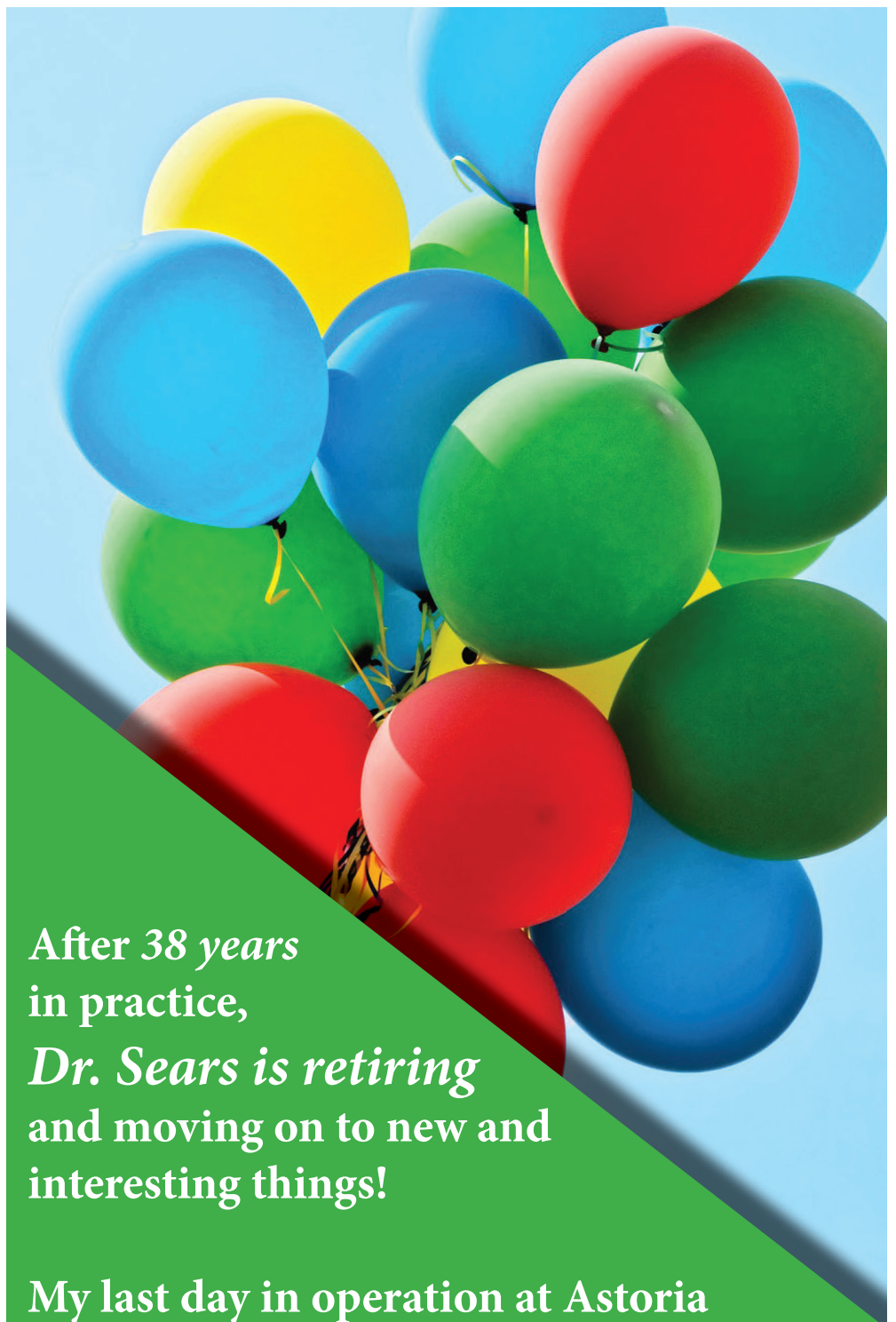
**Dear Annie:** I've been told that young people should use a credit card more often so that they can build a good credit history. I'm 24. I'd like to get a credit card that I can use for small recurring expenses. But I don't really know anything about banking, let alone which of the dozens of options is right for me. I'd like something with travel benefits, such as airline miles. And of course, there are technical things like interest rate to take into account. Can you provide some clarity on credit cards for beginners? I've heard horror stories about credit misuse. But more importantly, there are just so many similar options! No one taught me how to do this. — *Credit Confused*

**Dear Credit Confused:** You don't sound so confused, only (wisely) trepidatious. You've got the right idea about using a credit card for small recurring expenses, such as utility bills. If you fly a lot, choosing one of the airline cards could be a good option, as you'll often automatically get perks such as free checked bags. This is better than usage-dependent perks (e.g., spending \$2,000 in the first three months of opening an account), which can end up encouraging you to spend more than you can afford. I'd also recommend looking at not just the introductory interest rate (which is often 0 percent) but the rate after the introductory period is over. However, no advice I could offer can take the place of advice from a good financial adviser. Financial advisers aren't just for the wealthy. Accredited Financial Counselors work with low- and middle-income clients. You can visit their website (<https://www.afcpe.org>) to learn more and find an accredited counselor.

## DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.



After 38 years in practice, Dr. Sears is retiring and moving on to new and interesting things!

My last day in operation at Astoria Chiropractic will be Friday, June 21st. Please call if you would like to obtain your records or schedule an appointment.

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2. After Director Knight told ODOT that the Port would withdraw its award for the \$2,200,000 grant he did not submit the necessary paperwork to ODOT to release the funds for reallocation to other ports. This unnecessary delay in Director Knight filing the paperwork caused the release to expire and the funds could not be reallocated. Because of Director Knight, the Port will not be viewed a creditable applicant for future ODOT/State of Oregon grants. This release of the grant was done without informing the Commission. It was later revealed to the Commission that the port actually had funds in a special reserve fund that could have been used for the ODOT grant match. This cost the port \$2,200,000 that would have been used for repairs.
3. The Port has incurred over \$4 million in lawsuit verdicts and settlements, mainly due to a Clatsop County jury finding by clear and convincing evidence that Director Knight made knowingly false statements of fact regarding the Riverwalk Inn contract.
4. Additionally, the Port appears to have incurred a minimum \$138,000 in attorney fees due to the Riverwalk Inn lawsuit;
5. The Port granted Director Knight a raise and a new 3 year contract totaling over \$627,000 in pay and benefits within a month of a Clatsop County jury verdict against the Port;
6. The Port has incurred over \$63,000 in DEQ fines plus unidentified attorney fees for stormwater violations and Director Knight did not inform the Commission until it was reported by the press;
7. Director Knight accepted a statewide managers award nomination made by one Commissioner, when he knew or should have known that required the full Commission's nomination;
8. The Port is significantly over the budget (\$1.75 million) for its DEQ required stormwater system, and the Commission still has no documented DEQ acceptance that the system is working property or that the construction project has been completed;
9. Director Knight told the Commission that Port tenants would pay 50% of the Port's stormwater system construction costs, yet the Commission has no proof any of the tenants has ever agreed to pay for stormwater improvements. This is a litigation problem for the Port since Director Knight misrepresented the facts to the Commission;
10. Port log exports have decreased or gone away potentially costing the port over \$1,000,000 per year;
11. The Oregon State seafood building at the East Basin has not been transferred back to the Port and the Pier 2 and 3 area wide oil pollution cleanup issues have not been resolved during Director Knight's five years of management (priority);
12. The Port has given away Tongue Point forever, when there was an option to negotiate a long term lease with the previous tenants that would have kept the site under Port management;
13. The Port has lost Bergerson Construction, J.E. McAmis Corporation, and the Oregon State Police as tenants, where the only tenant added in the last five years is a daycare center;
14. Life Flight stated they didn't need the \$2,200,000 Airport Bond as Knight promoted for expansion at the airport. Life Flight is currently building in their exact same location, at no cost to the public, as reported in the May 31, 2019 Columbia Press. When this bond issue failed, I estimate it saved every citizen in Clatsop County \$66.00.
15. When a member of the Port staff quit, he told me "Ultimately, I could no longer support Jim's (Director Knight's) dishonesty and incompetence. I did not want my name and reputation associated with Jim Knight's any longer".

These listed factual errors and costly mistakes have all occurred under and through Director Jim Knight management of the Port of Astoria. In my final days as a Port Commissioner, I am again making this information available to the public in a hope that in the future the Port is not mismanaged and allowed to continue wasting public funds. The tax paying public should care about these problems and the Port.

I sincerely hope that the something will cause a change at the Port of Astoria before it goes bankrupt or it is taken over by the State of Oregon. I'm sure Clatsop County tax payers would not like to see the Port of Astoria go away.

Bill Hunsinger  
Paid for by re-elect Bill Hunsinger  
and Bill Hunsinger