

Sibley Standard

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Handicapped Kids are Special Privilege

by Erma Bombeck

Most women become mothers by accident, some by choice, a few by social pressures and a couple by habit.

This year, nearly 100,000 women will become mothers of handicapped children. Did you ever wonder how mothers of handicapped children are chosen?

Somehow I visualize God hovering over Earth selecting instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As he observes, he instructs his angels to make notes in a giant ledger.

"Armstrong, Beth, son. Patron saint, Matthew. Forrest, Marjorie, daughter. Patron saint, Cecelia.

"Rudledge, Carrie, twins. Patron saint. . .give her Gerard. He's used to profanity."

Finally, He passes a name to an angel and smiles, "Give her a handicapped child."

The angel is curious. "Why this one, God? She's so happy."

"Exactly," smiles God. "Could I give a handicapped child to a mother who does not know laughter? That would be cruel."

"But has she patience?" asks the angel.

"I don't want her to have too much patience or she will drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wear off, she'll

handle it.

"I watched her today. She has that feeling of self and independence that is so rare and so necessary in a mother. You see, the child I'm going to give her has his own world. She has to make it live in her world, and that's not easy."

"But, Lord, I don't think she even believes in you."

God smiles. "No matter. I can fix that. This one is perfect. She has just enough selfishness."

The angel gasps. "Selfishness? Is that a virtue?"

God nods. "If she can't separate herself from the child occasionally, she'll never survive. Yes, here is a woman whom I will bless with a child less than perfect. She doesn't realize it yet, but she is to be envied. She will never take for granted a 'spoken word.' She will never consider a 'step' ordinary. When her child says 'Momma' for the first time, she will be present at a miracle and she will know it! When she describes a tree or a sunset to her blind child, she will see it as few people ever see my creations.

"I will permit her to see clearly the things I see. . .ignorance, cruelty, prejudice. . .and allow her to rise above them. She will never be alone. I will be at her side every minute of every day of her life because she is doing my work as surely as she is here by my side."

"And what about her patron saint?" asks the angel, his pen poised in mid-air.

God smiles. "A mirror will suffice." 🍏

A friend of the family originally found this article and gave it to my brother and his wife upon the birth of their baby, who has Down Syndrome.

This article helped them through their first feelings of anguish, guilt, and pain so that they could just enjoy their baby girl.

God doesn't just pick the mothers. He chooses families that are the happiest and most loving He can find to give this gift to.

There can be no better parents than my brother and his wife.

Over Thanksgiving break, I watched them as they took care of their little baby, the special smiles they shared, the soft way they touched the baby and spoke to her.

I remember when my brother told me about his baby having Down Syndrome and the characteristics of a Down child.

"I don't see all of that," he said, "I just see my baby girl."

I have never seen my brother so happy, or so loving.

I know God blessed him and his wife with this baby. I know too that this baby is the most welcome and most eagerly anticipated member of this family.



Who Killed Tom Turkey?

I was in my office with nothing to do on a rainy Saturday when Tom walked in my office.

"Yeah, whadya want?" I growled, gasping for breath since it's hard to talk and smoke at the same time.

I thought he was a tough bird at first, but soon he proved to be a little jittery.

"I think someone's trying to kill me, and I want to hire you to kill him or her (to be politically correct) first," he said, staring me in the eye, daring me to make the wrong move.

I nonchalantly crossed my feet on my desk, messy with papers, half-eaten donuts, old, stale coffee, and cigarette ashes lightly dusting everything.

"I don't bump nobody off, ya understand," I wheezed. I gotta nock this nicotine habit, or it'll be the end of me.

"Look, I'm not crazy, I need help, and I'm willing to pay a guy swell for it."

I sat up in a fit of righteous indignation and then realized it was more like a fit of uncontrollable coughing.

When I got myself together, I asked him, "What makes you think I'd kill for you, bub?"

"I know you're up to your keister in debt, Ace, and you need the dough."

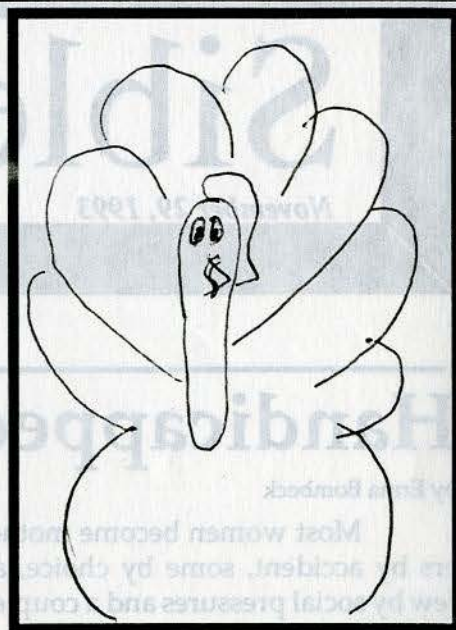
"No I don't. I don't even like bread, but that's beside the point. What I want to know is, if you're a marked bird, how do you know?"

"I'm being followed. I'm livin' on borrowed time, I tell ya! My number's up, I'm buying the farm, I'm about to kick the can--"

"Yeah, yeah, cut the tacky metaphors, so far, they've only succeeded in clouding the issue, muddying the water, beating around the bush--anyway, I already told ya I wouldn't kill nobody for ya."

"Then ya gotta protect me. I'm begging ya, I'm a sitting duck here."

"Let's not bring family into this. Tell me all you know about this. Who's after a bird like you? What do you know that needs to be hushed up? Who've you insulted lately?" I threw questions at him right and left, but no go. He wasn't



squeeling.

"I don't know anything other than a nice location for some flocking, but that's it, Ace, I swear!"

Then it hit me, like a bolt of lightning, an epiphany out of the blue. This bird's goose was cooked any way you chose to look at it. It's a national holiday and pastime. There was no way out of Thanksgiving or Christmas for old Tom.

On Procrastination

Uh, well,
I'll do it tomorrow.

On Procrastination II

Maybe later.

Lynn Heritage

Amazing Machine

Crunch numbers,
Process words,
Deal at the click
of a button.
Lose at Solitaire
in just 6 seconds

Lynn Heritage

Non-poetry

because, hey, nobody likes it except maybe hippies hanging on to THE 60s.

Give it up--pull yourself into the present.

While you're at it, burn those bell-bottoms; they will not make a comeback,

I promise.

Speaking of promises,

I promise not to have any images--

why burden anyone with all of that?

Also, I promise not to have a "deeper underlying meaning,"

cultivated, or not.

As for allusions, or all of that other literary stuff,

it won't be here either.

You're welcome.

S.R.H.

Christmas Walk

December 5 6:00-7:30

A Message on the Machine...

I just called
to say
I'm sorry--
I ate those mectarnes
you had in the 'fridge.
They were so orangish-redish and firm,
yet not too hard, but chilled just right.
Oooo, so perky!
You were probably saving them
for yourself
to eat
at a later date.
Tough break, huh?

S. Hawkins

LOST!

Telecom Services Installation, Inc. has misplaced one of their fiber optic installation kits. The kit is a black briefcase containing tools of the trade.

If you have seen this kit, please return to Lindenwood Security, Jeff Prince or place in the computer lab.

Thanks fo your help!

Q: How come Arkansas didn't have Halloween or Thanksgiving this year?

A: Because the wicked witch took the turkey and went to Washington, D. C.

Q: What does the N stand for on the Nebraska helmet?

A: Knowledge.

Q: How many football players does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

A: Five--one to hold it and four to turn the table.

Letters to the Editor

I think it would be nice to have a Theatre Corner that deals with the upcoming plays and events, etc. It would not only be nice for those of us who are theatre majors--but it would give everyone else a chance to know what's going on.

Melfreya L. Barnes

Thank you for writing to the editor! We are so pleased someone actually reads the paper.

You have a genuine concern, and we are interested in theatre production, and we will be glad to print anything about theatre. Just drop us a line, and we'll print it.

Unfortunately, we cannot cover all events which occur on this campus, much as we would like to.

So, if anyone has any event they would like to have mentioned in the paper, we will be more than over-joyed to print it.

Drop your requests in the box in the foyer. Anything you care to write about your subject (within acceptable limits) will be printed.

Thanks for the time you take to contribute to your paper.

**Tired of dressing in the same old rags?
You haven't a dress for the ball?**

Don't wait for a fairy godmother to bippity boppity boo, call Marci Franklin, a seamstress for all occasions at

949-4795!

- Costumes**
- Clothing**
- Formals**
- Bridesmaid's**
- Children's**
- Men's**

Just about anything!

Also mending and alterations!

Don't forget the Noon Music recitals every other Thursday, sponsored by the Music Department.

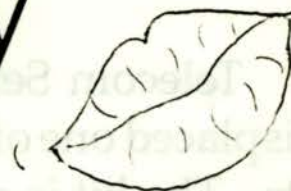
Finals are coming up, make sure you have all of your projects, papers, etc. turned in before it's eternally too late.

Do you have a "dream date you've always wanted to go on? Where would you go, and what would you do? Tell us about it!

The Standard will have a box in the foyer where you can drop your submissions, or write us at box #303.

We'll print your "dream dates," and who knows, maybe your guy or gal will have a nice clue for a change.

Dear Gabby



Dear Gabby,

I've been going out with a good friend's boyfriend for a while now. Is this the right thing to do?

Ethically Entangled

Dear Ethics,

You certainly are entangled! What a mess!

I cannot in all good faith tell you whether or not what you are doing is "right." If you have doubts, then maybe you should think about the situation carefully.

Can this guy really be sincere in his feelings for you if he does not resolve his relationship with your friend? Is he ever going to? Can you allow yourself to go through the uncertainty of his whims?

You have some serious thinking to do. Good luck.

Dear Gabby,

I have a good friend who has just gotten into missionary work and wants to come on campus. She also wants me to start a Bible group. I love her dearly, but I don't know if I feel comfortable committing to this. What should I do?

Dear Reader,

First of all, you need to let your friend know that you don't feel right about the situation, while at the same time affirming your friendship.

That's the great thing about friends---they can tell each other anything.

If this person truly is your friend, she will understand.

Although her mission is noble, she does not have the right to insist you do anything which makes you uneasy.

Hold tight to what you believe in and she'll eventually come around.

Dear Gabby,

There's this really nice, cute girl that is in my chemistry class. We talk all the

time and I'd like to ask her out, but I don't want to flub things up.

Shy Guy

Dear Shy,

This happens to everyone (women, too) at some point in time. I suggest you go the honest route, do not **WHATEVER** you do, do not give this woman a cheesy line.

Just be yourself and suggest something fun to do. Try something more unique than the movies, but nothing too intimate.

Let this lady know that you're interested. She's not a mind reader (lucky for you).

Keep us informed with how the situation turns out!

Dear Gabby,

When I went home for Thanksgiving in Texas, I learned that my cow had died about a month ago, and my Ma and Pa didn't tell me. They said they didn't want me to be upset and miss school for the funeral. I am having a hard time because Bessy was my best friend. I don't ever want to go home and see Ma and Pa again. What makes the whole situation even more difficult is the fact that Bessy and I were closer than a lot of people and their pets should be.

Buck Rinehold

Dear Buck,

I offer my most sincere condolences for your loss; however, I do not believe you should hold such a grudge against your parents. One of the stages of grief is anger, and you need to deal with it in a more constructive manner, such as volunteer work.

As for your relationship, perhaps you should seek a professional therapists' advice.

Dear Gabby,

I saw a good friend's boyfriend out with another girl. Should I tell my friend?
In a Quandry

Dear In a,

First of all, do you even know if the guy in question is even doing anything wrong? How do you know that he wasn't with a good friend of his own?

You can't. Therefore, it would be most unwise to go to your friend with nothing but intuition, which is iffy, at best.

I suggest you stay out of it. After all, your friend should be mature enough to handle her own relationships, and if not, than this is a valuable educational experience.

Dear Gabby,

I can't seem to help myself. I cheat whenever I play Solitaire. Then when I win, I just don't feel good about it.

Depsondent Deckster

Dear Despondent,

You seem to have a problem that just about everyone at one time or another (except Pollyanna and Mary Poppins) has experienced.

It seems as if your conscience is working really well at telling you that deep down, you are not comfortable with cheating of any kind. I suggest you keep away from temptation by playing computer Solitaire--it is virtually impossible to cheat.

Problem? Question?

Observation

you'd like to share? Then write Gabby! She'd love to print your responses.

Just send any correspondence to Gabby at

Box #303.

There was such an overwhelming response to Dear Gabby that we need ed extrta space! Gabby thanks everyone who takes the time to write and respond!

Dear Gabby,

My younger sister is a control-freak. I love her to death, but she gets on my every nerve and always tells me what to do. I get so stressed out! Help me, please!

Shaken Sis

Dear Shaken,

I suggest you turn the tables on your lil sis--after all, you're the older one!

Seriously, though, let her know that her behavior is irritating at best, and down right stressful at worst. If you never say anything, this problem will go on until the day you die, and she'll be right there telling you how to do it.

So, open up and communicate with your contumacious sib (that's right, open up a dictionary and look it up). You can work through this and develop a closer relationship.

Dear Gabby,

I am a good student; however, this semester I am falling further and further behind in my Management Science class. I think I need to bribe my professor, but I am not sure how much I should offer. I don't want to offend her by offering too little, but I am not made of money, either. What do you think is a fair and reasonable amount to offer? Are there any other considerations I should make when I approach her? I have a 38% in the class so far.

Tex Ritter

Dear Tex,

It's so sad to see an exceptional student fall on hard times. We can all relate to falling behind, but is bribery your only option?

Somewhat, I seriously doubt whether any self-respecting educator would ever accept a bribe, especially one that would be, in all probability, not worth his/her while.

Seriously, I suggest you speak to your professor, and voice your concerns about your grade. Ask him/her if there is anything you can do to better your situation.

Also, it wouldn't hurt to crack a few books every once in a while.

Dear Gabby,

I want to change my appearance, but I'm too chicken to do anything drastic. Got any tips?

Itchin' for a change

Dear Itchin',

I consulted a beauty expert about your question. We all go through that blah stage where we need a change, but don't know what to do.

Any way, our beauty expert suggests that you try hair highlights or color for several reasons:

1. It's temporary (washes out in 8 weeks or less)
2. It's cheaper than a wardrobe overhaul.
3. It's cheaper than a nip and tuck session with a plastic surgeon.

Basically, the whole procedure is cheap and safe.

You can accomplish a variety of looks by changing your hair in various ways.

Darkening your color makes you look older, while lightening your color drops years like a hot rock.

Trim and reshape your hair for a new you, while not sacrificing your total length.

Go ahead and make a change, but don't forget to have fun with it!

Dear Gabby,

My room mate smokes and she knows I don't like it. What can we do to resolve the problem?

Coughing and Irritable

Dear Coughing,

I sympathize with you. There is nothing more aggravating than that awful stench that clings tenaciously to clothes, hair, and possessions alike. However, your room mate does have a right to smoke (and contract cancer).

I suggest you ask your room mate to smoke in other designated areas. If she/he is unwilling to comply, you can always contact Joni Luma in housing and ask her to relocate you. After all, your health is at stake.

advertisement

Infestation Infiltrates Campus

You may have heard it mentioned in the computer lab. You might have heard someone talking about it in the cafeteria. You should become aware of the facts.

E-mail (electronic mail) is available for all students sans grati (free of charge).

Students can communicate through e-mail with other friends who also have an Internet address, either off, or on campus.

Furthermore, there are a plethora of other positive aspects to e-mail, such as free information, and advice.

Contact Jeff Prince to get a login ID (the name the computer recognizes) and start your account now!

Be thinking of a password so that no one else can read your mail.



Staff Box

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Restaurant Reviews

The Lonestar is now open for business, and all you steak lovers can go check it out (but remember that a high intake level of red meat greatly increases your chances of cancer, but then, so does breathing).

However, if you are not overly fond of red meat, there is a variety of other selections for you, such as chicken, salad, or baked potatoes.

The atmosphere is down home as only found in the Lonestar state.

Everything is big at the Lonestar, too, just like in Texas.

Although the price may seem a tad high, remember, you get to choose your own cut of meat. Ye-haw. 🍖

If the approaching finals puts you into over drive, compelling you to frantically finish all those over due projects, don't forget to eat.

Although Taco Bell and McDonald's is ok for a fast meal, it is absolutely necessary to have a decent meal every once in a while, and there's no better place than Bob Evan's for that special pampering.

There is every type of home-style cooking you could possibly want, plus the benefits of breakfast any time of day.

Come on down to Bob Evans, down on the farm. 🍏

Don't Forget

Make sure you are completely and thoroughly enrolled for next semester, or you might receive an unwelcome surprise.

Also, tidy up loose ends, such as paying last semester's bill, or you will continue to have Martin Pedage calling you at all hours of the day and night reminding you that you do have a balance that remains to go unpaid.

Give ole Martin and everyone else who works in the Business office a break. Give yourself a break.

It's time to make those travel reservations for the Christmas break. Plan now, or you'll be left out in the cold!

Make your Christmas list and give it to your parents, so that you'll get good gifts instead of underwear (again).

Go Christmas shopping because Christmas is just around the corner, and you don't want to give something really stupid like last year (pudding pops).



Study Hard!

Good Luck on Finals!