

Cousin shares intimate post

DEAR HARRIETTE: Recently, I saw that one of my cousins came out on social media. She posted herself and a partner kissing, and a lot of her friends were commenting, congratulating them and admiring their courage.

My cousin is 11. Some of the photos are of her and her partner holding hands, and some show kissing and some seem set at home or in their rooms. I don't think kissing or cuddling is appropriate or necessary at that age, especially if parents aren't aware. Part of me wants to share with her mom, but I don't want to expose something that my younger cousin isn't ready to share yet. Aside from the young age, there is the layer of her sexuality. We grew up in a religious family, and I'm not sure of her mom's views in that regard. Would she be ready to accept this? I feel torn because I think her mom should have the chance to talk to her about her developing romantic feelings, but I don't want to put my younger cousin in a vulnerable position. What would you do? — Coming Out



Sense and Sensitivity

Harriette Cole

DEAR COMING OUT: First, think about yourself at your cousin's age. Many children have their first crushes at about the same time. Sexual attraction can start way before that as well. It is not unusual for 11-year-olds to be exploring their sexuality. The fact that your cousin put it on social media means that she is not trying to hide her identity.

Yet, as you point out, it may be difficult to discuss with her parents. Since you saw it, would you be willing to talk to her first? Let her know you saw her post and ask her to talk to you about her life. Get a sense of what's going on. Also, tell her that she needs to talk to her mom. Let her know you feel that it's your responsibility to show the post to her mom, but you wanted to talk to her first. At least in this way, she won't be blindsided when her mom brings it to her attention.

Waiting for 'right job' goes wrong

Dear Annie: My 23-year-old son graduated from college two years ago and has been unemployed ever since. He earned a degree in a competitive field but has not had any luck landing a job in his chosen profession. While we understand that finding the right opportunity can take time, we are growing increasingly concerned.

He refuses to consider any kind of job outside of his intended career path, insisting that if he takes something "beneath him," he will get stuck and never leave. We have tried reasoning with him, encouraging him to gain experience, even if it is unrelated, to avoid having a completely blank resume. We have offered suggestions, networking opportunities and moral support, but he will not budge.



Dear Annie

Annie Lane

He still lives at home, which we do not mind, within reason, but the money he saved while working part time in college is running out fast. It is frustrating to watch him stagnate while the months go by. He says he is waiting for the "right fit," but we worry he is letting pride or fear hold him back.

How do we help him see that some kind of work, any work, is better than no work at all? And how do we support him without enabling this pattern? I admire your insight and would truly appreciate any words of wisdom for both him and us. —

Worried Parents in Limbo
Dear Worried: You are right to be concerned. A two-year gap on a resume, especially in those early post-grad years, can be hard to explain later. While it is admirable that your son wants to pursue work in his chosen field, his refusal to take any job in the meantime is shortsighted and, frankly, self-sabotaging.

Work is more than a title. It teaches discipline, builds character and often leads to unexpected opportunities. No one's first job out of college defines their entire future. What does shape the future is sitting at home waiting for perfection. That is not strategy; it is fear wearing a mask of pride.

Let your son know that while you love

him, the time for passivity has passed. He needs to contribute, either by working, volunteering, interning or even pursuing additional training. And if his savings are dwindling, it may be time to start charging rent — not as punishment, but to nudge him toward reality.

Sometimes, the most loving thing a parent can do is stop cushioning the fall.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

HOROSCOPE — AUGUST 24

A positive attitude will make a difference. Refuse to let frustration build this year when dealing with institutions, government agencies or colleagues. Develop a solid plan and adhere to your commitments. You have plenty to gain if you are forthright and honorable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Fine-tune your health and fitness to suit your lifestyle. Develop the strength you need to engage in activities that motivate and facilitate a prosperous future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Go undercover to do what you've got to do. In solitude, you will discover you have talents you didn't know about. It's up to you to follow your instincts and to live the life that brings you joy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Participation will lead to a fabulous learning experience. Embrace conversations with a positive attitude. A change of perspective will encourage you to research your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Distance yourself from situations before you let your emotions step in and take charge. Direct your energy into honing your skills, improving your lifestyle and exploring ways to increase your income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Keep the momentum flowing. If you limit what you can do, you'll encounter regret. Refuse to let anger set in if something erupts beyond your control. Work with whatever comes your way and show your true potential.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — How you handle others, use your money and present yourself will lead to attractive offers and the chance to improve your lifestyle. Discipline and ingenuity are your way forward. Enjoy the ride.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)



Astrograph

Eugenia Last

— Focus on your happiness and do something that brings you joy. Personal growth, pampering and self-improvement are favored, along with events that allow you to network or socialize.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Go where the action is and use your insight, discipline and experience to bring about change. A unique approach will seal the deal and put you in a position of power.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Opportunity knocks; receive the message and turn the information into something meaningful. It's up to you to interpret and react as you see fit. You have plenty to gain through networking, interviewing and marketing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Change requires hands-on help. Don't expect things to fall into place without nurturing on your part. You'll have to walk a fine line and be precise to make headway. Trust your instincts, stamina and charisma.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Know your boundaries, set rules and rethink schedules. Use your voice to clarify your position, what you are willing to do and what you expect in return. Stay informed about regulatory rulings that may affect your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Refuse to make changes that will jeopardize your financial position or lifestyle. Look for the best alternative and do the legwork to ensure you come in under budget. Excess and acting in haste are the enemies.

DO JUST ONE THING

If you use a dehumidifier at home, you might wonder what you can do with the tank of water it collects. First, don't use it to water plants: When humid air runs through the metal elements in a dehumid-

ifier, it can leave trace metals. You and your pets also should never consume the water. Instead, fill a toilet tank with the water, and use it to flush toilets.

— Danny Seo

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Lethal
- 6 At the stern
- 11 Hindu mystic
- 16 Leggy bird
- 21 Coeur d'—
- 22 Enjoy the taste of
- 23 Peace goddess
- 24 Spry
- 25 Leases
- 26 Battery (2 wds.)
- 28 Scoundrel
- 29 — -Magnon
- 30 Sharp
- 31 Damage
- 32 Buckets
- 34 Proofs of age
- 35 Sicilian volcano
- 37 Plus
- 38 Old — (fragrance)
- 40 Tiny
- 41 Golf peg
- 42 Young equine
- 44 "The — Falcon"
- 46 Food fish
- 49 Safe from danger
- 52 Toll road
- 53 Spigot
- 55 Kind of TV show
- 59 Egg-shaped
- 60 Jest
- 61 Singing group
- 64 English poet
- 65 Better — than never
- 66 Make manageable
- 67 Enclosure for small animals
- 68 Also
- 70 Dispatch
- 71 "— on a Grecian Urn"
- 72 Angry
- 73 Lizardlike creature
- 74 Shocks
- 76 Pear-shaped fruit
- 77 On edge
- 79 — -de-lance
- 80 Wan
- 82 Brittle but tender candy
- 84 Fasteners
- 85 First Nations people
- 86 Fibbed

DOWN

- 87 Jai —
- 88 Drumming Muppet
- 90 Flavoring plant
- 91 Say further
- 92 — Scott Key
- 95 Mil. rank
- 96 Show to be false
- 98 Nerve network
- 100 Profit
- 101 "— — Yankee Doodle ..."
- 102 Bun
- 104 Demand payment from
- 105 Facilitate
- 106 Bonkers
- 107 Pummel
- 108 Writer — Asimov
- 110 Abilities
- 112 Ditty
- 113 Slight bit of color
- 114 Skin layer
- 116 Root veggie
- 117 Playing card
- 118 Struck a fastball
- 119 Daddy
- 121 Meshwork
- 124 Title for a French priest
- 125 Homo sapiens
- 128 Oklahoma city
- 130 Wet
- 131 "My — Sal"
- 132 Ratite bird
- 136 Vanity
- 137 Coral island
- 139 "— Just Not That Into You"
- 140 Try
- 141 Eagle
- 142 Be uncertain
- 144 Sustenance
- 147 Assumed name
- 149 Turn inside out
- 150 Ait
- 151 Region of ancient Greece
- 152 Laconic
- 153 Put off
- 154 — Arabia
- 155 Sits for a painter
- 156 Stun gun

DOWN

- 1 Broad comedy
- 2 Watchful
- 3 Mortise and —
- 4 Insect
- 5 French article
- 6 Acquiescence
- 7 With — breath
- 8 The Bard's river
- 9 Favoring
- 10 Crush down
- 11 Ferocious
- 12 Circle segment
- 13 Hold on to
- 14 Relative by marriage (Hyph.)
- 15 Depends
- 16 "Star —"
- 17 In the past
- 18 Arabic numeral
- 19 Escape
- 20 Actress — Witherspoon
- 27 Manner of walking
- 30 Cabbage
- 33 Durocher and Fender
- 36 Sharp
- 38 "For Pete's —!"
- 39 Bar legally
- 43 Mineral
- 44 Boxer — Tyson
- 45 Cup handle
- 47 Directed
- 48 Desire personified
- 49 Wise lawgiver
- 50 Get away from
- 51 Butterfly larva
- 52 Fleshy fruit
- 54 Tapped a golf ball
- 56 Wasteful
- 57 Comics orphan
- 58 Shelf
- 60 Jolts
- 61 Intimidate
- 62 Portable cooking appliance (2 wds.)
- 63 Old coin
- 66 Mussed
- 67 Brain-related

- 69 Toronto's province
- 72 Echolocation at sea
- 73 — -do-well
- 74 Luge
- 75 — goose
- 78 Vitality
- 79 Fingerboard ridge
- 81 — -de-camp
- 83 Devotee
- 85 Like some peanut butter
- 88 Bitter
- 89 Loop in a rope
- 92 Confront
- 93 PR concern
- 94 Glutted
- 97 Coach
- 99 Letter for plurals
- 100 Loud bell
- 103 Lantern
- 105 "— Gantry"
- 106 Respiratory organ
- 107 Muzzled dog
- 109 NSA cousin
- 111 Form of "John"
- 112 Petite
- 113 Sailor
- 115 Petty quarrel
- 117 Familial relation
- 118 Wallop
- 120 Handsome fellow
- 122 Pacific island
- 123 Cravats
- 124 Boiled foods
- 125 Cried gently
- 126 Century plant
- 127 Roman a clef
- 129 Shad genus
- 131 Spirit in a bottle
- 133 Successors
- 134 Rub out
- 135 Goose genus
- 137 Dilettantish
- 138 Humdinger
- 140 Wallet items
- 143 Stat. in baseball
- 145 Blushing
- 146 Low
- 147 ABA mem.
- 148 Grassland

