



CAROLYN HAX

Show friend he'll be missed on vacation

Dear Carolyn: A close friend in another state has been underemployed since Thanksgiving, and now his wife is unemployed, too. He is now unable to go on a trip being planned with our close friends. Is there anything I can do to cheer them up that's more than just saying "I feel for you," but that wouldn't seem condescending? — Michigan

Dear Michigan: If there's still time to postpone the trip, postpone the trip. It's proof you all stand by him through this.

If it's too late for that kind of proof, then go for pretty reliable evidence: video. Shoot an it's-not-the-same-without-you greeting. (Remove the umbrella drinks, soaring vistas and any loose wads of cash from the picture.) I won't pretend to speak for all veterans of good times that rolled on without them, but I see such a greeting not as a reminder of what one missed, but instead a reminder that one is missed. And while a promise of another such gathering — in a rosier future — would help, visiting him on your own in the near future might be better.

Whatever you do about the trip, be sure to keep in touch regularly, so he doesn't feel toxic (a common, nasty side effect of personal impositions), but not profusely, so he doesn't feel like your charity case. Finally, don't regard his financial horror as his unique, defining problem; it's a problem that could have been anyone's but happened to land on him. A reality check a day keeps condescension away.

Dear Carolyn: I have been carpooling to work, 45 minutes each way, with two women. I get along well with one, "Eliza," but "Mindy" has become intolerable; she is extremely immature, she's an unsafe driver because she constantly takes her eyes off the road, and she treats carpool as her personal therapy session for every pseudo-crisis. Eliza and I have spoken to her delicately about how her behavior annoys us, and this has led Mindy to tell people at work (including Eliza's boss) what horrible people we are. Is there a way to confront Mindy without bruising her ego to the point that she complains to our co-workers? — Road-Raged Carpooler

Dear Carpooler: Call me an optimist, but it sounds as if disapproval from Mindy would boost your professional standing.

But even that won't matter if you're roadkill. You needn't be "delicate" about reckless driving, so you and Eliza have a right, and arguably an obligation, to demote Mindy to permanent passenger duty.

Maybe she'll do you the consequent favor of taking her pseudo-crises to another carpool, but even if she doesn't, I wouldn't bother confronting her on those; safety's the thing. Let Mindy rant, and trust that her attempts at professional revenge serve only to make her look small.

E-mail Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com. © 2009, Washington Post Writers Group



LSU graphic design student Hannah Reed mixes paint for her storybook.

Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANNON

Once upon a time

Storybooks come to life for Family Road benefit

BY PAM BORDELON
Advocate staff writer

When Alice Lubowicz came on board as development director for Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge last June, she was challenged to make happen a previously canceled fundraiser.

"The concept for the Storybook Ball had been talked about for a number of months," Lubowicz explained. "We set the date of Oct. 10 ... then came Gustav. We (Family Road) opened the day after the storm and for two weeks we operated without electricity handing out diapers, formula and other assistance."

Family Road is a nonprofit organization providing a variety of services for families by partnering with more than 108 nonprofit, public, private, and government agencies. Classes/workshops offered include prenatal, fatherhood, teen parenting, banking and technology, education and training, wellness/nutrition/fitness and car seat/general safety.

Not only were those charged with planning Family Road's debut fundraiser preoccupied but the venue for the ball, Celtic Studios, suffered major damage and wasn't usable.

"It all ended up being a blessing because it gave us time to regroup, to get more sponsors," Lubowicz said.

The initial concept for the Storybook Ball had attendees decorating their tables to represent their favorite storybook. Like so many ideas that get put on hold, this one evolved into a family-oriented night featuring grand, 3-D interactive storybooks.

"That's what we're about — we pro-

▶ See **STORYBOOKS**, page 2E



ABOVE: Sally Wood, left, and Lance Young paint one of 13 interactive storybooks for Family Road's Storybook Ball. LEFT: Sally Wood, left, and Justin Bridge put finishing touches on the 'Dora the Explorer' interactive storybook.



Storybook Ball

Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge's debut fundraiser is a family-oriented night featuring grand, 3-D interactive storybooks and more.

WHEN: March 14, 6-10 p.m.
WHERE: Celtic Media Center, 10000 Celtic Drive.
HOW: For tickets, call (225) 201-8888 or visit the Web site <http://www.familyroadgr.org>

RATED 'T' FOR TEEN: Daughters of Naomi

From violence prevention workshops to test-taking strategies and abstinence pledges, the Daughters of Naomi girls' club aims to address the needs of the whole person.

Daughters of Naomi, a newly incorporated program for older and younger girls, focuses on character development, communication skills, social graces, etiquette, health and nutrition, and more, said Annette Yancy, director of the program.

Among the program's highlights is the annual spring "True Love Waits" purity ceremony for older girls.

Girls hold their hands over their hearts to make a pledge of purity to themselves and to their families.

They also wear a promise ring to symbolize their dedication to remaining abstinent, Yancy said.

Yancy's programs have also included presentations on incorporating for success; tele-



Advocate staff photo by DENNY CULBERT

Janelle Lands, then 14, hugs Daughters of Naomi Executive Director Annette Yancy after receiving her 'true love waits' promise ring in March 2008 during the Daughters of Naomi Purity Ceremony at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in Scotlandville.

phone etiquette; speech writing; makeup artistry; ladylike behavior; biological, mental, spiritual and physical matu-

Registration:

Registration is open to girls ages 9 to 18. Meetings are scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on the second and third Saturday of each month at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church, 8742 Scenic Highway. Dues are \$20 per month.

■ Annette Yancy can be reached at ayancy@lsu.edu or (225) 933-7475 or visit <http://www.daughtersofnaomi.net>.

Schedule of events:

■ **March 14:** Academic Excellence presentation to include LEAP test preparation for fourth- and eighth-grade students. A workshop on test-taking anxieties, study strategies and increasing overall academic performance.

■ **March 21:** Field trip to the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium in New Orleans;

■ **April 11, 18:** Character Development program based on the Bible book of Proverbs.

— Chante Dionne Warren
Advocate staff writer

STYLE FILE: Julie Richards

In this week's "Style File," where we catch people out and about, one woman shows us her chic style.

NAME: Julie Richards, Baton Rouge
AGE: 40
OCCUPATION: Marketing, Southeastern Cardiovascular Consultants

Tell us about what you're wearing. "I'm wearing a Banana Republic dress, Charles David pumps and a Chanel handbag, a birthday gift from my husband, Keith."

Who or what most influences your style? "Fashion magazines and my mood."

What's the best fashion advice you've ever gotten? "You get what you pay for!"

If you could buy only one fashion item for spring, what would it be? "Christian Louboutin T-strap sandals."

Finish this sentence. I splurge on... "Shoes, handbags and sunglasses."

I skimp on... "My husband would say nothing!"

Are you a shoe or handbag kind of woman? "Both!"

How many do you own? "I have about 15 really good designer handbags and about 250 pairs of shoes."

Name a celebrity whose closet you'd like to raid. "Cate Blanchett. Nothing she wears goes unnoticed."

What's the one beauty product you can't live without? "Shu Uemura eyelash curler. It's the best!"

Your house is on fire and you can grab only one thing out of your closet. What would it be? "My grandmother's charm bracelet."

Make us laugh — what was your biggest fashion mistake? "When I was in high school, I permed my already naturally curly hair. No amount of Frizz Ease could help remedy it!"

— Karen Martin
assistant People editor



Advocate photo by KAREN MARTIN

STORYBOOKS

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mote strong families,” Lubowicz added.

“We kind of took all the ideas everyone had and formed it into one signature event,” said event planner Nancy Carter, adding that attendees are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite storybook character.

Involved since the beginning, Carter knew former ad man turned LSU instructor Rod Parker had established a student-run graphic design agency — the Graphic Design Students Office. She also knew the GDSO did a lot of work with nonprofits. Intrigued by the magnitude of the project, Parker and his six interns signed on.

“This is such a huge project,” said GDSO Creative Director Chase Freeman, whose job is to make sure the project stays on track. “The scale of it is the most exciting thing to me — 13 storybooks, each one 10 feet by 16 feet. It’s also a lot of work in a short amount of time (three weeks from start to finish).”

The storybooks are so big the owners of Celtic Studios agreed to let the students construct them onsite. Freeman and his staff — Justin Bridge, Ben Clancy, Lindsay Prust, Hannah Reed, Jared Tanner and Lance Young — can be found there working on the project whenever schedules allow.

Aside from the size of the project, the most exciting design element to Freeman is that each storybook is fully interactive. He explained how the “Harry Potter” book will have a magician coming out of a faux-working fireplace to do his magic show.

The “Harry Potter” storybook, sponsored by Manda Fine Meats, was designed by Bridge. After doing lots of research on wizards and such, he settled on a dungeon setting complete with a stocked potions cabinet.

“I want the kids to be able to be a part of the Harry Potter world for one night,” said Bridge, who also designed the Dora the Explorer & Diego storybook.

Sponsored by Shaw Group, this storybook is the first stop on the scavenger hunt that takes visitors to the other storybooks. They include The Jungle Book, sponsored by presenting sponsor tipton associates; Jack & the Bean Stalk, sponsored by Sally Wood; Sleeping Beauty, sponsored by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana; Bob the Builder, sponsored by Postlewaithe & Netterville; Where do Babies Come From, sponsored by Dr. Kay Solar; Humpty Dumpty, sponsored by Safety Council;



Under the watchful eyes of cartoon character Diego from ‘Dora the Explorer’, LSU graphic art student Alyssa Matthews paints another of 13 interactive storybooks for Family Road’s upcoming Storybook Ball.



Advocate photo by PAM BORDELON Chase Freeman, GDSO creative director, shows off the ‘Harry Potter’ characters painted on that book’s interactive display.



Advocate photo by PAM BORDELON LSU graphic design student Hannah Reed takes a break from painting the ‘Jungle Book’ storybook to check out her fellow students.



Advocate photo by PAM BORDELON GDSO student Lindsay Prust, front, works with Justin Bridge and dad Ed Bridge, on the ladder, on the first phase of the ‘Dora the Explorer’ storybook

Cars, sponsored by Albemarle Corp.; and Jimmy Neutron, no sponsor.

Like Freeman, Prust, the mother of a 2-year-old son, was captivated by the interactivity of the storybooks. She created the designs for Jimmy Neutron, Clifford the Big Red Dog and Bob the Builder, which will have a sandbox where visitors can play.

“This is my dream job — an over-the-top, huge project,” said Prust. “It’s so cool to go from mommy to this.”

“We’re real familiar with these cartoons,” continued Freeman, the father of two young daughters.

He enlisted the help of wife Angie, a librarian, and got her to bring home books he and the GDSO students read over the summer.

“Kids look at things in a completely different way than

adults; they just enjoy the experience,” Freeman added.

The project is proving to be an enjoyable experience for Reed.

“I’ve been with GDSO for a while,” she explained from atop a ladder as she painted the scene for “The Jungle Book.” “This is like nothing we’ve ever had before; it’s definitely something different ... I really enjoy painting; I could do this forever.”

For “Alice in Wonderland,” the students are creating a table set for a tea party, complete with hats little girls can don, that extends from the

book. “The Gingerbread Man” storybook allows visitors the opportunity to decorate gingerbread cookies.

“These students amaze me,” said Lubowicz of the time and talent the GDSO interns have invested in the project. “Aside from some type of interactive element, each storybook will also feature a fact sheet; we’re all about education as well —

families and education.”

The 13 storybooks line the perimeter of the soundstage. At each end are space walks; in the center are a silent auction and food tables as well as places to sit and eat and watch the kids as they make the rounds of the storybooks. The evening also includes dancing to the sounds of Solar Heat and Doug Gay.

Nominations sought for award recognizing efforts for La. children

Angel Award Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has issued a call for nominations for the 15th anniversary of the Angel Award. The Angel Award, a partnership of the state’s largest health insurer and its nonprofit Louisiana Foundation, recognizes Louisianians performing extraordinary volunteer work for the state’s children.

Since its creation in 1995, the Angel Award program has honored more than 100 outstanding individuals and given more than \$900,000 to their designated charities. This year Blue Cross will honor eight more Louisianians, and the Foundation will contribute a \$20,000 grant to each honoree’s chosen charity.

Past winners have come from all walks of life and ranged in age from 17 to 93. What they all had in common was their unselfish contribution of time and energy to improve the welfare of the children in their communities.

The deadline for nominations for the 2009 Angel Award is May 1.

Individuals may be nominated for work performed through churches, schools, civic organizations or individual effort. Their volunteer work must have been performed in Louisiana, with the state’s children as the

primary beneficiaries. The volunteer effort can be focused on enhancing any aspect of a child’s life, including physical, emotional or creative. Individuals who are paid for their services are eligible, but their efforts must be considered to go above and beyond their job descriptions. Work done on work-release time and/or for student course credit may also be considered.

To nominate someone or learn more about the Angel Award, visit <http://www.bcb-sla.com> and click on Community. The Web site allows visitors to review nomination criteria and fill out an online nomination form. Nomination packets are also available by calling toll-free (888) 219-2583 or e-mailing AngelAward@bcb-sla.com.

A selection committee made up of past Angel Award honorees will choose this year’s eight Angels based on the following criteria: need, initiative, impact, achievement, time, action and challenge.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation will award grants to the honorees’ chosen charities that qualify as nonprofit charitable organizations focused on health or education with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Toilet ripple costing woman each month

Dear Heloise: My mother is 100 years and 7 months old and lives in her own home with a caregiver.

I noticed that the water bill crept up from \$40 to \$65.

A new washing machine and garbage disposal were recently installed, and I thought that might have contributed to the increase. After using my mother’s toilet, I noticed a slight ripple and decided to replace the toilet flapper.

The water bill just came in for the past month, and the bill was \$20 less. A little ripple in the toilet must have wasted a lot of water. — Pete Smith, Mission



HELOISE

Hints from Heloise

Viejo, Calif.

Dear Pete: You were very nice when I called to check that it is all right to print your mother’s age. You said yes, she would be delighted. Yes, a leaky toilet or dripping faucet can really run up the water bill. Speaking of saving water, check out the next hint. — Heloise

Dear Heloise: My maternal grandmother taught me to conserve water when I was young. It’s not necessary to have the water taps at full blast to do most things we’re going to do in a sink! Unless the sink is plugged and you need to fill the sink, a mild stream of water can be used to rinse dishes or wash hands. And, if you’re trying to dampen a towel or sponge, why send as much or more water down the drain?

I rarely miss your column. Great new hints, and great reminders for everyone. — Randall Newsom, Baton Rouge

Dear Randall: Good advice that

we all can learn from. Say hello to my friends in your charming city. I had a wonderful time when I was last there to speak at a travel professionals convention. — Heloise

Dear Heloise: If a recipe calls for finely shaved butter, use your cheese slicer. You get nice, even slices. — Carol Wall, Logansport, Ind.

Send a money-saving or time-saving hint to “Heloise,” P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or e-mail it to heloise@heloise.com. © 2009, King Features Syndicate

NEIGHBORS NOTES

Military

LEWIS TAKES SUBMARINE COMMAND: Cmdr. Oliver Lewis, a Baton Rouge native, took over command of the USS San Juan from Cmdr. Mike Martin during a change of command ceremony on Friday at the Naval Submarine Base New London’s Shepherd of the Sea Chapel in Groton, Conn.



Lewis

Lewis, who attended Baton Rouge Magnet High School, previously served as executive officer of the USS Newport News and holds a master of sci-

ence degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America. He also graduated from Boston University in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics.

MORRIS COMMISSIONED: Jordan R. Morris has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after successfully completing the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program and graduating with a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University.

Morris, a Gold Bar recruiting officer, is the son of Keith E. and Ronada B. Morris, of Port Allen, and is a 2004 graduate of Redemptorist High School.

JEFFERSON COMPLETES BASIC: Army Pfc. Lequeta S. Jefferson has

graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. She is the niece of Deborah Franklin, of Baton Rouge, and granddaughter of Ernestine Jefferson, of St. Bernard, and is a 2004 graduate of St. Bernard High School.

SHAW COMPLETES BASIC: Air Force Airman 1st Class Roxanna R. Shaw has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Rhonda and stepdaughter of Jack Midyett, of Baton Rouge, and is a 2003 graduate of Tara High School.

Reunions

BATON ROUGE HIGH SCHOOL: The Baton Rouge High School Class

of 1959 will hold its 50-year reunion April 3-4 in Baton Rouge. Classmates should contact Jerry del Rio, jerrydelrio.com or (225) 218-0888.

“Neighbors Notes” is published every Tuesday in the People section. Send items — including military graduations, reunions and promotions; university and college academic achievements; and neighborhood association events — to “Neighbors Notes,” The Advocate, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or fax information to (225) 388-0351 or e-mail to people@theadvocate.com. Deadline is Tuesday at noon of each week for the following Tuesday.



SUGAR AND MITCHELL

Annie’s Mailbox

Worker feels left out for wedding

Dear Annie: I have worked for many years in a small office that includes receptionists, medical assistants, nurses and doctors. One of the younger women is getting married this summer. She is friendly to me, and we work well together.

Most of the other people in this office have been invited to the wedding, but not me. People are starting to discuss the event, which is a bit hurtful. This is the second office wedding that I have not been invited to.

How do I be gracious about this and not take it personally? Am I supposed to get a card or gift for the bride? I sure don’t feel like it. Do I simply accept that I work with insensitive people? — Medically Competent Lady

Dear Lady: Office invitations are tricky because, while friendly, you are not always close enough to be invited. It is inconsiderate of the others to chatter on about it, but it is still appropriate for you to send the bride a card with your good wishes. And we hope you will.

Dear Annie: “Miffed in Maryland” was upset to learn his wife’s brother had not been legally married. When did his brother-in-law’s marital status become about him? It’s none of his business. Maybe the couple wanted a ceremony before God and witnesses, but didn’t feel the piece of paper was necessary. I think this is just an excuse for “Miffed” to cut his ties with a family he feels is morally inferior. — Not Buying It, New Mexico

Dear N.M.: One of the benefits of this column is it provides an outlet for people to vent. “Miffed” did so, and now, so have you. Thanks for writing.

“Annie’s Mailbox” is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar. E-mail questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net. © 2009, Creators Syndicate Inc.