

## Lifestyles

## ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Kathy Mitchell  
&  
Marcy SugarInternet  
affair ruining  
marriage

Dear Annie: I have been married for 25 years and have a 17-year-old son. My husband, "Jesse," is having an Internet affair with someone he met on the casino boats. I have been secretly reading his messages to her for over a year. He says it's just "Internet chat" and denies anything is going on.

I have proof Jesse is meeting this woman, and that he has given her money, a camera and offers of help because I have copies of his messages. He once asked her to get a hotel room, but she declined and said he was too pushy. When I try to talk to him about this emotional affair, he gets furious. He says I am snooping and sarcastically suggests he wear an ankle monitor so I can track him. He lies to me and to her, as well. He told her he lost his wife to cancer four years ago. It's unreal.

I am jobless (but looking) and need to get away from him, but I have nowhere to go and no money to do it. I also don't want to move and take my son out of school and away from his friends.

Jesse is a gambler and loses money that we need. Nothing I say to him makes a difference. He gambled away our tax refund. I hate him and my son hates him, too. Please help me. I am so depressed.

— Without Hope in Indiana

Dear Indiana: You could use some perspective while you consider your options. Please don't transmit to your son how angry you are with your husband. He should not feel obligated to take sides.

You should contact Gam-Anon (gam-anon.org) at P.O. Box 157, Whitestone, NY 11357. Then check to see whether your state offers job training and placement assistance for women in your situation. You also can contact the YWCA in your area to see whether they offer any programs that will help you, including counseling.

Dear Annie: As the weather warms, motorcycle riders will happily mount up and enjoy the road.

I understand the desire to ride without a helmet, to have the wind in one's hair, to reject the laws that mandate helmets against your will. But statistics show there is a dramatic difference in outcomes for motorcycle accidents where the cyclist was wearing a helmet and where he wasn't.

My friends who work in hospital emergency rooms have told me their hearts sink when they hear that an incoming accident victim was a helmetless cyclist. They do their best, but so often it's a matter of stabilizing the victim until the family can decide whether to donate their organs before turning off the machines.

I ask that cyclists think of the heartache their family and friends will suffer. And if that's not a sufficient argument for you, then sign your donor card. My mother was the lucky recipient of a kidney from a person who did not wear a helmet. She grieved with the family that so generously gifted his organs to her and others.

— Card-Carrying Donor in Evanston, Ill.

Dear Evanston: We hope all motorcyclists will read this letter — tape it to their bikes — whatever it takes to remind them to wear a helmet.

Dear Annie: The letter from "Not Burly About Kimberly" hit a note with me.

I, too, go by my full name, Pamela, and when someone shortens it to Pam, I let them know that I don't care for the nickname. If that doesn't work and they call me Pam again, I address them by a completely different name. When they correct me about their name, I tell them, "My name is Pamela. You'll get used to using it." That usually fixes the problem.

— Pamela

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

## When I grow up...



Margaret Hobbs photos

Actor and television personality Evan Farmer entertains first-graders with his experiences in the movie industry. He is

probably best known for his time on HGTV's 'While You Were Out' program.

## Irving College students learn about variety of professions at career fair

By MARGARET HOBBS  
Lifestyles Editor for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a question often posed to youngsters as they ponder their futures. It's a question to which many answers can be heard — everything from a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse, to a movie star.

In an attempt to help students plan their futures, to make career choices, and to just introduce them to a variety of vocations, area schools hold career days inviting various guests to visit with the students and tell about their jobs. Irving College Elementary recently held its career fair under the direction of counselor Judy Hennessee. She stationed 10 guests in classrooms and scheduled students to rotate to the various classes.

"I try to vary my presenters so all my kids can identify with someone, choosing different races and genders. Sixteen career clusters are recognized by our state and I try to cover 10 of them each year, vary my choices so they get a wide range. This should introduce them to 90 different careers during their years here at Irving College," said Hennessee, a veteran counselor of 23 years.

Staff and students were especially happy to welcome actor and television star Evan Farmer to their event. He conveyed to the students the ins and outs of being in movies, letting them know it is not as glamorous as it seems.

"It is not always fun, doing the same scene, and delivering the same line over and over until the director got it the way he wanted it," laughed Farmer.

Farmer resides in Nashville, and when asked why he came to rural

Irving College to speak, he said, "It was at an event like this that inspired me to go into acting, and to realize that I could do it. A person told me that we are all special and that we need to pursue our dreams."

The actor has worked in modeling and commercial jobs, as well as performed on Broadway, and even toured with a Russian pop group. He is very well known for his role in MTV's film and series 2ge+her, and for hosting the popular television show "While You Were Out." He is currently working on a book on how to get into the entertainment industry, and producing creative and innovative programming that makes a difference.

"I love kids, and if I plant a seed in one head, it will be wonderful. My advice to kids is do whatever you want to do in life, go for it; but if you fail 499 times, it doesn't mean the next one won't be a success," said Farmer.

Others attending the career day were Tanya Bess and Dave Wideman, financial advisors; Dr. Robert Benson, cardiologist with River Park Hospital, Ashley Gillentine Wright, hospital community relations coordinator; Jason Nunley, fireman; Janie Robbins, technology; Jane Flatt volunteer opportunities; Joe O'Neil, chef; Bill Cathcart, engineering; and Eric Farmer, scholarship information.

Chef Joe O'Neal told about his culinary training, quizzing the students on their favorite foods and their preparation. When asked by Curtis Grissom, why he became a chef, O'Neal said, "When I was younger, I started watching Justin Wilson's cooking show on television. I developed a love for cooking at a young age, and enjoyed helping my mom and grandmother cook. I like to cook because it makes people happy."



Engineer Bill Cathcart talks to students about his profession during Irving College's sixth career fair.

At left, fireman Jason Nunley displays his fire-fighting equipment to inquisitive students.



Students, from left, Jordan Bess and Allie Pinkard pass fireman Jason Nunley's helmet around the room during his presentation.

At right, chef Joe O'Neal explains his choice of vocation to students. Classes were treated to several different occupations during the day.

