

Part-time Jobs

A few of my grands are at the age now where they are wanting a part-time job to earn extra money for new ‘thingamajigs’ for their vehicles or maybe to take out a new sweetie so some of them are gainfully employed. A couple even went to work for us at Sun-flower!

I remember when I was fourteen, the man who was in charge of State Farm Insurance came into our book-keeping class one morning looking for part-time help in his office. I was selected to try this new venture.

I worked two hours after school and four hours on Saturdays and I made seventy-five cents an hour. My goodness, that was about twelve dollars a week. At that time twelve dollars would buy

considerably more than it buys today. My passion was then, and still is, shoes. I had every color and height of high heeled shoes that could be bought. I worked for State Farm Insurance until I graduated high school. Roy and I married before my senior year so this was my contribution to our finances during our first year of marriage. Believe it or not, I bought the weekly groceries. But because of this lucky opportunity at so young an age, I was able to get many really good paying jobs.

From State Farm I went on to work at several different places including contractors, other insurance agencies, doctors, barge transports, and hospitals. I was hired several times over those with college



Peggy’s Take

as I had so much experience. One of the hospital jobs was taking notes and transcribing for a pathologist. Now this was the one job I walked away from because one day I was asked to sit in on an autopsy and that was for sure a job killer!

My husband was also blessed in the fact that at an early age an accomplished businessman mentored him in the grocery business, and he succeeded in this because of the break he got when he was very young.

Only a few of our young people today realize what it means to work when they are so young. We have spoiled our children. I know I surely did. I hear others say, “I want my child to have it better than I did.” Well, I can say, without a doubt, I did not have it that difficult growing up with a part-time job. I believe I was blessed to have had the experiences I enjoyed and that these times made me the person I am today.

I love an ‘easy to put together’ supper. Here is a really easy one:

Potato Soup

- 1 bag frozen diced hash browns
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 stalk of chopped celery
- 4 cups of chicken broth (homemade or bought)
- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup half and half
- 3 T. flour
- 2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 12 slices of cooked



Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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Q: Our ten-year-old granddaughter lives with us. We have custody of her but her father, our son, is now asking us for visitation privileges. I probably don’t need to tell you that both he and his ex-wife were not up to parental responsibilities. He says he’s cleaned up his act and wants a relationship with his daughter. She says she wants to see him, too. We’re not completely opposed, but we’ve heard all this before and are, of course, skeptical. She came to us two years ago with major behavior problems – disobedience and lying, mostly – and has improved some but not a lot since then. She’s been seeing a therapist for more than a year but my husband and I see no improvement.

We recently found out that she and the therapist spend

crumbled bacon

4 chopped green onions

Mix potatoes, onion, celery, broth, and water. Cook on low for 8 hours. Mix flour and half and half and stir into potato mixture. Cook 30 minutes. Stir in cheese and ½ of the bacon. Sprinkle green onions and rest of bacon on individual servings.

** Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

most of their sessions playing board games and doing crafts. My granddaughter wants to continue her therapy, but we don’t see how playing board games is going to bring about improvement in her behavior. Can you give us some direction here?

A: I’ll do my best. I can’t really comment on the therapist’s treatment plan; furthermore, I want to believe there’s more to it than simply board games, but I will tell you, I’ve heard of that sort of thing before. If I was working with you folks, I wouldn’t waste time or money seeing the child. In my estimation and experience, there’s very little if anything a child this age can contribute to a proper understanding of the sorts of problems you’re experiencing. You need a plan for dealing with your granddaughter’s behavior problems, and you need it fast. She’s at a critical stage of development as far as problems of this nature go. If they are not resolved soon, you may well be dealing with a full-blown sociopath in a few years.

As for the father’s desire to have visitation with his daughter, I think there’s a possibility that could be a good thing for her. The research is very clear that fathers become increasingly important to a young

girl’s positive development beginning around your granddaughter’s age. Nonetheless, until you’re confident that everything is going well, I’d recommend limiting visits to daytime hours.

As for the behavior problems, the first thing I’d recommend is that you scrub her life clean of electronics, anything that she can use to text, get on the Internet, and so on. You need to have complete control of her communications. Second, she should have social contact with girls only and only girls you vet and approve. Next, if her father will cooperate, she should have visitation with him only if she has a “good week” at home and at school. If you determine that she doesn’t merit visitation, her father should have a serious conversation with her, emphasizing how much he wants to have time with her, but also confirming his support for the decisions you make in that regard.

Certainly, a newspaper-column length answer is not going to be sufficient. I hate to get self-promotional, but reading several of my books might help get all of you on the right track. Have the father read them as well, then get together and discuss how what you’ve read applies to your situation and how you can use it to, hopefully, begin turning things around.

It’s a start, but a good start is the most important part of any process.

Op-Ed: The Fight for Free Speech in the Free State of Jones

A former student at Jones County Junior College is suing the school for infringing on his free speech rights. And the U.S. Department of Justice is coming to his defense.

Michael Brown, who is now a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, was stopped twice by campus police for trying to inform students about the political club he was involved with, Young Americans for Liberty, without prior authorization from the school’s administration, according to the complaint filed by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

Brown was stopped by campus officials early last year about an inflatable beach ball, known as a “free speech ball,” upon which students could write messages of their choice and again in the spring for polling students about marijuana legalization.

An administrator told YAL that they weren’t permitted on campus since they hadn’t sought permission from the college.

According to Brown, he and another student held up a sign polling students on marijuana. Campus police took him and another student to their office after telling a

friend, who wasn’t a student, to leave. Campus officers later escorted the friend off campus.

The DOJ has now issued what is known as a statement of interest.

The DOJ statement compared the school’s regulations regarding public speech from their handbook to the tyrannical state of Oceania in George Orwell’s “1984.” The statement also says the college has an obligation to comply with the First Amendment.

The current regulations require at least three days’ notice to administrators before “gathering for any purpose.” The student handbook also puts even more restrictions on college-connected student organizations, which must schedule their events through the vice president of student affairs. The school administration also reserves the right, according to the handbook, to not schedule a speaker or an activity.

The statement says that these restrictions operate as a prior restraint on student speech and contain no exception for individuals or small groups, and grant school officials unbridled discretion to determine about what students may speak.

The DOJ urges JCJC to

revisit and revise its speech policies. In May, FIRE wrote a letter to Jones County Junior College President Jesse Smith offering to help the community college bring its policies into compliance with the First Amendment. The school didn’t respond to the letter.

This, however, is not the first – or even the most recent – instance of college campuses in Mississippi restricting free speech. This fall, the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at Ole Miss rescinded an invitation of Elisha Krauss, a conservative commentator, days before she was scheduled to appear. The event was hosted by Young America’s Foundation. The Center is housed in the same building as the School of Journalism and New Media but is a separate organization.

The Overby Center claimed they do not allow ideological speakers, yet with a 2019 lineup that included a former Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate and partisan journalists from the New York Times and Washington Post (among others), the definition of “ideological” seems to fluctuate based on how much you may agree with certain speech.

Krauss is certainly someone who has a conservative background, but also someone who has spent considerable time in the larger world of journalism. Someone who would have been a good balance to many of the other speakers allowed to convey their thoughts and ideas at the Overby Center.

Fortunately, the story in Oxford ended on a positive note. The administration invited Krauss back. And she gave a well-received speech naturally, regarding free speech on college campuses.

But whether it’s a junior college or the oldest public university in the state, we shouldn’t be having these fights in Mississippi. Free speech should be welcomed and encouraged on every college campus in the state, regardless of whether you like the speech or not. And it shouldn’t take a lawsuit or an administrator overriding one or two decision makers.

To date, 14 states, including every state that borders Mississippi, have passed legislation to protect campus free speech and ensure different voices can be heard. The Magnolia State has the opportunity to join this growing trend in 2020.

**Brett Kittredge is the Director of Marketing and Communications for Mississippi Center for Public Policy, the state’s non-partisan, free-market think tank.*

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