

Apartment manager is evil, rude

Tomorrow's horoscope

Dear Annie: I live in a rental space with my aunt and uncle. We enjoyed it until recently. Here's what happened:

During the time we have been here, the rental space has had several different managers. All were nice and tried their best, but this new manager is treating us poorly. "Sally" is evil and rude, and if she's right, you're wrong. Her attitude toward us makes us feel terrible. We pay our rent every month on time. We try to keep our rental space as clean as possible. We are cordial to our neighbors.

However, when we got a bedbug infestation, Sally said it was our fault. We have heard from previous residents that they have had infestations, as well. A family had to move out because of this. Another needed to have their rental space exterminated before moving in.

I don't think Sally is totally familiar with infestations. She knew nothing about bedbugs and had to read up on them. She thinks there is nothing wrong with blaming us, yet the fact that others on this property have had infestations indicates that the problem has been kicking around for a while, and others may have bedbugs soon.

She is charging us for the exterminator, even though we weren't the ones who called him. She also arranged a follow-up spray without asking us. She is making us feel that we need to leave.

How do we find out who the owner is

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



so I can report Sally? — *Concerned*

Dear Concerned: Some unenlightened landlords blame bedbug infestations on the residents, but the truth is that a single infestation can reappear anywhere in the entire apartment complex over and over, regardless of origin, which is what may have happened in your space. It is necessary for all of the apartments in the vicinity to be thoroughly disinfected, meaning the neighbors above, below and on either side.

You can find out who owns the rental spaces through your county government offices, which should have records of land ownership. (In Chicago, it would be the Recorder of Deeds, but it varies by location.)

Dear Annie: My best friend's daughter is getting married this summer and has requested that her mom give her a bridal shower. Since the couple has been living together for a while, they did not register for gifts and are asking that the shower invitation include a suggestion for money or

gift cards.

I have heard that this is a common practice these days. But I think it's ill-mannered to ask your guests for money. What is your take on this? — *Old-Fashioned in Pennsylvania*

Dear Pennsylvania: The way it works is for close friends and family of the bride to pass the word that cash or gift cards are preferred, and not include this in the shower invitation. It is also wise for the bride and groom to register for a few items, perhaps from a store they frequent where unwanted items can be returned for merchandise credit. This allows guests who are uncomfortable giving money to give something else. After all, giving anything is up to the guest, and the couple should show gratitude for whatever is received.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Ventura, Calif.," about dental scams and the response from the American Dental Association. I agree that a second opinion is important.

I live in a huge retirement community. At least six people I know visited a large dental practice here, and all were told they needed extensive dental work. One man had a year of work done to the tune of \$22,000. The others, however, returned to their former dentists in their old home cities. The second opinions they received were all the same: Nothing needed to be done to their teeth. Seniors with savings should beware. — *Florida*

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Listen between the lines. In today's case, "That might be possible, we'll try our best..." may actually mean, "That seems pretty unlikely, and hopefully you'll be satisfied with less."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What one person considers direct, honest and necessary, another person may deem blunt, rude and unnecessarily hurtful. Test your audience before you choose your communication style.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ask your question, and then wait and listen for the real answer. Don't telegraph the answer you desire, or it will stop you from hearing the truth of what's actually happening.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your gift from the cosmos is the gift of interpretation. You assign personal meaning to impersonal omens. You figure out what someone's random acts mean to your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Statistics measure the past but can't predict the future. It will be helpful to know about the past, because this will provide a rich context for the leap of faith you are about to take — a leap that flies in the face of historical evidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The one who imparts a forceful and persistent vision will change the direction of a group. You're still not sure whether you want that to be you or not. Take your time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Right now there are more than seven billion lifetimes happening at the same time on this planet. A few of them are going to cross purposes with yours. Just remember, without challenges there are no adventures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today will

bring the reality check you need. You don't have to earn your worthiness. You were born with it. You have every right to speak up and push back, so do it unapologetically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ideas are fun to spin, but to manifest them in your physical environment, you have to make agreements with the truth and reality around you. Truth and reality are the foundational blocks you can build on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll do the things that make you nervous. Don't bother calming yourself down, because the nerves are precisely what will help people drop their defenses and relate to you on a human level.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Top performers know that you can't always wait until your mood fits the task at hand. Neither can you rest on your personality and reputation. Whatever you lack in the moment, perform it. Pretending will make it so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are tempted to purchase a service that you don't need. Is this a selfish splurge? Maybe and maybe not. If it makes you feel better and doesn't put anyone else out, then go for it.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 11). This year you'll be sunshine in the lives of those who need it. The next seven weeks amplify your passion, and you'll be most persuasive — apply it to getting something big. April brings a seemingly high-risk opportunity (the odds are secretly and definitely in your favor). June features new friends and great love. Leo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 15, 26, 33 and 5.

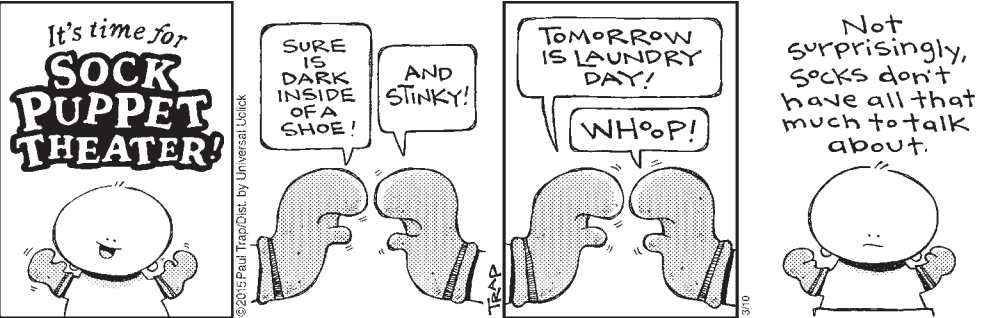
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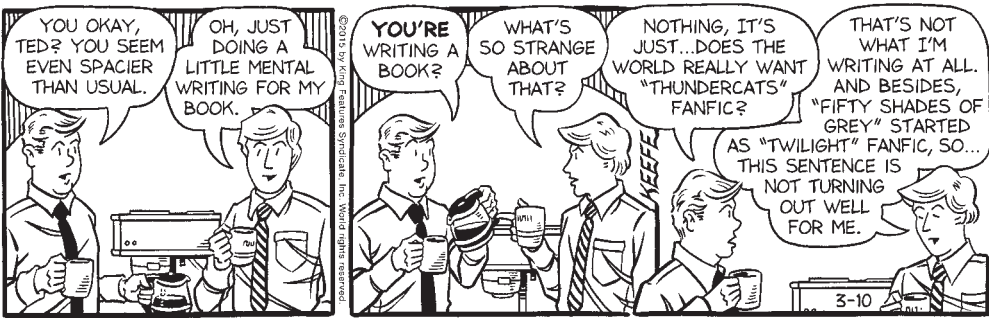
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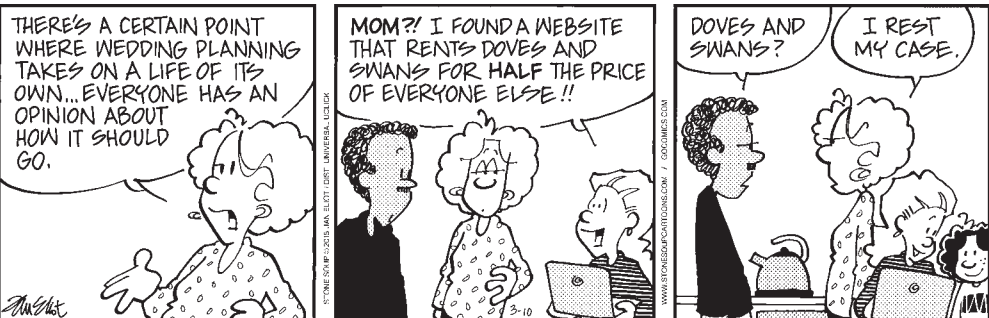
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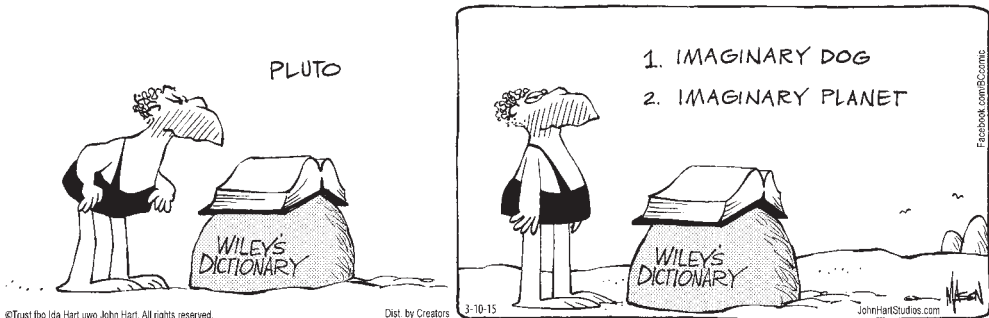
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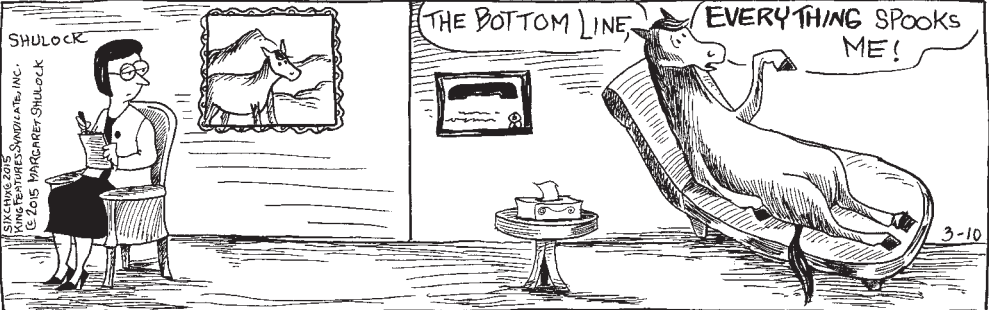
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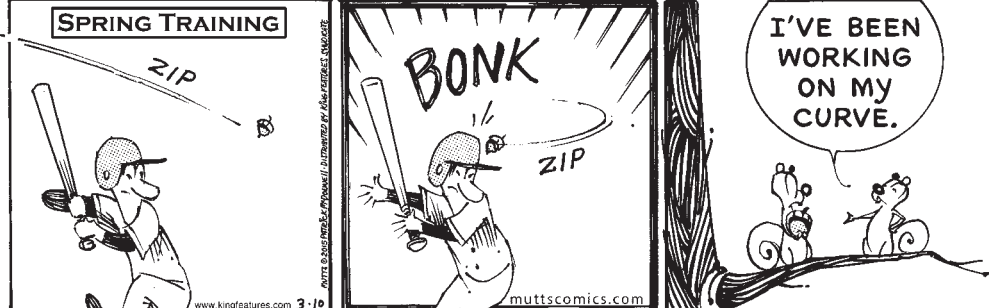
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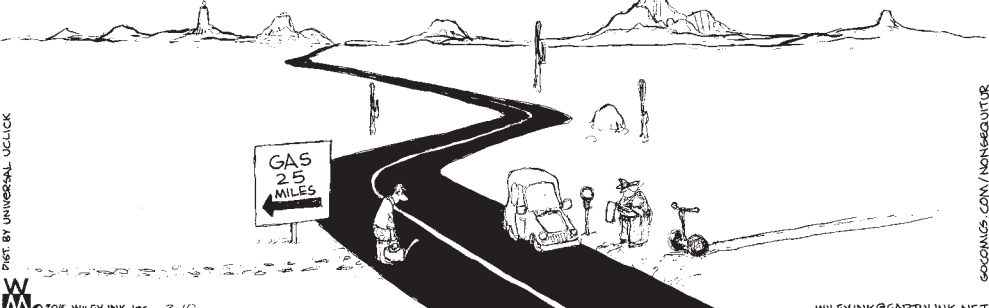
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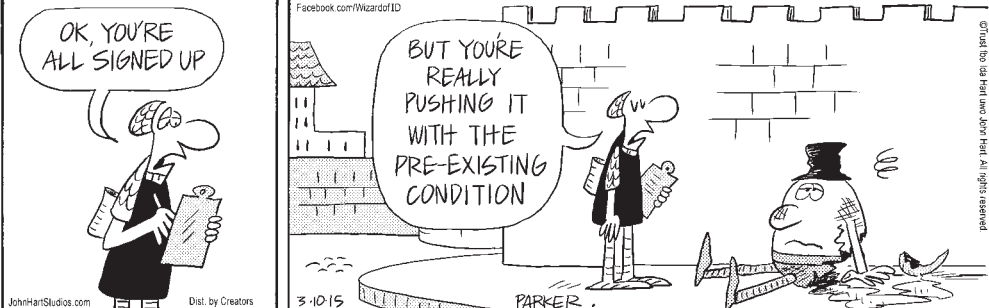
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