

Should friend turn in boyfriend?

Dear Annie: Two nights ago, I witnessed my best friend being verbally abused by her boyfriend. The boyfriend was drunk and probably doing something illegal. I listened to him yell at her on the phone all night while we were supposed to be spending time together for her birthday. It was 3 a.m., and he was demanding that I pick him up on my way to take her home. I told him no, because I didn't want him being drunk and possibly violent in my car. I let my friend know that she can call me if she needs anything, and dropped her off at their house. Although I'm sure her boyfriend will eventually get himself arrested for violating his probation, I feel it is up to me to report him. But if I do, I will lose her friendship. Should I turn him in for the sake of my friend's safety or mind my own business? — *Unsure in Ohio*

Dear Unsure: We aren't certain what this man was doing that violated his probation. Yelling at his girlfriend isn't enough to warrant a report, unless there is a restraining order preventing him from phoning her. Does his probation state that he cannot drink? If so, you should report him and

Annie's Mailbox

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let the chips fall. But a suspicion that he might have been doing something illegal is not sufficient, and the police likely would not pick him up for that unless you could provide proof. And without any evidence, he could accuse you of harassment.

Please be careful. This guy sounds like a loose cannon. Your friend should call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE and ask for help.

Dear Annie: I'd like to offer some additional advice to "Can't Stop Crying," who wants to keep the dog confined because "Lassie" scratches the floors, wears down the furniture and leaves dog hair all over. Her husband thinks she's being cruel and refuses to compromise. Now he sleeps with the dog, and she's in tears. Your

suggestion to get a trainer to intercede was good, but it won't help with the dog hair.

My savior was an indoor invisible fence. It is a small unit that plugs into an outlet creating a barrier. Our dogs have freedom throughout the downstairs, except for the formal living and dining room. And the invisible fence also prevents the dogs from going upstairs to our bedrooms. We allow the dogs on the family room furniture, which gives them lots of snuggle time with us. The durability of washable dog blankets protects the furniture and can be removed when we have company.

Our dogs are spoiled and happy, and so am I. I'd also like to note that "Crying's" dog probably has become accustomed to sleeping with the husband and it will take a little tough love to break that habit. A friend found that it helped to give their dog a large stuffed animal to sleep with instead. — *M.*

Dear M.: Thanks for the additional suggestions. We hope the husband is willing to compromise, but he seems quite content to romance the dog and leave his wife by herself in the bedroom.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The usual way: When all is said and done, more gets said than done. Your way: Silently and with razor-sharp intention, do it. Then walk away. If anyone is talking about it, it won't be you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't get it on the first try (or the second, third or 70th try), chalk it up to building your character. It's one of the few things you can build that will endure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maybe you like someone more than you care to admit or more than is appropriate for your current position. Have no fear. That person who makes you nervous will also bring out your best.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You think of love as being sweet, kind and undemanding. True, but love can also be tough or even harsh. Sometimes love demands that we step up and fulfill our potential.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your style is to go in with a formal tone and keep that up until you're sure that respect has been paid. Then you'll ever so subtly test the boundaries of casualness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're right. You know it. The question is how far you should push the things you're right about. Too far, and you'll alienate the others. Not far enough, and your conscience will nag you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People tend to picture freedom in extremes of wealth or homelessness, but there are ways of being freer in your life that don't involve being rich or without responsibility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so intuitive and aware that you will read more

meaning into a situation than those directly involved might care to. Your insights are accurate, though best kept to yourself for now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Top photographers insist that it's the eyes behind the camera and not the camera itself that make for a great image. This metaphor will be reflected in the brilliant results you get today with minimal equipment.

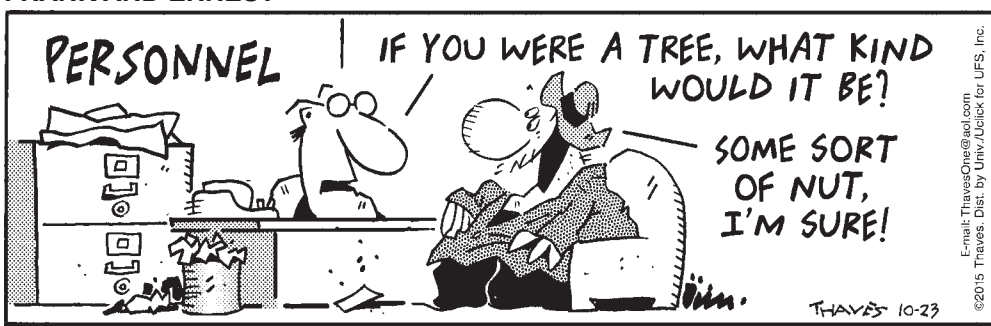
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Accept that there will be some glitches, and go through them calmly with your head held high. Don't waste your breath apologizing for minor offenses. No one expects you to be infallible, and you shouldn't, either!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As you concentrate on building your team and increasing your number of fans, it will feel like you're giving, always giving. Are you giving too much? At this point, you can't give too much.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Buckle up because you're about to hear (ad nauseam) about the astounding accomplishments of others. Are you surprised that this does not ignite your spirit of competition? The reason is that you're in a league of your own.

SATURDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 24). There's no way to anticipate what tricks and tools you'll need in this year of surprises, but you're ready to give your superhero all. What you do for love at the end of the year will have magical results. Family bonds in fun and mischief. Your social swirl gets interesting with the additions that February brings. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 22, 27, 49 and 5.

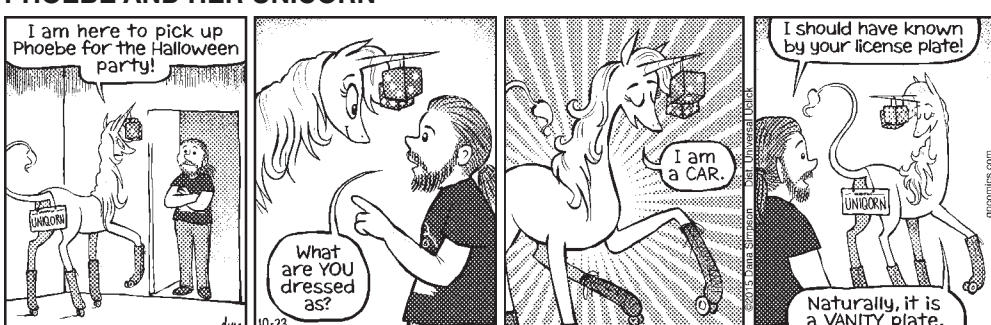
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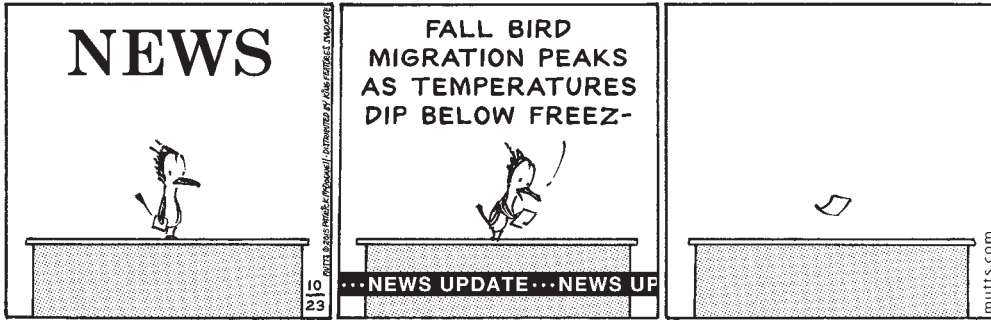
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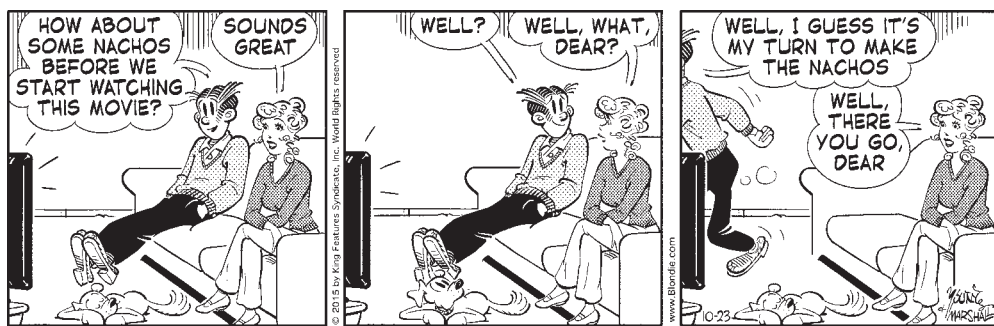
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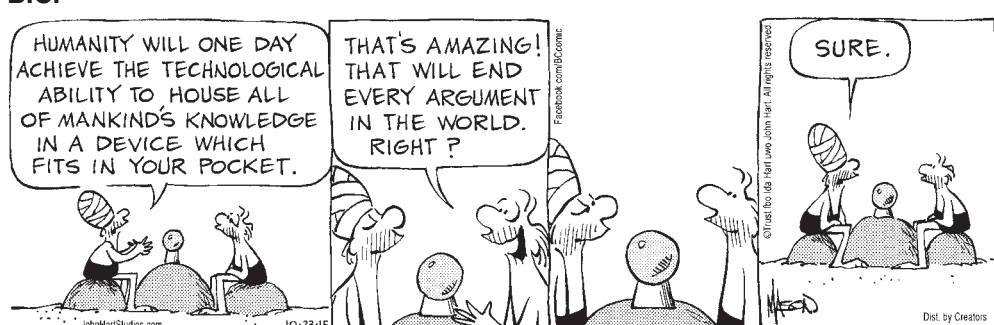
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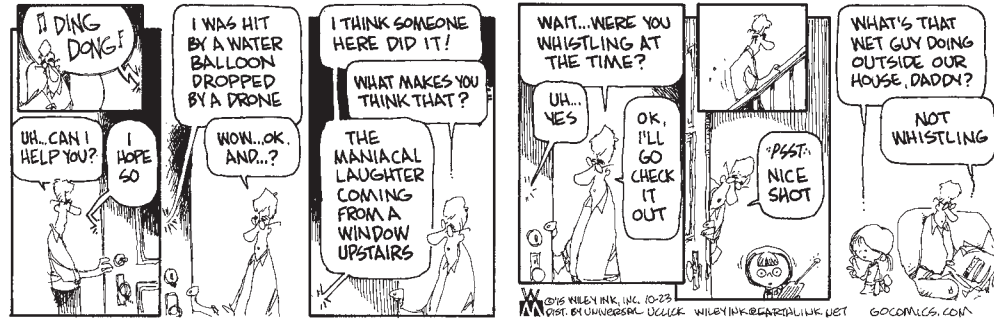
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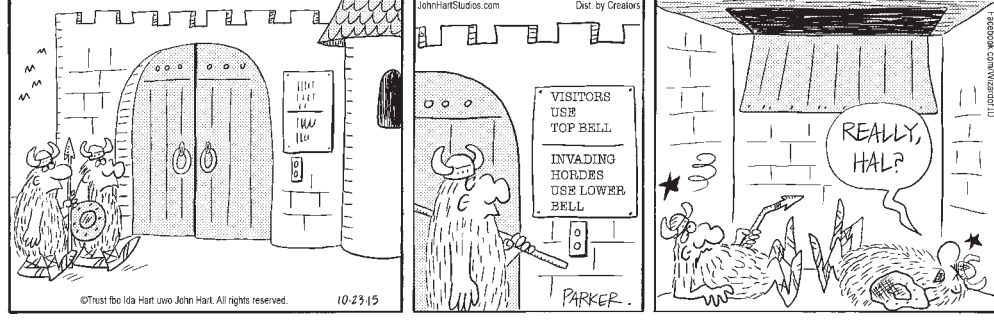
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