

# Habits disgust roommate

**Dear Annie:** I live with a friend who wants the house to be neat all of the time. But his personal habits are disgusting. "Bruno" washes up in the morning with a washcloth that he leaves on top of the hamper. He takes a shower once every two weeks. He coughs and hacks and spits into the trash can by his desk. He gets black newsprint on his fingers when he reads the paper and then it gets all over our white walls when he touches them. He is diabetic and disposes of his bloody test strips and tissues in a garbage can in the kitchen. Next to the table. Where we eat.

How can I tell him to be more sanitary? I get so nauseated by his habits that sometimes I want to move out, but I can't afford that option. When I speak to him about it, he gets crabby. — *Disgusted Roommate*

**Dear Roommate:** This is what happens when people share living quarters — you have to find ways to live with those traits that irritate one another. We recommend putting a trash can with a flip lid in the kitchen, so his tissues and test strips are not visible, and the

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



container is easy enough to use that Bruno won't drop the tissues on the floor. You can do the same with the one by his desk. Do the reverse with the hamper — replace it with one that has no lid, so everything goes into a basket that can be carried to the washer. Don't clean up his inky fingerprints. If he doesn't like to see them, simply direct him to the cleaning supplies.

There's nothing you can do about how often he showers. We think you should start scouting for another place to live that, with a second or even a third roommate, would be affordable.

**Dear Annie:** My niece is married and they have three children. Each year, I send my niece a Christmas gift of a significant amount of money for the family. I send a gift certificate for each

child's birthday, and I also send my niece a gift for her birthday.

She never sends a thank you via letter, card, text or email. She never acknowledges receiving the gifts at all. I always have to write and ask whether the gifts arrived, and usually, I will get a response a day or two later.

I realize I don't send gifts simply to be acknowledged, but it is a courtesy to let the giver know something was received. At what point can I let go of this tradition since it certainly doesn't seem to be appreciated? She lives in a different state, and I haven't seen them in over eight years.

If I stop sending gifts, I know she will never once consider that she is responsible. But do I continue sending gifts to someone I consider unappreciative and rude? — *Annoyed Aunt*

**Dear Aunt:** You can stop this tradition immediately. Send your niece a lovely card for the next occasion and write inside, "I can tell that gifts seem to create an extra burden for you, so I've decided to stop sending them." Enough already.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your charisma comes from attentiveness. Because you've such a powerful life force now, it energizes whatever it settles on. And the people you focus on feel like the most important ones in the world.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you say the right thing to the right person, your project will take off like wildfire. That's why you need to start talking in a very positive way about all you want and all you are doing.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's had rocky moments, but rest assured, the relationship sector of your life will ultimately bring fulfillment. Your heart will be healed by one who understands your needs and answers them with complementary needs.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your temper is a teakettle in a library. You want to be effective enough to make some nice drinks, but you don't want to be too noisy about it. To avoid sounding off, let off a little steam at a time.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The same belief that once made you feel secure now makes you feel trapped. Maybe this wasn't always a stifling influence, but it is now, so throw off your mental chains.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Physical labor is favored and you have the high energy necessary to do more than you could have last week. You'll apply your strength to improving your surroundings or earning some kind of bonus.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You may be working or living alongside someone, but are you really connecting with this person who is so vital to the outcome of your week,

if not your life? Turn off the distractions and really focus in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You will finally get a reward that was a long time in coming, and this is probably a result of what you've tolerated for years. Precious and beautiful pearls are made from irritating grains of sand.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If you look behind, you'll fall behind. So look ahead, lean into the future and know that you are uniquely equipped to make the most of what's coming up. This is just the beginning.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll be inclined to follow your muses, not the chants of your audience. However, today it just so happens that the thing you want to do makes your crowd happy too, so you both win!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It may be necessary to rearrange your schedule or cut back your workload in order to make the time for a loved one who really needs you right now. Do what it takes to make relationships strong.

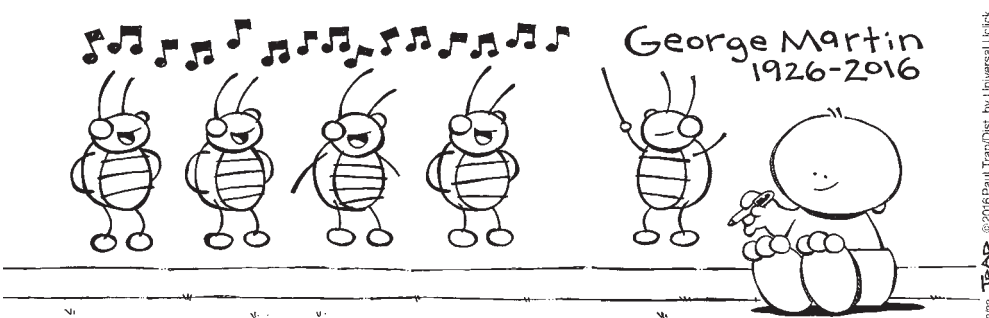
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As you follow your spiritual curiosity, new people and places welcome and enrich you. Soon you'll be reconciling the religion of your youth with your present awareness of life.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 23).** This year features an exciting alchemy at work in your relationships. Ordinary connections become extraordinary and your inner circle will grow to a fuller, richer potential. Mystical notions and realistic goals get mixed together to great effect through June. Finances take a turn for the better in July. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 7, 12, 20 and 1.

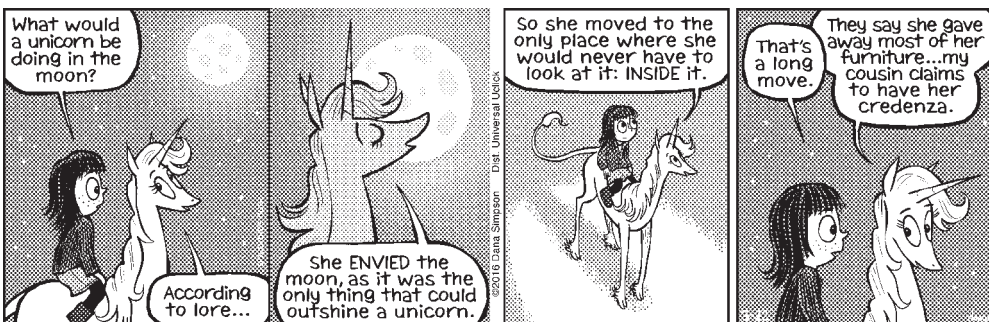
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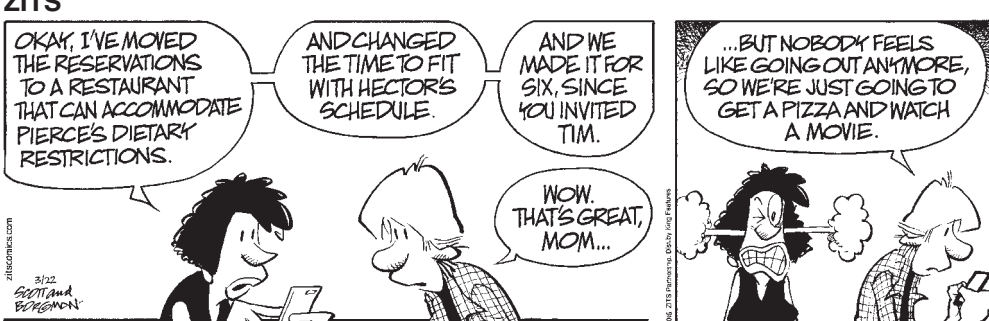
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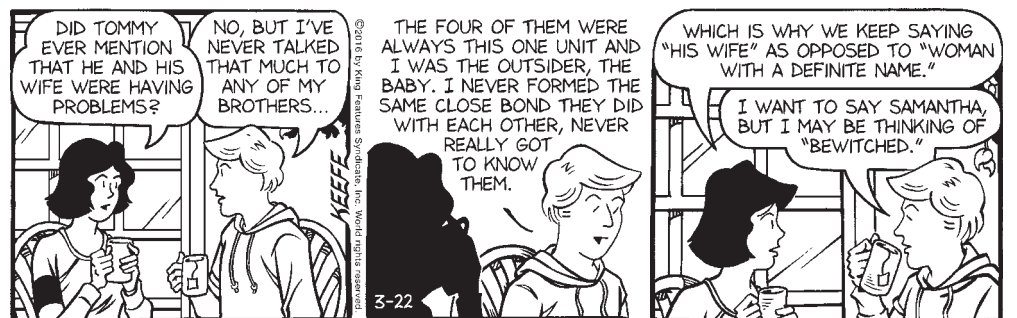
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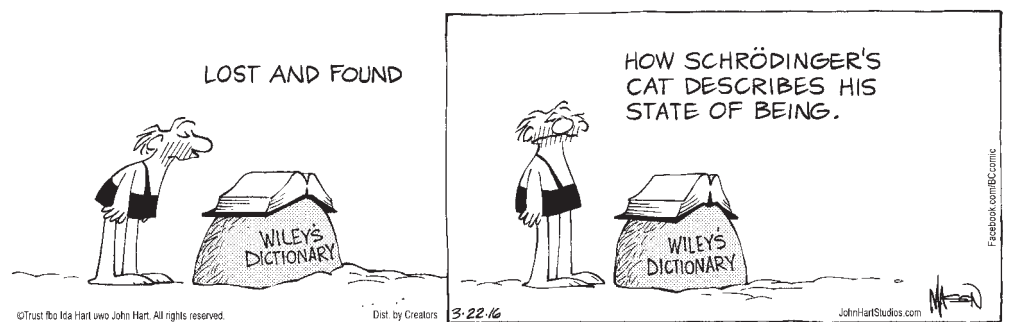
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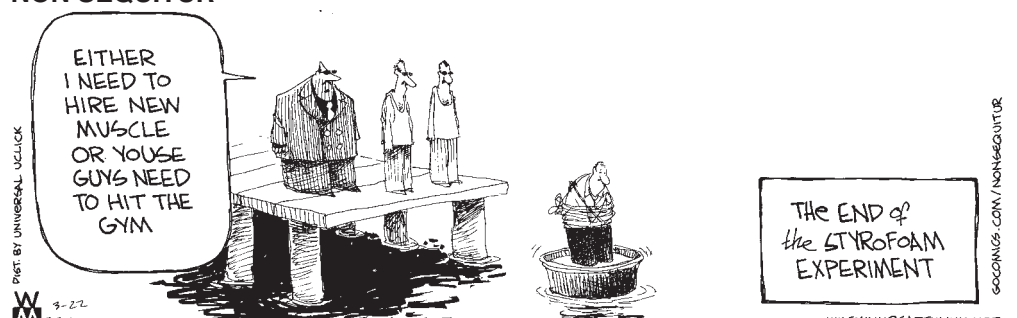
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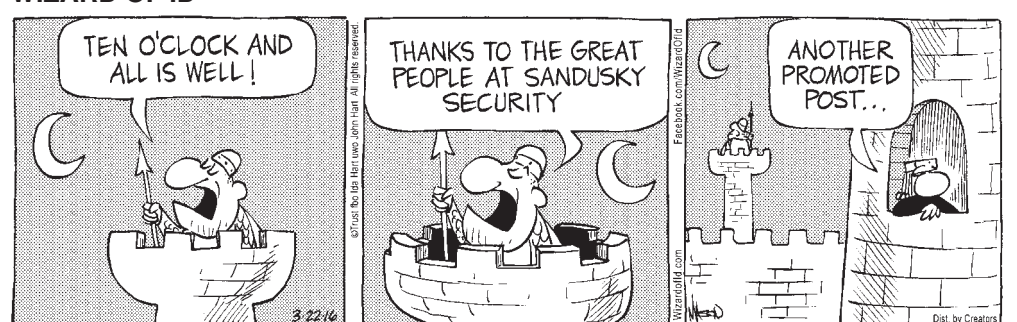
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## NON SEQUITUR



## WIZARD OF ID



## ROSE IS ROSE

