

Neighbor not keeping it down

Dear Annie: I live in a large city with high real estate prices. This has prevented me from buying a home, so I reside in an apartment. I have done so for the majority of my adult life. All of my previous experiences have been pleasant. However, this apartment has very thin walls, and I can hear just about everything that goes on in my neighbors' apartments.

A new neighbor recently moved to the apartment below me, and I can hear everything that goes on down there. Our building has a strict rule that there should be no loud noise between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. Unfortunately, my downstairs neighbor seems to be a night owl, and I have been woken up on numerous occasions at 2 in the morning by her partying and loud talking. I have spoken to my landlord twice about this, and he has assured me that he has spoken to her. However, this behavior continues to happen.

I understand that you have to choose your battles as an apartment dweller; however, this neighbor's complete disregard of the apartment rules has my blood boiling. I have invested in earplugs, and a kind co-worker gave me a white-noise machine. Using these tools

Dear Annie



By **Annie Lane**

Creators Syndicate Inc.

has helped me, but the fact remains that this woman seems to have no regard for anyone. I feel completely disrespected.

Moving is not an option for me right now, so I believe I am doing the only thing I can do by keeping the landlord aware of this behavior.

Annie, I am not really asking for your advice. I am asking you to please print this letter as a public service and a reminder to all apartment residents to remember that there are others in close range who deserve consideration. — *Blood Has Boiled Over*

Dear Boiling: Always happy to let people vent if it prevents an explosion, but I am going to make one suggestion here: Talk to your neighbor. It's possible your landlord never actually talked to her in the first place. And even if he did,

he may be out of sight, out of mind as far as she's concerned.

Dear Annie: I just can't let pass how strongly I disagree with your reply to "On Clearance," the girl whose boyfriend got free concert tickets for her birthday.

You advised her to let her boyfriend know that she does not consider them a present because he didn't have to pay for them. I would have told her to get over herself — that if the cost of a gift is most important to her, she should rethink her values.

Also, she can't know what this "cost" him. He listened to her interests and desires. He actually gave thought to how he could fulfill one of those desires. He put himself out there for her and asked his friend for the favor. He was her knight in shining armor. He plans to escort her and try to see to it that she enjoys herself.

If I could advise him, I'd tell him, "Run!" He would be fortunate to find out her true, only-interested-in-the-almighty-dollar nature before entering into any long-term relationship.

There are plenty of young ladies out there who would thank their lucky stars for such a thoughtful beau. — *Florida Reader*

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The loud shirt, the bright shoes — go on. Show up the moment; it will never again this way come. In one way or another, you will create a most treasured memory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Give what is needed, but do not over give or you'll be taken for granted. Friends who love each other are the best kind to hang out with — the good feelings are contagious.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To be objective is to understand the value of life without being weighed down by it. Actively practicing detachment skills will bring you many peak experiences and special moments.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When the flies land on the sweet, sticky flypaper, resistance is futile. They land; they die. There are many human equivalents to this out there, some obvious, some not so. Be alert and aware so you can land with assurance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're willing to go to a far place to let go of troublesome thoughts, emotions, memories and sensations, but you needn't endure the travel. You can let go from wherever you are. Just open your hands and drop it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). They love you. They'll let you know when it matters. Until then, they'll bask in your affection and annoy you a little while making your life harder than it has to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your rules will apply. Your restrictions will be honored. Your expectations will be met. If you have yet to set those kinds of systems up, do it today, because you're favored to get it right!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When

your personal life is going strong, the rest of your life tends to fall neatly into place. Make a meaningful personal connection and you'll have a breakthrough.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your flaws make you likable. Really! Covering up your flaws, however, will work against you. People get nervous about coverups, even if the thing under the cover is adorable.

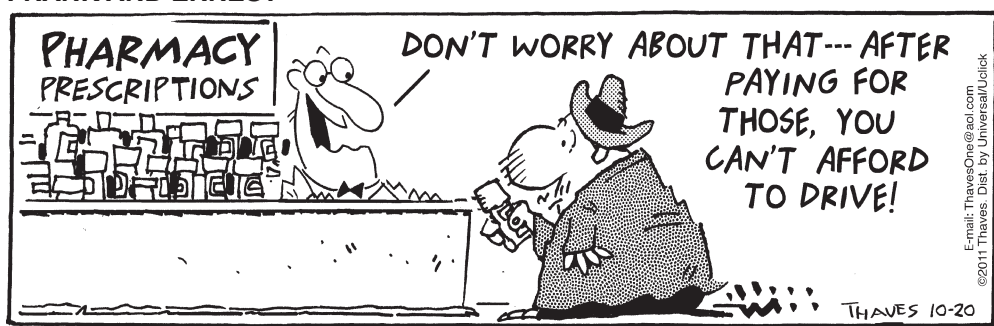
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your excitement over an upcoming event is truly half the fun. Revel in these plans. Put more thought into this than is reasonable, because it's about as big a deal as you are willing to make it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are a lot of rules that play into today's action, but the one that will matter the most is this: "Always be closing." This is the rule you'll thrive by. If it's not on the bottom line, it's not.

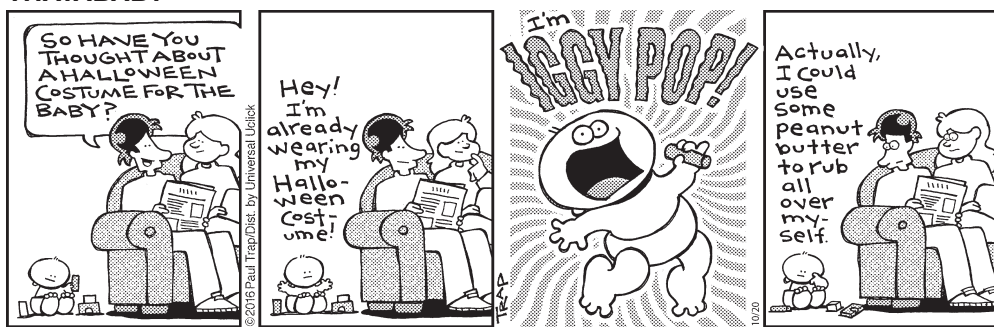
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). With social graces, timing is everything. What's unpleasant in one moment is charming and refreshing in the next. Much will depend on your ability to read the room well and pace yourself to that beat.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 21). This is your year to reach, risk and transform (in a relatively painless way, to boot). As you devote yourself to helping others, your self-esteem will grow through the year. Fabulous happenings in February and June will come affordably to you. You'll share your story and win fans, friends and love in the new year. Scorpio and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 5, 20, 11 and 42.

FRANK AND ERNEST



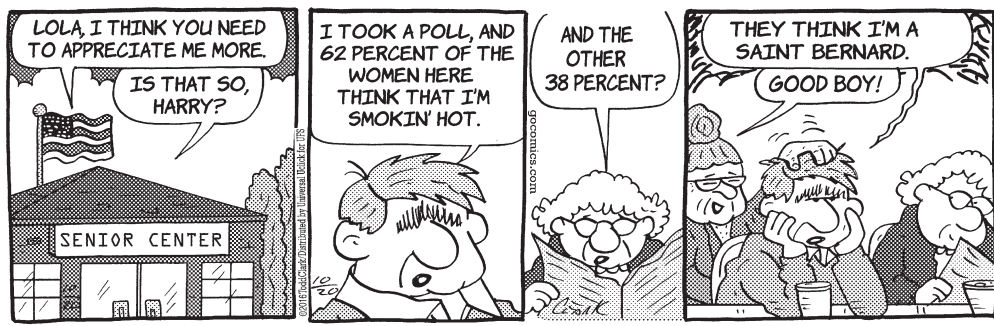
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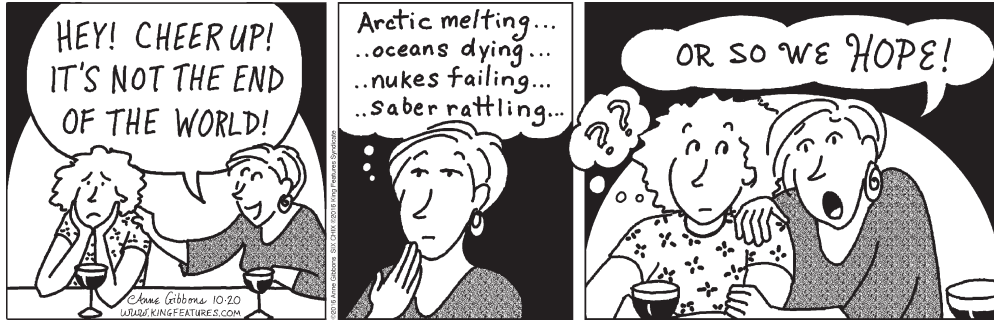
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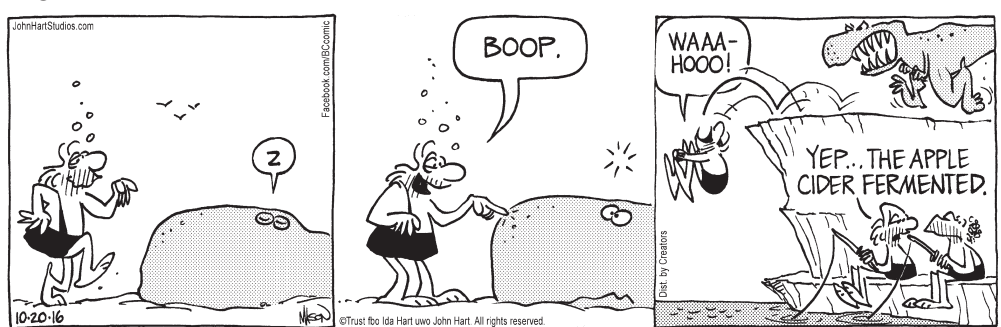
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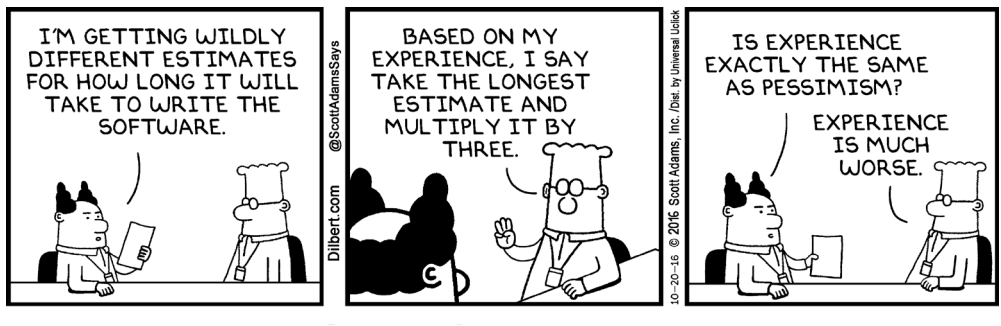
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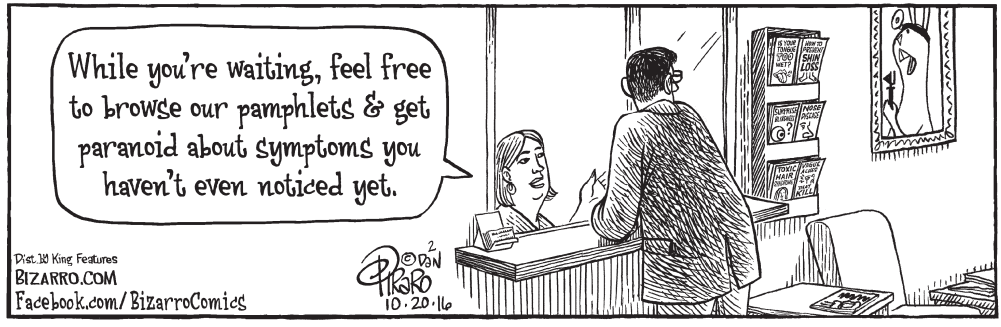
B.C.



DILBERT



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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

