

# Neighbor breaks chair twice

**Dear Annie:** I wrote to you earlier this year about my lovely, charming neighbor and friend named "Tara," who is quite overweight and broke my living room chair. I was so embarrassed for her that I did not say anything, and neither did she. I've never mentioned it since. That repair was over \$90 — a lot of money to me.

Well, Tara came over recently, and before I could suggest going out for coffee, she sat in my beautiful living room chair again. Immediately, there was a loud pop.

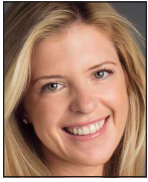
Ugh! The spring is completely out of the bottom of the chair again. And the upholsterer says it will cost at least another \$90 to repair it.

What is the etiquette for telling a neighbor with whom you're friends that she has obviously broken an item of yours? How should I bring it up? She will have cost me about \$200 in furniture repairs. I have to think she knows she breaks furniture when she sits in it, because after each incident, she immediately said, "Did I break it?"

Tara can afford to pay for the

damage. And she states all the time that she is a good Christian woman, which I wholly think is true. I'm out a lot of money, and I'd like her to pay for it. I just do not know how to bring it up while preserving the friendship. — *Broken Living Room*

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

**Dear Broken:** If you remain silent, resentment will pile on until you reach your own breaking point. To preserve your friendship and your furniture, you need to tell Tara the truth.

Put your discomfort aside and give her a call. Keep it short and sweet. Tara's weight is really not your concern here, so don't focus on that or feel guilty because of it. The simple fact is that she broke your chair and you would really appreciate it if she would help you to repair it. It's nothing personal. If she's the good friend and neighbor you think, she'll ask you to send her the bill.

**Dear Annie:** A recent letter in your column from "A Little Space, Please" reminded me of a similar incident that happened to me. I was at the pharmacy counter talking to the assistant pharma-

cist and completing my transaction, when suddenly, a huge angry-looking man appeared and leaned right past me, putting his elbow on the counter and looking over my shoulder.

Needless to say, I was startled, and I knew immediately he was trying to intimidate. So I politely asked him to wait back a little and said that I was nearly finished. He became enraged and started screaming horrible insults! The assistant pharmacist said nothing as I proceeded to tell this Neanderthal what I thought of him. I then told her that she should direct customers to wait behind the line and take control of the situation.

It was a most unpleasant experience that I will never forget. That guy probably didn't think I would stand up to him and his rude behavior. I could still hear his ranting while I was leaving the store. — *Carol in Florida*

**Dear Carol:** Way to stick up for yourself. My only caveat: Don't put yourself in danger; always make sure you are in a safe environment, surrounded by others, and don't resort to violence. Often the best defense is a good exit plan. But kudos to you nonetheless, courageous Carol.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Sharing the same sensibility isn't necessary to a productive relationship. Align yourself with people who are very different from you, because you'll work great together now and mesh in interesting ways.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Put serious attention into what you'll wear, who you might see, what you'll talk about. Forethought will lead you to make a wonderful impression. Your upbeat and confident mood will make all of the difference.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If you go seeking inspiration, you may come up dry. Seek connection instead. This aim will prompt you to bring more of yourself to interactions, and you'll be met in kind.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** If you try and calm yourself by making life a little more predictable, you will achieve a level of predictability somewhere between delightful spontaneity and mild chaos. Save your energy; embrace the unknown.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It may feel like a game of limbo in which you're being asked to bend backward to the furthest extent you can without falling down. You're emotionally and practically flexible, but should they really be asking this of you?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Happiness depends on your ability to reduce the self-critical voice inside your head. The praiseful voice is equally unnecessary. Focus on tasks; eliminate the commentary.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Relationships reach new comfort levels. This might change the whole game, inspiring you to go for a deeper commitment, or maybe it's just

something that will happen naturally.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You know the social secret: People who feel accepted are way more fun. That's why you strive to be easygoing, project tolerance and eschew pretentiousness.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You warmly try to include everyone, make introductions and promote togetherness. You can feel good about the efforts you make in this regard, and you're likely to have extremely successful results.

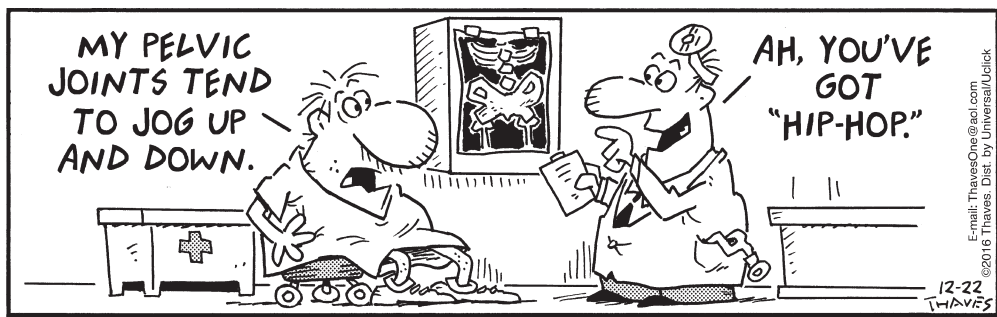
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** An unexpected twist — your act of humility accidentally draws attention to you. So much for the spotlight you were trying to avoid. The more you run, the more it shines on you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The beautiful and elusive Marlene Dietrich suggested, "It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter." You have so many friends like this, and it will be good to be around them now.

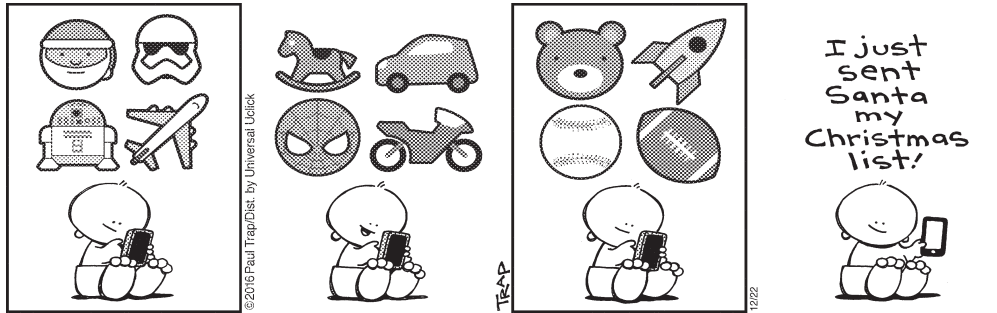
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** If you even half-believe in spirit guides, and you call yours up, you might just get an intuitive message about how you can fix things. You'll still have to do all the work, though. Spirit guides are advisers, not employees.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 23).** The big life questions can only be answered by you. You'll research, gather ideas, get advice — bottom line, your heart already knows. Execute with confidence. February will bring something interesting to take care of. Responsibilities only make your life richer. March and June offer business advances. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 41, 28, 3 and 9.

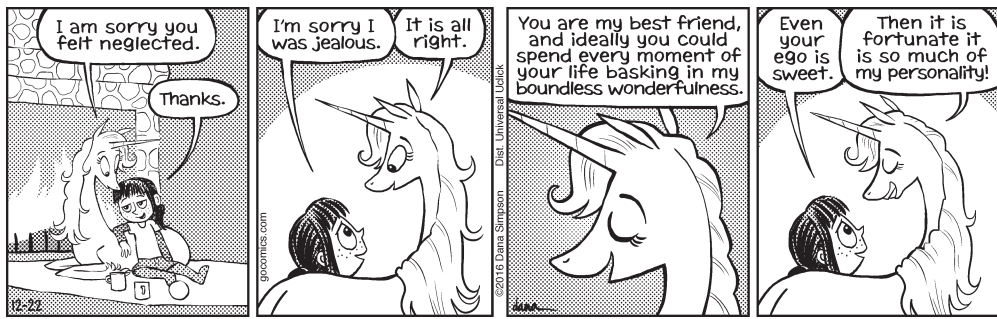
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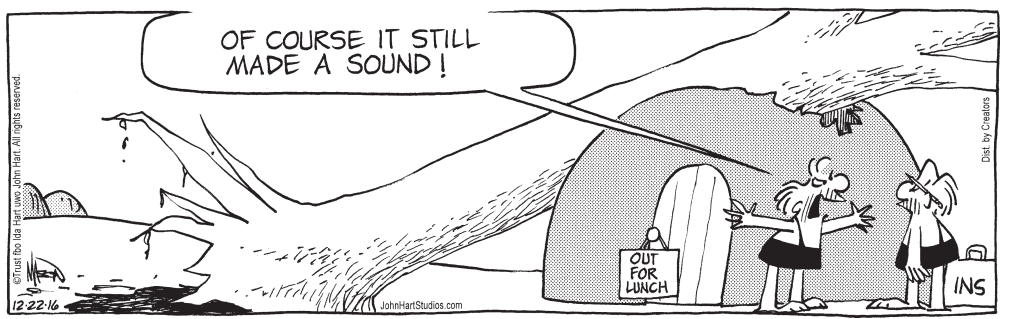
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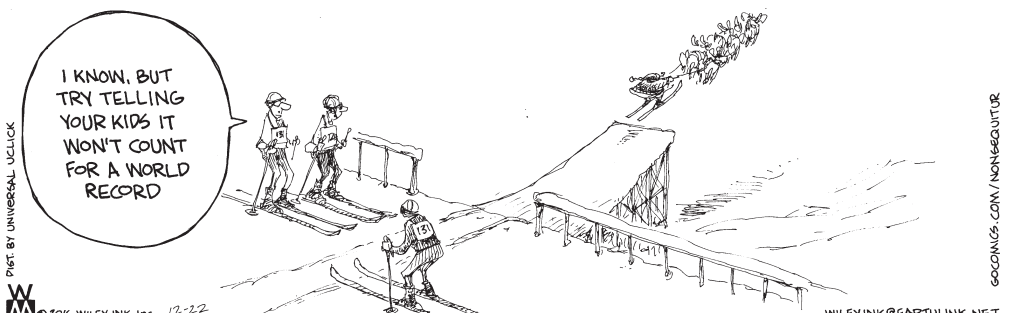
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## ROSE IS ROSE

