

# Roommates are ruining coffee table

Dear Annie: Help! My coffee table is slowly being ruined, and I don't know how to prevent it without seeming like a control freak.

This table was my first big furniture purchase, after years of Ikea bargain pieces and Craigslist freebies. I got some really cute coasters right away, hoping to protect the table. But no matter how many times I've asked my roommates, they keep forgetting to use the coasters. They'll place a cold drink right next to a coaster but not on it. It drives me crazy! I've asked at least 10 times now. They are starting to get a bit better about it and are remembering sometimes, but their friends are not.

I feel awkward going in there when they have guests over and placing their drinks on the coasters. I don't want to make anyone uncomfortable, and I'd love to be more relaxed about this, but I'm already noticing rings on the table and some warping. How can I get my roommates to listen to me without blowing up at them? — Coaster Crazy

Dear Coaster: The best

defense is a good offense. Call a local custom glass-cutting business and have a protective top made to the dimensions of your table. This should be relatively inexpensive (between \$40 and \$60) — well worth the peace of mind.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: Thank you for publishing a recent letter from a person in need of a kidney transplant. Kidney disease does not get the attention it deserves. Thirty-one million people — babies, young children, teenagers, adults and senior citizens — are dealing with this illness. Some aren't even aware they have kidney disease until symptoms appear. There is no cure for kidney failure.

On Jan. 3, my sister died from complications of kidney failure. Her last two years were not quality years. Even dialysis has devastating side effects. She was in and out of the hospital too many times. She fought long and hard. She leaves behind a young teenage daughter and a husband, who stood by her side every step of the way.

As her sister, I could not sit by and watch her suffer. I tried every-

thing to find her a living donor. I purchased a billboard where she lived. I posted on Facebook. I put my request on the back window of my car. I did radio, newspaper and TV interviews on her behalf because my sister and her family were financially, mentally and physically exhausted.

The transplant hospitals do not look for living donors for those in need. This is the responsibility of the family. I will always wonder what else I could have done. Like my sister, some become too sick or die before getting a second chance at life. My beautiful sister is just a statistic now.

There are currently 98,000 people on the kidney transplant waiting list. I know many people who are registered organ donors. This is not enough. Take it one step further and be tested as a living kidney donor. Call your local hospital and ask for the procurement center it works with. — A Grieving Sister in Kansas

Dear Grieving: I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved sister. Thank you for raising awareness about the importance of living kidney donors. Readers interested in becoming donors, visit <https://www.kidney.org> for more information.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** When they say, "the strong one" or "the one you can always count on," who pops into your mind? This person needs more attention and love than you might have guessed. It's worth a call today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Maybe your hopes for the situation are a bit unreasonable, but don't give them up yet. In archery and other pursuits, you have to aim above the target to hit the goal.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The emotional terrain that stretches before you is uncharted. You've the toughness of an explorer, though, and that's what's needed to brave these wild hills, dark but full of diamonds.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Set down the remote. The entertainment in your personal life will render other forms of drama superfluous. Bonus: Tonight brings even more spontaneous excitement.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The old-school wisdom that you should not trouble another person for what you can do yourself flies in the face of effective management. Bottom line: You will not advance to your full potential while taking on every task yourself.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You've an important moment coming up. Practice to the point where the desired result is automatic. If this doesn't seem to calm your nerves, don't worry too much. The best training for getting over nerves is being nervous.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** No one is untouched by her community and environment. Even if you decide not to converse, volunteer or join your efforts in any way with those around you, you'll feel the good thoughts and intentions of those present.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It's said that living well is the best revenge, but why wait until you're retaliating to start living well? Begin now for no reason at all except that you deserve excellent self-care and it benefits everyone.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your friends will say nice things to you. And your good friends will also say harsh things to you if such things will benefit you in the long run — or, at the very least, they'll tell you when you have spinach in your teeth.

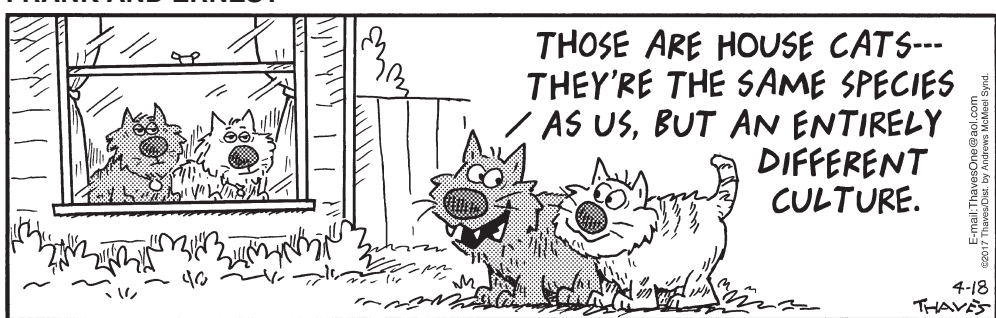
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Is there some higher morality than the one that feeds social stability, justice and peace? It's a subject of debate today, and yet it's pretty obvious what people need. "The people's good is the highest law." — Cicero

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Some will keep score, but it's a waste of time. And don't be overly concerned about who gets the last laugh, either. As long as everyone laughs at some point, the comedy of life is playing out as it should.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There are many privileges to be enjoyed. Luxuries are nothing to be embarrassed about, as long as they are paid for. Some say that even being in the world is a luxury. What responsibility do you assume for the trade?

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 19).** The worries go away. All that was blocking your signal will move out. In May, the love you feel for someone will make you bold. Follow through with spontaneous ideas: Go big. What you do to make another person remember you will be how you remember yourself. A fine mess turns into an opportunity of a lifetime in July. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 16, 21 and 33.

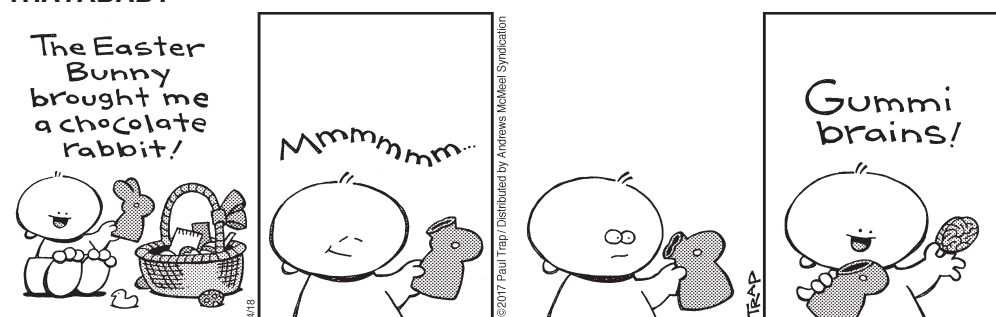
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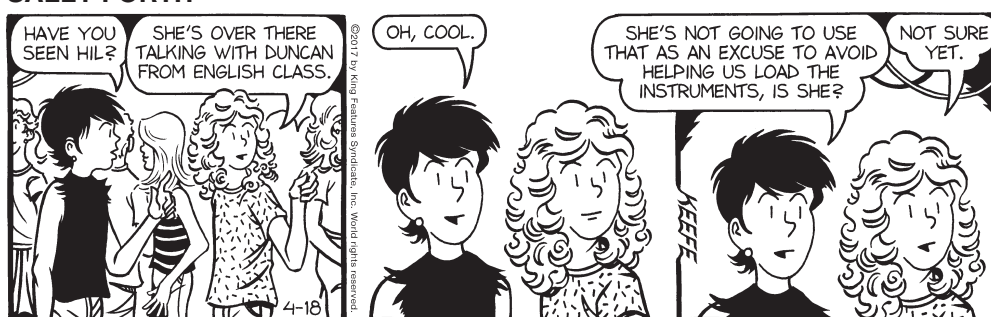
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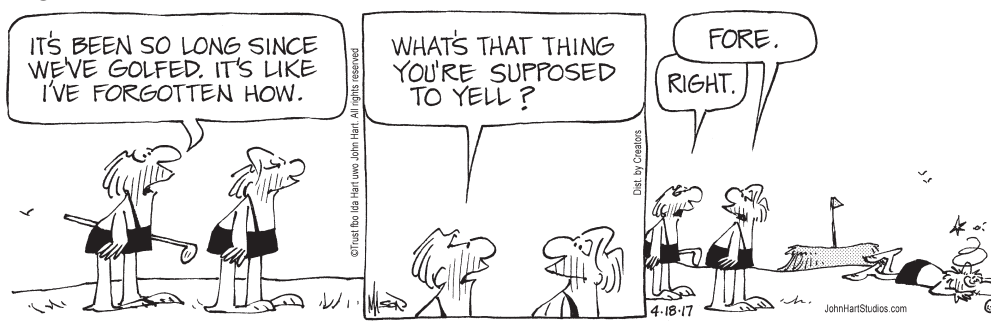
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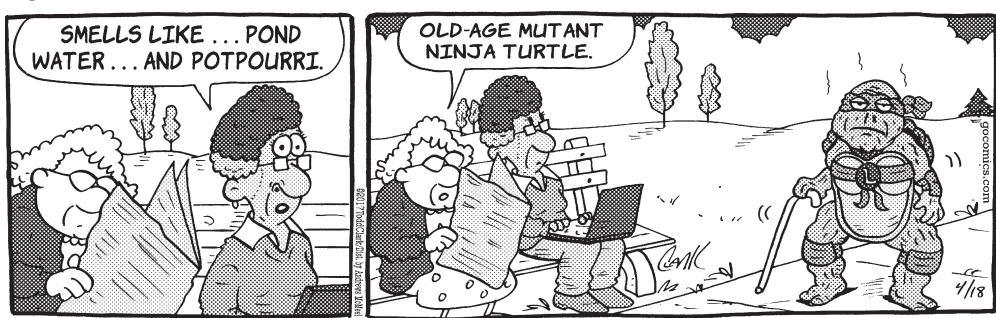
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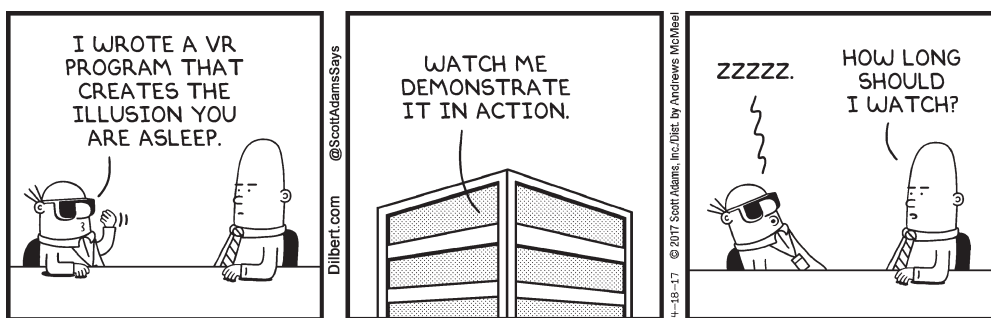
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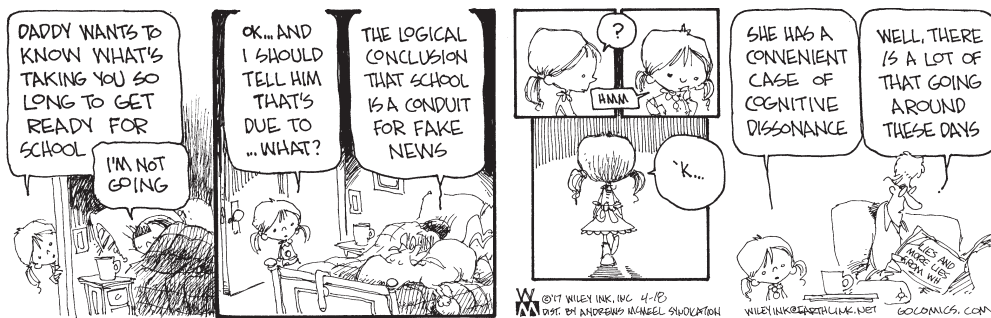
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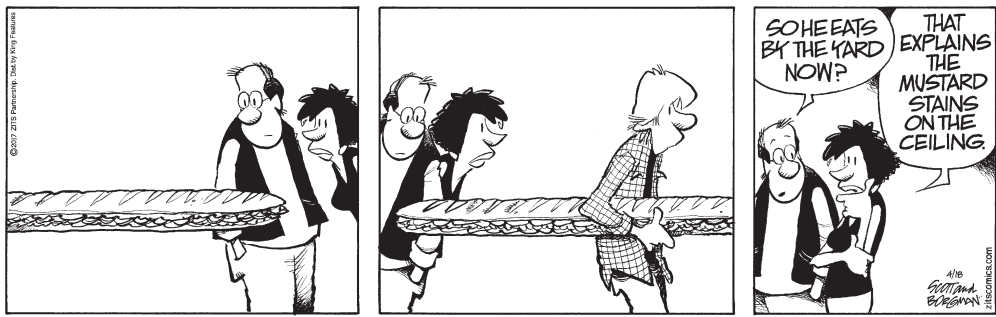
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