FEATURES

Stuck in a sticky situation

Dear Annie: I hope you can stand another letter about roommate problems. I'm a single guy in my late 20s. I live with one roommate, "Larry," and he's getting on my last

Larry told me when he moved in that he was a clean person, didn't leave dishes in the sink, kept the bathroom tidy, always took out the trash — pretty much none of which has turned out to be true. He cooks big meals, and then leaves all the dishes in the sink for days. He leaves

toothpaste specks on the mirror and never cleans the toilet. He does take out the trash now and again, but never the recycling.

I've tried talking to him about all of these issues. Sometimes he apologizes. Sometimes he points out my own messes. I leave mail and other random things lying around, but that's just clutter, not grime.

I'm tired of coming home to a gross apartment. It really puts me in a foul mood. We've still got six months left on our lease,

and even then I can't really afford to move. So I might be stuck living with him for a while. How can I make a roommate clean up? — *Not the Maid*

Dear Not the Maid: It

might as well be a law of nature: Living with **DEAR** roommates will save **ANNIE** you money but cost you some serenity. The secret to not losing it completely lies

Annie Lane

in compromise and humility. Compromise often means choosing your battles. Larry's standards for cleanliness

will probably never rise to the level of yours, so decide which issues you truly can't tolerate. For instance, you might want to forgo fighting over the toothpaste specks on the mirror and focus instead on the dirty dishes, which can lead to bigger problems (such as ruined flatware and cockroaches). Sit down and discuss concrete rules — write them down even — such as doing dishes immediately after using them or before going to bed. Gently call him out the moment

you see him violating the rule.

The second concept to employ here is humility. Are you really the perfect roommate? We tend to have excellent vision when spotting others' shortcomings but are myopic when it comes to seeing our own. If you focus more energy on cleaning your own messes, you'll be less annoyed with Larry's.

Dear Annie: I just read your column that featured the letter from "GSP Smith," who put a small security camera in her mom's retirement apartment. I did that, too, for my mother's apartment, and I was informed by the staff that it's illegal in Florida and many other states. Isn't that outrageous?! I had to remove it. I'd love to see this discussed in your column. -Caring Daughter

Dear Caring Daughter: I did some research. While the staff was correct that it's illegal in many states, it seems the laws are changing on this issue. Readers, I would encourage you all to check what the laws are in your state and voice any concerns to your local representative.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

mission.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Avoid the triggers of a bad mood. Limit your exposure to negativity. When you're happy, everyone around you is happy. Today you will influence many, so your happiness is kind of like a responsibility.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're impressionable. It's one of the ways you learn so quickly (though sometimes you learn the hard way). If other people in your life are telling you that someone is bad for you, listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may change what you're doing in order to harmonize with the dominant environmental influences and forces, and that's only smart. Even so, you never completely lose your unique you-ness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Things that look good on paper don't always play out in real life, and things that work in real life don't often come with the hype, as hype hasn't been necessary. Word of mouth and personal referrals will serve you well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may be tempted to veer off, but dig down and find the strength and focus to stay the course. Simply put, you'll be better off tomorrow for following the plan today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is no magic formula to follow now. Logic prevails. Efforts that are correctly focused will lead to success. Repeat the same action several times — a habit is being forged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be a tangled little piece of drama to sort out. Then again, perhaps this isn't yours to solve. Suspend your judgment. Assume the innocence of others. Embrace humility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Compromise is a part of living together peaceably. However,

too much negotiating hurts a relationship. In the name of respect and simplicity it may be best to do what the other person wants without making a counteroffer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Lead yourself. All sense of direction will stem from your clear, bright, compelling vision of the goal. It's worth spending time on. The right vision will help you set the strategy and execute the

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Listening isn't easy. To give quality focus to another is a skill that takes years to learn and decades to master, and some people will never get it. You're good at it, and you deserve to be around people in the same league.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's all just a theory until you apply it. So go on. Decide the limits to your gamble, and then jump in and work it out. You'll either disprove the theory quickly and move on or be pleasantly reward-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are organized; you have a plan; and you'll stick to the plan. Because of this, you won't have too much trouble finding people who understand your deal, want to support you and will go along for the ride.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 1). This solar return shows you inexplicably drawn to adventure and daring enough to open new doors and enter foreign territory in pursuit of it. Fast deals go down in September. December brings good fortune and family unity. In 2018: You'll figure out a way to be compensated for doing what you love. Aquarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 27, 12, 19, 28 and

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY











BLONDIE





YES IT IS, AND MAKE SURE THE











SALLY FORTH



LOOKS LIKE

TRENDY NEW

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY CONDUCIVE TO OUR USUAL GAG FLOW.



NOPE

THAT'S WHAT

WE GET FOR

LETTING A MILLENNIAL

RUN THE THING,

SOMETHING

LIKE THAT



DOING A LITTLE



I'M CENTERING

MY CHI



IS THAT LIKE ROTATING

YOUR TIRES?



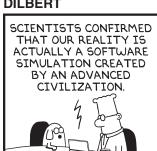
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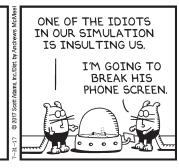
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WHAT'S ALL







SIX CHIX



MUTTS





NON SEQUITUR



Нимм.





I recently made what I

thought was an important

scientific discovery, but the Republicans haven't even bothered to deny it.

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WIZARD OF ID

THIS IS A

ROBBERY















