

Honking disturbs neighbors

Dear Annie: My neighbors aren't exactly the kind of people you could describe as — how do I put this? — quiet. And really, that isn't a problem. I've always loved the fact that my neighborhood is full of life. I actually like hearing the sounds of kids playing outside, a loud backyard barbecue, even television and music.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

A new family moved in next door about a year ago, and let's just say that the people in the family do not get along very well with everyone else in the neighborhood, and they are well aware of that. They also are the loudest house in the neighborhood. I believe the two aren't a coincidence. They yell at one another, use foul language way too loudly and blast their music at all times. However unpleasant it may be, though, this is something that I have gotten past. I feel that it should be OK to act as you please within the comfort of your own home.

But there is one problem I can't get over: They are a honking house. And I don't mean they just give a quick beep to let oth-

ers know they're outside. No, no. The mother, the father, the sons — all of them — they lay on the horn for an inordinate amount of time. This happens multiple times a day, at all hours, and it seems so unnecessary. It sends me outside every time to make sure everything is OK.

How do I ask them to stop being so outrageous with their horn honking? I know that other neighbors have complained about other noises and have gotten less-than-pleasant responses and no results, so I am nervous to approach them. How do I quiet the horns?

— *Horn-Induced Heart Attack*

Dear Horn-Induced Heart Attack: Despite your reservations, try having a chat with them about their volume problems. Focus on the impact it has on you. I, too, doubt they'll listen — but at least you'll be able to say you tried. If and when they raise a racket again, call your police precinct on the nonemergency line. Though it's unfortunate when we can't settle neighborly disputes ourselves, it seems that for these particular neighbors, a visit from

the police might be the only thing able to cut through the noise.

Dear Annie: Many years ago, when I was younger and had a factory job, my next-door neighbor would mow his lawn while I was sleeping. I always let him know what shift I was on and when I would be sleeping. This didn't matter to him. One time when I got off work at 4 a.m., I decided it was turning light enough for me to be able to mow my lawn. I never had to put up with it again. Whenever he saw me outside after that, he knew it was time to do his outside work. Maybe others have ways to stop neighbors from making unnecessary noises. — *Tired of the Noises*

Dear Tired of the Noises: One of the downsides to working unusual shifts is that your quiet hours are most people's living hours. Though it's worthwhile to let neighbors know your schedule and ask them to take it into account, I think it's unrealistic to expect that all of them will. Focus on making your bedroom a sanctuary by investing in blackout curtains and a quality sound machine and normal neighborhood noise will be less of a nuisance.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is hardly an agreement that can't be made sweeter for you with a little creative thinking on your part. So don't settle. Dream a little bigger, and the small, practical ideas will pop into your head.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In-person meetings will be the success of a project, deal or relationship. Sure, you could do it remotely, but it's not the same. The prize will go to the one who put the face time in to get it going.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). That gnarly bit of unpleasantness you experienced is all in the past now — you've been made richer for it, which is why you'll have so much to give today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your attitude? Empowered. You don't have to do much to get things moving in the right direction today. Just show up and the inspiration of your presence will be enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your creative muse is tapping you on the shoulder. Shut the world out for a while, and let your imagination carry you away. Don't have time for this: Make time. A new you could spring from the exploration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). They want what you're not willing to give. There may be another way you could strike a deal, though. Solve a deeper problem. Go back to the root, not the symptom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are in a position to help someone save face. You would definitely want this person to help you out, were the roles reversed. You earn karma points for taking the dignified route.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are just trying to solve a problem and go on your merry way, but people are apt to confuse things by giving you too much information. Avoid this dynamic by asking people for the short version of the story.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're the beautifier of the zodiac today, and what you touch will become more cohesive, graceful and tasteful. You've a special talent for adding just what a particular environment needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Moral sense can be highly subjective, especially when you get into the nitty-gritty details of it. And if doing so brings up a feeling of righteous indignation, the whole exercise can get rather dangerous quickly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People are not one way, one thing or one note. People are dynamic symphonies, each movement a different mood. People are ranges and valleys, not there to be frozen in photographs, but traversed.

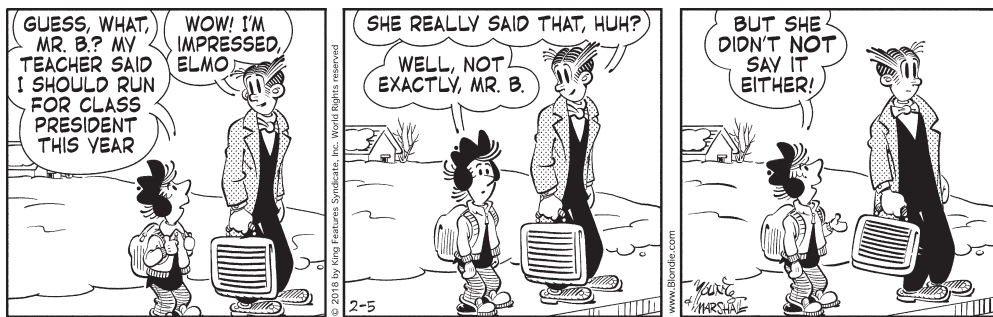
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a fish in your school today, so don't worry yourself with too many decisions. Nature will have you swimming along with your group, in protected, elegant teamwork.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 6). You'll be charged with keeping the standards high because people admire your approach to life. Spring brings a transformation. You'll win at work and enjoy the applause. But your personal breakthroughs will bring a deeper validation with its own resonance. Invest in yourself in June. Aries and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 3, 38, 13 and 9.

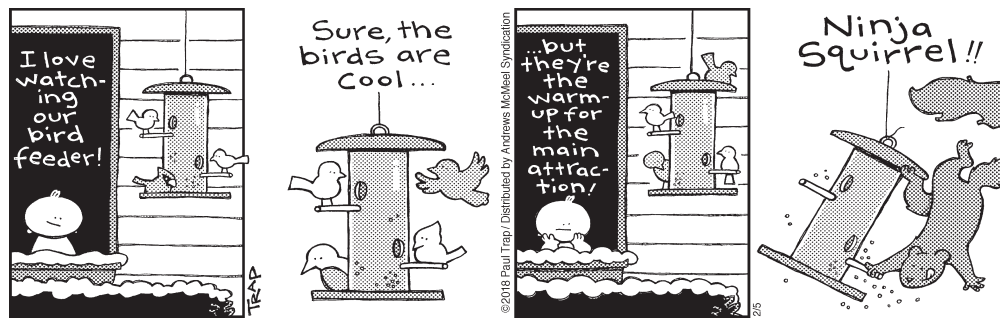
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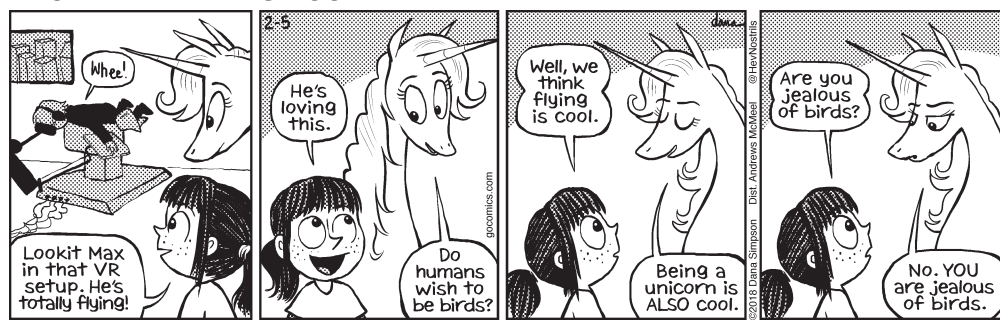
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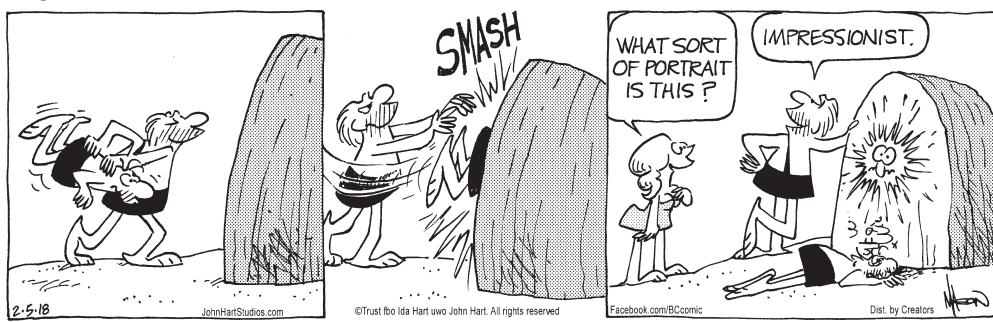
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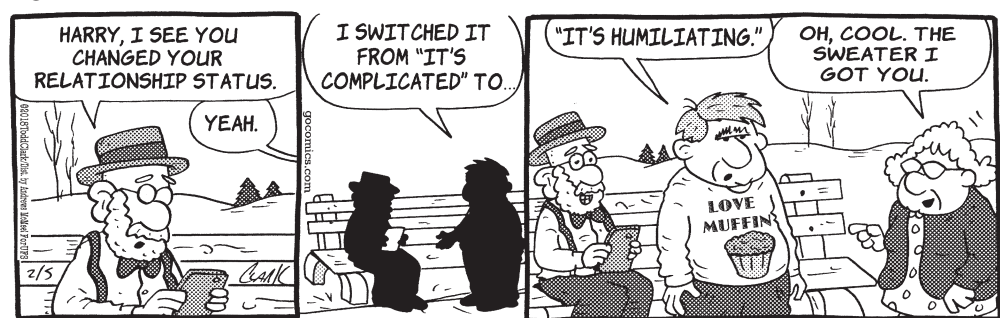
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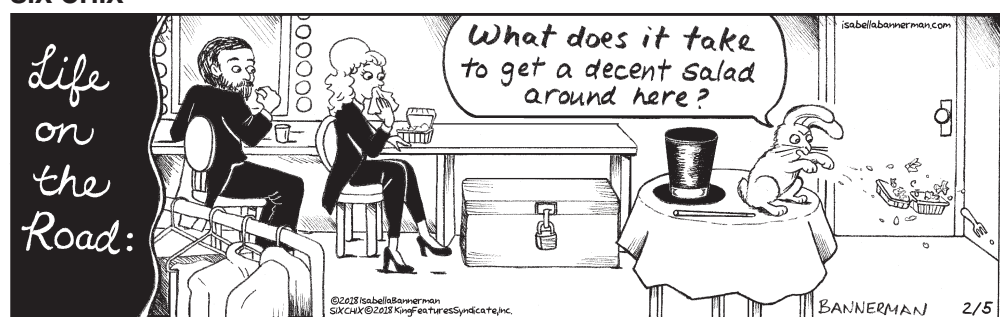
LOLA



DILBERT



SIX CHIX



BIZARRO



MUTTS



NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES



WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



ROSE IS ROSE

