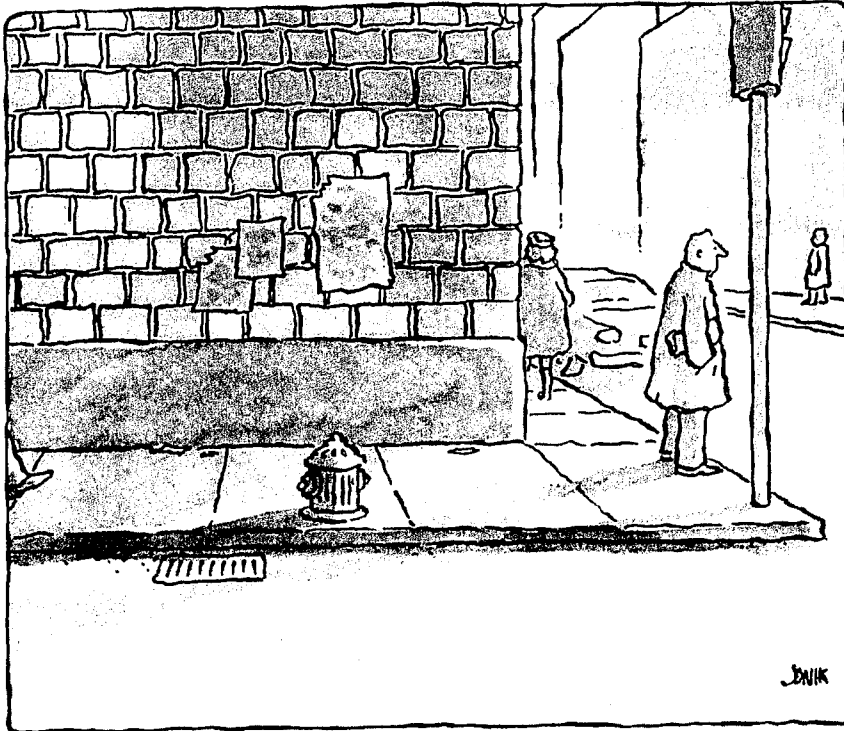


UNIT 13

Item 51

The following illustration offers a comment on the Milky Way galaxy.



THE MILKY WAY
(Detail)

Which of the following comments reflects the central idea of this illustration?

- A The galaxy is completely indifferent to the daily lives of humans.
- B Things that seem inert at a distance are actually teeming with life.
- C The vastness of the galaxy throws into relief our utter insignificance.
- D Things that seem extraordinary at a distance prove ordinary up close.

UNIT 14

Items 52–54

The following adapted extract comments on the issue of gossip.

There is no human society without gossip. Yet there is virtually no human group where gossip is praised for its great informative value, for its contribution to social interaction, for its great usefulness. Why is that? The universal contempt for gossip stems from two equally important factors. One is that, as much as we want to hear about other people's status and resources, we are reluctant to broadcast such information about ourselves. Again, this just shows that information is a resource: it is not to be squandered. Another reason is that every bit as much as we like gossip, we also have to represent ourselves as trustworthy. This is necessary if we want to maintain any stable social interaction, particularly cooperation, with other people. We must be seen as people who will not betray secrets and spread information beyond the circle of our real friends. So our ambivalence does not mean that contempt for gossip is hypocritical.

Item 52

In the first two sentences, what does the author find strange about gossip?

- A It is poorly regarded yet so widespread in society.
- B It has little social value yet most people think it is essential.
- C It is seldom discussed yet is vitally important for human interaction.
- D It does more harm than good but is happily embraced by most people.

Item 53

The extract implies that people do not usually admit to liking gossip because they

- A fear that others will see them as deserving targets for gossip.
- B know full well that gossip is always malicious and inaccurate.
- C have clearly-defined boundaries between what is private and what is public.
- D feel the need to portray themselves in a way that could differ from their private views.

Item 54

How does the author regard those who claim to hate gossip yet who gossip anyway?

- A He believes that such people ultimately do a disservice to society.
 - B He thinks their attitude can be interpreted as being morally questionable.
 - C He acknowledges that being both social and individual requires difficult choices.
 - D He regards such people as hypocritical for not being willing to confront the truth.
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