

Caregiver smells like dog

Dear Annie: My husband is in hospice care and I have a caregiver come once a week to give me a break. I truly appreciate her help and pay her an hourly rate.

The problem is, the caregiver has dogs and smells like it. I am allergic to dogs, and her scent gives me a headache as soon as I return home, and it continues the following day. The dog scent is in my furniture, around my husband and all over the house.

How do I approach this without hurting her feelings? I don't think she is aware of her dog odor. — *Sensitive Nose*

Dear Sensitive: You have to tell the caregiver that you can smell the dog in your house. Chances are, she is so accustomed to the odor that she doesn't realize how potent it is. Say that you are very sensitive and ask whether she might consider showering and washing her hair on the days when she comes to your home, and also wearing freshly laundered clothing. (Or she could keep a set of clothes at your house that she can change into.) That might make enough of a difference for you to tolerate it.

If she objects, or if nothing changes, it may be time to find another caregiver. Someone who

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
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Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



causes you to have a headache for an entire day is not giving you the kind of respite you need. We know you like her, but this is a paid position and you should find an employee who fits all of your requirements.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Better Safe than Sorry," who said all the guys she meets at work are "creepy" and constantly inappropriate. You said she might want to reconsider her work environment.

Feminists will not likely appreciate my comments. In addition to her work environment, I would also recommend that the writer look in the mirror and review her appearance, and then consider her words and mannerisms when engaging with these men. She may unintentionally be encouraging inappropriate behavior with the message she is sending these "creepy" men.

I am 67 years old and female.

I am continually amazed at how many women are offended by men who respond to the woman's overtly sexual communication. I am not excusing inappropriate behavior on the part of any man, but I am reminding women that messages are conveyed through what you say, how you say it and your body language. When you get an inappropriate response, review the message you are giving from the perspective of the recipient. — *Watch Yourself*

Dear Watch: Obviously, if a woman is wearing a blouse cut down to her navel and touching a man provocatively while she coos in his ear, she is creating a sexually charged conversation and inviting a similar response. Women cannot do that and then blame the man for reacting. And by the way, this can happen to men, also. Some women misinterpret a guy's friendliness as flirting, and think he's more interested than is warranted. And if it happens a lot, those men may need to dial it back. A great many men and women don't realize how they come across, and any unwanted attention that happens too frequently should be looked into. But let's face it — too many men think all women are fair game regardless of the circumstances.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel driven to create, give your opinion, make something they might buy. It's a gamble, but today the odds are in your favor. Play them and cash in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While scrutinizing the possible directions your life could take in the future, you'll be joined by flashes of memory, mentors from the past, ghosts to guide you on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do you believe in telepathy? You could have a most unusual psychic experience today, as unexplainable as it is personal. At the very least, this is a sign of how connected you are to someone or to your higher guidance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Delegate when necessary -- and when not necessary. If you don't start giving away some of these tasks now, they will build up and build up until the hundreds of tiny tasks you're doing cause you to topple.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is very little that's really ours in this world. Let things come and go. If it's yours, it's yours for good: It can't be taken from you, won't leave you, and even if you forsake it, sell it or abuse it, you'll somehow get it back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Is there secret information being passed back and forth between people on different ranks and in different networks? The tinge of paranoia isn't for nothing. Take it as a sign to pay attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't let your euphoria over the happy resolution of one situation keep you from the reality of dealing with another situation. Face it; deal. Face it; deal. That's the way this day will go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Interesting

people cross your path every day. You don't know how interesting, of course, until you get to know them. The physicality often lies. Go deeper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Contrarians will be challenged: Are they being stubborn because the idea or request is something to be strongly disagreed with, or is this resistance a general attitude of stubbornness?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The rules for time travelers will apply: If it makes someone happy or changes the course of a person, including you, or does anything at all to alter the timeline, it matters significantly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The scene change has nothing to do with you, at first, except that your entrance is coming. Now, should you move and decide or should you pause and feel your way through it? The second will work today.

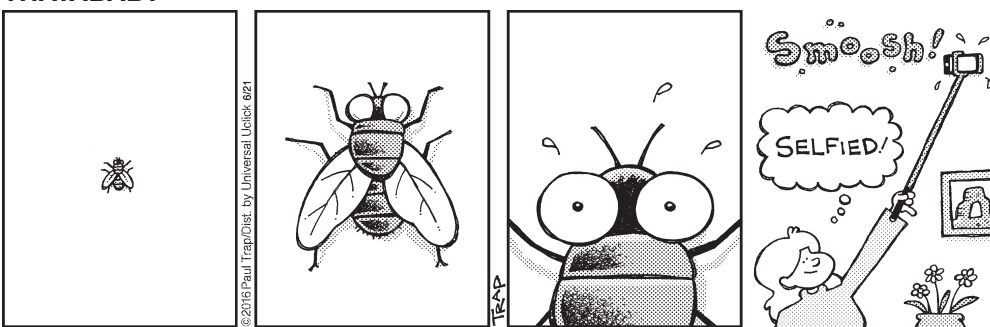
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A very astute observer might read your mood and respond accordingly, but unfortunately, such people may not be populating your midst today, so prepare to deal with a mismatch of tones.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 22). The responsibilities and obligations that used to seem too daunting to bear alone are now a piece of cake. This is how you've grown, and you'll become even more emotionally strong and spiritually generous in this solar cycle. Your financial breakthrough will be in August. Love is the feature in September and the other person is going all in. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 29, 3, 9 and 14.

FRANK AND ERNEST



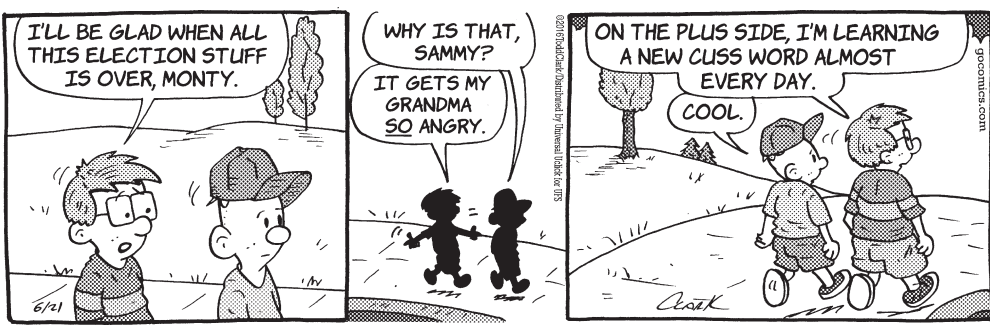
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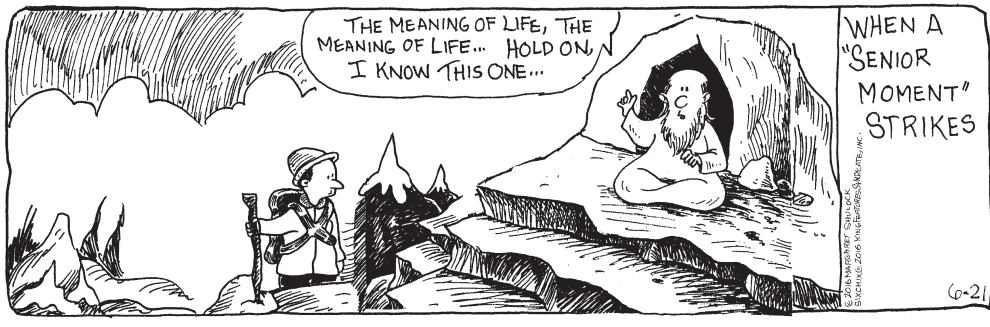
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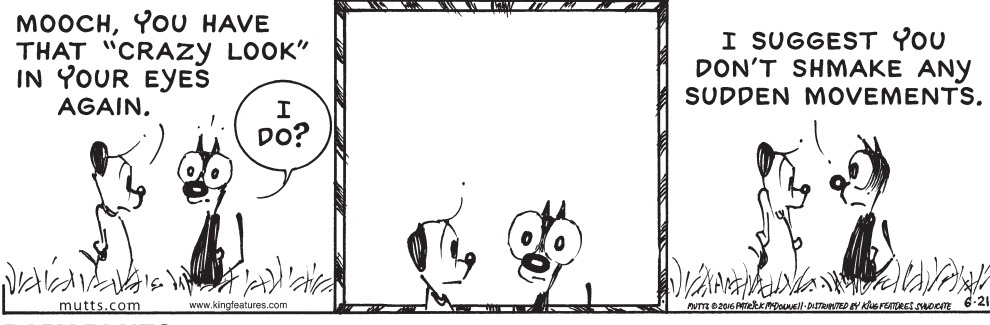
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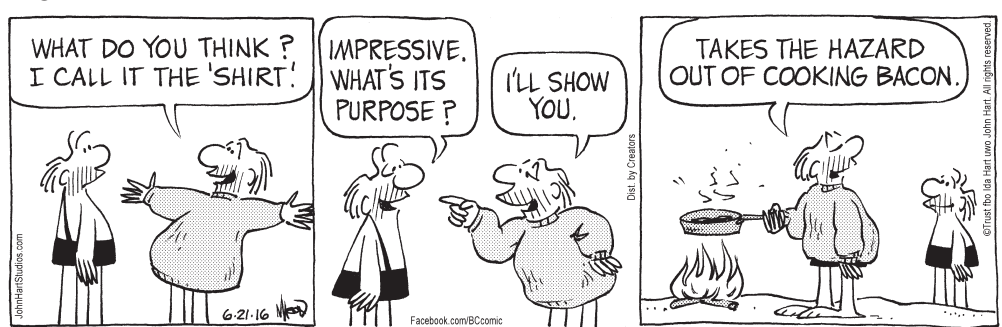
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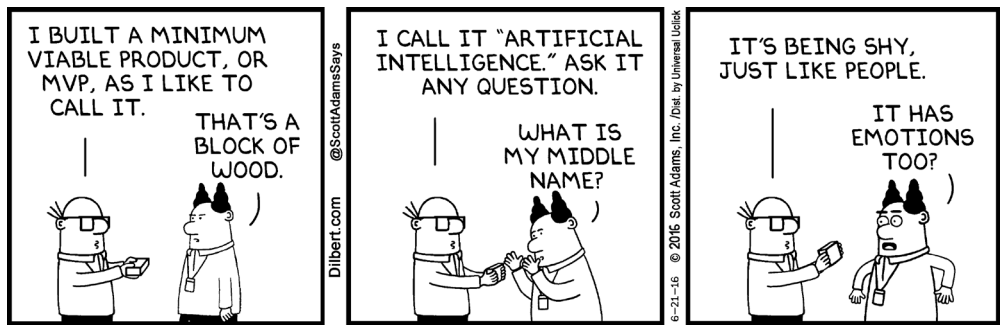
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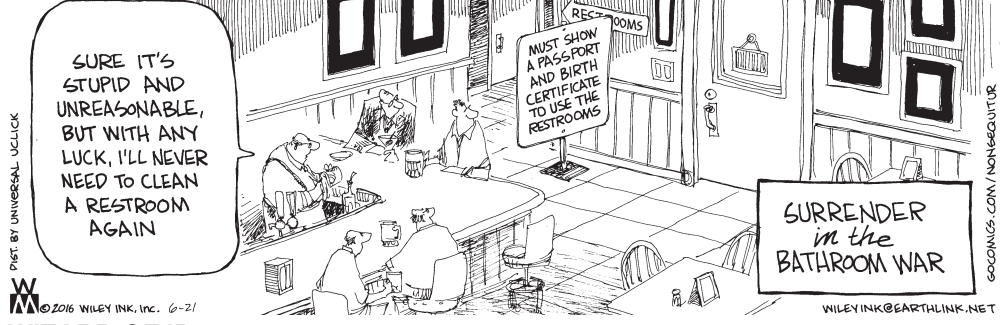
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