In need of walk-in showers

DEAR ANNIE

Annie Lane
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My wife and I are both in our 80s, and though we do not travel as much as we once did, we are still able to get around a bit. I am in fairly good physical condition, but my wife must use either a cane or a walker. The problem is this:

When we stop at a hotel or motel for the night, it is almost impossible to get a room with a walk-in shower. Even if we get a "handicapped" room, it will usually have a tub with a shower and possibly rails. It is impossible for my wife to get into a tub, and I cringe at the thought of having to stand in a tub while showering. I can't help but wonder just how many people traveling take a bath in a tub of water as opposed to using the shower.

I have tried to get the attention of some of the motel chains about this, but I seem to get nowhere. Perhaps you could get your readers to weigh in on this and see what the general feeling is on the subject. I would surely like to see more rooms with walk-in showers available. At least then, travelers could have a choice. — *W.C. in Waycross, Ga.*

Dear W.C.: You raise an excellent and important point. Though I can't offer you a solution, I can open the discussion up to my readers, as well as use this platform to implore hoteliers to consider the safety of seniors (and anyone with limited mobility) when designing their bathrooms. For many, grab bars aren't enough.

Dear Readers: I recently published a letter from "Waiting Games," who was tired of her good friend's chronic tardiness. I heard from a lot of you about your own experiences with this issue.

Dear Annie: I used to be chronically tardy. For me, the tardiness was based on my untreated depression and lack of self-esteem. So sometimes tardiness is caused by some underlying issue. Some days, it was so hard for me to get out of the house. I can put on a fake "everything is fine" face, and no one asked why I always seemed to have a hard time getting to places. But asking why is not a bad place to start a discussion with someone you care about. Just sayin'. — *Moki*

Dear Moki: Shrewd point, and yet another testament to the power of leading with empathy. Thank you for writing.

Dear Annie: I used to be 15 minutes late to everything. I would leave the house the time I was supposed to be places. When I was finally psychologically ready to change that, I tricked myself by telling myself to be 15 minutes early. I also wrote notes with the time I needed to leave instead of the time I needed to be somewhere. The flip side is that the friend can adjust her thinking, expecting the arrival 15 minutes later than planned. — *Susan in Santa Fe*

Dear Susan: The phrase that stuck out most in your letter to me was "when I was finally psychologically ready to change that." It seems that many chronically tardy people have a psychological block of some sort. I'd be curious to know what finally removed that for you and others.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not always in control, and that's part of what makes your life so magical. In your highest hopes you wouldn't have come up with some of these great twists and turns.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). How are you taking care of yourself now? If you were to take 10 percent better care of yourself, what would that look like? Ten percent may not seem like much, but it's more than enough to land you in a completely better circumstance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). With your powers of visualization augmented by the cosmic climate, imagining the best for yourself opens doors in your psyche. You also currently have access to far greater wisdom than you ever knew was inside of you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Responsibilities won't be assigned, and responsible people don't need them to be. They step in and handle what needs to be done like a boss, knowing that the dutiful are also the ones with the most influence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you're going to measure yourself, you'll use your own standards of excellence for the comparison. You're relatively unconcerned with the competition, which is one of the secrets to your success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). History is written by the winners. Losing the battle is often also losing your chance to tell the story your way. Knowing this, you'll look back and wonder what else there is to learn. The concept will apply both personally and globally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've been through hard times, and it's why you're so compassionate with those who are going through it now. It's also why you're so frustrated with those who harden their hearts and turn away from need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). At the end of the day you will owe your success to a flexible manner of thinking. It won't go according to plan, but it will go, because you had a plan and a goal that you kept moving toward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even when you're subject to the will of others and immutable laws of nature you're still perfectly aware of what can be used to your advantage. This keen consciousness will benefit all around you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Strong choices are definitive. They cut you off from the other options. There's beauty in this if you accept it. A decision will be required of you. Once you make your choice, own it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Writing matters. Writing can reveal the message of your heart you didn't even know. One way to galvanize your inner forces is to channel them through the ink of a pen and let them bleed purposefully onto the paper.

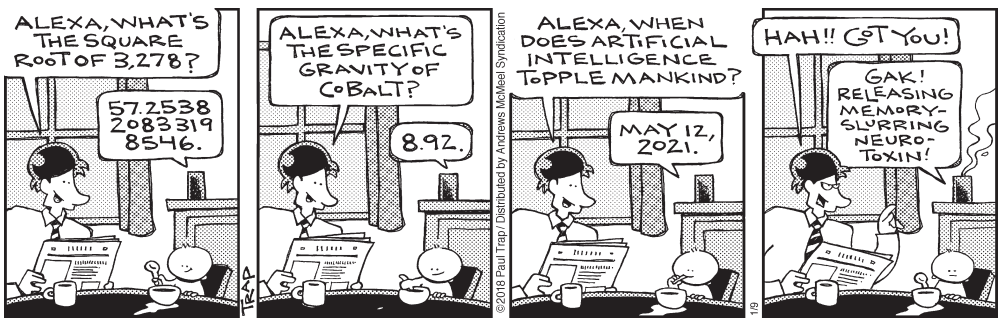
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your time is too valuable to waste on trying to figure out things that have long been perfected by others. Pony up for the expert work so you can spend your hours taking projects you care about to the next level.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 10). Unseen powers conspire to delight you all year long. Your heart will be light. Someone younger will lift, inspire and motivate you. Unexpected cash will solve a problem before March. The obstacle in May is lucky! You'll find a much better way. Summer brings education and mind-expanding travel. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 11, 40 and 26.

FRANK AND ERNEST

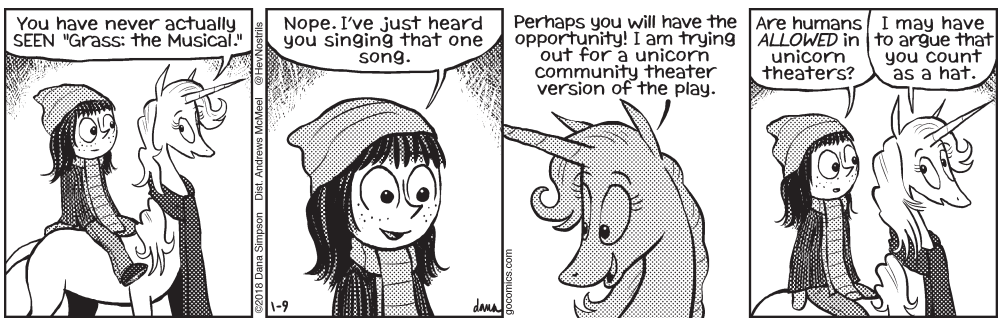
BLONDIE

THATABABY



SALLY FORTH

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



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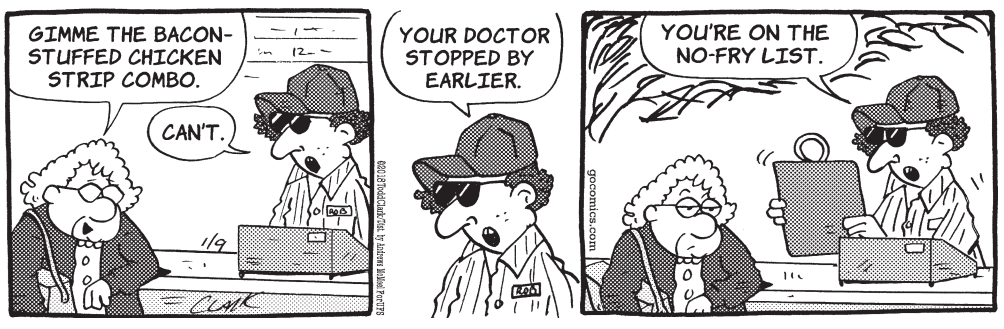

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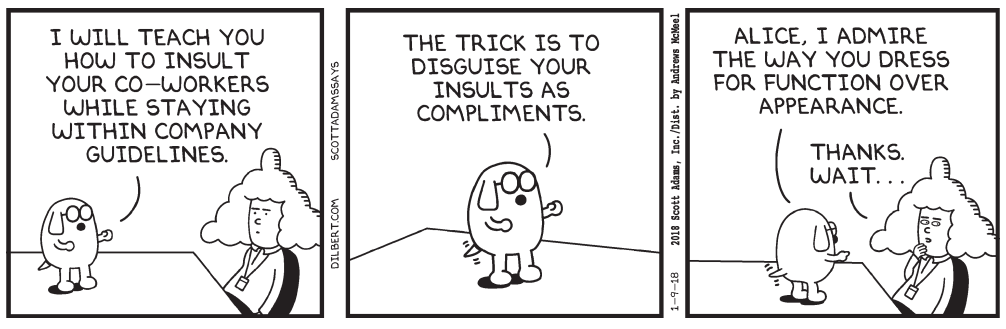

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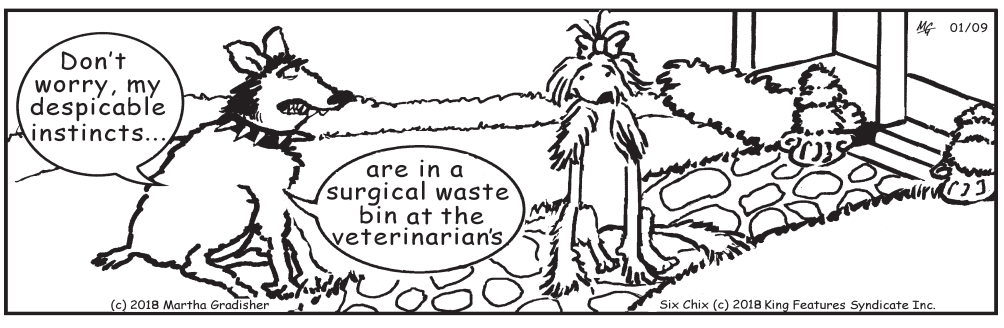

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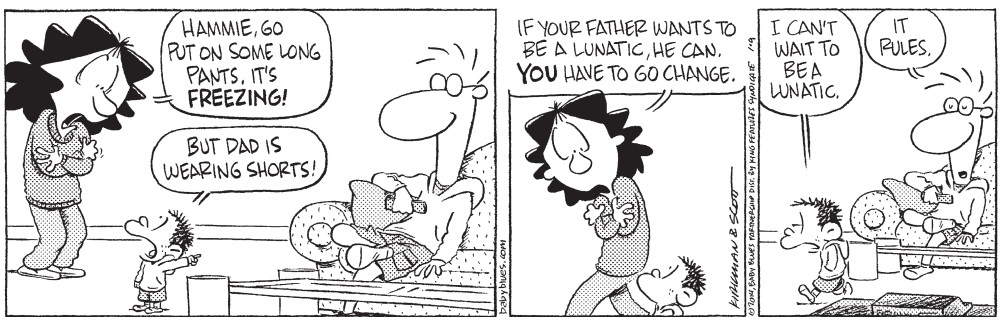

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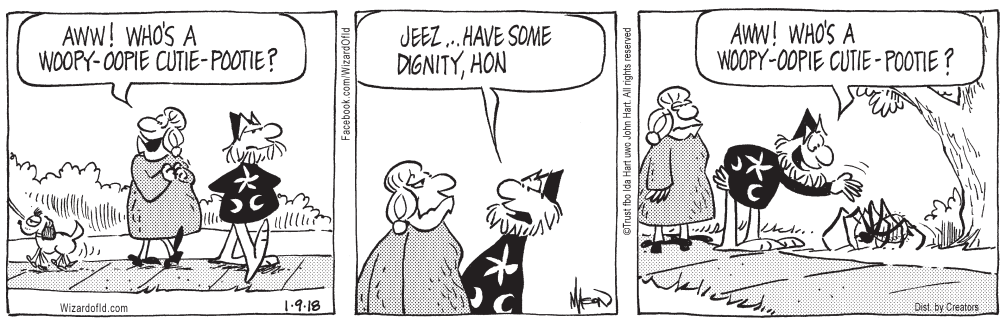

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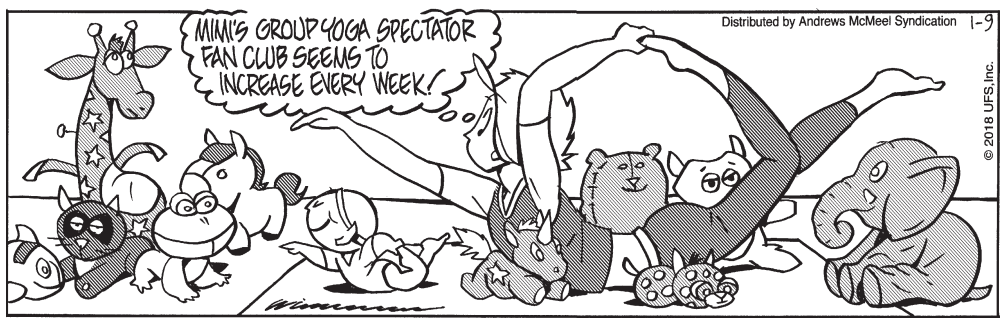
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