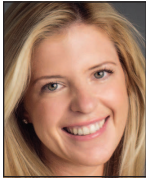


Gross spitting habit

Dear Annie: The other day, I was working from a cafe close to my house. As I sat there for a few hours, I saw a number of men spitting on the sidewalk as they passed by. Men in dirty clothes, men in fancy suits, young men, old men — it seems to be a trait shared by all types of men. Fond as I am of finding and cultivating common connections between humans, I find this habit disgusting. Why is it that men choose to spit in public so often? Am I the only one who notices this? And what should I do if I see another drooling delinquent? — *Wondering Woman*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Wondering Woman: You're in good company in your disgust. After his first visit to America, Charles Dickens lamented the "offensive and sickening" sight of men who "spat) incessantly." In Dickens' time, chewing tobacco was mostly to blame for the great excretions. Nowadays, there's no definitive explanation. Boise State sociology professor Robert McCarl says it most likely has to do with male posturing. It does seem that this issue is socio-cultural and not biological, as there's

no evidence that men produce more saliva than women. I'm sure I'll hear from a few people with their takes. In the meantime, if you see a "drooling delinquent," you might offer him (or her!) a tissue.

Dear Annie: I have never been more compelled to write than after reading your recent response to "P.U.," the person concerned about a co-worker's bad hygiene. In your response, you indicated that the co-worker's mental health is not "P.U.'s" business. Based on the co-worker's reported outburst when confronted and information from his wife that he was "off his medication," I strongly believe it is not only "P.U.'s" business but his obligation to report his observations to management. Too often, these early signs of potential violence are missed and, as recent events around the country show, workplace tragedy follows. I respectfully think you missed the mark on this one. — *See Something, Say Something*

Dear See Something, Say Something: Though "P.U." said he'd already approached manage-

ment to no avail, I should not have left it at that. You're right that the situation is potentially dangerous and should be addressed with urgency.

Approaching the topic of another person's mental health requires a great deal of care, especially if that person is an employee or colleague. And you should be careful not to engage in workplace discrimination based on mental illness — not only because that would be unethical but also because it's prohibited in the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are worried about a co-worker's mental health, you can and should intervene, for everyone's safety. Implore human resources to enlist some outside help. The following letter writer sheds more light on options.

Dear Annie: "P.U.'s" manager is ineffective. He should mandate an employee assistance program to provide counseling and clearance before the man is allowed back to work. Most states require employee assistance program agencies, but sadly they are underutilized. — *Prevent Tragedy*

Dear Prevent Tragedy: Thank you for the helpful information on employee assistance programs.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whether or not you consciously seek the company of kindred spirits, as you spend more time with the things that matter to you, they come out of the woodwork, interested in what you're doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can feel better by concentrating your effort on looking better, and you can look better by concentrating your effort on feeling better. No matter how you approach it today, you are on the up and up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't always claim credit for the marvelous outcomes you create. Today you'll likely give others a little more credit than they deserve, which will be a morale raiser.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your guiding luminary, the moon, doesn't prefer one state to the other. Whether in shadows or fully seen, the moon's allure will still pull the tides. Your magnetism will work in similarly powerful ways, however you show up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you come to the intersection, look both ways no matter what color the lights are. Junctions of all kinds are best handled with pause. The breath you take between things will cleanse and renew you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may have entrusted someone with a job they weren't quite ready for. Now it's time to reassess whether a cast change is needed, or perhaps there's a way to adjust the situation to better fit the available talent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the sign of the scales, you can often speak to the justice of a situation. However, today it's about measuring, not commenting on the measurement. In judging we become as bad as, if not worse than, that which we judge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In a gold rush, the miners risk a lot to get rich. You know who gets rich without the risk? Those in the business of selling shovels. There's something desperately needed by the people around you that you can provide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because the mere idea of being bored stresses you out, you'll make exciting plans — and just in time! Monotony is so loathsome to you that it could actually weaken your immune system.

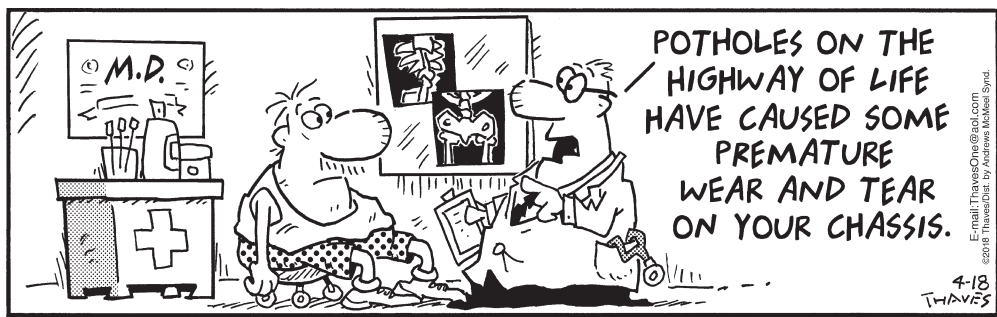
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Are you really in a game that only one team can win, or is this more like a journey in which people can help each other move forward? Competition has its place, and that place is not called Everywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not trying to control anyone; you're just making sure that others aren't controlling you. Even though setting a boundary isn't an offensive move, if it's taken that way, the result is the same. Use diplomacy.

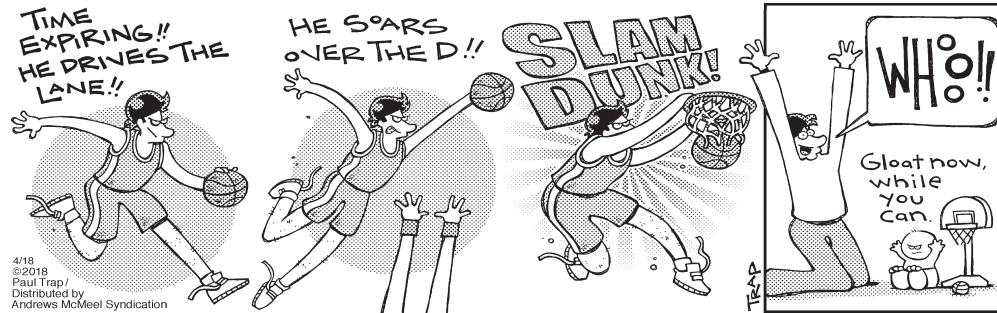
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People won't agree on what's real, how it happened, what's important or how best to proceed. But they will agree that something has to be done, and many are ready to listen to each other to begin to sort it out.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 19). A job you've been at for a while will fascinate you further as you give it even more of your attention. And this isn't the only thing being revealed to you on deeper levels this year. The details of a special relationship will be glorious and captivating. And there's an enthralling venture in October that brings money for years. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 45, 21, 7 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



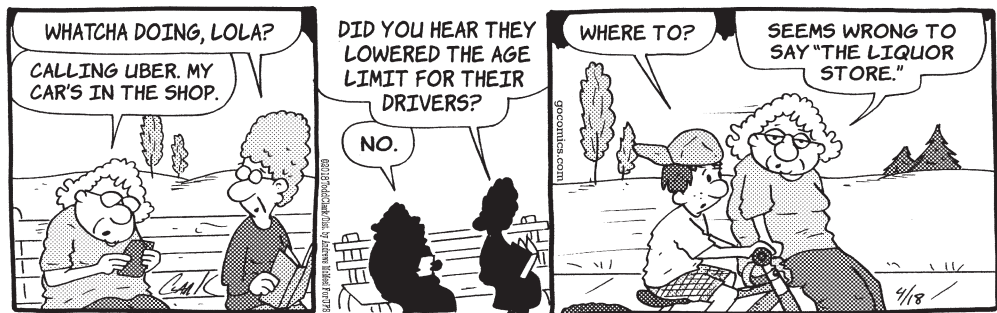
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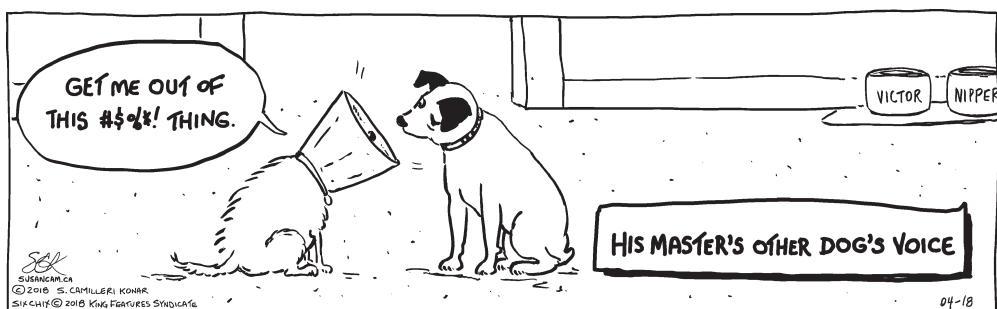
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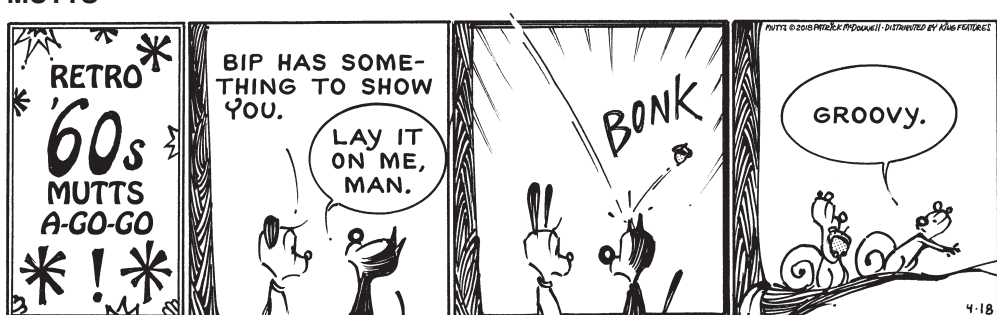
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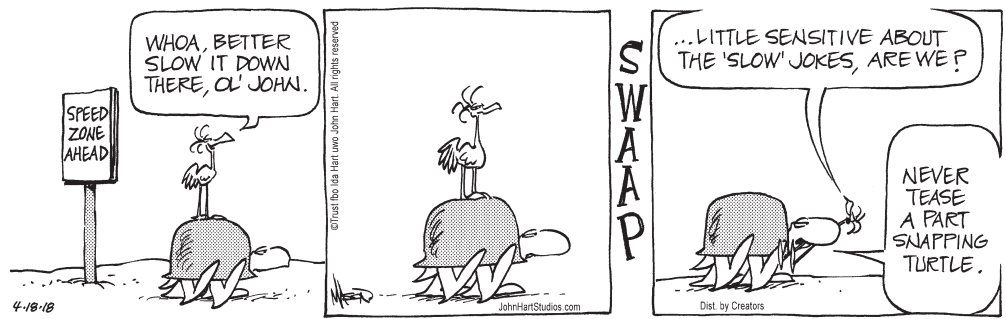
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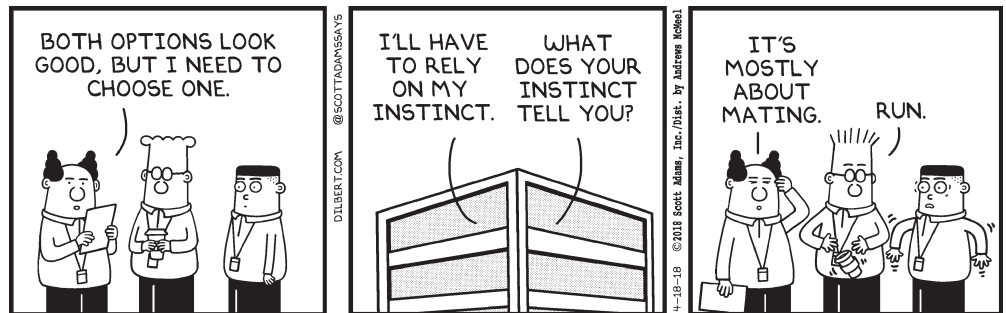
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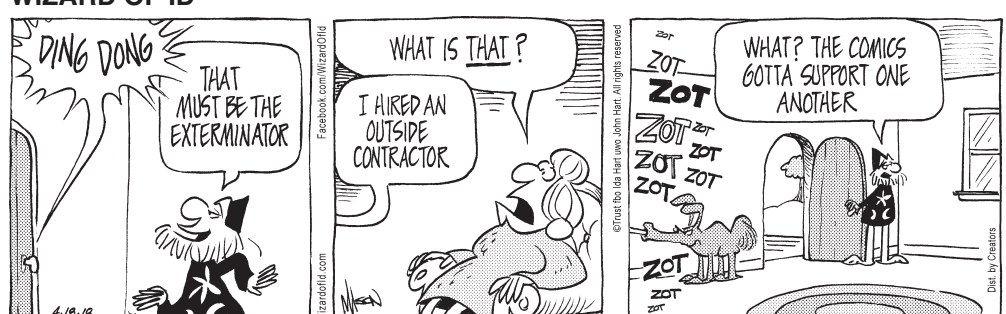
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