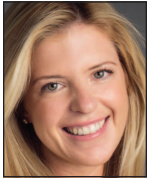


Help for stinky co-worker

Dear Annie: I have a very sensitive office environment problem. My office mate smells, and the smell permeates the entire office and even gets stuck to my clothes. And I'm not the only one who can smell it. Other co-workers have noticed it, too. I think it's a matter of not changing clothes enough or not bathing well or often enough. She is such a nice lady that I really can't mention it to her. It would hurt her feelings. Because our office has only five employees in it (we're out in the boon docks), we have very limited office space. So there's no possibility of moving desks and putting more space between her and the rest of us. And no air freshener or scent diffuser we've tried works. What can be done? Again, she's very nice and friendly, and I don't want to hurt her. — *Stinky Outside Seattle*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Stinky Outside Seattle: This is the sort of delicate personnel matter best handled by the human resources department. Talk to whoever is in charge of HR for your company, even if that person isn't located in the same office.

If you don't have an HR department, then try talking to your co-worker yourself. At the end of the day, ask your co-worker whether she has a minute before she leaves. Go into a private space, and say something to the effect of: "It may just be my sensitive nose, but I've noticed there's sometimes a strong smell near your desk. I just wanted to make you aware of the issue, because I hope you would do the same for me." It's going to be awkward no matter which way you slice it. But telling her is a noble act. You're bearing a minute of discomfort to spare her further embarrassment and your co-workers further unpleasantness. Do be sure to have this talk at the end of the day, as telling her earlier, when she can't do anything about it, would be cruel.

Also, as this is the second letter I've received this month about a co-worker's olfactory offenses, a public service announcement: To anyone thinking of skipping that prework shower, please don't.

Dear Annie: I'm just a normal adult who is sick and tired of hear-

ing the F-word out in public. Why is this word permitted at public events, at the shopping mall and in movie theaters? When my grandchildren were very young, we had this happen at a baseball game. The person behind us repeated the word many times, until finally my husband politely asked the person to stop. Luckily for us, he wasn't attacked for the request — which is always a concern these days.

Can we start a national campaign to stop the use of the F-word in public? Here's an idea: If you wouldn't say a certain thing in church, then don't say it in public. I hope others will agree with this idea, and perhaps the security guards at public events could help out. — *Grandma*

Dear Grandma: I couldn't find any data to verify the claim, but I also have noticed more people using the F-word in recent years. It may be because many popular shows are on cable or streaming platforms and therefore not subject to the strict censorship laws that govern network TV, allowing the shows to have a free-for-all with the cussword, which may have trickled down into society. But we can't just blame TV. In any case, let's keep it clean, folks.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Curiosity is among your most useful talents, as it will lead you to experience wonder, triumph, satisfaction and dissatisfaction. (Those last two will be equally important to a fulfilling life.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're good at uncovering the facts, hearing the facts through the fiction and giving the facts in an unbiased way. Today's talent for truth will make you an invaluable part of a quest for justice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have developed some mental tricks to help you get around obstacles, avoid conflict and rise above trouble. You may not even be fully aware of exactly how you do this, but someone will notice and follow your lead today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). None of the saints were canonized for counting other people's sins. It just doesn't work that way. Those who focus on the sins of others are still making sin their focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It is possible to train your mind to be stronger than your emotions. You'll seek this kind of mastery. Clearly, emotions run amok do not contribute in a positive way to what you're trying to build in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The temptation to share prematurely will be there. Exciting things are coming together, for sure, but it's still early. Work quietly and later your success will speak for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some people are easier to be around than others, but that doesn't make a relationship any more or less correct. An uncomfortable relationship can be the greatest teacher on earth, inspiring your highest and quickest evolution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). From a distance, the rolling fog is mysterious, beautiful, mystical ... but when you're in the thick of it, it can be maddeningly disorienting. Seek higher mental ground. Avoid states of perplexity by rising above them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Seeing the problems that really do exist isn't pessimism — far from it. This is actually a form of optimism. If you didn't think there might be something to be done about it, you wouldn't have the guts to see it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The creative process is your joy. The products that come of it can bring some fleeting satisfaction as well, but it's almost unmentionable in comparison with the great feeling that comes from being in the flow of your work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may not have all the skills you need to make something happen yet, but you're getting them. Try again. Also, keep a record of your efforts so you can avoid making the same mistake twice.

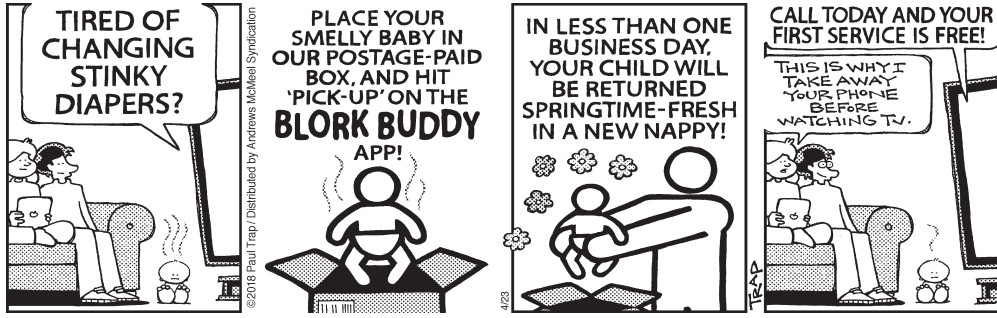
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While joy feels better, sadness can be beautiful, too. It can wash over you like a wave in a moment of connection that makes you appreciate and value your life.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 24). It's been a while since you saw truly serene circumstances, but this year brings several moments of profound peace and beauty. You'll appreciate them, too, because of all the bustle and hard work represented in other moments. There will be five significant gatherings, meaningful to your group and your legacy. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 39, 6 and 12.

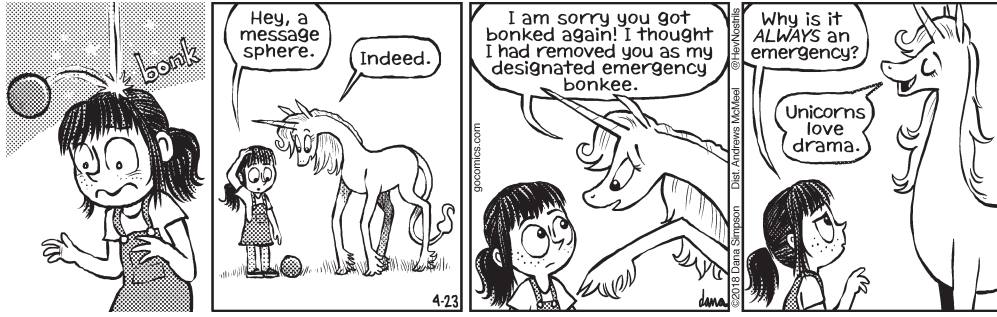
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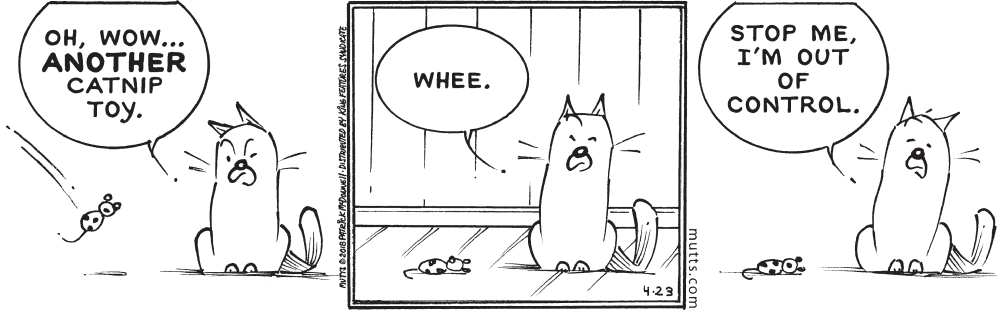
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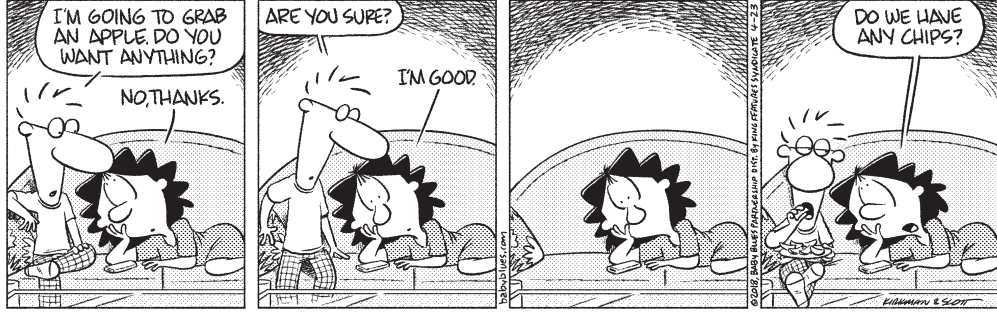
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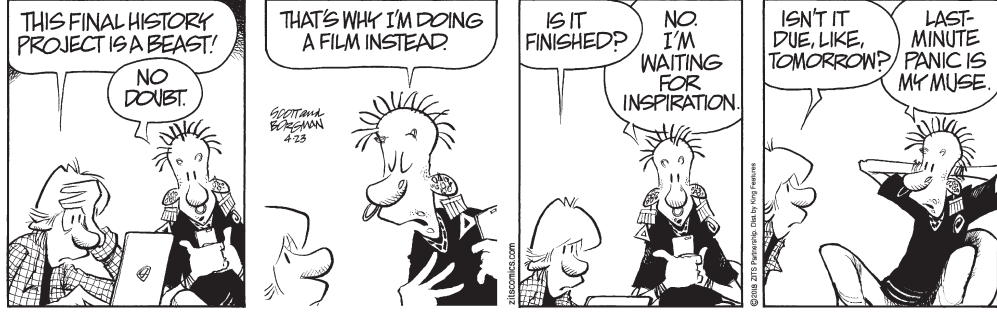
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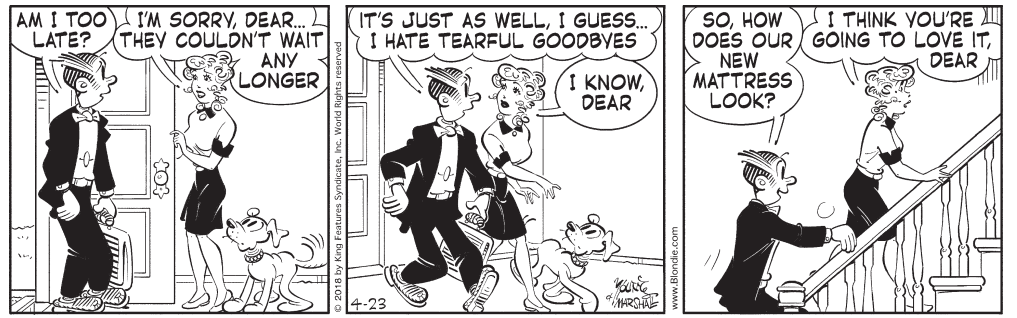
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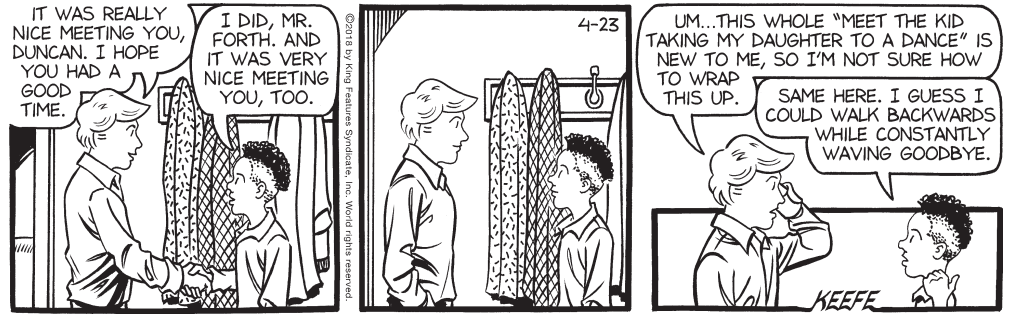
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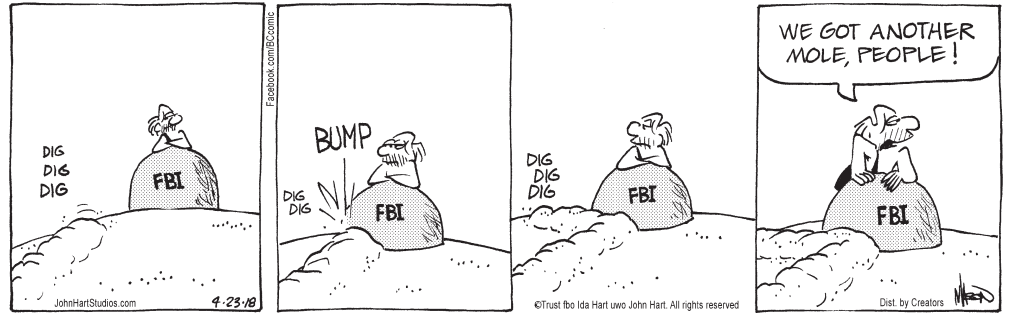
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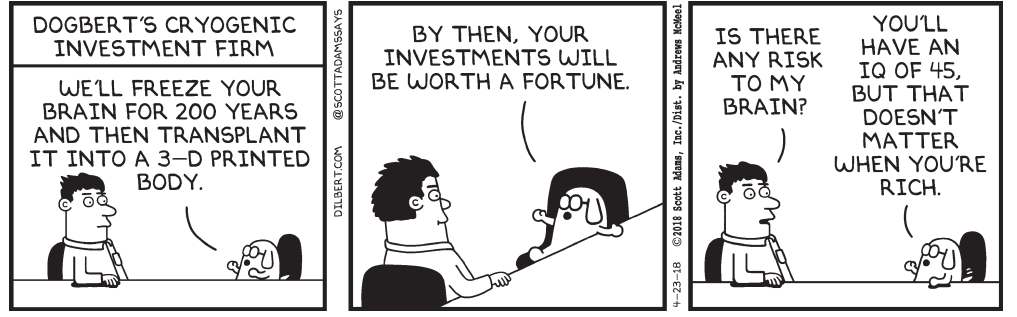
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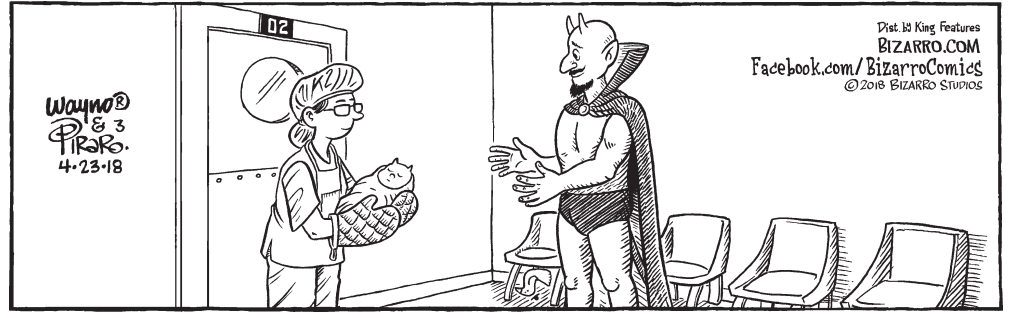
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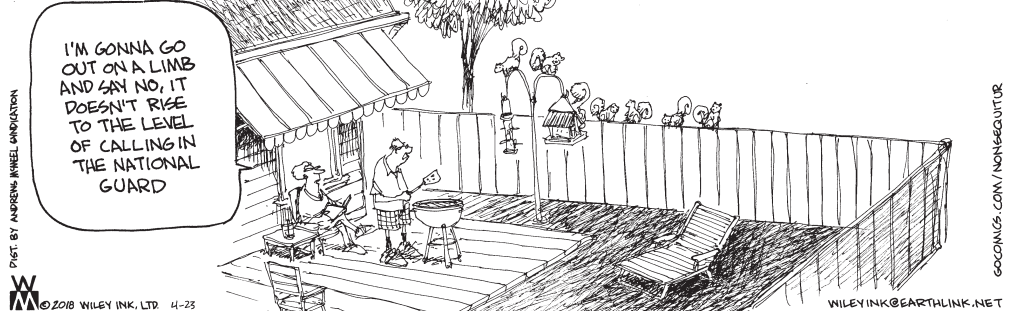
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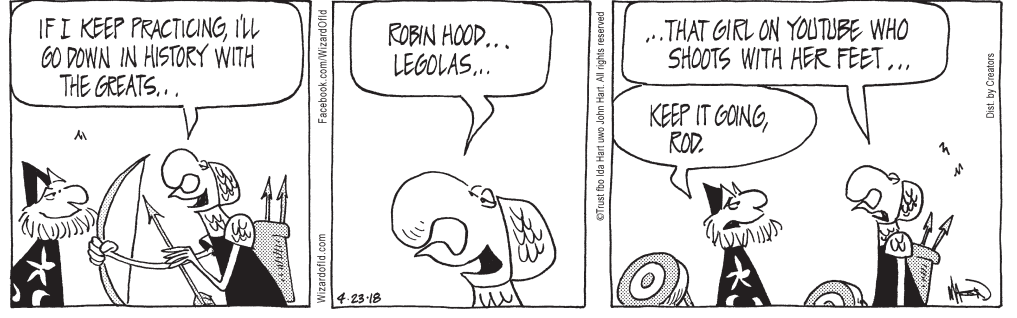
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