

Family pet can no longer hold it

Dear Annie: I am having an issue with our 13-year-old bichon frise and am hoping that you can point me in the right direction. We adopted our dog when he was 1 year old, and he was house-trained. Until recently, our work schedule allowed us to walk him three times a day. Midsummer, my husband changed jobs, and we now are able to walk him only twice a day. It had not been an issue until recently. For the past two months, he has been going in the house nearly every day while we are at work. We have consulted the vet, and our dog was medically cleared. The vet suggested we sedate him during the day with a mild sedative, saying that should decrease the accidents.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I have a few issues. I do not believe that it's right to sedate our dog just because he cannot hold it any longer. Also, I am feeling that his quality of life is pretty miserable at this point because we have to lock him in the bathroom (or else, obviously, he would destroy our house). At the moment, I am considering re-homing him with someone who could be home with him and let him out more often than we can and give

him more attention. I am at a complete loss as to what to do. We have considered all of the options, including a doggy door and doggy diapers. Day care, at \$25 per day, is a little out of our comfort zone. I'm sure we are not the only ones who have dealt with this issue. A couple of people we have talked to are fine with their dogs using their home as a restroom. But we aren't. —Help

Dear Help: You're the only family your dog knows. It would be a shame to re-home him in his twilight years. You don't have to choose between giving up your dog and giving up your clean home. You could pay a responsible young person in the neighborhood a weekly fee to take your bichon around the block. Ask your neighbors for recommendations, or post about it on Nextdoor. (Nextdoor is a great resource for finding dog walkers, last-minute baby sitters, etc. and for staying informed about what's happening in your immediate community: <https://nextdoor.com>.)

You could also try an indoor potty solution, such as the PetZoom Pet Park, the BrilliantPad or even a

litter box. Canine Journal outlines those and other options in an article titled "Dog Toilet 101: Why Your Dog May Need One," available on its website.

It also would be worth seeing another vet for a second opinion to fully rule out all medical issues and learn how to best accommodate your little friend as he ages.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Wondering Woman," who was wondering why men spit on the ground. I work as a union plumber in New York City building high-rises, and yes, I'm a man.

Working in such a dirty atmosphere for eight hours a day, I am constantly spitting to rid myself of some of the pollutants I breathe in on a regular basis, which will no doubt wind up ultimately killing me. I have a buildup of mucus because of the myriad pollutants in dust form I breathe into my lungs. No one on a construction site wears a mask for eight hours a day. My point is, don't be so quick to judge us.

Now, I can't explain why the men in fancy suits spit. Maybe they're emulating their heroes in Major League Baseball. —Charles

Dear Charles: If spitting helps prevent your ingesting dirt and pollutants, please, expectorate away.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The love (philos) of wisdom (sophia) is philosophy. You'll be thinking a lot about your personal philosophy, deciding what it is (and whether it's changed), honing it and living it more fully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A person's character is only as great as he or she treats the weakest in the group. Be very wary of anyone who seems to take advantage of (or be oblivious to) those in a down position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be drawn to connect. You have a lot to share, but you won't know what it is until you get into the jazz of social interaction. Even you will be surprised by the interesting tidbits that come up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are in perfect step with your people, and it is for this very reason that you're able to step back and create a new and complementary rhythm. Think of it as a syncopation that keeps everything livelier.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll put your heart into what you make. People who experience your creation will feel this, perhaps experiencing it as an intangible tug on their own heartstrings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your service is a sacrifice, yet you may also be paid for it. That fact doesn't take anything away from the gift you give when you dedicate yourself to doing the job with full attention and love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is a time to do full disclosure, be totally transparent and show your work. You will create bonds as you fascinate others. You'll improve quickly when they point out your strengths and help you see mistakes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Usually, you

know when to step in and lend a hand. If the day needs saving, you'll save it. But today brings up some gray area. You may not be sure whether it's your place or your turn. Pause. Only step in when you're sure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't want to be repetitive, but the fact is that they won't get it unless you repeat yourself. Say it differently each time or say it the same; that doesn't matter. If it's worth saying, it's worth repeating.

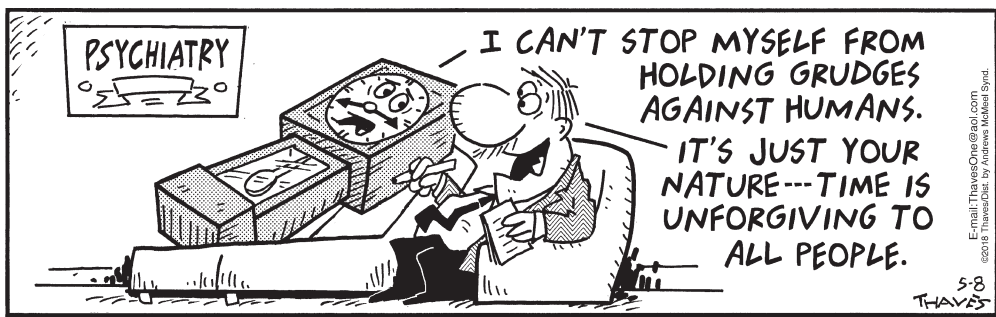
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have some self-editing to do today. You'll pump up the fun parts, amplify the essential, ax the superfluous, nix the unnecessary. All this polish is only possible because you once put it all out there. You should be proud!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're wary of being sold, as you should be. When it's a good match, you don't need to be sold. When it's something you've been looking for or something you believe in, need and will use up, you'll go all in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There won't be a lot of transactions that absolutely must happen today. So you can turn off the distractions and concentrate on what you most need to be doing, which will be producing and creating.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 9). You look younger than you did last year. Way to annoy your friends! You'll complete a big project, revel in freedom for weeks and then quickly be immersed in a new interest. In July, you'll either move or refresh your digs. The work you do to improve daily routines will open unforeseen lucky opportunity. In September, you'll cash in. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 12, 39, 4 and 14.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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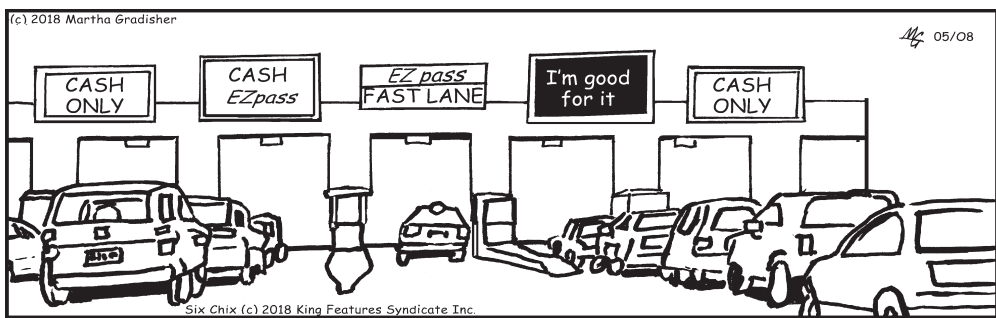
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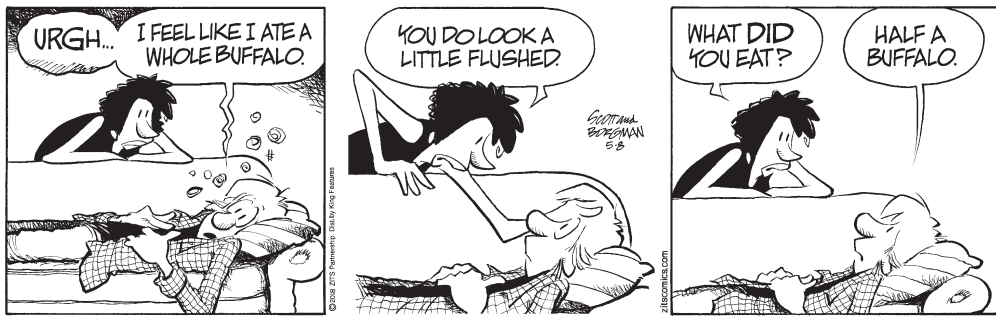
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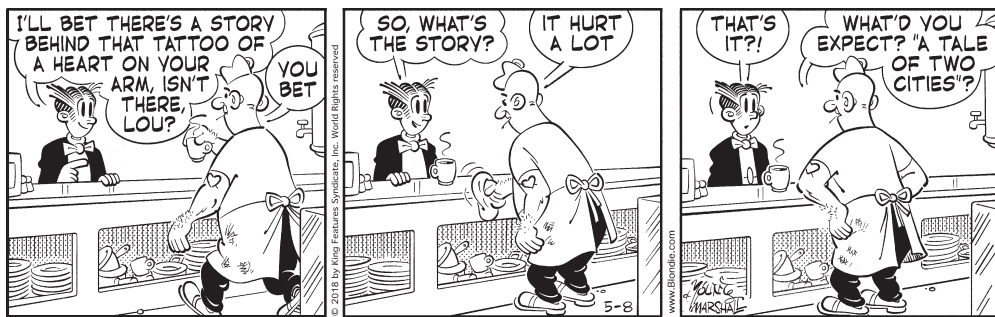
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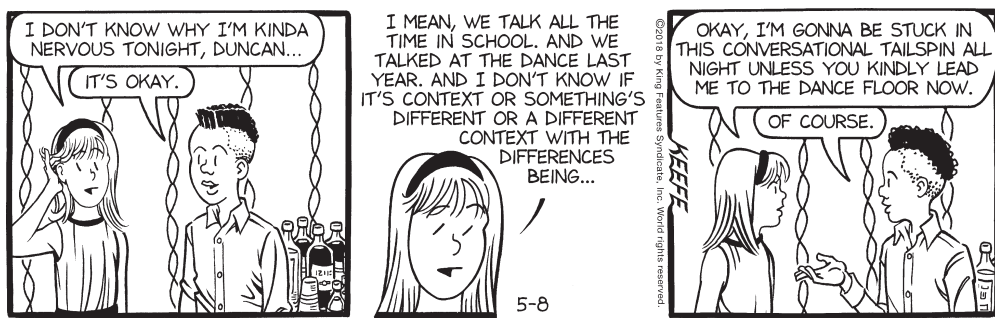
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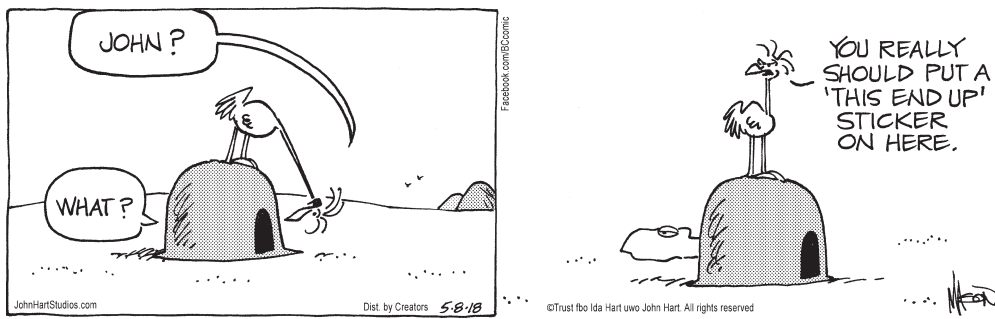
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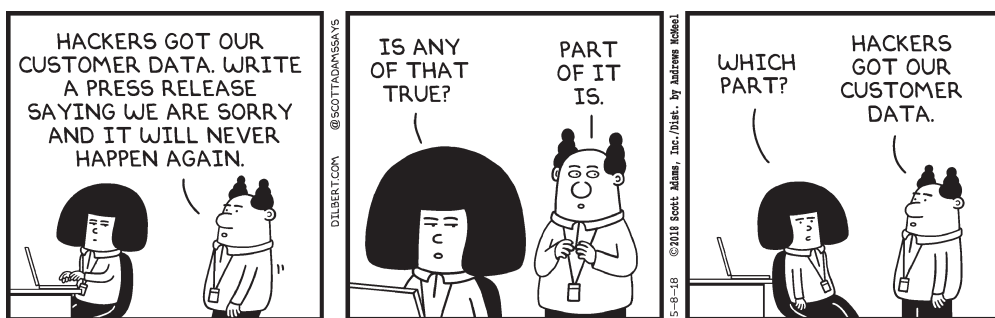
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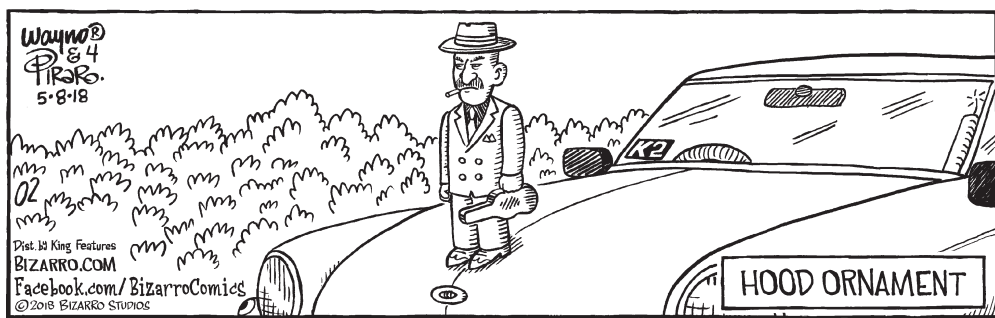
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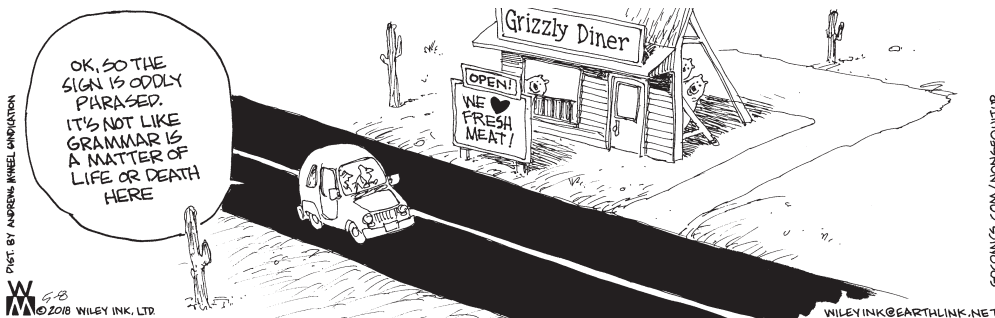
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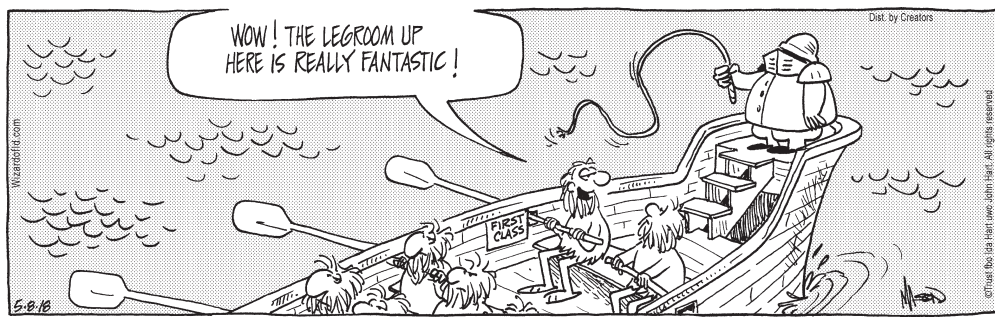
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WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

