

Wanting to go barefoot

Dear Annie: I've never written to one of these columns before, but I do read them. My family recently bought a home in a large development in the South. We don't own a dog at this time but have in the past. The neighborhood is full of dog owners who walk their dogs and let them do their business on the neighbors' lawns, sometimes way up the lawn and next to the house. Yes, most clean up after their dogs, but I still find it very disgusting, not to mention rude. I think they should go to unoccupied green space or have their dogs do their business in their own yards. Am I wrong for thinking that? Even though they clean it up, they can't get it all. Thank you for your time. I'll be eagerly waiting for your answer. — *Can't Go Barefoot on My Own Lawn*

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Can't Go Barefoot: You could purchase a "Keep Off Grass" sign. There are ones for sale online that would get your point across, with pictures of dogs doing their business.

Be careful not to be too much

of a stickler about the issue, as long as everyone is cleaning up afterward. I know that stepping in waste residue is an unpleasant thought, but here's an even less pleasant thought: being known as the cranky new neighbor.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Still Daddy's Little Girl." I was so moved by her story and the devastating loss her father is feeling. Your advice was good, but I have my own ideas to add. This father is clearly a very skilled man. He not only has the abilities honed from a lifetime of work but also is able to focus on things that are important — his family, for example. Of course, I don't know this for certain, but I imagine he was usually on time and rarely took days off. I also imagine he managed his money well and was able to make wise decisions and keep his priorities clear, at least most of the time.

If I'm not far off the mark in the picture I've painted of this dad, he has what it takes to start his own business. Increasingly, there are people who need help with all kinds of odd jobs. A friend of mine in his late 60s who started out as a car mechanic and later became the facilities manager at a local engineering school now has his own practice responding to the needs of a real estate company that has a number of rental units. He is a jack-of-all-trades. Because he is hardworking, inventive and pleasant, he is as busy as he wants to be. Older people and others frequently are in need of temporary help with tasks they are unable to do themselves. I'm guessing a "I can do what stymies you" kind of ad in the local paper might bring this dad some needed cash. He should know that being laid off is not the same as being permanently put to pasture.

And one more thought: Volunteering with local groups that help poor people restore or maintain their homes would be a win-win. He would help others and bring a sense of purpose, and it would open up new networks. — *Helen*

Dear Helen: All helpful, practical ideas. Thank you for writing.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Humans are territorial animals. Turf becomes increasingly important to those who don't have enough of their own to feel comfortable. A territorial struggle will end happily with reapportionment, rezoning or a move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What's very important to one person is extremely petty to the next. The differences usually have to do with the scale of one's worldview. Be proud of your remarkable ability to zoom in or out as appropriate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Good people get in bad positions; bad people get in good positions. Randomness prevails over justice. It's a good reason to focus on making the current situation work instead of on who is right or wrong.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're a rebel today, pushing boundaries just for fun. Actually, this is the kind of fun that can lead to a key development. Things fly up and then settle and land in a more just arrangement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many cultures believe in animal spirits that guide and protect them through this lifetime. Your own connection with animals will be stronger now, and you seem to be able to communicate beyond human realm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your circle enlarges in a trend that serves this part of your life very well. Every week you meet new people, but that's not the remarkable part of it. You actually stay in touch with them, too!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, when many beholders agree on a particular set of rules, those matters of taste can be accepted as fact

and grow to the influence of gospel. But does that really make it so?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The cosmic omens agree with philosophers of the ages: Conquering the self is more difficult than conquering the world, and a mighty fine place to start at that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When they try to make you compete for their attention, the only way to win is to bow out of the contest, making them doubt the value of the prize they dangle. You're too good for this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some work must be tweaked, torn down, rebuilt, destroyed and started up again, fresh, from scratch. It's those terrible projects that will teach you the most and ultimately make you a master.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because you answer to life in a direct and assertive (but not aggressive) tone, you will get your way today, and rather quickly. You're an asset to the team.

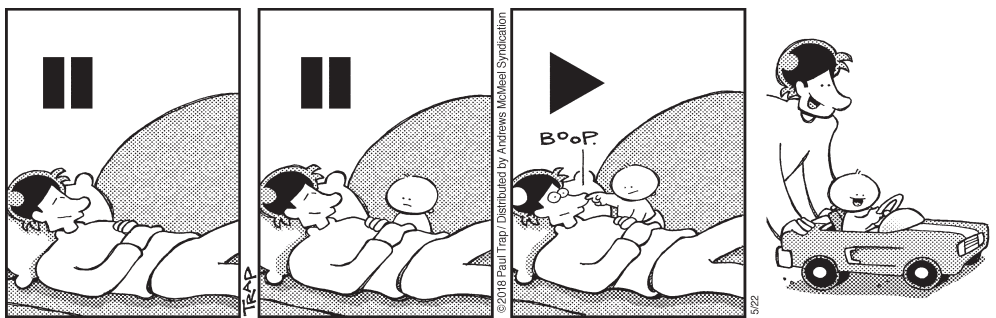
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A question will tell you much more about a person's intelligence, interests and motivation than anything you could possibly learn in an answer. Today, assess people based on their curiosity, not their knowledge.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 23). Your loved ones are irreplaceable, and they'll cement their status in your life with kindness, generosity and fun. This won't keep you from attracting a tribe of people with whom you have rather quirky things in common and enjoying every minute of your connection. Lucky business goes down in August and November. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 2, 25 and 44.

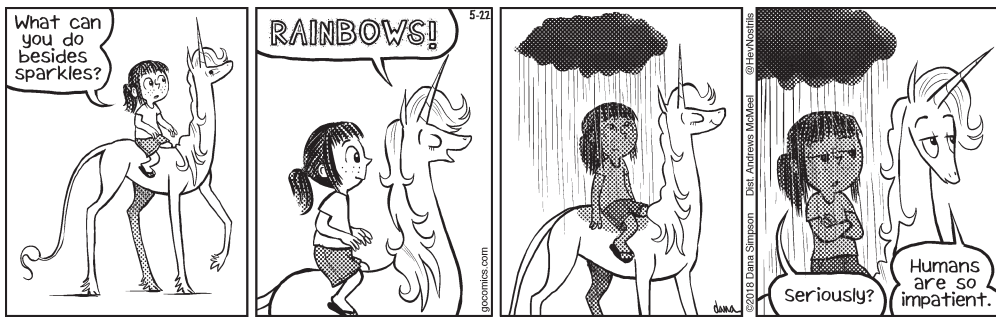
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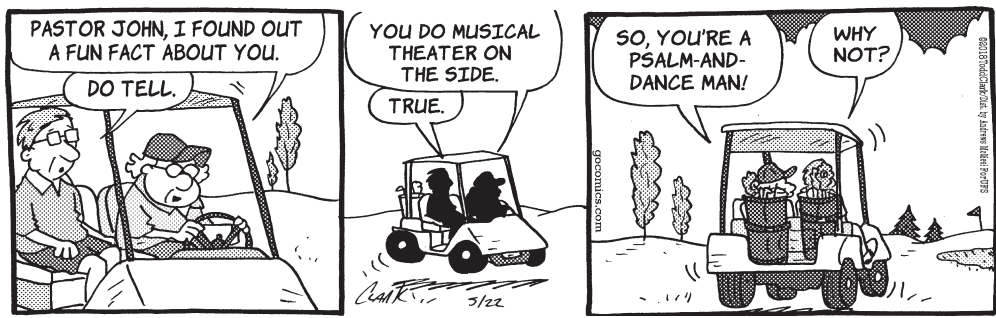
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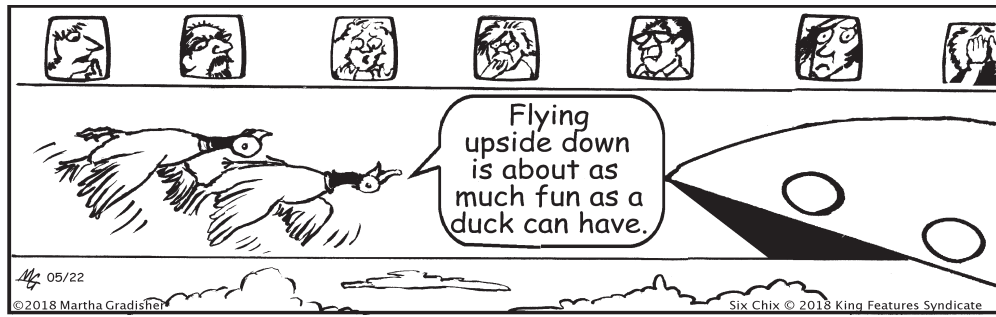
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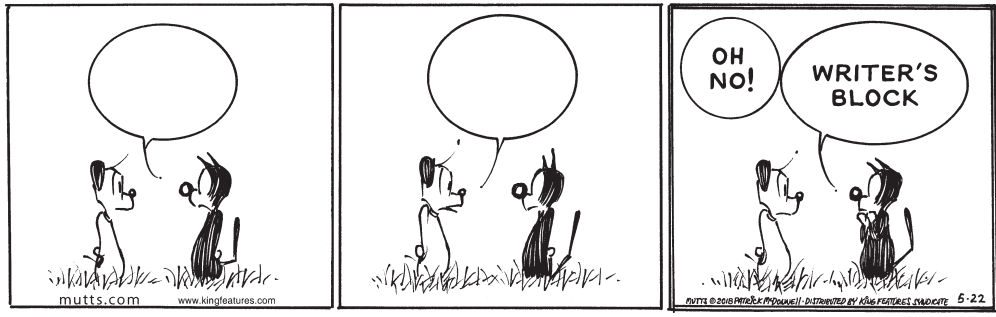
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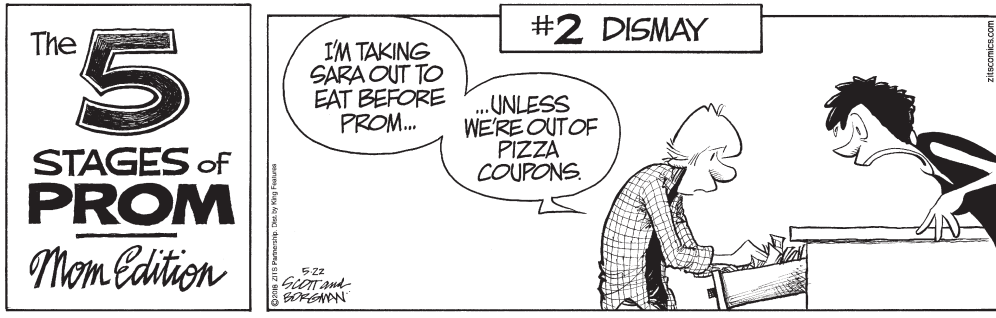
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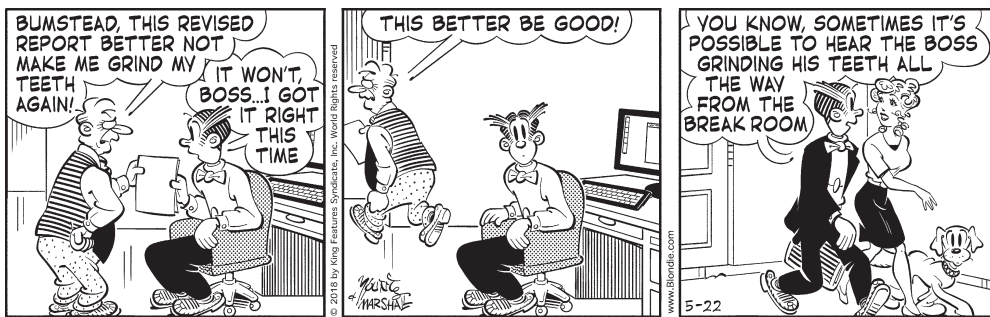
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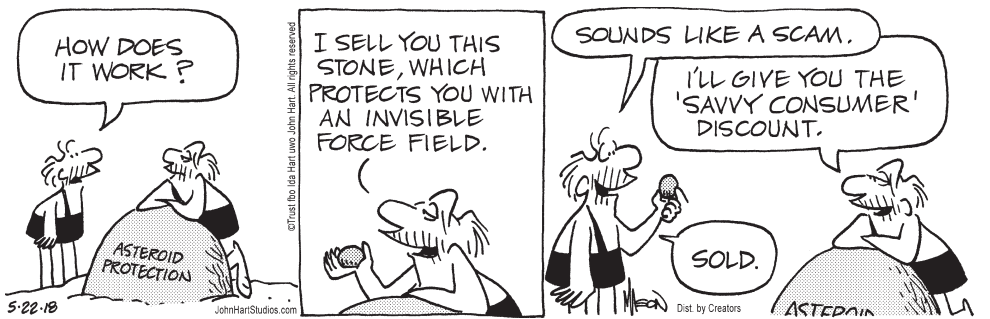
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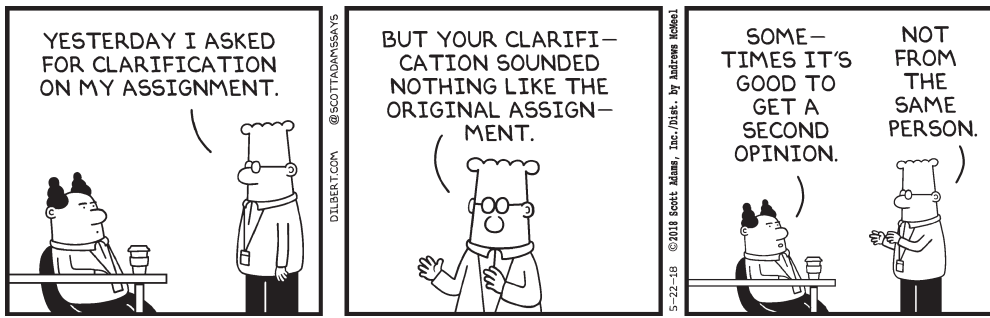
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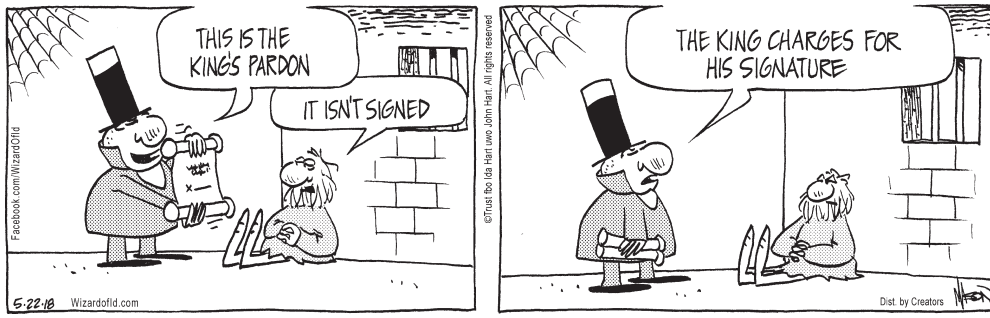
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