

Dear Carol

Dear Carol,

My family owns a cabin at a lake. We love to have friends and family come and share it with us as it is fairly large and can sleep quite a few people at a time. The problem is my sister's dog. He is getting quite old and has lost control of his body functions. She has made a lot of adjustments in her home to accommodate his physical limitations. She has covered all of the carpet with plastic, keeps spray bottles of cleaning fluid at the ready and schedules her life around his medications. The dog's sweet temper has changed so he often snaps at people now. She wants to come to the cabin for a week and bring the dog. He has been her closest companion for many years so I understand how she feels but I don't want to have the mess all over the house and I'm afraid my grandchildren will be harmed by the dog. She insists on bringing Buster everywhere. What shall I do?

Carrie

Dear Carrie,

Moving a dog of that age and physical state would not be kind to the dog or anyone else. Compassionately tell your sister you understand and support her love and care for Buster but fear he would not do well in strange surroundings. Your grandchildren's health and safety is important to you and you cannot risk them being hurt by Buster or that they, inadvertently, might cause him harm. Please support your sister by asking about Buster frequently and, when he passes, encourage her to talk about him in order to ease her pain.

Dear Carol,

I get together with a group of friends on a regular basis for lunch. We have been friends for quite a while and have a lot in common. The problem is one of the women always interrupts when someone else is talk-

ing. We never get to hear anyone's whole story because Penny always has to inject her story about the same subject. It is getting frustrating and some of us are thinking about not telling her about our next date. We don't want to hurt her feelings but subtle hints haven't worked. Is there a kind way we can get her to be quiet for a change?

Frustrated Fran

Dear Fran,

The next time Penny interrupts say, "Excuse me Penny, I want to hear the rest of Beth's story" loudly enough that it gets her attention. Keep doing this each time she interrupts. Try to get the other members of the group to do the same thing. She probably doesn't realize how annoying this habit is and may only learn it when she is interrupted on a regular basis. It is a kindness for friends to help each other overcome obvious faults. Bad habits like this can isolate people from contact with others and that is bad for our health.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com
Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone. •



Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

First off, to everyone and all, please enjoy the Fourth of July holiday. Think about what the day entails as you parade around with your red cups and throw fireworks at each other. Hope to see some of you out and about, as I practice my observance of a safe and sane holiday. Sure will. Safe and sane.

Was initially going to lead with the Governor Mark Sanford story. You are familiar with it, right? Don't waste all your time Tweeting, do you? The Republican South Carolina chief executive hooked up with some lady who was not his wife. Or so it seemed when he came out and said: "The bottom line is this: I have been unfaithful to my wife." Pretty straightforward. Like I have always said, you get caught with your mitt in the ringer, or mitt caught somewhere, don't deny, deny, deny.

Get out in front of the upcoming media maelstrom. Take ownership of your screw-up, plead for forgiveness, say, "My bad," or whatever, and let the chips fall. Where did this "my bad" saying enter our lexicon, by the way? Anyway, coming out and taking responsibility usually works better than what President Richard Milhouse Nixon did a quarter-century ago when a two-bit burglary ended up costing the always-proud Californian a pretty good job.

Do you remember the Watergate deal? Criminy, it happened a lot longer than a quarter of a century ago. Time flies, as they say. The break-in happened in June of 1972. Five dimwits were caught burglarizing the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Hotel. Why? Cuz stupid/paranoid people do stupid things.

What possible reason would the Republicans have had to worry about what the Demos and their 1972 nominee, one George McGovern, were planning? Nixon was ahead in the polls

by a ton and was bulletproof in the upcoming election, which was just a few months away.

McGovern, at the time the South Dakota governor, was a fringe candidate at best, and had no shot at winning a seat in the Oval Office. In fact, he was routed by the Nixon team 520 to 17 in the all-important electoral college in the '72 election. You guys know what the electoral college is, so help me Thomas Jefferson? Don't need to waste valuable space educating you, right? Except for you, SW, but as I've said many times, you are a different bird.

Anyway, the paranoid people surrounding Tricky Dick Nixon felt it was necessary to burglarize the DNC, and uncover some of the wonderful McGovern strategy. Which seemed to be to oppose the Vietnam War. End of strategy.

Boy, that was a different era, wasn't it? Now when a conflict breaks out, anywhere, anytime, CNN and the other fantastic news-gathering outfits are planted on the scene in what seems a few minutes, beaming back live pictures, giving their own slanted views on whatever is taking place.

Remember the Vietnam era, old folks? We would all wait until the end of the week when the venerable Walter Cronkite, who, sadly, may not be with us much longer, would look into the camera as we watched the CBS Evening News, and tell us of the number of American casualties that had occurred in Vietnam that week?

Rambling here, but back to my point. Which was that Mr. Nixon cost himself the presidency because he allowed a small screw-up to mushroom into a cataclysmic imbroglio that forced the guy to resign the highest office in the land.

After backtracking, backpedaling and backstabbing, Nixon finally resigned the

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