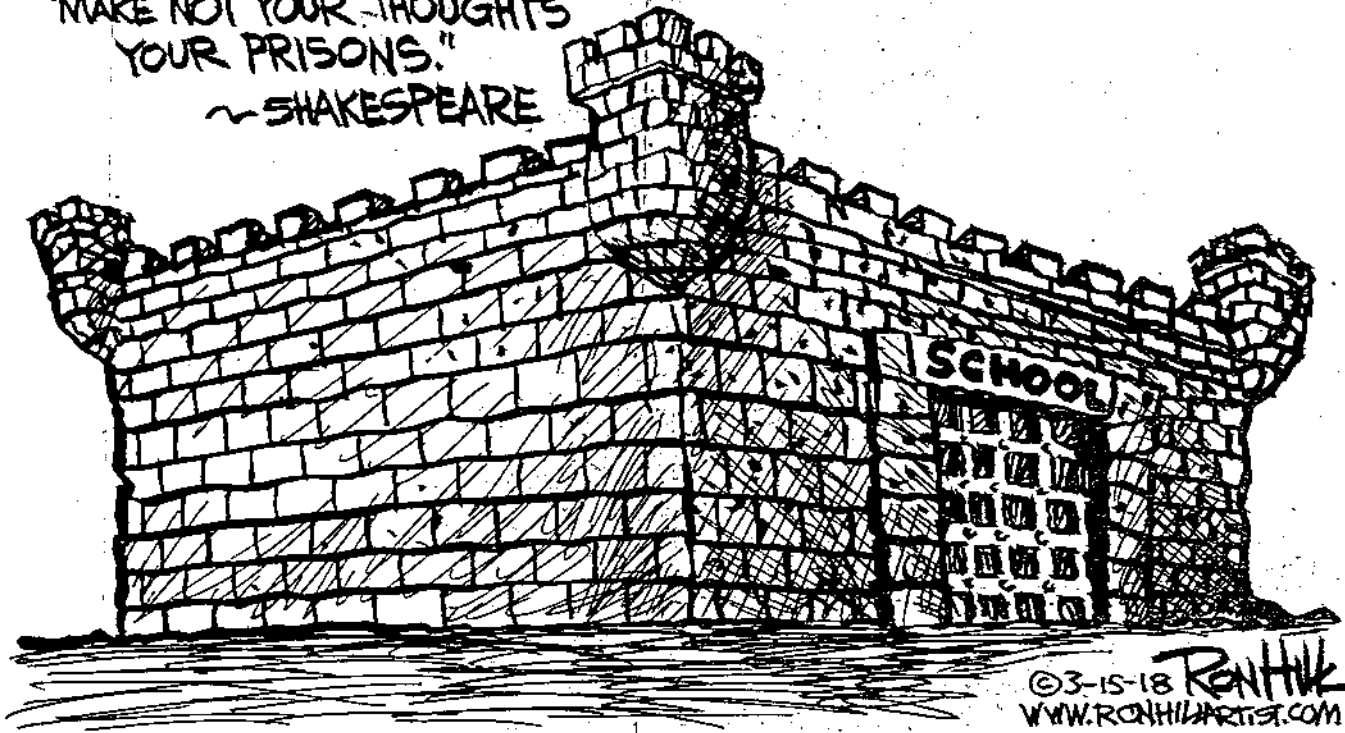


"MAKE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS
YOUR PRISONS."
~ SHAKESPEARE



L
S
er
IM
s, Ohio 44022
.com
14-150)
44022
PRINTED WITH
SOY INK
S
ciation
1999,

Paco still going strong despite health issue

Sad news this week. Our ancient Chihuahua, Paco, lost his eye. He did not misplace it and it was not stolen when he wasn't looking. It was surgically removed.

We will spare you the gory details. Suffice it to say there was a cyst involved and the condition of his right eye went downhill pretty fast and it was not going to get better and too late for intervention by a canine ophthalmologist.

But things are looking up for the old guy, pun intended and apologies extended.

The good news is Paco received wonderful care from Doc Eldridge and his staff. Everyone is relieved that the remaining eye is recovering nicely and Paco is adjusting to his half sightedness. Although — call me paranoid — but was that an accusatory look Paco just shot me over his shoulder with his one good eye?

As mentioned, he is ancient and is not able to do all the things he used to do. Half sightedness is not Paco's only physical issue.

He has one deformed front leg that does not work in concert with the other three. In the past year he has gone from being able to hobble from one place to the other. Now he is confined to his bed or the couch content to have me carry



Barbara Christian
**WINDOW ON
MAIN STREET**

him from food bowl to his pee place and back to his bed or the couch.

I can hear some of you asking why, with all of his problems, have I not let him go.

The answer is, for all his physical failings, Paco is alive and well, eats often and with gusto. He still loves his morning treat of string cheese which he enjoys one strand at a time mouth open wide like a baby bird waiting for the first worm of the day.

Paco is simply not ready to go anywhere. He is quite verbal; has definite likes and dislikes and remains as feisty as Molly Brown on the Titanic.

He has outlived several housemates including alpha male Dusty, the Yorkshire terrier, who decided upon first meeting that Paco was a squirrel that needed to be chased after at every opportunity. He survived Mia and Peanut who simply ignored him.

Now he has Mim, a lady of unknown origins and the only housemate who has ever liked Paco. He likes nothing more than to snuggle up to her and put his face

in her fur, sigh, close his one good eye and go to sleep.

If you own a pet you will understand that guilt goes with the territory. I cannot return his eye to him but maybe I could find something that in some small way would make up for its loss. A consolation prize that will console by guilt.

For instance, they make prosthetic eyes for dogs but they do not restore sight so what real benefit other than cosmetic. Its "stage one taxidermy" in my opinion.

Then came the revelation. What he needed was an eye patch that says I lost my eye but not my sense of style. But where does one find such a thing?

If you type "dog eye patch" in a Google search, you will find a supplier in Oklahoma, a small business that makes them in three shapes, dozens of designs, two band options and five styles including one called "bling."

I chose a classic round black patch with quarter inch elastic band and silver colored band connectors. The patch itself features a red white and black skull and crossbones.

It's perfect and fits his personality. Paco is bold and fearless despite his handicap and most definitely an "argh matey" kind of guy. I cannot wait to see him in it.

ion
acy

erican Society
or Freedom of
tance of open
d the dangers
nduct public
e, county and
tion.
ears ago with
Foundation,
ocumentation
ur governing
agrin Valley,
s helps us all
accountable
ons.
ality, journal-
ly facts about
me first, and
zens can and
d a report on
eir readiness,
fill requests
ords-related
presented