

MONDAY MORNING: TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE

*Most of the time, I'm here in Michigan
and I'm taking out the garbage every
Monday. – Bob Seger*

Morning-after blues now set in, feeling the weight of too much beer and cheese, doing the Walk of Shame, reeking of regret. Gotta' love American excess in all things, including sports.

Take out last night's garbage, pour yourself an herbal tea or a detox smoothie, and let's get back at it. Speaking of garbage...

VW expected to make appetizing offer to U.S. passenger diesel owners – BUT...

The German car maker has still not decided whether vehicle owners will be offered cash, car buy-backs, repairs or replacement cars, Kenneth Feinberg told the Frankfurter *Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*.

In other words, everything compensation manager Kenneth Feinberg said on behalf of VW for a German media outlet is vaporware. Best to keep in mind Feinberg has previously represented shining examples of corporate ethics like BP after the Deepwater Horizon spill.

Zika, Zika, Zika...

The virus is now driving some people mad – and they're not even infected. Like Republican presidential candidates who believe persons traveling to the U.S. should be quarantined if they come to the U.S. from Brazil (Christie), or could be quarantined if they have been infected (Carson). Or scientists pushing to kill all the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, without much thought for what removal of a species of insects will do

to the rest of the ecological system which they've made home. Viruses are opportunistic; lose one host and they'll hop to another. Are scientists modeling that next likely host?

Electronic toy maker VTech offers to buy LeapFrog

LeapFrog was popular with my kids 10 years ago; their line of educational toys helped my kids' grades with spelling test games. But LeapFrog made a strategic error leaving the smaller handheld games for children's tablets, and is now limping along. VTech has its own problems with technology, like the recent breach of user data, exposing millions of children and their families. Perhaps LeapFrog's information technology will help shore up VTech's through this acquisition.

Death from outer space

A bus driver in India may have been the first recorded casualty of a meteorite this weekend. Three others were injured when the meteorite exploded, leaving a small crater and broken windows.

Gong Xi Fa Cai or *Gong Hey Fat Choy* to you, depending on whether you speak Mandarin or Cantonese, as we enter the Year of the Monkey. Oops, perhaps you shouldn't take out the trash just yet, especially if it requires sweeping. It's bad luck to do so on the first new moon of the year – you might sweep your good luck out the door! Oh, your team lost last night? Sweep away. Best wishes for a prosperous new year!