

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Oh, I thought you knew. Sally was a magician’s assistant.”

Neighbors’ neglected dog causes a stink

Dear Abby: We recently bought a new home and have discovered that our elderly neighbors are caring for their grandson’s dog. The dog lives in a 3-by-6-foot area right next to our patio.

The poor animal receives little attention and is rarely cleaned up after. As a consequence, our patio reeks of dog feces, and we are overwhelmed by flies.

I feel bad for the couple, and I resent the grandson for allowing his dog to be neglected and for failing to have any consideration for the stench that makes our patio off-limits to us.

How can I politely ask my new neighbors to clean up after their dog so we can enjoy our new home without offending them or creating a bad neighbor situation? — “Shoo Fly” in Bakersfield, Calif.

Dear Shoo Fly: If your neighbors are unable to properly care for their grandson’s dog, they shouldn’t have it.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

A dog is a responsibility — the animal needs feeding, exercise, social contact and to be cleaned up after. To shirk that responsibility is cruel.

It would not be offensive to inform these neighbors that the odor and flies from their dog run are so overwhelming that they prevent you from enjoying your patio.

Speak up, or they’ll think you haven’t noticed. If this continues, call animal control or a pet rescue group.

Dear Abby: I have been in a rocky relationship for 10 months, and I’m not sure how you get out. I have tried multiple times to leave, but every time I tell her, she begs me not to, says horrible things and threatens to kill herself.

She says she’ll never be happy again, that I “always do this” and it hurts her so much. It makes me feel so bad I just give in and give her what she wants.

She doesn’t trust me. I have to give her all of my passwords and she checks my phone daily. She has to know everything I’m doing, and if I don’t tell her, look out! The next world war is going to happen.

I have told her many times that if she can’t trust me, there’s no way we can be together because it will make a miserable life for both of us.

Her constant worrying whether I’m going to leave her is starting to get to me. I really can’t take this anymore. I have considered some extreme things to get out because I’m so unhappy, and I know she is, too. I have tried everything. Please help me. — *Stuck in a Nightmare*

Dear Stuck: It is time you realize that you can’t fix what’s wrong with this woman. Her insecurities are a bottomless pit. You have described a hostage relationship, not a loving one.

So pack your things and get out of there NOW. If she threatens suicide and you know how to contact her family, alert them after you have gone.

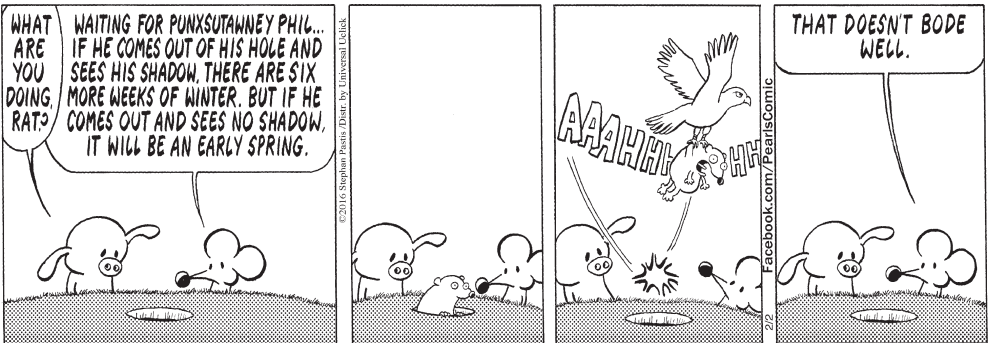
But do not pause, do not explain and do not look back. Your safety and your sanity depend upon it.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



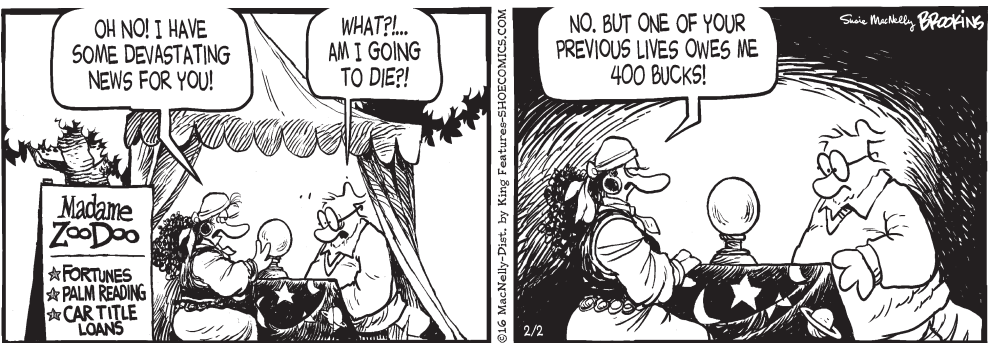
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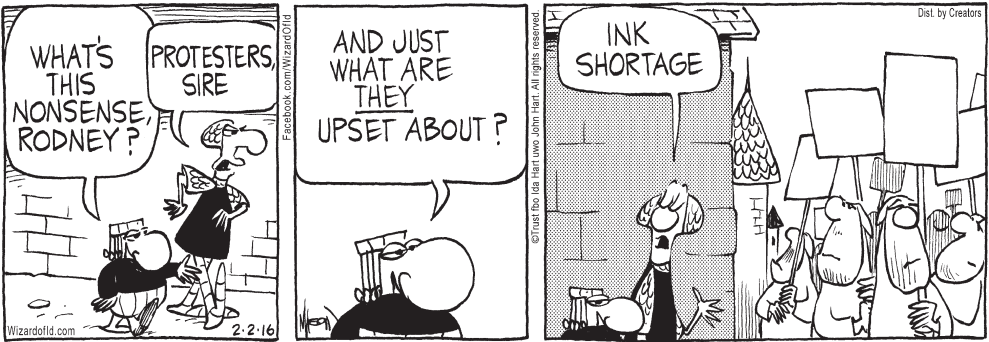
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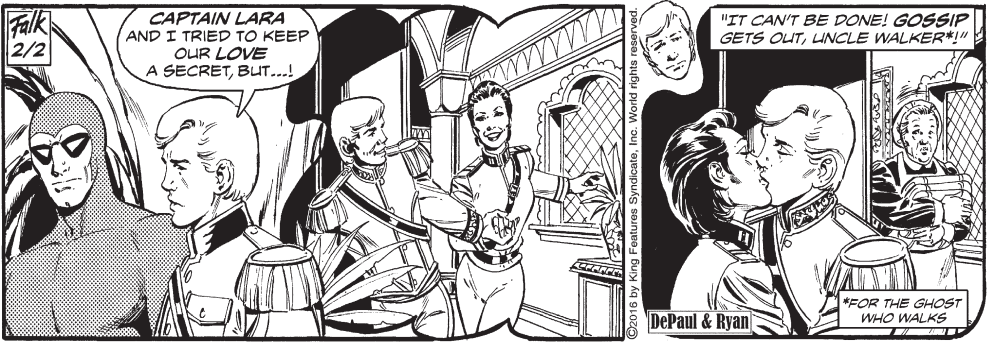
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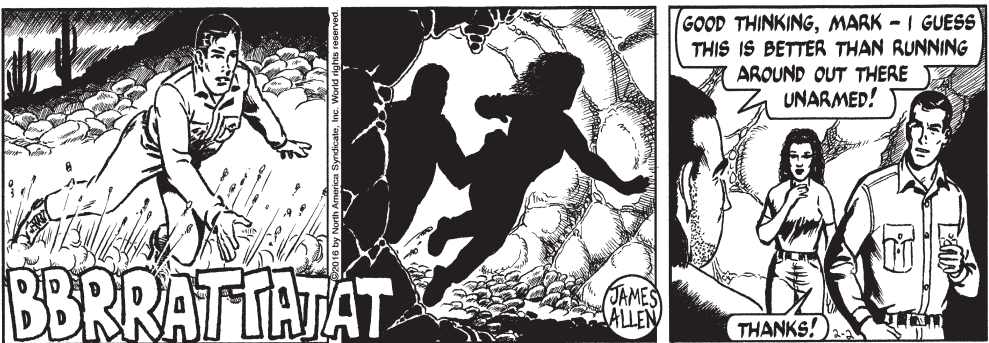
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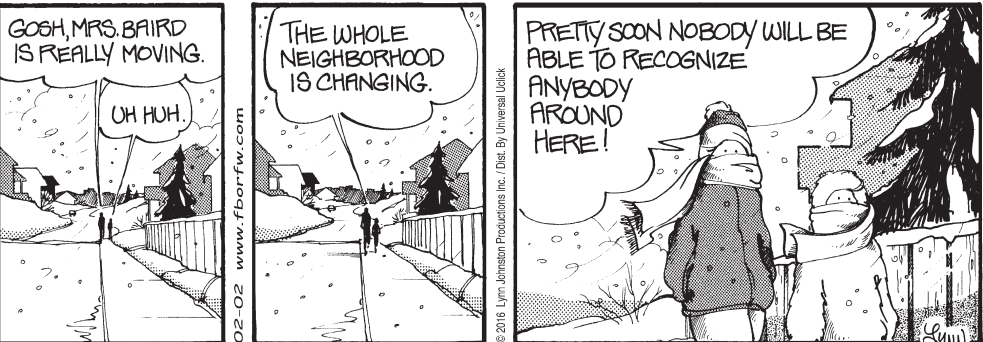
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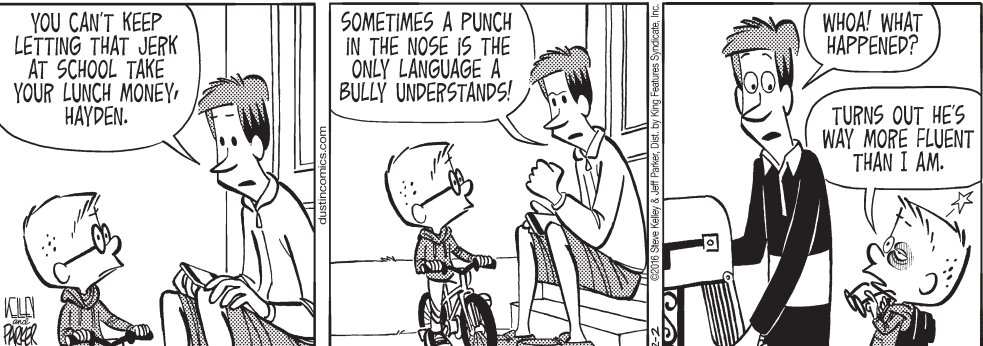
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DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because you want people to feel free to express themselves around you, you sometimes hold back your reactions. That's smart. The restraint you demonstrate today will garner the deep trust of a dear one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've no shortage of imagination. You conjure and create to your heart's content. The next step is to believe what you've dreamed up. If you don't believe it, the dream is just an exercise instead of a trajectory.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You might not get a second chance, so you're better off putting everything you have into the opportunity at hand. And if you do get a second chance, it will be because you showed so much enthusiasm the first time around.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You and another will land in a most riveting dynamic. You will be simultaneously aware of what you lack while seeing that the other person has exactly what is needed. Don't hesitate! Help each other out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Clean out the medicine cabinets of your mind. Throw out the old prescriptions and remedies that are past the expiration date. Jealousy, misplaced desire, resentment — all potential poisons to your happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll find a way to share in another person's dream and still inhabit your own. It's not that difficult when you're with

people whose goals and talents compliment yours so beautifully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You shouldn't have to sacrifice one relationship to make another one work well. If you feel yourself being torn between two people, consider that the disharmony is within you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're focusing on the good traits of those close to you. This one simple choice will be the reason this day turns out to be special. Of course, your loved ones will do the same for you, but there's something more to look forward to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While "chase" is a fun game for the elementary school playground, adults who chase are often ultimately thwarted by the dynamic. Hang back and see if you can't catch your intended through sheer attraction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When it comes to your people, you want to be there to celebrate the ups, help with the downs and find ways to make all the in-betweens a bit more memorable. Your love is a full-service arrangement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're emboldened and yet not quite ready to embark. Perhaps you're still not positive about how to get there. Once you get your hands on a map you'll be ready to launch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are rarely, if ever, accused of being too rigid. However, you have some strong opinions about how the action should unfold today, and you'd be wise to share. You'll help to raise the bar when you do.



HOLIDAY MATHIS