

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Disorganized crime.

Broken car seat sparks feud over cost

Dear Abby: My sister-in-law has asked me to pay for repairs to the passenger seat of her car.

She was picking up my 9-year-old to stay the night, and when he got inside, he moved the seat forward to better fit his stature.

She got upset and said, "The seat was broken. We had it set just right for me when I'm the passenger."

Since he adjusted it she hasn't been able to reset it. When I asked if there was a note on the dash that read "Do not move seat," she said no.

Then I asked, if this was her best friend's son, would she be requesting money to repair an already broken seat?

Her response was, "No." Am I wrong to think she was out of line to ask? — *Fuming in Washington State*

Dear Fuming: You're not wrong. If your sister-in-law had warned your son not to touch the seat before he adjusted it, she might have



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

a leg to stand on. However, if she's short of money and was baby-sitting your son as a favor, in the interest of keeping peace in the family, offer to contribute to the cost of the repair.

Dear Abby: What are the dangers of driving while on strong painkillers? Since codeine is a controlled substance that you have to sign for to receive the prescription, does it impair distance vision and reaction time?

My elderly dad says as long as he has taken the pill the night before, it's all right for him to drive. He takes about 12 different medications every day, and the pain medicine must stay in his system at all times to work effectively.

Are other drivers in danger when he drives under the influence of prescription drugs? Can he be arrested if he hits someone? His car is already dented because he hit something. It would be a shame for him to cause some innocent driver who encounters him on the highway to be crippled or die. What do you think? — *Medicated in Raleigh, N.C.*

Dear Medicated: I am not an expert in pharmacology. I suggest you compile a list

of all the drugs your father is taking — both prescription drugs and the over-the-counter variety.

Take the list to his pharmacist and ask these questions. He or she can give you the answers you need because some drugs can interact with each other.

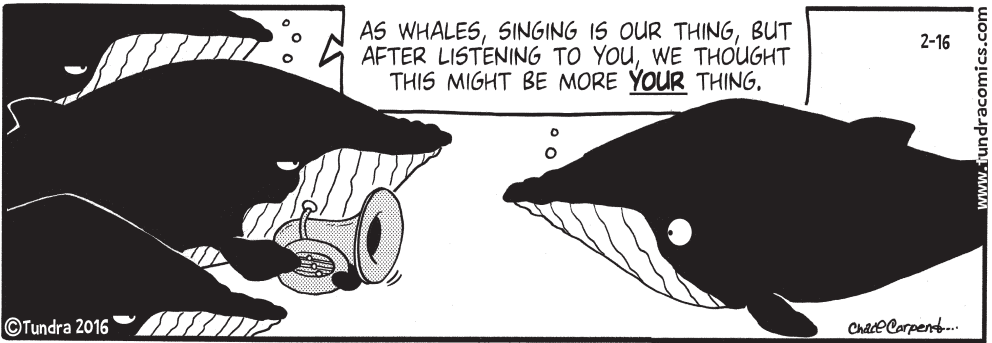
Dear Abby: A friend and I had a falling-out over a manners thing. When three people eat out together and everyone orders their own dessert, is it rude to not allow someone to take a bite of yours?

This friend wanted to taste another one's dessert and the guy said no. The friend then claimed the refuser was rude because he didn't want to share. Was the person wrong to have declined? — *Just One Bite*

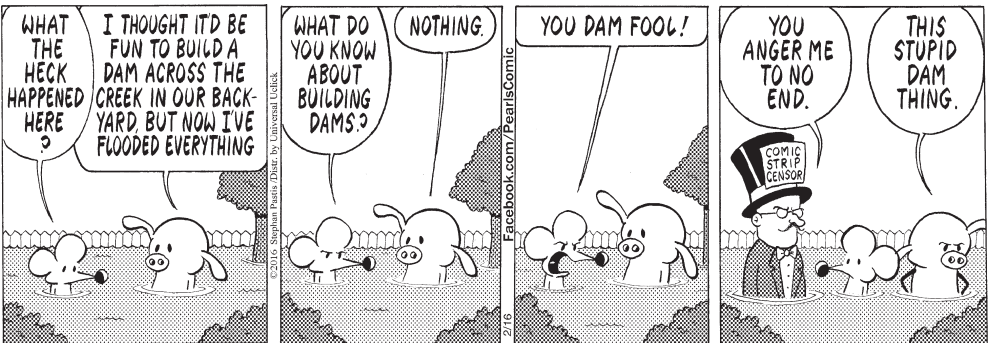
Dear Just One: Whether to share one's food is a matter of personal preference. No rule of etiquette demands that someone do so just because it has been requested, and it wasn't rude to refuse.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



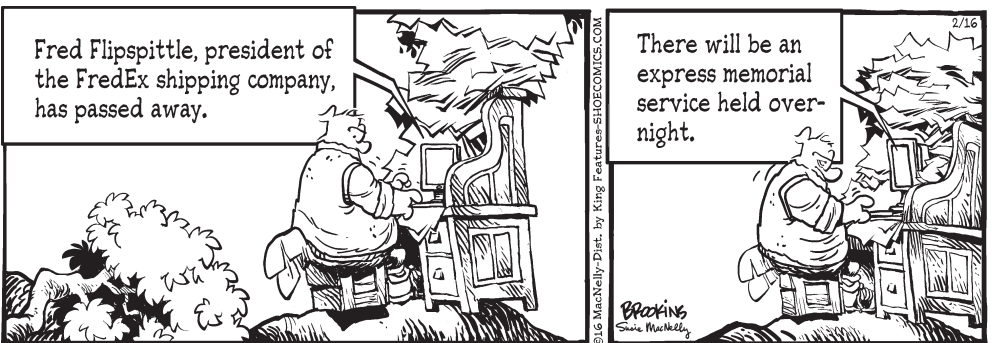
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



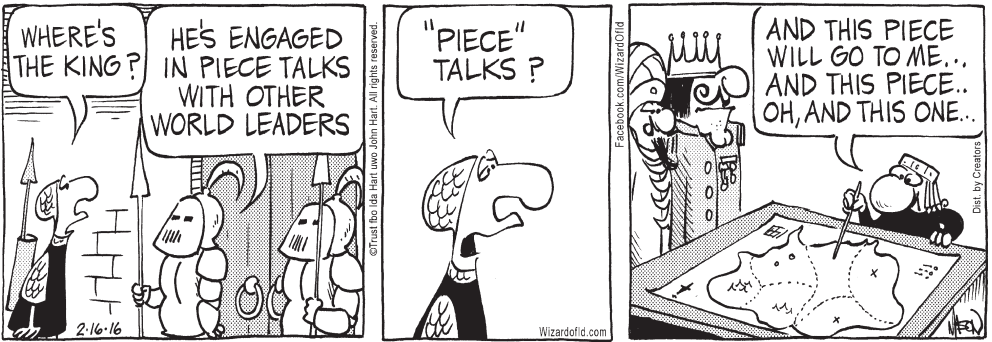
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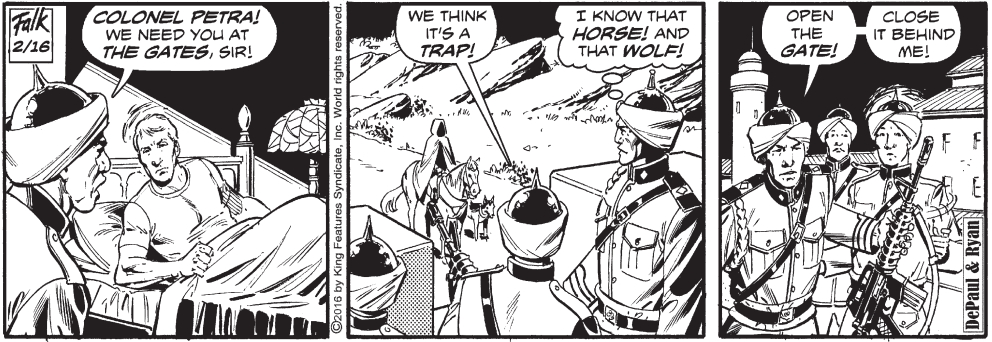
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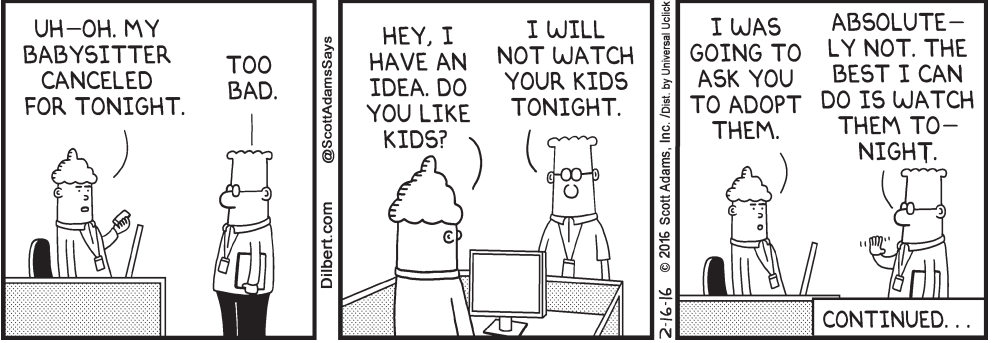
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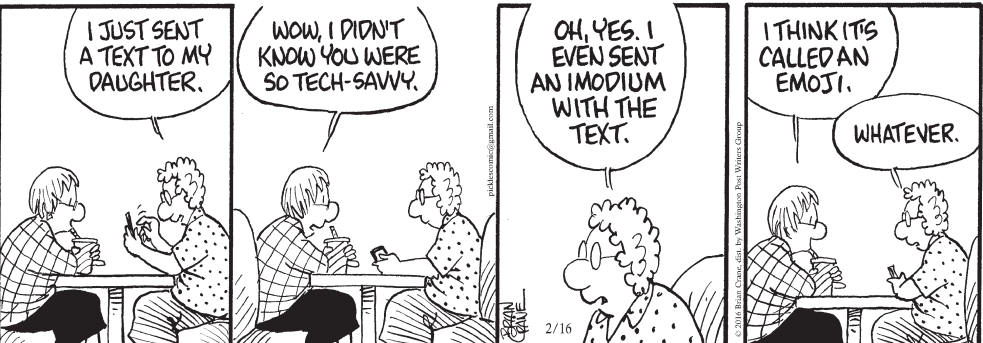
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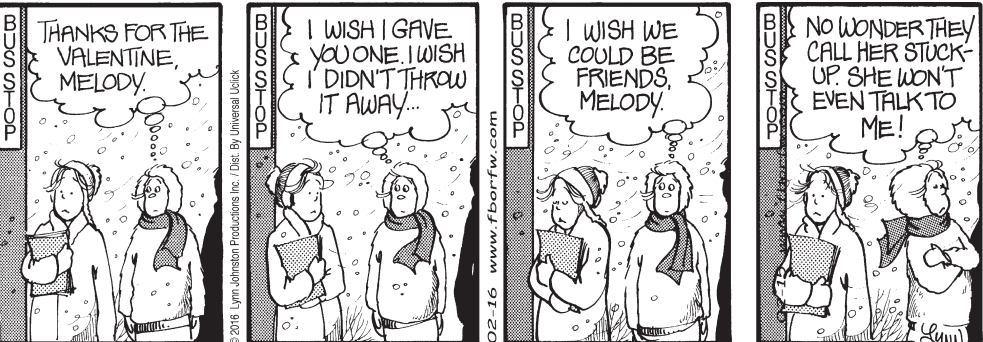
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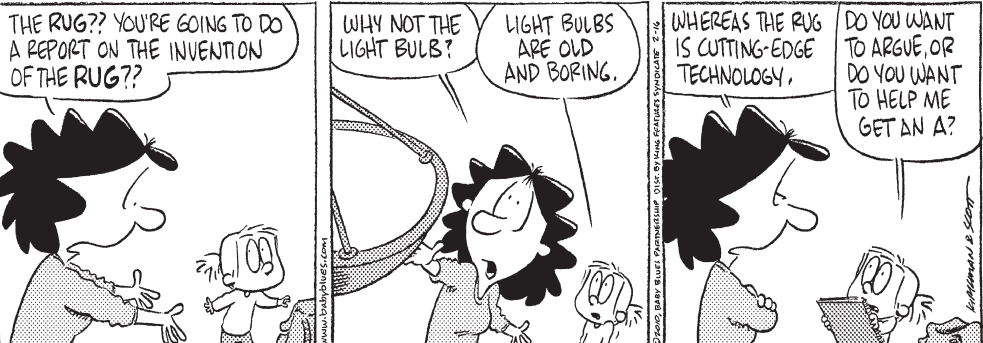
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



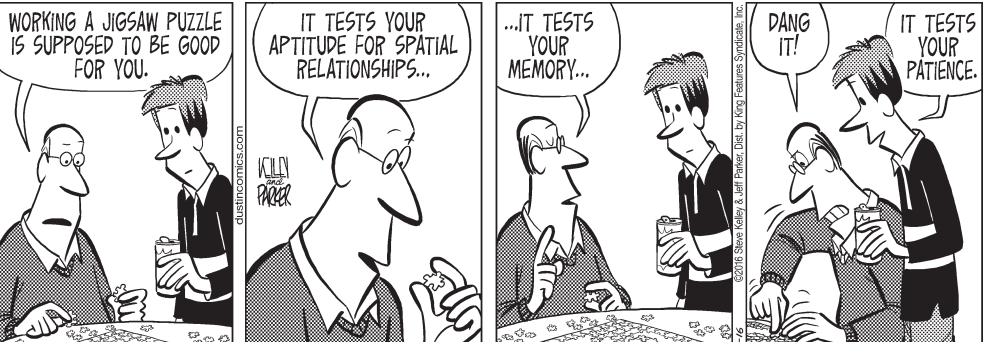
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Money and security are important to you. Don't let anyone make you feel like you're uptight just because you need to know the details connected to your financial security. It doesn't make you uptight; it makes you smart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll make practical choices, honor tradition and show up where you're expected. At some point you'll wonder what's in it for you — a natural response to these circumstances. You'll find out the answer to that soon enough.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Common interests and social activities are at the center of a relationship right now, but there has to be more than that at the center for this to work well. Dig deeper and note what else is there.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are devoted to your loved ones and domestic life, but you have many tastes and interests outside of the realm of what your friends and family can understand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know right away what is for you and what is not. However, you won't say no right away, because you care about people's feelings. Later, you'll be glad you make the effort to let them down gently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Hard-selling isn't your thing. You prefer to present your case then step back and let people draw their own conclusions. Today's situation is different. There's more



HOLIDAY MATHIS

at stake, and it will be worth it to push and make it happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll do more to push a group's agenda than you would ever do to forward your own private interests. Think about this. Don't you deserve as ferocious a fight as you're giving on behalf of others?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People will remember what you told them first and also the last thing you said. As for the middle, well, blame it on the diminishing attention span of the new world; then find another way to get that important message across.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've a need for close personal relationships, but this need is not as driving or overwhelmingly big for you as it is for some. You can relate with compassion to the intense souls of your life while still maintaining perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Although you approach the problem from a different place, you will come to the same solution as another great mind across the way. This is not happening by accident. Take it as a hint.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This day comes complete with the gifts of a rare quality of warmth, affection and attraction. Enjoy and, while you're at it, save a little piece of this so you can recall it better later.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Diplomacy is often the best way to go, but in today's instance this is not the case. You'll be better off to take a stand for what you really believe; otherwise you'll wind up in a tight spot later.