

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"For crying out loud, we never use the good silverware anyway! You guys always hate any guy I bring home!"

Topic of sex abuse is swept under rug

Dear Abby: There is a topic I haven't seen addressed in your column, namely being sexually abused by a spouse.

I ended my marriage because my husband was waking me at 2 a.m. demanding sex. He expected me to have sex only a week after I had our baby, although my doctor had said I should wait six weeks.

If I thought something he wanted me to do was degrading, he insisted I do it anyway.

It amazes me that the subject of spousal abuse isn't mentioned in premarital counseling.

No one seems willing to acknowledge this kind of abuse exists. Is there even a "survivors" network or support group to cope? I went to individual counseling, but it didn't help me.

I think it would be helpful if society would acknowledge this kind of thing does happen.

I also think that those who offer premarital



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

counseling should be required to discuss the warning signs of a sexual abuser. — *The Ex Mrs. Brown*

Dear Ex Mrs. Brown: It is interesting that this topic isn't addressed more often, because domestic violence can happen to anyone and it shouldn't be overlooked.

No one has the right to coerce a partner into doing something she or he doesn't want to do, whether it's done through physical violence or relentless verbal abuse.

When there is forced sex in a marriage, the name for it is marital or spousal rape. Like any other kind of rape, it is not an act of love but a way of asserting control and dominance.

If you contact the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), it should be able to refer you to a support group for survivors. The toll-free number to call is 800-656-4673. (You can also find it online at rainn.org.)

Dear Abby: How do you handle an ex-son-in-law who "confides" in his 9-year-old and 7-year-old children?

My granddaughter came to me yesterday

and said her dad told her he's not going to pay child support and is going to quit his job. Now she is worried her daddy will become homeless and have to live on the street.

I know he is self-centered. He has started abusing narcotics and is moving in with a girl half his age.

I told my granddaughter that no matter what happens, her mom and dad will always love her.

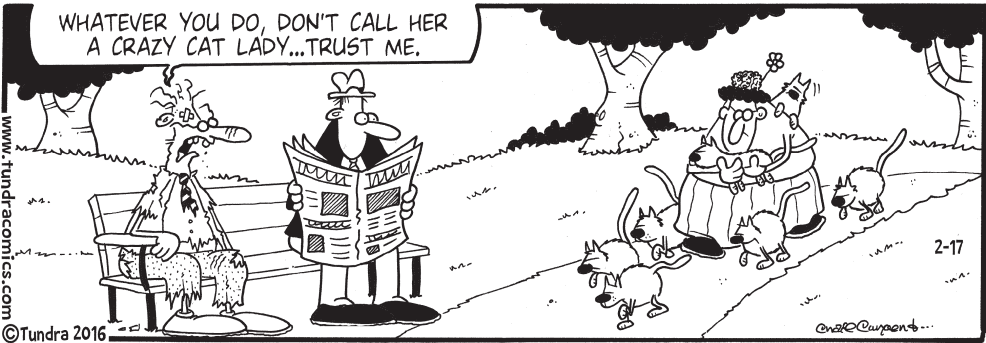
There is court-ordered support, but none has been paid. Any advice would be appreciated. — *Grandpa in Milwaukee*

Dear Grandpa: "Daddy" is not going to lose his apartment; he has CHOSEN to move in with his girlfriend. That's a lot different than becoming homeless.

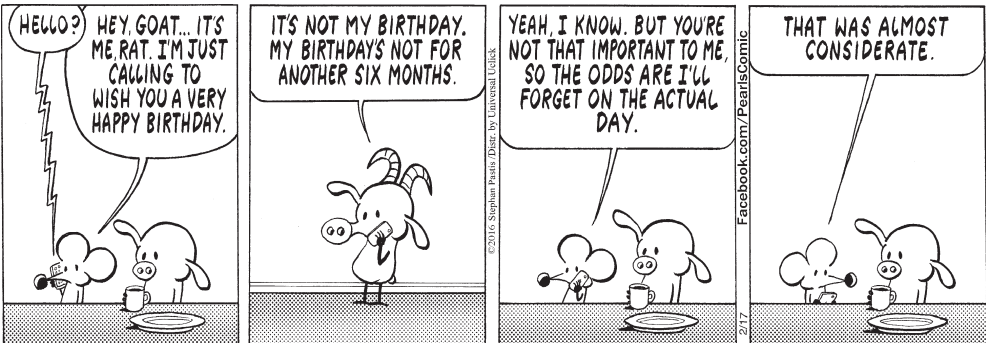
Reassure your grandchildren, but do not lie. Your daughter should discuss with an attorney the fact that her ex isn't meeting his child support obligation, and contact the state agencies that help to collect it.

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

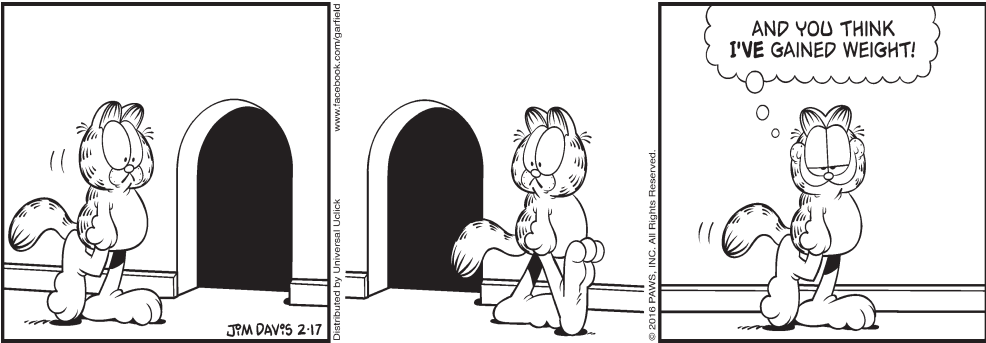
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



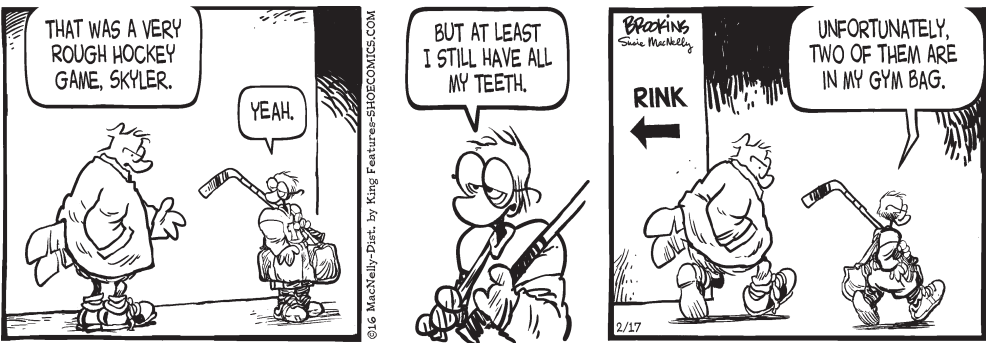
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



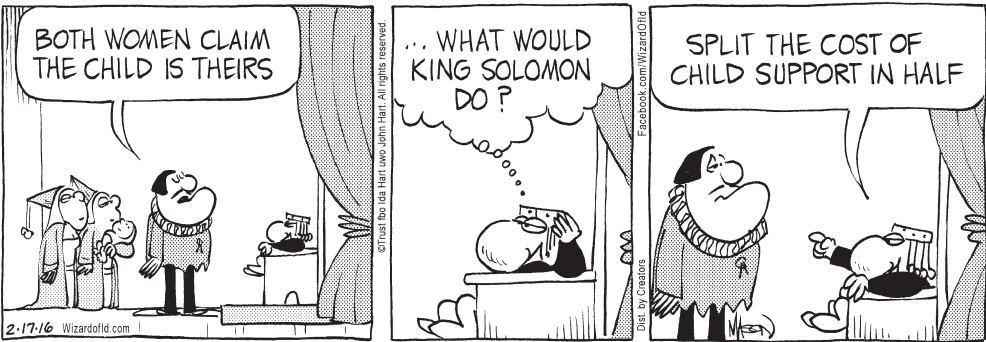
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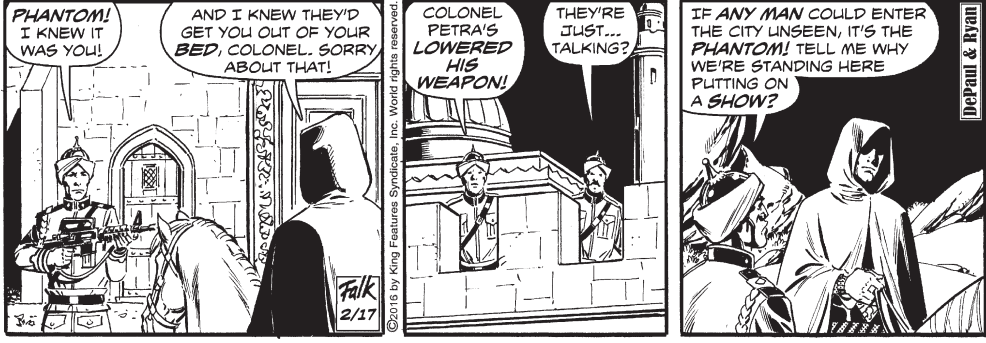
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



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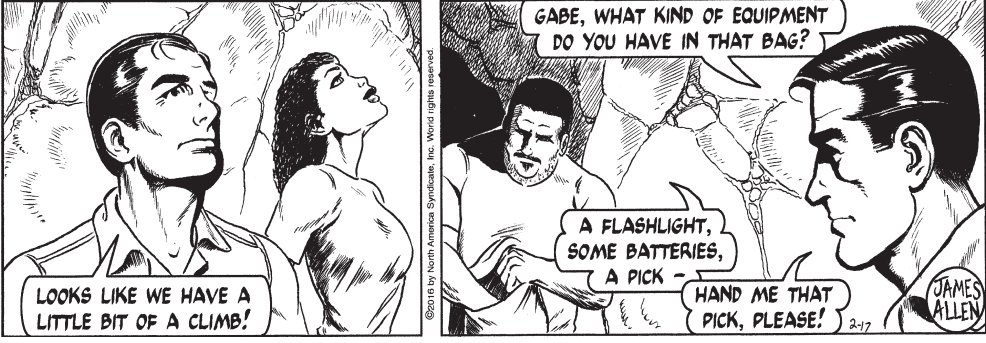
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



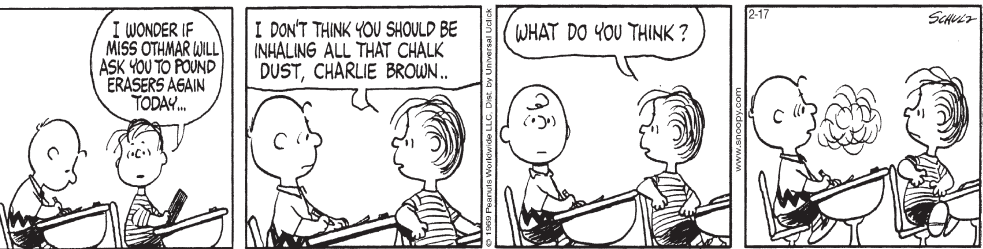
DILBERT by Scott Adams



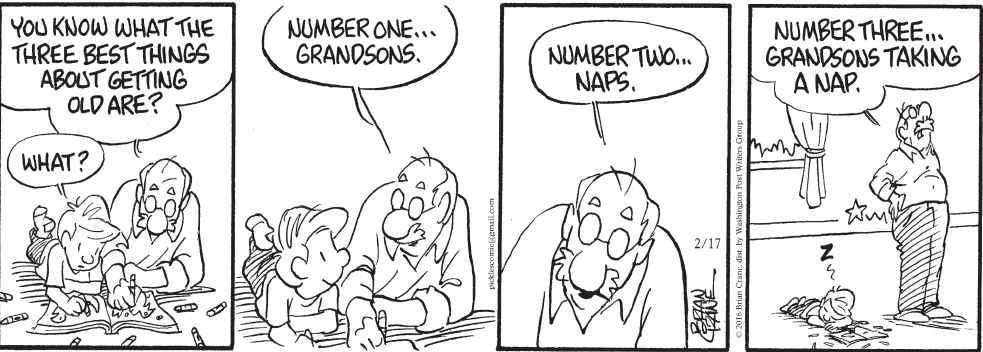
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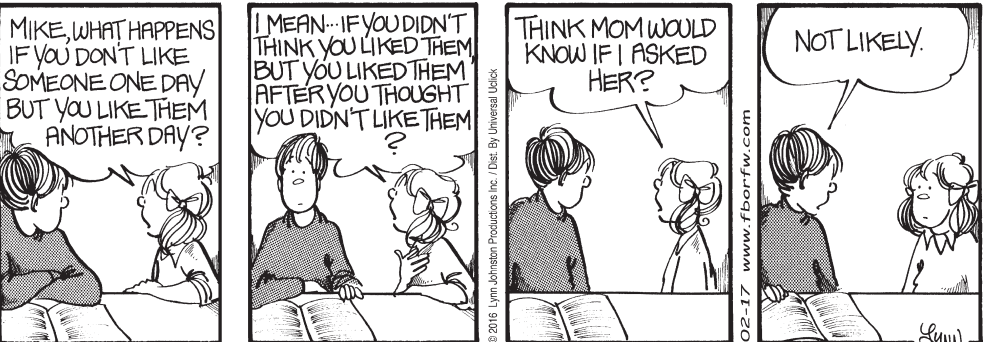
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PICKLES by Brian Crane



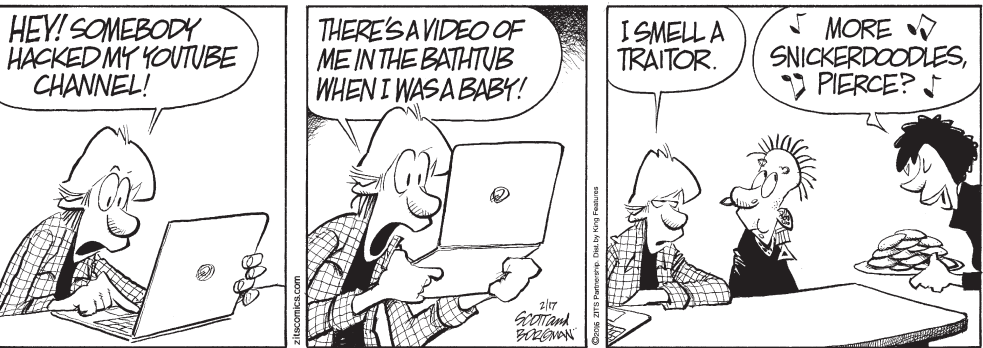
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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). Warming up isn't just for exercise or hard work. Everything you do today will be better when you honor some kind of ramp up to the main action. Breathe, stretch, ease your way gently from one thing to the next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A simpler life appeals to you. You see the elegance in having less stress, clutter and confusion. Furthermore, you're in a mood to make the hard choices about what to cut. Watch out, world!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Not only do you have a genuine love and excitement for the day's subject matter, you have a specific map for getting from point A to point B. Avoid kinks by working it through on your own once more before sharing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stay frugal even after you get the means to buy the fancier version. Living on less than you make is wise, but living on much less than you make is true freedom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). How well are your experiences building on one another these days? When you're living well, each experience transforms from or expands upon the last. When you're not living well, each experience repeats the last.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People show you, through their attention, how they think and feel about you. Are you satisfied with the quality of

attention you are receiving? If the answer is "no," then today is a fine day to do something about it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Youth has its own kind of reality. You'll be an objective witness to this today with just the level of detachment necessary to enjoy the situation without completely buying into it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll come upon your opposite again and be at once fascinated, frustrated and intrigued by this person. Should you take things further? It may benefit you, but it won't get any easier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not seeking dramatic change, but a few key refinements could up your entire game. That you're able to note subtle delineators is a mark of your good taste.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). They'll bring you complexities and intricacies. You bring the practicality and quick solutions. This may very well be the most productive day you will have all month. You're a life whiz!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you once thought was a natural progression now seems like an overly ambitious plan. That's because you're listening to skeptics. This is still within the realm of possibility; you'll need more help is all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Privilege is costly. Whether or not the experience is really worth the cost is up to you. Chances are it's going to take you a good while to determine this. In the meantime, you're better off saving your money.



HOLIDAY MATHIS