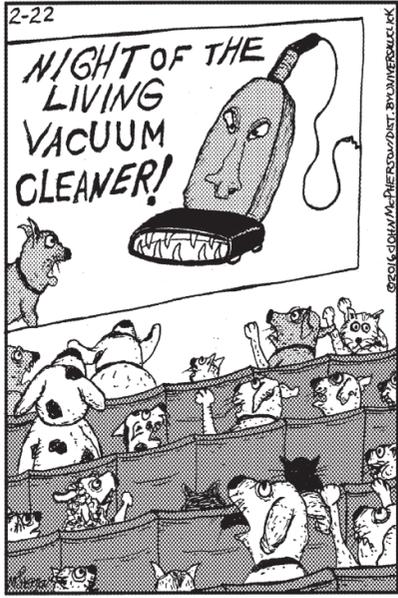


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Horror movies for pets.

Couple's issues may benefit from break

Dear Abby: I have been in a relationship with my girlfriend, "Allison," for two years, but lately there have been frequent rough patches.

I'm 18 and a college student. I love Allison, but the relationship is taking a toll on us physically and emotionally.

We have had to deal with separation ever since we got together. She's the only one with a car and a "real" job. I work on campus in a work-study program in exchange for reduced tuition. I try to help Allison as much as I can to reduce the stress on her.

She has asked me to transfer schools, but I'd like to stay where I am because I feel I will have the ability to make something of myself.

I have suggested that maybe we need to go our separate ways so she doesn't have to pull the majority of the weight, but she gets upset and accuses me of not loving her.

What should I do? — *Stressed Student in Georgia*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Student: First let me suggest what NOT to do. Do not allow Allison to pressure you into changing schools.

It is important that you complete your education, and there is no guarantee that the financial arrangement you have with this school can be replicated somewhere else.

You and Allison are young, and long-distance relationships are often hard to maintain.

That she is carrying the lion's share of the load right now is unfortunate, but it won't last forever. If she's unwilling to accept that, then I agree that perhaps it's time for the two of you to take a break.

Dear Abby: Years ago, I wrote to your mother about the many difficulties and stress of raising a very disabled son.

Her advice gave me and my wife much needed encouragement. I keep her framed handwritten letter above my desk.

Our son passed away unexpectedly 17 months ago. Our family, neighbors and community gave us lots of support. Our son was loved by all.

But for the past few months, it seems as if

it is taboo for anyone to ask about how we are doing. Even if I mention our son in the context of a conversation, there is no follow-up.

I can understand people may be reluctant to open up a sorrow. However, I want to let them know it is OK to ask, "How are you doing?" I won't hold them hostage to a long, maudlin discourse.

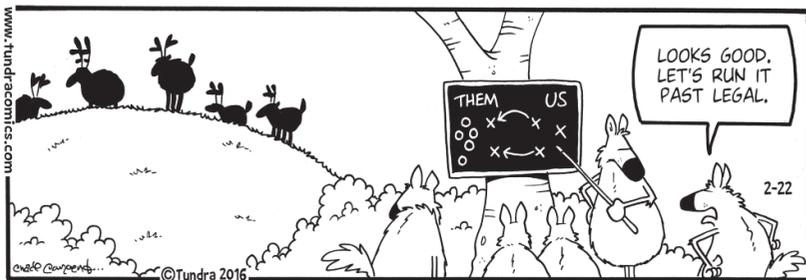
It just would be nice if people would still acknowledge his life and that we all still miss him. — *Always His Dad in Colorado*

Dear Dad: I am glad you wrote because you are not alone in having this heartache. As a general rule, people are uncomfortable bringing up the subject of death because they are afraid they will cause the person more sadness.

Rarely is this true. People who have suffered a loss NEED to know their loved one hasn't been forgotten. No one should be afraid to share a warm memory, or ask how a grieving family member is doing. To show that kind of sensitivity is a generous gift.

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

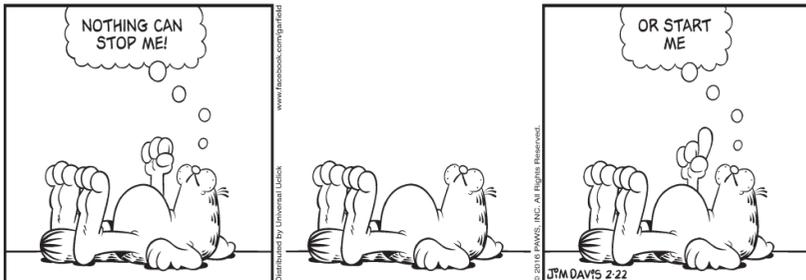
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



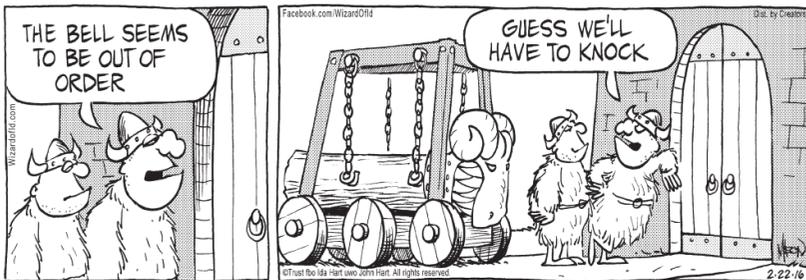
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



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). There's a good chance that the problem only comes into existence when you acknowledge it. You can test out the theory by placing your attention elsewhere and seeing if the issue doesn't wither from neglect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Foster a community atmosphere. Bring together the different parts of your social life. You're in a position to introduce people who stand to really benefit from knowing one another.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In order to keep it simple, ask only yes-or-no questions. If you're met with excuses, quibbling, bickering, accept it as a no and move on.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you understand how to manage people, you'll execute a fantastic turnaround on a tough job. People in your personal life will not appreciate being managed in the same manner as you would a colleague.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Those who have been getting results by doing it the same way for years have little incentive to change. You, however, are just starting out. You're neither limited by what you know nor seduced by marginal successes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're going for maximum effectiveness, and for that you need feedback. Ask for it. You make people feel safe enough to talk to you frankly, and because of that, you're on the fast track to success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Every age you've been since birth is inside of the person you are now. It may feel like you are straddled across several evolutions of yourself, unsure which age to draw from. There is no wrong answer. Do what comes naturally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Water signs like you can change forms with the emotional weather. Your ability to stay adaptable and on the move will help you avoid drama and find the most successful positioning.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every choice has its benefits and detriments. This moon will help you see the full range of options rendering the decision a bit tougher to make. "Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before." — Mae West

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're strong on your own. You also have a formidable structure around you and your alliances protect you furthermore. For these reasons, you're in a prime position to take a thrilling risk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). So often you're the one who can best see what lies ahead, so you feel it's your responsibility to take the lead. Relax instead. There's a finesse that comes from realizing that you don't have to take charge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The joys and sorrows of others are your joys and sorrows, too. It's part of your psychic gift. You can feel your people and know how they feel, too, no matter how far away from them you may be.



HOLIDAY MATHS