

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Since his girlfriend did not have insurance, Kyle tried to smuggle her in for treatment through his HMO.

Girl tries to stop mother from dating

Dear Abby: I'm a single mom in my 40s and my daughter is 12. After my last relationship, 10 years ago (not with her father), I took a leave of absence from the dating world to concentrate on myself and being the best mother I could.

Fast-forward: When I attempt to talk to anyone of the opposite sex, my daughter has a fit.

She has hidden my car keys and my phone, pouts if I go out and behaves like an all-out brat.

I have reassured her that I love her and always will. Also, I would never allow someone around her if I had any suspicion that he might not be good for her. Nothing works.

I have spoken with only one person I would even think of introducing her to, but I am afraid of her attitude.

Abby, what's the best way to enter into the dating world without hurting my child? I want to date, but my child won't let me. — *Entering the Dating World Again*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Entering: Your daughter likes things just the way they are and views any disruption as a threat to her lifestyle.

The best way to enter into the dating world would be to do it without consulting her. IF and when you meet someone and things become serious, introduce them then — in a casual way. If she acts up, remember that YOU are the parent.

Your daughter doesn't have to "love" someone because you do. She does, however, have to treat that person with the same respect with which you treat her friends — and you should insist upon it.

You are the parent, and it's up to you to enforce the rules for as long as she lives with you.

Dear Abby: My girlfriend and I are getting ready to move to a new city in six months (each of us for our own careers) and plan to move in together.

Some issues still need to be ironed out before we make that commitment, and my biggest concern is the anger and resentment she carries toward her semi-estranged father.

I understand where it comes from and why, but it worries me to see how quickly and completely it can overwhelm her personality. I lack comparable experience, so I struggle to have constructive conversations with her about it.

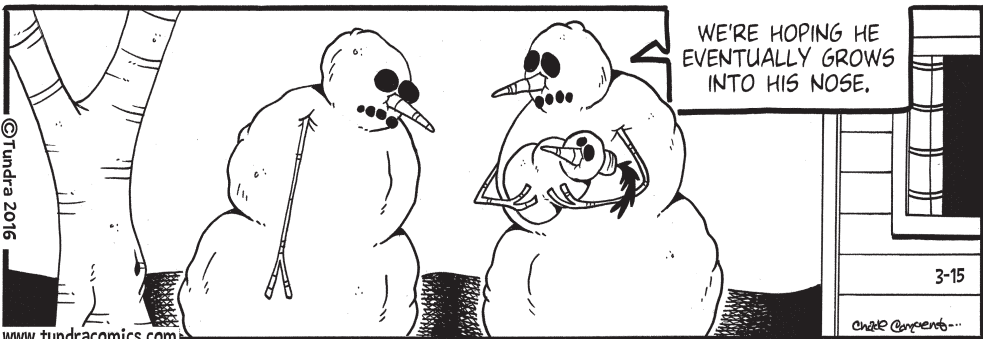
But I can't accept this poisonous volatility as a feature of our life together. I believe that speaking to someone would help her deal with these feelings in a healthier, more constructive way, but she rejects that idea.

I don't want to bully her into counseling, but I feel like I have to do something before we take this next step, for both our sakes. Would it be wrong to tell her she has to start seeing someone before I commit to moving in together? — *Hesitating in Florida*

Dear Hesitating: No, it would not be wrong. If your girlfriend's problems with her father bleed over into her relationship with you — and it appears they have — it would be a mistake for you to move in together because it won't last.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



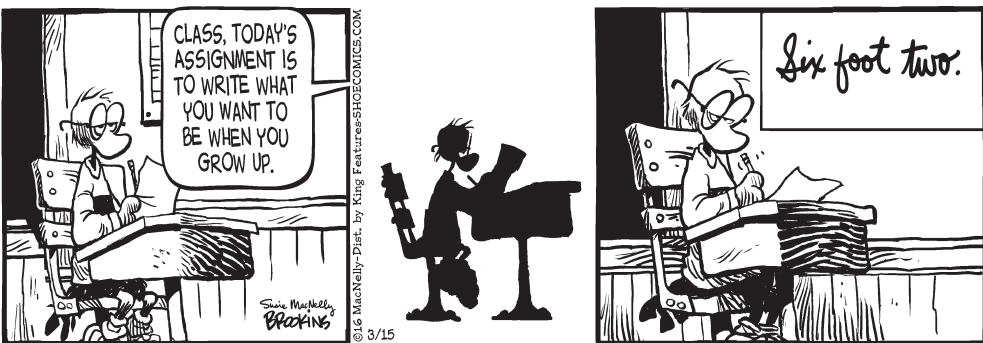
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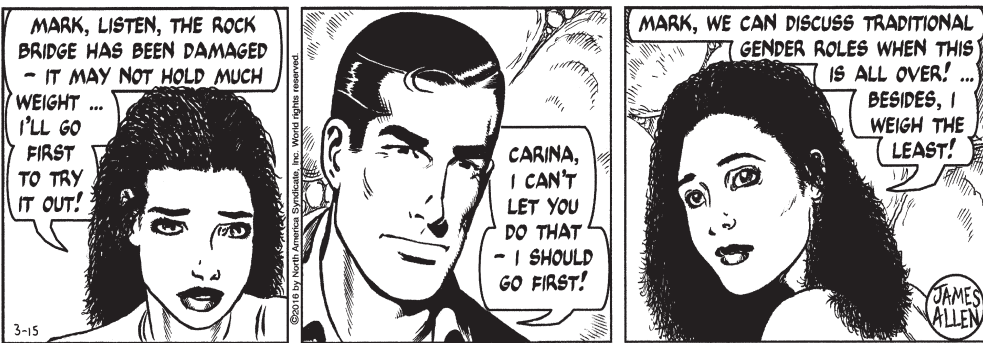
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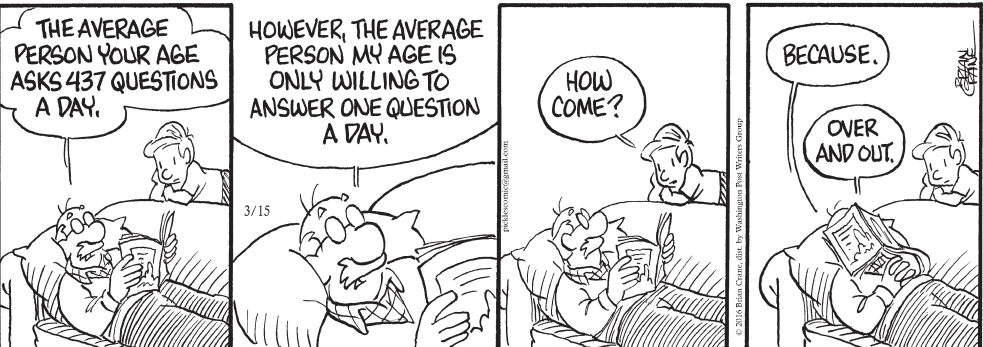
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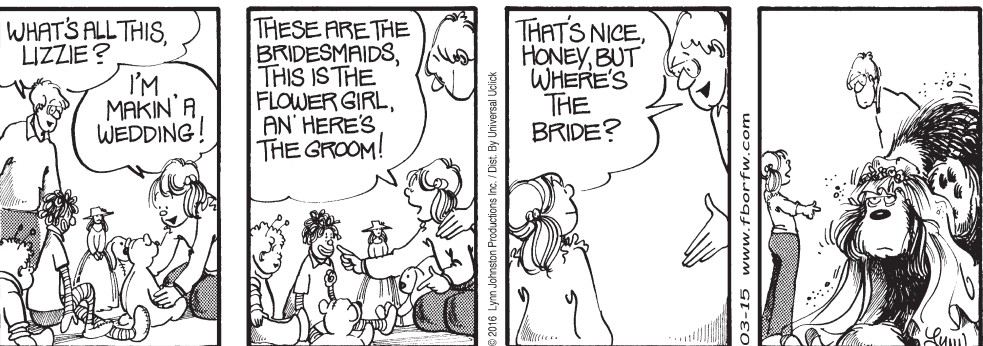
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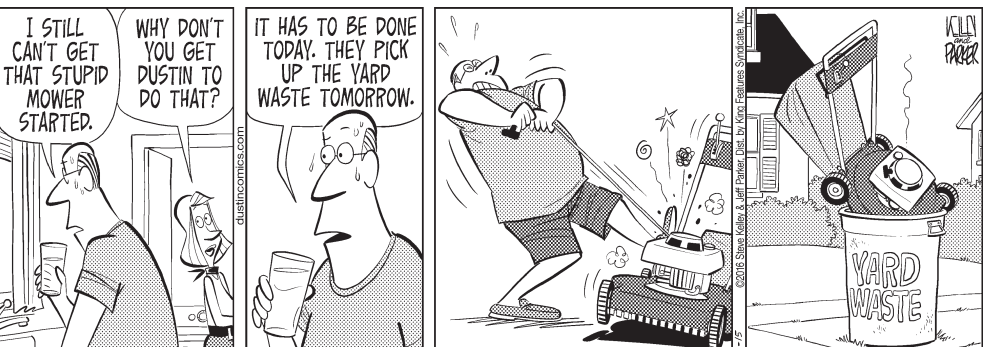
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DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are like Michelangelo today, chipping and chiseling away at the marble so you can liberate the angels inside. Truly, when you create, you are the most alive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your mind doesn't work alphabetically — no one's does. The associations you make to keep things straight will amuse you and anyone lucky enough to share ideas with you, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Conversation helps you flex your creative muscles. You might be surprised at what certain people say. It's not what you would have predicted, but then again, you have a way of bringing unusual things out of people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What comes automatically to you would require a great effort from another person. This is a perk you get to enjoy because long ago you put in the time and energy necessary to obtain some good habits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What you're conscious of is only a small portion of the story. This is one more reason why you shouldn't worry so much about the things you said. It wasn't about your word choices. There's quite a lot going on right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've come a long way, and now you'll be retracing some of

those steps. You're not exactly in the place you wanted to land, but you're close. Once you back up, you'll see where you needed to turn.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Will the person be able to meet your expectations or do you need a change of cast? You could just ask! You might not get a completely honest answer; but you'll get the answer you need to make a decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's natural to create a buffer around yourself. It's a matter of protection, really. You prefer to control how involved you are with others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sure, there are things you could be doing better; and in time you'll get to the place you want to be. But for now, celebrate where you're at. You are doing so many things right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't want the same things as the people around you want, yet you still feel like you're in competition for some reason. Maybe it's because you simply thrive on challenge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because you have higher standards, you'll be held to them. This will be true regardless of whether you share your expectations or not. You're in your own category. Really, this can't be helped.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone approves of you, another person disapproves — no matter what you do, you can't please everyone. Work on making yourself happy and you'll be just fine.



HOLIDAY MATHIS