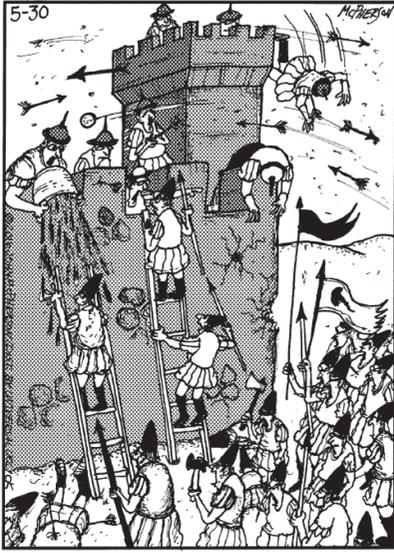


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Kensington Castle? No, no, no. This is Kensington Castle. Kensington is down this road about two miles, turn left at..."

Woman identifies as abuser after split

Dear Abby: After reading some of your columns concerning abusive, controlling relationships, I realize that I am in one, but not in the way you assume. I am the abuser.

My boyfriend and I have been together for a year and a half.

Most of the time it's great — we have similar interests, and we're both not afraid to speak our minds, which makes our playful debates fun. Our downfall, which has caused two breakups, is my temper. I have an explosive, flash temper. When he does something I dislike, such as hang out with a female friend, stay out late drinking, talk about things I find annoying or insensitive, I go on a rampage. I say heartless things, threaten to leave him and do everything in my power to make him feel guilty.

As soon as I get a few minutes to gather my thoughts and cool down, I realize how out of control I have become, and I profusely attempt to apologize and make up for it.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

But the damage is already done. I have concluded that I am a major part of the problem, and I am desperately trying to change my ways: I think before I speak, assess before I assume, and try to ask polite questions rather than blindly accuse.

I love him, I truly do. Recently he has told me he wants to help me work on my temper and emotional issues in the hope of strengthening our relationship and becoming more serious.

But is staying with him really the right thing to do if I only seem to cause him so much grief? — *Sorry in San Diego*

Dear Abby: I want to ask my parents — my mom, dad, stepmom and stepdad — if they have planned for their deaths. I know this may seem weird, but after my grandfather died, all of them kept saying how relieved they were that he was able to make all of his own arrangements.

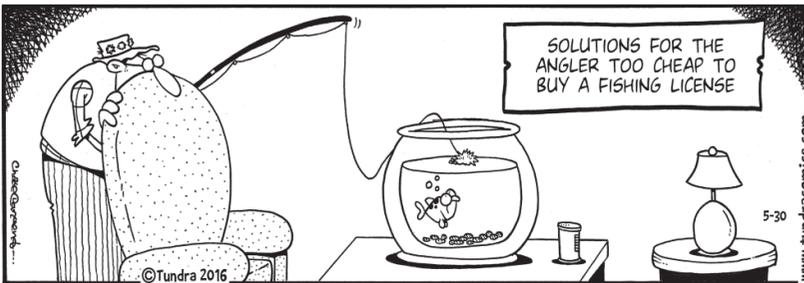
I know funerals are expensive, and since I am an only child and have so many parents, this worries me. How can I bring this up? Can you help? — *Looking Ahead*

Dear Looking Ahead: A way to raise the subject would be to refer to your grandfather's death and the comments your parents made afterward. Then ask what arrangements they have made regarding advance directives for health care, funerals, cremation, etc.

It's always wise to plan ahead and put one's wishes in writing, and if you are an adult, you should also do this. If you have already put your wishes in writing, you could start the conversation by informing them — and then ask what their plans are.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



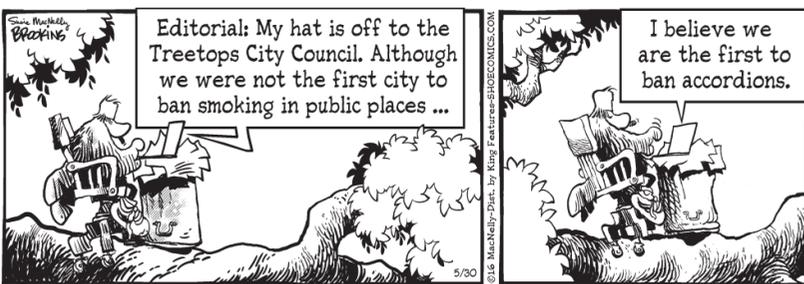
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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). You're used to being someone's first order of business — or at least believing that you are. That feeling could go away today as everyone shifts priorities. This change should come as some relief. It's liberating, really.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This jump that you are contemplating seems pretty precarious. When you look down, all you'll see is a long way to fall. Well, if there were a springy, stretchy net under you it wouldn't be called a "leap of faith."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no such thing as small talk now, only conversations on broad topics that reveal minute emotional truths you can build on to create better bonds.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one who makes you feel so special loves the quirkiness you bring to life, admires your many talents and finds your humor irresistible. You need more fans like this. Circulate wider. Branch out and find them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's not a lot of good that comes from just doing what's expected of you. So instead, why don't you do what you want to do? Pursue what fascinates you. Focus on what brings you to life. Truly, it's what's worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you try to do what you think they'll like, you'll miss. If you try

to do what you like then even if you miss it won't matter, because you'll have a homerun with the process and what it feels like to do it your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day's task comes to you with such a rush of fantastic energy, you'll be wondering if it's ever been done before. Of course it has, but not by you and not like this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The marketplace is rich with inspiration. You'll discover a need that isn't being filled, and you may be just the person to fill it. This will give your entrepreneurial spirit some music to dance to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The women's main suggestion for the day is: Don't heed the omens. The voice of your own conscience, intuition and ambition will trump even the wisest or most practical advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When your optimism is high, your stress is low. Grab on to hope and carry it wherever you go. While you're at it, give some to others. Hope, like love, magically regenerates when you give it away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may have accepted a bit of blame that wasn't yours to assume. Don't even bother reassigning this, just drop it where you stand and walk away guilt-free. This is how it should be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Double-check all your efforts because miscalculations can be costly. Make sure you're bringing everything you intended to and that you leave with whatever you came with.



HOLIDAY MATHIS