

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Hey, Megan, check this out! When I blow air over Mrs. Lucier’s five cavities, I can play ‘Hotel California!’”

Anxious woman filters out bad news

Dear Abby: Clearly, America is in a state of turmoil. I am horrified and ashamed of the senseless death occurring daily.

I deal with anxiety, particularly regarding fear of death. The only thing I’ve found that I can do to cope with current events is to scan headlines, and ask my understanding husband for a synopsis of events that doesn’t include major triggers.

However, I feel serious guilt that I may not be fully educating myself on recent events. Am I wrong to prioritize my mental well-being over the gravity of our country’s situation? — *Serious Guilt*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Serious Guilt: Wrong? Absolutely not! According to The Journal of the American Medical Association, 13 percent of Americans now use antidepressants to combat depression and anxiety. Our news media feed so many salacious details into our homes in the interest of high ratings that it’s a miracle the majority of Americans aren’t in need of them.

Do not feel guilty for using your husband as a filter. You are only protecting yourself, and that’s not wrong. It’s **HEALTHY**.

Dear Abby: I need advice. I’m 23 and have been living with my boyfriend of almost two years. I have never been in a relationship before this one, so I have little experience. I love him dearly, but every time there’s an issue between us, it always becomes my fault and I’m always the one to apologize. What should I do? — *Inexperienced in Tampa*

Dear Inexperienced: You should not be forced into the role of perpetual peacekeeper by accepting the blame for everything, and it won’t improve your relationship.

Because your boyfriend’s preferred method of solving disagreements is laying the blame on you, suggest the two of you get couples counseling. However, if he refuses — and he may — you will then have to decide whether this is the way you want to spend the foreseeable future.

Dear Abby: My sister-in-law “Dani” and my brother have been married almost three

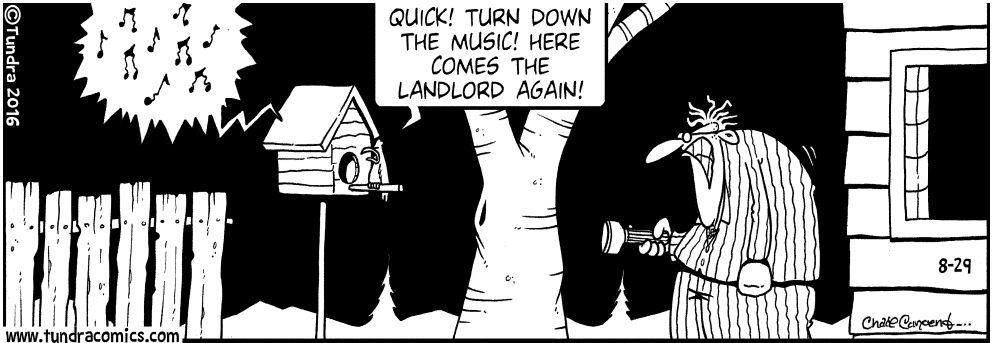
years. I recently discovered that Dani has created a fake social media page. She posted some nude photos on it and acts like she’s single. I suspect she is getting paid to do live nude video chatting, too.

Abby, I’m shocked over this. I’m sure my brother would explode with rage and disappointment if he knew. They have two small daughters, which leaves me to wonder if she has considered their embarrassment if they ever find out. She’s a good person, so I don’t know why she would do this. I really need your advice. — *Shocked Sister-In-Law in the South*

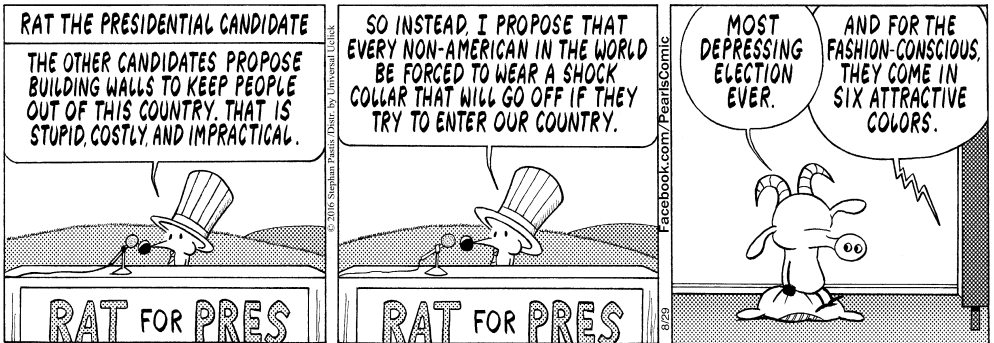
Dear S-I-L: It’s time to talk to Dani. Tell her what you have learned and ask her why she’s doing it. When you do, ask how she thinks your brother will react when he finds out — if he doesn’t already know — and how this could affect their daughters. This may be a fling, a way to prove to herself that she’s still attractive, or a way to earn needed money. But you will never know until you initiate a conversation with her.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



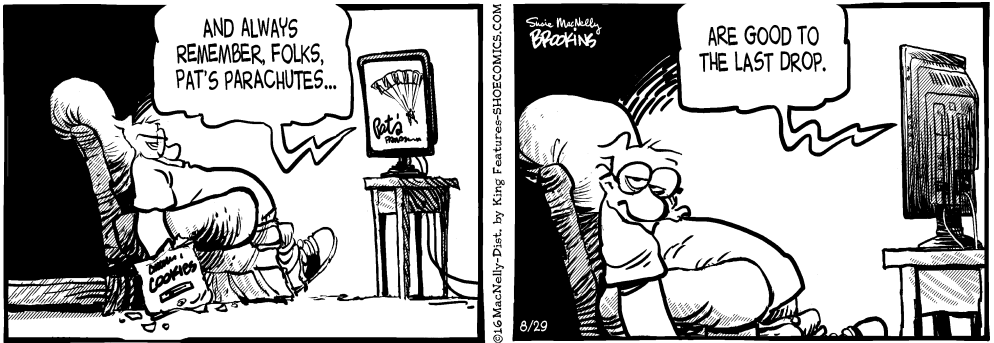
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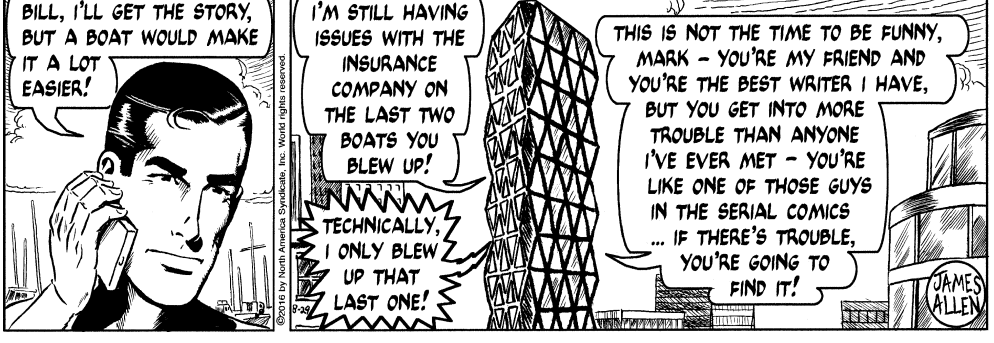
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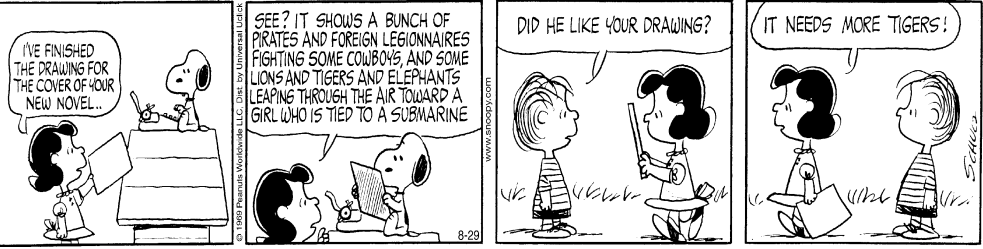
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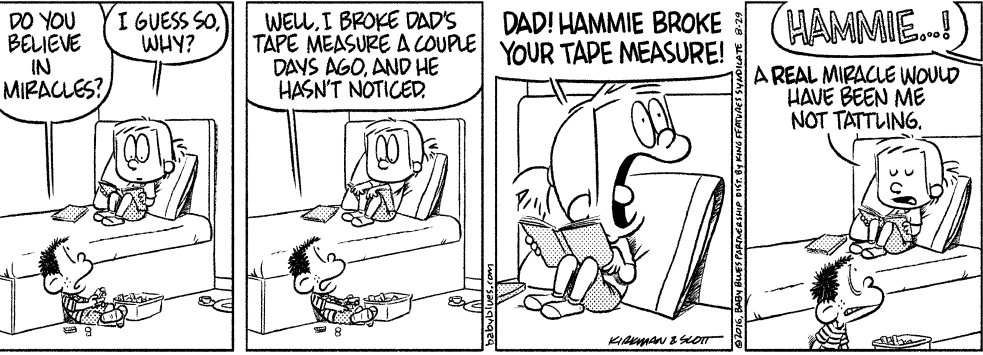
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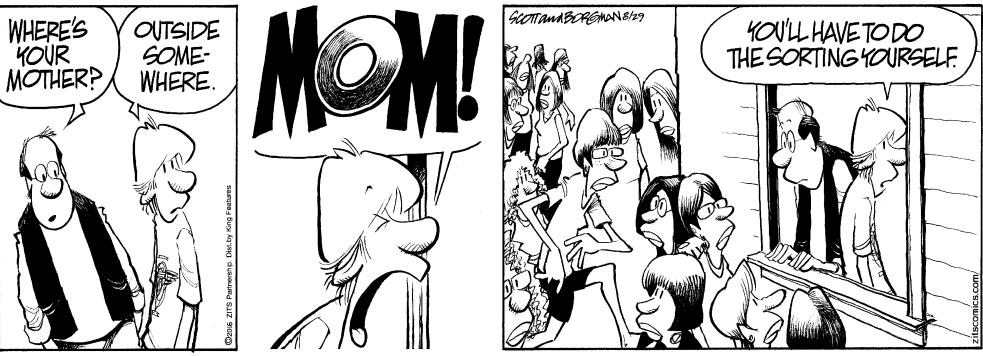
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



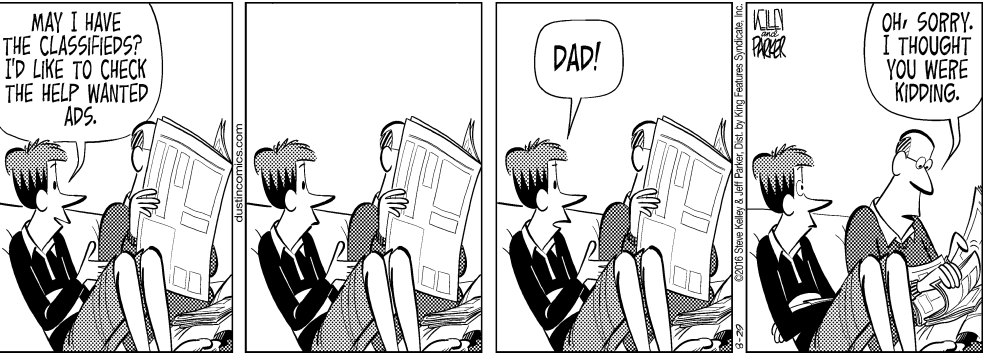
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You’ll be called to try your hand at playing the next level. If you’re overlooked or challenged in the beginning, this is just a sign that you’re going for the right size goal. If it were too easy, you wouldn’t get much out of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Seeming disasters can open up the door for something wonderful. Remember a time in your life when this was the case. The next fantastic adventure will begin with an undesirable circumstance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What if everyone around you is part of a plot to delight, help and enhance your life? That is actually more plausible than whatever negative thing you could assume.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are many ways to connect with that which is deep, interesting and complex. If there is but one way to gain acceptance, you’re dealing with a superficial entity that cannot fulfil anything beyond a superficial need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You need to work, play and build with those who communicate effectively and appropriately, because life is going at such a pace for you these days that there isn’t a lot of room for miscommunication.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Intellectual stimulation is important to your well-being. Not only will new ideas and knowledge excite you; the discussion and application of such will



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ignite a fiery passion in you. You’ll feel keenly alive!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The mirror lies. The selfie lies. Even your own thought processes can lie. Trusted counsel is absolutely essential to helping you understand what’s real about your self-concept. Ask for feedback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People are generally not direct in everyday interactions. Most people can’t tell when others are faking. You can. Poke into this. Encourage honesty from others so you have a chance at fulfilling their real needs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will perceive nearly everyone you meet as good-natured and smart in some particular way. You’ll be right. This is at least partly due to the fact that you bring the very best out in others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Remember that situation that got completely, ridiculously out of hand? It still makes you laugh to think about it. The current scene is threatening to go in a similar direction. The question: Is this funny or just sad?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You’ll be sizing up new people. Once filtered through your worldview, the result is a nuanced, quirky perception that, while not exactly inaccurate, should be taken with a grain of salt, even by you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sociability is high on the list of qualities you seek in a partner or teammate. Not only do you want help entertaining and serving your people; you want a partner who has his or her own people and will gladly share access.