

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Can you tell me about the first time that you felt abominable?"

# Man's assaults should not be ignored

Dear Abby: I have been with my husband for almost 14 years. I'm a sound sleeper, and I suspect he has been having sex with me while I'm sleeping. I have woken up without clothes on, my undergarments askew or the waistband "rolled on." I called him on it and told him I knew and that I'm not OK with it.

Weeks later, I caught him red-handed. This time I was awake, but I was so frightened that I froze! I was sexually abused as a child and raped as an adult, and now I feel like my marriage has been turned upside down. My husband denies it. He claims it's all in my head.

My friends say that for the sake of my children I should ignore it or I'll turn their lives upside down.

Abby, everyone thinks my husband is a catch! I'm sure if I walk away I'll lose friends — maybe even some of my family. Please help me. I feel lost. — Turned Upside Down in Illinois



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

Dear Turned Upside Down: Your friends are wrong, and you should NOT "ignore" this. Sex without a person's consent is rape! When a husband does what you have described, it is called spousal rape.

Because he claims this is "all in your head," for your own sanity, make an appointment to discuss this with a licensed psychotherapist. With your unfortunate history, you should have spoken with someone already. Your husband is either grossly insensitive or derives pleasure from being a predator. His behavior is appalling, and you do not have to stand for it.

Counseling can help you decide whether to remain in this marriage. Regardless of what your ultimate decision may be, it will help you be emotionally resilient enough to live with your choice regardless of what your "friends" and family members may think.

Dear Abby: My fiancé, "Rob," and I are pregnant. This should be an exciting time for me, but he keeps bringing up a previous relationship during which he had an unplanned child. That was 10 years ago, and the mother denied him access.

I have told Rob how much his mentioning it upsets me and I have asked him not to do it, especially during my pregnancy.

I want to feel happy and special as the woman who will be providing Rob with an actual family unit. But instead I feel like second-best and resentful.

This should be a time to focus on us and our new baby, not the child that isn't in his life or that woman and her stupid actions. Please advise me. — Soon-to-be mom in Denver

Dear Mom: You ARE special and you ARE the person who is creating a new family with Rob, but your pregnancy may be a painful reminder of the child he "lost." He may be afraid the same thing could happen again and needs all the reassurance you can give him that it won't.

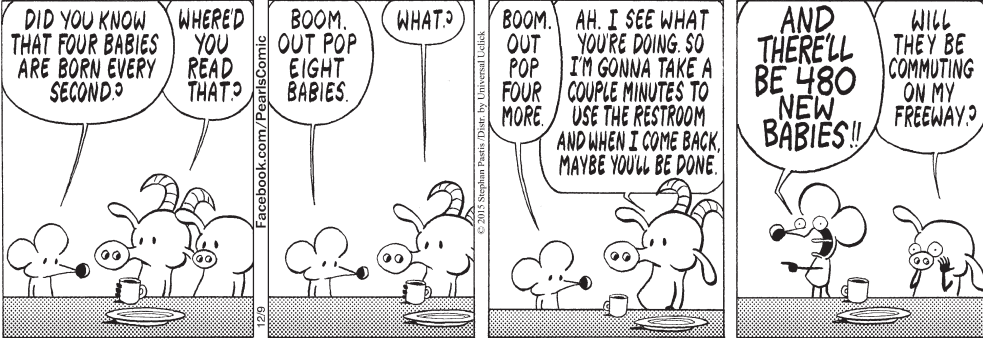
Because his bringing up the past relationship is hurtful, suggest he talk with a licensed mental health professional about it. Sometimes the best way to stop grieving is to talk about it.

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

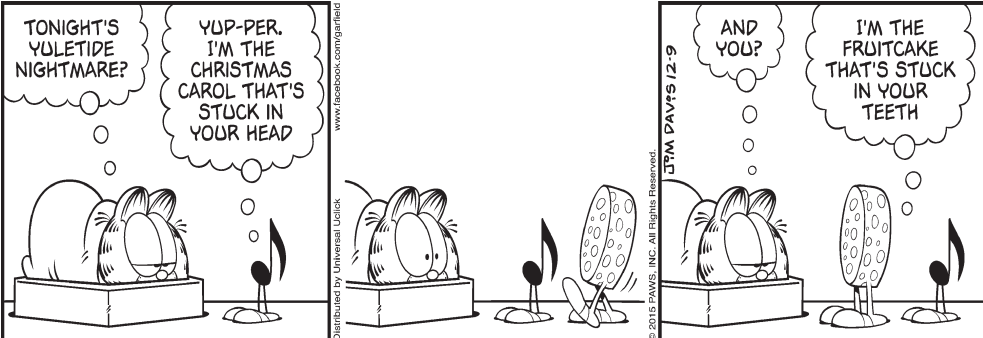
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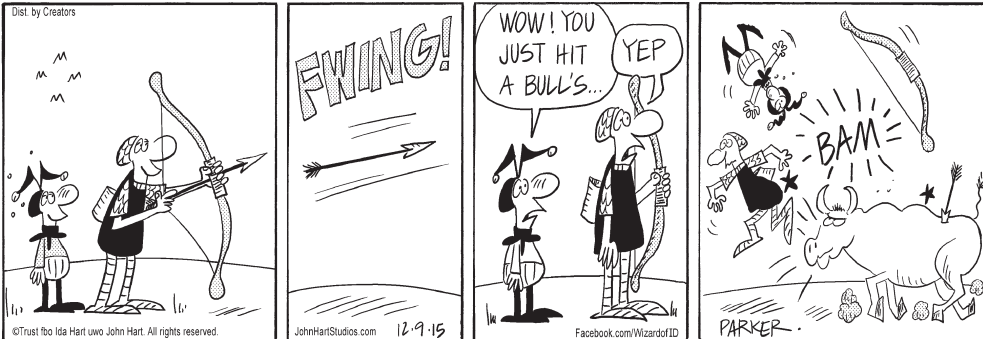
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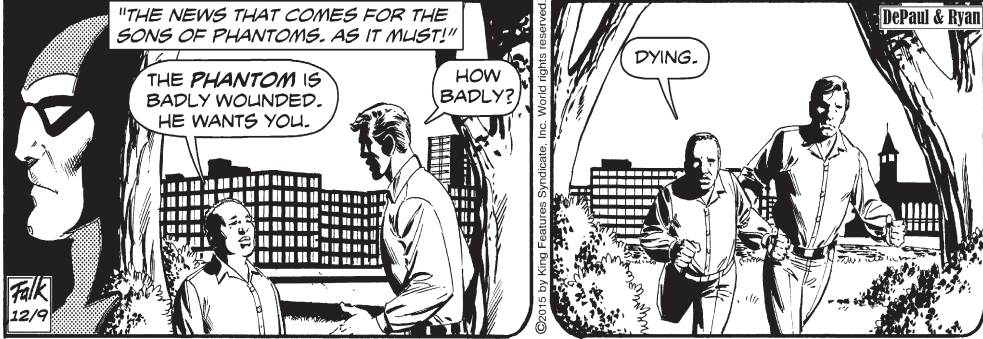
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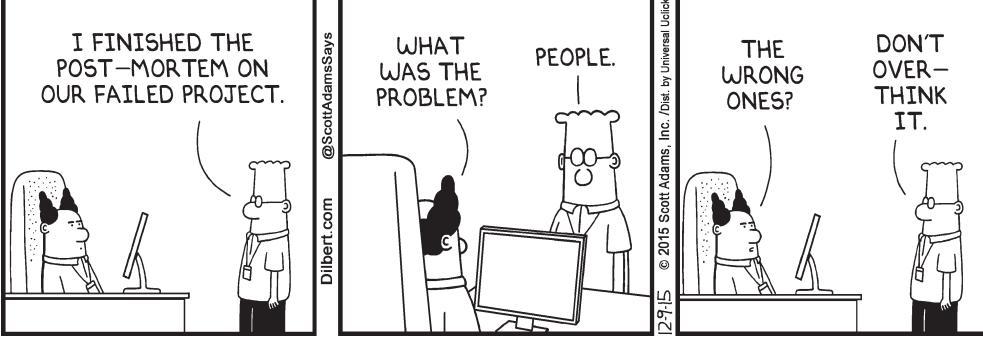
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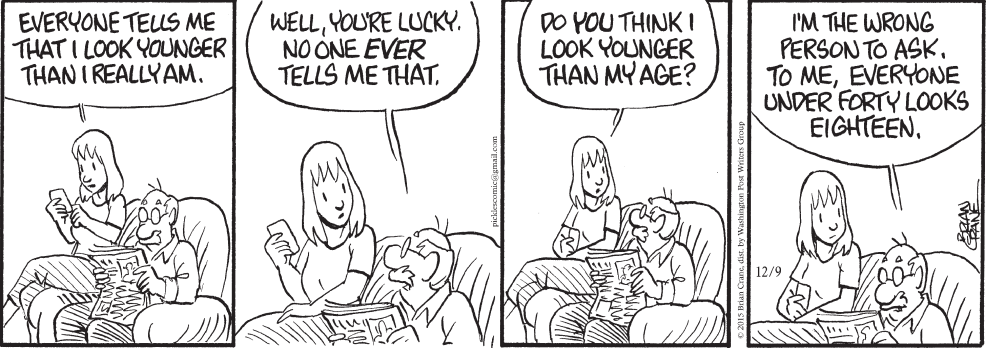
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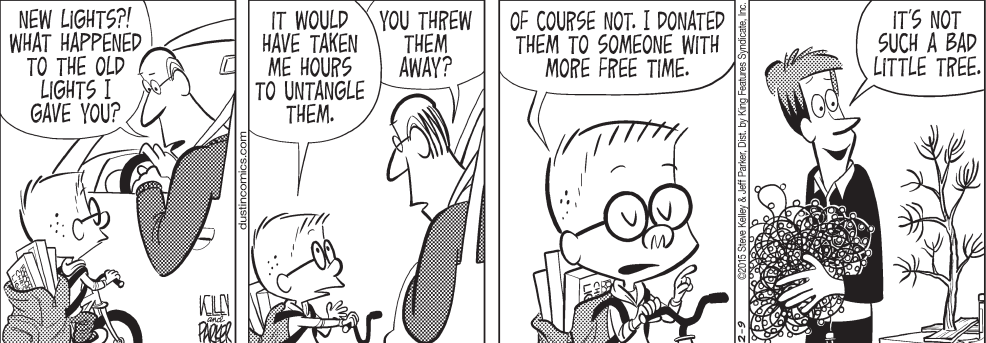
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



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DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The ancient Greek tragedian Euripides said, "Slight not what's near by aiming for what's far." Today offers a stellar opportunity to get your needs met and it's right under your nose.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** First you have to believe you can do it. Half-hearted efforts are pointless. Either get into it more fully with a commitment or cut it free and open yourself up to other possibilities.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Strip away what you've been taught and you'll find that you've something unique to express. The reason you haven't expressed it yet is that it's so much a part of you that you don't even realize how original it really is.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Last night hit the cosmic "refresh" button while you were sleeping. It's like you woke up with a new brain this morning. Don't waste your new thoughts on your old worries.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Wanting to please the crowd could have an adverse affect on your creativity. What kind of presentation would you put on if your audience was only one person, and that one person was you?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Some are adventurers by choice; others are adventurers out of necessity. You've been both kinds, which

is what allows you to be fearless in today's scenario.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're not worried about the same things you used to worry about when you were small, but somehow you still feel as vulnerable as you did back then. Luckily, today brings support, friendship and love.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** There's not one philosophy you dogmatically believe. You are a student of many trains of thought and you'll enjoy exploring new ones today. They don't have to be reasonable to be interesting to you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There is no magic fix. The answer isn't glamorous. There is no success secret — it's rather obvious what's needed. Hard work consistently in the same direction will get the job done.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It's not so easy to see where you fit in, but it's clear to see where you don't, so start with that. When you feel it's a bad fit, move on quickly. There's no time to waste.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Strong teams are diverse teams. You don't have to like or understand everyone — it's better if you don't. A team of you-clones can't accomplish anything beyond what you could accomplish alone.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Not content to keep the regular pace, you're ready to take a risk. Why creep along when you can fly? What would it take to launch you? You'll get there faster and you'll have a better view too.



HOLIDAY MATHIS