

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Take your time, Mr. Thornton."

Dad resists revealing truth about nose

Dear Abby: I'm a male in my early 50s. As a shy 21-year-old, I had minor surgery to straighten a small hump on my nose. I didn't tell many people and it boosted my confidence, and although I can't say I regret it, looking back I don't think it was needed. I met my wife a few years later and didn't think it was important enough to mention, which doesn't bother me.

What does bother me is my daughter, 23 and happily married, is complaining about the small hump on her nose and seriously contemplating surgery to fix it. She says she's the only one in the family with such a nose. Her husband and my wife, neither one of whom are fans of minor cosmetic surgery, are urging her to not do it. I have kept my mouth shut so far.

I hate bringing something up I've kept from my wife all these years, yet I have this nagging feeling I'm betraying my daughter by not telling her she has the nose I was born with. I also worry that she'll find out and feel betrayed if



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I say nothing. Am I obligated to tell her? Am I a jerk if I don't? Does she have a right to know about her father's true nose? — *Indecisive Dad in the USA*

Dear Indecisive: You are behaving as though a rhinoplasty is something to be ashamed of. It's not! Speak up and tell your wife your daughter inherited your nose and that fixing yours gave you self-confidence. Then be honest with your daughter. She's an adult. What she chooses to do with the nose on her face should be her decision and no one else's because no one else will be wearing it.

Dear Abby: A year ago, my boyfriend of two years and I broke up. We had never had an argument. Then one night we did, and we both said things we shouldn't have. Since that day, he hasn't spoken to me again. He has ignored all my phone calls and my attempts to work things out. I have tried to move on, but I can't seem to. I have been devastated ever since because I truly loved him.

I recently started seeing a guy I like, but when it comes down to it, I can't let go of my ex-boyfriend. I am paralyzed by my emo-

tions. Mostly I feel betrayed. He has destroyed every perception I had about relationships, like being there for each other through the good and bad. How can I help myself heal? — *Motionless in Georgia*

Dear Motionless: Not all romances are meant to lead to marriage. Intelligent adults don't necessarily agree on everything, but they should be mature enough to discuss their differences without resorting to vitriol. If your ex-boyfriend's reaction to a disagreement was to run for the hills, better that you learned it after two years rather than, say, five.

I subscribe to the philosophy that our relationships — whether successful or failed — teach us important lessons about life. Sometimes we must accept life as it is rather than our fantasy of what we would like it to be. Because you haven't been able to progress beyond the romance you had with your ex, you will save yourself additional pain and wasted time if you discuss it with a licensed mental health professional.

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

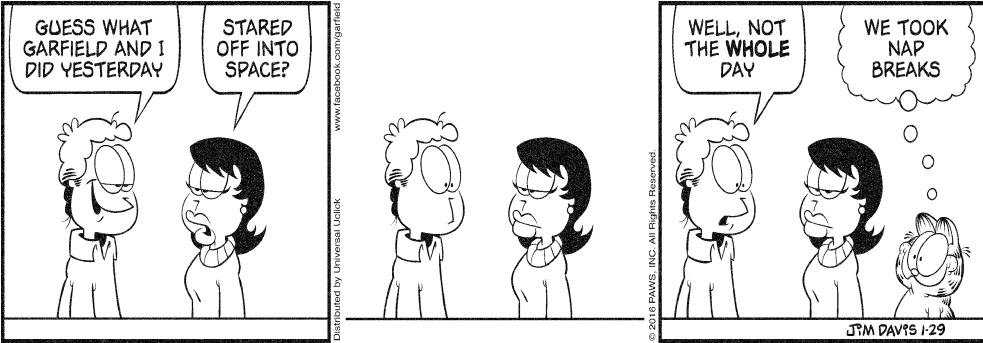
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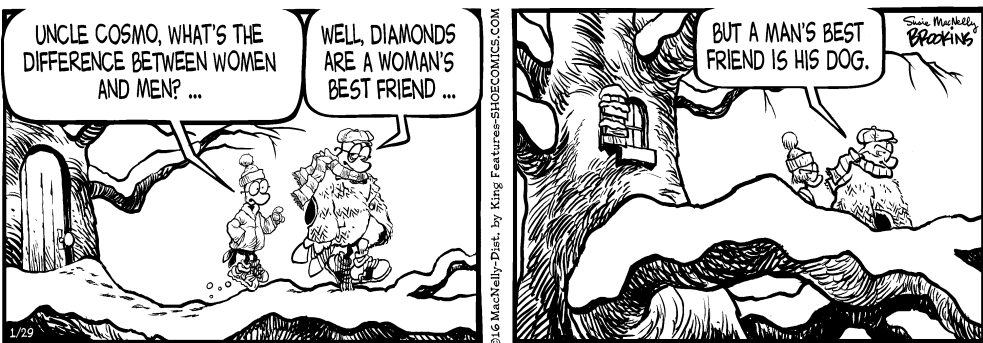
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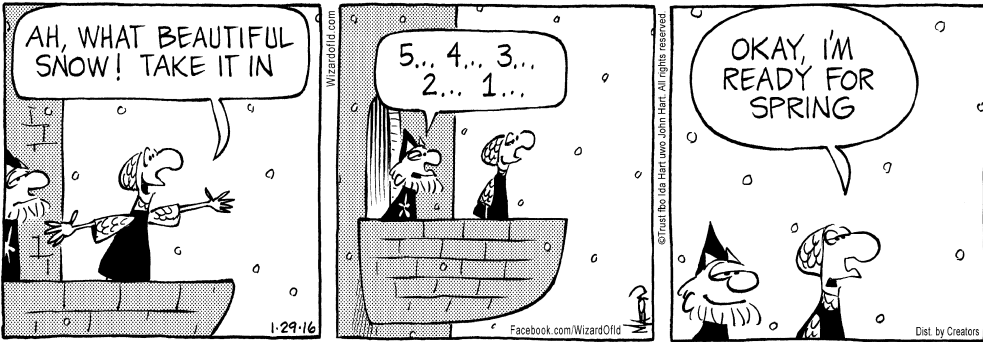
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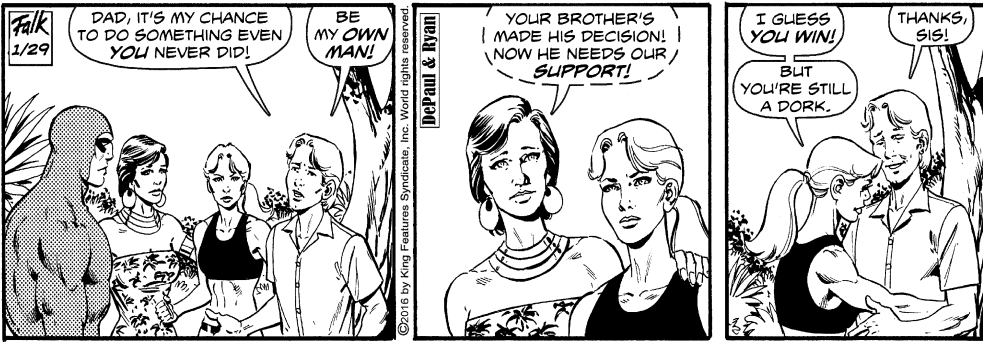
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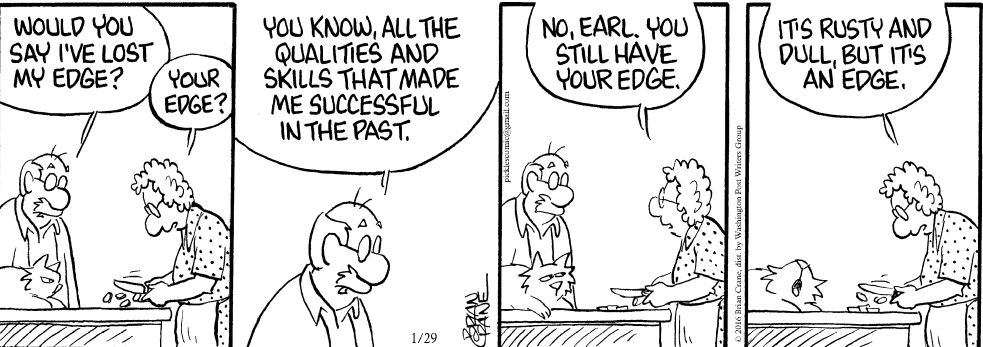
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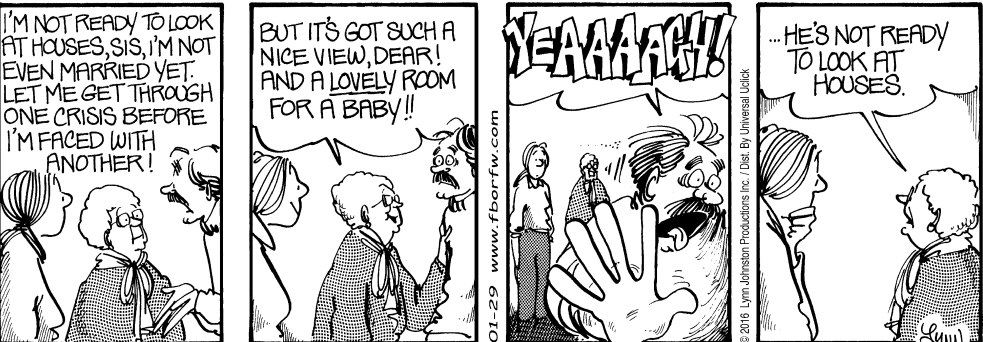
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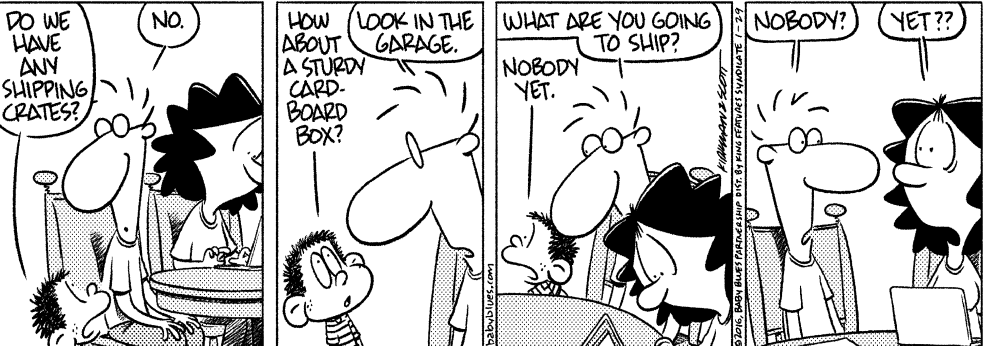
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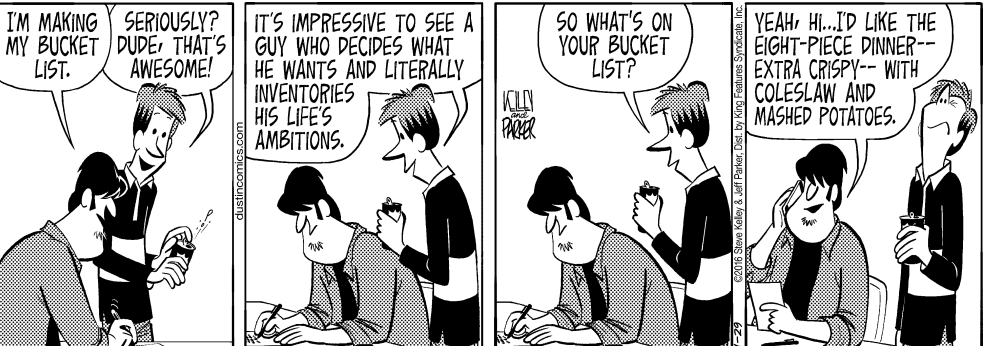
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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your ruling planet, Mars, is more than the planet of aggression, survival and war. He also governs the protection of resources, especially food. Today you'll do your part to set you and yours up for future bounty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While the others are busy gabbing about what they think of each other, you'll be following your curiosity to bigger and more meaningful topics, mostly having to do with ideas instead of people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Whether or not you are looking forward to that big event, it's going to happen. You may as well get psyched up for it. A fellow fire sign (Leo or Sagittarius) will help in this regard.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). All it takes is a smile and an encouraging word to boost team spirit. They may want you to volunteer for more responsibility. You are not obligated! Lost objects will turn up tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a fast study. Too fast, sometimes, because you get it on the first try and expect that it will always happen like that. It won't. In order to do things better the second time, you have to do them a second time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Is someone trying to control you? It is very unwise for any to attempt this, as your bristles are serious. You're in the mood to resist authority and delve deeper

into a strain of independent thought. Go with it and you'll be lucky.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Perhaps you don't even like the admiration you secretly feel for that roughish someone who, for all his or her wicked ways, still manages to win your affection. Alas, your heart has its own rules. The question is, what's next?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's like your battery hasn't quite kicked in and you might have to push this car some to get that motor running. Helpful friends will push you. Once you get it moving, it's smooth sailing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's only natural that the others are thinking of their own stories instead of getting things right in yours. That's why it's imperative that you stay in charge on your end. Get on your own side! It's not self-ish!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll give the others a sense that you are confiding in them, and this charges the relationships with a special, private energy. Whether or not these are really secrets you're divulging is another matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For the specific job of the day, you have no real competition. This is you, doing what only you can, and doing it at the highest, most unique level. These are all reasons to keep your eyes on your own page.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The spotlight swings to you, sets you aglow in a way that makes you feel like the star you are, and then, only moments later, moves again. That's why you have to seize the moment when it's on you!



HOLIDAY MATHIS