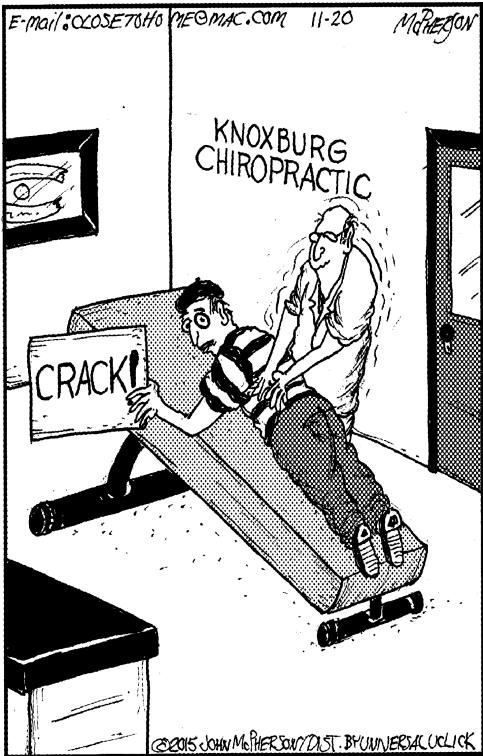


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



# Aunt weighs responsibility for nephew

**Dear Abby:** My sister “Adele” chose to adopt a baby boy when she was in her late 50s. She isn’t married.

Before the adoption, she asked me if something happened to her, would I take care of the child.

I had already raised my children and was going through a divorce, so I said, “No. I’m too old and I want to enjoy my future retirement.” She got mad.

Adele is now approaching 70 with a high-maintenance 12-year-old son she has signed up for every extracurricular activity under the sun.

I have seen him twice since the adoption. If and when the question comes up again, how do I handle it? — *Aunt in Pennsylvania*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

**Dear Aunt:** After you refused her request, your sister probably asked someone else — someone more involved in her and her son’s daily lives — to step in.

However, if she didn’t, then in the event

of her death or a serious illness that renders her unable to parent her son, you may have to decide what you are prepared to do.

Cross your fingers and hope she remains healthy until her boy reaches adulthood.

Then consider this: Your nephew is no longer a little boy. In six years he will be 18. It’s not as if you would be changing diapers and arranging for day care.

It shouldn’t ruin your retirement to take him in if he has no one else. Remember the Golden Rule.

I have never done this to any of my friends, regardless of whom they were dating or what life threw at them.

Is this a normal part of life? Should I reconsider my friendships? — *Bothered in Boston*

**Dear Bothered:** Relationships sometimes ebb and flow. Before “reconsidering” these friendships, have a frank and honest chat with these women about why they don’t like your boyfriend.

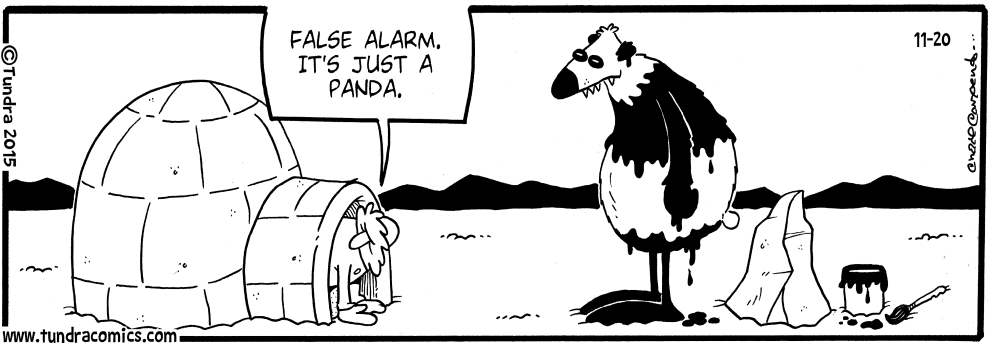
That your BFF would treat you the way she has is puzzling, unless she’s jealous because you spend so much time with your boyfriend or he has offended her in some way.

On a different note, does this man have friends of his own? Do the two of you socialize with other couples?

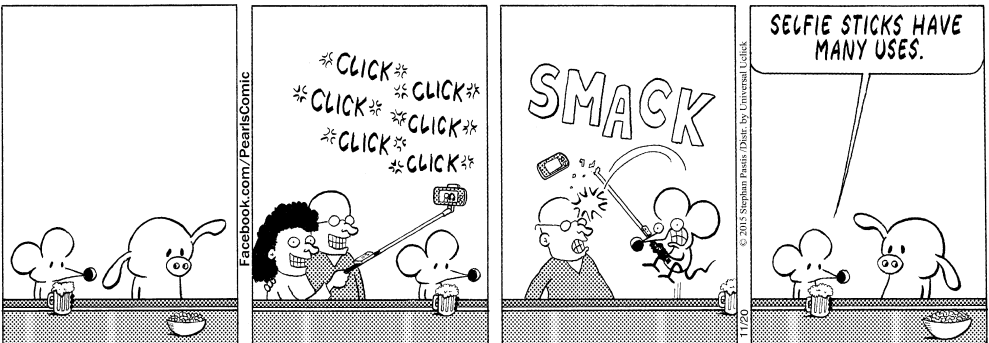
Having been together for a year, are you making new friends together? If the answer to these questions is yes, then it may, indeed, be time to move on from this tribe of girlfriends.

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://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



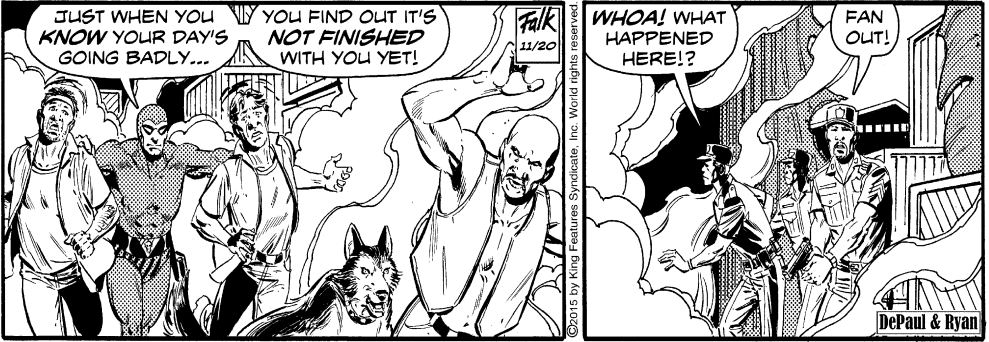
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



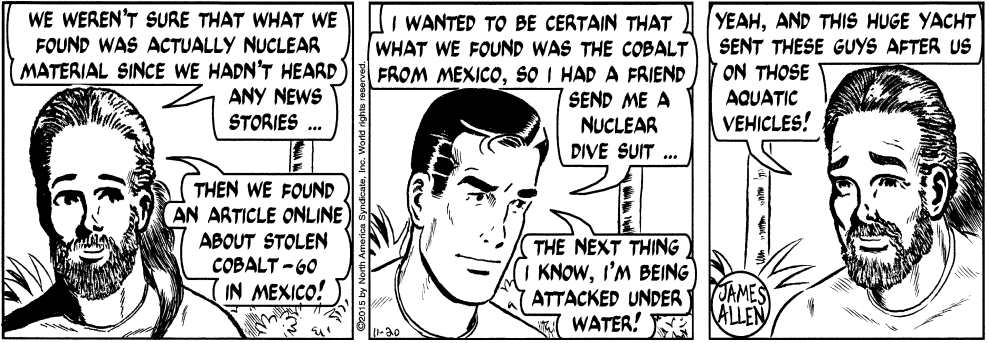
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



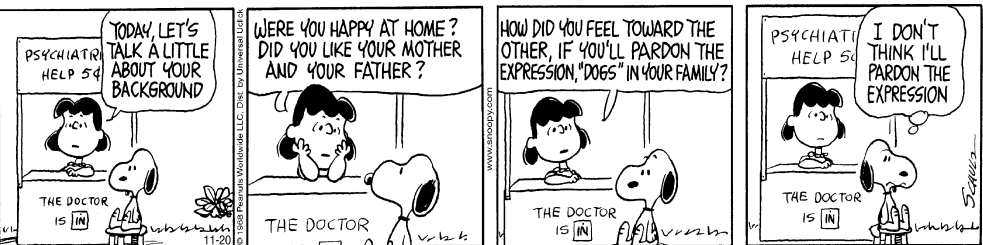
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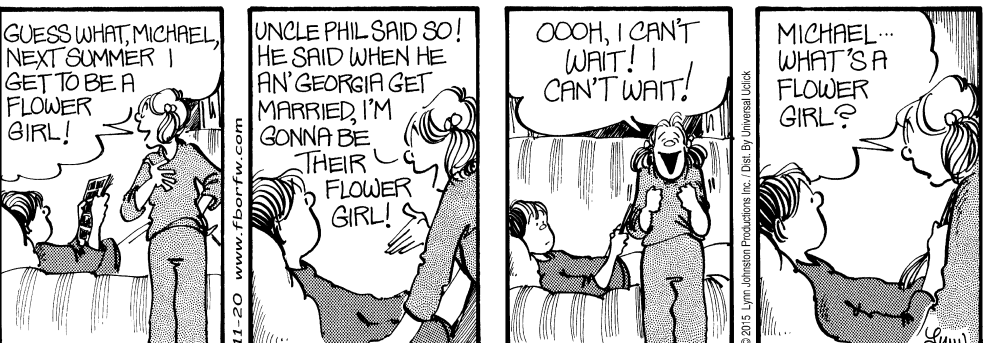
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## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** This is a lucky day for selling, earning and investing. Your attention has a way of making things bigger and better: Whatever you focus consistently on will grow right before your eyes.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You’re not the center of the solar system, but you may as well be as far as a certain someone is concerned. This person’s thoughts will orbit nonstop around you today.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** What you want to do is possible. The only question is, are you willing to do what it takes to get there? Self-discipline is called for. So is an excellent action plan. How serious are you about this?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Sure, you’d prefer not to fight for what you want. But if everything were just handed to you, you wouldn’t be half the person you are today. It’s not about the war; it’s about the warrior.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Loyalty is a rare trait. It can be hard to find a friend who will behave and say the same things behind your back as he or she would to your face. You’ll test your friendships today, and one will pass with flying colors.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You’ll be drawn to those with interesting and exciting objectives and who have a tendency to put an upbeat spin on things. You need more friends like these!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Once you find the answer to a question, two more questions will grow out of that answer. So don’t expect resolution. Try to enjoy the mystery. There’s something wonderful about it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** If they’re not listening, maybe it’s a good thing. It’s a chance to work on your presentation and communication skills. Improving these will have a positive impact on every aspect of your life.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your friends are lucky because you support and promote those you believe in at every opportunity. Make sure that you also take advantage of opportunities for your own advancement.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You’ll find a truthful source of information. Work all you can with this because it will give you a skill you didn’t have before. Not only that, it will also make you wise.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You tend to want to fix things for the people you love, but this could set a precedent that will be exhausting to keep up in the future. Stand back. Is it really your responsibility? Could they really help themselves?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The novel circumstances and people you’re around today will bring out a different side of you. Even those who know you well will find that there’s much to learn.