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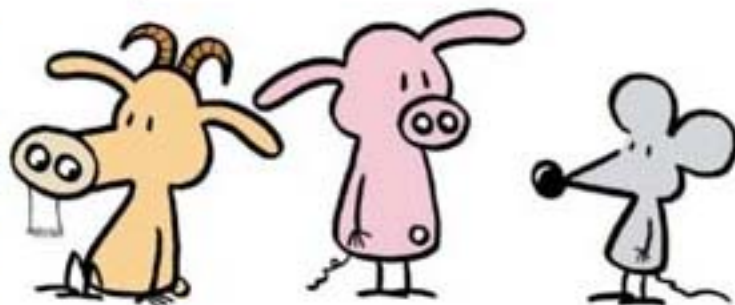
## Interactive Network

- ▶ ColoradoSprings.com
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## Life

September 04, 2005

# funny business



Stories by **BILL RADFORD - THE GAZETTE**

The comics pages are home to old friends, from the perpetually young Dennis the Menace to senior citizens Earl and Opal Pickles.

Starting Monday, Gazette readers will have the chance to meet some new friends, including the cynical Rat and humble Pig of "Pearls Before Swine," the twenty-something Bradley and Marshall of "Girls & Sports" and the complaining canines of "Pooch Cafe."

Today, meanwhile, marks the return of two special old friends who have been sorely missed by many. A decade after creator Bill Watterson's retirement, reprints of "Calvin and Hobbes" are being made available to newspapers for a limited time.

To make room for these additions, some familiar faces are leaving. The no-longer-single but still-whining "Cathy" is getting the ax. So is "Garfield," who will have to pursue a nap elsewhere. "Mary Worth," "The Born Loser" and "The Lockhorns" are among the other strips being dropped.

Consider them friends who, for many readers, have worn out their welcome.

On the other hand, some readers will mourn the loss of those strips. So why the changes?

Reader Marty Chernoff, 63, answered that question with his response to the 2005 Gazette Comics Survey.

## OTHER HEADLINES

- CLASS ACT
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- Health & Fitness
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- Pets Guide/Ask the Vet

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- ▶ The Slice
- ▶ Pikes Peak Parent
- ▶ Experience Magazine
- ▶ NEWS From House to Home
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"I think your publication would be well served to inject some new blood into your comics pages," he wrote. "Some of the stuff you run is over 50 years old. While I'm over 50 years old myself, I'm a lifelong comics fan and enjoy seeing new properties get their chance."

To learn all about the new strips coming to The Gazette's funny pages, read on.

### 'Girls & Sports'

What it's about: The intricacies of dating, relationships and sports from the youngmale perspective.

The characters: Lead characters include Bradley, who has a girlfriend and thus feels free to bestow relationship advice; his best friend, Marshall, an "unrestricted free agent" and a sucker for tall blondes; JoAnn, Bradley's girlfriend; and Harris, a hopeless romantic who falls for any girl who talks to him.

The creators: Colorado natives Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein, both 29. The two have been buddies since high school. Borus lives in Denver, where he runs a financial business in addition to writing "Girls & Sports"; artist/co-writer Feinstein lives in Los Angeles.

How it came to be: Though they attended different colleges, they spent a semester together studying in Denmark. While on a bus, they were busy talking about their two passions: you guessed it, girls and sports.

"A girl in front of us turned around and said, "Would you two please shut up? All you do is talk about girls and sports," Feinstein recalls.

With that, "a light bulb just went off over my head," says Feinstein, who had always had an interest in art and comics. He and Borus developed the strip, selling it first to campus newspapers. It now appears in about 75 campus papers and more than 150 daily newspapers.

Final thought: "Even though it's my job, it's also my therapy," Feinstein says. "If I go out with a girl and things go awry, rather than come home and cry about it, I draw a comic strip about it."