

Fierce Landscape

Lenten study 2015

For St. Paul's, Port Townsend



Metaphors, images, euphemisms

5 major themes in our culture

Death as....

Natural

Tragic

Friend

enemy

uniquely conquered

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Ways we cope

Negative coping

- Death anxiety
- Thanatophobia
- Necrophobia
- Denial

Positive coping

- Death as part of life
- Rituals
- distributing impact
- Meaning-making (including humor)



A sampling of writers, philosophers, filmmakers
expressions....

Heidegger
Freud
Jung



Ways we cope: death anxiety

Ernest Becker

Denial of Death (1974)

explores mortality
salience, awareness
of one's eventual
death and the
impact of this on
individuals and
communities.



Ways we cope: denial



"We're good."

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...death as a part of life





Humor and death

- Dad at dinner table to giggling son scolds:
- “humor should be employed to deflect tension, not create it!”

“Laughing at death gives us triple pleasure: the pleasure of the joke itself, the malicious joy of laughing a death’s expense and the pleasure of taming Death and fraternizing with him.”

--Allen Klein

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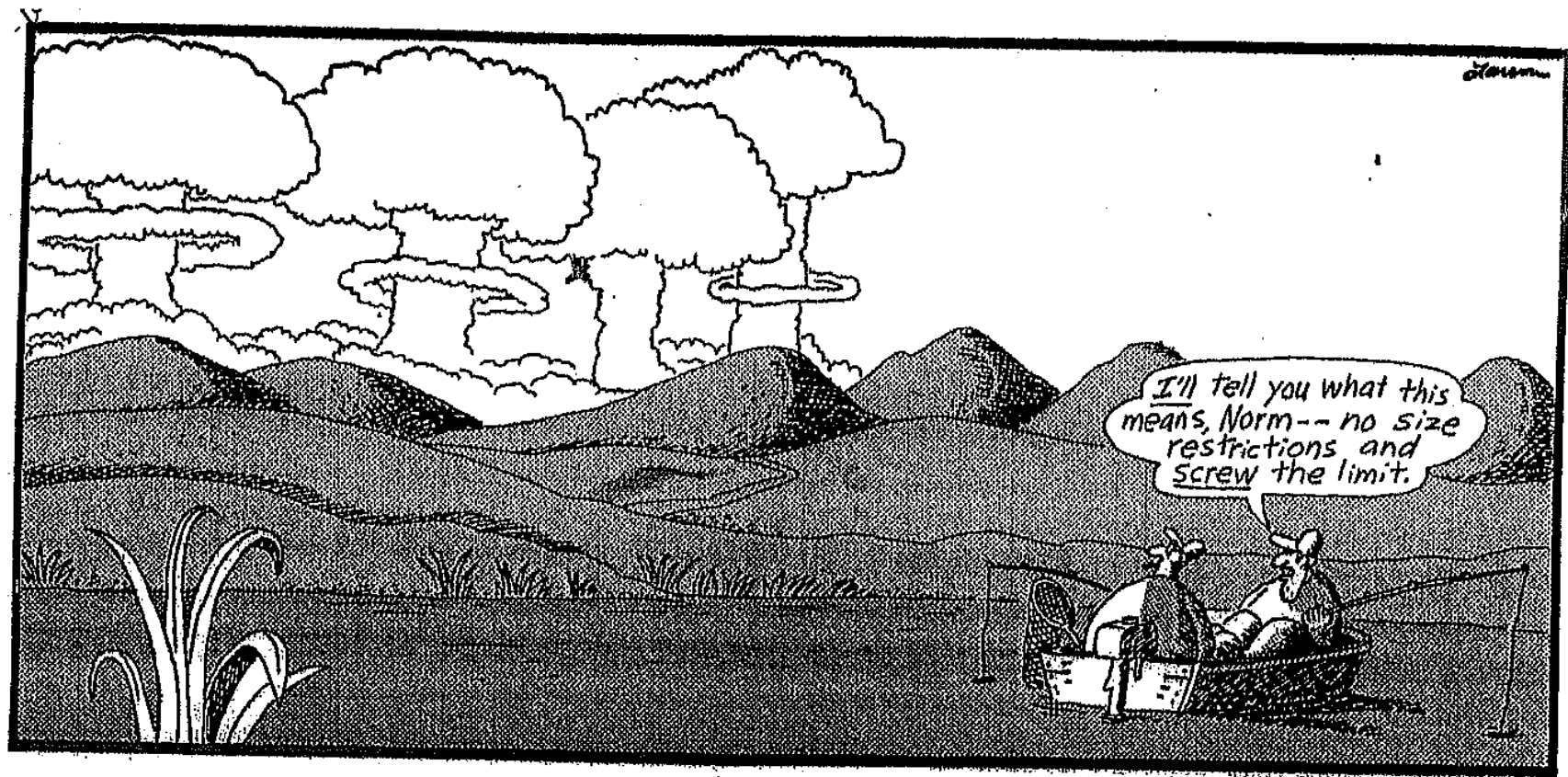


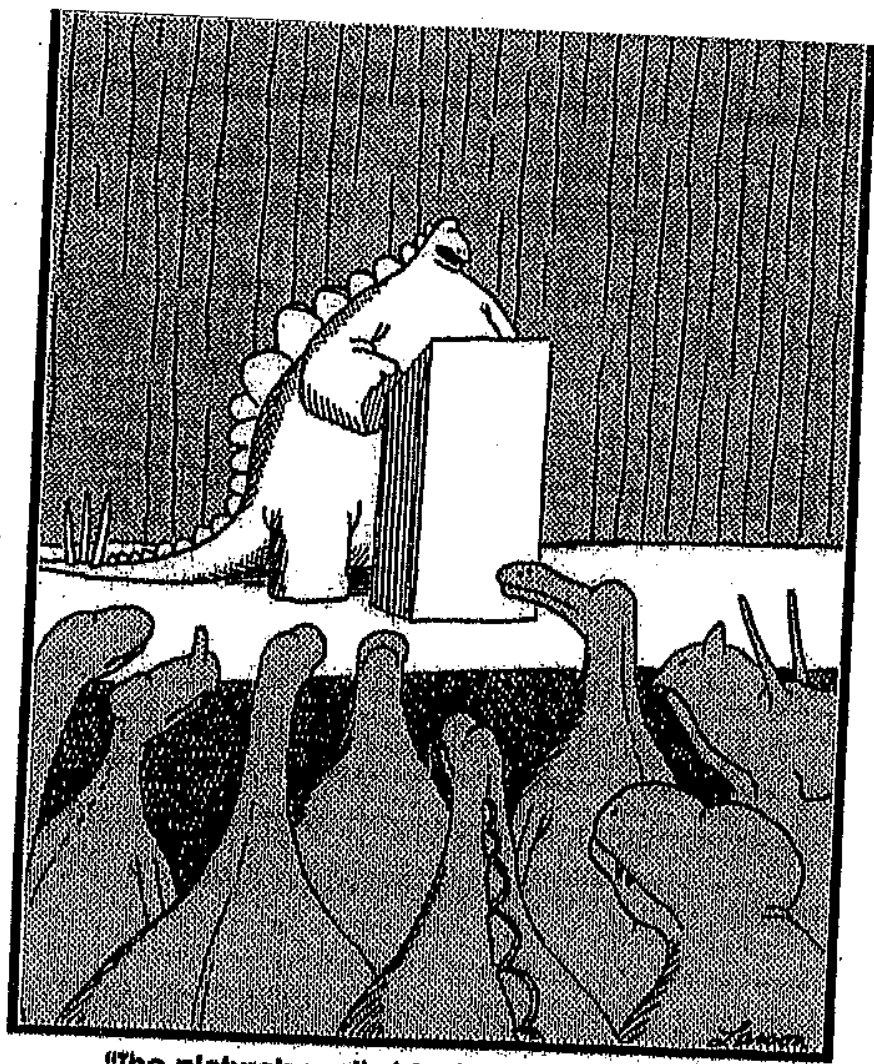
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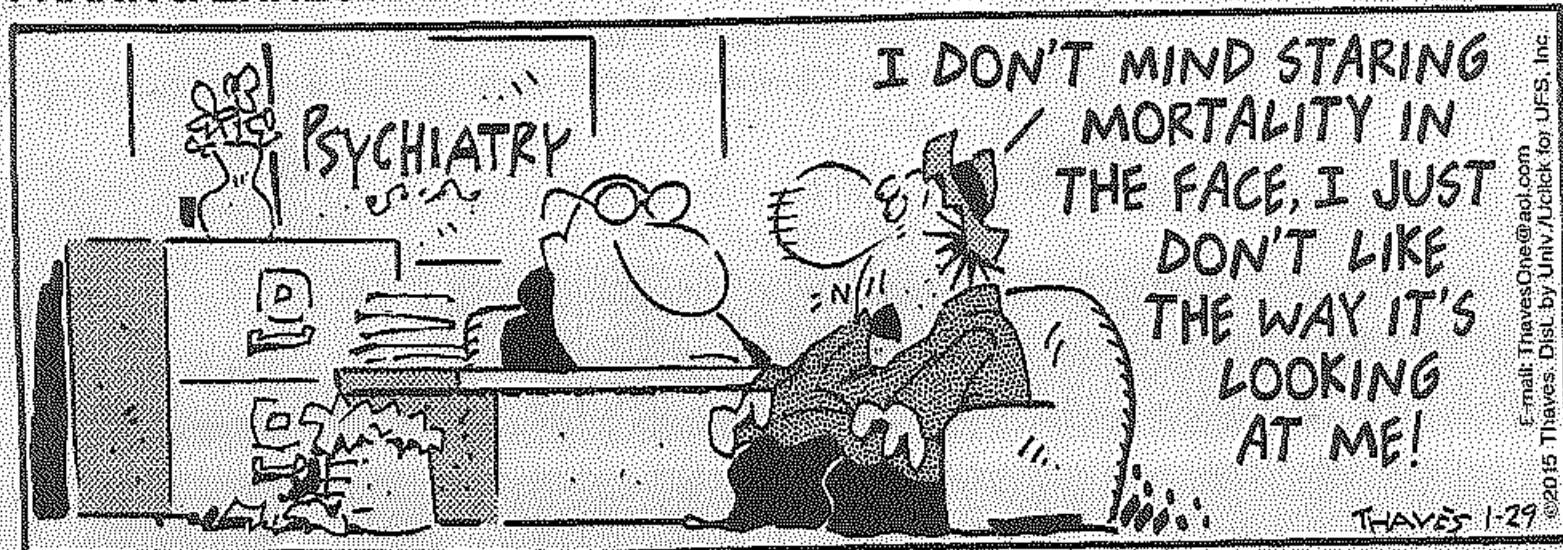




"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen. ... The world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."

and the 1

FRANK & ERNEST



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Help us, we pray in the midst of things we cannot understand...

