

# LI'L ABNER

Goodnight.

Sweetpants —

by

AL CAPP



## Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR  
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HAROLD R. FOSTER



**Our Story:** PRINCE VALIANT AWAKENS SAD, UNLOVED, WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT CONTEMPLATE HIS SHORT-COMINGS. THESE HAD BEEN POINTED OUT CLEARLY AND AT GREAT LENGTH BY ALETA THE DAY BEFORE.



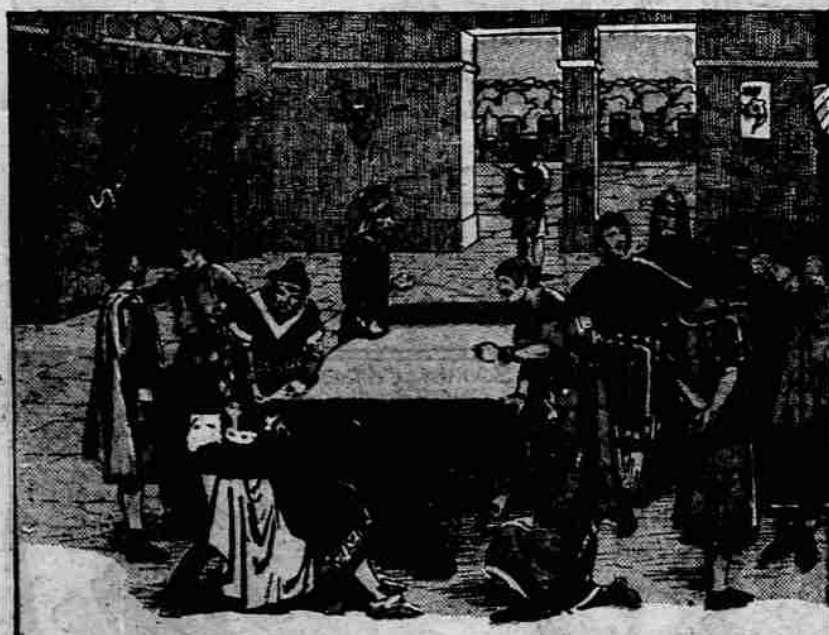
HE TRIES TO EXPLAIN, USING ALL THE LOGIC AT HIS COMMAND (WHICH SHOWS HOW LITTLE HE KNOWS ABOUT WOMEN.)



AS HE LOOKS DOWN ON HER SHINING HEAD AND UPRIGHT NOSE HE WONDERS IF HE SHOULD TAKE HER ACROSS HIS KNEE OR INTO HIS ARMS. HE SHOULD HAVE DONE BOTH, IN THAT ORDER.



IN A FINE RAGE HE STAMPS FROM THE ROOM. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONLY FANCY, BUT HE COULD HAVE SWORN SOMEONE WHISPERED 'COWARD'!



IN THE GREAT HALL KING ARTHUR LISTENS QUIETLY TO HIS EXCITED KNIGHTS TALKING OF THE HOLY GRAIL. EACH YEAR MORE AND MORE KNIGHTS GO IN SEARCH OF THE GRAIL, AND ONLY A FEW RETURN. THE GRAIL QUEST IS SLOWLY DESTROYING THE FELLOWSHIP OF TABLE ROUND, AS MERLIN ONCE PROPHESED.



THE KING TAKES VAL ASIDE: 'MY KNIGHTS FEEL HONOR BOUND TO PROVE THEIR WORTH ON THE GRAIL QUEST. POOR, SIMPLE, PROUD MEN WITH ONLY THEIR FAITH AND A VAST IGNORANCE TO LEAD THEM ON.'



'NOW YOU, WHO HAVE STUDIED UNDER MERLIN, WILL NOT BE MISLED BY SUPERSTITION. YOU COULD LEARN ITS HISTORY, IF IT STILL EXISTS AND WHERE. WILL YOU GO?'



FRESH IS THE MEMORY OF ALETA'S ANGRY EYES, HER BITING TONGUE, HER COLD DISDAIN. 'I WILL GO, SIRE,' HE ANSWERS.

11-15-99 NEXT WEEK: Stern Measures.