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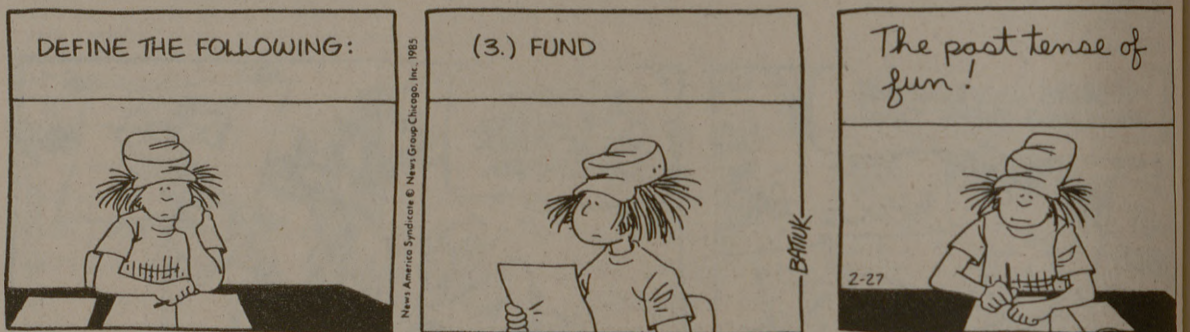
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**Funky Winkerbean**

by Tom Batiuk



**Firemen continue to retrieve  
passengers of burned trains**

**Associated Press**  
VISEU, Portugal — Exhausted firefighters using steel cables and bulldozers pried apart the burned and twisted wreckage of two trains Thursday to save injured passengers and retrieve the bodies of at least 46 people killed in Portugal's worst railway disaster.

More than 100 people were injured when an express train carrying hundreds of migrant workers to France crashed head-on Wednesday evening with a local train near this town in the mountains of central Portugal.

The wrecked coaches derailed, rolled down a 33-foot embankment and burst into flames that spread to an adjoining pine forest.

The fire raged for nearly 12 hours and the heat was so intense that more than 10 hours after the

blaze was extinguished, the area remained hot and workmen needed heavy industrial gloves to handle the metal equipment.

Five hundred firefighters converged at the site. They worked through the night to rescue survivors and free the charred bodies pinned inside the crushed coaches.

Officials said they still were unsure exactly how many people were aboard the two diesel-powered trains.

It was behind schedule and earlier reports suggested the collision occurred when the express train did not wait for the oncoming Coimbra-bound local train to move onto a siding.

But investigators of the state-run Portuguese Railroad said later that

they were not certain exactly what happened.

"We know it was a human error that caused this tragedy, but we are not sure who was responsible — a signal man on the ground or the engine driver of one of the trains," said Antonio Queiroz Martins, president of the Portuguese Railroad.

More than 500 firefighters, 100 ambulances, air force helicopters, paramilitary police and the Portuguese Red Cross converged on the disaster site between Mangualde and Nelas in the mountainous Serra de Estrela region, 150 miles northeast of Lisbon.

"People were being burned alive, shouting, jumping from the carriages and dying at the train windows," said one survivor, 37-year-old Duarte Santos Correia.

**Former narc plunges  
to death from plane**

**Associated Press**  
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Andrew Carter Thornton II, a former narcotics officer and suspended lawyer who plunged to his death from a plane holding \$14 million worth of cocaine, had a history of drug and arms involvement across the nation.

"I'm glad his parachute didn't open," said Brian Leighton, an assistant U.S. attorney in Fresno, Calif. "I hope he got a hell of a high out of that (cocaine)." He once prosecuted Thornton on a marijuana trafficking charge.

The body of Thornton, 40, a native of Paris, Ky., was found Wednesday on a driveway in Knoxville, Tenn. He was heavily armed, carried 77 pounds of cocaine in an Army duffel bag, and was attached to a parachute that had failed to open.

A key that investigators found on his body bore an identification number matching that of a plane that crashed while on autopilot earlier that morning, 60 miles away, Knoxville Detective Allen Hale said Thursday.

Thornton joined the Lexington police in 1968 and stayed for nine years. In 1981, The Lexington Herald quoted sources as saying Thornton had set up the department's intelligence squad. Police Chief John McFadden verified Wednesday that Thornton served on the department's narcotics squad from 1970 to 1973.

Four years later he was among 25 men accused at Fresno, Calif., in a theft of weapons from the China Lake Naval Weapons Center and of conspiring to smuggle 1,000 pounds of marijuana into the United States.

Numerous news reports in 1981 and 1982 linked the ring, which included several former Lexington policemen and other Kentuckians, to a larger group known as "The Company."

Thornton wasn't charged in the China Lake weapons case, but was indicted at Fresno on one count of conspiracy to import a controlled substance and one count of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance.

**Man shoots  
ex-wife in  
classroom**

**Associated Press**  
SELMA, Ala. — A man walked into a nurses' class at George C. Wallace State Community College on Wednesday, shot his ex-wife to death and wounded two others before surrendering, the mayor said.

Mayor Joe Smitherman said the man, identified by police as Earl Jerome McGehee, 28, killed his former wife, Connie McGehee.

Smitherman said a woman student in the classroom was seriously wounded by the gunfire and another woman student appeared to have been pistol-whipped.

When the shooting erupted, he said, "the rest scrambled out, left their belongings and just got out."

The two-year college has 1,400 students and teaches both vocational and regular junior college coursework.


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