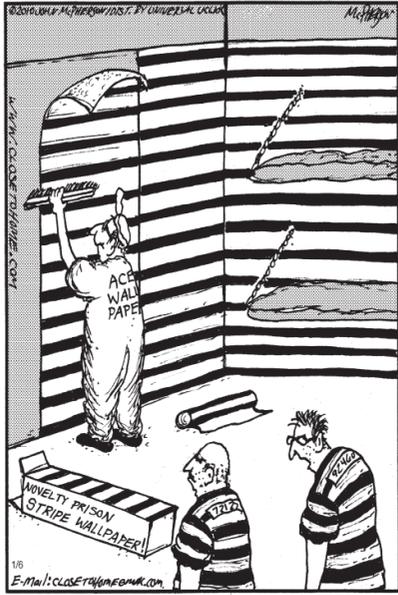


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Woman feels resentment toward family

Dear Abby: At the age of 15 I was raped by my first boyfriend. It's how I lost my virginity. Shortly afterward, I became severely depressed and bulimic. I blocked my trauma until 11 years later, when I had a flashback. I sought out a therapist and have been seeing him for the past six months.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I feel so much resentment and anger toward my family for not having helped me through this difficult time. They didn't know about the rape, but they knew about my eating disorder. They simply looked the other way, and I was offered no help. I am angry with my mother especially, because she has always been critical of me. She has now been diagnosed with cancer, and I'm afraid she'll die before I get the courage to tell her. What can I do? — *Angry in California*

Dear Angry: It might be helpful to look more carefully at the reasons why you are angry with your family. It's unfair to blame them for not recognizing something they were

never told. As to your eating disorder, I remember a time in the not-too-distant past when little was known about anorexia and bulimia. It wasn't until after the death of recording artist Karen Carpenter that media attention focused on how serious and life-threatening an eating disorder could be.

This is not to excuse your mother for her inability to be the parent you needed while growing up. It's important that you work with your therapist on how to talk to her about all of your feelings. It shouldn't be done in an accusatory manner, and you should have no fear of being blamed for your rape. No one should be able to make you feel guilty for having been a victim.

Dear Abby: I have known "Julia" for a long time. She was my best friend in high school and my maid of honor when I got married. She and her husband have an open relationship and invite other women into their bedroom. Several years ago, when my husband and I were struggling, they asked me if I wanted to join them. I declined in favor of working on my marriage. After that, Julia and I drifted apart and we spoke only rarely.

Our children go to the same school now, so we have reconnected and I realize how much I have missed having her as a close friend. Recently, however, Julia's husband, "Jerry," has started making suggestive remarks when he's the one picking their daughter up from school. It makes me really uncomfortable. When I told my husband about it, he wasn't happy.

How do I ask this man to stop without losing Julia's friendship again? I see them every day now, and I'd hate for there to be bitterness between us. — *Not Interested That Way*

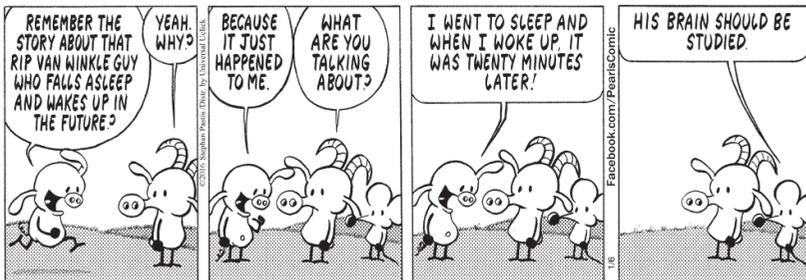
Dear Not Interested: Tell Jerry that his comments are making you uncomfortable and to cut it out. Point out that while you and your husband are not judgmental about their lifestyle, you are not interested in being more than good platonic friends. Then repeat it to Julia, so she hears it straight from you. If, after that, your refusal to participate in their bedroom antics causes "bitterness," then so be it.

Write Dear Abby at 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



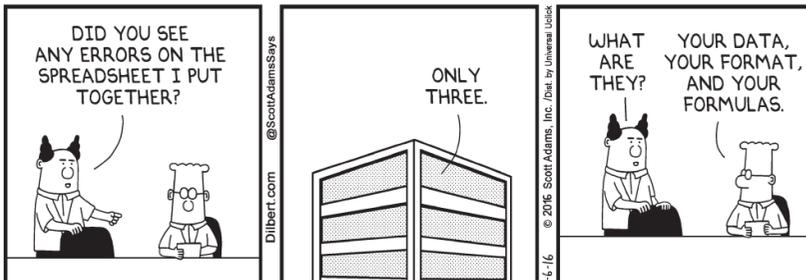
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're apt to change the game plan fairly often, and that's why it will be better to go solo. You need the flexibility to turn on a dime without having to explain yourself or lead the troops.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't worry about the trend. You're making classic moves that will cement your place, whatever happens. If it makes old-fashioned good sense, it will make new-fashioned good sense, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Are you still trying to draw a tidy conclusion to a messy problem? Give it up for the day. Here's a distraction: Put a meal together for your crew tonight. Share your gift for pairing interesting flavors.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're entitled to have mixed feelings about anything at all. Don't let anyone pressure you into coming up with a slogan for your emotions. Un-mixing them into a single phrase is too reductive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a change you'd like to see in another person, and this is something that could happen. The way to get there is to make the same change. Your model will inspire and motivate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may identify with your possessions more than usual and hopefully this will not cause you to envy or overspend.

Truly, the problem can be fixed with imagination, not money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Silence isn't golden; it's worth far more than that today. If you're having trouble, know that if you chase the silence it will always outrun you. It must be seized unaware when you come upon it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember when you had to give up the thing that was taking up too much space in your life to be healthy for you? Well, now a cosmic present will drop in to fill its place, slim, efficient and a beauty to behold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are buttons to be pushed and you have many fingers to push them with. So, what's necessary? What's kind? What's just for fun? These are the questions to ask before you start poking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll call; they'll unleash the minutiae of their daily lives, including, seemingly, each detail of every thought that has crossed their mental landscape lately. Take this as a compliment. You're fun to talk to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Intimacy can be a rocky field of contradictions. You need good shoes to navigate it, and perhaps a walking stick to lean on. A close friend is ready to hear what's on your mind and heart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't require constant reminders of your greatness or reinforcement to feel stable. You know what you've done, what you have, and, most importantly, who you are, and this will give you confidence.



HOLIDAY MATHIS