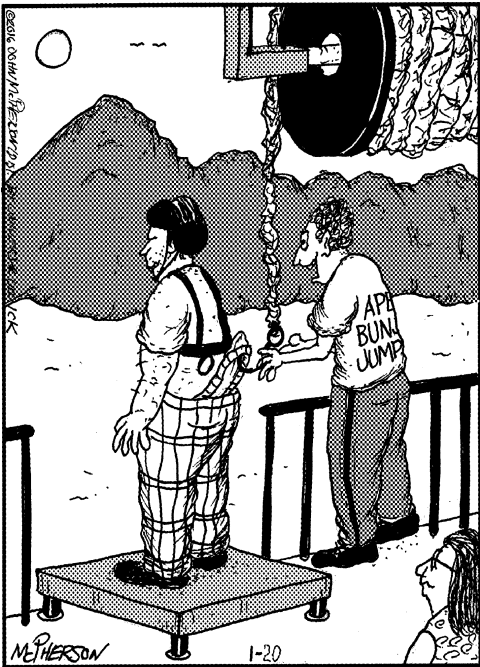


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Recognizing the next bungee jumper as the bully who gave him a massive wedgie in 9th grade, Dan exacted his revenge.

# Woman fears losing family if she leaves

**Dear Abby:** I live in Israel, and for the past five years I've been having an affair with a great guy I'll call Yuri. I married very young to a man who is kind and very Orthodox. Yuri thinks we should leave our spouses and make a fresh start. I am afraid if I do, I may lose my children and grandchildren. On the other hand, I can't survive without Yuri. I have always had lovers since I discovered how Orthodox my husband is. What should I do? — *In Turmoil in Israel*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

**Dear In Turmoil:** Consider VERY carefully what a new life with Yuri will cost you, because it's going to be emotionally expensive. Right now you are part of a community, with standing in that community. If you leave it, all of that will be gone, and you will likely be shunned. While running away with your lover may seem romantic, I would be very surprised if it didn't spell the end of your relationship with your children and grandchildren. A decision

like this needs to be made rationally. If you are "going nuts," you are NOT thinking rationally, so please, discuss this with a counselor more familiar with Orthodox custom than I.

**Dear Abby:** My ex sent our children letters from prison. I didn't give them the letters because he was abusive. In one of them he asked our daughter to forgive him and not punish him forever. Abby, her father had abused her, and he's asking for her to stop punishing HIM? She was going to kill herself because of what he did to her. My daughter went through years of intense counseling and still battles depression, so there is no way I'll permit him to have contact with her or my other children. I have had no contact with him since we split up several years ago. My lawyer mailed the divorce papers and that was that. Should I write him a letter and tell him what I think? — *Nowhere in Texas*

**Dear Nowhere:** No, your lawyer should. One of the hallmarks of abusers is that they tend to blame their victims for their actions. The statement in your ex's letter accusing

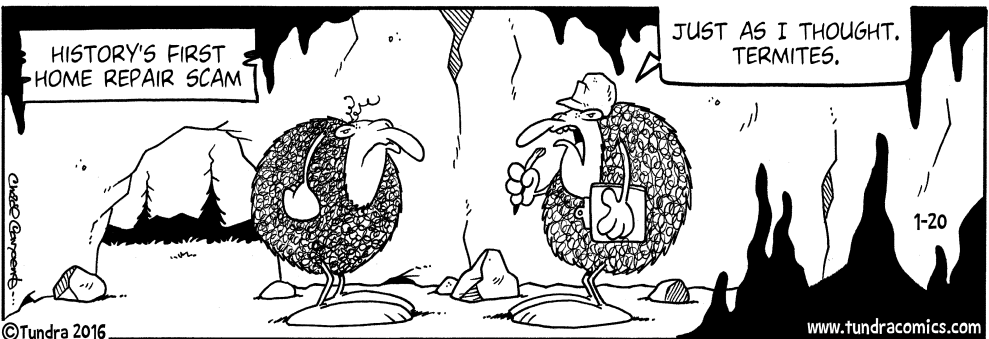
your daughter of "punishing him" with her silence is troubling. She's under no obligation to forgive her abuser. When he is finally released from prison, one of the conditions may be that he must have no contact with minors. And if by then your children are no longer minors, one can only hope that they have become mature enough to protect themselves from their father.

**Dear Abby:** I'm 13, and a girl in my grade likes me — REALLY likes me, but I think I'm too young. All my friends say I should go for it, but I'm not sure I should. I need professional help. — *Not Quite Ready in Georgia*

**Dear Not Quite Ready:** If you're not sure you want a girlfriend right now, the fact that she likes you — REALLY likes you — isn't as important as what YOU think and YOU feel. You appear to have a good head on your shoulders. Let it be your guide and don't allow your well-meaning friends to push you into anything.

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

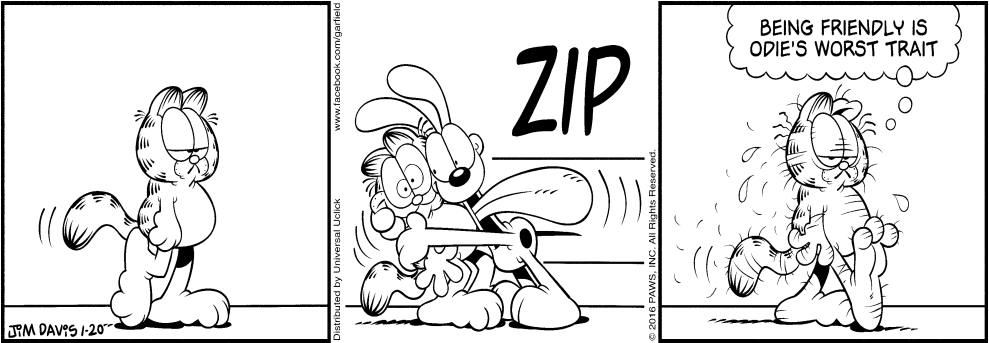
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



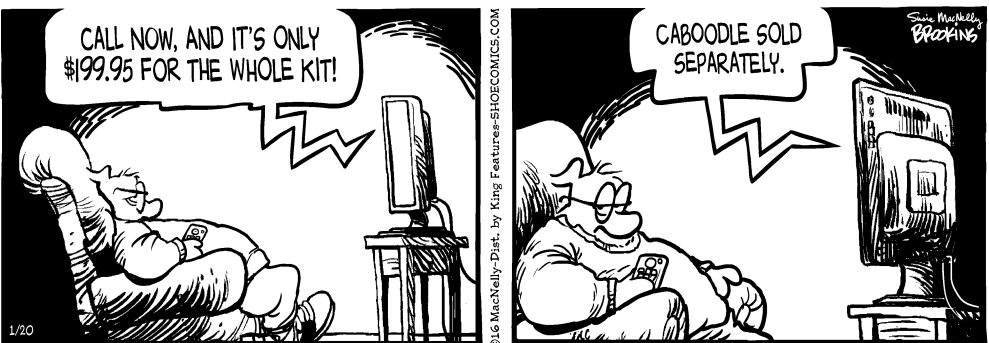
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



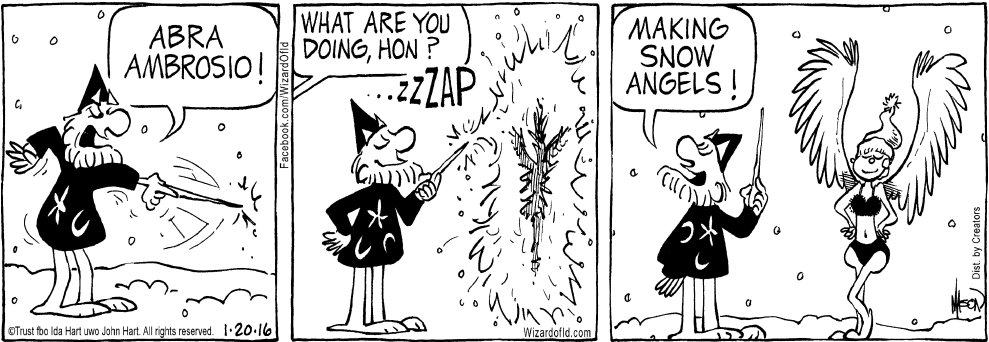
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



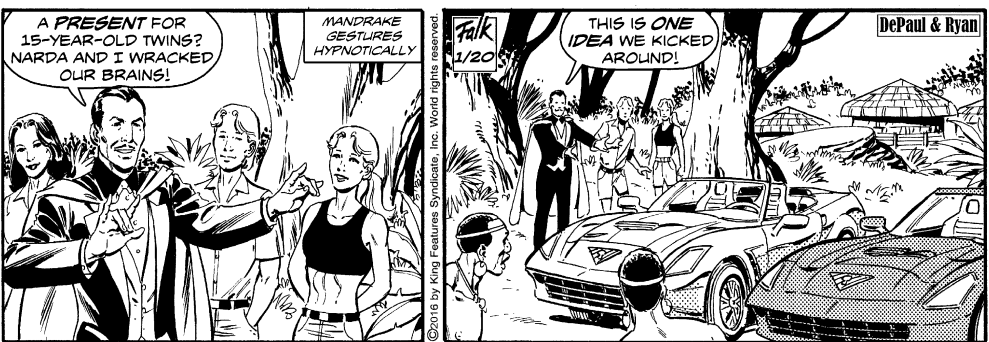
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



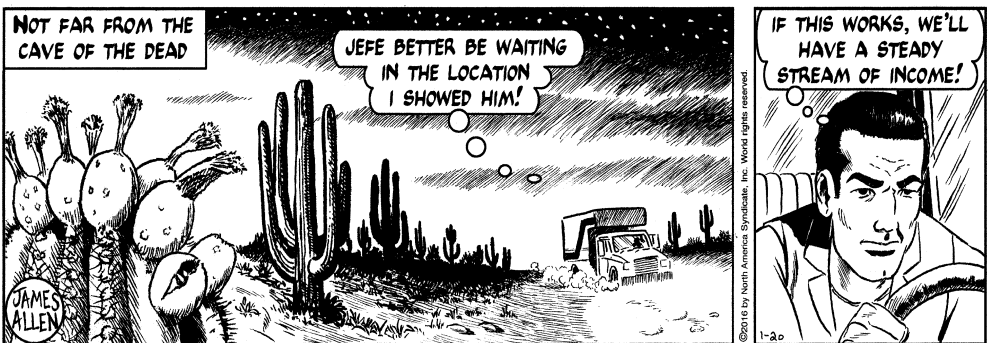
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DILBERT by Scott Adams



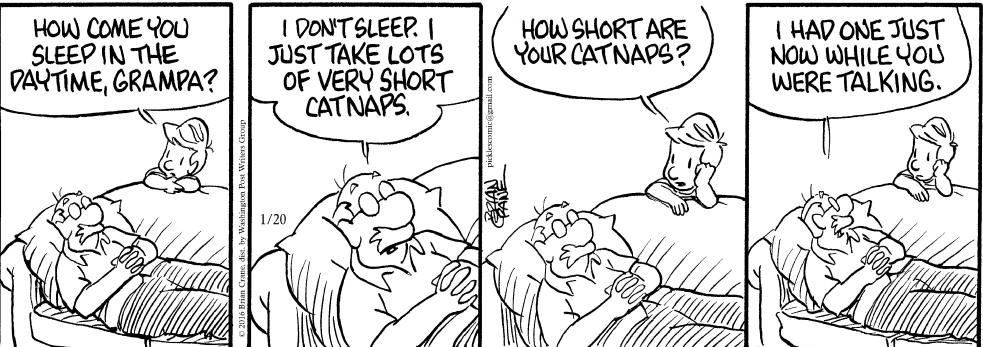
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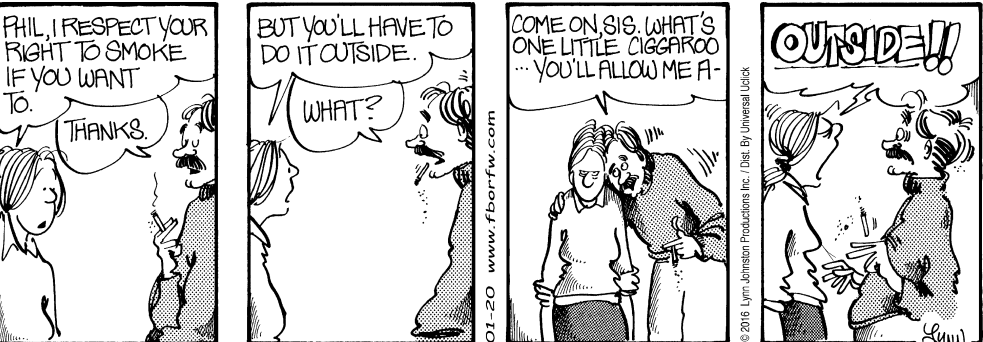
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



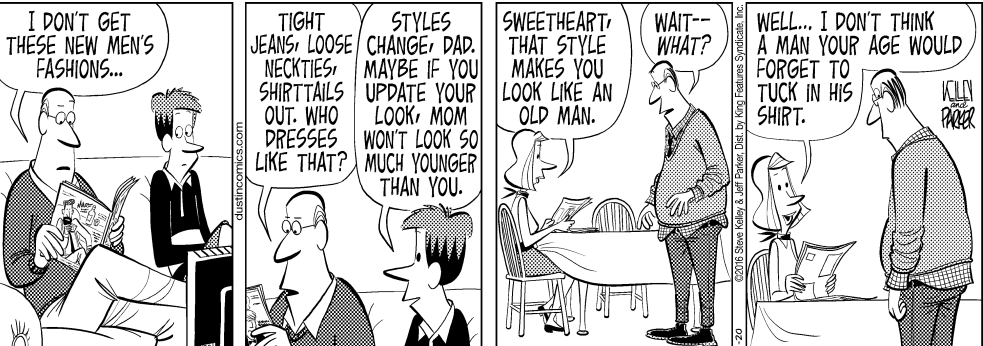
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your feelings matter to someone but not to everyone. So when they do exactly as they please, regardless of how you might feel about it, you'll waste no time lamenting and instead will focus on planning your next power move.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You are in a quiet mood, but that won't keep you from drawing attention. In fact, there will be great deal of intrigue surrounding your silence. Think about what you're trying to say with it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Just as soon as you declare the thing you are certain of, you will cease to be so. That only proves that you're open-minded and you're growing. Your association with a Capricorn will heal you both.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** While others strive for a prize, you crave the sensation of winning and need no other incentive to try your hardest and work your best. Because of this, you'll get the prize and more.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll be partnering up. The kindhearted, fun partner will be available, but think twice before you pick this one, as the task at hand may be better suited to a partner who could double as a beguiler.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The people who ask for help when they don't really need it are wearing out the potential donors to worthier causes. That

bothers you, as will all instances of greed around you. Be the example they can follow.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Recent (overly) exciting events could have you craving a drama-free existence. The part of you that thought this would be glamorous is starting to get wise. Seek the company of grounded people.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The day will come on rapid fire and you can totally stay ahead of it — that is, if you give up thinking (or at least over-thinking). Yes, the intellect will only slow you down. Turn on the intuition and start surfing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Are you feeling suddenly smarter, lighter, freer? That's because a problem you've been hanging on to in the very corner of your psyche is now a non-issue. It basically flew away.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Because you love so many people, there is a levity to your affection. You make it easy to enter and exit your presence, which makes them feel free and happy to visit you often.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You communicate with your presence. The thought you put into matters of presentation, including sartorial and environmental choices, will make a remarkable difference in the outcome.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** While you may hit low pockets of less-than-optimum moods, there are others in your midst at the very nadir of their suffering. Hearing a small piece of someone else's troubles will free you from your own.



HOLIDAY MATHIS