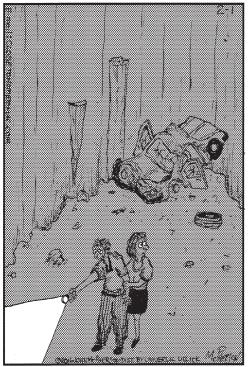
## **CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"Now THIS is what I call a pothole!"

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter

## Gay man creates complicated situation

Dear Abby: My friend "Steve" is in his mid-20s and became a father a few months ago. He's happy and excited about it, and he's good with the baby.

He has been living with the mother, "Nina," who is a few years older, for a while now. Nina is also a friend of mine, and this is her second child.

told me some time before his son was born that he thinks He wants to wait until Nina PHILLIPS

My problem is that Steve

recovers from the pregnancy **DEAR ABBY** and finds a job before he tells

I know he intends on being as big a part of the child's life as possible.

**JEANNE** 

As much as I don't want Nina to be a single mother twice over, it doesn't seem good for her, Steve or the children to stay in a sham

How can he break the news to her in a way that won't jeopardize his chance to be a father to his son? — Concerned in West Virginia

Dear Concerned: This will have to be handled delicately because Nina may be clueless about Steve's sexual orientation.

Expect her to be hurt and furious when she gets the news

It was reckless of Steve to have had unprotected sex with Nina under these circum-

That said, gay men can be great parents, and the focus should be on successful co-parenting of the child.

If Steve were straight and found another woman, or fell out of love with Nina, it would affect the relationship in much the same way as his realization that he is gay.

In either of those scenarios, the baby must be raised with love and consistency, whether the parents are coupled or not.

Steve's moral responsibility to his son will last forever. Gay or straight, Steve will always be that child's father.

His financial responsibility will last until the boy is no longer a minor. If your friend encounters trouble achieving a workable solution with Nina regarding co- Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or parenting, he should contact lambdalegal. P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people.

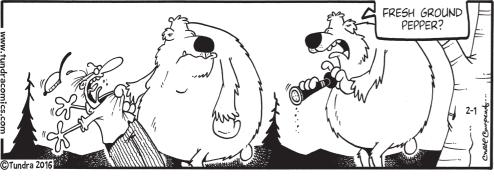
Dear Abby: I am dating an awesome man who happens to be married. He and his wife have been separated for 10 years and they still talk to each other, but they are not living together.

"Mr. Right" is retired from the military and says they are still married because of her health issues and the fact that she can't afford health care on her own. Should we continue to see each other? — His Honey in

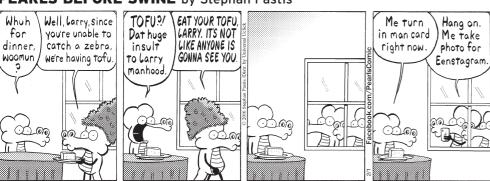
Dear Honey: If you are satisfied with the relationship, enjoy it for what it is. But if you aspire to anything more, this man is not in a position to give it to you.

(Instead of referring to him as "Mr. Right," it might be more accurate to call him "Mr. Right for Now.")

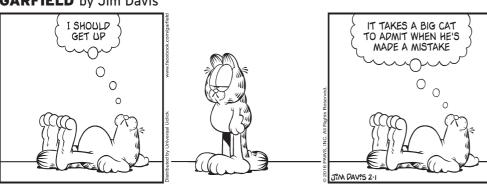
## **PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



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















**DILBERT** by Scott Adams







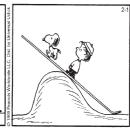
MARK TRAIL by James Allen

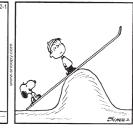












PICKLES by Brian Crane







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** 

what occurs this morning is an impersonal set of circumstances that just happens to involve you. And yet in a strange way you will feel as responsible for this as if you had created it all by vourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's strength in unison, but there's beauty in harmony. Keep in mind that in

order to create harmony you have to play a note that is not the same one as the one already being played. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are correct and so is the other

person. Now the question is not Who is more correct?" Rather, HOLIDAY what matters is "Which way is more useful?" The answer: Your

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Did you know that you have a similar strength to the one you're complimenting in someone else? There's some discomfort in this, perhaps having to do with the great dormant power that lies inside of such

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not getting accurate feedback from those around you, so this is important: Believe in yourself! Don't settle into a system that leaves you with only distasteful options. You have way too much to offer to let

that happen. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have different priorities than your friend. This is even more pro-

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Essentially, nounced if your friend is the other gender. You'll work things through eventually. Expect that you'll be the one making most of the compromises.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because you stop interacting with something doesn't mean it will go away. You get this; someone else you know is too egocentric to wrap his head around it. You can use that to your advantage, by the way. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're such an

independent person that you strongly dislike the idea of depending on others for anything at all. This is the guiding principle behind today's important decision.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Confident people believe they are equals with the others on the planet; whereas the arrogant are always looking down. The difference between confidence and arrogance will be exemplified to you in this afternoon's dealings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have wings now, but you're not sure if you know how to use them. Take a running leap off the edge. If there's no landing in sight, you'll be forced to fly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The world won't be moving fast enough for you, but it will also be counterproductive to try and hurry things along. The more you push, the more the other person will push back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you could train yourself to love a feeling, the one that would benefit you most right now would be the feeling of not knowing where you're going. That's the feeling that will come right before you find yourself somewhere amazing.