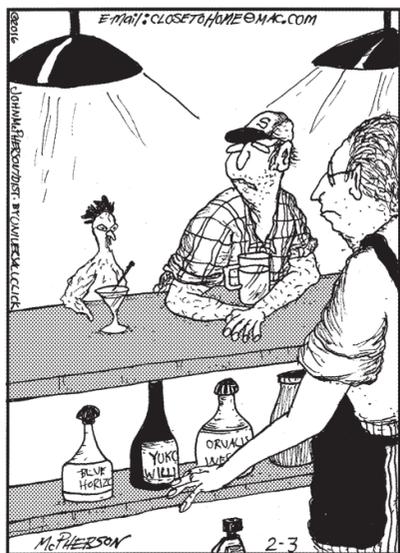


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"I mean, I'd never BEEN to that side. I just wanted to check it out. I don't know, I'm just sick of everyone questioning my motives."

Woman need not volunteer her status

Dear Abby: I recently decided that I wanted to help an infertile couple conceive by becoming an egg donor. I understand the commitment both time-wise and emotionally. I am now part of a registry, and I could be selected for a donation at any time.

Like other young women, I am dating. However, I am conflicted about whether to tell my dates about my involvement with egg donation and if so, how. I understand that this is extremely personal, but at the same time I could have genetic offspring out there. Can you advise? — *Helping Out in Baton Rouge*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Helping Out: I do not think it would be appropriate to share this information with any man you are seeing casually. However, if a relationship becomes serious, you should discuss it. A way to start the conversation would be to say, "It's said that the most meaningful gift a person can give is a gift of self. Well, I have taken it literally."

Dear Abby: My 22-year-old daughter, a recent college graduate, is back living at home. She has been bringing her boyfriends home and having sex in her room. I have a real problem with it. There are younger children living here. My husband is not aware of what goes on behind her closed doors at night. How should I handle this? — *Still Under My Roof*

Dear Still: If you prefer not to involve your husband in this, have a private chat with your daughter and tell her you are not comfortable with her entertaining her boyfriends in your home in the manner you have described. Tell her that if she wants to have sex, she should do it elsewhere — but not under your roof with younger children nearby. Because it's your home, your rules should apply.

She emailed me a couple of nights ago about how she and two of her male guides went to a bar together where she got drunk. They plan on going to the club again later during the trip.

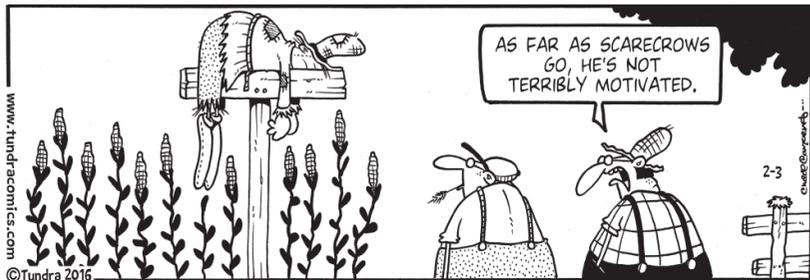
I trust my girlfriend, but I can't help but worry that she may be taken advantage of. I didn't mention my concerns and even encouraged her to go and have fun. But am I wrong to feel worried? Am I being insecure? — *Left At Home in Florida*

Dear Left At Home: You're not wrong to feel worried. Under the circumstances, it's only normal. Does your girlfriend drink at home? And if she does, how does it affect her? At high altitudes the effects of alcohol can be magnified.

It's one thing to be open-minded and quite another to be so open-minded your brains fall out. Rather than encourage her, you should have warned her to be careful because what she did was risky. As for feeling insecure, at this point you're entitled to feel that way.

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



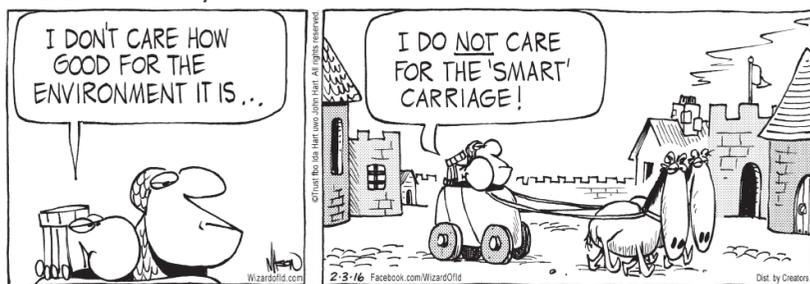
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



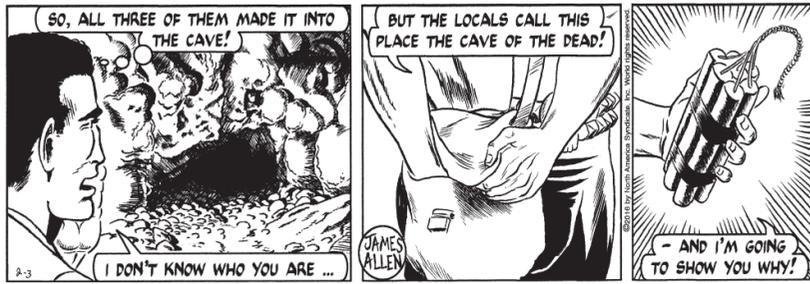
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DILBERT by Scott Adams



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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know your weaknesses and limitations, and you deal with them head on. This is why you keep improving. Someone notices. You could even be promoted for this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Stellar results often come from positivity, optimism and mental steadiness. But they can also come from calamity, disaster and darkness. The key is not to discount any of your moods.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Is it heartening to know that you are someone's sun? With your position at the center of the system comes the responsibility of staying vibrant and not disappearing for any long amount of time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some things are only true because you believe them. Then there are things that are true regardless of whether you believe, interact with or acknowledge them at all. Luck comes from investing in that second category.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Providence speaks to you through seemingly arbitrary outcomes. You'll interpret the message better when you believe it was meant for you; then assign light-hearted associations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Lateral moves don't excite you. You crave improvement. Change takes energy, and you don't want to misplace your energy by putting it into something that will make a difference that's not an improvement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you decide to, for instance, leave the house at one time instead of another time, you are not thinking about changing history. And yet all will be altered. Still, you make your choice with conviction. That's confidence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've mastered the fine art of appearing to be carefree and confident while inwardly chasing down exactly what you want. Certain people around you feel how serious you are and will be duly impressed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It would be foolish to brush your shortcomings aside as if they didn't exist. When you claim them instead, you'll find the up side of the flaw. Bonus: others will understand you better and make your life easier, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Conventional types warn against "losing yourself," but once you're into something, you get so intensely focused that you can't help but become the project. Your immersive approach is what makes you great! Don't change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You would like to be known and acknowledged for your meaningful achievements, not for the meal you're about to eat. Do your choices regarding social media reflect this? Either way, you'll gather fans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A rush of shy energy is actually an invitation addressed to whatever part of you feels smaller than the situation. The invitation reads, "You belong! Welcome! You're as much a part of this as anyone else here!"



HOLIDAY MATHS