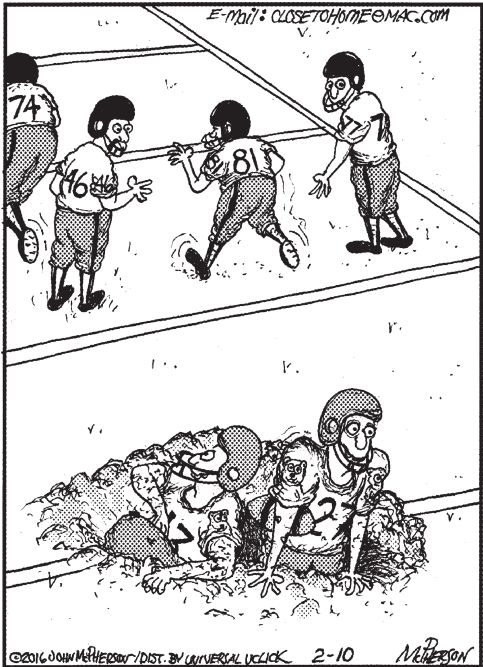


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"What the?!...dang it all! I thought 'Woodchucks' was just their stupid mascot name!"

Daughter should not dictate wedding

Dear Abby: My son, "Chad," is being married in June to "Jenny," a girl his sister "Madison" introduced him to. Madison feels she should be a bridesmaid in their wedding because she introduced them. Madison had sex with Jenny's boyfriend "Axel" before she met Chad, got pregnant and had Axel's baby.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

Jenny feels Madison screwed up her life and she doesn't want to reward Madison by asking her to be in the wedding. My daughter says if she's not in the wedding she won't attend, and won't allow her son (by Axel) to be the ring bearer, either.

I feel Chad and his fiancée should be able to have their wedding the way they want. I do not want to miss my only son's wedding because my daughter feels slighted. What should I do and say? — *Complicated in West Virginia*

Dear Complicated: While it's unfortunate that Jenny can't let bygones be bygones in the interest of future family harmony, you

must not allow your daughter to dictate the plans for her brother's wedding. When the big day arrives, you should definitely attend and celebrate with Chad and Jenny. If Madison chooses not to attend as a guest, that's her decision.

Dear Abby: My mother married a man, "George," a few years ago. They met online, and he makes her happier than I've ever seen her. Our entire family adores George and is supportive of their marriage.

My husband and I had our first child, "Ella," this year. This has made Mom's dreams of becoming a grandma come true.

When I see George hold, play with, or just be in the same room with my daughter, I can't help but keep a really close eye on how he acts with her. He hasn't said or done anything for me not to trust him, but it makes me really uneasy, and I want to restrict his interaction with her.

It is my responsibility to protect my baby girl, and I'm extra-cautious because I was molested as a young girl. I can't discuss this with Mom because she doesn't know about what happened to me, and I know this would

cause a huge fight between us.

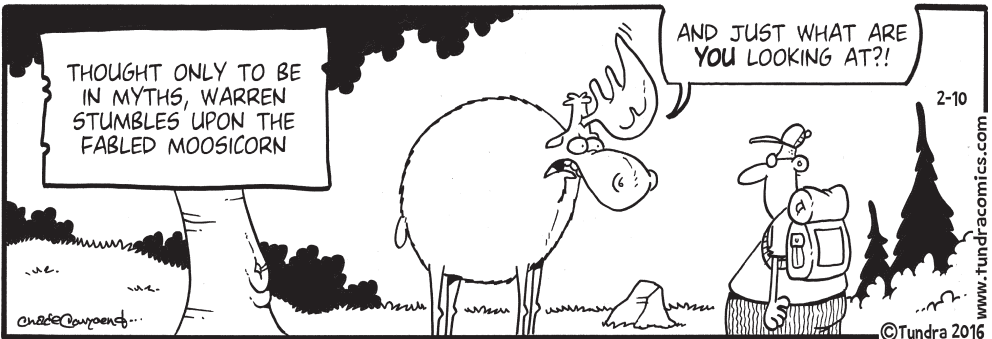
How can I limit George's contact with Ella while still giving Mom the time she wants with her? Is this intuition or paranoia? — *Cautious in Kansas*

Dear Cautious: Why does your mother not know what happened to you as a child? Did you stay silent because you were afraid you wouldn't be believed? Because you wanted to protect her? Because your abuser was your father? You should have told her. It was her job to protect YOU.

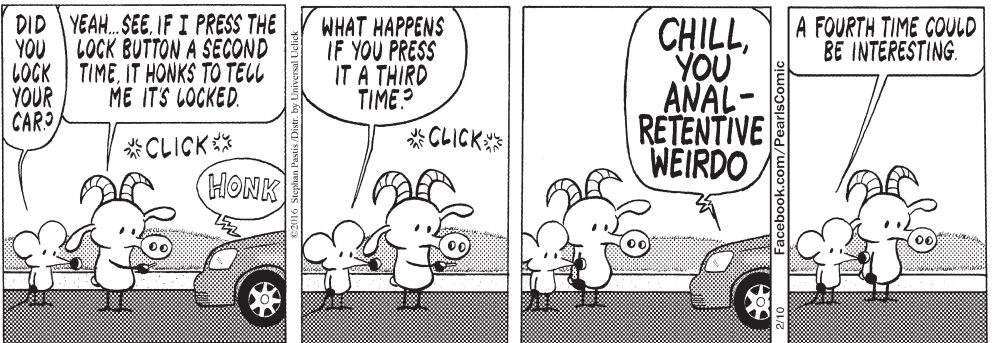
I think the time has come for you to let her know what happened and how it has affected you. While I can appreciate your reason for not trusting men, not all men are molesters. If you would feel better keeping a close eye on your daughter's interactions with males until she's old enough to know what kind of touches are appropriate and which ones are not, that's your privilege. And if it leads to an argument with your mother, you will just have to stand by your decision.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



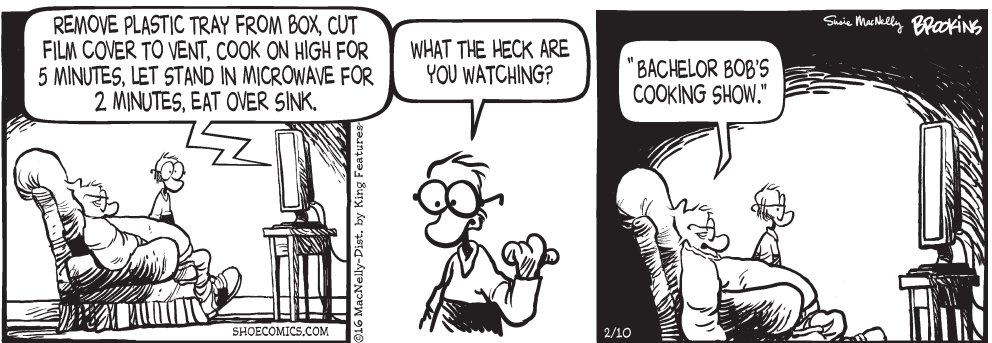
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



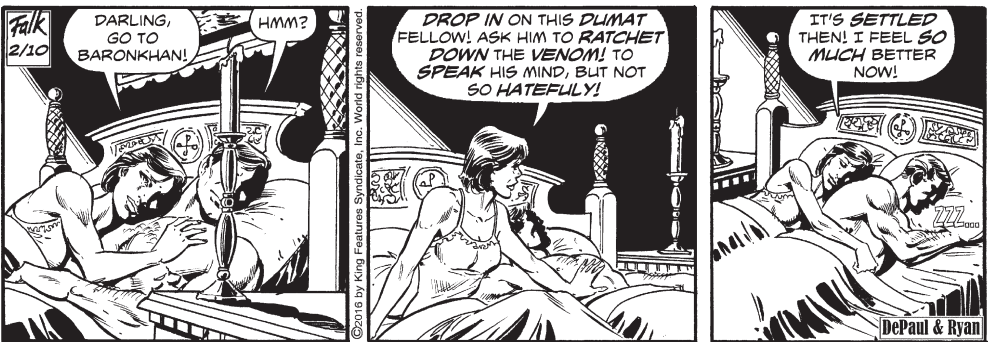
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



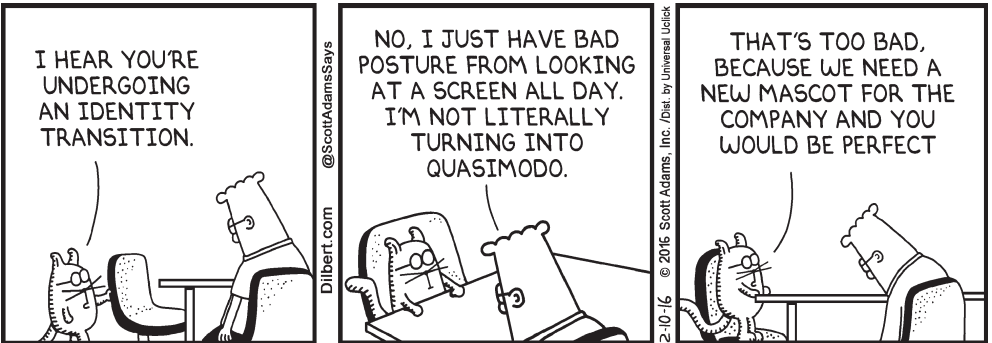
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



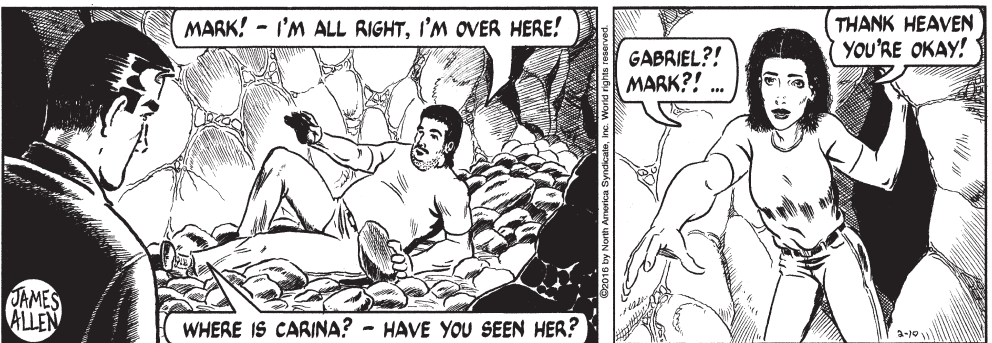
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



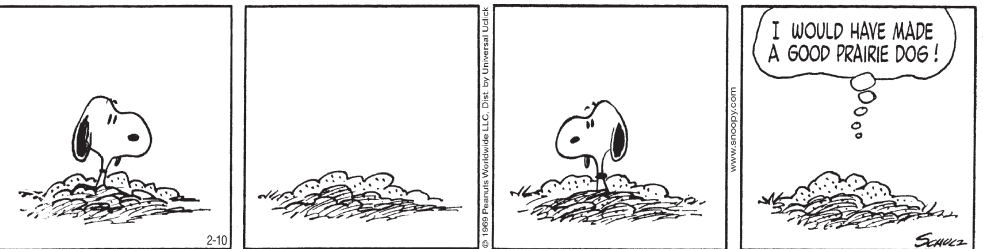
DILBERT by Scott Adams



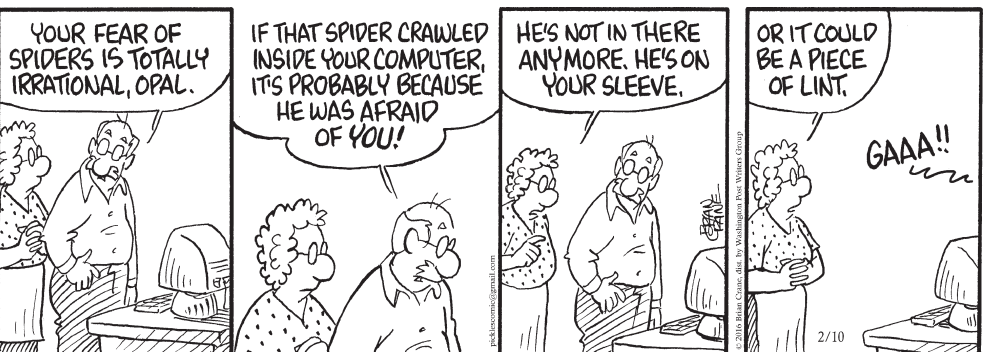
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



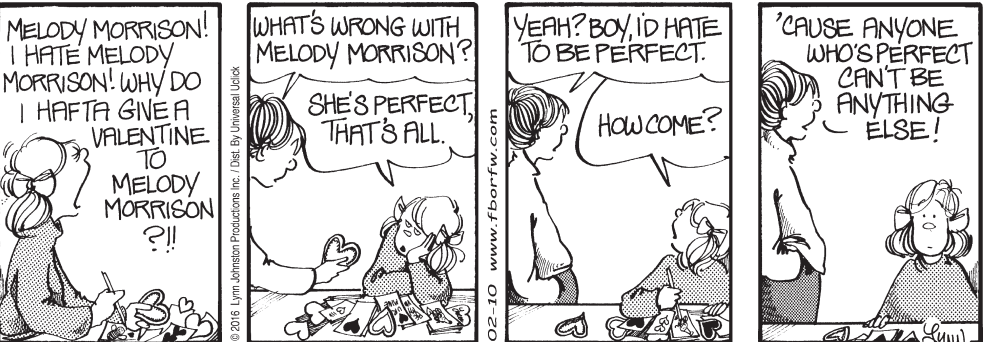
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



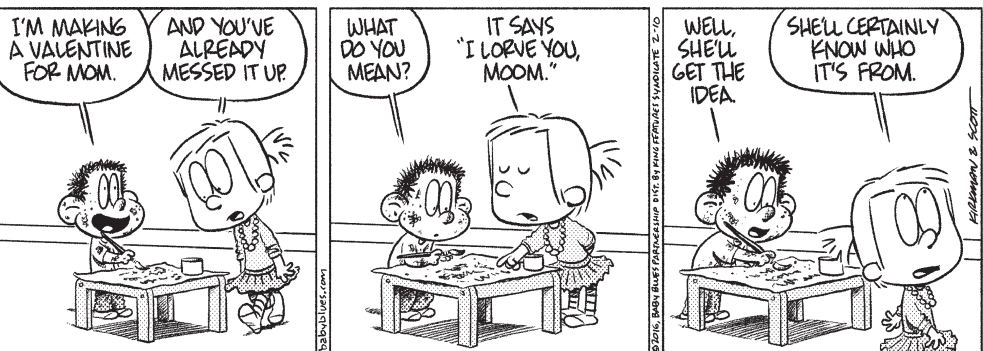
PICKLES by Brian Crane



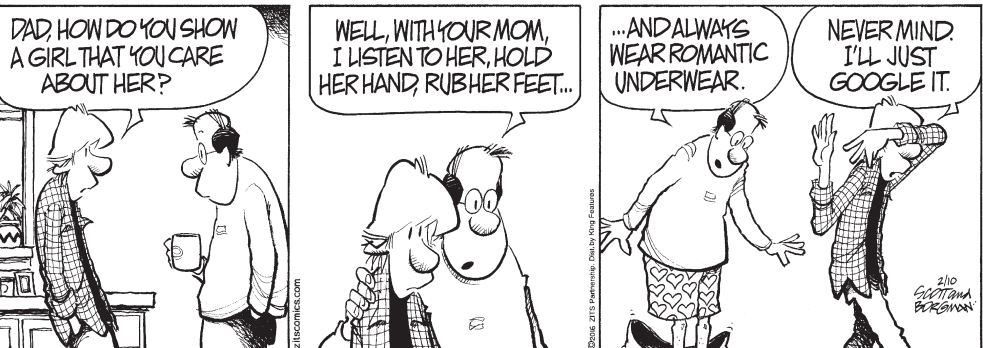
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



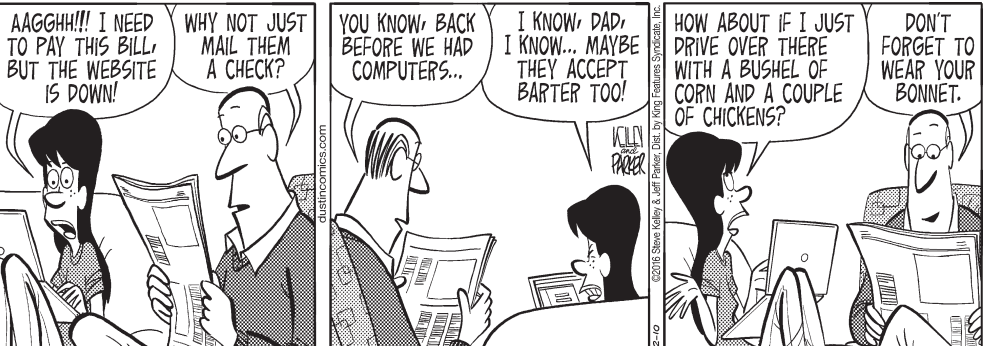
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The Yugoslavian proverb suggests that if you want to know what a man is, place him in authority. Indeed, you'll learn something more about yourself as you fulfill the leadership role that's thrust upon you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** City lights are only dazzling because of the darkness that surrounds them. If you find yourself in bleak circumstances, consider it lucky — it's the perfect backdrop to highlight your inner shine.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Don't assume your opinion is similar to the rest. You're looking at the same thing everyone else is looking at and yet you're seeing something completely different. Speak up. They need to hear you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Sure, you need to make living and/or make your way in the world, just like everyone else. Still, you have a bigger vision in mind. You have a burning need to enrich the world with your presence. You will succeed in this today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Why do people think that it's bad luck to state your good luck aloud. Truly, there is no reason to knock on wood. Count your blessings and watch them multiply as you do.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Weak and ineffective decision-making happens when the person who makes the decision is not the one who bears

the consequence of that decision. You can affect great change by applying this truth.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Courteous and obliging — that's your nature. It is because of your application of good manners and social graces (and not in spite of it) that you are able to lay down boundaries that others will respect.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Once you know what you want to do, you have the audacity to commit to it. Until then, you're wise to dip a finger or a toe in. They will want more from you, but you don't owe anyone any promises.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You root for the success of your loved ones. There may be tinges of jealousy there, too, though you've nothing to worry about. In pushing someone up the hill, you'll get closer to the top.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You do not give your trust easily, and yet you realize that to some degree everyone can be trusted. But trusted to do what? That is the question. Trust is really a matter of prediction.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You know that life is not about acquiring things or collecting achievements, and yet those goals keep you in the path most likely for "life" to happen upon you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You deliver praise lavishly and without expectation of reciprocation. This is not only generous, but also smart. Later, when you have a wish or comment that may be considered a bit sensitive or critical, you will be well-received.