

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"It'll cost you \$300 to fix the squeak, or for \$14 you can just play this Iron Maiden CD super loud to drown out the noise."

# Best friend ready for more than a kiss

Dear Abby: "Roger" and I have been seeing each other for two years. (We are both 50.) We go to movies, ride our bikes together and attend other events. He calls me every night, sends emails during the day — even calls me when he's on a break from work.



**JEANE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

He never asks me to pay for anything and sends me flowers on special occasions. He will kiss me goodnight, but he has never held my hand or been affectionate in any other way. People we see think we're married or seriously dating and have asked about it. He tells them we just "hang out" and that he's just a friend.

Roger says he's seeing only me, but he's on a dating website every night instant messaging younger women.

My friend says Roger is a good companion and I should stay with it. But I'm attractive and accomplished. I think I deserve a fuller relationship with someone who is less platonic. Abby, what do you think? — *Hanging Up On Hanging Out*

Dear Hanging Up: Roger has made it no secret that he's comfortable with the relationship as it is and doesn't intend for it to progress. It appears the two of you are best friends. (Nowhere did you mention that you are in love with him.)

I do think that after all this time you should ask him why the relationship hasn't become sexual. The answer may be that Roger is impotent, asexual or he's just not interested in you that way. If that's OK with you, then continue what appears to be a pleasant relationship. However, if you need more — and I think you do — then it's time for you to move on.

Dear Abby: My mother won't stop nagging me about marriage. She insists that I "must" be married by the age of 22 and have kids by 25, which I think is inconceivable. Abby, I'm only 17. Marriage and boys are the last things on my mind.

I have told her that her "talks" make me uncomfortable and I don't plan on getting married anytime soon (if ever), but she won't let up. She keeps saying she knows she's right, and that when I'm 22 I'll thank her, which I know isn't going to happen. Other than this,

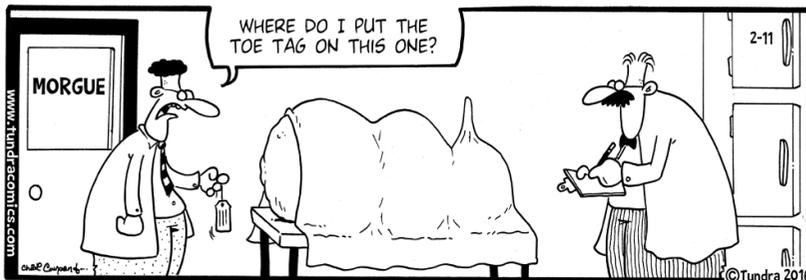
she's great and we don't have any other problems. She has been saying this a lot recently because I'm going off to college this year, and that's where she thinks I'll find a husband. How can I get through to her? — *Virgin Territory*

Dear Virgin Territory: It would be interesting to know why your mother feels this way. Could she have been born and raised in a culture in which early marriage and motherhood are expected of women?

With her mindset, I don't think you will "win" an argument with her over this. Be patient with her and when she raises the subject, point out that women of your generation are expected to complete their education and be able to support themselves financially before they marry in case the need arises later (i.e. divorce or widowhood). It's a fact. Women in the United States — particularly college-educated women — are now marrying and having children later than they did a generation ago.

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



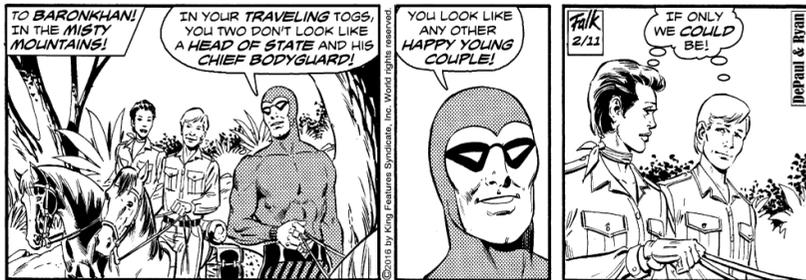
**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



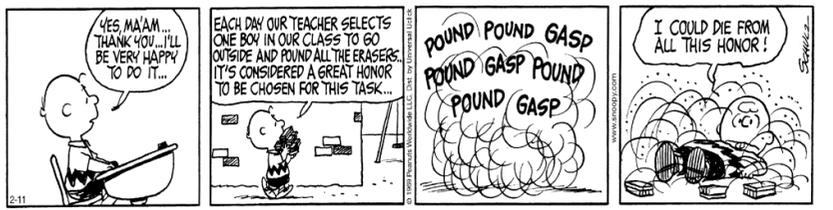
**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



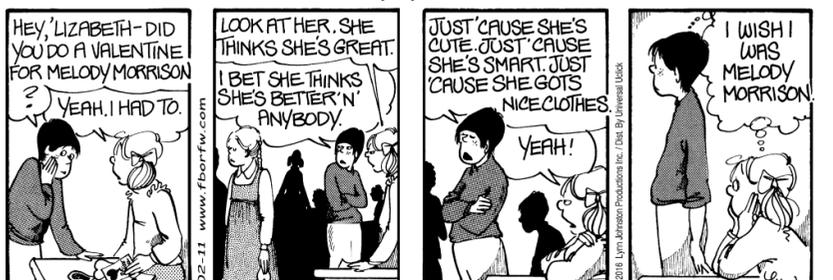
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



**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).** This new world you come across — well, it seems to have been in fine working order before you arrived. Nonetheless, it will not work nearly as well unless you take part in its future.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you're around people who "get you" you don't have to be big and obvious. All you have to be is you, paying attention and calling it as you see it. What a relief!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You need an adequate form of creative expression. Which form is adequate? The form that prevents you from misdirecting all your wonderful, imaginative energy into places where it can't be productively utilized.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Success brings happiness; happiness brings success. This is not always the case, of course — all the more reason to celebrate these times of simple, elegant, universal reciprocity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're moving into a gray area in a relationship. This is a good place to be, though you must also be bold. No more reliance on the rules and standards that put you there. You'll now be making up your own guidelines.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Political unrest isn't just for countries. You'll feel it in a small corner of your daily life. Note: You can stand by

the principle of a thing without giving your vote of approval to the leader.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There's a mild tone to the day, and the best order business is to simply enjoy what's good, be patient with what's bad and save the big guns for the things that need big-time obliteration.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** No one in this world makes it alone. You may not be 100 percent satisfied with the help you are currently receiving, but you appreciate the help anyway and give heartfelt thanks.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You'll promote good luck and good will by being prompt, or even better, early. It may sound a bit shallow, but your ability to show up organized, well-dressed and cheerful will advance your purposes.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Don't ask for more responsibility, as you'll only resent it later. The casual favors you do because you want to or because you said you would are enough for now. You're enough without doing those things, too!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Trying your best, working together, winning and losing graciously — all things learned through team efforts. If you're not part of a team right now there is no time like the present to get in one!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The powers that be will keep piling on the work as long as you keep acting like you can take it. Go on and get down to business. "Dull boy" or not, all work and no play just might make you rich.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**