

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



# Couple should share household costs

**Dear Abby:** How do you handle household expenses with a partner? My boyfriend and I have been in a relationship for 10 years. He has never once split any of the expenses with me. He does buy groceries, although not all of them. He also helps around the house and with my daughter.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

If I bring up the issue of sharing expenses, it turns into a fight. He says he's "sorry" he doesn't make enough money. Then he says all that matters to me is money and threatens to move out.

I feel completely taken advantage of because he DOES have the money to make \$300-plus monthly payments for his new boat that's sitting in my garage. To me it's all about priorities. I would like a new car, but I have other monthly bills to pay.

Is it just me, or is this unfair? — *Up To Here With It in South Dakota*

**Dear Up To Here:** It's not just you. You have been carrying the lion's share of the

load. But unless you are finally ready to insist upon a new arrangement with this man — who has had it pretty good for the last 10 YEARS — nothing will change.

It's time to ask yourself whether what he does contribute — on every level — is enough to satisfy you. If it isn't, be prepared to tell him you need to find an equal partner, and if he's unwilling to be that person, he should move.

**Dear Abby:** Four years ago I had major affection for a man. We talked every chance we could. We arranged times we could sit together and just talk. There was lots of flirting, eye contact, and this overwhelming feeling of bliss — butterflies in the stomach — all of that.

The problem was he was married. Once I realized it, I was devastated because I understood what I wanted could never be. I feel so lost. I'm now considering going to counseling.

I still hear from others that he mentions me or says he misses me, but this is old news. Now there's someone else, and it's the same problem — just a different setting.

I feel so guilty for crushing on unattainable

men. What's wrong with me? Why can't I like someone who is available? I've liked guys my own age before, and ones who were single, but there's something exciting about older unavailable men.

I don't want to feel this way, but I know that when I try to fight these feelings they just become stronger. I won't act on them, but I wish I could change them. How can I? — *Feeling Guilty in Ohio*

**Dear Feeling Guilty:** The quickest way to do that would be to talk about these feelings with a licensed mental health professional. When you do, be prepared to touch on all of your relationships with men, including your father — who is usually the first "unattainable" man with whom a little girl falls in love. I am pretty sure you will find that conversation illuminating.

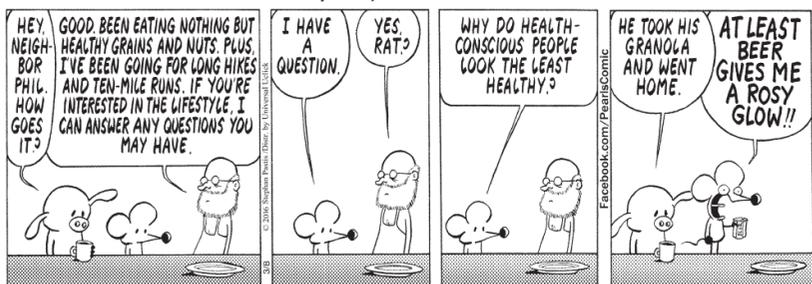
Once you understand your feelings, it may be easier for you to find a man who is truly available — if a relationship beyond a mad flirtation is what you really want, that is.

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

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



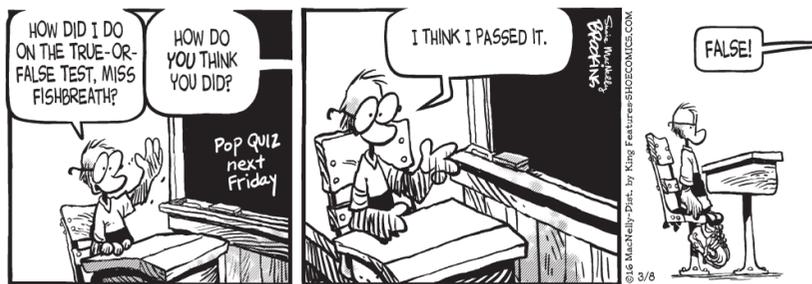
**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



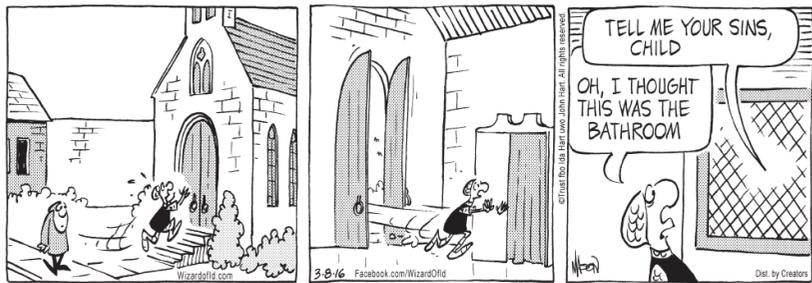
**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



**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



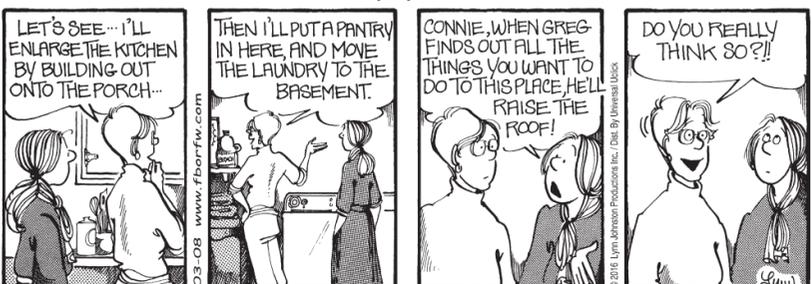
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



**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 theme is personal power and how you're going to find, keep and use it. Keep going, full steam ahead, and you'll be very surprised and pleased about all that you can accomplish in one day.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're nice, but not so nice that you'll let just anyone take up your time. You'd like to know what's in it for you, and, because you're smart, wise and shrewd, you'd like this information as early as possible in the interaction.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll get the distinct impression that the group needs a leader and they're looking to you. The commitment may seem daunting now, but rest assured, this group will calm down once they have a strong leader.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** One thing we learn from time-travel movies is that it's almost always unexpectedly difficult to get back to the "present." You'll have a similar challenge today if you look back. So don't look back! Go forward with velocity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** In order to inspire people, usually it helps to first understand them. However, there will be times, like now, in which you are completely, un-self-consciously yourself, and they respond. You may never know why — just go with it!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You are in the flow of wonder and will experience it from all sides.

You'll be the object of someone's curiosity, and this will be almost as fantastic as pursuing your own curiosity about another person.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Even though you know your friends, loved ones and colleagues very well, you do not presume to know what their reaction to something is going to be. People are always growing and changing. You stay tuned in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** As far as memorable moments of joy go, the ones that come as sudden relief to prior periods of pain stand out most in your mind. That's why if you can help someone out of a pain state, you'll do it, pronto!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Hesitation, procrastination, stagnation and any other "ation" that happens to be keeping you from moving forward has to do with one thing only: fear. Courage is the remedy to all. Take courage; then take a step.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There's an art to asking the right question, and you could definitely be punished for asking the wrong question. Therefore, you're careful to be thoughtful with the information presented to you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** This won't surprise you, but people do tend to think of you as their own. The funny thing is, as much as they all try to claim you, you can't be everybody's. You'll have to make some choices.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Seeing greatness should make you want to deliver greatness. If instead it makes you jealous, it only means that you have a little more work to do to bridge the gap between your current and future ability level. You'll get there!



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**