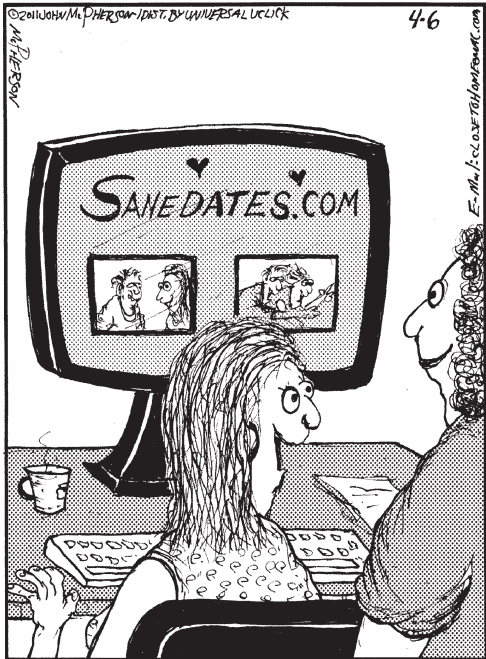


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"It's great. Before anyone can sign up, they have to undergo a four-hour psychological evaluation."

Bisexual dad hesitant to reveal identity

Dear Abby: I am a single father of teenage boys. I have always played an active role in my children's lives, physically, emotionally and financially.

My older son lives with me; my younger sons live with their mother.

I am bisexual and have always been attracted to both men and women. It took me a long time to admit it to myself.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I suffered from depression for many years as I struggled with my sexual identity. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with HIV.

Since then, I have been on medication and live a very healthy life-style.

None of my children knows about my sexuality or my diagnosis. I have wanted to tell them for a while now, but I can never bring myself to do it.

I'm afraid that if I tell them, they'll be ashamed of me and it will add unnecessary

stress in their lives. On the other hand, I'm tired of keeping secrets.

Furthermore, I worry about the possibility that they could find out from someone else.

All four of us will be together for an event in a couple of months. I feel this could be a good opportunity to tell them.

Or should I tell them on their own, individually? Am I selfish for wanting to tell my children? Or am I foolish for not telling them?

— *Keeping Secrets*

Dear Abby: I want to get my belly button pierced this year for my 15th birthday, but my parents said no.

It's just getting my belly button pierced. They let me dye my hair and get my cartilage pierced — so why not my belly button?

It's not going to affect my parents whatsoever. It's my body. I think they should let me do reasonable things to it, like get my belly button pierced.

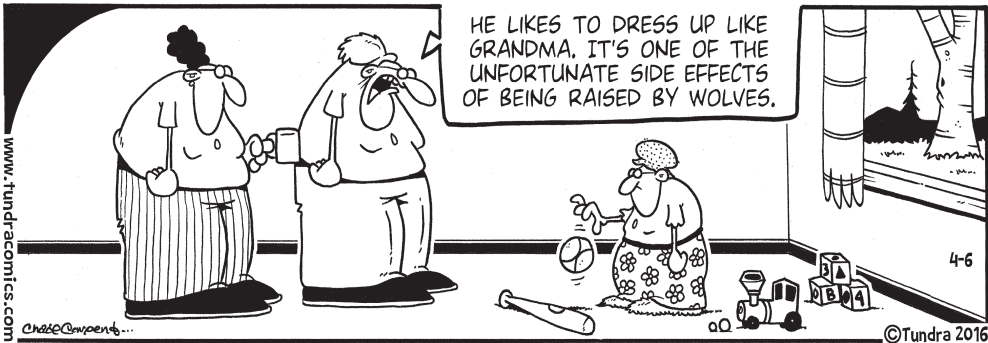
I just don't get it. — *Unpierced in Wisconsin*

Dear Unpierced: Your parents may be afraid that if you get your belly button pierced you will want to expose that area of your body to show it off — and they would prefer that you dress more modestly until you're older.

They could also be concerned that your piercing might become infected. Whatever their reason, as a minor, you should not get anything pierced without their permission.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



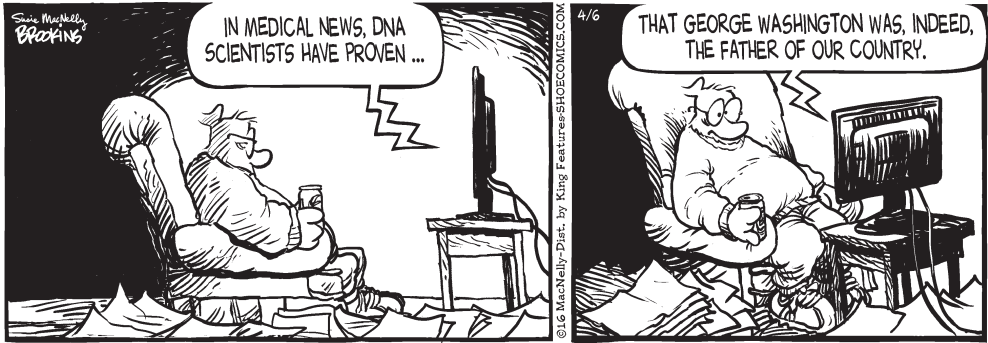
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



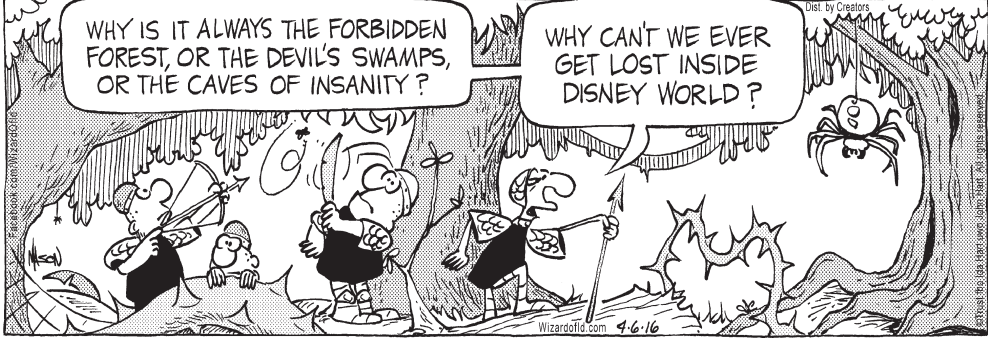
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



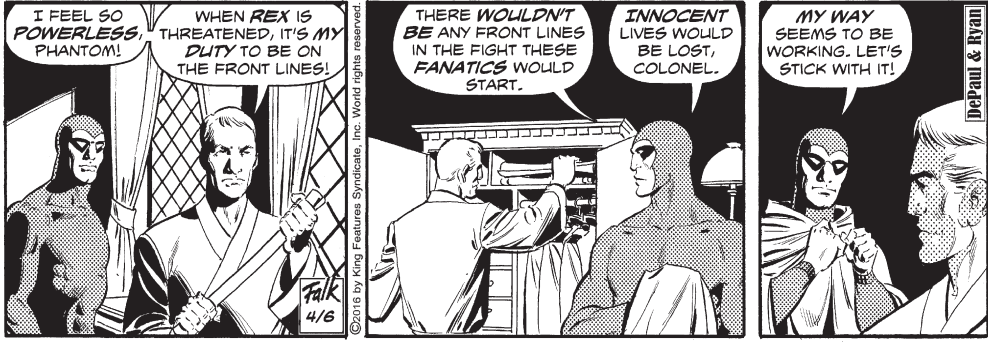
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



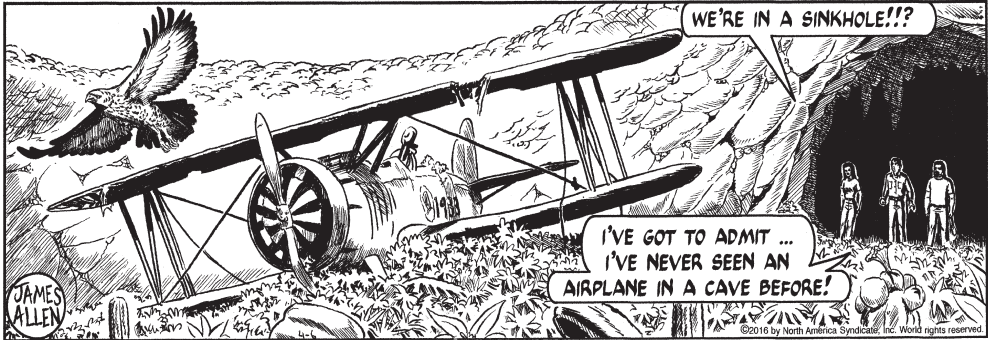
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



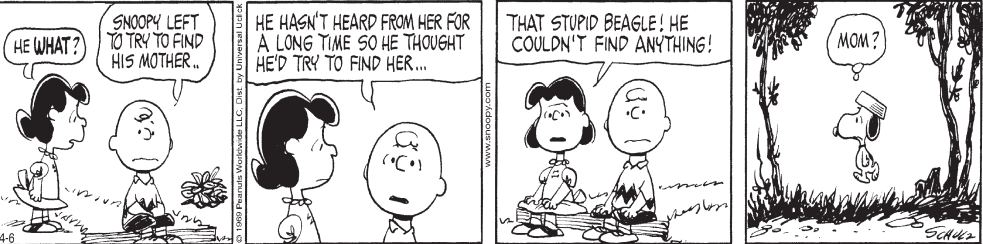
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



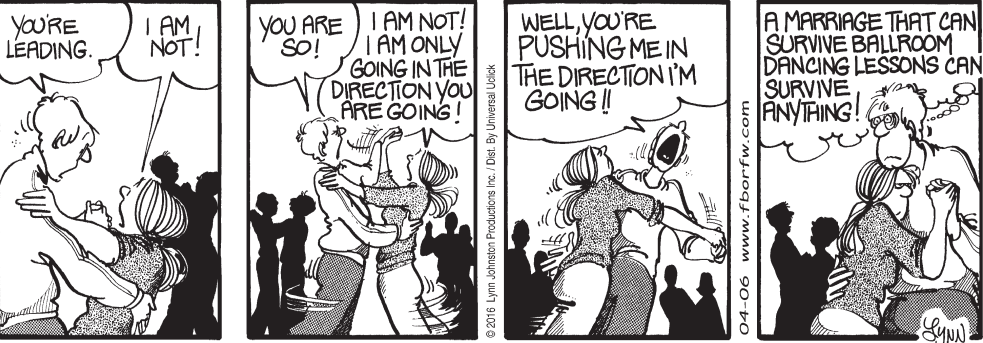
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



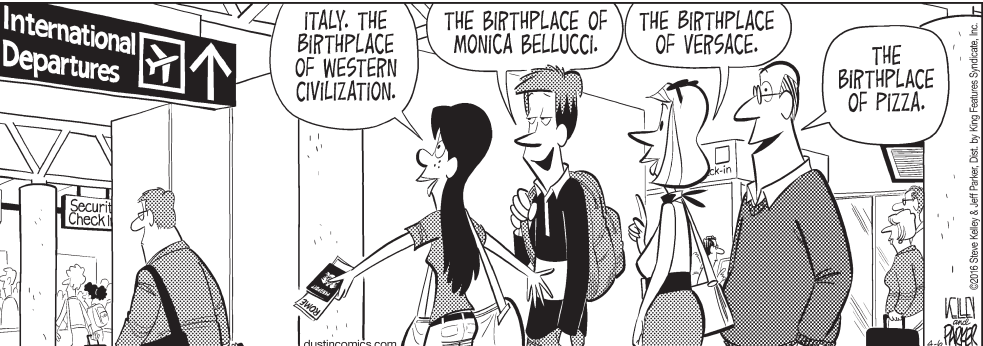
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In order for you to meet your very reasonable goal for the day, you must make a goal that is almost twice as ambitious. Reasonable goals are not enough to inspire you now, although you'll hit them on the way to unreasonable goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Once you start noticing and calling out the good moments, they begin accumulating and building on each other, until you have so much to be grateful for you can hardly believe your good luck.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're attracted to those with needs that can't be fulfilled by just anyone. You have an inkling that you're the one for the job, though you may not yet be qualified. You'll learn by jumping in to help.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be the rock. When some around you get overly emotional, you'll provide objectivity, stability and reason. Save the problem-solving for later when they calm down and can hear you above the din of emotional unrest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Lucky for you, most people will be too concerned with their own dramas and insecurities to pay much attention to what you're doing. This will liberate you to explore, experiment and develop your ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You stick to your own rules. If it's a "no-go" zone, then you don't go there. Because of your example, others will hold

themselves to a higher standard, too, which you may notice — while maintaining that it's none of your business, of course.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're so loved. Sometimes you forget how much. You also forget how good it is to be held in such high esteem, given a special place in the hearts and lives of those who are invested in your happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be invited to join someone's world, an opportunity not to be missed nor taken lightly! You won't be very long in that place, so commit fully; leaving your known realm completely behind for a while.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You could worry about any number of things, but are these worries really legitimate, relevant or pressing? If the concern isn't actionable today, then there's no reason to concern yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's nothing wrong with a fighting mood, just know that it doesn't have to be applied to actual fighting. It's better used to break records, push through barriers and become a generally stronger competitor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To be extraordinary you have to require yourself to do things you haven't done, and maybe nobody has, because they actually can't be done. Of course, it's too early to determine that; now is the time to aim high and commit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is enough to go around — more than enough — so much, in fact, that everyone could be satisfied many times over. There is, however, a distribution problem. You can solve that this afternoon.



HOLIDAY MATHIS