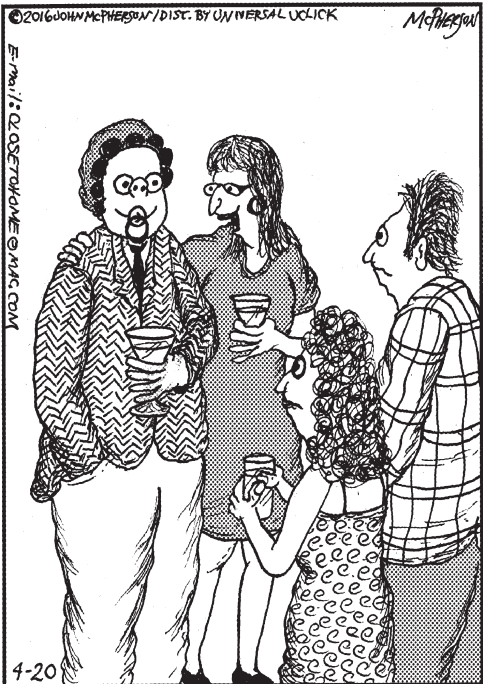


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Yes, Frank gets that ALL the time, what a baby face he has. Don't you, Frank?"

Married woman can't say 'no' to lover

Dear Abby: I'm a 36-year-old woman who is in a loveless marriage. We do not spend time together, nor do we have sex. For the past four years I have had an on-again, off-again affair with a guy from my church. He's 10 years younger.

My No. 1 problem is that I know adultery is wrong and goes against everything I have ever believed in. I always tell myself that this is the last time, but when he wants to meet again I don't have the strength to say no. (We have everything going for us in the physical department, but I know we'd never have a lasting relationship.)



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

I'm writing because I need your help/advice on how to say no when you are in love with the person, but don't want them to know!

My lover lost his virginity to me, and I'm having trouble understanding why he still wants to be with me after all of this time. Is it because I'm just easy and he knows he can have sex with no commitment, or does he actually care about me but knows he can't have me

all to himself? I am ashamed about my behavior and looking for a way to... — *Just Say No*

Dear Just Say No: You may be attracted to your lover because you are essentially alone in your marriage. There is a solution for your problems, but it won't be pleasant. Tell your husband what has been going on and why, and end the marriage, which appears to have been over for a long time.

Once the smoke clears, ask your lover the questions about his intentions that you mentioned to me, and then decide whether to continue seeing him. He may be in love with you, but if he is, the question of whether you love him or whether he's just a convenience remains.

Dear Abby: I work at a large suburban hospital, and there's an issue that needs to be addressed. Patients walk around with their butts exposed! Patients are always given a second gown to use as a robe, but many of them decide not to use it.

Abby, these are all alert, oriented people. In addition to staff, there are visitors (including children) and other patients walking in the

halls. When someone runs up behind them to give them the second gown, these are some of the responses we are given: "Let 'em look!" (No one wants to.) "There's nothing to look at." (Yes, there is, and no one wants to.) "I've got nothing anyone wants to see." (Then why are you showing it off?) "No one cares about my butt." (That's right, and no one wants to see it.) "I'm not modest." (We're grossed out.) "This is a hospital; why does it matter?" (So, everyone should just walk around naked?)

How do you think we should address this? — *No Butts, Please*

Dear No Butts: "Address" it by informing patients that wearing both gowns is a hospital rule.

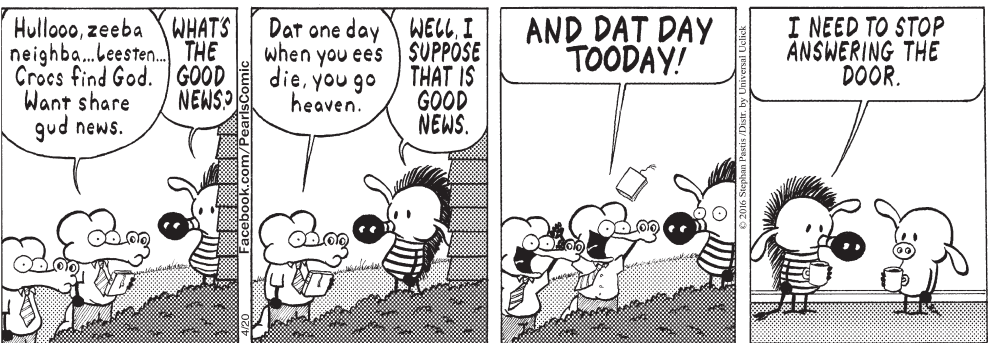
That would be a start. If you are asked why, tell the person that it's to prevent visitors and other patients from being offended by the sight of someone's uncovered "gluteus maximi." And if anyone gives you an argument, tell the person that's the way it is — no ifs, ands or buts.

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

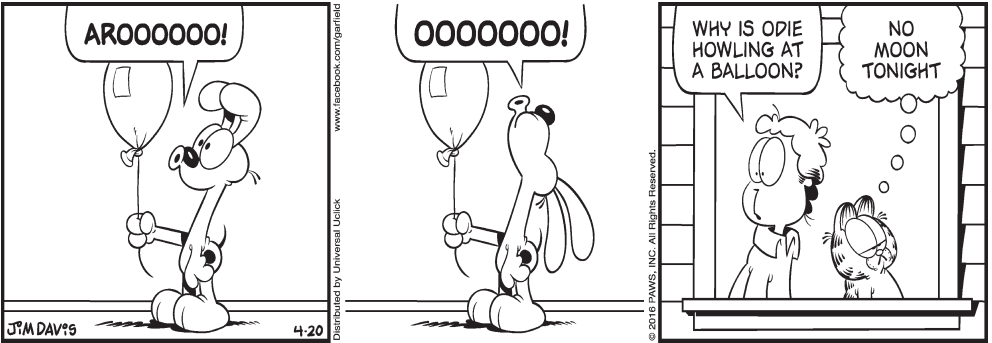
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



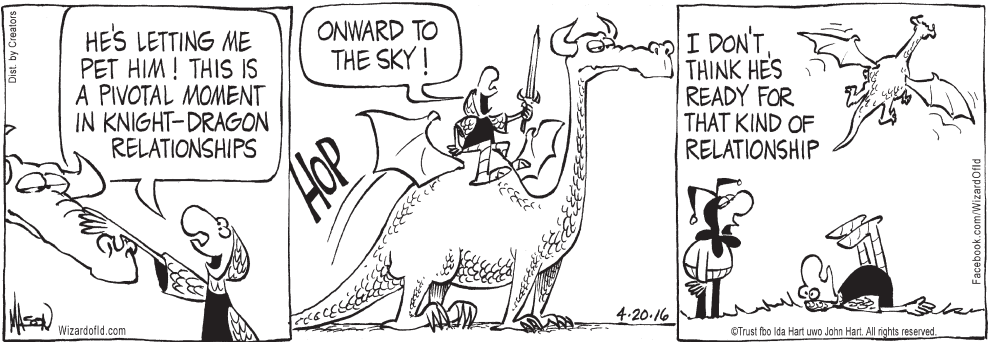
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



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



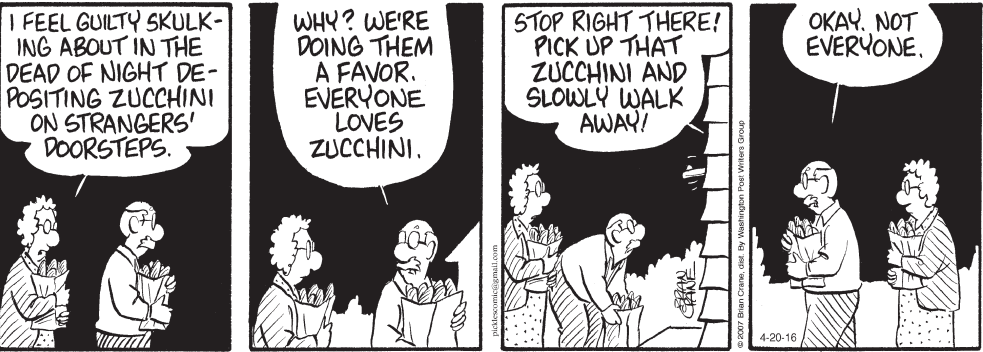
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



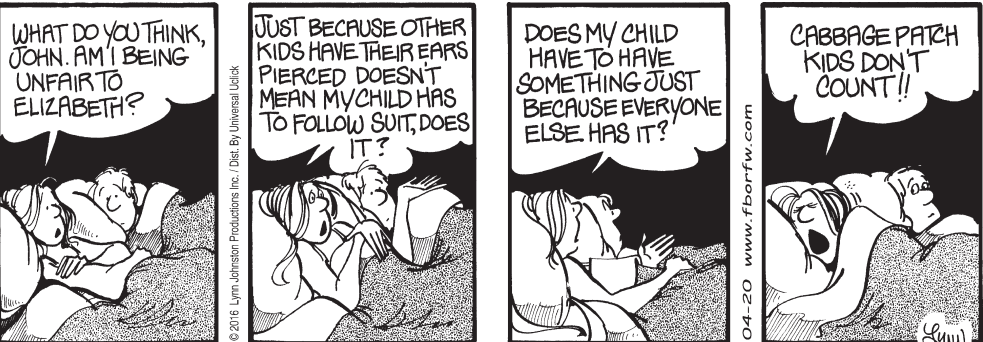
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



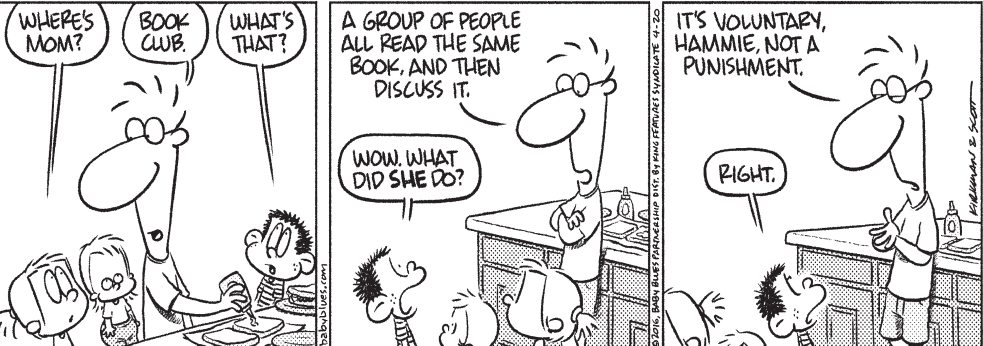
PICKLES by Brian Crane



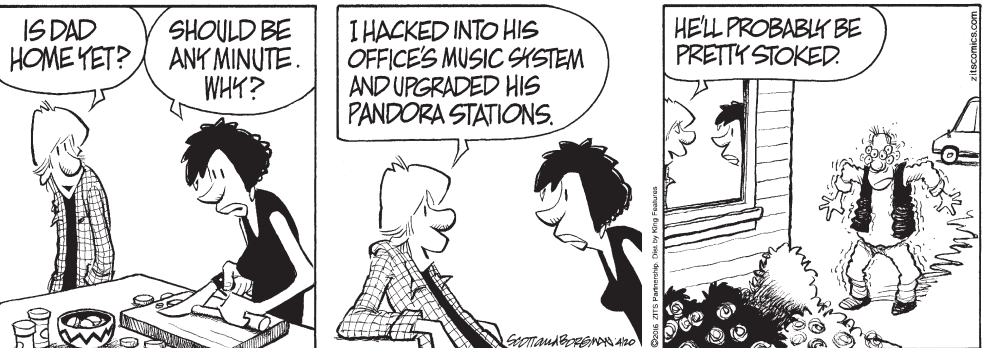
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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).** You've been trying to nestle yourself into a niche, but maybe it's not as complicated as you're making it. You know what you'd like to see and what you want to happen. Therein lies your niche. You don't have to invent anything.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The simple courtesies you extend are what make people feel warm and comfortable in an environment. Experience has taught you which ones: Trust yourself. Bonus: Your social graces are contagious.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're drawn to and inspired by talented people. Their skill brings them so wholly into the present moment that you become immersed in it, too, just by being audience to them.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You feel like you're being pulled in five directions at once. Unplug for a while. When you turn off all the glowing screens in your life and opt for just breathing, nothing else, it's remarkable how much this helps.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There's a bit of show business to pull off today. The hype and excitement are half of the fun. Without them, this is just "business," and that wouldn't be nearly as lucky or profitable for you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There's no reason to try and push the action along — and it wouldn't work anyway. Sit back, relax and

watch. Things will happen naturally and in their own time.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Education is your engine. As long as you're learning, you're moving forward. When the learning stops, ask a different question. One good question is all it takes to change everything.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** All gifts come with responsibilities. Sometimes the responsibility is as small as a gracious reception or a tacit agreement to trouble the item. But that is sometimes more trouble than it's worth.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The sun shines down on everyone around you in equal measure. Some bask in the warmth, and others flee from the radiation. Your life experiences have taught you how to protect yourself. You have metaphorical sunscreen.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Ask for what you need, even if the right people aren't around — even if no one is around! Ask anyway. Asking helps you articulate more exactly what it is you want to happen next. Also, invisible forces are listening.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It will be slow going at first, but once you commit, you'll soon find yourself in the zone. In fact, you'll kill it! You'll be particularly good at tasks that require verbal, social and athletic skill.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's no such thing as being permanently excited or permanently bored. You'll pass through many states of mind today — twice as many as usual. Whatever state you're in, acknowledge its temporal nature.



HOLIDAY MATHIS