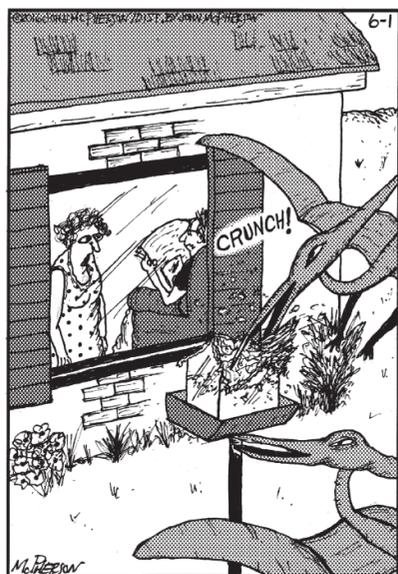


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"What the heck have you been putting in the feeder lately?"

Woman wants the freedom to live it up

Dear Abby: I'm in love with my boyfriend, and we're about to move to a huge college town. We've been dating two years and I want him to be my husband, but at the same time I want to live life. I'm not even 21 yet, and I haven't experienced life.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I want to go to a bar or club and dance with whom-ever I want, maybe even have a hookup if it were to come down to it. I have never had a one-night stand and I don't think I would, but if it came down to it — who knows!

I don't want to hurt him, but I want him to be happy. He's happy with me and I'm happy with him. What do I do? — *Need To Experience Life*

Dear Need To Experience Life: Explain to your boyfriend exactly the way you have described it to me, and if he is like 99 percent of the men on this planet, your problem will be solved.

Dear Abby: I'm 48 and the father of a 3-

year-old son I love very much. His mother, "Chelsea," is 45. They live with me, although Chelsea and I are not romantically involved. Our son was an "oops" baby, but we chose to live together so we could have him in our daily lives.

Since moving in, Chelsea has decided she's not responsible for any part of the household duties, nor does she have to sustain herself as we had previously agreed.

I work full-time, pay all the bills and provide everything. I also do the cooking and cleaning and pay for Chelsea's cigarettes and personal items. She claims she wants to be a stay-at-home mom — although she is more "stay at home" than "mom." This infuriates me and has led to many arguments.

I have tried reasoning with her and talking rationally; nothing works. It has turned into one shouting match after another.

What can I do to set her straight while not putting our son at risk of suffering from all of this fallout?

Throwing her out is obviously not the answer. I'm just not sure what is. — *Doing It All in Arizona*

Dear Doing It All: While it would have

been nice for your son to be surrounded by two loving parents who get along, that's not how it has turned out.

You should not be forced to shoulder as much of the responsibility as you have been saddled with, and living in a house with parents who are at each other's throats is not a healthy environment for a child.

Chelsea appears to be lazy, and I have to wonder about how conscientious a parent she is if she sits around smoking with her child in the house all day.

Talk to an attorney about assuming full custody of your son. Because his mother refuses to work, it follows that she's in no position to support him. He is old enough for day care or preschool during the hours you are working.

Then thank God you didn't marry this woman, and tell Chelsea the free ride is over. If she can't abide by the agreement you two had when she moved in, she'll have to move out.

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

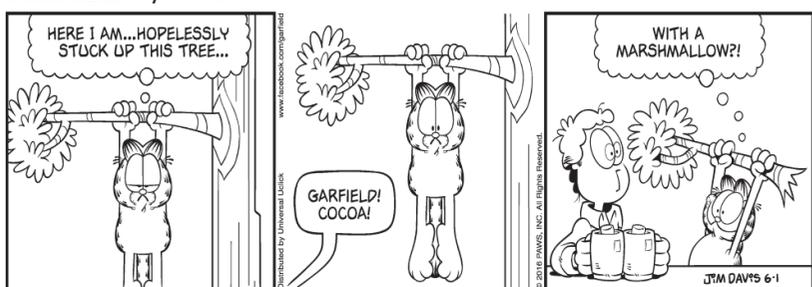
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



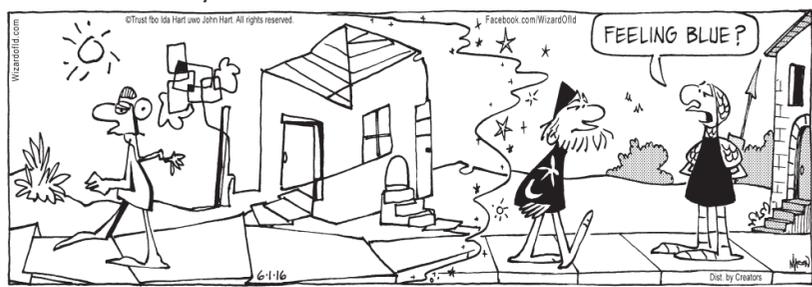
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



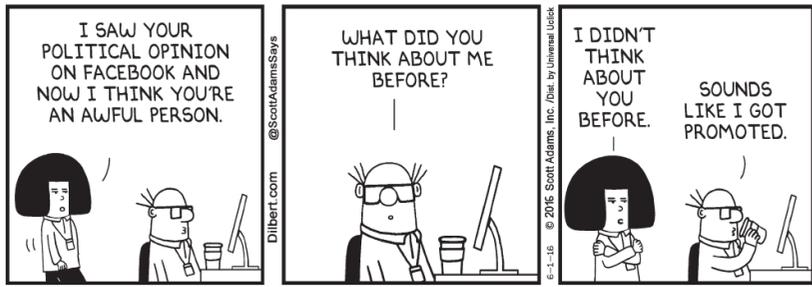
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



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



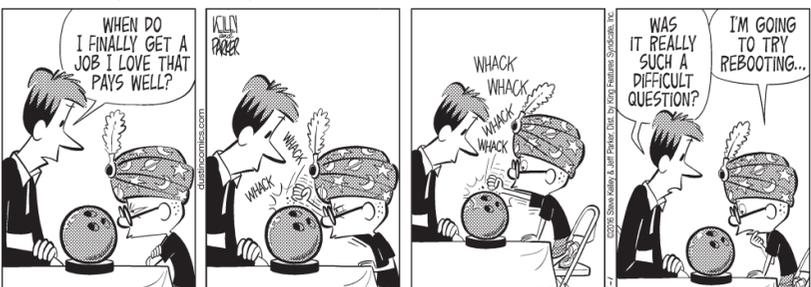
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you feel happy, comfortable and fun you put out an energy everyone wants to cozy up to. It will take an effort to put yourself in that mood, but just do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Think about what you want to happen and keep heading in the direction of that outcome. The more you envision happiness for you and your crew, the better your odds will be of actually living it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll enjoy learning the needs, interests, beliefs and values of others, and you'll grow in influence as you try to get to know the people involved in making decisions that affect your life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Tasks involve more details than you anticipated, and your workload will be more intense than expected as well. That's actually good news, because the thoroughly engaging dynamic will bring out your best.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's nothing to fear about tomorrow, especially when all the power you need will be gained from your focus on the moment now, or at least the moment as close to now as you can get.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Storytelling is a skill that will enhance almost every area of your life these days. There is a prize to be won by the one who is most able to talk about the situation in an engaging and compelling way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you are experiencing is not uncommon and yet your experience of it is totally unique. None feel it as you do. And although you don't need a label for your emotions, it might help you to come up with one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just like in the movies, someone (or some big event) will come along to knock you off of your feet. Not today. Today brings little nudges and pokes in certain direction, all worth taking seriously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Are you the bug or the windshield? Are you eating the bear, or is the bear eating you? The answers to these questions are not always as clear as you want them to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The reason people follow you today is because they realize that wherever you go, that's where the fun will be. You'll get much proof of your influence. Now, how will you use it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It turns out that common courtesies aren't common to everyone, and you can substitute the word "courtesies" with sense, knowledge and law, while you're at it. Assume and expect nothing and you'll be just fine.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Over-familiarity is not good for relationships. When common courtesies go out the window it's a signal to distance yourself. How far should you step back? You need enough space to build a mystery.



HOLIDAY MATHIS