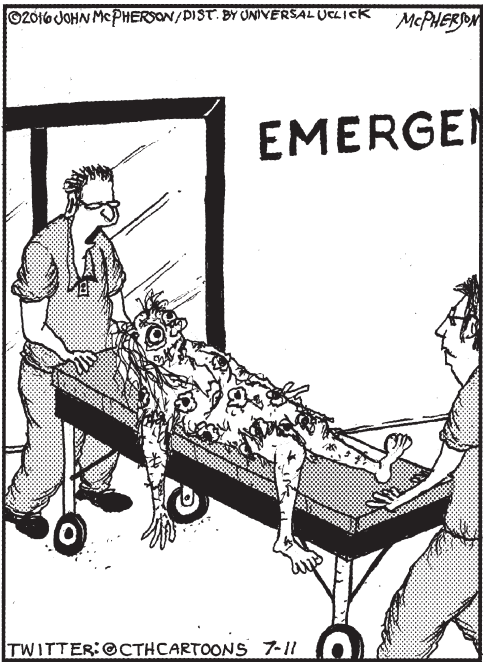


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“She is the third person we’ve brought in this week with multiple lacerations from trying to get a cat to swallow a pill.”

Crying drives neighbor to distraction

Dear Abby: I live in a beautiful apartment in the perfect location and have been here for three years. This past year my neighbors had a second baby.

This child cries constantly during all hours of the night and most of the day. I hear the wailing and the parents yelling and slamming doors when they are frustrated.

I thought as the child got a little older it would get better, but it hasn't. He's now 1 1/2 and still crying constantly. I'm stressed out and losing sleep because of the constant commotion.

In the beginning, the parents were tolerant of their child, and I didn't complain because I didn't want to stress them out.

Now I feel stuck. Should I complain directly to them, contact the building manager or just make arrangements to move?

I feel like a terrible person to complain. We must give young children and parents some leeway, but this isn't their first child, and I



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

worry that something more is going on. I love this place, but I cannot continue like this! Please help me. I'm losing my sanity and goodwill toward children. — *Losing My Sanity*

Dear Losing: It's possible that something is wrong with the child. Talk to the building manager, explain the problem, and say that a year and a half of the racket is enough. You may learn that you are not the only tenant bothered by the constant crying and door-slamming.

If the problem can't be corrected, contact a lawyer and check to see if you have grounds to break your lease and get out of there. You have a right to the quiet enjoyment of your home. You have my sympathy.

Dear Abby: Recently the news has been filled with stories of tragedy and heartache. So many innocent lives have been taken that it has proven to be challenging to process. Although I haven't personally known anyone affected in these events, I feel the weight of grief on my heart.

I know I'm not the only person who is confused about how to manage their emotions

after national tragedies.

Do you have any suggestions as to what to do during times like these? — *Wanting to Heal in Wisconsin*

Dear Wanting: Yes. But first, let me suggest what NOT to do. Do not remain glued to your television or computer screen taking in every graphic detail that invariably follows the announcement. Ration the input, and the "poison" will affect you less.

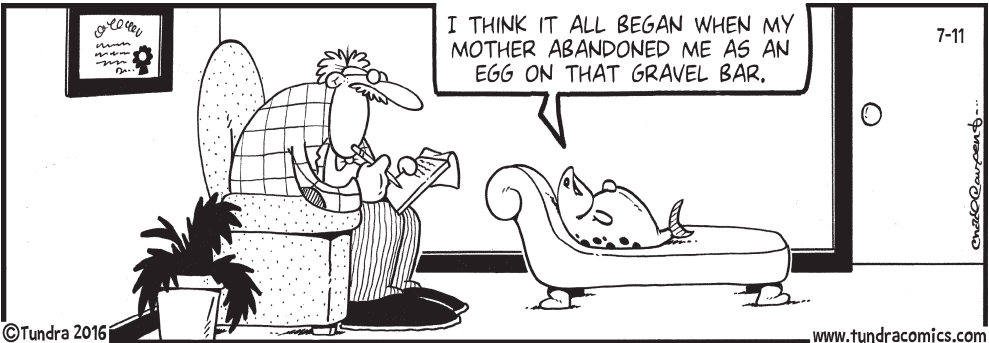
Talk about your feelings with friends and/or family rather than bottling them up and letting them fester.

And if it will make you feel less helpless, donate some money to the families who have been affected by these tragedies to help with funeral or other unexpected expenses. While it won't fix their heartache — or yours — it will let them know that others care.

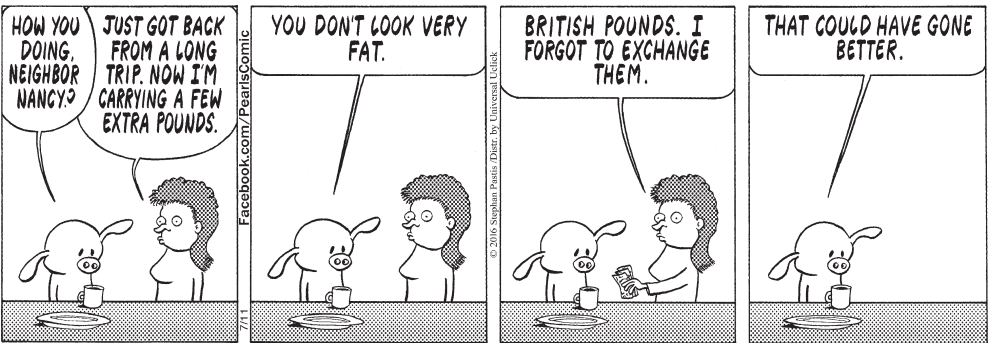
If it won't depress you further, participate in community rallies, vigils or other organized events to show support. This, too, can help.

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



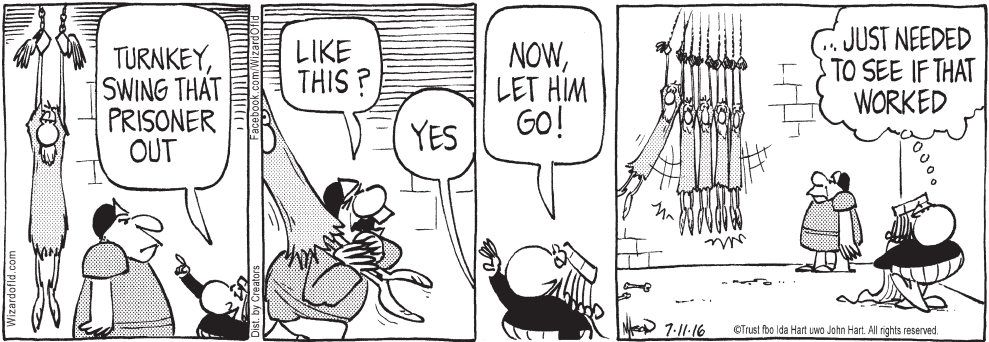
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



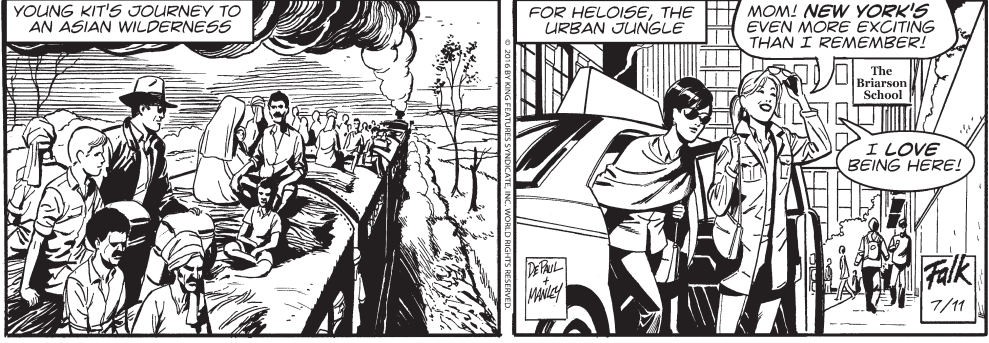
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



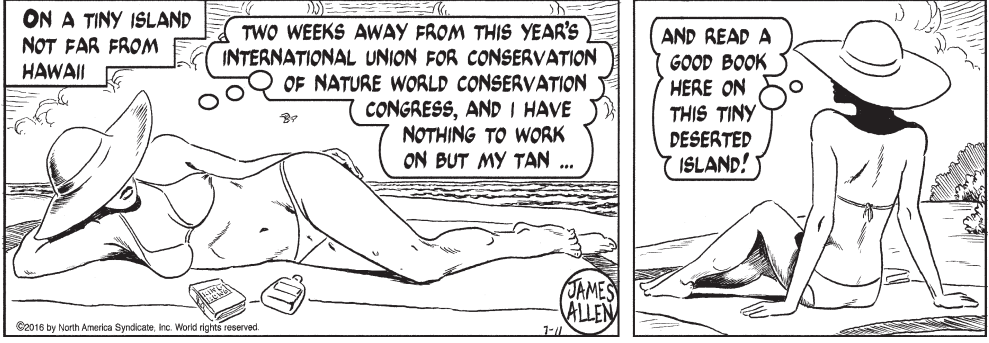
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



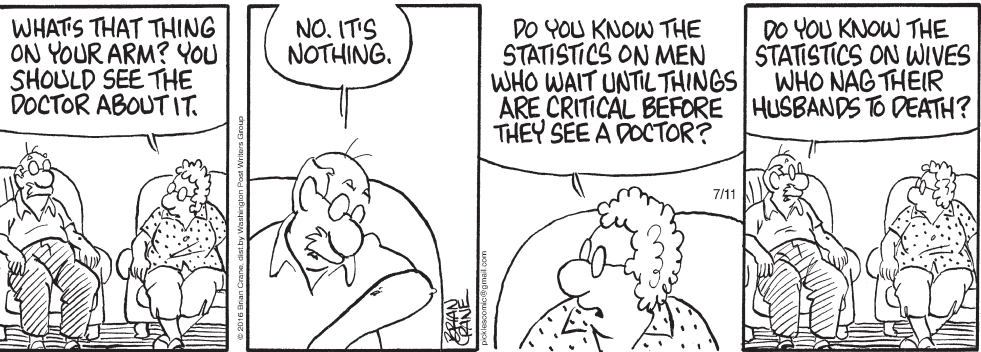
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



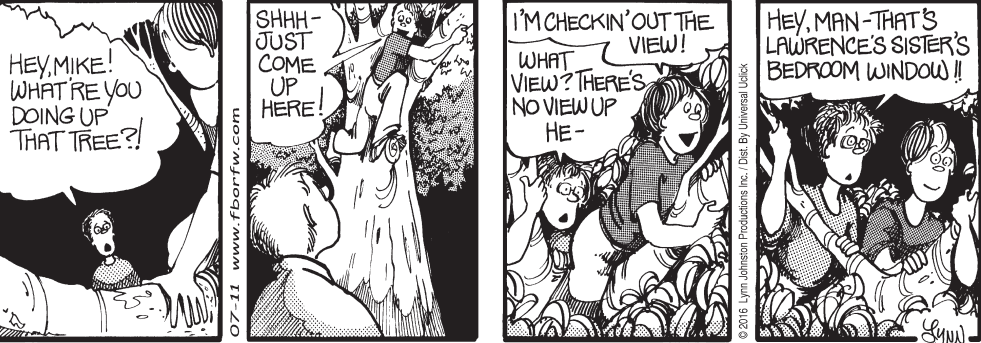
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



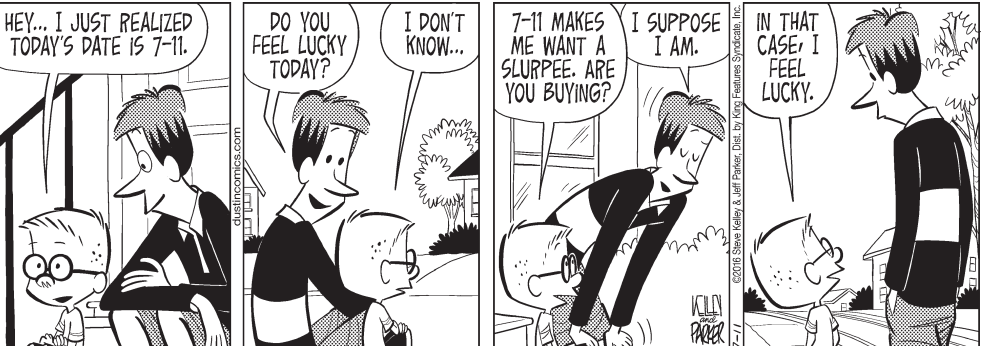
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is danger in opportunity and opportunity in danger. The best part is that today you won't be able to tell which is which, making this truly an adventurous time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Chances are you'll be doing everything in your power to avoid hurting someone's feelings, including leaving out key information, tiptoeing around any delicate subjects and trying to time your interactions very carefully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). One of your pet peeves is when people who have what you want tell you it's not worth wanting. Don't listen to them. Sure, every acquisition has its drawbacks, but that's for you to learn about, not to simply be told about.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Applause and encouragement are a kind of gift. You'll be a giver in this regard, putting in the effort it takes to support the people you love, and winning the best of their affection (and entertainment) in the process.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The difference between innocence and ignorance is in the witness of it. The former charms you; the latter offends you. Either way, the kind thing to do will be to educate the uninformed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You get a strong feeling when a person you're with approves or disapproves of you. Even though you think this

shouldn't matter so much, it does right now, and there's a lot to process around this today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The ironies and absurdities are not escaping you, but what's really funny to you today is just plain silliness. Your people will give you plenty of this, and you'll give it right back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It can be extremely challenging to maintain kind-and-decent-person status after a dream comes true, while the dream that doesn't come true is usually a source of character development.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sure, you have your normal, sandwich-eating moments. You also have your mad, impassioned, desirous-for-everything-at-once moments in which you burn so bright you attract any number of moths to your flame.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The excellent, winning-at-love experiences have taught you, but the sad, losing-at-love experiences have taught you more. You'll be reminded of both lessons and would do well to apply them to your current situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're a growing human. If you find out you've made a mistake, don't be ashamed of this like the stubborn and ignorant are. Instead, celebrate it like the emotionally resilient and intellectually gifted do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll lead through communication. Even the way you inflect and the words you choose will be absorbed by others on a deeper-than-usual level. Don't be surprised if they wind up talking like you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS