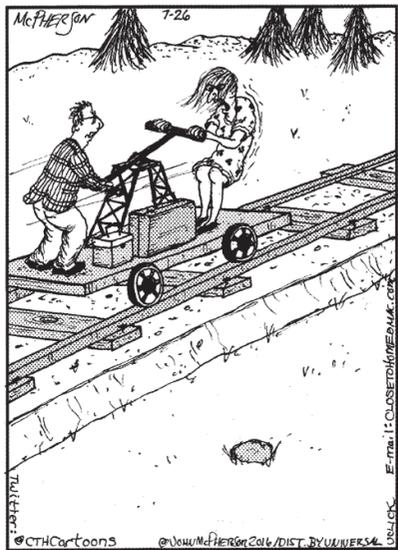


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"It didn't strike you as the least bit suspicious?! 'See Europe by rail! 18 countries, only \$19.99 a day!'"

Wife refuses to share a bed with spouse

Dear Abby: I have been married for almost three years to a woman who refuses to share the same bed with me. It started on our honeymoon when, after having sex, she chose to sleep in a different bed whenever there were two beds in the room.

She's in her late 40s and had never been married before. We have been intimate only twice in the last year. Moreover, she doesn't let me sit next to her while we watch TV, and there is no kissing, no touching, no affection of any kind, physical or verbal.

I have wracked my brain trying to figure out why she treats me like this, and I have a few suspicions.

She's applying for permanent residence status and may have married me only for that, although she denies it. She can no longer bear children, so she may think there is no point in having sex or being intimate. She may have an aversion to being touched, although she doesn't show that when we're out in public.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

She likes to hug her female friends. (And no, I don't think she's a lesbian.)

Any love that existed between us is nearly gone at this point, so am I justified in getting a separation? We have been to counseling, and that is what the therapist recommended. — *Feeling Unloved in Utah*

Dear Feeling Unloved: Assuming you brush your teeth, use deodorant and shower regularly, I'm as mystified about your wife's behavior as you are.

I know people who treat their dogs and cats better than this woman has been treating you. That you have tolerated it this long is surprising.

Your therapist has advised a separation, but I would go further than that. Because you don't have a marriage, I think you should make it official.

Dear Abby: I receive at least two or three telemarketing calls a day — and sometimes even more on Sundays. Can you please tell me what to do to put a stop to this?

I have written once before to an address to curb this situation, but no luck. These calls

come as late as 9 p.m. Thank you for any advice. — *Stressed Out in Illinois*

Dear Stressed Out: I agree that telemarketing calls are invasive when they come in multiples. The USA.gov Consumer Action Handbook includes a number you can call to restrict telemarketing calls permanently by registering your phone number. It is 888-382-1222. This can also be done online at www.donotcall.gov.

If you receive telemarketing calls after your number has been in the national registry for 31 days, you can file a complaint using the same web page and toll-free number.

This will cut back on some of the calls you receive, but not all of them. Political organizations, charities and telephone surveyors with which you have a relationship can still get through.

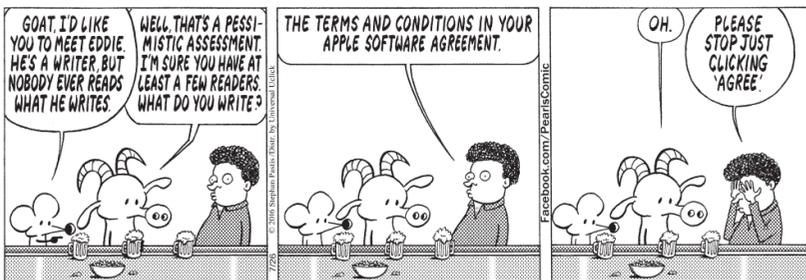
However, if you still find yourself being inundated, contact your phone provider and inquire about call-blocking 800 numbers. Good luck!

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



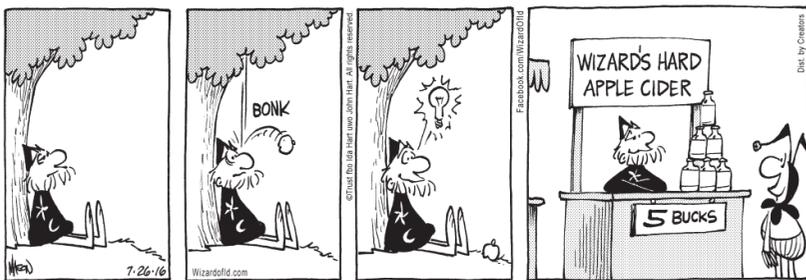
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



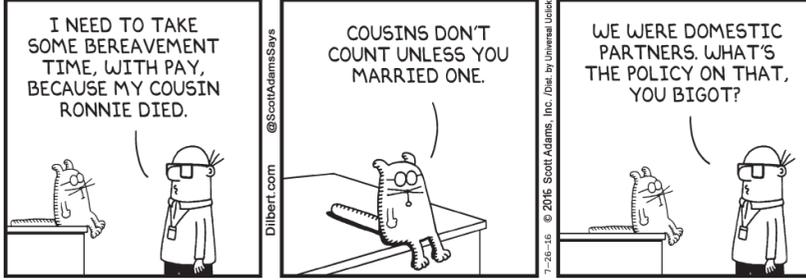
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



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



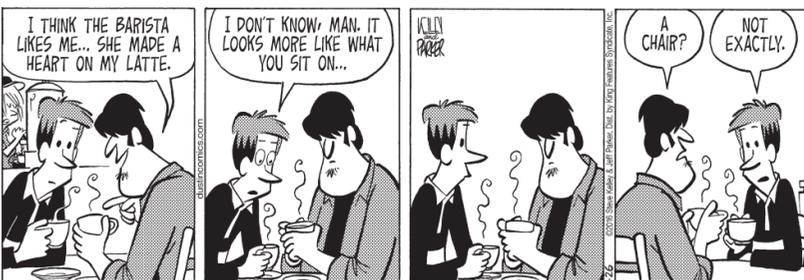
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You keep saying that you could do better if you were given the right circumstances. Well, you'll give yourself those circumstances through saying "yes" and saying "no" to things today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are not bored by other people, though you might be bored by the same people (possibly the person you live inside) in the same circumstance you've seen again and again. You'll most certainly do something about this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The project before you is exciting. Don't let your excitement cause you to rush. Leave a good amount of space between the different stages of work. It will help you to refine and improve as you go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though you'll be very out of your element for a period of this day, there is no need to study or watch another person in order to know what to do. The right answers come to you by nature.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The idea that was strange and wonderful will now show a different side. The idea that was strange and horrible will seem to have its merits. These are merely signals that your mind is open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). No one is ever alone in a feeling. However complex it may seem, someone else in the world has gone through or is going through something very close to your

emotion, but you have reach out to know the truth of this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The blue skies make you feel like you should run into them, arms open, confident and alone. The storms make you feel that you should huddle up and cling to another person. Both are just weather and mood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You graciously acknowledge the favors you're given, but you don't use them all, as it would incur too much debt. Note: The favors from on high are generally lower priced than those from down low.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes you think you sound like a broken record, as the circumstances of your life seem to run you, and the "you" they seem to run has the same message, recurring. Flip it. Play the other side.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't always like to admit it, but there's comfort in a routine. By the way, you could really use some comfort right now. Instead of moving to the next excitement, consider setting a nice groove.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Will you deliver what you said you would? Probably. And when the potential recipient is persistent, definitely. Furthermore, whatever is open to interpretation, you'll interpret it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your contentment will rely on valuing the help you give. Don't promise more. Even if you only help a person one time, being present in a moment of need will have a profound impact.



HOLIDAY MATHIS