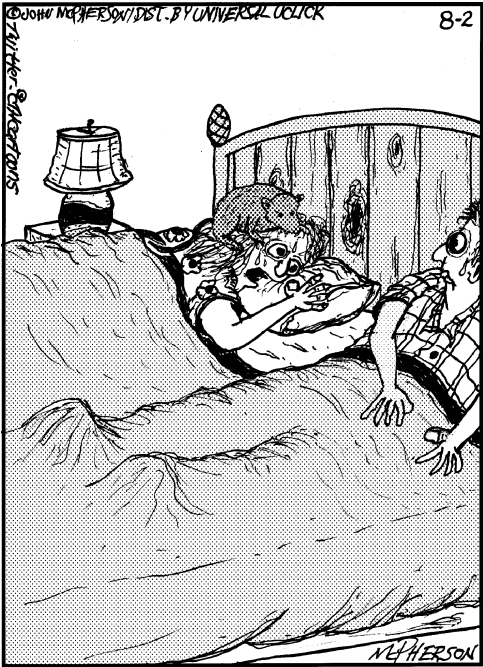


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Dave! Wake up! Something just landed on me! Please tell me that it’s not one of those huge beetles we see around the windows!”

Reader unsure when to discuss fertility

Dear Abby: I'm an attractive 30-year-old woman just out of a five-year relationship. I am starting to date again, but I have a complication — I cannot have children. I am wondering when the right time to bring this up with the men I meet would be.

After a few dates seems too soon; however, the men usually reveal their desire for a family during this time.

What is the rule of thumb here? — *Single in San Francisco*

Dear Single: The rule of thumb is: Honesty is the best policy. If someone tells you he wants a family, it would be dishonest not to tell him then that you won't be able to have children. However, if nothing is mentioned before, when you are becoming intimate and the subject of birth control is raised would be a logical time to speak up.

Dear Abby: I live in a city. Many of my friends live in the suburbs within commuting



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

distance. Several of them commute daily, and there are many mass transit options running throughout the night.

On a few occasions we have planned an outing in the city and, after the tickets are purchased, etc., one of them (“Carla”) has casually stated, “I may need to spend the night at your house since it’ll be late when we get back.”

Abby, Carla knows the schedule of mass transit and knows what we’ve planned. How do I respond when she invites herself to spend the night?

I have the room, but it’s still a hassle having someone stay overnight. — *City Girl With Country Friends*

Dear City Girl: Assuming this is becoming a pattern with Carla, the time to bring this up is before you buy the tickets.

The words to use are: “I would prefer that you don’t stay over because I’m really not comfortable having overnight guests.”

And if she continues to suggest she wants to stay with you, stop inviting her to night-time events.

Dear Abby: I find that I get asked far too often why I haven’t bought a house yet. I’m 42, single and have a master’s degree, but like lots of other people I had to go into debt to get it.

I’m not complaining about that. What bugs me is the invasive question I don’t feel I should have to answer, usually asked by people whose parents helped them to buy a house.

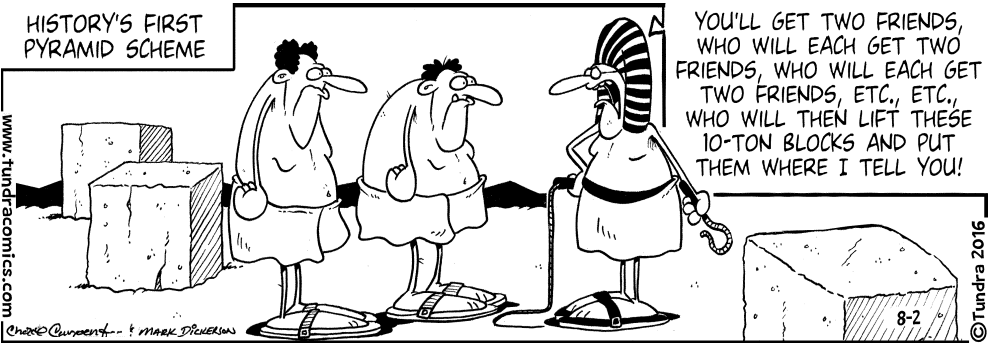
I don’t come from a rich family, and it feels like people are flaunting their privilege when they ask me. Duh, I don’t have \$20,000 for a down payment. But I shouldn’t have to say that.

How can I respond to this question while not being rude or actually answering it? Better yet, how do I respond in such a way that people stop asking? — *In Debt in Illinois*

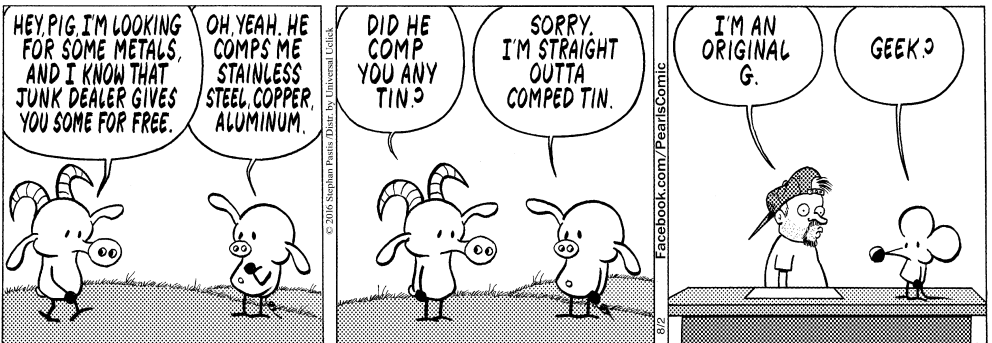
Dear In Debt: This reply should do the trick: “There are many reasons why, and it’s complicated. When and if I do decide to buy, I’ll let you know.”

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



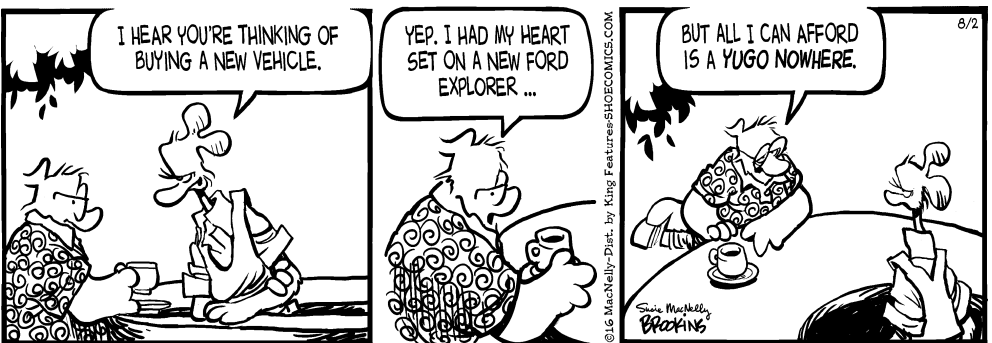
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



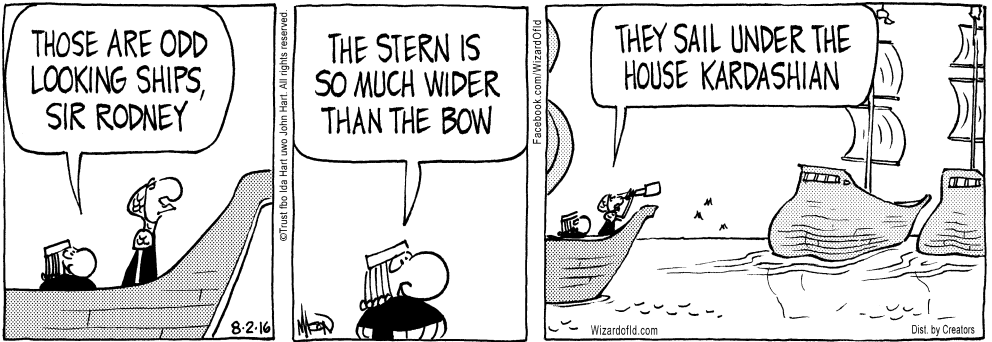
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



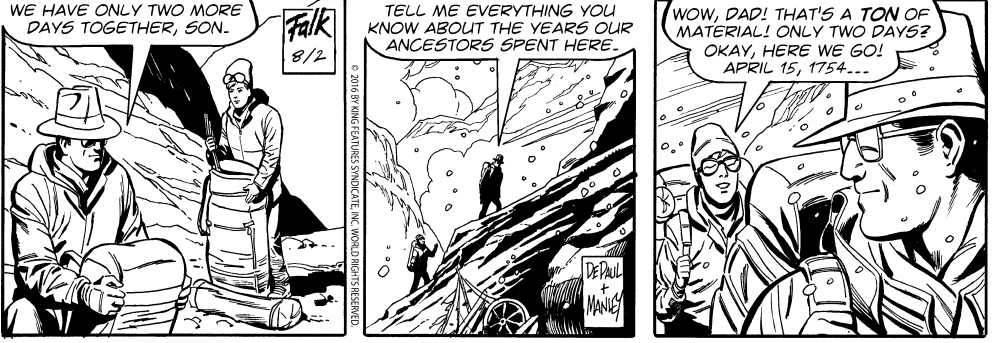
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



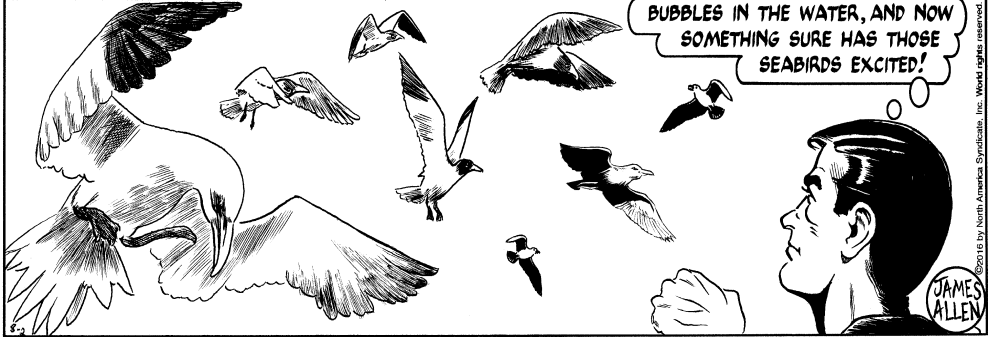
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



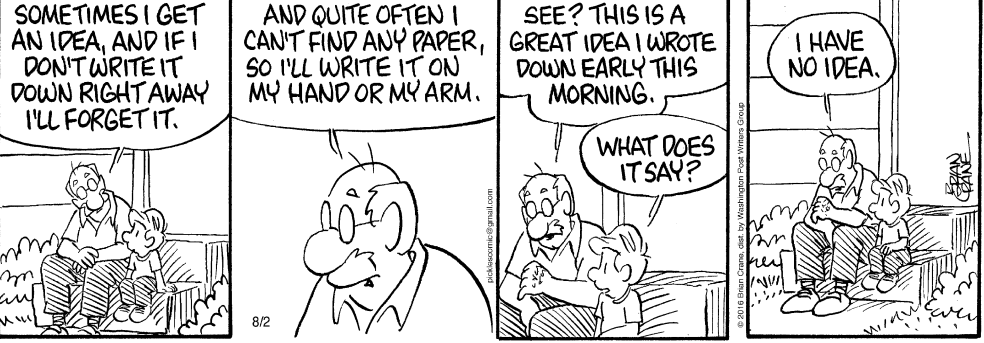
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



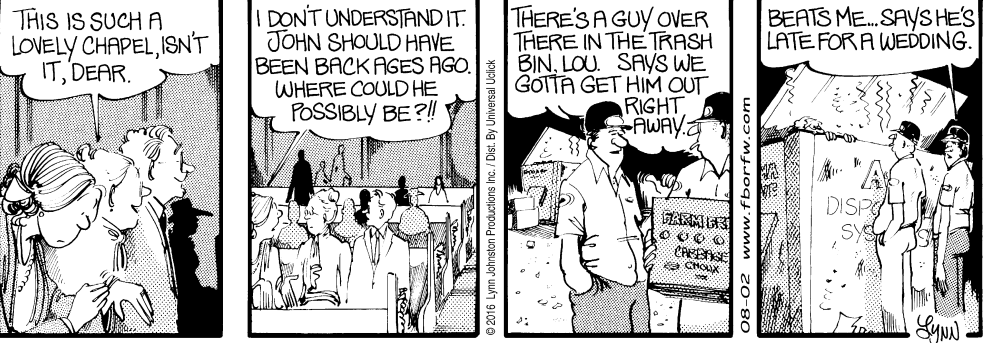
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



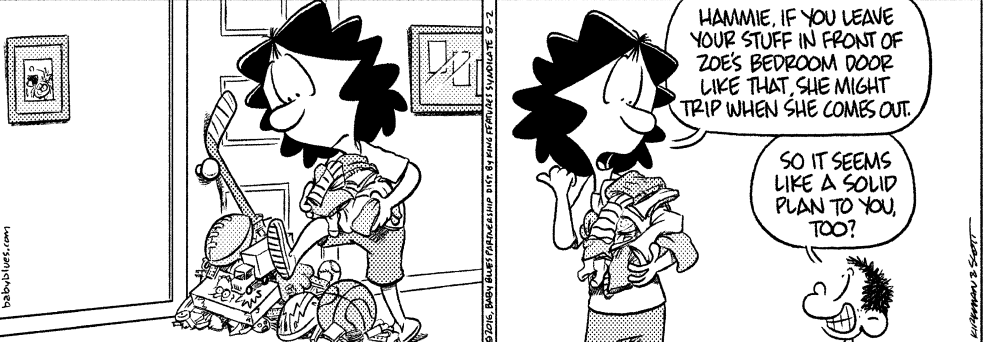
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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).** As for this funny responsibility you've taken on, which you promised in a more or less unlimited capacity: At the time that promise was made, it did seem that you'd likely enjoy this absolutely forever. Well, forever isn't over yet.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Owing to your “do it yourself” spirit, it won't cost you too much to learn what you want to know. Internet classes, library books and YouTube videos, coupled with tenacity and practice, will get you there rather quickly.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** A fuller life doesn't have to be a more complicated life. You're on a mission to simplify. You are especially interested in streamlining your relationships, priorities and domestic processes. You'll succeed in this today.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Probably there's no need to be sorry, especially in a professional setting. If you understand that you were wrong, it's fine to mention it and make plans to correct it, but an apology won't be necessary.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You make sense. Trust that. If they don't understand, try again a different way. If they still don't understand, go back and break your ideas down further so you can articulate them in their simplest form.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Because you made the first friendly gesture long ago, you will now find yourself in a most auspicious situation with

lovely people that you wouldn't have otherwise gotten to know. Kudos!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** In order to be happy, you really don't need for the circumstances to change. It would be nice! But it is in no way necessary. Your happiness follows that magnetic attitude of yours, always has, always will.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** No one will know it in a hundred years. But the ones who know about it now will talk like crazy for a while, and there's little to be done about this except to stay out of it, refusing to add fuel to the fire, which will soon burn out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The fastest way to get over upsetting events is to wallow in the discomfort they have caused until it gets old and boring to you. This won't happen overnight. Then again, you could be healed by next week.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** If the dog carries a bone to your yard, he'll also carry it to someone else's yard. Gossip is the same. Repeating the story, to anyone at all, will make you party to gossip mill.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It's not about winning or losing today, it's about being confident enough to take action. The idea may not be good, the action may not be right, and yet life will be different and better because you made your move.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As for that lottery, in many ways you've already won it. Your blessings are remarkable and unique. Your awareness of them is possibly the greatest blessing of all because it brings more goodness into your life.



HOLIDAY MATHIS