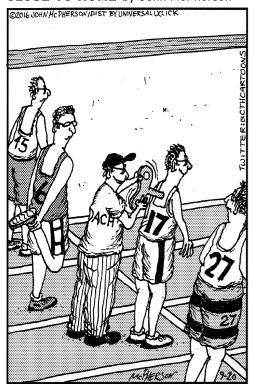
CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Grandparents not fans of kids' clothing

the positive attention he receives from his often unusual and imaginative clothing individuality during this phase of their life choices, his grandparents feel we are being over which they have so little control? — Clark

"disrespectful to others" by allowing him and our other children to wear these outfits in public.

Neither my husband nor I was permitted freedom of expression as children, and we agreed that with the exception of health, profanity, lewdness, immodesty and adherence to **JEANNE** organizational dress codes, PHILLIPS that we would not restrict our **DEAR ABBY** children's freedom of expres-



While we often don't agree with our children's choice of attire, it seems prudent to choose the battles we fight.

Is anyone other than our parents actually offended by a pirate (sans weapon) in the dentist office, or a backward shirt at the grocery store?

And if they are offended, does their desire

Dear Abby: While our 6-year-old enjoys not to see a costumed child trump my chil-nected with an old flame I had been in contact dren's need for a healthy outlet for their Kent's Mom

> Dear Clark Kent's Mom: I seriously doubt that anyone other than your parents and inlaws cares at all if your children visit the dentist looking like Clark Kent, a cowboy or

As far as I'm concerned, your children should be allowed to exercise their sartorial creativity. It's harmless. A few years from now they'll be getting pressure from peers about fitting in, so let them enjoy themselves while admirable sense of self-awareness.

bit of turmoil in the last two years. My boyfriend died last year. We had been together for 13 years. He was only 32 and his death was unexpected.

I am realizing now that I didn't handle my Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or grief very well. I had no real support system P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. at the time and soon after he passed, I recon-

with on and off through the years.

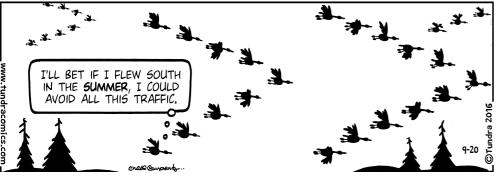
We have become somewhat serious, but I realize that before I can go further with this relationship, I must deal with the feelings of

grief that I have for the loss of my boyfriend. Any advice that you could provide would be greatly appreciated. I am at a loss on how to move forward in a healthy way. — Lost in San Francisco

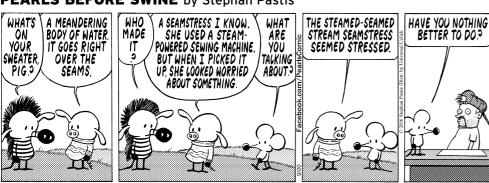
Dear Lost: I'm sorry for the loss of your longtime boyfriend, but I'm glad you wrote. That you recognize you need help to process his loss before you can move forward takes an

If you have a doctor or a health insurer, ask for a referral to a licensed mental health pro-Dear Abby: I have been through quite a fessional (a psychologist, social worker, etc.). That person can help you to work through your unresolved emotions by seeing you privately, or by referring you to a grief support

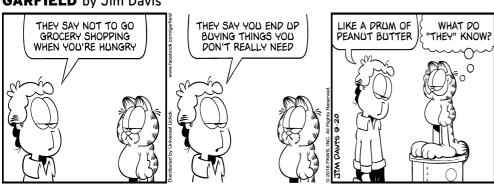
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



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



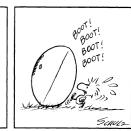


PEANUTS by Charles Schulz









TES. AND 328

PEOPLE WERE

OFFENDED

BY IT.

PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston





BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



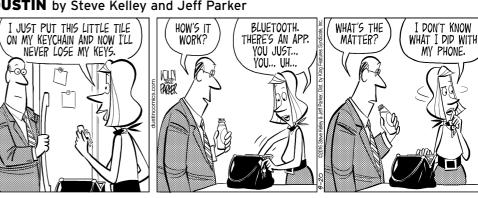
ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

you "score" it's because you set out to do so - goal in mind. Today you'll accidentally get your proverbial ball in the right place to make the all the points you need.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Does this routine still serve you, or is it merely automatic?

One new idea presented by someone who inspires you (or inspires you to go in the opposite direction) is all it will take to make you question this lifestyle choice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your high level of awareness would alert you to danger, except there is none. Therefore, your HOLIDAY keen senses will scan each new MATHIS environment for opportunity, fun, novelty and pleasure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are loved. Believe it and act accordingly. Try not to require assurance on the fact; it only tires the others out. Instead, do the things and think the thoughts

that make you feel secure. be a person of the world? A courageous spirit is a good start. Next comes the open-mindedness that allows you to accept people who are very differ-

ent — a no-brainer for you. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your relationships are your business. You'll benefit from keep-

ing things on a need-to-know basis, and if it

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Usually when doesn't impact another person directly, you have no obligation that would infringe on your own privacy

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Creatures of the — they're wild but in their own social world with structures and specific rules. You can relate. Today, you'll make your own rules and alert your crew

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As for the recurring issue — you could bring the matter to a conclusion if you wanted to, and there's a reason you

don't. Stay objective. Gather more insight. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have stories to tell and retell. Test out your ideas. Bounce them off of smart people, silly people and people who have no idea what you're talking

about. The latter group will help you the most. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The thing that helps you grow and develop your interests might seem frivolous at this point, but it's not. Let your curiosity lead. Don't believe anyone who makes you feel like having curiosity is a

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are partic-**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** What does it take to ularly lucky now, especially in matters of entertainment. You'll feed the hungry and charm the

bored. Tonight: Creativity will trump dollars. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The friendship you seek correlates directly with the friendship you bring. Go into the social scene ready to be a stellar listener and give others a quality of attention that will make them feel important.