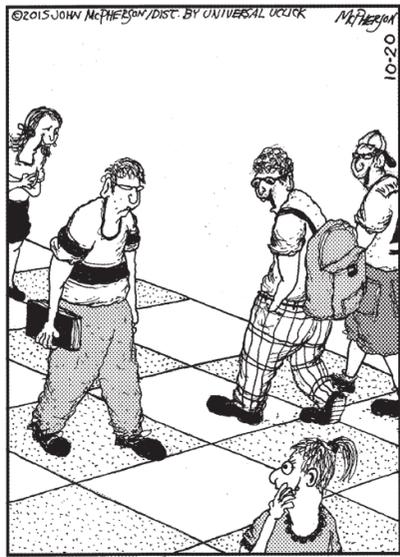


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Eighth-grader Kyle Lewman rued the day that his mother learned how to make pants out of dryer lint.

Man upset with sleeping arrangements

Dear Abby: My wife and I have been married 16 years. We have three boys, ages 12, 6 and 2. My 6-year-old doesn't sleep in his bed. He sleeps on the couch.

My wife sleeps in a recliner in the den. The 2-year-old usually sleeps with her. Sometimes he sleeps in a crib in our room. I sleep by myself in a king-size bed.

There is no possibility for romance. The only time there can be is when my wife comes to bed.

If this happens, I know something is going to take place, but I have no chance to initiate. Our sex life is totally up to her. Once a month or so is fine with her, but not for me.

I have told her how I feel about our "sleeping arrangements," but nothing has changed. I know I snore, but she has not complained about it keeping her awake or used it as an excuse.

Our 6-year-old will not sleep in his bed as long as his mother sleeps in the recliner. The

longer this goes on, the harder it will be to get him in his bed. Do you have any advice on what I should do or say about this situation? — *Sleeping Solo in the South*

Dear Sleeping Solo: Obviously this arrangement isn't working for you. Unless you want to live the rest of your life this way, you are complaining to the wrong woman.

Your wife is doing the children no favors by allowing these unorthodox sleeping arrangements. It's time to lay your cards on the table with her. Tell her you need some straight answers about why she's unwilling to share your bed. But if her answers are not forthcoming, marriage counseling may be necessary to improve your level of communication.

Dear Abby: I recently saw a link on Facebook to a fundraising site for the son of a childhood friend. (He is under 18.) When I clicked on it, I discovered he is in rehab at a private-care facility that requires he stay for months. It is very expensive. I contributed as generously as I could, considering my limited finances, and received a thank-you for my support. I was happy to help.

Now, less than three weeks later, I'm seeing pictures of my friend on vacation. I don't plan to say anything to this person, but I have learned a valuable lesson.

From now on, I will donate my hard-earned money only to organizations I believe in and have researched.

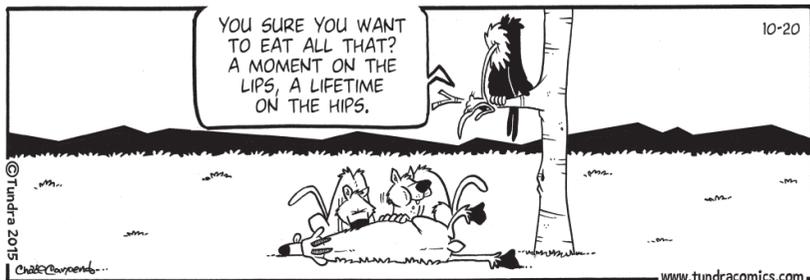
Is this a new trend, people asking others to fund their family problems so they can go on with life as usual? I recently saw a GoFundMe page for a funeral, and I know the family is well-off. I think this is very tacky. Or am I behind the times? Your thoughts? — *No Vacation For Me*

Dear No Vacation: More than a few individuals are using crowdfunding to pay for various things. It has helped some people enormously in their time of need. But for someone who is not in need to do this, I agree is tacky.

However, regardless of what you and I may think, it's happening nonetheless. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, I guess.

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

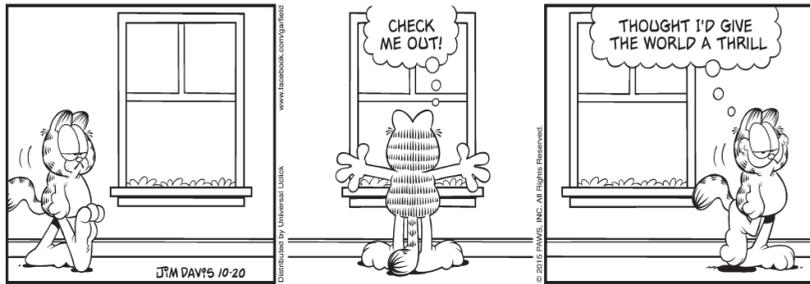
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



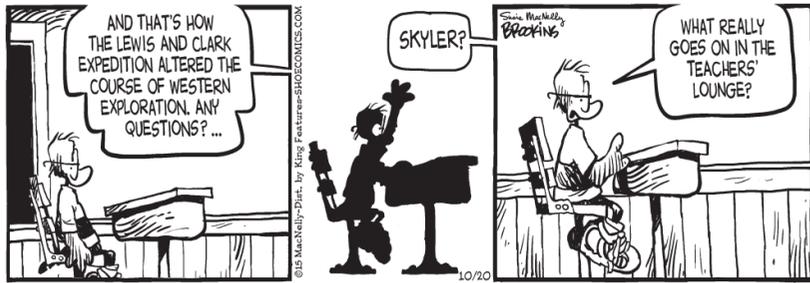
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



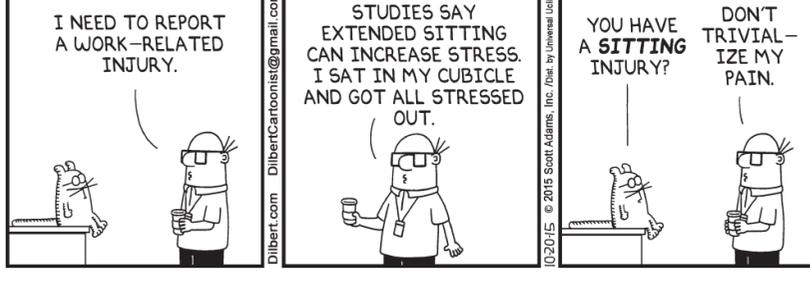
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



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



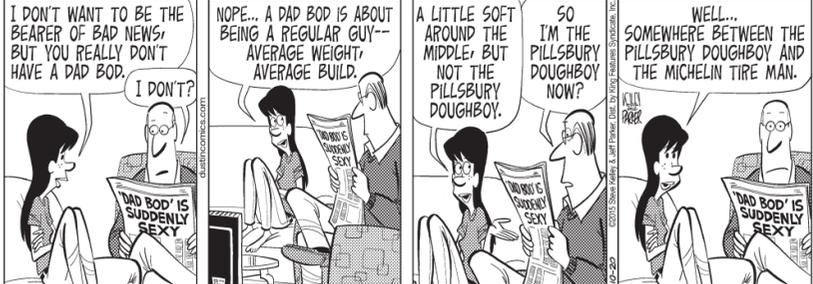
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes you're the star; sometimes you're the extra. Today will bring another scene that requires respectful normalcy and blending in. After the director yells "Cut!" you can go back to being yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's nothing shocking about today's events except that you know how most of them will turn up and turn out before they happen. Are you getting more psychic, or is your life getting too predictably routine?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Many Gemini people are after success in business today. It's a matter of finding out where your customers are and going after them there. It's not so hard. In fact, it's a lot easier than trying to make them come to you!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The best action is the one that has you feeling so powerful, engaged and interested along the way that it doesn't matter to you what the result of all this effort will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Truth: This endeavor you've taken on is not for the faint of heart. False starts, mistakes, long periods of recovery, more mistakes — so what? The only way to truly fail at this is not to try at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's becoming evident that you don't have an excellent plan. It seemed like a good idea, but if the efforts aren't

paying off as expected, it's time to change your tactics.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone has to start somewhere. Remind yourself of this as you look at those who have what you'd like to have. It may seem very far away at this point, but if you keep going, your day will come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The best idea isn't always the one that gets implicated. Who has authority? Who's popular? It's that person's idea that is more likely to get traction. Think about this before you propose your idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The passersby appreciate what you add to the ambiance of a place, though most won't say it. So it's nice when someone likes the song of your gypsy spirit and puts spare change in your tambourine.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some talk in words strung together. Today someone talks to you in meanings and feelings that move you to do something different from what you would have before the conversation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just because another person has cast you in a certain role in his or her life doesn't mean you have to take that appointment. You're A-list. You can pick and choose your projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll save yourself trouble by thinking forward as to what's coming up between now and the end of the year. There are events coming up that you will not be able to attend unless you make plans now-ish.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY



HOLIDAY MATHS