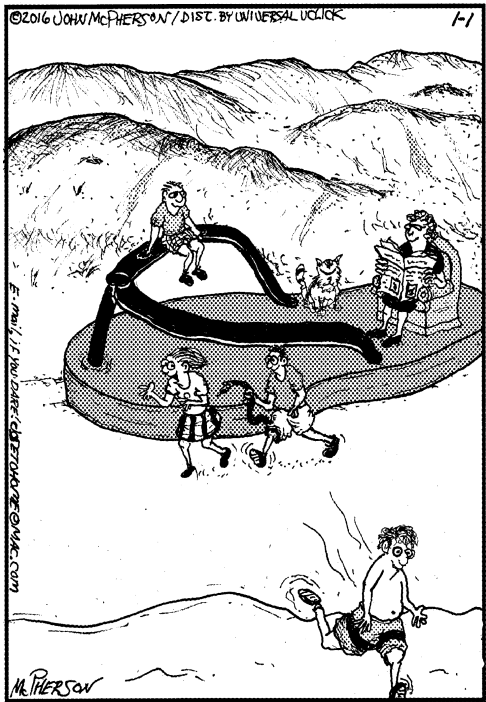


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



The summer home of the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.

New year is time to set a fresh course

Dear Readers: It's 2016! A new year has arrived, bringing with it our chance for a new beginning.

With that in mind, I will share Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's Resolutions — which were adapted by my late mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of Al-Anon:

Just For Today: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just For Today: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

Just For Today: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Just For Today: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

Just For Today: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just For Today: I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

Just For Today: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully — if only Just For Today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

Just For Today: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me by L.J. Bhatia, a reader from New Delhi, India:

Dear Abby: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say, "Man

has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The prayer of St. Francis (of which there are several versions) contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

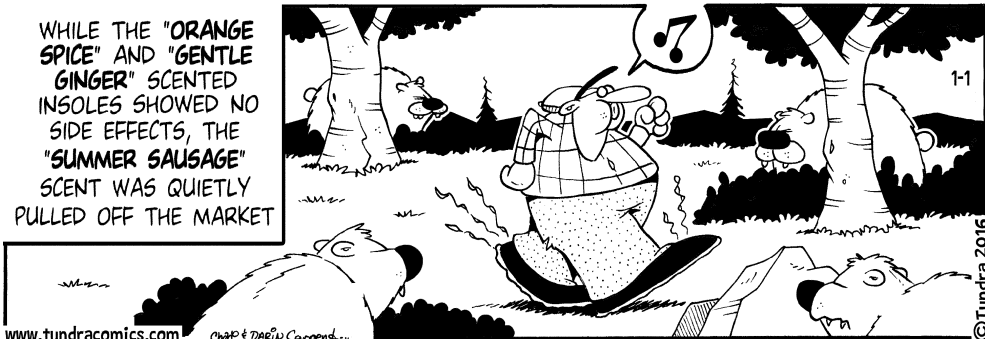
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

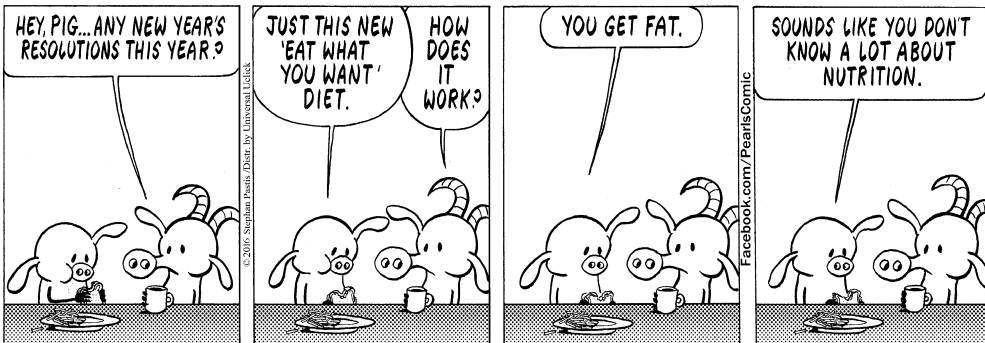
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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

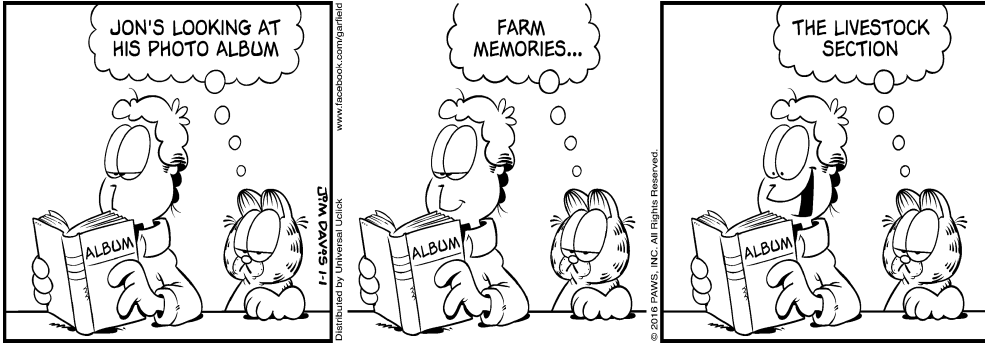
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



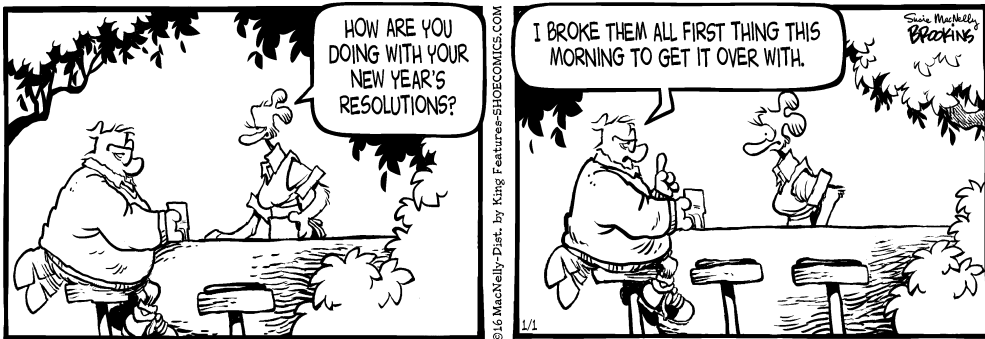
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



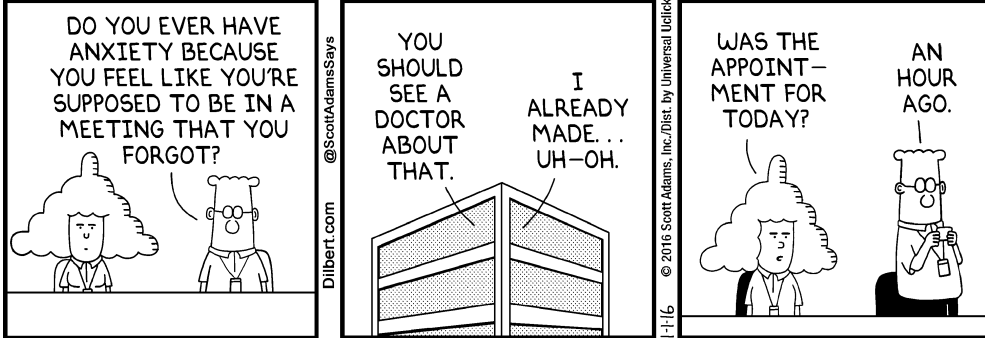
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



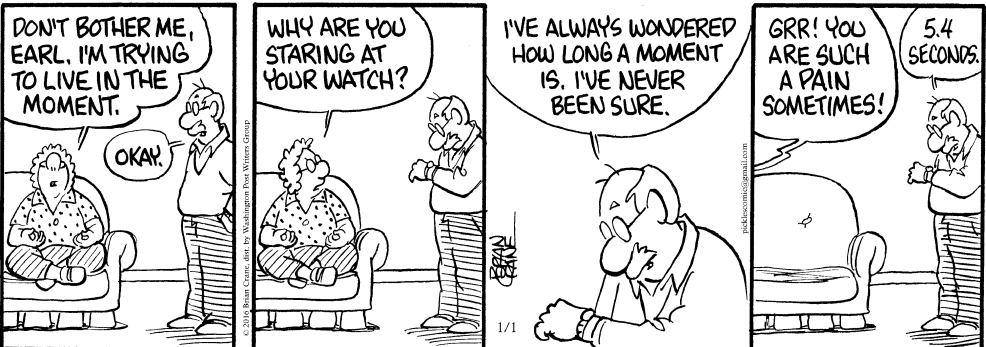
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



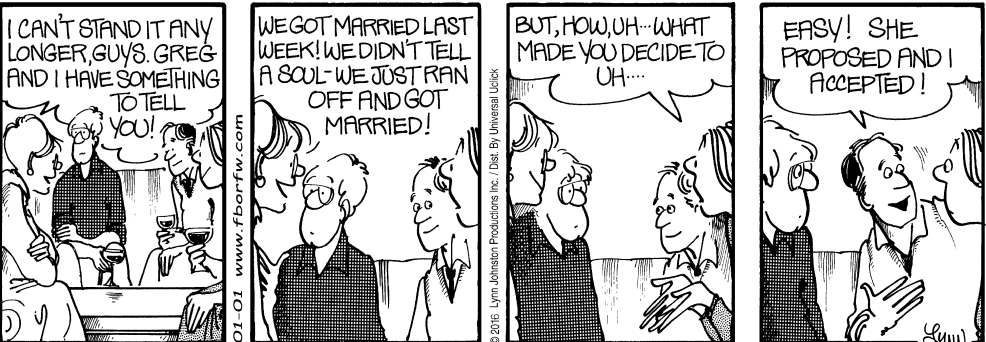
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



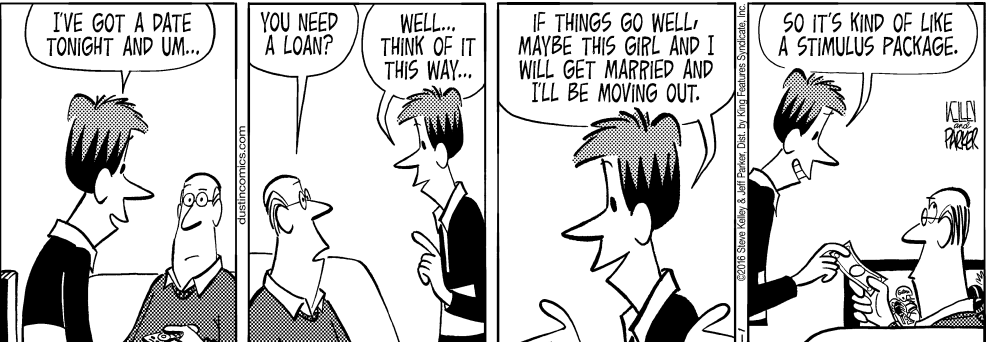
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Usually, whether or not you get what you want you take it in stride. Today you're more invested in seeing things go your way, as you should be. This one is important and worth fighting for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to improve the world; we all do. Maybe that's why you're turned off by political rants that either preach to the choir or alienate the opposition. A break from intense sharing is what's needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's nice to feel self-contained, and you very well may be able to fulfill any need that comes up today all on your own. However, accepting a bit of help may also be the most gracious thing to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships will thrive as you give enough to let others know you're interested and admiring and then pull back enough to allow them to reach for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You care. You give. You get. You care even more. This is the cycle that sums up the day. Tonight will bring an important meeting of the minds. Capricorn and Aquarius are two minds that should be included.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your current vision is enough to drive you to the next way-point, but a broader vision is probably needed to sustain your motivation through the miles

and miles that follow. Brainstorm, discuss and research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be there to catch the soul who is floundering to catch balance. Your discreet assistance will be much appreciated, though perhaps privately, so as not to draw attention to the fall.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not exactly in uncharted territory, but, without guides around, you might as well be. Call out to tell people where you want to go. Trying to get there without a map will be a waste of time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will accomplish your top priority as long as you state what it is and keep paying attention to it throughout the day. Loved ones seem to need you, but if you're busy they'll do brilliantly on their own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Go ahead and step into that fresh scene. You'll get attention because you're the new person, and you'll become fast friends with someone who can show you around.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your help is so subtle that some don't even realize they are being assisted. You'll gently nudge people into the right groove and all goes smoothly from there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Preferring to keep things light, you may not set out to tell your friend what's really going on with you, but you're likely to reveal it, anyway, because the time you spend together has a way of opening your heart.