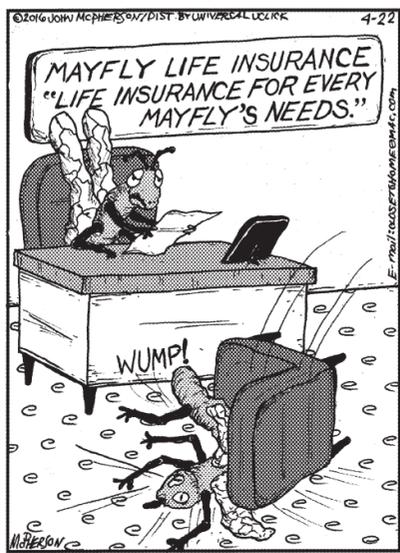


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Now, Hank, if you will just sign here on... oh for crying out loud! This is the third policy I've lost today!"

In-laws demand too much of son's time

Dear Abby: My husband, "Ed," and I are in our 40s. We both work, and Ed often puts in more than 60 hours a week. My in-laws, in their 60s, are both in good health, retired and well-off financially. They expect weekly gatherings unless THEY have other plans.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

In warmer weather, my mother-in-law guilt-trips Ed into performing weekly chores such as painting, gardening, window washing, etc. These take more than six hours on Sundays, in addition to dinner. My in-laws also insist on yearly family vacations. Because of this we have little time alone with our teens or each other.

I don't think all these gatherings should be mandatory. Please help. This is hurting our marriage. — *Highly Stressed in Pennsylvania*

Dear Highly Stressed: During one of those mandatory family visits, you and your

husband should tell his parents what you have told me.

Unless you explain to them that they have you on a schedule that doesn't permit you to spend alone time with your children or each other they won't get it.

Family get-togethers are supposed to be pleasant for all, not mandatory. And if your in-laws can afford the expense, they should hire a handyman to help them and not impose upon their son.

Dear Abby: I have been single for almost six years and have had no luck with the dating scene.

Every time I go on a date, I perceive it as a date that went extremely well. But when I go to contact the guy the next day, I get no response in return.

I have major trust issues to begin with from past relationships, and it's hard for me to let my guard down.

Although I try to be as open and honest with the guys as possible, it just doesn't work. I know the whole cliché of "the right one is out there somewhere," but what can

someone do when she just feels like giving up completely on dating? — *Giving Up in Stockton, Calif.*

Dear Giving Up: The one thing you shouldn't do is give up and stop trying.

Not knowing what you are doing on these first dates, I can only surmise that while being "as open and honest with guys as possible," you may be giving them so much negative information that you're scaring them off.

In a way, dating is like sales: It's important to communicate positive information about the product you are selling (you) and downplay the negative (i.e. "I have trust issues because someone done me wrong.")

It might also be helpful to have an honest talk with some of your friends and ask them what you may be doing wrong.

To My Jewish Readers: Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone! — *Love, Abby*

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



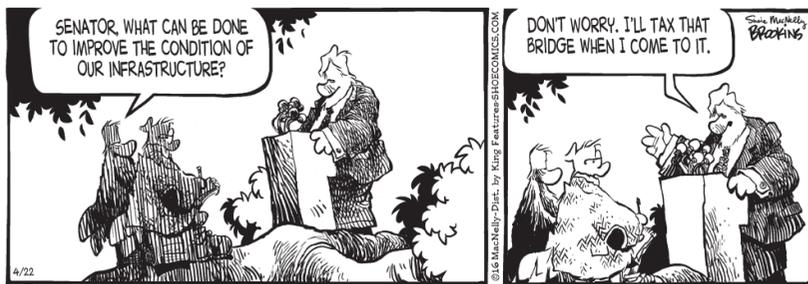
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



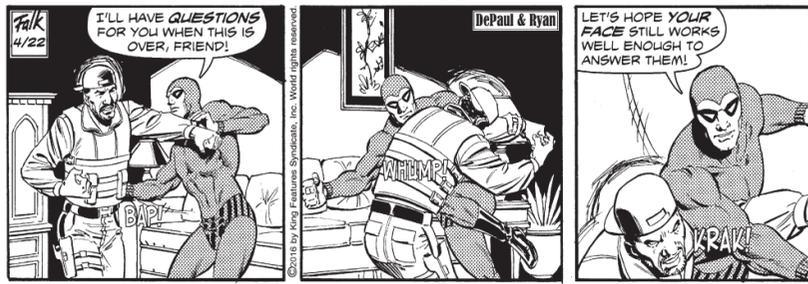
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



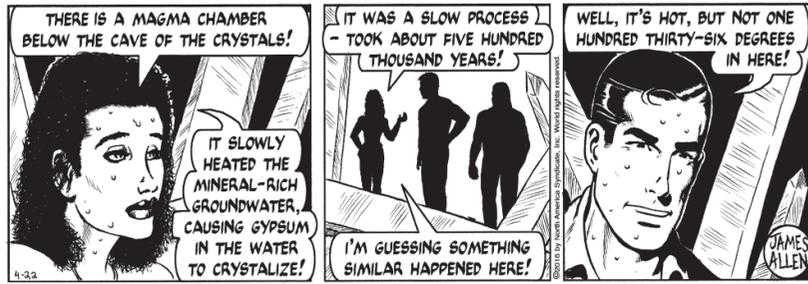
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



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



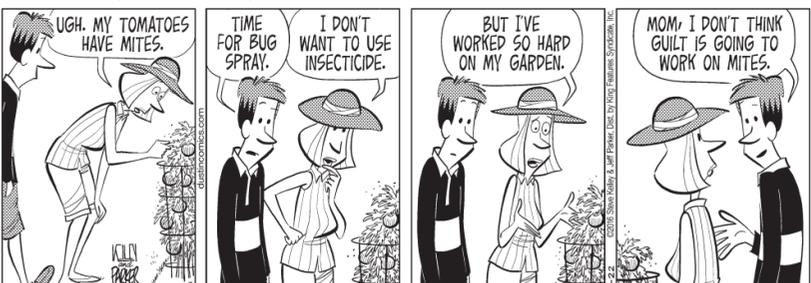
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know the "where" and the "what," you just don't know the "who" yet. Your job now is to put offerings in front of as many candidates as possible. The right "who" will show up soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Are you the impulsive child who can't move forward without the resources or permission of your guardian? Either way, the dynamic is getting old. Maybe someone should break the rules. Maybe that someone is you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What makes the job hard and what makes it easy is the same thing: attitude. Attitude adjustment seems to be a headspace matter, but physical exertion can be just as important to setting your energy in a positive way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Old-fashioned thinking could be the cause of conflict, especially with senior family members or colleagues who have been doing a job in a particular way for a very long time. Approach change gently. It's hard for some!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are those who act without thinking about the risk involved. As impressed as you may be with them, you're braver. To assess the risk and move forward anyway takes real courage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be argument over what is a privilege and what is a right. But to the grateful heart, does it really

matter? Gratitude inspires more of what's given, regardless of what's deserved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If only you could know the inner lives of others. You'll get a glimpse today though. In fact, you'll be so surprised by someone you thought you knew well, you may reconsider your whole relationship with this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How did you sleep with the moon glowing in your sign last night? Today has a reflective sheen to it as you ponder and assign meaning to the happenings of yesterday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A little bit of pretending may be in order. Don't think of this as lying; rather, consider yourself getting into the spirit of an activity — acting "as if" and hoping that the requisite feelings and interest will catch up with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Apply what you know to the puzzle at hand but do not try to solve anything today. You still don't know enough. Even if only one piece is missing, it's a significant piece that could change everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel funny for asking for things you don't really need when there are so many in the world who have so much less than you do. On the other hand, you can only live your own life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no reason to be jealous, but if you do find yourself turning green just know that this can be a positive emotion. It teaches you what you really want and what you could work on.



HOLIDAY MATHIS