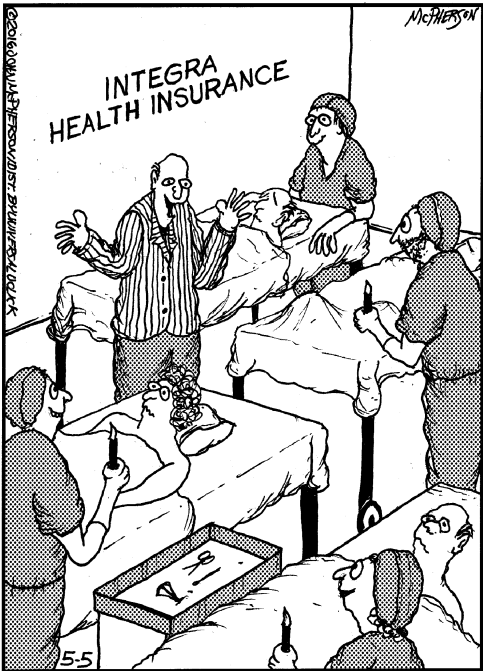


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“You will each have two hours to do as many appendectomies as possible. Whoever wins will be our new chief surgeon.”

Friendship fades when girl gets a beau

Dear Abby: My beautiful, kindhearted, loving daughter “Cora” has a “best friend” she used to be very close with.

However, her friend now has a boyfriend, so Cora doesn’t see her on weekends or receive texts from her very often anymore. Everything they plan to do together, the girl cancels. My daughter is so distraught that it is affecting her emotionally and physically.

Cora has told her friend many times how she feels, but it has made no difference. Her friend promises her things and never follows through. My daughter suffers from social anxiety, so making a good friend is a rarity for her.

I tell her I love her and that I’m always here for her, but although Cora sees a therapist, nothing seems to comfort her.

The school she attends stops accepting new students after ninth grade, so there is no chance of her meeting anybody new. We have tried having her join other activities, but



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

they don’t last. I’m desperate to help her. Any advice? — *Brokenhearted Mom*

Dear Mom: If you haven’t already, talk to Cora’s therapist. There may be a medication that will help to lessen her intense social anxiety, or she may need a different therapist.

What’s going on between your daughter and her former best friend isn’t unusual. When romance intervenes, it is common for teenage girls to focus their attention and energy on the boyfriend and less on their girlfriends. Expecting this girl to be your daughter’s sole support system is unrealistic and unfair to the girl.

Because it is unlikely that Cora will find new friends in the context of school, continue to find outside activities that will give her something to do as well as contact with other teens. And, if Cora is open to it, you might consider having her volunteer at an animal rescue group or letting her adopt a pet from a shelter.

Dear Abby: A friend sent me a sample line of face care products from a company she works for. She included a lip balm I used, and

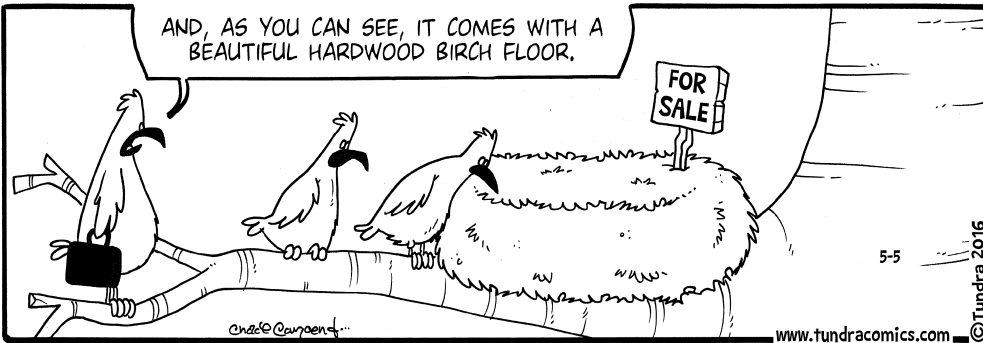
sunscreen that contains a chemical to which I am allergic. I offered to send that sample back.

When I researched the ingredients of the other products, I was dismayed to see that they contain many chemicals, too. (I try to use organic products as much as possible because I have sensitive skin.) Should I return the whole unused sample kit? I obviously can’t return the lip balm. Or should I just thank her and keep — but not use — them? These are high-end products from Europe, and she has been so “wowed” by them that she has become a consultant and is excited to promote them. — *Return to Sender?*

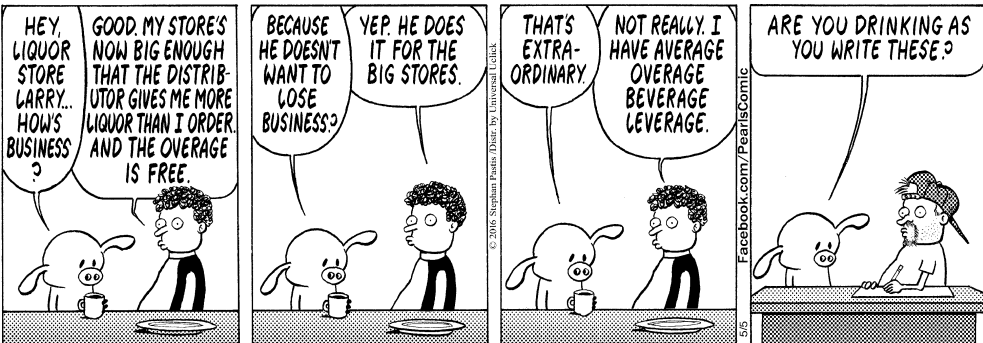
Dear R.T.S.?: Talk with your friend and thank her for her generosity, but explain that you are unable to use the products. Ask if she would like the unused products returned to her and take your cue from her. If she has had to pay for the products she’s representing, she may be glad to have them back to share with others.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



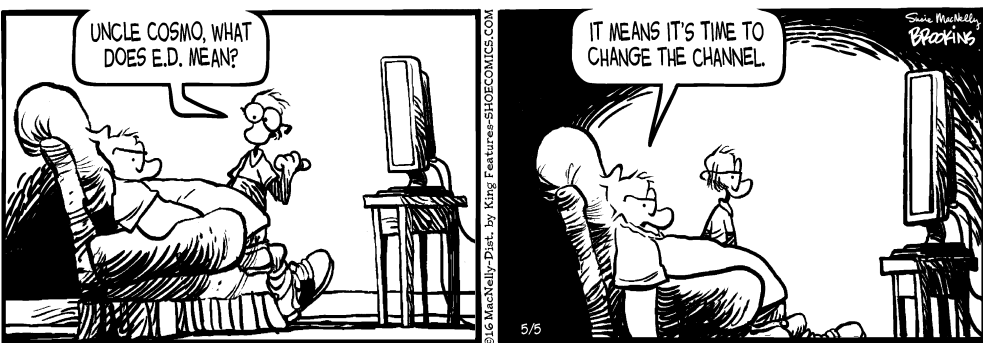
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



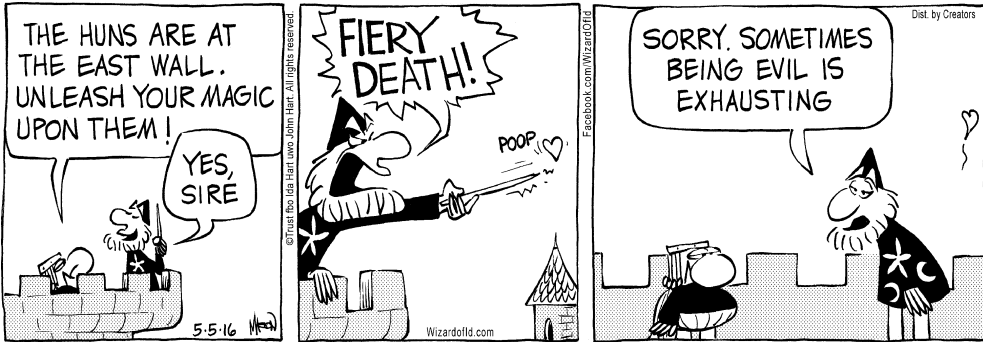
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



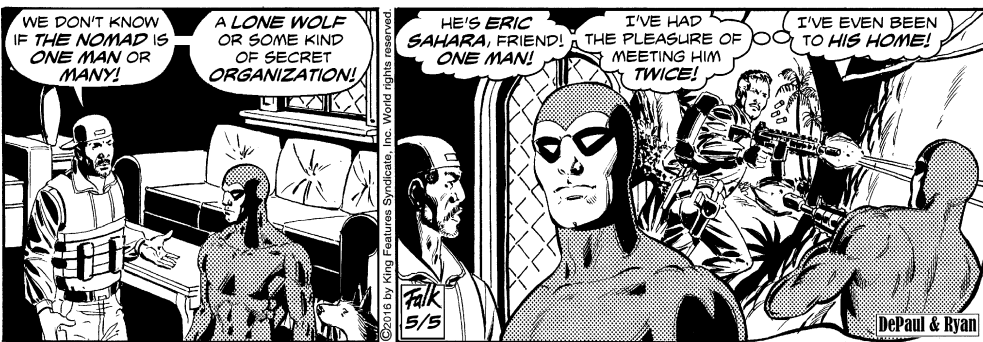
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



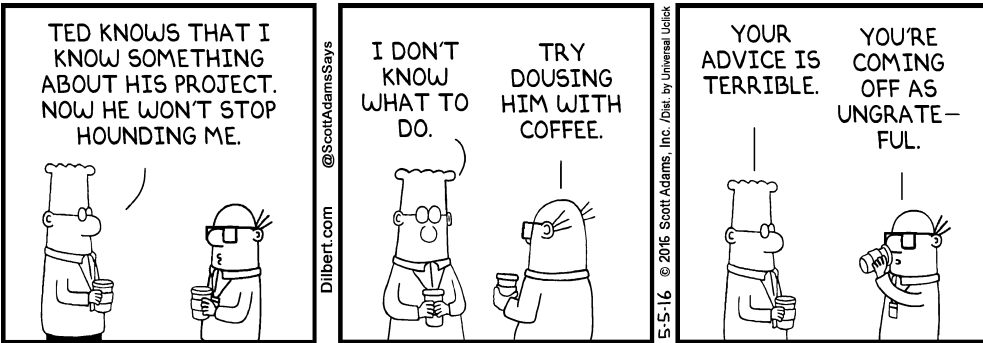
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



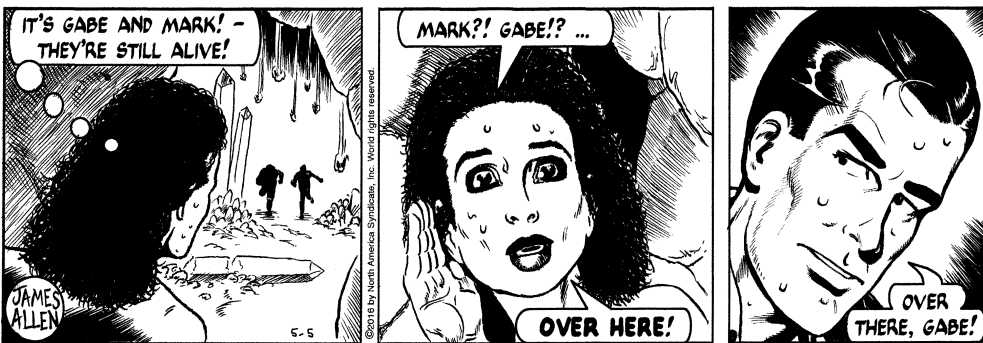
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



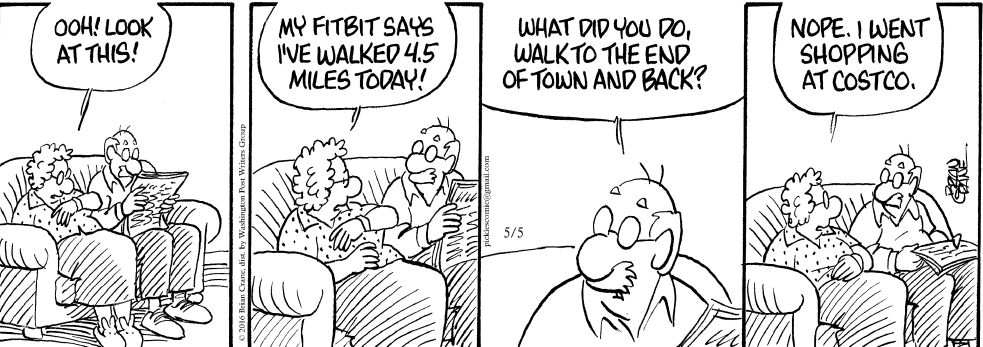
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



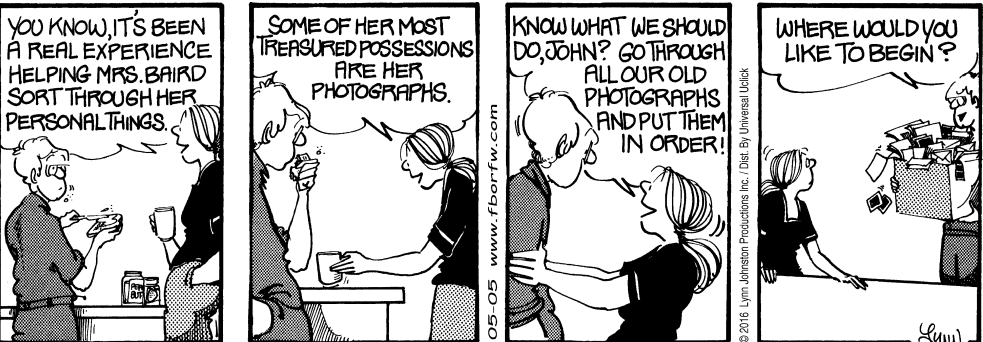
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



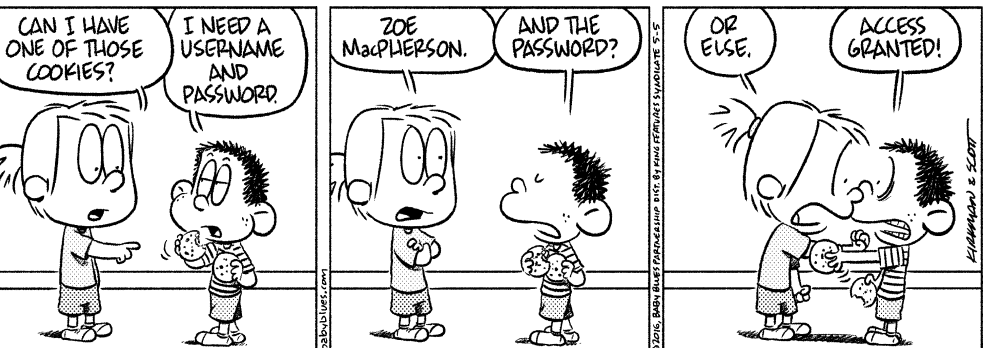
PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



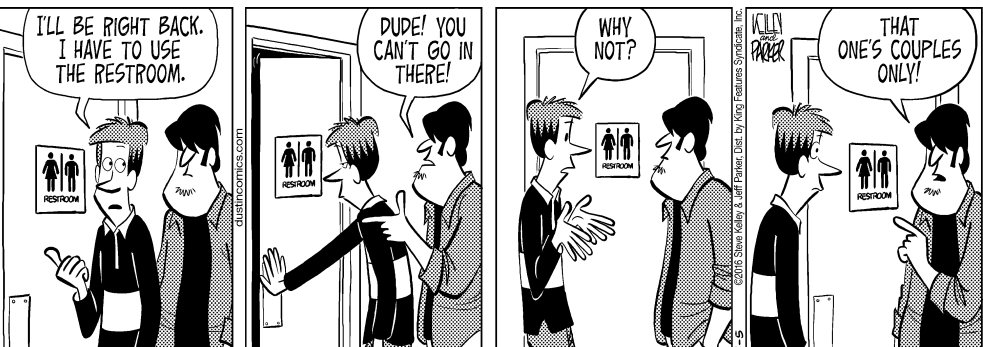
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While your heightened awareness of your surroundings is of great use to yourself and others these days, the time to let loose of your vigilance is coming — tomorrow. So don't relax just yet!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Welcome to yet another day when you'll be around people who don't share your beliefs. These foreign minds have strange ideas about how the world works and the meanings of things, but you'll be more amused than offended.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Many wonderful ideas look a lot easier than they really are. What starts out as the best idea ever will develop into a royal pain unless you quickly get other people involved to help handle the dozens of details likely to come up.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A disagreement exists between you and your dear comrade. Why does everything have to be solved? Take it on if you must, but if you don't, rest assured that there are truly enough commonalities to go on for a long while.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You make others feel comfortable — maybe too comfortable. You're constantly getting information and stories you wish you could un-hear. Take heart in the fact that you're doing an important public service.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Inanimate objects will provide interesting obstacles for your mind



HOLIDAY MATHIS

and body to find a way around. Being forced to deal with impossibly cumbersome resources and inadequate tools is what will make you great.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To want too much from someone is an act of rejection. To want nothing more than what the person naturally delivers is an act of love. Expect a loved one to be who they are and do what they do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been exposed to many different ideas and beliefs. Furthermore, you've been praised and rewarded for your open mind. This isn't the norm in many societies. One of the hardest things for you to tolerate is intolerance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are so many ways to go wrong, most of which can be easily accessed from a state of impatience. So cling to the one virtue that will most keep you from regret: patience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not out to change anyone's mind, and you resent when others try to change yours. Also, this almost never works. Once you've decided on what to do, it's as good as done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're putting out to the world is a little on the unusual side and frankly so are you — at least according to the new people lucky enough to experience what you do today. Gather contact information!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you understand how a person's past can affect his or her behavior, you are slow to judge the one who responds more drastically than is necessary. Your wisdom will one day be deeply appreciated.