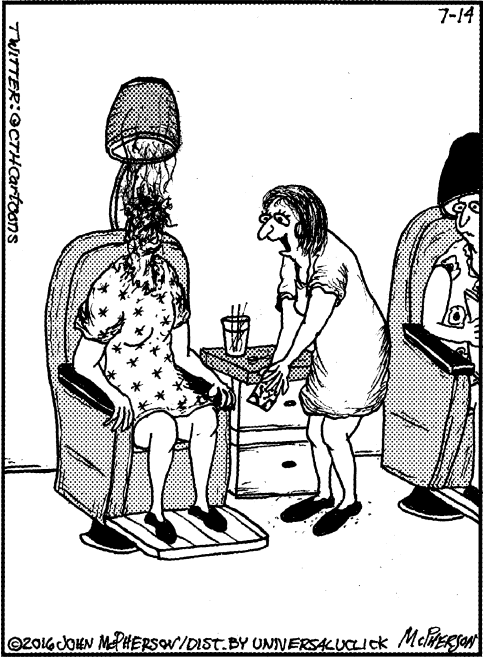


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Gosh, Mrs. Hurtley, I am SO sorry about the little screw up with the hair dryer. Please accept this coupon for 25% off a pedicure."

Wedding guests are perplexed by roasts

Dear Abby: We have been attending the weddings of our friends' children and work colleagues. We enjoy them, but we have noticed a change in some of the traditions. The best man's and maid of honor's toasts to the bride and groom seem to have devolved into telling stories about their past escapades. This includes tales of all-night partying, how drunk they were and "digs" at the bride and groom. Abby, many guests attending these celebrations really don't care to hear these kinds of things. Has this occasion turned into a roast? — *Don't Know What To Make Of It*

Dear Don't Know: It appears that some of the weddings you have attended have. There are occasions when sometimes the less said the better, and this is one of them.

Dear Abby: I am a 22-year-old woman who enjoys achieving things in life. For example, I recently bought a house and paid for all the



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

remodeling with my own money. I have been with my boyfriend for seven years (on and off). He was my first boyfriend, first kiss, etc. My problem is he doesn't have goals for the future. He's comfortable with his low-income job and doesn't plan on going to school. He moved into my house six months ago, which makes our relationship that much more serious. Something I absolutely adore about him is his loving nature. Everyone who meets him tells me how lucky I am to have found such a great guy. My question is, should I stay with my loving, caring boyfriend or is it time to find someone with the same goals I have? — *Confused in Florida*

Dear Confused: Ask yourself which is more important to you — a loving and emotionally supportive spouse or a hard worker who may be less so. Only you can decide the answer to that question.

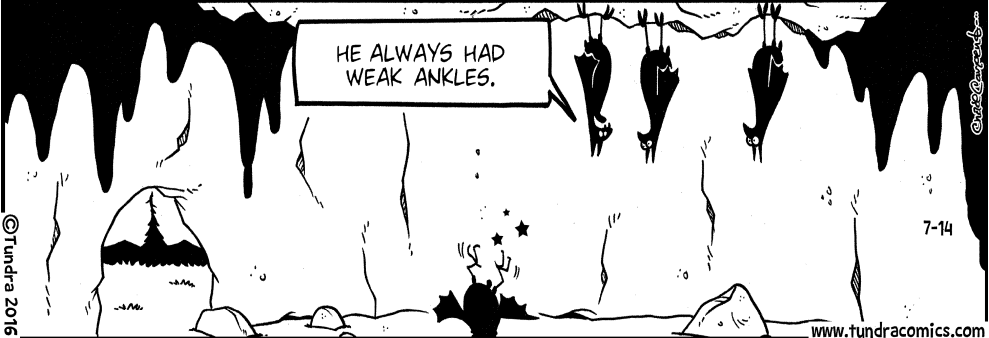
Dear Abby: I am the mom of three wonderful little girls, but as of late not so wonderful. My husband and I work hard to teach them manners and respect, but we can't seem to

get across to them to be grateful for what they have. We don't have a lot of money because we live on one income, and we don't spoil them often because we can't afford to. Twice now, one of my girls has been unhappy with a gift she received. The first one she threw away; the second she refused to even accept! This isn't how we raised her. I thought about doing some volunteer work with them, but I fear they are too young for it (4, 7 and 9). I want to raise kind, caring and giving girls. Your thoughts on this matter would be great. — *Grateful Mom in Colorado*

Dear Grateful Mom: Your 7- and 9-year-olds are NOT too young to learn that many children have far less than they do. Sometimes people need to see with their own eyes the challenges that others have to cope with in order to appreciate how fortunate they are. I think your idea of having them do some volunteer work with you is an excellent one, and it is not too early to start.

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



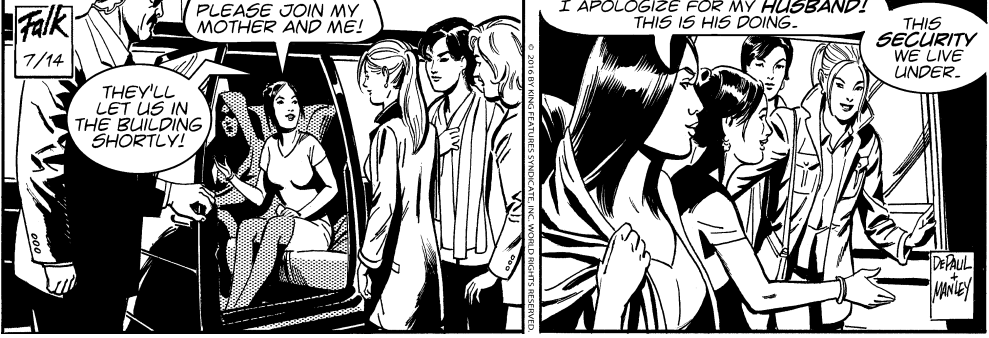
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



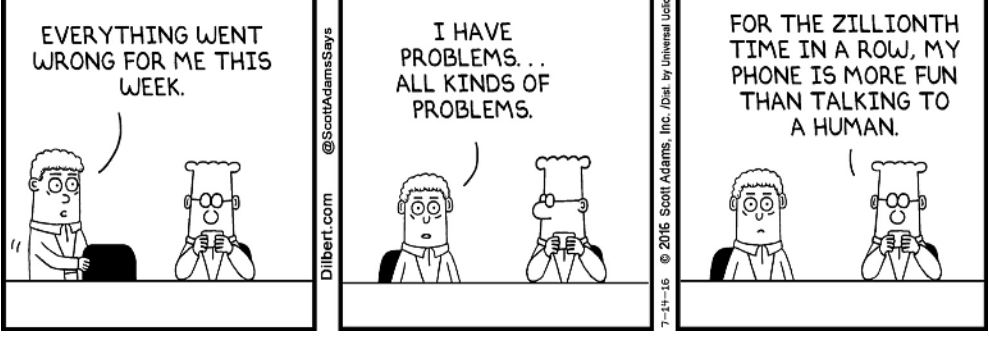
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



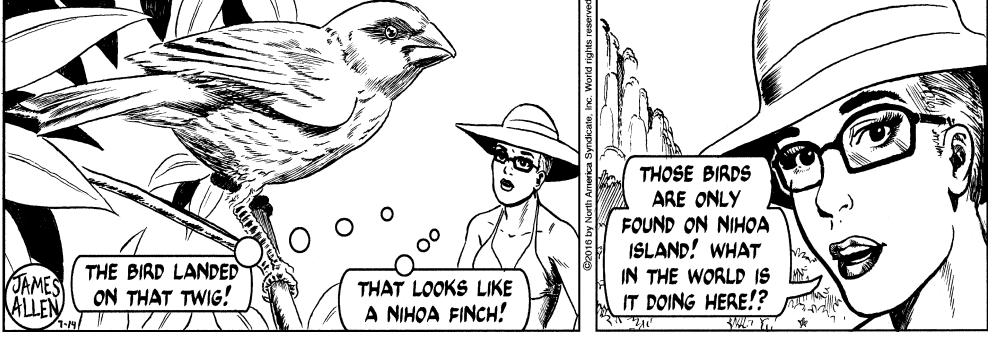
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



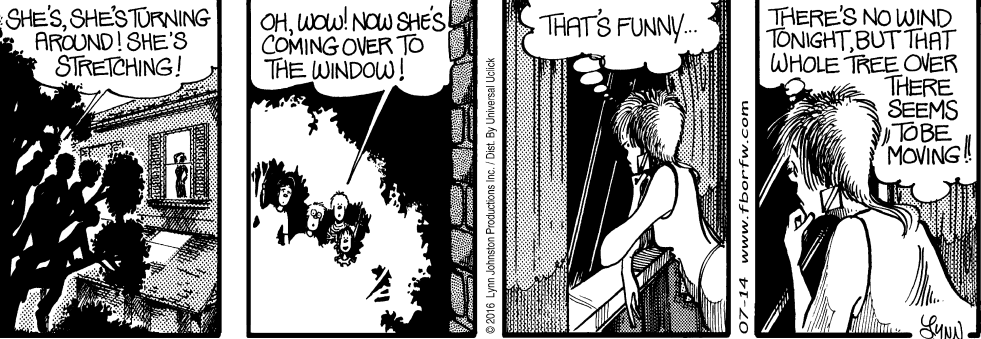
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



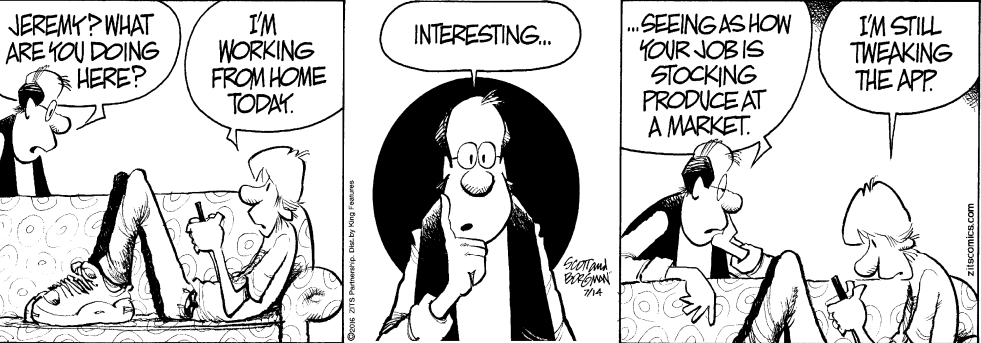
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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). One effective strategy will be to come in to the situation with big energy to make sure everyone knows you're on the scene, then adjust to what's happening, back it down, and go nice and slow to earn their trust.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Where are the other people (especially the ones you admire so much) getting their inspiration? This is what you're curious about, and finding out will open new avenues for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A one-sided deal isn't a deal at all; it's a proclamation. Deals include the agreement of multiple parties, hopefully equally committed to making something happen. Whom else do you need to include?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As far as the other person is concerned, your choices define you. But your self-definition is also shaped by the things you wanted to do but thought better of and didn't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The exceptional work you did last week will lead to a new assignment this week. Keep this up and you'll have more jobs than you can handle alone. Luckily there are also capable helpers coming your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Nature can be stronger than man, although man is a force of nature, too. Don't think of yourself as nature's opponent. Align yourself with the elements and use them instead.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No one will be giving out awards for the cleanest house today. You might consider letting some of that domestic work go in favor of devoting yourself to a task that's closer to your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Seeing something being out of nothing is a thrill. What's even more exciting is making this happen yourself. And when you see the thrill in another person's eyes because of what you've done, it's even better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a restlessness stirring in you — a reaction to recent changes in you and in your environment. So what do you need to do to feel the soothing embrace of calm?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Something with which you're displeased becomes a topic of conversation. Much to your delight, you're not the one who brings it up. Yes, you have a partner in the grievance, and also in creating the solution.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a way to make the external conditions work for you, though that method may be temporarily disguised by the external conditions themselves. Take a breath and try and look past this. What are you missing?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being positive doesn't always come easily to you, but it's your natural reflex to support those you love and be compassionate toward those who clearly need help. Your habit of thinking the best of people will serve you well today.