

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Personal Amusement Prank #117: When asked to give your name for a food order, come up with something really long and bizarre.

Spouse ignores long-lost sister's request

Dear Abby: My husband and his sister had a rough childhood in foster care. Long story short, they lost contact for 10 years — until now.

She found us on Facebook and was desperate to know if she had found her brother or not. My husband ignored her. He isn't sure he ever wants to rebuild a relationship with her.

I know that's his decision to make, and if he doesn't want her in his life, that's fine. But I couldn't live with myself if I ignored her, too.

I just wanted her to know she could stop looking and wondering if her brother is still alive. So I told her.

She was grateful to have some closure and know that he is doing well, and she reassured me that she wouldn't contact him again unless he reaches out to her. Even if they never talk again, I think she deserved to know she had found him.

Now I feel guilty for going behind his back



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

and meddling in things that aren't my business. But I can't imagine spending my whole life searching for a family member, when someone could have been honest with me and given me peace of mind.

Did I make a terrible mistake, and should I come clean to my husband about what I did? — *Feeling Guilty in Georgia*

Dear Feeling Guilty: You failed to mention the reason for your husband's ambivalence about re-establishing a relationship with his sister. Now that she has found you on Facebook, she can follow his whole life, unless you block her. Whether you made a terrible mistake remains to be seen. If the sister contacts your husband again, you will have to tell him what you did. He may have wanted to protect his privacy. As long as she doesn't, I think you should keep your mouth shut.

Dear Abby: My 18-year-old daughter has just finished school. She now wants to take a gap year and work to save enough to travel overseas. The problem is, she's so eager to get away from home that she wants to move to another city to work.

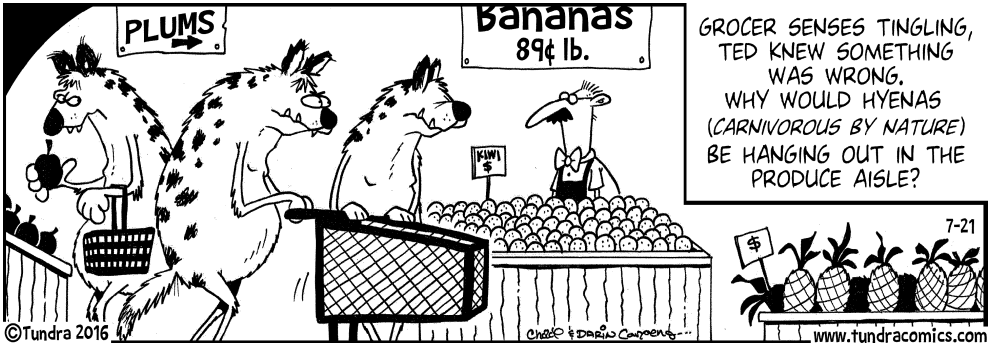
I have advised her that staying home and working will allow her to save more to travel, and she would have to pay for her food, accommodation and transportation, and would have little left over to save to travel. She got upset with me and could not understand why I wouldn't want to pay her rent or support her. Am I being unreasonable saying that she should pay her own way if she moves out of the home? — *Mom in Johannesburg, South Africa*

Dear Mom: If anyone thinks that an attitude of entitlement is strictly a problem in the United States, your letter should banish that notion. What you told your daughter makes perfect sense. If she wants independence, she should be prepared to accept the responsibility for living that way.

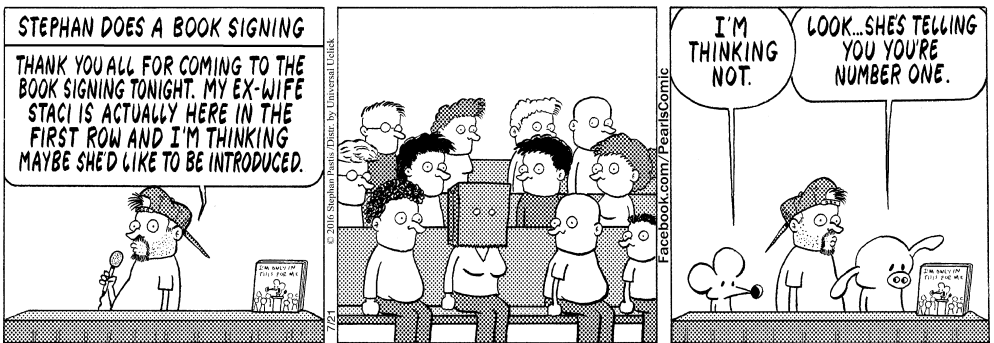
I would, however, encourage you to continue the dialogue with her so you can understand why she feels the need to live apart from you, on the chance that a compromise might be possible. I'm sure it would be enlightening.

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

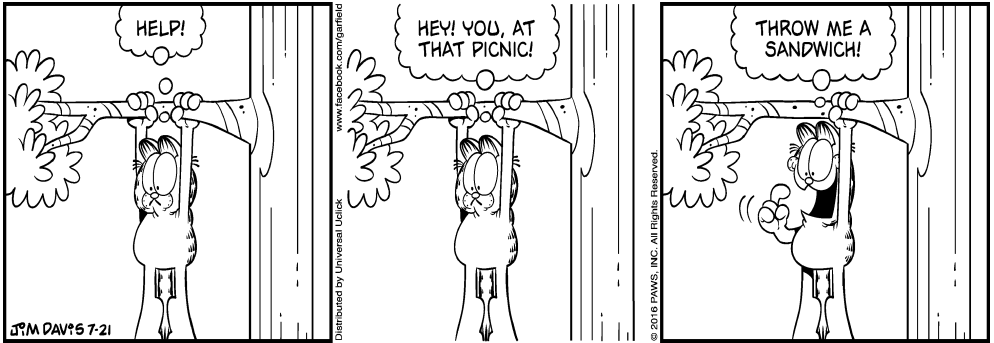
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



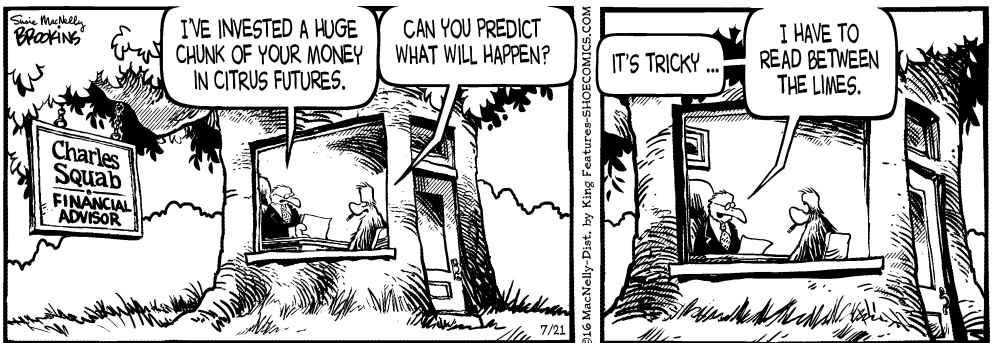
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



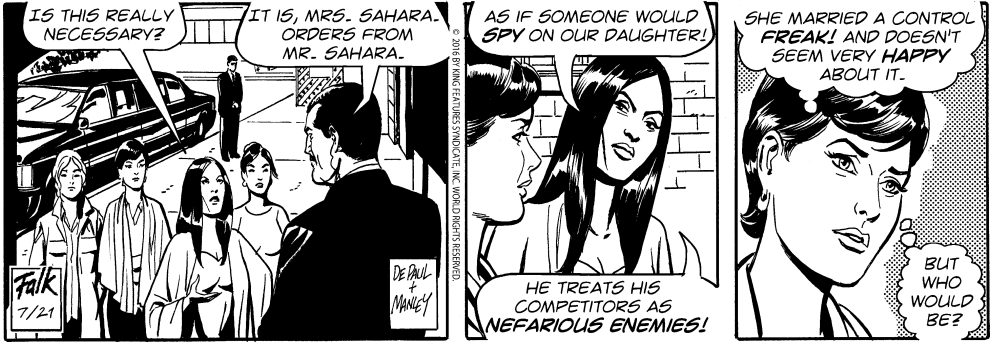
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



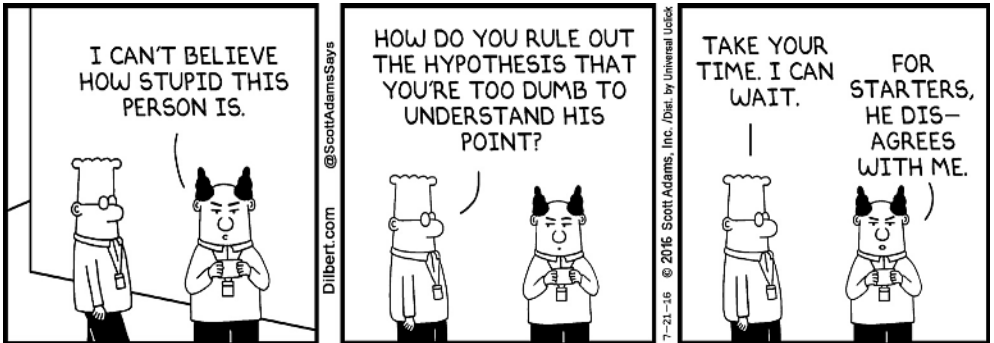
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



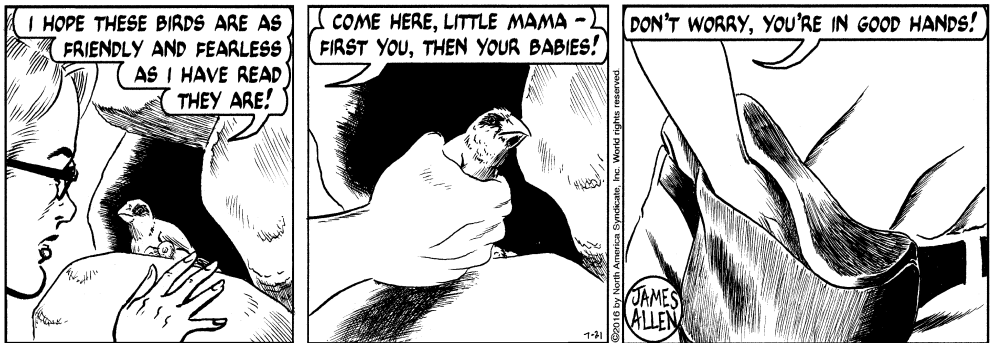
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



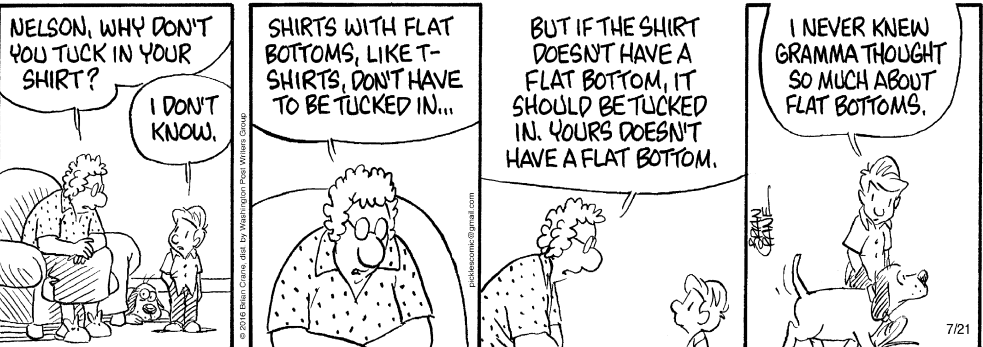
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



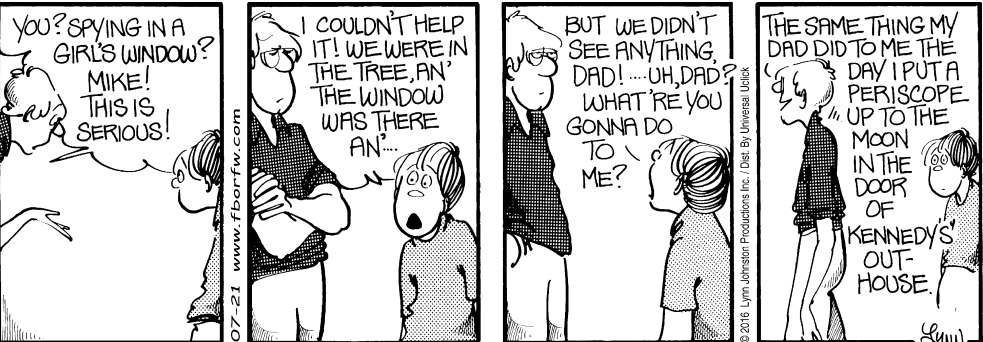
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



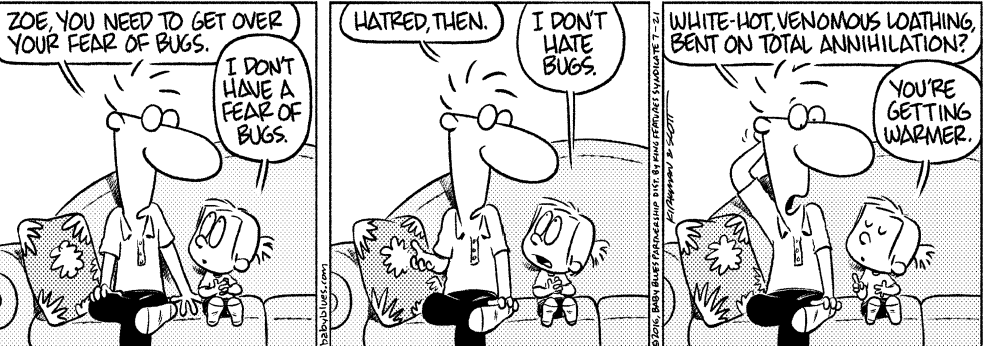
PICKLES by Brian Crane



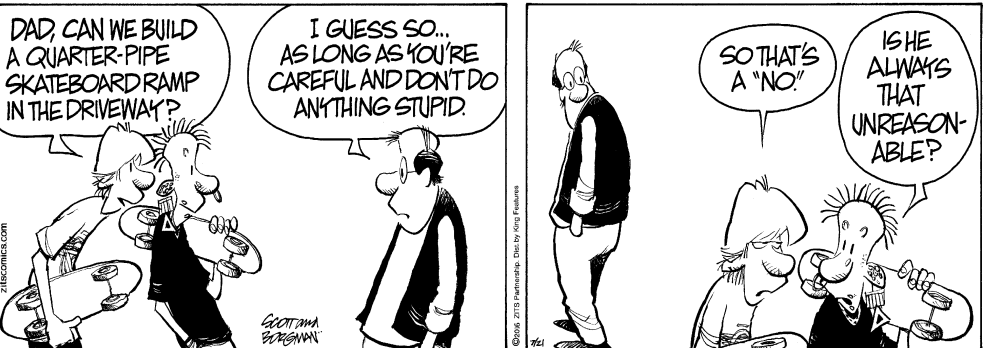
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



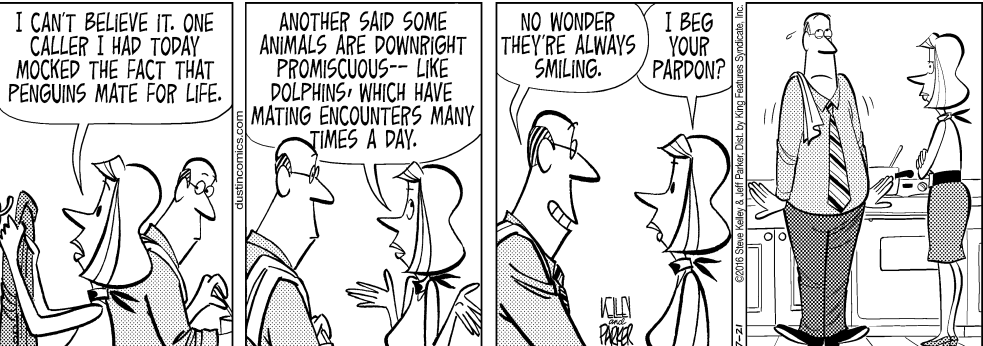
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will be where the action is, whether it seems like it at the time or not. It's one of those instances when everyone involved will look back and say, "That's where it started."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are present for your friends when they need you. This is easier for you because you don't over-think it. You're not worried about what to say and do. You know that just your presence is enough.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It will be easier to laugh and be lighthearted when you are around people who are buoyant of spirit like you are. You can't always choose your company, but stay on the lookout for fun people you can connect with in the future.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do you feel lucky to be an object of sweet affection? Your face is the first thing a certain person thinks of in the morning and the last vision of the day before drifting off to sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You didn't think you could do it, but you went for it anyway, and now look where you are! From this perfectly prime position you can make a play for your next impossible goal, but much planning is required. Think it over and over today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your intention to spread enough positive energy and goodwill to make a difference in the world will land lovely today. "Enough" will be reached by lunchtime.

It's the simple, small, courteous acts that will matter most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a giver. The world needs more givers. But the givers of the world also need to remember that there's a point at which giving can start annoying the receivers. Part of being a good giver is knowing when to take.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As something very pleasant drops into your world (or someone, as the case may be) caution is called for. This could be addictive. Go slow; make good choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you don't take the morning problems too personally you can likely solve most of them by the afternoon. It wouldn't be any fun at all if you could get what you needed without incident or complication!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Saying yes to something you'd typically decline will be the right move. Fifteen minutes chatting with a friend or playing with children will make your entire mood go brighter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The recipe for today's gentle joy: one part predictability, two parts unpredictability Plan a special occasion and you'll get just that! Nothing major is required; preparing a delicious dish may be more than enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Who do you suspect are the people in your life who've loved you the most? Considering the answer to this question will give you the grateful heart that allows you to extract the beauty from this day.



HOLIDAY MATHIS