

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Nooo, this is a totally different kind of primal scream therapy. In this case, everyone here screams at you for 90 minutes nonstop."

Perks keep son from fully moving out

Dear Abby: My 21-year-old son, "Evan," recently moved out to be with his girlfriend. They live in a small apartment and cannot afford a lot beyond the basics. They spend every moment at my house when they are not working. They use our internet, eat our food and drink our beverages. I want my freedom!



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I don't feel I should be obligated to give them free food and internet every day, considering that they show up with new phones and new speakers in their cars. When I try to discuss it with them, they accuse me of being "mean." If they would come to visit with me instead of just hanging around, I'd welcome it. But neither of them hardly speaks to me while they're here. How do I approach this? — *Mom Needing Space in Texas*

Dear Mom: Set some boundaries by telling Evan and his girlfriend a version of what you have written to me. Explain that they're welcome to come over once a week or twice a

month — provided they act like good guests while they're there. Then describe for them what that means, including staying off the internet and leaving their new cellphones in the car.

And while you're at it, don't forget to mention that gracious guests occasionally invite their hostess OUT for a bite. That's not being "mean"; it's explaining the facts of life they seem to have missed while becoming the adults they are.

Dear Abby: My 15-year-old granddaughter has always been shy and quiet. Boys at school sometimes approach her to "date." She likes one really sweet boy who is kind of shy like she is. He held her hand for the first time recently (she was wearing gloves) and she freaked out! Now she walks around with her hands in her pockets when she's around him.

Why is she so afraid? She can't relax and just like him. Please tell my daughter and me how to handle this. Does my granddaughter need to see a doctor? — *Grandma Peggy*

Dear Grandma Peggy: The person you should ask about the reason for her extreme

reaction after that boy held her hand is your granddaughter. She is either not ready to have a relationship with a boy — not all teens mature at the same rate — or she may not be as into the young man as you think she is.

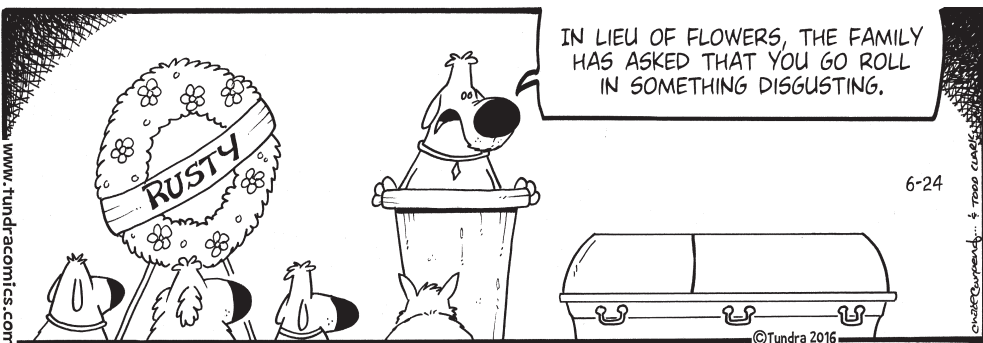
If she's comfortable the way she is, don't push her. If she indicates to you that she's unhappy, THAT's the time to enlist the help of a doctor or licensed mental health professional.

Dear Abby: Should I be offended that my in-laws set up a college savings fund for my children but didn't allow me — only my wife — to be an authorized signer on the accounts? I am grateful, but I also feel slighted. Am I wrong to feel the way I do about this situation? — *Left Out in California*

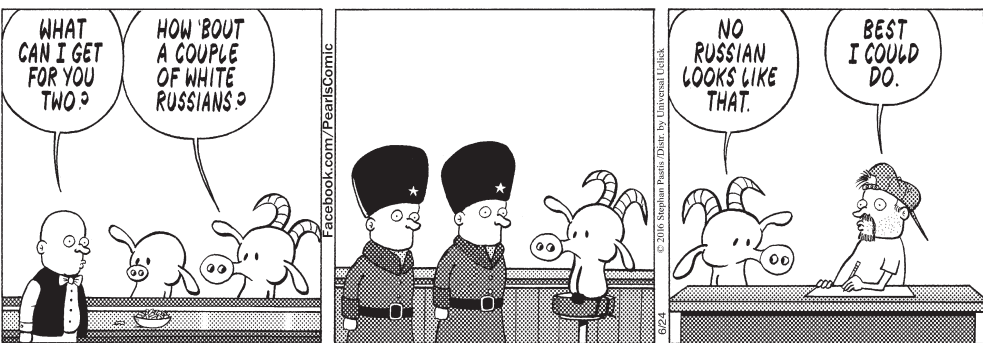
Dear Left Out: Right or wrong, your feelings are your feelings. If you want to know whether they are valid, while you are thanking them for their generosity, ask your in-laws why they arranged the fund that way.

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

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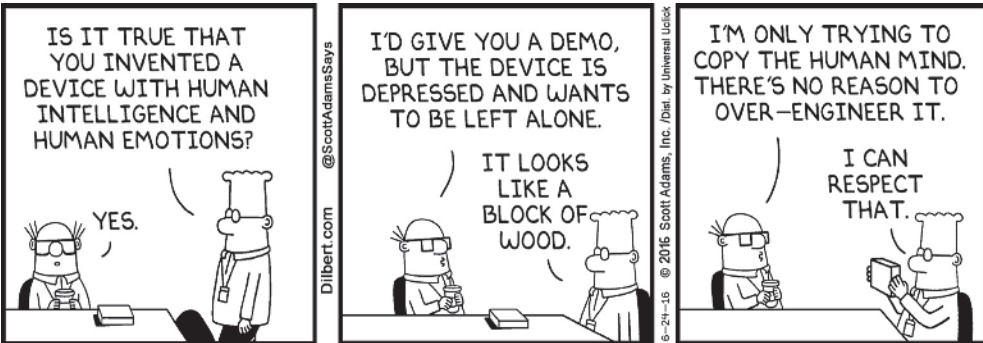
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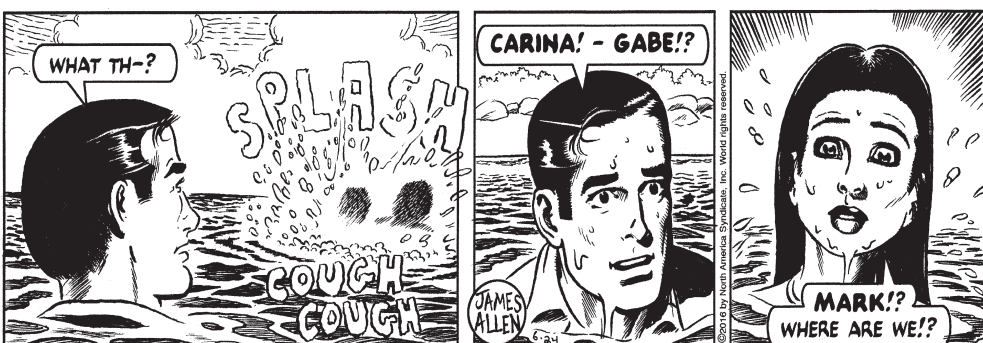
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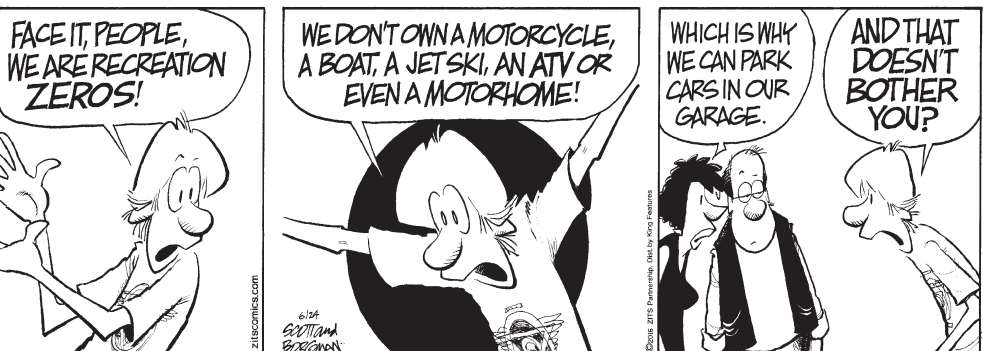
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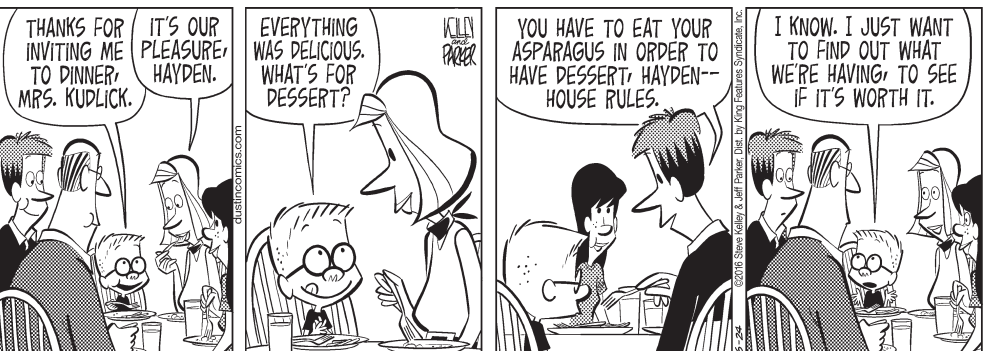
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ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is no need to fight for what is already yours, but you should definitely show the world your stamp of ownership on it today, if only to remind the others of property boundaries.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). No one knows what goes on inside other people's homes. That's why intimate relationships — or even cordial ones, if they involve domestic hospitality — are more interesting than the best theater, especially this weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The healing will start with a little nugget of truth. Who will be the one bold enough to bring that nugget out in the open? Probably you. Don't feel the need to throw it. It's enough to open your hand and give everyone a peek.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will always be a struggle between generations. It's human nature. Your parents, for better or worse, are a part of you. Accept them for who they are and you'll be accepting yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's power in simple shared happiness. Your upbeat feelings will attract those with similar optimism. Whatever you focus all that cheer on will be lifted and transformed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationship discussions aren't easy. Feelings are on the line. You

don't want to be rejected. It can be hard to state and hear the truth. Feeling vulnerable and going forward anyway — that's what it's about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Love can be fragile or it can be mighty. Much depends upon how it's grown and protected. Work on the relationship. You'll be surprised where it goes once you dedicate yourself to that effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What you want is very much in line with all that is possible for you. Still, you need to streamline your efforts, cut out the fat and make every attempt to be lean and mean in your approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's much you can accomplish. There's much you've already done. Don't stop your own momentum by looking sideways at airbrushed pictures, hyped publicity and Facebook fantasy pics.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). All work and no play makes for getting much farther ahead of things than the rest of the pack. Who cares about being dull, Jack? Follow your ambition.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A person who doesn't know what to expect also doesn't set limits. This is one reason so many beginners get lucky and land in a sweeter place than those more familiar with the game.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Restless and searching for the best thing to do, you'll be something of a project gypsy, wandering from project to project nomadically, lingering as long as you feel like and then moving on.



HOLIDAY MATHIS