

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Really?! You got me an ICE CREAM cake?!"

# Younger kids are jealous of dad's bond

**Dear Abby:** My wife and I have been married 20 years and have three children, ages 10 to 17. Our oldest is a senior in high school. Her best friend, "Maya," is a friend of the family we have known for 10 years. She lives with her single mom. Her dad moved out of state.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
**DEAR ABBY**

Maya spends a lot of time with us on weekends, and we have all embraced her as another family member. Recently, Maya pulled me aside and asked if I could be a father figure in her life. I was honored and immediately agreed. Now when she comes over she calls me "Dad" and even says "I love you." I say it back.

Last week, my wife mentioned that our younger two children have noticed the bond between me and Maya and are upset about it. How can I be there for Maya through these tough teen years without alienating my own younger kids? — *Family Guy in the Midwest*

**Dear Family Guy:** Consider having a talk with your younger children and explaining to

them that the more love there is in this world, the better our world will be. Explain that Maya has no father in her life, and that any affection you express for her does not lessen the love you feel for them.

This does not, however, mean that you cannot have love for Maya, too, and say it when you think she needs to hear it. If you haven't already been doing it, make time for your younger children that does not include Maya.

**Dear Abby:** Allow me to offer a word of encouragement to young boys who are short in stature: All your life, you will hear thoughtless remarks about your height. "He's short. That's so sad. It will hold him back in life. He'll have trouble with girls," and so on. Don't listen to a word of it!

I am now a senior citizen. Not once has being short held me back from anything I wanted in life — relationships, career, friends and respect. Other people may have stereotypes, but do not let them control your goals and dreams. — *Mike in California*

**Dear Mike:** There is no height requirement for success. As I write this I am thinking

of Prince, Elton John, Michael J. Fox, Kevin Hart, Danny DeVito and every jockey who races for the Triple Crown. (My lawyer is also short in stature, but I measure him only from the eyebrows up.)

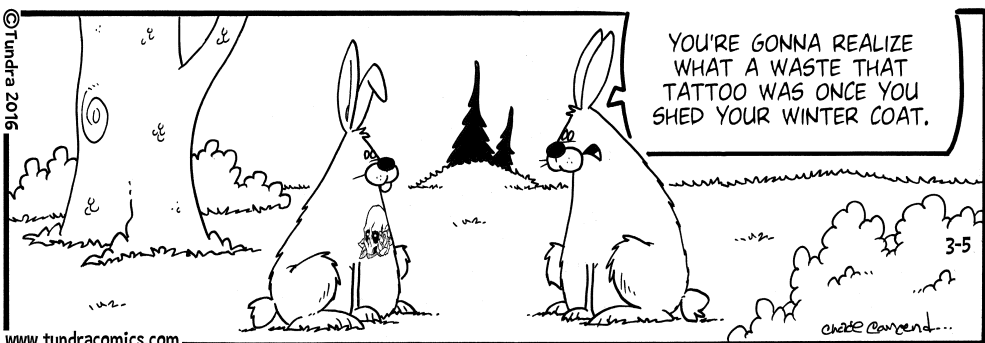
**Dear Abby:** I'm 18 and have never had a boyfriend. I really like a boy from church, but I don't know how to approach him. He has a job and is in his second year of college.

We're good friends, but he's so busy with work and school that I never see him, not even on Sundays. It's upsetting. I'd really like to be more than friends. What should I do? — *Crushing in Indiana*

**Dear Crushing:** Because of the schedule he is on, I don't think you have much choice other than to wait until his classes end and he's on holiday or summer break. In the meantime, do not put your life on hold. Stay busy with friends and other activities, and who knows? You may meet somebody else who's also interesting.

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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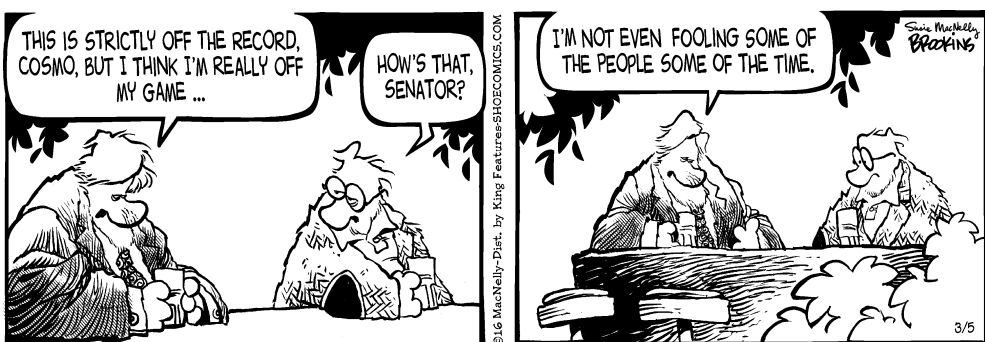
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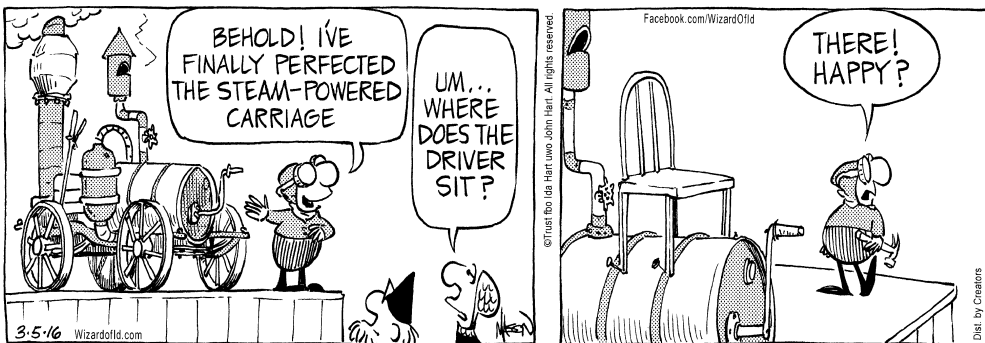
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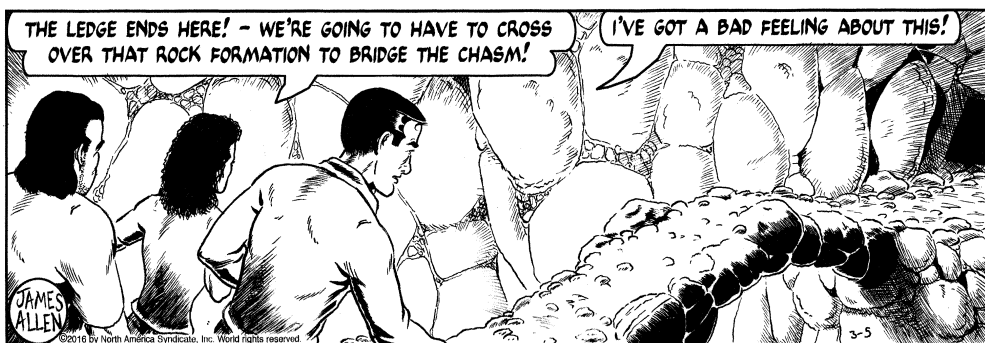
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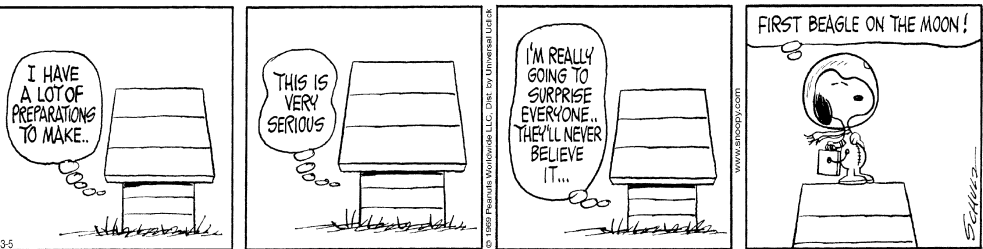
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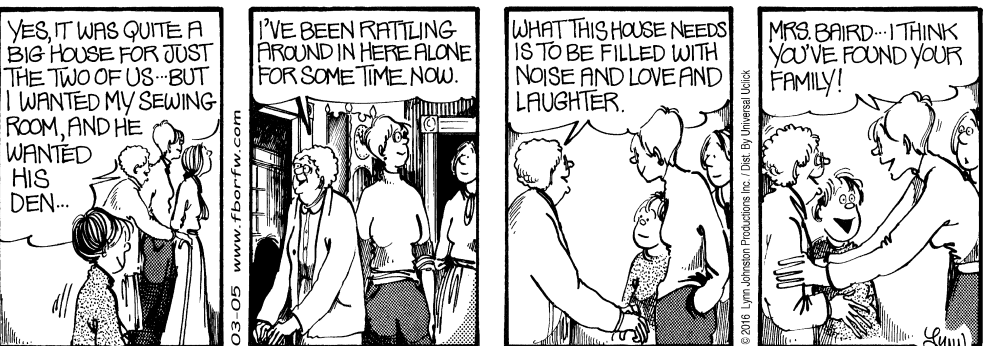
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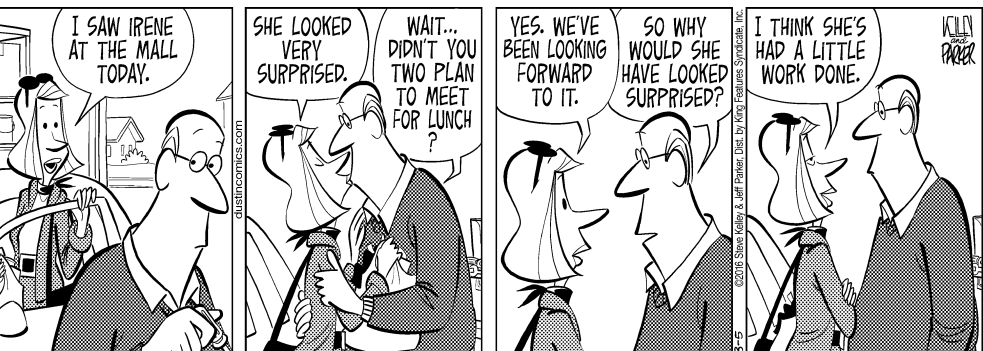
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ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The reason there is now a silent force field growing around you is that you've decided on a certain goal. You're going to need more energy to accomplish this, and your environment is rearranging itself to accommodate.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's an art to pleasure. How can you bump it up to the next level, so you're not only enjoying whatever leisure time you have; you're reveling in the sweetness of it?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your energy will be quieted through emotional control and physical discipline. This in no way dampens your spirit. Everyone experiences your vibrancy because there is less interfering with it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You don't have to cut people out completely just because they wave red flags at you; however, it would be foolish to ignore this. Collect the flag and stick it in your pocket. Hold on to it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Endings may be challenging for you now. Conversations will rattle on. Project details will ceaselessly stream in. Guests will be impossibly slow to leave. Maybe you just don't want to say goodbye!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your memory may not serve the honest-to-goodness facts very well, but it will serve the emotional truth of things. Glance back and let that inform you, but don't dwell there.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The more you express, the more you open yourself up to criticism. How much is too much? It depends on your desired result. Before you present your side of things, give your project deep thought and make a strategic plan.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** That thing you wished for long ago has yet to come to fruition. If this one is ever to see the light of day it will be granted through your own sweat and clever dealings. Are you ready to work on it again?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're likely to be needlessly hard on yourself, perhaps because you keep comparing what you're doing to some glamorized and possibly completely fake version. Meanwhile, you're impressive without trying.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your friend matches your sensibility in some areas and then loses you completely in other areas. Quite frankly, you may be happy to be "lost." The important thing is to celebrate where your interests overlap.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You have the right contacts, but you're not utilizing them to their best potential. When you dial this in, everyone will benefit. Put thought and conversation to the subject of how you and yours can better serve one another.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** No, you are not imagining it. Someone is flirting with you. How you handle this surprise twist will have a profound impact on your social schedule in the weeks to come.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**