

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Brenda tests to see if Karl can truly handle the low points of living together.

Friend's schedule leaves no time to visit

Dear Abby: One of my close friends may be “ghosting” me. “Sarah” and I have known each other since middle school.

We went to high school together and roomed together during our freshman year of college.

We both transferred to different schools after that freshman year, but we made it a point to keep in touch. I was the first person she came out to.

I helped her move into her new apartment the summer before grad school. In general, I think I’ve been a good friend to her.

Last summer we both moved back to our hometown — she for med school and I for a new job.

I was excited that after five years we were living in the same city again. I have reached out to her on multiple occasions, but my texts and calls usually go unanswered.

When I do get a response, it’s typically, “Sorry! I’m just too swamped!”

I don’t doubt that med school is incredibly



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

difficult, and I completely understand that that’s where her focus should be, but over the holidays I reached out once again and was given the same answer.

I know she made time to see another friend — her best, who ranks higher than I do in the “who to see” list. It still hurt.

Am I being too sensitive? Too self-centered? I’m worried that this is Sarah’s way of breaking ties with me and I’m just not taking the hint.

An outsider’s point of view would really help, even if it’s a harsh truth. — *Left Hanging in Miami*

Dear Left Hanging: When people are in med school, they must carefully organize their time because the curriculum is demanding.

Things that are not essential are often postponed, and that includes social relationships.

As you said, you and Sarah are not as close as Sarah and her best friend are. While it may sting, look at it as a mature adult and don’t let it drag you down.

If Sarah says she’s “swamped,” have faith

that when she’s under less pressure, there will be time to re-establish the friendship.

Dear Abby: My husband does not seem to be able to “hit the toilet,” if you know what I mean.

I am tired of wiping up the bottom of the toilet seat and the floor. We have talked about this and he always says he’s sorry and promises to be more careful. Today I told him that I am no longer cleaning up the toilet seat or the floor. He misses, he cleans.

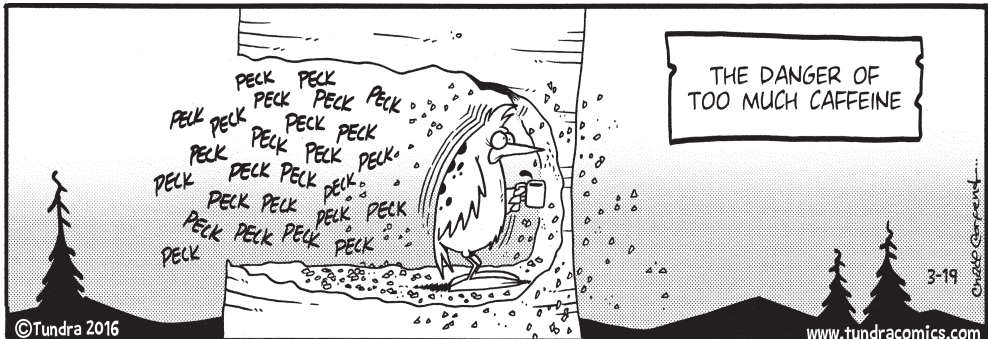
What advice do you have to solve this problem? — *Better Things to Do in New York*

Dear Better Things: Keep a roll of paper towels or an extra roll of toilet paper on top of the toilet. When you see your husband’s aim has been sloppy, call him in and have him mop up his mess.

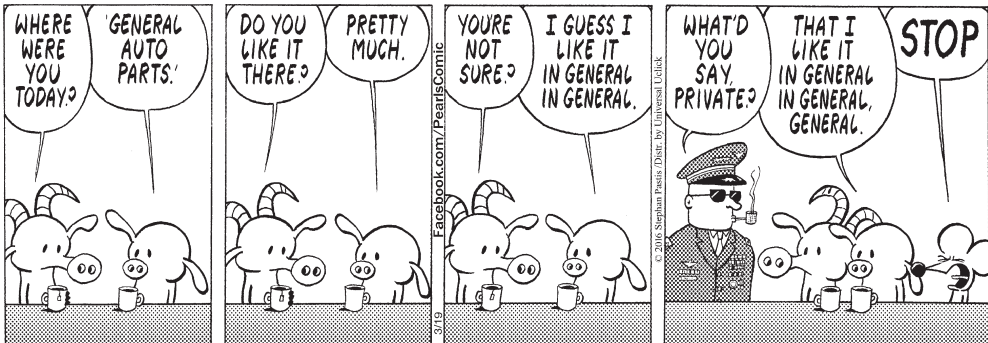
If that doesn’t get him to pay more attention, and there is a second bathroom in your home, have him use the other one until he is housebroken.

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

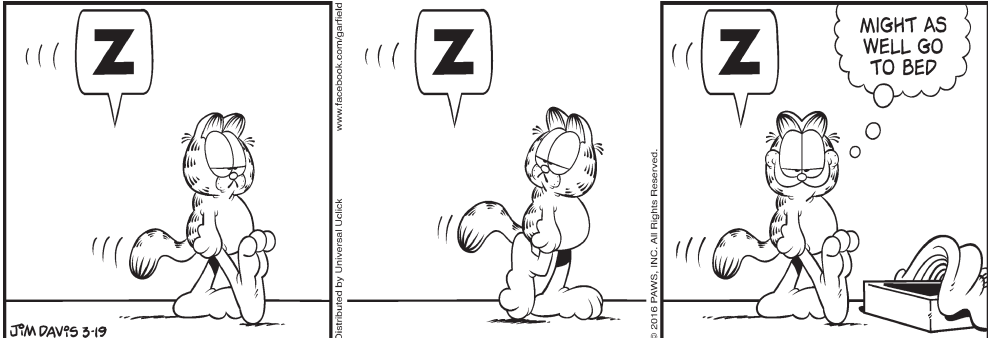
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



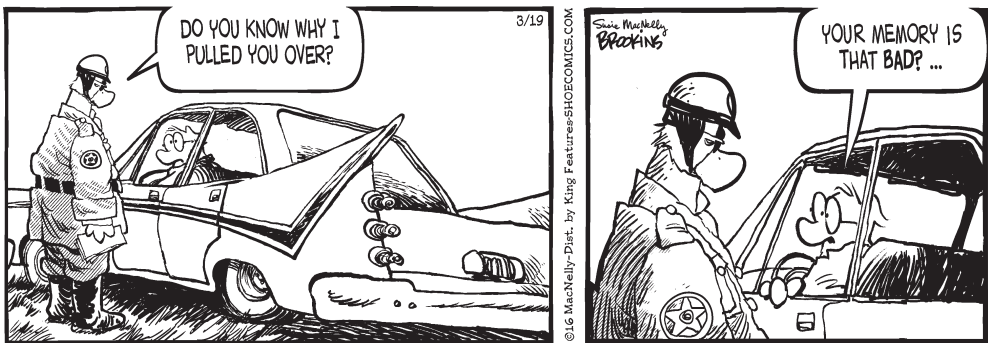
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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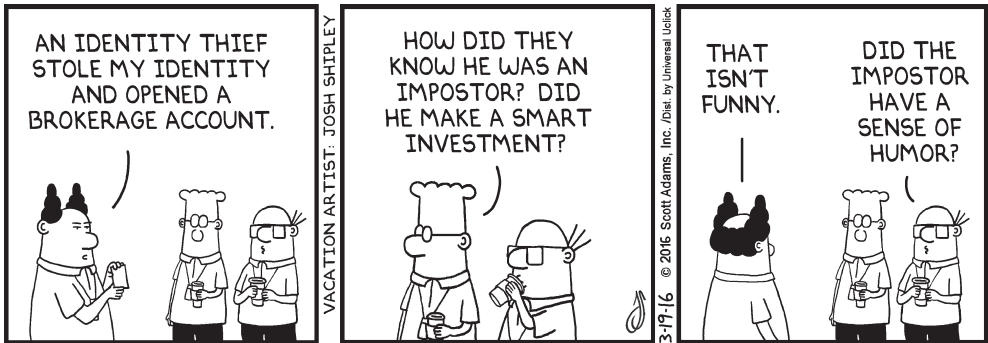
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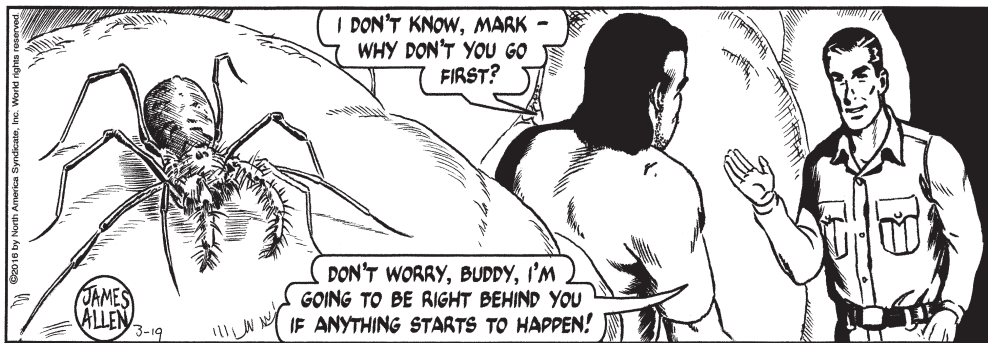
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



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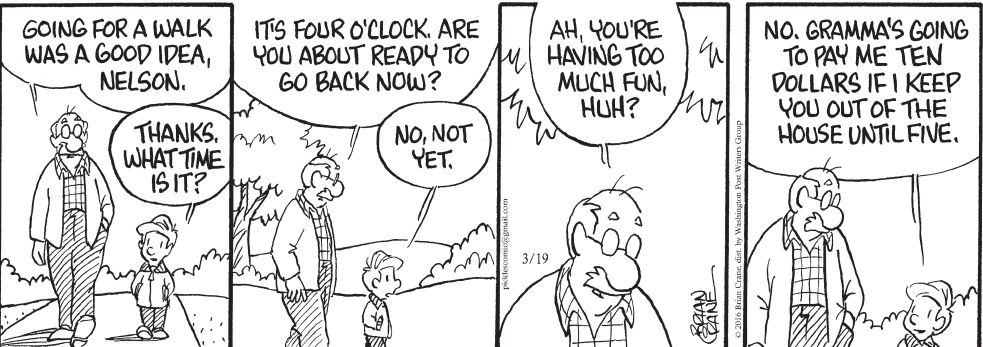
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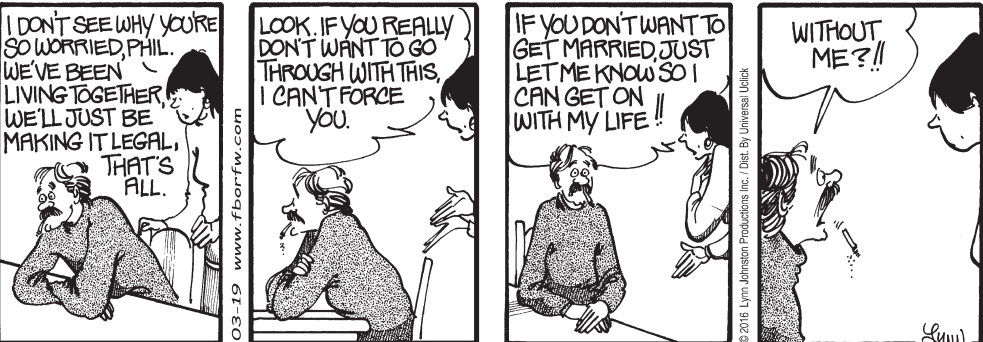
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



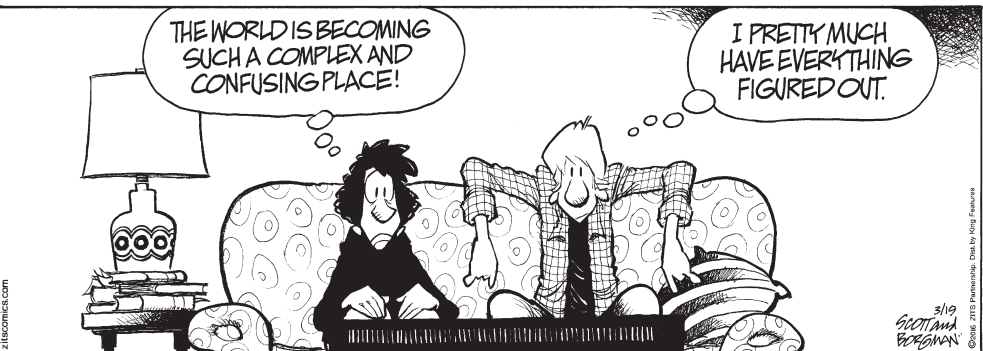
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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). Humor is magic. If you don’t have enough laughter in your life, you don’t have enough magic. The funny people you know are golden treasures, and you will treat them as such because you’re an emotional genius.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Social graces are so much more important than they seem. Reach out to that shy person. It’s not that big of a deal for you, but it will be huge in the other person’s lens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Orient yourself to your own needs. This isn’t the least bit selfish, you know. It’s actually smart, and you’re doing someone else a favor by providing for yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you didn’t make the kind of impression you wanted to make on someone, you’ll get a second chance. So think about it this time — exactly what are you going for?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The talkers will annoy you. It’s because this isn’t your nature. You can’t see the point in talking a good game. In fact, you prefer not to talk at all as you get down to whatever it is you need to do to produce your deliverables.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The other person clearly isn’t asking what can be done to help you out. Maybe it’s because you’re so self-sufficient.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Anyway, if you want help, you’re going to have to ask directly for exactly what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have the best ideas, and perhaps you’ll have more of these ideas than others know what to do with. Keep track. Write things down and you can figure out your presentation later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Have you gotten away from the basics? Food, water, rest, warmth — and, of course, love. Check each box. You’ll be surprised how much better things go when you are, for instance, properly hydrated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stress isn’t attractive or interesting to others. That’s why you never lead with how “stressed out” you are, even if it happens to be true. Being fun is harder than being anxious, but you make the effort and get the payoff, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don’t accept the pressure someone is putting on you. For the pressure to be real, you both have to agree to it. Don’t agree and it goes away. It’s really as simple as that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The one who says sorry is actually testing the waters. Listen between the lines. Is this an apology or a way to find out where the boundaries are?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Romance, for all its beauty, also has the effect of threatening your comfort zone. You’re grappling with this in your mind, trying to figure out how far you’re willing to stray from the pleasantness you’re used to.