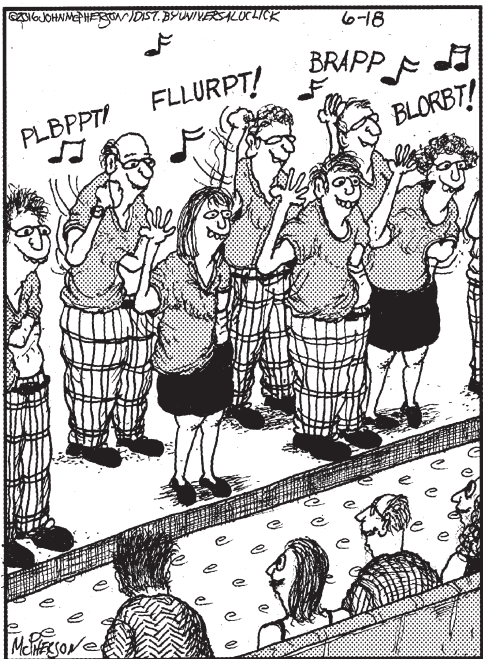


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Due to the exorbitant cost of bells for a bell choir, the Central Falls Church had to settle for a much cheaper option.

Student pleads for parents to co-sign

Dear Abby: I have plans to go to law school in the next two years. I have already taken the entrance exam, and will receive recommendations from two of my college professors. The problem is, my parents are refusing to co-sign for my law school loan.

Abby, I'm not asking for money; I'm just asking for someone to co-sign the loan for me. I plan to pay off the debt myself. I don't want to ask an extended family member for help, because even if they agree, I'd feel horrible if it prevented them from helping their own children with something.

My parents don't have a good enough excuse to not co-sign for me, and it surprises me that it doesn't embarrass them that I may have to ask another family member for help. What should I do, Abby? — *Future Law School Student*

Dear Future Law School Student: Your parents shouldn't have to meet your criteria



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

for what is a "good enough" excuse for being reluctant to co-sign on a loan for you. It should be enough that they are uncomfortable with the prospect of doing it.

While your desire to pursue the field of law is admirable, have you researched what job opportunities are available to new law school graduates? Currently, according to the media, these jobs are not nearly as plentiful as they have been historically.

However, if you are determined to plunge ahead, I think you already know what you're going to have to do — and that includes seeing if you can find another source of funding for your law school education.

Dear Abby: My boyfriend and I have been together a year and a half. We knew each other for a while prior because we used to work together. Our relationship has been somewhat fun. The only issue that bothers me is that he can never seem to open up. He doesn't express his feelings toward me or even show much that he cares that we're together.

When I ask him about it, he says he's just not ready to open up and I should respect that. I do, because he has been through a lot in life.

But it's hard to figure out where I stand with him. I'm always the one to make the first move — whether it's to show affection or express my love for him. It's lonely and confusing that he doesn't, and I often feel like I'm in a relationship with myself.

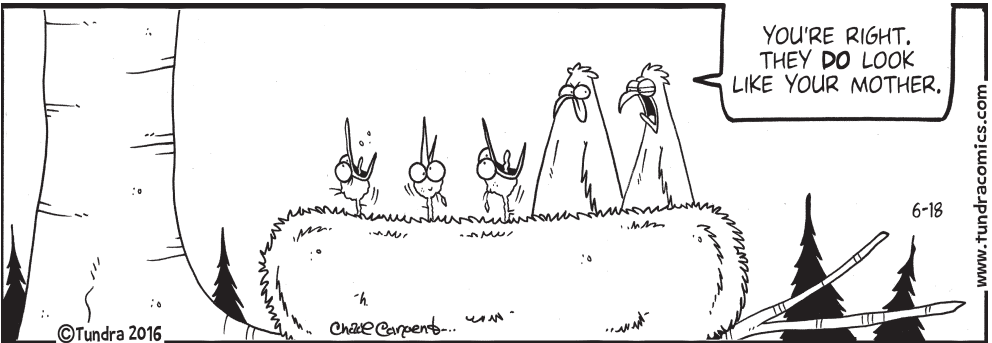
Should I give him more time to get comfortable enough to open up? Or am I wasting my time? — *Mixed Up In Love*

Dear Mixed Up: Not all men are comfortable expressing their emotions verbally. More important than what someone tells you, is how he treats you. You stated that he not only doesn't express his emotions, but also doesn't show that he cares you are a couple. A year and a half has been plenty of time for your boyfriend to respond with more than indifference.

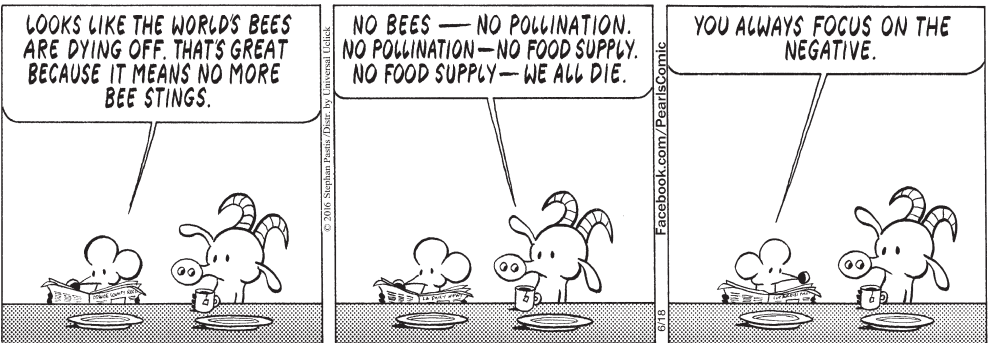
Because you need more than he seems capable of giving, it's time to find someone who can give you the affection and affirmation you crave. In a relationship, BOTH parties must contribute if it is to survive.

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

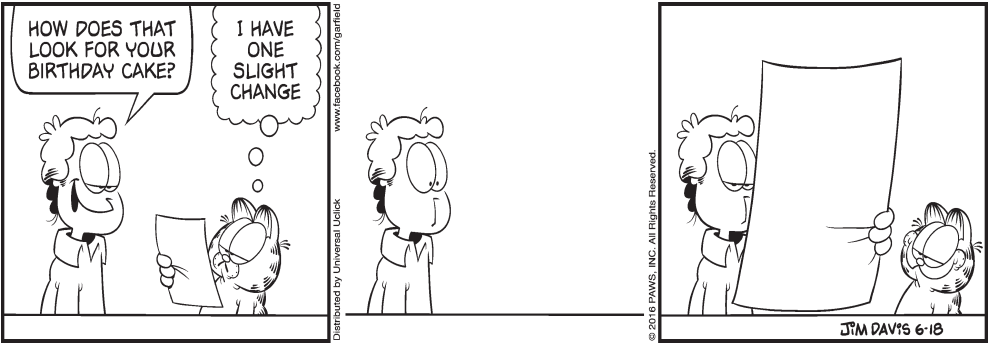
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



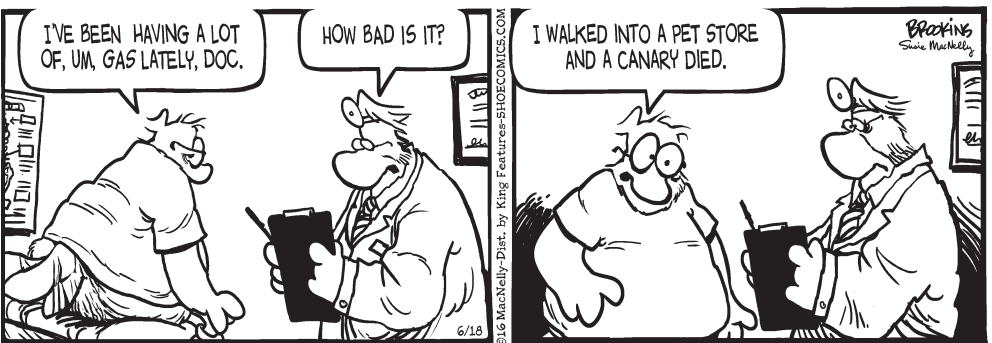
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



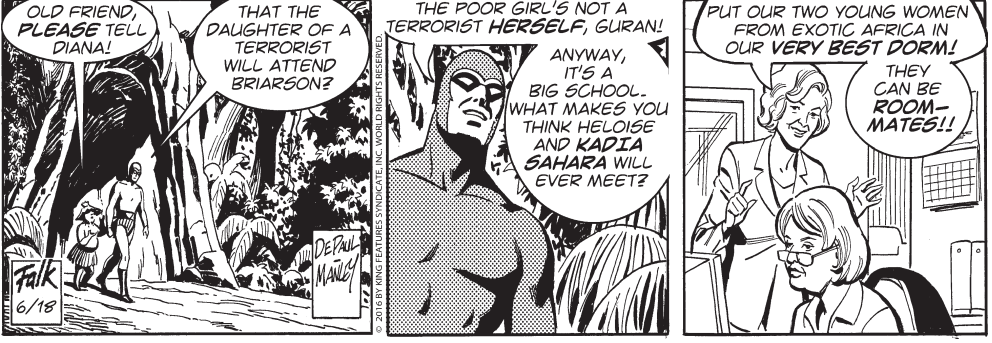
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



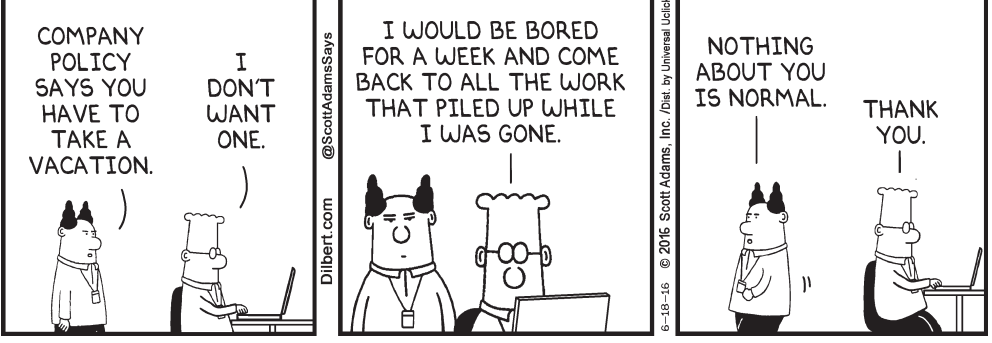
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



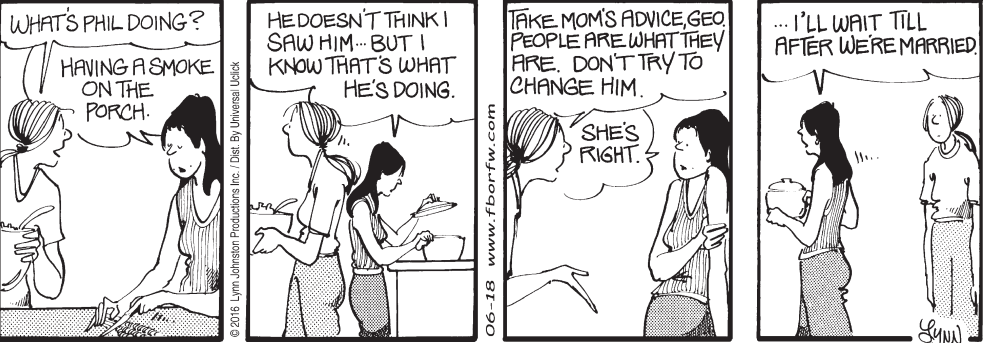
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



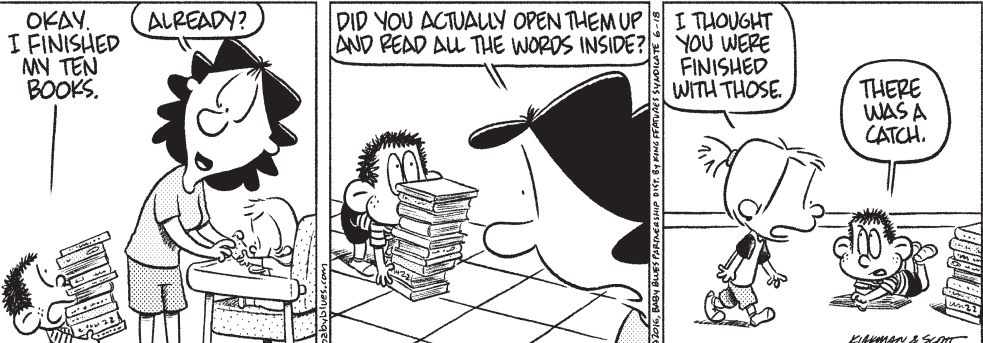
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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 want important things, but you want frivolous things, too, and those are the things that may take precedence, because you're fun like that. As you indulge in the lighter side of life, big issues are being resolved.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People around you have money to spend, and you're just the one to tell them where to spend it. You have ideas that will create a win-win for everyone. And your ability to sell those ideas is particularly strong now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Theoretical information excites your intellect, but how can you actually apply it to your life? You want change, you want improvement and you want hands-on training. Bottom line: You need a teacher who's done this before.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll do more because you know there's more that needs doing. Also, you'll hold out for the best, and when you finally get to taste the thing you want, it will be wonderful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If all you had to do was amuse yourself, how would you get that done today? Something will happen to change the game and make you think about your life differently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're willing to push things a little further than you were,

because you sense that a relationship won't grow until after the shake-up. Ten percent more honesty will bring the healing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's time you claimed what you're good at, because the others are not going to do you any favors in this regard. You're going to have to point the way. Maybe it's arrogance, or maybe just marketing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your heart sends warm wishes and welcoming affection. Your head is going to need a little longer to get around to all these changes. Go gentle. It will all happen in good time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Those who follow the crowd will end up in crowded places. You're a leader in this regard, so mostly you'll have the crowd rallying behind you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Cherish the people in your life who make you more courageous because they feed you hope, paint you a pretty picture of the future and help you feel good about all that you're bringing into the battle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Perhaps you feel slightly reckless, but paradoxically, this is just the kind of swagger that lets you take hold of what's really yours in this world and use it to the full advantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Losses can be blessings, pains can be sources of great strength and the opposition is, of course, the best reason to improve and become masterful. You'll find yourself grateful.



HOLIDAY MATHIS