

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"The pollen has been horrible on Roger's allergies this year so he's had to resort to wearing scuba gear when he's out and about."

Friend's confusion could be dementia

**Dear Abby:** I have a good friend I have traveled with for many years. The last few years she has been showing increasing signs of confusion and forgetfulness. She has difficulty managing her paperwork for travel and remembering what our plans are for the next day.

On the most recent trip she picked up other people's coats and insisted they were hers. My attempts to discuss this with her only made things worse and led to her accusing me of destroying her confidence.

I believe this is the onset of dementia. How can I help her? — *Noticing Things in California*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

**Dear Noticing:** You are describing a serious and progressive problem. If your good friend has a spouse, children or siblings, they should be notified about what you have observed.

If she has no one, then someone at Social Services or Adult Protective Services should be contacted before your friend gets herself

into serious trouble by forgetting to pay her bills, or getting lost while driving her car.

**Dear Abby:** Have you any suggestions about letting go? A former friend is involved in a New Age sex group. He can no longer hold a casual conversation without expounding on their practices and "theology," as he considers it. My rational self understands that his life is his to do with as he wishes, but my emotional self grieves that he is distancing himself from family and friends.

I know I'm not my brother's keeper, but he was like a brother to me, and I blame myself that I was unable to reach him when this was merely something he was curious about instead of a radical new lifestyle. How do I accept that he's a lost cause and quit worrying about him? — *Not My Brother's Keeper*

**Dear Not:** Because you are having trouble accepting that your former friend is a "lost cause," view it as his having taken a different path than you have chosen. If you prefer not to hear about your friend's alternative lifestyle, you should say so.

If he respects your feelings, he will stick to

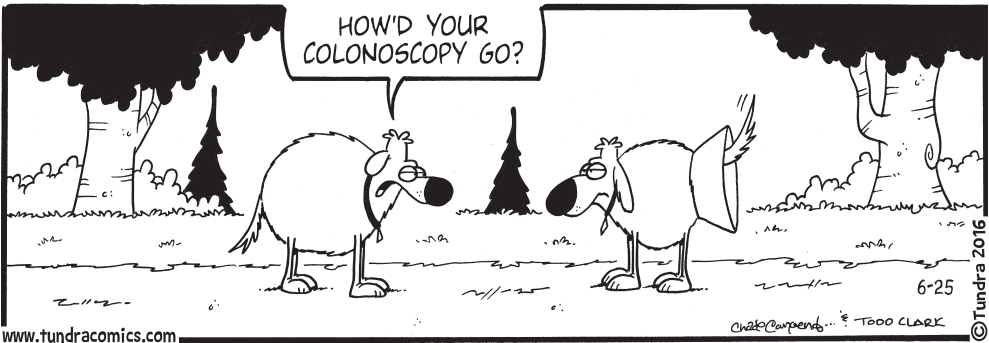
subjects the two of you have in common and quit "expounding." If he can't do that, then recognize that as much as you might wish to, you can't live someone else's life, and then move on because friendships either evolve or they wither.

**Dear Abby:** My 16-year-old son and I are having a debate and would love your take on the matter. I think if you stand in a grocery store checkout line and read a magazine without buying it that it's stealing. He doesn't agree. What do you say? — *Just Looking*

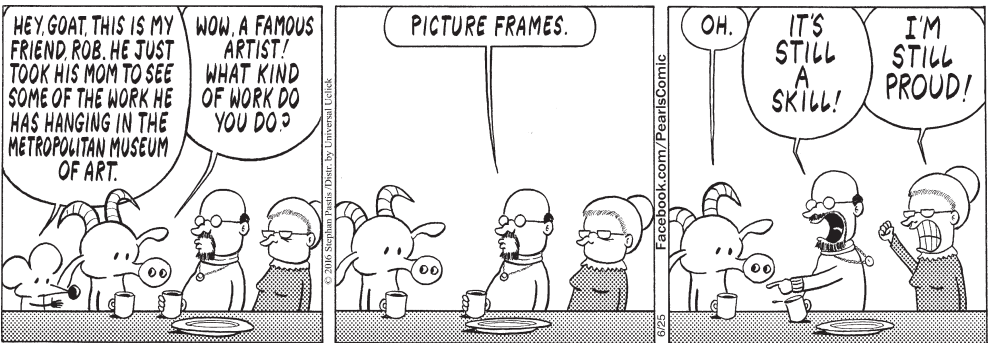
**Dear Just:** If your son is reading the magazine from cover to cover, then I agree he's helping himself to something he's not entitled to. If he is only "sampling" to see if there are enough articles in the magazine that he thinks it's worth buying, I wouldn't call it theft. Using your yardstick, judging from the number of people I have seen at checkout counters with their noses buried in the tabloids, that would make us a nation of thieves.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



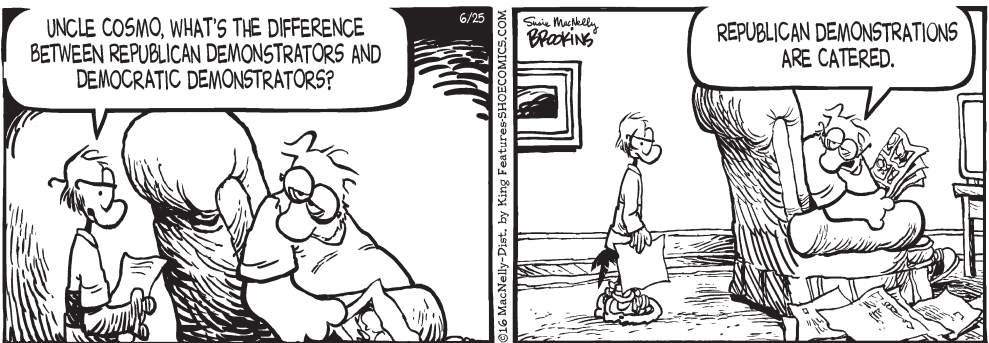
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



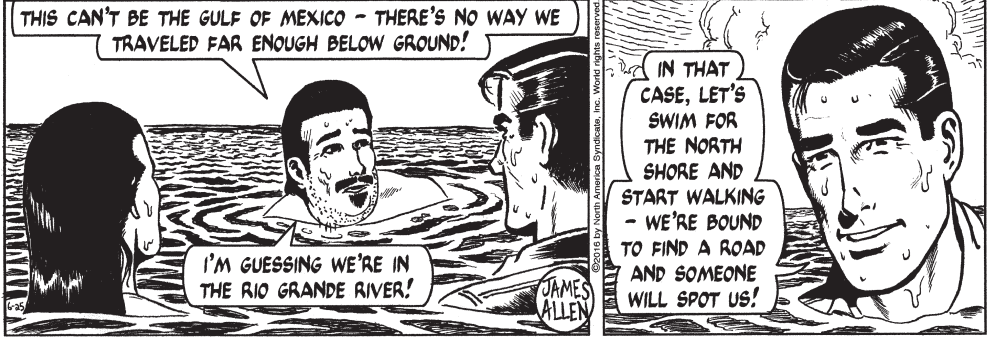
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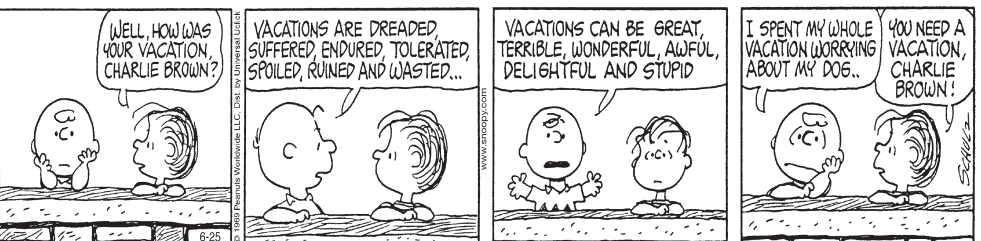
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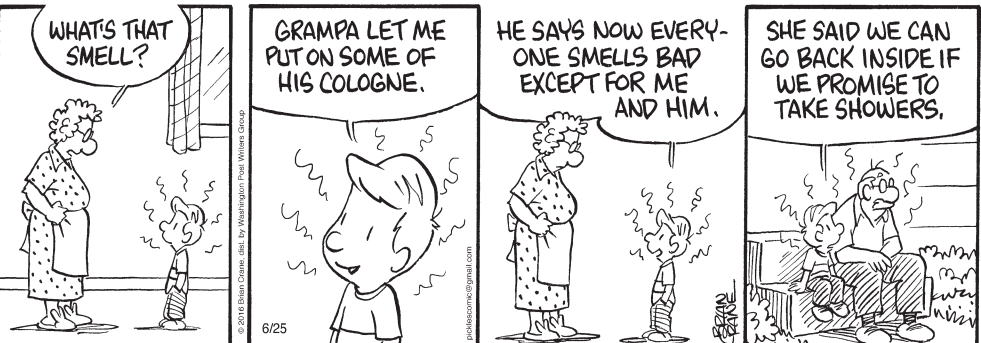
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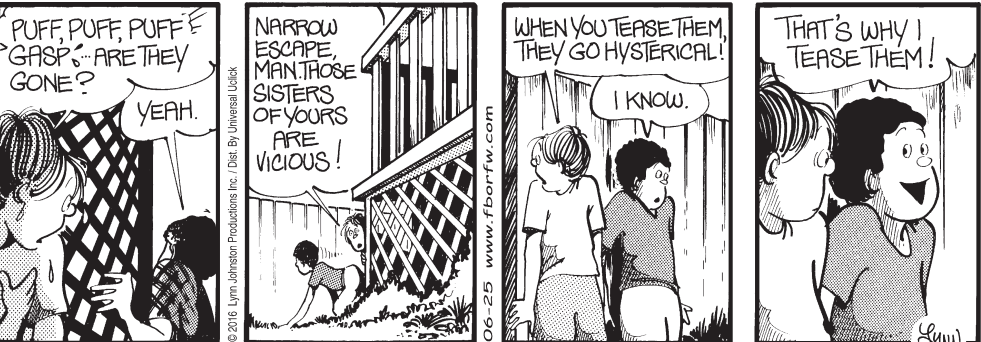
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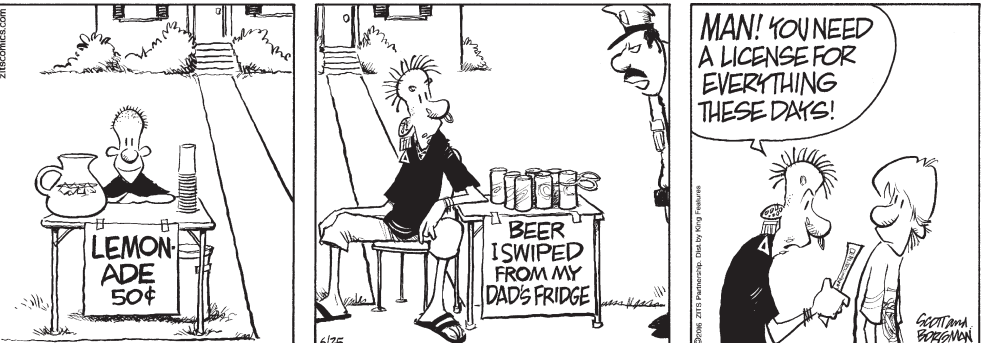
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



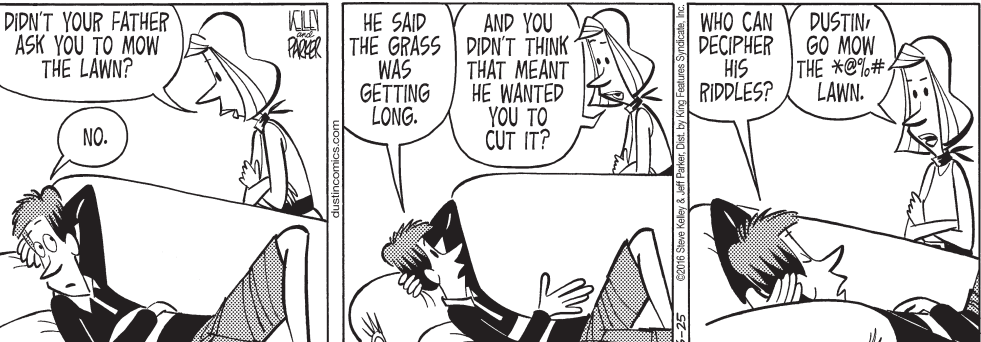
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** New people inspire new awareness. For a moment, the mere freshness of an association can cause you to slow down and tune in to what makes life seem more precious and beautiful.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Hearts are among the more resilient organs of the body, and you've already experienced this in your own life. Today you'll do something you wouldn't have been able to do just weeks ago — proof that your heart has really healed.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Are you having a hard time picturing what your life will be like after you make your move? Maybe that's because it's not the right move to make. If it doesn't spark your imagination, don't take one step forward.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** It wasn't going to work between you and that certain someone if things stayed the same. Now you'll have to assess. Have things changed? And if so, have they changed enough to make a difference?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** There's something magical about the way a person looks at you with so much hope, trust and big, pure love that your heart can't help but melt into the warmth of this gaze.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The people who want you to be nice all the time might actually be trying to control you because your power is a threat. There's nothing wrong with that edgy,

angsty part of you. It's what will push you to do and be more.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There are times when being very direct and telling people what you really want works beautifully to produce results. Right now you'll have to do a little more research to get to the desired result. Find out what they want first.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Those who feel oppressed or stuck may lack the confidence to revolt, but that doesn't mean the revolution isn't coming. Take a picture of the way things are. It won't stay this way for much longer.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If you make the world a better place for you, doesn't that count as making it a better place in general? At least it's a start. You can scale it up from there.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It's always nice to make yourself useful, but don't for one minute think that it's necessary. You're valuable because you inherently are. Give when you want to and are driven to.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're not doing anything to make the other person jealous, and yet maybe that's just something that's built into the equation. You have to admit, there's something good in it for you. Just don't overplay your advantage.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your beautiful smile, the way you listen to people, your gracious manners — these things will matter more than anything else you could do to impress or ingratiate yourself.