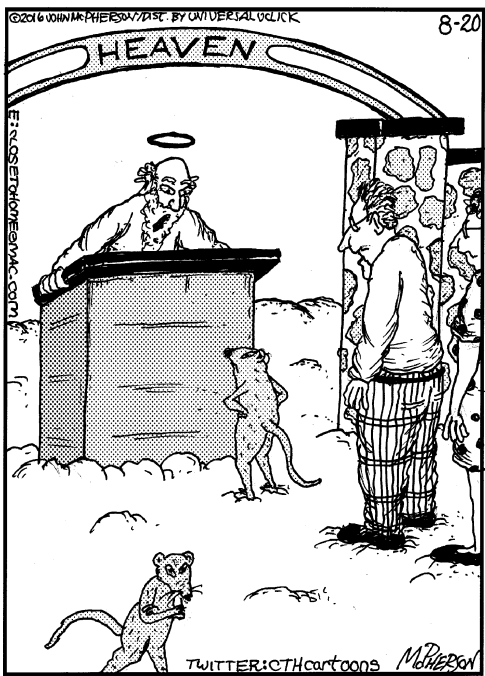


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Teen fears mother's disapproval of beau

Dear Abby: I'm a 15-year-old girl, and I'm madly in love with my boyfriend. The only problem is, I can't tell anyone but my closest friends about him. I met him over the internet, and he's an amazing guy. I didn't think I'd ever fall in love with him, but I did. He lives in New York, and I'm planning on going up to see him as soon as I possibly can.

I really, really want to tell my mom, but I don't want to lose him. I know if I say too much about him, she'll find out. He's a better boyfriend than my last boyfriend, and he actually treats me like I'm something and not dirt. He truly saved me, but I know my mom won't see it that way. What do I do? — *In Love in Virginia*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear In Love: Start thinking with your head instead of your heart. There is no guarantee that everything the person — as nice as he appears to be — has told you online is true, including his name, his gender, his age, mari-

tal status or criminal record.

What you need to do is level with your mom about the fact that you have met someone on the internet you think is special, and ask her if you can invite him to visit YOU so you can get to know each other and she can check him out. You should NOT go to a different city to meet him because to do so could be very dangerous.

Dear Abby: My husband and I are in our 50s and have been having marital difficulties lately. We work different shifts. By the time he gets home, I'm sound asleep.

He likes to wake me up in the middle of the night for sex. I told him it's not right because I have to work in the morning. He said he thought he saw in the Dear Abby column that if a husband wakes a wife for sex, she should accommodate him. I told him that was crazy. But I wanted to check with you. Help! — *Weary in the Midwest*

Dear Weary: He may have read that in some other advice column, but he didn't get permission from me. What I HAVE written is that coercing or bullying someone into doing

something of a sexual nature that he or she doesn't want to do is abuse.

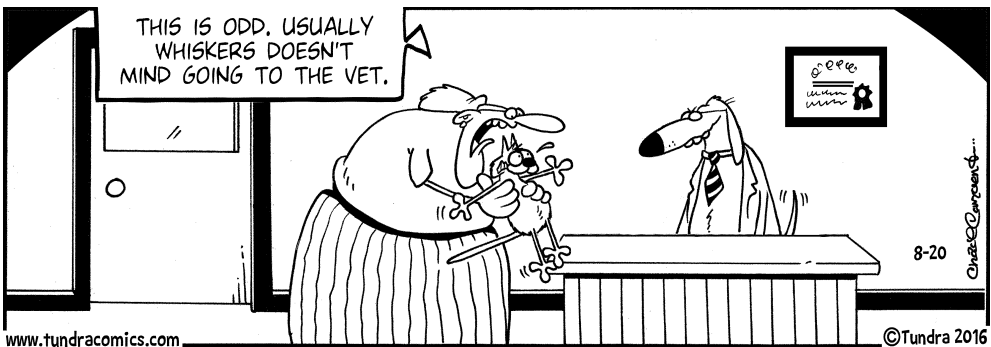
Dear Abby: I work for a small company where I am privy to a lot of confidential information, and I know the owner is letting the business die. All of the experienced senior staff have quit because they recognized what's going on, but the new hires think this is normal. These are self-supporting young adults with college loans to pay off. One is a dad with a young child.

I feel so guilty looking for a job while everyone else is clueless about their future. Because it's part of my position to know how we are doing financially, I can't tell them they will be out of jobs soon. Or can I? — *Keeping a Secret*

Dear Keeping: Much as you might wish to, I don't recommend that you spill the beans. If you reveal proprietary information to the other employees, and you signed a confidentiality agreement with your bosses at the time you were hired, you could be sued.

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

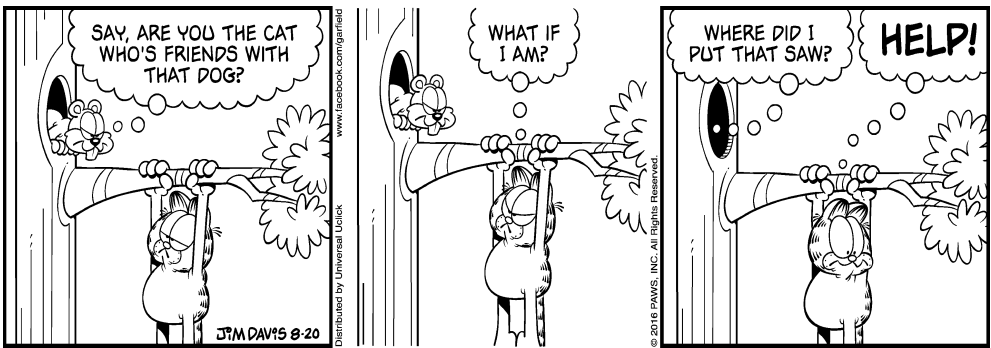
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



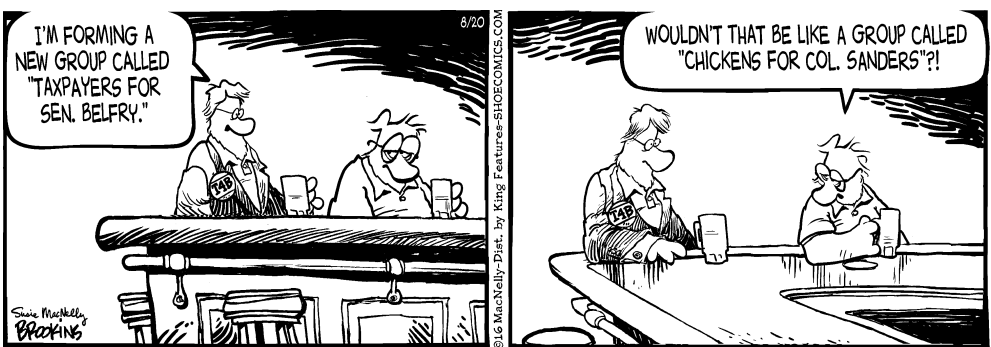
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



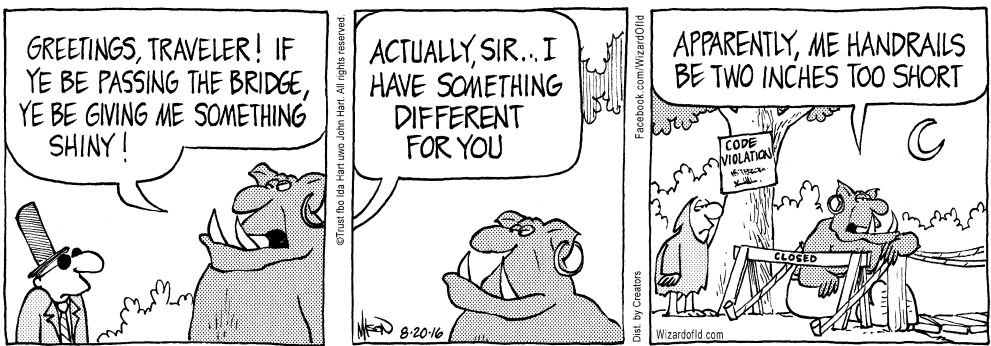
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



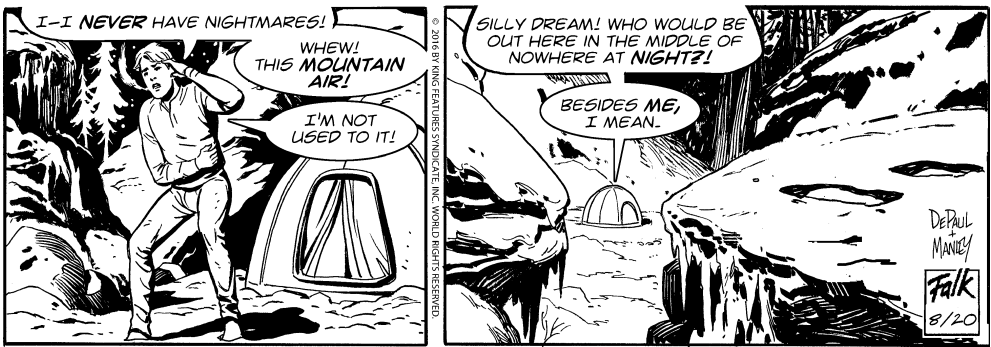
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



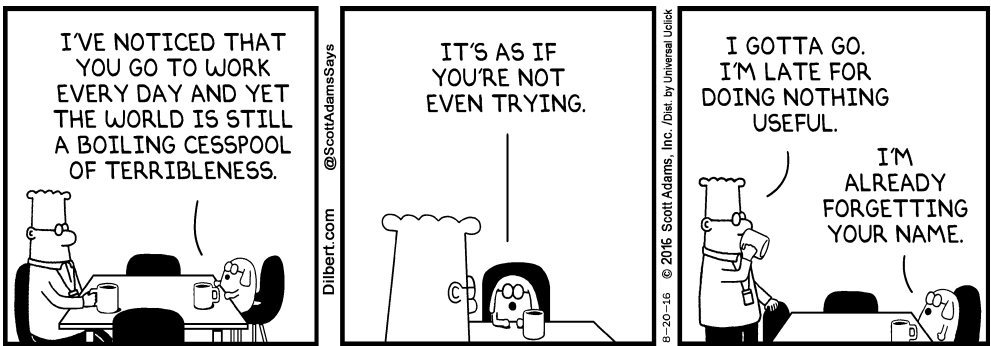
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



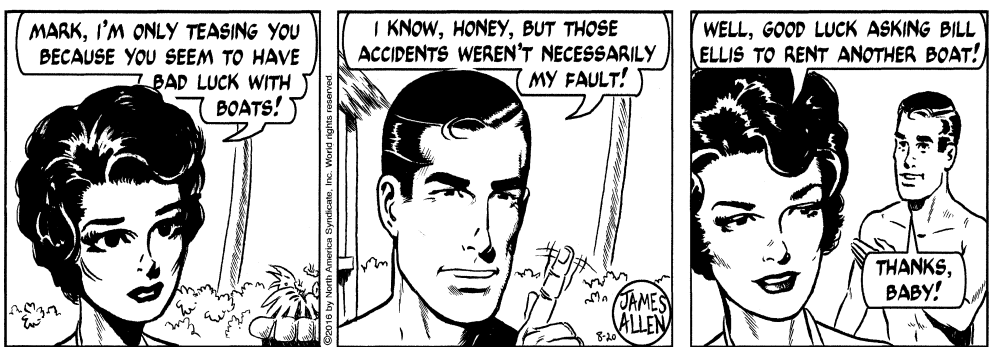
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



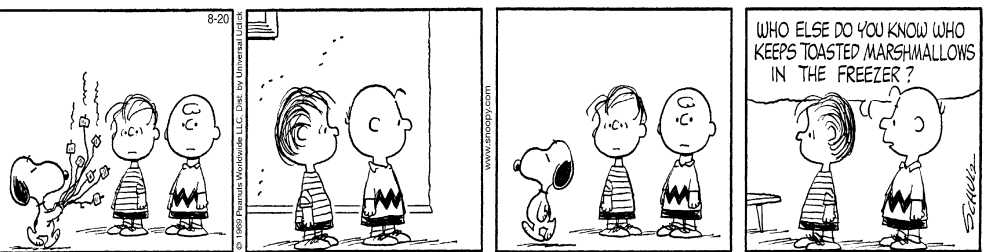
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



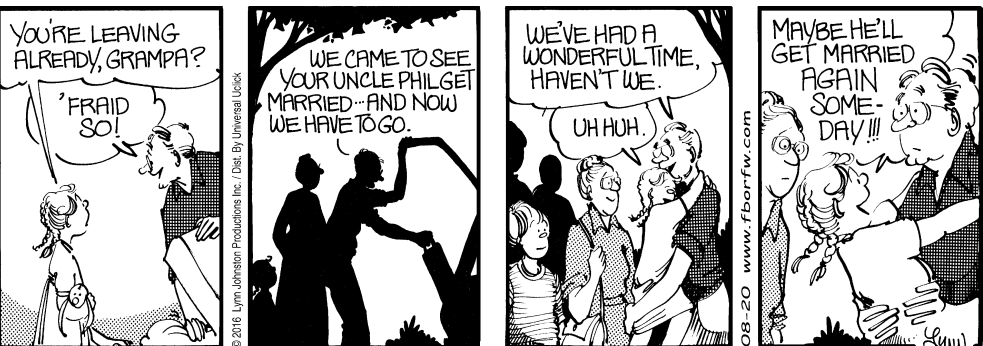
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



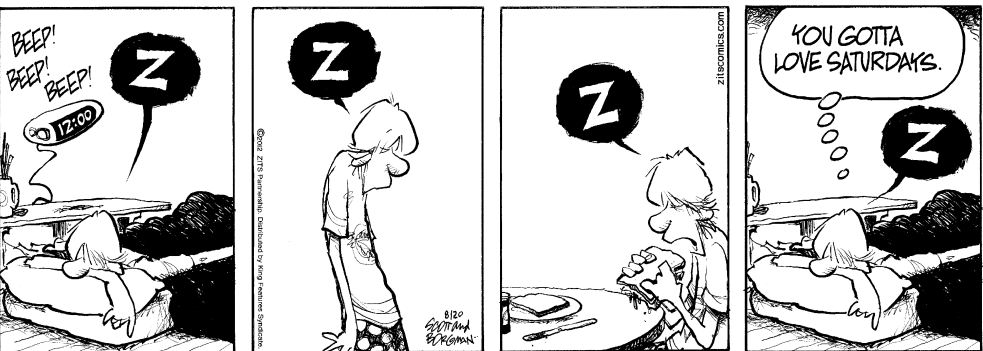
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



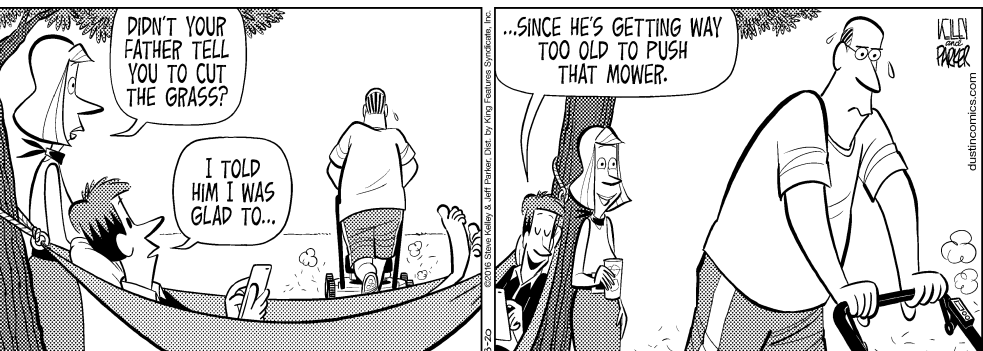
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't need a problem to push you to be your best. Improvement is in your nature. In fact, the only problem in sight today is that you've already improved to such a high level that you're not sure where to go next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not going to switch jobs today or tomorrow but you can see a dot on that employment horizon, growing as it nears you. Change is coming. Question: If money were no issue, where do you think you might like to fit in?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Is the moment lush with silence, or is it awkward with the tension of not knowing what to say? Well, luckily you don't have to be the judge. Time will hand down the truest verdict. Until then, shrug it off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Excitement bubbles up from new developments in your personal life. It's too soon to predict how this relationship will grow, but decide to have a good time no matter what and it will all work in your favor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Fearlessness is artless and boring. Your fear is beautiful! Claim it. Then use it with grace. Like a gymnast, thrust your heart over the bar and the rest of you will follow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're trying to relate to the other person, not outdo the other person. With this in mind, you'll probably hold

back a few of your stories. Anyway, you'll learn more and love better through listening than you will through talking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The ones who are trying to help you will wind up doing just that — after they put you through some paces. No, this exchange won't be so straightforward. The roads will wind and cross. Be patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember when you concerned yourself with being very, very good? You'd be hard pressed to say if it made a positive difference. Anyway, tonight, a little bit of wickedness is the spice that lights up the whole dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It takes quite a lot of energy to control the scene, and the planning will just drag on and on. Another way is to leave the others on their own and see what they come up with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You enjoy a spritz of kookiness now and then, and you'll get a whole luxurious spoonful of it with the interesting cast of characters who surround you today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Anticipation is a certain brand of joy. What comes before the exciting part will be the real exciting part. Of course, there is no anticipation without that future event. Set it up if you haven't already.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel that the one who wronged you still hasn't been adequately punished. It's a seductive problem, but truly, to focus your energy there would only rob you of this beautiful weekend.



HOLIDAY MATHIS