

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



To no one's surprise, God throws yet another perfect game at the annual Heaven softball game.

# New girl at school not shy around boys

**Dear Abby:** I'm a 17-year-old girl in high school. Recently, I became friends with a new girl at school. She's 15. She has a boyfriend at her old school, but she talks to guys at this school she thinks are cute. She told me some of them want to hook up with her and she seems happy about it. She even talked about going to a school dance with them.

I'm worried she might be cheating on her boyfriend, but I don't know what to do. I don't know him, so I don't think I can tell him what's happening. When she mentioned the guys at school and I asked her, "What about your boyfriend?" she just kinda changed the subject. — *Teen in Pennsylvania*



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

**Dear Teen:** High school romances aren't like marriages. While some of them may last forever, most don't. That's why I'm advising you to take a step back, stay out of this girl's love life, and stop worrying about her old boyfriend. If she really cared about his feel-

ings, she wouldn't be flirting with the boys at school. In time, he will find someone else to ease his broken heart.

**Dear Abby:** I met someone I really like eight months ago. The problem is, I can't get him to do anything except sit at home and watch TV.

I have suggested doing things he is interested in. But when a friend called, he went out to a ballgame without hesitation. I had been asking him for months to go. He also went to a music festival with friends. But if I suggest anything, he can't do it. He says he will "sometime in the future," but how should I take this? We have never been out to eat or seen a movie.

Am I being childish or asking too much too soon? — *Underwhelmed in Michigan*

**Dear Underwhelmed:** Too soon? Eight months? You're not childish; you are thinking rationally. Sitting around and watching television requires no effort on his part — and I'll bet you're providing the snacks, too.

Forgive me for seeming judgmental, but the man you're involved with is acting like

a self-centered mooch, and it's unfair to you.

**Dear Abby:** I started a new job that requires me to deal with the public. I am now encountering an unexpected issue I didn't know I'd have with myself. It's receiving compliments.

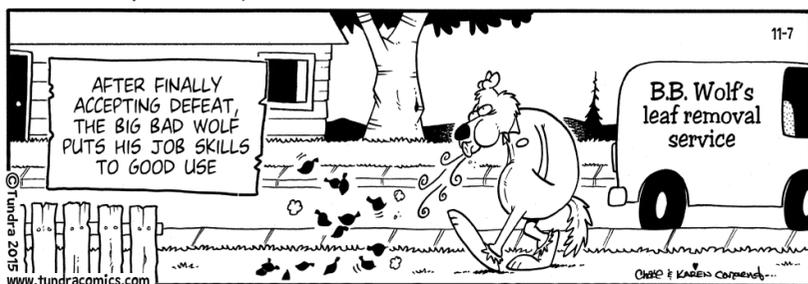
On more than one occasion, men have told me I'm "beautiful." Instead of handling it gracefully, it makes me defensive and I seem rude without meaning to be that way. Comments of this nature make me extremely uncomfortable.

I've never had strangers tell me things like this before. My co-workers think I'm crazy for not eating it up, but I'm left feeling uneasy for the rest of the day. There has to be a better way of handling this than the way I have been. Any advice? — *Defensive in Arkansas*

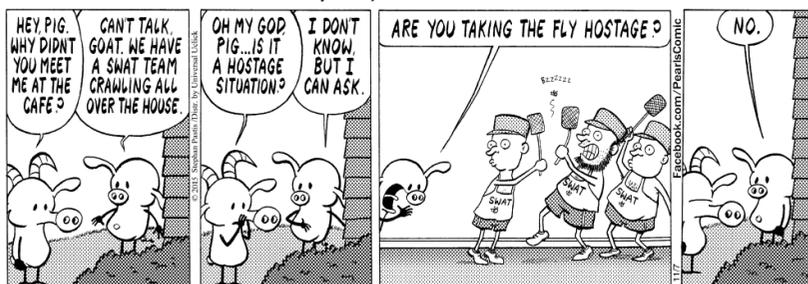
**Dear Defensive:** Yes. The best way to handle a compliment is to be gracious and accept it. Say thank you and refrain from using it as an excuse to parade your insecurities.

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

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



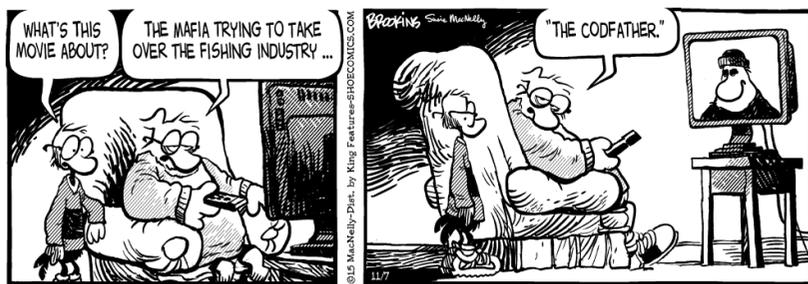
**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



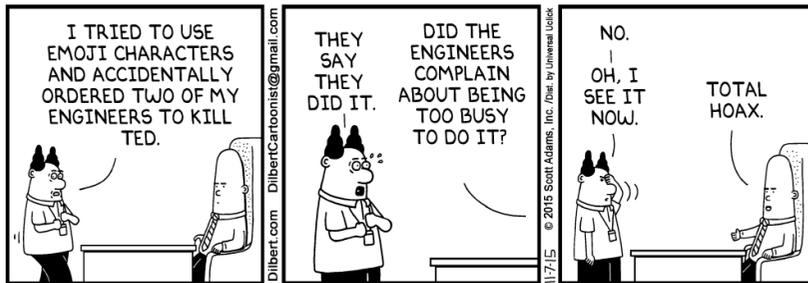
**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



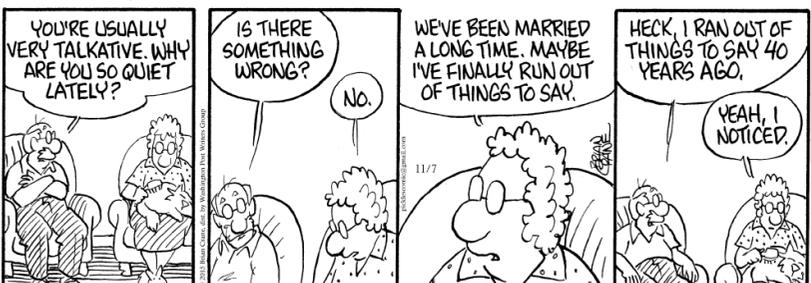
**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



**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 know better than to move just to look busy. Your activities have to mean something to you or you're unlikely to carry them out. There's a huge difference between activity and achievement.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Your sense of justice is aligned with that of the great forces of the universe. It will all work out in a way that you think is fair. This is especially satisfying when it has to do with your love life.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Happy things will happen. Upbeat people will assist you, friendly advice will prove sound, and best of all, the one you are attracted to will give you evidence that the feeling is mutual.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are those fascinating people you'd like to follow around, just to see how they do it. Actually, you might be surprised by how many people feel that way about you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It feels good to get positive feedback, but it's not nearly as helpful as complaints are. When your ego is small, your ability to take negative criticism and transform it into a winning edge is huge.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your roles today will tend toward the extreme, such as the sweet-

est friend on earth, and the world's greatest romantic. But beware: once you're known in a certain way, you'll be expected to keep it up.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Expect some inner turbulence, likely triggered by one who has no idea what your triggers are. Remind yourself with a loving action that you are an important and cherished member of the human race.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Act on your sensational ideas and you'll debunk the myth of the tortured artist. You live the life of a completely sane, happy and productive creative dynamo.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** As usual, Lady Luck plays a key role in the good fortune that befalls you over the weekend. As a bonus, she doesn't even want you to pay her back.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** As you continue along this path, certain landmarks will look suspiciously familiar to you. No, you haven't passed this way before, but your prior journeys prepared you for this.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You treat them like royalty and they adore you right back. That's what makes the next 24 hours lovely, though it's possible you won't totally appreciate this until you look back on it several months from now.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Unlike some people, you don't need an hour's notice to leave the house. Hear a good idea? You'll be ready in a flash! Your organized and methodical nature makes it possible for you to be spontaneous.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**