

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



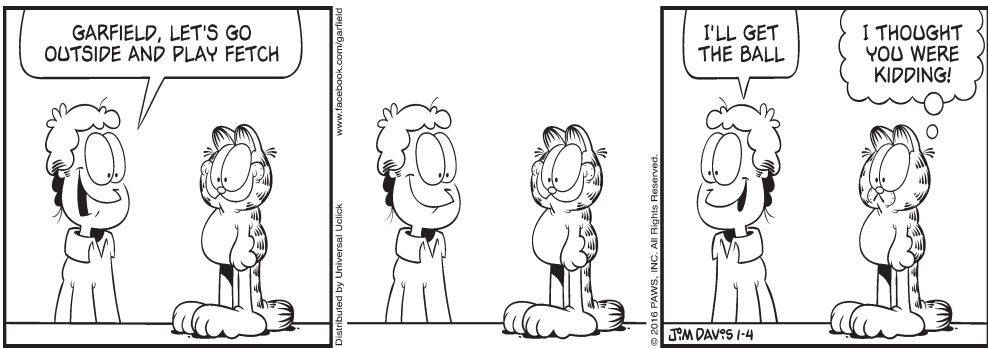
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



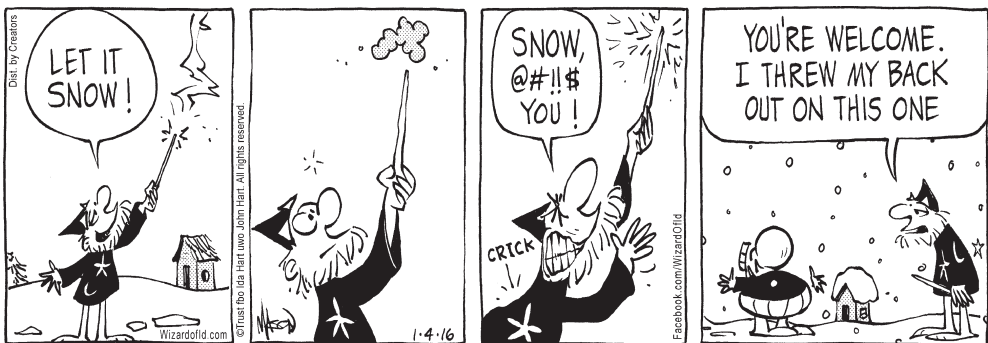
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



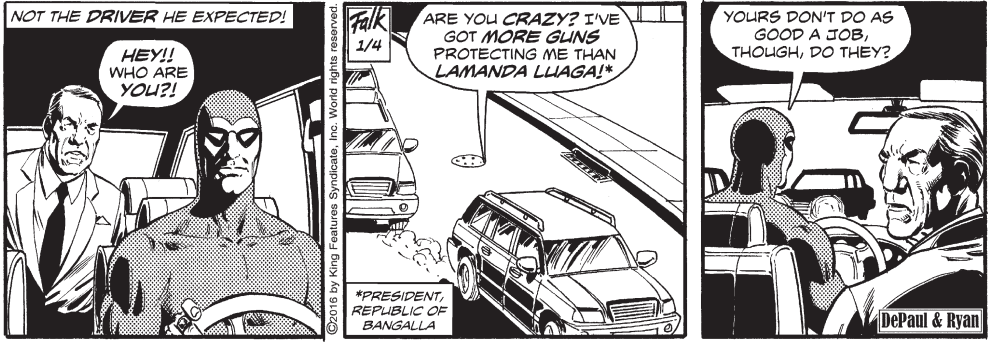
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



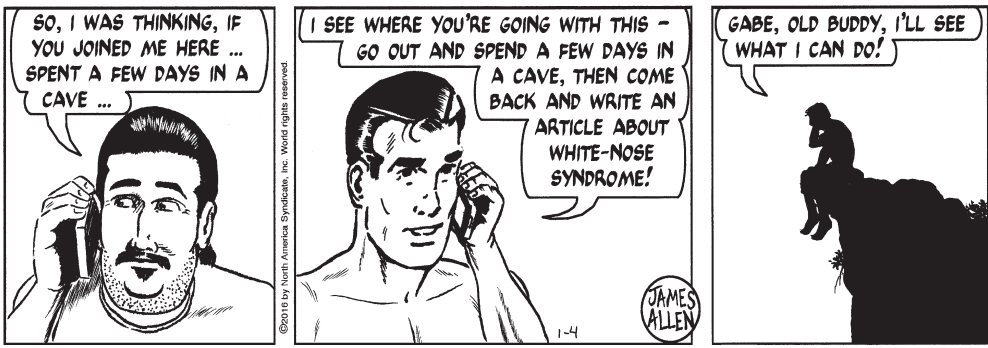
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



Spouse still carries torch for old flame

Any thoughts? — *Heartsick in South Carolina*

Dear Heartsick: Your husband appears to still be carrying a torch for his old flame. Are you sure she is really sick?

If it's the truth, then the "vulture" I see on the horizon may be him.

I hope you appreciate how extremely manipulative your husband appears to be. Because of it, and since he has spoken the "D" word, consult a lawyer to ensure that your interests will be protected regardless of his motives. I'm saying that in case the woman turns out to be healthier than both of you.

Dear Abby: How do you help someone who doesn't want to be helped? My adult son, "Greg," who lives with me, is slowly drinking himself to death. He was laid off two years ago, and I know he is depressed and has given up on life.

It has reached the point where he is showing signs of cirrhosis, but he refuses to do anything about it. The last time he saw a doctor was three years ago.

The doctor said Greg's liver functions were

not normal and he needed to stop drinking. I've tried to make my son listen to reason, to no avail.

My sister tells me if I don't get Greg some help, I could be charged with adult neglect. But I don't know how to fix this. The outcome is increasingly bleak. What can I do? — *Mom with a Problem*

Dear Mom: If the inability to convince a substance-addicted adult relative to get help were against the law, there wouldn't be enough prisons to hold all the "offenders."

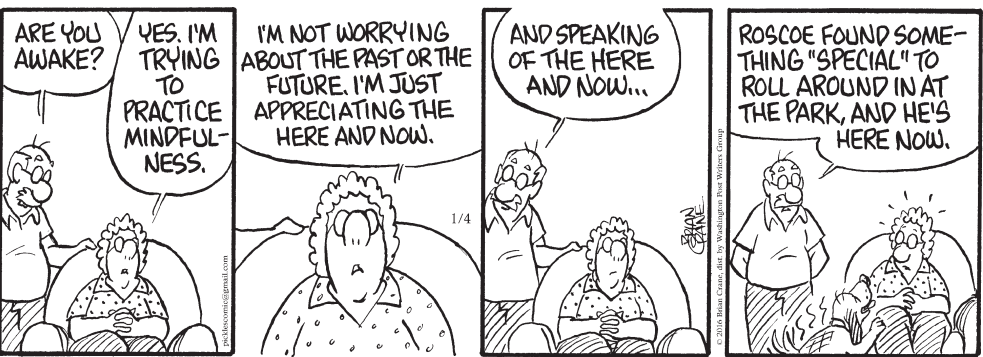
As much as you love your son, you can't "fix" his alcohol addiction. You should, however, find the nearest Al-Anon group and attend some meetings.

And while you are at it, bring your sister with you because she has a lot to learn. Chief among the lessons is that someone else's drinking is not another person's fault or responsibility to control.

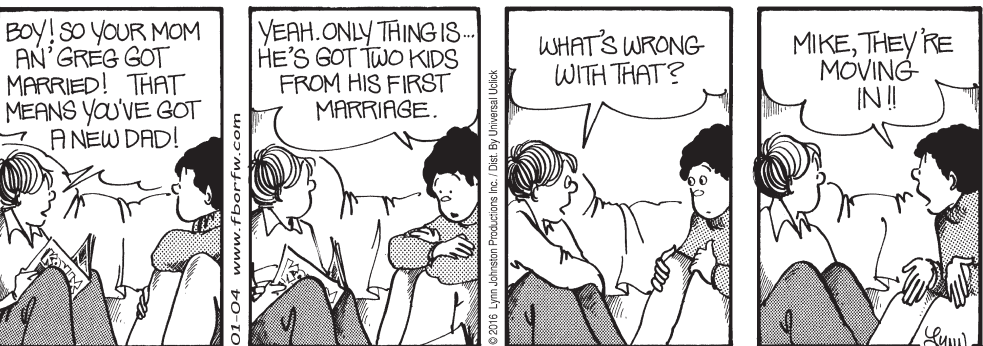
I am sorry for your pain, because I'm sure it is considerable.

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

PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



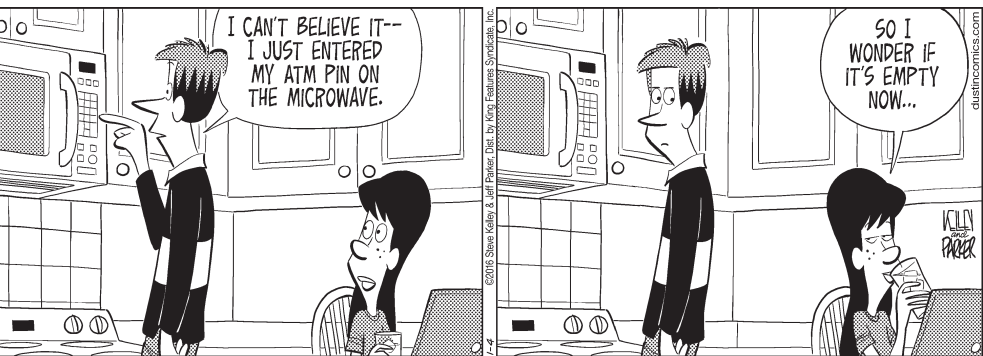
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Adorableness and boldness will go together. The one who charms you will probably do so because he or she has the courage to say what the others are keeping inside.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The rule enforcer is often unpopular. Since that would be you today, you may be able to circumvent the problem by letting them come up with their own punishment for crossing the line.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're cool. You're warm. You're hot. You'll do the whole range today based on the people you're around and the emotional temperature you feel will be most effective for dealing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You shouldn't make the game so hard for yourself on a daily basis, or life will slowly grate at your joy. Why not give yourself multiple ways to win, smile and love? Set yourself up for something good.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're committed to helping the lives of others and this is what will make your own life great. Take it in stride. You can't help everyone at once, but you will make a difference.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've an expectation for the day. It doesn't have to be perfect; it just has to include the one you love to see. Your connection with water signs (Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces) will be especially strong.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you share about your travels, they may be intrigued but they won't understand completely if they weren't there. That's what makes your relationship with your travel companion so special.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's hard not to judge your friends when you're witness to ill-advised behavior. It's even harder not to judge when you're the one messing up. But judgments won't help anyone now. Pointing toward a better way might, though.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know how you admire the one with a talent you don't possess? Well, someone feels the same way about you. The funny part is that you don't even realize you have this talent because it's so much a part of who you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Halfway pleased isn't really your style. It's worse than not being pleased at all, because it ties up more of your time and attention. That's why you aim to please beyond expectation and experience the same.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When words aren't enough — and you will run out of them today — your heart will go forward and your actions will fill in the blanks perfectly. Trust yourself. They do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's still debatable whether the distraction is helping or hurting. On the one hand it lightens the pressure you were putting on yourself. Or does it only spread it to a different spot?



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY



HOLIDAY MATHIS