

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Say, hon, this is tasty! I thought it was the real McCoy!"

Mom takes out anger on her children

Dear Abby: I am the mother of four. My children are wonderful, but they really don't listen. Instead of sitting down and talking to them, I scream and call them names. Then, after they go to sleep, I feel extremely guilty. My 12-year-old girl struggles in school. I have tried to be calm and help her. But I become easily frustrated and give up. Then I start to scream and tell her she'll never get it. I'm afraid I am damaging my child in the long run. How can I control my anger so I can help her succeed? — *Angry in El Paso*



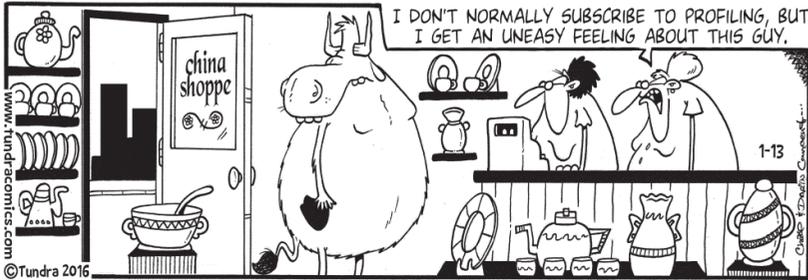
JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Angry: While both involve anger, you are really asking me about two separate issues. Let me first respond to the second one, your inability to help your 12-year-old academically. As you may already know, not all peo-

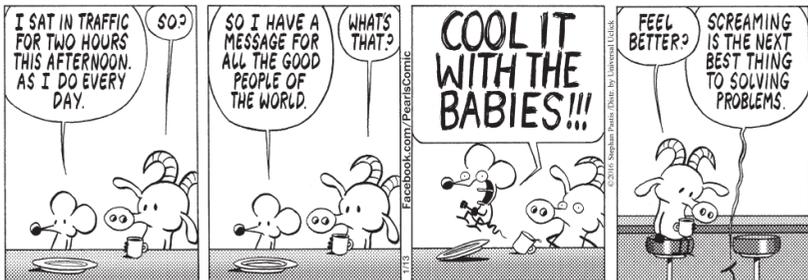
ple absorb information the same way. Some of us are visual learners, others are auditory learners, and some may have a learning disability that requires help from a trained professional. Your daughter may be one of these. I'm willing to bet that when you scream at her, you are really screaming at yourself because of your frustration at being unable to get through to her. I have a booklet that may help you calm yourself before you get angry with your children. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$7 in U.S. funds, to Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Most adults learn from childhood how to manage their anger. However, it is equally important to learn to express anger in ways that are not destructive. Being in touch enough with your emotions that you can say, "When you do that (or say that), it makes me angry," can help you calm yourself before you explode,

and it will also earn you the respect of others. **Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been married for 35 years. Every year, he takes a week off to go to another state and play golf. When he returns, he compiles all the photos he has taken onto a disk. He would let me see the photos on the computer after the first couple of golf trips, but on this last one, he refused to show me any. This is a big red flag for me that he's doing something more than just golfing. I might add that there is a lot of alcohol consumed, along with hot tub parties at the motel where he stays. I'm interested in what you think might be going on during these trips. — *Left Behind in Idaho* **Dear Left Behind:** People don't usually become secretive unless they have something to hide. Since you asked, I suspect that if he was proud of what went on, he would have shown you the pictures. **Write Dear Abby** at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



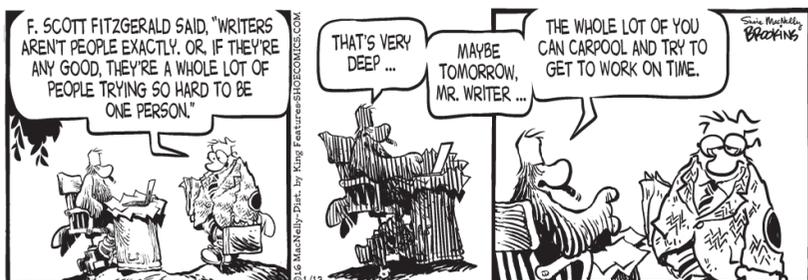
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



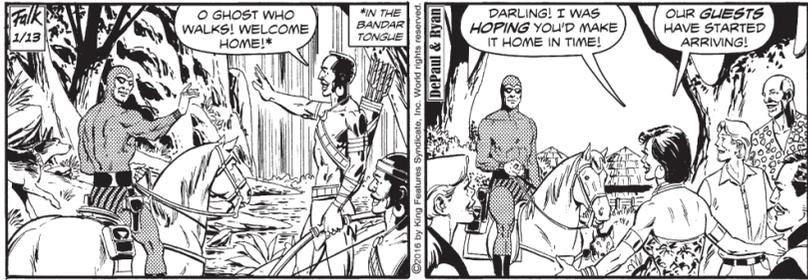
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



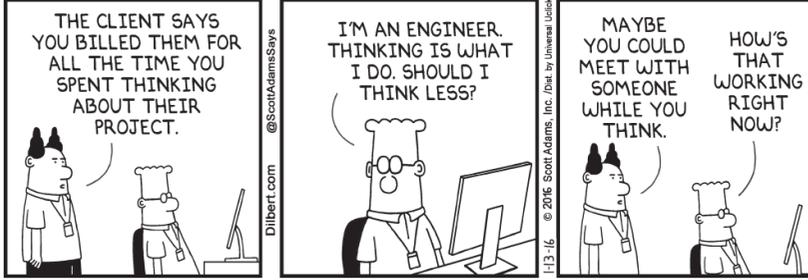
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



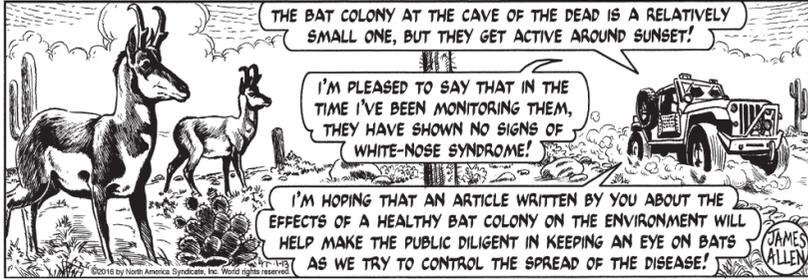
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



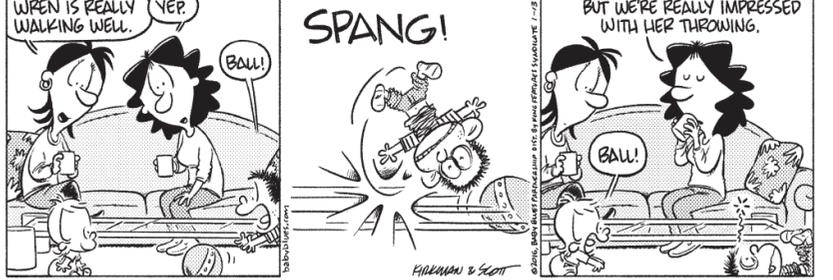
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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). When you hit the mid-day slump, one happy memory is all it takes to connect you with inner magic. Remember the situations, people and things that bring you joy. The spark of that thought will get your energy going again.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may have to change an agreement; do so at the earliest opportunity. You won't exactly be met with enthusiasm, but, if you wait, things could get worse. Renegotiate as soon as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No, you're not dreaming this or fabricating it: You actually do have healing powers. Your touch, your listening ear and the love in your gaze all send soul nutrition right where it is most needed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you have a mystical mindset, the world is filled with sprites, imps, trolls and the like. It might help you to think of the people around you as specific creatures, each with unique attributes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One man's triviality is the whole world of another. You do not share the same passions as some of the people around you. Even so, your respect for what they love will keep you in good stead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Modesty is a primer for the mind. It makes for optimum receptivity and quick learning. Head into that potentially educational environment and leave all prior knowledge behind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Segal's Law states that "A man with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure." To eliminate doubt, narrow down your options considerably.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Choose your company according to tone, not experience. The upbeat people may have the wrong answers, but that's something that can be sorted out with the right attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The shape of the physical world changes. Forms expand, contract, sag, implode—but feelings are immune to forces such as gravity. The durability of feelings will work for you today. Use it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). For deeply evolutionary reasons, good memories are harder to hold on to than bad ones. You'll set the balance right and make yourself and others happy by recording a memory through writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Of course, you have much better things to think about than your reputation and/or effect on others. And yet there is something you want that will be much easier to obtain once you align your public image with it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The one who becomes a master of his or her time will become a master of many things. The extra moments you give to a loved one may put you back, but you'll never regret the expense of those minutes.



HOLIDAY MATHIS