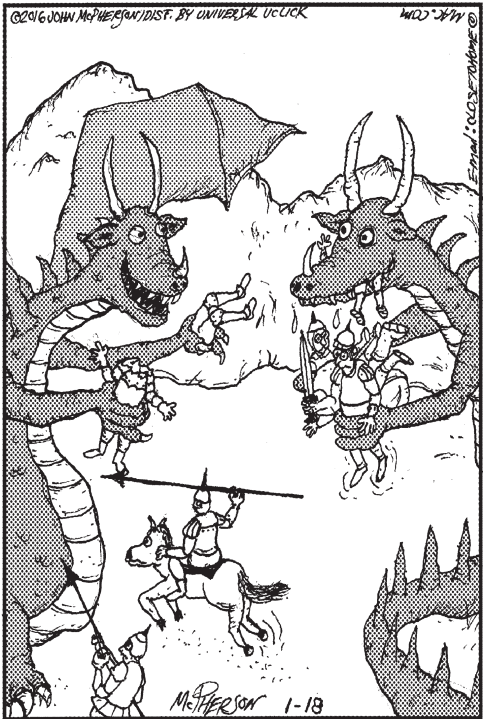


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Eat up! These things are loaded with iron!"

Couple's drinking strains friendship

Dear Abby: My wife and I have been friends with another couple, "Bill" and "Emily," for 20 years. We usually have dinner together once every four to six weeks.

In the past, everyone enjoyed a cocktail or a glass of wine with dinner and nobody overdid it. But over the last year or so, it is clear that they have started drinking earlier in the day, before we arrive. They each consume multiple drinks while my wife and I are still on our first. Emily often is noticeably drunk within the first hour and excuses herself to go to bed while Bill continues drinking. Often dinner plans at their house or at a nearby restaurant must be canceled because of this behavior.

When they visit our home, Emily helps herself to several glasses of wine before dinner and then passes out in our guest room, while Bill sits on the couch rambling on and we speed up the cooking to get food on the table. When dinner is finished, we suggest it's time to call it a night. Our get-togethers are now

over in less than two hours.

How do we tell these otherwise nice friends that they drink too much? — *Unwilling Bartender in Arizona*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Bartender: The next time Bill and Emily come to your home for dinner, make sure your liquor is locked up and don't serve any. If you are asked about the omission, you and your wife should tell them that YOU have decided to "cut back" on your alcohol consumption because it will enable you to enjoy their company more. (I wish you could videotape their reaction.)

It will be interesting to see if you still enjoy their company when they are sober, and vice versa. If they take offense and decide to socialize with you less often, don't take it personally. Realize that alcohol now rules their lives.

I do not think you should try to perform an "intervention" because it doesn't appear you are close enough to them to do it with much success.

Dear Abby: I was married for 27 years before my divorce. The ending of my marriage was both painful and unexpected. I was in

therapy throughout the divorce and for some time after.

Later I moved to another state so I would no longer have to risk running into him. But just when I think I have moved on, something is said or something happens that brings my pain and anger back to the surface.

I heard once that when one is in a serious relationship, that it can take twice as long to get over it. Is this the same for a marriage? Can I expect it to take 2 times 27 years before I am finally over my ex and my divorce? — *Unexpected Divorce*

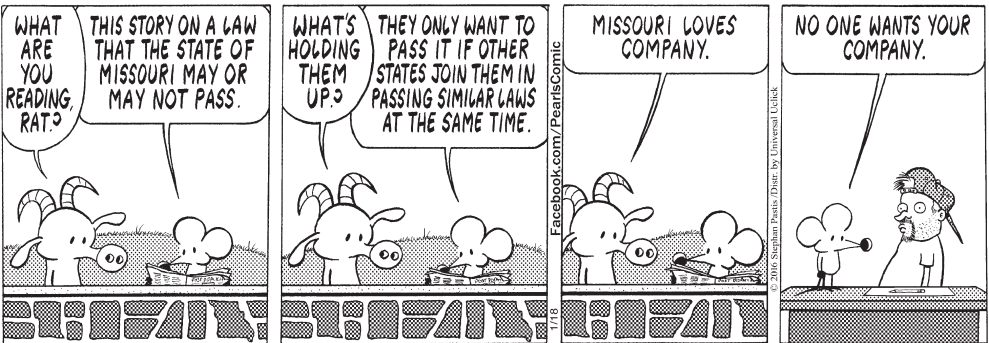
Dear U.D.: There is no set timetable for "getting over" a divorce. Much depends on the reasons for it. Some people hang onto their pain and anger for the rest of their lives. Others grow beyond the experience and are able to move on. They cultivate new friends and interests, and sometimes find a romance to replace the one that was lost. I predict you will move beyond your pain and anger when you are ready for another relationship.

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

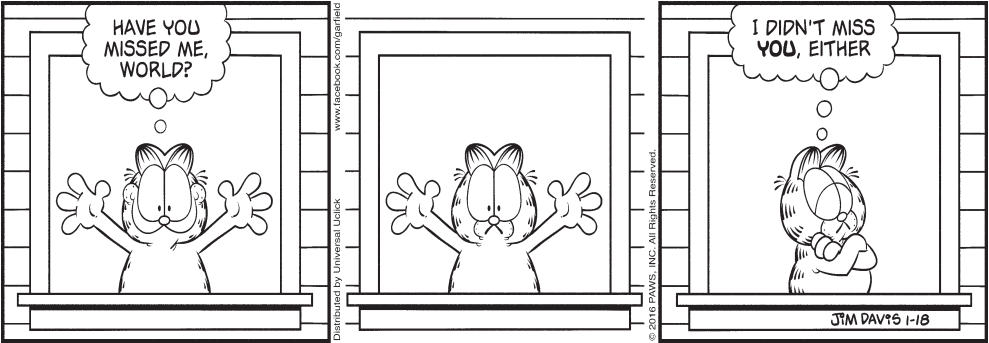
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



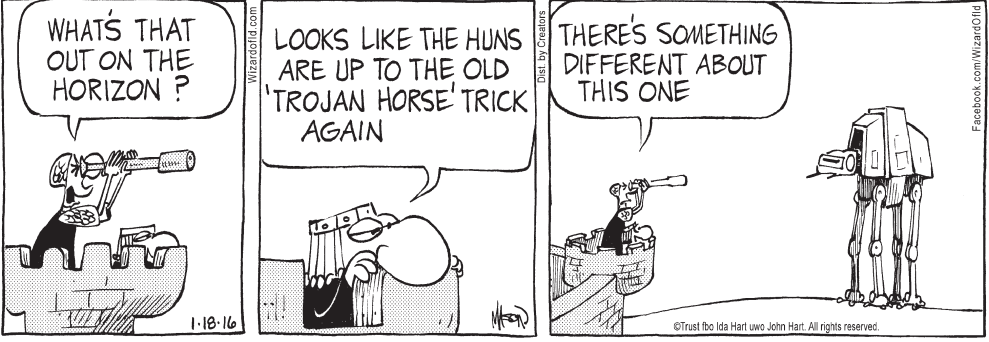
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



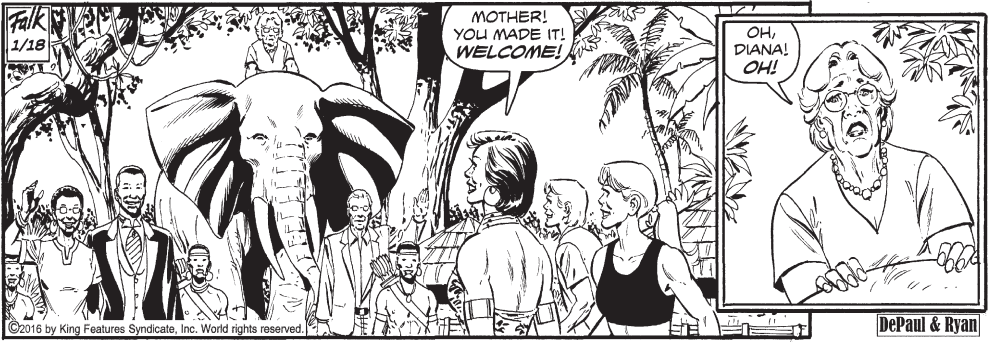
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



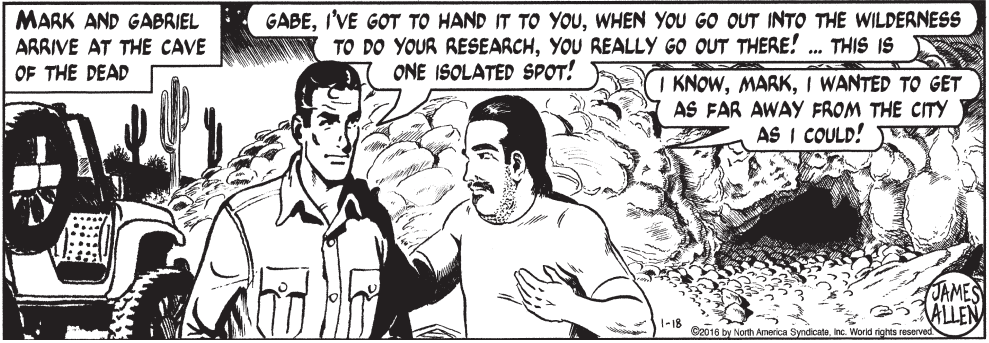
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



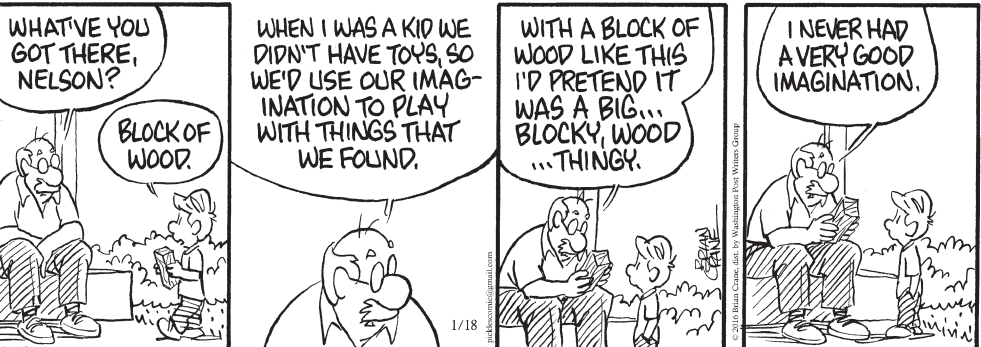
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



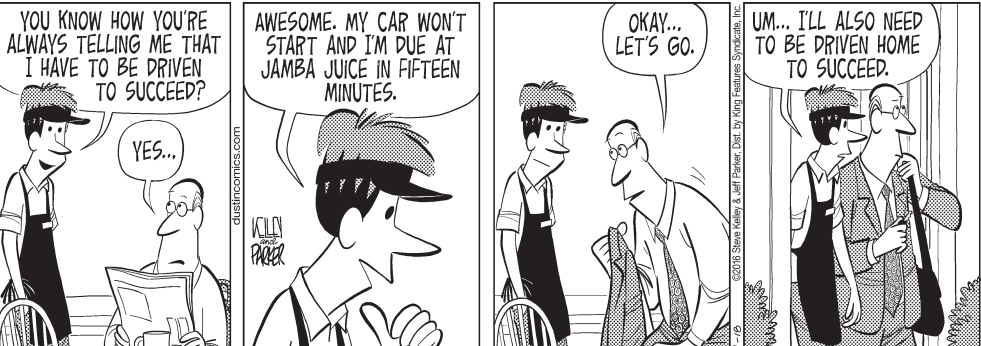
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Investigate the pauses. What you think is an intrusion on your life is actually just more life. Accept and embrace it and you'll be immediately happier. Resist and you'll go on disgruntled.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't know what you're doing and you have the power to do it anyway, you're in a position for maximum results. They won't be the results you were going for, though, so keep an open mind about how to apply them more usefully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You communicate so many ways: visually, conversationally and with subtle emotional shifts. You can believe that those who are intimately connected with you can feel your every mood shift today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Should you reduce your number of wants and needs or instead work to increase your means? The second way is favored now. There's an abundant source out there waiting for you to tap into it. It's about time you branched out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If there's no one around you now that makes you feel jealous, you're not meeting enough people. You need to find those motivating forces that will push you toward who you secretly want to become.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As the sign of nurturing, you're a natural gardener in the landscap

ing of life with a strong feeling about which weeds to destroy, how much to cut back the shrubs and what you should leave to let grow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you started this, it may have been under the heady influence of self-deception. That was necessary. So are those cheerleaders who will root for you before you deserve it. Accept all the support you can get.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This work you're doing is not a sprint; it's a long, long walk. Small, repetitive actions will eventually get you to the goal. So, in order to avoid burnout, take your time and make yourself comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The most productive time you'll have will be a luxurious hour of ennui. You'll be kept from your intended activity and without many alternatives. Boredom produces brilliance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be inspired by what certain people around you are doing, and you won't be able to resist the urge to join in the fun. You'll get the sneaking suspicion that this was always meant for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have not yet experienced an hour of need such as someone around you is going through now, but your instinct about how to help will be nonetheless dead-on.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It will fall to you to solve the problem, and, yes, all eyes are on you. But don't worry; you don't have to make up the solution from scratch. Use one that worked for someone else and twist it into your own version.