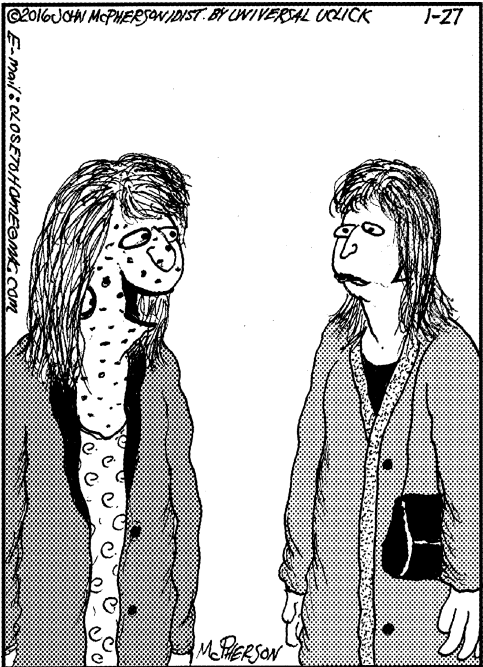


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Oh, I'm fine. I put these spots on this morning with a marker so no one will sit next to me on the subway."

Man is wary of wife's online deception

Dear Abby: I have been married for 10 years. Four years ago, while waiting for our divorce to be finalized, I decided I'd start dating online and suggested she do the same. We were still friends, so I didn't think it was crossing any boundaries.

My online dating efforts were met with peculiar results. All of the six women I connected with either stood me up or made excuses why they couldn't meet me. Out of frustration I began dating my wife again and we canceled the divorce proceedings.

About a year after we got back together, my wife confessed that the women I had reached out to online were all fictitious personae that she had constructed.

We are now filing for divorce again, and I'm worried she may do the same thing. What can I do? — Southern Guy

Dear Southern Guy: Because you think your wife might pull that stunt again, stop

sharing any details of your online dating pursuits with her. Definitely refrain from telling her which sites you're using. (Use different ones than before.)

Or, hearken back to the good old days and try meeting people in person. The worst that could happen might be that you encounter your soon-to-be ex in various disguises — but you know her well enough by now that you should be able to see through them.

Dear Abby: I am engaged to a wonderful man, and we will be married soon. We have been together two years and get along well. His parents live 35 minutes away and his mom doesn't drive.

The other day he commented that she wanted us to invite her over, as she hadn't been over in a year. I told him his mother is always welcome and should just call to make sure we are home. He then proceeded to tell me he wanted her to spend the night. He said that in his previous relationship, his mother would stay over occasionally.

I didn't know what to say, but at the age of 40, should he really be wanting sleepovers? It struck me as odd. I'm a private person and

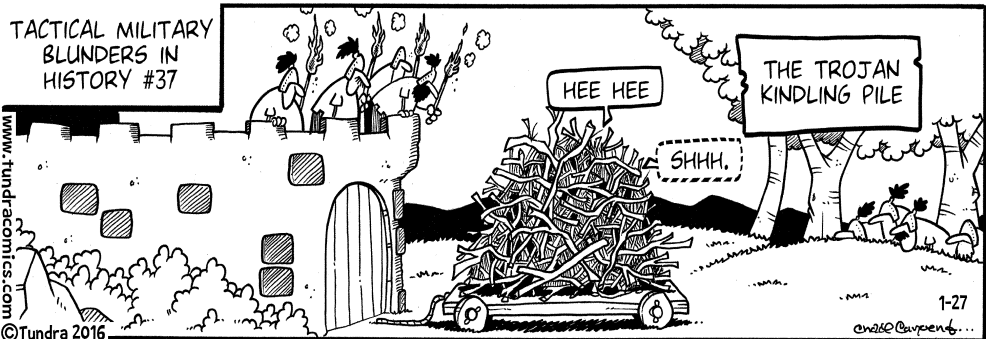
I'm not sure how to resolve this. I don't want him to feel I'm rejecting his mom, but I don't see why she needs to spend the night. I don't want to walk on eggshells with her, because she called and scolded me about how I spoke to her son several months ago. Advice? — Lady of the House

Dear Lady: Is there something you haven't mentioned? Why has it been a year since your fiancé's mother has been invited to visit? Certainly in all this time you could have picked her up. A blanket "come anytime, just call first" isn't a proper invitation — particularly if the person doesn't drive.

If you prefer she not be an overnight guest. I don't think your fiancé should force it. And if you prefer that she not meddle in your relationship with her son, I hope you made it clear to her when she "scolded" you. Of course, it wouldn't have happened if her son hadn't tattled to her — which should be a glimpse of what marriage to him may be like if you don't get this straightened out now.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



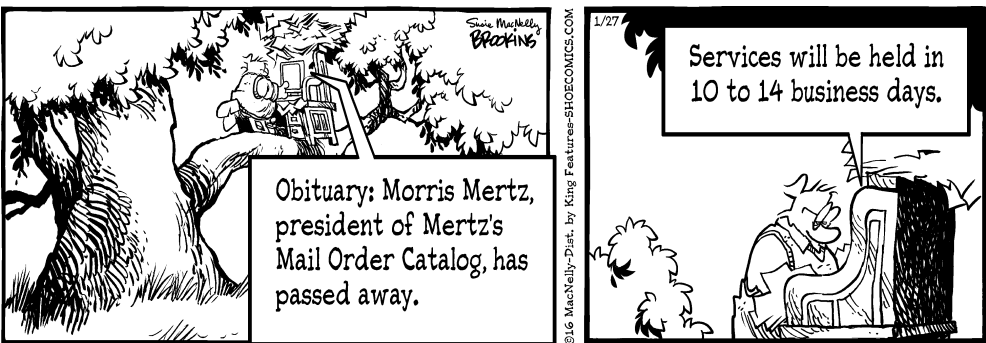
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



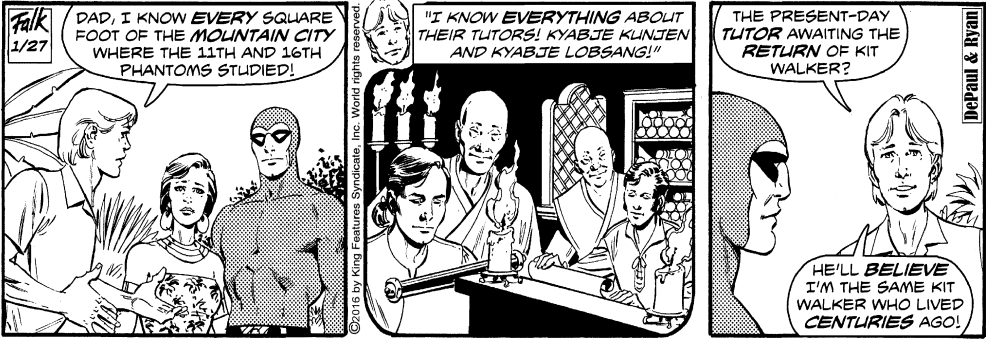
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



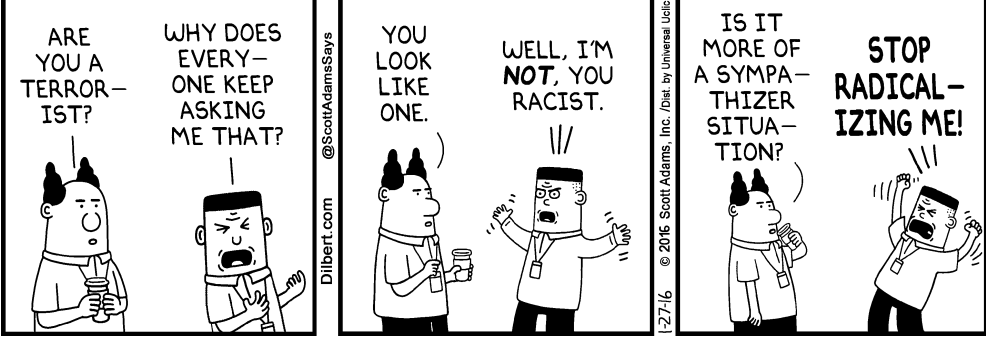
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



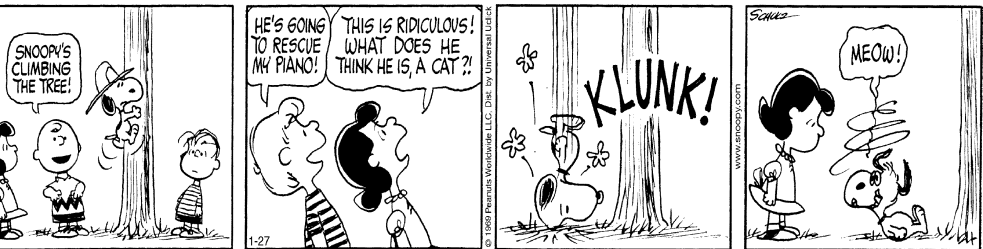
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



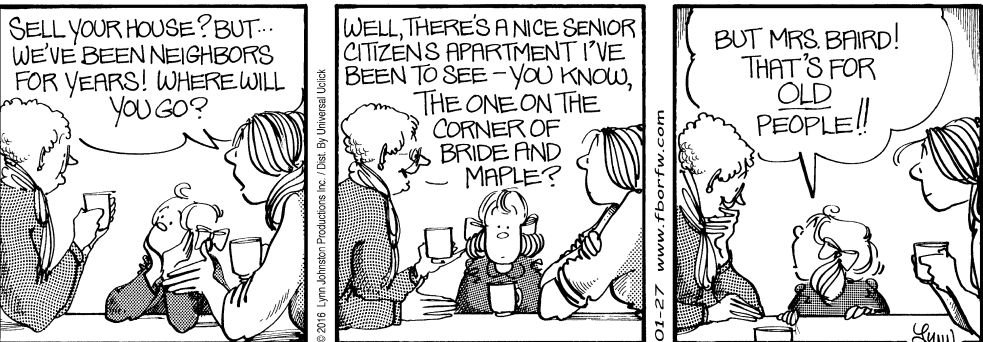
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



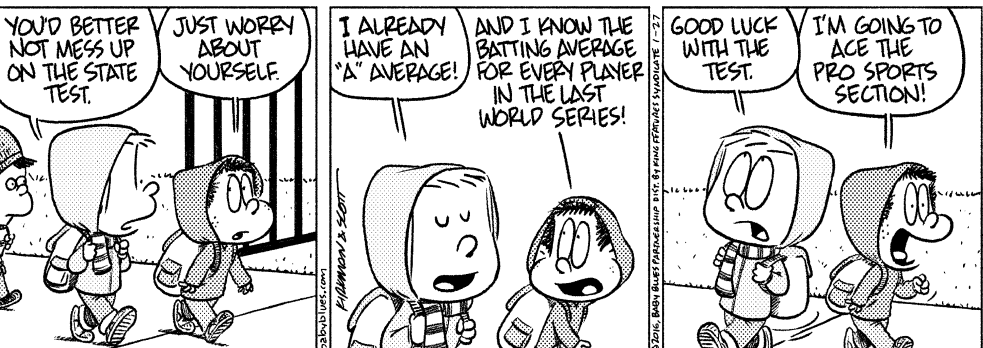
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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). Often, kindred spirits are those with whom you share many similarities. In today's case, well, you don't really have much in common, but your complimentary energies will bring both of you luck.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sure, you need attention. But not as much as someone close to you needs help. So your needs will be overshadowed by the more pressing ones of the moment. Don't worry. Your time is coming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't take yourself too seriously, and it's apparent in the way you interact today, unafraid to say what crosses your mind even though many wouldn't dare state the truth in the matter. Someone could fall in love with you for this.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You never want to bother anyone, however it's appropriate to ask for help. You're really not putting anyone out to do so. In fact, you'll be providing a service. Others need to give, too — so take your turn in the receiving line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've caught beauty in ugly places. You've carved self-worth out of criticism and neglect. You've found freedom and authenticity in a controlled, artificial environment. For these reasons and more, celebrate yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With the lunar light pumping up your attraction quotient, you'll

get more attention than you're comfortable with. It will feel nice at first, but soon you'll need to apply it to a higher cause.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you can experience conditions without commenting on them. That's higher evolutionary human stuff there. Your stoicism will be admired today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is said that youthful enthusiasm can be put to better use by the elderly. You certainly won't regret indulging in today's bit of immature fun. While you're at it, why not go all-in?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As much as you would love to know everything about your chosen subject, there is simply too much to fit into one lifetime of study. Just know that you'll build for the next generation. This will be handed down through the ages.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). They will buy the idea. They will buy the way you deliver it. They will buy you — or at least that part of you that can be bought. Consider this your lucky day for conveying your important creations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a spiritual fire in you, one that was lit by the match of love. As it is with most matches, the thing that sets it ablaze is friction. Don't be afraid of that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is an exact right time for everything, and yet you cannot know exactly what time it is, because if you concentrated too much on the impossible logic of time, you'd miss the window. This is something that can only be felt.



HOLIDAY MATHIS