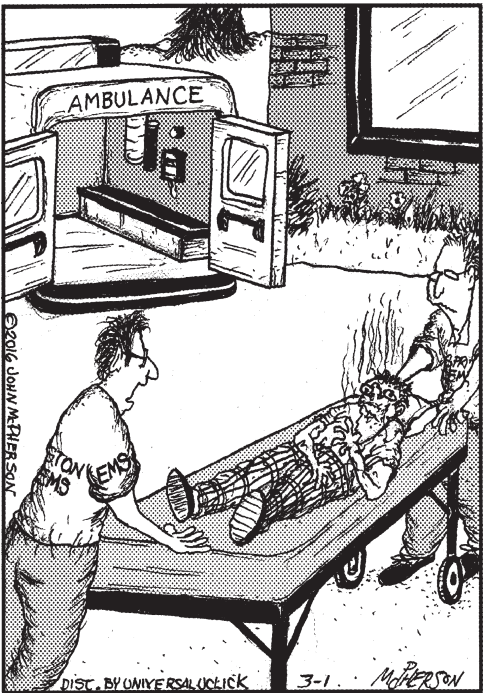


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Reader is confined by abusive husband

**Dear Abby:** I'm 39 and seven months' pregnant with my husband's only child. Since becoming pregnant, I have become somewhat withdrawn due to depression. My doctor prescribed Paxil, but my husband won't allow me to take it. I don't leave the house unless I absolutely need to because he accuses me of cheating on him daily. Two nights ago he took a single female friend out to dinner and they were gone for five hours. It hurt my feelings because in my view it was disrespectful on both their parts. When they got back, I was sitting outside and she wouldn't even come to say goodbye to me. When I asked my husband why I hadn't been invited, he said, "Neither of us wanted you there." In his eyes he has done nothing wrong. He tells me I'm crazy and I need mental help. Am I wrong for being so upset? — *Not Crazy in Texas*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

**Dear Not Crazy:** Not at all. It appears you are married to a controlling, emotionally abusive man who may be cheating on you. One of the hallmarks of philanderers is that they will accuse the innocent partner of cheating. Feeling depressed during a pregnancy under these circumstances isn't surprising. (If you felt any other way, you WOULDN'T be normal.) That your doctor would prescribe an antidepressant and your husband would "not allow" you to take it is alarming. If you have close friends and family, I urge you to tell them what's going on. And while you're at it, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) — the phone number is 1-800-799-7233 — because you may need help to get safely away.

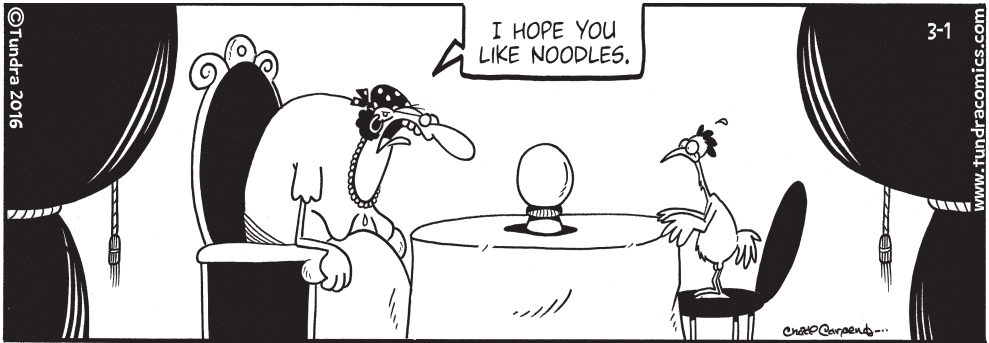
**Dear Abby:** I currently live in a situation where my husband, our two kids and I share a home with my parents, two sisters and younger brother. Sometimes it seems crowded because there is no privacy and a lack of respect. Lately I am having a problem with my sister: Despite the fact that she and my family share

the upstairs level of the home, she continues to walk around nude or in her undergarments throughout the day because she "hates" wearing clothes. At various times my family members and I have had uncomfortable encounters with her over this. I have talked to her about it repeatedly, but she refuses to cooperate. I think it's rude, inconsiderate and inappropriate, not to mention a completely avoidable problem. What do you think? Am I wrong for being upset that her behavior doesn't change and the message doesn't seem to get through to her? — *Clothes-minded*

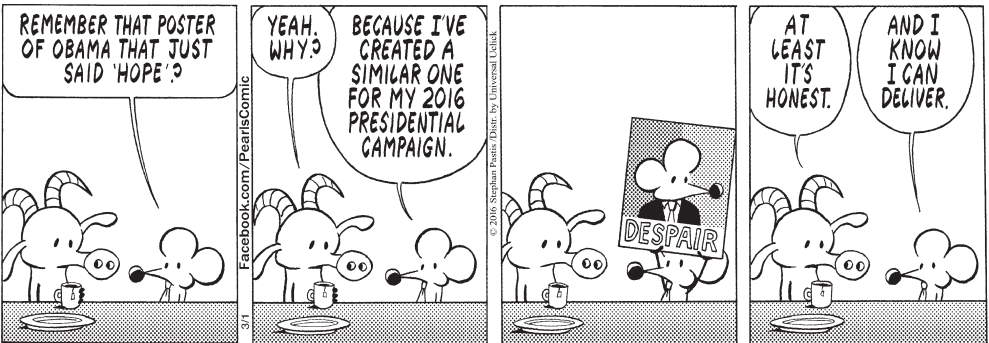
**Dear Clothes-minded:** I agree that your sister's behavior is inappropriate. She should not be parading around in a state of undress in front of your husband and children. Because she has chosen to ignore your requests, enlist the help of your parents to get the message across to her. It's their roof she's under, and perhaps they will have better luck.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



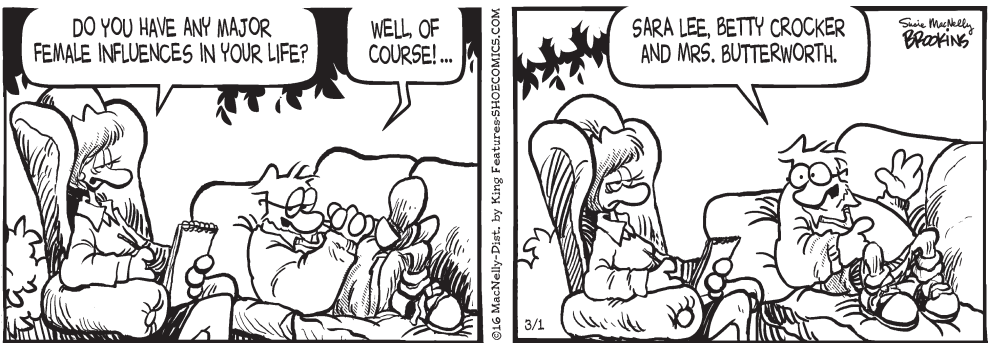
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



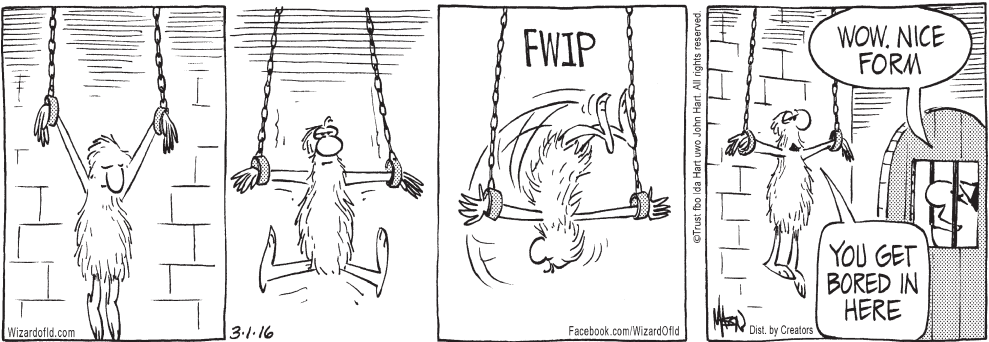
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



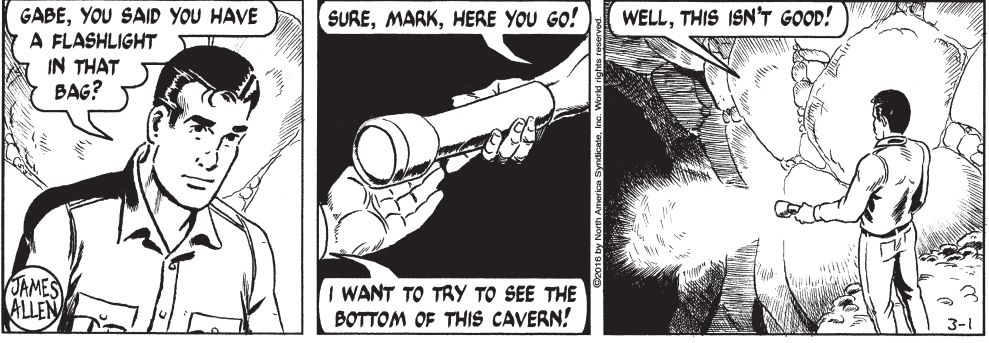
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



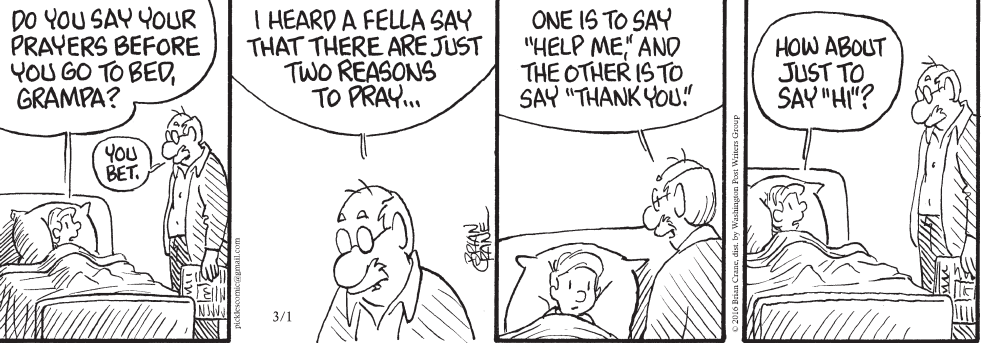
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



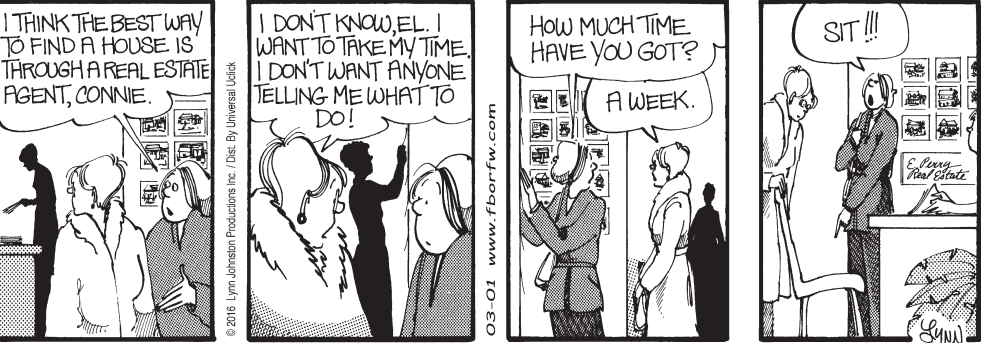
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



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 may engage in bargaining without even realizing it, as there are deals to be struck that don't require any exchanging of words. Decisions will count; actions will speak.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Be careful not to get caught in the middle of warring parties. There won't be a winning side, for starters. And when the two reconcile they will surely turn on anyone who was involved in the conflict.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The laundry list of qualities to make up the perfect partner may go out the window as it becomes clearer to you what really matters now: namely, chemistry and compatible lifestyles. Have faith in your intuition.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Privacy is always your prerogative. Those who ask probably don't deserve to know, and you have no obligation to tell, either. Besides, loved ones respect you more when you reveal less.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's not hard to be part of the good stuff now. You're aware; you look around, see what needs doing and act immediately. The simplicity of your choice will keep you in an exciting flow of life.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There are certain issues you feel strongly enough to stand firm on, and therefore you've a few unbendable rules — the



HOLIDAY MATHIS

chief one of the day being to remain flexible in all matters at all times.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you don't yet have what it takes, don't worry; you will. Your ability will swell when the challenge at hand invites it to. This is especially true on an intellectual level. You'll grow smarter in a demanding learning environment.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Sometimes the bustle and hurry bring out the best in you, but not now. So go ahead and take off the pressure. Stroll through life instead of running around.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your teachers have been stellar, but that's not to say you couldn't use a few fresh influences. Reach out and you'll learn what you need to know to take your career to the next level.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're a natural-born cheerleader, inspiring all who come near, though most won't show it. In fact, you would never guess how energizing your support really is.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your intensity level may be too much for today's situation, so hold back. The restraint you show will be admired. Then, when the drama boils over, you'll still have plenty of energy left in you to carry on productively.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Of course you want to succeed! The question now is, at what cost? Doing your best is one thing. Then there's the above-and-beyond efforts you could make. Would they be worth it?