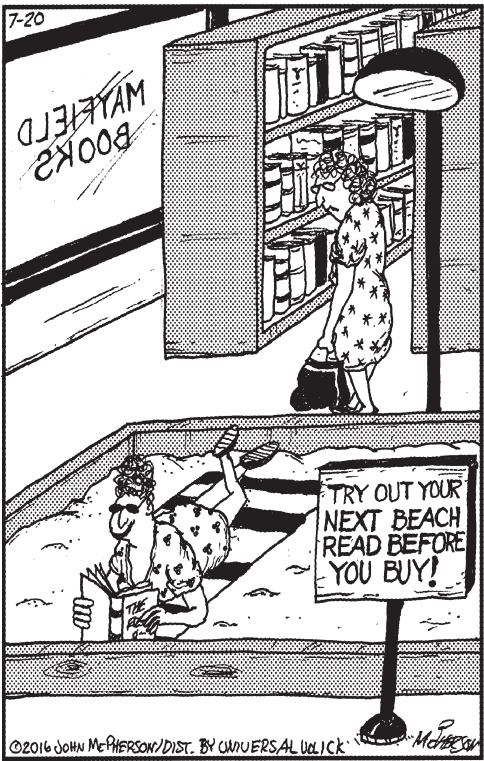


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Wife now wants her own bank account

Dear Abby: My wife and I have been together for eight years. When we first met, I was in the military and she was a bartender. Needless to say, she made far more money than I did at the time.

Six months into our relationship, she got pregnant and quit her job.

For the next seven years she raised our children and went to school while I did whatever I had to do — working two jobs — to make enough to pay the bills.

I am now out of the military. I have been at a company for six years, and we are finally reaching a point where we don't worry about money as much.

She will graduate from school soon, and hopefully start working right after. She now says that when she starts working, she wants to keep separate bank accounts and split the bills evenly based on pay.

Until now, I haven't resented her for not working because she has been caring for our children, our home and has been a full-time



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

student, but the thought of her wanting to keep her money to herself is weird and hurtful to me.

How can I bring this up with her without it making it seem like I think she owes me something? — *Separate Accounts in Texas*

Dear Separate Accounts: Ask your wife why she wants to separate your finances, because marriage is supposed to be a partnership. She does "owe you something" — an explanation.

Dear Abby: I am a 65-year-old cross-dresser who has a deep, burning desire to be a woman. I guess you could call me gender dysphoric.

I will never realize this dream of mine, though, and I have accepted myself as I am and have learned to live with it. I am not depressed.

My situation is difficult because my wife does not approve, so I try to be discreet. Sometimes I underdress and finish my hair and makeup in the car in a park. Then I'll walk or go shopping. I like people to see me like this.

Because they don't know me, I'm sure some-

times they see a man in a dress, but I don't mind.

However, I am always alone in my altered state and all the groups meet at night. I'm a daytime person, and it's much easier to get out as "Sheila" in the late mornings and early afternoons. Is there some way for me to find some groups that meet in the afternoon? Is there someone I can contact? I appreciate your help. — *Just a Dream*

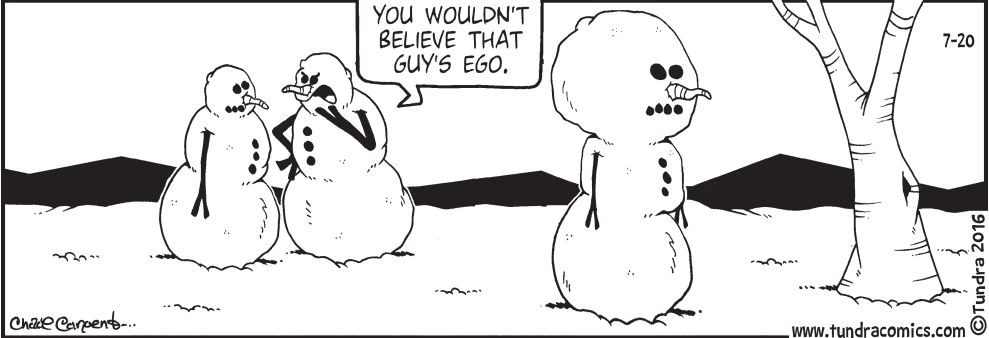
Dear Just A Dream: An organization that has appeared in my column before may be helpful for you.

It's the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess International), and it offers not only support for heterosexual cross-dressers, but also their spouses, partners and families.

It's the oldest and largest support organization for cross-dressers and the people who love them. It promotes cross-dressing with dignity and decency, and treats spouses on an equal basis with their cross-dressers. To learn more about it, contact Tri-Ess at www.tri-ess.org.

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



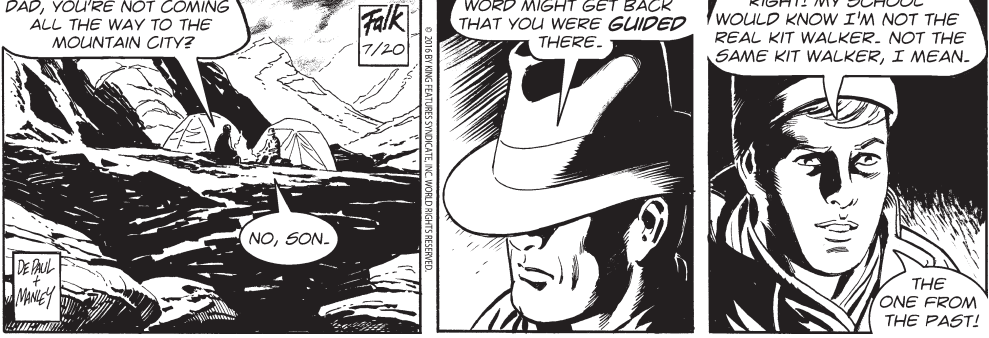
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



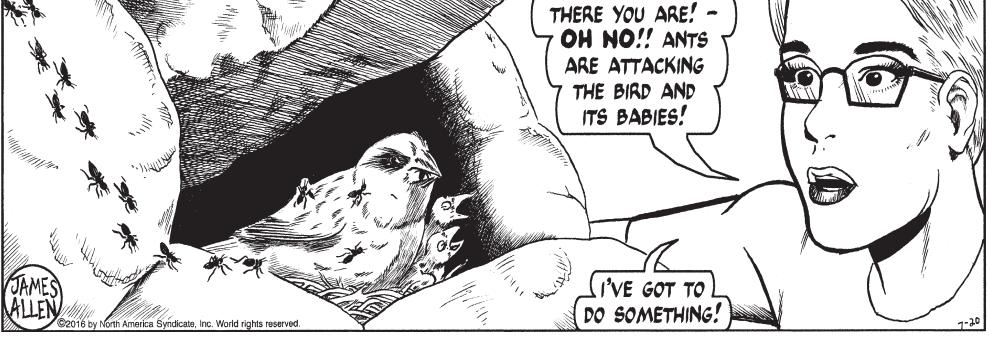
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



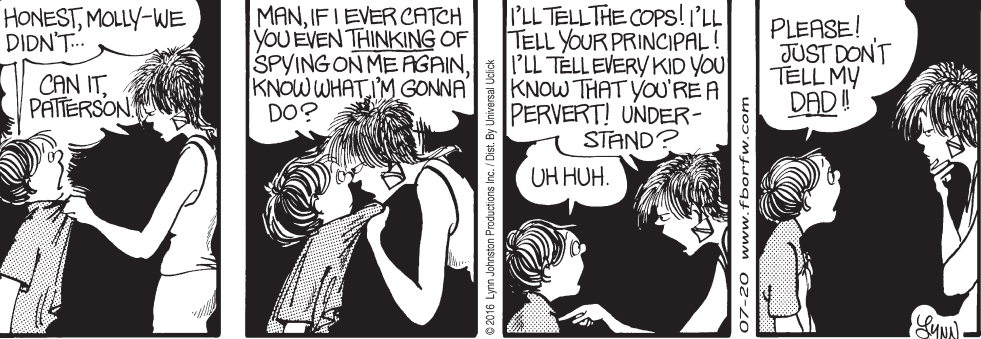
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



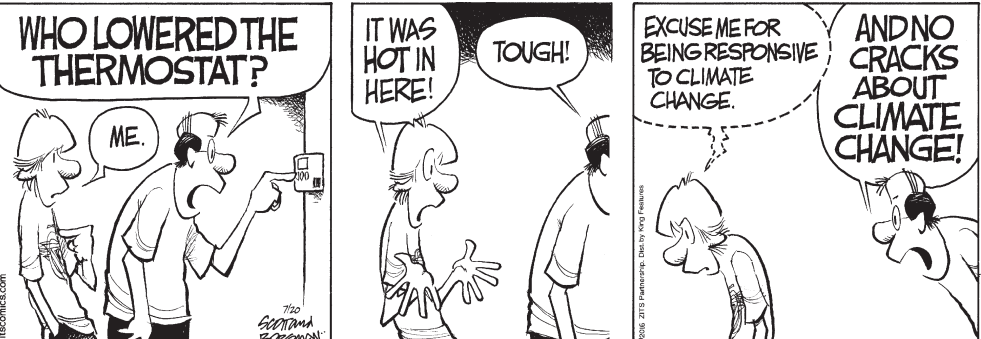
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



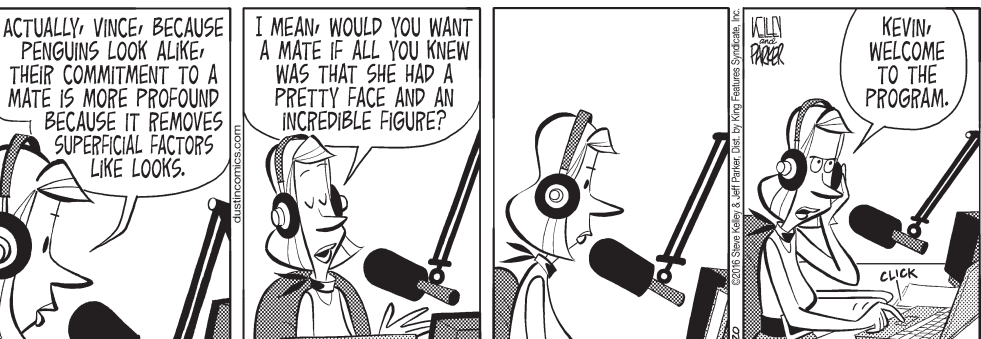
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Business guru Raymond Aaron said, "If you don't have an assistant, you are one." You'll certainly feel like an assistant as you run around tending to dozens of details today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You needn't worry about what you're going to contribute to others that will mean something. It will all happen in the moment. You'll capture hearts by just being you — the courageous and selfless version.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maybe you made some adjustments because you had to, not because you wanted to. Still, there's strength in versatility. Those adjustments will work for you, and ultimately you'll be glad you were strong enough to bend.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). That person asking you annoying questions is just trying to get to know you. Hopefully, it's flattering that someone wants to be closer to you, even if that person doesn't have a clue how to go about it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can easily sense social tension, and when you do, your immediate response is to smooth things over with a joke or diversion. This is just one of your many charming habits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may be putting your all into a project, and yet the desired result still eludes you. If this makes you frustrated, all the better. A touch of angry energy

will push you to reach for and achieve something better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're spiritually generous, and this is why you can be as enthusiastic about the successes of others as you would be if the win were your own. You'll rejoice in the chance to celebrate the people around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The astral influences may have you feeling edgy. Among the many ways to work off this stress, the easiest way is to exercise. For bonus benefits, try a form of exercise you haven't endeavored before.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've very few regrets. Everything that's happened, good and bad, has made you who you are today. You'll find a way to profit from one of your past mistakes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today will offer opportunity to develop your inner world. Your experiences will mimic the scenes in your mind, so taking charge of your imagination is a powerful way to bring about the changes you desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've a strong will, big goals and the freedom to pursue them. This is a magic combination. The current circumstances are more precious and rare than you think. Use them to your advantage — now!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're used to leading in a certain arena but were you to back off and let another person help, your schedule would open up, your load would lighten and you would be quite impressed by what happens next.



HOLIDAY MATHIS