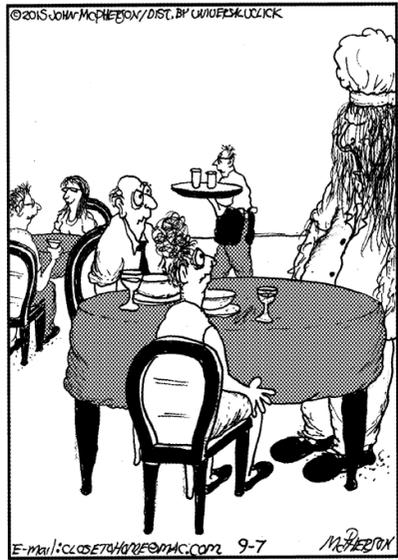


**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



# Mom considers adopting second child

**Dear Abby:** I am a 24-year-old single mother of an amazing 3-year-old girl. I have had more than my share of turmoil with her father. We are no longer together, and he isn't in the picture. Abby, I feel damaged. I'm afraid I will never love again or find anyone to love me the way I need.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

My daughter is my shadow. We are literally joined at the hip. She's lonely, always around adults and has no one her age to play with. I really want to have another child. While I may never have the right man to father one, I'd like to save a life and adopt another daughter and playmate for my little girl.

Some people may see me as too young or unable to do it. But the love, care and providing for my child exceed anything I'll ever do in my life. What do you think? — *Maternal Midwesterner*

**Dear M.M.:** To adopt a child for the reason you have stated would be a terrible disservice

to an innocent child. If you want your little girl to learn to make friends with other children, then enroll her in day care, where she will be exposed to some.

As to your feeling that you are damaged and will never find love again, many women feel as you do after a bad breakup.

Most of them heal, learn from their experience and go on to have fulfilling lives. In your case, it may take the help of a therapist to find your self-confidence again.

But trust me, it can be done. Another child is not the answer to what's ailing you right now.

**Dear Abby:** My 35-year-old sister accompanied me to see the doctor because I told her I have been having thoughts of harming myself.

While we were there, the doctor expressed concern about the amount of strong prescription painkillers I have been taking. He brought up my record, and it showed I have picked up this medication four times in the last month.

Abby, my sister has been getting these pills, not me! In the past, she ordered them and picked them up for me when I was unable to

do it myself, but I had no idea she has been collecting more in my name until today. I didn't want to get her in trouble, so I didn't admit the truth to the doctor, but then he started to insist that my sister keep any medications I have under lock and key "in case I decide to harm myself."

I don't know what to do. She made me promise not to tell anyone, and I don't want to get her into trouble. (She's training to be a nurse and this could get her kicked out of the course.) Please help. — *Anxious in England*

**Dear Anxious:** Straighten this out with your doctor immediately! Do not try to "protect" your sister. There are programs for health care workers who become addicted to drugs, and she needs to get into one right now.

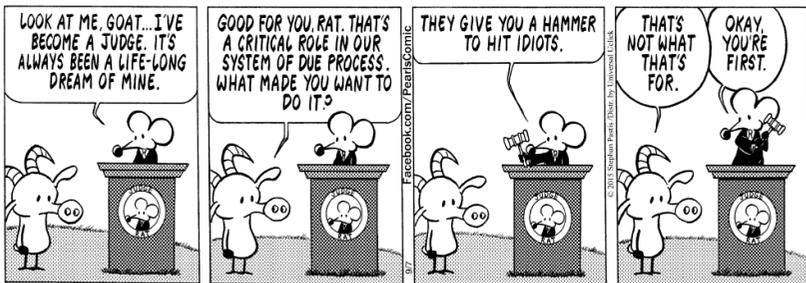
If you need medications, you will have to arrange for someone other than your sister to dole them out — another relative, a friend, pharmacist, whomever. Your doctor may be able to suggest someone.

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

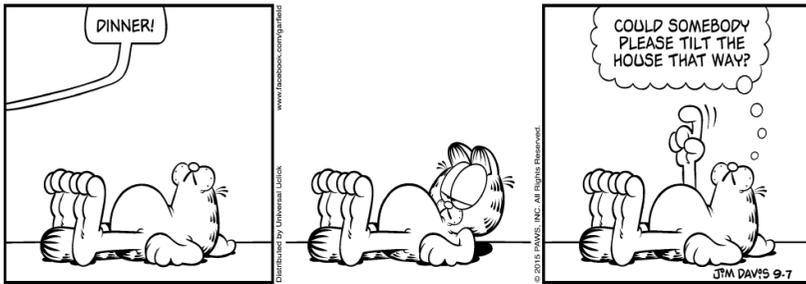
**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



**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



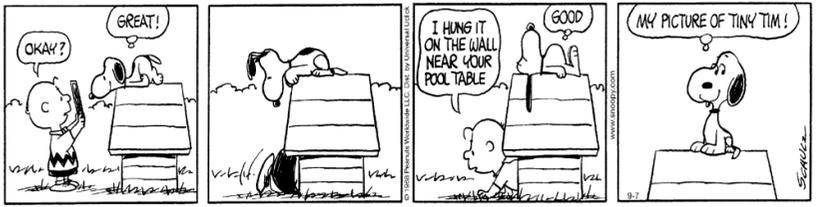
**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



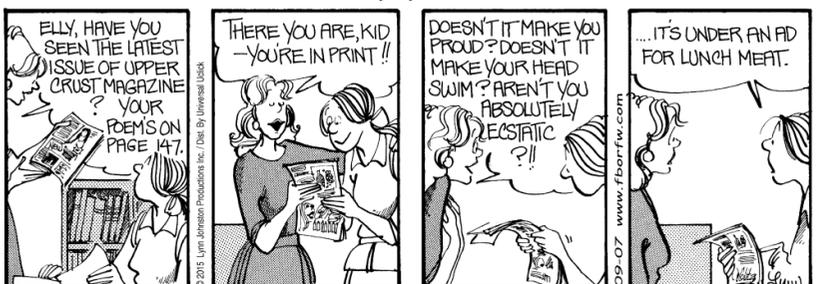
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



**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're willing to travel across the country if need be, but are you willing to travel to the most complicated parts of yourself? Should you decide to take that risk, extraordinary things will happen.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's a change in your life coming, and it's a second chance for you — to right a wrong, to heal a wound, to turn a page and leave the former plot in the dust.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** There's quite a lot that your high level of responsibility disallows you to do — for instance, relax when the others say, "I've got it." Do they really have it? It's best to assess this on a case-by-case basis.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Happiness is a chase. If you caught it, it would only change its color like a chameleon or, worse, keep running, leaving you with the tail. So as you're running, just know that for today this is as good as it gets.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Even if you struck it rich tomorrow, you would still attend to many of the responsibilities, jobs and tasks that are in your life today. With one foot in the real world, no matter what happens, you'll always be in touch with what matters.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Small choices make up good days. Big choices make up a good

life. The big choices sometimes cause days filled with unpleasantness and struggle, but it's all worth while when the choice is for a good life.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There are many ways to look at failure that don't include feeling ashamed, disappointed, angry or sad. What if you looked at failure as research and development or divine redirection?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your experience is unique but not totally isolated. Reach out and you'll find that there are people out there with whom you have more in common than you might have imagined.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** In a weird way, you're making good use of the suffering you did last month. This is a testament to your character. You're not wasteful. You're resourceful on every level.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Someone who is working within a different time frame than you will finally catch up. It might be too little too late, but a slow response is better than no response.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The response you'll get is different from the one you were going for, and yet it will be most pleasing to you. In fact, you'll consider yourself extremely fortunate.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You accept that different people have different priorities. You respect the work of others even when you don't quite understand or agree with the importance of it.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**