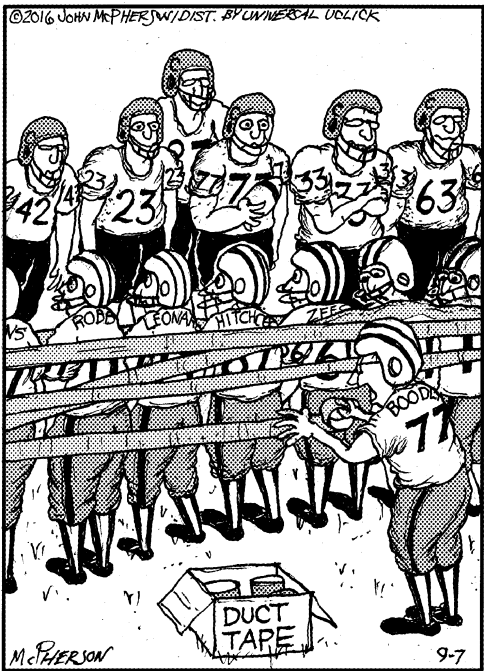


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Just trust me on this, guys! There is no WAY they are going to bust through our line!”

Man’s secret affair is awkward for wife

Dear Abby: When my husband was a teenager, he had an ongoing affair with his mother’s 20-plus-years-older friend “Nicolle.” He would call her by a nickname to signal he wanted sex.

Fast-forward three decades. His family, unaware of their illicit and illegal relationship, regularly invites Nicolle to our family functions. They even call her by that pet nickname, unaware of the connotations.

Their affair ended years before I met my husband. But whenever she is around, she follows him like a lost puppy. How do I get over being uncomfortable and angry at her?

I know the truth, but she doesn’t know I know. And, of course, my husband doesn’t want his family to know. What do I do? — *Knowing Too Much*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

He should also tell her to stop following him around or decline future invitations to the family gatherings.

Dear Abby: One of my dear friends is pregnant with her first child, and she couldn’t be more excited. Even though she’s only in her second trimester, her “baby bump” is conspicuous, and it seems people (friends, family and complete strangers) can’t help but comment that she seems “ready to pop.” When they learn she still has many weeks to go, invariably people ask if she’s having twins (she’s not). Her grandmother went so far as to ask for ultrasound photos to prove she’s carrying only one baby.

It has made my friend very self-conscious. Even though she’s in perfect health, the comments are really getting to her. Any advice on how to graciously deflect these unwanted comments? — *No Twins in the Twin Cities*

She needs to remember that there is no end to the insensitive personal comments that people make, and that it’s important to keep her sense of humor and keep in mind she’ll have to hear them only for a few more months.

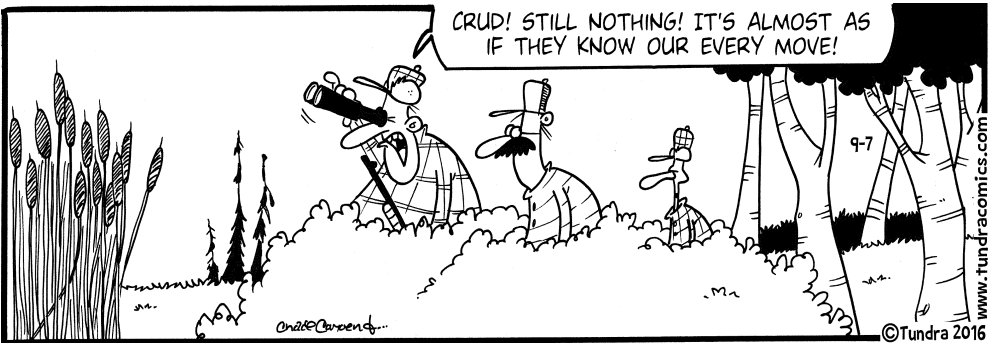
Dear Abby: My husband is in his mid-70s. We live in the Pacific Northwest. When the temperature is warm, my husband walks around the yard with his shirt off. He’s not fat, but he’s not thin either. He has gray hair on his chest.

It looks awful and it’s embarrassing. I think it’s rude to the neighbor ladies who see him walk around like this. What do you think? — *An Eyeful in Washington*

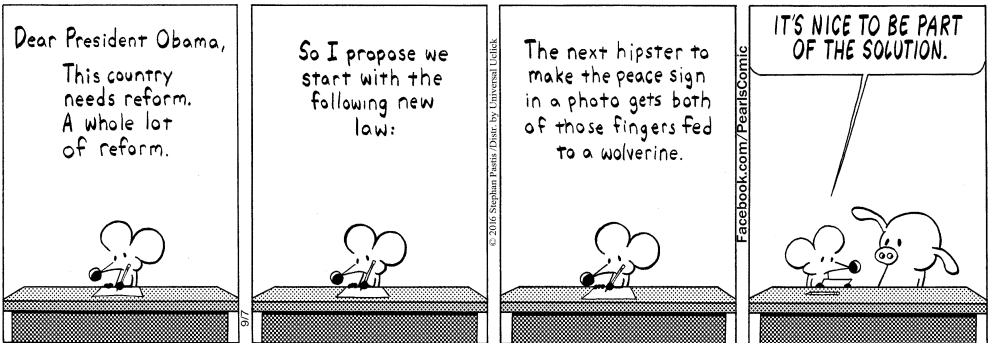
Dear Eyeful: You may think an eyeful is awful, but unless your neighbor ladies complain, I’m advising you not to nag your husband about it. While you may find his gray chest hair unattractive, others may not find it offensive at all, and a man walking shirtless in his own yard is hardly shocking.

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

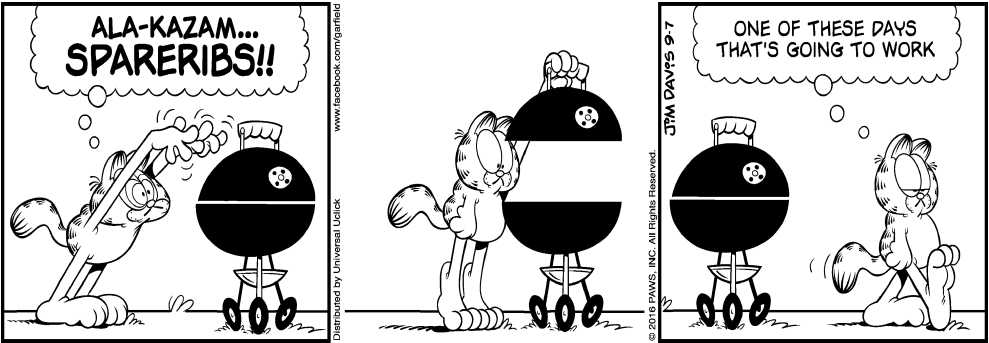
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



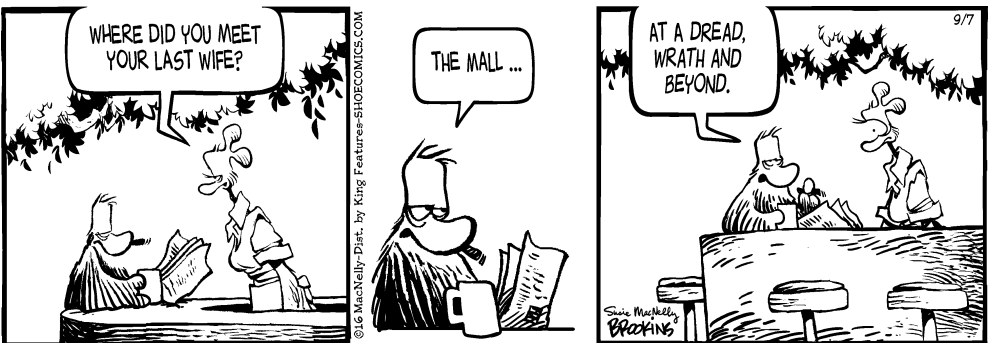
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



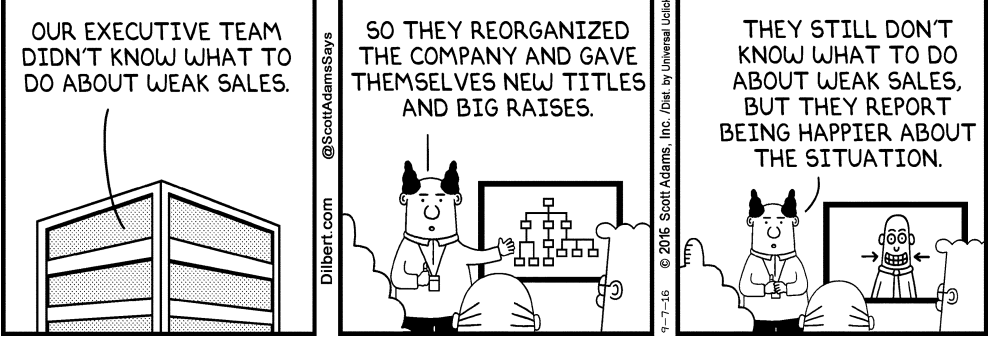
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



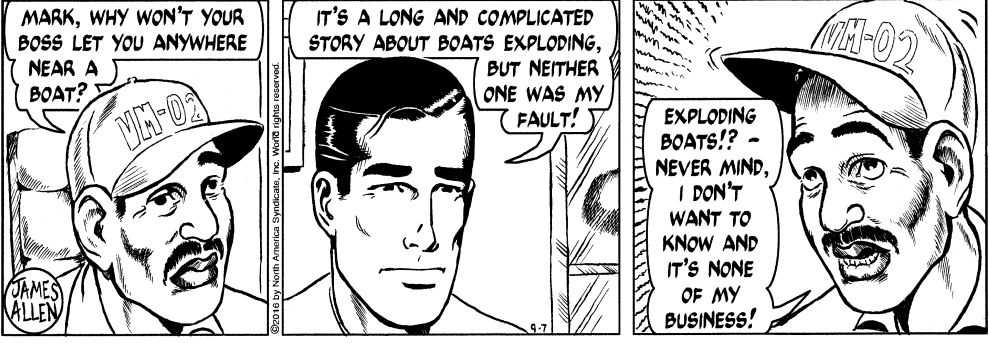
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



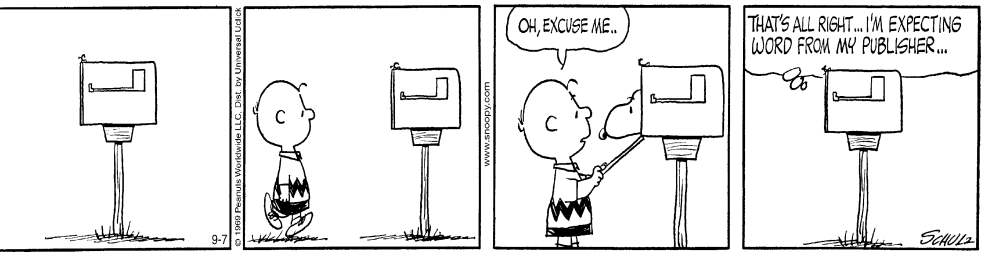
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



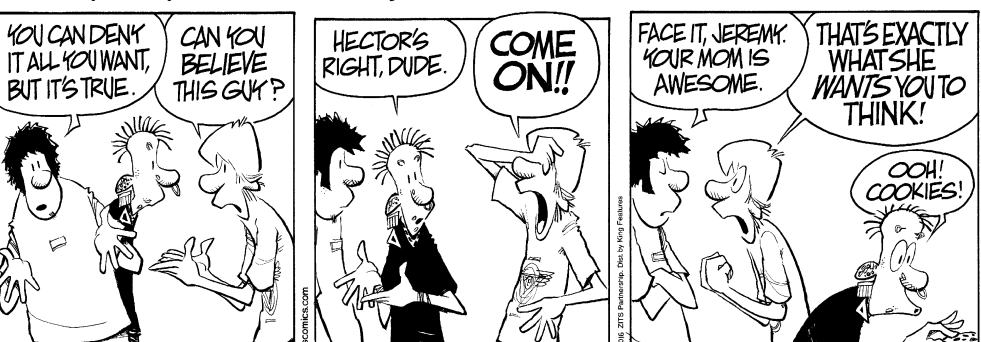
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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).** It gets old, this accommodation of life’s inconveniences and distractions. How you’ve longed for a day that includes nothing unnecessary or obligatory. This is it! Your day for straight-up business — finally.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You feel like you couldn’t do the job without your special helper, and in some ways this is true. The job certainly wouldn’t get done in the same way without this person. Acknowledgement is in order.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Give yourself time to reach your goals. Success trick: lower your expectations of what you’ll be able to accomplish in a day, but raise your expectations of what you’ll accomplish in 60 days.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The world may fall short of your vision, but your focus on appreciating the reality you’re in will cause a change in your wants and needs. In the back of your mind and the center of your heart, a new vision is forming.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** When you made up those rules to keep you on track, you were winging it — everyone is, in the beginning. Now you see that some of the restrictions were unnecessary. It’s safe for you to change the rules now.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You’re putting out a top-quality effort. Just know that you could be the sweetest peach in the world and there would still be a certain (albeit very small) percentage of



HOLIDAY MATHIS

the population who don’t prefer peaches. Never mind them!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You’ve a charm that inspires devotion in others, and at times this has actually frightened you; you don’t always want so much attention. However, right now, you could use some help. Work it!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** As for the people who aim for greatness and fall short again and again, they are the ones to watch, align with and partner with because that kind of courage will get it right eventually and win big.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You’ve come to a door. If you knock once or twice and no one lets you in, don’t walk away. Keep knocking until you get your answer. The world on the other side of the door will be worth it.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Sure, life can be unfair. However, it’s also possible that the idea of justice we have in our head isn’t as complete as the one the universe has in mind. Perhaps this thing unfolding before us is as perfect as it is complex.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Who has made a positive difference in your life and why? You will set a goal that is similar to one that this person has pursued, and you will soon possess some of the same qualities.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** When you get your first right result, try for another and another so you can know and practice what it takes to succeed. The method is the true gold. The method is worth way more than the prize.