

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"Somehow we just didn't raise him right. The kid is drafting in his Fantasy Neurosurgeon League."

# Daughter must create firm boundaries

**Dear Abby:** I am 32, married for a year and a half, with no children yet. I am an only child who was raised by my mother until I was 14 because my father was in prison. My mother never remarried. She blames me for her never having found anyone, and she is resentful of my marriage.

I'm afraid the day I tell her I'm pregnant her response will be laced with disdain and judgment, and I believe she will use my children as pawns like she used me to manipulate my dad.

I have seen a therapist about this, but I'm having a hard time following through on what needs to be done. My therapist suggests I tell Mom how I feel and let her know that if she continues with her current behavior, I will have to limit the amount of time we see each other.

Abby, she has said some really hurtful things to me in the past. I know her behavior is wrong, but I continue trying to be the daughter I am supposed to be so we can hope-



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

fully have the relationship we are supposed to have. I welcome your advice. — *Had Enough in Georgia*

**Dear Had Enough:** Here it is, and I cannot offer it emphatically enough. You hired a therapist who has given you excellent advice. You will save yourself a lot of grief — and time — if you take to heart what you were told and follow the advice you were given. To create boundaries is not being a bad daughter; it is being an intelligent one.

**Dear Abby:** I'm currently interning with a government-contracted group. Part of my job involves working with LGBT rights organizations. Recently, at a meeting with my boss and several representatives of these organizations, the topic of fairness in the workplace was mentioned. I was asked what my experience was, and I shared that I thought the workplace was fair, and my experience was fine.

I didn't think about it at the time, but I now realize I was being asked how my experience was as an LGBT person. In light of this, my boss has nominated me for a diversity award. The problem is I'm a heterosexual female, and

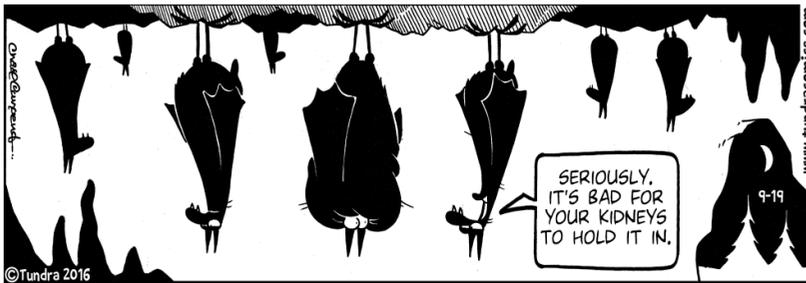
I think he promoted me for the honor because he thinks I am gay.

How should I handle this? Do I need to go on record to my boss that I am straight, that I have a boyfriend, and he misunderstood me? I don't want this to come back to haunt me, but I'm afraid addressing it may ruin my credibility because it has taken so long for me to address it. My sexual orientation is obviously not something of great interest at work, but I feel I am living a terrible lie, and I don't know how to fix this. — *Ashamed in D.C.*

**Dear Ashamed:** No one should feel compelled to disclose one's sexual orientation at work, no matter the circumstances. That said, in this particular case, go to your boss before this goes any further. Explain to him privately that you didn't realize when the question was asked that anyone would presume you were gay. If you accept the diversity award without clearing the air first, it could potentially be a source of embarrassment and jeopardize your credibility.

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

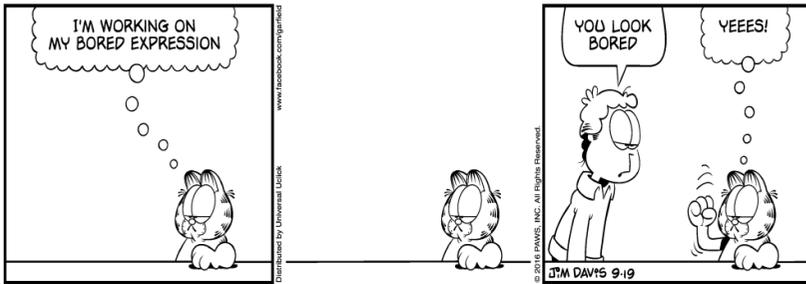
**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



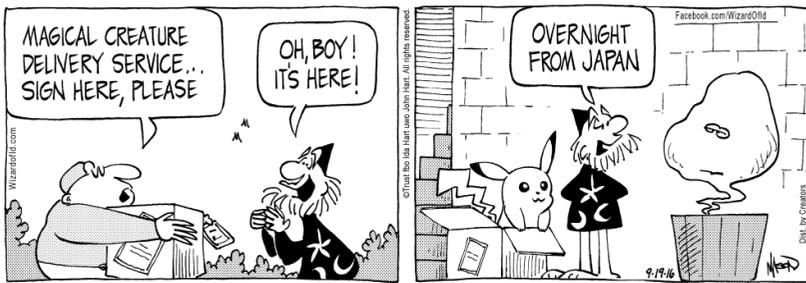
**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



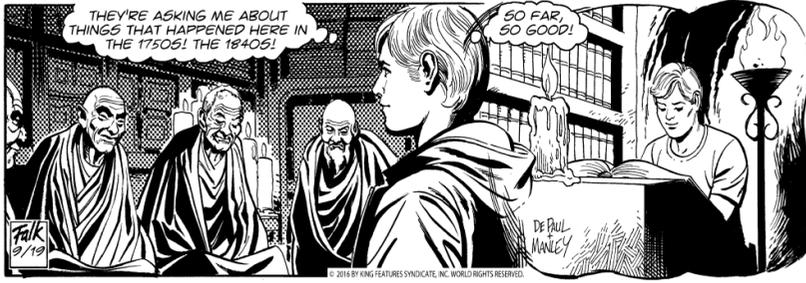
**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



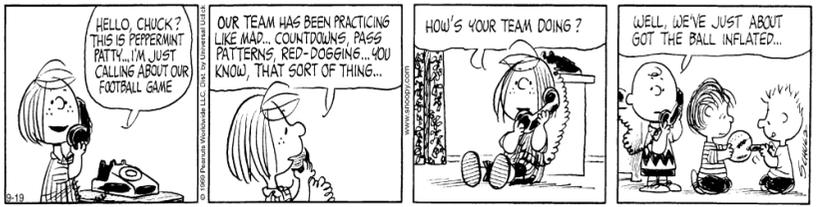
**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



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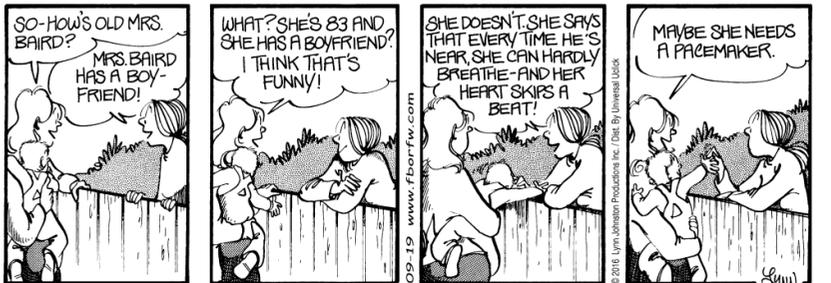
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



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**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).** Celebrate the fact that you think faster than you talk. This afternoon you'll get into a position to win or lose someone's esteem. Thinking twice or three times before you utter a word is advised.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You resist the task, but you know that it's something you just have to do. Hunker down and do it, no complaints. It will go quickly once you quiet your mind and get to work.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Some days are more special than others. You'll reach out to people who are going through times of heightened emotion and intensity, and you'll make it better for them.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** What you are naturally is enough. So much will be offered to you in the way of enhancements. They would be hard-pressed to make you better; you're so good today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** What is gorgeous? Without the soul's intention of being loving and beautiful, there is no gorgeous. It's only a superficial alignment of elements. Gorgeous is as gorgeous does — and gorgeous does as gorgeous thinks.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're a masterful organizer and your flawless logic in this regard will be executed to perfection. Still, the wild gypsy in your soul wants to be free — of

possessions, psychic bonds and other people's definitions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Achieving a certain goal might change what you do with your days, but that will not automatically change who you are inside. It takes emotional work to alter your emotional resonance.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You don't want anyone to see what goes into the task of making you seem super at what you do. This isn't shame; it's professionalism. Keep your own secrets.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** To start a fire is one of the most elemental basic skills of human survival, and yet most humans haven't learned to do it. Your fire-sign instincts will kick in today on an emotional level.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The most intriguing person may not be doing the things that you think are very intriguing at all, and yet it's the way this person approaches life. It's all in the way.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Mistakes are common, to be expected and defined a highlight of the adventure. You have to wonder if that person trying so hard to avoid a mistake has something against fun.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your original intent was to help others, restore justice and make the world a better place. It's not your fault that you will now reap an enormous benefit from the events your action has set in motion.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**

