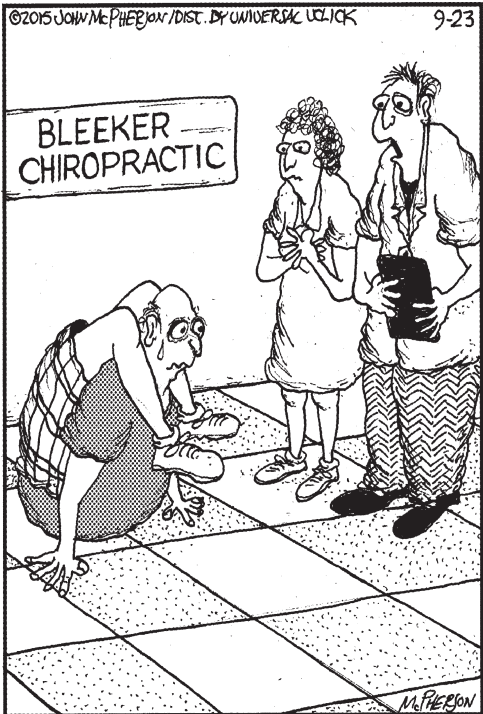


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"And you say all you did was sneeze?"

# Boyfriend second-guesses arrangement

**Dear Abby:** I am a 24-year-old woman and currently live with my boyfriend. We have a child. Before we started living together, we discussed having an open relationship. We realized how messy it can be, so we agreed on having a "free pass" with ONE person, ONE time. I have met that person; it is a woman.

At first, my boyfriend was OK with it. But now that I'm ready to do it, he's acting jealous. I told him I would stand by his side if he changed his mind about me doing this, but I'm excited to experience this alone and not have him involved. Help, please, Abby? — *Carrying Out The Plan in California*

**Dear Carrying Out:** Your boyfriend may be feeling insecure because he is afraid of losing you. But this is what he agreed to — a "free pass" with one person. If you feel you need to further explore your sexuality and he is unwilling to allow it, then it's time to rethink your relationship with him because

you may not be as suited to each other as you both thought.

And, by the way, the same may be true for him. If he needs someone who is a one-man woman, then you may not be it.

**Dear Abby:** My son "Pete" is a felon from an incident that cost him six years in a federal penitentiary. He has one more year left on parole. He married a professional "psychic" who we believe has borderline personality disorder. There have been several instances of physical abuse toward my son. He is constantly trying to adapt to her ever-changing moods to reduce these conflicts, to no avail.

Yesterday she smashed a coffee pot into Pete's face, causing a 3-inch gash. Then she took his guitar and smashed in the windows of his truck. When she's not violent, she threatens to kill herself. She recently moved here from the U.K. and must maintain a living situation with her husband for at least a year to establish citizenship. Pete wants to stick it out for the sake of his wife's daughter.

I think my son should call the police and make a report, but he is afraid of how she would and will retaliate. She knows his back-

ground and could accuse him of anything, if it comes down to a "he said/she said" situation. I'm not sure what to do, Abby. Any thoughts? — *Desperate Mom in Maryland*

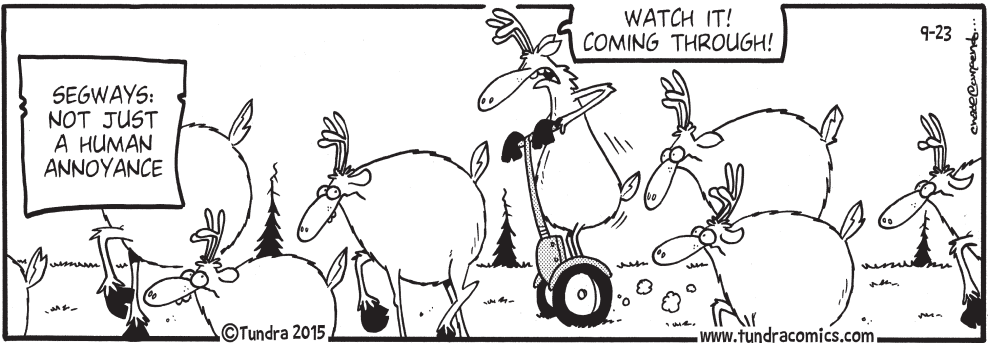
**Dear Desperate Mom:** For his own safety, your son should not continue living with someone as volatile as this woman. Pete could be even more seriously injured in her next attack if he stays. When she acts out again — notice I didn't say "if" — I agree that he should call the police and make a report. He should also go to an emergency room for treatment and to have his injuries photographed.

If his parole officer doesn't know what has been going on, he or she should be informed. If Pete thinks his wife could harm her daughter, he should report it to child protective services.

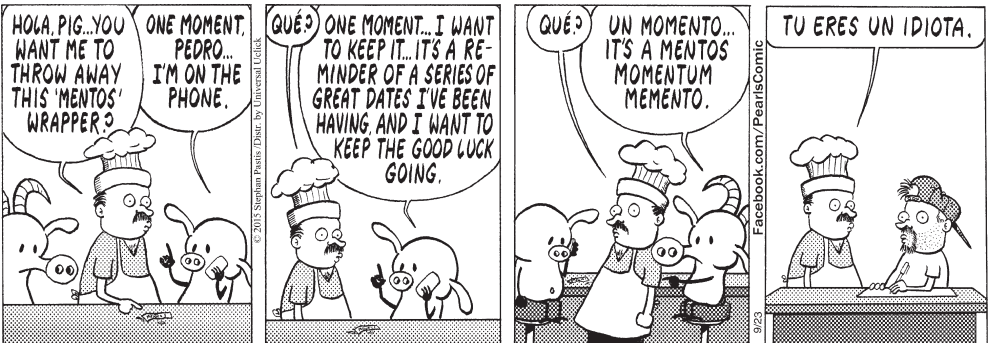
He should never have allowed himself to be held hostage by her threats to kill herself, which is classic emotional blackmail. This "citizenship" marriage has been a sham from the beginning, and your son should end it.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



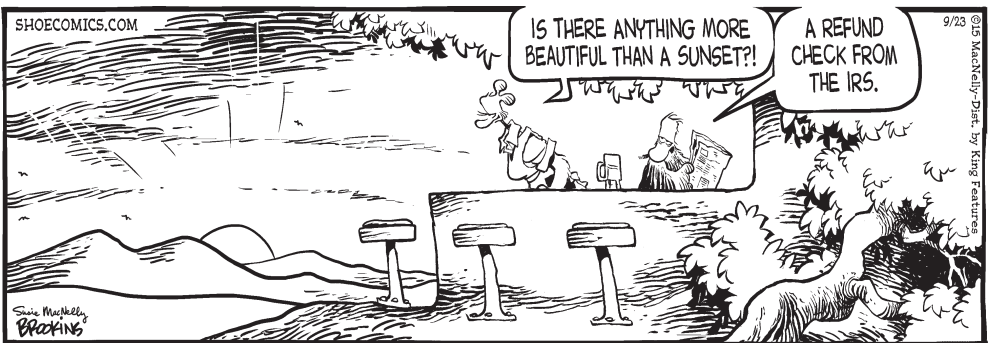
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



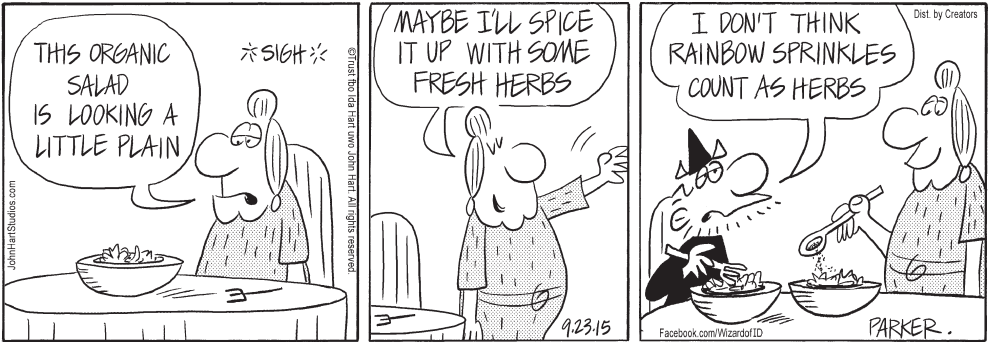
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



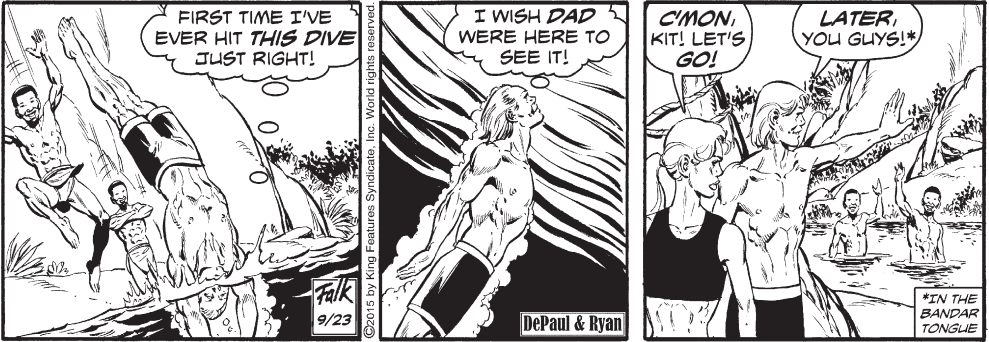
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



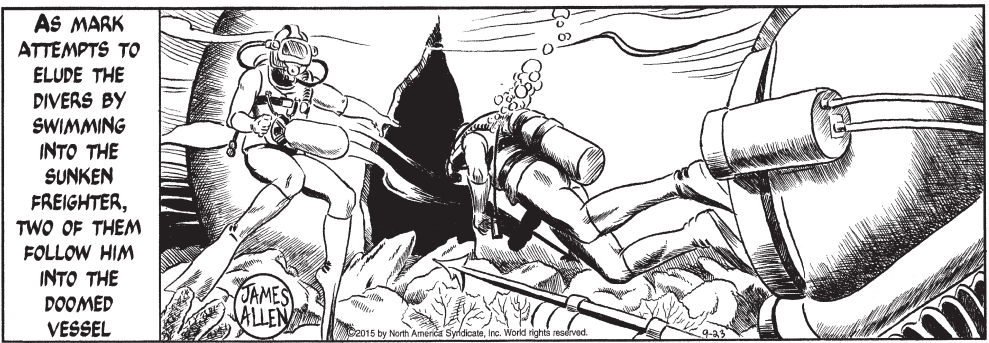
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



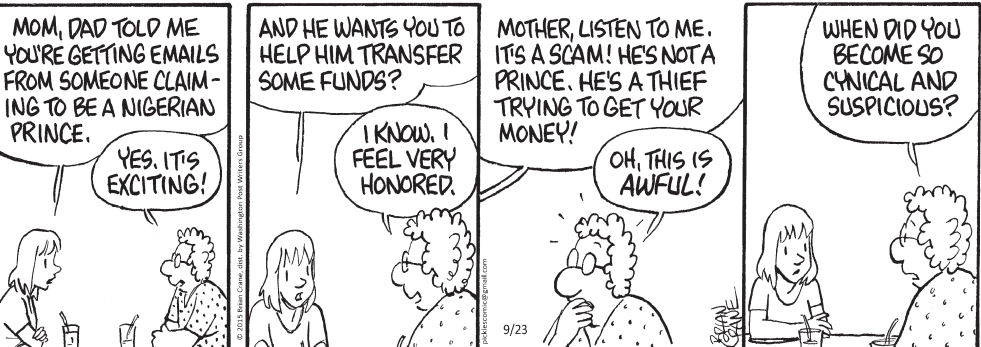
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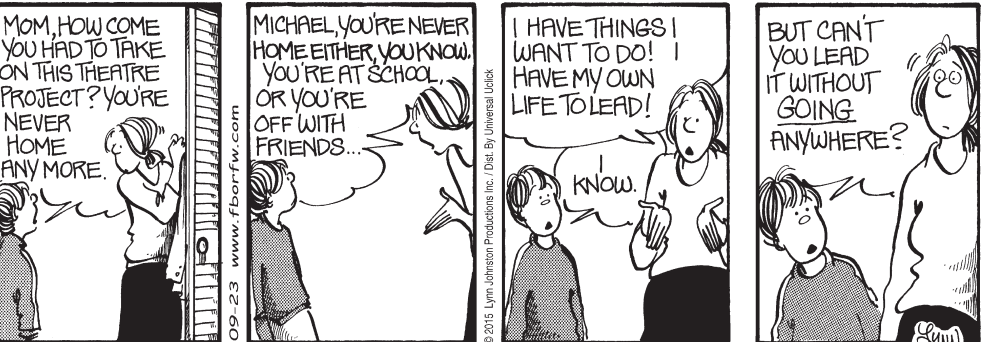
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



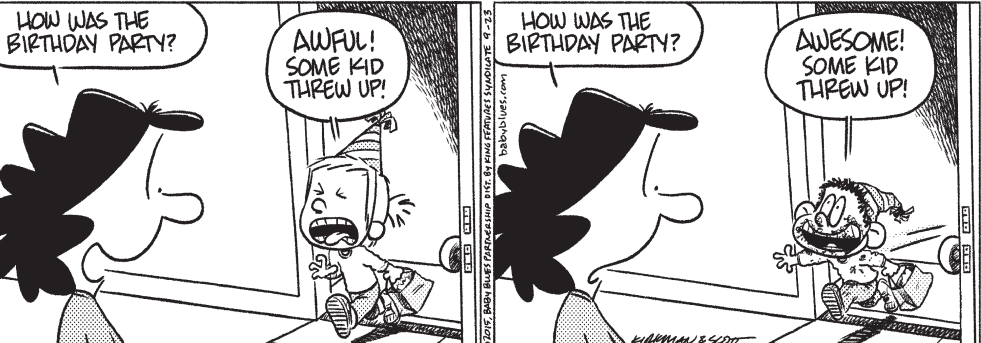
PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



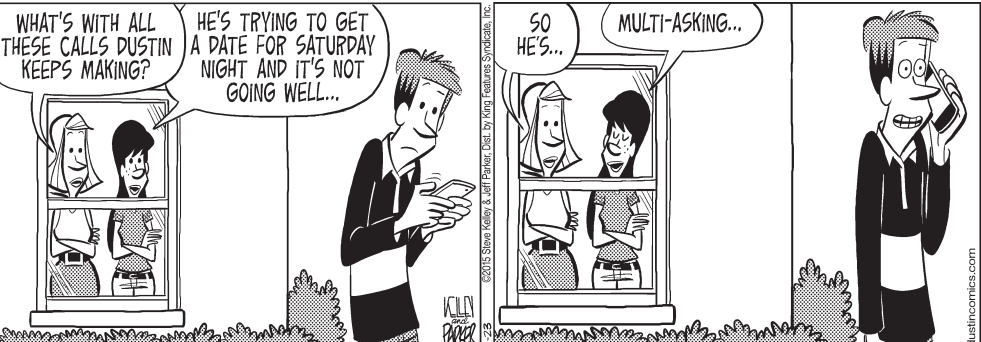
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If you call everyone you're supposed to call and show up where they want you to, you won't have any time left for yourself. Of all the people you know, the most important one to keep in touch with is you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you talk about the thing you're passionate about, they won't all get it, but the ones who do will be enthusiastic. It's like you're sending out a radio signal that only certain receivers can hear.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The "new" thing seems suspiciously like the old thing in different packaging, and you're right — and it will work about the same, too. Getting to the real novelty will require you to travel out from the hub.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Making a connection isn't about exchanging information; it's about the exchange of feeling. You take responsibility for the level of connection you have to the people around you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're developing a stronger feeling of belonging to a family, group of friends or organization. This unity springs from a deeper sense of belonging to yourself — accepting yourself for who you are.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'd be surprised how people learn about you and what you're up to lately. Your word-of-mouth is so excellent that

you're being favorably talked about in the most unlikely of conversations.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your warmth draws people. They'll turn to you like flowers turn toward the sun. Over the next three days, friends will blow through your part of the world wanting to catch up.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Do what you feel strong enough to do and what you feel good about doing. As for those duties that feel overly burdensome, they are better put off until tomorrow than approached with a crummy attitude.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The start of your project was hopeful and bright. Now for the real work: holding on to the hope. Keep reminding yourself of your original vision in all its glory.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A task no longer brings you joy, and you'd just as soon not do it, except your high level of responsibility won't allow you to bail, and so you're stuck. Change your attitude and push through.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The people around you will irritate you from time to time. That's normal. Take it as a sign of health and maturity. You've developed relationships close enough to create an emotional rub.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Giving to others, giving to yourself — what's the difference? You've been withholding from yourself, but honestly, your generosity with others makes you feel so good that you don't need much else right now.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY



HOLIDAY MATHIS