

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"Jombo is an Albanian soaring hound."

# Mother-in-law creates drama in family

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been married for 22 years. My father-in-law's health declined and he died last year. My mother-in-law, "Babe," and I didn't get on well in the past, but we have seemed to patch things up.

Since my father-in-law's death, she has become very needy. As a result, my father has been at her beck and call, and I have become closer to her, too. My mother has started to become suspicious of the relationship between Babe and my dad.

Abby, this has become a horrible mess. Babe says she has kissed my father and they are attracted to each other. She has no regret about her behavior. My mother is now suicidal, and it's all I can do to keep her afloat. I am a cancer survivor and don't need any of this stupid drama. Please help. These people are all pushing 70. — *M.I.L. from Hell*



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
**DEAR ABBY**

**Dear M.I.L. from Hell:** Babe may be "needy," but she appears to also be a shame-

less predator, and your father appears to have the judgment of a 16-year-old. Please tell your mother that suicide is not the answer, and she should not consider doing your father the "favor" of turning him into a grieving widower. It may take the help of a therapist to help her regain her sense of balance, and possibly the services of a lawyer to help her convince her husband that a divorce would be something he can't afford at this point in his life.

You should not be trying to handle this on your own. For your own sake, make yourself less available to your mother-in-law. That she would brag to you about trying to wreck your parents' marriage is beyond the pale.

**Dear Abby:** I have been married to "Neil" for seven years. I find him attractive, but when we're intimate my mind often wanders and Neil becomes "someone else." There is always a provocative scenario, and he becomes a character.

I feel guilty and ashamed. I have tried to visualize only my husband, but it doesn't have the same effect. I have prayed about it, but I can't stop. Because of my shame I have begun

to reject him. Is there any hope? — *Hiding Something in Florida*

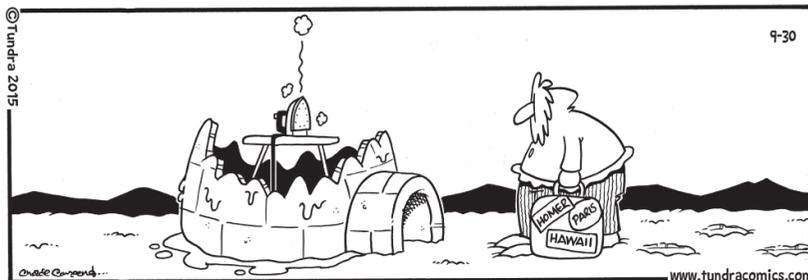
**Dear Hiding Something:** Please stop punishing yourself. Sexual fantasies are nothing to be ashamed of — they are normal. Whether in your imagination you're being made passionate love to by Brad Pitt, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson or George Clooney, as long as it happens in your husband's arms and you're both enjoying it, you're fine.

**Dear Abby:** What is proper protocol on who should greet whom first? I work in an office at the front desk and I'm in the office before other employees arrive. When they arrive, who should say good morning first, I or they? — *Early Bird in the East*

**Dear Early:** If you are at the front desk, you are the "official greeter," so rather than stand on ceremony, present a friendly demeanor and say hello first. A warm hello makes everyone's day brighter, don't you think?

**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



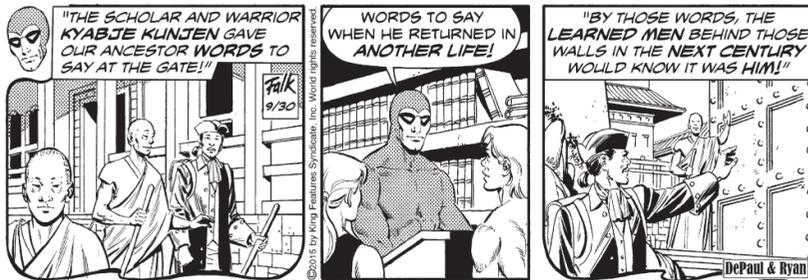
**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



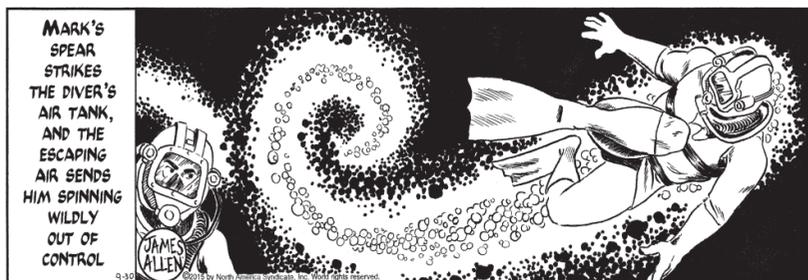
**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



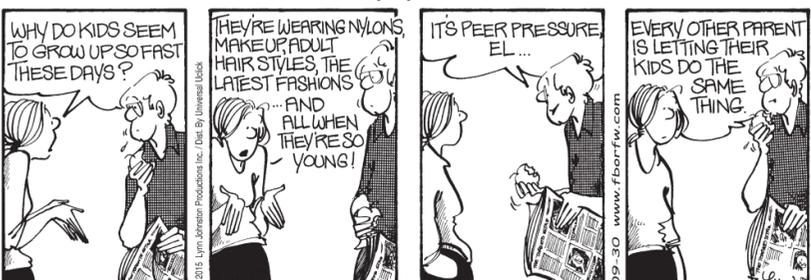
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



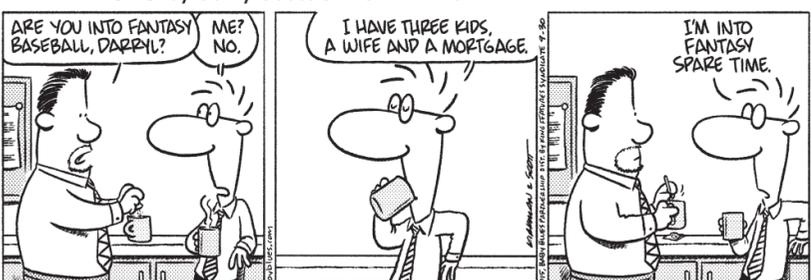
**PICKLES** by Brian Crane



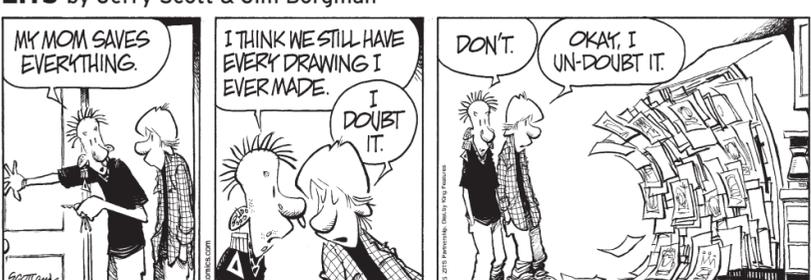
**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE** by Lynn Johnston



**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).** So, you don't have all the money in the world — but what if you did? It's not only fun to think of fantastic ways to live larger than your budget, but it's also the start of your next creative journey.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The confidence that comes from favorable attention is fleeting. Externally based, it relies on uncontrollable circumstances. You'll earn true and unshakable confidence by doing the work you set out to do.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're self-directed. The proof is in your current location. You wouldn't have gotten there had you not pushed through with extraordinary will even when you couldn't see the way.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You don't even know the meaning of the word "downtime" right now. You may even find yourself getting irritated at those with the luxury of leisure. Hang in there. Your break is coming.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Some of the people you don't think of as competitors have secretly cast themselves in the role. How will you know? Well, those who aren't threatened by your gifts will encourage you to demonstrate them.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Once you get behind a cause, you'll do everything in your power to raise awareness, money and enthusi-

asm for it. That's why you wisely do what's necessary to figure out which cause is worthy of you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** This is the kind of day when you want to get lost, but you can't seem to find "nowhere" on your GPS. Somewhere in the rub between the logical world and your fantasy life, you'll find beauty.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You were born with psychic X-ray vision. People need to wear lead vests around you if they don't want you to see right through them. This is an excellent day to talent.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Strange little glitches in the beginning of a relationship should not be looked at as isolated cases, no matter how attractive the other person may be. A pattern is being established.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** What if you loved everyone at first sight? That's a stretch. But you at least make an effort to find something to like about people right off the bat, and that's your popularity secret today.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** If you're still not meeting your marks, maybe it's not you. Maybe it's the goal. Maybe it's just not juicy enough to motivate, seduce and persuade you through the low points. Dream juicier.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your goal must be interesting enough to seduce you even when you've lost momentum and funding. It must be able to pull you through the lows. Keep dreaming until you hit on something really juicy.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**