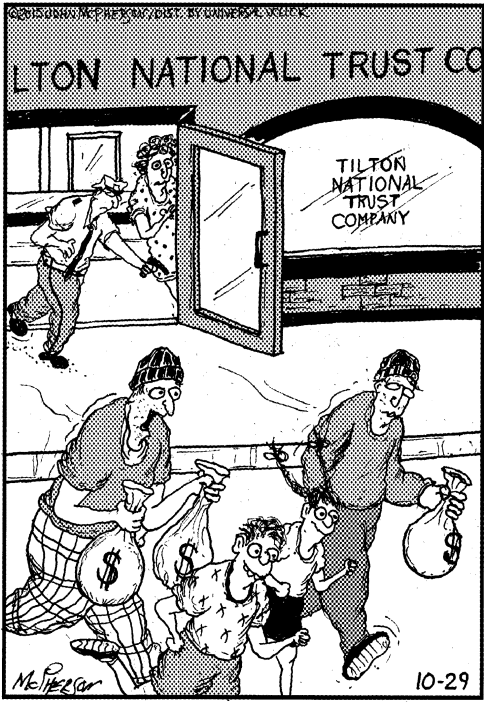


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"I told you, man, it's my weekend to have the kids."

Granddaughter's theft concerns reader

Dear Abby: I caught my 12-year-old granddaughter stealing. She took one of my favorite hair products, which isn't a big deal, but I'm torn over how to approach her and if I should inform her parents. There was another possible theft once before when she visited me. Some makeup blush disappeared. I dismissed it, but now I have concerns.

How should I handle this? I love her unconditionally, but this needs to be addressed and I don't know how. I'm prepared that she might deny my accusation. Then what? — *Alarmed in Rhode Island*



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

Dear Alarmed: Tell your granddaughter that you enjoy having her visit, but you noticed that several items had disappeared after she stayed with you. Ask her if she took them. Regardless of how she responds, tell her that if she wants to use something of yours, before she does, she should ask permission. If it happens after that, discuss it with her parents then.

Dear Abby: My brother is a recovering heroin addict. He stayed clean for almost a year until a few months ago, when he relapsed. He hasn't used again since his slip and continues to go to outpatient treatment.

My boyfriend, whom I recently moved in with, doesn't want him to come to the house. He says it's to protect "his nest," and I understand why.

I have tried talking with him about it because I feel that I can't have any other family members over, but that doesn't seem to matter to him. My brother heard he isn't welcome and I feel absolutely terrible.

I'm not sure how to rectify the situation. If my boyfriend can't accept my family, how is this relationship supposed to last? But another part of me wonders if his feelings are justified, and perhaps I have been too accepting of all the mistakes and grief my brother has caused my family and me. — *Sad Sister in Ohio*

Dear Sad Sister: If your brother has stolen from the family in order to feed his habit, your boyfriend has a valid point in not wanting him in the house. His reaction is intelligent.

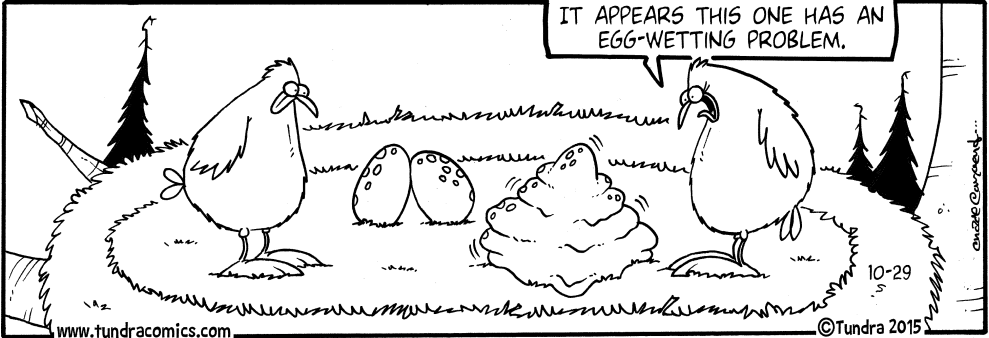
However, the ban should not extend to your entire family, and this is something you need to clarify. If your boyfriend's objective is to isolate you from all of your relatives, it's a red flag that shouldn't be ignored.

Dear Abby: My daughter is marrying a wonderful young man who not only loves her, but also her 7-month-old daughter, who is not his. My question is one of etiquette. During the wedding ceremony, if my granddaughter starts crying, should I get up and leave with her? She's a little Mama's girl and might start to fuss.

I'd hate to miss my daughter's wedding, but don't want it to be ruined for her guests. What is the proper thing to do? — *Bride's Mom on the East Coast*

Dear Bride's Mom: The proper thing to do is to ask your daughter — well in advance of the wedding — what SHE would like done in the event that her daughter starts crying or acting up during the ceremony.  
**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

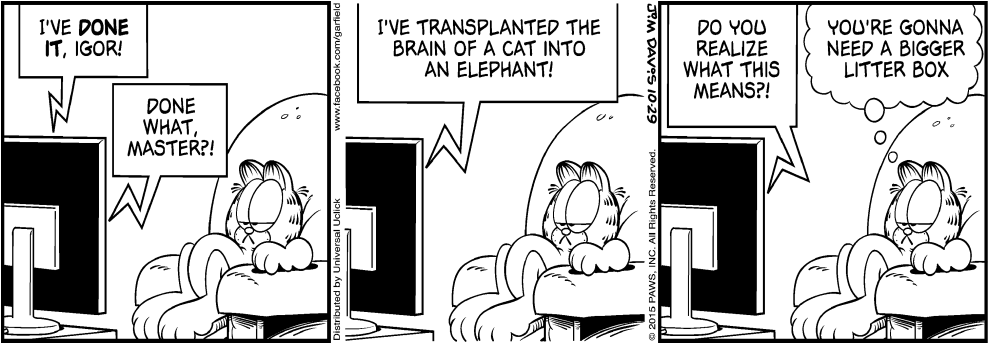
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



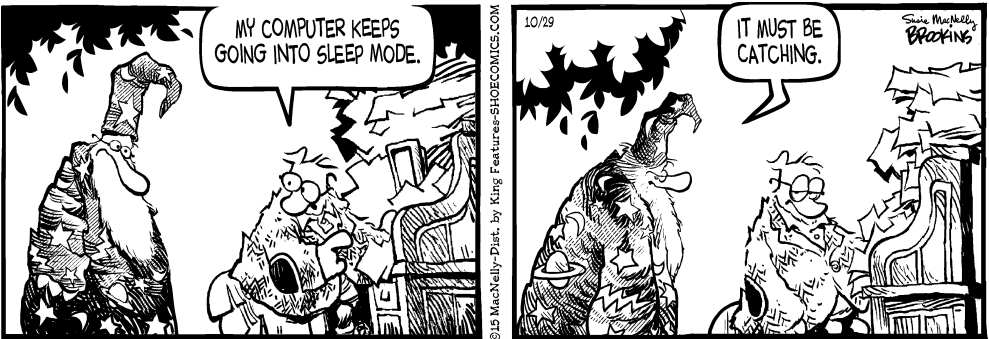
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



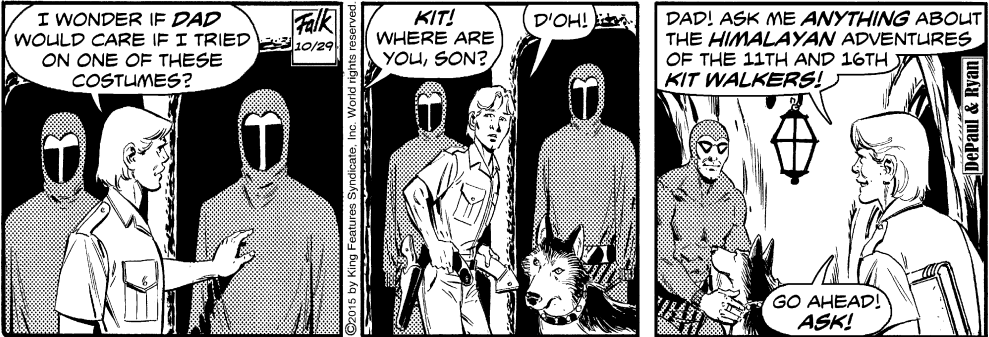
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



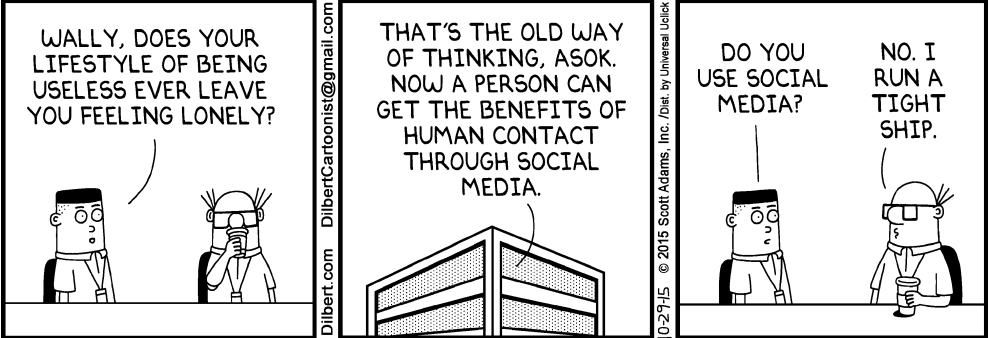
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



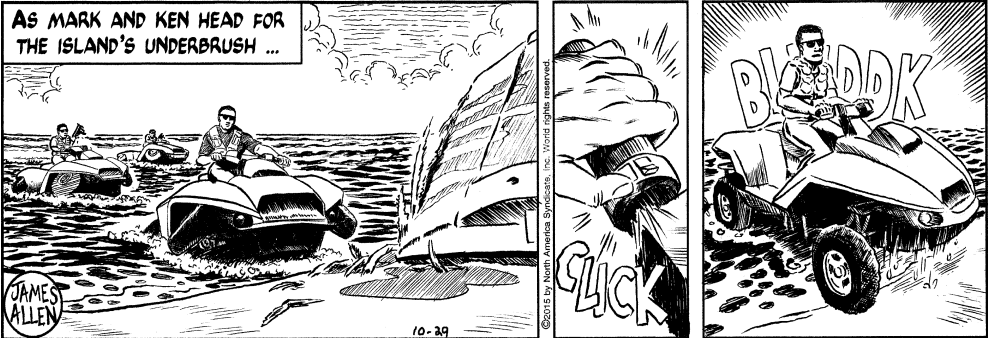
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



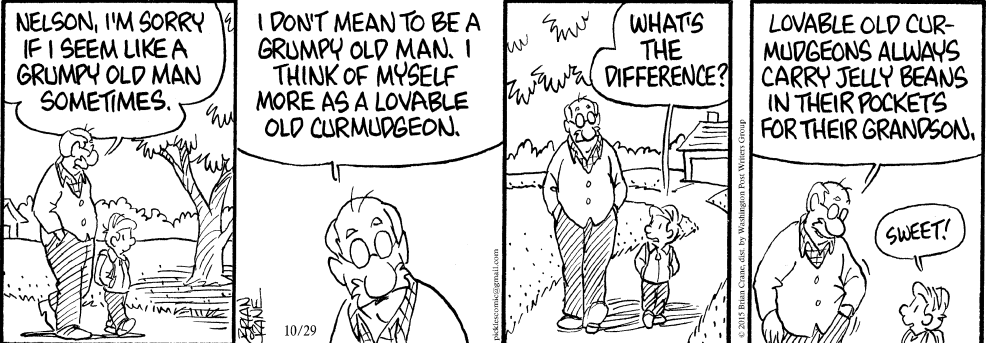
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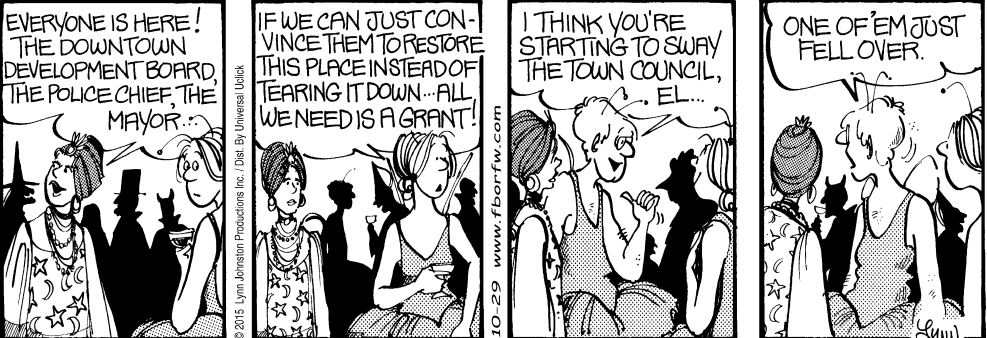
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



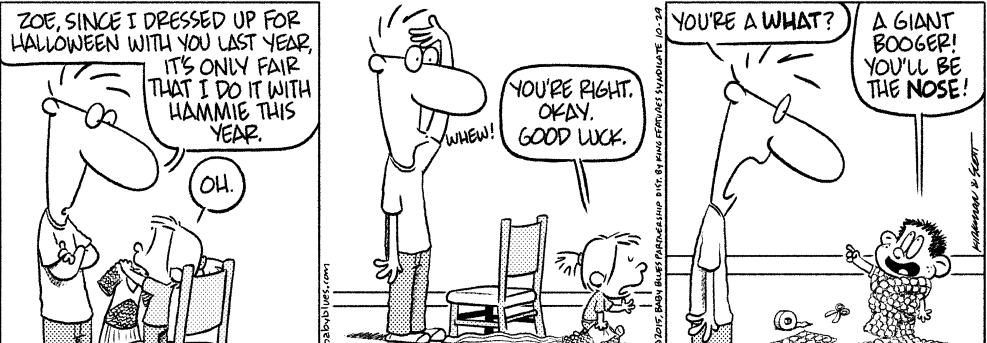
PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



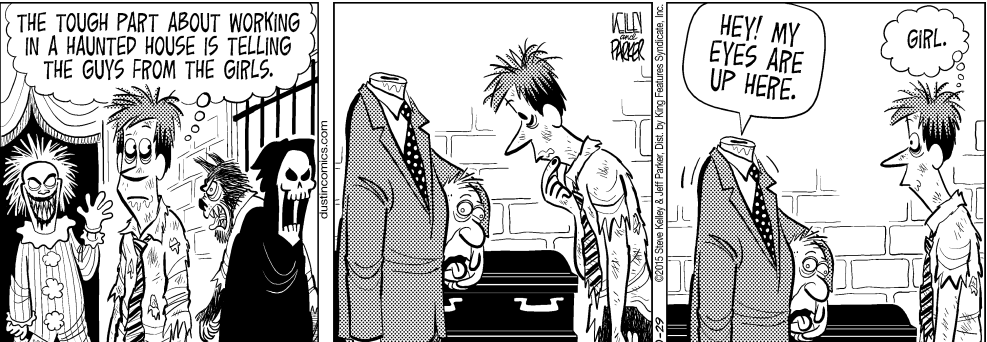
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You may notice that people tell you much more than they would reveal to others. They'll let loose of hidden truths, memories lodged deep in the heart, long-forgotten stories. It's like they've been waiting for you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You know how unique and special you are and don't need anyone to point this out. Today it will be easier for you to see the commonalities you share with others than it will be for you to see the differences.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** First impressions last, and right now it's better if people receive you with gentle warmth. That's why it's better to steer clear of controversial subject matter and stick to mildly upbeat topics.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your brain sometimes tricks you into thinking WAY more than is necessary for the task at hand. This causes interference. Physical exertion will help calm down the overactive parts of your mind, leading to improved performance.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness, when shared, is doubled. You'll be the recipient of a similarly auspicious sort of cosmic math. Set your own logic aside to make room for a little magic.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Loneliness isn't a function of who is around; it's a function of

how connected you feel to them. With this in mind, reach out. Make more bridges! There are so many gaps.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Once your mind becomes convinced of something, it can be very difficult to change it. That doesn't make the thing you are convinced of any more correct. It's good that you're slow to come to a conclusion today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You already know how necessary your role is, and you have tangible evidence of how effectively you play it. While you don't need an award to validate your work, it sure will feel nice when you get one!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your current endeavor is of utmost importance. Your vision is the single driving force of this. While a vision is not all that you'll need, it has real power to bring together the other elements.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The evils of the world don't need any more attention. Distract yourself from the negativity that you can't do anything about. Create your own bubble of safety.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Exciting and spontaneous people attract you — probably because you also have these qualities, though perhaps you have lost track of them lately. You'll love the fresh influence.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The attitude of optimism you learned as a child will color your world. Try to soar beyond the level of optimism you were taught. Belief makes things real.



HOLIDAY MATHIS