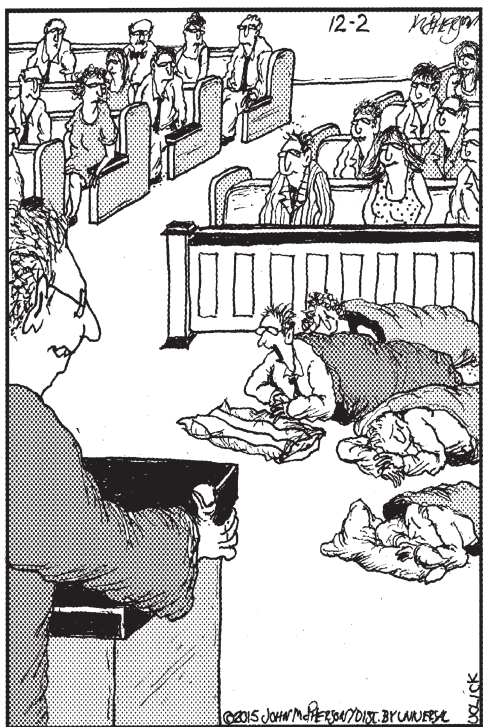


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Your honor, the defense rests."

Reader wants girlfriend to stay dressed

Dear Abby: I have dated a lot of women over the years — including actresses, beauty contest winners and models. Every one of them, except my current live-in, "Amanda," would dress up in lingerie when I asked them to.

Amanda adamantly refuses. She says if I love her, I should be turned on whether she's nude or wearing lingerie. Part of the problem is she's not in the best shape, and the lingerie would hide that.

She doesn't understand why I'm not chasing her around all the time. I have tried to explain that I don't find a tummy sexy. She just calls me Shallow Hal. Advice? — *Hal in New York*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Hal: I'd love to know what attracted you to Amanda in the first place, since your "type" seems to have always been women who are arm candy. Sadly, taut bodies don't always last. At some point, age, pregnancies and the pull of gravity can cause them to sag. By the way, this can affect men as well as women.

If physical perfection is what you need to feel aroused, then you and Amanda may be a mismatch because NOBODY'S perfect.

Dear Abby: I have started using an effective coping skill when I get upset about something or someone at work. I "vent" in a personal email to myself and send it to my home email address.

Well, today I got upset with my office buddy, so I sent myself an email. But instead of it going to my home, I mistakenly sent it to her and it hurt her feelings. I never meant for her or anyone else to read it. As soon as I realized what I had done, I sent her an apology and we talked about it afterward.

I feel terrible about hurting her, because she is a sweet person, and it was a complete misunderstanding on my part. She told me she accepted my apology. What else can I do for her, or should I just learn my lesson? — *Flubbed It in Florida*

hitting "send." Better yet, go "old school" and write your thoughts in a notebook you keep in your purse.

Dear Abby: I am scheduled to attend a wedding later this month. Well, I just found out the groom's uncle is not a real minister; and that he purchased his minister's license online.

I think it is very disrespectful to people who take religion seriously, and to real ministers who spend years studying in order to be ordained. There's nothing wrong with having a judge preside over the ceremony, but to have a fake minister preside makes the whole ceremony a fraud. If I say anything, I know it will cause hurt feelings, so I'm keeping my mouth shut. Am I an old fuddy-duddy? — *Silent in Springfield, Ill.*

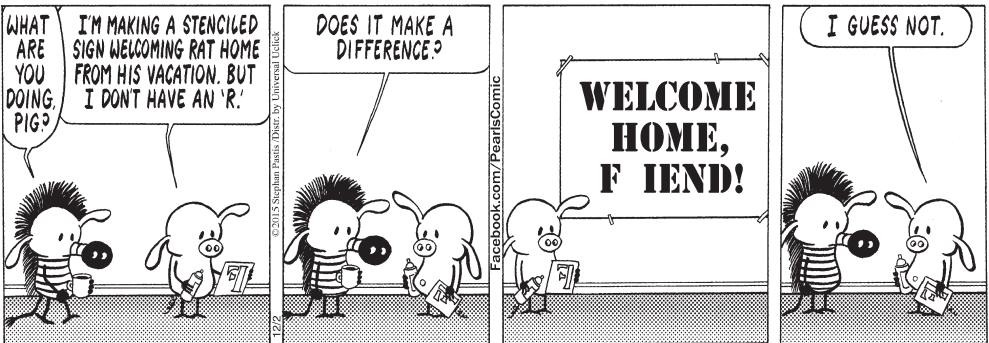
Dear Silent: You are entitled to your feelings, but if this uncle is the person the happy couple wants to officiate, you shouldn't judge. If their choice makes you uncomfortable, stay home.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



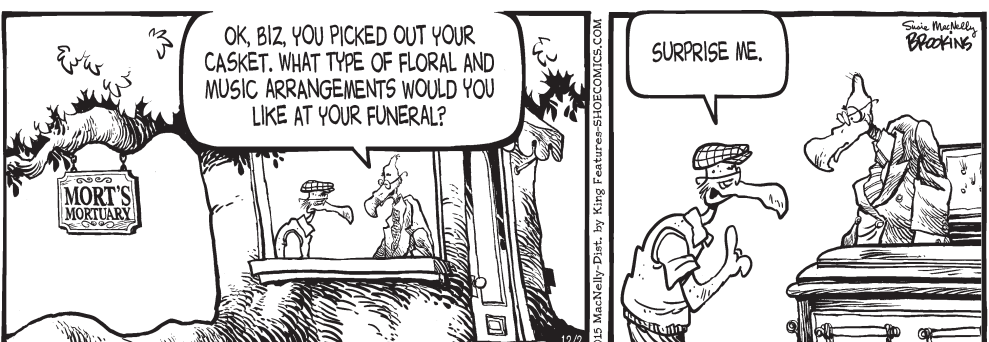
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



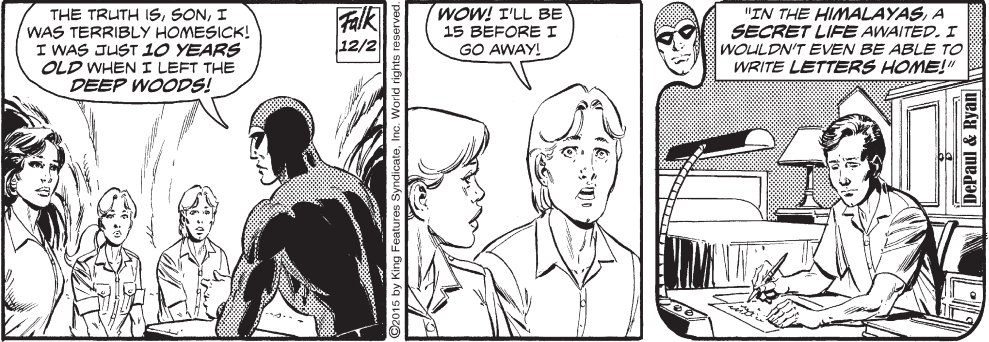
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



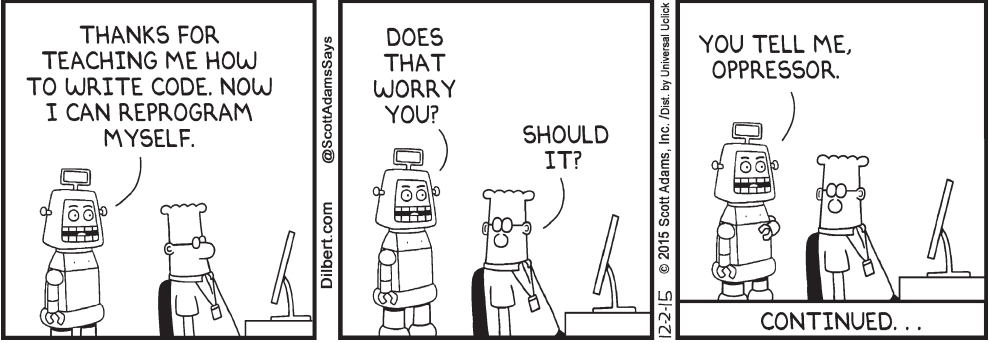
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



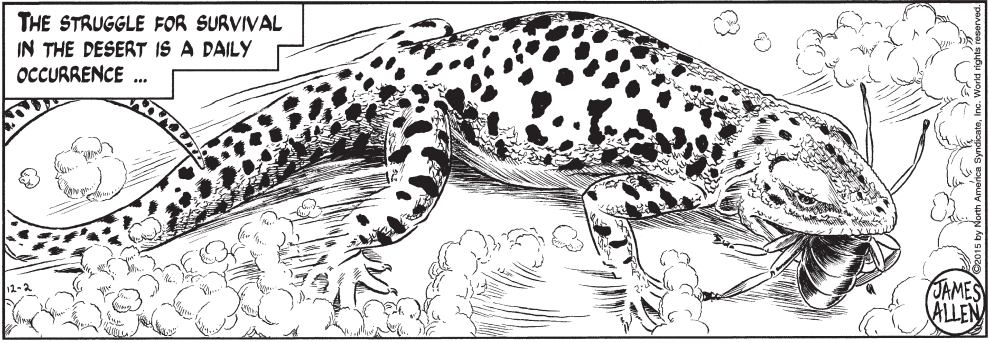
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



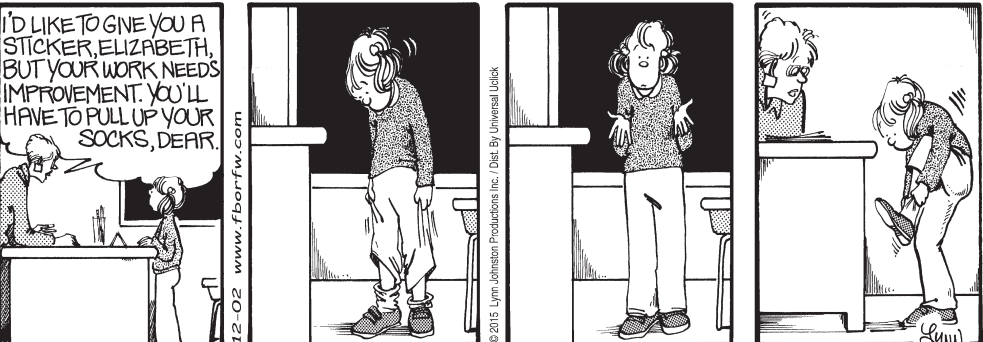
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



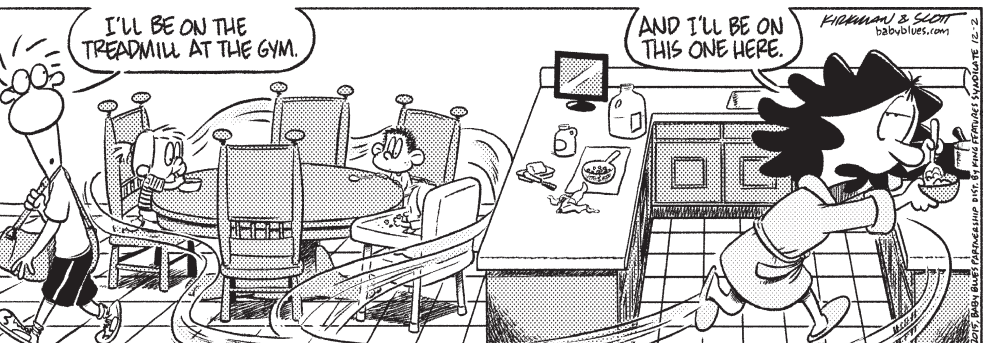
PICKLES by Brian Crane



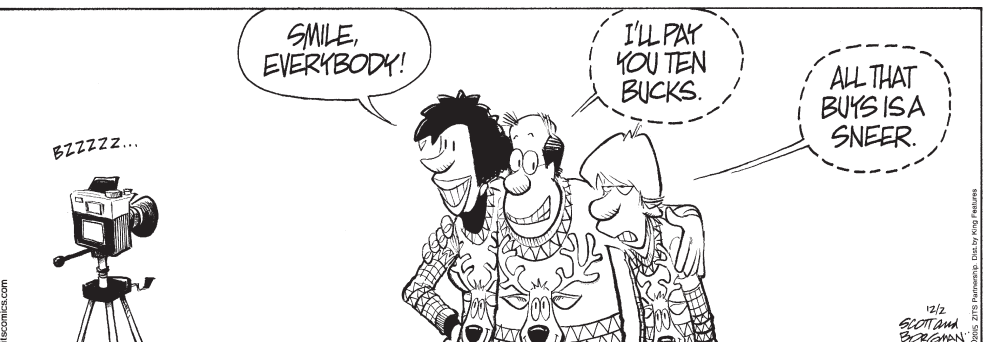
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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). In the day's competition, the prize won't go to the one who is more naturally skilled. Rather, it will go to the one who chooses to develop her skill to the best of her ability.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For all the times you've wondered if a relationship has more potential than you've already mined, this is the day to find out. Business relationships will be especially lucky for investigating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are one of the most flexible signs of the zodiac, and one of the reasons why is that you regularly stretch yourself into unknown territory. Like a dancer, this keeps you emotionally lithe and limber.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The next three days are for setting a precedent, so make sure you're doing something you'd like to repeat. If it's not moving the way you want, turn it around now while things are still fresh.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Closure is more important than you think. So is the ritual of de-cluttering, which is not just about possessions; it extends to your emotional world, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Conversation, investigation, research — it's all part of moving a relationship forward. It's good to know more about a person before you decide what role he or she will play in your life.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Let others handle the technical problems today, because your talent is best applied to helping people feel better on an emotional level. The human-interest angle is wide open and you're the one best suited to take it on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want to do your part. Don't do more than that. You could, easily. In fact, you'd prefer to step in and take over, but you know that it won't help things. The team will be stronger when everyone learns to participate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is something you've been a little afraid to talk about even though you know that the conversation needs to happen. It can't be put off any longer. Pass on the message.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today you'll wear your confidence smooth and tucked away. You don't need to tell people about your accomplishments, because your attitude will say it all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It was hard to get up to speed but finally you're no longer a novice. Now that you know what you're doing it will take a lot less effort to get results. This leaves you with extra reserves of energy to apply to something new.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a fine art to ignoring what you can't do anything about. It starts with recognizing the things that fall into that category. You may have made a few errors as you were categorizing. Reassess.