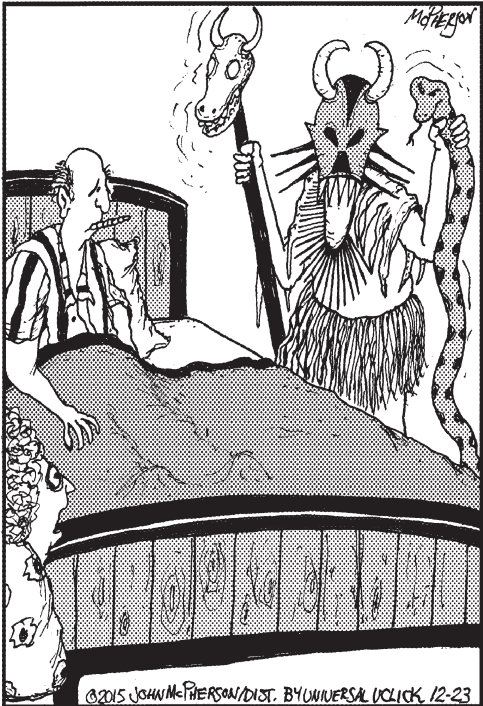


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“Ok, Frank, we really need to get a new HMO.”

Woman’s payback isn’t worth the price

**Dear Abby:** I found out a few months ago that my husband, “Hal,” the father of my children, has had affairs with five different women. I left, and we are now being divorced. I desperately wanted revenge, so I have been secretly seeing Hal’s good friend “Ron,” whom he “forbade” me from contacting after I told him his infidelity and disrespect gave me permission to act on the attraction I had for Ron. It’s just a friends-with-benefits situation and I am having fun, so I don’t really consider it to be revenge. Hal has spent the last five months begging me to forgive him and work on our marriage, but I no longer love him and I certainly don’t trust him. I told him I would “work on” forgiving him, so now he calls, says he still loves me and flirts. The last woman Hal cheated on me with is his current girlfriend. He told me that if I ever want to hook up, I should make sure to use code words when leaving messages because she might see my calls and text messages. He



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

also told me that he is not interested in a long-term relationship with her. I slept with Hal recently to have leverage. I was contemplating sending her the proof as payback for how she treated me some months back, although I don’t want her boyfriend back. I am now questioning if this is the right thing to do. Should I just leave it alone? — *Payback Somewhere in the USA*

**Dear Payback:** Yes, do it for everyone’s sake — including your own. This cycle of revenge is doing no one any good.

**Dear Abby:** Before we had kids, my wife and I would occasionally go out with groups of friends or to social functions, but it was difficult to get her to go home. She always liked closing the place down, and if we left early I felt like I was dragging her away. For the first five years after our children were born we didn’t get out much. My wife is now starting to go out with friends from work — a mixed group of single and married guys and gals. She has invited me to come along, but sitters are expensive and I’m not friendly with her co-workers. She stays out with them

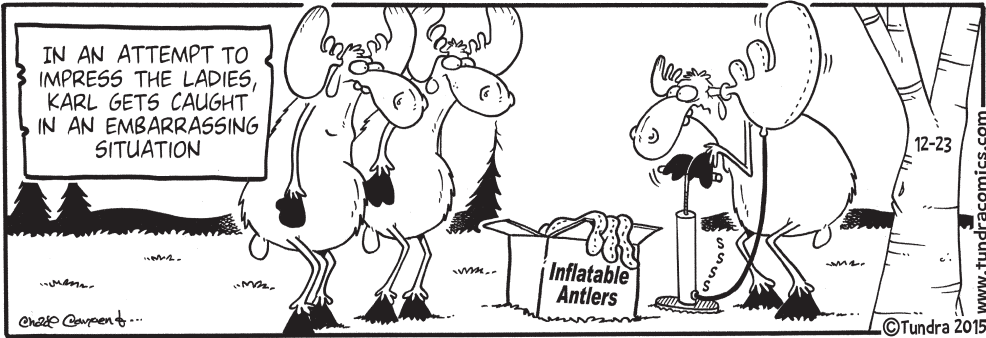
until 3 to 4 a.m. once a month. I think that’s ridiculously late when you have a husband and children at home.

When she’s not here, I can’t sleep and I worry that something is wrong. She rarely calls to check in unless I ask her to. Overall I trust her, but with her drinking heavily and many single guys around, I don’t feel comfortable with the situation. I don’t know what to do. — *Lonely Dad in Arizona*

**Dear Lonely Dad:** I have it on good authority that last call for serving alcohol in Arizona is 2 a.m. Could your wife be drinking so heavily that she needs the time to sober up in order to drive home? If that’s the case, she may be a binge drinker, which isn’t healthy. The implications of your letter are serious, so you should sit down with her and have a discussion about the amount she imbibes on her nights out. You shouldn’t have to worry about her, so out of respect for your feelings, she should routinely let you know how long she’ll be after the bars/clubs close.

**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



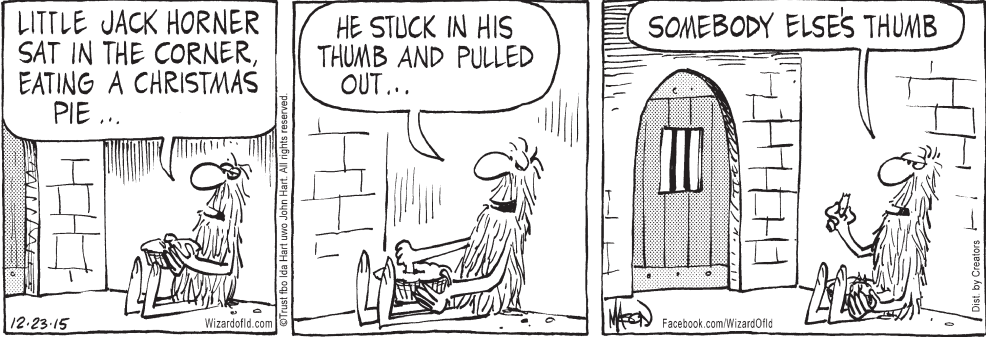
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



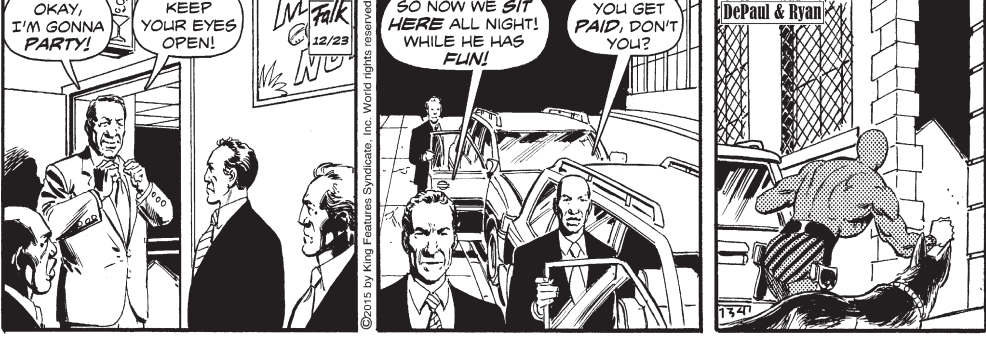
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



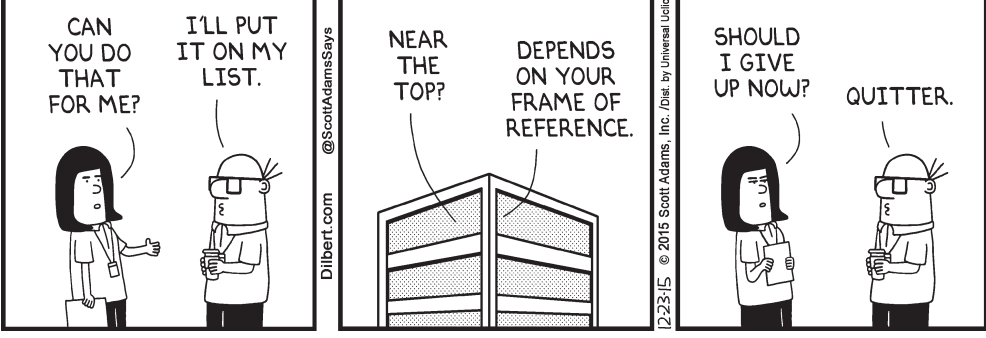
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



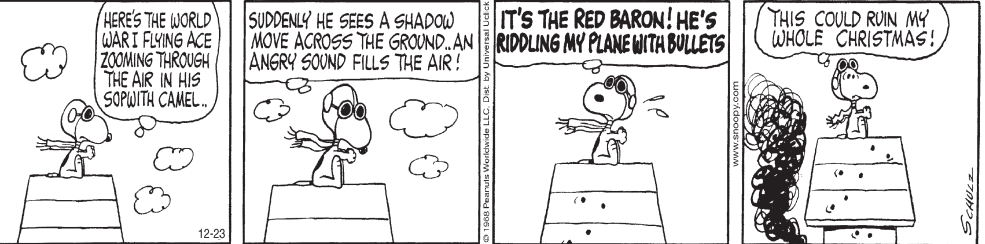
DILBERT by Scott Adams



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).** Something you thought you were through with still holds an electric charge. Maybe you're not as "over it" as you thought, but you're getting there. Wrap your head around it once more, and once more let it go.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Try not to confuse attachment with connection. Connection is mostly love. Attachment is mostly fear. Connection is magnetic. Attachment adheres by grasping.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** There's much to appreciate in a special relationship. For starters, you are somehow each able to grow in a direction that feels personally fulfilling without growing apart from one another.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** People-watching will be a source of entertainment and education for you. You've a talent for making accurate observations. You'll be able to apply this to your own life, too.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Sometimes you do wonder if you could be more content in a slightly different scenario than the one you're living out now. You'll get a peek into a world that makes you imagine different futures.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Time constraints bring stress and frustration. Do what you can to eliminate or ease them wherever possible. It's



HOLIDAY MATHIS

a good time to consciously decide to be socially flexible and generally easygoing.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Winston Churchill expressed, "The empires of the future are the empires of the mind." You are leaning toward a less materialistic definition of success these days.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll attract people who are spiritual like you. They may not share your religion (or lack of one) and they may not share your belief system, but they stargaze, just like you, in awe of something bigger.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The happy thoughts have energy. The unhappy thoughts, unfortunately, have more. Who notices them? That person is an empathetic soul who will make your life better.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** How you landed in your particular support circle is a story of the coming together of thousands of small decisions, circumstances and impulses. Today you'll just be glad for the way things panned out.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Conversation is inevitable. Be forewarned, this will only be as interesting as the questions you ask. Your best partners in this are Gemini, Libra and other Aquarians.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Being able to process difficult feelings is a skill that you were born with. That doesn't mean you can't improve upon the gift. Don't avoid or procrastinate the thing you know you need to experience.