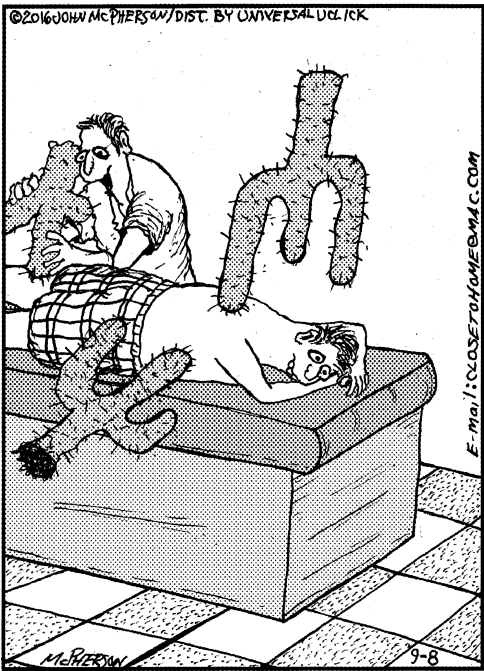


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"You're wise to have chosen Cactupuncture for your pain, Mr. Tamm. It's totally holistic and twice as effective as traditional acupuncture."

Wife's grooming becomes an obsession

Dear Abby: My wife has always been well groomed, with an obsessive interest in her fingernails and toenails. Every three or four days, she spends an hour trimming them.

Recently, I discovered that she has been keeping the nail trimmings. She actually has three large plastic containers full. When I confronted her, she claimed it soothes her to see her "collection." Now she has begun openly displaying them inside a glass table lamp.

I'm afraid she needs professional help. What do you think I should do? — *Nailing It*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Nailing: Your wife appears to suffer from a form of OCD — a hoarding disorder. (Are nail clippings the only items she can't let go of?) Overcoming her compulsion may take professional help and possibly medication. Start by discussing this with your doctor. In the meantime, because her display bothers you, ask her to keep the lamp in a less conspicuous place.

Dear Abby: My wife and I just bought our first home. It's in a very nice neighborhood, and the neighbors seem friendly. There's just one problem.

My son, "Abner" — who will soon be 3 — goes to bed between 8 and 9 o'clock, and that's when our neighbor decides it's time to mow his grass. Getting Abner to sleep becomes difficult because the man mows right outside our son's window.

Initially, I didn't think it was a big deal because the first time he woke Abner up, my son had gone to bed at an unusually early time for him. But last night it happened when Abner went to bed later than his normal bedtime.

We have talked to our neighbors a few times in general. But since we're new to the neighborhood, I don't want to cause problems. I don't know the man's schedule, but would it be out of line to ask him to mow earlier in the evening? — *Bedtime in Illinois*

Dear Bedtime: Not at all. If you explain the problem, your neighbor may be willing to modify his mowing time. However, if he isn't, then look into the noise ordinances in your

community because there may be rules about mowing after — or before — a certain hour.

Dear Abby: Recently, my boss told me she had asked me to do something, but I am 100 percent positive that she didn't. I don't feel like I can contradict her because I'm afraid it would make me look bad. It has happened only once or twice in the last few months, but what should I do if it continues? I don't want my employee reviews to suffer because of it. Please tell me how to handle it. — *At a Loss in Florida*

Dear At a Loss: I wish you had revealed more about your relationship with your boss and mentioned how many people work there. Could she be stressed? Or having problems with her memory? Or could you? If there are more employees than just you, did anyone witness your boss ask you to do what she claimed? If not, and this happens again, you may need to talk to her about it because of your concerns about your work performance.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



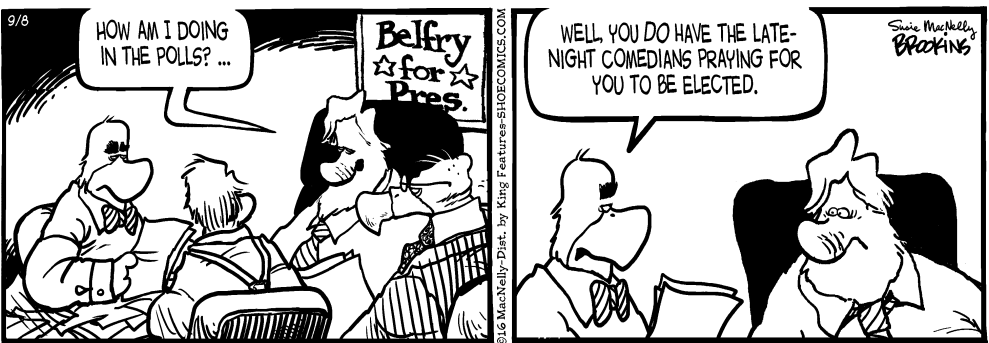
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



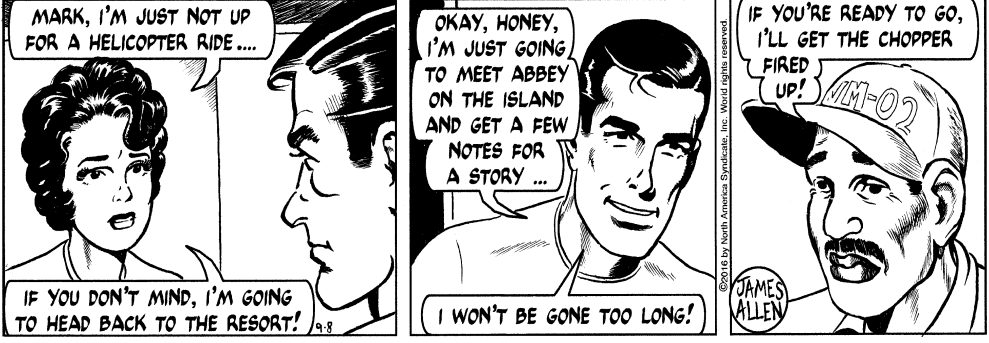
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



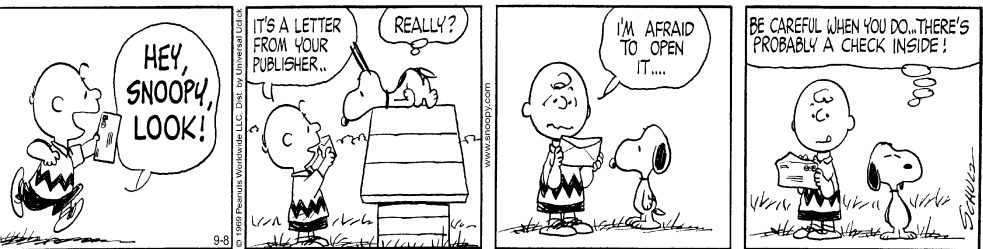
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



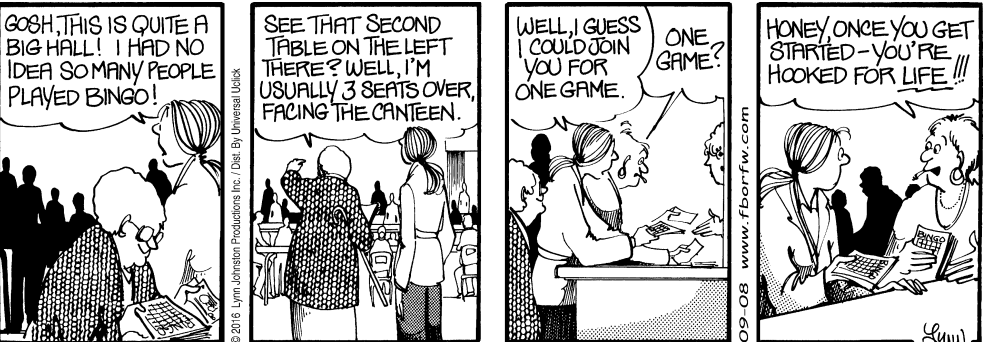
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



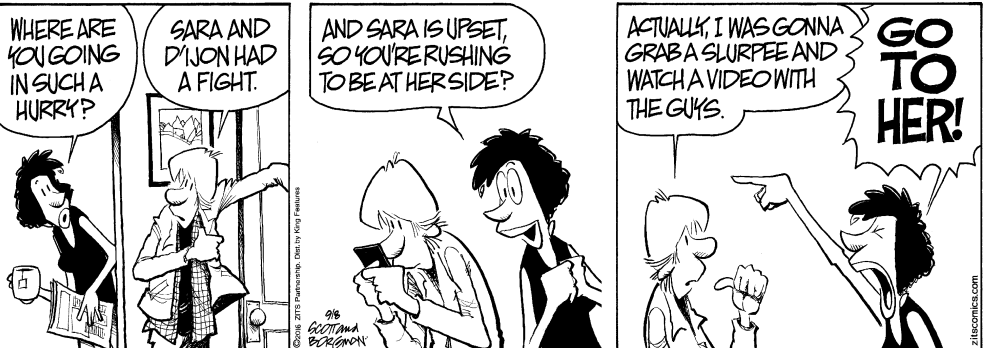
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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). By taking only one or two actions a day toward a goal, you will land in a significantly different future from the future you'd have were you to take no action at all. Go back to the plan you abandoned and rework it into smaller chunks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your loved one's happiness needn't come at the expense of your own. Keep looking for a mutually satisfying arrangement. This can be struck without either party feeling at all compromised.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though you're not trying to be and don't want to be, you can't help it: You're charming, and they are under your spell. The attention is not to be squandered. You've a responsibility to use your distracting qualities for good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your sense of connection extends joyfully to all you touch and even what you don't touch. You can feel the energy of the people who paved the roads you drive on, the man out walking his dog and the bird soaring above it all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not shallow or small-minded; nor are you the least bit petty. It is therefore hard for you to imagine the mindset that some are coming from, but try. Otherwise, they will surely catch you off-guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes you feel like an extra sipping coffee in the back-

ground, and you're good with the ambient role. However, don't too get comfortable there. This is just a break before your next scene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are people around you who are underrated and underappreciated time and again. You're the one who sees how brilliant and special they are, and you'll help them see it, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To appease the powers that rule tomorrow, a sacrifice must be made today — not just any sacrifice though. It doesn't matter if it's something hard or easy to give, it only matters that it's the right thing to give.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like a homing pigeon, you'll explore vast distances, traveling far and wide to complete your mission, which, at the end of the day, always wraps up in the same place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You expect much of yourself and often deliver on these expectations. Frustration is natural, but immature. As for self-directed anger... who has time for the drama? Pull it together and try again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Money is a motivator, but not a big one. Your true desire is for knowledge, experience and wisdom. More than money, this what will ultimately help you move beyond your limitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is no greater thrill for you today than the excited buzz that comes with putting something in the world that wasn't there before. Bonus: Your creativity will delight all around you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS