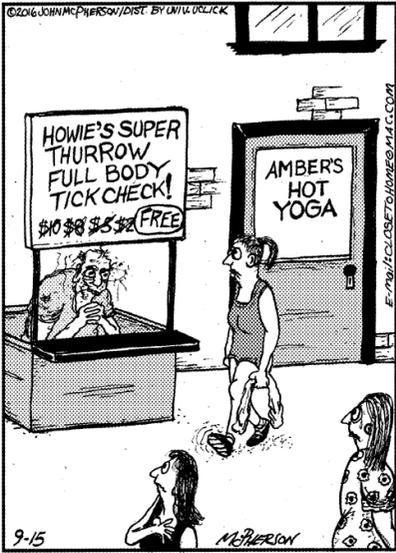


**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



9-15  
Knowing that Lyme disease was on the rise, Howie wanted to do his part to help stop the illness.

# Grad worries about being her true self

**Dear Abby:** I am a bisexual female college graduate living at home, and an only child. I have had one sexual encounter with a woman but never a relationship. I have, however, had relationships with men.

I came out to my mother when I was a teenager. She didn't believe me, but did say that she would not mention it to my other parents or family members. (I have two stepparents as both biological parents remarried.)

I am considering — if I find a woman to go on a date with/be with — pursuing a lesbian relationship.

However, I am not financially independent and won't be for many years. My problem is I'm afraid to do it while I am living at home.

My cousins, friends and ex-boyfriends all know, just not my parents, grandparents, aunts, etc.

Do I try for my own happiness and hope for the best, or defer my happiness and only date men? — *Scared To Be Who I Am*



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

**Dear Scared:** You are no longer a teenager; you're an adult now. You should be entitled to have the kind of relationship with which you are most comfortable.

If your cousins know about the fact that you are bisexual, the chances are that so do their parents.

However, if coming out now would mean that you would be out on the street, I'm advising you to keep your mouth shut and bide your time until you are independent.

**Dear Abby:** My family and I are all travelers. Recently, some issues have arisen with them about the way they regard my mode of travel. They prefer flying versus driving. I don't. Because of my size.

I can't fit into an airplane seat and buckle the seat belt without an extender. I'm always worried that I'll be forced to buy an extra seat or won't be allowed to fly because of my weight, and it is stressful. I have tried for years to lose weight, but have gotten only to the point where I'm maintaining my weight.

I fit comfortably in my car. I can get the seat belt buckled, and I don't have to inconvenience other passengers.

My family is now trying to discourage me from taking future trips with them because I won't fly.

They claim it's because I'm single and normally travel by myself. I'm in my mid-30s and have traveled solo for years. Any suggestions on how to help them understand my choice? — *Frustrated Solo Heavy Traveler*

**Dear Frustrated:** Your family may be doing this in an attempt to "encourage" you to work harder at losing weight. However, if you are more comfortable traveling by car, then that's what you should be doing.

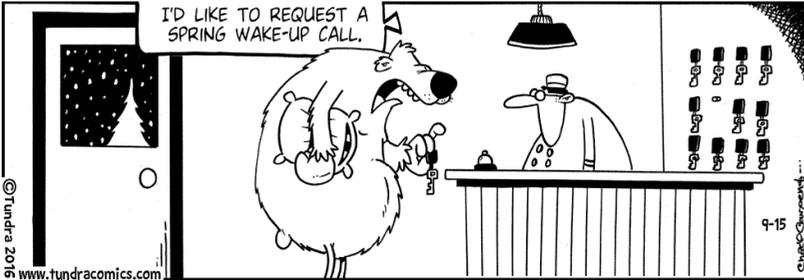
**Dear Abby:** We have a co-worker who has been internet dating. She constantly tells her co-workers how horrible the men are and says the same thing about the dates.

How do we tell her that it's not the men, but her? — *Stumped in Santa Monica, Calif.*

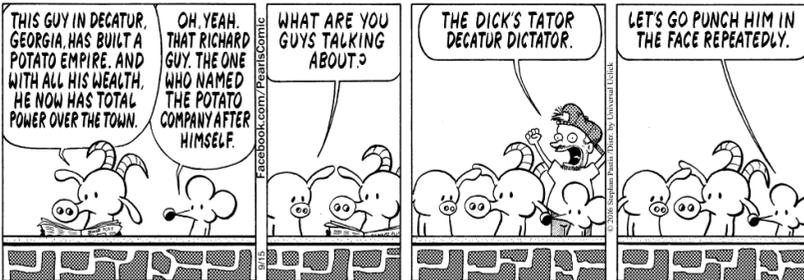
**Dear Stumped:** If you're smart, you won't — unless she asks.

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



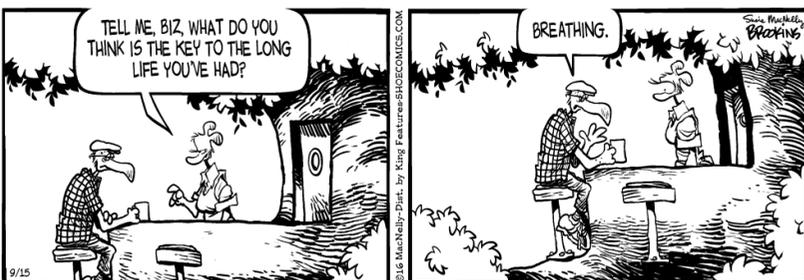
**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



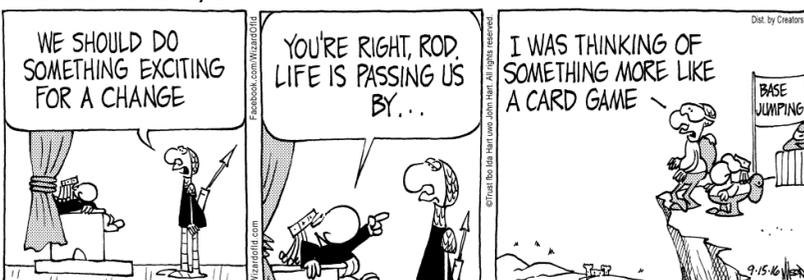
**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



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



**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



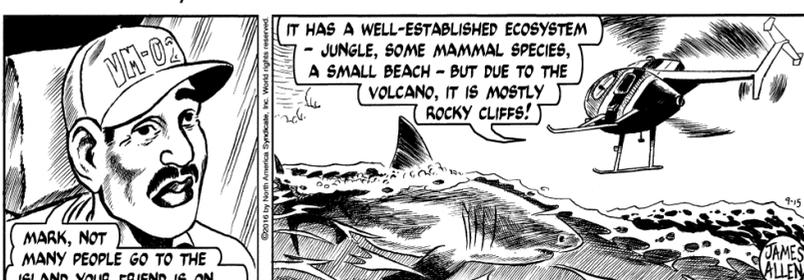
**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**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).** You can't trust a crowd. Do not automatically assume that the others standing in a long line for the exciting thing have any more information than you do. They may be in that line just because everyone seems to be.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Love will have some of the mysterious elements of a suspense drama. What's next? Well, you'll find out when you become the active hero in this story, ready to investigate, confront and make things happen.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Could you finish the whole thing by yourself? Yes. Every last bit. Should you? No. Not at all. That is, unless you want the others to feel left out, inadequate and unwanted. Have a heart; share everything, especially the work.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You'll be dealing in issues of morality. Just remember that character is destiny. What you do to change your life will refine your character and what you do to refine your character will change your life.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You feel compelled to figure out how a certain interesting person works — to learn what he or she wants and needs. Where are you in this? Honestly, are you setting up a codependent dynamic here?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The more you love, the more willing you are to suffer for love. There have been times, in fact, when suffering

and love were synonymous. And now for something radically different — temperate, easygoing stability.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** In working with others you'll be most agreeable, not the least bit submissive. Anyone who seems to require your submission needs to be shut down politely, succinctly, immediately.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** What is harder than climbing mountains, running miles and accomplishing great things? Getting out of a rut. It will be so worthwhile to invest in something to get you unstuck.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your communication with the world is happening on many levels. As you connect to people and things you'll become a conduit. You'll provide a path for what is needed to get to those who need it.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Spending time with new faces, business associates and anyone connected with your aims is important. Spending time with loved ones is more important. Prioritize to preserve key relationships.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** By being the bridge, providing the connection, translating the information, you're able to give what you do not possess. Because you help one side understand the other, you give to each with no loss to yourself.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** This is no time to be cheap with yourself. If the effect that you're going for doesn't work, it could still lead to the next thing that will solve the problem and so much more. Stay optimistic.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**