

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Nuts! I think I failed my driver's ed exam."

Woman stuck in convenient marriage

Dear Abby: After a marriage of many years, I have come to realize ours has become simply one of convenience. My husband is a negative and controlling person who gripes about everything. He has developed no friendships or interests of his own, and I have to battle with him to even have a day to myself.

How many other women are like me — stuck in loveless marriages without the resources to live on our own (at least in the lifestyle we are accustomed to)? Any advice for me? — *In Limbo Out West*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear In Limbo: If my mail is any indication, you have lots of company in your boat. Many women stay because they are afraid to live alone or see nothing better on the horizon. No third party can or should answer this question for you.

Make a list of the pros and cons of your marriage, tally them up and weigh the cons against how you feel living the life you are living now. A licensed counselor may be able to

steer you in the right direction — which may entail marriage counseling and/or consulting a lawyer or your CPA about what other options you may have.

Dear Abby: I'm a busy sixth-grade girl who has played piano for seven years. But my busy schedule gets in the way of piano because I have to prep for competitions. I love the piano, but I still need to keep up with my school schedule.

If I tell my grandma I want to quit piano, she'll be disappointed. I already quit violin in orchestra. So this means my music life will be over. Should I still do it or not? — *Stressed Out Musician*

Dear Musician: Unless your music causes your grades to drop, continue the piano for as long as you can. There may come a time when other things must take precedence, but you never can tell how beneficial your musical education may be when you're an adult.

You're an intelligent young woman, so let me share a true story with you: A man here in Los Angeles studied classical piano for many years. He had talent, but didn't consider

himself good enough to make it his career. He married, went to law school, passed the bar — and wound up becoming one of the most successful lawyers in town representing musicians and other entertainers.

You never can tell where life may lead, so the more talents you nourish, the wider your options will be.

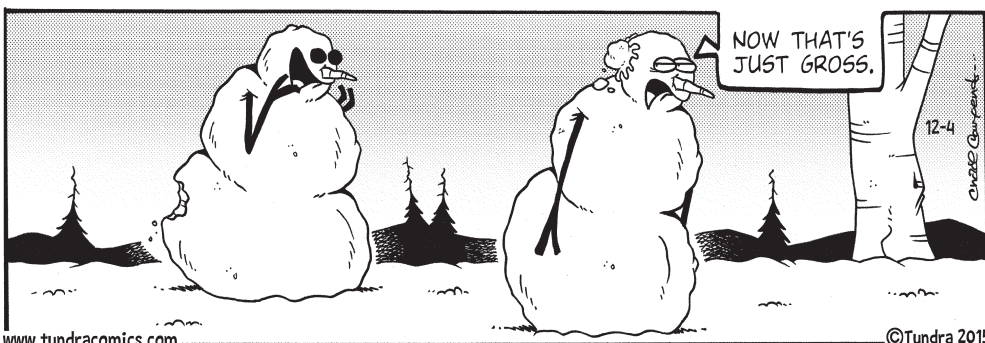
Dear Abby: My husband demands we give our first child the name "Junior" as his legal first name, supposedly to honor the baby's paternal grandpa, who is also called Junior.

I am vehemently opposed to it because Junior is a title, not a name, and also because Grandpa is a notorious drunk, criminal and adulterer. I am open to ANY other name my husband may want, but he won't budge. Who should win out? — *Due Soon in Syracuse*

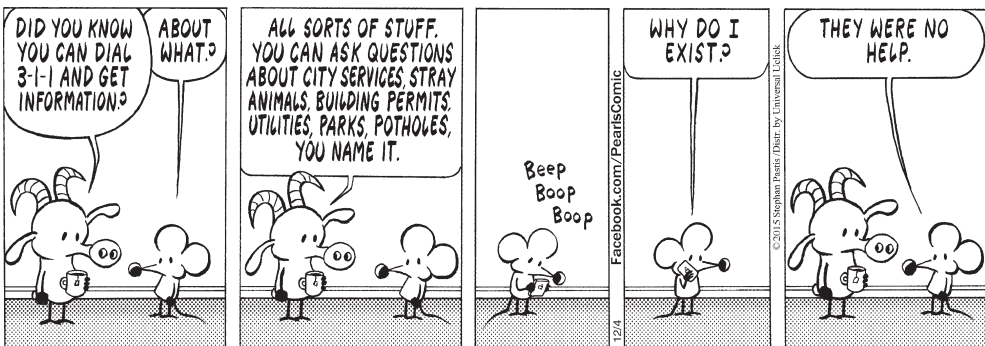
Dear Due Soon: You should! Naming a child after someone is, indeed, supposed to be an honor, and from your description, your father-in-law isn't someone who deserves one.

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

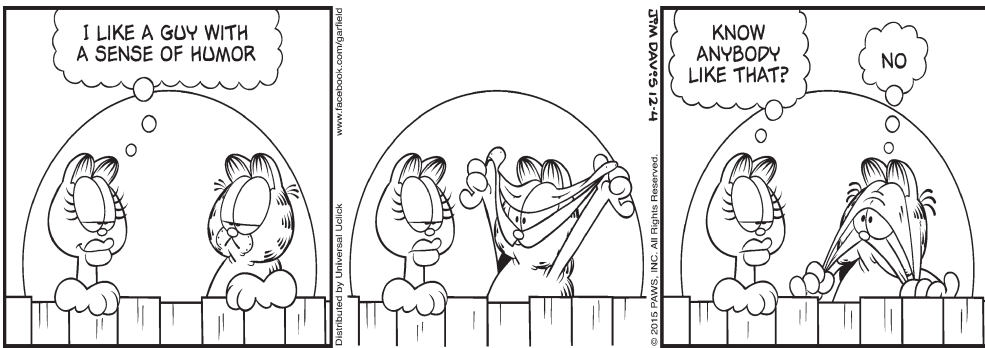
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



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GARFIELD by Jim Davis



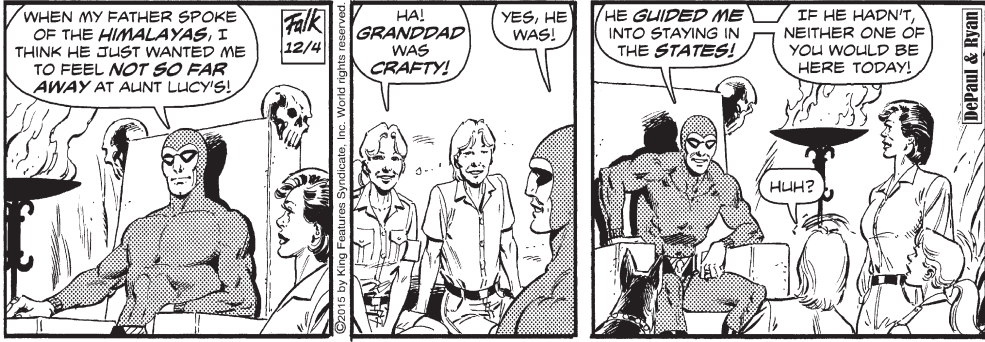
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



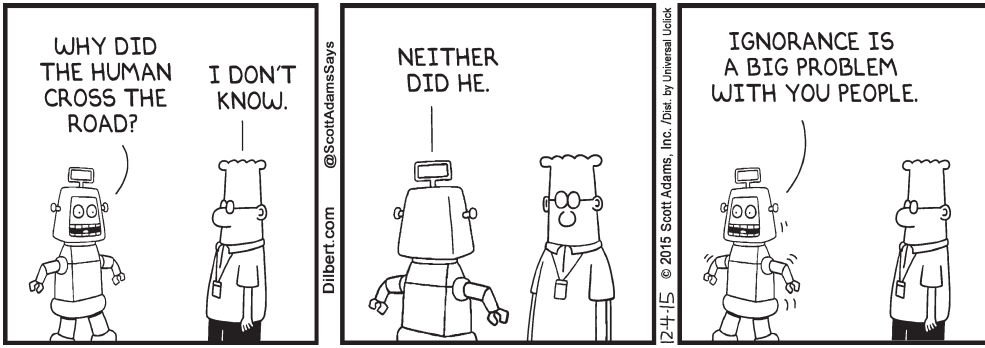
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



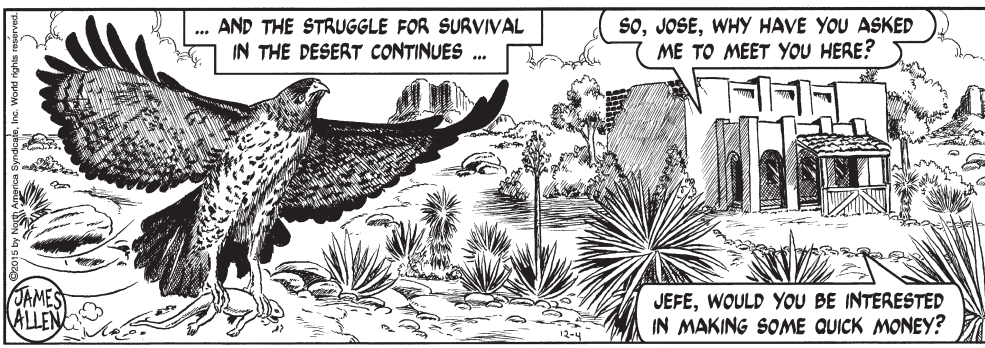
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



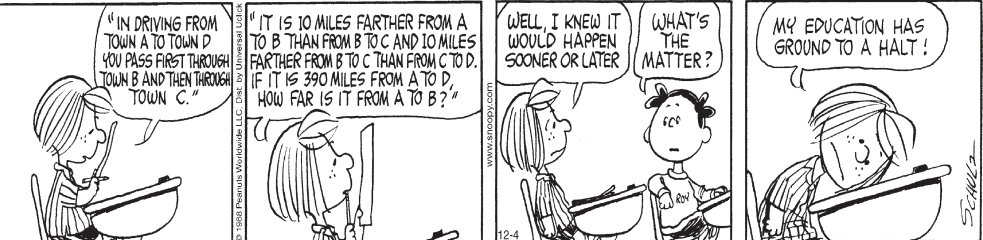
DILBERT by Scott Adams



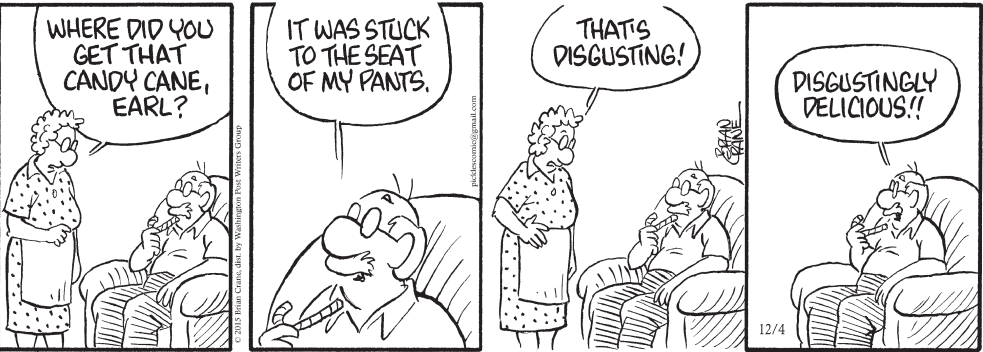
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



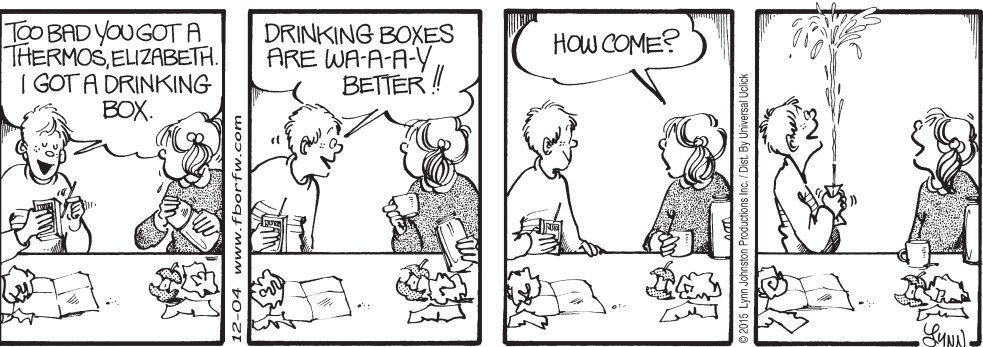
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



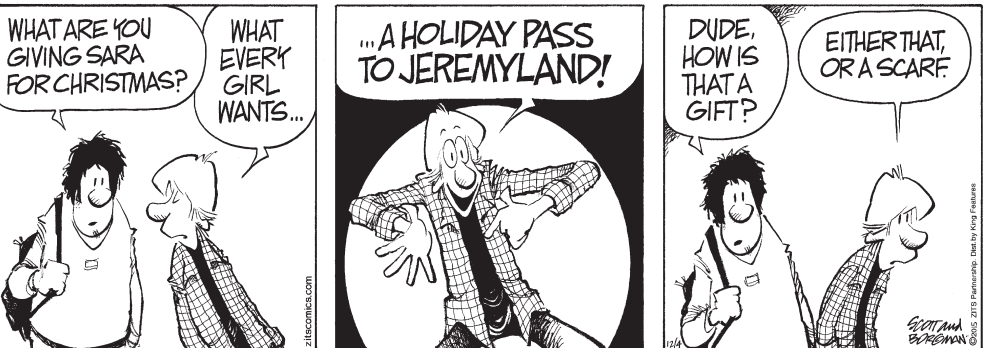
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



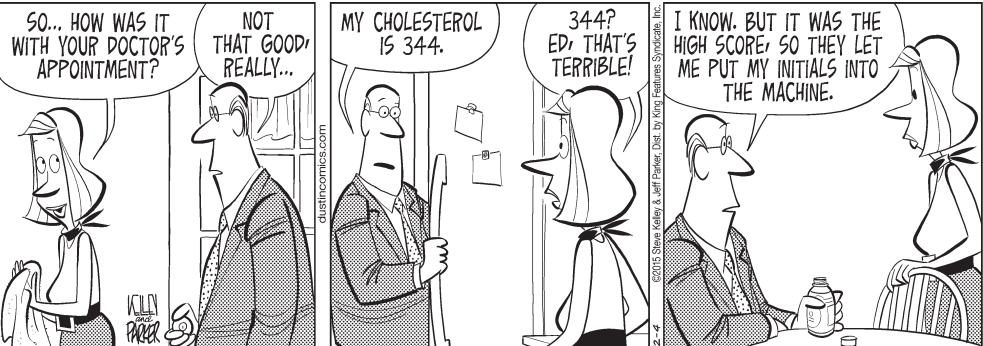
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As the lumberjacks know, unless you're Paul Bunyan the first blow does not fell the tree. Luck will favor you as you work methodically, patiently and from many angles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People love to give you advice today — whether or not you ask for it, whether or not you want or need it. There will be so many opinions but none worth acting on immediately. Let it sit. Reconsider in a few days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Likely you won't be motivated to move from your spot, stick to your diet or follow your work plan, but you'll feel so good about yourself when you summon up the self-possession to do it anyway.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are many around you who expect a reward for everything. You'll go the extra mile without expecting recompense. This key difference in you will be what sets you apart and elevates your stock.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Usually you learn by doing, but you probably won't get the opportunity for hands-on training so you'll have to learn all you can from watching. The longer and better you observe, the more astute you will become.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Order what you like from the menu of life. What does it matter if you got the same thing yesterday or last week? You

know what will please you and there is comfort and efficiency in that today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You do the same things whether or not you think you're being watched, and people sense that what they see is what they get. Your honesty makes you attractive to people who are similarly inclined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's harder to tell how fast things are moving when you're moving, too. You have to stand still to feel the rush of another person's pacing. A brief reprieve will give you perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a lot to be said for making a few mistakes in the early part of a project. If you were always correct the first time, you wouldn't make a good teacher later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take measures to protect yourself from the emotional climate as well as the actual weather. Go where there is sunshine, or at least where you can be around people who have sunshine in their hearts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll give someone a chance, realizing that if no one ever gave you a chance, you wouldn't be where you are today. Picking the right someone ... that's where things get tricky. Go where the need is great then trust your gut.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A person who is genuinely decent doesn't have to go around talking about her recent acts of charity and kindness, and the trustworthy don't make a habit of saying "trust me."



HOLIDAY MATHIS