

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



Hoping to convince the university that he is worthy of a wrestling scholarship, Nick pins the director of admissions in 13 seconds.

# Girl's story fails grandma's smell test

**Dear Abby:** Yesterday, when I picked my granddaughter "Michelle" up from school, she asked me to take her to get a pizza. I told her I had no money, and she responded that she had her own money. She then pulled \$40 out of her pocket.

Michelle is only 9 and has no job. When I asked where she got the money, she told me, "A little boy who's disabled gave it to me." I didn't believe her story, and after I questioned her further, she confessed that she had taken the money from a boy who is NOT disabled.

I took the money from her and gave it to her teacher. Her teacher said the boy had accused Michelle, but Michelle had sworn she hadn't taken it. Abby, my granddaughter not only took his money, but also lied about it. I was devastated.

When I told my daughter, she said I should have let her and her husband handle it because now Michelle's teacher won't like her and may treat her differently. My daughter is now upset with me, but I was just trying to do the

right thing. Did I do the wrong thing? — *Hurt Grandma in Texas*

**Dear Hurt Grandma:** I don't think so. I'm not sure how your daughter planned to "handle it" and make things right for the boy who was bullied and stolen from, but by doing what you did, you ensured that he got his money back.

One can only hope that Michelle got a talking-to from her parents about what she did, and has learned not to repeat it. But if she's tempted to do it again, it's just as well that her teacher will keep a closer eye on her.

**Dear Abby:** My husband has been in prison for three and a half years, but now he's moving to a halfway house where he will have much more freedom. He wants to attend my church with me, and I know people there will have questions. Only a few of them know where he has been. What's the best way to make this comfortable for both of us and share it as we need to? — *Free at Last*

**Dear Free at Last:** That your husband would like to attend church with you is laud-

able, and I hope his entry into the congregation will be a smooth one. I have often said that once a "secret" is known by more than one person, it is no longer a secret. Discuss this with your clergyman and let him or her guide you in the process. If you do, it may help to avoid any rough spots along the way.

**Dear Abby:** Many people these days rely on their devices to auto-correct spelling and grammatical errors. Too often I see signage on businesses with misspellings.

A few of my friends own their own businesses, and their postings on social media are often misspelled. Sometimes they ask for my opinion. Should I offer advice or ignore this growing trend? — *Miss Pelled in the South*

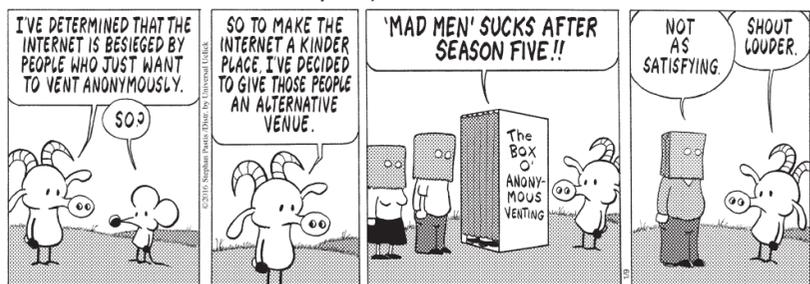
**Dear Miss Pelled:** Offer advice only when it's been requested. Advice that is unasked for is usually unwelcome. Unless you want to be known as the "grammar hammer," keep it to yourself.

**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



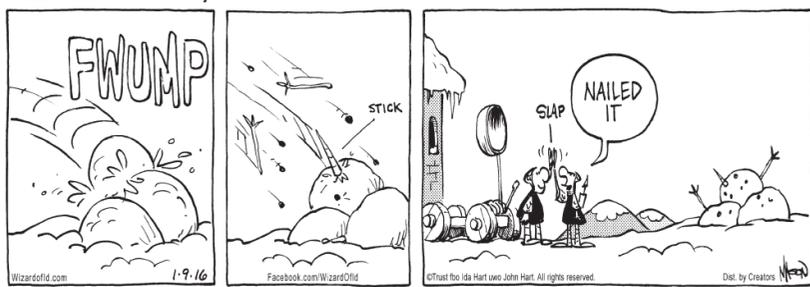
**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



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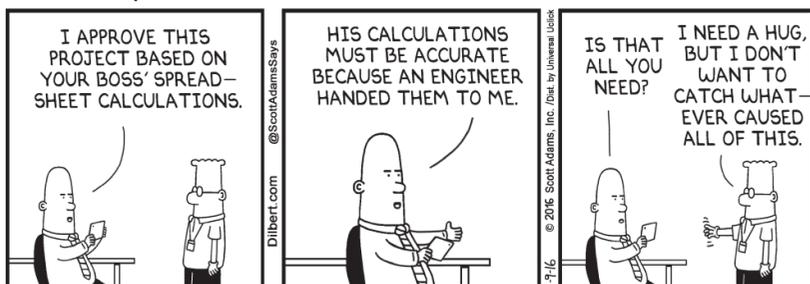
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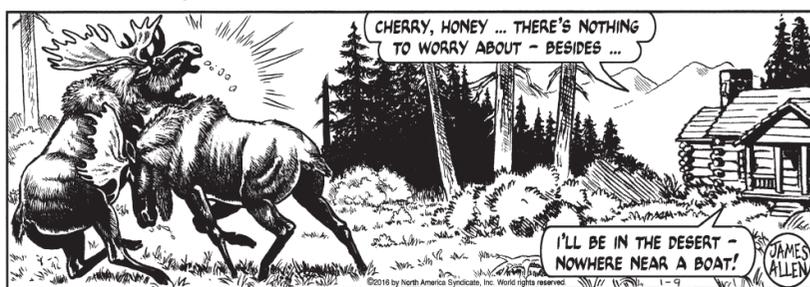
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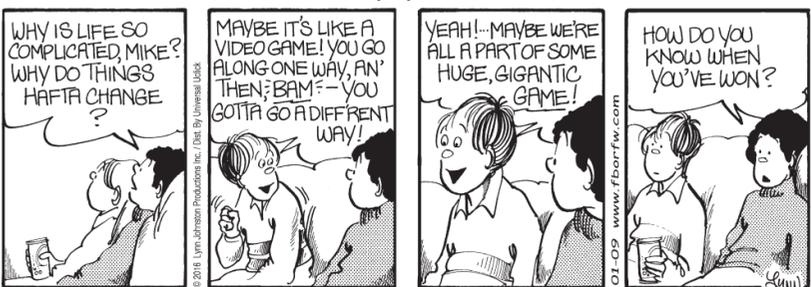
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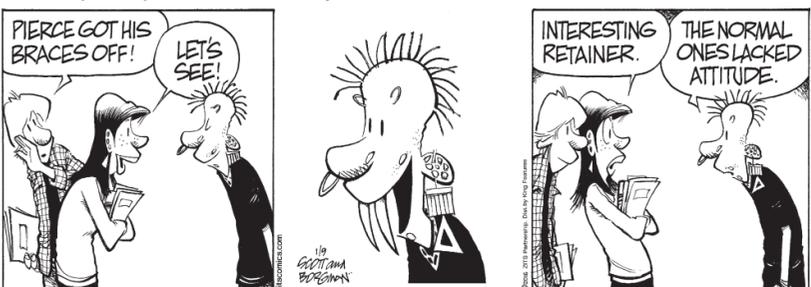
**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE** by Lynn Johnston



**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 do have an endless supply of excellent ideas, though it's best to parcel them out slowly or you'll overwhelm the others. In fact, keep most of them to yourself until you're sure it's the right time.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's cute to hit all of the buttons on the elevator if you happen to be a child. Adults don't enjoy all of the stops and starts, though, and that's part of today's frustration. Take a breath. Children will be children.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The harsh and unforgiving feelings have a way of getting wedged in your ribcage. The way to let them go is through singing or exercise that gets you breathing deeply and forcefully.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Stunt-performers learn not to fall helplessly. There are many ways to help yourself through the fall, work with the momentum of it and experience a relatively soft landing.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your love is shelter. Those you love feel your protection. They know that you'll believe the best in them, even if they themselves aren't quite sure it's warranted. You'll be extending the benefit of the doubt again.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Even though you know that it's important to care for and love yourself, you really learn how to these days by

loving others. Give them what they need and you'll suddenly realize what you need.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Go where the crowd is. This is an opportunity to delight and entertain others. Even if you remain in the audience, you'll be an essential part of the experience for more people than you realize.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're like a person searching for glasses that are flipped atop his head. In order to see better, all you have to do is feel around your head a little and make a slight correction to put things back in place.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You want to show up looking your best, and this takes more effort than anticipated. Give yourself the time to work it out. As you get the external details in order, the inner workings will happen, too.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The star was born, died and is now the main reason you're breathing. Your essence is stardust and you are even more radiant than usual with so much cosmic power these days. Use it well.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The selfie has become one of the most popular and daily ways to face oneself, though it is perhaps the least revealing of methods. It's time to "selfie" your soul again.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You feel that you could stand to be less selfish and defensive. Couldn't it all? It's not a matter of being a good person or a bad person. Listening, kindness and patience usually take practice.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY



**HOLIDAY MATHS**