

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



Waiter Stu Harmon was also an aspiring magician.

# Attraction to abuser troubles teenager

**Dear Abby:** I am 19 and going into my second year of college. I was sexually and emotionally abused during my first two years of high school by a boy a year older than me. I attended therapy for a while and eventually found myself in a loving relationship with my boyfriend. We've been living together for a year.

Everything was going fine until I came home for summer break. I have never gotten over the feelings I had for my abuser, but I love my boyfriend and would never want to hurt him or endanger myself again. Why should I have feelings for someone who treated me so terribly? And what should I do about them? — *Abused and Confused in California*

**Dear Abused and Confused:** I commend you for recognizing that the status quo isn't in your best interest. Old habits die hard, and you may still be physically attracted to your abuser. Now that the school year is beginning again, head straight to the student health

center and talk to a counselor about this. Do not put it off, because understanding this is important for your emotional well-being now and in the future.

**Dear Abby:** We are having a housewarming party and would like to invite a married couple we know. However, the wife is notorious for having one of her female friends tag along for everything they do — movies, vacations, concerts. Everything! I don't care for the third wheel, and I don't want her at our party. What's the proper way to word the party only "without it sounding cold or insulting"? — *No Trespassing in Virginia*

**Dear No Trespassing:** After you issue the invitation, call the wife and tell her your party is for "guests only" and that you would prefer she not bring any extras. If she asks why, tell her the truth. It is a breach of etiquette to bring uninvited guests to someone else's party, so stop worrying about sounding cold or insulting because this couple appear to have hides of steel.

**Dear Abby:** I have asked my son to let me

watch (via video chatting) my grandson open any gifts or cards I send. They live far away and I want to feel included. He promises to do it, but he never follows through.

My grandson is not being taught to have any regard for my feelings. What should I do? Should I drop the request and any expectation of contact? Should I stop sending gifts? It just upsets me too much. — *Lonely Grandma in Michigan*

**Dear Grandma:** I don't blame you for feeling upset, but the person you should be upset with is your son. If you stop sending gifts to your grandson, you'll be punishing the wrong person. His parents should be teaching him the importance of acknowledging gifts because it is part of basic good manners that will benefit him in the future.

Because you want to stay in contact, after sending the boy a gift, call to ask him if he received it and how he liked it. If you do, it may help you to establish a closer relationship.

**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



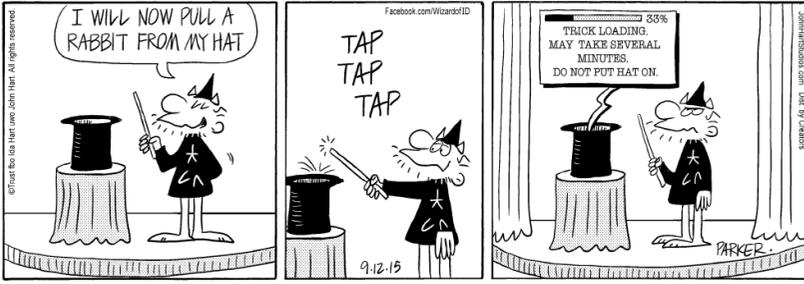
**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



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



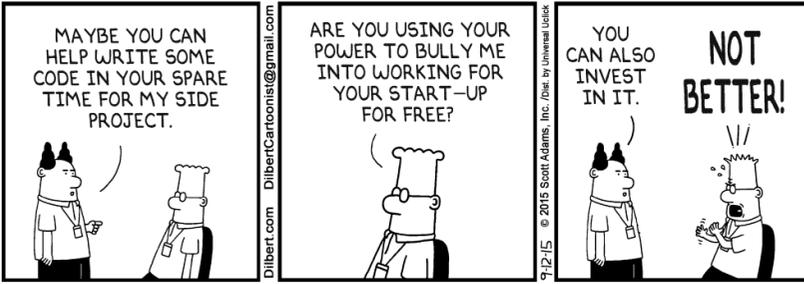
**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



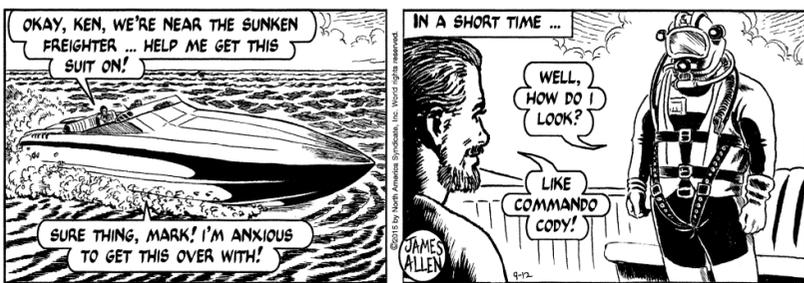
**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



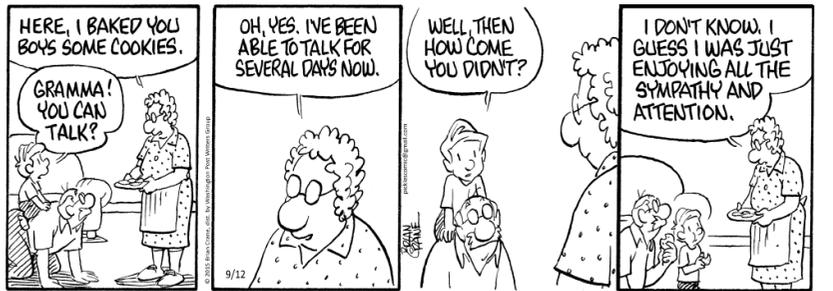
**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



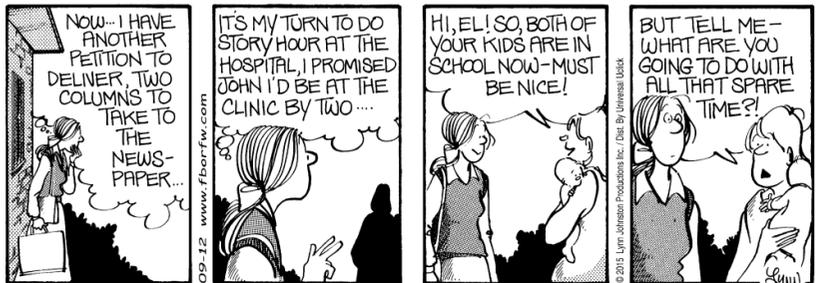
**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



**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).** If you speak up, you'll get the attention you seek. Maintaining the attention will depend on how well you know and serve your audience.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's weird, but you're so busy now that you might have to schedule unscheduled time. It's important for your well-being that you do. Otherwise the world will quickly get in your way.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll be in the mood to investigate and dig deep. Just be careful where you put your shovel. When you're digging in garbage, you get what you get (likely, more garbage).

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your open-minded views don't seem the least bit out of the ordinary to you, and yet there are others in your midst who have remained (inexplicably) immune to the harsh realities of the world.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The stuff that was here when you were born seems like normal stuff to you. The stuff coming in now ... well, it's all exciting and fun and new. It's also a potential income source.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The concept of "enough" will come into play. What's enough, and what's not enough? You and a close loved one may disagree on the matter, and that will be the major conflict of the day.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You'll share in another's suffering. They'll find it comforting to know that they are not alone and that they don't have to act as if they are feeling any certain way. Whatever reaction they are having, you will make it seem OK.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You've witnessed many walking the same path you now traverse who were ultimately diverted from their goals. Learn from them. If need be, put on a horse's blinders and keep looking straight ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Civilized society began with mud used as a writing tool. Whatever you are up against, just know that there is a way to proceed, even if you have to create the needed tools.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You have the charm of a fairytale character. With a sparkling smile and an air of magic, you spread joy and take great delight in filling out the plot by following your heart to its inevitably good ending.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Things won't go nearly as planned, but that doesn't mean all is ruined. Try to see unexpected twists of fate as lovely surprises instead of as a cosmic scheme of practical jokes.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The miscommunications, long lines and unanswered calls could actually be a wonderful thing for relationships. Some bonds could use a little shake-up — it's a fine way to find out how much one party appreciates the other.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**