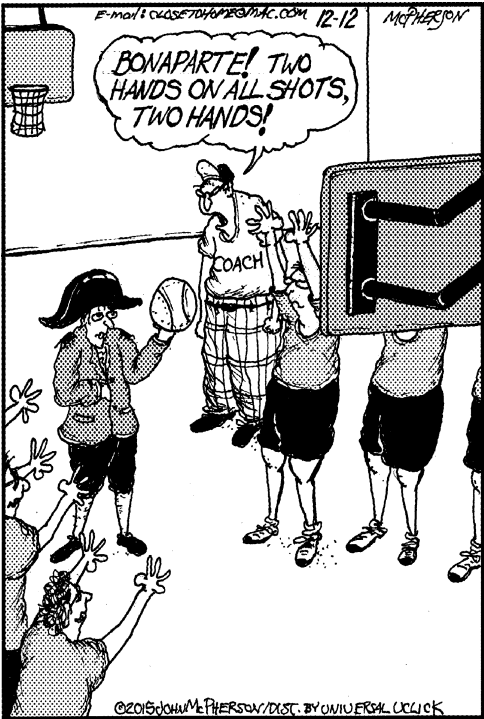


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Napoleon in eighth-grade gym class.

Reader asks others to see whole picture

Dear Abby: My heart breaks when jokes are made about older children who still live at home. My son “Nick” has his own area of the house. His rent helps us greatly. My parents also live in another part of the house, and he helps with their needs sometimes.

Why does everyone make fun of these people without knowing the situation? Nick has a college degree and a good job, but the wages aren’t what they were in relation to the cost of living. He used to own a home, but sold it to move out of state for work. When he came back, we set up this arrangement to benefit all of us. People need to look at the whole picture before making a judgment. Abby, do you think this is an unacceptable arrangement? — *Family Extended in Kansas*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Family Extended: Unacceptable? Not at all. In recent years it’s become more common for adult children to live with their parents. People shouldn’t rush to judgment.

Dear Abby: My husband has an extensive list of health issues, both mental and physical. His family has a history of cancer. Last week, we were given the news that he may have pancreatic cancer. He watched his brother die from the same disease, so we know that if he is diagnosed, he may not survive long. The doctors weren’t able to make a definitive diagnosis, so there will be more testing. I love my husband with all my heart and have stood by him through everything.

My dilemma: After we got the news, I started thinking about what may happen to me after he dies. I thought about getting him more life insurance, selling the house, what to do with his belongings — even where I would bury him. Am I a terrible person? — *Filled With All Sorts Of Emotions*

Dear Filled: Please stop beating yourself up. You and your husband are going through a traumatic health crisis right now. I hope his diagnosis of a terminal illness is premature and that you will enjoy many more happy years together. However, whatever lies ahead, the two of you are overdue for a conversation about what both of you would like to happen.

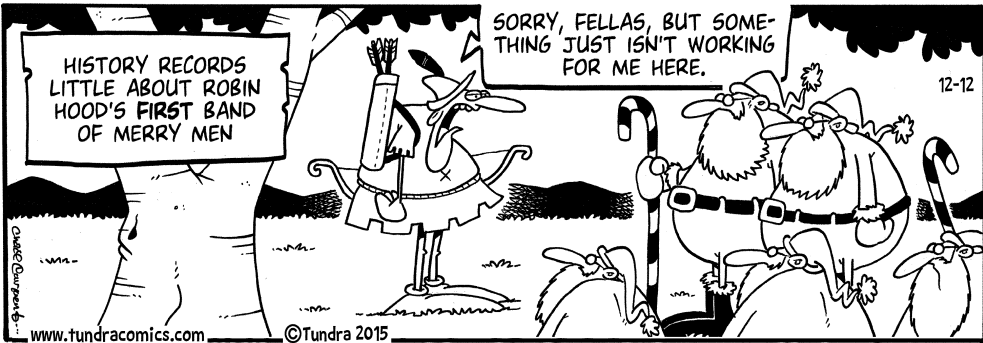
Dear Abby: I’m a student in eighth grade. In September we had a shooting at the high school in my district. My dad always said that being in South Dakota, we are safer from the craziness that happens in more populated areas. We have little to no bad/dangerous kids in our district, so I still can’t wrap my mind around it. It feels surreal.

I don’t know how I’m going to cope with the idea that it could happen again. — *Scared in South Dakota*

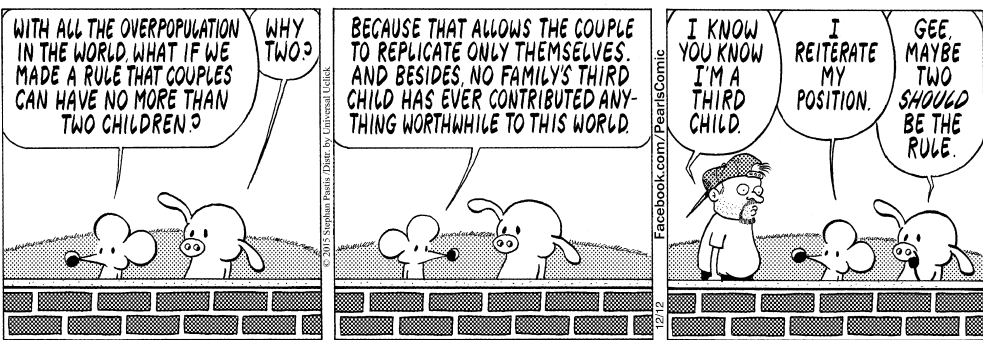
Dear Scared: The student who acted out so violently may have suffered from a severe mental illness that wasn’t properly treated, or may have been angry because he was bullied. While no one is 100 percent safe from violence these days, the chances of it happening to you are less if you treat others with the same respect and kindness with which you would like to be treated. If these concerns are preoccupying you, it’s important that you continue to discuss them with your parents so they can give you the assurance you need.

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

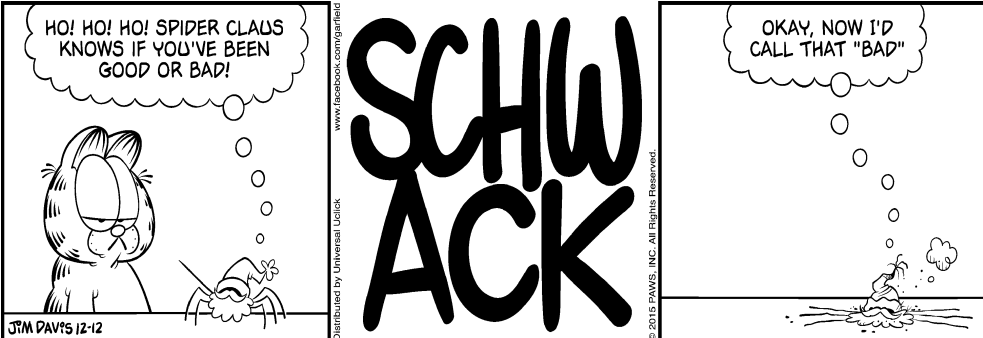
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



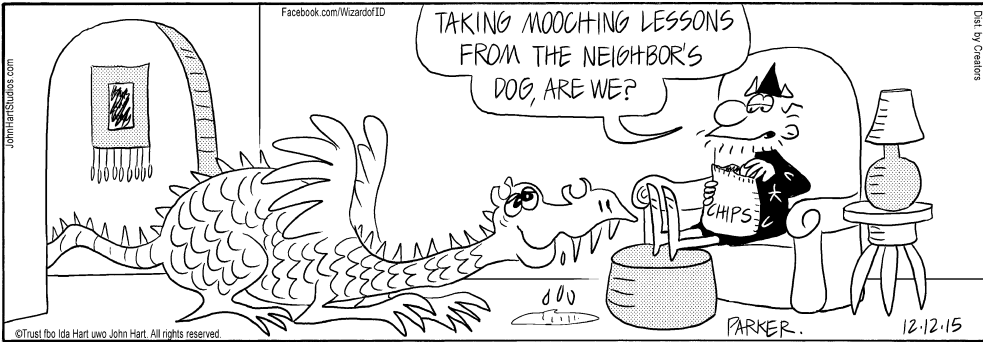
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



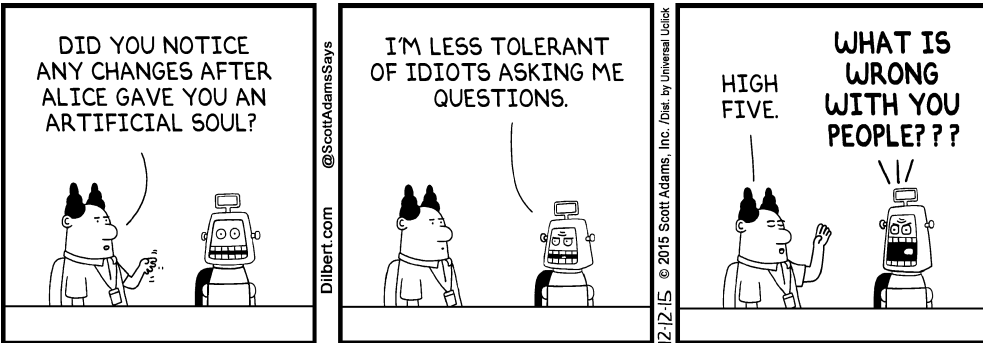
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



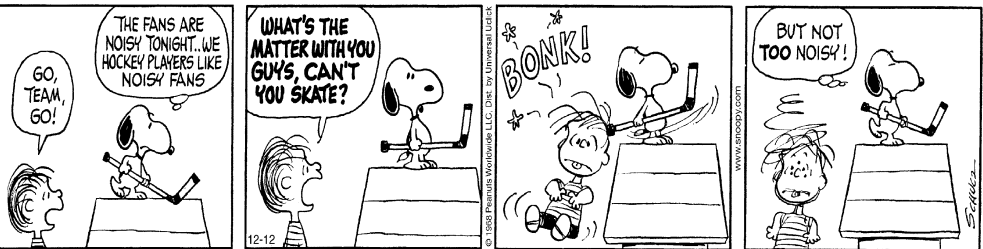
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



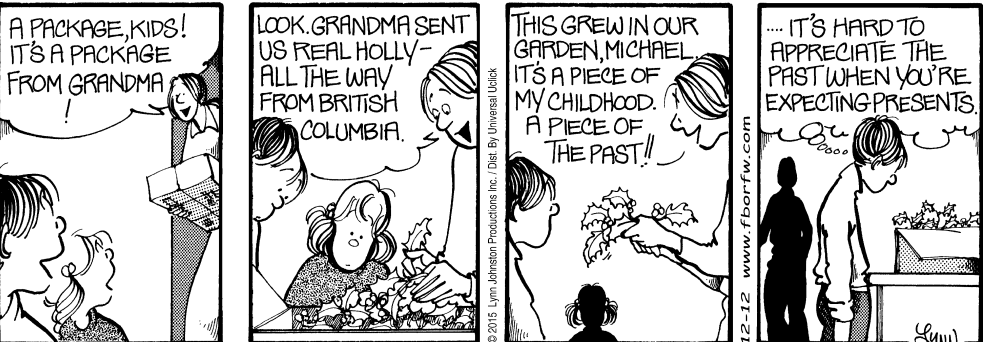
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



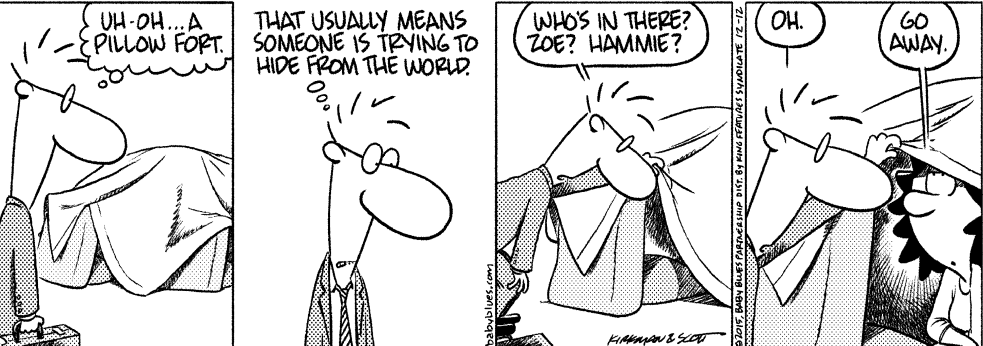
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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). There are those who find the treasures of others to be more interesting and exciting than their own. If those “treasures” can be stolen or seduced away perhaps they weren’t so precious after all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Thinking about what you’re going to do may be even more important than doing it today. Visualization will give you stronger intention. It will pump up your energy and it will help you understand the “why” of your actions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may do what’s appropriate when you’re around others, but when you’re alone you will bare your soul, examine it, know it, accept it. This practice of coming clean you-to-you is basic hygiene for the spirit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It’s said that there are no bad jokes, only jokes that are badly told. This point could be argued, but you can’t bother with that now. You’re too involved in figuring out how you’re going to tell your “joke.”

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Styx is the name of a mythological river that runs between Earth and the Underworld. The river is named for a goddess with miraculous power. Today your own miraculous power will be found along the boundary of two worlds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You’ve been fantasizing about having more people on your side, and

truly this is something you need in order to take your life in the direction you’ve been dreaming about. Get out there; make more friends, and get more fans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It’s possible that someone is falling in love with you. It’s also possible that this is more attention than you need or want right now, but what’s to be done about it? You’re lovable, and you can’t help that!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are things you write down to remember later, and then there are things you write down to enforce them now. Writing strengthens your intention and focuses your life force.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sir Winston Churchill defined success as “the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.” Your optimistic spirit will attract good fortune.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are the best witness around now, and if you suspect that your version of an experience goes deeper than others, you’re right. No one sees the intricate details the way you do or feels the undercurrents so acutely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The good experience is your pleasure. The bad experience is your teacher, more valuable and costlier, too. Generally people pay more to be educated than they would pay to be merely entertained.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As for the one who always seems to call you with some kind of personal agenda, you’re feeling just bold enough to have a little fun with this. Shake it up.



HOLIDAY MATHIS