

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Your career assessment test is back, Mr. Zessler, and it seems you are best suited to be an eye surgeon or watch repairman."

Long marriage is left in limbo by wife

Dear Abby: After 27 years of marriage, my wife told me she is attracted to other women. To my knowledge, she has acted on this only once. Every day I wonder where our relationship stands. One day she can't see herself without me; the next, she says we should divorce. I don't know if I should end this or wait to see where it goes.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I will need counseling if we divorce, but currently I can't afford it. I don't have anyone else to talk to about this. Any suggestions? — Mr. D. in California

Dear Mr. D.: After 27 years of marriage I can only imagine how shocking your wife's revelation must have been for you. That she is ambivalent about your marriage must be deeply painful because you are being treated like a yo-yo.

The book "The Other Side of the Closet," by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., has proven helpful to others in your situation. There is also a support group called the Straight Spouse

Network (www.straightspouse.org), which offers emotional support after a wife or a husband comes out as yours did. Please don't wait to read the book and visit the website.

to be funny, but I don't think Gene and Miley fall into that category. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Dear Abby: Sometimes I'll call a close friend or business associate for lunch with the goal of having a quality one-on-one conversation on a wide range of topics. After the lunch is set, more than one of them has then invited other people I know, but with whom I do not have the same quality relationship. It is not a pleasant surprise.

I find it irritating, because it invariably changes the dynamic of the conversation. I never say anything about it, but it bothers me. Is my reaction reasonable, or should I just roll with this? — Thwarted in Dallas

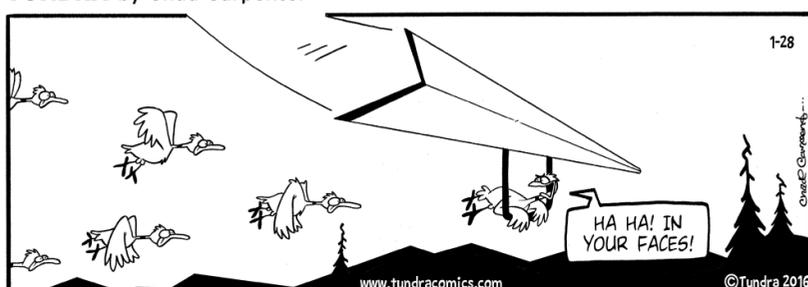
Dear Thwarted: Your reaction is perfectly reasonable. The first time it happened, you should have shared your feelings with the person who did it. It has happened again because you didn't speak up. Now you will have to warn the person you're inviting in advance.

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

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



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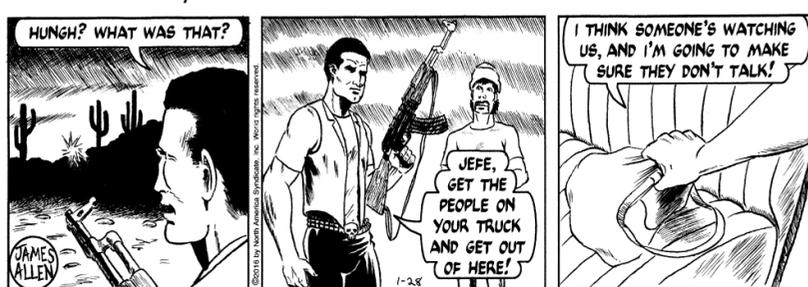
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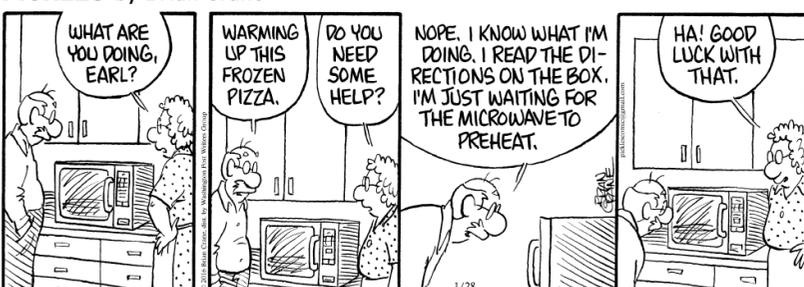
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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Since you're not dead-set on a certain destination today, why not take hints from the environment? Figure out which way the wind is blowing, and angle yourself to put this weather to your greatest advantage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't believe your worth, undervalue yourself or simply settle for far less than you want or deserve then there is a great potential to make mistakes. Don't let it happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The road to greatness isn't always a rough road; often times it's just a long one. Even though you are easily distracted by the pretty things, people and ideas around you, you also have tenacity. Dig for it. Find it. Resist temptation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Would you be surprised to know that you are on the mind of a certain someone as the first thought of the morning, the last thought of the day, and at least 700 thoughts between those? Well, it's true.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't waste time getting angry, or even frustrated, with those who can't help but be who they are. You're the same. Why become disheartened? You're not always going to get it right. Have patience. Be inwardly gentle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is much that is well within your rights, within the available opportunities and within what is socially

acceptable that you will nonetheless refrain from doing, out of modesty. This is commendable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You try and look at something for what it is and find only contradictions. Now try looking at yourself. You'll find that you don't altogether know what you are capable of. There is great potential in this day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can handle your work well and still pace yourself. Don't spend all your best energy between 9 and 5, because from 5 to 9 will offer some prime opportunities for you to shine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of your challenges is to balance an unshakable confidence in your talents with the humility necessary to develop them to their full potential. A hard teacher will come along to help you with this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is nothing to be gained by pushing against the minor setbacks of the day or giving them even one iota more attention than they deserve, which is very, very little indeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though you are probably finding yourself in a position of defense, a defensive stance will only cause offensive action from the other side. Lay down your arms, stay calm and add a little feeling in with all those facts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are certain things you may never learn, if only because they are so outside of your nature that you can't begin to figure out how to emulate the motions. There's a better fit out there; all you have to do is choose it.

HOLIDAY MATHS

