

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Debbie's decision to change Tyler's diaper at her seat takes a dark turn.

Mom's piercings are targets of ridicule

Dear Abby: My sister and I have no interest in body piercing (except our ears), but we have seen it on friends and are not impressed.

However, our 44-year-old mom got her nipples pierced and has started wearing jewelry there!

Our parents are divorced and she's not in a relationship right now, so it's not to impress a man.

She says she did it to feel good about herself, which makes no sense to us.

She takes off her top to show her female friends when they come over, and we can see them literally roll their eyes, but she doesn't seem to notice.

She has now started showing off her piercings to OUR friends. I'm talking about girlfriends, but even so, we find this beyond embarrassing.

They're polite to her face but laugh behind her back, and word about it has spread, which we find humiliating.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
DEAR ABBY

I suppose we should be thankful that at least she hasn't pierced her most personal place to show off to our friends like we've seen some girls do.

We think some kind of midlife crisis or hormonal imbalance is causing her to act this way, but we wish she'd find a better outlet.

If she wants to make a fool of herself in front of her friends, that's one thing. But we don't think she has the right to embarrass us in front of our friends! What can we do? — *Embarrassed in the West*

Dear Embarrassed: I agree that what your mother has been doing is inappropriate. That she has done it among her friends is one thing, but for her to disrobe to show your friends her nipple piercings is wrong.

She may do this because she wants to prove to them (or herself) that she's still young and "with-it." If that's the case, it's pathetic.

If you haven't told her that when she flashes your friends it's embarrassing and you want her to stop, you should. If she realizes she's making herself a laughingstock, she may stop.

However, if she doesn't, then you and your

sister will have to accept that you can't change her, and realize that what she's doing is no reflection on the two of you.

Dear Abby: I am a "catfisher." I use a fake Facebook account with pictures of an attractive woman to attract men. I specifically target married or committed men. I talk to and flirt with them online to see how far they'll go. They often ask me for more pictures and invite me to meet somewhere for sex. I never give real information or meet any of them.

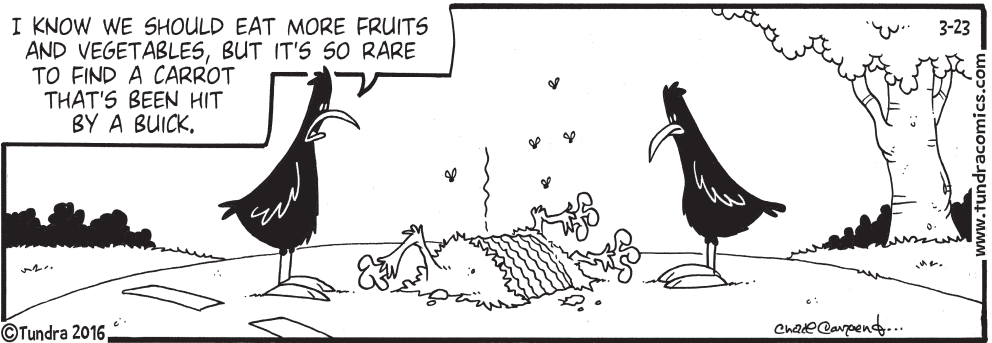
My question is, should I let the women these men are involved with know that their men are unfaithful or keep it to myself? — *Karma in Georgia*

Dear Karma: How can you be concerned for the wives and girlfriends when YOU are the person providing the temptation?

I think you would be better served if you worked on your own problem before you try to resolve the issues of people you have never met and never will.

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

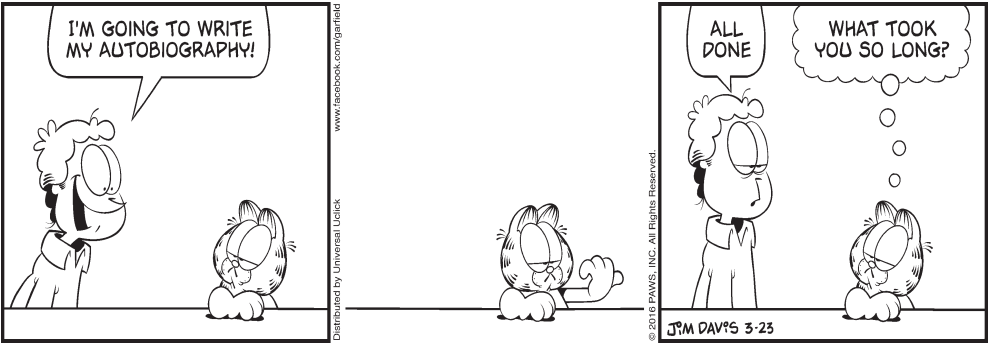
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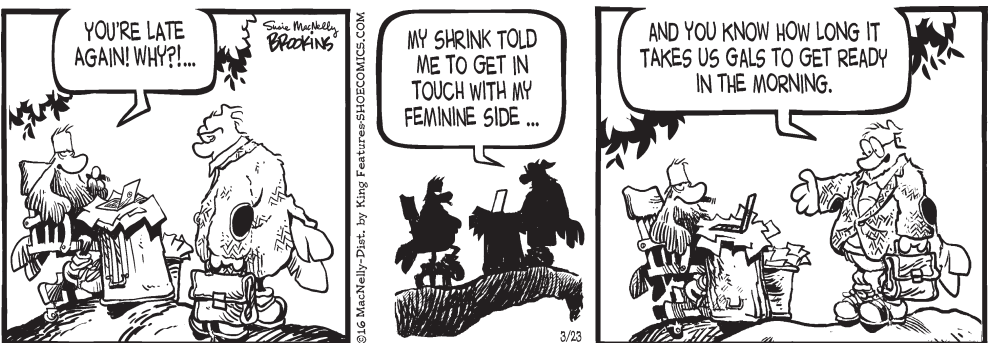
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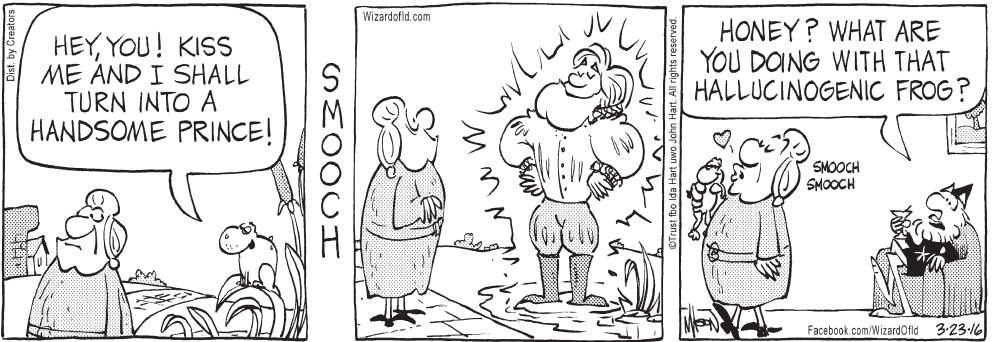
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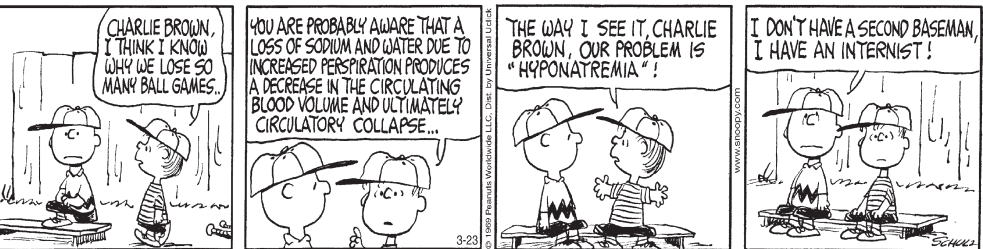
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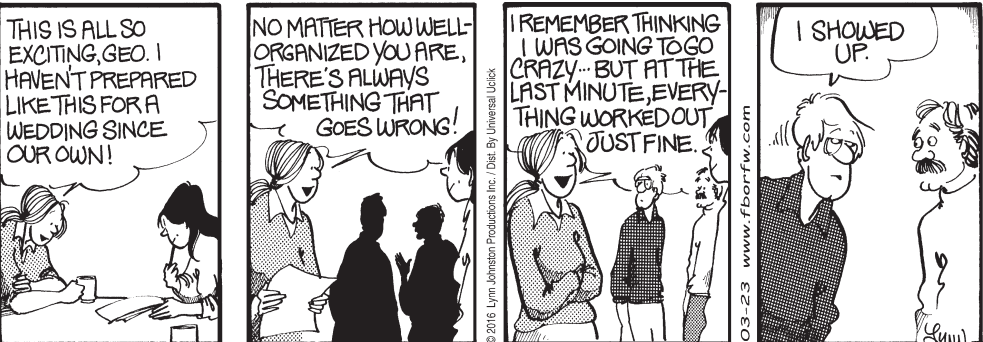
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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).** Your charisma comes from attentiveness. Because you've such a powerful life force now, it energizes whatever it settles on. And the people you focus on feel like the most important ones in the world.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you say the right thing to the right person, your project will take off like wildfire. That's why you need to start talking in a very positive way about all you want and all you are doing.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's had rocky moments, but rest assured, the relationship sector of your life will ultimately bring fulfillment. Your heart will be healed by one who understands your needs and answers them with complementary needs.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your temper is a teakettle in a library. You want to be effective enough to make some nice drinks, but you don't want to be too noisy about it. To avoid sounding off, let off a little steam at a time.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The same belief that once made you feel secure now makes you feel trapped. Maybe this wasn't always a stifling influence, but it is now, so throw off your mental chains.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Physical labor is favored and you have the high energy necessary to do more than you could have last week. You'll

apply your strength to improving your surroundings or earning some kind of bonus.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You may be working or living alongside someone, but are you really connecting with this person who is so vital to the outcome of your week, if not your life? Turn off the distractions and really focus in.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You will finally get a reward that was a long time in coming, and this is probably a result of what you've tolerated for years. Precious and beautiful pearls are made from irritating grains of sand.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If you look behind, you'll fall behind. So look ahead, lean into the future and know that you are uniquely equipped to make the most of what's coming up. This is just the beginning.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll be inclined to follow your muses, not the chants of your audience. However, today it just so happens that the thing you want to do makes your crowd happy too, so you both win!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It may be necessary to rearrange your schedule or cut back your workload in order to make the time for a loved one who really needs you right now. Do what it takes to make relationships strong.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As you follow your spiritual curiosity, new people and places welcome and enrich you. Soon you'll be reconciling the religion of your youth with your present awareness of life.



HOLIDAY MATHIS