CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Well, one thing we've deduced is that the victim had dandruff. We found her head and shoulders on the beach."

Parenting advice calls for consideration

give me unsolicited parenting advice or scold my daughter in public? I would never interfere with another parent or direct a child voice" or run wild in the aisles. who isn't in my care. What

gives these people the right to barge into someone else's life in such a way?

I have been chastised for letting my daughter sit on the floor while waiting in a long line, letting her be more than 4 feet away from me in the aisles, and allowing her **JEANNE** to speak loudly. She's 3. I PHILLIPS don't hire a sitter for running DEAR ABBY errands and I can't leave her in the car.



SOMETIMES I

EVEN POST A

SAD EMOJI.

It's hard enough wrangling an energetic kid while trying to shop, do banking or send mail without being constantly pestered by strangers. Do you have any thoughts on this? — *Mom* in Hillsboro, Ore.

Dear Mom: If your child is so disruptive that individuals feel the need to intervene or offer "parenting advice," then it's time you

Dear Abby: What do I say to people who took some of it to heart. If she's bored while sive does not guarantee that it's the prettiest you're doing errands, bring something along or that it will look great on you. for her to do rather than use her "outside

> Dear Abby: Prom is less than three weeks away, and I'm still looking for the perfect dress. My mom and I went prom dress shopping one time — but everything I liked, she didn't. She told me that if she didn't like the dress, she was not going to purchase it.

> I tried to tell her this is my prom and I should like the dress, not her, without sounding mean. She told me I should pick the cheapest dress.

Am I wrong for not liking the dresses she likes? How can I get through to her that this is not her prom, but my prom? — Aggravated in Louisana

Dear Aggravated: When you start buying your own wardrobe, your taste can be the deciding factor. However, when your mother buys it FOR you, it's important to remember that her budget needs to be considered and try to be gracious about it. As you will discover P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. when you are older, because a dress is expen-

Dear Abby: Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. Recycling is so important to our planet's irreplaceable resources. Can you please remind your readers how long it takes items to break down in a landfill? — Scott in Texas

Dear Scott: Items such as glass bottles and jars, plastic containers, aluminum cans, disposable diapers and plastic foam cups can take from hundreds to thousands of years — or more — to decompose. Cigarette butts can take up to 10 years. I encourage interested readers to go online, see the figures and learn what they can do to reduce, reuse or recycle.

Earth Day offers a chance for all of us to do something positive for the planet. Many parents use it as an opportunity to bond with their children, and some schools offer credit to students who participate. Helping children understand how the garbage they produce impacts their environment is important.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter





GARFIELD by Jim Davis







JEFF MACNELLY S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins







WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



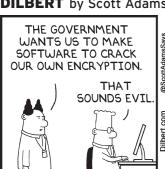
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk







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

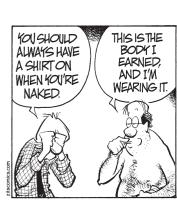




ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker









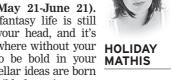
Daily Horoscope

ties will work out their differences in the court of their own making. You'll help with the negotiations and, due to your impartial approach, will strike an agreement with relative ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). "Value" is a tricky word, loaded with the emotional baggage

you've tied to it. Good news: Today you've all the cutting devices you need to detach from the meanings that keep you from giving a higher value to your work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Update: Your fantasy life is still contained in your head, and it's not going anywhere without your HOLIDAY permission. So be bold in your MATHIS imaginings! Stellar ideas are born of wild, impossible fantasies.



CANCER (June 22-July 22). A steadfast and inflexible authority will be represented in today's dealings. Upon closer examination, maybe the powers that be are not as rigid as they first seem.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Here's a beautiful dynamic: You ask for help and help is given. The assistance will so closely mirror the thing you asked for that you'll be inspired to ask more specifically the next time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In this theater game, you're an actor, pretending the stakes are very high for you. They aren't. Your great powers of empathy and imagination allow you to

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The feuding parplay it as such and make the scene all the more convincing.

> LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the thing you are passionate about takes over your being, the "usual" things might suffer neglect. You need those "usual" things! They might fall to the wayside if you're not careful. Do be careful!

> SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Be careful not to get into such a pattern of handling everything yourself that you either forget or refuse to enlist help. Let the others contribute.

> SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For as long as you've been alive, the day you were wanting to come to pass — well, it has passed. However far in the future it was, it came. Use inevitability to your advantage. Plan, and commit to the future.

> CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a lot of confidence that comes with knowing what you are and are not capable of. It doesn't matter what goes in the second category; some of it is going

> AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll receive what you desire, and possibly even the schedule of your desiring, which, of those two things, is the bigger deal. Timing is everything. When it's going in your favor, don't ask questions; just act.

> PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll enjoy what you do for money — which is something to celebrate in and of itself. You and your work are a perfect fit at the moment. You know this because of all the fun you'll have today.