

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Always a practical joker, Dr. Hermly loved to pull the old "fake alien baby" gag on laboring moms.

Woman hesitates to share her fantasies

Dear Abby: I am in a happy relationship with a wonderful man. Our life is great together and I wouldn't want it any other way. I have one issue, however:

I like to look at lesbian porn maybe a few times a week. I don't actually want to be with another woman — it's just a fantasy of mine.

Is this wrong? Should I tell my boyfriend?

I don't know if I'm making too much out of this, or if there are other women out there who are in the same situation. — *Curious in Texas*

Dear Curious: Books have been written about the many varied sexual fantasies women have.

Yours is not unusual, and you shouldn't feel guilty about it.

Nothing compels you to share your fantasy with your boyfriend unless you feel a need to. (But if you do, don't be shocked if he finds it a turn-on, because many men also fantasize about women having sex together.)



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby: I'm four months pregnant by my ex-boyfriend. We ended our relationship six months ago but continued to see each other for sex.

He's in the Army and has been diagnosed with depression and PTSD. At first he was my knight in shining armor, but after I moved into his house, he became mentally and physically abusive.

He is now in a new relationship. He changed his phone number and hasn't checked on me or our baby in weeks. I want him to have a relationship with his child, but every time I look at him I see a liar, a manipulator and an abuser who doesn't care about either of us.

How do I get over my feelings and convince him to be in our child's life? Or are my feelings justified and I'm just being a protective mother? — *Protective Mother*

Dear Protective Mother: What a sad letter. It would be interesting to know how much of his abusive behavior was a result of his depression and PTSD.

But if you think that a mentally and physically abusive man, who has changed his phone number and done his best to get out of touch

with you, is a suitable father figure for a child, you are kidding yourself.

You will, however, have a chance to make him live up to his financial responsibilities to the baby if you discuss this with an individual who is in a position to help you — an attorney. Don't wait; start the conversations now.

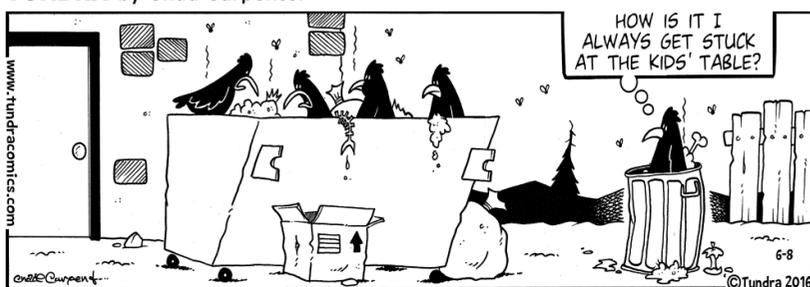
Dear Abby: When I visited my sister 15 years ago, my brother-in-law tried to rape me. He was drunk and my sister was out with her friends. I have not revealed this to my family or my sister, who is emotionally and financially dependent on him.

My niece is now 20 years old and in college. I feel I should tell her what her dad did to me and warn her to be careful. What do you think? — *Never Forgetting in Pennsylvania*

Dear Never Forgetting: Frankly, I think that if your brother-in-law was going to assault his daughter, it would have happened already, and you should have told your family what he tried to do to you at the time it occurred.

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

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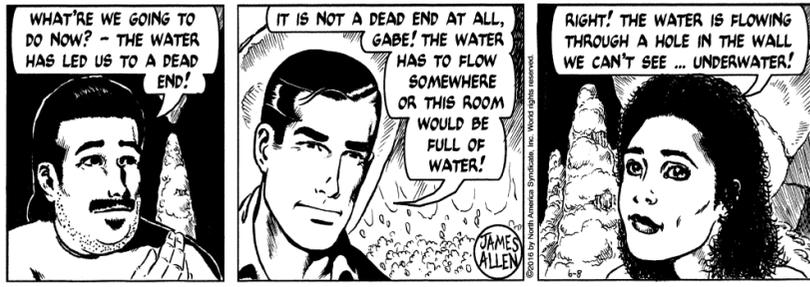
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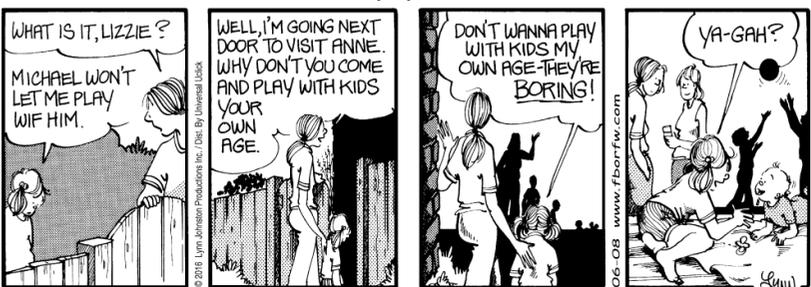
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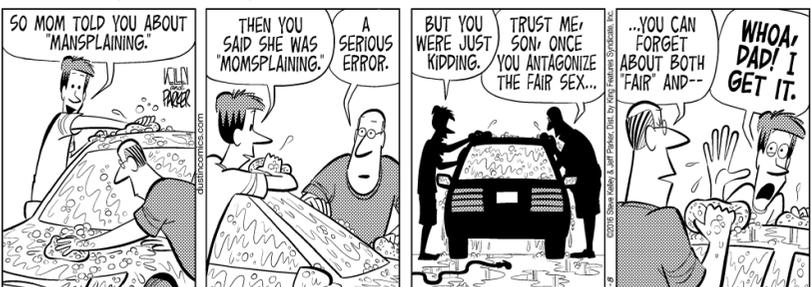
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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll have a few choices about whom to deal with in business, and there's a comparable risk factor between them. Any way you go, it will work out. Trust first, and whomever you deal with will prove trustworthy next time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You enjoy people who have their own opinions, and the day will be peppered with banter, interesting arguments and fine points that differ from your own. This is the kind of intellectual challenge that keeps you on your game.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've built something that's not just for you. It's for you and your group, your loved ones, your friends and the next generation. They all take a bit of ownership. This will live on beyond any of you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The seemingly good advice you get in the morning will contradict other seemingly good advice of the afternoon. Now what? Neither is perfect for you. Keep listening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Allow people to help you, even when you don't need it. What is the point of trying to be strong all of the time when that only serves to alienate others and rob them of the chance to know their own generosity?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a time to spoil your loved ones silly, and that time is not now, nor is it most days. Make it special,

or they'll go rotten. As Euripides said, "When love is in excess, it brings a man no honor, nor worthiness."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Money talks in a language that, while not exactly universal, is certainly widely understood. It won't solve today's problems completely, but it will solve them temporarily just fine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The answers are not blowing in the wind, written on the wall, out there or within you. Today there simply are no answers. Don't let it discourage you from asking, though, because it connects you with the other curious minds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not like you to be suspicious of someone who wants to get to know you better. Therefore, if you're having that suspicion, take note. It's significant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Are you feeling someone's pain more than your own? It's either a sign that you're emotionally intertwined with a person who needs your support or that you're too immersed in business that's not your own. Which is it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Different things make you happy at different times of life. For some there will be enjoyment from good food, good drinks and a bad girl or boy to share their with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't hold on to a lot of items while you climb a ladder. You have to set things down on the way up, and hopefully they will still be there when you need them on the way back down.



HOLIDAY MATHIS