

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Not every friend wants to add benefits

Dear Abby: Some people believe sex with friends can turn a friendship into chaos. I don't believe it because I can remain a friend and still be there intimately. I have a friend I feel would be a good match because we are both very sexual and filthy-minded. We continuously tease about it. I know it's only a joke, but I believe he's the type of person who would feel the friendship would be lost if we were intimate — or worse, if we aren't compatible in bed.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Can someone joke around so much about something and not want to do it? Also, I'm not the type he would ever see himself having sex with, and he says he can't believe he feels this way.

Should we try it or leave it alone, as it will only be sex? Men always say they would love to have a friend with benefits, but if it happens they can't handle it. — *Friends With Benefits*

Dear F.W.B.: In order to be friends with benefits, you have to have two people who are

willing. The man you have described seems to be all hat and no cattle. Leave it alone.

Dear Abby: I recently moved in with my boyfriend and now live two hours away from my parents. (Before, it was only 10 minutes.)

My boyfriend has been offered an incredible job in a different country and has asked me to go with him.

It means I'll have to quit my job, which is a good one. But he has promised to financially support me during the two years we would be there. He's talking about an engagement and marriage when we get back.

My problem is my parents. Their definition of "success" is marriage and family. Because they never taught my brother and me how to communicate, I'm deathly afraid to tell them that we are moving to a different country. I am losing sleep and considering breaking up with him so I can keep the peace with my family. What do I do? — *Torn Up*

Dear Torn Up: Allow me to offer a suggestion that may keep peace in your family. Because your boyfriend is talking about marriage "when you get back," I propose that you

suggest to him that the two of you be married before you leave. Problem solved.

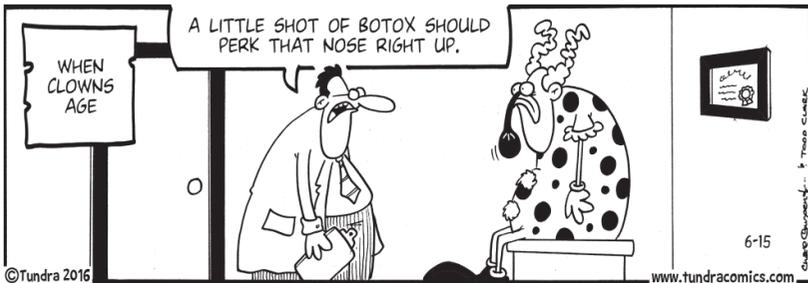
Dear Abby: I'm a female in my mid-20s. I have recently hired a personal trainer at my local gym. So far, it isn't working out as I had hoped.

My trainer isn't really training me. He spends half the time trying to flirt. He says we could have a great time together when we aren't in session. I've recently heard he does this with most of his female clients. I am a nice person, but it's getting out of hand. What do I do? Should I tell his boss? — *Still Out Of Shape in Alabama*

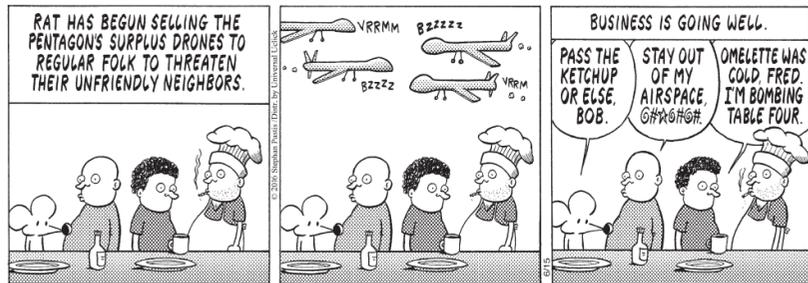
Dear Still Out: Do not report your trainer to his boss immediately. Talk to him first. Tell him that when he flirts it makes you uncomfortable, and you prefer to keep your relationship with him strictly professional. However, if he continues after that, you should not only report it to his boss, you should also hire another trainer.

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



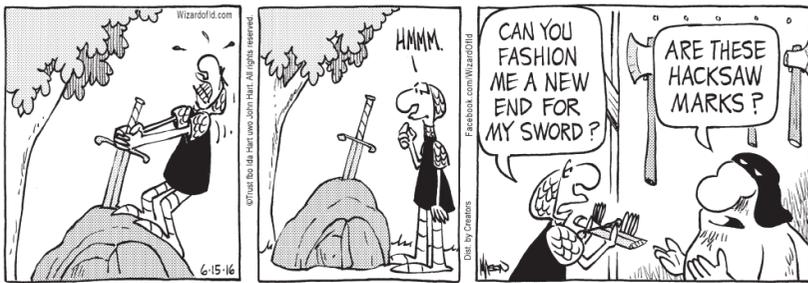
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JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People who go to work merely to earn money are thinking much too small. The work you'll do today is an opportunity for you to express yourself. The nature of the job doesn't matter; every job is an expression of your spirit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The mistake was an honest one, but that doesn't make it all OK. Forgive but take the time to examine and make a plan that will prevent the same problem from happening in the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Get the hard work out of the way first. Handle that phone call you're dreading or an unpleasant bit of tedium. There will be something juicy to escape into this afternoon.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've admiration for the people you're close to. You choose them for a reason, and that reason will be apparent as the day unfolds. Your life gets a little easier with each positive thought.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It takes guts to ask for what you need, and the more you need or want the thing the harder it is to ask for it. That's why this afternoon's move is remarkable — valiant even.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love shouldn't hurt this much. Consider that what you're going through isn't really about love at all. Rather, it's

about working out power dynamics. And don't worry; it doesn't have to be solved in a day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone has taken a liking to you and wants to see where the relationship will lead. Wherever it's going, it will get there fast as circumstances roll your common needs and interests together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you're not where you want to be, but you'll get there. There are always taller peaks to climb. Stop and enjoy your current elevation. Life doesn't have to be all struggle and striving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get calm, and you'll think about what's best for the whole community, realizing that it doesn't matter who is first or last. What matters is that everyone is taken care of when it's needed most.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are these small acts that go against what you're trying to achieve. Mostly, this is about habits and/or unhelpful patterns of thought you really don't need anymore. You're ready to give it up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Knowing what to ignore is extremely important today. You can't take it all in — or even take most of it in. With every selection you make, you'll be building a signature style.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your friends won't disappoint you. They have been so faithful and loyal and constant. They only want to give you the same. Let them take care of you for a change.

HOLIDAY MATHS



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