

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Mr. Steinfort, I get that you are uncomfortable, but there is a six-year-old boy there with a gum wrapper stuck up his nose and he was here first!"

Spare bedroom not available for guests

Dear Abby: We are a married couple in our 60s and have no close family. Before retirement, we would playfully tease each other that when we retired, we'd turn our spare bedroom into a "fun fantasy adult room." Fast forward — we now have our special room, and we're having a blast. Well, we got a call from distant relatives who will be heading our way, and they asked to stay with us for a few days. How do we explain that we have no room for them without causing problems? — *Discreet in Washington*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Discreet: Be honest — to a degree. After telling them that you are unable to accommodate them, explain that because you have turned the spare bedroom into an "entertainment center," it is no longer set up for guests, but you'd love to see them while they're in town and take them OUT for dinner.

Just remember that if you are asked, you do not have to reveal what kind of games you are playing in there.

Dear Abby: I'm curious to know your thoughts regarding this dating situation: If a person has a prosthetic and the device isn't obvious, when and how would you recommend it be disclosed to the dating partner?

Is it "too much information" to reveal on a first date?

Would it be all right to wait a couple of dates, see how they go, and then reveal the fact?

Please help, if you can. — *Curious in Lynchburg*

Dear Curious: I see no reason to reveal something like this on a first — or even second — date, and certainly not with a virtual stranger.

"Prosthetics" of various kinds are common, but few people are willing to discuss the fact that their appearance has been enhanced with false teeth, caps and veneers, breast implants, Botox or a hair transplant.

People are more than a prosthetic, so new acquaintances should get to know the person before receiving that information.

Dear Abby: This politically divisive year has fueled a debate in our family. I like to put a political sticker on my car (on a magnet). That way I can remove it when I want. One of my relatives won't ride in my car if I have my sticker on.

I say it's my car and I can put what I want on it. He says I should be "sensitive to others' feelings" when they are in the car. What do you think? — *Politically Stumped*

Dear Politically Stumped: You have a right to exercise your freedom of expression.

If your relative prefers not to ride in a car with a bumper sticker advertising "the other" political party, then he or she should feel free to arrange for alternative transportation.

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



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



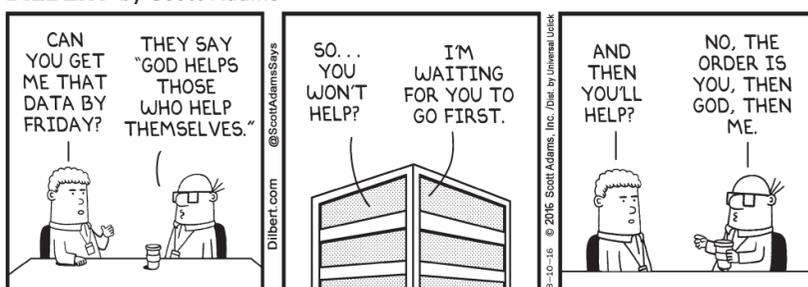
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



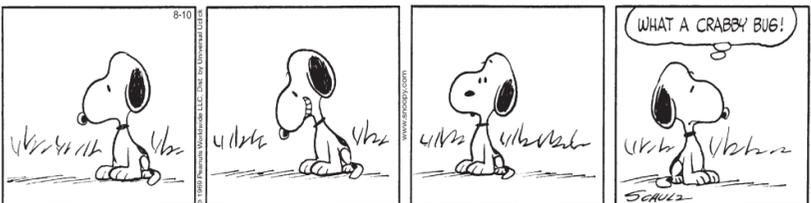
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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today will prompt introspection. With this will come realizations about what you see in others. To recognize the best and worst qualities in your loved ones and accept both is powerful stuff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a difference between connecting with a person out of habit and connecting with a person out of driving need. The second way is charged with exciting energy, tangible to both parties.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). While not exactly monumental, you've thought about today's events and they matter to you. You feel it, the others feel it: You're ready for anything and everything that's about to unfold.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you don't know a word, you make guesses about its definition based on the context of the words around it. You'll do the same thing in regard to unknown people today, judging them by the company they keep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Avoid working too hard to smooth over the current situation at the expense of your having pleasant future. You're in danger of obligating yourself to do what you will neither enjoy nor benefit from.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll work harder than anyone when the plan is something you can see coming to fruition. You need a coach to help you come up with this solid plan — some-

one who's been there and is good at showing the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Unsure about your next move, your sense of duty demands that you tend to the pressing business before you regardless. In a sense, worry, trepidation or even rumination is a luxury at this point.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you don't get the reply you want to hear it can be frustrating, disheartening or inspiring, depending on your attitude. The prevalent sentiment welling up in you now sounds something like, "Fine, I'll do it myself!"

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In the social media blur, envy is par for the course. The funny, talented and glamorous people you know sometimes get on your nerves for the exact same reasons you admire and love them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stagnant waters breed disease. The algae, the bugs, the stench! It's the same with situations that are too peaceful: They begin to rot. Don't let this happen. Stir it, change it, move it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It may feel like someone is pushing and pulling you along. It's a direction you want to go, and yet if you're not in charge of getting there, you'll resist every inch of the way — rightly so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The quick fix, fast fame, the instant buzz: It's all appealing to you now. Just because it's easy and attractive doesn't make it wrong, but it does make it worthy of skepticism. What does the Virgo in your life think?



HOLIDAY MATHS