CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Despite its convenience, Jerry's business never took off like he had hoped.

Fear remains after reader gets attacked

walking during my lunch break at work. That ended last summer when someone unleashed his dog between his house and his car. The dog saw me on the sidewalk.

charged, jumped on me and Thankfully, I put my arm up, so it only got my arm, but

now I'm terrified to walk outside for fear of being attacked again. The bite was nothing com-

pared to the trauma. I'm afraid JEANNE the fear will be with me for the PHILLIPS rest of my life.

DEAR ABBY No one thinks their dog would hurt someone, but I learned the hard way it's not always true. I wish dog owners would be more responsible, not only for their sake, but also for their dog's

and other people's. Do you have any thoughts? — Shell-shocked in Michigan

Dear Shell-shocked: When the attack happened, you should have reported it to animal

Dear Abby: For health reasons, I had been control and given them the address of the homeowner.

> If the dog's owner didn't volunteer to see you got help for your injury — and that includes your emotional trauma — you should discuss it with a lawyer. If that dog had been a large one, you could have been seriously injured.

Go online to the Humane Society's helpful section on this topic, www.nodogbites.org. As for my thoughts, I think you should resume your exercise routine whenever the weather permits

Dear Abby: My 62-year-old mother is living in a small town with little to offer her. She says the only reason she stays is because her job provides benefits and she's currently going through physical therapy.

Mom is single, has no potential prospects and no social life outside of church. Her friends are all married or have moved away. I feel like she's not living her life fully, and I wish she could find the courage to leave.

unknown and move to the big city? — City Gal P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. in San Francisco

Dear City Gal: Does your mother plan to be receiving physical therapy in perpetuity? If not, be patient. Wait until it is finished and find out whether her job offers vacation time. If it does, invite her to visit and show her what the big city has to offer.

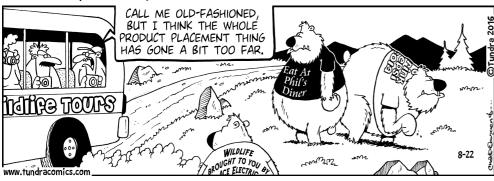
If she can't get away, you may have to 'entice" her by sending her videos of all the fun things she could be doing if she lived closer. I can't guarantee it will work because it's possible she's happy with her life the way it is. However, if she's not, it might be an effective way to whet her appetite.

Dear Abby: At what age do you believe it is appropriate for a girl to start wearing makeup? I don't mean lipstick and huge amounts of eye shadow, but a bit of mascara and lip gloss? *Wondering in the Suburbs*

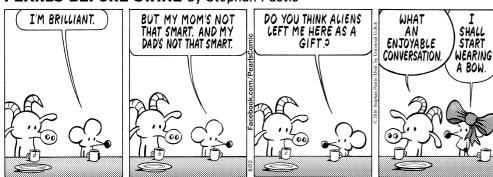
Dear Wondering: A touch of lip gloss when a girl is in the seventh grade is fine, but she should hold off on the mascara for another year or two.

How can I convince her to be OK with the Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



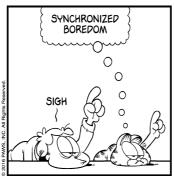
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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





DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



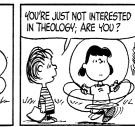








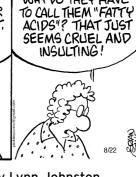




PICKLES by Brian Crane









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston







THIS HAD



ANYTHING THAT

BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman





ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker







Daily Horoscope

ed many wins achieved with those in your group. Now you'll celebrate an individual success. Some may feel threatened by this, but ultimately it will only contribute to the strength of the group.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There will be none who come to you that do not leave your

presence in a happier state of being. You consider it your sacred and joyous responsibility to uplift others

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When one person lowers his or her standards and the other raises them, the middle ground where they meet is, unfortunately, a place neither really wants to be. Is there **HOLIDAY** a better collaboration out there for MATHIS you? It's a fine time to look.



CANCER (June 22-July 22). Future You is built on the choices of Present You and that's a problem; what you want now is incongruous to who you want to become. Something's got to give. Decide what you want most: then make a choice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They'll be asking you questions you'd rather not answer. Do what the politicians do — answer the question you wish you'd been asked instead. Think of what you want them to know about you, and nudge the

conversation accordingly. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The truly powerful don't need to lose their cool, raise their voice or spout off. The truly powerful need only to call

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've celebrat- on their resources to achieve a desired result. Be calm. Calmness is power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you realize the hefty cost of harboring resentment, you'll likely give it up. Why keep something that causes you such pain and inconvenience, meanwhile having little to no effect on its source?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The situation that's happening today is fresh, but the strife you're attaching to it may be old. Are you confusing what happened in your past with what's happening now? These people are not those people

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't control whether people accept or reject what you're presenting, but you can certainly stack the odds in your favor by presenting to those who have the best potential to be a good fit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you're only offering forgiveness because it was asked of you, it probably won't take. When you finally do let go of your grievances, it will be so that you can feel better and move on. That's as good a reason as any.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Today you'll be struck by what an utter waste of time it is to offer your judgment to others. Besides, unless you're planning on perfecting yourself in every area of life, there's no room to judge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you, as a general rule, take the high road (especially when those around you are going low) you will work harder to gain altitude, but occupying a space closer to heaven will be worth it.