

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"This isn't what I had in mind when you told me you were going to canonize me."

Snooping mother finds secret pot stash

Dear Abby: I am a 30-year-old single mom of two young girls. After my divorce, I returned to my hometown where my family is. I'm enrolled in school full time and set to graduate in two semesters.

I have a 3.7 GPA, my girls are well-adjusted and well-behaved, and I have my own place.

My mom primarily watches my girls when I'm in school, and I feel lucky to have her support.

The other day, Mom came into my room and opened my bedside drawer.

Like most people, this is where I keep my most private things. She discovered that I had a pack of cigarettes and some marijuana.

Abby, I don't smoke often, but sometimes when the kids are down and things are taken care of, I like to smoke a joint, watch some shows and fall asleep.

I take care of my responsibilities, and I don't feel like an occasional joint impacts me negatively.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Mom now says she will no longer watch her grandchildren and doesn't want to see me again!

I feel completely hurt, violated and disrespected. We said some nasty things to each other, and I can't help but feel like she is completely wrong for reacting the way she did. Any advice would be much appreciated. — *Responsible (Occasional) Smoker in Ohio*

Dear Responsible: Your mother overreacted, but she should not have been going into your drawer(s).

Apologize for whatever you said to her in the heat of anger. (She should also apologize to you for snooping.)

Make whatever arrangements you need for child care apart from your mother, and either quit smoking or do it away from your home.

Children are a lot sharper than they are often given credit for, and their sense of smell is particularly acute.

In a few short years, they will recognize that Mommy "smokes," so quit setting a bad example. That way, when you tell them that

smoking is bad for their health, you won't be a hypocrite.

Dear Abby: I have been married for a year. Before we met, my husband posted pictures of his ex on his Facebook page photo album. I have asked him to remove them because I feel insulted and hurt.

I don't think it's right his keeping them on the page now that we are married. I feel it's disrespectful to our marriage and inconsiderate.

We have been fighting over this, and it's ruining our relationship. Can you enlighten me about this? — *No. 1 Lady in San Francisco*

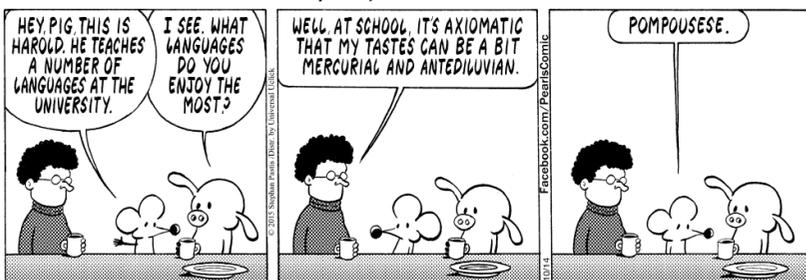
Dear Lady: I don't blame you for being upset. By now your husband should have outgrown the need to publicize his previous conquests. While your husband may be thinking that keeping the pictures up makes him look worldly, what it shows is his insensitivity to the woman he married, and I think that's sad for both of you.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



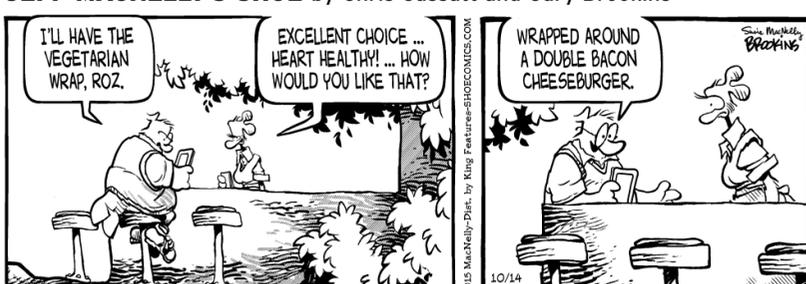
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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



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

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Here's the way that's worked best for you and will continue to work best for you: Do things when you are ready to do them. Don't jump just because someone else is telling you to. Go at your own pace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Children have nothing better to go by than their visceral response to people. Their sophisticated defensive skills are primal. That's a juxtaposition that works well and can be duplicated at any age.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Flaunt. The dictionary defines it as an act of ostentation, drawing attention in hopes of gaining admiration. But if you got it, why not? It's a celebration of that thing, for a moment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may project onto another person angel-like qualities that they do not currently possess. And yet, they may possess these qualities in the near future because of your attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). So, you love him. Is it for his virtue? Probably not. It's because of the special way he makes you feel. You know, that was in you all the time. He just activated it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Domestic happiness helps you feel emotionally supported enough to tackle the challenges. When you

succeed, it's a source of pride for your loved ones, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your hard work has paid off, and now you can chill out, revel and reflect on the curious path that brought your unpredictable success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When it reminds you of the old romance, take a moment to replay the whole story in your mind — the whole story, especially the end bit. The memory will have a positive effect on your current relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe it doesn't make the most sense to you right now, but you're a life-long learner. Don't forget that. Keep going until the pixels arrange themselves into a clear picture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Communication is your day's agenda. People talk; you listen. Sometimes they talk too much, and you tune out. Why say less with a lot of words? You can say a lot with a few.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is freedom in wildness, and very little of it in civilization. That is part of the reason you are so connected to nature right now. You need to let that soft animal inside you free.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can do remarkable work before the rest of your workforce has caught their groove. Why? Because you are immune to the stresses that affect others.

HOLIDAY MATHS

