

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Though he got an A for realism, Todd's volcano project was not popular with the janitorial staff at Ditmer Junior High.

Woman's celibacy tested by her friends

**Dear Abby:** I am a 28-year-old woman who has decided, after 11 years and 50-plus partners, to become celibate. A couple of friends have attempted to get me to break my vow. These men know how they make me feel, and I am finding it difficult to stay away from them. Although I have stopped spending time with them, I still feel the urge to be with them.

So, do you have any advice on how to stay strong? It's been one month, and I plan on staying this way until I get married. — *Trying to Stay Celibate*

**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
**DEAR ABBY**

**Dear Trying:** Old habits are hard to break, but as you already know, it can be done. An effective way to do that is to replace the habit you're trying to change with some other activity. Right now, it's important for you stay busy.

Consider increasing the amount of exercise you do each day, doing projects around your home, filling your time by volunteering, etc. If

you do, you'll have less time to dwell on what you're "missing." This is not to say that your sex drive will go away, but it will help you to better control it.

**Dear Abby:** My boyfriend's son, "Matt," just turned 21, but he looks 16. He has just announced that he's moving in with a 50-year-old woman — the mother of a friend of his.

I feel very uncomfortable about the idea of welcoming her into my home and making conversation as if they are a normal couple. His father and I are the woman's age. I don't believe Matt has told his mom or his siblings yet. He's quickly losing friends over this awkward situation.

I'm usually of the mindset to "live and let live," but here I am tested. It feels creepy. What is the proper way to handle this? — *Uneasy in California*

**Dear Uneasy:** Handle this by withholding judgment and waiting to see how the romance plays out. Matt may look 16, but at 21 he's an adult and capable of making his own decisions about his love life without "help" from his father's girlfriend. Matt's lady friend may

be a very young 50 and Matt may be a mature 21. Having met neither of them, I can't judge. And neither should you, so stay out of the line of fire, or the romance that suffers may be your own.

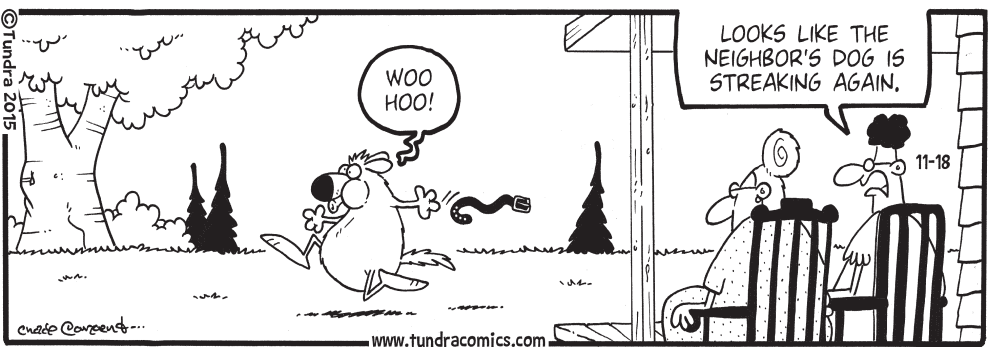
**Dear Abby:** Last week a girl I knew in high school 10 years ago had a surprise baby. She went to the ER with stomach cramps and found out she was in labor. Mom and baby are doing fine, but now they are throwing an "emergency baby shower."

I rarely speak to this girl. Why should I be expected to get a baby shower gift for her? — *Mystified in Michigan*

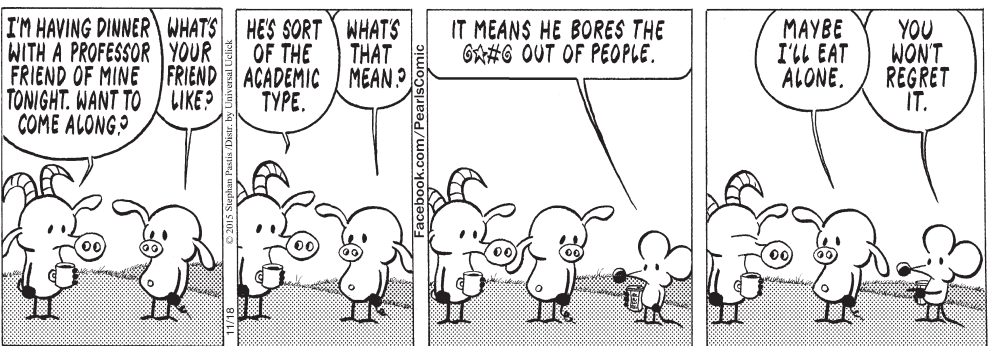
**Dear Mystified:** The baby shower is being given because your old high school chum needs things for the child she wasn't expecting but who arrived anyway. Should you be "expected" to provide a gift? No. But if you did, it would be both generous and kind of you, and I can guarantee that it would be sincerely appreciated.

**Write Dear Abby at** [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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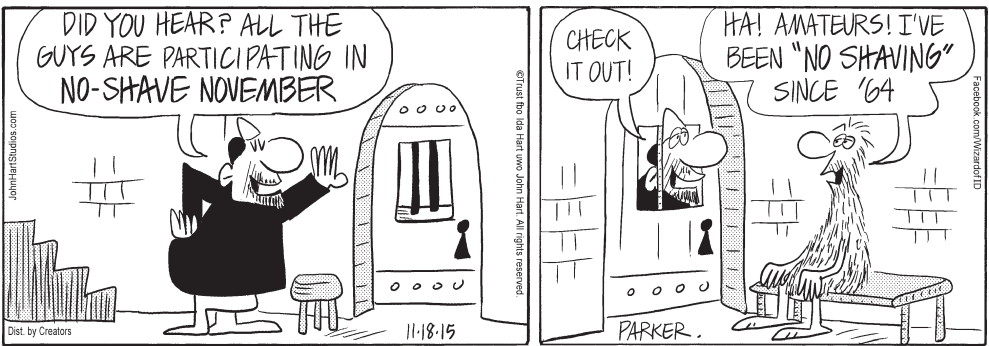
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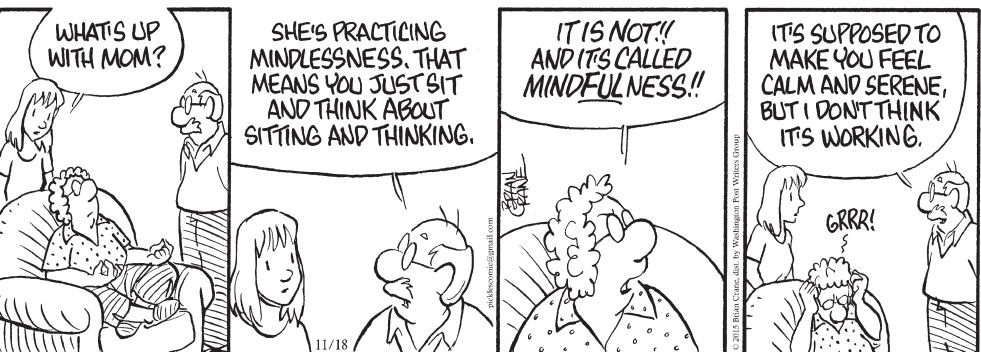
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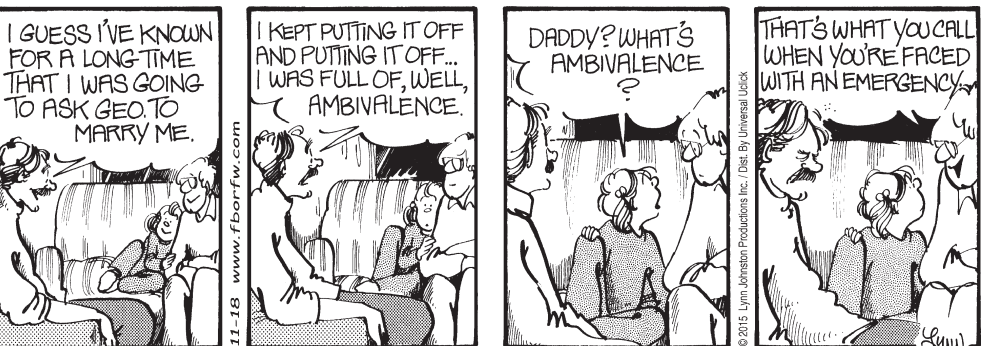
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Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your sophisticated mind is capable of nailing all the day's challenges, including the challenge of appreciating one whose nature is very different from your own.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You have compassion for tourists because you know what it's like to be out of your element and lost. New places can seem overwhelming. Everyone needs a guide.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The need to please can be an asset or an illness. Today it's the latter, separating you from what it is you really want. You'll catch yourself doing too much to make someone happy. Stop and ask, "Why?"

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Life can be frustrating, especially when it revolves around technology, language, and other things you do not understand. That person who can translate will be worth their weight in gold today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your goal isn't unlike the goal of tech companies everywhere — you want others to have a positive user experience when interacting with you. This intention will lead to getting many of your needs fulfilled.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Like a hawk you'll use your keen vision and bird's-eye perspective to hunt for what you need. You can rest assured

that getting what you want will keep the natural order in balance.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** This winding road is a test of faith. You can't see very far ahead of you. Each bend requires you to trust that there is more road on the other side, and that the road will eventually lead to your destination.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When you witness desire, you subconsciously put yourself in the desiring person's place. You want that to pay off. If it pays off for another, it could pay off for you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You've come to a mental sticking point. To get unstuck, you'll need to do some jiggling and juggling. Move things around. Change your schedule.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Not all upgrades are improvements. Keep this in mind before you part with your cash. The ones who want you to make a purchase may be thinking more about their needs than your own.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It would be tempting to surround yourself with "yes" people. So many want to agree with you now! Of course, your true friends are the ones who will support you when you're right and tell you when you're wrong.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There are times when you tolerate, or perhaps even enjoy, a bit of excitement and drama in your personal life. But right now, you'll welcome the quiet tranquility of peaceful relationships.



HOLIDAY MATHIS