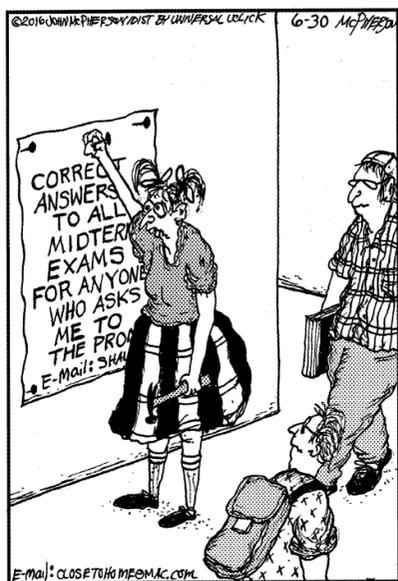


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Greta was determined to make it to the prom.

Brother must work out issues himself

Dear Abby: My brother, "Chris," is going through a divorce and lost his business. He is now lashing out at our mom and me when she spends time with me.

When I tried to express my sympathy, Chris attacked me via direct message, saying I have a "charmed life and don't care about anyone — including him and our cash-strapped parents."

It started when Dad gave me a car he wasn't using before we learned about my brother's misfortune.

When I tried to return it, Dad refused.

Because I stopped responding to him on the internet, Chris is now complaining to Mom about my "selfishness."

He says if the situation was reversed, he would have moved heaven and Earth to help me.

Abby, Chris has a job. He lives with our folks and pays token rent. My husband and



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I work, but I have had a salary cut, we have two kids to support and a mortgage to pay.

We're in no position to provide the financial assistance my brother expects. My parents suspect that he's still giving money to his soon-to-be ex.

My husband says Chris is trying to manipulate me and that I need to go on with my life, but I'm worried that the longer this goes on, the harder it will be to heal the rift.

I'm also worried about how this is affecting our parents. — *Grieving in Nicosia, Cyprus*

Dear Grieving: You cannot heal a rift you didn't create, and you also can't "donate away" Chris' resentment.

He's unhappy for a number of reasons and is taking it out on you not because you're a bad sister, but because you are within striking distance.

Your brother needs to work out his difficulties himself. A family meeting — including your husband — might clear the air so all of you are on the same page.

Your brother needs to understand why the financial help he seems to expect is unrealistic and will not be forthcoming.

Dear Abby: Is there any way to counter a stranger's mean or hurtful remark (racist, age-related or sexist) in a mall or store?

I feel I have to say something — without being confrontational — even if the remark isn't aimed at me.

What do you suggest? — *Compelled to Act in Ottawa, Canada*

Dear Compelled: Because you don't want a confrontation, I urge you to say nothing to the person who made the offensive remark.

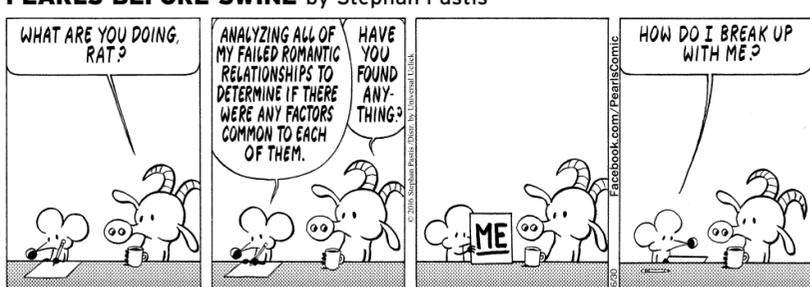
However, you could approach the person who was the target and quietly say: "That was uncalled for. I hope you realize the person who said that is ignorant, and don't let it get to you."

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



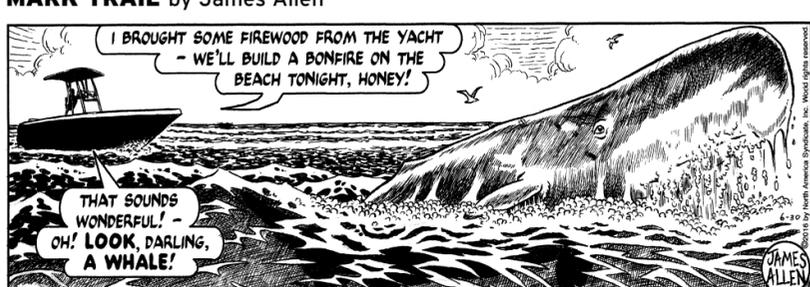
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



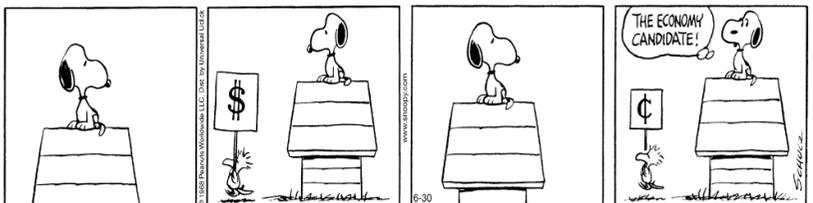
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What's making it work? What's holding it up? Your attention to the internal structure will be a theme today. Successful living has a lot to do with being true to the underlying principles of the situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The thing about good timing is that often if you pause to consider the right timing, the timing of that pause messes up the rhythm. So don't think. Fall into the groove.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What is it about that distracting person in your life who always seems to need the kind of help that has you suddenly snagged into the vortex of his or her world? Such people will try to ensnare you in their personal conundrums today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The best persuasion is barely felt, as soft and consistent as water lapping the shore, carving the landscape. Much will be accomplished with soft words in a firm, confident tone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Clarity of mind will come when the stress is reduced and sense of freedom is expanded. Getting to that point will require you to be clear in communicating your boundaries and desires.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Good sense tells you when to resist a natural attraction and when to yield to it, as resistance is both futile and a waste of your precious energy. You might be surprised at how liberal that "good sense" is today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today's interaction has the potential to get confusing. Don't let it! Understand yourself first, what you're looking for, what you need from the situation, then turn that understanding outward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You think you should be able to do your work in any state of mind. Well, guess what: That's an unreasonable belief. The way to achievement is to adjust your attitude and get into the right headspace before you dive in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Who most needs a miracle? When you focus on that person, your own thinking will become sharp, your purpose will become clear, your selflessness will make it comfortable to be you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). How long your current situation is likely to last matters a lot less than what you do with your time. Whether you'll stay a day, a year or a decade, the way you'll make a difference is by focusing on the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If your project is worthy of you this will be one of your favorite days. So choose carefully. Make it your choice. Don't kowtow to anyone who emotionally leans on or manipulates you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try to create solidarity within the group. It won't be easy, but when you can successfully meld, if only with one person and for a moment, the group will bond and the next three things that happen will be pure magic.



HOLIDAY MATHIS