

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Dog cologne.

Vengeance splits woman's family apart

Dear Abby: I made a big mistake three years ago. When I found out my husband was cheating on me, I became vengeful. I ended up sleeping with my sister-in-law's boyfriend to get back at my husband and at her for some things she did in the past. Abby, I am not this kind of person. I'm not an evil, conniving tramp. I regret what I did every day.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

My sister-in-law and I haven't spoken since I decided to tell her the truth. My husband and I (miraculously) were able to work through our problems, and our relationship is stronger than ever. My sister-in-law and her boyfriend have remained together, and I don't speak to him anymore either. What can I do to earn forgiveness? — *Only Human in Houston*

Dear Only Human: You might start by apologizing to your sister-in-law for the pain you caused her. But after that, the decision about whether she wants anything more to do with you will be up to her.

Dear Abby: My granddaughter, "Becca," just turned 6. One of her favorite things to do is role-play, which includes the prince (me) kissing her, sometimes at the end of a wedding ceremony. Becca also likes to sit on my lap.

My wife thinks I shouldn't allow her to sit there and that the interaction isn't appropriate. She says I may be mistaken for some kind of predator. It hurts me and Becca when I tell her we must find some other playtime scenario. I think it's harmless.

Who's right here? My wife or me? Is there an age a granddaughter reaches when this kind of interaction becomes taboo? What about giving her a goodbye kiss when she departs? — *Baffled Grandpa in El Paso*

goodbye, that's perfectly appropriate regardless of her age. And when you do, I seriously doubt anyone will mistake you for a predator.

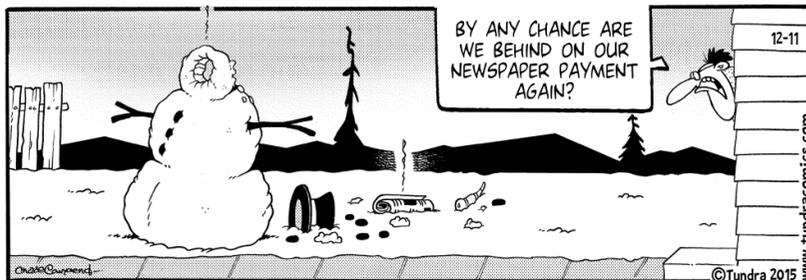
Dear Abby: I married the woman of my dreams two months ago. I asked my father to be my best man and he accepted, but he didn't fulfill his duties. There was no bachelor party, no best man speech, and he and my mother left the reception after only an hour. I was hurt and disappointed.

I have avoided talking to him since. Should I tell him how much he hurt me, or just try to forgive and forget? — *Let-down Groom in Macon, Ga.*

Dear Groom: I vote for doing both, if you can. When your father accepted the invitation, he may not have understood that being your best man would involve more than standing beside you at the altar. Why he and your mother would leave the reception early is puzzling, but it may have meant that they felt uncomfortable there. You need to explore that.

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



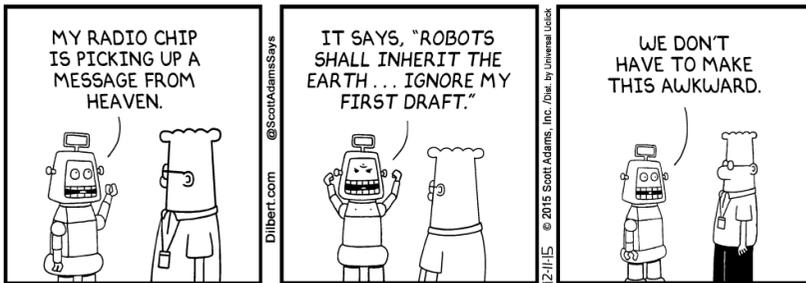
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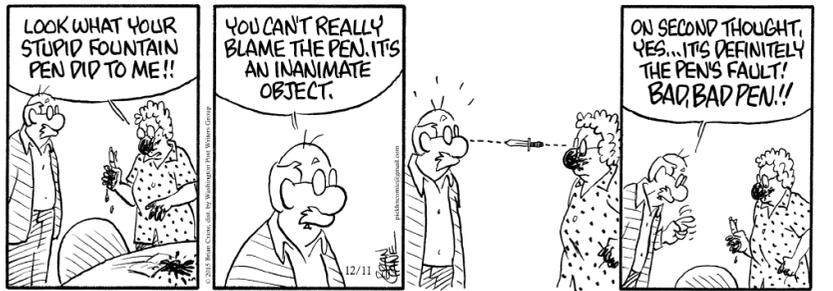
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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In Hamlet, Shakespeare suggested that nothing is either good or bad, "but thinking makes it so." You'll frame today's events as neutral or positive and this will considerably reduce your stress level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Remember when you felt trapped? You freed yourself only to wind up in a similarly restrictive situation. This time, seek reform from within. When you feel inwardly free you'll stop getting into restrictive situations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The past and present do not equal your life. Your dreams for the future are a large part of your personality these days. Share your vision and you'll learn who is really on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've a very real concern for injustice and stand up for those who are not being treated fairly. Just make sure you have the whole and true story before you begin your defense.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You berate yourself too much for errors that come with the territory of being human. You're doing your very best. Mistakes are normal. Let it go at that. Besides, perfection is boring.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It may seem appealing to re-create the passion you once had because you already know the territory. Be honest, though:

Has this cycle run its course? Are you just resisting the end because you're afraid of the unknown?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While you're known for indecision, there are some decisions you make automatically. You know the answer with every fiber of your being. "He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind." — Leonardo da Vinci

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're once again getting that feeling of being cosmically connected, like your parents are the Earth and the sky, your cousins are the animals and your journey is as effortless as an orbit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get on your own side. You owe it to the rest of the world to be confident and content in whom you are. The one who is friends with his or her own mind will have many friends indeed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's like you're pressing on the walls and bookshelves searching for the hidden door to the secret chamber where the mystery will finally be solved. You will find no hidden door because the hidden door is you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll test and re-test theories. You'll poke to see where the possible holes in the story are. You want to believe, though you won't be able to until you've put the idea through your judgmental paces.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing what you need to do for money and doing it well — it's not something to be taken lightly. Many aren't lucky enough to fall into such a fantastic work groove as the one you'll hit today.



HOLIDAY MATHIS