"Well let's see, Mr. Dexter. According to your resume, you've created an anti-gravitational device. That's quite a claim!"

Fiance is put off by family's affection

Dear Abby: I'm on the verge of 30, and my fiance has a huge issue with the fact that I still cuddle with my mom. From what he says, his family isn't wild about it, either.

Mom has suffered a great deal of loss in her life. She has lost all of her immediate family (aside from her kids) to cancer. We were all caretakers for these family members, doing in-home hospice, and we have formed a unique bond.

My fiance has never even been to a funeral, so it's hard **JEANNE** for me to explain this to him. PHILLIPS Mom was born in a country **DEAR ABBY** in Europe where hugging and

— Affectionate in Albany, N.Y.

lots of affection are natural. I live out of state, but when I'm home I will put my head on Mom's shoulder and cuddle with her while watching a movie. I'll bring her a hot cup of coffee, put it next to her bed, and jump in with her and her dog. We joke, laugh, cuddle until we have to get up. Is this something I need professional help for, as certain people have had the nerve to tell me?

Dear Affectionate: It should be clear to her haircut. Then she gave me an ultimatum you by now that you are engaged to a man who to choose between Kelli and her. comes from a family that isn't comfortable and is quick to judge others.

Treasure the closeness you have with your mother while you have it because, after she's no longer with you, that special kind of affection will be permanently over.

For your fiance or his family to suggest there's something wrong with cuddling with your mother, or that you need "professional help" because you do it, is both sad and wrong. Many people would find the relationship you share with her to be enviable, and I am one

woman the same age. "Kelli" and I have been happily together for two years.

My sister's recent wedding prompted me to start ring shopping. My sister used this opportunity to come forward "on behalf of the family" to tell me marrying Kelli would be a mistake. She proceeded to spout off two Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or dozen reasons why we shouldn't be together P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. ranging from Kelli's lack of social graces to

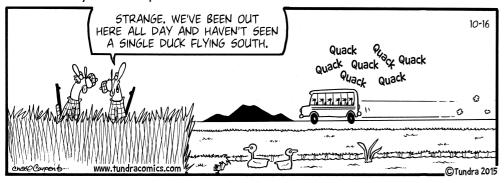
Things have calmed down in the weeks with physical demonstrations of affection, since, but I am concerned my family will never trust my judgment and will mistreat Kelli. I have never been treated so well by a partner, and I don't want to lose her. Please give me some feedback. — Stuck in the Middle in Maryland

> Dear Stuck: To say that your sister's outburst was out of line would be an understatement. That she would demand that you "choose" between her and your girlfriend is ridiculous.

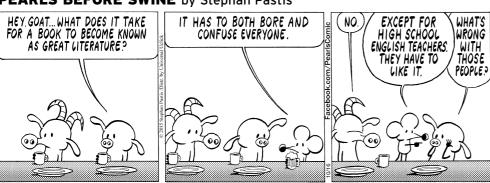
Because you are serious about Kelli, rather than regard what your sister said as a policy Dear Abby: I am a 27-year-old man dating a statement from the rest of the family, ask them how they feel about your girlfriend. Some may like her; some may not.

But you should not decide whom to marry based on anyone else's opinion other than your own. They don't have to live with her; only you do.

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



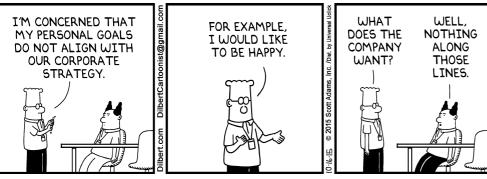
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



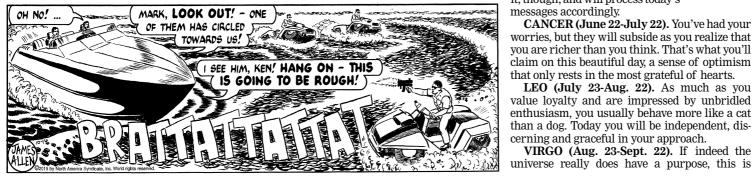




DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen









PICKLES by Brian Crane









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston







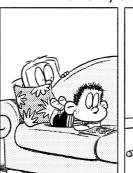


I'M GONNA

GO SEE WHAT THE NEIGHBOR

UP TO.

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). The little civilione of those rare days in which the universal ties that restore your faith in society will be in large supply. People will hold the door open for each other and place their orders to the cashier with the appropriate "please" and "thank you."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will be moved to pick up trash and solve problems that do not technically originate with you just because it feels good to be a part of the

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Human communication is so nuanced that it often gets misconstrued. So many times the things HOLIDAY we say actually mean the opposite of their literal definition. You get it, though, and will process today's messages accordingly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As much as you

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If indeed the



vation. Give yourself a little of what you want.

If you have trouble stopping after just a little, then try to divert your attention to other things

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll meet with people who would like to join your cause. Keep asking questions. Find out what they need. In the end, if you feel you can meet those needs,

purpose lines up more or less directly with your

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Mark Twain sug-

gested that man is the only animal who blushes,

or needs to. You'll resonate with this statement

today, as someone hits a subconscious trigger

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are a power-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Instead

of adapting to the circumstances that others

have laid out for you, your desire is to create

your own niche. You'll succeed in finding a

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Avoid depri-

ful communicator. Getting through to others has

more to do with preparation than anything else. Practice and perfect your messages. Your self-

that creeps up on you like pink heat.

assured words will inspire action.

you'll be most persuasive. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will present things that people already know in a way they have never heard before, helping them form new neural pathways and emotional connections.



CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've had your worries, but they will subside as you realize that you are richer than you think. That's what you'll claim on this beautiful day, a sense of optimism