

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"You can scoff all you want, but by sweeping up the birdseed at weddings, I've saved us over \$180 in the last 25 years!"

# Lack of trust causes relationship shift

**Dear Abby:** I have been divorced for eight years. My ex and I are on civil terms and text each other a few times a week regarding our kids, mutual friends and general chitchat.

A few months ago, during a rough patch in my relationship with my girlfriend of three years, "Lily," I expressed my frustration in one of these texts.

It was nothing horrible or unkind, just venting a bit. A week or so later, Lily was spending the night and I awoke at 2 a.m. to find an empty bed.

I discovered her in the living room with my phone, surfing through my texts. She was livid about the communication with my ex, particularly the one in which I commented about our relationship, and stormed out.

I have no password on my phone and nothing to hide from Lily and told her so. I admitted that my ex was not an appropriate

person to discuss our relationship with and apologized.

This has caused a permanent shift in our relationship on two levels: She is angry and suspicious regarding my communication with my ex, and I am having trust issues with her.

I feel my privacy was invaded and wonder what else Lily has searched to satisfy her curiosity.

She has yet to apologize and feels justified in what she did. I contend that if she hadn't read the texts, especially in such an underhanded way, there would be no ill feelings. Am I wrong to feel this way or am I blame-shifting? — *Dazed in Illinois*

Most of the residents are women in their 80s and 90s. (Some are also in their 60s.) A few men live here also.

One of the men sits on his living room couch with only his jockey shorts on. He leaves his door wide open when he does this. He seems not to care who sees him while walking by his apartment.

Some folks here believe it should be ignored and no one should look in while passing by. They say whatever he does in his own apartment is his own business. I believe that's true, but only when the door is closed. What do you think? By the way, he is in his 60s. — *Befuddled in Massachusetts*

**Dear Befuddled:** What people do in the PRIVACY of their own apartment is no one's business. When the front door is open, it is no longer private.

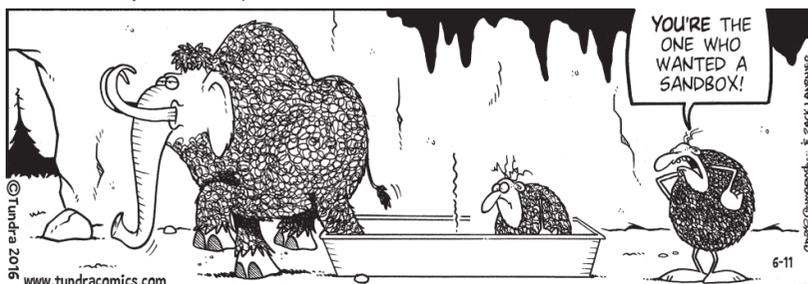
If the man's state of undress bothers some of the residents, they should bring it to the manager of the senior housing complex.

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

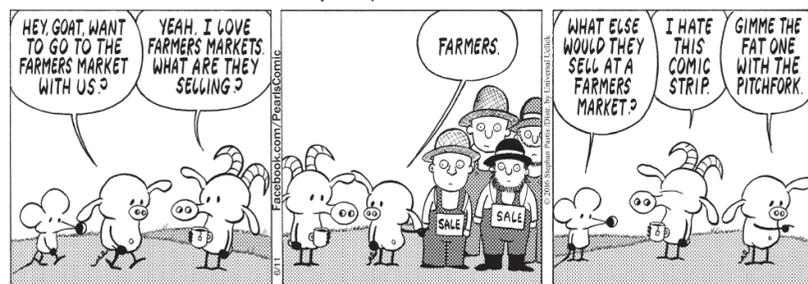


**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

**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



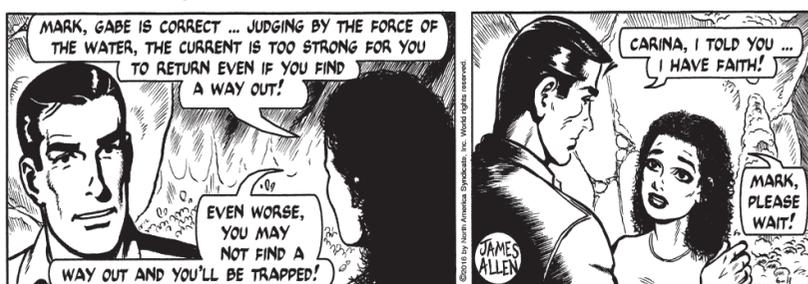
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## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Making money has more to do with finding a niche and working it than it does to any kind of luck right now. This will start with a special interest. There's something very specific you're wonderful at.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Everyone falls into ruts from time to time. If you're no longer going forward, look for something that will help you lever yourself up, out, and onto a path that allows for greater ease of movement.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). What you're in love with at the moment may not be a person at all. This feeling you have makes everything outside it less important, including issues or problems.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Savoir-faire will move you along a career path, give you standing in a social group or position you in a family circle. Acts of diplomacy will advance your interests faster than any aggressive play could.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The introduction of a new person to your circle, a subtle new enthusiasm will take hold. Where you were having negative and neutral thoughts, only powerfully positive feelings will remain.

**VRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Breath is the anchor to life. Your breathing has a story to tell you. What makes you catch your breath? What makes you hold it? When is it deeper? What makes you exhale? Awareness of breath is awareness of life.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're the real deal, walking your talk every day. Since you're always ready to meet and impress powerful people who can help you achieve your aims, it would be impossible for a networking opportunity to catch you by surprise.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do you get the subtle feeling that being around a certain someone makes you a better person? This isn't in your head. There's an energy bump that comes with this person's nearness, and you're making the most of it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've kept your word and should not accept anything less than integrity from those around you. Love is a risk. You're not going to take risks around people if you don't trust them.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's trouble that pains you and then there's trouble you enjoy. You're ready for a little of both and it will come all wrapped in the same venture. Of course, you wouldn't even attempt this is the prize wasn't worth it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you turn away from the external goings-on and journey inside yourself, you won't be alone, as there are worlds inside of you, too — some even more compelling than the one you're experiencing on the outside.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Not all of the offers are excellent now. There are some opportunities you simply can't get excited about, and it's acceptable to leave those on the table for someone else to take advantage of.



**HOLIDAY MATHS**