CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson

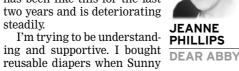


"Once you get used to the burning sensation, you'll find the oil is really good for your skin.

Ending dog's pain is a difficult decision

about putting his dog "Sunny" to sleep? My husband is the most loving, caring, generous person I have ever met, and I don't know how to tell him it's time to let his best friend go.

Sunny is 15 1/2 years old and can barely walk because of bad hips. The poor thing can see only shadows and is almost completely deaf. He has been like this for the last two years and is deteriorating



could no longer control his bowels and bladder. I carry him outside multiple times a day and hold him up so he can urinate without the diaper. I wash him regularly after he soils himself. It is very sad. I keep hoping he will pass on in his sleep so my husband won't have to make the call, but he is still clinging to life.

JEANNE

It is difficult to bring this up with my husband because he knows I'm frustrated

Dear Abby: How do I talk to my husband with constantly cleaning up pee and poop and washing bedding after there has been an accident. I don't want him to think I want him to put the dog to sleep just because it is difficult. It's just TIME

Sunny's quality of life is zero. The only thing he can do is eat and sleep. Is that enough? Am I wrong? What should I say to my husband to put the poor animal out of his misery? — It's Time, in Reno

Dear It's Time: Your husband is doing his best friend no favor by letting him linger this way. What's going on now isn't fair to Sunny or to you.

You might point out that dogs were put on this earth to run and play and enjoy their lives, something that Sunny hasn't been able to do for a long time.

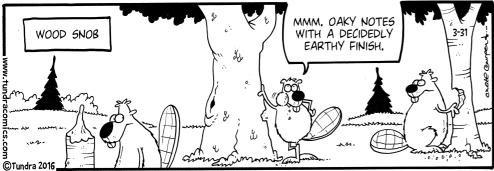
Suggest he contact Sunny's veterinarian and talk to him/her about his beloved dog's condition, because I'm pretty sure the vet will agree with me.

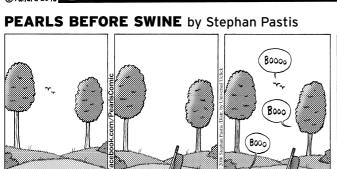
Then be prepared, because your husband Dallas, TX 75357-0218. — Love, Abby may be so bonded with Sunny that he will Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or need grief counseling after his dog is no P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Readers: A group of distinguished psychiatrists, the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP), needs help from some of vou. They need feedback from gay, bisexual or transgender people, many of whom have experienced conflicts with their faith because of who they are attracted to or their gender identity. Many, while attempting "conversion" treatment, experienced great emotional distress, but never considered consulting a mental health professional because they had been discouraged from doing so by their faith community. Knowing the struggles you have experienced could benefit individuals who need help and haven't gotten it. Your input is important. It will give GAP psychiatrists a broader representation of people than they could get from any other source.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this important study. The Internet address to send your comments is mary.barber@omh. ny.gov. For those who don't have email access, GAP's mailing address is: P.O. Box 570218,

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter







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

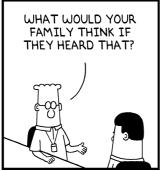






DILBERT by Scott Adams







MARK TRAIL by James Allen







PEANUTS by Charles Schulz









PICKLES by Brian Crane









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston









BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman







ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

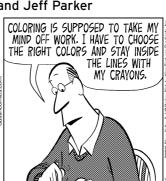


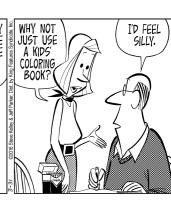




DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker





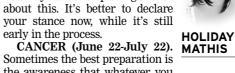


Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've so much experience to share, though you don't always have receptive people around you that make it worth your while to do so. Today is different.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can see that someone needs help even before that person realizes it. A dance will ensue, in which you take pains not to step on the other person's toes or pride.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone is trying to fit you into a role, but you have other plans. You may have to stop being so nice about this. It's better to declare vour stance now, while it's still



the awareness that whatever you bring, it won't be all that is needed; vou'll still have to improvise. Good thing you are a firstclass, brilliant improviser!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Work could tie up your mental energy in politics and power struggles, but love will be a reprieve from all of that, due to your uncomplicated, lighthearted

approach to relationships. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll create beauty. It won't be the kind you can hold and keep. This beauty is situational and born of your keen awareness of others and complete immersion in

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The new situation will seem daunting. It's natural to fear it for a moment, but you're a pro. You'll live with the fear and move forward anyway. Start with what you know and take a step. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The glitch isn't

a reason to quit; rather, it's a prompt to reboot. As for those who turn around at the first sign of trouble, let them go. You need a strong team who will face the obstacles just like you do. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No one

is going to grant you the time, freedom and resources to do what you want to do. If you're passionate enough, you'll figure out a way to reorganize your life around your own priorities. It will feel like thievery. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To the

untrained eye, the mirage looks like a very real answer to thirst. You're more skeptical, as you've been tricked by the elements before. The only way to find out what's really on the horizon is to move forward. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). False gossip

is harmful, and true gossip is even worse. Don't spread it or even listen to it today. Keep your own cards close to the vest, as there are those out there who can turn anything into a scandal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a formality to today's proceedings, and everyone will be more comfortable adhering to the tradition. A sticky situation may have you brushing up on your etiquette.