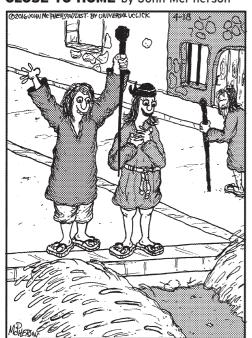
CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Always chivalrous, Moses would part puddles so his dates could walk through without getting wet.

Man's wife must create her own space

cal of others. He almost never has anything nice to say about anyone. He badmouths his co-workers, friends, family members and

strangers. We don't have friends anymore because he doesn't want to be around them. I don't understand his type of personality.

He thinks his way of thinking and doing things is the only right way and everyone else is wrong. He's always quick to shift the blame when **JEANNE** something goes awry. If he PHILLIPS accidentally bumps into someone, it's never his fault — the person was in his way, or the

broken object was junk, etc. What makes people this way? Is there any hope that he can change? We are nearing retirement age, and I need my space. I cannot be his everything. — *Reached the Limit in*

DEAR ABBY

Dear Reached: It appears you married a self-entitled misanthrope. Not knowing him,

Dear Abby: My husband is extremely criti- I can't guess why your husband is this way. alternatives, and the situation is no fault of Change is possible in anyone, IF the person recognizes the need for it and wants to change. From your description, he must be a heavy load to carry, and I doubt he will admit the

If you want to continue this marriage and save your sanity after he retires, you must create separate time, hobbies and relationships for yourself apart from him, and be prepared in advance for the fact that he won't like it

Dear Abby: Kudos to you for your advice to "Willing to Do It in West Virginia" (Dec. 10), who asked for advice regarding temporarily adopting her son "Kevin's" dog while he was away on deployment, which her husband did not want to do. The husband felt that Kevin getting the dog in the first place was a mistake and her son should "learn his lesson." You advised that they should temporarily take the dog, since there was no way of knowing what might happen during his deployment.

Giving the dog to a shelter would have a Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or high probability of being a death sentence. P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. That's not humane when there are viable

the dog's. An alternative would be to contact Dogs on Deployment (dogsondeployment.org), a national nonprofit that provides an online network that connects service members with volunteers willing to board their pets during their service commitments.

Dogs on Deployment promotes responsible, lifelong pet ownership by advocating for military pet owner rights, providing educational resources, and granting financial assistance for military pet owners during times of emergency. — Jennifer in San Diego

Dear Jennifer: Thank you for the information. Other Dear Abby readers mentioned that returning soldiers may have witnessed traumatic things during deployment and, once they return home, need the unconditional love an animal companion provides. Along with Dogs on Deployment, other organizations that may be helpful to military families include PACT for Animals, Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet or the local SPCA.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis







JEFF MACNELLY S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



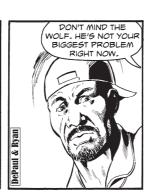
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk







DILBERT by Scott Adams







MARK TRAIL by James Allen

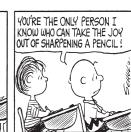


PEANUTS by Charles Schulz









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 live a life worth writing about. The events of the day could inspire you to jot down some notes or take a few pictures. This moment in time is truly special, and the people around you feel the magic, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's something very creative developing in you — a new

way of coping. The artist in you may be forged in a kiln of passionate insecurity, but the heat turns everything into a beautiful expression. GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

There's an invisible tether that ties you to a situation. It matters. It's the line that's keeping you in orbit. Maybe you don't want to be **HOLIDAY** so centered around this situation. MATHIS In that case, cut the cord.

working. Own your part in that.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're ready to make an improvement, and there's something to be addressed before you can fully take this on. Look back and see what wasn't

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One way you can tell who your real friends are: If something is important to you, it's important to your friend. This is especially true for subjects in which your

friend has no other interest except that it matters VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The transformation you desire is as possible as you are committed to making it happen. You need a system of

with? The answer to this question will be your success kev.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your way may not be the best way, but it's the one that comes easily to you — automatically, even. There's too much to do today to mess around with the bright, shiny

new method. Do it your way. Rinse; repeat. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's something you want that would make your life easier, but you haven't figured out how to get it yet. Daydream. Brainstorm. Ask the "haves" to give a little advice to the "have-not-yets."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't work for free. There are so many reasons you'll want to: love, generosity, a good cause, familial ties, experience ... the list goes on. But don't do it. The reasons for getting a fair monetary exchange are more compelling.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sure, from time to time you've felt like you're digging a hole for yourself. Chalk it up to animal instinct. Holes can be good protection. Tunnels are legitimate transportation. Just don't detonate it behind

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No two snowflakes are alike, though many are similar in appearance until the microscope zooms in. Your microscope is high-powered, and it will pick up beautiful differentials and variations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anyone who is looking for something to complain about will find it. That's not you. You actively search for the benefits, opportunities and fun in the situations that seem to be less than ideal.