#### **CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



"Occupancy on all flights is up 20 percent since we switched to bean bag seating."

# Reader distances self from bigotry, hate

Dear Abby: My friendships have always included people of different races, religions, nationalities, sexual orientations, professions,

A few years ago, I had an experience that was both devastating and humbling on several different levels.

It caused me to do a lot of introspection and selfimprovement, which led to my becoming a more empathetic person.

Over the last few years, I JEANNE have distanced myself from PHILLIPS old friends and acquaintances who were racist, sexist, homophobic, etc.

I have replaced them with new relationships with people who embrace diversity. Some of the people I no longer see ask me why we don't talk or get together anymore. I don't want to give them excuses like, "I've been too

**DEAR ABBY** 

aside.

How do I explain to them that I don't enjoy associating with people who hold bigoted views? — Open-minded in the Midwest

ger wish to associate with them, why not just respond with the truth?

Say: "As you may know, I had an experience a few years ago that was life-changing. It made me re-evaluate my life and my relationships, so I decided to 'edit' them down and spend more time with people who think the way I do about life.'

Dear Abby: I am a middle-aged man who lost my wife to cancer 2 1/2 years ago. We had no children.

I'm now feeling very alone. I don't seem to fit in anywhere. My old "guy" friends avoid me, and our married "couple" friends leave me out because I am not a couple anymore

I understand that, because they all do "couple" things.

But even my family seems to have set me

When my wife was alive, we would be invited to my siblings' homes for dinners during the holidays and other times. Now I often Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or don't even get a phone call.

There are times I feel like I have been cast

**Dear Open-Minded:** Because you no lon- off by everyone. Please help, Abby. — *Lonely* Kansan

> Dear Lonely Kansan: I'll try. With most married couples, the wives are the ones who

> make the social plans. This may be why you aren't hearing from your "couple" friends.

Why your family would choose to exclude

you at a time when you need them is something I can't explain.

But they may tell you if you pick up the phone and talk to them about it.

Because you find you have time on your hands and no prospects, it's time to establish yourself as an eligible single male.

Research singles groups in your area. Go online and put your profile on some of the singles sites.

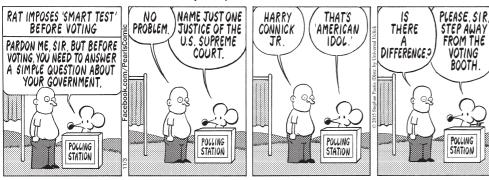
Get involved in volunteer activities. Join a dance class, a yoga class, a gym. There are plenty of women out there waiting to be found, but you won't find any of them sitting home waiting for the phone to ring.

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



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



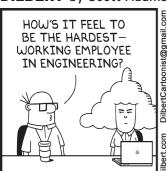
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk







**DILBERT** by Scott Adams







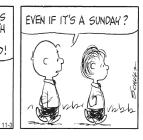
MARK TRAIL by James Allen



### **PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz







**PICKLES** by Brian Crane



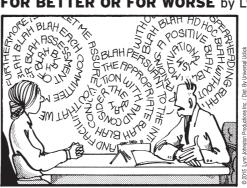


WELL? DID YOU SEE

MR. RADCLIFFE? DID



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









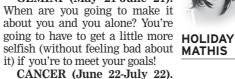
# **Daily Horoscope**

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you now too large of egos. Humility and modesty come think of as a very difficult task, you once thought of as impossible. With that in mind, consider tackling it once more. You'll likely knock it down to the status of mere inconvenience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Once you realize what is getting in your way, you will have no

problem letting go of it. Getting to that realization is something else — a process that will take awareness and willingness to see yourself differently over time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).



Seeking knowledge and insight, you'll gain more than you bargained for. This is what it takes to understand what's going on with the others. When you tune your ears into what's not being said, you'll get the whole truth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll need extra reserves of patience, especially where people of other generations are concerned. If you can stay  $% \left( x\right) =\left( x\right) +\left( x\right) \left( x\right)$ a bit detached it will be easier. Everyone is doing

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Small minds have big heads. Then again, those who are enraptured in the moment don't need to worry about getting

easily to the active mind such as yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll encounter the absurd, futile and transitory. This is the fiber of life these days, and you'll weave it into something beyond what you might have if you weren't faced with such colorful adversity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To elevate the mundane is your task of the day. You'll transform ordinary things — a meal, a friendly exchange, an obligatory task — into something that people will remember.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know that life is about what you give, not what you get. However, it's pretty hard to give anything if you haven't gotten anything. With this in mind, you'll

be extra generous. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have to set limits, because the other people involved won't. What you do cautiously and anxiously

today will be done confidently tomorrow. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The New Age old guard suggests that the subconscious mind knows no irony, has no humor and will deliver precisely and literally what we dwell on. Today's evidence may lead your belief system in a different direction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To whatever extent you are able to monitor your thoughts, this is the day to do it. Powerful ideas will float through, some of them detrimental and others auite helpful.