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



# Teen feels pressure to choose her path

and I'm in the second year of high school. Next well if you work hard and are successful. If year will be my last, and then I will have the pressure of relatives and friends wondering what I will do with my life.

When I was little, I said I was going to be a stylist. I liked that idea, but after I did some research about it, I realized it is not for me.

I have also thought about

journalism and specializing in fashion, but don't know if it's something I want for my life. I would love to do medicine, PHILLIPS perhaps pediatrics or oncol-

from Brazil

ogy. They are very beautiful professions. Should I pursue the career I always wanted as a child, or a career that I think is beautiful and will give me a good life? Help! — Julia

**JEANNE** 

**DEAR ABBY** 

Dear Julia: The dreams people have as children usually change as they mature. It appears that yours are no different. The careers you are contemplating now can make a huge dif-

Dear Abby: I'm a young woman of 16 years ference in the lives of others, and reward you go back to work when summer is over, and I have the aptitude for it, that's the way I think you should go.

> Dear Abby: I am terrified of driving on the interstate. It is keeping me from going places I want to go and doing things I want to do. I don't know anyone else with this phobia. Is there any help for someone like me? — Ready to Roll in Montana

Dear Ready: Of course there is. Your first step should be to contact a driving school to find out if it offers courses for people with a fear of driving on the interstate.

However, if you can't bring yourself to dip your toe in the water that way, ask your physician to put you in touch with a psychotherapist who specializes in relieving people of their phobias.

Dear Abby: I don't know what's wrong may snap you back to where you belong. with me. I work in a school, so I have the sum- Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or mers off, but I can't relax and enjoy myself. P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Every day I constantly think about having to

dread it. I also find myself dwelling on past you would love the practice of medicine and mistakes I have made and regrets about things I did or didn't do. As a result, it prevents me

from enjoying the present. Do other people have this problem? Have you any advice to help me stop thinking about the past and the future and how I can enjoy the

here and now? — Can't Relax in New Jersey

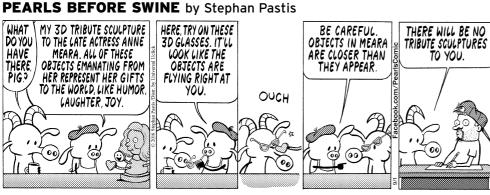
Dear Can't Relax: Nothing lasts forever, including summer vacation. However, may I point out that if you have a job you "dread" returning to, it may be time to consider finding a new one?

As to past regrets spoiling your present, way to stop dwelling on those negative thoughts would be to say ALOUD to yourself: "That was then. This is NOW. I'm wiser now." Then make a conscious effort to reorient yourself to the present.

I'm not saying it won't take vigilance and practice, but hearing yourself speak the words

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter





## **GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



## JEFF MACNELLY S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



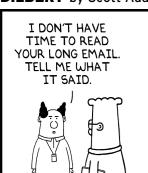
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk







**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









TIME

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). Don't be surprised if your personality naturally starts to curve to the job at hand. This flexibility of form is a strength, not a weakness. It is because you are so solid at your core that you're able to bend to your environment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Every change is a key to the door of another opportunity. It is not always clear which door the key goes to, though. You'll spend part of the day trying differ-

ent "doors," seeking the right fit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Oddly, the difficulties attract you. Or maybe this isn't so strange. Maybe it's the mark of fine character to seek constant challenge. HOLIDAY The rewards are, after all, richer MATHIS where powerful efforts are the



demand. CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll ride a highly creative frame of mind all day, similar to the one you often experience just as you are drifting off to sleep. There is gold to be mined in this beautiful mix of conscious and subconscious awareness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The one you're wild for is always somewhere on your mind, no matter what you're doing. Therefore, being thoughtful comes easily to you. You're magnetized toward anything that might delight your love.

times you can't remember how it began. Other

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As for your allconsuming, deep, affectionate attachment, some-

times you can't have a thought that's not remembering

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The fresh luck will come after what's old has been wrapped up. Consider bringing in some outside forces to finish the job faster. The results will be well worth the money

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Get the word out about what you do. Post wide and far. You'll be surprised who can make use of your talent, and in ways you will really enjoy. That you make money too will be the cherry on top.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Troubled people sense your empathetic nature, and they will tell you their problems. Don't let this stress you out. Your mind will race to how you can help, but you needn't worry: Your listening ears are

help enough. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have an excellent sense for placing people in the position they are best suited to. Now the trick is in knowing how to state things to make the job appealing

to the person who should be doing it. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's so much that needs to be wrapped up today that you'll wish you had your own staff to help you finish. Unless you do have your own staff, and then you'll wish said staff were slightly more

efficient. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To the untrained eye, your carefree ways belie your strong character. The reality is that it's precisely because of your inner strength and faith in yourself and life's process that you can afford to be easygoing.