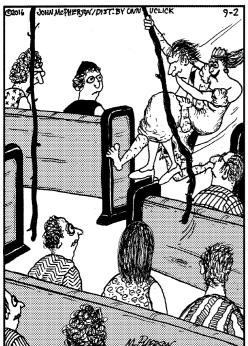
CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"All I know is she met him while she was on a trip to New Guinea."

Incontinence is elephant in the room

incontinent. Most of the time her pants are wet. When she comes to visit, she doesn't hesitate to sit on my furniture.

I'm worried my house will start to smell. After she leaves I have to go around spraying and mopping. I'm sure she wears adult diapers because after she leaves we find them in our trash.

How do I ask her nicely not to sit on my furniture? I would love to suggest having JEANNE her get medical help, but am PHILLIPS afraid she would be insulted. I love her, but not her messes! - Gritting My Teeth



DEAR ABBY

Dear Gritting: According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than half of seniors are plagued by incontinence. It happens to both sexes, but bladder incontinence happens more often to women. Many seniors find it so embarrassing that they are afraid to discuss it with their doctors.

Because your relative's incontinence is

Dear Abby: One of my relatives has become causing you a problem, you must discuss it time with activities you enjoy, and socialize with her. Encourage her to talk to her doctor by explaining that this is a common problem. A solution might be to buy a plastic slipcover for her favorite chair.

> Dear Abby: I'm a single father of three, the youngest of whom finally left the nest last year. I have spent my adult life raising my sons, who are definitely the truest blessing any man could ever hope to have.

> To my dismay, now that I am living alone and see my sons only on weekends, I feel lost. It feels almost as if I have lost my purpose, as though my job is over and I can't find the me I was before I was a father. Please give me some advice. — Barely Breathing

> **Dear Barely Breathing:** You appear to be experiencing classic empty nest syndrome. It happens to many parents when their last child leaves home.

A way to cope with the emptiness and aimlessness you are feeling would be to talk about it with other family members, or the parents Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or of other young adults who have moved out P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. on their own. It's important that you fill your

with others so you don't just sit around and

However, because your feelings of sadness and aimlessness have persisted, I recommend you also discuss them with your doctor to make sure you are not suffering from depression. If it is depression, your doctor can help

Dear Abby: Can you please help resolve a question once and for all between my husband and me regarding the proper way to eat grapes? My husband will pick individual grapes from a bunch which, in my opinion, leaves the rest looking "moth-eaten" and unappetizing. I prefer to cut a small branch off the bunch, which leaves the grapes looking fresh instead of grazed upon. Who's right? — Carrie in Milford, Mich.

Dear Carrie: You are. But if this is the worst conflict you have in your marriage, consider yourself lucky.

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













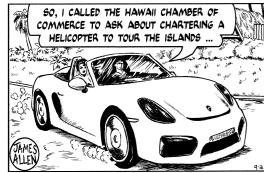
DILBERT by Scott Adams







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





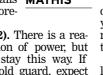
Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ideas have value, even if they never come into fruition. Not all ideas should come to fruition anyhow. Some are best left in their ethereal form, from which they can still lead us to the next better idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't agree with some aspects of a certain group's philoso-

phy, and you never will. But there's likely enough beneficial stuff there to warrant your involvement. Be of service and reap the benefits of belonging

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's the little things. Who should pay the check? And if you have a feeling it's not going to be you, should you make a move anyway? Anticipate these kinds of details MATHIS and make a game plan beforehand



HOLIDAY

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a reason for the current distribution of power, but that doesn't mean it should stay this way. If you choose to challenge the old guard, expect resistance and know that these things won't be resolved in a day.

mistakes, and repeat mistakes are particularly hard to take. Then again, after getting it wrong a few times, getting it right finally is spectacularly

What is temporarily uprooting will be fortuitous

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No one likes to make

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be blips, interruptions, shuffling and reshuffling.

in the long-term. Detach. Flow with it. Remain unconcerned with the flotsam and jetsam.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not everyone has developed the part of their brains that keeps them from saying aloud things that ought to be contained inside a head. When mistakes are made, you'll be the one to smooth it over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whatever your project, you'll save yourself time and trouble by doing more research. The advice you seek will give you a good excuse to network, thus expanding your contacts and influence simultaneously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be a lot busywork in the early part of the day, and as tedious as it may seem, each task can be counted as a step forward. Anyway, the evening fun will make a dim remembrance of all a.m. tasks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The loved one who mainly causes you irritation needs your patience and understanding now. This will require huge, nearly saintly amounts of self-control and emotional restraint, but you're up to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your air-sign levity will help you mentally rise above the situation and then float backward in time, returning to a more childish view of the world. From this place, your problems will be met with more imaginative answers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not being asked to jump to the moon, though you are being asked to jump higher than you want to. No need to take offense; in all likelihood they are just ignorant of the current standards. Can't blame them for trying!