CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Hey Wally, Burt! Get over here now if you want to see the biggest wart on the planet!"

Reader disagrees with friend's decision

you WILL lose your best friend.

Dear Abby: I just had a big fight with my best friend. Her name is "Alex." The argu-this process, and if you can't stand beside her, Unitarian Universalism, has been mentioned ment was about her wanting to be transgender. I didn't agree with it, and she got mad at

me. Alex is a tomboy. Today she cut her hair short, and she keeps complaining about how she hates being a girl. She hates her period and is afraid of having breasts. It has started to annoy me. A lot.

Alex and I have been friends since kindergarten and I'm scared our friendship may JEANNE end. Please help. I don't want PHILLIPS to lose my best friend. — *Vegas*



DEAR ABBY

Dear Vegas Girl: If you really want to keep Alex as your best friend, go online and start researching what it means to be transgender. She may hate her female characteristics because she feels trapped in the wrong body.

Being transgender is much more complicated than cutting one's hair and being a tomboy. What's going on with your friend isn't a frivolous decision. Alex is going to need

faith by my pastor parents. As I reached my early teens, I realized that those beliefs didn't really fit, and I gradually stopped attending

church. I stayed away all through college. My time away only solidified that, in terms of belief, Christianity wasn't for me. After I graduated this year, I realized I

missed the community and ritual of the faith and the church. There are a number of churches in my area, but I feel guilty attending one when I don't believe in the same things as the other members. My family always taught me to be considerate of the beliefs of the people listen to prayers my heart doesn't embrace.

I'd still like to attend church. Have you any suggestions for what might be a good course of action? Should I go to church or stay home? Unorthodox in Ohio

Dear Unorthodox: You don't have to stay P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. home. Instead, explore a denomination that

before in this column. Unitarian Universalists believe in the dig-Dear Abby: I was raised in the Christian nity and worth of every human being, and encourage and support others in following their personal spiritual paths. If you would

like more information, visit www.uua.org.

Dear Abby: The mother of a friend recently passed away. I wanted to send a nice plant to the funeral home and was shocked at how much it cost to have a small plant delivered. Is it a "no-no" to buy a beautiful plant and deliver it to the funeral home yourself? – Budget-minded

Dear Budget-minded: If it's a "no-no," I around me, and it seems dishonest to go and never heard about it. If having the plant delivered would stretch your budget, by all means take it over before the viewing. It's the thought that counts, and your wish to commemorate the death of your friend's mother is thoughtful and beautiful.

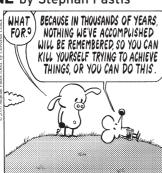
Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis







GARFIELD by Jim Davis

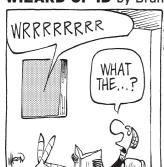


JEFF MACNELLY S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins





WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



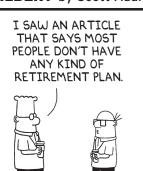


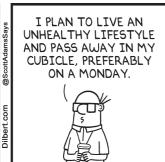


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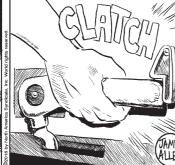






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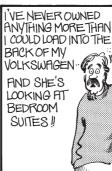






FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston









BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman







ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker









Daily Horoscope

secret expectation that you'll excel beyond what any human has done up till now, well, it's causing you too much stress. If you can't let it go, at least shelve it for a while.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Instead of waiting for the right one to come along, you'll work

with the opportunity in front of you, determined to make the best of it and pull out every bit of goodness you can from it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've been known to place people on pedestals, though never unjustifiably. Once you hone in on a worthy subject, the flattery and HOLIDAY attention you give will court a MATHIS sweet proposal, indeed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll let someone off the hook. It's not because this person deserves the save, or because you're an authority on the matter. It's just because you're merciful, which is an admirable thing to

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When the routine gets stale, the work gets tedious and even the so-called leisure seems to hit a dull mark, something else, wonderful and inspiring, will show up

to pull you through. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may be willing to lose what you have, but you're not willing to gamble what other people have, and for this

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As for that reason you'll be trusted with a very important responsibility.

> LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). First you didn't believe it; then you suspected it; and now there is irrefutable evidence to confirm your suspicions: You are officially someone's favorite person.

> SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you work with others to make something, your feelings about what you're making, your own abilities and the contributions of others get all swirled around into one beautiful amalgamation.

> SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The input demands response, and respond you must. If vou rattle off the first things that come to mind, focusing on your heart and the way you really

> feel, you'll say just the right thing. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As Mom used to say, "There is no bored, only boring." Uninteresting things and people suddenly become fascinating indeed when someone as

> inquisitive as you enters the picture. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You paid a price to develop your gifts. You gave your hours, your money and the very best of your attention to bring them up to the level they are at now. You're right to be judicious in the sharing of

> these iewels. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even if you and the other person both want to go to the same place, someone has to go first. The lane is narrow; only one can go at a time. Everything will go smoother when you decide who the leader is.