

DEAR ABBY

Uncertainty breeds angst for aging couple

**DEAR ABBY:** My spouse and I are retired and on Social Security. We’ve both worked hard all our lives and are content living a modest retirement. Our house is paid for, and we have little debt. However, we’re both experiencing physical and mental decline. I worry about our house. We aren’t able to clean and maintain it like we used to because of our physical limitations. We used to have parties, but we’re embarrassed to have people over now, which means we’re kind of isolated.



DEAR ABBY

We also worry that our Social Security and Medicare benefits will be stripped away. We rely on them to live. We both paid into the system since age 15. Shouldn’t we expect to reap the benefits of paying into the system all these years? We worry all the time about the future, which seems so grim right now. Even if we can survive the next few years, I’m increasingly concerned about the disintegration of our home. I am not sure where to turn. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated. — **WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE**
**DEAR WORRIED:** If there is a senior center in your community, reach out and ask if there are any services that could assist

you in finding reasonably priced help with your house. As to your embarrassment about entertaining friends, that concern may be needless. If you want company, invite friends over for afternoon tea, a picnic or a barbecue outside if the weather permits. Regarding your anxiety about Social Security, you are far from alone in feeling worried. Approximately 70 million American seniors are worrying right along with you. Every senior should be writing to their local politicians, their state representatives, congresspersons and senators reminding them that those benefits were paid for and, if they are interfered with, it could cost them the next election.

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m a single, never married man. I was having trouble finding a nice woman to date, so I bought a T-shirt from a dating website to show the women at the grocery and hardware stores that I’m single and looking for a date. I now have a new problem — women at the hardware store and grocery stores keep coming up to me, asking about my shirt and trying to get a date with me. I am grateful for it, although I’m having trouble deciding which one I want to go out with. How do I tell the ones I am not interested in that I’m busy or seeing someone else? They don’t want to take no for an answer. — **FLOODED IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR FLOODED:** Stop saying no so quickly. If you are looking for someone special, you are going to have to do some sifting. As you will discover, dating is a process of trial and error. You may find your taste in women will change if you experience a few of them (or more). P.S. I’m sorry you didn’t mention which website you bought that T-shirt from. Do they also come in women’s sizes?

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

REVIEW

Tyson Ritter gave plenty of reasons to embrace the Rejects

**BRUCE R. MILLER**  
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Tyson Ritter takes his master of ceremonies job seriously. At the All-American Rejects concert Saturday night, he interacted freely with the audience (composing songs for them on the spot), worked every inch of the stage and provided background on the band’s 25-some years of performing. Because guitarist Mike Kennerty was missing, Ritter had a mannequin take his place. Kennerty apparently hurt his ankle and wasn’t able to make the Battery Park gig. Ritter, though, more than made up for his absence, telling the audience it was going back in the “time machine” and picking up hits from those early years. Songs from the Rejects’ debut album and its follow-up, “Move Along,” got plenty of exposure. “My Paper Heart,” “Swing, Swing,” “Move Along” and “It Ends Tonight” got the Full Tyson, including barefoot dances and audience sing-alongs. Hardcore fans (including a woman in a banana suit) enthused over songs from their adolescence. Three chords and they knew what was coming. When Ritter introduced more recent cuts (including “Sandbox” and “Easy Come, Easy Go”), he included a preface: “We decided to grow up and write some new (songs).” War from the eyes of a child figured into the former; “what we’ve lost” factored into the latter. Ritter talked about friends and relatives who have died, then admitted “we can’t do (expletive) about what’s outside the chain link fences” but in concert venues, there’s a chance to unite. The chorus: “You only love me when I’m out of control.” It seemed like a follow-up to “I Wanna,” a 2008 song that included the plea, “don’t throw me away.” The two new songs do represent a harder edge but that didn’t affect the audience’s response. Like the “banana” fan, another Rejects supporter created a T-shirt for Ritter that said, “Easy Come, Easy Gogh.” He donned the shirt and pointed out younger audience members who could become part of the fold that will keep the band going for another 25 years. Ritter’s enthusiastic approach to performing is what will make it happen. Eliza and the Delusionals opened the show and had a number of songs that fit nicely with the Rejects. “Make it Feel Like the Garden” and “Just Exist” are ones that should crack the door for Eliza Klatt, Kurt Skuse and Ruby Lee, the Australian band’s lineup.



CAITLIN YAMADA PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

All-American Rejects performs at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Battery Park concert venue Saturday, July 12, 2025.



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**PUBLISHER:** Lee Enterprises

**EDITOR:** Bruce Miller; 712-293-4218  
bmiller@siouxcityjournal.com

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**IDENTIFICATION**  
The Sioux City Journal (USPS: 497240), a Lee Enterprises Newspaper, is published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2802 CASTLES GATE DR., SIOUX CITY IA 51106. Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux City, IA, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 500 E 3RD ST, SIOUXPORT, IA 52801.

**PRICING**  
Sioux City Journal is a Lee Enterprises Newspaper and is published online daily, and three days per week in print (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

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