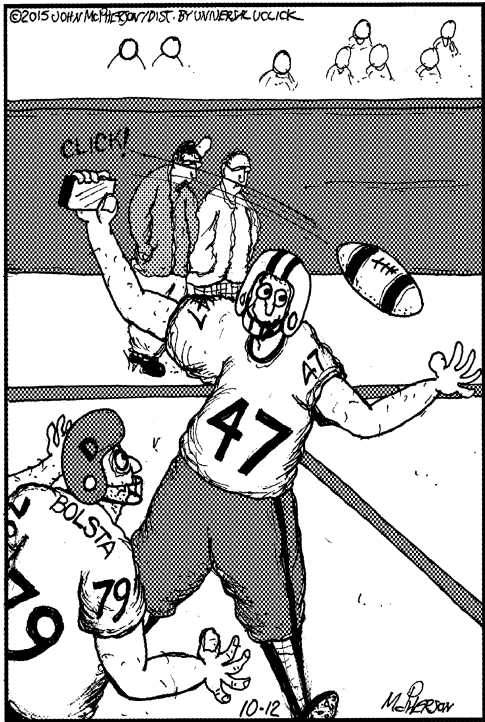


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Milligan! No selfies on the field!"

# Semester abroad would benefit couple

**Dear Abby:** I am a college sophomore and have been dating my boyfriend, "Evan," for nearly a year.

I am planning to take a semester abroad at the beginning of my junior year.

Recently, Evan confessed that if I leave, our relationship would have to end.

He asserts that being away from me for more than three months would be too painful and scary, not knowing if I was all right. (He has some anxiety issues, for which I have urged him to consider therapy.)

Should I end this relationship now, or continue to see if Evan changes his mind?

There's a possibility, depending on program availability and class requirements, that I may not even be able to go.

I don't want to break any hearts or inflict any pain. Evan is my best friend, and I'm scared of losing him. — *Ambitious Student in Maryland*



**Dear Student:** Gather your courage and tell Evan that you love him and want him to be your best friend forever, but that the semester abroad is an opportunity to grow.

By the way, your absence will provide Evan with one, too, if he chooses to avail himself of it.

You are right that he needs to work on his anxiety issues. It would be a huge mistake to let them stand in the way of your having the experience of a lifetime if you are lucky enough to get it.

There are worse things than being alone, and one of them is being attached to a partner who would hold you back.

**Dear Abby:** I am 50, own my home and am debt-free. I have friends but have never dated anyone. This doesn't bother me, although many of my close friends joke with me about being a "50-year-old virgin."

My problem is, four years ago I lost my job. I have a few investments and a small inheritance that, when combined, give me an income of \$60,000 a year. So I don't need more money.

Although I did look for another job for two years, I haven't tried for the past two. I tell

my friends I've decided to retire. They keep telling me I need to find a job because I need something to keep me busy. I remind them that I have enough money for everything I need.

Friends have started telling me I may have a "problem" and should think about counseling. I see no need for it, but have decided to get an outside opinion. So, Abby, should I see a counselor about my lack of interest in finding a new job? — *Out of Work in Texas*

**Dear Out of Work:** There are reasons people work besides the financial one. Social stimulation is important, too. I am glad you have the money to support yourself now, but what if something unplanned or catastrophic happens in the future that jeopardizes your nest egg?

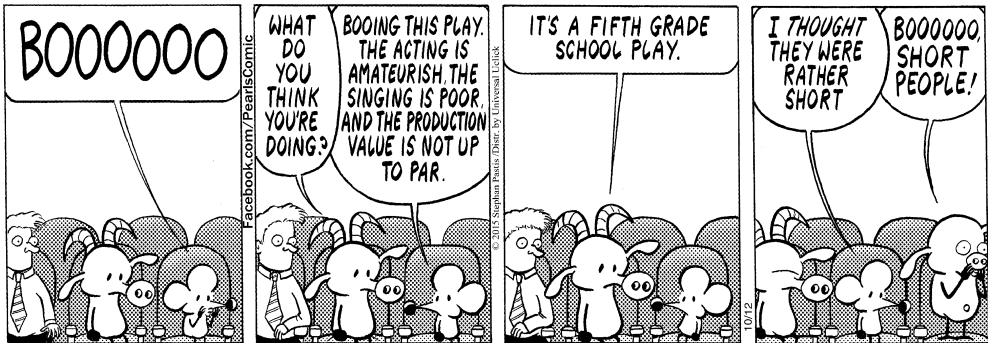
Fifty is young to "retire." The counseling you're considering should be used to determine why you lack the motivation to continue being a contributing member of society. (This may be the "problem" your friends are hinting at.)

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

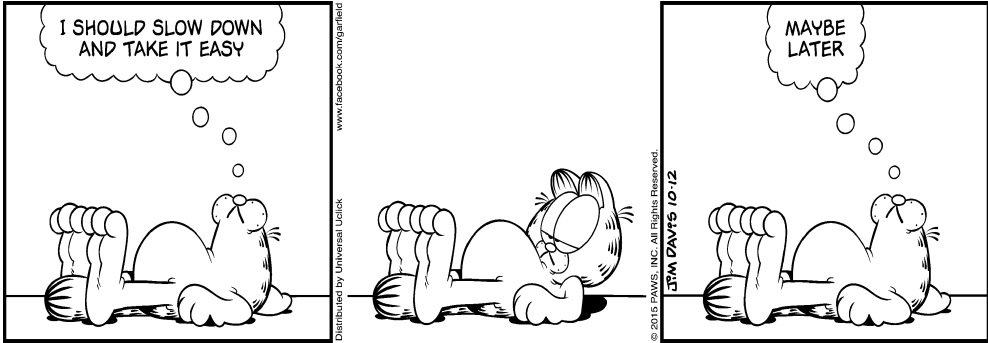
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



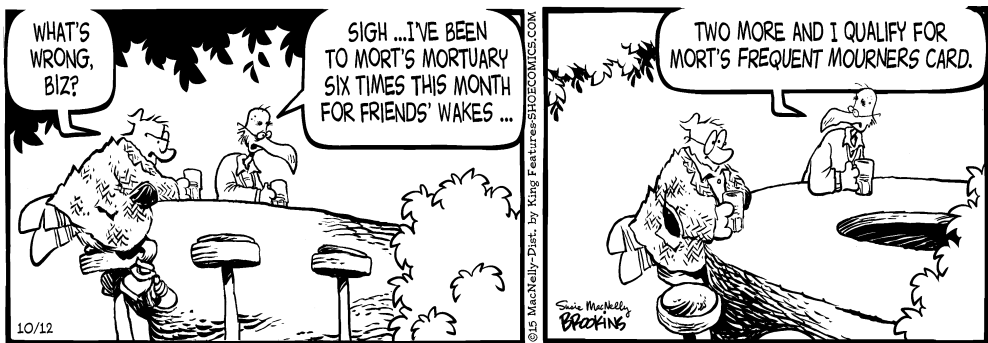
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



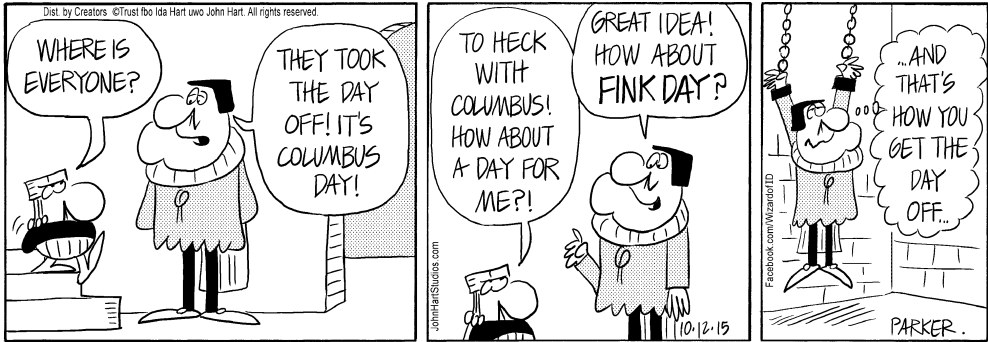
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



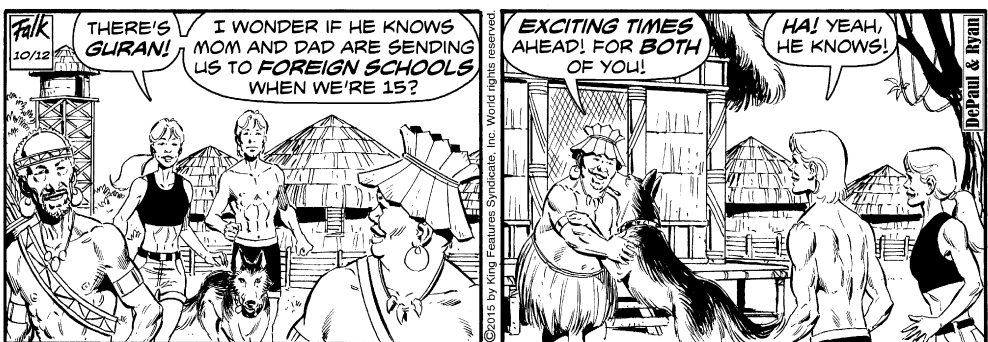
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



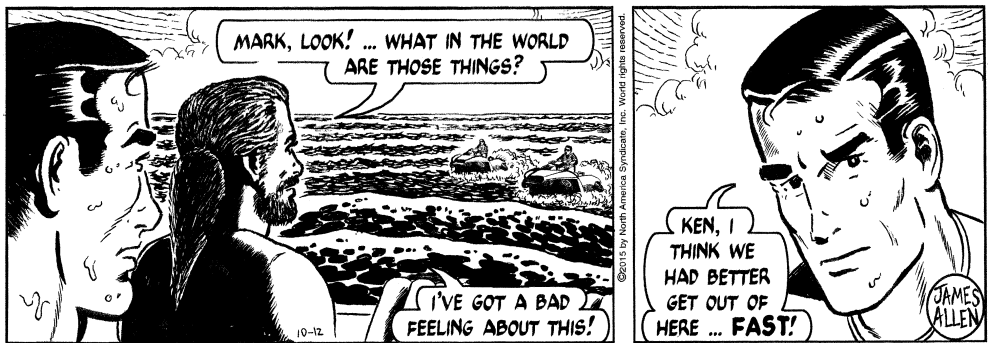
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



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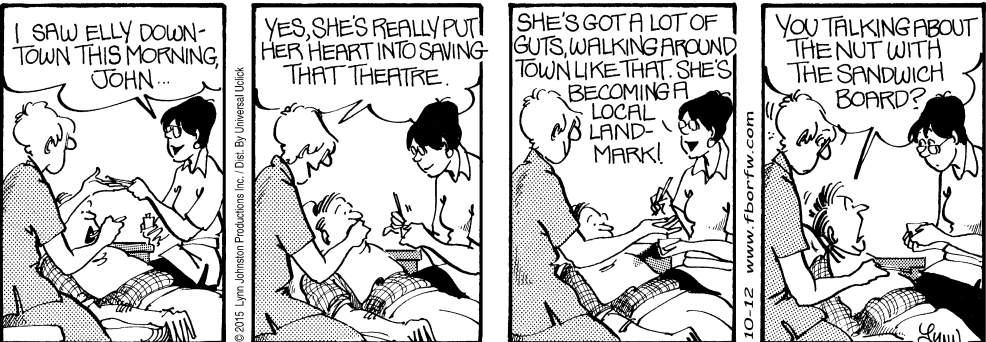
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



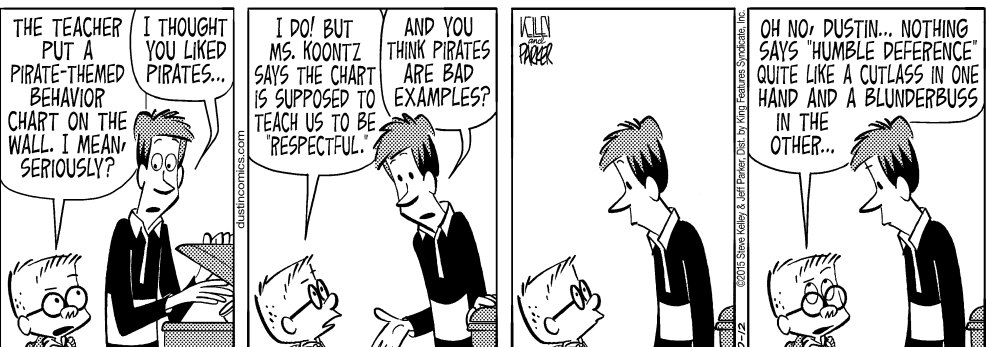
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** In our digital world, we sometimes forget the importance of touch, but it will come rushing back to you when you experience warmth and affection in a special relationship.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Over-explaining, defending before being attacked, selling when it's already sold and apologizing before being accused — all amateur moves. Be a cool customer. Sum up the situation, and then respond.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You have a long list of wants and a short list of needs. Who knows? Maybe you don't need any of it. Feeling whole without the extras makes it all the more fun when you get them.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** A friend sees you as someone who can do anything. You'll start to see yourself that way, too. You'll vault over problems and leave them far behind you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** No one is asking you to win the Nobel Prize. Just think about what it is that you do best, and then do it with all your heart. Full intention — that's the intensity level that can change the world.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Someone is trying to win your heart. You'll go into this day thinking that life is good, and when your head

hits the pillow, you'll know life is actually phenomenal.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You'll express yourself more fully when you're with someone who really understands you. If you don't feel like you know such a person, keep casually reaching out. This is a lucky time for finding friends.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** All you can do is all you can do. When you reach that point, you'll be satisfied that you tried your hardest, no matter what the outcome is. But you haven't reached it yet — so keep going.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You weren't born with the attitude that makes you a success. You have to choose it and then get up the next day and choose it again. Soon the choice becomes a habit.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** There is more than one way to cut off communication with someone. Running the other direction is one way, and running toward it is another way.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You will make it your mission to encourage others, and you will be uplifted in return. It's a fair exchange, though if you're deep enough into this emotional generosity, the very idea of "exchange" will be far behind you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** As all the professional card players know, it's foolish to wish for a lovely hand. All the fun is in playing the hand you've got. Yours is pretty good, by the way.

