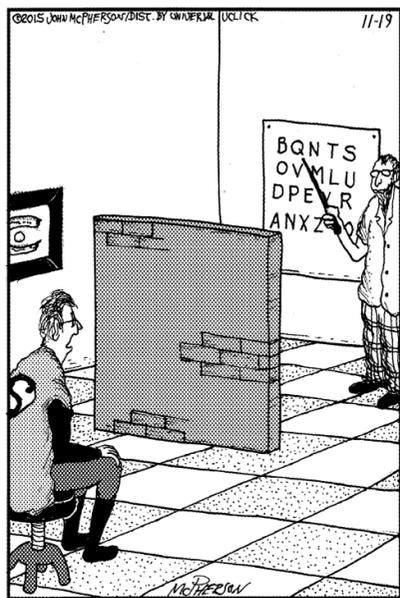


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"...Q...N..."

Hurt feelings linger after graduation

Dear Abby: I loved the letter from "Ready for the Reunion" (July 31), who wondered why some people in her high school graduating class didn't respond to the notice of the reunion. Some of us would like to completely forget high school and everything associated with it.

I missed my 10th, 20th, 30th and 40th year reunions. I did consider going to the last one, but then I started reading my former classmates' posts on the reunion website. It seems everyone is retired, wealthy, has numerous grandchildren, at least one retirement home and spends their time jetting around. I'm still working, not particularly successful and have moved from my home state to the backwoods of middle America. Basically, I have a boring life, so I have nothing to brag about. I didn't go.

I'm still in contact with the important people in my life from high school and just don't need the aggravation of attending a reunion. — *Staying Home*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Staying: Thank you for your input. I received a large number of responses, many of which were emotionally charged:

Dear Abby: My class just had its 45th reunion. I live 20 miles away, but have never attended one and I never will.

My best friend and I were bullied, insulted and excluded by our high school peers. After 45 years, we are still close friends. Neither of us has any desire to see any of those people ever again.

High school was a miserable experience for us, and we couldn't wait to graduate and go off to college. Why would we want to socialize with them now? We forgave them long ago, but have no desire to relive those days. People need to realize that sometimes we move on and don't need to revisit the past. — *Carol in Georgia*

Dear Abby: My high school experience was traumatic to the point that it put me in therapy. People who look forward to these things look back on their high school days with fondness. I'm guessing that's because they weren't picked on for being fat, not coming from a rich

family or being a minority.

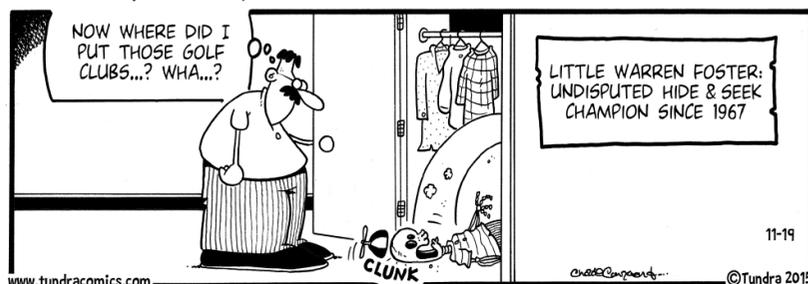
I would rather walk barefoot across broken glass than spend another minute with my high school class. I ignore the invitations because my mother taught me if I can't say anything nice, I should say nothing at all. — *Ray in Scottsdale, Ariz.*

Dear Abby: Successful turnouts often occur as a result of personal outreach from the committee. A personalized note, phone call or other kind of targeted communication ("Dear Susie, we'd love to see you again. Please come.") will make a difference to an alum. — *Former Reunion Planner in Washington*

Dear Abby: It is possible that many of the graduates never received the invitation. Email contact information, phone numbers and addresses change often. I didn't receive anything about my 10-year reunion, but a few of my friends said they did. I can't respond to an invitation I didn't receive. — *Rod in Omaha*

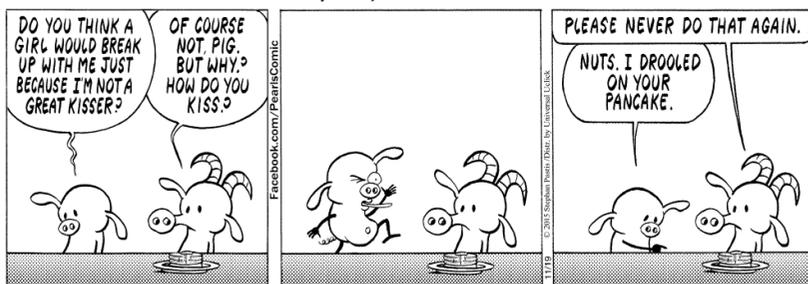
Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



www.tundracomics.com

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



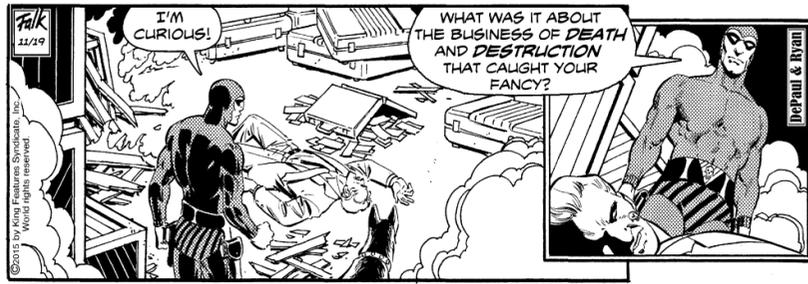
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



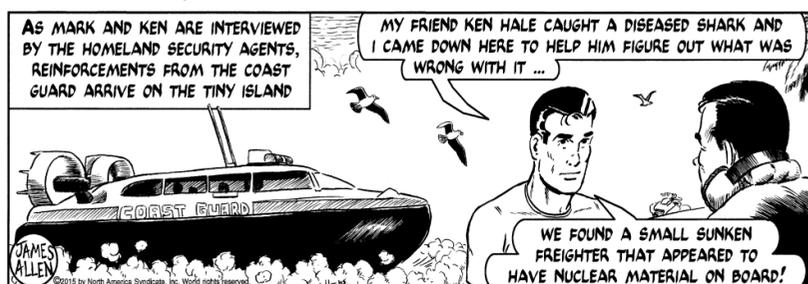
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



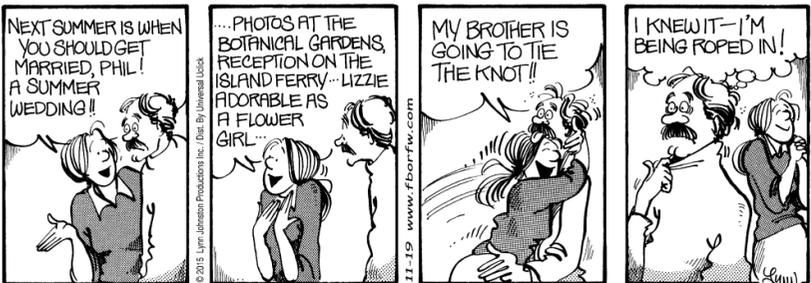
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



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). Good people around you do not want to trouble you and are too nice to let you know if something is wrong. So it's on you to check in and make sure all is well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some of the rules feel more like guidelines to you — others feel like mere suggestions. You'll find the most creative way to push the boundaries.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are intelligent people around you and — bonus — they are smart in the way you most appreciate. The feedback you'll receive is likely to be constructive and helpful.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll experience a win with your whole team. Celebrate as a group. Later, privately consider how you contributed. You deserve individual acknowledgement, even if it only comes from you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will take more than the usual effort to get your head in the right place to do your work. An inspiring Scorpio could help to motivate you, though nothing will motivate you more than needing a paycheck.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People want to share with you. Though you may not need much of what they have to share, accept these gifts to

keep the channel of abundance open and flowing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your fortune can change or solidify at any moment. There is power in each decision you make. Success depends on making the kinds of choices you'll want to build on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not just a cog in the wheel of commerce, you know. You're a part of nature. Wide-open spaces breathe fresh air into your thoughts and clear the cobwebs of your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't relate to those who have become embittered by their trials. If anything, the troubles you have experienced have given you a more compassionate outlook.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Considering the amount of work they create for you, it might be hard for you to believe that people wish you well and want to help you. Remember, you're the one who chooses what to take on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Those who are supposedly "in the know" will be eager to impart their knowledge on you. If the information is true and actionable, those who teach it should be living it, too. Are they?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're thinking of making a change in your appearance. If you look the part, others might just assume it's who you are — and that includes you. The outer change will spark an inner transformation.



HOLIDAY MATHS