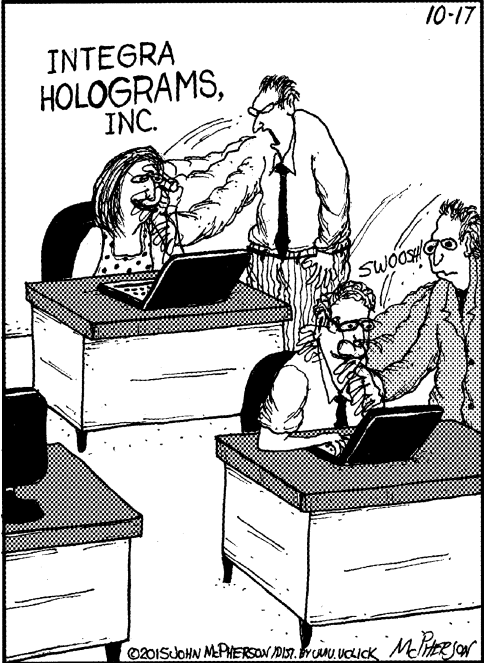


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



“For crying out loud! This makes 17 employees who have made holograms of themselves and skipped out of work!”

Teenager thinks short curfew is unfair

Dear Abby: I have been dating “Colton” for six months. He’s a year and a half older than I am and just started college. I’m still in high school.

Recently, my parents have begun putting restrictions on us, limiting us to one date a week, under four hours long and in a group situation. They like Colton, but they’re worried I’ll miss out on my friends and high school events.

We have obeyed their restrictions, but the time limit they have set is too short for many date activities, and getting a group together is nearly impossible. I think their rules are too rigid because there are no exceptions.

I know my parents care about me, but I’m looking for a little more freedom and the ability to make my own choices. My parents agreed that if I could find other people who thought this situation was in some way unreasonable, they would reconsider some of the rules. So I’m wondering what your opinion is, Abby. — *Restricted in Salt Lake City*



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

Dear Restricted: In my opinion, it is very important that your primary concern — and Colton’s, too — should be earning good grades and completing your education. Both of your futures depend upon it.

That said, if there are special events coming up that you and Colton would like to share, the curfew should be adjusted on a case-by-case basis.

Dear Abby: I am a newer aunt who feels like I have lost my siblings in this life transition.

When I call, I hear screaming boys in the background and it gives me shudders, so I don’t do it often. When I visit, every single adult’s attention is on the boys and no real conversation ensues.

When I grew up, kids were not a part of adult time. How can I let them know their kids are so unruly I can hardly communicate with them anymore? Or should I just leave my siblings to their own families now? — *Unimpressed Aunt in Texas*

Dear Unimpressed: Because you are not yet a parent, you may not have noticed

that when parents of small children get on the phone, their children, in a bid for their attention, become either very noisy or very quiet.

The noisiness is preferable, because when the kids become very quiet, they are usually doing something they’re not supposed to.

Because the noise your nieces and nephews make unnerves you, schedule phone calls with your siblings after their little ones have been put to bed.

And if you would like adult/alone time with them, ask if you can schedule a lunch away from their home for an occasional visit.

Dear Abby: Is it more appropriate to eat ice cream cake with a spoon or a fork? I’m always unsure which is preferable. — *Ellen in Woodland Hills, Calif.*

Dear Ellen: Eat your ice cream cake with a spoon or a “spork” (a utensil that’s a combination spoon and fork) so there will be fewer drips when the ice cream starts to melt.

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

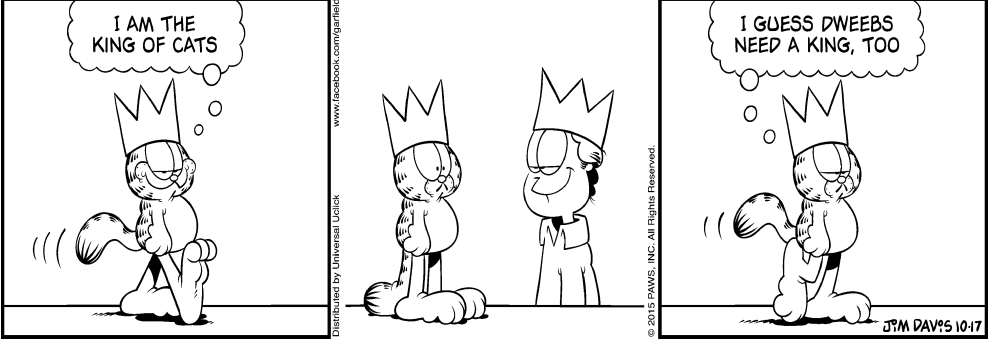
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



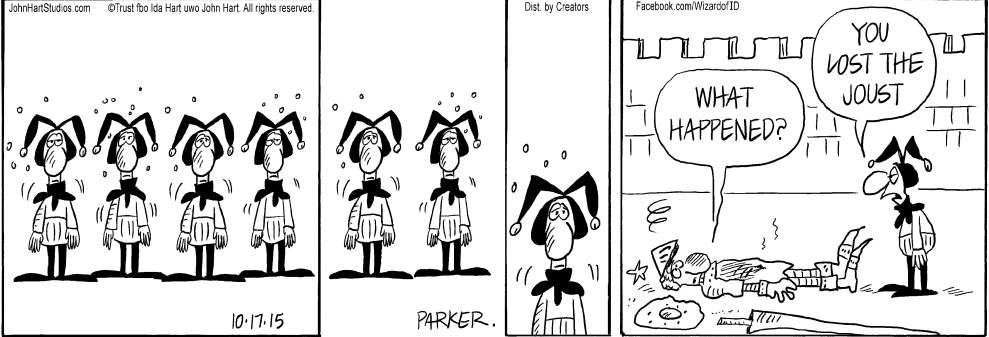
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



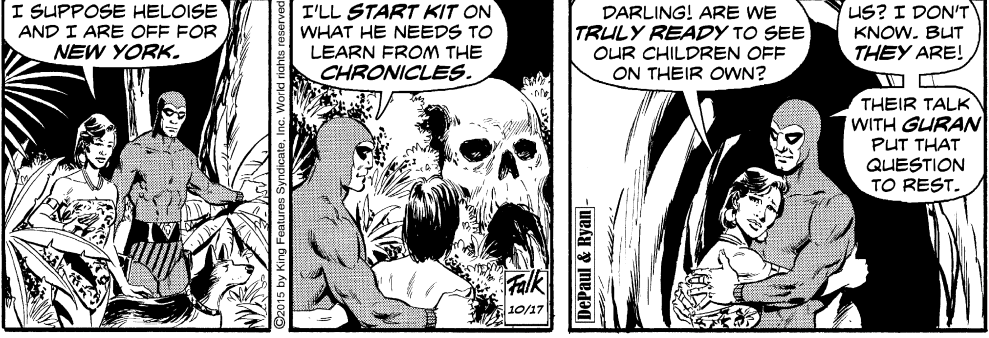
JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



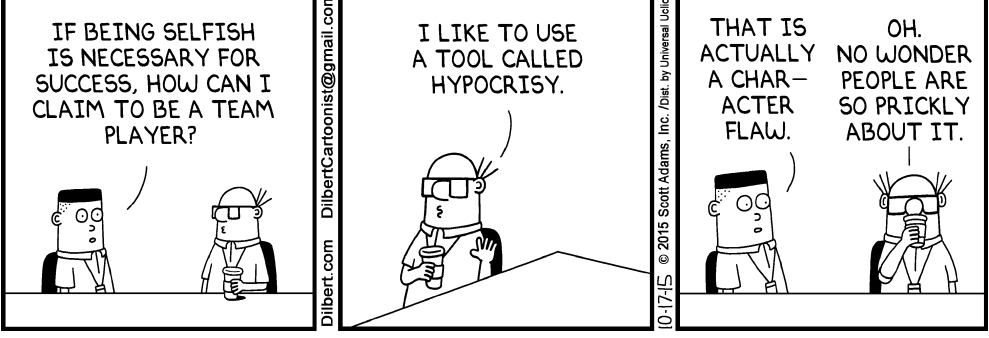
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



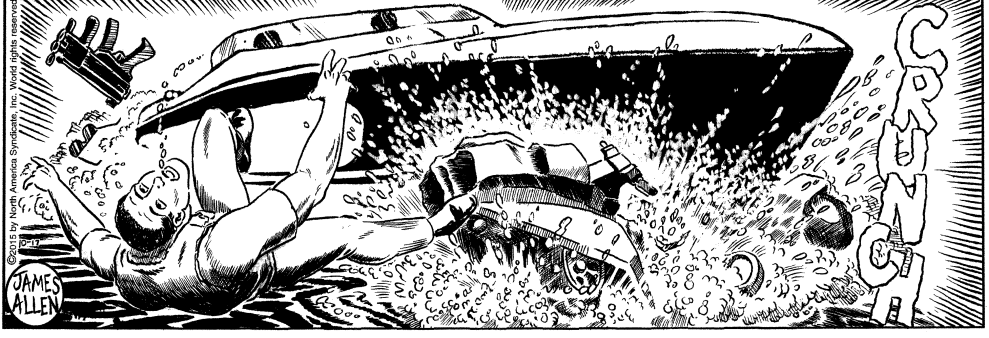
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



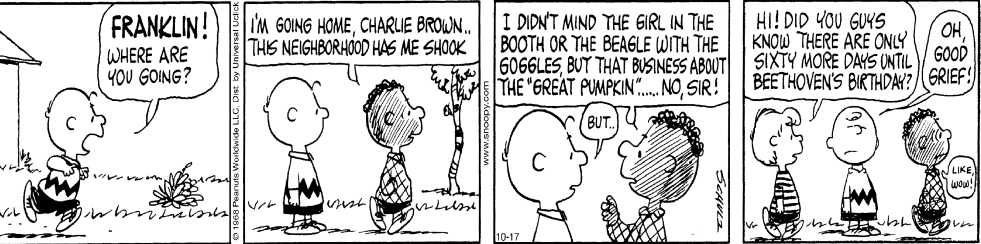
DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



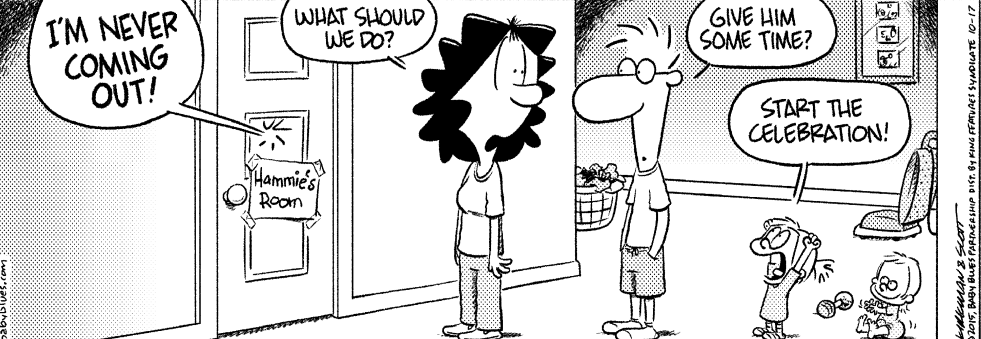
PICKLES by Brian Crane



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). This is when you’re the best worker: when the work provides challenge, adventure and the opportunity to meet new people and see new lands. When it doesn’t provide those things, you get restless.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There’s no shame in desiring more than you can accomplish. Striving leads to attaining, or it leads to frustration. When the latter happens, just know that you’re better off than if you never reached.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone you know will be the subject of gossip. Whether or not there’s any truth to the charges, you can make this situation better with your compassion and crying shoulder.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are self-directed, independent and in the mood to do it your own way. Crashing up against your limits is unpleasant but necessary for growth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you share joy with someone who totally gets you, that joy doubles. Don’t feel bad if that person is hard to find. There are so many who are unreasonably threatened by the happiness of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone you love is in a gloomy place. The situation is

not desperate, but it could go that way if left untreated. Your love and attention will go a long way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can no longer afford to hold on to the grievance. Too much is at stake. Let it go. What you’ll gain in return is worth so much more: freedom, love, momentum.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The sweetest treasures of your life involve your connection with others. Therefore, anything you do to strengthen those bonds will go a long way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Keeping up appearances can be exhausting, especially if you set the bar too high. What about being a lovable mess once in a while? Today is the perfect time to let your guard down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you imagine will bring you happiness just might. This is your day to investigate. Start by asking the others who have it: “How happy are you?”

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Get intentional and aggressive. This is no day for a “que sera sera” attitude. “What will be, will be” won’t do. “What will be” is what you decide to make happen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Small talks have great benefits to our bodies, minds and souls, as they express the good will and acceptance we so need. We take care of one another by paying attention to what others have to say.



HOLIDAY MATHIS