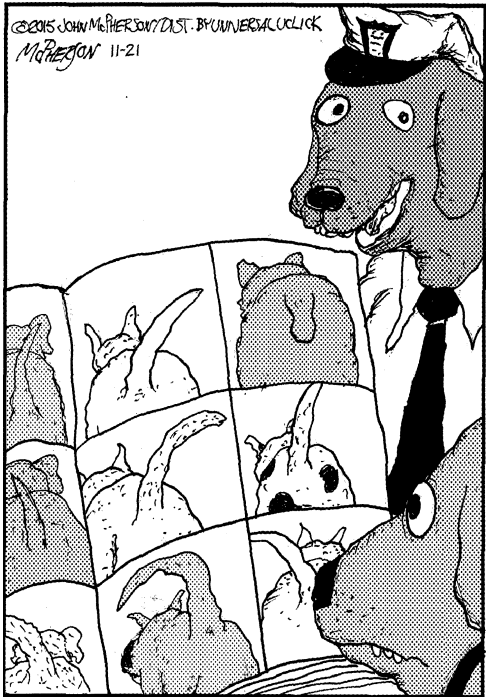


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Let us know if you recognize the guy who stole your purse, Mrs. Bassett."

Daughter irked by mom's stubbornness

Dear Abby: I'm 22 and my mom is probably my best friend. She's from Lebanon and grew up during a time of war. Her culture taught her to sacrifice — to put the needs of others before her own. She has a good job and earns an excellent salary. My father is retired. Their marriage is not a good one, and Mom is in sort of a rut. She dresses sloppy and buys only "bargains."

Her hair is always a mess. Every time we go shopping, it's a fight because I want her to buy the nice clothes she can afford.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I want her to be presentable. But she's stubborn and always makes an excuse for why she "doesn't need them" or "can't get them." How should I handle this situation? — *Caring Daughter in Encino, Calif.*

Dear Caring Daughter: Where is the money your mother earns going? Is she saving or investing it?

Does she give it to your father? She may present herself the way she does because she's depressed about her marriage or something else.

Before trying again to give your mother an image reboot, talk with her. Tell her you love her, are concerned about her, and ask why she doesn't take better care of herself.

Then listen. Your mother may come from another culture, but she has much to teach you.

Dear Abby: Up to this point in my academic career, I have always been known for being a smart, diligent student. I graduated from high school with academic accolades and one of the highest GPAs in the graduating class.

However, since starting college this semester, I have become apathetic toward school, as if to say, "I have worked this hard already; why bother working anymore?"

Because of this, I'm failing most of my classes — as only a freshman, mind you. Although I recognize my attitude is terrible, I haven't been able to get rid of it and get to work again.

I'm confused about where this apathy came from, and I don't want it to get any worse.

Would you have any ideas as to why I might feel this way, and possible suggestions about how to get myself back on track? — *Unmotivated in Maryland*

Dear Unmotivated: Not knowing you and your circumstances, I can't be sure why you're feeling the way you do.

That's why I'm advising you to head for the student counseling center RIGHT AWAY, and talk to someone about these feelings of "apathy."

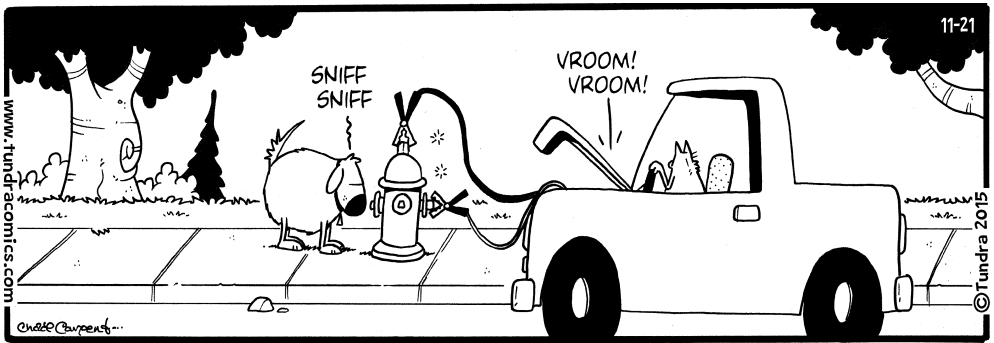
You may be depressed, or need a break from your studies before you can go full speed ahead.

The college environment can be overwhelming because it is so different from what you have been used to.

But you won't know what is causing this unless you ask.

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

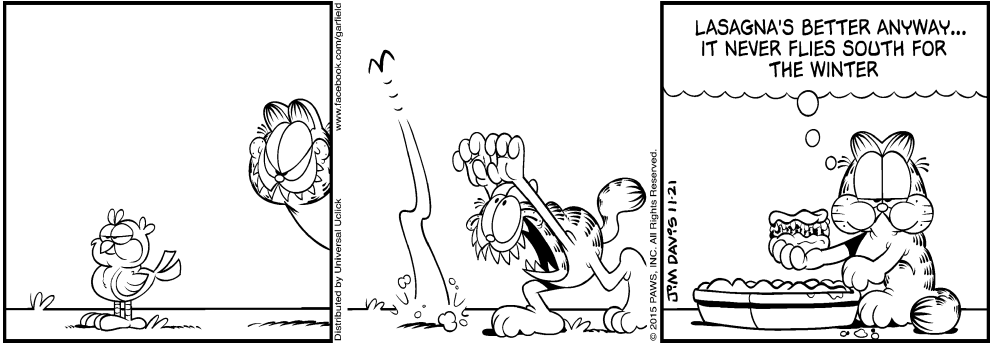
TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



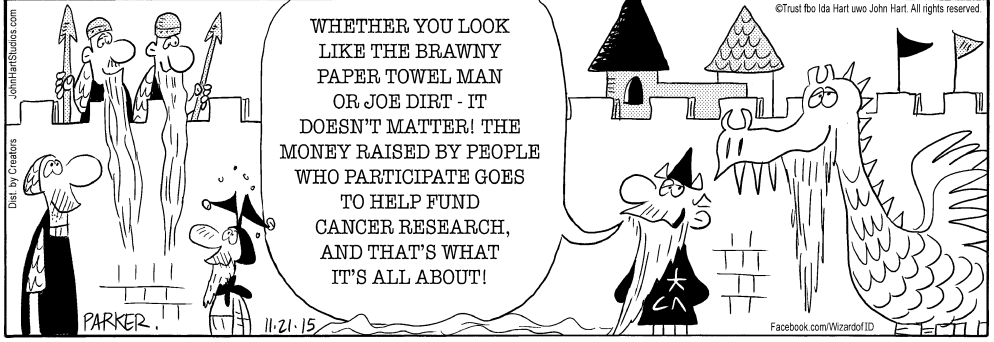
GARFIELD by Jim Davis



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



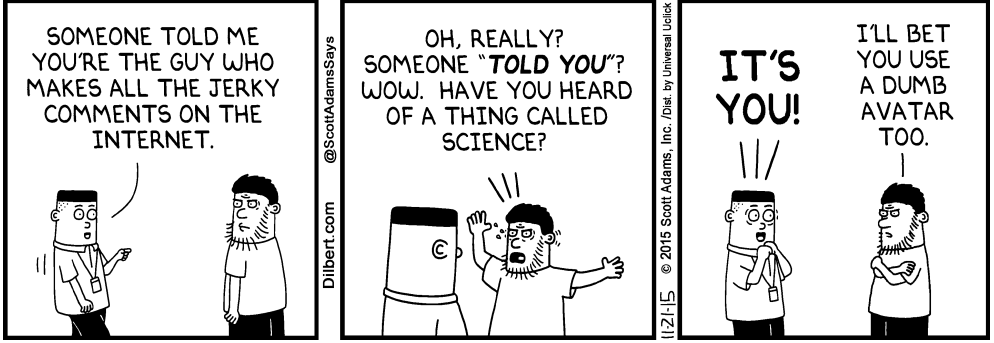
WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



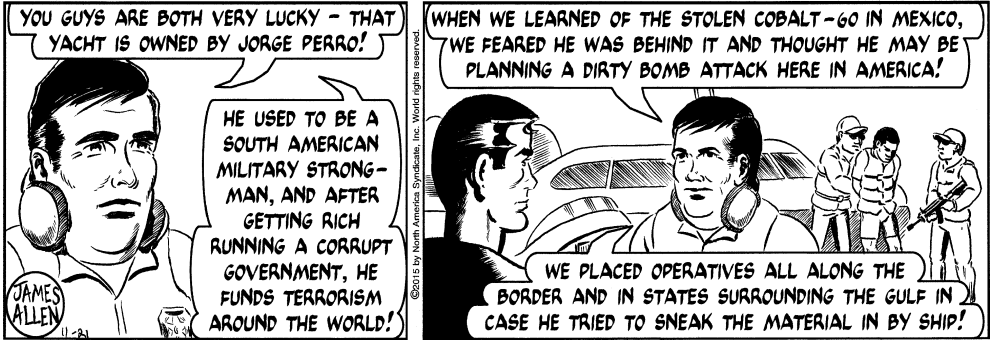
THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk



DILBERT by Scott Adams



MARK TRAIL by James Allen



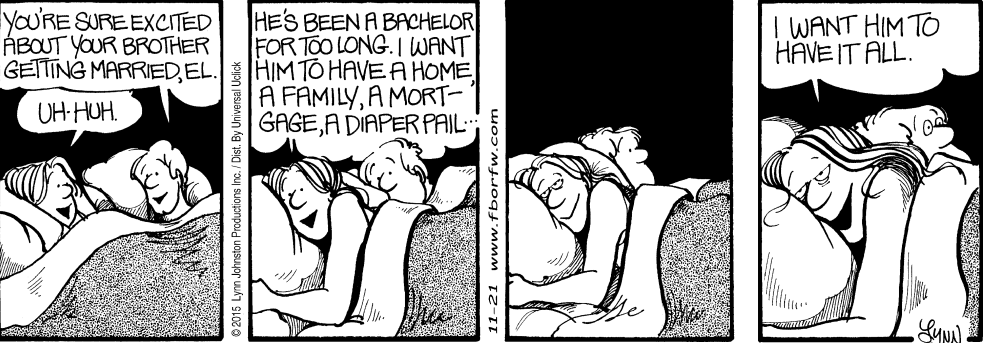
PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



PICKLES by Brian Crane



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



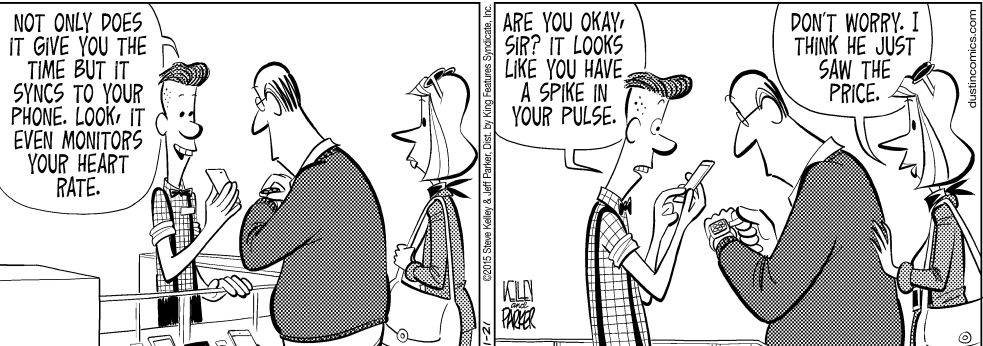
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you agree to another person's qualifications, you'll lose. Take charge of the game. Make your own qualifications. When it's your moment, don't let anyone else control the scene.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Yes, time is money, but it's so much more valuable than money, really. In the end, no dollar amount can buy a person more time. So to whom will you give your time? That person is lucky indeed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones will go out of their way to assist you, mostly because you are warm, open and appreciative every time they do. Helping you is rewarding for them. You make yourself fun to help.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your cosmic gift: objectivity. Give some thought to how you'd like to be perceived, and work on promoting this aspect of yourself in all of your dealings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This day won't seem special at first, but it is. It starts with your appreciation for the gift of life. When you think of the lives of others, you feel mighty grateful that you get to live yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Use your dramatic flair to bring people together. Your

instinct about how to create a mood won't fail you. Set the stage for a wonderful experience, and then invite people to enjoy it with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In an ideal world you would see with perfect clarity before you made your decision. This isn't practical. It's not even possible. There is no way to take in all the factors. Go with your gut.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be amazed at what others do to help you, though you should know that you would do the same and more for them, and probably already have.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ask to get paid for your work. If you don't, people will devalue your contribution. You don't have to charge a big sum, but do charge something.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like a porcupine, you are capable of shooting quills in self-defense. Yours are emotional, of course, but that doesn't make them any less painful to those who are on the receiving end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). However disconcerting it may seem to be out of step with the others around you, this is actually a good thing. It will keep you objective. You'll be immune to group hypnosis.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe it's for the best that hearts have strong intelligence but cannot think. As one 17th-century philosopher put it, "The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of" (Blaise Pascal).



HOLIDAY MATHIS