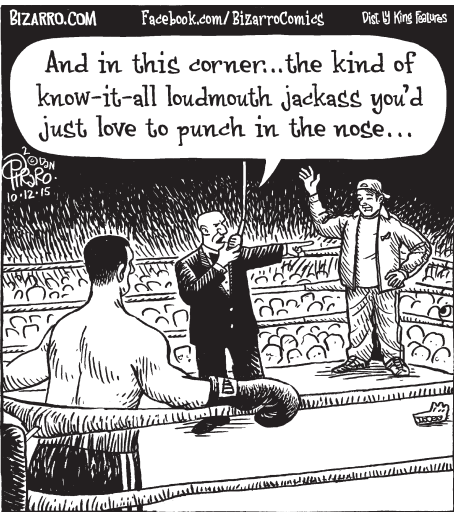


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



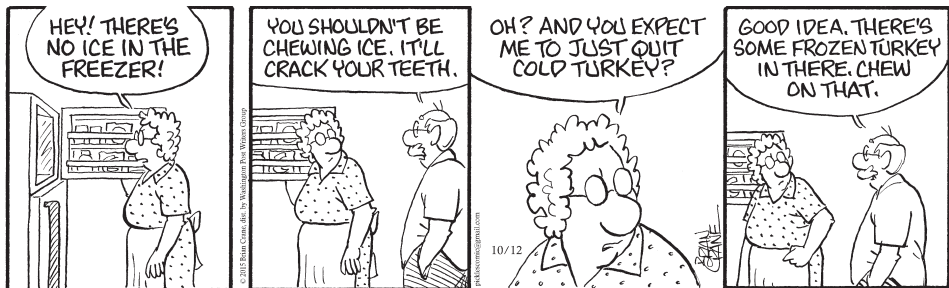
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



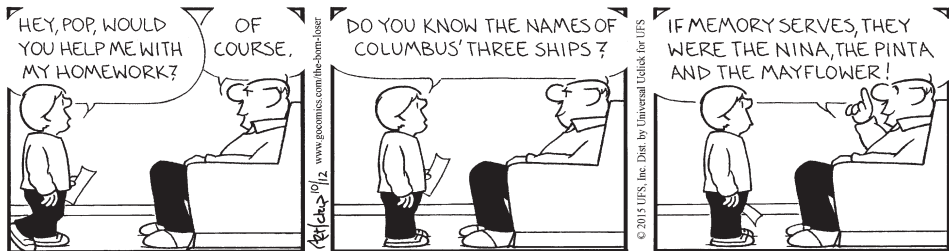
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



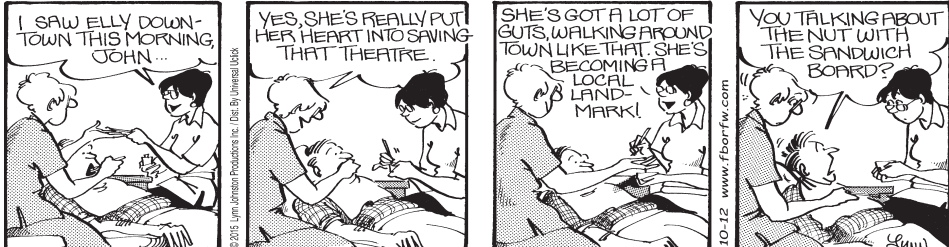
BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Semester Abroad Offers Couple A Chance To Grow

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.)

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun and Moon in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, OCT. 12, 2015:

This year you open up to a new beginning in an important area of your life. You will be excited by what occurs, and you'll also feel more receptive and creative. Your magnetism soars, so use this year well. If you are single, you will be surrounded by people who would love to have a deeper bond with you. Someone significant is likely to enter your life this year; don't commit until you are ready. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to change a facet of your relationship. Be sure to let your sweetie have equal say. One LIBRA in particular is able to read your mind.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Others could be trying to get your approval, but you might wonder about their approach and style. Try not to overthink this issue. Those who seek you out seem to be on their high horse and set in their ways. Feel free to do whatever suits you. Tonight: Spontaneity works.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Pace yourself, and be willing to say "no" to some requests if they make you feel pressured. You have a lot on your mind. You will need some space to sort through your thoughts. You might decide that it's time for a new health resolution. Tonight: Get some exercise.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

You could be in a situation that is not in your control, as others seem to be more dominant at the moment. Don't allow this to get to you. Push comes to shove quickly if you buy into someone else's version of a story. Tonight: Decide on a new beginning.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You could be in a situation where you have no say in what goes on. Someone else wants control, and will do whatever he or she needs to in order to have it. Brace yourself for a roller coaster ride, but know that the outcome will be positive. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

A lot is happening around you. Step

back and start observing. You will see more clearly while also gaining incisive insight. Surprising news comes forward. Focus on communication where you can excel and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Join a family member for dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

You could be in a position where you need to do something differently from how you have in the past. What happens as a result could surprise you. If you are careful with your finances, you will be able to greet a new beginning. Tonight: Reach out to a friend at a distance.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

A New Moon in your sign brings the chance for a fresh start. You have the ability to make changes, if you so desire. Be aware of the crosswinds that surround you. You might not be sure of what you want or expect from others at first. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Listen to news that is forthcoming, and you will get ahead of a situation. Honor a fast change, but be willing to go your own way if you don't like what is coming down. You always have a choice, although you might not like your options. Tonight: Brainstorm with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might want to spread your wings and zero in on a long-term goal. Attend to what must be done, and make some time for a special interest. A meeting could be provocative. You have a way of adding to group situations that others appreciate. Tonight: Follow the crowd.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

You could witness a lot of chaos around you. Your inclination will be to step right in and take over. If you do, know that there could be a strong reaction. However, if you wait until you are asked to help, the response will be much more positive. Tonight: Make it your treat.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

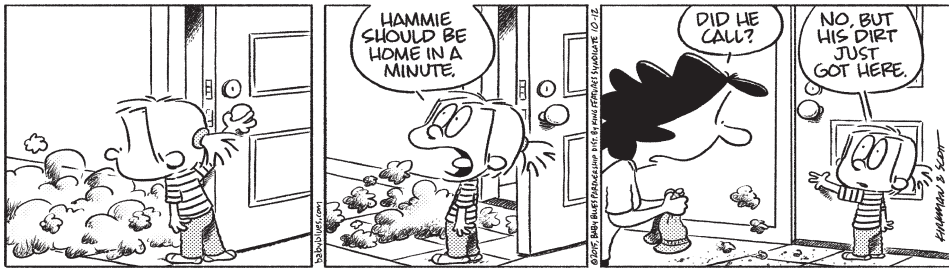
Reach out for more information. How you see a matter might change as the day goes on. Incoming news could force you to wonder what is happening. You'll see someone in a different light by the end of the day. Tonight: Return calls and emails first.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

You might be in a situation where you see far more than you have in a while. Use caution; your finances, as well as someone else's, could be involved. Laughter surrounds a new beginning involving a friend or loved one. Tonight: Favorite people, favorite place.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

