

DEAR ABBY

Semester abroad offers couple chance to grow



JEANNE PHILLIPS

**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? I have 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.)

**Forecast for Houma**  
**Today** Mostly sunny and nice  
**Tonight** Mostly clear and nice  
**Tuesday** Some sun with a shower in spots in the afternoon  
**Wednesday** Nice with plenty of sun  
**LOCAL ALMANAC**  
**SUN & MOON**  
**MOON** Waxing Crescent  
**PERCENTAGE OF A PERSON'S SUCCESS IS PURE LUCK**

DILBERT | Scott Adams



ZITS | Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



POUCH CAFE | Pam Gribble



HOROSCOPES

**Happy Birthday:** Don't dwell on the past. Live in the moment and make the most efficient moves to guide you into the future. Use your skills, intellect and experience to make the changes that will bring you the greatest happiness. Shake things up and don't fear what others think or say. It's your life and it's time you started living it. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 27, 34, 38, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Listen to someone you respect and you will gain the momentum to do your own thing. Learn from past experiences and make the changes that will improve your life. It's time to shake things up and take on new challenges. Embrace the future. \*\*\*

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Professional connections will be able to help you advance. Romance is in the stars, and socializing will spark interest in a change of location or developing a long distance relationship. Evolutions will escalate. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Being too opinionated will lead to an unfortunate misunderstanding. Don't let anger take over when you should be directing physical efforts into improvements. Diplomacy will be necessary if you want to convince others to do things your way. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stop pontificating and start

precisely. Make personal and professional changes that will fit your current plans. Don't worry about complaints if reality suggestions aren't being offered. Follow your intuition and success will be yours. Do something special for someone you love. \*\*\*\*

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your ability to outtalk and outmaneuver others will put you in a key position. Tell it like it is and do what you have to do to reach your goals. Take on a challenge and you'll impress someone of influence. \*\*\*

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Back away politely if someone is demanding. Put some pressure on the people who need to do their fair share, and it will happen. An event or activity that interests you deserves your undivided attention. Do what's best for you. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Try something new and you will meet someone you are sparking time with. Don't limit the possibilities by sticking around someone who brings you down. Venture into new territory and see what transpires. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Beef up your resume or find a new creative outlet that has the potential to bring in a few extra dollars. Good fortune can be yours if you allow your imagination to wander and

your talents to expand in new directions. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You'll face opposition if you exaggerate your qualifications. A problem with someone you are close to will set you back. If you have promised to get involved in a joint venture, stick close to home and avoid dealing with institutions. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't give into someone using emotional manipulation. Protect your assets and possessions and be prepared to say no if necessary. Trust only in the things that you know to be factual. Love is highlighted. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Make your money work for you. You can sign contracts, move money around or invest in something that will help you alter an agreement that no longer fits your current situation. Speak up and make things happen. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Find out what's expected of you before you accept help. Someone will try to steal your thunder or take credit for something you did all by yourself. Protect your rights and present the facts. Don't commit to anything or anyone. **3 Stars Birthday Baby:** You are intuitive, intelligent and sensitive. You are unpredictable, engaging and tough-tuff.

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**SUDOKU** Level: 1  
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 1 3 4 8 9  
 9 1 8 5 7  
 2 5 7 3 5  
 6 2 1 7 5  
 7 8 4 9 1  
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CROSSWORD | EUGENE SHEFFER

**ACROSS**  
 11 NYPD rank  
 5 Rotating part  
 8 On in years  
 12 U.S.  
 13 Hearty brew  
 14 Unaccompanied  
 15 Indian wrap  
 16 Money movement  
 18 Civil War battle site in Tennessee  
 20 Almost not  
 21 Brice a—  
 23 Apiece  
 24 Boxing play  
 28 Unimpaired  
 31 Blackbird  
 32 Soft drink  
 34 Vast expense  
 35 Immaculate  
 37 Late-night TV fare  
 39 Allow

**DOWN**  
 41 Thin aperture  
 42 Bird with a fanlike crest  
 45 Removed the lid  
 49 Strong current  
 51 Ashen  
 52 "Eleni" author Nicholas  
 53 Rd.  
 54 Tablet  
 55 Individualism  
 56 Despondent  
 57 Other-wise  
 17 Mama — Elliot  
 19 Spheres  
 22 Musical endings  
 24 "Humbug"  
 25 Lemons  
 26 Loosen  
 27 Rolled around in mud  
 29 Zodiac cat  
 30 Legislation  
 33 Omit  
 36 Reservation  
 37 Cereals  
 38 Treeless tract  
 40 Anderson's "High —"  
 42 Quasi-modernist creator  
 43 — even keel  
 44 Greek vowels  
 46 Hammer's target  
 47 Right angles  
 48 Remove from the text  
 50 Eggs

**Solution time: 21 mins.**  
 Saturday's answer 10/12  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

**Fall Furniture Sale**  
 Up To 12 Months Interest Free Financing!  
 Emile's Furniture & Appliances  
 609 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux - 446-7555  
 WWW.EMILES-FURNITURE.NET

**PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**  
 Proposed BP Settlement Consent Decree and Dispositive Horizon Oil Spill Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for the Gulf of Mexico

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are holding public meetings to discuss the proposed Consent Decree with BP that would resolve both a settlement between BP and the United States, and the BP Gulf oil spill cleanup costs. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) are holding public meetings to discuss the proposed Consent Decree with BP that would resolve both a settlement between BP and the United States, and the BP Gulf oil spill cleanup costs.

Date	Times	Location
10/19/2015	5:30 PM - Open House 6:00 PM - Meeting	Grandview by Mariner - Houston 1411 Lakewood Drive Houston, TX 77057
10/22/2015	5:30 PM - Open House 6:00 PM - Meeting	Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center Cadeau Ballroom 1900 South Peters Street New Orleans, LA 70114

To download the proposed Consent Decree visit <http://www.justice.gov/epa/consent-decree>. To view the Trustee Draft programmatic damage assessment and restoration plan visit <http://www.doi.gov/gomr>. A list of locations where copies of the documents have been placed for public review and a list of all public meetings will be provided upon request. For additional information on the Consent Decree and a list of public meetings visit [www.doi.gov/gomr](http://www.doi.gov/gomr). In addition to verbal comments received at public meetings, the public may submit written comments through December 4, 2015.

For the Consent Decree:  
 • Online: <http://www.justice.gov/epa/consent-decree>  
 • By U.S. Mail: U.S. Department of Justice, DO, Box 7611, Washington, DC 20547-7611 and should refer to U.S. BP Exploration and Production et al. Civil No. 10-2-0181 (E.D. La.) (entered on 08/12/15). In Re: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, April 20, 2012, U.S. Fed. No. 12-2-0022.

For the Draft Plan:  
 • Online: [www.doi.gov/gomr](http://www.doi.gov/gomr) or [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)  
 • By U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 416577, Houston, TX 77241

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 Permit to be prepared by the American subcommittee. Any person requesting special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the Bureau at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling: Bureau Registration at the contact information above.