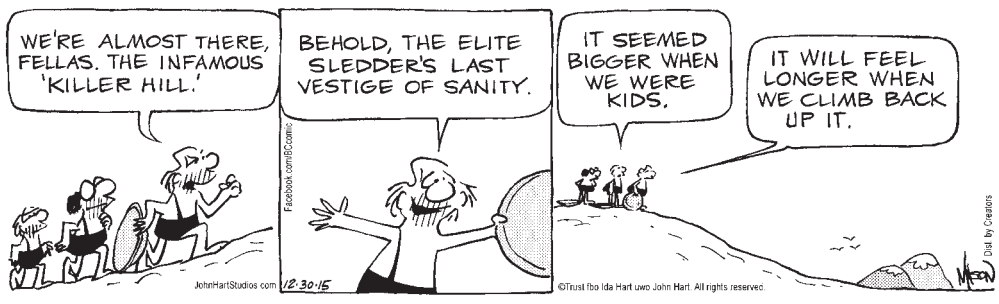
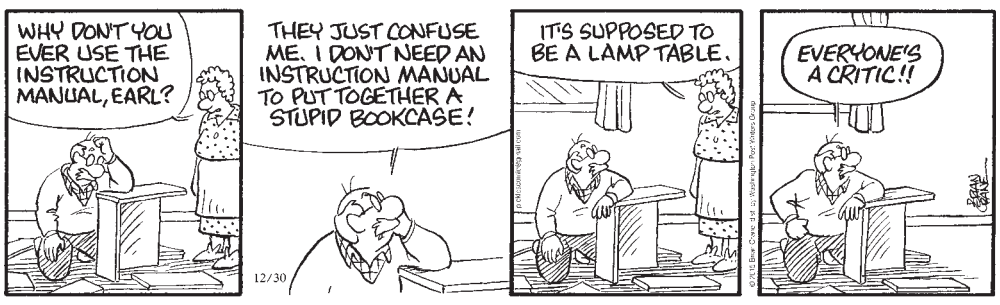
PEANUTS BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR WORSE BY LYNN JOHNSTON

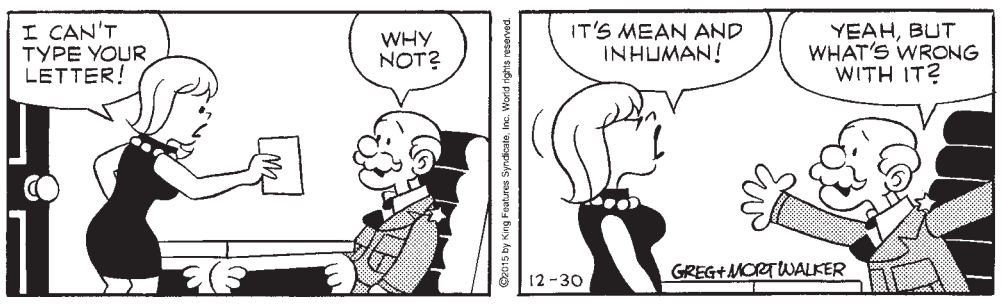
B.C. BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE

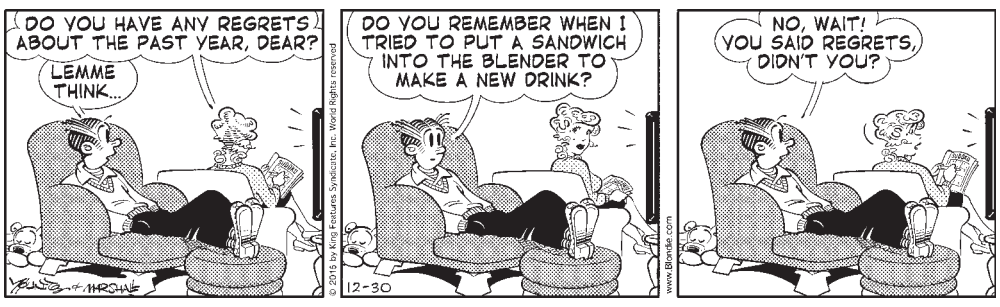


BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

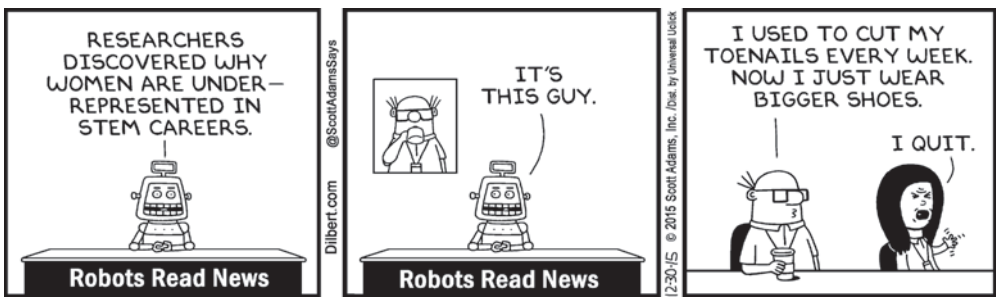


GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

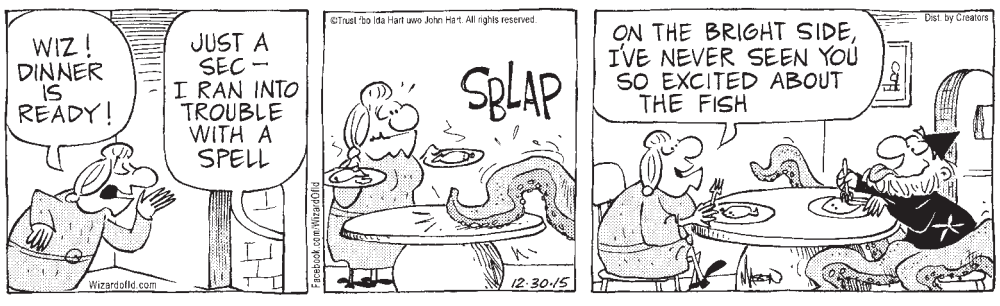
BLONDIE BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



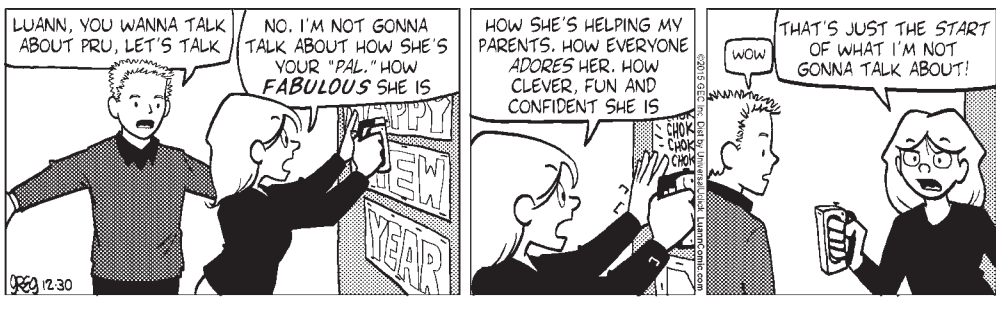
DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS



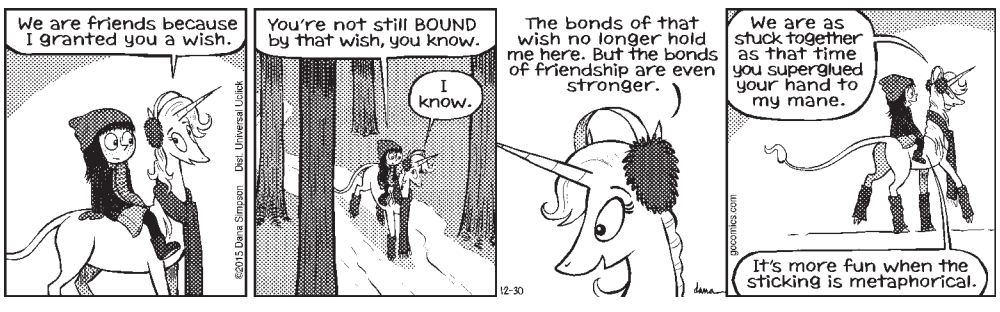
THE WIZARD OF ID BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



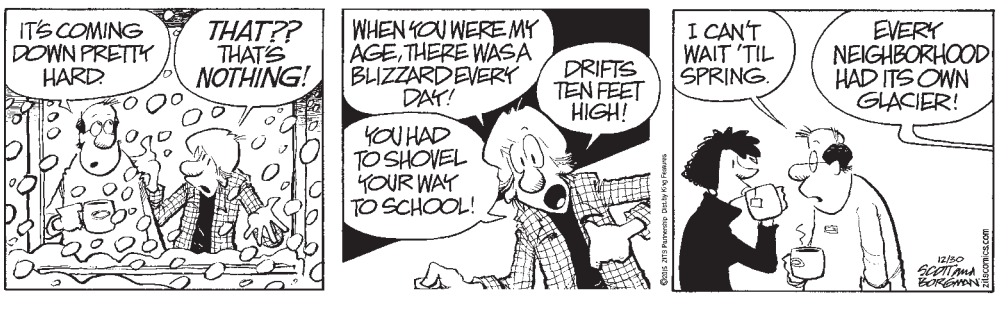
LUANN BY GREG EVANS



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN BY DANA SIMPSON



ZITS BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIG NATE BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

DEAR ABBY

Catholic hospitals value lives of mother and child

JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

Dear Abby: You printed a letter from a woman (Nov. 25) whose husband told her while she was pregnant that, if it came to a choice, he would choose the life of the baby over hers. Your response contained a piece of misinformation I would appreciate you correcting for your readers.

You asserted that it is Catholic policy to save the life of the baby over the mother in obstetrical emergencies. Abby, that is one of the oldest but most persistent pieces of misinformation out there! This inaccurate statement has been replayed even in movies in spite of repeated denials by Catholic hospitals and the professionals who render care in them.

The fact is: Catholic policy is abundantly clear on the dignity of both mother and baby, and makes no priority of one over the other. Catholic hospitals operate with the same standards of safety in maternity care and are inspected by the same organizations that inspect non-Catholic maternity programs such as the Joint Commission and the licensing agency of each state. Catholic hospitals must adhere to the same robust standards as every other maternity service in the country.

I would appreciate it if you could assure your readers that, while this makes for good movies and novels, it is not the Catholic position. The dignity of the life of both mother and baby are critically important to all those serving in Catholic health care. Thank you for your help with this. — **Sr. Carol Keehan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Health Association**

Dear Sister Carol: Since printing that letter, I have received a crash course in ethics at Catholic hospitals. I apologize to you and to my Catholic readers for saying what I did. In the interest of educating my readers, I am sharing some of the enlightening letters I received. Read on:

Dear Abby: In the days before blood banks and antibiotics, very few women survived C-sections. Obstetrical complications (now solved by surgical delivery) created a dilemma: Either allow a dysfunctional labor to continue until the child died and could be forcibly dragged or dissected through the birth canal, or perform the surgery that would cause the mother's death.

About the only time such an issue could arise in contemporary America would be in the rare case of a pregnant woman who is discovered to have an aggressive cancer, and has to decide whether to start chemo or radiation therapy that could abort or harm the fetus, or delay until after delivery, which could allow the tumor to grow or metastasize. — **Robin T., Richmond, Calif.**

Dear Abby: Devout Catholics are pro-life in every instance, and, of course, efforts to save both mother and infant are always the rule. But the value of the life of a newborn never surpasses the value of the life of the mother. Never! — **Catholic Doctor In Ohio**

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 30, 1915

Tomorrow John Barleycorn sings his swan song in Pendleton and in all other parts of Oregon and Washington. It is the last day of the wet year of 1915 and Saturday will usher in the prohibition year of 1916. The last expiring moments of King Booze in Pendleton is marked by an increased consumption on the part of the habitual drinkers and a laying in of supplies by all classes. Many of the saloons are offering bargains in all varieties of booze and many residents have patronized the sales liberally. One bartender stated yesterday that during the past week men had bought liquor from him who had never before passed a nickel over his bar. Some are purchasing the liquor for moderate consumption at home. Some want it for possible medical use. Others simply say, "It's always nice to have a little whiskey or brandy or gin around the house. You never know just when you are going to need it."

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 30, 1965

"I have a problem," Miss Joni Faust of Milton-Freewater informed Gov. Mark Hatfield. The 8-year-old girl wrote the governor that she saves bubble gum wrappers and sent in 30 cents and five wrappers of one brand last summer to get a camera. "I still haven't received the camera," she said. She added in a postscript that "my parents vote for you. I am proud they do." Hatfield replied that he has forwarded her letter to Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien. He added, "One of the great assets of youth is faith — faith in the mails, faith in advertising, faith in a promise. Somewhere along the line you have been let down. I hope you will get some satisfaction from Mr. O'Brien, and if there be fraud involved, your letter may have saved other children from disappointment."

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 30, 1990

Sometimes Phil McAlmond preaches in his blue jeans because it sends a signal to his congregation. "And some days I'm in a suit. But I am a pastor, not because of how I dress and not because of my education," he said. "Inevitably people are going to see my humanity so I'm forewarning them." McAlmond is the new pastor of Hermiston's Desert Springs Foursquare Church. McAlmond's humanity includes a troubled past that involved, at his lowest point, severe drug addiction. He now uses his experiences as a kind of first-person illustration. His aim is to spare others from the spiritual disillusionment he experienced in his youth, when church leaders knowingly violated teachings they professed and lied to have him banned from his church.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 364th day of 2015. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

On this date:

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for $10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (Michael Abram was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

In 2006, Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein had been hanged; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 81. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 81. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 80. Actor Jack Riley is 80. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 78. TV director James Burrows is 75. Actor Fred Ward is 73. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 73. Actress Concetta Tomei is 70. Singer Patti Smith is 69. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 58. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 56. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 54. Movie director Bennett Miller (Film: "Foxcatcher") is 49. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 46. Golfer Tiger Woods is 40. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 37. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 33. NBA player LeBron James is 31.

Thought for Today: "The meek shall inherit the earth — if that's all right with you." — *Author unknown.*