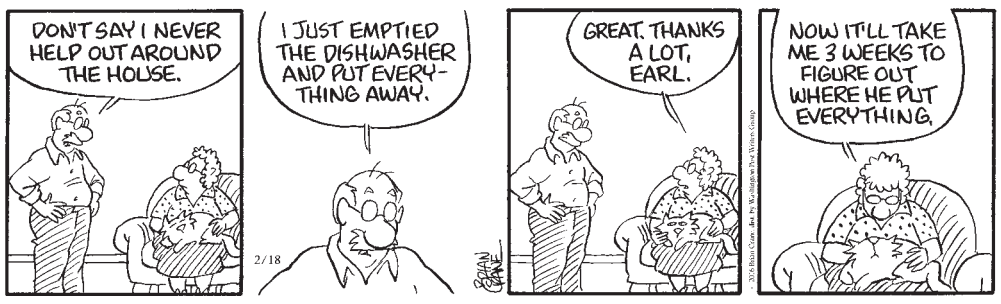
PEANUTS BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR WORSE BY LYNN JOHNSTON

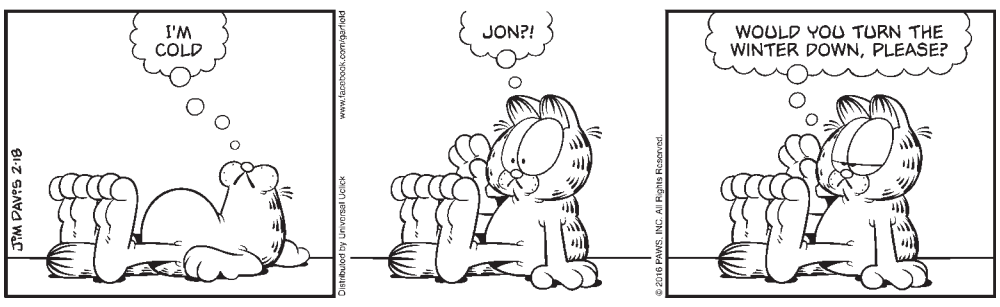
B.C. BY JOHNNY HART

PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE

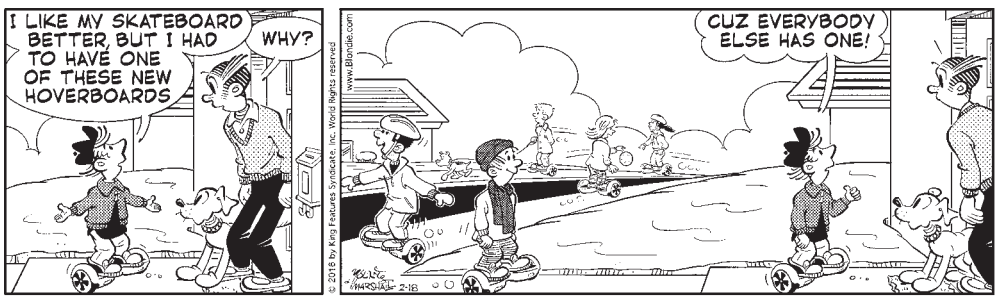


BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

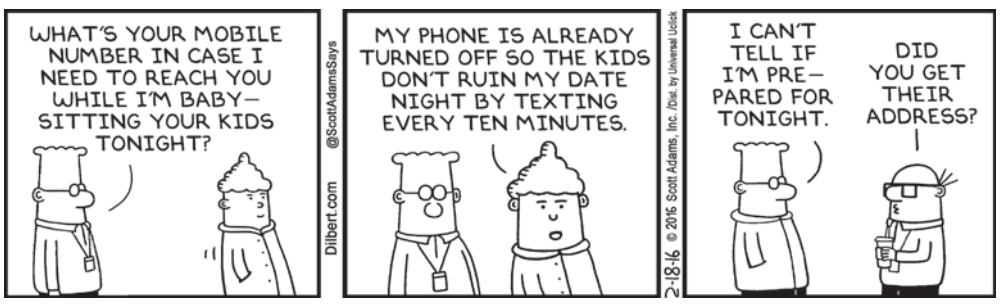
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



BLONDIE BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

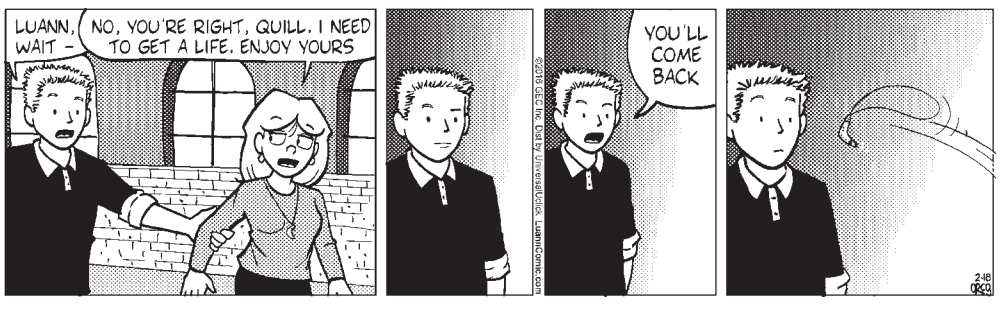


DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS



THE WIZARD OF ID BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

LUANN BY GREG EVANS



ZITS BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

DEAR ABBY

Parents still worry about kids even after they've grown up

JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

Dear Abby: At least "Renee in Oregon" (Sept. 10), who asked her adult daughters for their friends' phone numbers, cares enough to want someone to call if her adult children don't respond. I didn't regard her request as nosy or overbearing, simply so she'd have a "just in case" number. Renee's daughters sound like ungrateful brats who don't care anything about worrying their parents.

I'm thankful my four adult children will text me in response to my call to let me know they are OK. I have never had a problem getting a contact number from them for a neighbor or friend. Two of them offered the information without my asking.

I have only had to call a contact once. Thank goodness it was only a matter of a stolen phone, not a sick or injured child. I'm blessed my kids understand that it's not to get in their business, but a logical safety issue. — **Lucky Dad In Kentucky**

Dear Lucky Dad: I'm glad for you. The response from readers about Renee's letter was varied, and it was informative to read their perspectives:

Dear Abby: Thanks for your answer to Renee. It validated my whole life as a daughter of a domineering mother.

She is 92. I'm 62 and live 40 miles from her. I have a full-time job, take care of a small farm and still, after my weekly visit, have to call her to let her know I got home OK.

She also asks for my friends' phone numbers. I give her inaccurate ones so she can't pester them. My office knows to not put her calls through. I have asked her to call my cell, leave a message and I'll call her back when I am on break.

When I was younger, if she couldn't reach me by phone, she would call the police and the ERs, send my poor father to my house to look for me, or call my veterinarian to have him make a farm call — just to be sure I hadn't been ax-murdered.

The negative effect this has had on our relationship is profound. I have tried repeatedly to explain it to her, but she has never "gotten it," so I have created barriers in order to maintain boundaries. She has a number she can call for her in-home care providers, so if her need is real, she can get help — and there's always 911. I refuse to exist just for her to engulf. — **Purposely Childless In Missouri**

Dear Abby: Sometimes parents do need a contact person for emergencies. At what point should a person have to contact the police?

Years ago, parents here in Northern California didn't hear from their adult son for a week or two. They thought he was with his live-in girlfriend. She thought he had gone to see them. Sadly, his body was found stuffed in an irrigation pipe weeks later. He had been robbed and murdered.

Hopefully, Renee's three daughters are close enough to have regular contact with each other and can call their parents on a regular timetable to check in and assure them all is well. — **California Mom**

Dear Abby: Telling Renee she was the reason her daughters moved so far away and don't answer her calls was unnecessarily hurtful. You have no idea why her daughters are so distant.

A better option would have been to suggest she approach her kids because she is concerned as their mother and they live so far from her. Rather than a list of their friends, she should ask each of them if there's someone close to them she might use as an emergency contact. — **Angie In Michigan**

Dear Abby: I have two daughters. If I asked them for this information, they wouldn't hesitate to hand it over. I think that's because my approach with my girls has always been, the more I stay out of their lives, the more they tell me. I empathize with Renee and sincerely hope she learns to back off. — **No Problems Here**

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 18, 1916

Walter Mountain yesterday afternoon won the first round of his fight to retain the 52 gallon barrel of whiskey seized recently by Sheriff Taylor when he raided the rooming house of Mrs. James Harris. He made a showing of ownership yesterday afternoon which Justice of the Peace Parkes considered sufficient to entitle him to retain the liquor. Mr. Mountain testified that he purchased the barrel of whiskey for his own private use and stored it at the rooming house. Mrs. Harris, who is his mother-in-law, testified that Mountain brought the liquor there about the middle of December and left it while he was absent on a honeymoon trip.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 18, 1966

"Come to Mustang Country," Pendleton's Jaycees told the other 106 chapters in Oregon in beginning to publicize the state convention to be held here May 13-15. The results "scare me," Ed Carle, project chairman, said. "We will need every available room." Reservations already have been made for 700 persons — from only 22 of the 106 chapters. Attractions of the convention include a talk by Paul Harvey, nationally known news commentator, to which the public is invited. Carle said at least 2,000 persons are expected to attend.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 18, 1991

Patriots were out in force Saturday when a Patriots Parade wound its way through Milton-Freewater in a show of support for U.S. troops serving in the Persian Gulf. In addition to the floats and parade participants, many spectators wore red, white and blue clothing or waved American flags. The Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce estimated more than 2,000 people rode and walked from one end of Main Street to the other while hundreds more watched from curbside. Most gathered afterward for a rally at City Hall, at which the crowd sang patriotic songs and heard from dignitaries, including letters from Sen. Mark Hatfield and President Bush. The crowd also joined in prayer for a quick resolution to the war.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 49th day of 2016. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 1516, Mary Tudor, the Queen of England who came to be known as "Bloody Mary" for her persecution of Protestants, was born in Greenwich.

On this date:

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as provisional president of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time (after being published in Britain and Canada).

In 1913, Mexican President Francisco I. Madero and Vice President Jose Maria Pino Suarez were arrested during a military coup (both were shot to death on Feb. 22).

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In 1943, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of the Chinese leader, addressed members of the Senate and then the House, becoming the first Chinese national to address both houses of the U.S. Congress.

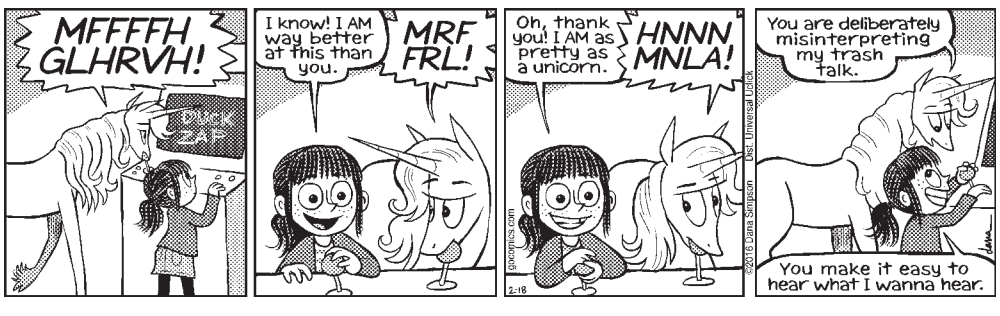
In 1953, "Bwana Devil," the movie that heralded the 3D fad of the 1950s, had its New York opening.

In 1984, Italy and the Vatican signed an accord under which Roman Catholicism ceased to be the state religion of Italy.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Kennedy is 91. Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 89. Author Toni Morrison is 85. Movie director Milos Forman is 84. Singer Yoko Ono is 83. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 77. Singer Irma Thomas is 75. Rock musician Larry Rust (Iron Butterfly) is 63. Actor John Travolta is 62. Game show host Vanna White is 59. Actor Matt Dillon is 52. Rapper Dr. Dre is 51. Actress Molly Ringwald is 48. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 36. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 28.

Thought for Today: "Opinion is that exercise of the human will which helps us to make a decision without information." — *John Erskine, American author and educator (1879-1951).*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE BY LINCOLN PEIRCE