

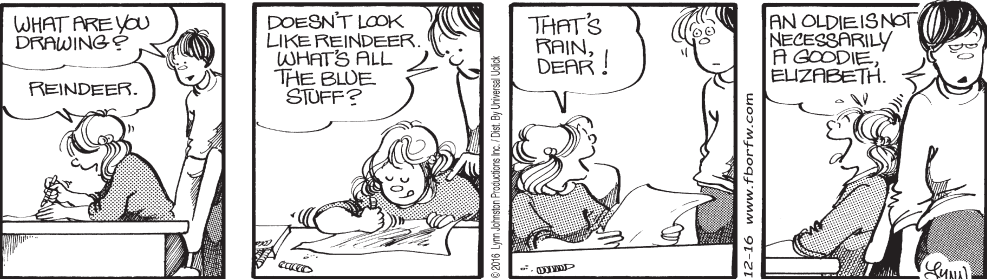
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



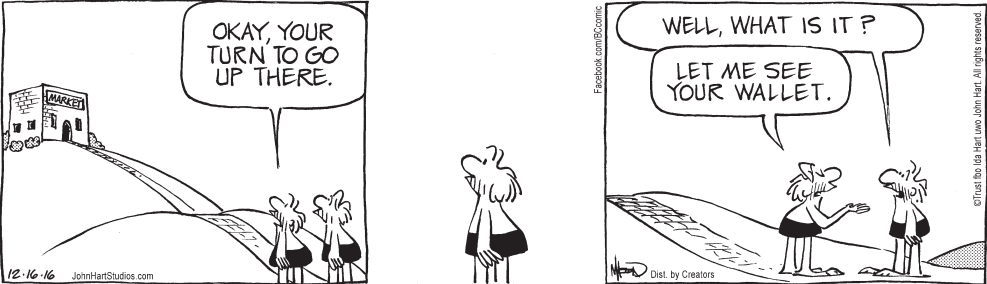
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



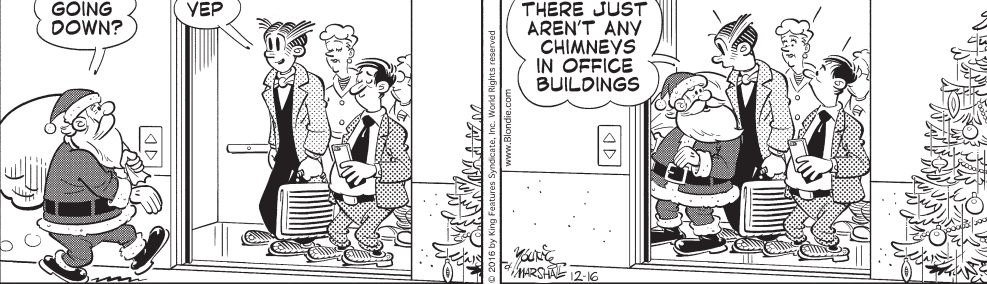
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



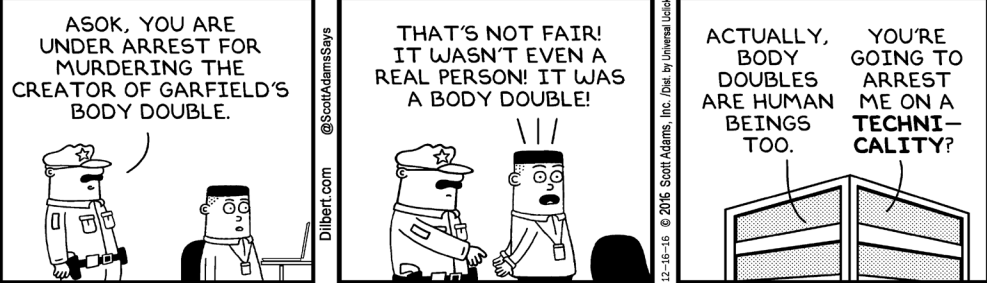
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



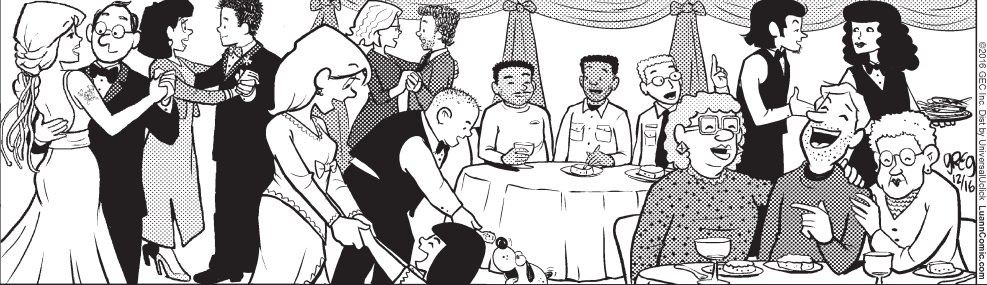
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Mom and daughter launch into premature ring-shopping

Dear Abby: My boyfriend and I have been dating for almost eight months. We love each other and talk often about marriage, family, etc.

The other night — just for fun — I looked online at rings and showed my mom a few I really loved. She quickly dismissed all of them, and started telling me how I need a big stone and that it needs to be expensive. Then she went online and looked herself and was telling me which ones I should be interested in. Mom offered to take me to a jeweler's to find the "perfect" ring.

She has always been a helicopter parent, but now, as my boyfriend and I are becoming more serious, she's going into warp drive. How can I tell her gently to butt out? Also, what's your advice on the ring situation? — **Daughter Of A Helicopter Mom**

Dear Daughter: You and your mother are both jumping the gun. "Talking often of marriage, family, etc." is not an engagement. If you allow your mother to involve herself in this, I predict you will never get engaged because your boyfriend — if he's smart — will run for the hills. When and if you do decide to tie the knot, the two of you should go to a jeweler together and select something he can afford and you will enjoy wearing. Period.

Dear Abby: I'm a young woman in my 20s. I have been blessed with a loving family, lots of opportunities and people who care about me. My problem is, I don't feel worthy of any of it.

A lot of the time when I'm around people, I feel like I'm on the outside looking in — like an intruder. When I join groups and listen, I feel like I'm eavesdropping. When I try to pitch in, I feel like I'm annoying everyone. I try to be like people who other people like, but



JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

I feel I fall far short of the mark. I wish I could change and be less irritating and more interesting, but I don't know how to change my personality, or even if I could. I'm just tired of not feeling worthy enough. I know this feeling isn't rational, but it's here to stay, apparently. What should I do? — **Unworthy**

Dear Unworthy: There is nothing so defeating to social success than low self-esteem — feeling undeserving and not good enough. The first thing

you should do is stop trying to change yourself to please others because it doesn't work. Then try to pinpoint where these feelings of unworthiness originated. If you can't manage it on your own — many people can't — make an appointment to discuss it with a licensed mental health professional. You deserve to feel good about yourself and what you contribute.

Dear Abby: Years ago, it was considered improper to send a holiday card to a friend or family member who experienced the loss of a child or spouse during the year. What is correct today? And what about an invitation to a party? — **Careful In California**

Dear Careful: If there was a "rule" that people who have suffered a loss should not receive a holiday card, I have never heard of it. One would think that those who are grieving would appreciate knowing they were being remembered.

As to inviting the person to a party — not everyone grieves in the same way or for the same length of time. Unless religious custom prevents it, if you think the friend or relative might enjoy the event, by all means extend an invitation. The invitee can always refuse if it's too soon.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 16, 1916

Pendleton almost secured Governor Withycombe to act as Santa Claus at the municipal Christmas celebration. The committee having in charge the selection of a man to impersonate the beneficent Kris Kringle, hit upon the happy idea of having Oregon's chief executive assume the role, and accordingly he was invited. This morning J. F. Robinson, chairman of the committee, received a letter from the governor expressing keen regret over his inability to act. Preparations for the coming session of the legislature prevent him from leaving the capital this month, he writes, but he expresses the hope that he can act next year providing a similar invitation is extended to him.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 16, 1966

A Helen McCune Junior High School student was treated at St. Anthony Hospital Thursday for a head wound received in a shop class accident. Hank Christman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Christman, was back in

school today after being treated for a head wound caused when a file waved by another student slipped from its wooden handle, flew over and struck Christman. Not wanting to take any risks with a head wound, the school sent the youth to the hospital in an ambulance. The wound turned out to be less serious than at first feared.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 16, 1991

Carl Lewis, the Meacham tavern owner convicted last week of nine counts of poaching, was sentenced this morning to spend one year in jail and pay a fine of \$9,000. Lewis is the key figure in what Oregon State Police have described as one of the biggest poaching rings in Oregon history. Officials, who conducted a three-month undercover investigation, estimated that as many as 20 elk a week were being killed for commercial sale prior to a raid at the Blue Mountain Lodge in Meacham last January. In all, seven people were charged in the operation in which game officers alleged hunters from the Umatilla Indian Reservation were commissioned to kill elk for commercial sale out of the tavern.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 351st day of 2016. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).

In 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes struck the central Mississippi Valley with an estimated magnitude of 7.7.

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1930, golfer Bobby Jones became the first recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award honoring outstanding amateur athletes.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

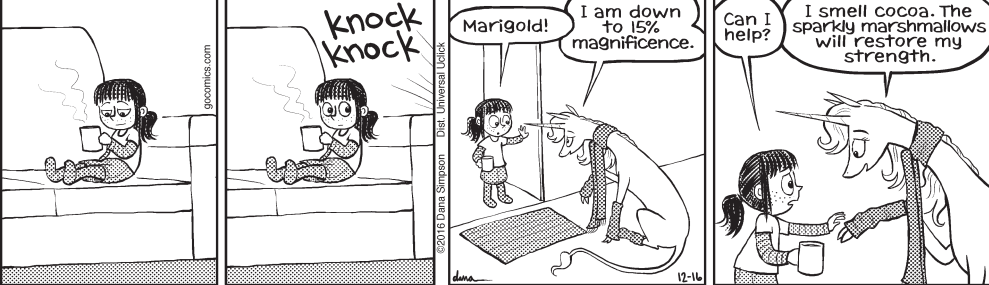
In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 80. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 79. Actress Liv Ullmann is 78. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 75. TV producer Steven Bochco is 73. Former Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 72. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 71. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 70. Actor Ben Cross is 69. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 67. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 65. Actor Xander Berkeley is 61. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 57. Actor Sam Robards is 55. Actor Jon Tenney is 55. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 53. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 53.

Thought for Today: "Somewhere in the world there is an epigram for every dilemma." — *Hendrik Willem Van Loon, Dutch-born journalist and lecturer (1882-1944).*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

