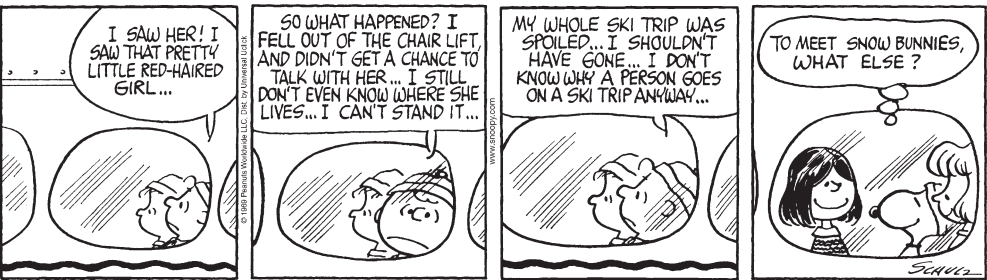


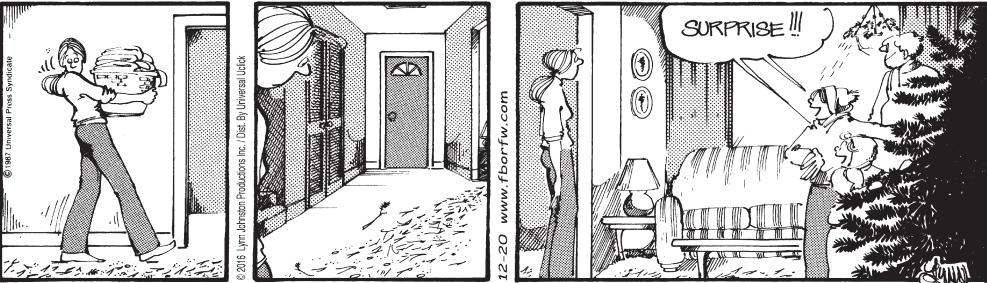
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



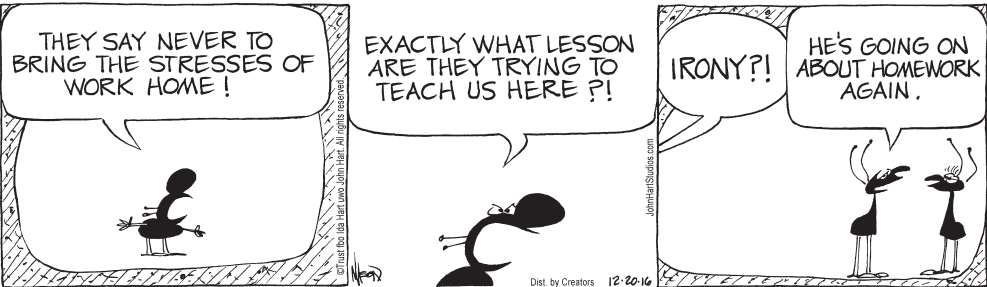
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



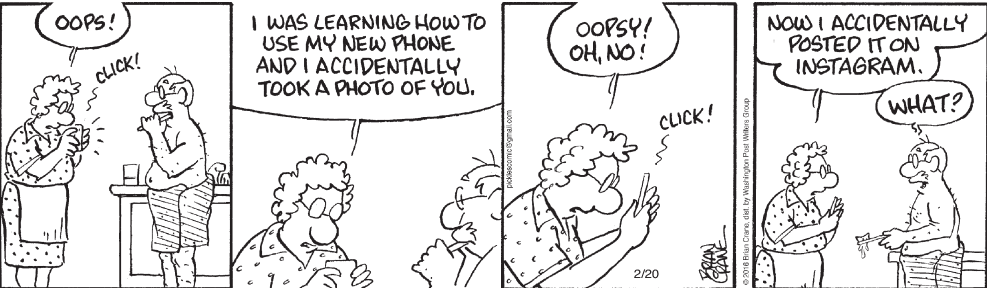
B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



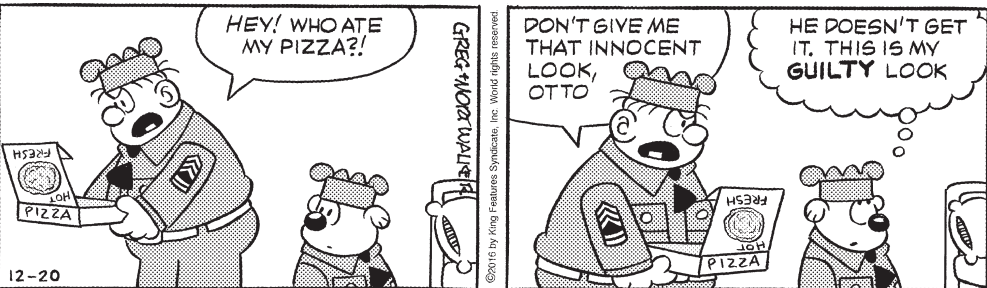
PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



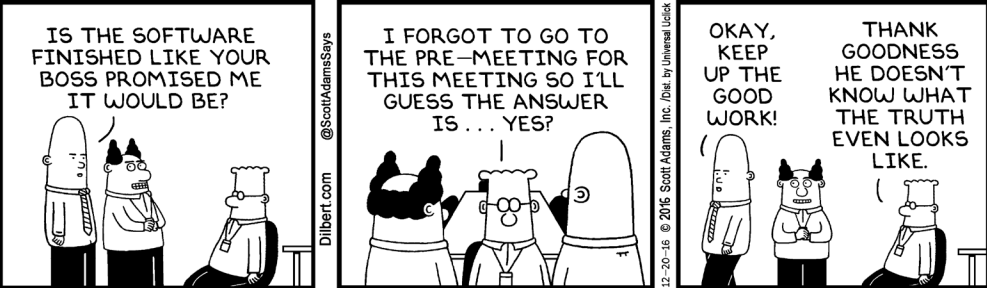
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



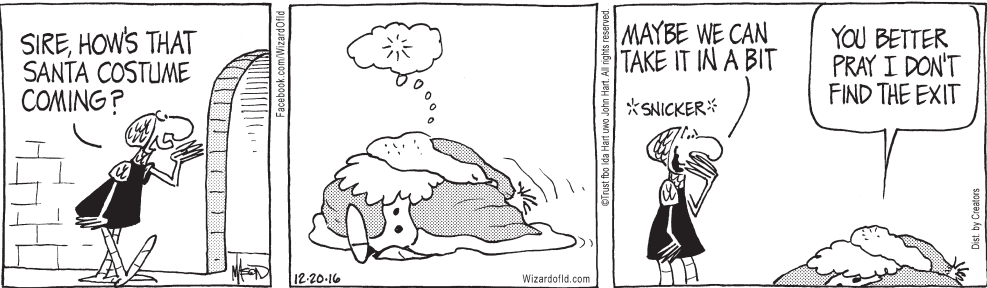
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



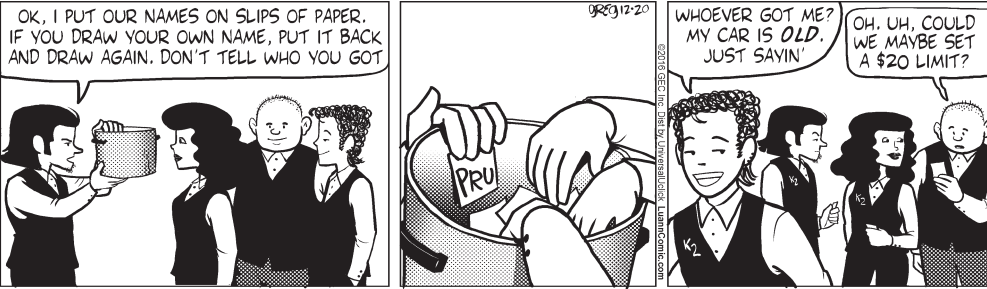
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



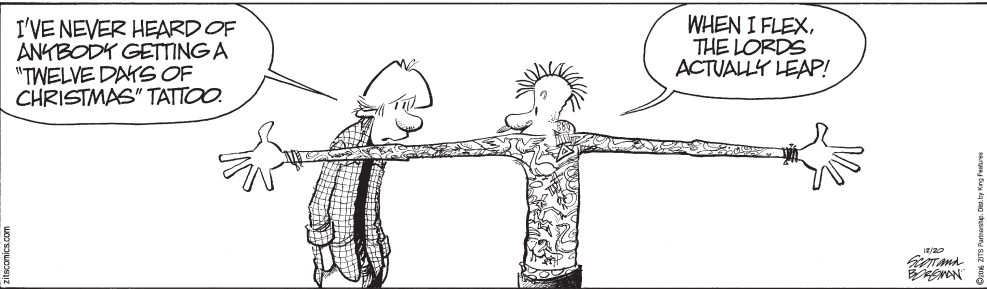
LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Dad's affair brings misery to his family and to him

**Dear Abby:** My dad started an affair with a woman who is four years older than I am. He met her when he hired her for her "services." Fast-forward a year: He has left my mom. Mom left the state and has moved in with me. She's trying to rebuild her life, but she's still very much in love with my dad.

Dad, on the other hand, is miserable. His girlfriend is controlling to the point that he's not allowed to talk to his children or grandchildren. She's an alcoholic who mentally, verbally and physically abuses him. He recently left her and came to stay at my house. He told Mom and me that he wanted a fresh start.

Abby, he was here for less than 48 hours and went back to the girlfriend! I am convinced that he either has a drug problem or he's sick. He has lost an extreme amount of weight. I have no idea how to help him and I'm terrified that he is going to die.

Now he won't talk to me. He left while I was at work so he wouldn't have to face me. I don't understand why he would come here only to turn right around and leave. I am disgusted, disappointed and angry. Should I cut all ties with him until he gets his life together?

— **Disappointed Daughter**

**Dear Disappointed:** Considering what has been going on, your feelings are natural. However, because you are unsure about what is driving your father — addiction, illness, indecision, etc. — do not "cut all ties." Leave the door ajar a little longer. There's a saying, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Victims sometimes need several attempts to leave their abusers, and your dad may be no exception.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
Advice

**Dear Abby:** I have been dating a wonderful girl for about seven months. We're sophomores in college. She's sweet, kind, extraordinarily talented, and we treat each other wonderfully. Everything has been great, with the occasional disagreement.

The problem is that I'm starting to notice that she seems to be homophobic. I was raised in a liberal, open-minded home, whereas hers was much more conservative. She never met a homosexual until college.

She has talked about feeling uncomfortable with two men kissing or talking about being intimate.

At first, I thought she'd be equally uncomfortable with straight couples doing the same thing, but she wasn't. When I tell her that I support marriage equality and the LGBTQ community, she gets very quiet and uneasy.

I care for her, but I don't know if I can be with someone who's this uncomfortable about homosexuality. What do you think I should do? This is a very important issue to me, and I would love your insight. — **Torn College Sophomore**

**Dear Torn:** She may be a wonderful girl, but whether you are wonderful for each other is open to question. Try to project ahead. If the two of you were to marry and she was unable to overcome her aversion to gay people, to what extent would it limit your ability to interact with them? Or their ability to have a relationship with you?

Let this play out a little longer to see if she's able to evolve with more exposure. If she's not, then she may not be the one for you.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 19-20, 1916

What might have proved a serious affair about noon Saturday was the indiscriminate use of three .22 calibre rifles in the hands of as many mere boys. These boys live in Pendleton and were allowed to wander over the hills and amuse themselves with these deadly weapons, but the climax came when they took up a position in front of the Means store and commenced shooting over the bank where 8 or 10 men were at work grading for the new crossing, endangering the lives of a dozen or more people. At this stage of the sport the boys were promptly disarmed and started for home and the guns turned over the Agent Luse for safe keeping until such time as the parents of the boys see fit to call for them.

50 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 19-20, 1966

There was just one thing wrong with last night's Christmas program at Pendleton High

School. There weren't enough seats to hold the crowd. More than 250 were turned away. By 7:15 every seat in the school auditorium was filled, and chairs had been brought in to accommodate some of the standing audience. So the show will be repeated tonight.

25 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 19-20, 1991

If your Christmas list includes "Prison Blues," the blue jeans made by inmates at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton, you'll have to drive to Portland to find them. However, the jeans, which are enjoying phenomenal sales at G.I. Joes in Portland, should be available soon at Pendleton Grain Growers stores in Pendleton and Hermiston, said Brent Wakeman, the manager of the garment factory at the medium-security prison in Pendleton. The first pair of jeans rolled off a five-inmate line in November of 1990. Since then, more than 20,000 pairs have been made, Wakeman said. The garment factory now employs 25 inmates working eight hours a day.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 355th day of 2016. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

**On Dec. 20, 1946,** the Frank Capra film "It's A Wonderful Life," starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, had a preview showing for charity at New York's Globe Theatre, a day before its official world premiere.

**On this date:**  
**In 1790,** the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

**In 1803,** the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

**In 1812,** German authors Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published the first volume of the first edition of their collection of folk stories, "Children's and Household Tales."

**In 1860,** South Carolina became the first state to

secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

**In 1864,** Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

**In 1924,** Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch; during his time behind bars, he'd written his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf."

**In 1945,** the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

**In 1963,** the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

**In 1989,** the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor John Hillerman is 84. Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 75. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 72. Rock musician Peter Criss is 71. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 70. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 70. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 68. Actress Jenny Agutter is 64. Actor Michael Badalucco is 62. Actress Blanche Baker is 60. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 59. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 59. Actor Joel Gretsch is 53. Country singer Kris Tyler is 52. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 50. Actress Nicole deBoer is 46. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 34. Actor Jonah Hill is 33.

**Thought for Today:** "Fairy tales are more than true; not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten." — *G.K. Chesterton, English poet-essayist (1874-1936).*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

