COFFEE BREAK

PEANUTS









BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR WORSE









BY JOHNNY HART COME QUICK! ... NEXT SPRING. I RESOLVE TO PETER CAUGHT A EAT MORE WOOLLY MAMMOTH! VEGETABLES.

PICKLES

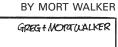








BEETLE BAILEY





GARFIELD







BLONDIE

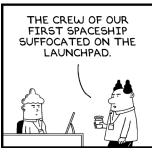
BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE







DILBERT







THE WIZARD OF ID







LUANN HEY, AN EXTRA KISS MISTLETOE? LES, THAT'S FOR CHRISTMAS, NOT NEW YEAR'S















DEAR ABBY

Couple feels ignored by parents tending to wayward siblings

Dear Abby: My husband and I are in our 30s. We do well for ourselves and are generally happy. We both have siblings who have various problems — drug abuse, emotional issues, broken relationships. Our parents pick up and travel to support them during their various dramas, but visit my husband and me only if they need a place to stay and don't want to pay for

My parents have cited fear of flying as a reason they don't visit us much, and my husband's parents claim they don't have the money. However, their travel itineraries to visit our siblings suggest otherwise.

I haven't asked my husband's parents about this, but I did ask mine. My mother said that because we're "on a good path," they don't need to see us as often or put as much effort into us. I was shocked. How do we deal with knowing that we're less favored because we have our act together? — The Good Kids

Dear Good Kids: You are not the only people with this problem. The same thing tends to happen in families in which there is a child with special needs. The parents expend their energy where they think it is needed most, which often results in hurt and resentment on the part of the stronger siblings.

Perhaps if you view what your mother told you less as a punishment for your success and more as a validation, it will be less hurtful and you will understand the logic. And if you feel you need more time with your parents, go

Dear Abby: "Emotional Dad in California" (July 23), whose wife was planning to deliver their child early, was correct. No baby should be electively delivered before 39

JEANNE PHILLIPS Advice

weeks gestation. While term gestation is still defined as 37 weeks, current terminology distinguishes early term (37 to 38 weeks), from term (39 to 40 weeks). Data show that not only is the rate of acute complications higher for babies born even at 36 weeks, but each week less than 39 is associated with increasingly lower developmental scores.

In a collaborative effort, organizations dedicated to children's health have spent the last decade trying to

reduce the rate of late preterm births, those from 34 to 37 weeks. We have made great inroads in reducing late preterm births, and I am quite certain that getting the word out to your millions of readers could have a positive impact and take us even further. Every baby should have the healthiest start possible, and in the absence of pregnancy complications, that means waiting until 39 weeks. — David H. Levine, M.D., Columbus, Ga.

Dear Dr. Levine: Thank you for this information. I heard from many readers, including neonatologists, labor/delivery nurses, and other professionals certified in maternal and newborn care. They all cited the current position of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) advocating for full-term delivery.

All stated that the final few weeks are important for brain, lung and liver development, vision and hearing, blood sugar regulation, and attaining a healthy birth weight so the baby can stay warm, suck and swallow, and remain awake long enough to be fed. Expectant moms should do as much research as they can in order to give their babies the best chance for the healthiest life.

DAYS GONE BY

From the East Oregonian Dec. 30, 1916

100 Years Ago

Did Santa Claus get away with all the children's mittens in Pendleton or is Jack Frost responsible for the fact there are no childish hand warmers to be had in the city? Whatever the cause may be, there is a shortage in the mitten supply and with the coasting season on in full blast the situation constitutes a problem second only to the nation-wide car shortage. Unless supplies can be shipped in or grandmothers come to the rescue with their knitting needles some little hands will go chilly.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Dec. 30, 1966

Three East End youths were in the Umatilla County Jail today charged with trying to stock up early on beer, wine and cigars in time for New Year's Eve without bothering to pay for the goodies. Umatilla County Deputy Sheriff Paul Jones was notified Thursday that someone had broken into the Lone Star Cafe and Tavern in Athena and taken 32 cases of beer, wine, cigars and candy. Working all day, Jones with the help of Bud Miller,

Athena police chief, and Charles Hearn, Weston police chief, found the stolen items in a cache on Weston Mountain and arrested three suspects. Charged with burglary are Howard Stine, 18, Weston, and Larry Elliott, 22, Milton-Freewater. Each is being held on \$2,000 bail. A third person, a 17-year-old, was turned over to juvenile authorities. Jones said that Milton-Freewater police also assisted.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Dec. 30, 1991

Tom Darnell, a Umatilla County extension agent, is helping start an innovative way of controlling an onion-attacking fungus known as white rot. Darnell, of Milton-Freewater, is applying a chemical to unplanted onion fields that is identical to the natural odor found in onions and garlic, called diallyl disulphide, or DADS. Researchers are attempting to trick the white rot fungus into a premature death long before crops are planted. "Our idea is to trick the fungus into germinating and starving to death before onions are planted," said Fred Crowe, a plant pathologist with Oregon State University's Agricultural Experiment Station.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 365th day of 2016. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who wielded considerable influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

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 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1905, the Franz Lehar operetta "The Merry Widow" premiered in Vienna.

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

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

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.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is §2. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 82. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 81. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 79. TV director James Burrows is 76. Actor Fred Ward is 74. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 74. Actress Concetta Tomei is 71. Singer Patti Smith is 70. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 69. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 63. Actress Shervl Lee Ralph is 61. Actress Patricia Kalember is 60. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 60. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 59. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 57. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 56. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 55. Golfer Tiger Woods is 41. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 39. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 38. NBA player LeBron James is 32.

Thought for Today: "Addresses are given to us to conceal our whereabouts.' – H.H. Munro ("Saki"), British author (1870-1916).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN









ZITS



BIG NATE







