

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



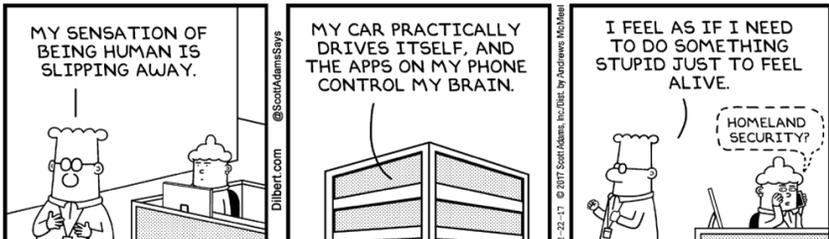
BLONDIE

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 BRYAN SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

European vacation plans are tripped up by broken ankle



JEANNE PHILLIPS Advice

Dear Abby: I had planned a trip to Europe with my friend "Elizabeth," a friend of hers and Elizabeth's daughter. The plan was I would share rooms with Elizabeth. We paid for the hotels in advance.

Shortly before our scheduled departure I fell, broke my ankle and couldn't go. We tried unsuccessfully to obtain some kind of refunds, and travel insurance paid only if the accident happened while we were actually traveling.

I was out \$2,000. Elizabeth's friend offered me \$500. Elizabeth, feeling some obligation, also offered me \$500. I feel guilty taking Elizabeth's money because she paid for herself and her daughter. I think the other woman should give me at least half — not just \$500 — because she derived 100 percent of the benefit. Also, she has never reached out to me directly at all.

No money has been received at this point. Should I just write it off? Or am I wrong to expect some of the money back? — Money Woes In The East

Dear Money Woes: Yes, you are wrong. Nobody owes you anything. Accidents happen, but the broken ankle was your bad luck. It was generous of Elizabeth and her friend to offer you any money at all. My advice is to accept it graciously, write the rest off, and stop looking for someone to be mad at.

Dear Abby: One of my relatives has bipolar disorder, and as far as I know he takes medicine for it. However, at our Christmas celebration last year he became verbally aggressive and abusive toward a family member who had done nothing to provoke it. Needless to say, it put a damper on the festivities.

Some people make excuses for him because he's bipolar, but I don't want another holiday ruined because of his behavior (which can be unpredictable). Must the rest of us sit on pins and needles hoping he doesn't explode this Christmas? I'd prefer not to invite him until he has better control of himself. Your opinion, please? — Hoping For Happy Holidays

Dear Hoping: You have a point. A solution might be to talk directly with your relative and explain that if he's taking his medication — which means there will be no unpredictable outbursts — he is welcome to be your guest for Christmas. If not, however, he should make other plans.

Dear Abby: On Veterans' Day I visited my family's cemetery plot and noticed my closest uncle does not have a military service marker like his two older brothers do. "Uncle Claude" had frequently mentioned to me how important a service marker was to him. I discussed it with his two out-of-state children several times after his death.

Almost two years have passed now, and it appears getting the marker might not happen. Should I inquire about this with my cousins, offer to assist them in getting and placing the marker or let it go? I did place a small flag on his grave later in the day. — Military Service Marker

Dear M.S.M.: Discuss this with your cousins once more and ask if they would like you to pursue getting the marker for your uncle. There may be reasons why it hasn't happened — including that they may not be able to afford the expense. You will never know unless you inquire.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Dec. 22, 1917

Miss Frankie Sturdivant, who went to Pendleton with the drafted boys last week, had some experience on returning to Ukiah. While she was in Pendleton a heavy rain fell which made traveling in a car very hard. But Miss Sturdivant not being easily discouraged started for home, and all went well until she reached the summit of the Yellowjacket mountain, where she found a foot of snow. Here the car refused to go further and, while debating what course to pursue, a lone horseman rode up and she asked him if he could assist her. He kindly said yes, and having a long lariat on his saddle, he soon had the rope fastened to the car and around the saddle horn and he pulled the car up two or three steep places, and she came on to town long after dark, with everything covered with mud and headlights gleaming, and laughingly said, "Tis good to be here."

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Dec. 22, 1967

A semi-truck and tractor sheared off a power pole at SE 9th and Frazer this morning when it failed to make the curve on the

slush-covered street. The power pole fell across the garage driveway at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burns, 420 SE 9th. Mrs. Burns said this is the fourth time a vehicle has hit the power pole in the six months the family has lived in the house. "I've just about had it," she told the East Oregonian. "I won't even let my children play in the front yard any more." Mrs. Burns said the power pole has saved the garage in each instance. Warning signs to slow down on the curve have also been knocked down by motorists who "take that curve too fast." "The police finally put the sign up across the street," she said.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Dec. 22, 1992

Quarterback Tony Hilde of Pendleton and defensive lineman Joe Donnerberg of West Linn have been named state Class 4A prep football players of the year by The Oregonian. Hilde, a senior, passed for 2,184 yards and 17 touchdowns and ran for 960 yards and 13 touchdowns for the Buckaroos. He also was named to the all-state team as a defensive back. He has been a four-sport star at Pendleton, where he led the Bucks to a 9-2 record and the second round of the football playoffs this fall, their best finish in several seasons.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 356th day of 2017. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.

In 1917, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, who later became the first naturalized U.S. citizen to be canonized, died in Chicago at age 67.

In 1937, the first, center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened for traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, California, while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, Louisiana, exploded.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor Hector Elizondo is 81. Country singer Red Steagall is 79. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 73. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 72. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 69. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 69. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 69. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 66. Actress BernNadette Stanis is 64. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 57. Country singer-musician Chuck Mead is 57. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 28. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 24.

Thought for Today:

"Those wearing tolerance for a label call other views intolerable." — Phyllis McGinley, American poet and author (1905-1978).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

