

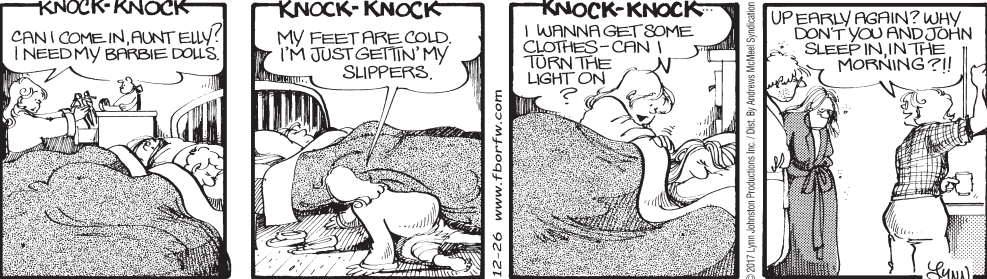
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



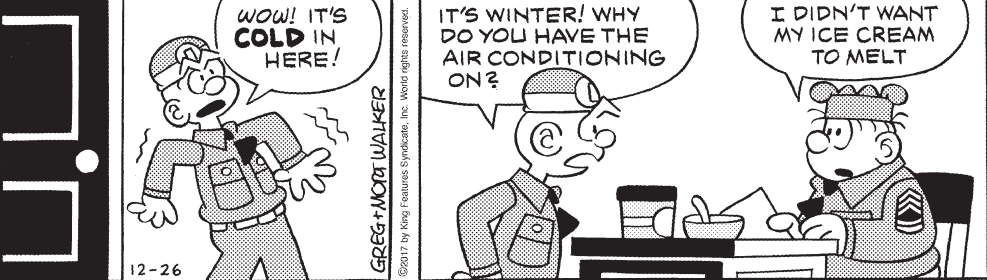
PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



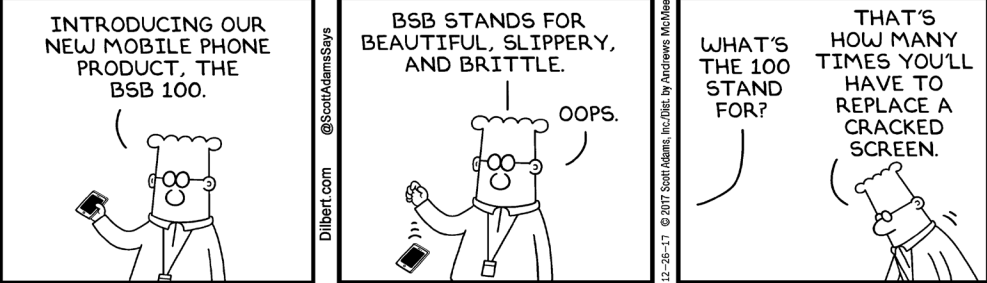
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



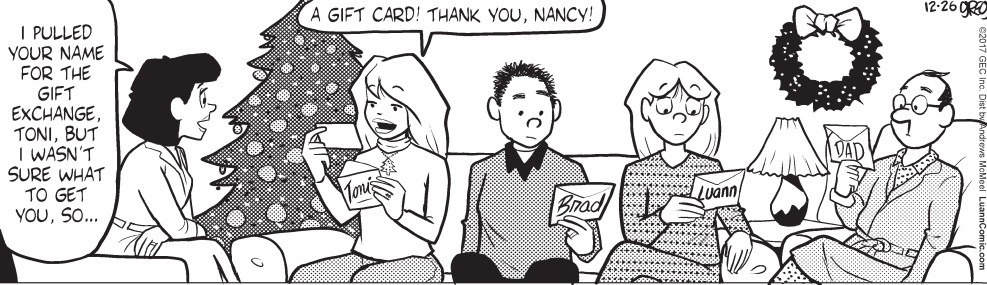
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



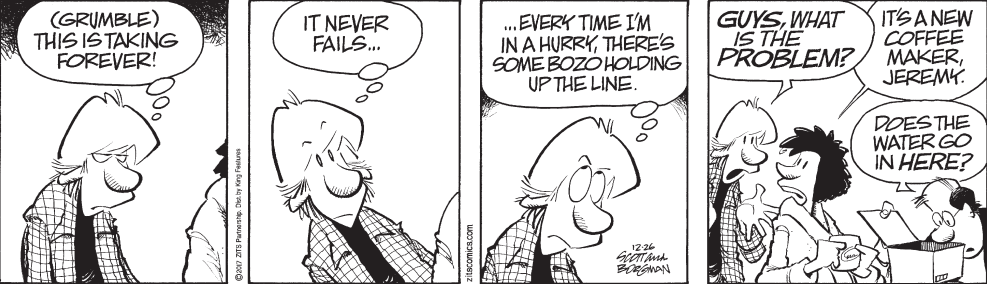
LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Couple's oft-chilly marriage is subzero following election

**Dear Abby:** I'm at a loss as to how to stay in my 21-year marriage. In August, when our twin daughters leave for college, my wife and I will become empty nesters. We haven't had sex in more than 2 1/2 years, and before that it didn't happen more than a couple of times a year.

My wife says she "doesn't feel a connection with me anymore" (or perhaps never really did). We have seen a counselor a couple of times over the last 12 years, but the most he has to offer now is that I will have to decide whether or not to accept this as my new normal. We don't fight, but we live like room-mates, although we continue to share a bed.

We are on opposite sides of the political spectrum, and I suspect that may have something to do with her sense of disconnect. The little affection progress we were making died the night of the presidential election. She seems content to continue like this. I hate the notion of divorce, both for what it would mean spiritually and for what it would do to our families and friends. Can you help? — **Is This My New Normal?**

**Dear "Is":** Couples on opposite sides of the political spectrum can still have successful marriages IF they respect their mates and can discuss their differences intelligently and calmly. However, you state that your sex life has been the way it is for 21 years — which makes me wonder whether the chemistry was strong to begin with.

I do think you and your wife are overdue for a series of honest conversations, and the first should start with whether the difference



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
Advice

in your political beliefs has affected the way she feels about you.

The next should start with asking her whether she was ever satisfied in the bedroom with you. If you can get her to talk about it, you may be able to find out where the two of you went off track and fix it. However, if you can't, then your counselor was correct.

**Dear Abby:** I've been single for more than a year and playing the field, having casual relationships, but never anything I was too invested in. That changed recently when I met someone I'll call "Eve." We have hit it off spectacularly and are very much into each other.

The only issue is she has a kid. I'm only 23, and I'm not in a position to be any kind of father figure. That being said, I would still love to be with Eve and occasionally help out with her little one, but I don't know how to open up and tell her directly that I'm not prepared for the pressures of being a "dad" to a newborn. How do I express this to her? — **No White Knight In Knoxville**

**Dear No White Knight:** "Daddyhood" isn't a skill that every man is born with. Some men are naturals at it; others learn gradually through experience. Tell Eve that you care about her, but that at 23 you are not in a position to be a dad to her baby. In time, things may change — GRADUALLY — but not right now. It may or may not cause the end of the relationship. Her first responsibility must be to her child, and a romance right out of the delivery room is too soon, "white knight" or no white knight.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 25-26, 1917

Blame it on the city council as usual. This time it is the scarcity of Christmas trees and the high price of the few that were sold by local dealers yesterday. At least this is the alibi of some of the merchants who made an effort to fill a big demand yesterday for the Yuletide decoration, but who had little success. Their explanation is that in previous years the council either decorated the streets with evergreens or staged a municipal Christmas tree. This venture enabled the dealers to get their supply at the same time and in quantity. But this year the city fathers did not undertake any decorating scheme. As a result only two or three big loads of trees were sold yesterday. The prices ranged from fifty cents for a small top to two dollars for a sizable fir. The few trees that were sold came from Meacham or Cayuse.

50 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 25-26, 1967

Weather statistics sometimes seem paradoxical, but despite the fact that the Umatilla River is running high and some are worrying about floods, precipitation has been so scant

in Pendleton that the city needs .24 of an inch before New Year's Day to come within an inch of the driest year here since 1890. The driest year had a total precipitation of 7.99 and so far this month a .43 total has brought the 1967 figure to only 6.75 inches. If Pendleton could borrow some of Spout Springs' precipitation of the last few days it would be different. During the five days ending at 8 a.m. today a total of 5.60 inches of precipitation has been registered there, 4.27 of it coming as rain the last two days.

25 Years Ago  
From the East Oregonian  
Dec. 25-26, 1992

Stacee Raber, formerly of Pendleton, is spending the holiday season in Europe with a professional touring company of "Oklahoma." According to Stacee's mother, the musical troupe performs to full houses wherever they appear. She sings and dances in the ensemble and serves as understudy for the character Ado Annie. She's the youngest cast member. Stacy is the daughter of Dave and Sally Raber of Pendleton. She graduated from Pendleton High School in 1988 and earned her bachelor's degree in dance this year from Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 360th day of 2017. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
**On Dec. 26, 1947,** heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, burying New York City under 26.4 inches of snow in 16 hours; the severe weather was blamed for some 80 deaths.  
**On this date:**  
**In 1776,** British forces suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.  
**In 1799,** former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."  
**In 1865,** James H. Nason of Franklin, Massachusetts, received a patent for "an improved coffee percolator."  
**In 1908,** Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight

championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

**In 1917,** during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

**In 1944,** during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division. Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

**In 1967,** "Magical Mystery Tour," the Beatles' poorly received TV special, was broadcast (in black and white) on BBC1.

**In 1972,** the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Missouri, at age 88.

**In 1996,** 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Donald Moffat is 87. Actor Carroll Spinney (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 82. Record producer (and convicted murderer) Phil Spector is 78. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 72. Country musician Bob Carpenter (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 71. Humorist David Sedaris is 61. Rock musician James Kottak (The Scorpions) is 55. Rock musician Lars Ulrich (Metallica) is 54. Rock singer James Mercer (The Shins; Flake) is 47. Actor-singer Jared Leto is 46.

**Thought for Today:** "Christmas has come and gone, and I — to speak selfishly — am glad of it. The season always gives me the blues in spite of myself, though I manage to get a good deal of pleasure from thinking of the multitudes of happy kids in various parts of the world." — *Edwin Arlington Robinson, American poet (1869-1935).*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

