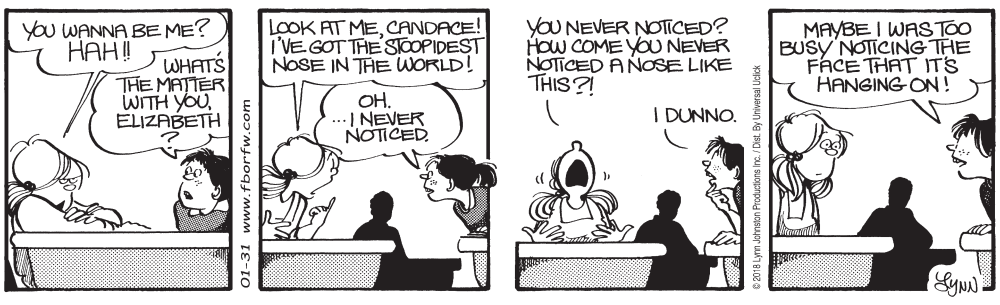
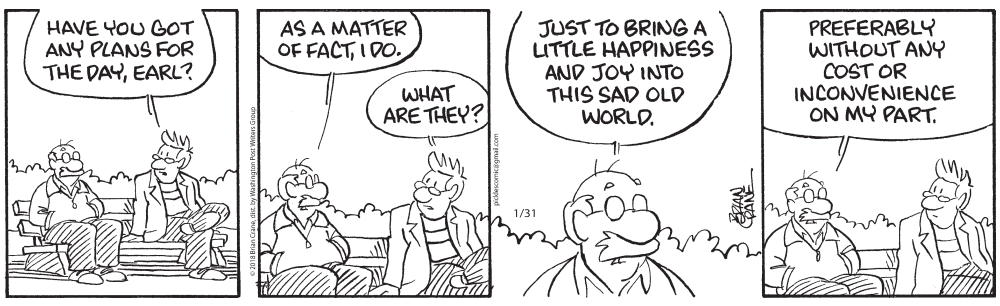
PEANUTS BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR WORSE BY LYNN JOHNSTON

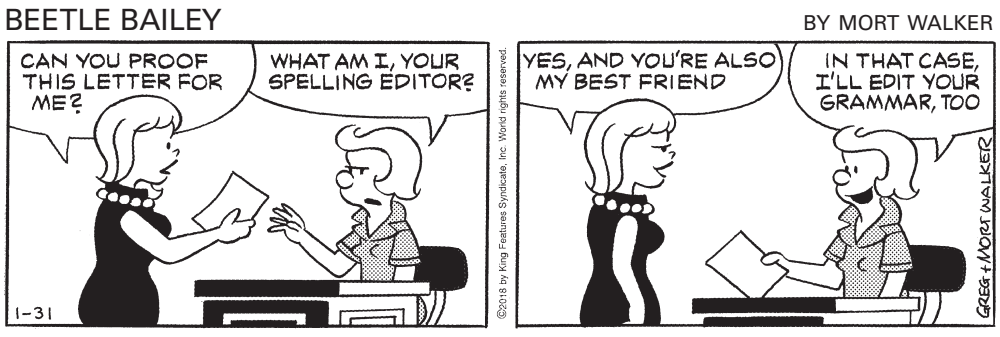


B.C. BY JOHNNY HART

PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE

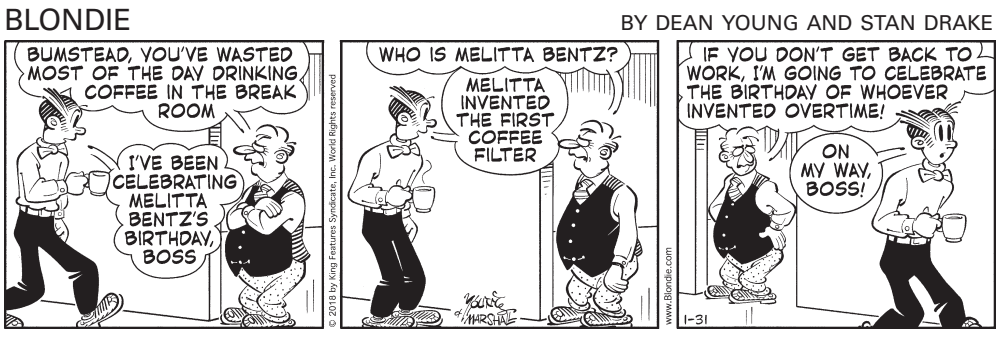


BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER



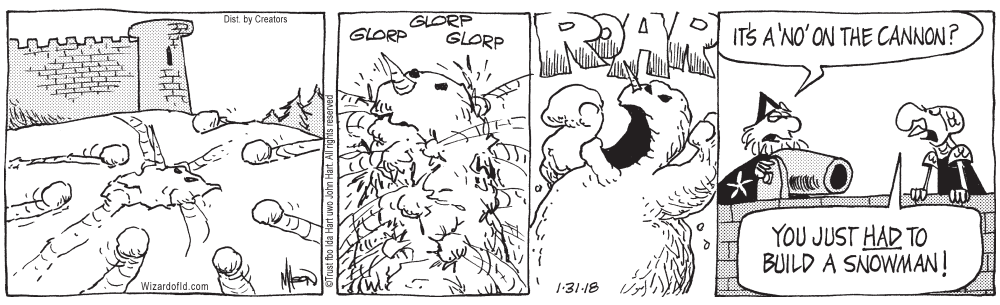
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

BLONDIE BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



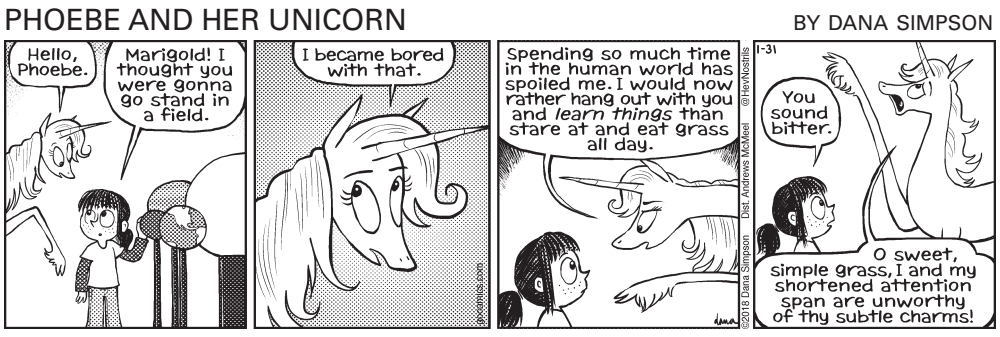
DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS

THE WIZARD OF ID BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



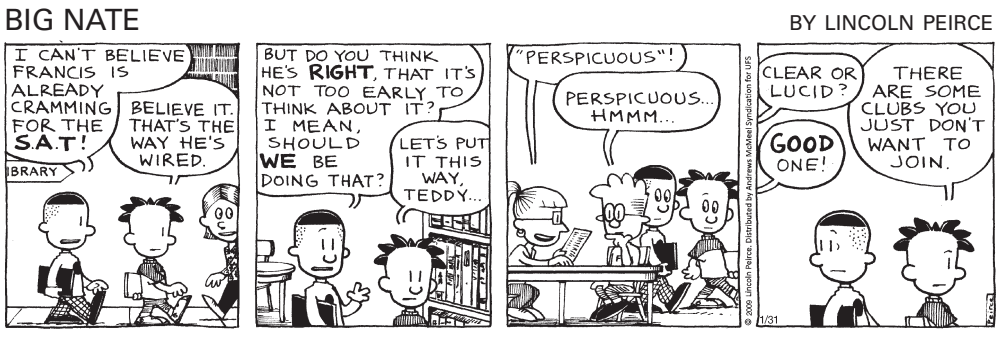
LUANN BY GREG EVANS

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN BY DANA SIMPSON



ZITS BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

BIG NATE BY LINCOLN PEIRCE



DEAR ABBY

Man puts drinking problem on display in widow's yard

JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

Dear Abby: I'm a widowed senior who has been dating a very kind man, "Ben," for three years. He's retired; I am not. He does things for and with me, and we enjoy traveling together.

The problem is, Ben usually starts drinking about 3 p.m. at the neighborhood bar.

I'm welcome to join him, but I prefer to work at my job or volunteer in the community. By the grace of God, Ben has made it home safely every night, but I'm afraid he will eventually hurt someone.

My son came home for a month because of a job change, and tonight he found Ben passed out in the front yard. I told my son I was sorry, and he said not to be, but he does not want his family — my grandchildren — around when Ben is like this.

I am so embarrassed. I would miss this relationship, but I'm wondering if you think I should end it. — **Missing The Good In Him**

Dear Missing The Good: It must have been clear to you for some time that Ben has a serious drinking problem that needs to be addressed. Whether you should end the relationship depends upon whether he is willing to admit that he has a problem and is willing to do something about it.

Because Ben's drinking is now affecting you and, by extension, your family, it's time to confront him and give him a choice — get help or find another lady friend. There are Alcoholics Anonymous groups worldwide and in almost every community. Steer Ben in that direction, and while you're at it, locate the nearest Al-Anon group for yourself. You will find it both sympathetic and helpful. These groups are as close as your phone directory or your computer. Visit al-anon.org.

Dear Abby: I recently utilized a national ancestry company to determine my heritage. I also provided kits to my adult children thinking it would be a fun exercise we all could share. Unfortunately, my good deed came with unexpected consequences.

According to the results, my youngest son isn't related to me. Apparently, unbeknownst to me, my ex-wife had an affair 25 years ago.

What do I do now? Should I confront my ex to verify the affair and learn the identity of my son's father? How do we tell my son? Should we? How do we handle our families? Keep it a secret? I would appreciate your guidance. — **Unknown Family Tree**

Dear Unknown: Before making accusations or announcements, it is important that you determine the accuracy of the test to make absolutely sure the results are conclusive. If a second test verifies the first, your son should be informed because he has a right to know his familial medical history — and HE should talk to his mother about who his biological father is.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Jan. 31, 1918

Irwin Huff, Pendleton boy in the aviation force at Vancouver, Wash., died Tuesday evening from pneumonia and his body is at the Folsom undertaking parlor awaiting the funeral which is to be held Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. The death of young Huff constitutes the first casualty from Umatilla county, though Irwin Brooks, who enlisted from Portland and died in Texas, was a former Umatilla county boy. Huff enlisted Nov. 4, 1917, in the aviation corps and was first sent to Vancouver. He was then transferred to Texas. After a short stay in the south he was sent back to Vancouver to take part in the lumber drive, being an expert timber grader. Shortly after his return he took the measles which developed into pneumonia from which he died.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Jan. 31, 1968

Winnie Dempsey went home with tears in her eyes Monday night. She had gotten two of the biggest, most pleasant surprises of her life. First, she was named Milton-Freewater's woman of the year for her 50 years of service to the community. "Turn around, Winnie," said master of ceremonies George Knox, after she had been presented the award. Mrs. Dempsey turned and gasped. Standing in the aisle were her two sons, Bill from Dayton, Ohio, and Howard from Yakima, Wash. The men had come home on surprise visits to be with their mother when she received the community accolades.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Jan. 31, 1993

China was next door to Africa and across the hall from India at Washington Elementary School Friday. Certainly the world was given more diminutive proportions during the school's first Celebration of Cultures. The day-long event shuffled 350 students among eight different classrooms — each decked out with the appropriate cultural accoutrements. Food was a major component of many classrooms.

In Scandinavia, for instance, first graders made traditional butter cookies. Students in the China classroom didn't get to sample much food, but they did learn about the Chinese New Year, calendar and customs. As for chopsticks, classroom assistant Cathy Fulham explained that the Chinese don't eat as quickly as Americans and can manipulate the narrow sticks just as well as Westerners use a fork and spoon.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 31st day of 2018. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

On this date:

In 1606, Englishman Guy Fawkes, convicted of high treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot," was set to be hanged, drawn and quartered, but broke his neck after falling or jumping from the scaffold.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.) Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Gold Reserve Act.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 1980, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands announced she would abdicate on her birthday the following April, to be succeeded by her daughter, Princess Beatrix.

In 1990, McDonald's Corp. opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme, California, killing all 88 people aboard.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 97. Composer Philip Glass is 81. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 80. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 71. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 62. Actress Minnie Driver is 48. Singer Justin Timberlake is 37.

Thought for Today: "The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking." — *A.A. Milne, British author (born in 1882, died this date in 1956).*