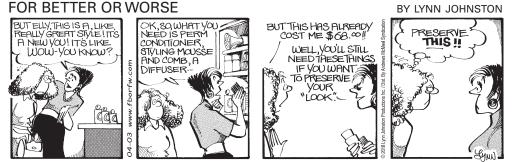
COFFEE BREAK









BEETLE BAILEY





BLONDIE BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

DEAR ABBY Boyfriend's chronic conditions prompt partner to weigh options

Dear Abby: I have been in a relationship for four years. My partner has fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. When we met, he had just found out. He was still active, working, and we had sex regularly. Fast forward: He is now on disability, not working at all, we rarely sleep together and he never leaves the house. I love him still, but I didn't realize how hard this would be. I know he has a lot to cope with, but it's hard on me as well. I have to work, do most of the chores and beg

him to go out. We are only in our mid-20s, and I'm afraid for our future. I feel like I'm already 80 years old. I don't want to leave him, but I also don't want to live this way. Any advice would be helpful. — Bad Deal In The Midwest

Dear Bad Deal: What a sad letter. You are both young, with many years ahead of you. You have a difficult decision to make. Because you feel you are not up to the challenge of taking care of a chronically ill individual, it may be time to end the relationship. If you are staying out of obligation or pity, it isn't fair to either of you.

Dear Abby: My mom, who is well-endowed, is in the habit of using her bra as a pocket. When we go out, she puts her wallet and change purse inside her left cup and then wears a tight-fitting jersey or tank top. The outline of what she is storing is noticeable. My friends and my sisters have noticed it and ask why she doesn't use a purse like others do. She also sticks her change purse inside her bikini top at the beach, pool or at a relative's cookout.



Mom says it's a convenient and safe place for her money and valuables. On a bus trip, she also stored a camera in there. It drew a few puzzled stares from other travelers. What do you think of this? --- Not In There, Please

Dear Not: I have it on good authority that your mother is not the only woman who uses her bra as a pocket or filing cabinet. If it works for her, and she doesn't mind people asking her why she does it, stop judging her for doing something

harmless that seems efficient for her. Dear Abby: Fifteen years ago my sisterin-law and I had a mutual friend, "Barbie," who told me something unflattering about my sister-in-law. My relationship with my sisterin-law has been fractured ever since. I have since severed my relations with this "friend" for numerous other reasons, but Barbie is still good friends with my sister-in-law.

Recently, I have felt that I should let my sister-in-law know how this woman betrayed her friendship by telling me her secret. Should I tell my sister-in-law or leave it alone and let her find out for herself? Seeing her buddy up to this person makes me crazy. — Going Nuts In North Carolina

Dear Going Nuts: If a friend of mine leaked personal information about me, I would want to know, wouldn't you? Your sister-in-law is friendly with Barbie because she doesn't know she can't be trusted. Rather than tell your sister-in-law what you were told, approach it this way: "Is it true that ...?" And when she asks where you got such an idea, THEN tell her it's what Barbie told you.

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian April 2-3, 1918

The firemen and the police are in mourning today. Sam, the faithful cat which has been mascot of the city hall for a long time, is dead. His body was found this morning a block or two up Alta street from the city hall. Whether he was poisoned or died a natural death is not known though he appeared in usual health and spirits at a late hour. If an inquest proves that he met with foul play, the firemen and police have sworn to avenge him.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian April 2-3, 1968

The 13-year-old Riverside High School gymnasium went up in smoke Monday, and the old gymnasium built nearly 50 years ago, which has been used for classrooms since the building of the new gym, was also burned to the ground. City fire trucks stood by to protect the main school building. The grade school was moved to the Greenfield Grange Hall

last week, and Ronald Black's vocational agriculture and shop classes, which were held in the basement of the old gym building, were moved to the new school. High school classes will be moved this weekend from the building that was built in 1917. Classes will be held in the new building, although it is not finished.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian April 2-3, 1993

Over the years, Juan Quintero of Pendleton said he often thought about his son, although he hadn't seen him since December 1973. The boy was 6 months old then; his mother was Juan's girlfriend. They lost contact after Juan moved to the United States from Durango, his hometown in northern Mexico. But father and son were reunited on March 20, when 19-year-old Joaquin stepped off an airplane in Portland. Juan's sister in Portland located the young man through relatives in Los Angeles. Juan was impressed that Joaquin is receiving a good education, and that he and his mother are getting along fine.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DAYS GONE BY

On April 3, 1968, civil Lindbergh Jr. rights leader Martin Luther

In 1942, during World

dore Kaczynski was arrested at his remote Montana cabin.





BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

THE WIZARD OF ID



King Jr. delivered what turned out to be his final speech, telling a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, that "I've been to the mountaintop" and "seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!" (About 20 hours later, King was felled by an assassin's bullet at the Lorraine Motel.)

On this date:

In 1776, George Washington received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard College.

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph. Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles

War II, Japanese forces began their final assault on Bataan against American and Filipino troops who surrendered six days later; the capitulation was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1965, the United States launched the SNAP-10A nuclear power system into Earth orbit; it was the first nuclear reactor sent into space.

In 1978, at the Academy Woody Awards, Allen's "Annie Hall" was named best picture of 1977; its co-star, Diane Keaton, won best actress while Richard Dreyfuss was honored as best actor for "The Goodbye Girl."

In 1985, the landmark Hollywood Brown Derby restaurant closed after 56 years in business.

In 1996, Unabomber Theo-

An Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

In 2003, Atlantic magazine editor Michael Kelly, 46, became the first American journalist to be killed while covering the Iraq war.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 96. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 84. Singer Wayne Newton is 76. Singer Tony Orlando is 74. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 71. Folkrock singer Richard Thompson is 69. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 68. Blues singer-guitarist John Moonev is 63. Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 62. Actor Alec Baldwin is 60. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 59

Thought for Today: "Our firmest convictions are apt to be the most suspect, they mark our limitations and our bounds. Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries." — Jose Ortega y Gasset, Spanish philosopher (1883-1955).

LUANN





BY GREG EVANS PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN





BY DANA SIMPSON