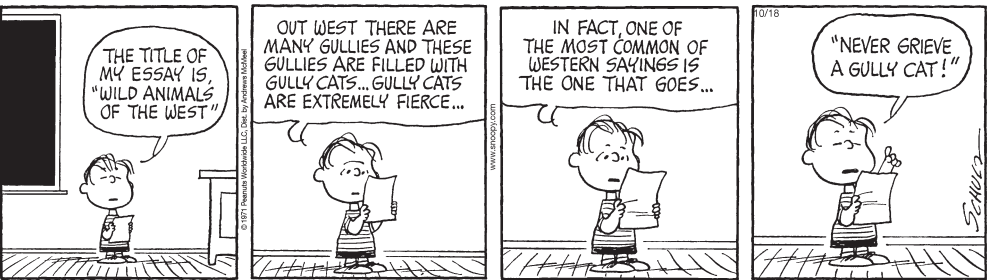


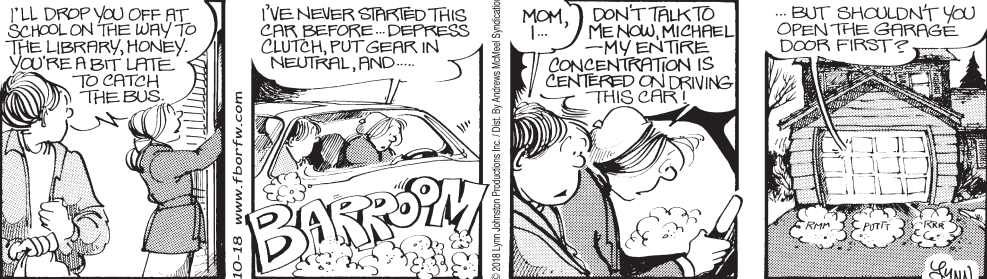
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



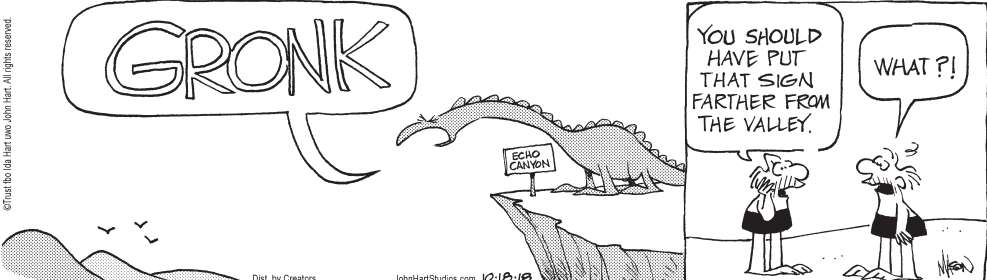
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



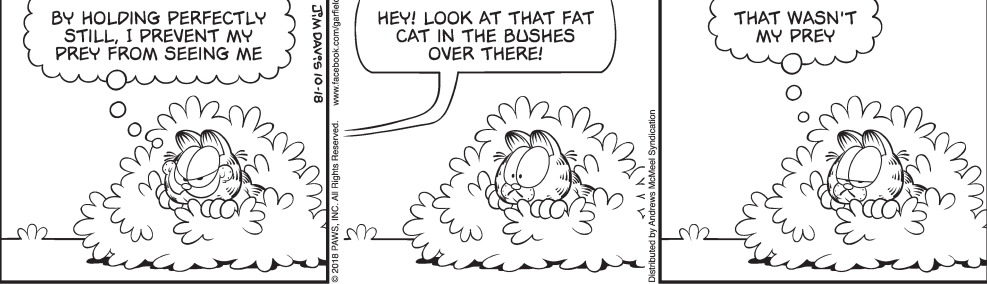
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



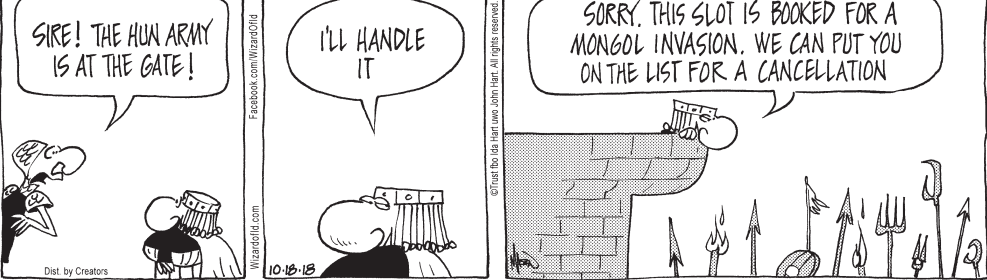
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



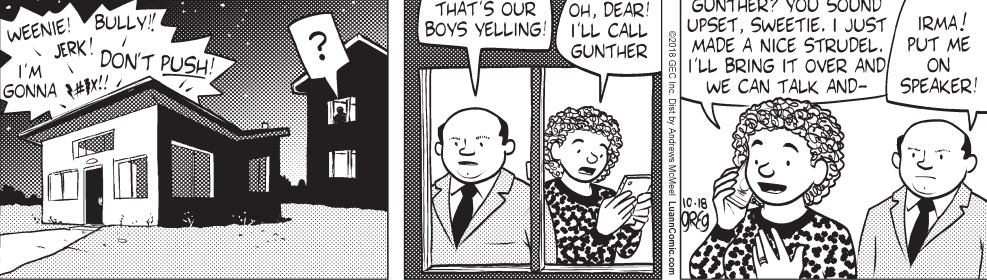
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



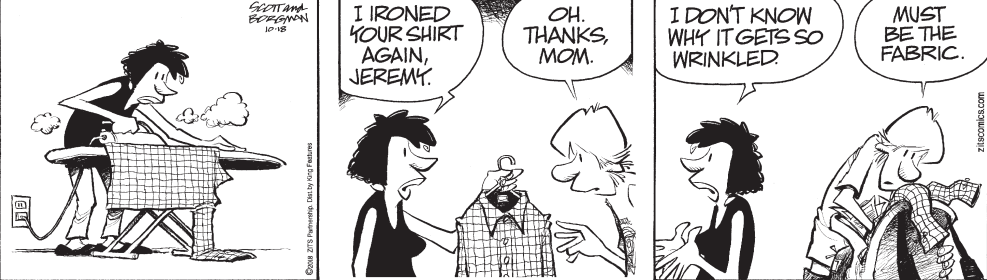
LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Mother's empty-nest syndrome becomes an unhealthy fixation

Dear Abby: I am suffering from a depression I think many mothers experience when they become empty nesters. Although my husband is supportive, I miss my 18-year-old so much that sometimes I'm tempted to drive to his college in Florida. My husband and I have always wanted to live in a warmer climate, but he doesn't like the humidity in Florida. We had planned to move to Arizona once my son went away to college, but now I'm having second thoughts because the drive to Arizona from Orlando is twice the distance, and I don't think I can take his being that far away.

I have good job offers in Arizona, and family there as well, so I know it would be a healthier place for me to be. I just cannot reconcile with the fact that my son will be so far away. He will be in college in Orlando for the next five years, as he is in a master's degree engineering program. Am I being overprotective? He's my only son. I have real anxieties about this and have been seeing a counselor as well as my doctor, who prescribed a mild antidepressant. Is this normal? Should I stay put? Should I move? — **Indecisive In Illinois**

Dear Indecisive: While some degree of empty-nest syndrome is normal, what you are experiencing is not. Keep the conversation open with your husband about relocating to Arizona. Your son needs a chance to become independent as much as you need the time to allow it to happen.

You say your husband can't tolerate the Florida humidity. Is it your intention to

impose it on him for the next five years? It would create unnecessary stress on your marriage. Further, what will happen after your son earns his degrees and is offered a job elsewhere? Do you plan to move again to be close to him?

Continue your counseling and meds. And while you're at it, find a volunteer project so you won't have time to sit and brood. With time, your anxiety will subside, and you will become less emotionally dependent upon your son — which will be healthier for both of you.

Dear Abby: I have read many of your columns and enjoyed them. These days though, you seem to hear from more and more people who are afraid of saying what needs to be said. I suspect it can be chalked up to the "be politically correct" nature of our country lately. But why is it that when people do speak their minds, others consider them rude? I let people know when they are disrespectful to me in public, and I don't put up with being put down. Am I wrong in feeling that people who say mean things need to be immediately corrected? Or am I really being rude? — **Farmgirl In Missouri**

Dear Farmgirl: You are not wrong, and it is not rude if you choose to defend yourself. What you are being is assertive, which is a healthy personality trait. No one should have to accept as normal social interaction being made to feel "less than" in public. If someone has a bone to pick with you — and vice versa — it should be done in private.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago

From the East Oregonian

Oct. 18, 1918

Within a week or ten days the local draft board will take up the sending of questionnaires to men above 36 years of age and below 19. Orders have been issued that the sending of these questionnaires be taken up as soon as the men are classified and J.T. Beckwith, clerk of the local board says a week or 10 days will be required to complete this work. The questionnaires will be mailed out at the rate of 10 per cent a day. This does not mean that men below 19 and above 36 are liable to immediate induction. Men between 19 and 36, inclusive, will be the first called. British and Canadian subjects are now amenable to the selective service regulations, the period of enlistment as provided in the conventions between the United States and Great Britain and Canada having expired October 12.

50 Years Ago

From the East Oregonian

Oct. 18, 1968

Fools Breeze, owned by Mr. and Mrs.

Stewart Guthery, won the \$750 cow cutting class trophy at Madras Oct. 12 and 13. The Guthery entry split third and fourth place in first go-round, first and second in second go-round and with three horses tied for the average winner, won the runoff. Stewart Guthery showed Fools Breeze.

25 Years Ago

From the East Oregonian

Oct. 18, 1993

A 31-year-old Caldwell, Idaho, man was expected to be arraigned today on multiple charges of burglary in connection with break-ins Friday morning at seven downtown businesses. Brian D. Gerrard was arrested by Pendleton police Friday morning on charges of burglary, carrying a concealed weapon and providing false information. He was described as belligerent and extremely uncooperative after he was taken into custody. He was charged with burglaries at Mountain Copy Machines, Automated Office Systems, AAA Automobile Club of Oregon, Pay N Pak, State Farm Insurance, The Nickel and Sunshine Gourmet Shoppe.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Oct. 18, 1892, the first long-distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened (it could only handle one call at a time).

In 1648, Boston shoemakers were authorized to form a guild to protect their interests; it's the first American labor organization on record.

In 1767, the Mason-Dixon line, the boundary between colonial Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, was set as astronomers Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon completed their survey.

In 1898, the American flag was raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U.S.

In 1944, Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia during World War II.

In 1968, the U.S. Olympic Committee suspended Tommie Smith and John Carlos for giving a "black

power" salute as a protest during a victory ceremony in Mexico City.

In 1969, the federal government banned artificial sweeteners known as cyclamates because of evidence they caused cancer in laboratory rats.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 1982, former first lady Bess Truman died at her home in Independence, Missouri, at age 97.

In 1997, a monument honoring American service-women, past and present, was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 2001, CBS News announced that an employee in anchorman Dan Rather's office had tested positive for skin anthrax. Four disciples of Osama bin Laden were sentenced in New

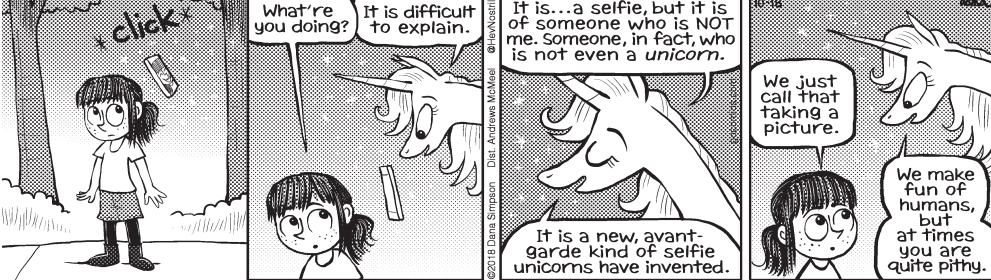
York to life without parole for their roles in the deadly 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

Today's Birthdays: College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 79. Singer-musician Russ Giguere is 75. Actor Joe Morton is 71. Actress Pam Dawber is 68. Author Terry McMillan is 67. Writer-producer Chuck Lorre is 66. Gospel singer Vickie Winans is 65. International Hall of Fame boxer Thomas Hearns is 60. Actor Jean-Claude Van Dam is 58. Country singer Josh Gracin is 38. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 34. Portland-based jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 34. Actor Zac Efron is 31.

Thought for Today: "The strongest are those who renounce their own times and become a living part of those yet to come. The strongest, and the rarest." — *Milovan Djilas (1911-1995), Yugoslav author and politician.*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

