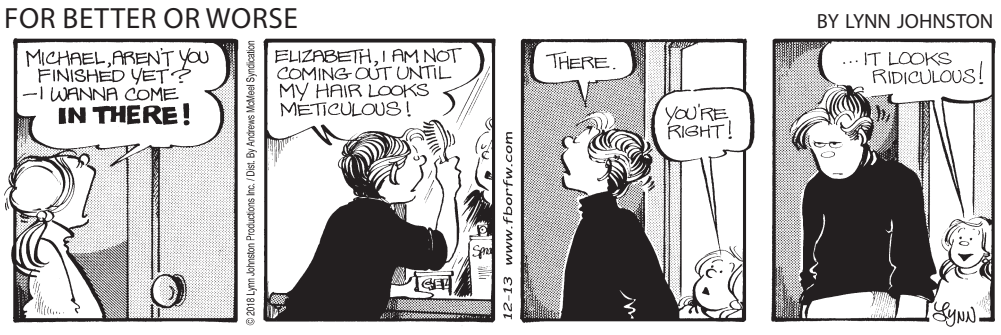
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

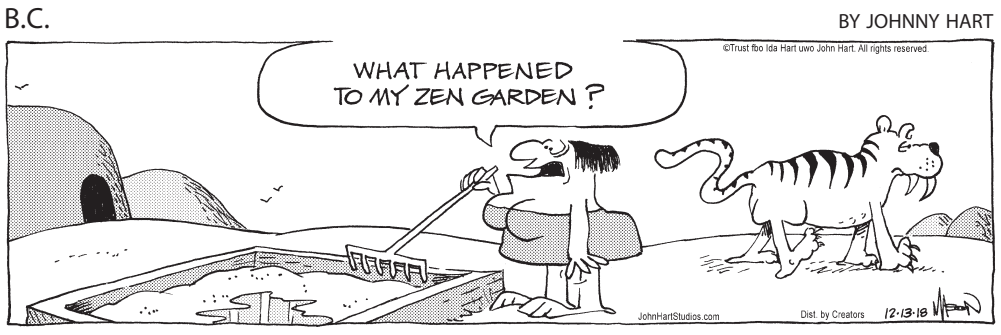
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART

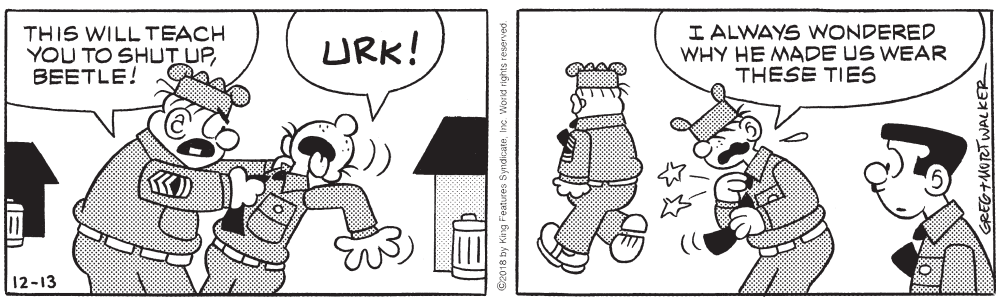


PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE

BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

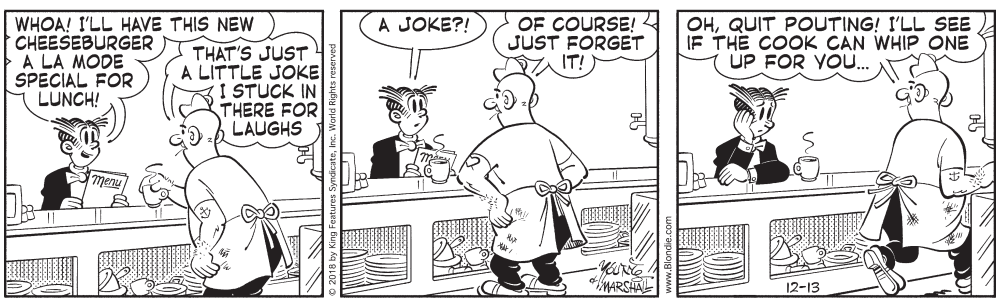


GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

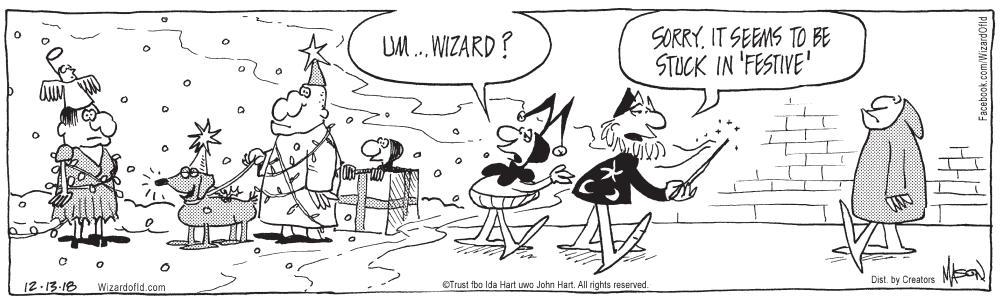


DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

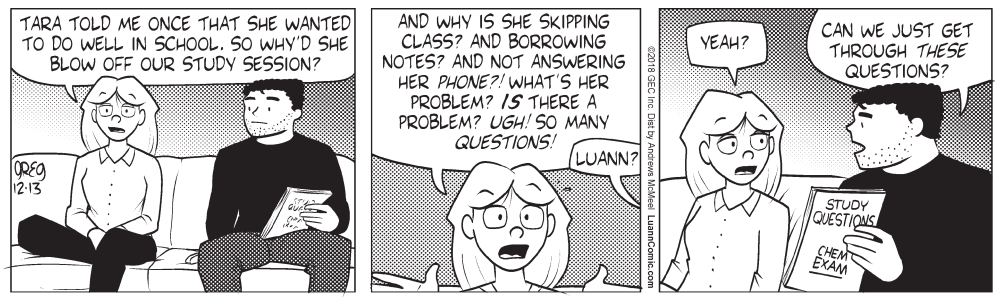
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



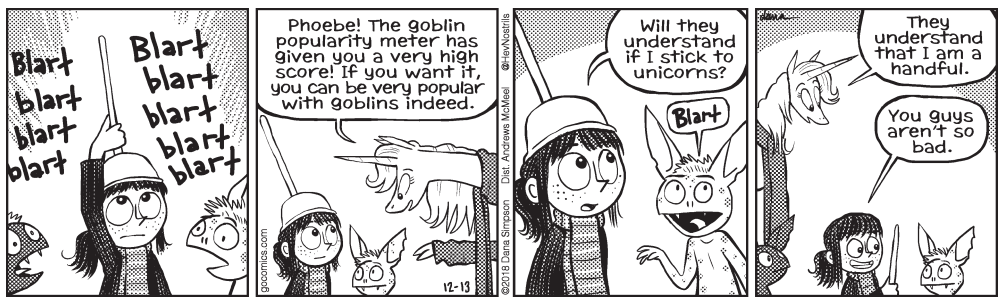
LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



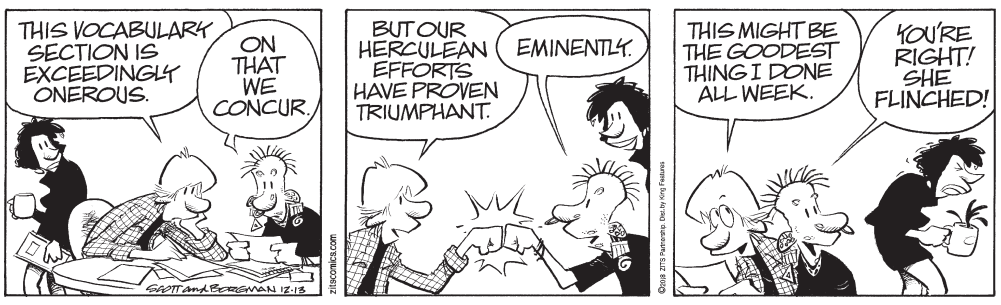
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

DEAR ABBY

Wife can no longer endure vicious tales man's ex tells

JEANNE PHILLIPS
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I have been with my husband for five years, and we have two children together. It's my husband's second marriage and my first. He and his first wife, "Gretchen," had no kids, but they did have a long and messy divorce. She and her family live in the same small town as we do. Her favorite pastime is telling anyone who will listen that my husband physically abused and raped her.

I know my husband. In our five years together he has never so much as raised his voice to me or our children. I don't presume to know what happened between him and Gretchen during their marriage, but I know in my heart it never got physical. I have spent five years listening to this garbage and hearing her put him down and say nasty things about me. I have reached my limit. Should I confront her or just keep refusing to acknowledge her? — **Drama With His Ex**

Dear Drama: You know that what your husband's ex is saying isn't true because you have been with your husband long enough to see the kind of person he is. Continue to ignore and avoid her. If someone repeats her stories, tell them that in your experience what she's saying couldn't be further from the truth. People who know you will understand what Gretchen's saying for what it is — unhappiness and vindictiveness.

Dear Abby: I'm at a loss and need some outside advice. I'm a man, married for two years. My husband and I have a great marriage, but last week my father was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, and I'm having trouble processing it. My husband is super supportive and has had my back 100 percent. But yesterday I woke up and a friend of mine wanted to meet with me and we ended up having sex.

What's wrong with me? I have never cheated before. I have been cheated on in the past, and I know how much it hurt, so I vowed never to do it. But it just happened. I regret what I did, and I feel gross. Why would I do this? Is it my way of coping with Dad's illness? I need to understand what the hell happened. Please help. — **Off the Rails**

Dear Off: I, too, suspect that your infidelity may be related to trying to deal with your father's diagnosis. It is not as unusual as you may think for people to react to grief, trauma or death by doing something uncharacteristic. However, if this becomes your default coping mechanism, discuss it with a licensed psychotherapist so it doesn't destroy your marriage.

P.S. Unplanned sexual encounters can have unplanned consequences. To make sure this one hasn't, contact your doctor about being checked for an STD. And consider coming clean to your husband, because it would be disastrous if your friend let the truth slip out accidentally. (And, of course, if you've developed an STD, tell your husband right away.)

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 13, 1918

On November 10, just one day before the end of the war, Frank Sheldon Ulrich, the first Pendleton-born boy to be killed in action, made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of France, according to a telegram received from the war office last night by his father, Franck Ulrich, of this city. Ulrich, who enlisted last summer as a member of the United States Marines, immediately after his graduation in the class of 1917 from the Pendleton high school, would have been 21 years of age next Sunday, December 15, He left here with Clell Brown, Pendleton boy who was wounded in France, and the two were together at Mare Island and Quantico, Virginia, and went to France on the same transport.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 13, 1968

City police lost little time in solving one of the Christmas tree lighting thefts and vandalism Wednesday when they apprehended a 16-year-old boy and then learned he had been accompanied by a 13-year-old and a 17-year-old boy. The three, who were involved in the theft of outdoor lights from the Carl Duchek place earlier in the week, were turned over the juvenile authorities.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 13, 1993

A 23-year-old man awaiting sentencing on robbery, assault and menacing convictions broke his ankle in a bungled escape attempt Sunday morning when he jumped from the roof of the Umatilla County Jail. Beacher F. Noble of Milton-Freewater cut his way through the southeast corner of a fenced recreation area atop the jail, then dropped off the south end of the courthouse roof to a lower level. From there he attempted a leap into a tree. It's not known when Noble broke his ankle during the attempted escape that started at about 9:10 a.m. Sunday. Noble was apprehended shortly after his escape at the Hachler Building at Southeast Fourth and Dorion Avenue.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 347th day of 2018. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

On this date:

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In 2002, Cardinal Bernard Law resigned as Boston archbishop because of the priest sex abuse scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 98. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 93. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 85. Singer John Davidson is 77. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 73. Singer Ted Nugent is 70. Actor Robert Lindsay is 69. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 69. Actress Wendie Malick is 68. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 68. Singer-actor Morris Day is 62. Actor Steve Buscemi is 61. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 52. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 51. Actor Bart Johnson is 48. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 47. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 44. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 43. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 37. Actor Michael Socha is 31. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 31. Singer Taylor Swift is 29.

Thought for Today: "To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets or sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think makes men martyrs or reformers — or both." — *Elizabeth Charles, British writer (1828-1896).*