

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

Desire to have a child of his own is man’s lifelong dream

Dear Abby: I am a man in my 40s. All my life I wanted nothing more than to get married and have a beautiful child. I have been in two relationships — one for nine years and the other for 11 years.

I suppose it’s unusual for a man to long for a child. My baby days are about over, yet I still long for one. I have adult stepchildren and grandchildren. We even fostered four children for two years. I love them all, yet I still feel so empty.

On top of it, my mother constantly says, “I wish you would make me a grandmother.” I tell her my stepkids are her grandchildren, but she insists on grieving that I don’t have a biological child. I am not able to, and I have explained it to her.

My wife tries to understand my pain but just can’t. It causes distance between us, and she shuts down. How can I forget about these desires and move on with life?

— **Daddy Issues in Indiana**

Dear Daddy Issues: I’m glad you reached out for guidance. Wanting biological children is a normal human desire, and it isn’t limited to just one gender.

Some sessions with a mental health professional may not be able to make you forget your lifelong wish to be a biological father, but therapy could help you to move on with your life and past the pain you are feeling. With the help of your therapist, perhaps you can help your mother understand that venting her frustration over your inability to produce the grandchild of her dreams has been excruciating, and you need her to stop once and for all.

Dear Abby: I’m concerned about a friend of mine. When she was a child, her

parents tried to raise her to be neat, but her bedroom, closets and bathroom were always a mess. Now that she has a home of her own and is married with kids, she’s still the same. Clothing and towels are piled so deep on the floor you can’t see it.

She has a housekeeper, and before the woman comes over to clean, my friend picks the stuff up. I don’t know how they can tell what’s clean or dirty when it has

been walked on all week. The rest of the house is OK, but as you walk in the door, shoes are thrown here and there, like, “I’m home now. I’m free. Let it go. No rules.” Her teenage daughter is now modeling the same behavior.

Is this some kind of disorder? To me, it would be just as easy to dump things into a hamper, on a shelf or in a drawer. Her husband is neat, and so is her son. I love her and it’s none of my business, but is my way the wrong way? Am I the one with a disorder? — **Orderly in Arkansas**

Dear Orderly: Your friend may have refused to be neat as a form of rebellion against her parents who, according to you, did not enforce the rules they set for her. It’s not surprising the daughter is imitating her mother, which may come back to haunt her in a few years.

But none of you have a disorder. I do have a suggestion for you, however. Quit obsessing about your friend’s sloppy household and parenting because there is nothing you can do about it.

To My Readers: I am wishing you a joyous and meaningful Christmas. Merry Christmas, everyone!



JEANNE PHILLIPS
ADVICE

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 24-25, 1918

The clamping on of the influenza ban the first of the week put a stop to all public gatherings in the city and for the first time in the history of Pendleton Christmas is passing without Christmas services or exercises of any kind. However, people are meeting the condition caused by the epidemic with good grace and the observance of the day is being held in the homes. Every home has its Christmas tree, and the passing of gifts has been as general as ever as evidenced by the reports from stores showing the Christmas trade has been up to that of other years.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 24-25, 1968

There will be a white Christmas from the look of things at several Eastern Oregon and Washington cities, but Pendleton and the Heppner country won’t be among them. The local station of the U.S. Weather Bureau expects 50 to 55 above today, above freezing tonight and around 40 Christmas

day, with rains at times. Temperatures, while warm in Pendleton with 50 above at 10:30 a.m. today, have been cool on either side. Walla Walla and Hermiston highs yesterday were 33 while Pendleton had 48 at Pend-Air and 47 downtown.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Dec. 24-25, 1993

As Paul Franco busily fills baby bottles and coaxes 8-month-old Sarah to eat her vegetables, he only occasionally thinks of his wife, Marilyn, who died seven days after giving birth to their baby girl. “I never knew I could be maternal,” said Franco, 42, as he sits spooning baby food into his daughter’s mouth. “She taught me a lot. But I never had to do this alone.” Franco, however, has learned he’s not entirely alone. During this holiday season — and every month since his wife’s sudden death from an aneurysm in April — plenty of friends have come knocking on his door. “That’s the thing that left me feeling indebted,” Franco says. “Friends would come in like clock work. They’ve disrupted their own family schedule to help me out.”

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

In 1931, New York’s Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time: “Hansel and Gretel” by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1961, Pope John XXIII formally announced the upcoming convocation of the Second Vatican Council, which opened in Oct. 1962.

In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES’-koo) and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising. Former baseball manager Billy Martin, 61, died in a traffic accident near Binghamton, New York.

In 2009, passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO’-mahr fah-ROOK’ ahb-DOOL’-moo-

TAH’-lahb), who tried to set off explosives in his underwear. (Abdulmutallab later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Dick Miller is 90. Author Anne Roiphe is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 74. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 72. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 70. Actress Sissy Spacek is 69. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 68. Singer Annie Lennox is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson is 60. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is 47.

Thought for Today: “He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” — *Roy L. Smith, American clergyman (1887-1963).*

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

