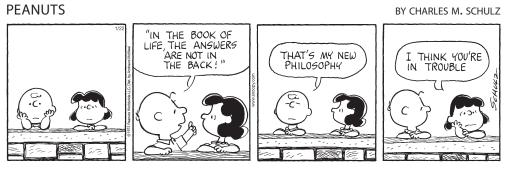
COFFEE BREAK









BEETLE BAILEY







BLONDIE

YOU WOULD LOOK SMASHING IT'S EXPENSIVE, BUT IT

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

DEAR ABBY Man plans to give girlfriend a ring without a proposal

Dear Abby: My girlfriend, "Jane," and I have been in love for three years. We're both in our 30s. Jane and her daughter have lived with me long enough to know that I want to be a part of — and contribute to — the rest of their lives. Jane knows I never want to be married, but that I am committed to her. I know how to make sure she is taken care of in the event that I pass away, and I'm in the process of making that a reality.

I would like to give her a special

diamond. Is there a way to give her the moment she deserves without asking her to marry me? - She Deserves Better

Dear She Deserves Better: I doubt it. If Jane would like to be married and is open about your relationship, don't be surprised if she tells you she would rather have a proposal and a wedding than a diamond and a legal document.

Dear Abby: My husband's parents forgot his birthday — again. Last year, he laughed it off. This year, it wasn't so funny. It's especially hurtful because they not only remember his other adult siblings' birthdays, but throw parties or dinners for them to which we are invited.

Would I be out of line to send them a reminder next year? I don't want them to think I'm fishing for a party; I just would like them to call their son on his birthday. **Calendar Girl in Illinois**

Dear Calendar Girl: Why do I think there is more to this story than you have



mentioned? Your husband may have done - or not done - something that upset his parents, and this may be their passive-aggressive way of punishing him.

Do not "remind" them of the birthday. They are well aware of when it is. Instead, plan a celebration for him with some of his friends, and make the occasion a happy one with no mention of his parents.

Dear Abby: Please explain why DJs or bands think it's appro-

priate to blast their music at occasions like weddings, dinners or any gathering, for that matter, to the point that the guests have to shout at each other. I thought music was supposed to be in the background, to be enjoyed during a meal or conversation, then raised a little louder for dancing, since dancers want to hear the music.

I was at a golf tournament recently, and we asked the DJs to turn the volume down because the players were still golfing. They did, but when players started coming in, the music got louder and louder until it was blasting. The more people who came in, the louder it got. Abby, how do you feel about this? — Too Loud in New Hampshire

Dear Too Loud: This may happen because of the size of the room or the mood the musicians are attempting to create. However, unless music is being played in a dance club, increasing the volume to the point that attendees cannot comfortably carry on a conversation is intrusive.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 21-22, 1919

Because the Umatilla National Forest Reserve by reason of excellent landing facilities is especially adapted to the use of airplanes for fire prevention, Supervisor W.W. Cryder has placed an order with the government asking that if planes come into use, his territory be given one. If planes become a feature of the forest service, they will be used to investigate drought conditions and will report upon them, saving time over the old method of telephoning. This would mean no change in plans for extinguishing fires, but, according to Mr. Cryder, there is a possibility that bombs may be used for this purpose.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 21-22, 1969

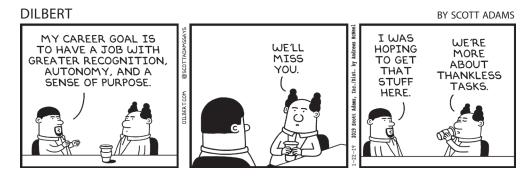
With the nine to 12 inch snow cover which fell 10 days ago still on the ground, motorists in the Heppner area seem to be doing all right, but youngsters are getting hurt playing in the snow on innertubes. Sunday Kristi Haguewood, 12, daughter of

Mrs. and Mrs. Ron Haguewood, was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for x-rays as result of a fall from such a device. She has an injury to her tail bone, seriousness of the injury is as yet undetermined but the child cannot sit or stand. She shot over a ridge on a diversion ditch at her family ranch five miles from Heppner, and landed on a frozen pond. She was allowed to return home where she is being kept in bed.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 21-22, 1994

A Pendleton native was shot to death last week in his apartment building in Seattle. Lawrence Waite, 40, a resident on the 12th floor of the Bay View Tower, died of a gunshot wound to the head, police said. Police were alerted to the shooting about 4:15 a.m. last Thursday when someone called 911. Police first thought Waite may have committed suicide, but they later learned there had been a scuffle in a stairwell of the building and a witness saw a man and woman fleeing the building about the time of the shooting. There was no known motive, police said.





THE WIZARD OF ID





TODAY IN HISTORY

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

On this date:

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

President In 1917, Wilson, in Woodrow an address to Congress, pleaded for an end to the war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory."

In 1968, the fast-paced sketch comedy program "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered as a weekly series on NBC-TV.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun,

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

placing the barrel in his mouth and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

1998, Theodore In Kaczynski pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

In 2008, actor Heath Ledger, 28, was found dead of an accidental prescription overdose in a New York City apartment.

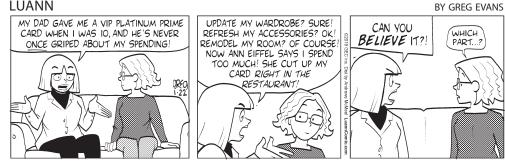
Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 91. Actress Piper Laurie is 87. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The

Galloping Gourmet") is 85. Actor Seymour Cassel is 84. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 82. Singer Steve Perry is 70. Country singer-mu-Teddy sician Gentry (Alabama) is 67. Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Bossy is 62. Actress Diane Lane is 54. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 54. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 54.

Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 51. Actress Katie Finneran is 48. Actor Gabriel Macht is 47. Actor Balthazar Getty is 44. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 39. Pop singer Willa Ford is 38. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 38. Actresssinger Phoebe Strole is 36. Rapper Logic is 29. Tennis player Alize Cornet is 29. Actress Sami Gayle is 23.

Thought for Today: "Children need models rather than critics." -Joseph Joubert, French moralist (1754-1824).

LUANN



Really? Hou do you go about it? I'm kinda an expert on distraction Som I wasn't listening What, now

ZITS





BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN









BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

BY DANA SIMPSON

Oh, you ARE good

I'll do it later

