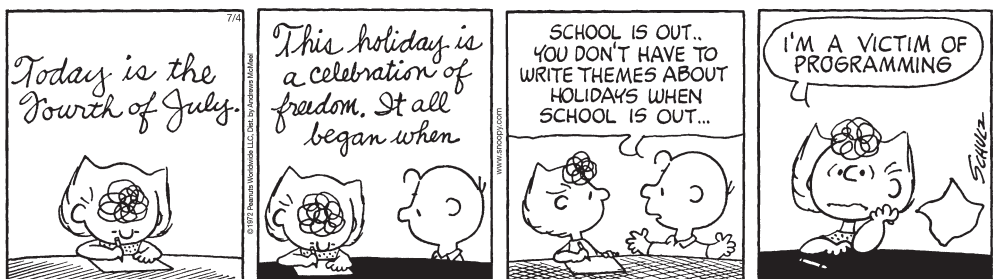


PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



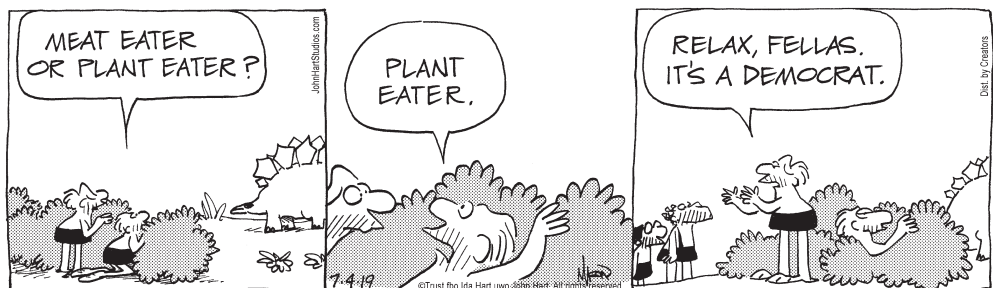
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



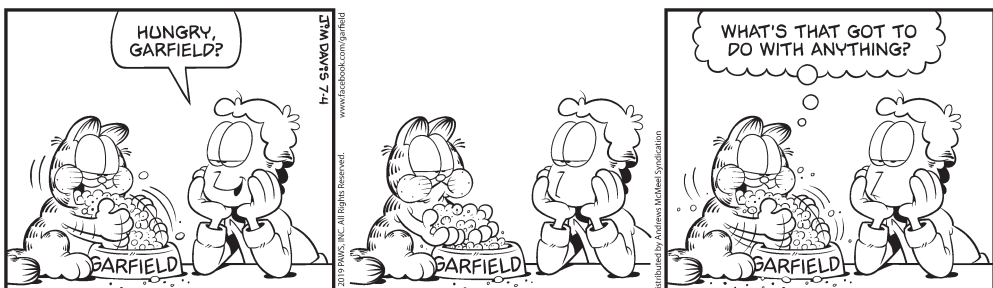
BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



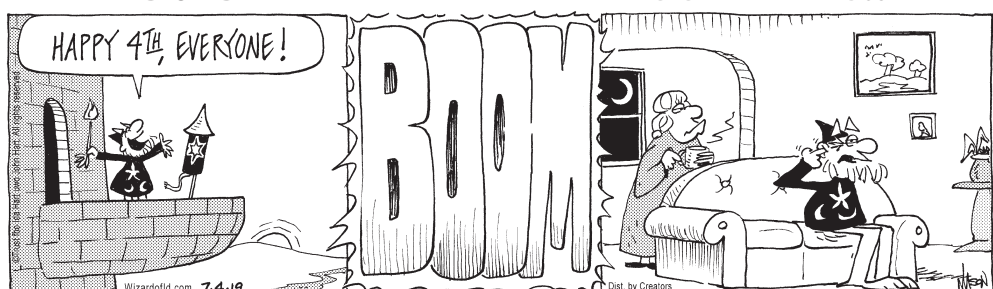
DILBERT

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

Lines are drawn in family feud over recovering addict



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

Dear Abby: My stepbrother "Pete" is a recovering addict who did significant prison time for possession and gang affiliations. He has also had multiple DUI convictions. He's been out for two years and is holding a job and taking care of his kids part time.

My parents think he's completely rehabilitated, but I think he's using again, based on his behavior. He has tried to get my husband to give him some of a prescription medication he takes, and jokes about "acting good" when with family but not at home.

I decided I no longer want to be around Pete, particularly with my children, and I asked my parents not to have him over while we are visiting. They said they understood, but the last time we went for a weekend, Pete was there with his son, and it was really uncomfortable. Now they say they just want us to all get along and that I'm "snobby" for wanting to exclude Pete.

I have reached a point where I'm no longer willing to visit them because I can't trust them. They won't come to my house, but are mad at me for "withholding their grandkids from them" (their words) and "breaking up the family." What are my obligations in this situation, and is it reasonable to insist we visit without Pete? I hate to make them choose, but I also feel like this is a safety issue. — Uncomfortable in Minnesota

Dear Uncomfortable: As a parent, you have to do what you think is best for your children. I wish you had explained your parents' reason for not visiting your home,

because it appears to be manipulative and a means of punishing you for sticking to your guns.

Given the fact that Pete has tried to convince your husband to share his scheduled medications and has bragged about "acting good" when with family, you are doing the right thing.

Dear Abby: My sister — age 57 — has terrible table manners. We live three hours apart but get together every two or three months to enjoy each other's company.

Recently, we went to a nice restaurant, and she let out a loud, obnoxious, disgusting burp. I was surprised and embarrassed. She quickly apologized. I said, "Can't you lower the volume and cover your mouth?" She became defensive and said, "I apologized!"

Her burping happens often, but this one was beyond the pale. I don't like it, never have. How do I communicate to her effectively to burp quietly and in a controlled manner? — Disgusted in New Jersey

Dear Disgusted: I think you have already done that. Is it possible your sister suffers from a gastrointestinal disorder? If she hasn't brought this to the attention of her doctor, she should.

If, however, there is nothing physically wrong with her, you may be happier having your meals in a different kind of restaurant — a loud, casual burger joint or a sports bar where no one will notice her problem while rooting for the home team.

Dear Readers: Have a very happy and healthy Fourth of July, everyone. And please be safe! — Love, Abby

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, New York.

In 1817, ground was broken for the Erie Canal in Rome, New York. The middle section of the waterway took three years to complete; the entire canal was finished in 1825.

In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City at age 73.

In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vermont.

In 1910, in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century," black world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson defeated white former champ James J. Jeffries in Reno, Nevada.

In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

In 1982, the space shuttle Columbia concluded its fourth and final test flight with a smooth landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne married his manager, Sharon Arden, in Maui, Hawaii.

In 1987, Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was convicted by a French court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison (he died in September 1991).

In 1997, NASA's Pathfinder spacecraft landed on Mars, inaugurating a new era in the search for life on the red planet. CBS newsmen Charles Kuralt died in New York at age 62.

In 2013, Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, was sworn in following the ouster of Mohammed Morsi, the Islamist leader overthrown by the military after just one year in office.

In 2017, the United States confirmed that North Korea had launched an intercontinental ballistic missile, as the North had boasted and the U.S. and South Korea had feared. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called it a "new escalation of the threat" to the U.S.

Ten years ago: Former Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair was fatally shot in a Nashville condo by his mistress, Sahel Kazemi, who then killed herself. North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles into waters off its east coast. The Statue of Liberty's crown was reopened to tourists for the first time since September 11, 2001. Serena Williams beat her big sister, Venus, 7-6 (3), 6-2 for her third Wimbledon title and 11th Grand Slam championship.

Five years ago: Germany summoned the U.S. ambassador in Berlin after the arrest of a man reported to have spied for the United States, heightening friction between the two countries over alleged U.S. eavesdropping in Germany. Richard Mellon Scaife, 82, the billionaire heir to the Mellon banking and oil fortunes and a newspaper publisher who funded libertarian and conservative causes and various projects aimed at discrediting President Bill Clinton, died in Pittsburgh.

One year ago: British police said two Britons who fell critically ill in the town of Amesbury were exposed to nerve agent Novichok, the same material used to poison a former Russian spy in a nearby area months earlier. A protest against U.S. immigration policy forced the evacuation of the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July, with a group unfurling a banner from the pedestal and a woman holding police at bay for hours after she climbed the base.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Eva Marie Saint is 95. Actress Gina Lollobrigida is 92. Singer Bill Withers is 81. Actress Carolyn Grimes is 79. Rhythm and blues singer Annette Beard (Martha and the Vandellas) is 76. Broadcast journalist Gerald Rivera is 76. Vietnam War veteran and peace activist Ron Kovic is 73. Rhythm and blues musician Ralph Johnson (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 68. Singer John Waite is 67. Rock musician Kirk Pengilly (INXS) is 61. Country musician Teddy Carr is 59. Rock DJ Zonka is 57. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver is 57. Rock musician Matt Malley is 56. Actor-playwright-screenwriter Tracy Letts is 54. Actor Al Madrigal is 48. Actress Jenica Bergere is 45. Actor-singer John Lloyd Young is 44. Singer Stephen "Ste" McNally (BBMak) is 41. Actress Becki Newton is 41. Actor Mo'Nique is 37. TV personality Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is 37. Rhythm and blues singer Melanie Fiona is 36. Malia Obama is 21.

Thought for Today: "All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions." — Adlai E. Stevenson, American diplomat and politician (1900-1965).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

