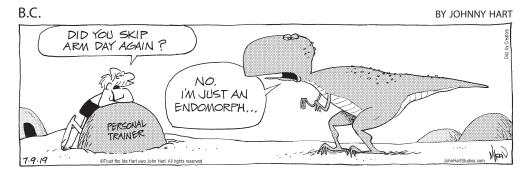
COFFEE BREAK

FOR BETTER OR WORSE







BEETLE BAILEY



GARFIELD

BLONDIE



DEAR ABBY Intensity of grandson's devotion to video games is worrisome

Dear Abby: I have a concern as a grandmother about our youngest grandchild, age 10. He is addicted to video games. There has been quite a lot of publicity on how bad this can be for children.

When we visit, he never comes to greet us or even to talk to us. Once when we were getting ready to go out to dinner, he was screaming at his mom and stomping his feet so hard that the ceiling light was shaking.

We love our daughter-in-law

very much, but we feel she wants to be her kids' "friend" and not a mom. She's a teacher and is well-educated. Our son, who is also well-educated, does none of the disciplining as far as we can see. We can't figure it out.

This grandson is only 10 now, but it won't be long until he's 13. I am afraid he will get violent with his mom or even hurt himself. Should we mind our own business and just look away? We have never interfered in our children's business. - Worried Grandparent in the South

Dear Worried: A 10-year-old child having a full-blown tantrum (which is what you describe) is not normal. He should have learned to regulate his emotions by now. There may be things going on with your grandson that you're not aware of. I do think you should mention to your son and daughter-in-law that you are concerned and why.

Dear Abby: We have lived next door to a woman with a short temper for 20 years. Our driveways are extremely long. Hers has a big slope on the side closer to our home,



which she cannot mow with her tractor. She asked us to mow that area with our push mower because she doesn't have one, so for the past 15 years, we have. It takes only 10 minutes, so we really don't mind at all.

Last Friday, I was running late to go out of town. I didn't spend as much time as usual on the yard, and I received this text from her: "Good evening. I really appreciate that you and (your husband)

keep the strip between our houses mowed, but I just paid \$400 to get my driveway power washed. That's a lot of money to get it all moldy again so quickly, so can one of you please come and sweep off the driveway before the rain starts falling tomorrow?" My husband went and spent the 60 seconds it took to sweep it, but I don't know how to reply to her text. Any thoughts would be greatly appreciated. -Mowed Down in the East

Dear Mowed Down: Is your neighbor so infirm or aged that she is physically unable to sweep her driveway? If the answer is yes, then let it ride. If the answer is no, text her back and offer to buy her a broom.

Dear Abby: If I have several guests sitting around chatting, and they start getting loud discussing politics or religion, would it be rude for me to say, "No discussing politics or religion"? Some friends become very loud. I guess they think if they yell, people will abide by what they have to say. **Mediating in Texas**

Dear Mediating: It would not be rude to say, "Hey, folks, this is getting heated, so let's change the subject. Now.'

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 9, 1919

The cities of Milton and Freewater are both preparing to pave the streets over which the highway traffic between Pendleton and Walla Walla must pass, according to B. Breithaupt, engineer, who is in Pendleton today. Mr. Breithaupt has been engaged by the two communities to furnish them with data and estimates to be used in starting the paving work. Paving on the road beyond Freewater is progressing from the edge of the city and also from the state line toward Freewater, Mr. Breithaupt said. The twin cities hope to have their sections connect up by the time the state and county work has been completed, making an unbroken stretch of paved road to the state line.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 9, 1969

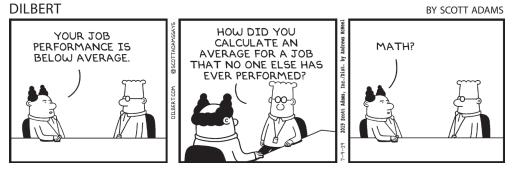
A bottle filled with gasoline was thrown in a garbage can and set afire Monday near

the Seventh-day Adventist School on SW Frazer in Pendleton. A neighbor, fearing the blaze would set the school on fire, called firemen. He threw dirt on the fire and had it nearly extinguished by the time firemen arrived. One truck and two men were sent to the scene at 6:51 p.m. Monday.

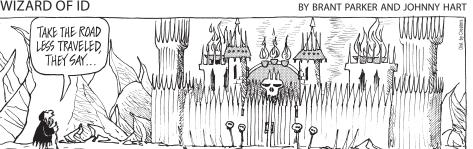
25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 9, 1994

It remains to be seen whether Morrow County will be split into two health care districts or if a compromise can be reached to create a county-wide district. No clearcut proposal was reached at a hearing in Lexington this week. But the recommendations of an ad hoc committee appointed by Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson points toward a compromise. However, a proposal to create a county-wide district could be "dead in the water" if there are any appeals or if the county's five cities fail to unanimously endorse such a proposal, Carlson said.





THE WIZARD OF ID



TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 9, 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded as his troops suffered a massive defeat during the French and Indian War (he died four days later).

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced

In 1962, pop artist Andy Warhol's exhibit of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans opened at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.

In 1974. former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed Kenner, Louisiana, in shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia performed for the final time as frontman of the Grateful Dead during a concert at Chicago's Soldier Field (Garcia died a month later).

In 2001, a divided court in Chile ruled that Gen. Augusto Pinochet could not be tried on human rights charges because of his deteriorating health and mental condition, a ruling that effectively brought the 85-year-old former dictator's legal troubles to an end.

Today's **Birthdays**: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 92. Actor Brian Dennehy is 81. Author Dean Koontz is 74. Actor Tom Hanks is 63. Singer Marc Almond is 62. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 55. Musician/ producer Jack White is 44. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 43. Actor-director Fred Savage is 43.

Thought for Today: "If writers were good business men, they'd have too much sense to be writers." — Irvin S. Cobb, American humorist (1876-1944).

BY DANA SIMPSON

LUANN







BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

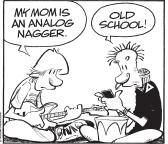
PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN BY GREG EVANS



ZITS



BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIG NATE





THESE ARE THE DEEP QUESTIONS WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

