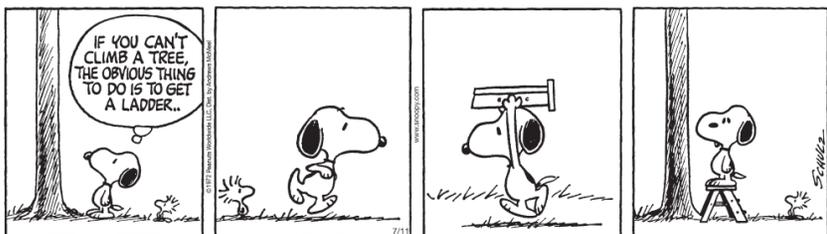


PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



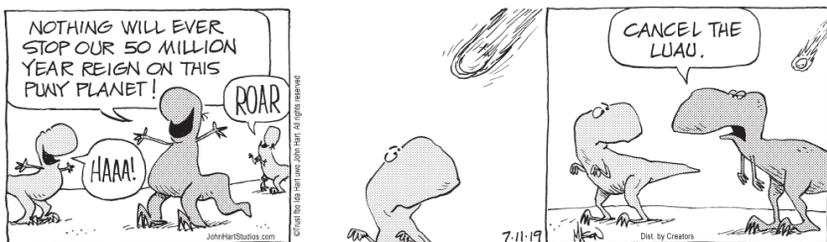
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



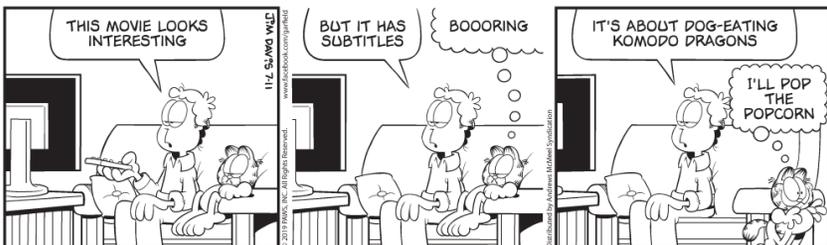
BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



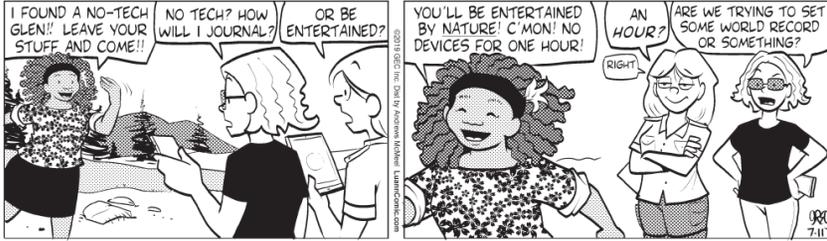
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Friendship ends after birthday party joke goes wildly wrong

Dear Abby: I recently attended a friend's party that was being given to celebrate their son's 18th birthday. I thought it would be cheeky and fun to buy him a risqué card from an adult boutique, thinking everyone would get a good laugh, and we'd have something to roast the young man with. When he opened the card, he had this look of horror on his face, ran out of the room all teary-eyed and went directly to his bedroom. His mother picked up the card and immediately asked me to leave. I was really embarrassed but unsure about the reason.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

straight or cisgender. I'm sorry that the young person was embarrassed. Your apology should have been directed at them, not their mother. But since the mother has now decreed you persona non grata, you will have to accept it. It's unfortunate. The family overreacted. What could have been handled as a simple teachable moment was blown out of proportion.

I gave them a week or so to cool off. I called back only to be informed by the mother that I had violated her son's sanctity of sexual orientation because he identifies as a "they" and "prefers androgynous boys to women." She went on to explain that as a result of my "indiscriminate sexism," I'm no longer allowed around the family.

Dear Abby: I am about to blow my top! I am a married father of two in the military who works 12 hours daily to support my family. My wife and I are college grads and have been married five years. For those years we have maintained residence in Hawaii. My wife doesn't work and tries to run a day care that is mildly successful.

I feel I should've been informed of the child's orientation being such an important aspect of his ... or rather, "their" identity, and tried to explain it was an honest mistake and would never happen again. My friend said the damage was done, and they can't forgive that kind of arrogance and blatant disrespect for "their" gender identity and sexual orientation.

Our home is always dirty because, as she puts it, she is not a housemaid. She doesn't cook often either. Many times I come home so tired I can't see, and the house is a mess. This has caused arguments.

Was I insensitive for not asking first, or should the parents have taken the initiative to inform me so I wouldn't make such an egregious error in what I assumed was a well-rounded friendship? Any advice would be great. — Wanting to Scream in Eugene

My thinking is, if she's not going to take care of the house, she should get a job and help with the finances. The money she gets from the day care doesn't go toward the household. She considers it her spending money.

Dear Wanting: I think one lesson to be learned here is that some people are not comfortable with sexual humor. Another is that it is a mistake to assume that everyone is

I am ready to bounce and find greener pastures. I have tried talking to her, but she ignores my complaints and plays the victim. We have already tried counseling. It doesn't work because she goes back to her normal self afterward. Help! — Peeved in the Pacific

Dear Peeved: Marriage is supposed to be a partnership and, from what you have written, your wife is unwilling to contribute to it. I can't change her and neither can you. Because counseling hasn't resolved your obvious lack of compatibility, it's time to consult a lawyer.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 11, 1919

Tomorrow morning will witness the opening of Pendleton's newest financial institution, the Inland Empire bank, situated at the corner of Main and Court streets. The new bank will start business with a capitalization of \$250,000 which is exceeded by only two banks in the state outside of Portland. J.W. Maloney, 36 years a resident of Umatilla county, is president of the city's newest bank. The Inland Empire bank received its charter from the state on March 17, 1919, and has also been made a member of the federal reserve bank in the twelfth district.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 11, 1969

The 1966 Ferrari which topped 160 miles an hour on Interstate 80 North a few months ago probably won't be sold at auction after all. The sports car was impounded when its owner, Daniel James Gruener, 23, Ketchum, Idaho, was arrested for possession marijuana following a high-speed chase by Oregon State Police. A show cause hearing was conducted this week in Umatilla County Circuit Court on whether District Attorney Joe Smith could sell the auto. Proceeds would go to the county's general fund. The prospect of auctioning

off the Italian auto dimmed considerably when Lucretia G. Goldsmith, La Jolla, Calif., a relative of Gruener, showed that she held a \$17,000 lien on the auto. Circuit Court Judge Henry Kaye said the state was within its rights in seizing the car, and planning to sell it, but that any proceeds from the sale would have to go first toward satisfying the lien. Car buffs say that is more than the Ferrari would bring at auction.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 11, 1994

Swimming spectators at the Pendleton Invitational Swim Meet had their need for speed fulfilled this weekend. Toby Wilcox of Hermiston led a group of swimmers from across the state who broke 20 meet records at the annual summer event. Wilcox broke three meet records. The 18-year-old bettered Scott Ericson's 1989 mark (57.65) in the 100 meter freestyle race by more than a second with a time of 56.42 seconds. Wilcox broke his own record that he set in 1993 in the 50-meter freestyle race, finishing in a time of 25.31 seconds compared to last year's mark of 26.19 seconds. The Hermiston swimmer also broke the meet record in the 100-meter butterfly with a race time of 1:02.57. The old mark of 1:02.90 was set in 1983 by Bart Pippenger. Wilcox also captured first in the 200-meter freestyle and the 400-meter individual medley.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 11, 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1914, Babe Ruth made his Major League baseball debut, pitching the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 victory over Cleveland.

In 1915, the Chicago Sunday Tribune ran an article titled, "Blues Is Jazz and Jazz Is Blues." (It's believed

to be one of the earliest, if not the earliest, uses of the word "jazz" as a musical term by a newspaper.)

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return

to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 76. Singer Peter Murphy is 62. Actress Lisa Rinna is 56. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 54. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 46. Rapper Lil' Kim is 44. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is Actor David Henrie is 30. Actor Connor Paolo is 29. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 29.

Thought for Today: "Life is a lot like jazz — it's best when you improvise." — George Gershwin (1898-1937).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

