

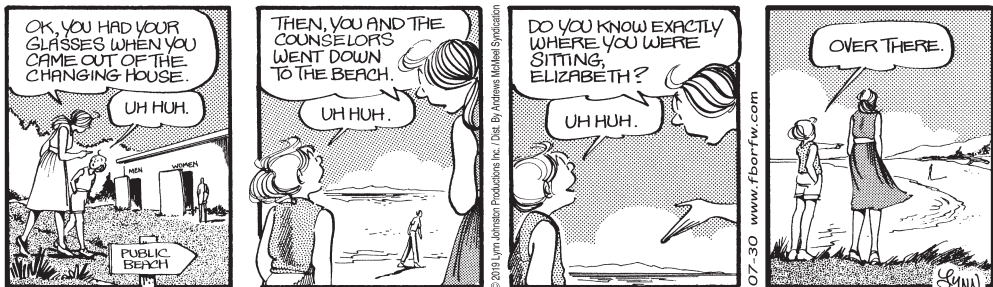
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



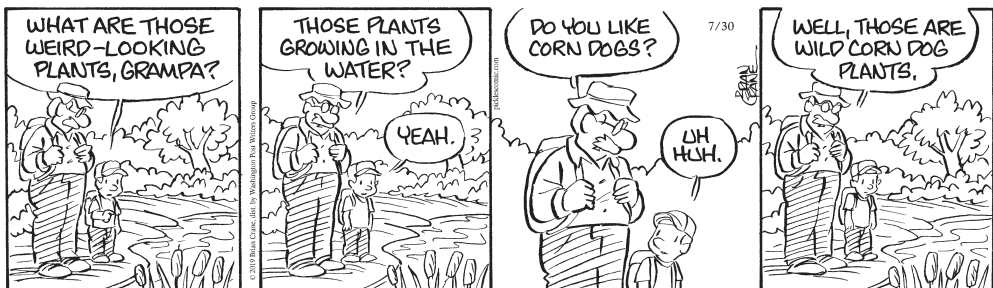
B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



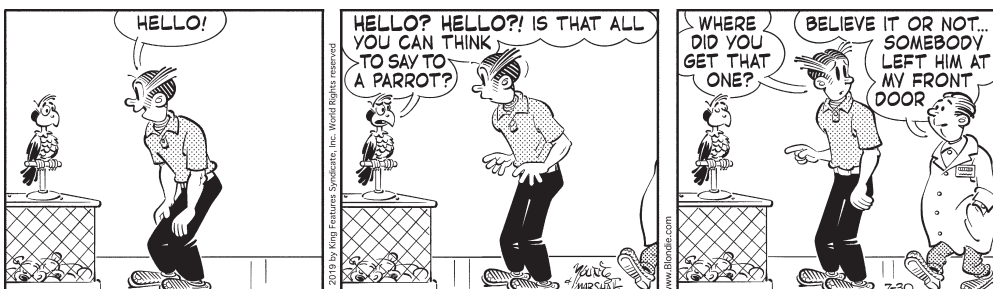
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



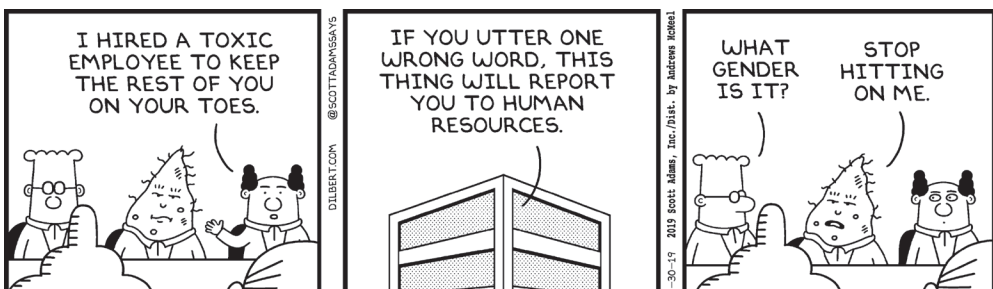
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE



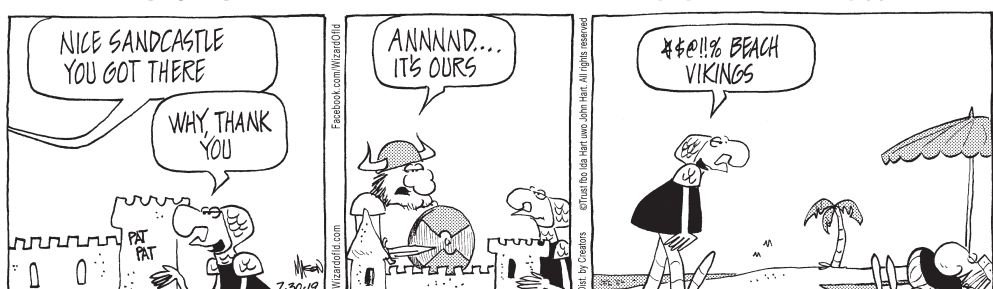
DILBERT

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

Friend takes offense at never being asked about her past



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

Dear Abby: Six months ago, I got back in touch with a childhood friend who married at 17 and moved away. She has lots of family drama, much of it caused by her alcoholism (which she says is a result of PTSD).

Recently, she told me I have hurt her and I'm a terrible friend because since we've reconnected, I have never once asked her about her past and the ordeals she's been through. Abby, she talks about herself constantly. I never thought it was necessary to ask her about the past because she never shuts up about it. I have tried to be a good listener, but I don't think she has made the best life choices, and I don't want to confront her with my opinions on how she has messed up her life.

I don't question people about their past, truthfully. I feel if they want to discuss it, they'll bring it up themselves. Was I wrong for not asking her to dredge it up? Now she won't even talk to me. — Friendless in Florida

Dear Friendless: Be grateful the woman no longer speaks to you. You have done nothing wrong. The person you describe needs to feel wronged and be the focus of your conversations, which to me seems self-centered. Consider yourself fortunate that this troubled individual has moved on, and concentrate on relationships that are healthy — and mutual.

Dear Abby: My family is very close, and we see each other often. Lately I have been avoiding most of our family gatherings because of my brother-in-law "Jared." At the most recent family occasion, he

was staring, winking and flashing peace signs at me. This is not friendly banter; it is very creepy. My sister isn't aware of it, and I'm sure she wouldn't approve.

I have been married four times, and I'm currently single. If his behavior continues, which I'm sure it will since I am a very desirable woman, I will have to skip family events entirely. Any thoughts? — Hard To Resist Out West

Dear Hard To Resist: Your letter is unique. I rarely hear from people with as "healthy" an ego as yours. Because you feel your brother-in-law is out of line, try this: Tell him to cut it out the next time he does it because it is making you uncomfortable. And if that doesn't do the trick, tell his wife.

Dear Abby: I'm a male who recently started dating a great guy, "Jake." I deal with the public in my job every day, and I'm often asked things like, "Do you have a girlfriend?" and, "When will you find a wife?" Even my co-workers are inquiring when I'll find a "lucky girl." I'm happy in my relationship and would like to express that. Is there a tactful, succinct, non-awkward way to let people know I'm in a happy relationship with another male? — In a Happy Place in Georgia

Dear Happy: Absolutely! When asked if you have a girlfriend, say, "No, I have a boyfriend." And when your co-workers ask when you are going to find a wife or a "lucky girl," be upfront and tell them you are dating a great guy named Jake. That should answer the questions and put the subject to rest.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 30, 1919

Work is now under way for a \$10,000 residence for Herman Suhl, well known Umatilla county farmer, on his property at 116 Monroe street. The house will be of hollow tile and concrete and will be a Swiss chalet type, adapted to the location which is above the river. T.L. Rees of Los Angeles is the architect and builder. The house will be built with a full basement, and two stories. There will be eight rooms, including a sun parlor, sleeping porch and breakfast room. The house is to have hardwood floors throughout, and all woodwork is to be Phillipino ribbon-grain mahogany. The residence will be equipped with a hot water heating system.

50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 30, 1969

More than \$16 million in gold was taken from the hills around John Day during the gold rush days. Plans for a new boom — this time in fossils — brought state officials and the board of directors of the Oregon Historical Society to a weekend meeting in John Day with Wheeler and Grant County officials. They met for a tour of the famed John Day fossil beds to study a

proposal that the beds be made a national monument, administered by the National Park Service. The Oregon Historical Society, which organized the tour, has already voted support of the measure just as in earlier years it led drives for national status of Crater Lake, Fort Vancouver and Fort Clatsop.

25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 30, 1994

The city wanted its streets back. Property owner Dan Clark wanted fair compensation. Neither got what they wanted Thursday night at a special Athena City Council meeting packed with interested onlookers. Instead the city will press ahead with a lawsuit, claiming adverse possession, to regain ownership of several streets. "I think we have a very good chance of winning an adverse suit," said Mayor Kim Clark, no relation, adding that townspeople regularly travel over Garfield, Fourth and Fifth streets. Clark's attorney, Jackie Haggerty-Foster, did not agree, saying "you've made a significant assumption that may not be correct." She insisted that it will cost the city more money in legal costs than it would to pay Clark what he has asked for: water and sewer hook-up to his property in exchange for deed- ing portions of the three streets.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise," by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" — WAVES for short.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a

measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller, President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2002, WNBA player Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks became the first woman to dunk in a professional game, jamming on a breakaway in the first half of the Sparks' 82-73 loss to the Miami Sol.

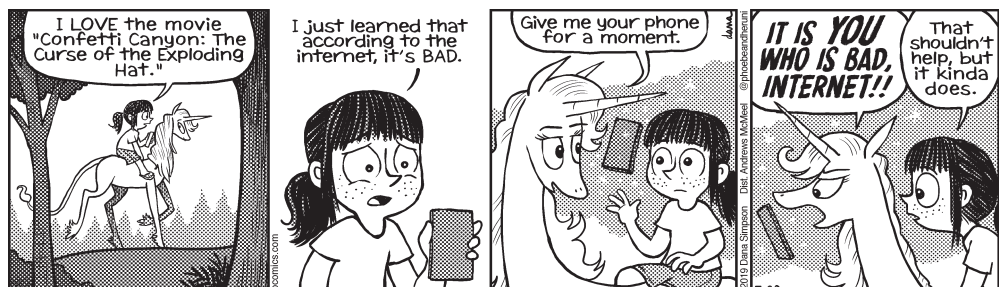
In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Today's Birthdays: Feminist activist Eleanor Smal is 80. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 72. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 61. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 50. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 49. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 46. Actress Hilary Swank is 45. Soccer player Hope Solo is 38.

Thought for Today: "An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty." — Sen. Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

