PEANUTS









BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

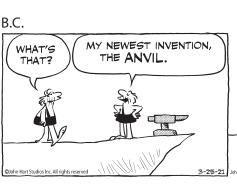
FOR BETTER OR WORSE















PICKLES



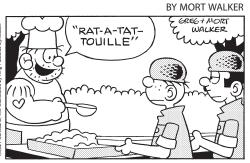






BEETLE BAILEY





GARFIELD







BLONDIE







DILBERT







THE WIZARD OF ID





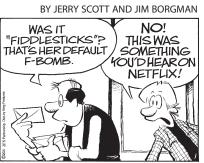


LUANN OK, I HAVE TO CREATE A CONCEPT FOR MY MARKETING CLASS. SO FAR I HAVE:









DEAR ABBY

Widower fears impotence will kill new relationship

Dear Abby: I am a faithful male reader of your column. I lost my beautiful wife of 40 years last year.

During our marriage, I had prostate cancer and decided to have the surgery to remove it. I was told by my doctor that there was a chance I would never again be intimate with my wife, and she was OK with it. Now that she's gone, I have grown close to her childhood best friend. I don't know whether a relationship is in the making, but I'm afraid once

she finds out I'm unable to perform, the relationship will die.

I have tried every pill on the market, pump, etc. Is it possible to have a good relationship with someone without intercourse? Or do you think I'm doomed? — Going forward in Virginia

Dear Going: I do not think you are "doomed." If you are under the impression that all women your age (and younger) would reject you because you can no longer have sexual intercourse, allow me to reassure you. Many women would value warmth, affection, compatible ethics and morals, and an intellectual equal to share their life with. So be honest, and you may be pleasantly surprised to discover that not only are you eligible, but that you are also in demand.

Dear Abby: I have a friend who is really popular. We have been best friends since third grade, but when we started ninth grade, she really changed. She started hanging out with the "cool" kids and acting weird. She told me that because I was her friend, I had the automatic right to hang out with them.

I don't like to hang out with large groups



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

of people because I'm afraid of big groups, but I still want to be friends with her. When I told her I'd think about it, she suddenly turned cold. I'm confused. I don't know what I should do. She was there for me since third grade, and I was there for her, and now she seems to be fading really fast — six years of friendship just forgotten. Please give me some advice. — Friend Drama in Michigan

Dear Friend Drama: Sometimes when a person says "I'll think about it," it comes across as a negative reply. Your friend's feelings may have been hurt because she interpreted it as a rejection. It would have been better if you had explained that you are uncomfortable in large groups and would prefer to see her one-on-one if she was willing. It may not be too late to get that message across to her. If the price of her company is that you will have to learn to be more social, you will then have to decide which is more important.

Dear Abby: I have a co-worker who just built a house. When I asked her what she would like for a housewarming gift, she told me a nice wine carafe with a stopper. So that's exactly what I got her.

I recently found out she had a housewarming party, and I wasn't invited. I had asked her when it was going to be, and she didn't mention a word about it. Am I still obligated to give her the gift I got for her? Or should I write her off and give it to someone else? **Excluded in Corpus Christi**

Dear Excluded: Ouch! Write her off and regift it.

DAYS GONE BY

From the East Oregonian

100 Years Ago March 25, 1921

Frank Branch Riley, who has been able to break into very exclusive organizations in the East and tell millionaire bank presidents and habitual world travelers the story of Oregon and the northwest was the chief speaker at the Pendleton Commercial Association banquet. Mr. Riley spoke for an hour or longer and his listeners did a strange thing. They applauded vigorously for several minutes and gave him a "curtain call," an honor never before accorded a speaker in this city during the last 16 years. In a straight from the shoulder talk on community cooperation Mr. Riley made it clear that to hold membership in the local commercial organization is not merely a duty but a privilege every clear thinking businessman, professional man and farmer will enjoy without much urging. The speaker extolled Secretary Claud Barr as a man who went to Astoria when the town was asleep and inside of four years had made it a community that is now knocking chips off both shoulders of Portland and getting away with it.

50 Years Ago March 25, 1971

Several Mac Hi girls are sporting, or soon will be wearing, a simple bracelet with the name of a serviceman and a date inscribed on it. To the average onlooker it looks like

a "going-steady" bracelet given them by a boyfriend. In fact, however, the name of the serviceman and the corresponding date refer to an individual who is either a prisoner of war in North Vietnam or missing in action. The date tells the wearer when the serviceman was last seen or heard from by the allies. The amulets are sold by a Los Angeles firm, Voices in Vital America, which is dedicated to determining the status of America's POWs and its missing men in action. The girls pledge to VIVA they will not remove the bracelet until the Red Cross is allowed into Hanoi and can assure the prisoner's family of his status and that he receives humane treatment.

25 Years Ago March 25, 1996

Spring is almost a week old, but the temperature didn't reflect that this morning. This morning's low of 17 in downtown Pendleton was a record for the date. The previous low for March 25 was 19 in 1927. The normal Pendleton low for the date is 36. It was also a record-breaking morning at the Pendleton airport, where 19 degrees broke the previous record low of 22 in 1955. Other lows in Eastern Oregon included 13 in Bend and Redmond, 14 in Burns, and just 9 in Prineville. But that was downright toasty compared to this morning's national low: minus 21 at Butte, Mont.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On March 25, 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1931, in the so-called "Scottsboro Boys" case, nine young Black men were taken off a train in Alabama, accused of raping two white women; after years of convictions, death sentences and imprisonment, the nine were eventually vindicated.

In 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 people to the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery

after a five-day march from Selma to protest the denial of voting rights to Blacks. Later that day, civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was shot and killed by Ku Klux Klansmen.

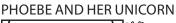
In 1985, "Amadeus" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture, best director for Milos Forman and best actor for F. Murray Abraham.

In 1987, the Supreme Court, in Johnson v. Transportation Agency, ruled 6-3 that an employer could promote a woman over an arguably more-qualified man to help get women into higher-ranking jobs.

In 1988, in New York City's so-called "Preppie Killer" case, Robert Chambers Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 18-year-old Jennifer Levin. (Chambers received 5 to 15 years in prison; he was released in 2003 after serving the full sentence.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

Today's Birthdays: Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 87. Singer Sir Elton John is 74. Actor Brenda Strong is 61. Author Kate DiCamillo is 57. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas is 54.









ZITS







BIG NATE







