

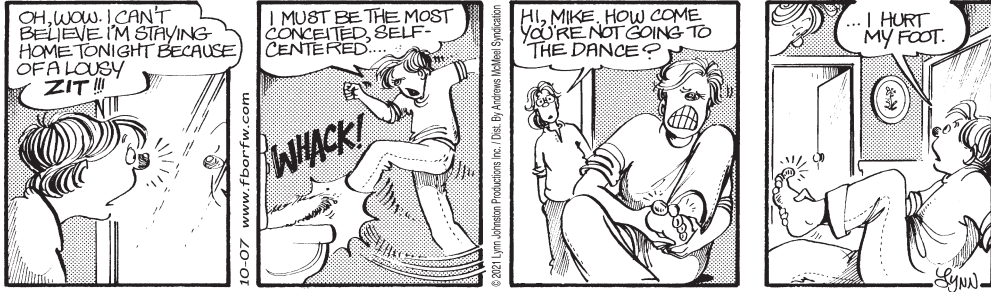
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



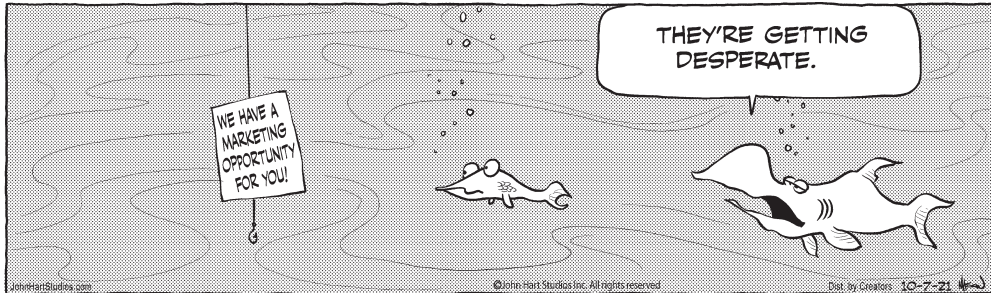
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



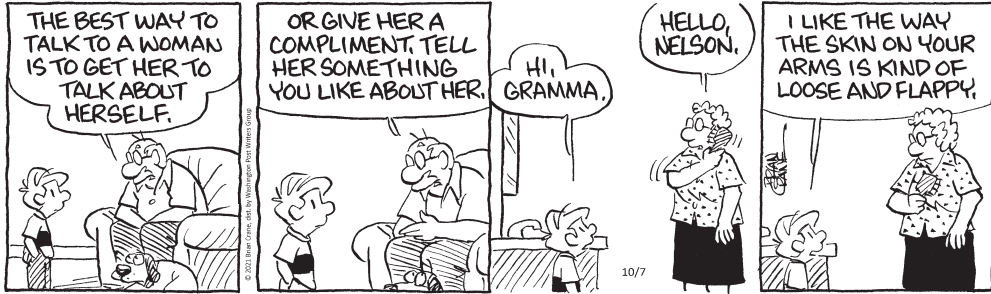
B.C.

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



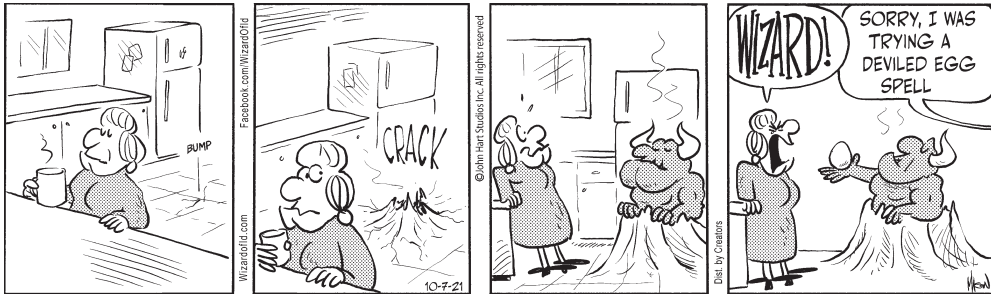
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



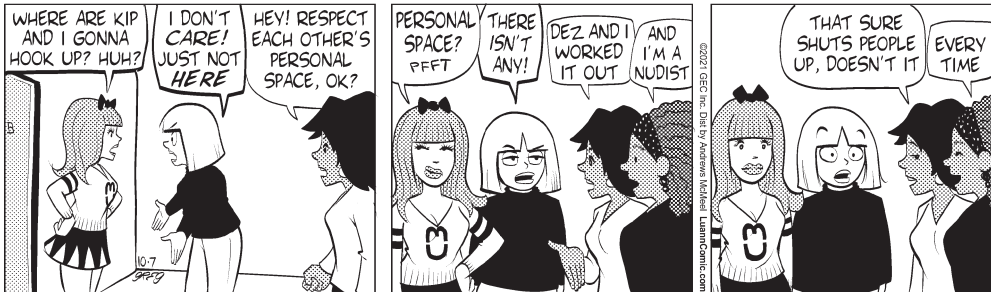
THE WIZARD OF ID

BY PARKER AND HART



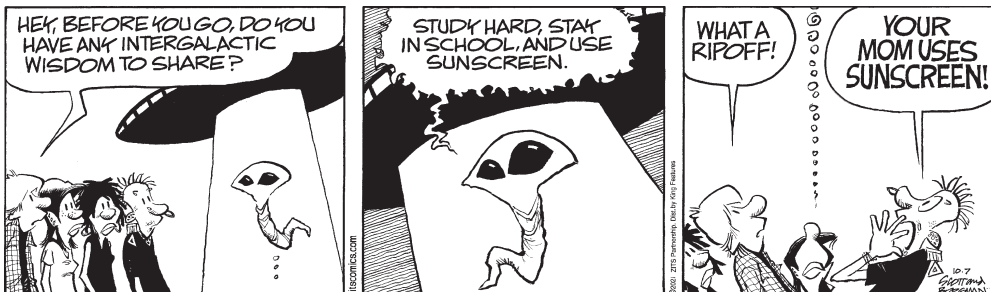
LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

A girlfriend wants live-in beau to end his marriage



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

Dear Abby: I have been with a man for the last six years. He has been separated for 20 years. When I asked him if he was going to finalize his divorce, he said no. When I said I would like a commitment, he said he gave me one when he moved in five years ago. His wife even asked him for a divorce, but he said it's expensive. I told him by my upcoming 50th birthday I want a yes or no on the divorce. What should I do? — In Limbo In Massachusetts

Dear In Limbo: Assuming this man lives with you rent-free, you have spent the last six years with a houseguest who is more concerned with his net worth than your need for validation. If his wife wanted a divorce, it would have happened already. This arrangement is serving them both in some way. Your next step should be to make a final decision.

Dear Abby: My brother-in-law (age 75) apparently doesn't like kids. He just told my husband that what he doesn't like about our family gatherings is the attention everyone shows my two granddaughters. (They are 7 and 8.) At a recent gathering, he actually threw down game pieces and stomped off when they approached. Should I sever contact with my sister and him? I know if I tell my son about this, my son will cut ties with them. Your advice might help. — Family Gal In Alabama

Dear Family Gal: Not everyone relates well to kids. That said, your brother-in-

law's behavior was appalling. Have a private talk with your sister. Could HE be entering a second childhood? Knowing how he feels about children, if you wish to see him and your sister, consider socializing with them separately. If other family members with children invite them to anything other than an adults-only gathering, Sissy and her hubby should politely offer their regrets.

Dear Abby: I have a class reunion coming up and want some advice on how to stop a fellow classmate from giving a religious sermon. I don't want to hurt his feelings, but after the last reunion, several people complained about his lengthy preaching. I'm afraid if it happens again, some people may choose not to attend. How can I tactfully handle this issue? Any help is appreciated. — Wants To Have A Good Time

Dear Wants: Unfortunately, some people don't know how to let go of a microphone once they have one and aren't able to sense they have lost their audience. Handle this uncomfortable situation by advising all the speakers that their remarks must be limited to no more than three minutes. Of course, if the "sermon" runs long, you will have to step forward and call a halt to it by asking the audience to give the person a big hand to show their appreciation. (If that doesn't do the trick, you may have to resort to a hook.)

DAYS GONE BY FROM THE EAST OREGONIAN

100 Years Ago Oct. 7, 1921

The new Rivoli theatre is the best west of Omaha and is unequalled for beauty and convenience in this territory, in the opinion of Ned Alvord, advance agent for the Marcus Show of 1921, who was in Pendleton yesterday arranging for the coming of his attraction to the new playhouse early next month. "Whoever designed the new house knew his business," he said. "While there are some larger stages none are better or more completely arranged." Owing to the unsettled business conditions and continued high railroad rates the Marcus Show of 1921 is the only big musical revue coming west this season.

50 Years Ago Oct. 7, 1971

Got \$300 and sick of your spouse? Get a divorce. In the first eight months of 1971 there were 156 divorces in Umatilla

County. "We can't drive a car without some kind of driver's education, but we don't offer any training on how to be a good husband or wife," said LaVon Wilson, director of the Umatilla and Morrow County Mental Health Clinic. "Plus, marriage is a legal contract. We couldn't buy a car without some money, but we can take on a marriage with nothing." Pendleton attorney Art Barrows agrees with this. He says the main cause of divorce is the unpreparedness of the people for marriage. "They should have to show a certificate saying they talked to a counselor before they can get married," he said. "The sad thing about divorce is the support of the children. After a woman gets divorced, she'll remarry. That husband will have to support the children of her previous marriage while the real father is out having a good time."

25 Years Ago Oct. 7, 1996

After a long workday, picture chasing away all the stress by walking through a rose garden where the scents blossom into visions of nightingale, evening dew and romantic elegance. The Shady Locust Herb Farm and Nursery at Umapine, owned and operated by Connie and Charlie Kidd, offers just such a rose garden. All it takes is a phone call, and it's in your mailbox in a few days. The catch is you'll have to let your nose do the walking. Aroma therapy is the term for what the nursery northwest of Milton-Freewater offers. Fragrant herbal beads are the product. Shady Locust sells the beads as a kit that contains petals fresh-picked, then finely ground and sifted, and preserved by a binding substance. Besides rose, beads are also available from lavender, lemon verbena and patchouli.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Oct. 7, 2001, the war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York to draw up colonial grievances against England.

In 1910, a major wildfire devastated the northern Minnesota towns of Spooner and Baudette, charring at least 300,000 acres; some 40 people are believed to have died.

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1954, Marian Anderson became the first Black singer hired by the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers shot and killed Leon Klinghoffer, a Jewish-American tourist in a wheelchair, and pushed him overboard, before surrendering on Oct. 9.)

In 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of making sexually inappropriate comments when she worked for him; Thomas denied Hill's allegations.

In 1992, trade representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico initialed the North American Free Trade Agreement during a ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, in the presence of President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was beaten and left tied to a wooden fencepost outside of Laramie, Wyoming; he died five days later. (Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney are serving life sentences for Shepard's murder.)

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

