PEANUTS









BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE









B.C. DOOKIE 996, I.M.C. CONDITIONS AHEAD.

ROGER.

BEWARE OF MOUNTAIN-







PICKLES







BEETLE BAILEY

YIKES! I'M I COULD LUCKY I FELL ONTO THIS BRANCH!



GARFIELD







BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



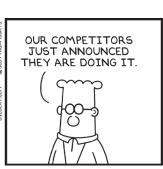




BY SCOTT ADAMS

DILBERT







THE WIZARD OF ID







LUANN







BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Weight loss doesn't take sting out of observations

Dear Abby: During the last year, I made some significant changes to my life. I left an emotionally abusive marriage after 23 years, which gave me the confidence to take better care of myself. I have lost 70 pounds and am almost down to the weight I was in high school. I am very proud of this.

My issue is my family has now started using my former weight as a measuring stick. I

am often told things like, "You should see your cousin. She's almost as big as you were!" which is quickly followed by an offhand, "No offense," which tells me they know it offends me. I said as much to them at first, but the insulting comparisons continue.

It's become the family standard. I know I was very large, but this is extremely hurtful. I find myself avoiding family visits because the subject seems to invariably come up in some way. Is there anything beyond what I have already tried that can convey the distress this causes? — Former Fat Relative In Missouri

Dear Relative: Your relatives have been told that alluding to your former weight problem causes you distress. That it continues tells me they are thoughtless at best, not to mention rude and inconsiderate of your feelings. The logical solution is to do what is best for you and see less of them.

Dear Abby: I have begun high school and I love it, but I'm bumping into friend



PHILLIPS ADVICE

problems. My new friend has many other friends in one big friend group, and she's inviting me to join them. I barely know these people, and some of them make me uncomfortable, but I still eat lunch with them sometimes. I don't want to be rude to my friend, but I am unsure if I want to join this group.

I have a separate friend whom I met in middle school, and I have reason to believe that

I am his only friend. He eats lunch with me and my upperclassmen friends. They ignore him while he talks to me about the things we like. I am afraid I'm hurting him by making more friends. Any advice? — Stressed Teen In New Jersey

Dear Teen: New relationships take time to develop. With time, as you and your new classmates get to know each other better, you may feel more comfortable with them. If that doesn't happen, you may want to make other plans for lunch.

That you have been including your middle school friend during those lunches I think is loyal, caring and compassionate. Doing so is not "hurting" him. If he's unable to integrate and become part of the group, no law says the two of you must have lunch with those people every single day. Consider alternating lunches with other students so you can widen your circle of friends. Friends are treasures. The more of them you have, the richer your life will be.

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1921

Fred H. Patterson, about 45 years old, is in St. Anthony Hospital, and Mrs. Ella Alexander, his common law wife, is in the city jail as a result of a shooting scrape this morning which resulted in the man acquiring two bullets from a .38 caliber Colt's Special revolver at the hands of the woman. Jealousy and fear are the two reasons given by the woman for her action in shooting Patterson when she presented herself at the police station and surrendered this morning at 7:30 o'clock. Four shots were fired. The two shots which took effect both struck Patterson from behind, one catching him in the left elbow and the other in the left side of his body. That she had to shoot him or he would have killed her was the statement Mrs. Alexander made. Patterson's side of the story conflicts with the reason given by Mrs. Alexander for the shooting. He said he was preparing to leave to go to work, and the next thing he was aware of was the report of the revolver shots and the sting of the lead.

The students at Blue Mountain Community College no longer believe in Santa Claus but they do like the feeling of Christmas. So they plan to share it with lonely people on Christmas Eve. The occasion will be a dinner in the student union at 6 p.m. A program will follow. The guests will be men and women who live in furnished rooms and tiny apartments and have no families with whom to share the holiday. Tim Mabry, president of the BMCC students, said the idea caught fire and grew. "We're up to 200 people now," he said. Faculty members as well as students have become involved. Students will provide transportation for their guests. "We have a selfish motive," Mabry said. "Maybe we will feel Christmasy again."

25 years ago — 1996

The results are in — Pendleton's children have selected their favorite toys of the year. The Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon sponsored the contest for favorite toys of 1996. Local merchants donated toys to be tested by kids whose interest ranged from the imaginary to the more concrete. Favorite among ages 0-4 were the Piglet and Tigger puppets. Second runner-up was the Brio Train set. The ages 5-7 group and the 8-10 group were unified in their choice of an electronic listening game called the Brain Bash. A listening game for 5-10 years olds? "That surprised me too," said Childrens' Museum volunteer Jan Peterson-Terjeson.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes struck the central Mississippi Valley with an estimated magnitude of 7.7.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched an attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies turned the Germans back).

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism.

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

1982, In Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

In 2001, after nine weeks of fighting, Afghan militia leaders claimed control of the last mountain bastion of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, but bin Laden himself was nowhere to be seen.

In 2012, President Barack Obama visited Newtown, Connecticut, the scene of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre; after meeting privately with victims' families, the president told an evening vigil he would use "whatever power" he had to prevent future shoot-

ings.

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON









ZITS





BIG NATE







