## **COFFEE BREAK**





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



B.C.



BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

**BY BRIAN CRANE** 

BY MORT WALKER

BY LYNN JOHNSTON







**BEETLE BAILEY** 



GARFIELD



## **BLONDIE**

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL

# **DEAR ABBY** Friend's death cloaked in a lot of secrecy, silence

Dear Abby: A dear friend of mine, "Dirk," died by suicide a couple of years ago. We were very close when we were young but saw each other only occasionally as adults. However, on the occasions we did get together, it always felt like we picked up where we left off.

I found out about my friend's death from a family member after I discovered his phone number was no longer working

and his Facebook and Messenger accounts had been deleted. He had died a few months earlier. Dirk's family asked me not to tell anyone that the death was a suicide. They didn't want his memory to be about that final decision. Because there was no obituary in the newspaper (they didn't want one), it feels as though my friend has been erased with no trace.

I'm still having a hard time with his death. I feel like I should put an inmemoriam obituary in the paper. I also feel a need to talk about it with others. My mother thinks I should abide by the wishes of the family. What do you think? - Missing My Friend In Ohio

Dear Missing: When someone takes their own life, there are usually a range of emotions experienced by the survivors. Fortunately, there are mental health programs that can help with these if the family is aware they are available. A call to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) could guide them if they reach out. I sincerely hope you will listen



ADVICE

to your mother and respect the wishes of the deceased's family, even though you do not agree.

Dear Abby: Our 26-year-old married son currently lives with us. His wife of three years was raised in a different culture and has recently started living with her parents in a city four hours away. My son has a stable, wellpaying job and cannot relocate. They talk on the phone many times a day and night, and both

say their marriage is "fine."

She doesn't work and doesn't finish anything she starts. She contributes to her family's household by using the car and money our son provides. She says she became depressed when she lived in our town but is happy with her parents and really doesn't see moving out. We feel she is immature, controlling and taking advantage of our son. We have told him as much. He understands he has a situation but seems too weak to change it. What more can we do? - Flustered Parents In Texas

Dear Parents: Your son knows your opinion. You can — and should — do nothing more than you already have. Because he and his wife say they are happy with the situation, keep your mouths shut and refrain from stirring the pot. At some point, one of them will want to make changes, which may mean your son will have to relocate. But this is his problem, and one he must resolve on his own.

# DAYS GONE BY

#### 100 years ago — 1921

Wax Wings, either Bohemians or the cedar wax wings, were seen yesterday in Pendleton. A report on the presence of birds in the north part of the city which seemed to be spending their time eating snow aroused the curiosity of citizens, Edgar F. Averill, Pendleton's leading naturalist, says that the cedar wax wings are more common here than the Bohemians. The birds are native to the Northland but they migrate to warmer climates in the winter. They are called wax wings on account of a small growth which resembles wax which appears on the tertiary wing feathers.

#### 50 years ago — 1971

Pendleton has a community Christmas tree. It was believed that the Round-Up City was to be without a community tree this year because the one volunteered was too large to haul to Dorion and Main, where it was to be erected. But Betty and Fred Gray, who live 25 miles east of Pendleton near the Umatilla River, donated a tree and it was erected Sunday by the Jaycees. Jaycettes decorated the tree later that day. At the same time, Pendleton firemen were busy adjusting the Christmas decorations provided by Pendleton merchants. Trouble has been experienced with the lights because the wiring

has not been heavy enough to withstand the strong wind encountered several times during the last few weeks. The only thing missing was snow, but few besides youngsters were complaining about that.

### 25 years ago — 1996

Short of going under cover, it's difficult to substantiate a comment that underage youths can get into a local exotic dance club. A quote by a Hermiston High School student in the Nov. 27 issue of the school newspaper, stating that he got into The Riverside because he "knows the bouncer," raised eyebrows in the community. However, Umatilla Police Chief Travis Eynon said he'd heard nothing about underage people in The Riverside until he received calls from community members upset about the comment in "The Bulldog." Because the club has been denied a liquor license, patrons need only be 18 years old. Ed Dufloth, the strip club's owner, doesn't believe the claim. "We are very strict about checking IDs. I've talked to the two bouncers and they are very perturbed about it," he said. Umatilla Mayor George Hash, who makes no bones about The Riverside "being a bad thing for our city," said he'd heard nothing about underage patrons in the club until the story appeared in the student paper.



DILBERT



THE WIZARD OF ID





BY SCOTT ADAMS

BY PARKER AND HART

EGGNOG? I

BREWED IT IN

THE SINK!

IT WASN'T

AN UGLY

SWEATER

COMPETITION

# TODAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 23, 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about two-thirds of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coastto-coast network.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1954, the first successful human

#### PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN **BY GREG EVANS**

Gimme another unicorn Christmas carol.

kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-vear-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

In 1962, Cuba began releasing prisoners from the failed Bay of Pigs invasion under an agreement in which Cuba received more than \$50 million worth of food and medical supplies.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, nonrefueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, a federal jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder. (Nichols was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2001, Time magazine named New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani its Person of the Year for his steadfast response to the 9/11 terrorist attack.

LUANN







BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



**BIG NATE** OOH! I'LL





me



BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

BY DANA SIMPSON

All things are possible through the magic of song.



"Silent"

constantly

orns

Unic



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN

CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT FASCINATING THINGS

GO ON IN THAT MIND

OFHIS