

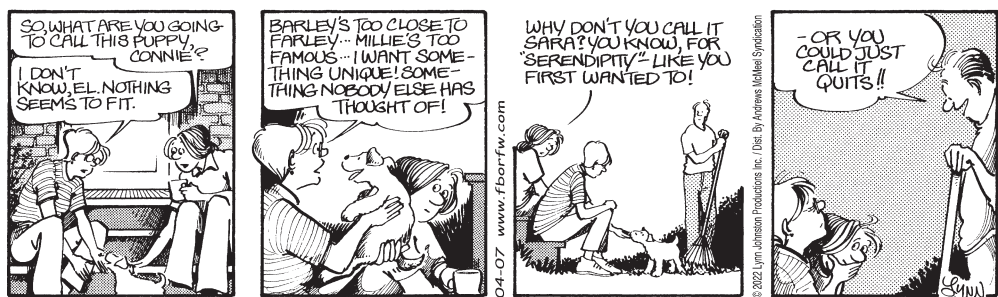
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C.

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



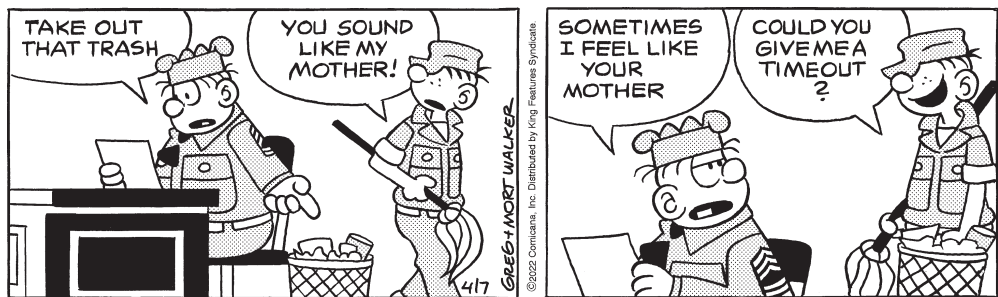
PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



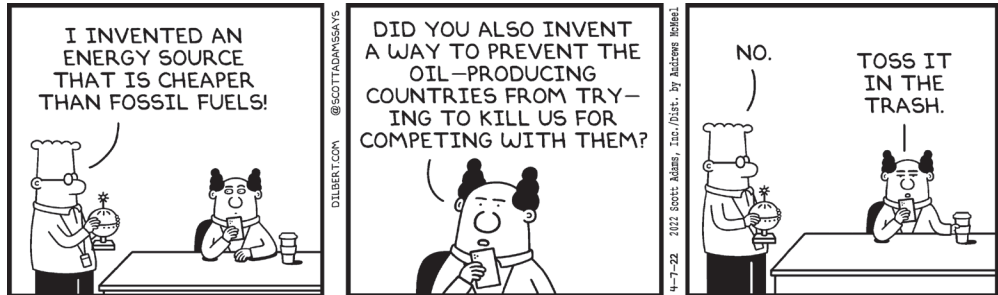
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



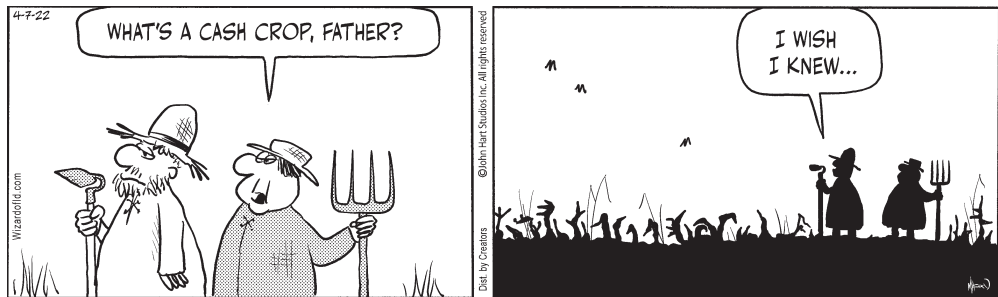
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



THE WIZARD OF ID

BY PARKER AND HART



LUANN

BY GREG EVANS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



DEAR ABBY

Gay man wants to make few straight male friends



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

Dear Abby: I am a 47-year-old gay man. I'm well-educated, but there's something I can't figure out. Why do straight guys NOT want to be friends? I never hit on them, I enjoy a lot of the same pastimes like games, working on cars, etc. I want to be transparent, but when I tell them upfront, they disappear.

Sometimes it gets back to me that they thought I was asking them on a date if I invited someone to go to a ballgame, for example. I have plenty of female friends, but what I really want is a male best friend or, hell, just a male friend, period.

Of course, everyone has their own opinions on what I should do — "join a meeting, a group, social activities and blah blah." I have done all of those things, and I can't figure out what's wrong.

Any suggestions would be welcomed. — **Curious In Oklahoma**

Dear Curious: The problem you're there with straight men may be that they are nervous about being perceived as "gay by association" if they are friendly with you. Some may also find the concept of being friends with a gay man to be threatening.

Taking part in group activities and outings is certainly a way to connect with others regardless of sexual orientation. Eventually, you'll meet people and form friendships.

Dear Abby: This has been a rough pandemic for all of us. We have all ex-

perienced the constant fear of disease, job loss and the pressure to react to those stresses in prescribed ways that aren't always easy.

I have a group of friends who have not managed to do well through it all. Previous issues multiplied, and their lives have become pitiable messes. Early on in the pandemic, we attempted to keep moods up with weekly Zoom hangouts. It helped a little, but because my mental status has always been a little better than theirs.

As the world has begun to open up, we have been able to see each other in person, and it has become obvious to me that I need to distance myself from them to protect what I have worked so hard to maintain. Do I owe them an explanation about why I cannot be with them? I worry that pointing out that things are not good would drag them down further.

These are people I have known for decades, but I don't have the energy to act as emotional support for them anymore. I'd like to leave them in the best shape I can. What should I say to them? — **Caring Friend In The East**

Dear Caring Friend: Be less available when you are contacted. When you do, your excuse should be truthful. Say you need time to yourself to work on your own mental health issues and therefore will be less available. You do not have to apologize for it, nor should you feel guilty for taking care of yourself.

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1922

The disbursement of fifteen million dollars, most of which will be paid out in Oregon and Washington during 1922, is one of the encouraging signs of returning prosperity. The Union Pacific System is to add largely to its equipment, to relay portions of its track with rails of greater weight, to ballast anew its roadbed, to replace wooden bridges with structures of steel, and construct a steel bridge across the Columbia River between Walla Walla and Kennewick, this one project to cost \$1,500,000. An order for 4,500 new freight cars, to cost \$10,000,000, and for 2,500 refrigerator cars at a cost of \$8,750,000 was made public several weeks ago.

50 years — 1972

The Pendleton City Council decided Tuesday to appeal the city's airport tax case to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Oregon Court of Appeals on March 23 affirmed a ruling of the Umatilla County Circuit Court that the city must pay property taxes on airport property leased to private individuals or businesses. The city had claimed the property was exempt because all the income went back into the operation of the airport. As of Jan. 1, the city owes

Umatilla County more than \$87,000 in back taxes, penalties and interest on the property.

25 years ago — 1997

Thanks to a boost from a few humans, a great horned owl was reunited Wednesday with his three siblings in a cozy nest about 45 feet above the ground. The young bird was a victim of Sunday's brief but ferocious wind storm that whipped through the region. The youngster was apparently blown from the nest high in a tree next to the home of Paul Daniello, who lives two miles past Holdman on Highway 37. Daniello spotted "a little fluffy thing" lying in his yard. It turned out to be a great horned owl with an injured eye. He called Lynn Tompkins, director of the Blue Mountain Raptor Rehabilitators in Pilot Rock. The owl's scratched eye was treated by Pendleton veterinarian Dave Bowman. After a couple of days of rehabilitation, Tompkins, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, decided the owl was ready to return to the nest. That tricky maneuver was made possible by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, which sent journeyman lineman John Carter and a large bucket truck to Daniello's home. The young owl, snug in a kitten travel box, was placed in the bucket and returned to its nest 45 feet up.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On April 7, 1984, the Census Bureau reported Los Angeles had overtaken Chicago as the nation's "second city" in terms of population.

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1922, the Teapot Dome scandal had its beginnings as Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall signed a secret deal to lease U.S. Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming and California to his friends, oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny, in exchange for cash gifts.

In 1945, during World War II, American planes

intercepted and effectively destroyed a Japanese fleet, which included the battleship Yamato, that was headed to Okinawa on a suicide mission.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly."

In 1957, shortly after midnight, the last of New York's electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In 1959, a referendum in Oklahoma repealed the state's ban on alcoholic beverages.

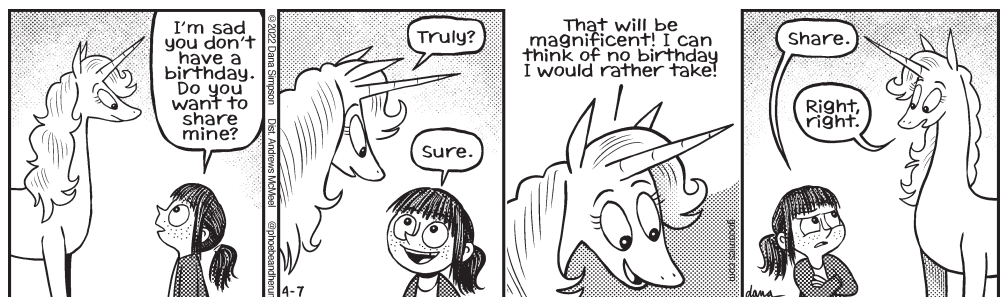
In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON



BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

