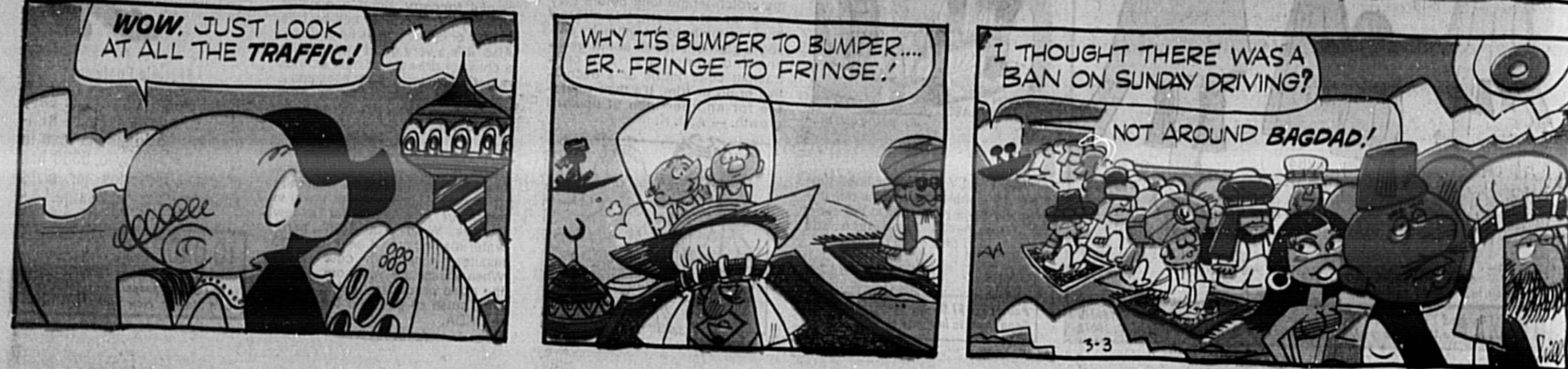
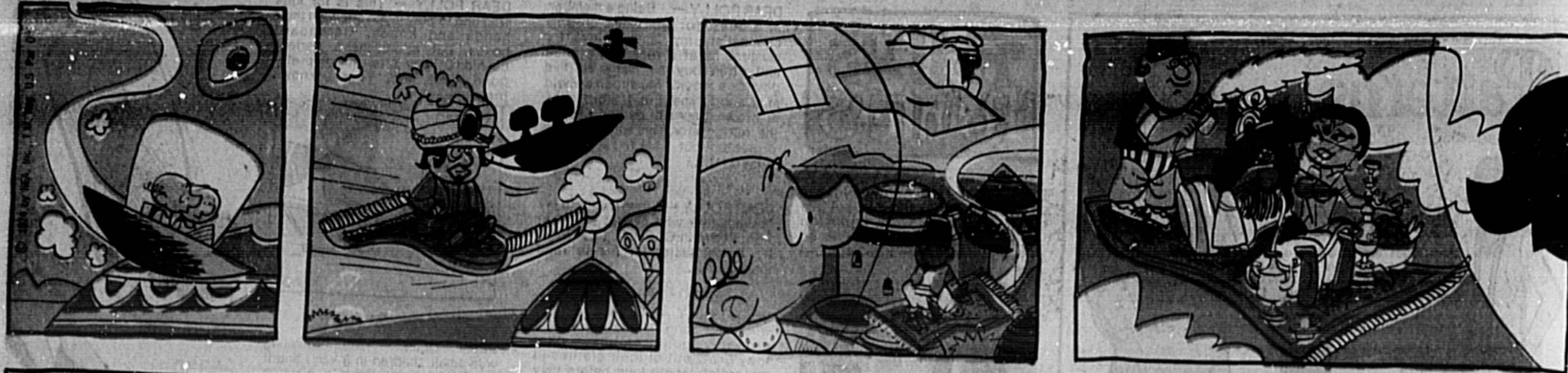


SHORT RIBS



BUGS BUNNY

by Stoffel & Heimdahl



EEK & MEEK

by Howie Schneider



The Sanford Herald

Monday, March 4, 1974—Sanford, Florida 32771
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Mitchell, Stans Mistrial Denied

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. District Court Judge Lee P. Gagliardi today denied a defense motion for a mistrial in the criminal conspiracy case of Former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell and ex-Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans.

The judge made his decision known after a short session in a private conference room behind the courtroom.

Gagliardi recessed the trial abruptly last Friday to consider the effect of a passage in the opening statement of the federal prosecutor. The words had triggered an immediate objection from

Stans' lawyer and a motion for mistrial.

The prosecutor, Asst. U.S. Atty. James W. Rayhill told the jurors at the end of his statement: "As you listen to the witnesses testifying before you, put yourselves in the place of the grand jurors who investigated the case, citizens like yourselves."

The defense objected, contending the statement implied the jurors should infer guilt from the indictment.

Gagliardi had instructed the jurors beforehand that indictments are only accusations and not findings of guilt. Gagliardi said Rayhill's remarks

contained "apparent excesses," ordering prosecution and defense attorneys to file statements over the weekend on the mistrial motion.

Friday's sudden turn of events in the conspiracy trial followed a week of careful screening of hundreds of potential jurors. The jury of eight men and four women selected Thursday was sequestered and continued to be kept in isolation as Gagliardi studied the mistrial motion.

Speculation arose that should a mistrial be declared today, it would be more difficult to find a new jury.

Freed Victim Attends Convention Search On For Sanford Kidnapers

Freed Sanford businessman George Jackson Jr. went to an industry convention as FBI agents and police and sheriff's deputies pressed the search for at least two men who kidnaped Jackson late Thursday. Authorities admitted they have little to go on in the search.

"We don't even know what race they (kidnapers) are," said Sheriff John Polk.

Sanford Police Chief Ben Butler said, "We're checking every lead we can come up with."

Jackson's family said he flew to Chicago this morning, a day late, to attend an industry convention.

Butler would not comment on evidence found by investigators Saturday in an abandoned house in the 1800 block of Alexander Avenue. Officials said the house, less than a mile from the kidnap scene, was where Jackson was held bound and blindfolded.

Identification technicians searched the dilapidated frame house surrounded by weeds and shrubbery but officials reported little success in identifying the abductors from various items found inside the house.

Sanford police Capt. Charles Pagan and an unidentified FBI agent discovered the house Saturday as officers swept through the Sanford area.

FBI agent-in-charge Nick Stames said Jackson was kept in a building without food and transported in the back of a car.

Jackson's comment that the ride to the building, where he was held, sometimes tied to a



TECHNICIANS EXAMINE ABANDONED HOUSE CONTENTS
... Sheriff's deputy Herb Hartley, police Sgt. Bill Bernosky

Wife Tells Of Kidnap

By JEAN PATTESON
Herald Staff Writer

Looking composed, though still a little strained and pale, Mrs. Laurie Jackson leaned back against the leather cushions of her husband's comfortable desk chair today as she recounted the 28-hour ordeal of his kidnaping.

"We have a tendency to worry about little things, but I've done all my worrying for the next 30 years," she said by way of introduction. "I'm not going to worry about trifles for a long time."

She gave a very smile. "It's still hard to believe. I feel dazed this morning, and everything's a bit foggy, but I suppose it'll just take a little more time for all the tension to drain away."

Her husband, George Jackson, though stiff and sore from swollen hands & feet and rope burns on his arms made a rapid recovery from his exhausting ordeal. This morning he flew to Chicago to attend the American Bakery Engineers convention. "It was an effort to drive home from the airport," admitted Mrs. Jackson. "Everything still seems to be dragging a little."

Then she summoned a brighter smile. "The biggest thing is how nice people have been," she said. "The police, Dr. Edwin Epstein who came to us in the middle of the night, our family, everyone has been wonderful."



FEELING MORE CHEERFUL
... Mrs. Laurie Jackson was bound to this chair by kidnapers. (Herald Photo by Jean Patteson)

4 Men Used House Before Kidnap

The man whose mother owned the house George Jackson Jr. allegedly was captive for over 24 hours said Saturday afternoon he was aware unauthorized people were using the property.

Oscar Williams, 1826 Hawkins Ave., just one block from the 1811 Alexander Ave. kidnap hideout, said a relative who lived across the street informed him people were using the house that had been abandoned since 1972.

"I was planning to move my daughter in there," Williams said. "But whoever they were had taken some things from the house."

He said he was told four men were using the house as early as two weeks before the Feb. 28 kidnaping.

"There has been a lot of movement there lately," Williams said as Seminole Sheriff's Department, Sanford said Saturday afternoon he was aware unauthorized people were using the property.

A man who lived directly behind the house said he noticed people using the house in the past several days, but did not know anything about the kidnaping because of a general news embargo observed by Central Florida and national media until Jackson's release at 12:30 a.m. Saturday.

Will Leviston, 1828 Hawkins Ave., said the house had been used by people — probably youths — to drink and sleep in for some time.

But he noticed the increased use by several people in the past few days.

Williams also said he did not know of the kidnaping.

Area residents who gathered to witness the steam of city, county and federal cars arriving at the just discovered hideout at 12:28 p.m. Saturday also expressed a similar uniform status as the past several days.

Several, however, said they noticed people using the house. Captain Charles Fagan and an unidentified FBI agent discovered the house Saturday during a search for a potential hideout site near the Northeast border of Sanford.



REAR SEALS BROKEN BY INTRUDER
Day after investigators searched house



By John A. Spolski

I'm grateful . . .

—For people like Sanford Police Chief Ben Butler and Seminole Sheriff John Polk, and all of their dedicated personnel . . .

—For the safety of kidnap victim George Jackson, and that of all the members of his family . . .

—For the privilege of playing a small part in the news embargo and proving to the world that the probing eyes and ears of the media can demonstrate sound judgment, and does place the life of a human being above and beyond the glory of "scoping" someone else.

There is integrity within the ranks of the news personnel within Central Florida. However, there are some who have trouble when it comes time to printing the facts, without "slanting" same.

As an example, the folks down the road at the Orlando Sentinel would have their readers believe that it was their decision which initiated the voluntary news embargo.

That's not the truth.

As a matter of record, in the presence of the Sanford PD, Seminole Sheriff, and the FBI it was I who called the Associated Press and asked their cooperation. This was followed by a call to Gene Burns, president of the Greater Orlando Press Club and asked that he form a committee to call their fellow members and advise them of the precarious kidnap situation and seek their cooperation.

All who were called didn't hesitate to offer their support.

That is, until a subsequent call was made by the AP to the Sentinel (I suppose checking on who the beck this guy Spolski was in asking for an embargo) and then the Orlando folks started to kick up a storm . . . their wrath directed at me for making a move like that.

I was only interested in the safety of the individual.

I am not interested in publicity, nor recognition for this act. Not at the time it was done, nor now.

I do want all of the news media credited, however, for their voluntary participation, and certainly want to correct whatever "misinformation" may have been printed by others regarding this sequence of events.

Legal Wrangling Overshadows Trial

By CHRIS NELSON
Herald Staff Writer

An April 1 Seminole Circuit Court trial has been set for two plumber's union officials charged with conspiring with three men convicted in the Air Flow Systems arson case, but legal wrangling by attorneys and witnesses currently overshadows the main event.

Two federal agents and an Orange County state attorney's investigator last week faced contempt of court citations for their failure to honor subpoenas issued by defense attorney Jim Russ.

But U.S. Atty. Jeffrey Jontz today said in Orlando he will ask for a federal court ruling some time this week on whether the two U.S. Treasury agents may be compelled to testify in the state court proceedings.

Jontz said any knowledge treasury agents Tom Stokes and George Truitt have of the charges against union officials William Beck, Orlando, and David Evans, Allamonte Springs, stem from a federal investigation.

Federal rules and law prohibit state court testimony by federal agents, and the treasury men were ordered by telegram not to testify, Jontz said.

The Orange County state attorney's investigator subpoenaed by Russ, former sheriff's candidate Lloyd Fryd, Friday told Circuit Court Judge Volie Williams he forgot to honor Russ's subpoena because he was involved with an Orange County grand jury investigating organized crime.

Defense attorneys today said they accepted Fryd's explanation, and would not press for a contempt citation against him.

A subpoena fight is also being waged by Assistant Seminole State Atty. Claude Van Hook, who last week saw Williams uphold his attempt to compel testimony by a Tampa attorney closely linked to the plumber's union.

2 Streakers Arrested

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Two naked University of Florida students were arrested today after streaking through a fraternity house parking lot.

A police spokesman said officers who happened to be parked nearby watched three young men strip off their clothes and run through the lot.

The officers caught two while they were dressing following the streak, the spokesman said, but the third escaped.

Williams denied a motion by attorney Richard Frank to throw out prosecutor Van Hook's subpoena, despite Frank's argument that evidence he might give could be gained from other witnesses.

Van Hook said he needed Frank's testimony to help draw a link of circumstantial evidence between the three men who pleaded guilty to the streak, the spokesman said, and the two union officials.

Quiet, TV-Like Intruders

"They came in very quietly," Mrs. Jackson recalled. "They looked just like two of the television characters suddenly standing before us. It was altogether unreal."

The shotgun one of the two kidnapers was carrying, however, was very real. "That guy was what I noticed the most," said Mrs. Jackson, after describing the kidnapers dark clothing, heavy gloves, and black and tan stocking caps.

"They mounded us to the wall and put us face the wall," she recalled. Then they moved us to the lunchroom, away from the windows, and taped our eyes. They had me sit in a chair and taped my hands and feet also."

The kidnapers, two men, she assumed, treated the couple firmly, but with consideration, said Mrs. Jackson. She had the feeling if she and her husband cooperated they would not be harmed.

She did feel a chill of fear when the men said they were kidnaping Jackson, and would leave Mrs. Jackson alone in the building until someone found her in the morning. "I wanted to tell them, you can have the money. I'll send it to you. Just leave us here," she recalled.

Afraid Kidnapers Would Panic

"When it was time to deliver the money I was really worried they wouldn't return my husband, or he had been harmed," she said. "I knew he wouldn't panic; that he's a very stable person. But I was afraid something might cause them to panic."

During the long hours of waiting, worrying and hoping, of pacing the floor and trying to snatch a few hours sleep, Mrs. Jackson thought of all the things she and her husband should have done. "He should have bought that suit that he wanted. We should have gone fishing instead of coming to work. I even hoped he'd told our sons all about the business," she said. "They know how to run it, of course, but my husband's been in it so long and knows so much about it."

Suddenly her face lit up. It was a beautiful smile, filled with relief, gratitude, and a happiness she says she has not known in a long time. Her husband was back, safe. "It was as if a great weight was lifted. The whole house had a different feel — from being such a solemn place it was suddenly light and joyful," she smiled.

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COUNTING BY TENS by Alan Mavor



Villanova Wins Title In Track

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Jim Elliott, Villanova's long-jump track and field coach, found himself in a most unusual situation during the final event of the 1974 NCAA indoor championships.

Elliott backed the right team. Seton Hall won the 110-meter dash, but Villanova's second-place finish, gave an unprecedented 11th team title — all since 1957 — in the two-day NCAA meet at Princeton's Jadwin Gym.

Villanova finished with 29 points while Manhattan, the defending champion and favorite, and Seton Hall tied for second with 28. It was the closest three-team finish in the meet's 33-year history.

I never thought I'd be rooting for Seton Hall, Elliott said while Manhattan and Seton Hall were fighting for the lead in the final relay, one in which Villanova did not have an entry.

Going into the race, Villanova had 20 points, Manhattan 24 and Seton Hall 22. The Jaspers, seeking their second straight team title, needed the six first-place points for a victory. The four points for second would leave them one shy. All Villanova could do was watch and root.

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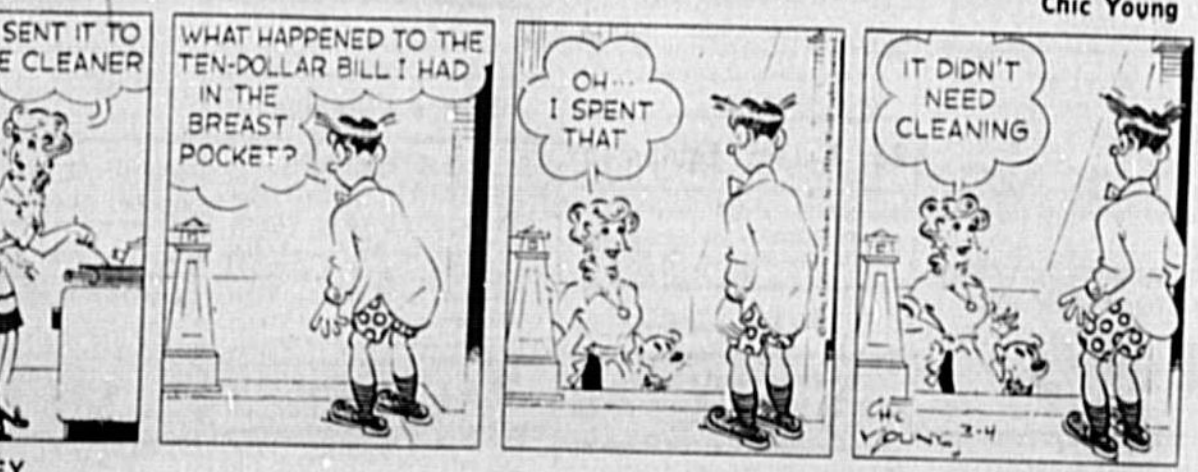
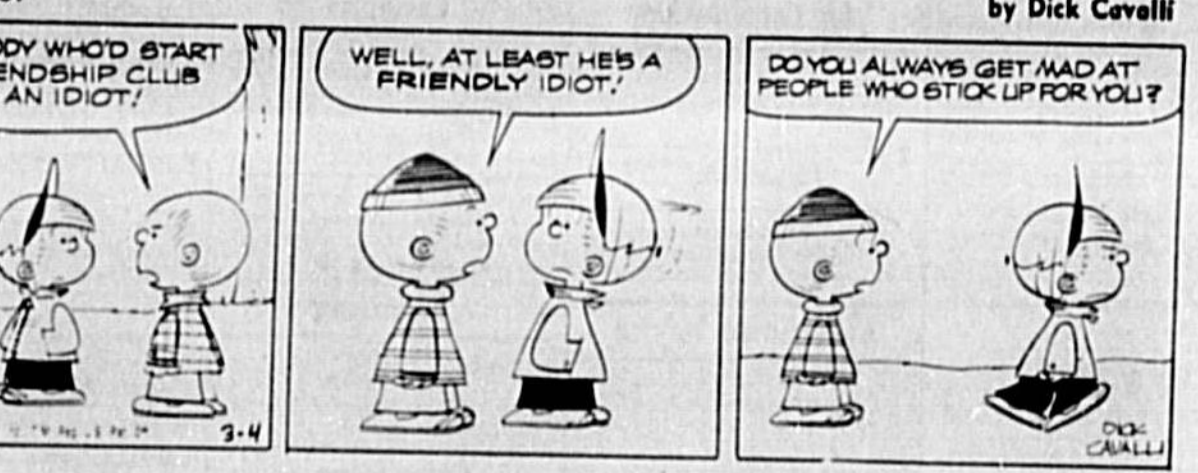
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