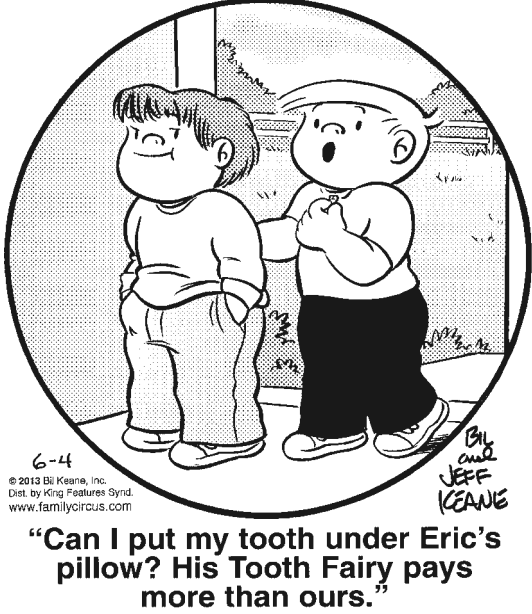
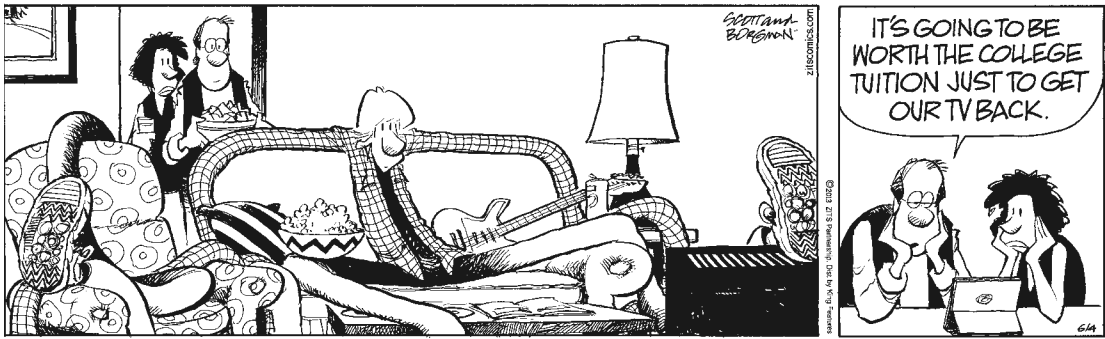


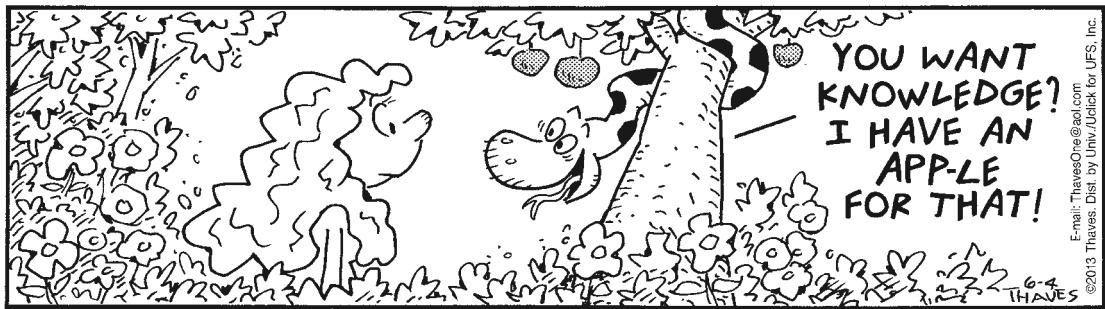
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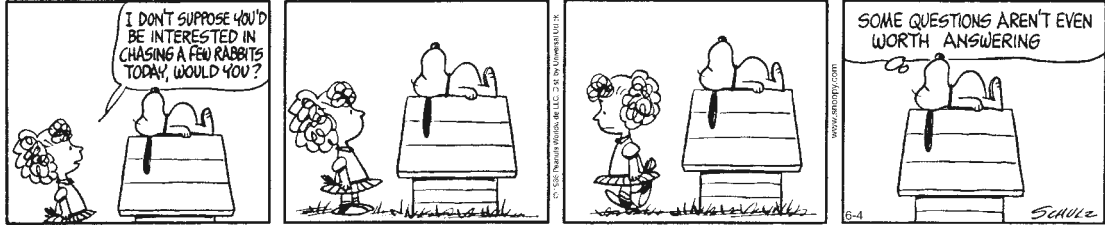
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



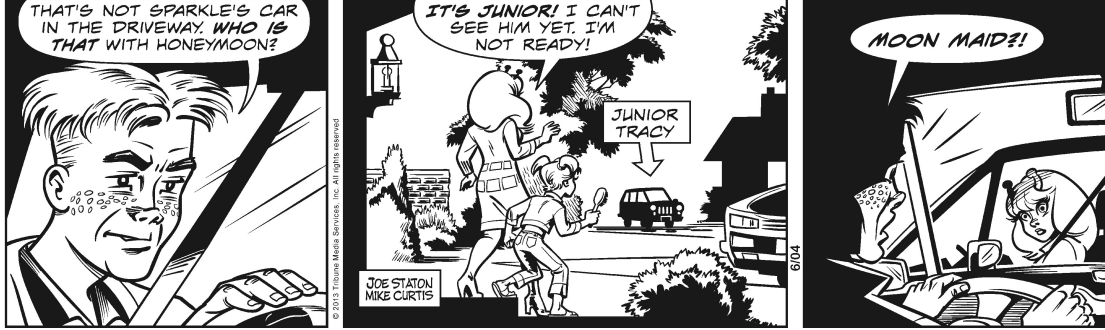
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Children Taught To Appreciate Solitude Find Good Company

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to "Solitary Woman in Ottawa, Canada" (March 5), the expectant mom who asked how she could raise her child to enjoy "periods of quiet, reflective fun by himself."

I have two children, ages 7 and 1. Like "Solitary," I also enjoy time to myself, whether reading, writing or going for a hike.

When my son was born, I felt it was important to give him confidence and the ability to be self-sufficient. Therefore, we have him help us with chores like grocery shopping and encourage him to make healthy, responsible choices. When he was 2 and stopped taking naps, we told him he had to have "quiet time" and that reading to himself was one of the options.

As a result, our son is self-motivated, an avid reader and writer, and has an intellectual curiosity most adults don't have. He is teaching himself cursive writing and is interested in learning a foreign language.

We live in the Colorado Rockies, and getting rid of our TV set was one of the best things our family has ever done. Instead of tuning each other out, we enjoy conversation, creating and sharing our days together. I have never been happier as a father or husband.

I am concerned for people who are afraid of silence. I suspect it's a sign of sensory bombardment. The human mind needs moments of clarity brought on by reflection. — DAD WHO GETS IT

DEAR DAD: Thank you for your letter. I received many thoughtful comments from people who identify strongly with "Solitary's" point of view:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Solitary Woman" was good, but did not start soon enough. She should provide stimulating crib and playpen toys to teach her son at an early age that he can control some aspects of his environment. Having this ability is the key to enjoying solitude.

When my daughter was 7 weeks old, I attached a

mobile fashioned from a white wire coat hanger and rainbow-hued origami cranes to her bassinet. I wiggled it and watched her smile at the moving colored birds. When the movement stopped, she became frustrated and began to whimper and kick and flail her arms. The paper birds moved again. She lay still and watched them. When they stopped the second time, she didn't whimper but just moved herself in the bassinet. She had learned she could control her environment.

As a toddler she could leave her playmates and pursue solitary activities in the quiet of her own room. I am convinced that her bassinet experience was the basis for learning to be happy by herself and with herself. — SMART MAMA IN EL CAJON, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: According to a journalist and mother who published a book on the topic, when an infant cries, wait a few minutes and listen before reaching out. This gives the baby time to learn how he feels with himself, and to deal with it emotionally. After five minutes or so, if the baby has a real need, then you can reach for him. Doing it too quickly prevents this crucial process of learning to be with oneself. — ANOTHER SOLITARY CANADIAN

DEAR ABBY: As a teacher (now retired), I was always interested in personality types and how they affect learning and interaction with others. One way of dividing personality types is into introverts and extroverts. Introverts get their energy from quiet time alone; extroverts get energy from being with other people and sensory activities.

This is an inborn trait that cannot really be taught, and there are varying degrees of the introvert/extrovert characteristic along a continuum. Wise parents will learn their child's personality traits and tailor their parenting to help him/her have the best learning situations possible. — MARY IN TEXAS

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Gemini and a Moon in Aries if born before 8:35 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013:

This year you often will feel as if you cannot be direct enough. Realize that you could get some strong reactions as a result. Other times, you'll want to cocoon. You will succeed in a key project. If you are single, you will attract more than one suitor who appeals to different parts of your character. If you are attached, your multifaceted personality does not surprise your sweetie, though he or she might have a preference as to which way you should go. Though you may want to vanish at times, you still enjoy each other. ARIES can be pushy.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★ Your concern is not only about your finances, but also whether you have the power and strength that is necessary to make a difference. You might be concerned about the outcome of a certain situation. Initiate a conversation in the morning. Tonight: Happily head home.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be dragging in the morning, but by afternoon you'll start to feel your Wheates. You'll feel empowered, and you won't hesitate to discuss an idea. If someone is negative, be resilient and refuse to take on his or her energy. Tonight: Be where you want to be.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ It is likely that you need to head in a new direction. Many of you will see this fact clearly during the day, and some will see it at night. The end results will be the same. The longer it takes, the surer you can be that you are wearing rose-colored shades. Tonight: Do for you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ You might want to rethink a decision more carefully. A discussion could shed some light on the potential problem. Do not necessarily count on your idea or resolution being the best one. Be receptive to someone who has expertise in these matters. Tonight: Where the fun is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ Make time for a discussion with an expert on an issue you are dealing with. In the afternoon, you'll need to

listen to someone who demands your time and attention. You also might decide to distance yourself from an unpleasant situation. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might need to evolve to a new level of understanding when dealing with a partner and a financial matter. You have the control you desire. Be aware of your limits with someone you care a lot about. The afternoon provides solutions where there previously were none. Tonight: Out and about.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Others will want to call the shots, but you could have a lot to share. You'll command their attention. No decisions can be made without your "OK." Claim your power, and people will be more than willing to listen to your side of the scenario. Tonight: A loved one makes you smile.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Listen to what is being shared, and know that you might not like everything you hear. Your version of what is possible could change. Honor your needs more openly than you have in the recent past. A friend wants to help you lighten up. Tonight: Share, if it would make it easier.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Your creativity soars. You laugh and see life from a new perspective. How you handle someone could radically change because of what you now know. Fatigue plays into your mood late afternoon. Tonight: Just for you.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might feel pressured by a personal issue. Your ability to break down barriers now will directly affect your ability to relax later. Your lighter side could emerge. A misunderstanding or a difficult meeting could leave you feeling off. Tonight: Your creativity flourishes.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

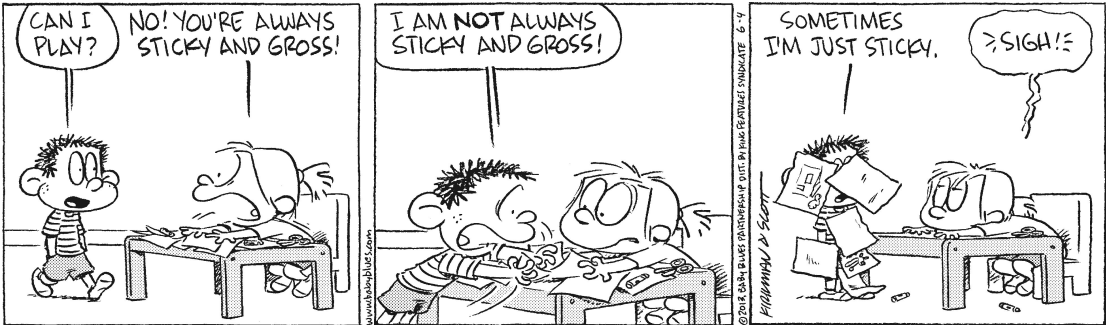
★★★★ Get busy, make phone calls and schedule meetings. Keep conversations moving, and understand that there could be a difference of opinion among those around you. By afternoon, you might want to play the role of recluse, as you have so much to do. Tonight: Happy at home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could be extremely tired and withdrawn, especially with a demanding associate or family member. Avoid taking any financial risks, and you will be happier as a result. Later today, conversations will run more smoothly than in the recent past. Tonight: Chat the night away.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

