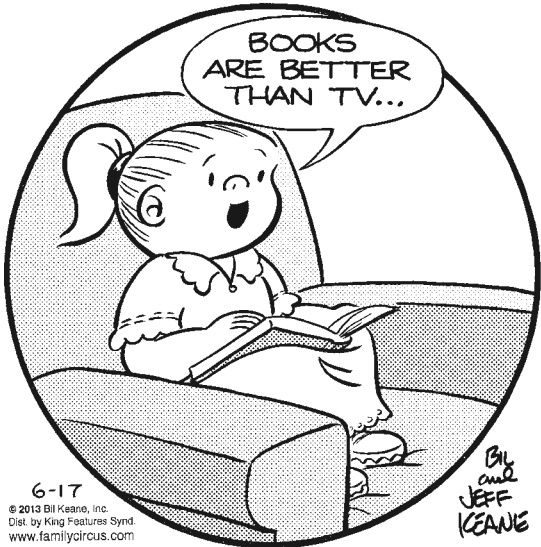
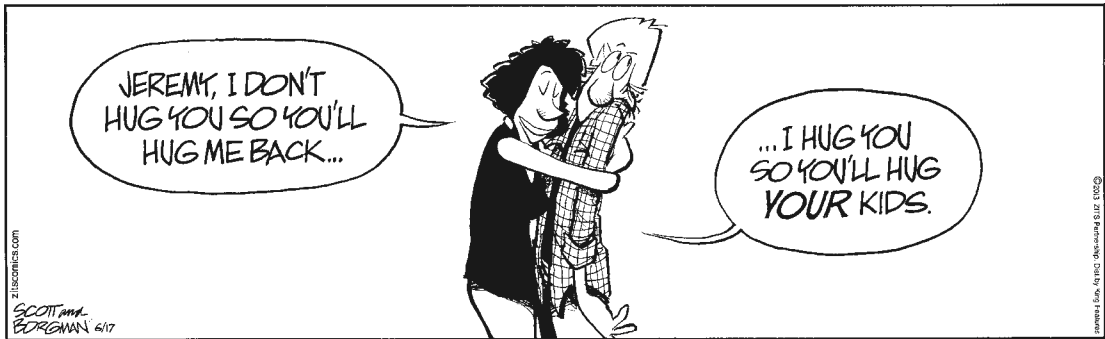


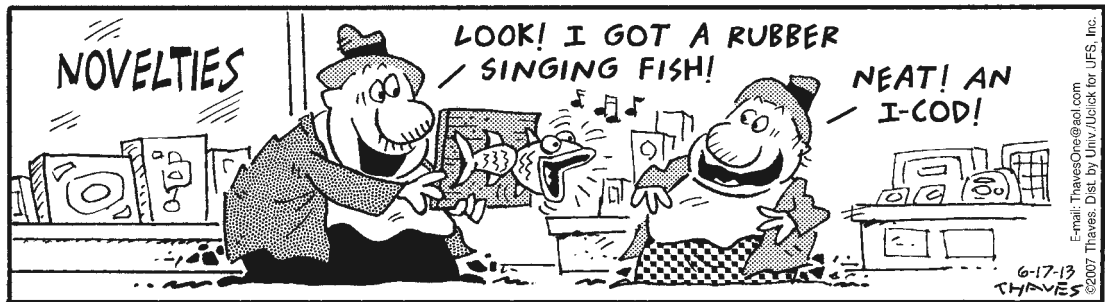
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



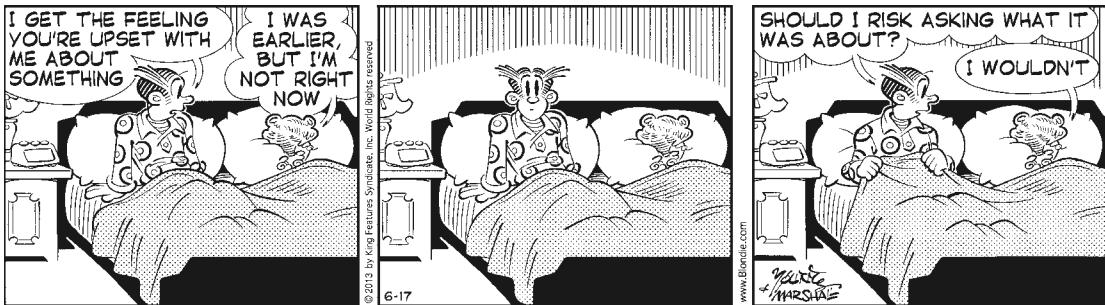
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



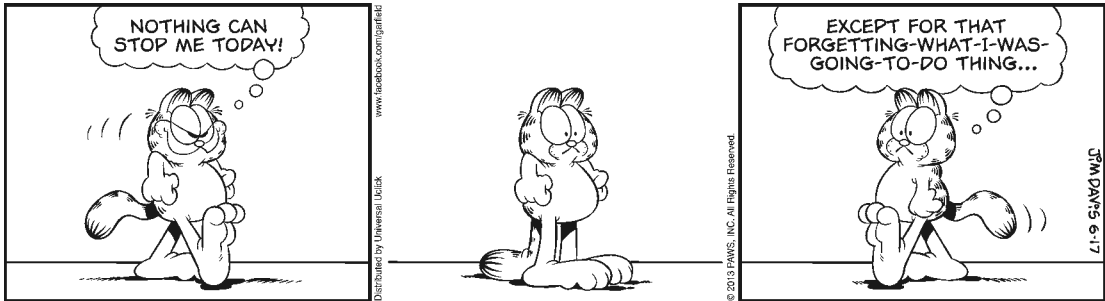
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BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



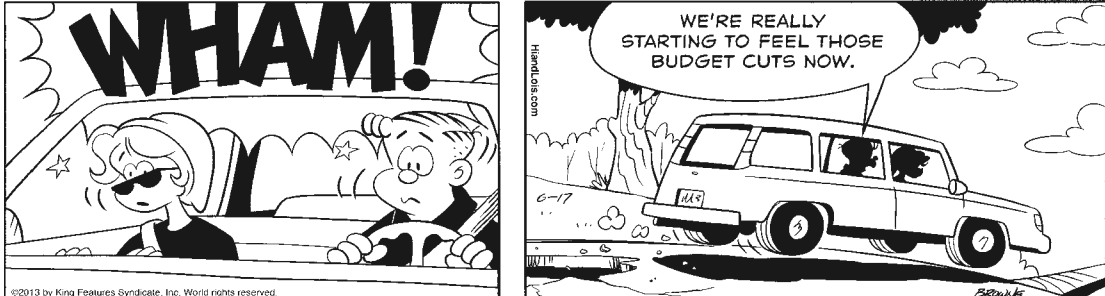
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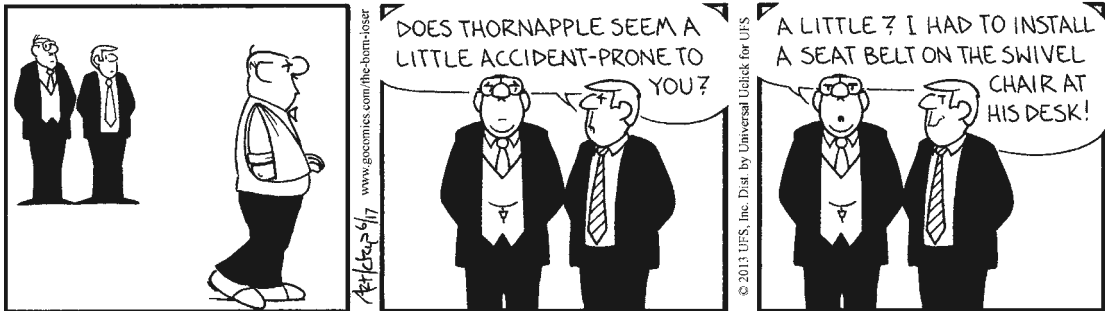
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



# Mom Up To Her Ears In Kids Wants Time To Be Left Alone

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have five kids, all under 6 years of age. The youngest are 7-month-old twins. A family in our church has offered to watch them so my husband and I can go out on a date. We haven't been alone together in a year. We have no family or friends nearby to offer respite. I would like to accept their kind offer, but two things are holding me back. First, I don't think they realize the enormity of the task, and it feels like we might be imposing.

Second, I don't have anything to say to my husband. A date would be awkward and most likely consist of "relations." I like my husband, but I'd rather be left alone. What would you do? — FRAZZLED MOM WITH NO SUPPORT

DEAR FRAZZLED: Before placing your small children in the care of others, invite the family over to see exactly how much work would be involved in watching them. Then discuss with your husband what date night will entail and see if you can agree on what would be a fun night out.

You definitely need a break, and some alone time should be something to look forward to. That it isn't is of concern to me. It's possible you could benefit from marriage counseling to help re-establish a line of verbal communication. And equally important, because you suspect the evening "might" result in relations, make sure you have birth control to prevent an accidental pregnancy.

DEAR ABBY: In this season of graduations and weddings, I would like to urge the honorees to send proper thank-you notes to friends and family who give them gifts and money. Time, money and preparation are put into these events, and the effect is spoiled when guests have to contact stores or scrutinize their bank statements to learn if their gifts were, indeed, received but simply not acknowledged.

Thank-yous aren't difficult. Some "rules": Rather than text or email, write a note on paper and mail it with

a stamp via the U.S. mail. If you do, you will be forever known as "that polite young couple" or "the young man/woman who sent the nice note."

Three lines are all that are needed: "Thank you for the —. I look forward to using/enjoying it when we entertain/grill/vacation/walk the dog, etc. Again, I appreciate your thoughtfulness." That's it!

If showing good manners isn't incentive enough, remember this: These are the people you will be inviting to weddings, baby showers, and your own children's graduations and weddings in the not-so-distant future. A little courtesy goes a long way. — APPRECIATIVE IN HITCHCOCK, TEXAS

DEAR APPRECIATIVE: While letter-writing may always seem like a chore to some people, there are occasions when a written message is the proper means of communication. Acknowledging the generosity of others is one of those times. Failure to do so indicates that the person's gesture was of so little importance that it was not noticed by the recipient. And frankly, it also indicates a distinct lack of manners.

DEAR ABBY: How do you politely tell friends and relatives who are guests in your home that your computer and TV are off-limits? Once they take control of the remote or the computer, they seem to go crazy and change all the settings to their preferences and never put the settings back when they leave! What can I do, Abby? — FRUSTRATED IN LEWIS RUN, PA.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: "Remind" any guest who uses your electronic equipment that it must be returned to your original settings before the person leaves your house. If you have already done that and it hasn't worked, then you must find the courage to say, "I'm not letting ANYONE use my computer or remote control because I have a hard time getting the settings back to where I put them after you leave."

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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 Libra.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013:

This year you are strong-willed, and once more you reap the benefits of that quality. You will resist power plays and say "no" to distractions that cause you to lose focus of your greater desires. A theme of unexpected happenings involving friends and loved ones keeps your life exciting. If you are single, a new bond with someone could be unstable yet enduring. Give this interaction a full year before committing. If you are attached, you and your partner work well together. LIBRA knows how to get your interest. 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)

★★★★ You'll defer to others with unusual ease. There is a volatile quality to the people around you, and you might not want to deal with them. You are likely to buck the status quo and head in a new direction. Avoid getting involved in a power play. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ You will jump through hoops in order to get what you want. Someone might become very stubborn. You could win this power struggle, but is it really worth it? A dear friend could pull you into a theoretical discussion. Think before you speak. Tonight: Go as late as you need to.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You might become snappy or sarcastic with a loved one. A money agreement might be bothering you more than you realize. Besides getting into a heated conversation, you might consider finding some middle ground. Tonight: Make sure you do something physical.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★ You might feel the emotional temperature rising around you and opt to keep your head down. Whether it will work with a controlling spouse, loved one or boss is hard to tell. You know better than most signs about the danger of suppressing your feelings. Tonight: A vanishing act.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Everyone loves sharing news with you, as

you offer insight that helps them move forward. Realize what is happening behind the scenes with a co-worker. If this persons seems tightly wound, make his or her path a little easier if possible. Tonight: Follow a friend's lead.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Be aware of how much you have to offer, as far as your talent and creativity are concerned. Your assets go way beyond finances. Know that sometimes you are too practical for your own good. A risk could frighten you, but it very well could be worth taking. Tonight: Your treat.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes you don't know how to respond to a friend's unpredictability. Right now, you can incorporate this person's energy with ease. A family member continues to be defiant. Do not try to subdue this person -- let him or her be. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★ It seems as if you are withholding some information and loving every moment of it. A partner might attempt to coerce this secret out of you. This person's action or statement could have you unexpectedly revealing it. Make time for a loved one. Tonight: Dinner for two.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Fortunately you are goal-oriented, which allows you to stay focused while key friends and loved ones are intent on creating uproar. If they have beef with you, you will know it. Stay centered, despite someone's ploy to get a rise out of you. Tonight: Happiest where people are.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Keep conversations moving, especially with higher-ups. Avoid getting stuck on your differences; instead, learn to appreciate your similarities. You might feel confused about what you want from a loved one. Tonight: Realize that you come across as a very strong individual.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with a loved one at a distance. Note that any negativity you feel might come off much stronger than you think. Others often have a difficult time with your bluntness. Tonight: Head in the direction that your imagination takes you.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

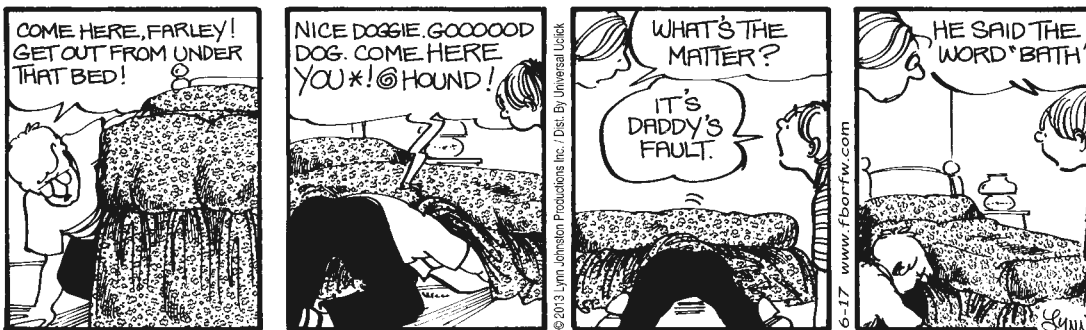
★★★★ You might want to let go and try enjoying yourself. Consider working from home or taking the day off. Someone close to you is on a different track, and is trying to control, organize and push his or her agenda through. Keep your eyes wide open. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

