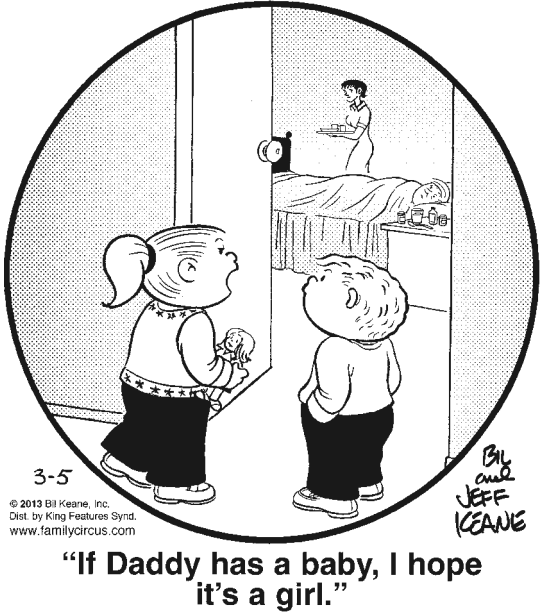
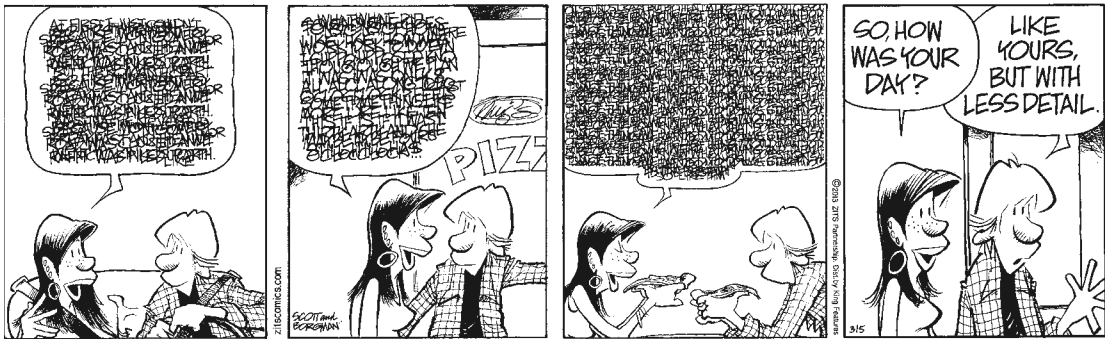


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



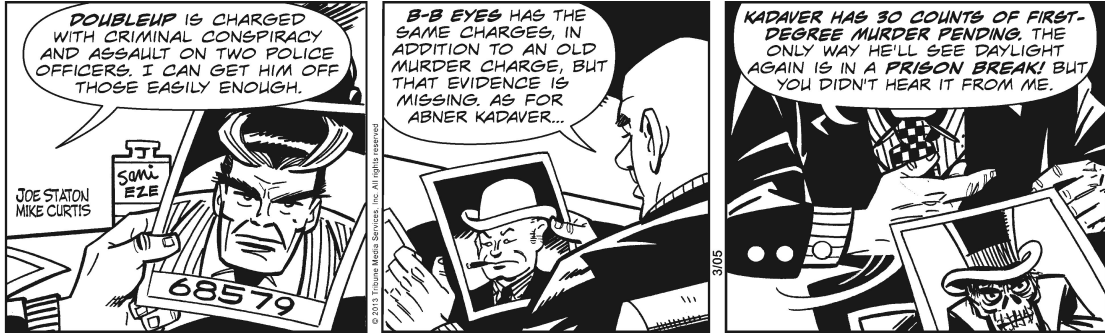
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



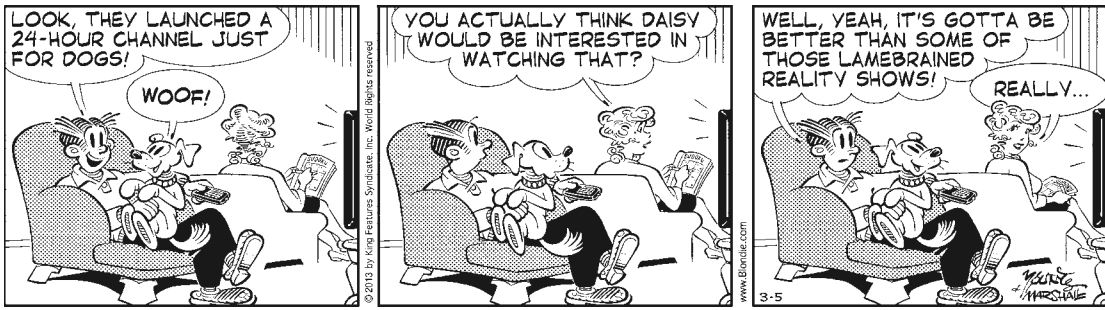
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



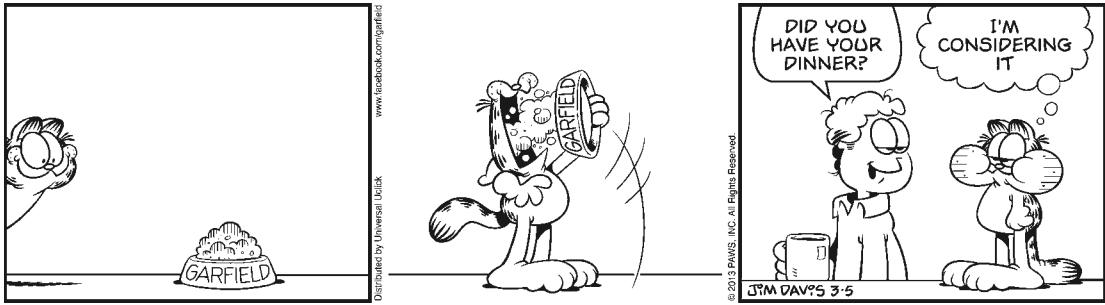
DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



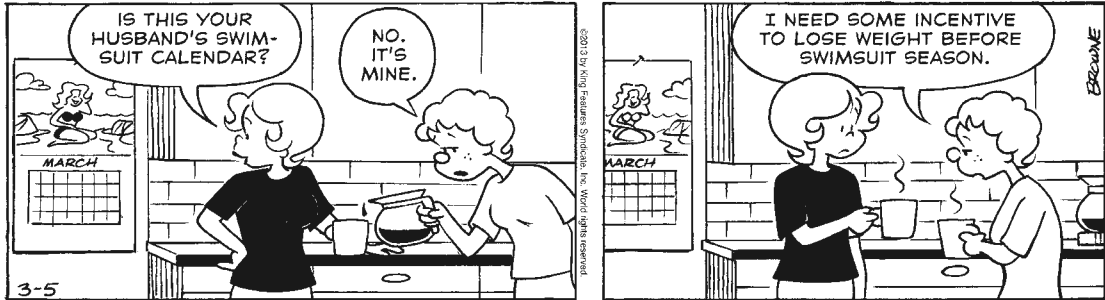
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Find Good Company In Solitude Through An Active Imagination

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child (a boy) later this year. How do I teach my son to enjoy solitude and his own company? Too many people today turn on the radio or TV because they can't appreciate the quiet.

I want my little one to have loving friends, but also periods of quiet, reflective fun time by himself. My husband and I grew up with siblings, but he hates solitude while I find lots of activities to do by myself. I am never lonely. What's the difference between solitude and loneliness? — SOLITARY WOMAN IN OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR SOLITARY WOMAN: The difference between solitude and loneliness depends on how an individual handles being alone. Some people find silence threatening, while others — like yourself — need it to recharge their batteries.

For your son to be at ease when he's alone, ration his television time. Read to him so he'll learn to appreciate the entertainment books provide. Give him items to play with that foster creativity, such as clay, paints and paper, a cardboard box he can pretend is a playhouse or a spaceship. (You may find he prefers it to whatever toy the carton contained.) If he's encouraged to use it, his imagination will flourish.

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law, "Earl," is an alcoholic and an avid gun enthusiast. He owns many weapons; I don't know the exact number. He has been accumulating ammunition at an accelerated rate because he's afraid that large clips will soon be banned. He drinks to excess and becomes belligerent and angry when drunk.

Last summer, during one of his moments of inebriation, he shot a gun into the air as a "surprise" to the eight family members who were sitting within

two to 10 feet of him. He takes pride in the fact that his guns are kept loaded, as "what good is an unloaded gun?" On two separate occasions, I know for a fact that a loaded gun was found unsecured in his home.

When my husband and I travel with our children, ages 7, 5 and 4, to visit his family, we stay in Earl's home. I feel the combination of alcohol and loaded, unsecured guns is not safe for my children. I have suggested to my husband that we stay in a hotel during our visits from now on. The problem is, my husband is unable to stand up to his father. He told me that when he tried talking to him about his concerns, Earl called him a "wimp."

Please tell me how to get through to my husband. I don't want to alienate his family, and I do want my children to have a relationship with their grandfather. — GUN-SHY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR GUN-SHY: I'm sorry to say that your father-in-law may have your husband pegged accurately. A man who would allow his small children to stay in the home of an alcoholic who keeps unsecured, loaded weapons around is a wimp. There are responsible gun owners, and there are individuals like your alcohol-soaked in-law, who seem to have never learned that a bullet fired into the air must fall down somewhere and could kill or injure someone.

Your husband doesn't have to "stand up" to his father. All he has to do is make a hotel reservation and be sure the children spend no unsupervised time with Grandpa. To do anything less is child endangerment. Because your husband is unwilling to be the strong one, the responsibility for your children's lives now falls to you.

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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 Pisces and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 4:14 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013:

This year you often can be challenging or difficult. You have accepted so much responsibility that you could feel overburdened. Others see you as a role model -- that is, until you lose your temper. If you are single, you could push away a potential sweetie with your spontaneous outbursts. Find a different way of expressing your irritation. If you are attached, your sweetie won't appreciate being a stand-in for someone else in your life with whom you might be angry. Listen carefully to his or her concerns, and you will feel better as a result. CAPRICORN proves his or her friendship.

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)

★★★★ Most people go on a tirade every once in a while. Why would you be any different? Others might not know how to respond when you are like this. You'll need to make the first move in order to clarify your actions. You will come up with the right approach. Tonight: At work late.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Plan on dealing with an irate associate in the near future. In the interim, stay on top of everything you must do. Don't worry or let this situation mar your mood. A meeting provokes unusual ideas, which provide a new opportunity. Tonight: Why not enjoy yourself?

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your inclination to defer to someone else is the right move to make. Your ability to deal with an angry boss or superior will be tested. Know what is appropriate to do in this situation. Do not lose your sense of humor. Tonight: Let others do all the talking.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Your day-to-day life could keep you busy. Today is a passage -- nothing more, nothing less. Take a walk to relax. By late afternoon, someone will become much clearer, and a discussion will become possible. Tonight: Try out others' ideas or suggestions.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You know more than many about an evolving

situation. Know that you won't get clarity unless you stay focused on one issue at a time. Don't try to multi-task. Someone's difficult personality could evolve into a most intoxicating personality. Tonight: Try a stressbuster.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You could have difficulty with a child or loved one. This person seems to want a reason to get angry. You might want to ignore this situation until he or she has worked through it. Feelings run deep on both sides. Give impulsiveness a rest. Tonight: Use your imagination.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Figure out where would be best to focus your high energy. Others might be touchy and feisty. You know how to handle this situation, but you'd prefer to pull back and not be involved. Late day plans could change at the last minute. Be flexible. Tonight: Head home and relax.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Try not to get too irritated by a risk that backfires or by a challenging individual in your life. Decide to carefully question more of your choices. Go with the tried and true, and walk away from anything that is iffy. Tonight: Join a friend or loved one for dinner and a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ Express yourself clearly, and don't leave anything to chance today. You will make a big impression on someone as a result. Sometimes it might be necessary to be strict or establish boundaries. Do just that, but also explain your reasoning. Tonight: Keep to your budget.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You have held back from doing something for a long time, and you might wonder if you have other options. You do, but you seem to keep coming up with negative outcomes no matter which way you turn. Consider that you might like the status quo. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

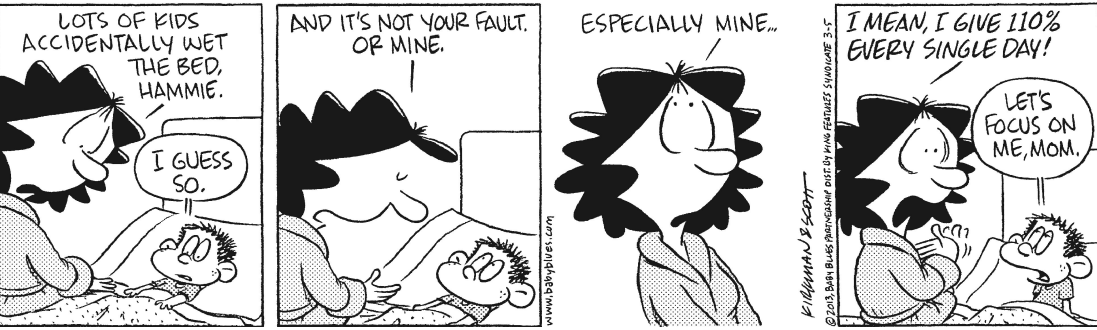
★★★ Use the daylight hours to push a project through to completion. Others might not be supportive and could become obstacles. Remember, everyone has a different thought process and sees life from his or her own perspective. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

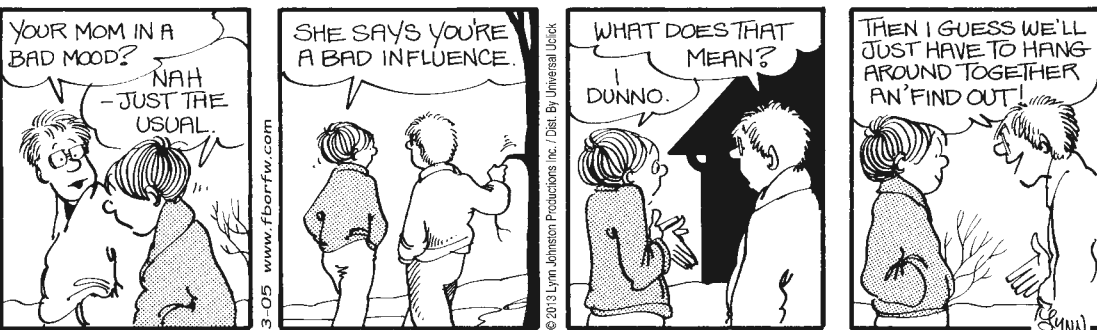
★★★★ Many people make assumptions, and no matter what you say, they might not hear you. You could feel as if you can't impact their thoughts. Whether there is a backfire or a success, accept responsibility. You might be able to drive your point home later. Tonight: Step outside.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

