

Editor's notes:

June 2005, Volume 20-10

"Oh, my love is like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
Oh, my love is like the melody,
That's sweetly played in tune."

-- Robert Burns

This might be a busy month for June brides, but it's an equally busy time for commencement speakers at universities and colleges across North America. Their job is to share some basic universal truths with the graduating youth, in ways both inspiring and entertaining. Though many speakers have had similar messages, our favourite is by Dr. Seuss, nearly 30 years ago, to the graduating class at Dartmouth College:

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.

You're on your own.

And you know what you know.

You are the guy who'll decide where to go.

We hope that you find some inspiration in the following celebrations this month:

Magna Carta Day anniversary, June 15 -- In 1215, this document was signed in England by King John under pressure from his barons to limit the power of English monarchs. Historians regard it as the first step toward the rule of constitutional law.

Father's Day, June 19 -- The third Sunday in June is dedicated to remembering and appreciating the efforts of fathers everywhere. The most popular Father's Day gifts are (in order) apparel, dinner, sporting goods, home improvement merchandise, gardening tools, and electronics.

Start of Summer, June 21 -- On this day, the North Pole is tilted closest to the sun, giving those in the Northern Hemisphere the longest period of daylight for the year.

The honey moon, June 22 -- The first full moon of June is called the "honey moon" because beekeepers once believed that this was the best time to harvest their honey. Over time, the term came to be associated with the trip taken after a wedding.

60th Anniversary of the United Nations, June 26 -- After World War II, a charter to form the United Nations was signed to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind." It comprises 191 countries and member states.

The Story of the Ballpoint Pen

On June 10, 1943, Hungarian-born journalist Laszlo Biro and his brother George received a patent for the ballpoint pen. The Biro, as it was called, contained a tiny ballbearing in its tip that rotated, picking up ink from a cartridge and applying it to the paper. Introduced in October, 1945, 10,000 pens were sold in one day at Gimbel's department store in New York.

Strawberry Season

The first strawberries were cultivated in ancient Rome and later grown in France for medicinal purposes. The berries seem to grow scattered (or strewn) among the leaves of the plant and thus early on were called "strewberries." Later the word evolved into "strawberries."

The strawberry is a member of the rose family. The "berries" themselves are not actually fruit, but the enlarged ends of the plant's stamen. (Botanists consider the small black dots the fruit.)

Wild and commercial strawberries grow in northern Europe, Russia, Chile, and every province in Canada and every state in the United States. The peak season begins in June.

The Six Mistakes of Man

1. The delusion that personal gain is made by crushing others.
2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected.
3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it.
4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences.
5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind, and not acquiring the habit of reading and studying.
6. Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do.

Written by Cicero, Roman statesman/philosopher, over 2,000 years ago.

All About Bananas

Some horticulturists believe that the banana was the earth's first fruit. One of the earliest mentions of bananas was in 327 B.C.E., when Alexander the Great encountered them during his conquest of India. Bananas growing in Africa and south-east Asia were about as long as a man's finger, and the Arabic word for finger is "banan." Americans first tasted bananas in Pennsylvania in 1876 at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. They were wrapped in a foil and sold for 10 cents each. Today, the average American consumes more than 28 pounds of bananas each year.

The ABCs of Work

Jill Bremer, co-author of *It's Your Move: Dealing Yourself the Best Cards in Life and Work*, says it's important from time to time to do a total evaluation of your ABCs of work-- Appearance, Behaviour, and Communication. "Appearance is your wardrobe and grooming; Behaviour is your etiquette and social skills; Communication is your verbal, non-verbal, and written skills." She recommends boning up in whatever area you may be lacking.

The Invention of Plastic

In the late 1800s, scientists were experimenting with synthetic polymers derived from cellulose and coal tar, but it wasn't until the early 1900s that a Belgian-born chemist living in Yonkers, New York, hit upon the first 100 percent synthetic plastic. After three years of failed trials, Leo Baekeland discovered that mixing and heating formaldehyde and phenol together produced a translucent and moldable substance. In 1909, he unveiled his invention at a meeting of the New York chapter of the American Chemical Society. He deemed it "plastic" after a Greek word meaning "to form." By 1945 -- a year after Baekeland's death -- U.S. production of plastic was up 400,000 tons a year. Today, 47 million tons are produced annually.

Bulls and Bears on Wall Street

Ever wonder where the expression "a bear market" comes from? The term, which means a falling stock market, comes from "bear skin jobbers," men who made deals to sell bear skins before they actually caught the bears. Eventually, in the late 18th century, the term was used to describe short seller, people who sold shares that they did not own, hoping that the price would fall so they could repurchase the shares for less than they had sold them. At the time, bull and bear baiting was a popular sport, so bulls became the opposite of bears -- that is, they bought shares in the hope that a stock's price would rise. Thus, a bull market became a term for a rising market. The cartoonist Thomas Nast popularized the symbols in his drawings.

A Messy Desk Could Cost You

A study by the University of Texas found that people with messy offices are less efficient, less organized, and less imaginative than people with clean desks. "A messy desk sends the message that you cannot handle your position and that assignments and important papers will go into a pile and never come out," according to career consultant. "Even if you get every project done well, the perception will be that you don't."

The History of Volleyball

Volleyball was invented in 1895 as a less strenuous alternative to basketball. William G. Morgan, physical director at the YMCA in Holyoke, Massachusetts, wanted to offer his middle-aged clientele exercise that didn't involve quite so much running. He strung a badminton net across the gym floor and split his class into two teams which volleyed a ball back and forth across the net. The original name for volleyball was "mintonette," because of its similarity to badminton. The new sport was renamed volleyball in 1896 and quickly became popular in YMCAs across the country. Volleyball became an Olympic sport in 1964 at the Tokyo games. Today, more than 800 million people play the game regularly worldwide.

Fathers Day Quiz - Name that Sitcom Dad

Match the TV dad to the actor and show

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| 1. Mike Brady | A. Robert Young | 1. My Three Sons |
| 2. Cliff Huxtable | B. Ozzie Nelson | 2. Home Improvement |
| 3. Jim Anderson | C. Hugh Beaumont | 3. Roseanne |
| 4. Dan Connor | D. Fred MacMurray | 4. Sanford and Son |
| 5. Tim Taylor | E. Robert Reed | 5. The Cosby Show |
| 6. Ozzie Nelson | F. Bill Cosby | 6. The Brady Bunch |
| 7. Ward Cleaver | G. John Goodman | 7. Leave It to Beaver |
| 8. Steve Douglas | H. Tim Allen | 8. Father Knows Best |
| 9. Fred Sandford | I. Redd Foxx | 9. The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet |
| 10. Howard Cunningham | J. Tom Bosley | 10. Happy Days |

Answers: 10J10; 9I4; 8D1; 7C7; 6B9; 5H2; 4G3; 3A8; 2F5; 1E6