

"How does a plant know if it's a houseplant or a regular plant?

#### **BIZARRO** | DAN PIRARO



**ZITS** | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN





**PICKLES** | BRIAN CRANE









FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ









**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** | CHRIS BROWNE







**BEETLE BAILEY** | MORT WALKER





HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON









**GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS







# Friend's Food Criticism Is **Hard For Couple To Swallow**

**DEAR ABBY** 

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a friend, "Jonah," whom we love dearly, but he has no filter. He's college-educated, has a whitecollar job and is over 50. The problem is, anytime we invite him for dinner or take food items to his house, he makes horrible remarks about my wife's cooking, particularly when it's a holiday party based on my wife's Slavic heritage.

My wife is a really good cook. No one else makes fun of these foods, many of which are common in the U.S., but Jonah makes negative comments every time. I have told him that it's rude, and so has my wife.

We would hate not inviting him to future parties with our usual crowd, but it gets me upset when he does this. My wife has actually prepared an alternative meal for him so he won't have to eat the "heritage-style" food. He even makes snide comments when I bring foods popular in other parts of the U.S.

Abby, do we continue inviting him or not?
It is straining our friendship. – IN A FOOD
FIGHT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR IN A FOOD FIGHT: Because Jonah has indicated that he doesn't like the food at your parties, stop inviting him. And because he doesn't appreciate the effort when you bring regional food to his home, stop doing that, too. If he asks why he wasn't included, feel free to give him an "unfiltered" answer. If you visit him, bring a generic house gift, such as nuts, a box of candy, a bottle of wine. If he doesn't accept it graciously, stop doing that,

With a "friend" like Jonah, it would be better to socialize at a restaurant that serves food he does like, or at an activity that doesn't revolve around food. I am amazed that you have tolerated his behavior this long.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has gained a little weight and has become self-conscious about how she looks. I have told her she's still beautiful. We haven't been intimate in three months and I think it's because she's afraid I won't like how different she looks without clothes.

I don't know how to tell her that my love for her isn't based on her physical beauty. It's based on who she is as a person. THAT'S what is beautiful to me. Do you have any feedback for me? - LOVING HER IN LOUISI-

DEAR LOVING HER: Before jumping to conclusions about why you and your wife haven't been intimate, I think you should ask her directly. It may have nothing to do with her weight - and it could be something she should discuss with her gynecologist.

Of course, it never hurts to tell a woman that she's beautiful because of who she is in your eyes and that she always will be. It's a song we women never tire of hearing - and the chorus is always welcome music.

DEAR ABBY: My husband helps with the kids and with the housework. But he never remembers holidays and special occasions. We have been married 15 years.

I have talked to him about how hurtful this is, but it never helps. I want him to think about me and put some effort into getting me something. My friends say, "How can you complain? He helps you do housework!" What do you think? – WIFE OF AN IMPER-FECT HUSBAND

DEAR WIFE: If the problem is that your husband doesn't know what to buy for you, offer some suggestions. If he simply can't remember the date – and some spouses don't – start "reminding" him a week in advance.

If he still doesn't "pop," then appreciate the fact that you have a husband who tries every day to show you he loves you by making your life easier. Many women are not so

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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 and Moon in

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR** FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015:

This year you decide to revive an area of your life, or perhaps you develop a new interest. Your creativity emerges and draws many people toward you. You also express yourself more openly. You will find that you are able to let go of certain control needs. Your charisma will help melt any resentment. If you are single, you could meet someone very special in the next few months. This person could have considerable impact on your life. If you are attached, the two of you love spending more time together. Your relationship intensifies as a result. ARIES can be feistier than you are.

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

# ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

\* \* \* \* Your efforts will come back in multiples. loved one, and it will be well-received. Making plans could force a change to your schedule. Make it your pleasure. Don't lose your temper so quickly. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

## **TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)**

\*\*\*Remain sure of yourself. You might not like what is happening with a situation. When you let those involved hear your opinions, you should expect a strong reaction, no matter how you say what you are thinking. Making peace could be touch-and-go for a while. Tonight: Vanish.

## **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

\*\*\* \* You might not have a free moment with so much happening around you. You'll be delighted by the action, but at the same time you could feel pressured. When an associate notices how tense you are, he or she will try to alleviate the

# stress. Tonight: Only where the crowds are.

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)** \* ★ \* You might not be up for taking on more responsibility, but you won't seem to have a choice. You could be wondering what your options are. Know that you can delegate certain tasks to others. A male friend could be challenging. Tonight: Avoid a

#### power play at all costs. LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

\* \* \* \* Your perspective will change if you

detach. You might understand a loved one a lot better if you can tune in to your empathy and imagine what it would be like to walk in this person's shoes. Your positive approach will get warm results. To-night: Take off ASAP.

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

★★★One-on-one relating takes you to a new level of understanding. You'll feel good in the company of a dear friend with whom you can be totally open. Don't worry about a change in plans and/or another person's fiery outburst. Tonight: Din-

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

\* \* \* \* You might have no choice but to defer to others, especially as they seem determined to have control. If you think someone is making a mistake, let this person know without making a scene. As a result, he or she will be more likely to accept the results. Tonight: Say "yes."

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

\*\*\*Pace yourself and take a break. One-on-one relating will bring out the affection of an admirer. Be careful with how you approach this per-son, as he or she could be more intense than you might realize. Avoid an outburst, if possible. Tonight: Accept someone's offer.

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

\* \* \* \* \* Your naturally fiery personality might emerge when dealing with a new friend. Passion runs high between you, and one of you is likely to get irritated. Detach, and a new beginning becomes possible. Tonight: Avoid taking any risks right now.

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

\*\*\* \*You will have to come to terms with a loved one's choices. You might be questioning this person's rationale, but understand that you probably can't change his or her mind. Relax. Just recognize how good you feel with this person around you. Tonight: Head home early.

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

\* \* \* \* You might wonder what would be the best way to proceed with a personal matter. With the help of a friend, figure out what the next step is. Pressure builds on the homefront. You'll discover how irritable a loved one is. Tonight: Favorite place with a favorite person.

## PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You tend to get into the moment, and it is then that your boundaries melt away. Be very careful with your spending. Even if someone proves that what he or she is offering is a sure deal, don't count on it. Speak your mind. Tonight: Keep to your

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# BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT





**BLONDIE** | YOUNG & DRAKE





**MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM** | MIKE PETERS

