FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

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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

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Nurse's Grief At Patients' Loss Was Felt By Her Whole Family

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

and was founded by her

Abigail Van Buren, also

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to "Still Grieving in Arkansas" (Nov. 20), who was upset that he didn't get a response to a note he sent to his wife's treating physician after her death.

As an RN, my mom had a tendency to become very close to patients who required long-term care in the hospital. It seemed that she never had any "emotional detachment" from her patients, but instead formed an "emotional attachment.

I recall many times during the convalescence or death of these patients, Mom would come home from work and go to bed and cry from her own bereavement. As her son, I grieved, too, because it hurt me to see Mom hurting. As a young child, my father, siblings and I could have done without these periods of unnecessary emotional pain.

Therefore, Dear Abby, I think you were right to say, "Please forgive them" when doctors and nurses don't exhibit public remorse during times of grief. **RN'S SON IN GEORGIĂ**

mother. Pauline Phillips. DEAR RN'S SON: Thank you for describing your mother's response to a pa-tient's passing and how it affected the Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Anfamily. However, I also heard from many geles, CA 90069. health care providers who said that it IS their duty to acknowledge the passing of one of their patients, and it should be

considered part of the healing process for both the patient's family and the health care provider. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a hematologist-oncologist. I try to send a sympathy card to each family after the death of their relative. If I receive a note or a copy of an obituary, I try to call the person to thank them for taking the time to contact me.

After seeing "Grieving's" letter, I took an informal poll of my colleagues and was gratified that many DO send notes. I was surprised that some do not extend sympathies. After hearing it, I encouraged them all to do so. It's the least we can do to promote healing among the survivors. - OHIO ONCOLOGIST

ACQUELINE 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 Aquarius and a Moon in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 22, 2013:

This year your self-expression attracts many people, and often inspires them. Your words carry power and energy with them. Your intuition serves you well, and it needs to be listened to. You could receive acknowledgment in your field of choice or achieve a long-term desire. You've got what it takes! If you are single, you will establish a meaningful bond, if that is what you desire. It could occur at any given moment. If you are attached, you'll romance your sweetie and reinvigorate your bond. GEMINI

makes a difference where it counts. 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)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You move with ease through your day. Several associates might start linking you to the unexpected, as you always present a different point of view. Others like brainstorming with you for that reason. Once more you demonstrate that ability. Tonight: Visit with others.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired medical oncologist Early in my career, a grieving patient's husband berated me for not contacting the family after his wife died. It was then that I realized that despite my excel-

lent care, the family needed something more - closure. For 30 years, until I retired, I sent a personal sympathy card and message to each family concerning their loss. Sharing these thoughts also gave ME closure. — DOCTOR JACK IN ĂRIZONA

DEAR ABBY: Please let "Grieving" know that one reason the health care professionals did not acknowledge his wife's death may have been they were instructed by the hospital/treatment center not to. In this day and age, when doctors are sued for malpractice, these types of sympathy notes can be used in court. — YVONNE IN AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

DEAR ABBY: I am at an age when I have lost many family members. NOT ONCE has the doctor sent a condolence card or letter to any family member. On the other hand, I have also lost many pets. Each time, the veterinarian sent a card or note, personally signed and often with the signatures of the entire office staff. I do not believe medical doctors care less for their patients than veterinary doctors care for family pets,

but that vets have made sending condolences part of their office protocol. Medical doctors might well consider adding that protocol to their practices. — MARY IN VIRGINIA

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby-Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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to help yourself in a meeting, as this person could be there. Try to keep your wits about you rather than have to explain your odd behavior later. Tonight: Where the action

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds, especially if you decide to take the lead in a project. You might not be dealing just with a vague person, but also an unpredictable financial situation. Use your imagination, especially if you want to make a good impression. Tonight: Expect to be in the lead.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Keep reaching out to someone whom you care a lot about. If you had your choice, what would you do to evoke this person's attention? Keep that idea on the back burner -- you might need it. You could be surprised at what a positive attitude can bring. Tonight: Relax to music.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$ One-on-one relating draws a strong result. You might want to rethink a personal matter in light of new information that comes up. Good will follows you if you're financially involved with others. It's a good day to buy a lottery ticket, too. Tonight: Be a duo.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ By deferring to others, it implies that you have confidence in them. Allow someone the space to demonstrate what is possible. You might need to screen calls and messages, as so many people seek you out. Plan on special time with a loved one. Tonight: Let the good times roll.



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







NO. A GOLD STAR.

RIDE EM,

COWBOY

a de la

GREG + MORT WALKER

 $\star \star \star$ Your impression of a superior could be changing rapidly, as a result of recent conversations. Explore this new information further. You treat others with a great deal of compassion. You will go that extra mile with someone you care about. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ You feel your Wheaties. You know you are on top of your game. Be smart, especially in a meeting. Be willing to listen and think through different ideas. You might not like these concepts at first, but know that there might be value in them. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★ Much is occurring behind the scenes. You could hear wild stories and wonder where one ends and another begins. Frustration builds because you can't seem to get the full story. Trust that the unknown will become the known. Go with the moment. Tonight: Get plenty of R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Zero in on what is important, and do not let an interesting person distract you. You might not be able

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON











MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ Play it easy when dealing with an unpredictable, easily provoked personality. You might want to ask yourself why you are trying to work through an issue with this person. Ask for feedback, and you actually might get excellent results. Tonight: Put your feet up.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB.18)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Your creativity flows in an unprecedented manner. You might wonder what to do with a loved one who could be well-meaning but interrupts a lot. Choose to close your door to complete what you must or give up. Tonight: Be that wild thing that we know lies within.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Stay within your usual parameters; otherwise, you would feel uncomfortable if you were to break past these boundaries. Let a problem sit. The situation will work itself out soon enough. Avoid taking any financial risks. You will be happier as a result. Tonight: Order in.

WE HAVEN'T STUDIED

PERCENTS YET, BUT THAT LADY LOOKS LIKE SHE

HAS MORE THAN 30%

OFF TO ME.

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GROWNUP STORES

ARE SO CONFUSING!

