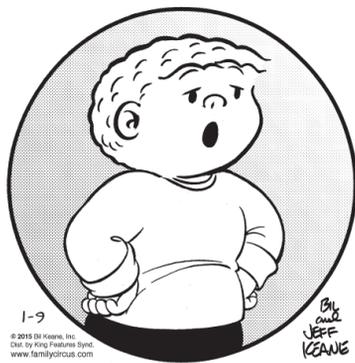


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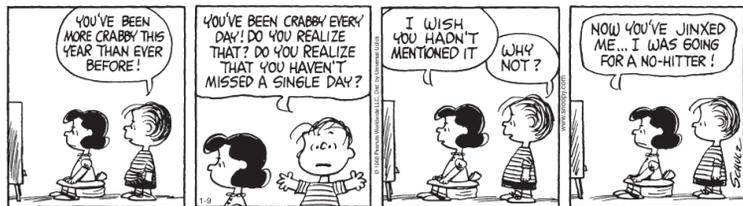
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Secret Of Son's Parentage Weighs On Mother's Mind

DEAR ABBY: I am worried about how my 10-year-old son, "Jake," will take some news he's not aware of yet. I wasn't able to have children, so my husband and I turned to in-vitro, using a donated egg from a family member. We thank God this method worked.

Our plan was to explain it to Jake when he got older, once he understood about the birds and the bees. Now I am starting to get this fear that he will be very upset when he learns about it and be angry with us.

I don't want him to go into a depression over it. What should we do? Should we wait like we planned? Should we have told him already? Or should we say nothing? — MOM IN CHICAGO

DEAR MOM: Not knowing Jake, I can't gauge his level of maturity. I'm not sure why being told how special he is, and how grateful you and your husband are to be his parents would send him into a depression. But because you think it might, discuss this with a child psychologist before talking to your son. Please don't put this off, because if other family members know about the egg donation, it is only a matter of time before the cat will be out of the bag, and it's better that Jake hears this information from you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old woman in grad school, and I have noticed something about my male friends. Whenever they meet a new girl, the first comment out of their mouths is about her looks. Then they will expound at length on her physical assets (or lack thereof).

Abby, it makes me furious. Not only does it make me feel self-conscious about my own body, it also makes me angry that these talented, charming and outgoing girls are judged first by their cup size.

Is there anything I can say to my friends to make them amend their behavior? Or am

I being overly sensitive and need to accept that this is a "guy thing"? Thanks for your input. — OBJECTIFIED IN OMAHA

DEAR OBJECTIFIED: It's a guy thing. That they talk this way in front of you may indicate that they consider you "one of the guys." Since it bothers you, speak up and suggest they knock it off. If you do, it may jar them back to reality.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I would love your take on a disagreement we've had since we were married. It's the age-old question, "So, where did you two meet?"

We met abroad at a university exchange program and were introduced to each other by our school sponsors in the bar where all the students hung out. We shook hands, exchanged greetings and I left right afterward.

I answer the question by saying, "We met in a bar." My wife says, "We met in university." Who's right? — BAR NONE? IN TEXAS

DEAR BAR NONE: You both are, but have you never heard the adage, "A happy wife makes for a happy life"? My advice is to stick with her version.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

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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 Capricorn and a Moon in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 2015:

This year you open up to a new way of living. Simplicity and authenticity will be the key elements to focus on for improving your life. If you are single, someone you choose to be your sweetie today might not be of any interest to you by your next birthday. Take your time getting to know any potential suitors! If you are attached, the two of you enjoy sharing your personal dream world together. You will help each other manifest what you both desire. CAPRICORN needs to be less involved.

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 seem to be "all work and no play," even if you are not at your job. This very serious approach allows you to be focused and driven. Follow your instincts if you are facing some confusion. A partner or associate could be extremely controlling. Tonight: Relax to good music.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your circle of friends could have different concerns from your loved ones. Today, they might pull you in different directions, and you'll feel the resulting tension. Detach, and see if there is a way you can find a solution that works for everyone. Tonight: Have some fun.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ Tension continues to build on the home-front. The only person you can control is yourself. Therefore, it would be wise to take up a stress-busting activity or pastime. When you relax, others will, too. Be careful with a loved one who is very controlling. Tonight: Be a duo.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Reach out to a close relative or neighbor who understands where you are coming from. You cannot deny the bond that exists between you. Be sure to listen to your inner voice. Romance, music and a foreigner could intertwine. Tonight: TGIF!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You might be deluding yourself about the ramifications of a recent major purchase. Relax with others, and know that you can make a differ-

ent choice. A conversation could lead to a power play. Don't lose sight of your long-term objectives. Tonight: Don't push too hard.

VRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might be confused by a friend who doesn't always hear you well. Be patient; otherwise, you could lose your temper. Go along with the moment, and know full well that you could be dealing with a manipulative person. Tonight: Paint the town red.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ Your ability to get past an issue will depend on whether you can let go of your need to control others. You might express a tentative interest in opening up a discussion. Think carefully about this before making a decision. Tonight: Vanish before your popularity overwhelms you.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Friends pave the way to your success. You also will receive a lot of support from these same people. Perhaps it is time for a thank-you card. When all of you are together, there tends to be an air of camaraderie among you. Communicate with care. Tonight: Hang out at home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Take charge of an important project with which you have been involved. Your ability to move past obstacles will emerge. Others seem delighted to have you at the helm of the ship because of your leadership capability. Tonight: A force to be reckoned with.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance once more. If you can take off for a day trip, by all means, do. Be sure that you and this person are on the same page. A misunderstanding could result in a rift between the two of you. Tonight: Let your feelings lead the way.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ You will see a personal matter differently after you have a chat with a key person. Pressure could force you to look for an unusual answer. Refuse to get uptight about a problem you tend to focus on too much, which could make a situation even more difficult. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could wake up feeling as if you have not a care in the world. You certainly seem to be wearing a pair of rose-colored glasses. See where your optimism takes you. For many of you, it will help you manifest more positive interactions. Tonight: Let the party begin!

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BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

