Reader Sets Record Straight

On Addressing Gay Spouses

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

and was founded by her

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Abigail Van Buren, also

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FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

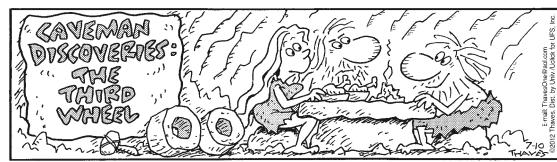
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F BIL and JEFF 7-10 2012 Bil Keane, Inc Dist. by King Features KEANE "Stop sitting there looking so cute! It bugs me!"

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the survivor dependent on his or her gen-der or the gender of their partner? I'm only 29 and I hope I won't have to Dist. & King use this information for many years, but I'd like to know the proper terminology. For the record, I support gay marriage because I believe in true love in all its forms. HANNAH IN CARROLLTON, GA.
DEAR HANNAH: Regardless of sexual

event of a death.

orientation, if a male loses his spouse, he is a widower, and if a woman loses her spouse, she is a widow. The terms don't change because the union was a same-sex relationship.

DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime reader. This is the first

time I have ever written to you, and I'm hoping you will

have an answer for me. I'd like to know the proper way

to address a surviving gay spouse in the unfortunate

Is a gay man who has lost his husband

a widower or a widow (seeing as he lost his husband and not a wife)? Is the title of

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder many years ago. I started a combined therapy about a year ago - individual and a dialectical behavioral therapy group. Everything has been going great, and I have learned a lot about myself. The problem is, I have become very attracted to my therapist and, as a result, I feel it is interfering with my treatment.

Lately, my only interest in going to group or therapy is to see him and be in his presence. I also find myself canceling group if I know he won't be there.

I am confused as to why I am having these feelings. Is it part of my bipolar disorder, or something else? Surely, this would be something I would bring up to my therapist, but unfortunately, I'm embarrassed.

Abby, what do you suggest I do in a situation like this? I feel like putting a hold on therapy for a while because of this, but I know that I still need it. - NEEDS THERAPY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NEEDS THERAPY: Please don't use this as an

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 Cancer and a Moon in Aries all day long.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012:

This year, just when you think you are on cruise control, the unexpected hits. Until you understand and see the end results, this pattern could be disturbing. What oc-curs will point to what is frivolous in your life. If you are single, relationships formed this year will not be stable for at least a year. Time together is the real indicator of a couple's longevity. If you are attached, you could feel waves of excitement but might not always love the form they take. Your bond will be far more dynamic in the long run. Be aware that this process will be challenging at times. ARIES is high voltage.

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)

★★★★ The unexpected occurs, but others respond in a caring, distinct manner and want to be included. You might feel tense as a result of this surprise, a family member and/or a domestic matter. Brainstorm away, and you'll find a solution. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

excuse to stop your therapy. Your feelings are very common in psychotherapy. The term for it is "transference." It is the process by which emotions associated with one person - such as a parent - unconsciously shift to another. In your case, that's your therapist.

Because you're finding it distracting, it's important that you discuss this pri-

vately with your therapist. It won't be the first time he has heard it, I guarantee. I'll bet if you asked in a group session, "How many people here are in love with Dr. Soand-So?" almost every hand in the room would go up.

DEAR ABBY: My husband makes his living doing general construction. We have no employees. We get along fantastic, except for one point of contention.

Over the years we have made investments in tools for his trade. Another family member constantly asks to borrow them for personal projects. My husband willingly lends them out. If he needs that tool for a job, he will go without, reschedule his work or make a special trip to retrieve it.

I say the only way he should lend out his tools is if there is a slim to zero chance at all of his needing it himself, and if he does, then it must be returned immediately.

Also, we are a paycheck-to-paycheck family and this family member is wealthy. These tools are our way of making a living, and we need to be ready for any job at a moment's notice. Please advise. TOOLS OF THE TRADE

DEAR T.O.T.T.: Your husband appears to be a very nice person, but providing for his family should come first. His tools are his livelihood, just as those belonging to a barber, beautician, seamstress or doctor would be. Because his relative has the money, he (or she) should inquire about RENTING the necessary tool from a home improvement store, or search for "tool rentals" in the Yellow Pages or online.

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line. You could feel as if someone is toying with you before this moment. After making your statement, you couldn't care less. Tonight: Follow the music.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You might want to rethink someone's comments. You could be oversensitive and take something the wrong way. In fact, you might be creating your own tension and stress. A partner acts in a most unexpected manner. Tonight: Find your favorite person.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

 $\star\star\star\star$ Others seem to be "hunting" you down. Enjoy the popularity, and do not make a big deal out of changing your plans. Listen with care to a loved one's feedback; you could be quite delighted. A respected person, boss, parent or elder makes demands that you might choose to ignore. Tonight: Out with your pals.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star$ Others appear to be flaky, and no matter what stage of life you currently are in, you are left holding the bag. Detach from not-so-friendly feelings seasoned with resentment, and get done what you must. Tonight: Could go late.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Your sense of humor helps loosen others up, and you create a smile wherever you are. Be open about your feelings -- you will appreciate the response you receive. Differentiate between a long-term relationship and just fun flirting. Tonight: Be careful not to start a



AND STOP PEEKING

 \heartsuit

IAMA

CORPORATE RAIDER AT JOLLY ROGER

CAPITAL

AT THE COMBINATION



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



GREG+ NOPT

NALKER

BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



7-16

 $\star \star \star$ You look at a situation much differently than others do. You gain sudden insight and, as a result, can move forward with a personal matter very quickly. Keep conversations flowing, but if you need to, do take some personal time. Tonight: Take a night off just for you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You could be taken aback by someone you care a lot about. You will discover just how unpredictable this person might be. Show your caring through words, but also through your actions if you want to be trusted. Tonight: At a game, or anywhere people are.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You could be stunned by someone's ideas. You clearly care about this person, but you might not agree with his or her style. Do not let an innate difference create tension between you. Tonight: Throw yourself in the whirlwind of living.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Look at the big picture. You might feel much better and more empowered after you express the bottom

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



ESPECIALLY THE WAY THEY FIZZLE WHEN THEY HIT THE BUG ZAPPER.

YEAH, WELL, I'D PATHER JUST ENJOY THEM THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

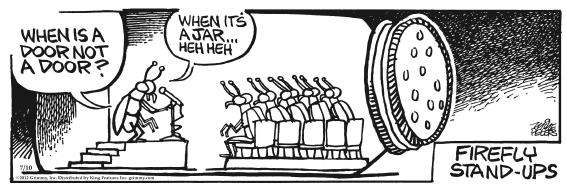








MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



problem with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★ You cannot get away from a domestic concern, at least until it has been appropriately handled. You know when enough is enough and set boundaries as a result. A close loved one or associate seems to be in a very different frame of mind. Tonight: Head on home.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Keep a conversation moving. If you or the other person overthinks, you could become far more closed off. There is a lot to be gained if you let yourself be vulnerable. Be careful about mixing business and pleasure, as you could cause yourself a problem. Tonight: Out to a favorite place.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

 $\star \star \star$ Be aware of your spending and allow greater emotional sharing to occur. You can give in ways that are more meaningful if you stop and think about it. Let your creativity emerge, and allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Keep to your budget!

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