

FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



house, Mommy."

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



Readers Take Abby To Task For Being Too Easy On Dad DEAR ABBY: I have read you for years, and I must take issue with your answer to

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby is written

by Abigail Van Buren,

also known as Jeanne

founded by her mother,

Pauline Phillips. Write

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

and I must take issue with your answer to "Needs the Right Words" (March 17). He asked about his son and his son's halfbrother visiting his beach house. (He didn't want the half-brother included.)

While you addressed the writer's needs, and yes, he is entitled to his feelings, I think you should have

Press&Dakotan

taken this a step further. Once you become a father, it is not all about "you" anymore. The 12-year-old boy is now, and forever will be, his son's halfbrother. Unless this man wants to distance himself from his son and cause permanent damage to their relationship, he needs to get some therapy so he will be able to think of that boy in a different way and can deal with him in the future. He is NOT in a "good place" as he stated if seeing this boy causes such an emotional issue. The two boys seem to have a good relationship, and a future with his son will — and should - include the halfbrother, even if the visits are short ones.

Someday that boy will be a

grown man, and he will recognize the kindness shown to him. The boy is not responsible for his mother's behavior and the father needs to realize that. — DEBORAH IN CHAN-DLER, ARIZ.

DEAR DEBORAH: You are right. It would have been better for all concerned if I had been harder on the father and more sensitive to the feelings of the boys involved, which many readers pointed out to me:

DEAR ABBY: I almost always agree with your answers, but your answer to that letter was off the mark. It's admirable that his son has such a close relationship with his halfbrother, and not allowing the boys to do something they enjoy together for a weekend is wrong. That the writer admits he still has problems with the past is his problem, not the kids'.

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 Leo and a Moon in Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013:

This year you are unusually intuitive, especially when it comes to others, their finances and their bottom lines. You will see what a change this knowledge can make in your daily life. You are willing to reveal your feelings more than ever before. If you are single, your desirability is unquestionable, but your choices might need some work. Figure out what type of bond you desire. If you are attached, do not take things so personally. Both of you will be happier as a result. PISCES knows how to reel you in!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-

Since he admits it brings up feelings he THOUGHT he had put behind him, he should get professional help to finally deal with those unresolved issues. Also, if he doesn't want the 12-year-old in his house for one weekend of fun, then he should take his wife away for a romantic weekend and let the

boys use the beach house in his absence. It's all about compromise, not the ultimatum. — BEEN THERE, DONE THAT IN KANSAS

DEAR ABBY: Tell that man to get a psychotherapist! The child isn't responsible for his mother's behavior. The man needs to expand his heart. When he's an old man he will never regret hosting the boy, but he WOULD regret having hurt a child and perhaps alienating his own son in the process. You called that one wrong, Abby! — LESLIE R., CHAM-PAIGN, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice more often than not, although I suspect we are at opposite ends of the political spectrum. That father needs to grow up and put the feelings of his son and his son's half-brother before his own. It's time people

learned once more what it means NOT to be selfish and think of their own feelings, but the feelings of others. Please reconsider your response. — PAUL W., JOHNSON CITY, TENN. DEAR PAUL: I have, and I regret my initial

answer.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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you. Listen to feedback, and integrate what you hear. Tonight: Visit over dinner.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might wonder what is going on with a loved one. Your curiosity will make you want to live life similarly to how this person does, and you'll appreciate yourself more as a result. Listen to news with a sense of what can happen. Tonight: Favorite people, favorite place.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself -- you have a lot of ground to cover. You might want to flex and take your time, as you could see a better solution because of a recent discussion with a friend. Know that you can improve a project by opening it up to feedback. Tonight: Happily head home.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Your vision of possibilities allows for greater receptivity and success. Others also seek you out to share their thoughts and ideas, as they



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM





PROMISE 7

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Your need to express your ire might be strong, but allow yourself to be guided by your sensitivity. If you lash out, someone might find it a lot harder to understand where you are coming from. Appeal to others with logic and caring. Tonight: Catch up on sleep.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what is possible. Remain creative, and be open to a different thought process and new kinds of ideas. You even might want to give a strange idea some serious consideration. Communication will be active among friends. Tonight: Where your loved ones are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You will understand where a boss is coming from, but you might wonder if the direction in which he or she wants to proceed is the best, financially. You could gain someone's confidence because of how you handle controversial situations. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Your imagination seems limitless to many. Your ability to detach is equally as strong. You have determination and energy on your side. Go with your emotional, knee-jerk response. Make a point of recognizing the recent changes a partner has made. Tonight: Go with spontaneity.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a situation directly, and know full well what is needed. Your direct approach and willingness to move into a new realm could be bolstered by a loved one who keeps encouraging

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



want your feedback. Still, it would be wise to factor in a touch of diplomacy. Follow your sixth sense. Tonight: Choose what makes you happiest.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ The more you deal with a specific partner or loved one, the luckier you will become. It's as if you have a rabbit's foot tucked away in your back pocket. You will benefit from any activity involving this person. Profound changes are being made. Tonight: Try to make it early.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might have difficulty verbalizing a vision involving a project. Even if someone says that he or she understands, that might not be the case. Defer to others, yet stay on top of communication. Ask a question, even if it makes you feel stupid. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Be aware of what you are doing with your checkbook. The damages could be far greater than you had anticipated. Know when to say "no." At this point, you are capable of pulling white rabbits out of black hats. Tonight: Indulge a friend or loved one; it does not have to cost.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You are right where you need to be, and others find you with ease. Many friends will express a great deal of respect for you and your thoughts. Follow your intuition, especially regarding a matter at a distance. Your personality melts boundaries. Tonight: You can have it all.

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