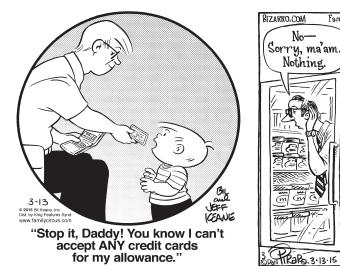


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



Old World Tradition Clashes With New World Diet Change

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend, Mike, for about two years, and things are going great. During this time, I have become very close with his family. Both of his parents came to the United States from Europe, and with their culture comes his mother's traditional cooking and the need to make sure everyone's bellies are full.

I have always enjoyed her food; however, in the last six months I have become a vegetarian. Out of courtesy for her, I have been making sure to eat at home before spending time at Mike's house. I can see that his mother feels a bit put off because I have been eating less of her food, but I feel it would be rude to ask her for a separate meal to accommodate my diet. What should I do? - NERV-OUS IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR NERVOUS: Your boyfriend's mother may be put off because she doesn't understand why you seem to be enjoying her cooking less. If you and Mike have been seeing each other for two years, you and his mother should be able to have an honest conversation with each other. TELL her you enjoy her cooking, but that you have changed your diet and no longer eat meat, etc. If she volunteers to prepare something else for you, it would be gracious of her. However, if she doesn't, I agree that it would be rude to ask her to do so.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were close friends with another couple, seeing them once or twice a week. Then we had to move away from our hometown because of a job opportunity. We tried to stay in touch, but predictably were not as close as when we were neighbors.

A few months ago, we were able to move back home, and we have been trying to revive the friendship. We have invited them to dinner three times only to be told: "We have commitments this week, and next week is crazy at work. Let's try to get together next

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 Pisces and a Moon in Sagittarius if born before 11:40 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015:

This year you open up to change, as you often are forced into the limelight and have to assume a position of responsibility. Your self-confidence builds, and others recognize your abilities. As a result, you could manifest a long-term desire. Friendship plays a significant role in your life as well. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone through work. You won't need to look for this person -- he or she will find you sometime after August. If you are attached, the two of you might be committed to a common cause, which will draw you closer together. SAGITTARIUS is an extrovert who often makes you feel uncomfortable.

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 might be doing some last-minute

month when things calm down." But there was no follow-up.

They do travel a lot, have small children and demanding jobs, so it's hard to know if the delays are real or if they aren't interested in being friends any longer. How much do we try before feeling we're annoying them and

giving up? - BACK HOME IN OHIO DEAR BACK HOME: Do as your friends suggested and give them a call in a month or six weeks. If they are still unavailable, say, "OK. Then the ball is in your court," and see if they follow up. And if they don't, then realize it's time to give up. When you moved away, they moved on.

DEAR ABBY DEAR ABBY: As a Valentine surprise, my boyfriend of two years presented me with a donation he had made in my name to his favorite charity. I thought it was impersonal and it hurt my feelings. Am I wrong to think he really doesn't care much for me? – ROSE-LESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ROSE-LESS: Let me put it this way, your boyfriend isn't very good when it comes to gift selection. Many men aren't. But more important than candy or flowers is how he treats you the other 364 days of the year, and that's how you should judge him.

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 order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

© 2015, Universal Press Syndicate

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Reach out to someone who tends to be combative instead of becoming uptight about what he or she could do. You'll make peace where there might have been a problem. Allow your fun personality to emerge. Drop your serious mood -- it is Friday, after all. Tonight: TGIF!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★ ★ ★ Tension builds to an unprecedented level, as you feel you must handle a matter involving your security and domestic life. Relax more, and simply handle the issue. Sometimes you make mountains out of molehills. Tonight: Accept a partner's caring gesture.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

★★★★ You seem to choose the right words to bring someone over to your way of thinking. You'll make quite an impression on this person. Be explicit when making plans. A loved one or a new friend could be expressing his or her innate gentleness. Tonight: Be a bit impulsive.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

*** Weigh the pros and cons of making a purchase. Some of you could be considering finding a way to augment your income. If you feel tense or unusually high-strung, take a walk and try to relax. You don't need to fuss so much. Tonight: Out on the town

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

No

Nothing.

Facebook.com/BizarroComics

4/95

Dist. 19 King Feature

So strange, I could've

SWORN I heard the

Häagen-Dazs calling

my name

11

NEWSROOM: news@yankton.net



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







I'LL PEELTHE C

CARROTS.

thinking about getting out of town for a day or so. You are likely to give in to this impulse. An appointment or meeting might keep you somewhat grounded. Make plans to start the weekend as early as possible. Tonight: Let the party begin!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ Deal with others directly. You'll express your sensitivity by taking time for each person. Someone you meet today could become a very inspirational friend. You might resist expressing your feelings. Tonight: Don't be surprised if you feel a need to take off suddenly.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Defer to others. You might be enjoying the lack of pressure and the emotional freedom you recently have gained. Take a stand on a heartfelt matter, and others will listen. A friend could follow you down the path you have chosen. Tonight: Schedule some one-on-one time.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You could be out of sorts and might want to toss everything in the air. Verbalize your frustration, but avoid a revolution at all costs. Given some time, you will feel better, and will notice that your efforts are not futile. Let someone else call the shots for now. Tonight: Out and about

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



 $\star \star \star \star$ You seem to beam as the day progresses. A child or loved one might push you beyond the limits of your patience. Try not to lash out at the person in question. Keep your cool. Make yourself aware of the finances involved with a fun ídea. Tonight: Let down your hair.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

 $\star \star \star$ Lie low during the day, but know that it won't prevent you from taking action where you feel it is needed. A one-on-one conversation will help ground you. Be sensitive when dealing with a brash loved one. Tonight: As soon as the evening begins, vou perk up.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

*** A friend might tease you into taking ac-tion. Even if you feel a bit raw, make an effort to be kind to others. Use caution with funds, as money could nearly dissolve in your hands. A lot of activity surrounds a friend; you might want to join right in. Tonight: All smiles

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Be careful when dealing with others. You might be confused about what they are communicating, or perhaps you are missing some facts. Be aware of your objectives. Indulge a loved one, and buy this person a token of affection. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate