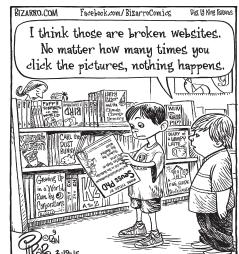


"But we're playing 'Sesame Street' and Sam wanted to be Cookie Monster.

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE









FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ







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







Man Long Ignored By Family **Wants To Return The Favor**

DEAR ABBY: I am the youngest of three boys. When I was growing up, my brothers didn't have much to do with me. At times they were cruel, mocked my interests and made fun of my friends. At 19 I moved into the dorms, even though I was attending college locally.

My professional life took me away from my hometown for 25 years. Both brothers pretty much ignored me, except for calls on my birthday that were filled with awkward silence because we didn't know each other well enough to talk about anything. I lived abroad for long periods, and even though I sent emails and postcards, I never heard anything from them in

DEAR ABBY Ňow I live back in my hometown and I am expected to participate in Jeanne Phillips holiday and family events because "it's family." Please give me the words to use to refuse invitations I do not want, from a family who made it clear that they had no use for me for so long. — WARY IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WARY: Give the following standard refusal: "Thank you for wanting to include me, but I already have other plans." No one can argue with that. I do, however, suggest you choose ONE holiday a year to spend with your "family" as a way of maintaining minimal contact. That way they can't accuse you of snubbing them.

DEAR ABBY: Three widowed friends of mine still have their late husbands' voices on their answering machines. I think it's spooky and in really bad taste.

Is there any way to gently suggest to them that they change their greeting to one in their own voices or an anonymous one? I'm my greeting that way. — FLABBERGASTED IN FLORIDA a widow, too, and I wouldn't think of leaving

DEAR FLAB: Different strokes for different folks. Has it not occurred to you that these ladies not only do not find the sound of their late husbands' voices the least bit spooky, but that they might call their own numbers in order to hear it? They may also feel safer having a male voice answer their phone. Because you find it upsetting, consider texting or emailing them instead.

DEAR READERS: The departments of psychiatry and medicine at Tufts Medical Center

want to learn more about the impact that caregiving has on family members and friends of people who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.

Because family members and friends of individuals with mental illness play a large part in providing care — while also balancing jobs and other life responsibilities — the physicians and research scientists at Tufts are asking you to share the impact caregiving has on different aspects of your life, including your ability to work and your health and

well-being. This information will be used to improve services to caregivers and the people they support.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please visit tinyurl.com/TuftsCaregiver. Participation in this study is voluntary and involves completing an anonymous survey.

Dear Abby readers are the most generous and caring folks in the world, and I hope some of you are willing to help with this project.

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.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S

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

A baby born today has a Sun and Moon in

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 This year you sometimes opt to face difficult

challenges. Remember that it is you who chooses to go rafting in life's white waters. Your friendships might be transforming, especially as you might be more prone to taking risks. Still, remain grounded when it comes to making financial decisions. If you are single, you will attract a more offbeat personality. Come fall, possibilities for meeting a special person become more likely. If you are attached, you need to remain open if you want to start exploring new ideas. PISCES is very emotional, but also very

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)

★★★ Someone seems to be watching you more closely than you realize. You could be unusuin attitude that might h others wondering what you are up to. Let their imaginations rock and roll, while you go off and do

what you want. Tonight: Think "weekend." TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

* ★ ★ ★ Evaluate the costs of proceeding as you have been. Some of you might screech to a stop and need to regroup. You probably don't need to change direction, but some of the bells and whistles might have to go. A family member could

have some good news. Tonight: Order in. **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

* * * Take charge if you want to get through a project or meeting quickly. A conversation will illuminate how someone else feels. A relationship could be transforming right in front of your eyes. Consider initiating a long-overdue conversation. Tonight: Let

the party begin. **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**

* * * * You might have a different approach to an issue that will intrigue a partner. You could encounter someone who thinks very differently from how you do. Attempt to understand this person's thought process, and open up to his or her ideas.

Tonight: Do something just for you. LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You care a lot, and a partner knows

that. However, when you try to resolve an issue, you could discover that you seem to be giving up too much. Step back, and remember your boundaries. A loved one might be full of unusual ideas. Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★ ★ ★ Others seem to come to you with a lot to do and very little time to do it. You could throw yourself right in and help clear up the problem. Make a point of presenting your suggestions in a more creative way. Tonight: A surprise will lead to a fun happening.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

** * Stay on top of what is happening, and you will find yourself feeling quite shocked by the sudden changes that emerge. A difficult matter surrounding your home life might create a lot of tension. Resolving the issue could be harder than you realize. Tonight: Schedule a massage.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

* * * * * You don't need to restrain your imagination, but you also don't need to verbalize everything you think. People might wonder about that twinkle in your eye. A discussion could draw a great deal of intensity. Tonight: Heal a relationship by giving it some quality time.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

* * * * Express your concern about an intense situation involving your family or domestic life. Since you have only one voice, resolving the issue will take some diplomatic skill. Sooner or later, you'll need to handle this matter; it isn't going away. Tonight: Love the moment.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

* * * * Others respect your opinions. One-onone relating points to a new direction and different possibilities. Open up to what could happen if you decide to give others the respect and space they need. You could see evidence of a positive change almost immediately. Tonight: Out late.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

* * * Your finances come to the forefront. At this point, you seem to be forced to handle more responsibility than you would like. Could this be because you refused to deal with such matters in the past, as money held so little importance to you? Tonight: Pay bills, then decide.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

* * * * * You'll beam, and others will be much more in touch with what they think and feel about an important matter that's close to your heart. A simple conversation with several people will put all of you on the same page, which will increase your effectiveness. Tonight: Make it special.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT





O, IN THAT CASE, I HAVE AN EXTRA O MINUTES TO WANDER THROUGH THIS NEW

Chie

BOUTIQUE

BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE





MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

