FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE

6A



"I think I swallowed my sore throat, 'cause now it's in my tummy."

ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

BIZARROCOMICS.COM We have to reschedule the Apocalypse. Pestilence phoned in sick again.

Weekend Gardener Nurtures Plants More Than Family

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby is written by

known as Jeanne Phillips,

and was founded by her

mother. Pauline Phillips.

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los An-

Write Dear Abby at

geles, CA 90069.

Abigail Van Buren, also

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 31-year-old wife and mother. My husband, "Jake," works 40-plus hours a week, while I am a stay-at-home mom. My daughter, who is almost 3, keeps me on my toes.

In the evenings and on weekends, Jake does yard work or works in the garden. I hate it because I'm with our daughter all day, every day, and he expects me to watch her while he's outside working.

I dislike yard and garden work and don't like being outside unless I am completely comfortable. I also have health/physical issues that keep me from being as active as I would like. Every weekend I feel my resentment and anger growing over this issue.

Jake says it is necessary for us to have a garden, and I agree. But why must I have all the responsibility of caring for our daughter even on weekends? I'd like it if Jake would stay in with us and give up on some of the outside activities. This is something we argue about at least once a week. What do you suggest? — SECOND TO A SHRUB IN OREGON

DEAR SECOND TO A SHRUB: While tending to the yard and the garden may be necessary, it is also very important for your husband to devote some time

to nurturing his relationship with his daughter. Mention that fact to him, and while you're at it, tell him she should be at least as important to him as the tomato plants and the zinnias. You should not be saddled with all the child care responsibilities 24/7. Marriages are like gardens. If they're not given care and feeding, they will wither as yours appears to be doing.

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged and being married soon. I have always had very close non-romantic relationships with males. I was raised around guys, so it's natural for me.

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 Virgo and a Moon in Sagittarius all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2012:

This year you focus on your domestic and personal life, though all aspects are important. Excitement comes in from a close friend or loved one who is a walking jack-in-the-box; you never know what will happen next. Hope-fully, you can deal with a little stress. Others would like you to be more active, and they will not hesitate to let you know. If you are single, you will gain a sidekick. Whether you let more than that develop is your call. If you are attached, the two of you need to loosen up more and enjoy the moment. SAGITTARIUS loves to romp with you.

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)

★★★★★ Let your imagination lead the way. Be ready to take off at the drop of a hat. Others tap into your ideas and use you as a resource. You might want to break free, and perhaps you'll do just that. Maintain a high level of detachment, or you could feel drained. Tonight: Go for something unique.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

People told me that when I fell in love with someone it would be easier to let my male friendships fall by the wayside. This hasn't been the case. These friendships are the ones I prefer now more

than ever. The conversations are better. I find men more emotionally stable than women. They also let me talk without interrupting to give their opinions as women do.

I love my fiance dearly and he has been incredibly understanding about this, but I can tell it upsets him. I have been known to talk all night with friends, especially when I'm overwhelmed. My fiance is hurt that I don't come to him with these issues, but he's in medical school and has his own stress.

Do I need to eliminate these friendships that come so naturally to me for the sake of my husband-to-be? Is it inappropriate for me to have close male friends after I'm married? — PREFERS MEN

DEAR PREFERS MEN: Why are you presenting the issue as all or nothing? It's not. Nor is it inappropriate for you to keep close male friendships after you marry — because that has been your lifelong practice. However, I do think some behavior

modification is in order. The first thing you should do is cut out the all-night dump sessions with these men.

For one thing, the man you marry should be your BEST friend and the person you go to first to express your concerns when you're overwhelmed. This is part of intimacy, and he may be feeling hurt and shut out because you are denying that to him.

For another, he may have concerns of his own that he'd like to discuss with you. Being on the phone all night talking to someone else is really neglectful of the man you love.

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tunities arise from this group of peers, especially through one person who is unusually upbeat. You emanate compassion and concern. How can anyone resist you? Tonight: Start the weekend right.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Center yourself, and you will open the door to many more opportunities. Someone in your personal life — or someone who wants to become a part of it -- shares some deeper feelings. A friend you look up to also gives you positive feedback. Tonight: Head home early.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ How you say what you think has much to do with the manner in which the words are received. You, more than most other signs, understand the art of diplomacy and the need to use it in a difficult situation. Touch base with a dear friend or loved one. Tonight: To your favorite haunt.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might want to reconsider an option that could encourage less stress. In order for that to happen, you'll need to trust a partner or close friend. A boss likes what he or she sees. You likely will see the benefits soon enough. Tonight: Allow someone to treat you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

 $\star\star\star\star$ You are nearly unstoppable. A few associates also could have a similar amount of energy pushing them forward. Others seem ready to jump in and make what you need happen. You might be toying with the idea of taking a mini-vacation soon. Tonight: Whatever you



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER

STOP LAUGHING! THIS ISN'T FUNNY! HA HA



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







★★★ You deal with others directly, particularly a key person in your life. You could enhance a financial option through a discussion. A family member lets you know how much you mean to him or her. If there has been a rocky element in your domestic life, attempt to fix it. Tonight: Make it cozy.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Realize where you are heading and defer to someone else. You understand that not everything is one way or the other. This realization helps you to loosen up your relationships with some potentially difficult people. Tonight: Play away.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You are one of the few people whose focus is less on getting into the weekend and more on completing errands and/or a project. For those of you who are working Moon Children, you will want to clear out your desk. Think about being totally free this weekend. Tonight: Only what you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Allow more creativity to come forward. Through a meeting, you'll see many possibilities. Oppor-

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

want.

BIP!

BIP!

★★★ Something is going on behind the scenes. Rather than snoop around, as others might expect you to do, just go about your business as usual. You will reverse the trend and make others wonder what is going on. A friend or loved one gives you a gift. Tonight: Not everyone needs to know what you're thinking.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Meetings charge you with enough energy to complete a project, but a call from a friend also encourages you to take a bold step. You are the sign of friendship, and you're only too pleased to go along with this person's suggestion. Tonight: Where people can be found.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might want to take that extra step toward helping a special person in your life. This person will be very grateful, even if he or she does not express the gratitude you might like. Remember, everyone has a different style. Tonight: You are the lead actor.

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

