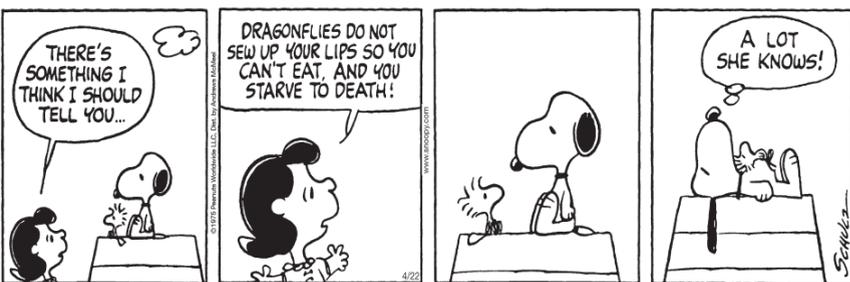


Peanuts



Hagar The Horrible



Shoe



Garfield



Frank and Ernest



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Arlo and Janis



Your Birthday today:

A passionate approach to life, love and happiness will get you where you want to go. Extend your hand and be helpful, and you'll gain respect and the encouragement you need to follow your heart and your dreams. The people and customs you follow will give you a different perspective regarding what's possible. Have trust and faith in your ability to excel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Discuss your intentions, and see who wants to get involved. Get clearance from anyone or any organizations that might hinder your progress. A change of scenery will serve as inspiration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Leave nothing undone or for someone else to finish. Work alone and pay attention to detail. Hard work will help you avoid being broadsided by the changes someone implements. Leave nothing to chance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Expand your interests and push forward. Take the initiative to use your imagination. Working with someone you love will bring you closer. Shared expenses are favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Be a friendly observer, and learn from those with experience. Hone your skills, be open to suggestions and prepare to turn your goal into a reality. Leave nothing to chance personally or professionally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Attend events that offer a platform to show everyone what you have to offer. Get others to see things your way. Consider partnering with someone who shares your objective. Romance is on the rise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Don't give in or give up. Control your spending and avoid situations that involve shared expenses. Implement a tight budget, and take care of time-sensitive matters. Maintain integrity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Put your plan in motion, then proceed. You can get things done your way if you refuse to let others meddle in your affairs. A change of heart will help you make a decision that sets you free.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Do your best to dodge an argument or getting caught up in someone's drama. Look at what you are trying to achieve, and turn your attention to reaching your personal goals. Say no to temptation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Evaluate your situation and make adjustments that allow you to take advantage of current opportunities. Don't let fear stop you from getting what you want. Make your dreams come true.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Shut down anyone trying to coax you to get involved in something that doesn't fit into your plans. Keep your eyes on your long-term goal. Don't lose sleep over what others think.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- What you do will help you advance. Don't limit what you can do due to a lack of confidence. If you want something, say so, and show everyone what you can accomplish. Romance is featured.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Don't expect to get something for free. Show your willingness to put in the time and do the work. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. Put your responsibilities first.

DEAR ABBY



Advice written by
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend of many years is currently not speaking to me. She recently moved from California to Denver and had invited me to visit. We agreed on the dates, and I took time off work and booked the flights. Less than two weeks before my arrival, she abruptly canceled the visit, expressing no regrets or concern for whether I would be able to get a refund from the airline.

She indicated that because I was not comfortable with the recently lifted mask mandates and other COVID precautions in her state and prefer to continue to avoid indoor dining, bars, etc., that she wanted to "postpone for a few months," when we might be able to enjoy more activities. When I expressed hurt feelings at being disinvited, she became angry and ceased communication. Is this friendship over? How should I proceed? -- **RISK AVERSE IN THE WEST**

DEAR RISK-AVERSE: I am not sure why your friend became angry and canceled your visit, unless she had planned activities that would take place in restaurants, theaters, etc. I am also puzzled that she should end a friendship of many years over it. Because this is recent, give her a little more time to cool off. Then extend an olive branch and see if she has put this unfortunate episode in perspective.

DEAR ABBY: I have a former colleague whose company I enjoyed while I was working with him. He thought highly of my work ethic, and we worked well together. Because of this, he has asked me to be a professional reference for him sporadically over the years, which I always happily agreed to. The problem is we haven't worked together in six years.

Because it has been so long, I no longer feel as though I'm a good reference for him. I also worry that recruiters will wonder why I was chosen after all this time. He reaches out to me only for reference requests, so it's not as though I'm damaging a long-term friendship, but I still care about him and his feelings. How can I politely decline his future requests? -- **RELUCTANT REFERENCE**

DEAR RELUCTANT: In recent years, the amount of information that can be shared about former employees and colleagues is quite restricted. I believe it's limited to the dates you worked together. However, because you no longer wish to be a reference, you will have to bite the bullet and be honest about your feelings and the reason why.

DEAR ABBY: The wife of a married couple my wife and I are friends with revealed a few years ago that before she met her husband, she had an affair that produced a child she immediately placed for adoption. This was 40 years ago. It surprised us all, including her husband.

I believe she should have told her husband before they married. My wife says because it was before she met him, it was none of his business. Well, now it is his business because, through DNA ancestry sites, this "child" is now in his life, which has become an embarrassment for him. What do you think? -- **HIS BUSINESS IN THE EAST**

DEAR HIS BUSINESS: I think you should mind your own beeswax and stay resolutely OUT of his family business!

Brevity



Grizwells



Heart of the City



Herman



Moderately Confused



Born Loser

