

Should women pay on dates? Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: I recently dated a woman who never offered to pay for a meal, a movie or so much as an ice cream cone. We went out several times.

We're both in our late 50s and earn good incomes. She says she won't pay for things until she is in a committed relationship. I have no problem paying for anything that I invite her to. But she would suggest things for us to do and never offer to pay. What's the etiquette these days? — Ron

Dear Ron: This is often a generational issue. Women who were brought up to believe the man pays for everything sometimes have difficulty sharing the costs. And some men resist it, as well. But women who feel uncomfortable paying half the tab in a restaurant can reciprocate by inviting the guy over for a home-cooked meal or getting tickets to a play or a concert. A woman who refuses to make any effort in that direction is not playing fair.

Dear Annie: Last fall we had a baby girl, and at the last minute, I decided on the name "Jane." Unaware of this, my husband's cousin's wife commented

Annie's Mailbox

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that she had always loved the name "Jane" and that she and her husband had picked it out as the name they would someday give their child. Had I known this, I would have selected a different name for my child.

Well, this cousin is now pregnant with a girl. And even though our child is named "Jane," they are planning to name theirs the same. I know I can't tell them to change it because I had it first, but it still upsets my husband and me. I believe, out of respect, they should pick a different name. After all, there were a lot of names I wanted, but they were already taken, so I chose something else.

Am I wrong? How do I calm down about this? — I Picked It First

Dear Picked: No one has a

monopoly on baby names, even if you are close relatives. This cousin picked "Jane" independently of you. And you admit selecting "Jane" at the last minute. No one is intentionally trying to hurt someone else or deprive them of being special. We agree that it is easier when close family members choose different names, but truly, it is not as important as you think. In fact, in some families, cousins are named after the same grandparent and carry the same name across generations. It is considered an honor.

Here's how you calm down: Your child was born first. People already know her as "Jane." When the cousin's child is born, people will be inclined to give her a nickname in order to differentiate between the two babies. Adopting a lighthearted attitude about this will smooth everyone's ruffled feathers, including yours, and will allow your child and her newest cousin to become good friends. They will think having the same name is amazing and wonderful. Please don't be so upset that you inadvertently teach them otherwise.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Failure is the truck stop of all experience. It's where you fuel up, eat and more. You'll never get to success without passing failure first. Knowing this makes you less judgmental of all, including yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes you wonder whether anyone will buy what you're selling. Don't be so unsure. Also, focusing too externally can be a detriment. Today, the gifts from you to you will have the most value.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). However badly they need to, not everyone can articulate what they are going through. That's where you come in — to speak for the ones who can't say what's going on with them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your self-esteem isn't just about you. What you think of yourself will affect all the people around you who know you and/or love you, especially those related to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Is there such a thing as secret communication? If you're sending it on paper, over the Internet or in any public forum, the answer is no. There are no secrets. Eventually, it will all come out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Striving for beauty is useless because the uncontrollable aspects of beauty are almost always what make it happen. But you can always try to make it better. That's how you'll spend your time today and be most effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you love someone, the idea reads. You worry about whether or not it's being projected

accurately, though pretty much everyone around you can tell.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The day's mission seems daunting, and that's why you need to be a believer. Eventually you'll find your way. This is how you'll get there: Think of the end and then back up, step by step.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your weird uncle or wild aunt will have some bearing on the day's events, if not directly, then by the association of your lineage. Just remember, you're connected to more people than those in your bloodline.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No one is born knowing what they are interested in. A person has to be exposed to potential interests to find them. You'll do this for another, and later it will come back to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you feel your feelings, you then can relay them accurately. That's one more reason it's not good to deny or stuff your feelings into distractions such as food.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What's your take on time these days? Are you in the moment, up to the moment, moment to moment? Tonight will change it all as you revel in the past.

THURSDAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 21). The others will be trying to catch up to you this year. You'll be prolific. Whatever it is you love to produce — smiles, phone calls, cookies, kind words, doodles, deals, your special product — you'll turn out record amounts. July shows you carefully plotting, and August shows you going full force. Sagittarius and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 24, 31, 1 and 17.

FRANK AND ERNEST



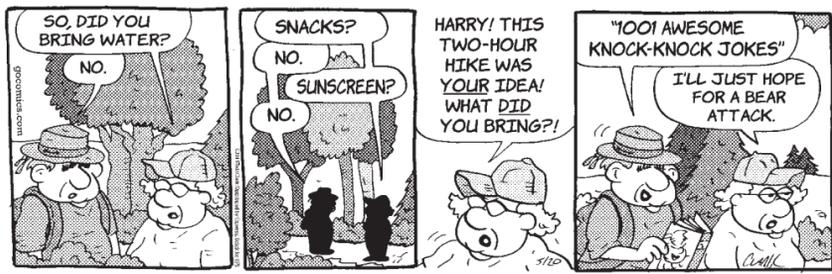
THATABABY



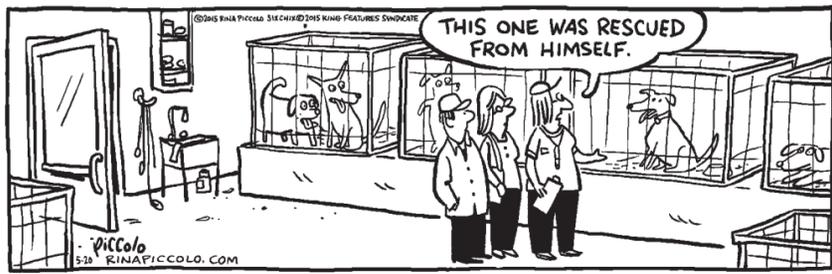
STONE SOUP



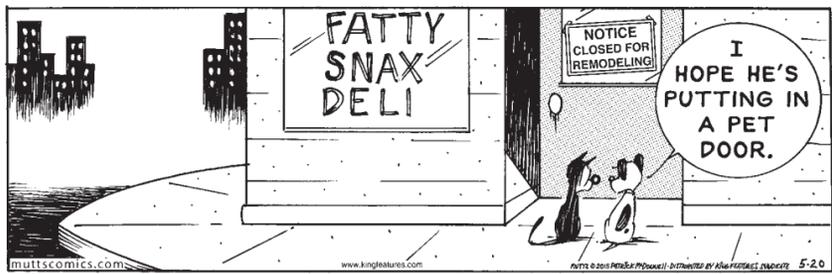
LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



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SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

