

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com
or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: My husband and I have been close friends with a woman named "Louise" for five years. Recently, we were all hanging out, and Louise got very drunk and tried to massage lotion into my husband's hands. She also hugged him and wouldn't let go, although he put his hands at his side and his whole body stiffened.

My husband has expressed to me that these situations made him very uncomfortable, and they do the same to me. We talked about letting Louise know, but he felt it would only make her feel awkward around us.

It has been a month, and I can't seem to let it go. I don't want to text her, and I'm finding excuses to avoid her. Should I continue trying to let this go or is a conversation in order?

— *Taken Aback in New York*

Dear Taken Aback: If you "let it go," it will probably happen again and the friendship will be over. A conversation with Louise is overdue. She needs to know she must be more careful about her drinking, because the last time she became very drunk, she embarrassed not only your husband, but also you.

Dear Abby: I am childless, but I have a niece I've given lots of money to over the years. She's in her mid-40s with a young child and a husband who has a low-paying job.

Although she has several degrees, she has worked mostly as a waitress. They live in a tiny apartment and during these rough times, I have been paying their rent. She rarely acknowledges it. I have never discussed it with her parents, and I have no idea how much they have (or have not) helped her.

I'm conflicted about helping her/then because this is such a tough time. I can't see how they're going to make their lives better without help. I'm wondering if you have some advice on how I can best assist them or if I should stop.

— *Losing Faith in Colorado*

Dear Losing Faith: You haven't spoken to your niece's parents about what you have been doing. Why not? If you do, it may give you a clearer picture of her situation. I wish you had been more forthcoming about why she isn't using any of the college degrees she has earned. If her parents are helping her, you may need to be doing less.

Your niece should research to find out whether government assistance is available. If it isn't, and you can afford it, consider continuing the financial assistance until the COVID-19 situation is under control. Then your niece and her husband can get back on their feet, and you can stop being treated like an ATM.

Dear Abby: I have a male best friend I adore. When I tell other men about my bestie, they feel intimidated because he has a key to my apartment. We are not dating; we just have sex sometimes, and everyone that I try to be with knows about him. Must I give up on my bestie to be with the man I love even though Bestie and I promised each other that we will never break our bond for anyone?

— *Complicated in Tennessee*

Dear Complicated: If you hadn't been having sex sometimes with your bestie, the "man you love" might have been able to accept him. The answer to your question is yes, you WILL have to make a choice. Now, the question I have for you is, which man do you think is the keeper?

GARDENING CORNER

TRUE DEFINITIONS for the avid gardener

BY LIZ DOUVILLE

For The Bulletin

The seed orders that were placed the first week in January have been received with one exception of a tomato variety that was sold out in mid-December. Now I fear I may be labeled as The Wicked Witch of the West for calling the seed company as many times as I have for an update on the restocking date. I asked to be put on list to be notified but they said no to that idea.

Next on the list is to organize the tax file. That season is upon us already. With this chore I am easily distracted and chose instead to go to the book shelf and pull out one of my favorites "A Gardeners Dictionary (A Dictionary for Weedpullers, Slug-crushers, & Backyard Botanists)" by Henry Beard and Roy McKie. Over the years I have quoted parts of the book. The quotes never get old and always bring a chuckle.

Artichoke — The only vegetable as troublesome to eat as it is to grow.

Beech — Nurseryman's technical term for either: 1. A very difficult landscaping job or 2. A woman supervising such a job.

Birch — The list of the 10 most common ornaments in American front yards is headed by the canoe birch, whose dazzling white bark is much prized. The rest of the list: blue spruce, dwarf red Japanese maple, Lombardy poplar, animal figurines, religious statuettes, gnomes, shiny globes on pedestals and yucca plants.

Broccoli — Member of the cabbage family grown chiefly as receptacle for hollandaise sauce.

Brochures & Catalogs — Forms of entertaining fiction published by nurseries, seedsmen, and tool manufacturers.

Bud Union — An organization of flower lovers.



The Bulletin file

Cold Frame — Elaborate display case for showing off a gardener's collection of freeze-dried specimens.

Dividing — The assignment of separate garden sections to each member of the family.

Forcing — The process of extracting work from teen-agers.

Furrow — Horizontal line on forehead of gardener. See Harrowing.

Garden — One of the vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.

Gin — 1. Remarkable agricultural aid developed in the 19th century by Yankee tinkers. 2. Remarkable agricultural aid developed in the 18th century by British distillers.

Green Thumb — Common condition suffered by gardeners in which the skin of the thumb develops a

greenish hue as a result of handling large amounts of currency at nurseries.

Hardening Off — The process the Central Oregon gardeners go through over the years as they become resigned to the possibility of frosts in June, hail in July, frosts in August and the killing frost in September that wipes out what wasn't wiped out in previous events. (Confession: This definition is mine.)

Hardy — A plant is said to be hardy if it remains alive in a nursery long enough to be sold.

Harrowing — Type of gardening experience that produces furrows.

Honesty — Very attractive traditional plant with sweet-smelling purple and white flowers and papery seedpods. Some new varieties of this garden favorite are now available, including "Deniability," "Point-in-Time," "Best Recollection," and "limited Immunity."

Memorial Day Weekend — Traditional planting time in many parts of the country.

Monday After the Memorial Day Weekend — Traditional time to dig up and dispose of plants killed by unexpected hard frost the previous night.

Pest — Any creature that eats green vegetables without being compelled to.

Pinching — Pruning method developed in Italian gardens.

Rot — Gardening advice.

Wrest — Violent method of removing weeds, often confused with the forms of inactivity which proceed and follow it.

Yard — 1. (Penology) Dusty open area where hard labor is performed. 2. (Horticulture) Dusty open area where hard labor is performed.

The coffee cup is empty, we've taken time to pause and have a few giggles, now it's time to get organized.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★★★ AVERAGE | ★★★★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27, 2021: Precocious, quick and playful, your talents manifest at an early age. You may have had to grow up too quickly. This year, accepting more responsibilities, hard as it is, assures your success. If single, you sweep others off their feet, but it takes until 2022 to find your true soul mate. If attached, you can play Peter Pan all you want and experience pure bliss. GEMINI is the most fun.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ This winter isn't the best time for travel. Today brings substance to long-range plans. Goals are more reachable and clearly defined. The company of the very old and the very young cheers and comforts you. Tonight: Friendship spans the generation gap gracefully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Pursue writing. Return calls and emails. You're more cheerful and will be led to important sources of information, enabling you to find answers to burning questions. Ask a blessing on goals you want to accomplish during the year ahead. Tonight: Catch up with a neighbor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today relates strongly to financial matters. Be aware of how current trends and new conditions can impact your earning ability. Resist the temptation to overspend. A relative or business associate affects your financial situation. Tonight: Talk it over with an elderly female family member.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Always tender and sensitive, you will feel the need to be protected from career stresses and demanding individuals and, today, harmony returns. Your cherished beliefs are supported, and you create success around your most important goals. Tonight: In wonderment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Background research and testing of techniques lead to success. Develop depth of concentration. Being alone will seem more enjoyable. You can create your own bliss or misery with the power of thought. Tonight: Keep a positive state of mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today makes it easy for you to promote beliefs and causes that are meaningful to you. Team spirit is strong, and you enlist the help of associates in realizing goals. It's easier to make the right choices. Tonight: Communication with those you care for improves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today underscores ambition and the need for accomplishment. Much will be expected of you. You will make plans regarding your career and revamp an existing job or seek a new one. Steady effort and patience lead to success. Tonight: Don't rely on quick solutions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your acting ability and flamboyance will be expressed in your conversations and emails today. Don't adhere too closely to old habits and ideas. New information brings a different viewpoint to the fore. Tonight: Don't resist the new order coming into your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Put spiritual values above the practical today. Ask questions and do research to resolve confusion. Inspirational ideas about your career path can set you apart from the crowd at work. Don't be upset, though, if others have trouble understanding you. Tonight: Be very honest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today an existing relationship develops new depths of beauty and tenderness, or you attract a new admirer. There is an end in sight to problems that have demanded your time and attention for the past couple of years. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Temperature extremes, especially the cold, affect you profoundly. Massage of the lower legs and protective boots or stockings are a must. Your ankle area is especially vulnerable. Observe how you feel today for more insight. Tonight: Health may be in your thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A new opportunity for a child makes you happy. Your creative potential is about to unfold even further. It's a good time to indulge in a bit of risk-taking or competition. Romance has been tinged with old regrets. Tonight: Cupid will smile on you.

Boss

Continued from A5

"Walking off that field that night I still remember one of my football coaches put his arm around me and said, 'You know what Kevin, I don't think this will be your last football game.'"

Boss landed on Western Oregon's football and basketball teams. After a redshirt freshman season, Boss found himself in the starting lineup at tight end. The next step to the NFL was not a sure thing.

That was until a scout was watching film in the Western Oregon tight end room evaluating another player on a different team and saw flashes from No. 11 playing for the Wolves.

"It was happenstance that he decided to watch the film in our tight end meeting room," Boss recalled. "Long story short, he is watching the film while (the tight ends) are having a meeting on the side. I remember he turned around, looked at me and he goes, 'Is that you out there, No. 11?' And I was like 'Yah.' And he said: 'You are going to play in the NFL.'"

Also discussed on Bulletin Sports Talk was the importance of being a multisport athlete in a world of sports specialization and the time he was fined by Tom Coughlin for not wearing thigh pads at practice during his rookie season with the Giants.

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

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