Recipe File

Turn your parties into fiestas

Entertaining at home has become fashionable again. Not only do homes offer more casual relaxation, such parties allow guests to avoid crowds and traffic hassles. Entertaining at home, especially when you choose Mexican-style foods, is also easier on the pocketbook:

Fiesta Nacho Appetizer

Preparation: about 10 min.
Chill: 2 to 3 hrs. or overnight
1 container (500 g) cottage cheese
2 (250 g) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1 pkg. MexiCasa Taco Seasoning Mix
Shredded lettuce, grated cheese, chopped tomato, chopped green onion
MexiCasa Tortilla Chips

In a blender or food processor, blend cottage cheese, cream cheese and seasoning mix until smooth. Line 2 small bowls with plastic wrap. Divide mixture evenly between bowls; cover and chill 2 to 3 hours or overnight, or freeze. Flavours improve with a few hours standing time. At serving time, unmould onto a large serving platter, garnish as desired and

surround with tortilla chips. Makes two 2-cup moulds.

Send party-goers home safely by providing a choice of Sober Sangria and Not-So-Sober Sangria. When sweetening either recipe, remember that authentic Sangria is full-bodied and fruity but not very sweet.

Sober Sangria

Preparation: about 5 minutes

1 can (6 fl. oz./170 mL) frozen orange juice concentrate

2 cups cranberry juice

2 thsp. lemon juice 1 cup diced fruit (abo

1 cup diced fruit (apple, orange, lime or lemon) 1 bottle (750 mL) chilled cream soda or club soda

Prepare orange juice according to can directions. In a large pitcher, combine orange, cranberry, lemon juice with fruit, refrigerate. At serving time, add cream soda. Makes approximately sixteen to be servings. Not-So-Sober Sangria: Replace cranberry juice with dry red wine and cream soda with club soda.







DEAR ABBY: I recently met a very charming gentleman, and we hit it off immdiately. I'm 34, divorced, considered great-looking and I'm unattached. He's 42 (also divorced) and great-looking. I am not accustomed to jumping into bed on the first date, but with him, it was the second date. It was a mutually satisfying experience, and we are dating regularly. However, he keeps stressing a point that I find puzzling. He says, "I believe a man and woman can be 'just friends' as well as lovers."

Abby, what makes a man think he can be physically intimate with a woman, and be "just friends"? I do not have sex with my friends.

I keep telling him that if a person is "just a friend," then sex is not even in the picture.

Am I old-fashioned, crazy or correct in my thinking?

JUST FRIENDS

DEAR JUST: You are neither old-fashioned nor crazy. In a love relationship, lovers can be friends as well as lovers — which is ideal. But a man who has sex with a woman, and keeps reminding her that they are "just friends" is saying, "I enjoy sex with you, but don't expect this relationship to grow into something more meaningful or permanent — like marriage."

Give him high marks for honesty, but don't say you weren't forewarned.

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DEAR ABBY: Maybe it's a little early to be mentioning Christmas shopping, but maybe not. I am a widow in my 70s and I have enough scarves, sweaters, colognes and dusting powders to last me a life-time, but let me tell you what most people my age would really appreciate for Christmas. Cash!

Please don't think me greedy, but I enjoy going out for a nice lunch once a week, and it would be nice to be able to treat a friend. Also, if I had a few extra dollars, I would be able to buy something I really need. It would also come in handy when I

Perhaps your readers will appreciate this suggestion. It would save them racking their brains, wondering what to give an older person for Christmas. And they need not be concerned that a cash gift of \$4 or \$5 would seem small. It would please me more than a \$10 gift for which I had no use.

ARKANSAS GRANDMA

a suggestion that will be appreciated by gift-givers as well as recipients. P.S. How about a gift certificate to a nice restaurant?