

Name and nose don't necessarily reveal your religion

Dear Abby: I have a question for a new friend and need help in devising a subtle approach.

This new friend has the potential to play a significant role in my life. If the answer is yes, or, if it is no, I couldn't care less either way. But I would like to know if he is Jewish.

How can I find out if he doesn't volunteer the information? His last name is questionable. He is from a large family. His nose tells me nothing. His father is French and I don't know about his mother. His complexion and hair are very dark. He has jokingly referred to Jews as "Hebes."

Abby, how can I ask without sounding too concerned, which I really am not?

Curious

Dear Curious: It's a good thing you are not drawing your conclusions on the basis of his name or his nose because both are easily changed.

Having a French father doesn't tell you anything about his religion. There are French Jews, Mormons, Christians, Moslems, Buddhists and atheists. And don't draw your conclusions on the basis of hair colour or complexion. Jews come in all colours.

Also, some Jewish people jokingly refer to Jews as "Hebes." But if, as you say, this new friend has the potential to play a significant role in your life, and if you're still seeing each other in December, ask if you can attend Christmas services with him.

□□□

Dear Abby: I have been wanting to write this letter for years, and I'm finally getting around to it.

I used to respect the signs that read parking for handicapped only. No more.

Dear Abby
with ABIGAIL
VAN BUREN



In my community, many drivers have special licence plates issued to handicapped people, and do you

know what one person's handicap is? Hard of hearing! Why on earth would a person who is hard of hearing need a special place to park?

I also know a man with a handicapped licence who is supposed to be disabled. He goes dancing four nights a week until 1 a.m. Why should he be given a special place to park?

Another person I know borrows a car from a handicapped relative so she can park in spaces reserved for

the handicapped. Those places are meant for people who are in wheelchairs, walkers or crutches.

Is there no decency left in this world?

Disgusted with Cheaters

Dear Disgusted: I, too, am disgusted with cheaters, but may I remind you that not all handicaps are visible.

People with heart conditions or emphysema may appear to be hale and hearty, but they can't walk a

block without needing to stop and rest.

□□□

Dear Abby: Add this to your collection of unbelievable hospital bills. In 1953, my wife gave birth to a baby girl. Before checking out of the hospital, we were presented with the following bill:
Birthing and hospital care: \$129
Circumcision: \$25

Frank

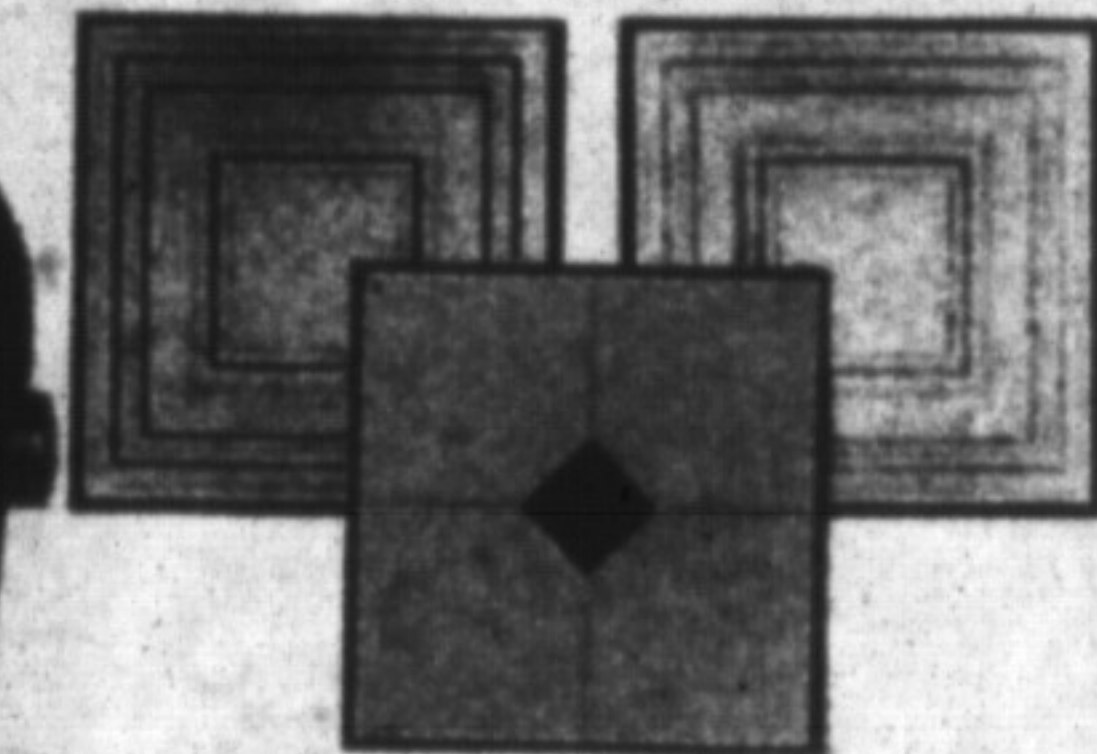
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Say goodbye to birds at Mountsberg on Oct. 14

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre once again invites the public to help bid farewell to our feathered friends as they begin their southward migration.

The Milborough Line centre will hold the annual Friends of Feather day Sunday Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature guest speakers, horse drawn rides and special presentations.

The day will begin with a morning bird hike led by Gary Hutton of the Halton Region Conservation Authority. Don't forget your binoculars and field guides.

Starting at 10 a.m., master bird bander, Dr. Dave Brewer, will explain bird banding at Mountsberg.

Visitors will see many species of birds up close. A \$5 donation will see a bird banded in your name.

Throughout the afternoon, Mountsberg staff will give presentations on nesting boxes, bird control at Pearson International Airport and birds as environmental indicators.

Tim Dyson, a taxidermist and raptor expert, will be on hand to demonstrate the art of taxidermy, and a wagon ride for children will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The final activity of the day will be a demonstration by Andrew Wernaart of Mountsberg who will fly several birds of prey.

Photo opportunities with the birds will be available at 4 p.m.

For further information, call the Halton Region Conservation Authority at 336-1158 (weekdays) or the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre at 854-2276 (weekends).