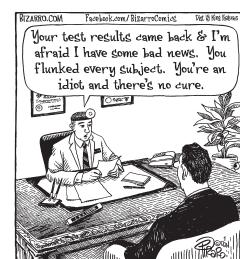
#### FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



"How long does it take for Brussels sprouts to grow into cabbages?"

#### **BIZARRO** | DAN PIRARO



**ZITS** | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN





PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



**BORN LOSER** | ART SAMSON



**PEANUTS** | CHARLES M. SCHULZ









HA! AS IF THERE'LL

**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE** 





**BEETLE BAILEY** | MORT WALKER





HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON









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**GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS





# **Readers Defend Parents Who Disapprove Of Cohabitation**

DEAR READERS: On May 5, I printed a letter from a parent, "Against the Tide in New Jersey." He said his "independent, intelligent, loving" daughters (both in their late 20s) have dated their boyfriends for five years and had recently moved in with them. The man also said he and his wife approve of the young men.

One daughter is planning to have an open house and invited her parents. The writer said his daughter is upset because he and his wife refuse to attend because cohabitation is against their beliefs. He said he and his wife "understand her decision," but their daughter doesn't appear to respect theirs. He asked, "Âre we wrong?

**DEAR ABBY** I responded yes, because it's no longer unusual for couples to cohabit before marriage. I asked how long they plan to continue punishing the daughter and said I don't think they have anything to gain by doing so. Thousands of angry readers wrote to comment. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Cohabitation is NOT a substitute for matrimony. I realize it is "not unusual for couples today to live together.' However, you must certainly be aware that many religious people regard doing so as a sin against God. Should the parents compromise their beliefs to attend, simply because their daughter's relationship is "progressing nicely"? Why do you feel that standing up for their beliefs is "punishing" their daughter and her live-in? I wish you would address this again. – DIANNE IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS

DEAR DIANNE: I try to deal with things as they are, and not as some people think they ought to be. Today many couples have chosen to live together before marriage. Some are trying to avoid the unhappiness they saw in their parents' marriages. Others realize that you don't really know someone until you have lived with him or her. Divorce is messy, not to mention expensive on many levels,

and they want to avoid the pain if possible -

although few separations are painless. I believe that parents should choose their battles carefully after their children become adults. What these parents are doing may eventually isolate them from their daughters. Acting as they are, there may be other happy

occasions they'll be skipping. This one is just the first.

DEÁR ABBY: If the letter writer and his wife accept an invitation to someone's house, do they check first to make sure their hosts share their "values," that they vote the same way, are against gay marriage, have the same religious beliefs? If they don't take that same care with everyone they know, they are being unfair to their daughters.

Jeanne Phillips For five years they were apparently comfortable with the daughters living at home or in their own apartments and having sex with their boyfriends on the sly. Now that the young women are honestly acknowledging the sex-ual relationship and formalizing it by living together openly, suddenly there's a problem. There's a stench of hypocrisy here. – ONLINE DEAR ABBY READER

> Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

> For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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#### JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates

A baby born today has a Sun in Cancer and a

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR** THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2015:

This year you open up to many new opportunities, though they seem to come all at once, forcing you to make a decision more quickly than you might want to. You often wonder how much to do for a key person in your life, as he or she might be quite demanding. Many of you will travel, while others will become armchair travelers. If you are single, after August, your social life will take off. It is quite possible you will meet someone who could knock your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you often juggle your different needs. Make it OK to sometimes not do everything together. CAPRI-CORN can be very serious.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Dif-

# ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

 $\star\star\star$  Pressure builds, and you might not have any clue whether you can change a situation. You can, however, adjust your attitude about the matter. You could be uncomfortable expressing an idea that is very important to you. Tonight: Serious talks transform into fun chatter.

# **TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)**

\* \* \* \* You have the ability to read between the lines and understand more of what is happening. Detach and gain a greater perspective. As a result, you will see a situation differently. Be receptive to someone's compassion as well as his or her ideas. Tonight: Happy close to home.

# **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal situation. A conversation with a close associate will prove to be unusually caring. You'll become more aware of a superior's thoughts. Try not to make a commitment about money while others are so

#### emotional. Tonight: Dinner and a chat. **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**

★★★★ You might want to defer to someone else and find out what is going on with him or her. Honor your feelings, and know full well that most of the time you are right-on. Indulge in getting yourself a little something that you have been wanting.

# Tonight: Make it your treat.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22) \* ★ ★ You are like a flare of light in the middle of a chaotic Full Moon. You might not like some-

one's ideas or some of the comments you are hearing. Your kind ways tend to open others up, but you might want to hold off for now. Toniaht: Squeeze in

#### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You might get into today's Full Moon more than most signs. Your relationships could come to the forefront. You probably will find yourself juggling friends and a potential loved one. Don't allow any exaggerated statements to get to you. Tonight: Enjoy the friskiness of the moment.

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

\* \* \* \* You might be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. A loved one might be taken aback by what is happening within your immediate circle. Your sense of well-being might be tested by a roommate or by a situation around you. Tonight: Join a friend for munchies.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

\*\*\* \* \* You could be overwhelmed by all the calls you are receiving on top of all the requests heading your way, plus what you have to get done. Avoid blowing a fuse, find a favorite person and relax. Use the calmer moments to squeeze in some calls and a visit. Tonight: As you like it.

# SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

\* ★ ★ Use caution with any financial or emotional dealings. You can be sure that not everyone sees the issue the same way you do. In a discussion, someone might do or say something radical that he or she doesn't really mean. Remain caring and centered. Tonight: Among the crowds.

# CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

\* \* \* \* \* You might not be aware of how hard you are pushing to have matters play out a certain way. One-on-one relating can ease some of the pressure you experience with one person. You might be delighted by a gift or gesture that he or she offers you. Tonight: Make nice.

# AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen to your instincts when trying to get past a problem. You would be best off keeping your own counsel for now. Someone might express his or her true feelings about a matter that is important to you; be careful not to react. Tonight: Head home and get a good night's sleep.

# PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

\* \* \* \* \* Zero in on what is important to you. Today's Full Moon will pave the way to success, though you can expect some ups and downs. Understand that you might not see eye to eye with a loved one. Let it go -- the two of you will agree later. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

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# BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT





**BLONDIE** | YOUNG & DRAKE





**MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM** | MIKE PETERS

