

Advice & More

Effort to mend broken family ties meets with stiff resistance

Dear Abby: My husband's sister, "Mia," is a lesbian who came out to her family 10 years ago. Her parents disowned her. We were just out of high school, and for years we had no idea why. We were not allowed to invite Mia to our wedding or to have any contact with her.

Several years later, she began trying to repair their relationship, despite the fact that she's forbidden to talk about her life or bring her partner anywhere near them. This was when we learned what had happened, and we were appalled at how Mia had been treated.

When she comes to town for holidays, she stays with us. Because of this, my in-laws treat us like "sinners" just as they do her, and we're caught in the middle.

We have tried explaining to these family members that they are entitled to their position and we're entitled to



Jeanne Phillips

Syndicated advice columnist

Dear Abby

ours; that Mia is family and deserves respect and kindness. They call us liberal freaks with no moral values and say we should stand up to her and not let her "manipulate" us. My husband and I are tired of the drama we get at holiday time. Not only do they usually pick a fight with Mia while she's here, but they also won't speak to us for two weeks afterward. The last two times she came, Mia has either had to cut her trip short or has been reduced to tears by the harsh words from family members.

If you wonder why Mia even bothers coming home, it's because she wants to

maintain contact with us and she loves her nieces and nephews. How do we handle these people, or do we just give up? — Odd Ones Out in Ohio

Dear Odd Ones Out: Stand your ground. Do not allow yourselves to be bullied or emotionally blackmailed into rejecting your husband's sister. You are neither morally challenged nor "liberal freaks" for trying to help bridge the gap with the family.

Frankly, your sister-in-law must be extremely resilient to have tolerated the abuse she's getting from these "good" people. They may not approve of her sexual orientation, but she did not choose it — it's who she is. It seems this self-righteous family's "moral values" do not include tolerance.

— Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069 or at www.DearAbby.com.

Antibiotics unnecessary for exam

Dr. Gott: I am 69 years old and in fairly good health.

Three years ago, my doctor prescribed clindamycin to be taken before dental procedures. I have since switched doctors, and now my new doctor says this is not necessary. I am willing to discontinue using the antibiotic but am wondering if 1) use in the past has any harmful effect and 2) how do I get the dental staff convinced I don't need it?

Reader: You do not mention why you were put on the clindamycin in the first place. Do you have heart disease or some other cardiac abnormali-



Peter Gott

Syndicated medical columnist

ty?

For many years, dentists and physicians have been routinely prescribing one or two doses of antibiotics prior to dental work if the patient has heart disease, stents or deformed heart valves. Recent studies have shown that such antibiotic coverage is not particularly useful in helping

patients avoid heart infections, so antibiotic therapy is now only recognized as appropriate in certain cases. Your doctor can advise you in more detail.

You have not been harmed by your previous antibiotic usage, and I am certain that your dentist is now aware of the current guidelines. He or she can work with your primary-care physician to decide whether you need to continue preventive measures or whether you truly don't need the medication anymore.

— Write to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Fl., New York, NY 10016.

Good looks may be intimidating

Dr. Wallace: I'm 16 and virtually dateless. No, it's not because I'm fat and ugly. It's just the opposite. I'm considered good-looking — very good-looking. In fact, I've been called beautiful many times. I've got a nice figure and get good grades. It's just that guys my age don't ask me out.

When I'm out in public, I get a lot of stares from males of all ages. What can I do to get guys my own age to stop staring and start asking? — Nameless, Newport Beach, Calif.

Nameless: Perhaps your natural beauty actually intimidates guys your age. I'm sure many of them would like to go out



Robert Wallace

Syndicated advice columnist

Between 12 & 20

with you, but don't even consider asking because they think they're not in your class.

Well, who says you have to wait for one of them to call you? It's no longer against some unwritten law for a young woman to take the initiative about dating. Surprise some lucky guy one of these days and give him a call, or

suggest doing something together when you find yourself in a conversation at school with someone who interests you.

It's also possible people think of you as aloof. If you suspect that's the case, make an effort to get more involved in school clubs and activities. Be friendly and considerate; smile a lot. Before long, your line will be so busy with guys calling that your parents will complain they can't use the telephone anymore. We can deal with that problem later.

— Write to Dr. Wallace c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112

Community Life Bulletin Board



Girl Scout cookies arrive Posted by Kelly Terhune



The Girl Scout cookies have arrived and the Marshes of Glynn Service Unit of the Girl Scouts will begin delivering them immediately. Booth sales start Friday throughout Glynn

County including Wal-Mart, Harvey's, Winn-Dixie, Belk, Steve and Barry's, Old Navy and Harris Teeter. In Darien, cookies will be available at Fred's and Piggy Wiggly. Pictured from left are

Linnett Benson, the Girl Scout Cookie Manager-Director for the Marshes of Glynn Unit and **Kelly Terhune**, loading a van with 180 cases of cookies for Girl Scout Troop 402.



STAR Foundation receives grant Posted by Lee Owen

The Communities in Coastal Georgia Foundation recently awarded a capacity building grant to the STAR Foundation in Brunswick to design and implement a marketing plan for the organization.

The STAR Foundation offers training in computer literacy, life skills for professional and personal growth, and job readiness at no cost to its students. Its goal is to improve the quality of the workforce in Coastal Georgia while assisting individuals to achieve financial stability.

Pictured, from left, are **Diane Doster**, the community foundation's grants officer, presenting the grant check to **Ellen Murphy**, executive director of STAR.



World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Standards

Current Events: Students will share current events about the area that used to be Parthia.

History: Students will examine and compare the borders of ancient Parthia with the land currently occupied.

History: Students will research and report on the spiritual beliefs of the Parthians.

Activities

1. Use the News: What is currently happening in the areas that were Parthia? What countries currently exist there? Read the newspaper and share current events from those areas.
2. What area did ancient Parthians rule? Use a photocopy of a modern map of the area and then use a marker to outline both Parthia and then the most distant borders of its rule. How many square miles (kilometers) is it? What modern countries are in those areas?
3. What did the Parthians believe in? What religion did they practice? Research and write a brief report about their spiritual culture. Is it still in practice today?

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.

If you would like to pull up the topics and lesson plans in advance, visit <http://www.comics.com/WoW/>

For more information, contact Frank Lane at 265-1104 or flane@thebrunswicknews.com



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