

# She tunes out the world

DEARABBY: My wife, "Myra," and I have been married more than 50 years, and all she does is watch soap operas every afternoon. I have invited her to lunch and other outings only to be told, "OK, but I gotta be home by noon to watch my shows."



**Abigail Van Buren**

• Dear Abby

If the mailman or UPS arrives with a package between noon and 4 and I'm not there, Myra ignores the bell. We have three adult children. If any of them call during that time, she'll refuse to talk to them even if it's an emergency. Once, it was our older daughter calling to say our son had been taken to the hospital with a major heart attack. Myra's sister died of a stroke one afternoon two years ago. My wife didn't learn about it until the following morning.

On weekends, Myra is always in a bad mood because she says, "My soaps aren't on today." (The house-cleaning doesn't get done then, either, unless I do it.)

What's wrong with people like her? It's not the housework, Abby. I just wish my wife would realize there's more to life than soap operas. Can you think of a way to convince her to get a life, so to speak?

— BORED HUSBAND

DEAR HUSBAND: I'll try, but you have to realize that you are dealing with someone who is severely addicted. Your wife gets a "rush" from watching her "soaps," and as her behavior on weekends shows, she goes into withdrawal if she doesn't get her "fix."

There may be a solution to this problem. Cable television companies now offer cable boxes that allow viewers to record their favorite television shows on a hard drive for later viewing. I recommend you look into it. If it's not available in your area, visit an electronics store and see what recording devices it has in stock.

However, as to convincing your spouse "to get a life" and start liv-

ing it with you, it may already be too late for that. So make sure you have a life of your own by inviting others to join you for lunch and other outings. That might be what it takes to sober her up.

DEAR ABBY: Is it proper for people to throw themselves a housewarming party? My husband and I are looking into buying our first home, and I'd love to have one. What, exactly, are the rules? Do you have to be newlyweds? I have never been to one or know anyone who has ever had one. Is it still done? — CURIOUS IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR CURIOUS: It is customary for new homeowners, after getting settled in, to invite friends and family over for a housewarming. You don't have to be newlyweds — just new homeowners. Generally, the host and hostess send invitations to prospective guests and provide the food and beverages. And the guests bring gifts for the house. That's all there is to it! Good luck with yours.

DEAR ABBY: My mother, "Adele," never misses your column. She has smoked for most of my 28 years of life, with the exception of when she "quit" from 2000 to 2003. (Her mother died of lung cancer.) I beg her not to smoke around me or my 3- and 4-year-olds. My daughter has even told her she smells bad and asked her to put out her cigarette.

Adele claims she shouldn't have to go outside to smoke because smoke rises, and although you can see and smell it, there are no chemicals left in the air to hurt us. Adele says the reason she doesn't want to

quit is she read somewhere that quitting "cold turkey" increases your chance of complications from smoking. She refuses to believe she's hurting anyone.

Would you please tell her that not only is it inconsiderate and selfish to tell us to leave the house or get out of the car if we don't want to breathe in the smoke, it's also hurting her and putting her grandchildren at risk?

— CAN'T GET THROUGH

DEAR CAN'T GET THROUGH: Your mother is severely addicted to tobacco and in a state of denial. It is common knowledge that secondhand smoke is harmful. That's why some states have outlawed smoking in the workplace and public buildings.

I don't know where your mother got the notion that quitting smoking cold turkey could have a negative impact on her health. For years, doctors have said that it's the most effective way to stop. For smokers who can't face the challenge of sudden withdrawal from nicotine, there are now gums, patches and cessation programs to help people break the habit. Your mother's problem isn't that she's ignorant; it's that she's so wedded to her addiction she doesn't want to quit.

As much as you love her, you are now a mother yourself. It is your job to protect your children from anything that could harm them, and that includes secondhand smoke. From now on, do not take them to your mother's home; instead, entertain her in your smoke-free home. If she insists on smoking in her car, you will have to be the one to provide the transportation. And for your own sanity, when the time comes for your mother to pay the piper as her own mother did, do not grieve that you didn't have more time with her. She lived her life the way she wanted.

# TV LISTINGS

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## SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4, 6)	In Touch of Promises of God (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)		This Week-George Stephanopoulos		Hour of Power (CC)		The Coral Ridge Hour (CC)		First United Methodist Church	
KSNK/NBC (3, 8)	Rebecca Gdn	Paid Program	Today (CC)		Meet the Press (CC)		Paid Program	Paid Program	Your Bible	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program
KBSL/CBS (12, 11)	Paid Program	Messiah Baptist	Johnston	Believer Voice	CBS News Sunday Morning		Face the Nation		Paid Program	Paid Program	NFL Today Host Greg Gumbel (Live)	
K15CG (2)	Euro. Journal	On the Money	Sesame Street (El) (CC) (DVS)		Eyes of Nye	Maya & Miguel	Arthur (El)		Post-cards	Cyber-chase	Business	Health Sense To the Contrary
ESPN (28)	Sports-Center	College Gameday Final (CC)	NFL Matchup		Sports-Center	Outside Lines	Sports-Reports	Sports-Center		Sunday NFL Countdown (Live) (CC)		
USA (37)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Movie: Get Shorty (1995) A sly hoodlum conspires to break into the movie business.				PGA Tour Sunday (Live) (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
TBS (38)	(5:30) Movie: As Good as It Gets (1997) A mean-spirited New York author finds love with a waitress.				Movie: Serendipity (2001) Two destined lovers tempt fate and lose each other. (CC)				Movie: Stepmom ** (1998, Drama) Julia Roberts.			
WGN (39)	Changing- Bill Winston	Key of David	Ronnie Floyd		Living It: Unusual Suspects		Happy Days	Cosby Show	Moesha (CC)	Home Improve.	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
TNT (40)	(5:00) Movie: The Mask of Zorro *** (1998, Adventure) Antonio Banderas. (CC)				Movie: The Engagement Ring (2005, Romance) Patricia Heaton. (CC)				Movie: Forces of Nature (1999) Fate and a free-spirited female detour a groom-to-be.			
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Chasing Giants: Giant Squid		Search for the Loch Ness Monster		Secrets of the Yucatan (N)		Secrets of Pearl Harbor (CC)	
A&E (47)	Murder, She Wrote Thicker Than Water		Breakfast With the Arts (CC)				Inside Harry Potter		MovieReal Cinderella Man (CC)		Inked (CC)	Inked (CC)
HIST (48)	The Adventure of English (CC)		History-Making	Infams Murder	Movie: Wild Bill ** (1995, Western) Jeff Bridges, Ellen Barkin.		1995, Western) Jeff		Wild Bill Hickok (CC)		Decoding the Past Biblical Disasters	
NICK (55)	Rocket Power	Rugrats (CC)	Grown Up	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Cats-cratch	Oddpar-ents	Danny Phantom	Avatar-Last Air	Grown Up	Teenage Robot	Chalk-Zone
DISN (56)	Koala Brothers	Higgly-town	Ein-steins	JoJo's Circus	Doodle-bops	Charlie & Lola	The Wiggles	Lilo & Stitch	Lilo & Stitch	Whisk-ers	Ameri-can Drgn	Buzz-Maggie
FAM (58)	Digimon-Digital	X-Men (CC)	Spider-Man	Dragon Booster	Get Ed (CC)		Kong-Series	Power Rangers	Super Robot	Spider-Man	W.I.T.C.-H. (CC)	Movie: Santa and Pete ** (1999)
HALL (60)	The World of Faith and Values		Movie: Daisies in December ** (1995, Drama) Jean Simmons, Joss Ackland.				Naomi's New Morning Faith.		Mass From Notre Dame		Touched by an Angel (CC)	

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC (4, 6)	Inside Stuff	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Tostitos BCS Selection Show		ABC Wild News	News (CC)
KSNK/NBC (3, 8)	Paid Program	Paid Program	NASCAR Nextel Cup Awards		Golf: Father-Son Challenge -- Final Day. From Orlando, Fla. (CC)						News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12, 11)	NFL Football: Regional Coverage -- Bills at Dolphins, Bengals at Steelers, Texans at Ravens, Jaguars at Browns or Titans at Colts				NFL Football: Regional Coverage -- Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs or New York Jets at New England Patriots. (Live) (CC)						Sewing With Nancy Very Easy Vintage Quilts (CC)	
K15CG (2)	Ethanol: McLaugh-hlin	McLaugh-hlin	Tommy Fleming: A Voice of Hope (CC)				Billiards: Women's Trick Shot		Boxing: 1975 Muhammad Ali vs. Chuck Wepner. From 1975.		College Gameday (Live) (CC)	
ESPN (28)	PBA Bowling: BowlersParadise.com Classic.		Golf: V Foundation Celebrity Classic.									
USA (37)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Movie: Bulletproof ** (1996, Drama) Damon Wayans, Adam Sandler. (CC)				Movie: Big Daddy ** (1999, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Joey Lauren Adams. (CC)				Movie: Happy Gilmore ** (1996)	
TBS (38)	(10:30) Movie: Stepmom (1998)		Movie: Fools Rush In ** (1997, Comedy) Matthew Perry, Salma Hayek. (CC)				Movie: The Wedding Planner ** (2001, Comedy) Jennifer Lopez. (CC)				Movie: The Waterboy (1998)	
WGN (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
TNT (40)	Movie: Twister (1996) Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.				Movie: Clear and Present Danger *** (1994) Jack Ryan battles Colombian drug lords and villainous leads. Harrison Ford.						Law & Order Past Imperfect	
DSC (42)	MythBusters Bullet Proof Water (CC)		To Be Announced						Firehouse USA: Boston Group Four		To Be Announced	
A&E (47)	Movie: Point Break (1991) An FBI agent infiltrates California's surfing subculture.				Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Move House	Find & Design	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Flip This House Home surface. (CC)	
HIST (48)	(11:00) Decoding the Past (CC)		Decoding the Past Biblical prophecies.		Decoding the Past Templar origins.		Decoding the Past The Templar Code		Rome: Engineering an Empire and the fall. (CC)		The rise	
NICK (55)	Rock Star	Cats-cratch	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Amanda	Drake & Josh
DISN (56)	Movie: Recess: School's Out ** (2001, Comedy) Voices of Rickey D'Shon Collins.		Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Lizzie McGuire	Even Stevens	Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Naturally Sadie	Life With Derek		
FAM (58)	(11:00) Movie: Santa and Pete		Movie: The Christmas List (1997, Drama) Mimi Rogers, Bill Switzer. (CC)		Movie: Three Days (2001) An angel tells a man relive the days before his wife's death.				Movie: Snow ** (2004) (CC)		Movie: Snow ** (2004) (CC)	
HALL (60)	Movie: The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1996, Drama) Diana Scarwid.		Movie: Unlikely Angel ** (1996, Drama) Dolly Parton, Roddy McDowall.				Movie: Angel in the Family (2004, Drama) Ronny Cox, Tracey Needham. (CC)					

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4, 6)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (CC)		Desperate Housewives (CC)		Grey's Anatomy (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Lawyer on Line	Diamond Adv.
KSNK/NBC (3, 8)	Dateline NBC (CC)		The West Wing Undecideds (N) (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (N) (CC)		Crossing Jordan A Man in Blue (N) (CC)		News	24 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CC)	Inside Edition	
KBSL/CBS (12, 11)	60 Minutes (CC)		Cold Case Family (CC)		Movie: Pope John Paul II (2005, Biography) Jon Voight, Cary Elwes.				News (CC)	News	Alias The Box (Part 1 of 2) (CC)	
K15CG (2)	Andre Rieu: The Flying Dutchman (CC)				Celtic Woman Five Irish singers and one violinist perform in Dublin, Ireland. (CC)				Globe Trekker (CC)		Mystery! The Mrs. Bradley Mysteries	
ESPN (28)	Sports-Center	NFL Primetime (Live) (CC)	NFL Football: Oakland Raiders at San Diego Chargers.						SportsCenter (Live) (CC)			
USA (37)	(5:00) Movie: Happy Gilmore **		Movie: Bruce Almighty ** (2003, Comedy) Jim Carrey. (CC)				The Dead Zone (N) (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
TBS (38)	(5:00) Movie: The Waterboy (1998)		Movie: Mr. Deeds * (2002) A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.				Movie: Mr. Deeds * (2002) A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.				Movie: Fools Rush In ** (1997) (CC)	
WGN (39)	Maximum Exposure		24 6:00PM - 7:00PM (CC)		24 7:00PM - 8:00PM (CC)		WGN News	Instant Replay	Sex and the City	Becker (CC)	Maximum Exposure	
TNT (40)	Law & Order School Daze (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order Shangri-La		Law & Order Bodies (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order Undercovered		Movie: The Engagement Ring (2005, Romance) Patricia Heaton. (CC)			
DSC (42)	(5:00) To Be Announced				Living With Tigers Zoo-born tiger cubs.		Into the Lion's Den (N)		To Be Announced			
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files		The First 48 (CC)		MovieReal Syriana (N) (CC)		Intervention (N) (CC)		CSI: Miami Crime Wave (CC)		The First 48 (CC)	
HIST (48)	Beyond The Da Vinci Code (CC)		Beyond The Da Vinci Code (CC)		Da Vinci and the Code He Lived By The artist's life. (N) (CC)				Modern Marvels Da Vinci inventions. (N)		Beyond The Da Vinci Code (CC)	
NICK (55)	Ned's School	Unfabu-lous	Zoey 101 (CC)	Romeo! (CC)	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Father-hood	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Rose-anne
DISN (56)	Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Movie: Recess: School's Out ** (2001, Comedy) Voices of Rickey D'Shon Collins.		Zack & Cody	Naturally Sadie	Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Life With Derek	Life With Derek	Buzz-Maggie	
FAM (58)	(5:00) Movie: Snow ** (2004) (CC)		Movie: Chasing Christmas (2005, Drama) Holiday spirits visit a Christmas scrooge.		Movie: Chasing Christmas (2005, Drama) Holiday spirits visit a Christmas scrooge.				Joel Osteen		Feed the Children	
HALL (60)	Movie: The Night They Saved Christmas ** (1984, Fantasy) Jaclyn Smith.		Movie: A Season For Miracles ** (1999, Drama) Carla Gugino, Kathy Baker. (CC)				Movie: The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1996, Drama) Diana Scarwid.					

## MONDAY DECEMBER 5

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4, 6)	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Wife Swap Pyke/Smith (CC)		NFL Football: Seattle Seahawks at Philadelphia Eagles. Lincoln Financial Field. (Live) (CC)				News		News	Nightline (CC)
KSNK/NBC (3, 8)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Las Vegas For Sail By Owner (CC)		Las Vegas Down and Dirty (N) (CC)		Medium Being Mrs. O'Leary's Cow (CC)		News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Night	
KBSL/CBS (12, 11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	King of Queens	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Out of Practice	CSI: Miami From the Grave (TV) (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late	
K15CG (2)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		On Eagle's Wing migration.		The story of Scottish migration.		Visions of Germany: Along the Rhine (CC)		My Family	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		
ESPN (28)	Sports-Center	Monday Night Countdown (Live) (CC)			Figure Skating: Cup of Russia. St. Petersburg, Russia. (CC)				SportsCenter (Live) (CC)			
USA (37)	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent				WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (CC)		Movie: Training Day *** (2001, Crime Drama) Denzel Washington. (CC)			
TBS (38)	Ray-mond	Ray-mond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Family Guy (CC)	Family Guy (CC)	Movie: Lethal Weapon *** (1987, Action) (PA) Mel Gibson. (CC)			
WGN (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)	Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)	
TNT (40)	Law & Order For Love or Money		Law & Order Seer (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order All in the Family		Wanted Shoot to Thrill (N) (CC)		Wanted Shoot to Thrill (N) (CC)		Wanted Lips Are Lips (N) (CC)	
DSC (42)	Biker Build-Off Zero Engineering.		Rough Racing: Driver X (N)		Monster Garage Backyard Monsters		American Chopper (CC)		American Chopper Gillette Bike 2 (CC)		Rough Racing: Driver X	
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files		The Secret Life of a Serial Killer (CC)		Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	Intervention (N) (CC)		Crossing Jordan As If By Fate (CC)		The Secret Life of a Serial Killer (CC)	
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels Terror Tech: Military		Boys' Toys (N)		Boys' Toys Technology. (CC)		Battlefield Detectives (N) (CC)		Battlefield Detectives (N) (CC)		Boys' Toys (CC)	
NICK (55)	Oddpar-ents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Oddpar-ents	Full House	Fresh Prince	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
DISN (56)	That's-Raven		Movie: Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas ** (2004) (CC)		Life With Derek		Naturally Sadie	Sister, Sister	That's-Raven	That's-Raven	Phil of Future	Kim Possible
FAM (58)	Jack Frost		Movie: Jack Frost ** (1998) A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.				Who's Line? Who's Line?		The 700 Club (CC)		Home Videos	Home Videos
HALL (60)	Walker, Texas Ranger (Part 1 of 2)		Walker, Texas Ranger (Part 2 of 2)		Movie: A Christmas Visitor (2002, Drama) William Devane. (CC)				M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)

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