

Man discovers his wife's old affair has rekindled online

DEAR ABBY: I went into our home office and noticed that my wife had left her e-mail on. I spotted an odd name, so I opened one of the messages and my jaw dropped. It was from a man with whom my wife was having an affair. The e-mails were so graphic as to leave nothing to the imagination. This person is someone with whom my wife had an affair before we got together.

He was going to leave his wife and live with her before we met, but when push came to shove, he stayed with his wife and just used mine for sex.

One of the messages discussed a planned meeting that did not take place — only because he got stuck at work. She e-mailed him and told him he could stop by the house any night after 10 and have sex for an hour or two because our 5-year-old son and I were sleeping in other bedrooms!

She insists that “nothing happened,” which I have trouble believing. We have been seeing a therapist who believes my wife, and says that since “nothing happened” it wasn’t an affair. I disagree. Am I wrong?

— FURIOUS IN NEW JERSEY
DEAR FURIOUS: You now have two problems. You have a therapist who is siding with your wife, and an advice columnist who sees it your way. No, I do not think you are wrong. And unless your wife can come up with a satisfactory explanation for inviting



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

her old lover over for sex under the same roof as her child and her husband, I'd say your marriage is O.V.E.R.

DEAR ABBY: I have one sister. Our mother is deceased. When our father passes away, he will leave a sizable estate to my sister and me, consisting of two homes and various businesses.

Because my sister lives 300 miles away, I will likely be the one taking care of Dad's affairs after his death. This will involve a great deal of time, going through both houses, some cleaning, and too many phone calls to count, etc.

Would it be fair to keep track of the time my husband and I devote to this, charge an hourly fee, and deduct it from my sister's share of our father's estate? Let's face it, fair is fair.

— DREADING WHAT'S AHEAD
DEAR DREADING: It seems fair to me. However, if your father has his faculties, this is something that should be discussed while he's still living so it can be noted in his will. If he's too ill to talk, then speak to the lawyer who

drew up the will. You may be surprised to learn that what you have in mind is usual and customary. The lawyer can explain it to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, “Craig,” whom I have known almost a year. We have become closer than friends in a lot of ways — except the one way that counts, if you know what I mean.

Craig likes to tease me about sex, but says it will never happen because he doesn't want to ruin the friendship. Do you think it's fair for him to arouse me and then just run out the door?

Craig says he doesn't want me, but when I go out on dates with other people he gets mad. How should I handle this?

— IRRITATED IN GEORGIA
DEAR IRRITATED: The key phrase in your letter is “he says he doesn't want me.” Craig may enjoy teasing you (a power play), or he might be gay (unavailable for romance). In either case, the result will be frustration for you if you allow the relationship to continue as it is. I say, move on.

DEAR ABBY: This is the first

time I have ever written to you, but I need you to help get the word out.

I was shocked to find out recently that people in their teens through their 40s do not know what a white cane means.

Teachers should tell their children in class — as we were taught — that it means the person is blind or legally blind.

— H.M.L. IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR H.M.L.: I agree!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have always made it a priority to spend time with the people in our lives we care for. At this stage, our children are gone and our large home is ideal for gatherings, so we are frequent hosts to friends and family.

One of our close friends, “Gloria,” has a roommate, “Ivy,” who has taken it upon herself to show up at any event she hears about without being invited. This has put Gloria in the uncomfortable position of being the “informant.” In most cases, it wouldn't present a problem.

However, Ivy has shown up at sit-down dinners with limited seating. She never offers to bring anything or calls to make sure she's welcome. Sometimes she shows up earlier than when our guests have been told to arrive. This has caused some awkward situations for me, to put it mildly.

Not only that, but Ivy is a very demanding guest. On a few occasions she has tried to boss me around and

expects me to wait on her hand and foot. How can we tactfully tell this woman she needs to call before showing up to make sure she's welcome?

— HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST IN OHIO

DEAR HOSTESS: You have described a boor who knows no boundaries. Please do not waste your time trying to be “tactful,” because it won't work. The next time Ivy shows up uninvited, tell her exactly what you have written to me and do not admit her. Period.

DEAR ABBY: I have struggled with my weight ever since the death of my child several years ago. This year for Christmas, a family member — who despises me — drew my name. Her gift to me was a glass pie dish containing cookie-making ingredients, plus a pastry cutter and two basting brushes.

She knows I always send thank-you cards. What kind of thank-you

should I send her? She reads your column. Maybe I can just send her your reply?

— STUMPED IN WEST RICHLAND, WASH.

DEAR STUMPED: Don't clip and send the woman my reply. That would be bad manners. Instead, copy it on stationery in your own handwriting. Here's what to tell her:

“How kind of you to remember me with the goodie-fixings. I have always felt that the thought and planning that go into selecting a gift are what makes it — and the sender — so special. Your generosity will not soon be forgotten!”

I think that will express what you would like to say in a way that will leave you above reproach.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Expert suggests to build emergency fund now

MANHATTAN — Emergencies - leaky plumbing, a sudden illness, an unexpected but necessary car repair - can be costly, said Carol Young, Kansas State University Research and Extension financial management specialist.

Such expenses can exceed weekly or monthly cash available. They do not need to add stress, however, if an emergency fund is available, she said.

Young advised this start for building an emergency fund: “Pay yourself first. Consider asking your bank or financial service provider to make a periodic automatic transfer from your checking account to a savings account.”

Transferring \$25 from each paycheck adds up to \$300 a year for those paid monthly, \$650 for those paid every two weeks and \$1,300 for those paid weekly.

“An automatic transfer will save time - there's no need to go to the bank. It can simplify saving and also make spending the planned savings more difficult,” Young said.

How big should an emergency fund be?

“If just beginning a savings plan, aim for one month's take-home pay. Then add to it,” she said. “Having three to six months' earnings set aside can smooth the way if a lay-

off or illness interrupts earning power.”

More savings and money management tips are available on Kansas Extension's financial management Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/financialmanagement

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