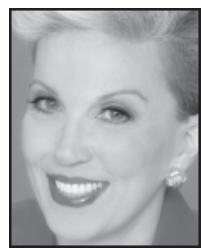


# Girlfriend's past indiscretion gnaws at man in here and now

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-something male who is madly in love with my girlfriend. That being said, I do have one concern. She dated a friend of mine for a short while prior to dating me. Their relationship was physically intimate, something I have reserved for only our relationship.



**Abigail Van Buren**

● Dear Abby

In short, I am having trouble facing my friend.

Can you advise me how to get over my discomfort at the physical nature of their relationship? She was never promiscuous. Her one "indiscretion" happens to be my good friend.

— OFFENDED IN CARTERVILLE, GA.

— TRYING TO GET OVER IT  
**DEAR TRYING: You can overcome your discomfort by recognizing that today many people come with a sexual past, and by not allowing yourself to dwell on it. (If you do, it'll be like pumping air into a balloon until it explodes.)**

**DEAR OFFENDED: Some can, when they see their grandchild is happy in a stable marriage; others are too firmly entrenched in their biases to change their thinking. Remember, you and she are from different generations, and although mixed marriages are not uncommon these days, they were when your grandmother was growing up.**

**Your problem isn't unusual. Most people like to fantasize that the partner they have chosen has no sexual history. If you're worried about "comparisons" — look at it this way: YOU'VE got the girl.**

**In your case, I wouldn't count on teaching Granny any new tricks, because her mind appears to be locked tighter than Guantanamo Bay. But hold a good thought.**

**Most people like to fantasize that the partner they have chosen has no sexual history. If you're worried about "comparisons" — look at it this way: YOU'VE got the girl.**

**DEAR BEATEN DOWN: Make a list of your husband's bank account numbers, Social Security number, driver's license number and his assets. Get a job and start banking your wages in your name only. Then offer your husband the option of marriage counseling.**

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked and hurt recently when my grandmother wrote me a letter about the level of "disrespect" I supposedly "heaped on her" during a recent visit. I am 37 years old, and while visiting her after the funeral of a relative, I showed her some photographs of me and my fiancée.

I work in a small office with four "girls." A fifth girl, whom I'll call "Shirley," takes her break with us. Over the past year, we have all become friendly.

Shirley has a daughter I'll call "Toni." Toni is pregnant, and Shirley is throwing her a shower. We are all invited, even though I am the only one who has met Toni, and only once, briefly. Shirley approached us to ask if any of us are attending the shower, and when we declined the invitation, she proceeded to ask if we would all chip in \$10 for a gift for us.

My fiancée is a tall, handsome, African-American man I met and fell in love with two years ago. The "disrespect" she was alluding to in the letter was "because her granddaughter was involved with a black man."

Does this take nerve or what? Any suggestions?

— MORTIFIED IN LANSFORD, PA.

Abby, I was raised to accept people for who they are, lovingly and with respect, regardless of color or ethnicity. I do not want to be disrespectful of my grandmother or hurt her, but my fiancée and I were married on April 15 and we are very happy. My question is, can old grandmothers be taught new tricks?

**DEAR MORTIFIED: It takes either "nerve" or total ignorance of the social graces. Unless you want to chip in for a group gift, I suggest you also decline that "invitation."**

# Turning nothing into something

**DEAR ABBY: My husband doesn't support anything I do anymore. He thinks I am always wrong,**

Smith, also of Topeka, was tearing down a building and had a refrigerator she didn't need.

**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.**

A Topeka group is proving it through Freecycle, an online trading club whose local membership is growing fast.

"I couldn't take it to the dump, so I thought I'd try to give it to someone who could use it," Smith said.

Smith posted the refrigerator on Freecycle and Crouse claimed it.

"Our goal is to keep things out of landfills that are still good and useful, plus, to help people out," said Larry Crouse, who leads the local group. "I have things I don't use anymore but are still good and still useful. It's also a good way to free my inner pack rat."

"Yeah, it was old, but it was one of the kinds that will never die. It was built to last," Crouse said.

Freecycle (www.freecycle.org) is part of an online revolution that emphasizes the idea of giving freely to others. It has caught on around the world with millions of people coming together to offer things on the Internet — for free.

"This gives you an outlet to get rid of things. It's all about giving — anything you post is a gift."

When Crouse moved to Topeka, she needed a refrigerator. Sandy

Smith said she has given away many items, such as satellite dishes, stoves and a love seat. "It helps us because we do not have to haul it off or pay to have it dumped," she said.

"This gives you an outlet to get rid of things. It's all about giving — anything you post is a gift."

The Topeka group had 95 people join in its first month after starting May 15. It is averaging four new members per day.

it was bad last year," he said. "They're starting to show up in areas where people hadn't noticed them before."

The network is volunteer, Crouse said, and the national organization is making a logo for Topeka's Web site.

Freecycle is a network of groups that allows people to post items they would like to give away or obtain.

"One person's trash is another person's treasure," Crouse said. "This gives you an outlet to get rid of things. It's all about giving — anything you post is a gift."

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no matter what the situation is. He never takes my part in any circumstance. He took the neighbors' part after an argument that led to me calling the police. He told the neighbors that I was wrong to do it. He has made me look like a fool to the whole neighborhood.

He is always telling me what to do. I never get my way — it is always his way or no way. I am thinking about leaving him, but I have nowhere to go. I have no job and no place to stay. We have a child together, so I have to provide for him, too. Do you think I have grounds to leave, or should I try to work things out? — BEATEN DOWN IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

**DEAR BEATEN DOWN: Make a list of your husband's bank account numbers, Social Security number, driver's license number and his assets. Get a job and start banking your wages in your name only. Then offer your husband the option of marriage counseling.**

**If he refuses, point out that it would be cheaper for him than alimony.**

**If he still refuses, please consider some sessions with a counselor to figure out why you have tolerated living with someone like him for so long.**

**And by the way, your husband is required by law to support his child. An attorney can advise you about whether you have "grounds" to end the marriage.**

*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.*

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# TV LISTINGS

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### SUNDAY JULY 9

	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 (CC)	Good Morning America (CC)	This Week-George Stephanopoulos	Hour of Power (CC)	The Coral Ridge	First United Methodist Church						
KSNK/NBC 3 (8)	Today (CC)	Meet the Press (CC)	Tennis: Wimbledon -- Men's Final. From Wimbledon, England. (Live) (CC)									
KBSL/CBS 12 (11)	Paid Program	Messiah Baptist	Lazy Town	Go Diego	CBS News Sunday Morning (CC)	Face the Nation	Backyardigans	Dora the Explorer	Paid Program	Champ Car		
K15CG 2 (2)	Euro-Journal	Wealth-Track	Jokers!-Winks	Big Big World	Ribert & Robert's	Cyber-chase	Arthur (EL)	Maya & Miguel	Fetch! With	Business Sense	Health Sense	To the Contrary
ESPN 28 (28)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Outside Lines	Sports Reports	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	Baseball Tonight
USA 37 (37)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	The Dead Zone	Panic (CC)	The 4400 Gone (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	PGA Tour Sunday (Live) (CC)	Monk Mr. Monk and the Actor (CC)			
TBS 38 (38)	Movie: Fast Times at Ridgemont High ** 1/2 (1982, Comedy) Sean Penn. (CC)	Movie: Encino Man ** (1992, Comedy) Sean Astin, Pauly Shore. (CC)	Movie: In the Army Now ** (1994, Comedy) Pauly Shore, Andy Dick. (CC)									
WGN 39 (39)	Chang-ing	Paid Program	Key of David	Paid Program	Feed the Children	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Hillbilles	Hillbilles	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	Movie: ...
TNT 40 (40)	(5:00) Movie: The 6th Day ** 1/2 (2000, Science Fiction)	Movie: Salem's Lot (2004, Horror) A writer encounters vampires in his Maine hometown. Rob Lowe, Andre Braugher. (CC)										Movie: ...
DSC 42 (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Weather Extreme: Tornado (CC)	Hurricane X (CC)			Galveston Hurricane			Extreme Engineering
A&E 47 (47)	Murder, She Wrote Killer Radio (CC)	Breakfast With the Arts (CC)					Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	Inked (CC)	Inked (CC)	Biography Johnny Depp (CC)	
HIST 48 (48)	Napoleon: Rule Europe	History's Bus	History's Bus	History's Bus	Band of Brothers (CC)		To Be Announced	Movie: The Road Warrior ** 1/2 (1981, Science Fiction) Mel Gibson. (CC)				
NICK 55 (55)	Grown Up	OddPar-ents	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	Spon-geBob	Spon-geBob	OddPar-ents	OddPar-ents	The X's (CC)	Danny Phantom	Danny Phantom	Cats-cratch
DISN 56 (56)	JoJo's Circus	Higgly-town	Ein-steins	Ein-steins	Mickey Mouse	Mickey Mouse	Doodle-bops	Doodle-bops	Charlie & Lola	The Koala	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor New
FAM 58 (58)	Digimond-Digital	Dragon Booster	NASCAR Racers	A.T.O.M. (CC)	Get Ed Trashed	Kong-series	Power Rangers	Star-Racers	Power Rangers	W.I.T.C.-H. (CC)	Full House	Full House
HALL 60 (60)	Naomi's New Morning (N) (CC)	Movie: Captains Courageous ** 1/2 (1996, Adventure) Robert Ulrich.					Naomi's New Morning (CC)		Mass From Notre Dame		Columbo The Most Crucial Game	

### SUNDAY JULY 9

	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)	Paid Program	World Cup Soccer: Final -- Teams TBA. Berlin. (Live)	PGA Golf: Cialis Western Open -- Final Round. From Lemont, Ill. (Live)	ABC Wild News (CC)	News (CC)							
KSNK/NBC 3 (8)	(8:00) Tennis: Wimbledon -- Men's Final. From Wimbledon, England. (Live) (CC)	Golf: U.S. Senior Open -- Final Round. From Hutchinson, Kan. (Live) (CC)										
KBSL/CBS 12 (11)	(11:30) Champ Car World Series Racing: Molson Grand Prix of Toronto. (Live) (CC)	Golf: HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship -- Final Round. (Live) (CC)	Cycling: Tour de France. (CC)	CBS News (CC)	News (CC)							
K15CG 2 (2)	On the Record	McLaughlin	McLaughlin	Religion-Ethics	Classic Gospel (CC)	Healthy Body	Doctors on Call	Sewing-Nancy	Beads, Baubles	Ances-tors (CC)	Boomers!-Life	
ESPN 28 (28)	World Cup Live	2006 Hot Dog Eating Contest	Billiards	Billiards: 9-Ball Semifinals	Billiards: 9-Ball Finals	Billiards: 9-Ball Finals	Best of the ESPY's Ashe Award	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)	
USA 37 (37)	Movie: Loser ** (2000) A nerdy college student pines for a pretty classmate. (CC)	Movie: Head Over Heels ** 1/2 (2001, Comedy) Monica Potter. (CC)	Movie: Along Came Polly ** (2004, Romance-Comedy) Ben Stiller. (CC)									
TBS 38 (38)	MLB Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Atlanta Braves. Turner Field. (Live) (CC)	Movie: Son-in-Law (1993) A coed brings her surf-minded pal home to the farm. (CC)	Movie: Road Trip ** (2000) (CC)									
WGN 39 (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	MLB Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers. Miller Park. (Live) (CC)	HomeTeam Dallas (CC)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)								
TNT 40 (40)	(11:30) Movie: Dreamcatcher ** 1/2 (2003, Horror) Morgan Freeman. (CC)	NASCAR Pre-Race (CC)	NASCAR Racing: Nextel Cup -- USG Sheetrock 400. From Joliet, Ill. (Live)									
DSC 42 (42)	MythBusters Bullet Proof Water (CC)	MythBusters Exploding Toilet	Quest for Captain Kidd (CC)	Real Pirate: Capt. Henry Morgan	Walking With Cavemen (CC)	Walking With Cavemen (CC)						
A&E 47 (47)	(11:00) Biography Johnny Depp (CC)	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!
HIST 48 (48)	The Doomsday Clock (CC)	Decoding the Past Predicting events.	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)	Decoding the Past (CC)
NICK 55 (55)	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Movie: What a Girl Wants ** 1/2 (2003, Comedy) Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth.	Drake & Josh	Ned's School			
DISN 56 (56)	Movie: Right on Track (2003) The Enders sisters enter the world of drag racing. (CC)	Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Lizzie McGuire	Phil of Future	Even Stevens	Natural-Sadie	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody			
FAM 58 (58)	Full House	Full House	Movie: Girls Just Want to Have Fun ** (1985, Comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker.	Movie: Matlock: The Billionaire ** 1/2 (1987, Mystery) Andy Griffith. (CC)	Movie: Mystery Woman: Wild West Mystery (2006, Mystery) Kellie Martin.							
HALL 60 (60)	(11:00) Columbo	Columbo Requiem for a Falling Star										

### SUNDAY JULY 9

	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	News (CC)	KAKE Sports	Lawyer on Line	Sports Machine				
KSNK/NBC 3 (8)	Dateline NBC (CC)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Crossing Jordan Code of Ethics (CC)	News	24 Day 2: Midnight-1:00AM (CC)	Ebert & Roeper						
KBSL/CBS 12 (11)	60 Minutes (CC)	Cold Case Honor (CC)	Movie: Saving Milly (2005) Journalist Morton Kondracke cares for his ailing wife.	News (CC)	News	Alias Second Double (CC)						
K15CG 2 (2)	Bill Moyers on Faith & Reason (N)	Nature Sharks and Rays: Killer Cousins	Mystery! (N) (Part 1 of 2) (CC) (DVS)	Catherine the Great (Part 1 of 2) (CC)	Globe Trekker Tokyo City Guide	Mystery! (Part 2 of 2) (CC) (DVS)						
ESPN 28 (28)	Baseball Tonight (Live)	MLB Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Houston Astros. Minute Maid Park. (Live) (CC)					SportsCenter (Live) (CC)					World Cup Live
USA 37 (37)	Movie: 50 First Dates ** (2004, Romance-Comedy) Adam Sandler. (CC)	The 4400 Isabelle seeks retribution. (N)	The Dead Zone Article of Faith (CC)	Law & Order: SVU	The 4400 Isabelle seeks retribution.							
TBS 38 (38)	(5:00) Movie: Road Trip ** (2000) (CC)	Movie: American Pie Presents: Band Camp (2005, Comedy) Tad Hilgenbrink.	Movie: American Pie Presents: Band Camp (2005, Comedy) Tad Hilgenbrink.	Movie: American Pie Presents: Band Camp (2005, Comedy) Tad Hilgenbrink.	Movie: American Pie Presents: Band Camp (2005, Comedy) Tad Hilgenbrink.							
WGN 39 (39)	Maximum Exposure Pain Fest	24 Day 4: 3:00PM-4:00PM (CC)	24 Jack attempts to capture Navi. (CC)	WGN News Instant Replay	Sex and the City (CC)	Becker (CC)	Maximum Exposure Pain Fest					
TNT 40 (40)	Movie: Gladiator ** (2000, Historical Drama) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. Russell Crowe.	Movie: Gladiator ** (2000, Historical Drama) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. Russell Crowe.	Movie: Gladiator ** (2000, Historical Drama) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. Russell Crowe.	Movie: Gladiator ** (2000, Historical Drama) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. Russell Crowe.	Movie: Gladiator ** (2000, Historical Drama) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. Russell Crowe.							
DSC 42 (42)	Tomb Builders: Valley of the Kings	Egypt's New Tomb Revealed	Opening the Coffin: Egypt's New Tomb	Sphinx Unmasked (CC)	Building the Great Pyramid (CC)	Egypt's New Tomb Revealed						
A&E 47 (47)	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Flip This House (CC)	Meth in the City Use of meth. (CC)	Intervention John (N) (CC)	CSI: Miami One Night Stand (CC)	Flip This House (CC)					
HIST 48 (48)	Modern Marvels Pirate Tech (N) (CC)	True Caribbean Pirates The Golden Age	The Revolution Fighting an Army (N)	The Revolution Fighting an Army (N)	Modern Marvels Pirate Tech (CC)	True Caribbean Pirates (CC)						
NICK 55 (55)	Romeo! Tee'd Off	Unfabulous	Zoey 101 Kicks (N)	Full House	Fresh Prince	Hi-Jinks Rose-anne	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince			
DISN 56 (56)	Hannah Montana	That's-Raven	Viewers' Choice	Phil of Future	Phil of Future	Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Hannah Montana	Emperor New			
FAM 58 (58)	(5:00) Movie: While You Were Sleeping	Movie: Best Man, Worst Friend (2005, Romance-Comedy) Stuart Townsend. (CC)	Movie: Best Man, Worst Friend (2005, Romance-Comedy) Stuart Townsend. (CC)	Movie: Best Man, Worst Friend (2005, Romance-Comedy) Stuart Townsend. (CC)	Movie: Best Man, Worst Friend (2005, Romance-Comedy) Stuart Townsend. (CC)							
HALL 60 (60)	Diagnosis Murder A physician suspects foul play in a reported suicide. (CC)	Diagnosis Murder Dr. Sloan's old classmate is accused of murder. (CC)	Diagnosis Murder Dr. Sloan's old classmate is accused of murder. (CC)	Diagnosis Murder Dr. Sloan's old classmate is accused of murder. (CC)	Diagnosis Murder Dr. Sloan's old classmate is accused of murder. (CC)							

# Japanese beetles damage fruit

WHITE HEATH, ILL. (AP) — Blueberries at Rick Pontious' farm are chewed to the stem, hardly the plump, appetizing fruit they're supposed to be this time of year. Leaves on his cherry trees are falling like it's autumn.

**“They go after everything.”**  
Rick Pontious  
Illinois farmer

Pontious' farm is no different from hundreds of other farms and yards across Illinois and neighboring states where Japanese beetles are having their annual feast. Beetle activity reaches its peak by mid-July, experts said.

"They go after everything," said Pontious, who operates a farm about 15 miles southwest of Champaign where customers pick their own produce.

Japanese beetles, small bugs with a green tint and copper-colored wings, have damaged more than half of his blueberry bushes and are also busy devouring leaves and fruit on raspberry and blackberry bushes, he said.

"The bushes were just looking fantastic and then all of a sudden the beetles came in," he said. "Last year I thought was bad. This year is worse."

He might be right, said Kevin Steffey, editor of the University of Illinois' Pest Management &