

Neighborhood affair causes misery for all

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with "Christopher" for three years. Our relationship started out as an affair. Chris was married with two small children and lived two doors down from me. He ended up leaving his wife and kids for me — causing pain for everyone.

After the divorce, Chris was or-



**abigail
van buren**

• dear abby

dered to pay child support, alimony and the family's mortgage. He stopped paying when his wife moved in a lover who was a neighbor from across the street. Soon after that she kicked him out and took up with a guy she met on the Internet. The two children were neglected and finally taken into state custody. (They have since

been returned to her after a year-long court battle.) The state would never allow Christopher to take the kids because his ex brought to light his prison history and ongoing alcohol addiction.

My problem is, after three years of this drama, I still feel I can't trust Chris — that he always needs to be "baby-sat." He is not the world's most responsible guy. For instance, instead of going to work, he may end up in a bar — and not even call to let me know. I'm always scared and worrying about what he's doing and where he is.

On top of all this, Chris is facing more prison time. My head tells me he's not worth the trouble he's caused, but my heart won't let go of the hope he'll change. Maybe I should have walked away when he first cheated on his wife with me — the first time he lied, the first time he left me in the middle of the night to go out and do who-knows-what.

Should I wait until Chris goes to jail, then send him a Dear John letter and start over someplace else? Or should I get out now? If I threatened to leave him, he'd go nuts. Yet he feels OK about living

a reckless and selfish life. Abby, who really has the problem here — me or him? — **CONFUSED TO THE MAXIMUM IN MISSOURI**

DEAR **CONFUSED TO THE MAX**: Interesting question. I'd say you both do. Your boyfriend can't toe the line, and you can't let go. From my perspective, Chris can offer you no future. However, if you think he will "go nuts" if you indicate that you're leaving, it would be better if you wait until the state takes him away from you.

DEAR ABBY: My teacher told

me I should write to you with my etiquette question about envelopes.

Should people mail their personal letters in envelopes that have a curved-edge closing flap or a straight-edge closing flap? Someone told me that one kind is for personal letters and the other kind is for business letters. Is this true? — **JOSH IN CHICAGO**

DEAR **JOSH**: If it's true, it's the first I have heard of it. To most people, the most important thing is what's inside the envelope, not the shape of the flap.

TUESDAY EVENING										MAY 20, 2003									
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
2	PBS	Nova "Lincoln's Secret Weapon" (N) (DVS)	Warrior Challenge "Vikings" (N) (DVS)		Independent Lens "Razing Appalachia" (N) (DVS)		News	Being Served	Charlie Rose (N) (DVS)										
3	IND	★★★ "Blade" (1998) (PA) Wesley Snipes. A vampire hunter does battle with a vicious bloodsucker.			(15) ★★★ "Point of No Return" (1993, Drama) (PA) Bridget Fonda, Gabriel Byrne. (DVS)				(15) ★★★ "Falling Down" (1993) (PA) (DVS)										
4	ABC	8 Simple Rules	According to Jim "Vegas, Baby" (N) (DVS)	Less Than Perfect (N) (DVS)		NYPD Blue "22 Skidoo" (Season Finale) (N) (DVS)	News (DVS)	(35) Nightline	(06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (DVS)										
5	HBO	(5:00) ★★★ "Arachnophobia" (1990) "PG-13"		★★★ "The Witches" (1990, Fantasy) Anjelica Huston. (N) "PG" (DVS)		Ocean's 11	★★ "Enough" (2002, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell, Juliette Lewis. (N) "PG-13" (DVS)												
7	CBS	JAG "A Tangled Web" (Season Finale) (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Hitler: The Rise of Evil" (2003) (Part 2 of 2) Robert Carlyle. Premiere. (N) (DVS)		News (DVS)	(35) Late Show Jim Carrey; Chevelle. (N) (DVS)		(37) Late Late Show										
8	NBC	Most Outrageous Game Show Moments 3 (N) (DVS)		Frasier (N) (DVS)	Watching Ellie (N) (DVS)	Dateline "Billy Joel" (N) (DVS)	News (DVS)	(35) Tonight Show Albert Brooks; the Thorns.	(37) Late Night (N) (DVS)										
11	TVLND	Brady	Hap Days	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Flying Nun	MacGyver (DVS)									
12	ESPN	NBA Basketball Playoffs: Eastern Conf. Final -- Teams TBA				Stanley Cup Playoffs: Western Final -- Wild at Mighty Ducks													
13	FOX	American Idol (iTV) (Live) (Part 1 of 2) (DVS)		24 "Day 2: 7:00 - 8:00AM" (N) (DVS)		Fox Report With Shepard Smith (DVS)	LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program									
15	MAX	(05) ★★ "Private Resort" (1985, Comedy) Rob Morrow. (R) (DVS)		★★ "Rock Star" (2001) Mark Wahlberg. A singer lands a gig with his heavy-metal heroes. (R) (DVS)			★ "The Forsaken" (2001, Horror) Kerr Smith, Izabella Miko. (N) (R) (DVS)												
16	TNN	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	"Friday 13th"										
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (N) (DVS)	Smart Guy (N) (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Even Stevens (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Lizzie McGuire (DVS)	★★★ "Dumbo" (1941, Fantasy) Voices of Sterling Holloway, 'G' (DVS)	(20) Kim Possible										
18	LIFE	Final Justice (DVS)		★★ "A Vision of Murder: The Story of Donielle" (N) (DVS)		Golden	Golden	Nanny (DVS)	Nanny (DVS)										
20	USA	★★ "Tommy Boy" (1995) Chris Farley. (DVS)		★★ "Black Sheep" (1996) Chris Farley. (DVS)				Dragnet (N) (DVS)											
21	SHOW	(5:15) ★★ "Married to It" (1991) iTV. (N) (R) (DVS)		(15) ★★ "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey" (1991, Comedy) Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. iTV. (N) "PG" (DVS)		★★★ "Orange County" (2002) Colin Hanks. iTV. (N) "PG-13" (DVS)			Anna Nicole										
22	TMC	"Smitheroe" (N) (DVS)		★★ "The Sum of Us" (1994) Jack Thompson, Russell Crowe. (N) (DVS)		(15) ★★ "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles" (2001) Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski. (N) (DVS)		★★ "Along Came a Spider" (2001) (N) (DVS)											
23	MTV	Dismissed	Surf Girls (N) (DVS)	Surf Girls (N) (DVS)		Direct Effect (N) (DVS)		Video	Insiders	Movie Awards									
24	DISC	Salmon: A Dangerous Journey		Barracudas		FBI Files "Temple of Fear" (DVS)		New Detectives: Forensic Science	New Detectives: Forensic Science										
28	TNT	Law & Order (DVS)	Law & Order (DVS)	Law & Order (DVS)		Charmed (N) (DVS)		Law & Order "Kids" (N) (DVS)	X-Files "Gethsemane"										
30	FXSP	NASCAR	Rocky Mt.	FOX One	Pregame	MLB Baseball	Colorado Rockies at Los Angeles Dodgers. (Live)												
32	FAM	"The One" (2003) Richard Ruccolo. (DVS)				Whose? (N) (DVS)	Whose? (N) (DVS)	700 Club (DVS)	Caroline Rhea Show (N) (DVS)										
33	NBC	News (DVS)	Ent. Tonight	Most Outrageous Game Show Moments 3 (N) (DVS)		Frasier (N) (DVS)	Watching Ellie (N) (DVS)	Dateline "Billy Joel" (N) (DVS)	News (DVS)	(35) Tonight Show									
34	NICK	SpongeBob	Amanda (N) (DVS)	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby									
36	A&E	Biography "Spencer Tracy" (N) (DVS)		Cold Case Files "The Cuff Link & Graveyard Shift: The Unluckiest Man & The Deadly ..." (N) (DVS)		Third Watch "Officer Involved" (N) (DVS)		Biography "Spencer Tracy" (N) (DVS)											
38	SCIFI	Evil "Cinema" (N) (DVS)		Evil "The Devil" (N) (DVS)		Evil "Witches" (N) (DVS)		Crossing	Twilight Z.	Farscape (N) (DVS)									
39	TLC	While You Were Out		Home Savvy		World's Most Astounding Undercover Stings		What Were You Thinking?	Mostly True Stories: Urban Legends Revealed										
40	FX	(5:30) 24	Buffy Vampire	Buffy Vampire		★★★ "Men of Honor" (2000) Robert De Niro. Premiere. (DVS)													
45	FMC	(01) ★★ "Near Mrs." (1991) Judge Reinhold. (DVS)		★★ "Alien Nation: Dark Horizon" (1994) (DVS)															
49	EITV	Saved by the Bell		Anna	Anna	Howard S.	Wild On...	Howard S.	Wild On...										
51	TRAV	World's Best (N) (DVS)		Secrets (N) (DVS)		Secrets (N) (DVS)		World's Best	Secrets (N) (DVS)										
53	WB	Friends (DVS)	Everybody-Raymond	Gilmore Girls "Those Are Strings, Pinocchio" (N) (DVS)		Smallville "Exodus" (Season Finale) (N) (DVS)		Friends (N) (DVS)	Will & Grace (DVS)										
54	ESPN2	Horn	Interruption	Rome Is Burning (N) (DVS)		X Games Global Championship		Interruption	NBA 2Night	NHL 2Night									
58	HIST	Deep Sea Detectives		Battle of the Atlantic "Grey Wolves" (N) (DVS)		Modern Marvels Concrete changed the world. (N) (DVS)		Where Is Jimmy Hoffa? (N) (DVS)	Deep Sea Detectives (DVS)										
59	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)		Workout	Bodies	Health Specials (N) (DVS)		Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)	Workout	Bodies									
60	UNIV	Las Vias del Amor		Entre el Amor y el Odio		Ver Para Creer		P. Impacto	Noticiero	En las Mejores Familias									
62	HGTV	Ground	Landscap	Room	Decorating	House	Curb	Ground	Landscap	Room									
99	WGN	★★★ "Quiz Show" (1994) John Turturro. (N) (DVS)				News (N) (DVS)		Rockford Files	In the Heat of the Night										

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WEDNESDAY EVENING										MAY 21, 2003															
	6 pm		6:30		7 pm		7:30		8 pm		8:30		9 pm		9:30		10 pm		10:30						
2	PBS	Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices			Kingdom of David: The Saga of the Israelites "The End of Days; The Gifts of the Jews" (N) (DVS)						News		Bless Me, Father		Charlie Rose (N) (DVS)										
3	IND	Seinfeld (N) (DVS)	Seinfeld (N) (DVS)	Ripley's Believe It or Not!			★★★ "Stir of Echoes" (1999, Horror) Kevin Bacon, Kathryn Erbe, Ileana Douglas. (DVS)			(PA) Kevin Ba		Worst-Case Scenario													
4	ABC	My Wife and Kids "Graduation" (N) (DVS)			Bachelor: After the Final Rose (N) (DVS)			Extreme Makeover (N) (DVS)			News (DVS)		(35) Nightline (DVS)		(06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (DVS)										
5	HBO	(5:30) ★★: "Scooby-Doo" (2002) "PG" (DVS)			★★ "Summer Catch" (2001, Comedy-Drama) Freddie Prinze Jr., Jessica Biel. (N) "PG-13" (DVS)			Sex and the City (N) (DVS)			Sex and the City (N) (DVS)		Six Feet Under "Twilight" (N) (DVS)												
7	CBS	38th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards From Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Las Vegas. (Live) (N) (DVS)			News (N) (DVS)			(35) Late Show Three Doors Down. (N) (DVS)			(37) Late Late Show														
8	NBC	Law & Order (N) (DVS)			Law & Order "Couples" (N) (DVS)			Law & Order "Smoke" (Season Finale) (N) (DVS)			News		(35) Tonight Show Julie Scardina; Staind. (N) (DVS)		(37) Late Night (N) (DVS)										
11	TVLND	Brady		Hap Days		Sanford		Gilligan		Griffith		Leave		I Love Lucy		Flying Nun		MacGyver (DVS)							
12	ESPN	Stanley Cup Playoffs				X Games				Sportscenter (Live)		Outside		Baseball											
13	FOX	American Idol Viewers' votes determine whether Clay Aiken or Ruben Studdard wins. (DVS)				Fox Report With Shepard Smith (DVS)				LAPD: Life on the Beat		LAPD: Life on the Beat		Paid Program		Paid Program									
15	MAX	(5:30) ★★ "Liberty Stands Still" (2002) 'R'			Set: In-Laws			★★★ "Shallow Hal" (2002, Comedy) Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black. (N) "PG-13" (DVS)			Gwyneth Pal-		★★★ "Thirteen Ghosts" (2001, Horror) Tony Shalhoub. (N) (R) (DVS)												
16	TNN	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.		★★★ "Soldier Boyz"															
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (N) (DVS)	Smart Guy (N) (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Even Stevens (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Lizzie McGuire (DVS)	★★★ "The Aristocats" (1970) Voices of Phil Harris. (N) (G) (DVS)		(35) Proud Family															
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (N) (DVS)			"To Love, Honor and Deceive" (1996) (DVS)			Golden		Golden		Nanny (DVS)		Nanny (DVS)											
20	USA	★★★ "Waterworld" (1995) Kevin Costner. A lone seafarer must protect a child from vicious pirates. (DVS)				Nash Bridges (N) (DVS)																			
21	SHOW	★★★ "Dances With Wolves" (1990, Western) Kevin Costner. iTV. Kevin Costner's Oscar-winning vision of the American West. (N) "PG-13" (DVS)				★★★ "Hart's War" (2002, Action) Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell, Terrence Howard. iTV. (N) (G) (R) (DVS)																			
22	TMC	(5:20) ★★: "Something Short of Paradise" (N) (DVS)			★ "The Pest" (1997) John Leguizamo, Jeffrey Jones. (N) (DVS)			"Tart" (2001, Drama) Dominique Swain, Brad Renfro. (N) (DVS)			★★★ "Jeepers Creepers" (2001) (N) (DVS)														
23	MTV	Movie Hs			Crashers			Rd Rules			Insiders			Direct Effect (N) (DVS)		MTV Special (N) (DVS)		Sorority							
24	DISC	Great Croc Trail			Anaconda: Giant Snake of the Amazon			Now See This! (N) (DVS)			Unsolved History		Extreme Engineering (N) (DVS)												
28	TNT	Law & Order (DVS)			Pregame			NBA Basketball Playoffs: Western Conf. Final -- Teams TBA			Insde NBA		X-Files												
30	FXSP	NASCAR			Rocky Mt.			See This			Pregame			MLB Baseball			Colorado Rockies at Los Angeles Dodgers. (Live)								
32	FAM	★★ "Down Periscope" (1996) Kelsey Grammer. (DVS)			Whose? (N) (DVS)			Whose? (N) (DVS)			700 Club (DVS)		Caroline Rhea Show (N) (DVS)												
33	NBC	News (DVS)	Ent. Tonight		Law & Order (N) (DVS)			Law & Order "Couples" (N) (DVS)			Law & Order "Smoke" (Season Finale) (N) (DVS)		News (DVS)		(35) Tonight Show										
34	NICK	SpongeBob	Amanda (N) (DVS)		Cosby			Cosby			Cosby		Cosby		Cosby		Cosby								
36	A&E	Biography: Cary Grant: Leading Man			American Justice "Who Killed Hannah Hill?" (N) (DVS)			City Confidential (N) (DVS)			Third Watch "The Lost" (N) (DVS)		Biography: Cary Grant: Leading Man												
38	SCIFI	Roar "The Eternal" (N) (DVS)			★★★ "Sometimes They Come Back" (1991) (DVS)			Crossing		Twilight Z.		Farscape "The Locket"													
39	TLC	While You Were Out (DVS)			Home Savvy			Home Savvy (DVS)			Secrets of Forensic Science		Ultimate Ten Biggest Structures (DVS)		Junkyard Mega-Wars (DVS)										
40	FX	Married... Married...			Buffy Vampire			Buffy Vampire			★ "Speed 2: Cruise Control" (1997, Suspense) (DVS)														
45	FMC	"Adventure-Sherlock Holmes-Brother" (N) (DVS)			(01) Hour of Stars			(01) ★★ "O. Henry's Full House" (1952) (DVS)																	
49	EITV	Rosie O'Donnell: The El True Hollywood Story (N) (DVS)			Howard S.			Jim Carrey			Revealed (N) (DVS)		Howard S.		Anna		Anna								
51	TRAV	World's Best (N) (DVS)			World Poker Tour "Paris" (N) (DVS)			World's Best (N) (DVS)		World Poker Tour															
53	WB	Friends (DVS)	Everybody-Raymond		★★ "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1997, Horror) Jennifer Love Hewitt. (N) (DVS)			Friends (N) (DVS)		Will & Grace (DVS)															
54	ESPN2	MLB Baseball: Yankees at Red Sox			MLB Baseball			San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Live)																	
58	HIST	History Undercover "Hitler and WWII" (N) (DVS)			Battle of the Atlantic "Keeping Secrets" (N) (DVS)			Modern Marvels "The Magnum" (N) (DVS)			History's Mysteries (DVS)		History Undercover "Hitler and WWII" (N) (DVS)												
59	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)			Workout			Bodies			Health Specials (N) (DVS)		Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)		Workout		Bodies								
60	UNIV	Las Vias del Amor			Entre el Amor y el Odio			Don Francisco Presenta			P. Impacto		Noticiero		En las Mejores Familias										
62	HGTV	Restore			If Walls			Modern			Country			Kitchen		Ext hm		Restore		If Walls		Modern		Country	
99	WGN	★★★ "House Party" (1990) Christopher Reid. (DVS)			News (DVS)			News			Rockford Files		In the Heat of the Night												