

# Boyfriend's mom always calling on date

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating this really great guy, "Josh," for about two months. I really like him, but I don't like his mother. Josh and I are both 20 and live with our parents.

Josh's mother is super-controlling. Whenever we go out, she has to know where we are going and what time he will be home. And she calls My cell phone during the date to check up on him. She's always calling me to try to find out where he is.



## abigail van buren

• dear abby

I really like Josh, but I'm tired of dating his mother, too. How should I handle this without hurting anyone? — TIRE OF DOUBLE-DATING

DEAR TIRE: Turn off your cell phone, or leave it at home when you go out with Josh. His mother is having trouble accepting the fact that her son is no longer a child but that shouldn't be your problem. Josh is overdue for a talk with his mother about boundaries. If her behavior bothers Josh as well,

perhaps it's time that he became financially independent and moved into his own place. As long as he lives under his parents' roof, he is still their "child" and will be treated accordingly.

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with "Neal" for three years. Neal works from home for only a few hours a day. He pays all the bills, so I don't have a problem with his choice of work. What bothers me is I have no time to myself because he's always there.

Neal demands so much attention from me that I can't even read a recipe without him interrupting. I am not a wimp, but Neal has the more dominant personality and controls what we do with our time. At least it feels that way to me. But according to Neal, I don't

give him ENOUGH time.

Since I moved in, I have not achieved any personal goals or even given as much love and attention to others as I used to. I rarely pursue interests of my own and almost never spend time doing things I want to do. I feel like I'm losing my individuality.

I love Neal, and I'm not even sure he is the problem. I think I need to be more assertive about where my life is going.

Is there a book or support group for someone like me? Am I just depressed? Obviously I don't have the drive to pursue my own interests. I will appreciate any advice you can give. — LOST IN HIS WORLD

DEAR LOST: You ask if you are depressed because you don't have

enough drive to pursue your own interests. I think it may be the other way around — you don't pursue your own interests because you're depressed.

You say you "don't mind" Neal being home all the time because he pays the bills. Why is it that you aren't working? It would give you a degree of independence and self-determination that seems to be lacking. Assertiveness classes could help you, and books on co-dependency could also give you some insight.

Since you are not married to Neal, you might also consider moving out until you can establish where he ends and you begin before he smothers you completely.

DEAR ABBY: How do you tell your daughter and son-in-law not to call or

come over? I have been ripped off by them more times than I can count. I have been cussed out and yelled at on the phone. They make my life a living hell.

My daughter calls other people to see if they got a dollar more than she did for a gift. When her name shows up on the caller ID, I won't answer because I know what is ahead of me. I can't take much more of this. Please tell me what to do. — A NERVOUS WRECK

DEAR NERVOUS: There comes a time when a person has done enough, and you appear to have reached that point. Do not shell out one penny more, and if your daughter shows up at your door—don't answer.

SATURDAY EVENING										E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone		FEB. 21, 2004			
E	S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30			
36	53	A&E	American Justice "A Parent's Nightmare" (N)		Cold Case Files "Mark of a Killer/Dead Ends" (N)		City Confidential "Portland: Skinhead Slayer" (N)		Crossing Jordan "The Truth Is Out There" (N)		American Justice "A Parent's Nightmare" (N)				
4	6	ABC	*** "Cast Away" (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. A courier company executive is marooned on a remote island. (N)						News (N)	(.35) Entertainment Tonight (N)	(35) Paid Program				
26	48	ANPL	Komodo Dragons: To Capture a Dragon (N)		Killer Elephants (N)		Wild Kingdom "Cave Elephants" (N)		Komodo Dragons: To Capture a Dragon (N)		Killer Elephants (N)				
63	54	BRAVO	*** "Highlander" (1986, Fantasy) Christopher Lambert, Roxanne Hart. (N)				*** "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975, Musical) Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon. (N)				*** "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (N)				
7	11	CBS	Star Search (TV) (Live) (N)		Hack "One for My Baby" (N)		The District "On Guard" (N)		News (N)	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey			
24	50	DISC	Rally Round the House "Tuscan Terrace" (N)		Double Agents "Dropping Anchor" (N)		New Detectives: Forensic Science (N)		New Detectives: Forensic Science (N)		Cl: Coroner Investigator (N)				
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible: Dave the Barbarian (N)		Even Stevens (N)		Sister, Sister (N)		That's So Raven (N)		Lizzie McGuire (N)				
49	81	EITV	Celebrities Uncensored (N)		Arnold & Maria: The El (N)		True Hollywood Story (N)		Wild On... (N)		Howard S. (N)				
22	56	ESPN	College Basketball (N)		College Basketball Texas at Oklahoma. (Live) (N)		SportsCenter (Live) (N)		College Basketball (N)		College Basketball (N)				
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball Florida at Mississippi. (N)		NHRA Drag Racing: K&N Filters Winternationals (N)		Fastbreak "Gamenight" (N)		Funnies Home Videos (N)		Funnies Home Videos (N)				
32	46	FAM	*** "Down Periscope" (1996) Kelsey Grammer. (N)		*** "Office Space" (1999) Ron Livingston. (N)		Funnies Home Videos (N)		Funnies Home Videos (N)		Funnies Home Videos (N)				
59	-	FIT TV	Peak Performance (N)		Chi (N)		Workout (N)		Peak Performance (N)		Resort & Spa (N)				
35	31	FMC	:(01) *** "Buffalo Bill" (1944) Joel McCrea. (N)		:(01) Hour of Stars (N)		:(01) Hour of Stars (N)		:(01) *** "Yellow Sky" (1948) Gregory Peck. (N)		:(01) *** "Yellow Sky" (1948) Gregory Peck. (N)				
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Emeril's Salute to Young Chefs" (N)		Best Young Chefs Competition (N)		Iron Chef "Potato" Morimoto vs. Michael Noble. (N)		Unwrapped Top 5 (N)		Emeril Live "Emeril's Salute to Young Chefs" (N)				
13	7	FOX	Cops (N)		Cops "Naked" (N)		America's Most Wanted: Fights Back (N)		She Spies "The Gift" (N)		Mad TV Anna Faris. (N)				
40	38	FX	Married... (N)		Married... (N)		★ "Tomcats" (2001, Comedy) Jerry O'Connell. (N)		★ "American Pie" (1999) Jason Biggs. (N)		★ "American Pie" (1999) Jason Biggs. (N)				
30	55	FXSP	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Miami Heat. (N)		NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Miami Heat. (N)		Rocky Mt. See This (N)		Boxing: Sunday (N)		Rocky Mt. See This (N)				
5	14	HBO	:(5:15) ★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) (N) "PG-13" (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) (N) "PG-13" (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) (N) "PG-13" (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) (N) "PG-13" (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) (N) "PG-13" (N)				
62	67	HGTV	Sensible Decorating (N)		Designing Designers (N)		Design Design (N)		Smart Home (N)		Sensible Decorating (N)				
58	52	HIST	Stalin: Man of Steel Stalin united the many Soviet republics after the death of Lenin. (N)		Stalin: Man of Steel Stalin united the many Soviet republics after the death of Lenin. (N)		History Undercover (N)		Vanishings! (N)		Vanishings! (N)				
25	35	IND	:(5:00) The Trumpet Awards (N)		:(5:00) The Trumpet Awards (N)		:(5:00) The Trumpet Awards (N)		:(5:00) The Trumpet Awards (N)		:(5:00) The Trumpet Awards (N)				
18	63	LIFE	:"Sweet Temptation" (N)		Wild Card (N)		1-800-Missing (N)		Intimate Portrait (N)		Any Day Now (N)				
23	77	MTV	MTV Cribs Carmen (N)		MTV Cribs Carmen (N)		Osbourne's Osbournes (N)		Osbourne's Osbournes (N)		Warning (N)				
3	9	NBC	Entertainment Tonight (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)				
8	8	NBC	:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Shrek" (2001, Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. (N)				
34	43	NICK	Grown Up: Romeo! (N)		All That (N)		Amanda (N)		Cosby (N)		Roseanne (N)				
2	2	PBS	Keeping Up With the Kardashians (N)		As Time Goes By (N)		The Lawrence Welk Show (N)		Two's Company (N)		Red Green (N)				
38	83	SCIFI	:(5:00) ★ "Komodo" (2003) Tim Abell. (N)		:(5:00) ★ "Komodo" (2003) Tim Abell. (N)		:(5:00) ★ "Komodo" (2003) Tim Abell. (N)		:(5:00) ★ "Komodo" (2003) Tim Abell. (N)		:(5:00) ★ "Komodo" (2003) Tim Abell. (N)				
61	41	SPK	★ "The Protector" (1985) Jackie Chan. (N)		Ride (N)		Ride (N)		Extreme (N)		SlamBall (N)				
39	51	TLC	For Better or for Worse "Jennifer and Ron" (N)		Trading Spaces: Family Living-rooms. (N)		While You Were Out New patio. (N)		Trading Spaces "Mississippi: Golden Pond" (N)		Trading Spaces Master bedroom; Kitchen. (N)				
28	37	TNT	:(5:15) ★ "Outbreak" (1995) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Outbreak" (1995) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Outbreak" (1995) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Outbreak" (1995) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo. (N)		:(5:15) ★ "Outbreak" (1995) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo. (N)				
51	86	TRAV	Great Outdoors (N)		Ends of the Earth (N)		Ends of the Earth (N)		Great Outdoors (N)		Ends of the Earth (N)				
21	82	TVLND	Burnett All-Family (N)		Sanford (N)		Bewitched (N)		Griffith (N)		Leave (N)				
60	89	UNIV	Sabado Gigante (N)		Impacto (N)		Noticiero (N)		Otro Rollo (N)		Otro Rollo (N)				
20	34	USA	Law & Order (N)		Law & Order (N)		Law & Order (N)		Law Order Cl (N)		Monk (N)				
12	3	WB	:(5:00) *** "Beverly Hills Cop" (1984) (N)		:(5:00) *** "Boyz n the Hood" (1991, Drama) Cuba Gooding Jr., Morris Chestnut. (N)		:(5:00) *** "Boyz n the Hood" (1991, Drama) Cuba Gooding Jr., Morris Chestnut. (N)		News (N)		The Cosby Show (N)				
99	36	WGN	Fresh Pr. NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Chicago Bulls. (N)		Fresh Pr. NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Chicago Bulls. (N)		Fresh Pr. NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Chicago Bulls. (N)		News (N)		*** "First Blood" (1982, Drama) (N)				