

Man needs to stand firm on his decision

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Able but Unwilling in Alabama," whose mother and sister are urging him to "lend" money to his spendthrift brother. "Able" said he and his wife had always lived frugally and have saved diligently, while his brother and his wife lived far beyond their means. You responded that if "Able" was comfortable with his decision, he



abigail van buren

• dear abby

wouldn't have written to you. He should stick to his guns. The brother and sister-in-law will be siphoning money from here to eternity. Just like an alcoholic, if you give money to folks like that, they'll take and take until the money is gone. I know — I was one of those takers. I was never taught how to handle money. I'll bet you get a lot of letters on

that one, Abby! — HOPEFULLY DOING BETTER IN FLORIDA DEAR DOING BETTER: You're right. I did get mail from readers who felt I should have encouraged the writer to stand firm. Read on: DEAR ABBY: It's time for that brother and his wife to grow up and learn to budget their own money. If "Able's" mother and sister aren't willing to put THEIR money where their mouths are, they should keep quiet. It never makes sense to loan money to a bottomless pit. Strange, how "Able," the responsible son, is criticized, while the

spendthrift, spoiled son runs to Mom and Sis to lay guilt and put pressure on the responsible brother. If the situation were reversed, would the big spender help his brother, I wonder? I don't think so. His selfish lifestyle should not be rewarded. The irresponsible brother should end the pity party and go to work! — HARD-WORKING MOM IN PROVIDENCE, R.I. DEAR HARD-WORKING MOM: More readers agreed with you than with me. DEAR ABBY: The brother made his choices and is reaping the "rewards." If "Able" bails him out, it

won't be a one-time thing. It will open the door to keep the money flowing. There is a children's story about the Little Red Hen. The little hen asked for help to plow the garden, plant the seed and pull the weeds. The rest of the farm animals refused. However, when it came time to eat the bread, they all wanted some. Little Red Hen then said "no," because they had done nothing to help. It's the same with saving money; we go without to build savings to cover our needs in leaner times. — BRENDA IN AURORA, COLO. DEAR BRENDA: That's a lesson many people need to learn. Too

many are living on credit and accruing a mountain of debt while trying to keep up with the Joneses. DEAR ABBY: "Able" should insist that his mother and sister co-sign the loan he gives to his brother. That way, if the brother doesn't repay, then they must! But first, that free-spending brother should downsize his expensive house, replace his luxury cars with subcompacts, sell all items that have no sentimental value, and both husband and wife should get out and look for jobs. It is possible to be supportive of the brother without "Able" handing him money and possibly putting his

TUESDAY EVENING											DEC. 21, 2004										
E S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30	Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone									
36	53	A&E	Biography "Tatum O'Neal" (N) [G]		Cold Case Files "Doench; Peace" (N)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Crossing Jordan "John Doe" [G]		Biography "Tatum O'Neal" [G]											
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez [G]	According to Jim [G]	Rodney "Pilot" [G]	NYPD Blue "I Love My Wives, But Oh You Kid" [G]	News [G]	(:35) Nightline [G]	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live [G]											
26	48	ANPL	Austin Stevens: Snake-master Diamondbacks.		Most Extreme "Venom" Lethal injections. [G]	Animal Cops Detroit "Cold Calls" [G]		Austin Stevens: Snake-master Diamondbacks.		Most Extreme "Venom" Lethal injections. [G]											
63	54	BRAVO	*** "Silverado" (1985, Western) Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn. The paths of four cowboys converge en route to a showdown. PG-13					The West Wing "Posse Comitatus" [G]		*** "Silverado" (1985) Kevin Kline.											
	11	CBS	The Amazing Race 6 (N) [G]		The 27th Annual Kennedy Center Honors The gala salutes prominent entertainers. (N) [G]			News [G]	(:35) Late Show with David Letterman [G]	The Late Late Show											
24	50	DISC	Monster House Mardi Gras-themed house.		Monster Nation Outboard motor. [G]	American Chopper "David Mann Bike 1"		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Mummy Autopsy (N)											
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible: The Proud Family [G]		Even Stevens [G]	Lizzie McGuire [G]	Sister, Sister [G]	*** "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit" (1993, Comedy) Whoopi Goldberg. PG [G]													
49	81	E!TV	Survivor: The E! True Hollywood Story [G]			Life Great [G]		Howard S. [G]		Saturday Night Live [G]											
22	56	ESPN	(5:45) College Football Champs Sports Bowl -- Georgia Tech vs. Syracuse.					(:15) SportsCenter (Live) [G]		Outside											
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball Illinois vs. Missouri. (Live) [G]					ESPN25: Who's No. 1. [G]		Fastbreak [G]											
32	46	FAM	"Eloise at Christmastime" (2003) Julie Andrews.			Who's? [G]		The 700 Club [G]		Fam. Mat. [G]											
59	-	FIT TV	Ultimate Goals (N) [G]		Extremists [G]	Extremists [G]	Ten Years Younger [G]	Ultimate Goals [G]		Extremists [G]											
35	31	FMC	(:01) *** "Cabinet of Caligari" (1962, Horror)			(:01) *** "Jumpin' at the Boneyard" (1991)		(:01) "Vanishing Point" [G]													
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "I Love New York"		Roker on the Road [G]	Recipe for Success [G]	\$40-a-Day "\$40-a-Day 'Montreal'" [G]	Iron Chef Shiitake mushroom battle.		Emeril Live "I Love New York"											
13	7	FOX	Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best [G]		House "The Socratic Method" (N) [G]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [G]	Bob Newhart [G]		Bob Newhart [G]											
40	38	FX	(5:00) *** "Twins" [G]		Fear Factor [G]		King of Hill [G]	*** "Dude, Where's My Car?" (2000, Comedy)													
30	55	FXSP	I, Max (N) [G]		Rocky Mt. [G]		College Basketball: Mo. Kansas City at Colo.	Women's College Basketball													
5	14	HBO	*** "Daredevil" (2003, Action) Ben Affleck. PG-13 [G]		Making Of: Daredevil [G]		(:15) *** "Catch That Kid" (2004) Kristen Stewart. Three adventurous children plot to rob a bank.	*** "Chasing Liberty" (2004) Mandy Moore. [G]													
62	67	HGTV	Designed Designer [G]		Decorating Design [G]		Designers' [G]	House Crafters [G]		Designed Designer [G]											
58	52	HIST	Wild West Tech "Freak Show Tech" [G]		Modern Marvels Fighting fire with fire. [G]		Modern Marvels "More Dangerous Cargo" (N)	Modern Marvels "Dangerous Cargo" (N)		Wild West Tech "Freak Show Tech" [G]											
25	35	IND	The Real Gilligan's Island (Series Finale) (N)			Sex and the City [G]	Sex and the City [G]	(:10) The Real Gilligan's Island		(:10) The Real Gilligan's Island											
18	63	LIFE	"Christmas Child" [G]		*** "Charms for the Easy Life" (2002) [G]			The Nanny Golden [G]		The Nanny Golden [G]											
23	77	MTV	TRL [G]		Made [G]			Made [G]		MTV Cribs [G]											
3	9	NBC	News [G]		Ent. Tonight [G]		The Biggest Loser "A Look Back Special" (N)	Father of the Pride [G]		Scrubs [G]											
8	8	NBC	The Biggest Loser "A Look Back Special" (N)				Father of the Pride [G]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Birthright" [G]		News [G]											
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob Robot [G]		Fat Albert [G]	Cosby [G]	Cosby [G]	Fatherhood [G]		Fatherhood [G]											
2	2	PBS	Nova "Elegant Universe" Columbia University physicist Brian Greene explains string theory. [G]				The Beat Down Club [G]	BBC World News [G]		That's My Boy [G]											
38	83	SCIFI	UFO Invasion [G]		The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence [G]		*** "Roswell: The Aliens Attack" (1999) [G]														
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure [G]		Wildest Police Videos [G]		CSI: Crime Scn [G]	American Hot Rod "Rat Rod Build-Off 3" [G]		Overhaulin' (N)											
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out Fireman's retreat. [G]		Clean Sweep "All American Mess" [G]		In a Fix Unfinished projects. [G]	Clean Sweep "All American Mess" [G]		Overhaulin' (N)											
28	37	TNT	Law & Order [G] (DVS)		Law & Order [G] (DVS)		Charmed [G]	Law & Order "Switch" [G]		The X-Files [G]											
51	86	TRAV	Food Crazy [G]		Made [G]		Trav. Memories [G]	Food Crazy [G]		Made [G]											
21	82	TVLND	Munsters [G]		GreenAcre [G]		Griffith [G]	Leave [G]		Sanford [G]											
60	89	UNIV	Rubi [G]		Amor Real [G]		Veremos Todo [G]	Impacto [G]		Noticiero [G]											
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU [G]		Law & Order: SVU [G]		Monk [G]	Law & Order: SVU [G]		The District [G]											
12	3	WB	Friends [G]		Everybody-Raymond [G]		Gilmore Girls "Written in the Stars" [G]	High School Reunion (N) [G]		News [G]											
99	36	WGN	*** "Babes in Toyland" (1961, Fantasy) [G]				WGN News at Nine [G]	Becker [G]		Becker [G]											



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WEDNESDAY EVENING												Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone												DEC. 22, 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 "Accused in Appalachia" (N)		Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	Biography "Steven Seagal" (N)		Crossing Jordan "Conspiracy" (N)		American Justice "Accused in Appalachia" (N)																
4	6	ABC	Lost "Walkabout" (N)		Lost "White Rabbit" (N)		Wife Swap "Pitts/Policchio" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Nightline (N)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)																
26	48	ANPL	The Jeff Corwin Experience (N)		Animal Face-Off "Gorilla vs. Leopard" (N)		Animal Cops Detroit "Abandoned Puppies" (N)		The Jeff Corwin Experience (N)		Animal Face-Off "Gorilla vs. Leopard" (N)																
63	54	BRAVO	Project Runway (N)		Project Runway (N)		Project Runway (N)		The West Wing "20 Hours in America" (N)		Project Runway (N)																
7	11	CBS	A Home for the Holidays 2004 (N)		The King of Queens "Center" (N)		CSI: NY "Creatures of the Night" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Late Show (N)		The Late Late Show															
24	50	DISC	Monster House Creating a Viking house (N)		Monster Nation Rocket-propelled bicycle (N)		American Chopper "David Mann Bike 2" (N)		The Ice Hotel (N)		MythBusters "Christmas Special" (N)																
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible: The Proud Family (N)		Even Stevens (N)	Lizzie McGuire (N)	Sister, Sister "That's So Raven" (N)		★★★ "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992, Fantasy) Michael Caine. (N)																		
49	81	E!TV	Richie H'wood Story (N)		Bad Girls of Reality TV (N)		Best of Anna Nicole (N)		Howard S. (N)		Saturday Night Live (N)																
22	56	ESPN	College Football GMAC Bowl -- Bowling Green vs. Memphis. From Mobile, Ala. (N)						SportsCenter (Live) (N)		Outside																
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball Illinois vs. Missouri. (Live) (N)				NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors. (N)				Fastbreak																
32	46	FAM	"The Christmas Secret" (2000) Richard Thomas. (N)				Whoose? Whoose? (N)		The 700 Club (N)		Fam. Mat. (N)																
59	-	FIT TV	Body of Evidence With (N)		Extremists (N)	Extremists (N)	Ten Years Younger (N)		Body of Evidence With (N)		Extremists (N)	Extremists (N)															
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★★★ "The Enemy Below" (1957) (N)				(:01) ★★ "Hello-Goodbye" (1970) Curt Jurgens (N)				(:01) "Hear No Evil" (N)																
53	68	FOOD	Emeril's Happy Holidays (N)		BBQ With Bobby Flay (N)	Foodnation (N)	Good Eats (N)	Good Eats (N)	Iron Chef "Tefish" (N)		Emeril's Happy Holidays (N)																
13	7	FOX	That '70s Show (N)	Quintuplets (N)	Nanny 911 "The Johnson Family" (N)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (N)		Bob Newhart (N)	Bob Newhart (N)	Mary Tyler Moore (N)	Mary Tyler Moore (N)															
40	38	FX	"Dude-My Car" (N)		Fear Factor (N)		King of Hill "King of Hill" (N)		★ ★ "Someone Like You" (2001) Ashley Judd. (N)																		
30	55	FXSP	I, Max (N)	Rocky Mt. (N)	Sports List "Football" (N)		Best Damn Sports Show Period (N)		Period (N)	Sports List (N)	Rocky Mt. (N)	I, Max (N)															
5	14	HBO	(5:15) ★★★ "Shattered Glass" (2003) (N)		★★★ "S.W.A.T." (2003) Samuel L. Jackson. A Los Angeles SWAT team must protect a criminal. (N)				Reverse of the Curse of the Bambino (N)		The Wire "Mission Accomplished" (N)																
62	67	HGTV	Renovation Building (N)		Sensible Mission (N)		Curb "Curb" (N)		House "Dream" (N)		Renovation Building (N)																
58	52	HIST	Modern Marvels (N)		Full Throttle VW Beetles become drag racers. (N)		Modern Marvels "Commercial Fishing" (N)		Modern Marvels (N)		Modern Marvels (N)																
25	35	IND	Friends (N)	(:35) Friends (N)	(:10) Family Guy (N)	(:40) Family Guy (N)	Sex and the City (N)	(:45) Sex and the City "Baby, Talk is Cheap" (N)	(:25) The Real Gilligan's Island (N)		Real Gilligan (N)																
18	63	LIFE	"Very Cool Chr." (N)		★★★ "The Christmas Wish" (1998) (N)				The Nanny "Golden" (N)		The Nanny "Golden" (N)																
23	77	MTV	TRL (N)		Newlywed "Newlywed" (N)		Newlywed "Newlywed" (N)		Hard Rock Live (N)		Nick & Jessica (N)																
3	9	NBC	News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Will & Grace Will makes the holiday meal. (N)		The West Wing "Abu El Banat" (N)		Law & Order "C.O.D." (N)		News (N)	The Tonight Show (N)															
8	8	NBC	Will & Grace Will makes the holiday meal. (N)		The West Wing "Abu El Banat" (N)		Law & Order "C.O.D." (N)		News (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show (N)	(:37) Late Night (N)																
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob Hey Arnold! (N)		Full House "Full House" (N)		Fresh Pr. "Cosby" (N)		Roseanne "Roseanne" (N)		Fresh Pr. "Fresh Pr." (N)																
2	2	PBS	Christmas With the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (N)		Christmas at Belmont (N)		Christmas at Baylor (N)		BBC World News "Two's Company" (N)		Charlie Rose (N)	(N) (N)															
38	83	SCIFI	Paranormal (N)		Ghost Hunters (N)		Scare "Scare" (N)		Paranormal (N)		Ghost Hunters (N)																
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure (N)		Wildest Police Videos (N)		CSI: Crime Scn "CSI: Crime Scn" (N)		CSI: Crime Scn "CSI: Crime Scn" (N)		"The Godfather" (1972) (N)																
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out "Savannah: John Bruce" (N)		Clean Sweep Eliminating clothes. (N)		In a Fix "The Fiesta House" (N)		Mostly True Stories: Urban Legends Revealed (N)		In a Fix "New Bohemian" (N)																
28	37	TNT	★★★ "Jack Frost" (1998) (N)		Michael Keaton. (N)		★★★ "Jack Frost" (1998) (N)		Michael Keaton. (N)		The X-Files "S.R. 819" (N)																
51	86	TRAV	Secrets (N)		World Poker Tour (N)				Secrets (N)		World Poker Tour (N)																
21	82	TVLND	Munsters (N)	GreenAcre (N)	Griffith "Leave" (N)		Sanford "All-Family" (N)		3's Co. "3's Co." (N)		Cheers "Cheers" (N)	Cheers (N)															
60	89	UNIV	Rubi (N)		Amor Real (N)		Don Francisco Presents (N)		Impacto "Noticiero" (N)		Estamos Unidos (N)																
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU (N)		Law & Order: SVU (N)		Law & Order: SVU (N)		Law Order: CI (N)		Monk (N)																
12	3	WB	Friends (N)	Everybody-Raymond (N)	Smallville "Devoted" (N)		BMOC (N)	(N) (N)	News (N)		Friends (N)	Will & Grace (N)															
99	36	WGN	"Christmas at Water's Edge" (2004, Drama) (N)				Funniest Home Videos (N)		Becker (N)	Becker (N)	Home Delivery (N)																