Mother keeps daughter's leash too short

mother of a 10-year-old daughter, 'Savannah," who is in the fourth grade.

Savannah claims that I am smothering her. She is not allowed to have sleepovers, and she may not attend any of the co-ed parties her friends throw. No sugar is allowed in our house unless it is a special occasion



DEAR ABBY: I am 35 and the to a friend's house, I call every hour to see how she is doing.

> In the kitchen, Savannah is not allowed to use the stove, the oven, the blender, or any other appliance unless I am there to supervise.

My daughter attends an all-girls school because I don't want her exposed to some of the things boys do when they are her age. Savannah is like a birthday. Whenever she goes not allowed to wear makeup, and I

shop for her. Every morning, before she leaves home, she must come to me so I can monitor what she is wearing.

Abby, I love my daughter very much, and I only want what is best for her. Do you think I am smothering her? — GOOD MOM IN HOUSTON

DEAR GOOD MOM: I believe you are a caring parent, but I also think you have gone off the deep end. In the name of being a conscientious parent you have placed your daughter under virtual house arrest. How is your daughter to learn to be independent and make intelligent decisions if you restrict her every

move?

Calling her every hour at a friend's house to "see how she's doing" is overkill. If it doesn't stop, it won't be long before she will rebel. I know you mean well, but please, talk with a counselor about this. In the name of being a "good mom," you are stunting her growth and doing your child a disservice.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a college sophomore, and my roommate, "Sal," is driving me crazy. She talks down to me when we're in a group. She'll hijack my conversations and answer for me, even though I'm standing right there.

this way. Sal talks down to everyone. A large group of us went out to dinner and "Mike" was goofing off. She told him to sit still and use his indoor voice. She was completely serious!

She also tries to intimidate us physically. She shoves the guys around, and if the girls annoy her, she stands up as tall as she can, looks down her nose at us and announces, "I can EAT you!" At one point, she pinned me to my bed and tried to shove food in my mouth because she didn't believe I ate enough.

The few times we've tried to talk to Sal about this, she became defensive and stormed out, as she snarled I'm not the only person who feels that we are all immature and should

grow up. We've about had enough Can you help? — LIVING WITH THE ALPHA DOG

DEAR LIVING: From your description, the girl has problems beyond what you and I can solve. Counseling could help her, but only if she's willing to face the fact that she needs help.

Since talking to the "alpha dog" hasn't worked, if you're living off campus, call a meeting of the housemates and inform her that you'd like her to leave. If you're staying in a dorm, request a change of rooms. And should she lav a hand on any of you in an effort to intimidate you, call the police and report the assault.

	UR	DAY EVE	NING	ì		Eagle Cable	e			JAN. 1	, 2005	SU	NDA	Y EVENING	S=	=Eagle Cable S&T Telephone			JAN. 2	, 2005
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Saturday and Sunday Movies

SATURDAY MORNING 10:01 35/31 FMC Movie "Edward Scissorhands" (1990, Fantasy) Johnny Depp, Dianne Wiest. A deceased inventor's unfinished creation becomes the center of suburban attention. Directed by Tim

Burton. PG-13 10:45 28/37 TNT Movie "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993, Comedy-Drama) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Bill Pullman. A grieving widower captures the heart of an engaged woman. Directed by Nora Ephron.

AFTERNOON 1:00 28/37 TNT Movie "Kate & Leopold" (2001, Romance) Meg Ryan, Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber. A timetraveling nobleman finds love in the 21st century. Directed by James Mangold. 4:00 25/35 IND Movie "Crocodile Dundee" (1986, Comedy) Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski, John Meillon. An Australian hunting legend braves the wilds of Manhattan. Directed by Peter Faiman.

4:10 35/31 FMC Movie "Raising Arizona" (1987, Comedy) Nicolas Cage, Trey Wilson. A childless couple decides to relieve a local furniture king of one of his newborn quintuplets. Directed by Joel Coen. PG-13

SUNDAY MORNING 10:05 35/31 FMC Movie "Esther and the King" (1960, Adventure) Joan Collins, Denis O'Dea. A Judean maiden chosen by the King of Persia to replace his former queen tries to halt the persecution of her people. Directed by Raoul Walsh. NR 11:00 36/53 A&E Movie "In the Bedroom" (2001, Drama) Sissy Spacek, Tom Wilkinson, Nick Stahl. A couple's marriage unravels in the wake of a tragedy. Directed by Todd Field.

AFTERNOON 12:00 33/44 DISN Movie "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey" (1993, Adventure) Robert Hays, Jean Smart. Two dogs and a cat set out on a hazardous trek through the Sierra Nevada in search of their human family. Directed by Duwayne Dunham. G 63/54 BRAVO Movie "Dances With Wolves" (1990, Western) Kevin Costner, Graham Greene. Costner's epic vision of the American frontier as seen through the eyes of a 19th-century U.S. Cavalry officer. Directed by Kevin Costner. PG-13 12:01 35/31 FMC Movie "Zorba the Greek" (1964, Drama) Anthony Quinn, Irene Papas. The British heir to a Cretan mine learns about life

and love from an exuberant

Greek laborer. Directed by Michael Cacoyannis. NR 12:30 5/14 HBO Movie "Drumline" (2002, Comedy Drama) Nick Cannon, Orlando Jones. A cocky drummer joins a college marching band and quickly makes an enemy of the drum section's leader. Directed by Charles Stone III. PG-13 20/34 USA Movie "The First Wives Club" (1996, Comedy) Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler, Diane Keaton. Three women take revenge after their husbands dump them. Directed by Hugh Wilson. 2:30 5/14 HBO Movie "The Rainmaker" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Jon Voight. A young Memphis attorney battles a powerful insurance company that will not cover a dying boy's medical bills. **Directed by Francis Ford** Coppola. PG-13 4:00 32/46 FAM Movie "Stuart Little" (1999,

Comedy) Geena Davis, Hugh Laurie, Voices of Michael J. Fox. Human parents adopt a mouse into their family. Directed by Rob Minkoff. 5:00 13/7 FOX Movie "True Lies" (1994, Adventure) (PA) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold. A man lives the double life of a spy and a family man. Directed by James Cameron.