

Flowers are not better than a direct invitation

DEAR ABBY: I met an attractive woman at a consumer products show. She works for a company that supplies items to the store where I work. She wasn't wearing a ring, and she seemed interested in me, so I decided to ask her to lunch.

I had always heard that women welcome flowers, and prefer them to direct invitations because it allows them to reply with a warm thank-you or refuse without putting anyone on



abigail van buren

• dear abby

the spot. So I ordered a mixed bouquet with a card that carried a friendly — not romantic — message. She never acknowledged it, but I received a brief fax from her boss saying that I was off-base and the flowers were inappropriate. He signed off with a directive that I make no further contact.

Abby, I was mortified! Was it necessary to embarrass me with a fax that everyone in the store could have read? I don't know if he took it upon

himself to do this, or she asked him to do it for her. I'm not even sure whether she received the flowers or if he intercepted them. All that fax did was ensure an awkward situation the next time she and I cross paths at a show or during business transactions.

How should I handle our next meeting? Should I pretend it never happened? Should I cross them off our supplier list to avoid further contact? Should I let her know so that I can possibly get another shot at it, or did I blow it so terribly wrong? I'm a caring, sensitive person and don't understand why this innocent gesture generated such a reply. — EMBARRASSED IN IOWA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I don't

know who told you that women prefer flowers to a direct invitation, but the information was incorrect. Frankly, the approach was a bit over the top and may have made the woman uncomfortable. If she indicated that to her employer, he had a legal obligation to step in on her behalf. However, his technique was heavy-handed. It would have been better had he talked to your employer or human resources for your company and asked that person to speak to you privately about it.

If I were you, I'd forget about trying to cultivate a personal relationship with the lady. It's not necessary to "cross them off your list"; just keep any further contact with her strictly

related to business.

DEAR ABBY: I work as a volunteer, helping recent immigrants find jobs. Several months ago, a middle-aged woman I'll call Maria was hired as a maid with a large hotel chain. Maria is struggling to learn English, and she makes very little money. I asked her if she receives tips from hotel guests, and she replied by showing me a small glass jar containing nickels and pennies. There were no dollar bills.

Maria told me that after the guests check out, her supervisor checks the room before she does, and it is assumed that any monies in denominations larger than small change are removed before she's allowed to enter

and prepare the room for the next guest.

I trust that this kind of behavior is not common practice, but from now on, when I stay at a hotel, I'll either tip the maid personally when I see her in the hall, or leave it for her a day before my departure to ensure the proper person receives my gratuity. — CAREFUL TIPPER IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CAREFUL: That's a good idea and one worth sharing. I'm printing your letter because many hotel guests "forget" how hard hotel staff work for low pay, and sometimes leave without giving them a gratuity. As to when to tip, the best time is at the beginning of your stay at a hotel.

SATURDAY EVENING												E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone APR. 9, 2005											
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	City Confidential		Cold Case Files "The Cuff Link; Graveyard Shift; Good Samaritan; Gun Shy"		American Justice "Daughter Dearest"		City Confidential														
4	6	ABC	Wilder's Little House on the Prairie		★★★ "About a Guy" (2002) Hugh Grant. A lonely boy finds a friend in a carefree bachelor.		News		:(35) Seinfeld		:(05) Entertainment Tonight Celebrities. (N) ∩												
26	48	ANPL	Profiles of Nature "The Scorpion's Tale" (N)		Big Sting Stinging creatures.		Wild Kingdom The diminutive meerkat.		Profiles of Nature "The Scorpion's Tale"		Big Sting Stinging creatures.												
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy		★★★ "12 Monkeys" (1995, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Madeleine Stowe. A prisoner is sent back in time to avert a deadly plague. R		CSI: Miami "Cop Killer" ∩		48 Hours Mystery ∩		News ∩ :(35) Paid Program												
7	11	CBS	The Price Is Right Million Dollar Spectacular		American Hot Rod "Bud Light Car 2"		Biker Build-Off Roland Sands; Arlen Ness.		American Chopper "Police Bike 2"		Blue Planet: Seas of Life "Tidal Seas"												
24	50	DISC	American Hot Rod "Bud Light Car 2"		Biker Build-Off Roland Sands; Arlen Ness.		American Chopper "Police Bike 2"		Blue Planet: Seas of Life "Tidal Seas"		The Blue Planet "Frozen Seas"												
33	44	DISN	American Drgn		Kim Possible		Lizzie McGuire		Phil of the Future		Zack & Cody												
49	81	EITV	Janice Dickinson Story		Hollywood & Divine		Saturday Night Live		Gastineau		Howard S. Howard S.												
22	56	ESPN	College Hockey: NCAA Final -- Teams TBA		NBA Basketball Houston		Rockets at Phoenix Suns.		(Live) SportsCtr.														
54	57	ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing		College Baseball Teams		TBA. (Live)		Arm Wrest		NBA												
32	46	FAM	Gilmore Girls ∩		Who's? Who's?		Videos		Videos		Videos												
59	-	FIT TV	Ultimate Goals ∩		No Opportunity Wasted		Star for a Day ∩		Ultimate Goals ∩		No Opportunity Wasted												
35	31	FMC	★★★ "A Yank in the RAF" (1941) Betty Grable		★★★★ "Breaking Away" (1979) Dennis Quaid		Roadie Chefs II		Iron Chef America Mario Batali battles Anita Lo.		Iron Chef America "Cat Cora vs. Alex Lee"												
53	68	FOOD	Iron Chef America "Cat Cora vs. Alex Lee"		Al Roker's Country Music Festival		America's Most Wanted-Fights Back		She Spies "Leotards and Lies" ∩		LAPD: Life on the Beat												
13	7	FOX	Cops (N) Cops ∩		America's Most Wanted-Fights Back		She Spies "Leotards and Lies" ∩		Mad TV (N) ∩		LAPD: Life on the Beat												
40	38	FX	★★★★ "Die Hard 2" (1990, Drama) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia.		★★★★ "Changing Lanes" (2002) Ben Affleck.																		
30	55	FXSP	High School Basketball		MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at San Francisco Giants.		Rockies		FSN Amer														
5	14	HBO	(5:30) ★★★ "The Preacher's Wife" (1996) Denzel Washington. 'PG' ∩		★★★★ "Father of the Bride" (1991, Comedy) Steve Martin, Diane Keaton. ∩ 'PG' ∩		★★ "Breakin' All the Rules" (2004) Jamie Foxx. 'PG-13' ∩																
62	67	HGTV	Design Decorating Designer		reDesign		Design Design Design		Design Design Design		Design Design Design												
58	52	HIST	Biblical Disasters Whether biblical accounts of disasters are fact or fiction. ∩		Isaac's Storm The most lethal storm in American history. ∩				Biblical Disasters ∩														
25	35	IND	(5:00) MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live) ∩		★★ "Road Trip" (2000) Tom Green. Four college pals set out to retrieve an incriminating tape. ∩				★★★★ "Money Talks" (1997) (PA) Chris Tucker.														
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Cruel Justice"		"Odd Girl Out" (2005) Alexa Vega, Lisa Vidal. ∩		Strong Medicine		★★ "Deadly Web"														
23	77	MTV	Boiling Room Rdr		Next ∩ Band		Band PoweR		Barkers														
3	9	NBC	Entertainment Tonight Celebrities. (N) ∩		★★★★ "Bowfinger" (1999, Comedy) Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy. ∩ (DVS)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "The Saint" ∩		News		Saturday Night Live												
8	8	NBC	★★★★ "Bowfinger" (1999, Comedy) Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy. ∩ (DVS)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "The Saint" ∩		News		Saturday Night Live Cameron Diaz; Green Day. (N) ∩														
34	43	NICK	School Drake		All That ∩ Amanda		Full House Full House		Fresh Pr. Cosby		Roseanne Murphy												
2	2	PBS	A Conversation With Jerry Moran		The Lawrence Welk Show		Red Green Austin City Limits ∩		Masterpiece Theatre "Henry VIII" ∩ (Part 2 of 2) (DVS)														
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) "King Cobra"		"Snake King" (2005) Stephen Baldwin. Premiere.		★ "Project Viper" (2002) Theresa Russell. ∩																
61	41	SPK	The Ultimate Fighter ∩		The Ultimate Fighter		The Ultimate Fighter ∩		The Ultimate Fighter ∩		The Ultimate Fighter ∩												
39	51	TLC	Town Haul "The Changing of Perceptions"		Charles & Camilla: Road to the Altar		What Not to Wear Interior designer's exterior.		Moving Up "Faux Finish Fiasco"		Trading Spaces "San Diego: Vieira Drive" (N)												
28	37	TNT	★★ "Miss Congeniality" (2000) Sandra Bullock.		(15) ★★ "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" (2002) "While You		Kings of the Road ∩		Haunted Hotels														
51	86	TRAV	Kings of the Road ∩		Haunted Hotels (N)		To Survive ∩		Kings of the Road ∩		Haunted Hotels												
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven ∩		Farrah Leave		Sanford All-Family		3's Co. 3's Co.		Cheers ∩ Cheers ∩												
60	89	UNIV	Sábado Gigante Diana Reyes y sus Rosas; Pablo Portillo.		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI		Kojak "All That Glitters"												
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI		Kojak "All That Glitters"												
12	3	WB	Friends ∩ Everybody-Raymond		★★ "Krippendorf's Tribe" (1998, Comedy) Richard Dreyfuss, Jenna Elfman. ∩		News ∩		:(45) Sports Replay		★★ "Bridge of Dragons" (1999, Adventure)												
99	36	WGN	Paintball		NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Chicago Bulls. ∩		WGN News		★★ "Chain of Command" (2000)														

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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	The First 48 (N) [E]		Family Plots (N)		Family Plots [E]		Intervention An addict forges signatures. [E]		CSI: Miami "Hard Time" [E]		The First 48 [E]											
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition [E] [E]		Desperate Housewives "Children Will Listen" [E]		(02) Grey's Anatomy (N) [E]		News [E]		(35) Seinfeld [E]		Lawyer on the Line		Diamond Adventures									
26	48	ANPL	Massive Nature The confrontation between hunter and prey. (N)				Animal X The sighting of a sea serpent.		Massive Nature The confrontation between hunter and prey.															
63	54	BRAVO	Project Greenlight [E]		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy [E]		Showdog Moms & Dads		Project Greenlight [E]		Project Greenlight [E]													
7	11	CBS	Cold Case "Daniela" [E]		★★★ "High Crimes" (2002, Suspense) Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman. Premiere. [E] (DVS)				News [E]		(35) News [E]		(05) The Twilight Zone [E]											
24	50	DISC	Pompeii of the East		America's Volcanoes: Sitting on a Powder Keg		Megaquake (N)		Supervolcano A powerful supervolcano lies under Yellowstone National Park. (N)															
33	44	DISN	American Drgn	Kim Possible [E]	Lizzie McGuire	Phil of the Future [E]	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven [E]	"Kim Possible: So the Drama" (2005, Adventure) Voices of Christy Carlson Romano. 'NR' [E]															
49	81	EITV	True American Story (N)				Uncut (N)		True American Story															
22	56	ESPN	MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Minnesota Twins. (Subject to Blackout)						SportsCenter (Live) [E]		Baseball													
54	57	ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing O'Reilly Spring Nationals. [E]				Poker: 2004		Poker: 2004		Poker: 2004													
32	46	FAM	★★★ "Home Alone 4" (2002) Mike Weinberg.				Who's? Who's?		Las Vegas Videos		J. Osteen Feed													
59	-	FIT TV	Low Carb	Low Carb	Best of FiTV's Housecalls (N) [E]				Low Carb		Low Carb		Best Housecall											
35	31	FMC	★★★★ "Yellow Sky" (1948) Gregory Peck.				★★★★ "Down to the Sea in Ships" (1949)		★★★★ "Raising Arizona"															
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Emeril's Fish Store" Exotic fish.		Iron Chef America "Batali vs. Trevino"		Seafood Cook-Off (N)		Unwrapped		Unwrapped		Emeril Live "Emeril's Fish Store" Exotic fish.											
13	7	FOX	The Simpsons (N) [E]		Arrested Dev.		24 "Day 4: 10:00PM-11:00PM" [E] (PA) [E]		Stargate SG-1 "Space Race" [E] [E]		The Outer Limits "Stranded" [E] [E]		Movie											
40	38	FX	★★★ "Changing Lanes" (2002) Ben Affleck.				★★★★ "Independence Day" (1996) Will Smith, Bill Pullman.																	
30	55	FXSP	Beyond the Glory [E]		Poker Superstars		Poker Superstars		Ultimate Fight.		Track		Rockies											
5	14	HBO	"Catch That Kid"		(45) ★★★ "Phenomenon" (1996) John Travolta, A small-town mental powers. 'PG' [E]		Real Sports (N) [E] [E]		Deadwood "Something Very Expensive" (N) [E]															
62	67	HGTV	Designed Want That		Living on the Edge		Builders Show		Renovation Kitchen		Designed Want That													
58	52	HIST	High Hitler Adolf Hitler's drug dependence. [E]		Hitler's End (N) [E]		Conquerors "Cortes; Conqueror of Mexico"		Breaking Vegas "Card Count King" [E]		High Hitler Adolf Hitler's drug dependence. [E]													
25	35	IND	★★★★ "Space Cowboys" (2000) Clint Eastwood. Premiere. NASA reunites four aging flyboys for an urgent mission. [E]				★★★★ "Space Cowboys" (2000, Adventure) Clint Eastwood. NASA reunites four aging flyboys for an urgent mission. [E]																	
18	63	LIFE	"Return of Alex"		"Someone to Love Me: Moment of Truth"		Terror at Home		Wild Card [E]															
23	77	MTV	Boiling Barkers		MTV Cribs MTV Cribs		Bam Punk'd [E]		Damage Pimp Ride		Pimp Ride		Damage											
3	9	NBC	Dateline NBC [E] [E]		The Contender (N) [E]		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Beast" (N) [E]		Crossing Jordan "Lo-card's Exchange" (N) [E]		News [E]		(35) Over-time											
8	8	NBC	The Contender (N) [E]		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Beast" (N) [E]		Crossing Jordan "Lo-card's Exchange" (N) [E]		News [E]		(35) The West Wing "In-auguration" [E]		(35) Inside Edition (N)											
34	43	NICK	Zoey 101 Romeo! (N)		Full House Full House		Fresh Pr. Cosby		Roseanne Murphy		Fresh Pr.		Fresh Pr.											
2	2	PBS	Nature "Cloud: Wild Station of the Rockies"		Mystery! "Malice Aforethought" (N) [E] (DVS)		May the Road Rise to Meet You		Hudson River		Mystery! "Death in Holy Orders" Death of an archdeacon. [E] (DVS)													
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) ★★★ "Merlin" (1998, Fantasy) Sam Neill, Isabella Rossellini. [E]						Scare Scare		The Outer Limits [E]													
61	41	SPK	Hrseperw Hrseperw		Hrseperw Hrseperw		WWE Heat		★★★ "Days of Thunder" (1990) Tom Cruise.															
39	51	TLC	Noah's Ark: The True Story [E]		Area 51: Fact or Fiction		Trading Spaces: Family A family room. (N)		Tornado: Touchdown [E]		Sports Disasters Athletes' accidents. [E]													
28	37	TRV	★★★★ "What Women Want" (2000) Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt.				★★★★ "What Women Want" (2000) Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt.																	
51	86	TAT	Alaska: Walk-Wild Side		Alaska Wide Open [E]		Alaska's Arctic Wildlife		Alaska: Walk-Wild Side		Alaska Wide Open [E]													
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven [E]		Griffith Leave		Farrah All-Family		3's Co. 3's Co.		Cheers [E] Cheers [E]													
60	89	UNIV	(5:00) La Parodia		Hora Pico La Jaula		Selena ¡Vive!		Impacto Noticiero		Tras la Verdad													
20	34	USA	★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) Steven Seagal.				Kojak (N) [E]		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU													
12	3	WB	Charmed "Showhouls" [E]		Charmed "The Seven Year Witch" (N) [E] [E]		Steve Harvey's Big Time Challenge [E] [E]		News [E]		News Sports		Everybody-Will & Raymond Grace [E]											
99	36	WGN	★★★★ "Fantastic Voyage" (1966)				WGN News Replay		Maximum Exposure		The Twilight Zone [E]													