

Invitation sends wrong message

DEAR ABBY: I'm confused. My husband and I received the following invitation in the mail today: "We Are Having an Anniversary Dinner for 'BYRON AND EDITH' (Sorry, you're not invited!) "Instead, we would like you to send an anniversary card postmarked by Sept. 3. The card will be given to Byron and Edith at the dinner to add to the surprise." Abby, we weren't the only ones



abigail van buren

• dear abby

who got an "invitation" like this. Have you ever heard of anything like this? Is this something new? I think the people who got these invitations were even more surprised than Byron and Edith will be. — NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING IN OHIO
DEAR SEEN EVERYTHING: No, this is not something new. Social blunders have been happening for years, and this is one of them.

How much more diplomatic it would have been had the request been phrased something like this: "Dear Mr. and Mrs. 'Seen': In honor of Byron and Edith's anniversary, we 'kids' are planning an intimate family gathering. Because you have been treasured friends for so long, we wonder if you would contribute to a 'memory book' we are assembling for them as an added surprise. It need not be long or elaborate — just an experience you have shared with Byron and Edith that was significant. Please send it before Sept. 3. Thanks in advance. — Daughter 'Julie'"
DEAR ABBY: I'm not some

young "chiquita." I'm a mature woman in my 50s. My live-in, "Eli," and I have been together for six years. We were happy, but over the last few months my man has become irritable and lethargic. I did some snooping and discovered that Eli is up to his neck in credit card debt. His job isn't paying well now, but he continues to live as if his income hasn't dried up. He can't seem to accept that he can no longer afford special gifts for himself, his adult children and me. Should I tell Eli I know he's paying an ungodly amount of interest and can't pay off his credit cards, or let him continue to drown in debt?

I'm financially able to help him, but I don't know how to offer, because Eli won't share his need for it. Even if I did, I wouldn't know what to expect in return if I made the offer. Please tell me what to do. — CONCERNED FOR ELI IN KANSAS
DEAR CONCERNED: Eli's irritability and lethargy could be depression related to his credit worries. Or it could be something else. Try to coax him to talk about what "might" be causing it, and suggest the two of you consult his doctor to be sure there's nothing physically wrong. If you can't get him to open up, you may have to admit you know about his money problem. How-

ever, do not offer to bail him out. Instead, urge him to solve his problem by making an appointment with a credit counselor. You can help him to find a reputable credit counseling firm by checking with the Better Business Bureau for the debt management companies he's considering. Also, be sure to ask if the company is a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling or the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies. Both of these groups impose "best practices" standards on their members. This will prevent your partner from being exploited.

SATURDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S-S&T Telephone				SEP. 3, 2005			
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30							
36	47	A&E	City Confidential		Cold Case Files	A telephone sting operation helps police nab killers.		American Justice		City Confidential								
4	6	ABC	College Football Texas A&M at Clemson. (Live)					News		(:05) Seinfeld	Ent. Tonight							
26	54	ANPL	Growing Up... "Penguin" Penguin chick.		City Slickers		Saving the Jackass Penguin	Growing Up... "Penguin" Penguin chick.		City Slickers								
63	67	BRAVO	(5:00) Celebrity Poker Showdown		*** "U-571" (2000) Action	Matthew McConaughey, Allied sailors hatch a dangerous plan to capture a Nazi sub. 'PG-13'		*** "U-571" (2000, Action) Matthew McConaughey, 'PG-13'										
7	11	CBS	Big Brother 6 (N) (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	"Ara Cadaver"	48 Hours Mystery "Murder in the Hamptons"	News	(:35) Paid Program	(:05) Paid Program	(:35) Paid Program							
55	42	DISC	Humanimals: Wild Makeovers		Punkin Chunkin Contestants catapult pumpkins.		Dirty Jobs "Sludge Cleaner"	Area 51 Military base.		America's Loch Ness Monster								
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Naturally Sadie	Phil of the Future	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	*** "A Bug's Life" (1998, Fantasy) Voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey.	Voices of								
49	66	EITV	Girls	Girls	Kill Reality		Saturday Night Live	Taradise	Howard S.	Howard S.								
22	28	ESPN	Football	(:45) College Football	Georgia Tech at Auburn. (Live)			(:45) SportsCenter	(Live)									
23	29	ESPN2	(5:00) College Football	USC at Hawaii. (Live)		(:15) College Football	UCLA at San Diego State. (Live)											
32	58	FAM	*** "Splash" (1984) Tom Hanks.		Who's? Who's?	Housew	Videos	Videos	Videos	Videos								
35	-	FMC	*** "Phar Lap" (1983, Drama) Tom Burlinson.		*** "Joshua Then and Now" (1985, Drama)			"Night in Life of Jimmy"										
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live "Food for hearty appetites."		Unwrapped "Beach"	The Secret Life Of...	Beach Eats Feast of sunny delights.	Iron Chef America	Mario Batali battles Anita Lo.	Emeril Live "Food for hearty appetites."								
13	7	FOX	Cops (PA)	Cops (PA)	America's Most Wanted-Fights Back		She Spies Bomb necklace on Cassie.	Mad TV Nicole Sullivan; Amber Tamblyn.		Blind Date	Blind Date							
40	41	FX	"Someone Like You"		*** "Booby Call" (1997, Comedy) Jamie Foxx.		*** "Just Married" (2003) Ashton Kutcher.											
30	27	FXSP	(5:00) College Football	Louisiana-Lafayette at Texas. (Live)		Big 12 Post	Baseball	Rockies	Track	Knockouts								
-	60	HALL	(5:00) "Hang 'Em High"		*** "Pale Rider" (1985, Western) Clint Eastwood.			M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H								
5	-	HBO	(:15) *** "Ray" (2004, Biography) Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington. Ray Charles overcomes hardships to become a legend. 'PG-13'				*** "Shark Tale" (2004) Voices of Will Smith. Premiere.			Entourage "Exodus"								
62	44	HGTV	Design	Decorating Designer	reDesign	Design	Design	City Grdn	Trading Up	Design	Decorating							
58	48	HIST	Alaska's Bermuda Triangle		Alaska: Big America Alaska shapes the lives of those who come under its spell.		Weird U.S. "Rebels and Traitors"		Alaska's Bermuda Triangle									
25	38	IND	(5:00) MLB Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)		*** "The Specialist" (1994, Drama) (PA) Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone.			College Football	Colorado State at Colorado.									
18	63	LIFE	"Killer Instinct"		*** "Love Lessons" (2000) Patty Duke.		"Miracle in the Woods"	(1997) Meredith Baxter.										
54	74	MTV	Post Show	Real World	Real World	Sweet 16	Sweet 16	Laguna	2005 VMA Pre-Show									
3	9	NBC	Primary Colors		NASCAR Racing Busch Series 300. From California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (Live)		Outrageous TV	Premiere Wk Preview	News	Saturday Night Live								
8	8	NBC	Outrageous TV		NASCAR Racing Busch Series 300. From California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (Live)		News	Saturday Night Live	Luke Wilson; U2.									
34	55	NICK	Nicktoon	Nicktoon	All That	Drake	Foxworthy	Foxworthy	Foxworthy	Roseanne	Roseanne							
2	2	PBS	Keeping Up As Time Goes By		The Lawrence Welk Show		Red Green	Austin City Limits	Soundstage	John Mayer and Buddy Guy.	Tavis Smiley							
38	71	SCIFI	"Snakehead Terror"		"Frankenfish" (2004, Horror) Tory Kittles.		"Dragon Storm" (2004) John Rhys-Davies.											
61	72	SPK	(5:00) "Red Dawn" (N)		Most Amazing Videos		Most Amazing Videos	*** "Death Warrant" (1990, Drama) (N)										
39	43	TLC	Clean Sweep "Clean Me Up Scotty" (N)		While You Were Out		What Not to Wear "Ed"	Town Hall "Mile High" Remodeling a restaurant.	Trading Spaces "Montreal: Dable Viau" (N)									
28	40	TNT	*** "Forrest Gump" (1994) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright.				5 Takes Europe (N)	World Poker Tour										
51	49	TRAV	World Poker Tour					Little House										
21	59	TVLND	Little House		Little House		Little House	Little House										
60	79	UNIV	Sábado Gigante				Impacto	Noticiero	Otro Rollo									
20	37	USA	(5:00) U.S. Open Tennis Men's & Women's Third Round. (Live)				Law Order: CI	The 4400										
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	Colorado Explorer		Inside & Out	Inside & Out	News	(:45) Sports Replay	Everybody-Raymond	Will & Grace						
99	39	WGN	MLB Baseball: Tigers at White Sox				WGN News at Nine	Becker	Becker	Becker	Becker	Home Delivery						

SUNDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S-S&T Telephone				SEP. 4, 2005			
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30							
36	47	A&E	24 "Day 4: 1:00PM-2:00PM" (N)		24 "Day 4: 2:00-3:00PM" (N)		24 "Day 4: 3:00PM-4:00PM" (N)		CSI: Miami "Innocent" (N)	24 "Day 4: 1:00PM-2:00PM" (N)								
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (N)		My Kind of Town (N) (N)		Desperate Housewives "Goodbye for Now" (N)		News	(:35) The 2005 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon								
26	54	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter "Search for a Super Croc" Crocodiles survive for millions of years.		Growing Up... "Penguin" Penguin chick.		The Crocodile Hunter "Search for a Super Croc" Crocodiles survive for millions of years.											
63	67	BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio Jennifer Lopez.		*** "Ronin" (1998, Suspense) Robert De Niro. Five specialists must find a special briefcase. 'R' (N)		Inside the Actors Studio "Queer Eye-Guy" Robert Redford.											
7	11	CBS	Cold Case "Best Friends"		*** "Along Came a Spider" (2001, Mystery) Morgan Freeman, Monica Potter. (DVS)		News	(:35) News	(:05) The Twilight Zone									
55	42	DISC	Deadly Manhunt (Part 1 of 2)		Deadly Manhunt (Part 2 of 2)		Going Tribal The Bwiti religion in Africa.		The FBI Files Searching for the Macherators.		The FBI Files "Death of a Diplomat"							
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Naturally Sadie	Phil of the Future	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	"Go Figure" (2005, Drama) Jordan Hinson. A teenage figure skater joins a girls' hockey team. 'NR'									
49	66	EITV	Celebrity Oops!		Girls		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive	Taradise	Taradise	Girls	Girls							
22	28	ESPN	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Oakland Athletics. (Subject to Blackout)				SportsCenter (Live)				Baseball							
23	29	ESPN2	College Football: Va. Tech at N.C. St.				Gameday	NHRA Drag Racing	Mac Tools U.S. Nationals -- Qualifying.									
32	58	FAM	*** "From Justin to Kelly" (2003, Musical)		Who's? Who's?		Videos	Videos	J. Osteen	Feed								
35	-	FMC	*** "Bad Medicine" (1985) Steve Guttenberg.		*** "The Last Hard Men" (1976) James Coburn		*** "French Kiss" (1995)											
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live "Puffed Pastry" Puff pastry. (N)		Iron Chef America Mario Batali vs. Todd English.		Vegas Pastry Battle Pastry chefs compete.		Unwrapped "Toppings"	Unwrapped "Toppings"	Emeril Live "Puffed Pastry" Puff pastry.							
13	7	FOX	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	Stargate SG-1 "Inauguration" (N)		The Outer Limits A deadly discovery.		*** "Species II" (1998) Michael Madsen.							
40	41	FX	(5:00) "The Principal"		*** "Just Married" (2003) Ashton Kutcher.		*** "The Hot Chick" (2002) Rob Schneider.											
30	27	FXSP	College Football: Colo. St. at Colo.		Poker Superstars		Poker Superstars	Knockouts	Rockies	Myers								
-	60	HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	(:14) M*A*S*H							
5	-	HBO	(5:30) *** "The Rundown" (2003) The Rock. Tommy Lee Jones. 'PG-13'		(:15) *** "Men in Black" (1997, Science Fiction) Will Smith. Premiere.		Rome "The Stolen Eagle"		Rome Mark Antony returns to Rome. (N)									
62	44	HGTV	Designed	Want That	Hardware '05		Design	reDesign	Buy Me	Kitchen	Designed	Want That						
58	48	HIST	World Trade Center: Rise and Fall of an American Icon		Terrorists target an American icon.		Band of Brothers		Search for Noah's Ark		World Trade Center: Rise and Fall							
25	38	IND	*** "Twister" (1996) Helen Hunt. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.		*** "Twister" (1996) Helen Hunt. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.		*** "Pay It Forward" (2000)											
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Return to Me"		*** "Someone She Knows" (1994) Markie Post.		*** "Tall, Dark and Deadly" (1995)											
54	74	MTV	Sweet 16	Laguna	Laguna	Room Rdr	Milonakis	Punk'd	Bam	Pimp Ride	Pimp Ride	Bam						
3	9	NBC	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series -- Sony HD 500. From California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (Live)						News	(:35) Denver Huddle								
8	8	NBC	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series -- Sony HD 500. From California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (Live)						News	(:35) The West Wing								
34	55	NICK	Zoey 101	Romeo! (N)	Full House	Fresh Pr.	Hi-Jinks	Cosby	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.						
2	2	PBS	In Performance at the White House (N)		Mystery! A suspicious death amid accusations about racist policing. (N)		Visions	Globe Trekker	Costa Rica capital of San Jose.		Mystery! "Hetty Wainthropp Investigates"							
38	71	SCIFI	(5:00) "Resident Evil"		*** "The Ninth Gate" (1999, Horror) Johnny Depp.		Tripping	The Outer Limits										
61	72	SPK	Most Amazing Videos		Most Amazing Videos		WWE Heat	*** "Raw Deal" (1986) Arnold Schwarzenegger.										
39	43	TLC	U.S. Marshals: The Real Story		U.S. Marshals: The Real Story "Street Smarts"		Trading Spaces: Family	Very Best of the World's Worst Drivers		Sports Disasters								
28	40	TNT	(5:00) *** "Forrest Gump" (1994)		*** "Forrest Gump" (1994)		Law & Order (DVS)	"Shawshank R."										
51	49	TRAV	America's Best		America's Best		America's Best	America's Best		America's Best								
21	59	TVLND	Little House		Little House		Little House	Little House		Little House								
60	79	UNIV	(5:00) U.S. Open Tennis Men's Third Round & Women's Round of 16.				Law & Order: SVU	The 4400										
20	37	USA	Charmed "Death Becomes Them" (N)		*** "Final Destination 2" (2003, Horror) Ali Larter, A.J. Cook. (N)		News	News Sports	The 2005 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon									
99	39	WGN	*** "Saturday Night Fever" (1977, Drama)				WGN News	Replay	The 2005 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon									

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MONDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S-S&T Telephone				SEP. 5, 2005			
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30							
36	47	A&E	24 "Day 4: 4:00AM-5:00AM" (N)		24 Hope for finding missing evaporates. (N)		24 CTU locates missing nuclear missile. (N)		The Real Exorcists (N)	24 "Day 4: 4:00AM-5:00AM" (N)								
4	6	ABC	College Football Miami at Florida State. (Live)					News	(:05) Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live								
26	54	ANPL	*** "The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course" (2002) Steve Irwin, Terri Irwin.		*** "The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course" (2002) Steve Irwin, Terri Irwin.		Animal Precinct A show becomes aggressive.											
63	67	BRAVO	The West Wing "Talking Points" (N)		The West Wing "No Exit" (N)		The West Wing "Gaza" (N)	The West Wing "Memorial Day" (N)	The West Wing "Lord John Marbury" (N)									
7	11	CBS	The King of Queens "Everybody-Raymond"		Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	CSI: Miami "One Night Stand" (TV) (N)	News	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N)		Tennis							
55	42	DISC	Dirty Jobs San Francisco sewer inspector.		Dirty Jobs Exterminators battle cockroaches.		Dirty Jobs "Pig Farmer"	American Chopper "Junior's Dream Bike 1"	American Chopper "Junior's Dream Bike 2"									
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	The Proud Family	Sister, Sister	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	Movie									
49	66	EITV	Fashion Dos and Don'ts		Girls	Girls	Kill Reality (N)	Taradise	Palms	The Soup	Child Star							
22	28	ESPN	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Los Angeles		Dodgers. (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)			Baseball	NFL Live							
23	29	ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing Mac Tools U.S. Nationals -- Final Eliminations.				Streetball	Streetball	Streetball	Streetball								
32	58	FAM	Wildfire "Impressions"		Beautiful People (N)		Who's? Who's?	The 700 Club	Wildfire "Impressions"									
35	-	FMC	*** "The Detective" (196															