

# Soaps control wife's life



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

there, Myra ignores the bell. We have three adult children. If any of them call during that time, she'll refuse to talk to them even if it's an emergency. Once, it was our older daughter calling to say our son had been taken to the hospital with a major heart attack. Myra's sister died of a stroke one afternoon two years ago. My wife didn't learn about it until the following morning.

On weekends, Myra is always in a bad mood because she says, "My soaps aren't

on today." (The housecleaning doesn't get done then, either, unless I do it.)

What's wrong with people like her? It's not the housework, Abby. I just wish my wife would realize there's more to life than soap operas. Can you think of a way to convince her to get a life, so to speak? — BORED HUSBAND IN AKRON, OHIO

DEAR HUSBAND: I'll try, but you have to realize that you are dealing with someone who is severely addicted. Your wife gets a "rush" from watching her "soaps," and as her behavior on weekends shows, she goes into withdrawal if she doesn't get her "fix."

There may be a solution to this problem. Cable television companies now offer cable boxes that allow viewers to record their favorite television shows on

a hard drive for later viewing. I recommend you look into it. If it's not available in your area, visit an electronics store and see what recording devices it has in stock.

However, as to convincing your spouse "to get a life" and start living it with you, it may already be too late for that. So make sure you have a life of your own by inviting others to join you for lunch and other outings. That might be what it takes to sober her up.

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Peggy's" daughter was married recently. She is 54, and it was her third marriage. Her invitation stated, "No gifts, please." My son and nephew gave the couple a card.

Peggy promptly called them both and informed them that when a wedding invitation states, "No gifts, please," it means that the couple doesn't need household

items, that they should be given money instead.

I am aghast that Peggy would take it upon herself to reprimand my son and nephew and solicit money from them. What do you think of this? Incidentally, my nephew was married two years ago. My niece was invited and never sent a gift to them. — BLOWN AWAY IN BEND, ORE.

DEAR BLOWN AWAY: Where do I begin? For openers, no mention of gifts should have been on the invitation — and that includes "No gifts, please." Where your sister got the crazy idea that the phrase means "give money instead" I will never know. And for her to chastise your son and nephew for not giving her thrice-married daughter money was off the charts. Christmas is coming, and I have

the perfect gift suggestion for her — a book on etiquette.

DEAR ABBY: Is it proper for people to throw themselves a housewarming party? My husband and I are looking into buying our first home, and I'd love to have one. What, exactly, are the rules? Do you have to be newlyweds? I have never been to one or know anyone who has ever had one. Is it still done? — CURIOUS IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR CURIOUS: It is customary for new homeowners, after getting settled in, to invite friends and family over for a housewarming. You don't have to be newlyweds — just new homeowners. Generally, the host and hostess send invitations to prospective guests and provide the food and beverages. And the guests bring gifts for the house. That's all there is to it! Good luck with yours.

SATURDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				DEC. 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 "Vanished"	Cold Case Files "The Missing and the Dead"	American Justice "Blood Relations"	City Confidential											
4	6	ABC	College Football ACC Championship -- Florida State vs. Virginia Tech. From Jacksonville, Fla.	News	(:05) Seinfeld	(:35) Seinfeld												
26	54	ANPL	Growing Up... "Hyena" (N)	Growing Up... "Walrus" (N)	Growing Up... "Giraffe" (N)	Growing Up... "Hyena" (N)	Growing Up... "Walrus" (N)											
63	67	BRAVO	(5:00) *** "Apollo 13" (1995, Historical Drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. PG	*** "Apollo 13" (1995, Historical Drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. PG	*** "Apollo 13" (1995, Historical Drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. PG	*** "Apollo 13" (1995, Historical Drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. PG	*** "Apollo 13" (1995, Historical Drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton. PG											
7	11	CBS	College Football: SEC Championship	The Academy of Country Music's 40th Anniversary Celebration (N)	News	(:35) Paid Program	(:05) Alias "The Confession"											
55	42	DISC	I Shouldn't Be Alive "Swept Away"	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	Humanzee	Wild Child: The Story of Ferid Children											
33	56	DISN	The Buzz on Maggie	The Buzz on Maggie	Naturally Sadie	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	★ "Inspector Gadget" (1999) Matthew Broderick. PG	(:35) Phil of the Future								
49	66	EITV	50 Most Outrageous TV Moments	Saturday Night Live	Saturday Night Live	Saturday Night Live	Saturday Night Live	Dr. 90210	Howard S.	Howard S.								
22	28	ESPN	(5:45) College Football Louisville at Connecticut.	(45) SportsCenter	College Gameday Final													
23	29	ESPN2	College Basketball Rodeo Wrangler National Finals -- Second Round.	Chopper	Streetball													
32	58	FAM	Santa Claus	A Very Barry Christmas	Without Santa	Drummer	Drum II	Stingiest Man in Town										
35	-	FMC	*** "Cinderella Liberty" (1973) James Caan.	"Nell" (1994, Drama) Jodie Foster, Liam Neeson.	"Cinderella Liberty"													
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live "Christmas Holiday" Recipes.	Sandra Lee's Semi-Homemade Holiday (N)	An Italian Christmas With Mario and Giada	Iron Chef America "Flay vs. Sakar"	Emeril Live "Christmas Holiday" Recipes.											
13	7	FOX	Cops (N)	Interrogation Room	America's Most Wanted-Fights Back	Blind Date (N)	Blind Date (N)	Mad TV	Blind Date (N)	Blind Date (N)								
40	41	FX	(5:00) "Booby Call"	★ "The New Guy" (2002, Comedy) D.J. Qualls.	★ "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" (1999)													
30	27	FXSP	Broncos Sports List	Football	College Hockey Colorado College at Denver.	DU Post	Football											
-	60	HALL	"Love's Promise"	"Love's Long Journey" (2005)	(:45) "Love's Long Journey" (2005) Erin Cottrell.	Loves Lng												
5	-	HBO	(5:15) *** "Spanglish" (2004) Adam Sandler. PG-13	★ "The Big Bounce" (2004) Owen Wilson. PG-13	*** "In Good Company" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Dennis Quaid. Premiere. PG-13													
62	44	HGTV	DbI Take Small	First Place	reDesign	Design	Design	City Grn	Trading Up	DbI Take Small								
58	48	HIST	rome: Engineering an Empire	The rise and the fall.	Roman Vice	Roman funeral practices.	Rome: Engineering an Empire											
25	38	IND	★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.	★ "The Wedding Planner" (2001, Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey.	★ "The Waterboy" (1998) Adam Sandler.													
18	63	LIFE	"Stranger in My Bed"	"A Stranger at the Door" (2004) Linda Purl.	"cyber seduction: His Secret Life" (2005, Drama)													
54	74	MTV	Punk'd	Punk'd	Miss 17	Miss 17	Punk'd	Eminem	Eminem	Real World Reunion								
3	9	NBC	Sticks and Stones	On Star	Crossing Jordan Jordan searches for lost boys.	Medium	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "911"	News	Saturday Night Live	Dane Cook, James Blunt. (N)								
8	8	NBC	Crossing Jordan Jordan searches for lost boys.	Medium	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "911"	News	Saturday Night Live	Dane Cook, James Blunt. (N)										
34	55	NICK	School	Drake	All That	Amanda	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.						
2	2	PBS	Daniel O'Donnell: Branson and guests perform.	Encore Daniel O'Donnell and guests perform.	Doo Wop Cavalcade: The Definitive Anthology	A mix of live and archival performances.	Tavis Smiley (N)											
38	71	SCIFI	"Gargoyles: Darkness"	*** "The Hulk" (2003, Action) Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly.	*** "The Shadow"													
61	72	SPK	*** "The Warriors" (1979) Michael Beck.	Most Amazing Videos	*** "Street Fighter" (1994) Raul Julia													
39	43	TLC	Flip That House	Flip That House	While You Were Out Hotel room. (N)	Property Ladder "Desert DIY Disaster"	Moving Up Victorian Sands; Arlen Ness.	Trading Spaces: Operation Home Base (N)										
28	40	TNT	*** "The Wizard of Oz" (1939, Fantasy)	(:15) *** "Twister" (1996, Drama) Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton.	Jumanji													
51	49	TRAV	World Poker Tour	Globe Trekker	World Poker Tour													
21	59	TVLND	Little House	Griffith	Sanford	Farrah	GoodTime	Happening!	Cheers	Night Court	Sanford							
60	79	UNIV	Sábado Gigante	Impacto	Noticiero	Otro Rollo												
20	37	USA	★ ★ "Bruce Almighty" (2003) Jim Carrey.	Law & Order: SVU	Law Order: CI													
12	3	WB	Star Trek: Enterprise "Broken Bow"	Smallville "Tempest"	24 "9:00 AM - 10:00 AM"	News	Sex and the City	Will & Grace										
99	39	WGN	*** "Moonstruck" (1987, Comedy) Cher.	Funniest Home Videos	Sex & City	Becker	Home Imp.	Soul Train										

SUNDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				DEC. 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	The First 48	MovieReal "Syriana" "Syriana." (N)	Intervention (N)	CSI: Miami "Crime Wave"	The First 48											
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (N)	Desperate Housewives "Coming Home" (N)	(:01) Grey's Anatomy (N)	News	(:35) Seinfeld	Lawyer on the Line	Diamond	Adventures								
26	54	ANPL	Chased by Sea Monsters Ocean predators in pre-history.	Chasing Nature "Bighorn Ram"	Chased by Sea Monsters Ocean predators in pre-history.													
63	67	BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio Michael J. Fox.	Great Things About the Holidays	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Baggage"	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Suite Sorrow"	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "See Me"											
7	11	CBS	Cold Case "Family"	★ ★ "Pope John Paul II" (2005, Biography) Jon Voight, Cary Elwes.	News	(:35) News	(:05) Alias "The Box"											
55	42	DISC	Maneaters of Tsavo	10 Deadliest Sharks The horn shark, lemon shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead and others.	I Shouldn't Be Alive Airplane crash survivor.	Living With Tigers Zoo-born tiger cubs.												
33	56	DISN	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	Naturally Sadie	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	★ "Recess: School's Out" (2001, Comedy) Voices of Rickie D'Shon Collins. G									
49	66	EITV	Kids of Dawson's Creek	Dr. 90210	Howard S.	Howard S.	Girls	Gastineau	Kids of Dawson's Creek	Dr. 90210								
22	28	ESPN	NFL	NFL Football	Oakland Raiders at San Diego Chargers.	SportsCenter												
23	29	ESPN2	Series of Poker	Rodeo Wrangler National Finals -- Third Round.	Series of Poker	Poker												
32	58	FAM	"Chasing Christmas" (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold.	"Chasing Christmas" (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold.	Chasing Christmas" (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold.	J. Osteen	Feed											
35	-	FMC	*** "The Fury" (1978, Horror) Kirk Douglas.	*** "Highlander" (1986) Christopher Lambert.	*** "The Fury"													
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live Throwing a Christmas Party	Paula's Southern Christmas (N)	Gingerbread Championships (N)	Behind the Bash	Sugar Rush	Emeril Live Throwing a great holiday party.										
13	7	FOX	The Simpsons	The War at Home	Family Guy	American Dad	Blind Date (N)	Blind Date (N)	Fall Guy	Movie								
40	41	FX	(4:30) "Dr. Dolittle 2"	★ "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" (1999)	★ "Basic" (2003, Suspense) John Travolta.													
30	27	FXSP	College Basketball Virginia Tech at Duke.	Tipoff	College Basketball Gonzaga at Washington.	Poker												
-	60	HALL	"Night-Saved"	★ "A Season for Miracles" (1999, Drama)	"The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue" (1996)													
5	-	HBO	*** "The Day After Tomorrow" (2004, Adventure) Dennis Quaid. PG-13	(:15) ★ "Johnson Family Vacation" (2004, Comedy) Cedric the Entertainer. PG-13	The Sopranos "Two Tonys"													
62	44	HGTV	Designed	Designed	Holiday Windows 2005	If Walls	Renovation	Buy Me	Kitchen	Designed	Designed							
58	48	HIST	Beyond The Da Vinci Code Holy Grail lore.	Da Vinci and the Code He Lived By	The artist's	Modern Marvels Da Vinci inventions. (N)	Beyond The Da Vinci Code Holy Grail lore.											
25	38	IND	★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.	★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.	★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.	★ "Fools Rush In" (1997) Matthew Perry.												
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Fatal Reunion"	★ "To Love, Honor and Betray" (1999)	Missing "Sisterhood"	Strong Medicine												
54	74	MTV	Made "Cheerleader"	Made "Wrestling"	Real World	Real World	Reunion	Home	Punk'd	Punk'd								
3	9	NBC	Dateline NBC	The West Wing "Undecideds" (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Scared Crazy"	Crossing Jordan "A Man in Blue" (N)	News	(:35) 24 "9:00 AM - 10:00 AM"	(:35) Inside Edition (N)									
8	8	NBC	The West Wing "Undecideds" (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Scared Crazy"	Crossing Jordan "A Man in Blue" (N)	News	(:35) 24 "9:00 AM - 10:00 AM"	(:35) Inside Edition (N)										
34	55	NICK	Zoey 101	Romeo!	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fatherhood	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne						
2	2	PBS	(5:00) Andre Rieu: The Flying Dutchman	Celtic Woman Five Irish singers and one violinist perform in Dublin, Ireland.	Globe Trekker "Malaysia and South Thailand"	Mystery! "The Mrs. Bradley Mysteries"												
38	71	SCIFI	"The Mummy Returns"	*** "Jurassic Park" (1993, Science Fiction) Sam Neill, Laura Dern.	*** "Hollow Man"													
61	72	SPK	Ult. Gamer	Ult. Gamer	★ "Street Fighter" (1994) Raul Julia	★ "Scarface" (1983) Al Pacino.												
39	43	TLC	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Incredible Medical Mysteries "Growing Up Old"	A Boy in a Million Proteus syndrome. (N)	Born a Boy, Brought Up a Girl (N)											
28	40	TNT	Law & Order	★ "Miss Congeniality" (2000) Sandra Bullock.	★ "The Engagement Ring" (2005, Romance)													
51	49	TRAV	Monster Trucks	Extreme Concept Cars	Sturgis: The Great Ride	Monster Trucks	Extreme Concept Cars											
21	59	TVLND	Little House	Griffith	Sanford	Farrah	GoodTime	Happening!	Cheers	Night Court	Sanford							
60	79	UNIV	(5:00) La Parodia Lucero.	Ver Para Creer	Impacto	Noticiero	Tras la Verdad											
20	37	USA	★ ★ "Bruce Almighty" (2003) Jim Carrey.	The Dead Zone (N)	Law & Order: SVU													
12	3	WB	Reba	Reba	"Felicity: An American Girl Adventure" (2005, Historical Drama) Shailene Woodley, John Schneider.	News	Sex and the City	Will & Grace "23"										
99	39	WGN	24 "6:00PM - 7:00PM"	7:00PM - 8:00PM	WGN News	Replay	Sex & City	Becker	Maximum Exposure									

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MONDAY EVENING											E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				DEC. 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	The Secret Life of a Serial Killer	Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	Intervention (N)	Crossing Jordan "As If By Fate"	The Secret Life of a Serial Killer										
4	6	ABC	Wife Swap "Pyke/Smith"	NFL Football Seattle Seahawks at Philadelphia Eagles. From Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.	News	(:35) Nightline												
26	54	ANPL	Lucky Travels L.A. (N)	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct (N)	Lucky Travels L.A.	Animal Precinct											
63	67	BRAVO	The West Wing	The West Wing "The Black Vera Wang"	The West Wing "We Killed Yamamoto"	The West Wing "Posse Comitatus"	The West Wing "20 Hours in America"											
7	11	CBS	The King of Queens	How I Met Queens	Two and a Half Men	(:31) Out of Practice	CSI: Miami "From the Grave" (ITV)	News	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late Show								
55	42	DISC	It Takes a Thief "Theft on the Water" (N)	Cash Cab	Cash Cab (N)	Biker Build-Off Zero Engineering.	Biker Build-Off Roland Sands; Arlen Ness.	Monster Garage "Backyard Monsters" (N)										
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	The Proud Family	Sister, Sister	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ ★ "Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas" (2004, Fantasy) G	(:20) Life With Derek								
49	66	EITV	101 SNL Moments	101 SNL Moments	Dr. 90210 (N)	Girls	Girls	101 SNL Moments										
22	28	ESPN	Countdown	Figure Skating Cup of Russia. From St. Petersburg, Russia. (Taped)	SportsCenter													
23	29	ESPN2	Women's College Basketball	Code	Rodeo Wrangler National Finals -- Third Round.	Rodeo												
32	58	FAM	★ ★ "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton.	Who? Who?	The 700 Club	Videos	Videos											
35	-	FMC	★ "99 and 44/100 Percent Dead" (1974)	*** "Miller's Crossing" (1990, Drama)	"99-44/100 Prc"													
53	45	FOOD	Emeril's Christmas Party	Unwrapped "Holidays"	The Secret Life Of... "Christmas"	Iron Chef "Crab" Crab buffet.	Emeril's Christmas Party											
13	7	FOX	Arrested Dev.	Kitchen Confid.	Nanny 911 "Maucione Family" (N)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Blind Date	Blind Date	Maury Crimes; cheaters.									
40	41	FX	Married... Married...	King of Hill	King of Hill	'70s Show	'70s Show	*** "Speed" (1994) Keanu Reeves.										
30	27	FXSP	All-Access Football	Crush	Crush Girls	All-Access	College Basketball Minnesota at Arizona State.	Best-Sports										