

Mom has her own life

DEAR ABBY: I think you were a bit harsh regarding the mother-in-law of "Forgotten in Idaho." You called her "flawed and self-centered" because she has refused to visit her son and his family during the last five years. (Apparently she went once, while her husband was still living.)

I'm 73, and can't travel comfortably for a number of physical reasons I don't care to share with my children. I also have a full life with my friends, volunteer work, plus e-mails and phone contact with all of my four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Being with a large group — even family — for more than a few hours, especially after a tiring trip, takes a physical toll on me. I never seem able to take my medicines on time.

I don't feel I'm selfish, nor do my children, if I don't choose to visit them at their homes. They visit me when they can, and we always have a good time. I accept them and their chosen lifestyles; they accept my preferences without my having to give them a detailed explanation.

You were wrong to call the woman "self-centered and flawed." Perhaps it's the son and daughter-in-law who are selfish and self-centered to expect his mother to conform to their wishes. I'll bet you get quite a few women challenging your answer. — LEE B. IN SANTA BAR-



abigail van buren

• dear abby

BARA

DEAR LEE: You're right. I got blasted. Not only have I been flogged with wet noodles, I'm drenched in marinara sauce. Here's a "taste":

DEAR ABBY: Flawed? "Flawed" because she doesn't care to make trips to Idaho? That lady has a life of her own, for crying out loud. Lether live it! If she's like most women our age, it's the first time in her life she comes first instead of the kids. Apparently she's active and healthy. She certainly isn't "flawed," as you assert.

I'm just short of 75, and let me tell you, about 2 1/2 hours with the little ones and I'm ready to go home. I am not alone in that feeling, and none of us consider ourselves "flawed." Bad choice of words, my dear. — ANNE, JOLIET, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: You owe that senior an apology for the harsh criticism when she did nothing wrong. Many single women her age are demanding of their children. They should be proud and happy she is doing well and enjoying what could be the last 10 years of her life. Grandmoth-

erly feelings come in our 40s and 50s. By our 70s, we have great grandchildren and, trust me, enjoying them from afar is sufficient. Nature meant those final years to finally bring some enjoyment in life from OUR choice of recreation — not our children's. If not now, when? — ANOTHER INDEPENDENT SENIOR (75) WHO WILL ALSO NEVER FLY

DEAR ABBY: I can relate to that mother-in-law because we have a similar problem. The "real" reason we don't visit our four grandchildren often is because they are undisciplined and have never been taught the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. It's stressful and exhausting to be around them. Please remind parents that relatives do not want to be around undisciplined and poorly behaved children. — AT-LANTA GRANDPARENTS

DEAR ABBY: The mother-in-law is 72. As people age, they tend to be uncomfortable leaving their homes and routines. That's one reason why retirement communities and care facilities have structured activities and schedules. It gives the aging comfort to know what's coming.

So cut that mother-in-law some slack. And tell "Idaho" she has two choices: Take it or leave it. — HEIKE IN ST. CLOUD, MINN.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUESDAY EVENING

| | | 6PM | 6:30 | 7PM | 7:30 | 8PM | 8:30 | 9PM | 9:30 | 10PM | 10:30 |
|-------|-------|--|-------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| E S | | E = Eagle Cable | | | | S = S&T Telephone | | | | | |
| 36 47 | A&E | Investigative Reports: San Francisco Vice | Dog Bounty (TVPG) | Dog Bounty (TVPG) | "Murderball" ('05, Documentary) Mark Zupan, Joe Soares. Wheelchair rugby competitors. | Investigative Reports: San Francisco Vice | | | | | |
| 4 6 | ABC | According Jim (R) | Rodney (N) (HD) | According Jim (HD) | George Lopez (R) | Boston Legal: ... There's Fire! (N) (HD) | KAKE News at 10 (N) | (35) Nightline (N) | (05) Jimmy Kimmel (TV14) | | |
| 26 54 | ANPL | Wild Rio | | The Most Extreme: Wild Parties (TV G) | | Animals Behaving Badly (TV G) | Wild Rio | | The Most Extreme: Wild Parties (TV G) | | |
| 63 67 | BRAVO | Inside the Actor's Studio: Dave Chappelle Dave Chappelle had his own TV show. (TVPG) | | | | Eye (TV14) | Project Runway: Reunion Designers reunite. | | Kathy Griffin Is ... Not Nicole Kidman | | |
| 7 11 | CBS | NCIS: Family Secret (TVPG) (N) (HD) | | Amazing Race 9: Here We Go, Baby, Off to Win a Million Bucks! (N) | | | Eyewitness News | The Late Show with David Letterman (HD) | Ferguson (TV14) | | |
| 55 42 | DISC | MythBusters: Paper Crossbow (TVPG) | | Dirty Jobs: Chimney Sweeper (TV14) | | Stunt: Cliff Biker (TVPG) | Survivor (TVPG) | Deadliest Catch: High Hopes (TVPG) | MythBusters: Paper Crossbow (TVPG) | | |
| 33 56 | DISN | Kim (TVY7) | So Raven (TVY7) | Sister (TV) | The Suite (TVY7) | Phil (TVY7) | So Raven (TVY7) | "High School Musical" ('06, Family) Zac Efron. A jock and a brainiac become friends. (NR) | | | |
| 49 66 | E!TV | E! Story (TVPG) | | | | The Girls | The Girls | SNL (TV14) | Sexiest Bodies | | |
| 22 28 | ESPN | ⊗ Basketball (Live) | | ⊗ Basketball: Big 10 Wildcard (Live) | | | ⚡ SportsCenter (HD) | Fast Break | Outside | | |
| 23 29 | ESPN2 | ⊗ (5:30) Basketball (Live) | | ⊗ NBA Coast from Bristol, Conn. | | | Quite from New York | College Basketball | | | |
| 32 58 | FAM | "Never Been Kissed" Reporter goes back to school. | | | | Line | The 700 Club | Home Video | Home Video | | |
| 35 - | FMC | "Frankenstein" ('90) John Hurt. | | "Death Hunt" ('81) ★★ Charles Bronson. (R) | | "Monsignor" ('82) ★★ (R) | | | | | |
| 53 45 | FOOD | Emeril Live: Emeril's Delmonico (TV G) | | Kitchen Gadgets of the Future | | \$40 a Day | \$40 a Day | Iron Chef: Battle Lamb (TV G) | Emeril Live: Emeril's Ragin' Cajun Cookin' | | |
| 13 7 | FOX | American Idol Ten female semifinalists perform. (TV G) (N) (HD) | | War at Home (HD) | | Fox Report | Blind Date (TVPG) | Blind Date (TVPG) | Maury DNA results are in. (TVPG) (R) | | |
| 27 25 | FX | King | King | 70s | 70s | "The Core" ('03, Drama) | ★★ Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank. (PG-13) | | | | |
| 30 27 | FXSP | Boxing | D. Costa | Dance | Rodeo (Taped) | | Best Sports | Spotlight | List | BDSSP | |
| - 60 | HALL | Walker: End Run | | "The Family Plan" ('05) Woman fibs for a job | | MASH | MASH | MASH | MASH | | |
| 5 - | HBO | (5:00) "Evita" ('96, Musical) ★★ Eva Perone. | | (1:15) "Love and Death on Long Island" ('97) ★★ Infatuation leads man to desperate acts. | | "Mrs. Harris" ('06) A famed cardiologist meets a brutal end. | | | "D. Dandridge" (R) | | |
| 62 44 | HGTV | Designed | Remix | Decorating | Mission | House Hunt | Buy Me | My Parents | Designer | Designed | Remix |
| 58 48 | HIST | Risk Takers / History Makers | | Shootout: Iraq's Most Wanted (TVPG) | | Marvels (TVPG) | | UFO Files: Russian Roswell (TVPG) | Risk Takers / History Makers | | |
| 25 38 | IND | Friends | Friends | Sex & City (TVMA) | Sex & City (TVMA) | Seinfeld (TVPG) | Seinfeld (TVPG) | (1:10) "Little Nicky" ('00, Comedy) ★½ Adam Sandler. Satan's shy, clumsy son heads to NYC. | | | |
| 18 63 | LIFE | "Neighbor" ('05) (NR) | | "Thy Neighbor's Wife" Seeking revenge. (R) | | Will (HD) | Will (HD) | Gold Girls | Gold Girls | | |
| 54 74 | MTV | MADE | Date My | Parental | Room Raid | Direct Effect (TVPG) | Gauntlet | Gauntlet | Gauntlet | Coral | |
| 3 9 | NBC | 9 News (N) | ET (TV G) | Deal or No Deal (TVPG) (N) | | Scrubs (TV14) (N) | Scrubs (TV14) (N) | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N) (HD) | 9 News (N) (HD) | (35) Jay Leno (HD) | |
| 8 8 | NBC | Deal or No Deal (TVPG) (N) | | Scrubs (TV14) (N) | Scrubs (TV14) (N) | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N) (HD) | KSN News at 10 (TV G) | (35) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (HD) | Conan O'Brien (HD) | | |
| 34 55 | NICK | Sponge | Guide | Full House | Hi-Jinks | Roseanne | Roseanne | Roseanne | Cosby | Bel-Air | Bel-Air |
| 2 2 | PBS | Nova: Arctic Passage Two attempts to discover a northern route to the Pacific (N) (HD) | | Slavery: The Challenge of Freedom (TVPG) | | BBC World News | Hardwre | Charlie Rose (N) | | | |
| 38 71 | SCIFI | "Army of Dark" ('93) | | "Alien Apocalypse" ('05) | | Earth enslaved. | | "Man with the Screaming Brain" ('05) ½ | | | |
| 61 72 | SPK | Exposure (TV14) | | Police (TV14) | | CSI: Fight Night | | CSI: Crime: Pilot | CSI: Cold Change | | |
| 39 43 | TLC | While You Leaky roof repair. (TV G) | | Martha (TV G) | | Rides: Hollywood Hot Rods (TV G) | | Overhaulin': Neighborhood Watching (TV G) | Overhaulin' (TV G) | | |
| 28 40 | TNT | Law & Order (HD) | | Law & Order (HD) | | Closer (TV14) | | Cold Case: The Plan | The X-Files: Patient X | | |
| 51 49 | TRAV | Mardi Gras | Taste | Made | Made | Texas (TV G) | | Mardi Gras | Taste | Made | Made |
| 21 59 | TVLN | Prairie (TV G) | | Griffith | Sanford | Times | Times | Happening | Cheers | Court | Sanford |
| 67 79 | UNIV | Contra viento y | | Alborada | | Lo que no vio | | Primer imp | Noticiero | La hora de (TVPG) | |
| 20 37 | USA | Law & Order (HD) | | "Training Day" ('01) ★★ | | Rookie rides with a veteran cop. | | Law & Order (HD) | SVU (HD) | | |
| 12 3 | WB | Friends (TV14) | Raymond: The Skit | Giuliano: Girls: Bridesmaids Revisited (HD) | | Supernatural: Shadow (N) (HD) | | WB2 News at Nine (N) | Sex & City (TV14) | Will (TV14) | |
| 99 39 | WGN | DaVinci's (TV14) | | DaVinci's (TV14) | | WGN News at Nine | | Sex & City | Becker | Home Videos | |

THURSDAY EVENING

| | | 6PM | 6:30 | 7PM | 7:30 | 8PM | 8:30 | 9PM | 9:30 | 10PM | 10:30 |
|-------|-------|--|------------------|---|---------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| E S | | E = Eagle Cable | | | | S = S&T Telephone | | | | | |
| 36 47 | A&E | The First 48: On Ice; Body in the Canal | | The First 48: Pack of Lies (TVPG) | | Confronting Evil: America Undercover | | Crossing Jordan: You Really Got Me (HD) | | The First 48: On Ice; Body in the Canal | |
| 4 6 | ABC | "Sweet Home Alabama" ('02) ★★ A fashion designer is torn between two men. (R) (HD) | | | | Primetime (N) | | KAKE News at 10 (N) | (35) Nightline (N) | (05) Jimmy Kimmel (TV14) | |
| 26 54 | ANPL | All New Planet's Funniest Animals (TV G) | | All New Planet's Funniest Animals (TV G) | | Animal Precinct: Blinded By Neglect (TV G) | | All New Planet's Funniest Animals (TV G) | | All New Planet's Funniest Animals (TV G) | |
| 63 67 | BRAVO | "The Mod Squad" ('99, Action) ½ Claire Danes. Three young delinquents go undercover. | | | | Outrageous | Outrageous | Inside the Actor's Studio: Dave Chappelle Dave Chappelle had his own TV show. (TVPG) | | | |
| 7 11 | CBS | Survivor Exile: For Cod's Sake (N) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (TV14) (HD) | | Without a Trace: The Little Things (N) (HD) | | Eyewitness News | (35) David Letterman (TVPG) | Ferguson (TV14) | |
| 55 42 | DISC | UFO Over Illinois Explanation sought. (TV G) | | Strangest UFO: The Great Alien Conspiracy | | Conspiracy Theories: Roswell | | Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science (TVPG) | | UFO Over Illinois Explanation sought. (TV G) | |
| 33 56 | DISN | Kim (TVY7) | So Raven (TVY7) | Sister (TV) | The Suite: Crushed | Phil (TVY7) | So Raven (TVY7) | "Motocrossed" ('01, Family) Alana Austin. Girl poses as brother to win race. | | | |
| 49 66 | E!TV | E! Special (TVPG) | | 50 Best Chick Flicks: Sex, Cries & Videotape | | | | SNL: Ben Affleck | 101 Oopsls: 60-41 | | |
| 22 28 | ESPN | ⊗ Basketball (Live) | | ⊗ Basketball (Live) | | | ⚡ SportsCenter (HD) | BB Tonight | Outside | | |
| 23 29 | ESPN2 | ⊗ Basketball (Live) | | ⊗ Basketball (Live) | | | Quite from New York | K-Ville | | | |
| 32 58 | FAM | "The Parent Trap" ('98) ★★ Twins conspire to reunite their parents. | | | | The 700 Club | | Home Video | Home Video | | |
| 35 - | FMC | "Six Pack" ('82) Kenny Rogers, Diane Lane. | | | | "Rookie of the Year" ('93, Comedy) ★★ (PG) | | "Six Pack" ('82) ★★ | | | |
| 53 45 | FOOD | Emeril Live: Kids Cook the Darndest Things | | Food Challenge: Disney Dream Desserts | | Iron Chef America: Batali vs. Besh (TV G) | | Emeril Live: Smokin' Soups and Stews | | Emeril's Mystery Basket (TV G) | |
| 13 7 | FOX | American Idol (TV G) | | Skating with Celebrities (TVPG) (N) | | Fox Report | | Blind Date (TVPG) | Blind Date (TVPG) | Maury (TVPG) (R) | |
| 27 25 | FX | 70s | 70s | King | King | 70s | 70s | "X-Men" ('00, Action) Mutant superheroes. | | | |
| 30 27 | FXSP | Boxing | Baseball (Taped) | | | ⊗ College Basketball UCLA at California (Live) | | BDSSP | | | |
| - 60 | HALL | Walker (TVPG) | | "Firm" ('93, Thriller) ★★ Man finds what seems the perfect job. (R) | | | | MASH | MASH | | |
| 5 - | HBO | "Along-Polly" ★★ Dare to Dream: Story of U.S. Women's Soccer Team (TVPG) | | | | "The Chronicles of Riddick" ('04, Science Fiction) ★★½ Vin Diesel, Colm Feore. (HD) | | "Dodgeball: True Underdog" ('04) ★★½ HBO | | | |
| 62 44 | HGTV | 1st Place | reDesign | Divine | Challenge | House Hunt | House Hunt | Design | Big Style | 1st Place | reDesign |
| 58 48 | HIST | Cities of the Underworld | | Secrets of the Koran | | Declassified: Ayatollah Khomeini (TVPG) | | History Undercover: Revenge! (TVPG) | | Cities of the Underworld | |
| 25 38 | IND | Friends | Friends | "Tommy Boy" ('95, Comedy) ★★ Chris Farley. Underachiever takes over dad's business. | | (1:10) "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!" ('88) ★★ Queen in peril. (PG-13) | | | | | |
| 18 63 | LIFE | "Her Best Friend" | | "When Husbands Cheat" Husband cheats. | | Will (HD) | Will (HD) | Gold Girls | Gold Girls | | |
| 54 74 | MTV | MADE | Date My | Parental | Room Raid | World: Key (TV14) | | True Life | N. Cannon | N. Cannon | |
| 3 9 | NBC | 9 News (N) | ET (TV G) | Deal or No Deal (TVPG) (N) | | Name Is Earl (HD) | The Office (N) (HD) | (59) ER: Darfur (TV14) (N) (HD) | 9 News (N) (HD) | (35) Jay Leno (HD) | |
| 8 8 | NBC | Deal or No Deal (TVPG) (N) | | Name Is Earl (HD) | The Office (N) (HD) | (59) ER: Darfur (TV14) (N) (HD) | KSN News at 10 (TV G) | (35) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (HD) | Conan O'Brien (HD) | | |
| 34 55 | NICK | Sponge | Romeo! | Full House | Bel-Air | Roseanne | Roseanne | Roseanne | Cosby | Bel-Air | Bel-Air |
| 2 2 | PBS | Sunflow. | River (TV G) | This Old House Hour (TV G) (N) | | Antiques Roadshow: Los Angeles, CA (N) | | BBC World News | Appearance | Charlie Rose | |
| 38 71 | SCIFI | "Fatal Error" ('99) ★★ | | "Disaster Zone: Volcano in New York" ('06) | | | | "Terminal Error" ('02, Thriller) Deadly virus. | | | |
| 61 72 | SPK | Exposure: Going for It | | Police (TV14) | | CSI | | CSI (TVPG) | MXC | MXC | |
| 39 43 | TLC | While You Were Out: Austin: Carpe Diem | | Martha (TV G) | | Now See This! Fishing boat ride. (TVPG) | | Can't Believe You Did That | | Miami Ink: The Ink That Binds (TVPG) | |
| 28 40 | TNT | (5:00) NBA Basketball (Live) (HD) | | ⊗ NBA Basketball (Live) (HD) | | | | Inside the NBA (Live) | | | |
| 51 49 | TRAV | Vac. Homes | Vac. Homes | Flight | Flight | Dream RVs (TV G) | | Vac. Homes | Vac. Homes | Flight | Flight |
| 21 59 | TVLN | Prairie: The Legacy | | Griffith | Sanford | Times | Times | Happening | Cheers | Court | Sanford |
| 67 79 | UNIV | Contra viento y | | Alborada | | Aqui y ahora (TVMA) | | Primer imp | Noticiero | La hora de (TVPG) | |
| 20 37 | USA | Law & Order (HD) | | "Submerged" ('05) Terrorists taken over a nuclear sub. | | | | Law & Order (HD) | SVU (HD) | | |
| 12 3 | WB | Friends (TV14) | Raymond (TVPG) | Smallville: Splitter (TVPG) (R) (HD) | | Beauty and the Geek (N) | | WB2 News at Nine (N) | Sex & City (TV14) | Will (TV14) | |
| 99 39 | WGN | "Three Amigos" ('86) ★★ Stars go South. (PG) | | | | WGN News at Nine | | Sex & City | Becker | Home Videos | |

MARCH 2, 2006

SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | 8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York | | 7 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Syracuse Orange at DePaul Blue Demons from Rosemont Horizon | |
| | | Wednesday Afternoon | | Friday | |
| 4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | 12 p.m. ESPN2 USA Soccer International Friendly Match Poland vs. USA from Germany | | 7:30 p.m. TNT NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs from The SBC Center | |
| 5p.m. ESPN College Basketball Pittsburgh Panthers at West Virginia Mountaineers from The WVU Coliseum | | 4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | 9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | |
| 5:30 p.m. ESPN2 Women's College Basketball Connecticut Lady Huskies at Rutgers Lady Scarlet Knights from Brown Athletic Center | | 5 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Duke Blue Devils at Florida State Seminoles from The Leon County Civic Center | | 2:30 a.m. ESPN2 International Baseball World Baseball Classic Japan vs. China from Japan | |
| 7 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Oklahoma State Cowboys at Oklahoma Sooners from The Lloyd Noble Center | | 7 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Houston Rockets from Toyota Center | | 8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York | |
| 9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | 8 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball Utah Utes at Texas Christian Horned Frogs from Daniel-Meyer Coliseum | | | |
| 10 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball Boise State Broncos at Fresno State Bulldogs from Selland Arena | | 9:30 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | | |
| 11 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | 8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York | | | |
| 8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York | | Thursday | | | |
| | | 11 a.m. ESPN2 College Basketball CIAA Tournament Quarterfinal 1 from Charlotte, N.C. | | | |
| | | 1 p.m. USA PGA Tournament Ford Championship at Doral: First Round from Miami | | | |
| | | 4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | | |
| Tuesday | | 5 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Big 10 Wildcard Wisconsin Badgers vs Michigan State Spartans from Breslin Events Center | | 5 p.m. ESPN NBA Shootaround from New York | |
| 4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | ESPN2 College Basketball CIAA Tournament Quarterfinal 3 from Charlotte, N.C. | | ESPN2 College Basketball CIAA Tournament Semifinal 1 from Charlotte, N.C. | |
| 5p.m. ESPN College Basketball Louisiana State Fighting Tigers at South Carolina Gamecocks from McGuire Arena | | TNT NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Chicago Bulls from The United Center | | 5:30 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Philadelphia 76ers from Wachovia Center | |
| 7 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Big 10 Wildcard Illinois Fighting Illini vs Minnesota Golden Gophers from Williams Arena | | | | 7 p.m. ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Demetrius Hopkins vs. Mario Jose Ramos | |
| 7:30p.m. ESPN2 NBA Coast to Coast from Bristol, Conn. | | | | 8 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Utah Jazz from The Delta Center | |
| 9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | | | | 10:30 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn. | |