

DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

Grandma won't surrender child

DEAR MEG — My husband and I have cared for our granddaughter for most of her life. Beth is 3 now.

Elise, our daughter, is 19 and back on drugs. She's living with her latest boyfriend, who's 34. They both sell and use drugs. Neither one of them is interested in Beth.

Yet there are times when Elise calls and says she wants Beth back. I can't find it in my heart to believe her. She's had four abortions and doesn't give a hoot about her daughter. At one point she was on welfare, but she never spent a dime on Beth. It all went for coke.

We live in fear, because Elise has a gift for charm and smooth talk. With her drug history, can she still take Beth away from us in a court of law? — IDAHO GRANDPARENTS

DEAR GRANDPARENTS — See a lawyer who specializes in family law. If you haven't already done so, sue for permanent — or at least temporary — custody of Beth. Drug addicts can charm the birds out of the trees when they want to, but your bottom line is saving Beth.

Drug use and pushing are crimes for which Elise could be arrested and either jailed or forced into a mandatory rehabilitation program. Pray this happens. It's your daughter's only hope.

DEAR MEG — I have a sister-in-law in her mid-20s who is in love with a man she hasn't seen in three years. He's in the Navy somewhere overseas. She says he calls her occasionally, and last year he sent her flowers for her birthday — the first indication to me that he actually exists.

Gerri lives alone, is self-employed, and has no desire to meet people. Getting her to a restaurant or a movie is like pulling teeth. She just sits in her living room surrounded by photographs of this guy. But she doesn't like to talk about him.

Gerri is young, pretty, intelligent and likable. How can I convince her that there are some nice women around whom she could at least be friends with? Men, too, for that matter. She's a hermit, and I honestly don't think her mystery man knows she's waiting for him. Is this devotion or depression? — ANN, SEATTLE

DEAR ANN — It could be both. But you're not going to know unless Gerri opens up, and it isn't likely she will.

The way I see it, Gerri is either pining for the guy or has fled to a fantasy land because he is no longer part of her life. Stick by her. She needs a friend.

his job and in our old house, which is provided by his firm. He says that's what our boy would have wanted.

I'm deathly afraid of that house. I have nightmares about the night my son died, and that I could have saved him. I feel my older boy is all I have left, and I have fears I'll lose him, too.

Please help me. My husband and I are both 32.

I never want another baby, but Ed hopes I'll change my mind. — GIVING UP IN OREGON

DEAR FRIEND — Losing a child is the most devastating blow a parent can suffer. More than the death of a parent, mate or sibling, it can bring on feelings of intense guilt — at not having been able to prevent it — and severe depression, just like yours. It can even threaten a marriage.

You'll get help in coping with your despair through Compassionate Friends, a national support group for bereaved parents. Write P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696, or call (312) 990-0010.

DEAR MEG — I'm a 46-year-old married businessman with two teenage daughters and a 24-year-old son. For the past six months I have been having an affair with my secretary, who is 22.

Two of my friends in the office know about it, but my family doesn't. I have made certain that my co-workers, especially my secretary, have never met my wife or my children.

That is why I was so shocked to see my son and my secretary walking down the street holding hands last week.

My dilemma is not about my secretary being unfaithful to me (maybe she isn't), but whether I should tell her the man she's seeing is my son. Please tell me what you think. — DANGEROUS DILEMMA, PHOENIX, ARIZ.

DEAR DILEMMA — I think you should stay out of it. Your son must know where she works, and I'd find it hard to believe she doesn't know who he is. I also think you should end your little liaison before the whole thing blows sky high.

DEAR MEG — I'm a teenager, and I like to be in my room with the door locked because that's the only place I get any privacy.

But my parents insist that I keep the door unlocked. They say, "If you lock your door, you must have something to hide."

How can I get them to see my side? I don't have anything to hide — just me, myself and I. — LOCKED UP AND LIKING IT, FOREST HILLS, N.Y.

DEAR LOCKED — Privacy is a key issue for teenagers and should be respected. Many parents don't realize that youngsters need time as well as territory for themselves.

Since you have nothing to hide, locking your door shouldn't be necessary. (It could also be a problem in case of an emergency.) Tell the folks you want to make a deal. You'll keep your door unlocked if they'll respect your privacy. That means not walking in without knocking.

Employment and Immigration Canada



Halton Hills job board

The Canada Employment Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is located at 232 Guelph Street in Georgetown. The following represents only a few of the jobs posted on the CEC's Job Boards.

Order 0790728 - MEAT WRAPPER - Permanent fulltime. Must work Saturdays, with day off being Monday or Tuesday. Experience as a meat wrapper an asset. Enjoy working with the public and be neat and tidy. \$5-\$7.50/hour depending on experience.

Order 0831325 - PRESSER - Permanent fulltime Monday to Friday. Some experience preferred but employer will train a reliable person seeking long term employment. \$5/hour plus, depending on experience.

Order 0809181 - SALES REPRESENTATIVE - Permanent fulltime. Sales background preferred but not necessary. Employer is willing to train an organized and disciplined person. Own vehicle is necessary. \$13,000/year plus commission.

Order 0698319 - PLUMBER, INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL - Prefer a journeyman but would consider a 4th or 5th year apprentice with Gas fitter's licence. Clean "G" licence. Must have previous experience in repairs and service. \$13/hour.

Order 0837498 - TIRE CHANGER - Permanent fulltime plus the odd evening. Must have experience in some type of automotive, i.e. garage or shop school. Able to lift up to 50 lbs. \$6.50/hour plus commission.

Order 0834294 - TOW TRUCK DRIVER - Must have a clear "G" licence and own transportation. Tow truck driving experience preferred and several years general driving experience a must. \$7/hour plus, depending on experience.

Order 083387 - YARD PERSON - YARD HELPER - Must have experience using cutting torches. Some auto parts knowledge essential. Own transportation a must. Can work full or part time, as desired. \$6/hour to start.

Order 0782447 - DIESEL MECHANIC OR APPRENTICE - Permanent fulltime. Must be minimum 2nd year registered apprentice. Previous experience on diesel trucks required. Must be flexible regarding days of work in the week. Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Order 0828902 - LANDSCAPER - Must have previous experience as a landscaper. Clean class "G" licence and own transportation. Salary is negotiable, depending on experience.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, visit the Georgetown CEC.

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