

# JUST A LITTLE TOUCH COULD MEAN BIG SAVINGS

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### Deadlines

For Wednesday's edition, the deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Saturday's edition, the deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m.

## Bicycles Send Friendship With Neighbors Off-Course



By Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: About a week ago, my new neighbors asked to borrow my children's bicycles. I told them that we had only two bicycles that were in good shape. They needed three. We did have a bike that wasn't working properly, but we never got around to having it repaired.

The new neighbor said her husband was a mechanic and she'd ask him to look at it and see if maybe he could fix it. I said, "OK," so she took the bike, which made three.

The next day, I got a call from this neighbor telling me that her husband had fixed the bike and said she was bringing it over. So, she brought the three bikes over and said, "You owe me \$10."

I nearly fainted. I did not pay her anything because I thought her husband was fixing the bike as a favor, because we let his kids use the two bikes that were in really good shape.

I hate to get on the bad side of our new neighbors, but I really thought they were out of line. Should I pay them? Our kids play together. They are not hard up. I would say we are in about the same circumstances.

LITTLE TOWN IN TEXAS

DEAR LITTLE TOWN: You didn't ask your neighbor to repair the bike — it was repaired voluntarily. (She offered, and you accepted her offer.) Nothing was said about charging for repairing it, so you had a right to assume that your neighbor repaired it as a favor. Perhaps you should remind her.

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DEAR ABBY: I just received some responses from my wedding invitations, and was shocked to receive a blunt "NO" with a check enclosed. There was no explanation, or any kind of message wishing the bridal couple well.

Without mentioning any names, I told a friend about this, and she

said she had received two such responses to her wedding invitations. We both had the feeling that these people sent checks as though they were discharging some kind of obligation.

Abby, how do you see this?

A LITTLE RAIN ON MY WEDDING

DEAR RAIN: It would appear that the wedding invitation was perceived as a "bill," which was promptly paid by the recipient. Not a very gracious way to give a wedding gift, but at least the invitee let the bride know he or she would not attend the wedding, which is more than many invitees do, I'm told.

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DEAR ABBY: You often warn readers not to leave pets locked in cars in the summertime. I work in the emergency room of a hospital. We have had many small children brought in screaming uncontrollably for no apparent reason. Upon examination, we've found a square red mark on the child's abdomen — which proved to be a burn.

Abby, the buckle of a seat belt gets hot enough to blister a baby's sensitive skin, so please warn your readers about buckling a child in a car that's been sitting in the hot sun.

JOSEPH A. DORBEY, BALTIMORE

DEAR JOSEPH DORBEY: This is a "first"; thanks for the tip.

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This one's for everybody, from teens to seniors! To purchase Abby's new booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054. (Postage is included.)

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