

DEAR ABBY

Girlfriend hits the road amid man's rough stretch

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior male who has been married and divorced twice. For the last eight years, I have been in a relationship with an amazing woman. She has always had some control issues, but because of the love we share, I was able to look past them.

I've always been the one who paid for everything. I recently had some heart issues and was unable to work my part-time job, so my income was reduced. I was no longer able to continue to do the things she was used to. She recently retired

and wants to do more traveling, which, at this time, I can't afford. This has caused friction.

Two years ago, I put a ring on her finger, which she accepted with reservation, telling me she never wanted to get married or live together. She likes things the way they are. She recently told me she's no longer in love with me the way she had been.

I don't want to think badly of her, but I think it's because of my health and financial issues. This hurts so bad. For some reason, I still love her and can't move on. I'm a hopeless romantic and a true gentleman. I'm gun-shy about trying again at 70, but I hate being alone and depressed. What do you suggest? — **DISILLUSIONED IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: I am sorry you are depressed and hurting. From what you have written, I can only conclude that when you were paying for everything, your ladylove liked the ride she was on. Now that things have changed financially, she has jumped off, so to speak. You may not believe this right now, but you are lucky she has shown her true colors.

You do not have to stay alone and depressed. You also do not have to participate in relationships that are all give and no take. With this in mind, look for women who are independent and willing to share some of the financial costs of a relationship. You may be surprised to find that there are many out there.

DEAR ABBY: My wealthy uphill neighbor and I share a retaining wall, which has been damaged by her reckless irrigation practices. Since the damage can be seen only from my side, she's not concerned.

An inspector recommended excavating on her side to allow waterproofing the wall and installing a drainpipe.

I wanted to bring in a wall contractor to get an estimate, but she would not allow it. Evidently, she doesn't want any of the plants in her backyard disturbed.

Two weeks ago, she notified me by certified mail that she would no longer communicate with me. The city says it doesn't get involved in beefs between

neighbors. I'm at my wits' end. Any advice? — **HOG-TIED IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR HOG-TIED: Because water causes erosion, it is only a matter of time before your property is affected by your neighbor's drainage. She may have sent you that certified letter on advice from her lawyer. This is why you now need to engage legal counsel of your own. She's a difficult person, and you need to protect yourself and your property.

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



DEAR ABBY



Sioux City Mayor Pro Tem Julie Schoenherr met with West Middle School eighth graders on Thursday, discussing ways that young people could better connect with their community.

Students

From A1

"I know I'm on social media even more than my siblings," Joaquin, the oldest of four children, explained. "I would be on social media less often if there were more things to do."

Schoenherr thanked the students for their letters, praising them for their positivity.

"Instead of just acknowledging a problem, the student looked at possible solutions," she said.

It also made Christensen think of things that would encourage her to spend less time on social media.

"I'd love to see more trivia nights in Sioux City," she suggested. "That and more mom-and-pop restaurants."

"I love eating out with my husband, so different types of restaurants would be nice."



West Middle School eighth grader Liam Joaquin said more access to gyms would get him to stay off of social media.

3rd arrest made in connection with Sioux City homicide

NICK HYTREK
nhytrek@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — Sioux City police have arrested a woman accused of summoning another man to assault her on again/off again boyfriend who was fatally stabbed during the ensuing confrontation.

Kaleigh White, 22, of Sioux City, was booked into the Woodbury County Jail Wednesday afternoon on one count of conspiracy to commit a forcible felony, a Class C felony that carries a 10-year prison sentence. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Police say in a complaint supporting White's arrest she admitted that after locating Maurice Grant in the early morning hours of Feb. 9 in an apartment at the Phoenix Apartments, she sent



White

a text message to Kaïden Montes, telling him "hurry up" and come to the apartment to assault Grant, who White said had previously assaulted her. Montes and Imari Grant arrived at the apartment building at 1003 Pierce St. at about 5:06 a.m. and were let inside by White's friend LaToya Tyndall. The complaint said surveillance video obtained by police showed Imari Grant hand Montes a knife just before they entered the apartment where Maurice Grant was getting a tattoo.

White told police she expected Montes to punch Maurice Grant

once. Instead, Montes and Imari Grant immediately attacked him, the complaint said, telling him, "That's what you get," while punching him, throwing chairs and using the knife. White said she saw Imari Grant with the knife and watched Montes deliver a final chest strike that caused Maurice Grant to collapse. Montes, Imari Grant, White and her two friends then fled.

Maurice Grant staggered out of the apartment and collapsed. He was found about an hour later. Police were summoned and pronounced Grant, 32, of Sioux City, dead at the scene.

According to the complaint, White told police she did not expect the stabbing.

Montes and Imari Grant, both

18 of Sioux City, were arrested Feb. 10 after a traffic stop on Interstate 29 near Hamilton Boulevard. Both have pleaded not guilty of first-degree murder and remain jailed on \$1 million bond.

The complaint filed in White's case said Imari Grant told police he had brought two kitchen knives to the apartment for protection and handed one to Montes before entering the apartment. He admitted punching and kicking Maurice Grant and said he saw Montes stab him twice. Imari Grant told police he left his knife at his father's house and last saw Montes' bloody knife after they had left the scene and returned to another apartment.

Imari Grant's attorney has filed notice he'd be relying on an intoxication defense in the case.

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