

LIFESTYLES

Daughter spends too much cash

GWENDOLYN BAINES

Ask Gwendolyn



Dear Gwendolyn:

My daughter puts a lot of interest into her appearance. Instead of spending a fortune in clothes, I am trying to get her to realize the value of an education. She is presently living with me, pays no rent, and has the use of my car. Many times I have to take a bus from work because she says she forgets to pick me up. She goes shopping every other day. She only works 20 hours per week making minimal wages at a fast food restaurant. All of her paycheck is spent on shoes and dresses. About a month ago she bought three suits costing \$350 each.

My daughter thinks appearance is the answer to it all. She has the looks, but her language is poor. She needs to upgrade her education. I told her if she gets her GED, I will save in order to help her go to college. Making minimal wages, she will always be with me unless she marries. What should I do?

Katie

Dear Katie:

First of all, you need to stop concentrating on education. There seems to be a bigger problem here. You need to find out where all this money is coming from. A part-time minimum wage income is not enough to afford these expensive items, even if she worked a lot of overtime.

Stop allowing her the use of your car. Drive her to work. If there is a conflict of working shifts, allow her to use your car providing she is back in time for you to go to work. If she works these part-time hours during the day, let her ride the bus.

I don't know what you are thinking, but it is apparent she does not have enough concern for you. How is it she can forget to pick you up in your own car? As long as you provide free shelter, the use of your car, and free food, your daughter will never experience the struggles of life. Making it easy for her now could result in disaster later. Every adult needs to know survival.

Katie, you are correct in trying to get her to focus on more than clothes. If she thinks her appearance will find Mr. Right, she's wrong. Any man of quality will become turned off when she opens her mouth.

Keep your money until she shows an interest in self-sufficiency. Once you have allowed her to fully manage on 20 hours per week, minimal wages, I do believe she will take another look at her future, set higher goals and turn out just fine.

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Dedication and persistence pay off

Denise Dory opens up

By Andrea R. Richards
THE CHARLOTTE POST

By the time Denise Dory was in grade school, she knew broadcasting was her destiny.

Lots of hard work and decades later, the 5-foot-4-inch mother of one - and soon to be two in May - turned her childhood dream into reality.

"I can remember very early on Michelle Clark (now deceased), and I kind of latched on to her," said Dory, who was selected to be WBTV's evening news anchor last February. "She was the first person I remember who I could watch and say, 'Wow, she's really great.'"

"I just remember getting up for school and dressing with my mother. She (Clark) would come on and do news breaks. Then, my mother would say, 'Michelle is on! Michelle is on!' and I would run and watch her do the news. I was just fascinated."

Now, Dory fascinates others.

She describes herself as a wife and mother. She juggles being a career mom, being supportive of her husband of 10 years, Michael, and rearing her 8-year-old son, Kyle. Dory faces a unique challenge.



Denise Dory, WBTV news anchor, has adjusted to Charlotte, but is still puzzled by street names.

PHOTO/JAMES BROWN

She must inform the public on robberies, murders and violence, yet explain to her child he shouldn't be afraid of all people.

"My son will watch the news, and he'll ask a lot of questions," she said. "I try to explain to him when he hears something negative or something tragic. He wonders could that happen."

"What sticks out is the Oklahoma City bombings. He asked could that happen here. I try to let my child know that there are bad things and bad people but not everyone is bad. I also want him to have a realistic view of the world without terrifying him."

When Dory is not on the air or doing household chores, you'll probably find her doing

what she really enjoys - reading, cooking or watching a basketball or football game.

"I'm a frustrated Hornets fan," she said, while smiling.

Who will she support on Super Bowl Sunday?

"I root for Pittsburgh. That's it," she said. "I think it would be nice to see a change. Dallas has been there, and they've done that. It would be nice to

see somebody new."

Dory encourages young people who are interested in broadcasting to get as much work experience in the field as possible.

"Know that this is what you really want," she said. "Try to expose yourself to it as early

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Downsizing blamed for middle-income blues

By Mike Robinson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - Middle managers and workers at the top of the blue-collar pay scale put off purchases of homes last year, according to a new survey that blames job insecurity arising from the wave of corporate downsizing.

Concern that a fresh round of corporate layoffs could cost them their jobs caused many with family income from \$41,000 to \$60,000 to pass up homes they otherwise might have purchased, the survey concluded.

Home buyers in that income range represented 27.2 per-

"This is the segment that has been affected most by corporate downsizing ... cutting back on middle management and high end blue collar,"
-John Pfister



cent of all home buyers last year, lower than at any time in more than a decade, according to Chicago Title and Trust, which sponsored the survey. As recently as 1993 that income group represented 31.4 percent of all home sales, it said.

The survey measured home-buying activity among Americans in 18 real estate markets across the country. It did not include interviews with non-buyers who might have tied the dip in demand directly to job insecurity.

John Pfister, Chicago Title

and Trust vice president of market research, said, however, that the downsizing that has swept over much of corporate America has primarily affected those in the \$41,000 to \$60,000 income group.

"This is the segment that has been affected most by corporate downsizing ... cutting back on middle management and high end blue collar," he said. He said well documented job anxieties among such employees and an absence of any other plausible explanations pointed to downsizing as the probable cause.

But it appeared unlikely that such a conclusion would be immediately accepted by

all students of the housing market. Assuming that the statistics are correct, "there may be a number of hypotheses that might seem plausible," said Peter Coldwell, director of the Real Estate Research Office at the University of Illinois Business School.

Pfister said overall home-buying among Americans totaled 5,574,000 in 1994, with those in the \$41,000- to \$60,000-income bracket representing 1,795,000 of those sales. He said overall purchases in 1995 totaled 5,330,000, with those in the bracket accounting for 1,450,000.

Your weekly horoscope

ARIES:(March 21-April 20)Use all of the resources available to you. A family argument may take some extra attention to straighten out, with no serious fallout. You may need to make some choices - between spending more quality time with family and friends, or advancing at work.



TAURUS:(April 21 - May 21)There seems to be some apparent conflict, but it is of a healthy variety, and may yield some unexpected benefits in the form of totally new approaches to routine situations. Don't make hasty decisions regarding financial matters until you know the whole story.

GEMINI:(May 22 - June 21)You and your significant other may make a wonderful connection and the sense that you are growing closer will

bring both of you joy. Success will be yours, even if it is of a low-key nature. You know you've made great strides, and soon the right people will notice.

CANCER:(June 22 - July 23)Try to take it easy this week. You have been going at a frantic pace, and it will start to catch up with you. Decisions made hastily may be flawed, so put off action until you have all the facts. Treat yourself to something special, and maybe something a little frivolous.



LEO:(July 24- August 23)You will get ahead by working hard. Nothing less than your reputation is at stake, but no need to worry since your work is usually above reproach. Expect a little bit of a delay, because soon you'll be riding on the crest of success. The spotlight is yours, you deserve it.

VIRGO:(August 24 - September 23)Prosperity is an issue, so instead of whining, take action. Work a little harder and you'll be surprised at the financial results. A surge of inspiration will enable you to get through any potentially rough situations - clear all avenues of communication.

LIBRA:(September 24 - October 23)Use your clout to get some new and different changes off the ground at work. Friends and co-workers can really come in handy now. You're working for no less than the greater good of all involved - remember this. Don't be taken in by careless flirting with someone new.

SCORPIO:(October 24 - November 22)Keeping your nose to the grindstone is admirable to a point, but you might make a better impression with superiors if your approach is more balanced. Learn to give some responsibilities to others if you are interested in a management position.

SAGITTARIUS:(November 23 - December

21)You tend to keep your emotional distress to yourself, and this might not be for the best. Allow someone close to penetrate your defenses. Your beauty comes from within, and creates a glow that is obvious to others around you. Make plans carefully to assure a positive outcome.

CAPRICORN:(December 22 - January 20)A little contemplation will get your week off on a calm and clear path. You are pleased with the results up until now, but do want to improve your work. Allow troublesome obstacles to dissolve themselves. You can't hasten this process by hovering and worrying needlessly.

AQUARIUS:(January 21 - February 19)Is your current relationship a little unbalanced? If so, playing the role too faithfully can bring resentment and boredom. Maybe a planned weekend pleasure trip is just what the doctor ordered. One or both of you may need to learn something new. Make peace with inevitable changes.

PISCES:(February 20 - March 20)When working on

your financial plan for the future, avoid putting all your eggs in one basket. Anything which looks definite may not be beneficial in the end. Diversify investments and



don't expect to get rich overnight. Any health problems are probably from neglect.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Catch up on correspondence with friends. Be wary though, encounters with others may end in emotional outbursts, which may leave you a bit bewildered. You may feel that you are constantly at battle with your significant other, which leads you nowhere.