

## Dear Abby

*Don't Make Issue  
of Child's Sexuality*

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: Our 20-year-old daughter is gay. Don't ask me how I know, I just know. My husband and I love her and can accept her as she is without reservations.

Our question: Should we confront her and say, "We know you are gay, and it's OK, we love you," or should we wait until she tells us she's gay? I have suspected it since she was 15. When she was 17, I confronted her, but she cried and denied it.

This girl has always been very tense. She is often rude, especially to her father and people in authority. She has a poor self-image, although she is tall and very beautiful.

Her high school years were a nightmare. She smoked pot, skipped school and drank. We offered counseling to her, but she refused. Our home was always open to her friends, but she rarely brought anyone home. I've met some of her friends (girls) and I genuinely liked them.

How should we handle this? We want her to be open with us, but don't know how to go about it.

WITHHOLD OUR NAMES

DEAR WITHHOLD: Don't make an issue of her sexuality. Just let her know by your actions that you love her unconditionally. She may never "open up" and disclose her sexual orientation—which is her right. Let her know you'll foot the bill for counseling if she wants it, and pray she takes you up on it. Only when she feels comfortable with herself will she feel comfortable with you. All gay children should have such understanding parents.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 24, very athletic and health-conscious. We have a good marriage, but there is a slight problem. My husband does not want to make love as often as I would like to. He is able, and even willing, but he has it in his head that sex saps a man's strength and makes him weaker. He says that men who engage in sex too often "age" faster.

I believe that just the opposite is true—that sex is healthy, and makes a man stronger and keeps him young longer. Who is right? Sign me . . .

"TIGER"

DEAR TIGER: You are.

DEAR ABBY: I have become friendly with a woman who recently moved into my apartment building. We have much in common—we are both middle-aged, divorced women who grew up in the Middle West. We visit each other quite often, but on invitation only—no dropping in.

I enjoy her company, but she has a habit that I find very irritating. When I'm visiting her and her phone rings, she leaves me sitting while she carries on a lengthy conversation. She doesn't apologize to me; she just talks on and on as though I weren't there. Last evening she got three calls. (I finally found a magazine to occupy myself.)

When I have a guest and my phone rings, I tell the caller that I have company and will call back tomorrow.

How should I handle this without offending her?

LA JOLLA

DEAR LA JOLLA: Let your friend know that you are offended when she engages in long telephone conversations while you cool your heels. And if she does it again, interrupt her conversation just long enough to say, "I can see that you're too busy for company. Bye!" Then walk out.