DEAR

ABBY

Privacy becomes an issue after woman discovers affair

DEAR ABBY: Because my fiance and I had bad experiences in the past, we settled on just living together for the last 17 years. He has been like a husband to me and faithful all these years. Recently, however,

Recently, however, I caught him in an online affair.

I checked his phone one day out of the blue — something I have never done before because we respect each other's privacy. The emails were daily, back and forth, with only one mentioning a sexual encounter at the beginning.

He confessed that he had made a big mistake once and refused to see her again in person but had kept up the correspondence. He begged me to forgive him and I agreed, since we were together for so long.

The problem is, now we argue

about his phone. He still expects the same privacy with it. I don't feel comfortable with that now. Does he still deserve the same privacy?

— HUNG UP IN OHIO

DEAR HUNG

UP: No, he does not.

What he deserves
is the chance to
rebuild your trust,

and that involves

accountability on his part, which includes allowing you access to his phone if you feel insecure.

After 17 years together, both of you have a large emotional investment in this relationship. Because of that, it might be beneficial to schedule some sessions with a licensed relationship counselor to figure out where it went off the

DEAR ABBY: I read your column every day. I know some-

times you suggest people see a doctor, either medical or psychological. What do you do if you are terrified of doctors?

I have asthma and consult my doctor via a computer, but some doctors (like dentists) can't do that. I have horrible panic attacks and anxiety. Then my asthma kicks in, I can't breathe, and I cry uncontrollably. I don't want to take medications because they make me sleepy.

Because I'm so doped up, someone has to come with me to the doctor to drive me home and watch me be an uncontrollable mess. Also, missing a whole day of work for a one-hour doctor appointment is, in my opinion, ridiculous. I think I'd rather be sick than go to the doctor.

My family insists it's all in my head and I should just get over it, but because of many horrible experiences at doctors' offices, which I believe caused my fear, I just can't. The current situation with the worldwide COVID epidemic has made my anxiety worse. Your thoughts?

- TERRIFIED DEAR TERRIFIED: My thought is that you need to ask your doctor or your insurance company for a referral to a licensed psychologist who specializes in phobias and panic attacks. Many of them consult with their patients online these days. Once you finally get a handle on that problem, the rest will be easier. While few people relish the idea of going to the doctor or dentist, NOT doing what is necessary to protect your health can be dangerous.

DEAR ABBY: My friend and I are planning a road trip. We live in different parts of the country, so he'll be flying to my city, where we will start the trip. We plan to

split the cost of car rental, gas and hotels. However, I was assuming that he would pay his own airfare, and he was assuming that we would split it like everything else.

What's normal in situations like this? Is it normal to pay one's own airfare and expect costs to even out in the future when the other person flies to you? Or is it normal to split the cost each time? The road trip isn't at risk because of this, but I want to set the right precedent for future vacations we take together.

— ROAD TRIPPING IN IOWA
DEAR ROAD TRIPPING:
This is something you need to discuss further with your friend. Do you consider his getting there a part of your shared vacation, or do you feel your responsibility begins when he arrives? There are no hard-and-fast rules about this, and frankly, I think it depends upon your financial situations.

News of the Weird

Tiny chameleon a contender for title of smallest reptile

BERLIN — It fits on a human fingertip, but this chameleon could make a big splash.

Scientists from Madagascar and Germany say a newly discovered species of chameleon is a contender for the title of world's smallest reptile.

Frank Glaw, who was part of the international team of researchers that classified the new species and named it Brookesia nana, said the body of the male specimen appeared to be just 13.5 millimeters-long (a little more than a 1/2-inch.)

That's at least 1.5 millimeters smaller than the previous record holder, another member of the Brookesia family.

Glaw, a reptile expert at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich, said the tiny male and a



Frank Glaw/AP Photo

This 2012 photo shows a newly discovered species of chameleon, which is a contender for the title of world's smallest reptile. Scientists from Madagascar and Germany called it Brookesia nana and said the male appeared is just 13.5-millimeters-long (a little more than a 1/2-inch.)

slightly larger female were spotted on a mountainside by a local guide during a 2012 expedition.

"You really have to get down on your knees to find them," Glaw told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Friday, Jan. 5. "They are obviously camouflaged and they move very slowly."

Glaw and his colleagues performed a CT scan of the female and discovered that it harbored two eggs, confirming it was an adult.

For the male, the researchers took a close look at its "well-developed" genitals, which in chameleons come in pairs known as hemipenes.

They found the genitals of the Brookesia nana specimen were almost one=fifth of its body size, possibly to allow it to mate with the larger female.

"I have few doubts it's an adult male," Glaw said.

"If we had a pair mating it would obviously be better proof."

Confirming Brookesia nana as the smallest reptile species will require finding more of them, which might take several years, he said.

The team's research was recently published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Chameleons are threatened by deforestation on Madagascar, which is home to numerous species.

66 people rescued from ice floes adrift on Wisconsin bay

STURGEON BAY, Wis.— The U.S. Coast Guard and several other agencies rescued 66 people stranded on ice floes in a bay in northeastern Wisconsin.

Ice boats and helicopters were used to bring the people who were ice fishing to safety Thursday, Feb. 4, in Door County. Three separate ice floes

broke away after cracks developed between the shore and groups of people, the Coast Guard said.

High winds associated with an approaching winter storm pushed the floes further from shore. No one was injured.

"Today's success is a direct result of effective training and the long standing and close relationships with our agency partners in the greater Sturgeon Bay Area," said Cmdr. Bryan Swintek, search and rescue coordinator for Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan.

Coast Guard Ice Rescue teams from Sturgeon
Bay, Coast Guard Cutter
Mobile Bay, two helicopters from Traverse City,
Michigan, the Wisconsin
Department of Natural
Resources, and local government agencies assisted in the rescue, which took four hours to complete.

Associated Press



