

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: On Sept. 14, 2017, you printed my letter about my ex-husband "borrowing" money from my 13-year-old son's piggy bank. Soon after, you reached out to tell me a gentleman (the founder of an organization that helps people who have been wronged) wanted to send my son twice the amount of money that had been taken from him. My son was humbled, to say the least. Not only did that gesture restore my son's faith in people, but he gained from it a friend who made a lasting impression.

Bill, the man who helped my son, told my son his own father took money from him when he was younger, which forced him to drop out of college. However, Bill didn't let that stop him from becoming a success in life. Decades later, he retired a wealthy man. In retirement, he started a philanthropic foundation and turned his own "adversity into opportunity" by reaching out to others less fortunate to make a difference.

We were devastated to learn recently of Bill's unexpected passing from a stroke. Our hearts are broken, but my son's is forever changed and filled with gratitude for having known Bill, even if only for a short time.

Abby, thank you for printing my letter three years ago. Without it, none of this would have been possible. We would also like to extend our sincere condolences to Bill's wife and family. His kind soul touched my son so deeply that his spirit will continue to

live on.

— *Hoping to Pay it Forward*

Dear Hoping: What a beautiful tribute to a man whose life was well-lived. I hope his family sees your letter. I have often said that Dear Abby readers are the most generous in the world. Bill was an example of that, and I am sure he will be greatly missed. I would like to extend my condolences to his grieving family along with your own.

Dear Abby: I'm one of those sad, stupid women who hang onto dreams of being with the man I love. I will be 70 next year, and I have spent more than 20 years waiting first for his children to grow up, then for the company to grow, etc. It never ends. How I got into this mindset, I can't explain.

It's too late for me, but I want to pass this on to younger women: Get a life. Expand your horizons. Go to school. Be yourselves. Make YOURSELF happy. Dreams are dreams; life is reality. I'm not asking you for advice, Abby, because I now see the light.

— *Finally Knows in Illinois*

Dear Finally Knows: Please don't call yourself names. You have learned a valuable lesson, and thank you for wanting to share it. What you wrote is true, and I hope it will provide inspiration to the women to whom you are addressing your message. And one more thing: It is NOT necessarily "too late" for you. Your life isn't over, and if my life is any example, you never know where the road will lead you.

Portland businesses are navigating wave of window smashing, burglaries

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian
Hanh Truong arrived at Fujiyama Sushi Bar & Grill early Jan. 28 to find the floor of the restaurant covered with broken glass.

Security footage showed someone driving up to the Southeast 82nd Avenue sushi bar before hurling a rock through the window. The same person threw another rock through the window of the nail salon next door before driving away, said Truong, the store manager at Fujiyama.

For a restaurant already navigating the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, the damage dealt another severe blow.

Truong was forced to close the restaurant for half a day to clean up the damage and throw out any food that might have been contaminated by broken glass. She said replacing the window will cost \$1,000, a bill the restaurant will pay out of pocket because its deductible is too high to make an insurance claim worthwhile.

"We're staying afloat, but this will definitely put a dent in things," Truong said. "It's very stressful."

The Portland Police Bureau says its staffing isn't adequate to respond to a sharp rise in burglaries and vandalism



Mark Graves/The Oregonian

Work crews clean up damage and board up windows in Northeast Portland's Hollywood District on Nov. 21 after protesters the previous night damaged and vandalized 27 businesses and workspaces, police said.

across the city. Some victims say a portion of the attacks appear racially motivated.

A city fund established last year to help finance repairs is out of money and there are no immediate plans to replenish it, leaving businesses to scramble and open their own wallets to repair the damage.

"The city needs to step up and figure out how to help businesses," said Ahmed Abrahim, the CEO of local shoe chain Clogs-N-More, which suffered expensive vandalism and a separate burglary in the past few months.

Limited support

The Portland Police Bureau doesn't track window smashing as its own crime, but businesses across Portland and local glass repair companies say there has been a notable rise over the last year, creating added stress for small business owners trying to survive the pandemic.

Window smashing crimes can fall under several different categories, including property damage, vandalism, criminal mischief and burglaries. Portland has seen a spike in reports of both vandalism and burglaries since the start of the corona-

virus pandemic last March.

Burglaries across the city were up nearly 32%, while vandalism was up almost 43% from March through December 2020 as compared to the same time period the year prior.

Portland has offered few solutions to prevent the damage, nor offered businesses the financial support many need to take down boards and move on.

The city created a \$550,000 fund last fall to help businesses repair broken windows and other damage. The money went to approximately 150 businesses across the city before the funds were exhausted, according to Jim Middaugh, a spokesman for Mayor Ted Wheeler.

But there isn't any similar financial support available from the city for businesses that have been targeted recently.

"We don't have any brand-new initiatives," Middaugh said. "But there's ongoing conversations about how we can provide additional support to struggling businesses and that would include those that have suffered vandalism."

In mid-January, Tim Becker, a spokesman for Wheeler's office, said that police were in the process of increasing the number of patrol officers, with the hope of having 365 available within the next few months.

YOUR HOROSCOPE By Madalyn Aslan

Stars show the kind of day you'll have
★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 21, 2021: Emotionally deep, complex and honest, you have an intimate relationship with the world. Following an extremely difficult childhood, you forged a successful path, and this year, you triumph even more. Reaching out to others helps. If single, you really need to get out more, which is impossible due to COVID. You don't commit this year. If attached, you're on a perpetual high in your romance. VIRGO is devoted to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ It's very important to return all phone calls and emails promptly. Take today to catch up with this and with neighborhood friends and siblings. Let yourself meet — properly socially distanced — a new person who may become a good friend. Tonight: Neighborhood celebration.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Today gives you added energy to direct into financial matters. Your enthusiasm and effort bring you profits. A long lost friend contacts you out of the blue. This is the time when almost anything can happen. Tonight: Get ready for a whirlwind of a week.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your warmth and confidence lead to a new opportunity coming up. Push yourself forward; believe in yourself. Future travel, a career offer, a new love, a new interest and heightened awareness are all highly likely. Tonight: Much depends on you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You will enjoy peace and privacy. Discretion comes, and you will not reveal secret information to prying eyes. You will feel concern for those who have had a difficult time and can get involved in charity work. Tonight: Deep satisfaction in making the world a better place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You have new insights into friendships and see how the people you're attached to are growing and changing. You get in touch with personal goals and wishes, deciding on which priorities are really important. Tonight: A great feeling of relief.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Accept constructive criticism gracefully today. You can turn a tense situation into a chance to shine and strengthen your position if you study it carefully. Everyone notices you. A time for tremendous growth and promise commences. Tonight: Celebrate in gratitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Today you will be exposed to those who have a different philosophy of life. An open mind and tolerant attitude carry you a long way. A gathering is a time to listen carefully when in conversation with loved ones. Tonight: Escaping it all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ If there are addictive tendencies, keep them under control. Sweet, rich desserts and other extravagances beckon. Analyze drives, appetites and desires. Understand the moods and feelings of others as you could be a bit intense just now. Tonight: Healing salt bath.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You have to choose between friends. A compromise is possible. Others are very responsive to any love and kindness you show. Be liberal with everyone. Let them be themselves, and they will support you. Tonight: Date night where you can forget the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ A co-worker is suddenly a better friend — a friend you would see on the weekend. You putz around clearing out clutter and getting rid of debris. Your health improves because the daily environment becomes more nurturing. Tonight: Your partner really appreciates you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have a change of heart about old interests and attachments. Dreams and intuition provide insights to help you make choices. Your vivid imagination is an asset if you direct creativity constructively. Tonight: You catch up with a child in a serious, charming talk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You want to break from routine patterns at home and also have a more modern residence. There may be new family or extended family members coming in, and others voice the need to move on and live their own lives. Tonight: A household dinner.

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