

# Advice

## Mother's fraud scheme could get son prison time

**DEAR ABBY:** I am acquainted with a young man who is 18. His mother is pushing him to marry a young woman from South America so she can stay in the United States. The young lady is an employee at the mother's store. The mother is a very strong force, and I'm afraid he will go along with her plans.

I would like to present him with all the facts before he commits himself to something this life-altering. If you print my letter, please don't reveal my name or location, as his mother would never allow him to see us again.

**Concerned**  
**DEAR CONCERNED:** His mother should be ashamed of herself. According to Judge Judith Champagne of the California Superior Court, the name for what you have described is "immigration fraud, and it is a felony that could, indeed, bring jail time." Please warn him that the feds are onto these kinds of shenanigans.

**DEAR ABBY:** Please tell me what to do. I was at a birthday luncheon with six other women, and a discussion about female newscasters came up. One of the guests was raving about how wonderful a certain news anchor was, and said, "She has eight children!" Feeling naughty, I said, "That just means she likes gettin' it on!" I realize my comment may have been off-color, but we've known each other 20 years, and I was just mouthing off.

The woman who had brought up the newscaster immediately took great offense and replied, "My mother had eight children!" The lady whose 81st birthday we were celebrating then said, "Your mother must have



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

liked to do it, too." The offended lady told us angrily that she didn't appreciate our remarks.

I was very embarrassed and apologized repeatedly, both for myself and the honoree — who, I can assure you, meant no harm either. Then I had my lunch packed up, paid my share of the bill, and left.

I told my husband what happened, and he assured me that I had done nothing wrong. The offended woman brought her mother into the discussion, and the lady whose birthday it was made the comment about her mother. I feel ashamed and angry at the same time. The woman ignored my apology and ruined the birthday party.

Can't a group of senior ladies who have been friends more than 20 years share a little spice? Or am I out of step?

**Still Upset in Midlothian, Va.**  
**DEAR STILL UPSET:** There is an old saying, "Never discuss sex, politics or religion" at parties — and you unwittingly touched on one (possibly two) of the subjects. Do I think you committed social suicide? No, I think the woman overreacted. Write her a short note apologizing again, and then drop it. Whether she accepts it or not is up to her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Medical scans are needed to determine type of stroke

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** What is the difference between a stroke caused by a bulge in an artery and a stroke caused by an aneurysm? Can a doctor ascertain the cause of such a stroke with a physical examination? Are X-rays or scans necessary? **P.D.**

**ANSWER:** A stroke is the sudden death of brain tissue due to deprivation of blood flow. The more common kind of stroke is ischemic stroke, a blockage of blood flow to a section of the brain. Ischemic strokes account for 85 percent of all strokes.

The second kind of stroke is a hemorrhagic stroke — a disruption of blood flow to the brain because of a broken, bleeding brain artery. One of the major causes for brain-artery bleeding is the rupture of an artery aneurysm. An aneurysm is a bulge in the artery wall — a weak spot, often there since birth.

Sometimes people with an aneurysm have warning headaches due to small leakages of blood in the weeks prior to a major bursting of the aneurysm. When the aneurysm ruptures, people complain of the worst headache they have ever had, and then they usually lapse into unconsciousness. If they awaken, they continue to complain of a terrible headache.

It is difficult to impossible to distinguish by physical exam between a stroke caused by a brain bleed and a stroke caused by an obstruction to blood flow. Scans are needed to make the distinction. Treatment differs radically for the two.



**DR. PAUL DONOHUE**  
YOUR HEALTH

For a broken aneurysm, neurosurgeons place a clip on the broken vessel to prevent any rebleeding (something that often happens). Or a specially trained radiologist can deposit platinum coils into the broken vessel through a tube passed to the brain artery from an artery in the groin. The coils prompt clot formation, which seals the break and prevents rebleeding.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** I was talking to a lady and, after I walked away, I felt lightheaded and broke out in a sweat. Then I found myself on the floor. I passed out for a few minutes. I felt fine and refused to go to the emergency room. I have not had another spell since. Was this a small heart attack? **B.L.**

**ANSWER:** Your description is more like a faint than a heart attack. People don't usually feel fine after a heart attack, even a small one.

You should tell this to your doctor, but the chance of your having had a heart attack is not great.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Readers may also order health newsletters from [www.rbma-mall.com](http://www.rbma-mall.com).

## Treatment available for facial nerve ailment

**DEAR DR. GOTT:** My wife suffers from trigeminal neuralgia (facial pain), for which I am told there is no cure, and there is no guarantee she can be cured if she has an operation for this problem.

She was prescribed Tegretol when she first got this problem about six years ago, and she had to be taken off it, as it created liver problems. She is presently taking gabapentin, 400 milligrams.

I would like to get your view and opinion about what medication can ease the pain. I'd also like the opinion of your readers who have neuralgia and keep it under control.

**DEAR READER:** Trigeminal neuralgia is a painful ailment caused by inflammation of a facial nerve. Ordinarily, the therapy you mentioned controls the pain. However, if it fails to do so, your wife should be examined by a neurologist, who may suggest more involved treatment, such as gamma knife therapy, which uses radiation to reduce inflammation.

To give you and your wife related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Managing Chronic Pain." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

**DEAR DR. GOTT:** I had to write to you to let you know that I am a faithful user of castor oil for the arthritis in my legs and knees. They were once unbearable, they hurt so badly. I've come a



**DR. PETER GOTT**  
YOUR HEALTH

long way since then. I have very little pain, but I will not give up. I continue using it every morning and evening before retiring for bed. I get around much better now without all that pain.

Just to inform you, I also have arthritis in my left arm and hand, as I crochet a lot. I'm using the castor oil on my arm also, and it is doing wonders for me. I had to share this with you, as it may help others, too. Just never give up, as sometimes it takes a while to do any good. I found that out. I have a large bottle of it and will never give up using it as long as I see any progress. Please share this with your readers.

**DEAR READER:** Thanks for writing. I continue to receive readers' testimonials about the castor-oil cure and, indeed, it seems to have merit.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Osteoarthritis." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

Send questions to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., Fourth floor, New York, NY 10016. Doctor Gott is a practicing physician and the author of the new book "Live Longer, Live Better" (Quill Driver Books, [www.quilldriverbooks.com](http://www.quilldriverbooks.com); (800) 605-7176).

# Congressman demands explanation about Christian film's PG rating

**BY SAM HANANEL**  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — A Christian-themed movie about a football coach's faith in God is finding an audience in Congress — not so much for its inspirational message, but for the PG rating it received.

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and other lawmakers are demanding explanations after hearing complaints that the movie "Facing the Giants" was rated PG instead of G due to religious content.

The Motion Picture Association of America claims the controversy arose from a mis-

communication with the filmmakers. It says religion was not the reason for the rating.

"This incident raises the quieting possibility that the MPAA considers exposure to Christian themes more dangerous for children than exposure to gratuitous sex and violence," Blunt said in a letter to MPAA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dan Glickman.

After meeting with MPAA officials, Blunt and a handful of other House members said they remain concerned about the subjective nature of the ratings process.

"I'm not satisfied," said Rep.

### ON THE NET

"Facing the Giants": [www.facingthegiants.com/](http://www.facingthegiants.com/)  
Motion Picture Association of America: [www.mpa.org/](http://www.mpa.org/)

Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., who attended the meeting with Blunt. "We probably will want to revisit this ratings process to have some commonality in the standards that exist for movies, videos and video games."

Blackburn said she wants the House Energy and Commerce Committee to hold hearings on the issue later this year.

Blunt also brought up a re-

cent study by the Harvard School of Public Health that found that the MPAA standards on sex and violence in movies have been getting weaker.

"Mr. Blunt does continue to have questions about the process by which 'Facing the Giants' was rated and what that says about ratings creep in general," spokeswoman Burson Taylor said Friday.

An MPAA spokesman did

not return calls seeking comment. But in a letter to Blunt in June, the MPAA's Glickman insisted the rating for "Facing the Giants" was not based on religious content.

"Any strong or mature discussion of any subject matter results in at least a PG rating," Glickman said. "This movie had a mature discussion about pregnancy, for example. It also had other mature discussions that some parents might want to be aware of before taking their kids to see this movie."

A PG rating means parental guidance is suggested because the MPAA believes some material may not be suitable for

children. A G rating means the MPAA has found the movie acceptable for all audiences.

Glickman said the movie's producers agreed with the rating and never appealed it.

The film's producers claim ratings officials changed their story after the controversy began.

"The first communication from the MPAA was that religion was a factor in the ratings," said Kris Fuhr, vice president of marketing at Provident Films, which is owned by Sony Pictures. "Since then, the MPAA has revised those factors to no longer include religion."

# BIKINIS

FROM PAGE E1

at what it conceals.

"It's short, tiny — just a little bit of clothes," Velazquez said, bringing his elbows in toward each other to puff up some imaginary cleavage.

"It firms the butt."

For the past 30 years, lifeguard Bob Sailey, 49, has watched swimsuit fashions parade across Martin County beaches. He remembers when the thigh high Brazilian cut of the '80s made waves and the string bikini's precarious nature kept some girls from frolicking in them.

"We're coming back to that voluptuous look — to that girl you can throw a football with," Sailey said. "She's not just trying to look good."

The original voluptuous bathing beauty image can be traced to the 1950s when the bikini went mainstream, propelled by the surfing and beach culture that first defined the American teenager, said Jay Calderin, a history of couture instructor at the School of Fashion Design in Boston.

Movies like 1962's "Dr. No," where Ursula Andress's belted ensemble made male viewers long to change places with a

### FAMOUS BIKINI BODS

**Bettie Page:** The bondage queen vamped it up in a leopard skin-print bikini for photographer Bunny Yeager's 1954 Boca Raton photo shoot.

**Britte Bardot:** The original sex kitten pranced about in 1952's "The Girl in the Bikini" and 1956's "And God Created Woman"

**Jayne Mansfield:** The movie star floated with a bevy of water-bottles for a 1957 Life Magazine cover.

**Annette Funicello:** The former Mouseketeer appeared in a slew of fluffy 1960's beach flicks including "Beach Blanket Bingo" and "How to Stuff a Wild Bikini."

**Ursula Andress:** One of the first Bond girls, conch knife ready for action, teamed up with 007 for 1962's "Dr. No"

**Sally Field:** The future Flying Nun lent a wholesome image to the bikini in the 1965-1966 TV series "Gidget."

**Raquel Welch:** The world's most famous cave woman is launched into Hollywood history and onto college dorm walls worldwide in 1966's "One Million Years B.C."

**Goldie Hawn:** America's favorite ditzy blonde donned a bikini and body paint slogans for the "Laugh-In" comedy show, 1968-1970.

**Carrie Fisher:** Jabba the Hutt's main squeeze in 1983's "Return of the Jedi" accessorized her metallic bikini with slavegirl chains.

conch shell, further boosted the bikini's profile.

"The best way to describe it is a fantasy that people want to re-create," Calderin said.

Aside from impressing male on-lookers, women wear bikinis because they allow for better tan lines, said Meghan Lewis, a waterski instructor.

Lewis, 24, owns about 30 swimsuits — all bikinis. Sunbathing on the beach may call for a string bikini, but she opts for a more athletic design when she's working.

"It's more so it doesn't fall off your bum," she said.

Like the post-World War II era, when simplicity reigned as soldiers returned from war, today's swimsuit styles tend to be more subdued, Calderin said.

"I think women are feeling that they want to be safer, prettier, more feminine," he said. "It may not be as bold and raucous as you would see on a runway — I think people want more realistic, comfortable clothes."

### BIKINI FASHION THROUGH THE AGES

**July 5, 1946:** The bikini makes its official debut at the Piscine Molitor in Paris.

**1951:** The bikini is banned from the Miss World pageant, as it is considered to give an unfair advantage to the wearer.

**1962:** Lycra, a stretchy polyurethane fabric, lends its elasticity to the bathing suit market.

**Jan. 20, 1964:** Babette March bears her midriff for the "Sports Illustrated" inaugural swimsuit issue cover.

**1964:** The monokini, a bikini bottom with thin halter straps that don't cover the breasts, is revealed by Austrian designer Rudi Gernreich.

**1970s:** The string bikini and the thong bikini emerge.

**1980s:** The fitness boom and a Brazilian influence lead to high thigh cuts.

**1990s:** The tankini, with a top that extends to or past the navel, is introduced.

**1993:** The sport bikini, with its hugging halter-top design, is made popular by volleyball queen Gabrielle Reece.



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