Nurse's future mom-in-law sounds off before undergoing surgery

DEAR ABBY: I am an operating room nurse. My soon-to-be motherin-law recently had a procedure done that required anesthesia. When the anesthesiologist arrived to interview her before her procedure, she proceeded to ask him if he knew me. He replied that he did.

Her next question was whether he knew that I had recently had cosmetic surgery. Thankfully, he acted in a professional manner by simply saying, "Oh?" She continued the interrogation by asking him if he was aware that I had been previously engaged, and whether he thought I was a runaway bride or

I was flabbergasted that she had the gall to bring up such personal things with someone with whom I have a professional relationship. This is a small community where things spread like wildfire. I want to have a relationship with her, but I feel as though she kicked me in the stomach and stabbed me in the

Is there anything I can say to make her aware of my feelings, or must I be respectful and keep my thoughts to myself? I am deeply

— APPALLED IN IOWA

DEAR APPALLED: Your fiance's mother may have been nervous at the prospect of her surgery, started babbling and could not stop. However, unless you want a strained relationship with your in-laws, do not "confront" her. She can't unring the bell. Now that you know she lacks judgment and leaks like a rusty bucket, in the future confide nothing to her unless you want the whole town to know.

DEAR ABBY: My son is 15 nearly 16. He has become a wonderful young man, a delight to be around—but then again, I probably am biased.

When we're home and watching TV in the evening, my son often enjoys cuddling up next to me. He'll put his head on my shoulder and wants my arm around his shoulders. I, too, enjoy this very much, and when he says, "Oh, Mommy, I love you so much," as he often does, my heart melts. I should mention that he is still shorter than me, though barely. He is not the typical 15-yearold who towers over his mother. Let me clarify a couple of things.

One, he is my only child. Two, there is nothing torrid going on, no inappropriate touching by him or by me, and three, he doesn't do it when his friends are over—although he's not afraid to hug and kiss me goodbye in front of them. Also, he loves his father very much, will hug and kiss him occasionally, and still enjoys sitting between us on the sofa, however difficult that may be on our two-person loveseat.

Until recently, I thought our closeness would help him develop into a warm, loving man; but now, I'm wondering if this is healthy for him to be doing and for me to allow. It seems like a completely natural

Childhood obsesity, oral health priority

TOPEKA(AP)—Despite overall improvements in child welfare, advocates say Kansas must do more to enhance oral health and

reduce childhood obesity. The findings are part of the 13th annual Kids Count 2005 report compiled by Kansas Action for Children, a statewide child advocacy organization. Executive director Gary Brunk said poor oral health is a symptom of the greater

problem of childhood poverty. Brunk said proposed federal cuts in programs for the poor, such as food stamps, and a proposed cap for spending on health programs, don't bode well for states and children's overall welfare.

"The increase in child poverty is a matter of great concern, especially since federal budget decisions in the next few months could result in withdrawing important supports for low-income families,"

Brunk said. Overall, the state showed progress in 19 of 22 categories when compared with previous years. The improvements included declines in teenage smoking, binge drinking, violent deaths for teenagers and substantiated reports of child abuse

and neglect. But the state saw increases in the number of children receiving free lunches in schools and the percentage of infants born with low birth

weights



Dear Abby

thing to do in a loving family, but and approve of her. You must be lately I've been wondering how this might affect his future relationships with women. I would hate to see him develop into a needy, clingy type of man or a mama's boy. What that. are your thoughts on this?

— JUST A LOVING MOM IN

AUSTRALIA **DEAR LOVING MOM: Every** parent should be so blessed as to have a son like yours. You have raised a loving only child who is bonded to his parents. If he does not start dating by the time he's 18, THEN there may be cause to worry. Otherwise, he sounds just fine to me.

DEAR ABBY: In 2000, I won full custody of my two children, a boy, 12, and a girl, "Dallas," who is now

I have done everything I could to raise them both with good morals and provide them with a good edu-

A few weeks ago, Dallas confided in me that she's attracted to girls, and has a long-distance relastate. It came as a shock, but I have tried to understand so that she doesn't feel bad about it. I'm hop-

My problem is that Dallas insists on letting everyone know about her orientation. She even wears jewelry with the rainbow colors. I keep trying to make her understand that this is HER business, and it's not something she should make public, but she responds by asking me if I'm **monthly support group for par**ashamed of her. (I always reply, "Of

What's the correct way to deal with

compliment to you that your Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.daughter trusts you enough to be DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440,

orientation. Many gay teens and younger children — are so Van Buren afraid they'll disappoint their parents by disclosing they are "different" that they don't talk

What your daughter needs right now is to know that you love doing something right, because she is assured enough about who she is that she feels safe being open about it. Congratulations on

It is extremely important that you come to terms with your own feelings about homosexuality. It is not uncommon for the parents of a gay child to feel guilt or shame, when in truth, it has nothing to do with the quality of their parenting and everything to do with genetics.

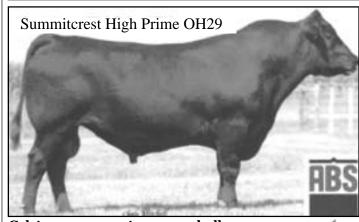
Your wisest move at this point would be to contact PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and join one of its many support groups. Once you do, you will find it enormously helpful. Contact it by calling (202) 467-8180, or check the Web site at www.pflag.org.

I have recently learned about another helpful resource for parents of younger children who exhibit gender-variant behavior and interests. It's the Children's National Medical Center, which tionship with a girl in a different offers a booklet titled "If You Are **Concerned About Your Child's** Gender Behaviors." It can be downloaded from www.dcchilding this is just a phase she's going rens.com/gendervariance in eithrough and that it will pass — but ther English or Spanish. It can if it doesn't, I'll do my best to deal also be ordered by writing CNMC, 111 Michigan Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010.

In addition to the booklet, the Children's National Medical Center's outreach program provides clinical mental health services and referrals to other knowledgeable professionals, a free ents and children, an online discussion group for parents, and a Am I wrong by telling her that? Web page with information for both parents and professionals.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is writ-CONFUSED PARENT, ten by Abigail Van Buren, also ARLINGTON, VA. known as Jeanne Phillips, and was **DEAR CONFUSED: It is a** founded by her mother, Pauline open with you about her sexual Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

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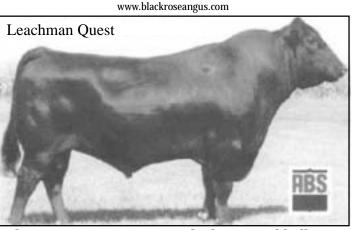
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Check each issue of the Free **Press for additional TV Listings**

TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

WEEKDAYS MARCH 15 - MARCH 21

•••		• • •											
	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	News		Good Mor	rning Amer	ica		Mak- Judge- eover Brown			The View		News	
KSNK/NBC 8 8	News Cont'd Today				<u> </u>				Live With Regis and Kelly		Heat of Night	Varied	
KBSL/CBS	News				The Early	Early Show The 700 Club			The Price	Is Right	The Young and the Restless		
K15CG 2	BBC World	Yoga	Body Electric	Caillou	Beren. Bears	Barney- Friends	Sesame S	Street	Dragon Tales	Beren. Bears	Mister Rogers	Teletub- bies	
USA 34	Coach	Varied Programs					Nash Bridges	Varied Pro	ograms		-		
TBS 35	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie				Dawson's	Creek	Dawson's	Creek	Ed		
WGN 36	Chang- ing	Believer Voice	Happy Days	Happy Days	Hillbil- lies	Hillbil- lies	Matlock		In the Heat of the Night		Magnum, P.I.		
TNT 37	The Prete	nder	Angel Charmed			ER		ER		Judging Amy			
NICK 43	Oddpar- ents	Jimmy Neutron	Rugrats	Spon- geBob	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Miss Spider	Lazy- Town	Backyar- digans	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Little Bil	
FAM 46	Varied	Power Rangers	Power Rangers	Bey- blade	3rd Rock	Living the Life	The 700 C	Club	Gilmore Girls		Full House	Full House	
DSC 50	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Double A	gents	Designer Guys	Designer Guys	The Party With Davi		Surprise I	Surprise by Design	
A&E (53)	Varied Pro	ograms	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms				Third Watch		City Confidential		
ESPN (56)	SportsCenter SportsCenter				Sports- Center	Varied	SportsCe	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Varied Programs	
HBO (14)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pr	ograms			•	•		•		•		
MAX 29	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pr	ograms				Movie		Varied Pro	ograms			
DISN (44)	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles	Higgly- town	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	PB&J Otter	Out of the Box	The Wiggles	Koala Brothers	Higgly- town	

MARCH 15 - MARCH 21 **WEEKDAYS**

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital				Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wid News
KSNK/NBC	News Inside Edition		Days of our Lives		Passions		The Jeop- Insider ardy!		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		News	NBC News
(BSL/CBS	News	Bold, Beautiful	World Trn	Varied	Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG 2	Reading Rainbow	Lions	Varied Pro	Varied Programs		Post- cards Arthur		Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Cyber- chase	Zoom	Busi- ness
USA 34)	Movie		Varied Pro	ograms							JAG	
TBS 35	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
WGN 36	News		Rockford Files		Magnum, P.I.		America's Funniest Home Videos		Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Home Improve.	Will & Grace
TNT (37)	Judging A	Amy	NYPD Blue		Law & Order		Law & Order		Angel		Charmed	
NICK 43	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer	Rugrats	Rugrats	CatDog	Hey Arnold!	Oddpar- ents	Jimmy Neutron	Spon- geBob	Rock Star	U-Pick	Rugrats
FAM (46)	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Full House	Full House	Gilmore G	iirls	7th Heaven	
DSC (50)	Surprise I	by Design	New Detectives: Forensic Science		The FBI Files		Garage Takeover		Varied Programs		Monster Garage	
A&E (53)	American Justice Movie Varied			Varied Pr	rograms				Third Watch		City Confidential	
ESPN (56)	Varied Programs		•	Tennis Varied I		Varied Pro	ograms		Around Interrup- the Horn tion		SportsCenter	
HBO (14)	Movie Cont'd		Varied Pro	ograms				•	•	•		
MAX 29	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pro	grams	grams Movie Varied Programs			Movie Varied P		Varied Pro	Programs		
DISN (44)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Proud Family	Brace- face	Kim Possible	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister

THURSDAY

MARCH 17

	6 PM	6 :3 0	/ PM	7:3 0	8 PW	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	II PM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	(5:59) Ne ws	Ent. Tonight	Jake in Progress	Jake in Progress	Extreme N (CC)	lake ove r	Prime Time (CC)	e Liv e	Ne ws (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kii (CC)	mmel Live	
KSNK/NBC	Ne ws	Fortune	Will & Grace	Will & Grace			ER One for the Road (CC)		Ne ws	The Tonig With Jay I		Late Night	
KBSL/CBS	College Ba Teams TB	asketball: f A. (Live) (C					asketball: NCAA Tournament Firs A. (Live) (CC)			st Round Ne ws (CC)		Late Show	
K15CG 2	The News With Jim I							unny Blokes of British Comedy (CC)				Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
USA 34	Me dical Inve stigat	ion (CC)						** (2002) A young woman rfing contest. Kate Bosworth. (CC) Movie: Nurse Betty *** (2000) Renee Zellweger. (CC)					
TBS 35	mond	Ray- mond						Movie: Miss Congeniality ★★ (2000) (PA) A cl FBI agent goes under cover at a beauty pagean				Movie: Stop!	
WGN 36	Will & Grace	Home Improve.	Movie: A Walk on the Moon ★★ (1999, Drama) Diane Lane, Liev Schreiber. (CC)				WGN Ne w (CC)	s at Nine	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Home Delivery		
TNT 37	Law & Ord (CC) (DVS			te tba ll: Los Airlines Arer			ami Heat. NBA Basketball: Sacramento Kings at Golden State Warriors. The Arena in Oakland. (Live) (CC)						
NICK 43	Jimmy Ne utron	Oddpar- e nts		Rome o! (CC)	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Murphy Brown	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	
FAM 46	Smallville (CC)	Ryan		by's Day C loe Manteg			Whose Line?	Whose Line? The 700 Club (CC)			Home Vide os	Home Vide os	
DSC 50	American Mikey's Bil		Anatomy	of Sex	Conce ptic Pregnancy		Ame rican	ne rican Casino Anatomy			of Sex Conception to Bird Pregnancy.		
A&E 53	Am e rican Murder by		Cold Case Files Detectives use a hair dryer to thaw a corpse. (CC)				The First	48 (CC)			Cold Case Files (CC)		
ESPN 56		Figure Ska Moscow. (d Champior	nships Pa	irs and Mer	n's. Brian Boitano's Hol Skating Spectacula					nter (Live)	
HBO 14		rie: Biker B Irence Fishi) A bodyguard takes Downlo			ing Sex: n (CC)	Re al Sports (CC)		
MAX 29	(5:00) Mov Men Unite	/ie: X2: X- d (2003)	Movie: Tri teen faces	ppin' ★ ½ (a hazardoι	1999) A day ıs senior ye	/dreaming ar. (CC)	Movie: Never Die Ald (2004, Suspense) DM		one ** Hot Line (CC)		Movie: Underworle ★★ (2003) (CC)		
DISN 44	That's- Raven	That's- Raven		e Luck of t Ryan Merrin		001,	Sister, Sister	Even Stevens	That's- Raven	That's- Raven	Proud Family	Kim Possible	

6 PM 6:30 7 PM 7:30 9 PM 9:30 0 PM 0:30 10 PM 10:30 11 PM 11:30

FRIDAY

MARCH 18

	0 1 101	0.00	/ 1 101	7.00	0 1 101	0.00	O 1 1V1	0.00	10 1 111	10.00	1	11.00	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Hope & Faith	Faith Perfect			News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kir Sylvester S	mmel Live Stallone.	
KSNK/NBC 8 8	News	Wheel of Fortune	Dateline N	IBC (CC)	Medical Investigat	Medical Law & Order: Trial by Jury (N) (CC)			News The Tonic With Jay			Late Night	
KBSL/CBS		asketball: I A. (Live) (C	NCAA Tournament First Round College Basketball: Teams TBA. (Live) (0								News (CC)	Late Show	
K15CG 2	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Wash. Week	Wall- Fortune	Market- Market				BBC World	Red Green	Charlie Rose (N (CC)		
USA 34	Law & Order: SVU					Monk Mr. the Marath		Law & Ord	Law & Order: SVU		Monk and Ion Man		
TBS 35	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Friends (CC) Movie: Legally Blond major follows her ex-b							Singer *** (1998, ler. (CC) (DVS)			
WGN 36	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		Strikes ★½ ks, N'Bushe			WGN New (CC)	WGN News at Nine (CC)		Becker (CC)	Home Del	Home Delivery	
TNT 37	Law & Ord Dread (CC			e Were Sole erican troop			ama) In n Vietnam.		e Were Sole erican troop				
NICK 43	Jimmy Neutron	Oddpar- ents	Avatar- Last Air		ooby-Doo ddie Prinze		Movie: Scooby-Doo (2002) Scooby and the gang hunt spooks at a haunted resort.				Rose- anne	Murphy Brown	
FAM 46	Smallville (CC)	Dichotic		pe Floats illock, Harry			Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 C	lub (CC)	Precious in His Sight		
DSC 50	American Mikey Spe		Monster F Monster S	louse hop Class	American Tool Bike		American Alumatub 5		Monster House Monster Shop Class		American Chopper Tool Bike 1 (CC)		
A&E (53)	American Pizza Con			ocolat ** er stirs up a								Movie: Chocolat ★★★½ (2000) (CC)	
ESPN 56	Sports- Center	Figure Sk Pairs. Mos		d Champior	nships La	dies, Dance	e and	Tennis: Pacific Life Open Quarterfinal. Indian Wells, Calif.			SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		
HBO (14)	(5:15) Mov Straight T		Movie: 28 A virus turi	Days Late ns humans	r ★★★ (200 into vicious	2, Horror) beasts.	Horror) Deadwood A Lie Agreed Upon, Part II			(Live)	Un- scripted	Movie:	
MAX 29	(5:30) Movie: Basic Movie: Bruce Almig				nty **½ (2 (CC)	003,			ommander 03, Adventi			Movie: Bikini	
DISN (44)	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody		ow Dogs (a a sled-dog r			Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phil of Future	That's- Raven	Whis- kers	Kim Possible	

6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30