

Variations on bouquet and garter toss

DEAR ABBY: A young married woman said she and her mother were at odds about the tradition of tossing the bouquet and bride's garter at weddings. You said, "Because catching a bouquet or garter is no guarantee the person will be the next to marry (it's "up for grabs"), I see no reason why any guest should be excluded."

Well, I disagree! I perform disc



abigail van buren

• dear abby

jockey and video services for weddings. I have seen little girls and boys with bloody noses, skinned knees and elbows, etc.

Would you send an 8-year-old to play football at your local college? For liability reasons, I specifically note in my contract that if the bride insists on including guests under 16, I am not liable for injuries. Insurance companies don't like to cover stupid-

ity.

Please rethink this one, Abby! — BRENT YACIW, WESLEY CHAPEL, FLA.

DEAR BRENT: Your point is well taken. I received a ton of terrific mail on tossing wedding bouquets and garters, and will share as much of it as possible:

DEAR ABBY: The custom is tacky and should be eliminated. It's embarrassing to singles who are dragged onto the floor by well-meaning friends and family. It's almost as bad as watching the new couple smash cake in each other's face. — J.H., MELROSE, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: When I married, I had a candy toss for anyone 12 or un-

der. It worked wonderfully.

The kids had fun and were part of the festivities. — JENNIFER IN FREMONT, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: For guests 16 and under, we tossed a teddy bear dressed like a bride, and did the same for the boys with a groom bear. — BECKY IN HURST, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I am a florist. Many brides order a small bouquet to toss to the little girls, and they either toss their own bouquet or an extra (large) one to the big girls. — RON D., BELLEVILLE, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: The custom is, whoever catches the garter must put it high on the leg of the woman who catches the bouquet. At one wedding

I attended, a 9-year-old boy caught the garter and then sat at the feet of the lady who caught the bouquet and sobbed for 10 minutes because he was so humiliated.

Children should not be subjected to this. — KATHY IN FORT LEE, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: As the mother of two little girls, I do not want anyone touching their legs. As a wedding DJ, here's how I handle the garter toss: I have the little girl sit in a chair with her arms out and her hands in a prayer position. I then give the male the garter and he has three chances to toss it over her hands. No one is touched, and it's perfectly innocent. The kids love it. Remember, kids are just

adults in training. — LORI LEE, A DJ IN HORSEHEADS, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: I have been a caterer for more than 20 years. A classy alternative is this one: The bridal couple asks all married guests to stand. Then, in multiples of five or 10 years, they are asked to sit down when asked the length of their marriage.

The couple married the longest is awarded the bouquet and garter to the applause of everyone. — MIKE F., ANKENY, IOWA

DEAR READERS: I learn so much from you. Thank you for all your suggestions, and for the privilege of doing a job I love. — XXX, ABBY

TUESDAY EVENING											MAR. 18, 2003												
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30													
2	PBS	Nova "Sultan's Lost Treasure" (N) (DVS)	Domestic Violence Footage of police responding to 911 calls. (N) (Part 1 of 2) (D)								News												
3	IND	★★★ "Outbreak" (1995, Suspense) Dustin Hoffman. An African monkey carries a lethal virus to California. (DVS)	(4:5) ★★ "The Big Hit" (1998, Action) (PA) Mark Wahlberg, Lou Diamond Phillips. (DVS)				(4:5) ★★ "Outbreak"																
4	ABC	8 Simple Rules According to Jim (N) (DVS)	Life With Bonnie (N)	Less Than Perfect (N)	Family (N) (D)	News (D)	(:35) Nightline (D)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (D)															
5	HBO	(5:45) ★★ "Clue" (1985, Comedy) Madeline Kahn, Martin Mull. (PG) (D)	★★★ "Dr. Dolittle 2" (2001, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. (N) (PG) (D)				"Normal" (2003) Jessica Lange. A family man announces that he wants a sex-change operation. (N)																
7	CBS	JAG "Fortunate Son" (N) (DVS)	Guardian "My Aim Is True" (N) (D)	Judging Amy "Looking for Quarters" (N) (D)	News (D)	(:35) Late Show (N) (D)	(:37) Late Show (N) (D)																
8	NBC	Let's Make a Deal (N) (D)	Frasier (N) (D)	A.U.S.A. (N) (D)	Dateline (N) (D)	News (D)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (D)	(:37) Late Night (N) (D)															
11	TVLND	Brady	HappyDay	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver	Runners												
12	ESPN	College Basketball	College Basketball: NIT -- Teams TBA				Sportscenter (Live)	Baseball	Interruption														
13	FOX	American Idol (ITV) The finalists and Kelly Clarkson perform. (Live) (D)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (D)				LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program													
15	MAX	"Courage Under Fire" Douglas, Sean Bean. (N) (R) (D)	★★★ "Don't Say a Word" (2001, Suspense) Michael Douglas, Sean Bean. (N) (R) (D)				Welcome to North Korea (N) (D)	★ "The Sweetest Thing" (2002, Comedy) Cameron Diaz. (N) (R) (D)															
16	TNN	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	"Live and Let Die" (N)														
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (D)	Smart Guy (D)	Sister, Sister (D)	Even Stevens (D)	Sister, Sister (D)	Lizzie McGuire (D)	"You Wish!" (2003, Fantasy) A.J. Trauth, Spencer Breslin, Lalaine.	Teamo Supremo (D)														
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (D)	★★★ "This Boy's Life" (1993) Robert De Niro.				Golden	Golden	Nanny (D)	Nanny (D)													
20	USA	★★★ "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst. (D)	JAG "Mixed Messages" (1995, Action) (N) (D)				JAG "Force Recon" (N)	Nash Bridges (D)															
21	SHOW	"Passion Fish" R (4:5) (DVS)	(4:5) ★★ "Two Ninas" (1999) Cara Buono. (N) (R) (D)	JAG "Mixed Messages" (1995, Action) (N) (D)				★★★ "Bandits" (2001) Bruce Willis. (D)															
22	TMC	(:15) ★★ "Movie Movie" (1978, Comedy) George C. Scott, Trish Van Devere, Eli Wallach. (D)	★★★ "Kingpin" (1996, Comedy) Woody Harrelson, Randy Quaid, Vanessa Angel. (D)				★ "Scary Movie 2" (2001) Shawn Wayans.																
23	MTV	Punk'D (N)	Taildaters	Real World	Real World	Direct Effect (N)	Prime Time Players (N)	Real World															
24	DISC	Tracking Deadly Vipers	Cold Case Files Frozen corpse; child's skeleton; sexual homicide inquiry. (D)				FBI Files "Death in Alaska" (D)	New Detectives: Forensic Science															
28	TNT	Law & Order (N) (D)	Law & Order (N) (D)	Law & Order (N) (D)	Law & Order (N) (D)	Charmed (N) (D)	Law & Order "Disciple"	X-Files (N) (D)															
30	FXSP	NASCAR	Nuggets	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Utah Jazz. (Live)	Rocky Mt.			Rocky Mt.	54321														
32	FAM	"The One" (2003) Richard Ruccolo. (N) (D)	Whose? (N) (D)				700 Club (D)	Caroline Rhea Show (N)															
33	NBC	News (D)	Ent. Tonight	Let's Make a Deal (N) (D)	Frasier (N) (D)	A.U.S.A. (N) (D)	Dateline (N) (D)	News (D)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (D)														
34	NICK	Sponge	Amanda (N)	Kids Say	Kids Say	Cosby	Cosby	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cosby	Cosby												
36	A&E	Biography "Faye Dunaway" (N) (D)	Cold Case Files Frozen corpse; child's skeleton; sexual homicide inquiry. (D)				Third Watch "The Lost" (N) (D)	Biography "Faye Dunaway" (N) (D)															
38	SCIFI	(5:00) Children of Dune	Children of Dune (N) (D)	Children of Dune (N) (D)	Children of Dune (N) (D)	Children of Dune (N) (D)	Children of Dune (N) (D)	Children of Dune (N) (D)															
39	TLC	While You Were Out	Game room to parlor. (D)	Home Again	Home Again	Eye Spy: Video Evidence	City Surveillance "Stop Thief" (D)	Mostly True Stories: Urban Legends Revealed															
40	FX	Married... Married...	Married...	Buffey Vampire	Buffey Vampire	★★ "Armageddon" (1998, Action) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton.																	
45	FMC	(:01) ★★ "Von Ryan's Express" (1965)	(:01) ★★ "O. Henry's Full House" (1952)				"Inn of the 6th"																
49	EITV	Red Carpet Flashback	Anna	Anna	Saturday Night Live (N)	Howard S.	Howard S.	Wild On...															
51	TRAV	Best Ancient Cultures	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)	Best Ancient Cultures																	
53	WB	Friends (N)	Everybody-Raymond	Gilmore Girls "Let the Games Begin" (N)	Smallville "Dichotic" (N)	News (N)	Will & Grace (N)	Everybody-Raymond															
54	ESPN2	College Basketball: NIT	NBA Fast Break Tuesday (Live)	Streetball				Interruption	NBA 2Night	Drag Race													
58	HIST	History Undercover (N) (D)	Silent Service "Japanese Submarines" (N)	Modern Marvels "Army Corps of Engineers" (N)	Infamous Murders (N)	Infamous Murders (N)	History Undercover (D)																
59	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies	Health Specials (N)	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies															
60	UNIV	Las Vias del Amor	Entre el Amor y el Odio	Ver Para Creer	P. Impacto	Noticiero	En las Mejores Familias																
62	HGTV	House	Interiors	Room	Decorating	House	Curb	House	Interiors	Room	Decorating												
99	WGN	★★ "Rambo: First Blood Part II" (1985) (D)	News (N) (D)				Rockford Files	In the Heat of the Night															

WEDNESDAY EVENING											MAR. 19, 2003		
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30			
2	PBS	American Masters: Alice Waters	Domestic Violence In the courts of Hillsborough County, Tampa. (N) (Part 2 of 2) (D)								News		
3	IND	Seinfeld (D)	Seinfeld (D)	Ripley's Believe It or Not! (N)	★★ "Blade" (1998) (PA) Wesley Snipes. A vampire hunter does battle with a vicious bloodsucker.					Worst-Case Scenario			
4	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez (D)	Bachelor: Where Are They Now (N) (D) (D)	All American Girl (ITV) (N) (D)	News (D)	(:35) Nightline (D)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (D) (D)					
5	HBO	(:15) ★★★ "Rare Birds" (2001, Comedy) William Hurt, Andy Jones, Molly Parker. (N) (R) (D)	★★★ "The Net" (1995, Suspense) Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Northam. (N) (PG-13) (D)			Six Feet Under "Another Voice" (N) (D)							
7	CBS	Survivor: The Amazon (N) (D)	Star Search (ITV) (Live) (D)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Blood Lust" (N) (DVS)	News (D)	(:35) Late Show (N) (D)	(:37) Late Late Show						
8	NBC	Dateline (N) (D)	West Wing "20 Hours in America" (D)	Law & Order "The Wheel" (N) (DVS)	News	(:35) Tonight Show (D) (D)	(:37) Late Night						
11	TVLND	Brady	HappyDay	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver	"Gold Rush"		
12	ESPN	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Pacers			College Basketball: NIT -- Teams TBA			Sportscenter (Live)	Interruption				
13	FOX	American Idol The votes are tallied. (Live) (D)	Bernie Mac (N) (D)	Cedric the Entertainer	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (D)	LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program				
15	MAX	(4:45) "Angel Eyes" Taraji P. Henson, Omar Gooding. (N) (R) (D)	★★★ "Baby Boy" (2001, Drama) Tyrese Gibson, Connerly, Alec Baldwin, Scott Glenn. (N) (PG) (D)			(:45) ★★★ "The Hunt for Red October" (1990, Adventure) Sean Connery, Alec Baldwin, Scott Glenn. (N) (PG) (D)							
16	TNN	Real TV (D)	Real TV (D)	Real TV (D)	Real TV (D)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	"Man With Golden Gun"				
17	DISN	Boy Meets World	Smart Guy (D)	Sister, Sister (D)	Even Stevens (D)	Sister, Sister (D)	Lizzie McGuire	"Motocrossed" (2001, Adventure) Alana Austin, Trevor O'Brien. (N)	Teamo Supremo (D)				
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (D)	★★★ "Swing Vote" (1999) Andy Garcia.			Golden	Golden	Nanny (D)	Nanny (D)				
20	USA	★★ "The Jackal" (1997) Bruce Willis, Richard Gere. (D)			★★ "Judgment Night" (1993) Emilio Estevez.			Nash					
21	SHOW	(5:00) "Spy Kids" PG	★★★ "You Can Count on Me" (2000, Drama) Laura Linney, Mark Ruffalo. (N) (R) (D)			★★★ "Traffic" (2000) Michael Douglas. (N) (R) (D)			The war on drugs brings many casualties and few victories. (N) (R) (D)				
22	TMC	(5:00) "The Westerner"	(:45) ★★★ "The Purple Rose of Cairo" (1985, Comedy) Mia Farrow.	(:15) ★★★ "Manhattan" (1979, Comedy) Woody Allen, Mariel Hemingway, Diane Keaton.	★★ "Rat Race" (2001) Rowan Atkinson. (D)								
23	MTV	Taildaters	MTV Special (D)	Direct Effect (D)	Urban Myth	NCAA Uncensored (N)	Sorority						
24	DISC	Ice Age Survivors	Cousins -- The Monkeys (D)			Gladiatrix	Outlaws and Lawmen	Unsolved History					
28	TNT	Law & Order (D)	★★★ "Dave" (1993, Comedy) Kevin Kline. (D)			Law & Order "Precious"	X-Files "2Shy" (N) (D)						
30	FXSP	NASCAR	Avalanche	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Colorado Avalanche. (Live)			Rocky Mt.	Rocky Mt.	54321				
32	FAM	Usher Live: Evolution 8701			Whose? (D)	Whose? (D)	700 Club (D)	Caroline Rhea Show (N)					
33	NBC	News (D)	Ent. Tonight	Dateline (N) (D) (D)	West Wing "20 Hours in America" (D)	Law & Order "The Wheel" (N) (DVS)	News (D)	(:35) Tonight Show					
34	NICK	Sponge	Amanda (D)	Kids Say	Kids Say	Cosby	Cosby	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cosby	Cosby		
36	A&E	Biography "Sally Field: Defying Gravity" (D)	American Justice			City Confidential "Portland, Maine" (N) (D)	Third Watch "Faith" (D) (D)	Biography "Sally Field: Defying Gravity" (D)					
38	SCIFI	(5:00) Children of Dune	★★ "DNA" (1997) Mark Dacascos. (D)			Crossing	Twilight Z.	Star Trek (N) (D)					
39	TLC	While You Were Out (D)	Home Again (D)	Home Again (D)	Beware Pickpockets Footage of pickpockets.		Dangerous Missions: Space Flight (N)	Junkyard Wars Racing dune-buggies. (N)					
40	FX	Married... Married...	Buffy Vampire			Buffy Vampire	★★★ "The Pentagon Papers" (2003, Drama)						
45	FMC	(:01) ★★★ "Call Northside 777" (1948)	(0:01) Hour of Stars			(:01) Hour of Stars	(0:01) ★★★ "Romancing the Stone" (1984)						
49	E!TV	Red Carpet Flashback	Rank			Salma Hayek Revealed	Howard S.	Howard S.	Anna	Anna			
51	TRAV	World's Best	World's Best Bathrooms			World's Best (N)	World's Best	World's Best Bathrooms					
53	WB	Friends (D)	Everybody-Raymond	Dawson's Creek "Pilot" (D)			Angel Willow attempts to restore Angel's soul.	News (D)	Will & Grace (D)	Everybody-Raymond			
54	ESPN2	College Basketball: NIT	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Colorado Avalanche. (Live)			NHL 2Night	College Basketball: NIT						
58	HIST	Incredible But True? (D)	History Alive "Submarines of Russia" (N) (D)			Modern Marvels "Pickup Trucks" (D)	History's Mysteries	Incredible But True? (D)					
59	UNLV	Doctors Diaries (D)	Workout			Bodies	Health Specials (N)	Doctors Diaries (D)	Workout				
60	HIMT	Las Vias del Amor	Entre el Amor y el Odio			Don Francisco Presenta	P. Impacto	Noticiero	En las Mejores Familias				
62	HGTV	If Walls	Restore	Country	Kitchen	Treasure	Small Spc	If Walls	Restore	Country			
90	WGN	★★★ "Delta Force 2" (1990) Chuck Norris. (D)	News (D) (D)			News (D) (D)	Backyard Files	In the Heat of the Night					