

Short stature could have medical origin

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to the "Anonymous Girl in North Dakota," a fifth-grader who said she is teased because she's "really short." My 10th-grade daughter was in the same boat, always the tiniest and suffering from comments made not only by other kids, but by adults as well.

Please let "Anonymous Girl's" parents know they should see a pediatric



abigail van buren

• dear abby

endocrinologist as quickly as possible. Their daughter may be a candidate for treatment with HGH (human growth hormone), which many insurance companies have recently allowed as a pharmaceutical deduction rather than a medical expense, making treatment much more affordable. Time is of the essence! Once the growth plates close, the window of opportunity also closes. For children who do not produce enough growth hormone, the treat-

ment is a medical necessity. — JERI IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
DEAR JERI: Thank you for an important letter. I did not realize that the solution to the girl's problem might be solved by medical intervention. Her letter generated comments from many readers who wanted to help. Read on:
DEAR ABBY: Please let that young girl in on a secret. The kids who tease her are not making fun of her because she's short. They do it because they're worried someone is going to find a reason to make fun of THEM. They're trying to make themselves look good by making her look bad. When I was in fifth grade, I was made fun of for being tall. By focusing attention on someone else, they deflect criticism from themselves. — MANDY IN

COLORADO
DEAR MANDY: You've hit the nail on the head.
DEAR ABBY: The girl who's teased should give a big laugh and say, "I like to think of myself as perfection in miniature!" It worked for me. — SUZANNE IN SEATTLE
DEAR ABBY: The child in North Dakota should know that the Greek philosopher, Aristotle, was very short, too. His nicknames were "Shorty" or "Flatty." We know him today as Plato. — FRANCIS A. BURKE-YOUNG, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE
DEAR ABBY: An interviewer asked a short-statured man how he felt being surrounded by people taller than he. His reply was priceless: "Like a

dime among pennies." — CATHERINE IN TEXAS
DEAR ABBY: Please tell that girl to get involved in competitive cheerleading or gymnastics. In either sport, small size can be an advantage. In cheerleading, the smallest girls get to be the "fliers," the ones who are tossed in the air or at the top of the stunts. This is true of my daughter. It has boosted her confidence. She now views her height as an asset rather than a liability. — MOTHER IN S.E. TEXAS
DEAR ABBY: The plea from the child in North Dakota touched my heart. I, too, have always been short. My defense was to become an achiever in class and in athletics. (I later became a doctor.) The best response to people who tease should be, "That's the way

God made me, and I do the best I can with what I was given." Detractors have a difficult time fielding that response. — ALBERT IN VERO BEACH, FLA.
DEAR ABBY: My daughter had the same problem. Finally she looked at her tormentor and said, "Yes, I am short. I'm also sweet, cute, bright and a good friend. I am also finished talking to you about things that are out of my control. You're boring me!" And she walked away. The girl never bothered her again. — PROUD MOM IN HONOLULU
DEAR PROUD MOM: Which proves there is no defense like a strong offense. (Thank you to everyone who wrote. "Shortness" of space is a frustrating reality I can't ignore.)

TUESDAY EVENING										
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
2	PBS Nova "Dirty Bomb" (DVS)	Becoming American: The Chinese Experience "Gold Mountain Dreams" (DVS)			Far East-West		News	Being Served	Charlie Rose (N) (N) (DVS)	
3	IND ★★ "Edtv" (1999) Matthew McConaughey. A video clerk agrees to have his everyday life televised. (DVS)	(4:45) ★★ "Major League" (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen. (DVS)			(4:45) ★★ "Major League" (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen. (DVS)		(1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen. (DVS)		(4:45) ★★ "Edtv"	
4	ABC 8 Simple Rules	According to Jim (N)	Life With Bonnie (N)	Life With Bonnie (N)	Family (N) (N) (DVS)	News (N)		(3:55) Nightline (N) (N) (DVS)	(0:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (N) (DVS)	
5	HBO (5:45) ★★ "Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold" (1987) (DVS)	★★★ "A Knight's Tale" (2001, Adventure) Heath Ledger, Mark Addy. (N) PG-13 (DVS)			Head of State		★★★ "From Hell" (2001) Johnny Depp. (R)		(3:57) Late Show (N)	
7	CBS JAG "Ready or Not" (N) (DVS)	Celine in Las Vegas... Opening Night Live!			Judging Amy "Damage Control" (N) (DVS)	News (N) (DVS)		(3:55) Late Show D4. (N) (DVS)	(3:57) Late Show (N) (DVS)	
8	NBC Friends (N) (DVS)	Scrubs (N) (DVS)	Will & Grace (N) (DVS)	Good Morning (N) (DVS)	Dateline (N) (DVS)		News (N) (DVS)		(3:55) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)	(3:57) Late Night (N) (DVS)
11	TVLND Brady	Hap Days	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver	
12	ESPN Wm. Basketball	Women's College Basketball			Sportscenter (Live)		Baseball		Interruption	
13	FOX American Idol (ITV) (Live) (N) (DVS)	24 "Day 2: 11:00PM - Mid-night" (N) (N) (DVS)			Fox Report With Shepard Smith		LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program
15	MAX ★★ "Behind Enemy Lines" (2001, Action) Owen Wilson. (DVS)	(4:45) ★★ "Turbulence" (1997, Suspense) Ray Liotta, Lauren Holly, Brendan Gleeson. (N) (R) (DVS)			Ray Liotta, Lauren Holly, Brendan Gleeson. (N) (R) (DVS)		"Tease" (2000, Suspense) Heather Graham. (N) (R) (DVS)		Rosanna Arquette, Mandy Schaffer. (N) (R) (DVS)	
16	TNN Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Real TV (N) (DVS)	Blind Date	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.		★★★ "Moonraker"	
17	DISN Boy Meets World (N) (DVS)	Smart Guy (N) (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Even Stevens (N) (DVS)	Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)	Lizzie McGuire	"Right on Track" (2003, Drama) Beverly Mitchell, Brie Larson.		Teamo Supremo (N) (DVS)	
18	LIFE Unsolved Mysteries (N) (DVS)	"Resurrection" (1999) Dana Delany. (DVS)			Golden		Golden	Nanny (N) (DVS)	Nanny (N) (DVS)	
20	USA ★★ "Crocodile Dundee" (1986) Paul Hogan.	JAG "Ambush" (N) (DVS)			JAG "Code Blue" (N) (DVS)		Nash Bridges (N) (DVS)		Nash Bridges (N) (DVS)	
21	SHOW ★★ "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) iTV. (N) (G) (DVS)	★★★ "Lucky Numbers" (2000) John Travolta, Tim Roth. iTV. (N) (R) (DVS)			Movie News		★★★ "Vanilla Sky" (2001, Fantasy) Tom Cruise. iTV. (N) (R) (DVS)		★★★ "Vanilla Sky" (2001, Fantasy) Tom Cruise. iTV. (N) (R) (DVS)	
22	TMC (5:45) ★★ "The 6th Day" (2000) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tony Goldwyn. (N) (DVS)	★★★ "Misery" (1990) James Caan. A psychotic fan holds an injured novelist captive. (N) (DVS)			★★★ "Misery" (1990) James Caan. A psychotic fan holds an injured novelist captive. (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Soul Survivors" (2001, Horror) (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Soul Survivors" (2001, Horror) (N) (DVS)	
23	MTV Dismissed Cribbs (N) (DVS)	True Life (N) (DVS)			Sorority		Frat Life		Real World	
24	DISC Tarantulas and Their Venomous Relations	Menacing Waters			FBI Files "Deadly Obsession" (N) (DVS)		New Detectives: Forensic Science		New Detectives: Forensic Science	
28	TNT Law & Order (N) (DVS)	Law & Order "Refuge"			Law & Order "Refuge"		Law & Order "DWB" (N) (DVS)		X-Files "Nise" (N) (DVS)	
30	FXSP NHL Hockey: Avalanche at Senators	Rocky Mt.			Best Damn Sports Show Period (Live) (N) (DVS)		Rocky Mt. 54321		Rocky Mt. 54321	
32	FAM ★★ "Just a Walk in the Park" (2002) (N) (DVS)	Whose?			Whose?		700 Club (N) (DVS)		Caroline Rhea Show (N) (DVS)	
33	NBC News (N) (DVS)	Ent. Tonight	Friends (N) (DVS)	Scrubs (N) (DVS)	Will & Grace (N) (DVS)	Good Morning (N) (DVS)	Dateline (N) (DVS)		News (N) (DVS)	(3:55) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)
34	NICK Sponge	Amanda (N) (DVS)	Kids Say	Kids Say	Cheers (N) (DVS)	Cheers (N) (DVS)	3's Co. (N) (DVS)		Cosby (N) (DVS)	Cosby (N) (DVS)
36	A&E Biography "Queen Noor: Between Two Realms"	Cold Case Files A Missouri woman is convicted of killing her stepdaughter. (N) (DVS)			Third Watch "The Tys That Bind" (N) (DVS)		Biography "Queen Noor: Between Two Realms"		Biography "Queen Noor: Between Two Realms"	
38	SCIFI X-Files (N) (DVS)	X-Files "Fresh Bones"			X-Files "Ultimate Ten Unsolved Crime Mysteries" (N) (DVS)		Crossing "Twilight Z." (N) (DVS)		Star Trek (N) (DVS)	
39	TLC While You Were Out	Home Again (N) (DVS)			Faking It Unusual sports moments. (N) (DVS)		David Blaine: Street Magic (N) (DVS)		David Blaine: Street Magic (N) (DVS)	
40	FX 24 (N) (DVS)	Buffy Vampire			Cops (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Ransom" (1996) Mel Gibson, Rene Russo. Premiere. (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Ransom" (1996) Mel Gibson, Rene Russo. Premiere. (N) (DVS)	
45	FMC (:01) ★★ "The Longest Day" (1962) John Wayne, Rod Steiger.	(:01) Summer Solstice			(:01) Summer Solstice		"These Thousand Hills"		"These Thousand Hills"	
49	EITV Miss Hollywd.	Anna			Saturday Night Live (N) (DVS)		Howard S. (N) (DVS)		Wild On...	
51	TRAV Ringling Bros. Revealed	Secrets (N) (DVS)			Secrets (N) (DVS)		Ringling Bros. Revealed		Secrets (N) (DVS)	
53	WB Friends (N) (DVS)	Everybody-Raymond (N) (DVS)	Gilmore Girls "Swan Song" (N) (DVS)	Smallville "Skinwalkers" (N) (DVS)	Will & Grace (N) (DVS)		Everybody-Raymond (N) (DVS)		Everybody-Raymond (N) (DVS)	
54	ESPN2 Wm. Basketball	Women's College Basketball			ATP Tennis: Tennis Masters Series		ATP Tennis: Tennis Masters Series		ATP Tennis: Tennis Masters Series	
58	HIST Days That Shook the World (N) (DVS)	History Alive "The origins of the powerful handgun." (N) (DVS)			Modern Marvels "The Manhattan Project" (N) (DVS)		Infamous Murders (N) (DVS)		Days That Shook the World (N) (DVS)	
59	HLTH Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)	Workout			Bodies		Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)		Workout	
60	UNIV Las Vias del Amor	Entre el Amor y el Odio			Ver Para Creer		P. Impacto		Noticiero	
62	HGTV House	Interiors	Room	Decorating	House	Curb	House		Interiors	
99	WGN ★★ "Hit and Run" (1999) Margaret Colin. (N) (DVS)	News (N) (DVS)			Rockford Files		Rockford Files		In the Heat of the Night	

WEDNESDAY EVENING							MAR. 26, 2003														
	6 pm		6:30		7 pm		7:30		8 pm		8:30		9 pm		9:30		10 pm		10:30		
2	PBS	Journey to Planet Earth "On the Brink" (N) (DVS)				Becoming American: The Chinese Experiences "Between Two Worlds"				Mixed Feelings		News		Waiting for God		Charlie Rose (N) (N) (DVS)					
3	IND	Seinfeld (N) (DVS)		Seinfeld "Pilot" (N) (DVS)		Ripley's Believe It or Not! (N) (DVS)				★★ "Money Train" (1995, Suspense) Snipes, Woody Harrelson. (DVS)		(PA) Wesley		Worst-Case Scenario							
4	ABC	My Wife and Kids		George Lopez (N) (DVS)		Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N) (N) (DVS)				All American Girl (ITV) (N) (N) (DVS)		News (DVS)		(3:55) Nightline (DVS)		(0:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (N) (DVS)					
5	HBO	(5:30) ★★★ "Cast Away" (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy. (N) PG-13 (DVS)				(2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, "PG-13" (DVS)				★★ "The Wedding Planner" (2001, Comedy) Jennifer Lopez. (N) PG-13 (DVS)		Jen-		Six Feet Under "Nobody Sleeps" (N) (DVS)							
7	CBS	Survivor: The Amazon "Girls Gone Wilder" (N)				60 Minutes II (N) (DVS)				48 Hours Investigates (N)		News (N) (DVS)		(3:55) Late Show Kelly Preston; Seether. (N) (DVS)		(3:57) Late Show (N) (DVS)					
8	NBC	Dateline (N) (DVS)				West Wing "Privateers" (N) (N) (DVS)				Law & Order "Suicide Box" (N) (N) (DVS)		News		(3:55) Tonight Show (N)		(3:57) Late Night (N) (DVS)					
11	TVLND	Brady		Hap Days		Sanford		Gilligan		Griffith		Leave		I Love Lucy		Munsters		MacGyver		"Cease Fire"	
12	ESPN	High School Basketball		Basketball		NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Houston Rockets. (Live)				Sportscenter (Live)		Interruption									
13	FOX	That '70s Show (N)		American Idol The votes are tallied. (Live) (N) (DVS)		Wanda at Large (N) (DVS)		Fox Report With Shepard Smith		LAPD: Life on the Beat		LAPD: Life on the Beat		Paid Program		Paid Program					
15	MAX	(5:30) ★★★ "Men of War" (1995) (N) 'R' (DVS)				(:15) ★★ "Say It Isn't So" (2001, Comedy) Chris Klein, Heather Graham. (N) 'R' (DVS)				★★★ "Arachnophobia" (1990, Horror) Jeff Daniels, Harley Jane Kozak. (N) PG-13 (DVS)		Jeff Daniels, Harley Jane Kozak. (N) PG-13 (DVS)									
16	TNN	Real TV (N) (DVS)		Real TV (N) (DVS)		Real TV (N) (DVS)		Real TV (N) (DVS)		Blind Date		Blind Date		Star Trek: Next Gener.		"For Your Eyes Only"					
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (N) (DVS)		Smart Guy (N) (DVS)		Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)		Even Stevens (N) (DVS)		Sister, Sister (N) (DVS)		Lizzie McGuire		★★★ "Thumbelina" (1994, Fantasy) Voices of Jodi Benson, Charo. 'G' (DVS)		Teamo Supremo (N) (DVS)					
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (N) (DVS)				"Cover Story" (2002) Elizabeth Berkley. (DVS)				Golden		Golden		Nanny (N) (DVS)		Nanny (N) (DVS)					
20	USA	★★ "The President's Man" (2000) Chuck Norris.				★★★ "The President's Man: A Line in the Sand" (2000) Chuck Norris.				Nash Bridges "Jackpot" (N) (DVS)		Nash Bridges "Jackpot" (N) (DVS)									
21	SHOW	"Comic Book" (N) (DVS)		(4:45) ★★★ "Heartbreakers" (2001) Sigourney Weaver. Mother-daughter con artists steal hearts and cash. PG-13 (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Zoolander" (2001, Comedy) Ben Stiller. iTV. (N) PG-13 (DVS)				★★★ "Zoolander" (2001, Comedy) Ben Stiller. iTV. (N) PG-13 (DVS)											
22	TMC	(5:15) ★★★ "The Gentleman Bandit" (2002)				★★★ "Kill Me Later" (2001) Selma Blair, Max Beesley. (N) (DVS)				★★★ "100 Girls" (2000) Jonathan Tucker, Larisa Oleynik. (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001) (N) (DVS)									
23	MTV	Dismissed Cribbs (N) (DVS)		Real World "Real World"		Real World		Direct Effect (N) (DVS)		Cribbs (N) (DVS)		Cribbs (N) (DVS)		Sorority		Sorority					
24	DISC	Jamu: The Orphaned Leopard (N) (DVS)				Clever Critters (N) (DVS)				Beyond Human Limits (N) (DVS)		Titanic's Real J. Dawson				Unsolved History (N) (DVS)					
28	TNT	Law & Order "Return"				★★★ "The Client" (1994, Suspense) Susan Sarandon. (DVS)				Law & Order "Progeny" (N) (DVS)		X-Files (N) (DVS)									
30	FXSP	NASCAR "Nuggets"				NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Denver Nuggets. (Live)				Rocky Mt. 54321		Rocky Mt. 54321									
32	FAM	★★ "Teen Wolf" (1985) Michael J. Fox. (N) (DVS)				Whose? (N) (DVS)				Whose? (N) (DVS)		700 Club (N) (DVS)		Caroline Rhea Show (N) (DVS)							
33	NBC	News (N) (DVS)		Ent. Tonight		Dateline (N) (DVS)		West Wing "Privateers" (N) (N) (DVS)		Law & Order "Suicide Box" (N) (N) (DVS)		News (N) (DVS)		(3:55) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)							
34	NICK	Sponge		Amanda (N) (DVS)		Kids Say		Kids Say		Cheers (N) (DVS)		Cheers (N) (DVS)		3's Co. (N) (DVS)		3's Co. (N) (DVS)		Cosby (N) (DVS)		Cosby (N) (DVS)	
36	A&E	Biography "Dr. Phil" (N) (DVS)				American Justice "Crib Death" (N) (DVS)				City Confidential (N) (DVS)		Third Watch "After Hours" (N) (DVS)		Biography "Dr. Phil" (N) (DVS)							
38	SCIFI	Beyond Belief				★ "Bug Buster" (1999) Katherine Heigl. (N) (DVS)				Crossing "Twilight Z." (N) (DVS)		Star Trek (N) (DVS)									
39	TLC	While You Were Out				Home Again Home Again (N) (DVS)				FBI: Critical Incident Notorious drug gang. (N) (DVS)		Submarines (N) (DVS)		Junkyard Wars "Car Dozers" (N) (DVS)							
40	FX	Married... (N) (DVS)		Married... (N) (DVS)		Buffy Vampire				Cops (N) (DVS)		★★★ "Rising Sun" (1993) Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes.									
45	FMC	(:01) ★★★★★ "The Gunfighter" (1950, Western)				(:01) Hour of Stars				(:01) ★★★★★ "Cinderella Liberty" (1973, Comedy)											
49	EITV	Last Days of JFK Jr.: Hollywood Story				John Travolta Revealed				Howard S. (N) (DVS)		Howard S. (N) (DVS)		Anna (N) (DVS)		Anna (N) (DVS)					
51	TRAV	Anim. Kingdom				World's Best (N) (DVS)				Top Hotels		Anim. Kingdom		World's Best (N) (DVS)							
53	WB	Friends (N) (DVS)		Everybody-Raymond (N) (DVS)		Dawson's Creek "That Was Then" (N) (N) (DVS)				Angel "Players" (N) (N) (DVS)		News (N) (DVS)		Will & Grace (N) (DVS)		Everybody-Raymond (N) (DVS)					
54	ESPN2	College Basketball: NIT				College Basketball: NIT -- Teams TBA				WTA Tennis: Tennis Masters Series											
58	HIST	Incredible But True? (N) (DVS)				History Alive "U.S. Guns of WWII" (N) (DVS)				Modern Marvels Japan's outdated weapons. (N) (DVS)		History's Mysteries (N) (DVS)		Incredible But True? (N) (DVS)							
59	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)				Workout "Bodies				Health Specials (N) (DVS)		Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)		Workout "Bodies							
60	UNIV	Las Vías 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		Kitchen	
59	WGN	★★★ "Author! Author!" (1982) Al Pacino. (N) (DVS)				News (N) (DVS)				Rockford Files		In the Heat of the Night									