

# Modesty takes back seat when it's life or death

DEAR ABBY: In reply to the letter from "Offended in the South," regarding hospital gowns, I understand a person's need for modesty. However, I am a health-care provider, and I see the other side of the picture. As a paramedic, we are constantly disrobing patients (including cutting clothing off) to gain access to areas that need examination and treatment. Hospital gowns give us access to IV lines, EKG monitoring, and defibrillation and



## abigail van buren

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other medical equipment.

I am always conscious of my patients' need for privacy and re-cover them after I have examined them. Hospitals do provide robes for patients that will cover their backsides. I encourage all hospital patients to request a robe besides the hospital gown they receive upon admission. — KHRYSTEN, PORT EDWARDS, WIS.

DEAR KHRYSTEN: I'm sure many readers will be interested to

know that such garments are available upon request. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Some years back, I was in a hospital that offered a unique hospital gown. It was extremely large and had three sleeves. The patient put the left sleeve over the left arm, the right sleeve over the right arm, and then the gown was passed around the back, and the third sleeve placed over the left arm again. I remember my entire body was covered and I was very comfortable. I wish I could recall the name of that hospital. — H.E. IN FLORIDA

DEAR H.E.: It's nice to know that such a garment exists, but how practical can it be for examinations or other emergency procedures?

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, I had

the same complaint as "Offended." I am 6 feet tall and weigh 225 pounds. For years I complained to the doctors about the fact that the gowns were so short. Finally, I went to the fabric store and bought two yards of fabric and a pattern for a wrap-around sundress. The total cost was \$12.95.

I made it long — about 8 inches below my knee — and carried it with me in a tote bag. — MARCE IN HOUSTON

DEAR MARCE: That's a practical solution for a person who's handy with a needle — the sewing kind, that is.

DEAR ABBY: Here's what I did the last time I went for my annual checkup. I took along a clean cotton housecoat (duster) and, instead of waiting around in the chilly exam room in a mini-pa-

per outfit, I was warm and cozy in my own garment. My doctor thought it was a great idea. — COZY IN SCOTSDALE

DEAR COZY: I think it's a great idea, too.

DEAR ABBY: This may come as a shock, but patients in the hospital are there because they are SICK. Doctors, nurses and other medical staff need access to their sick bodies. Sometimes quick access can make the difference between life and death.

So, while the patient's dignity is a priority for health-care professionals, of even greater importance is the patient's life or limb.

I am a nurse on a medical-surgical floor at our local hospital. We are careful to offer patients two gowns — one

over the front, and the other reversed as a robe over the back. If they are bed-bound, we have no shortage of blankets to protect their modesty. Being Southern myself — like "Offended," the author of that letter — I know how we love to blow things out of proportion, and frankly, "Offended" has done just that with this gown thing. My advice to her: Build a bridge, sweetie, and get over it! — RN IN TYLERTOWN, MISS.

DEAR RN: Not so fast. While I agree in principle with what you're saying, our population is becoming increasingly diverse, and it is important that the medical community adopt culturally appropriate methods to accommodate those whose cultures are averse to "the wide-open spaces."

TUESDAY EVENING												E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone												DEC. 28, 2004											
E	S	6 pm				6:30		7 pm		7:30		8 pm		8:30		9 pm		9:30		10 pm		10:30													
6	53	A&E		Cold Case Files [E]				Cold Case Files A murder goes awry. [E]				Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Crossing Jordan "Dead Wives Club" [E]				Cold Case Files [E]															
4	6	ABC		My Wife and Kids		George Lopez [E]		According to Jim [E]		Rodney [E]		20/20 Special Edition: New Year, New Love (N)				News [E]		(3:5) Nightline [E]		(0:6) Jimmy Kimmel Live [E]															
4	48	ANPL		Austin Stevens: Snake-master [E]				Most Extreme: Births Extreme births. [E]				Miami Animal Police [E]				Austin Stevens: Snake-master [E]		Most Extreme: Births Extreme births. [E]																	
3	54	BRAVO		Moving Image Salutes John Travolta The actor is honored. [E]				The West Wing "The Red Mass" [E]				Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Steve P." [E]		The West Wing "The Red Mass" [E]				Moving Image Salutes John Travolta [E]																	
7	11	CBS		NCIS "Vanished" [E]				The Amazing Race 6 (N) [E]				Judging Amy "Accountability" [E]		News [E]		(3:5) Late Show [E]				The Late Late Show															
4	50	DISC		Monster House "Biker House" Biker house. [E]				Monster House "Hero: Firehouse" [E]				American Chopper "Liberty Bike 2" [E]				Poisonous Women [E]				Mummy Autopsy (N)															
3	44	DISN		Lizzie McGuire		Lizzie McGuire		Lizzie McGuire		Lizzie McGuire		Sister, Sister [E]		That's So Raven [E]		★ "Model Behavior" (2000, Comedy) Kathie Lee Gifford, Justin Timberlake. [E]																			
9	81	EITV		Entertainer of the Year				Sexy, Single				Billionaire Brotherhood				Howard S.		Howard S.		Saturday Night Live [E]															
2	56	ESPN		College Football: Independence Bowl [E]				(4:5) College Football Insight Bowl -- Notre Dame vs. Oregon State. From Phoenix. [E]																											
4	57	ESPN2		College Basketball				College Basketball: All-College Classic								SportsCenter (Live) [E]				Fastbreak															
2	46	FAM		★★★ "One Fine Day" (1996) Michelle Pfeiffer.				Who's? Who's?				The 700 Club [E]				Fam. Mat.				Fam. Mat.															
9	-	FIT TV		Ultimate Goals (N) [E]				Extremists				Superhuman Strength				Ultimate Goals (N) [E]				Extremists															
5	31	FMC		(:01) ★★★ "Laura" (1944, Mystery)				(:31) ★★★ "Forever Amber" (1947, Drama) Linda Darnell.								(:01) "Fallen Angel"																			
3	68	FOOD		Emeril Live Kir Royale with parmesan crisp.				Roker on the Road				\$40-a-Day "Aspen"				\$40-a-Day "Aspen"				Iron Chef Escargot cooking competition.															
3	7	FOX		Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best				House "Fidelity" (N) [E]				The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]				Bob Newhart		Bob Newhart		Mary Tyler Moore		Mary Tyler Moore													
0	38	FX		(5:00) "Black Knight"				Fear Factor [E]				King of Hill				King of Hill				★★★ "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell.															
0	55	FXSP		I, Max (N)				Rocky Mt. Sports List				Footbal				Best Damn Sports Show				Period [E]		Sports List		Rocky Mt. I, Max											
5	14	HBO		(5:00) "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers"				★★ "Welcome to Mooseport" (2004, Comedy) Gene Hackman, Ray Romano. [E] PG-13 [E]				The Sopranos "Marco Polo" [E]				The Sopranos "Unidentified Black Males" [E]																			
2	67	HGTV		Designed Designer		Designer		Decorating Design		Designers' Designers'		Designers' Designers'		House		Crafters		Designed Designer																	
8	52	HIST		Wild West Tech "Disaster Tech" (N) [E]				Modern Marvels "Doomsday Tech 1" (N)				Modern Marvels "More Doomsday Tech" (N)				Hooked: Illegal Drugs and How They Got				Wild West Tech "Disaster Tech" [E]															
5	35	IND		Friends [E]		Friends [E]		Sex and the City [E]		Sex and the City [E]		(1:10) ★★★ "Men in Black" (1997, Science Fiction) (PA) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith. [E]				(1:10) ★★ "The 6th Day" (2000) (PA) [E]																			
8	63	LIFE		(5:00) "Forever Love"				"An Unfinished Affair" (1996) Jennie Garth. [E]				(1996) Jennie Garth. [E]				The Nanny		Golden		The Nanny		Golden													
3	77	MTV		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World		Real World													
9		NBC		News [E]		Ent. Tonight		Father of the Pride		Father of the Pride		Father of the Pride		Scrub [E]		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Debt" [E]				News [E]		The Tonight Show													
8		NBC		Father of the Pride		Father of the Pride		Father of the Pride		Scrub [E]		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Debt" [E]				News		(3:5) The Tonight Show [E]		(3:7) Late Night (N)															
4	43	NICK		"Jimmy Neutron"				Fatherhood				Fresh Pr.		Fresh Pr.		Cosby		Roseanne		Roseanne		Fresh Pr.													
2	2	PBS		Nova "Elegant Universe" String theory. [E]				Independent Lens "Girl Wrestler"				Frontline The popularity of alternative medicine.				BBC World News				That's My Boy		Charlie Rose (N) [E]													
8	83	SCIFI		"Wishmaster 2"				★★ "Wishmaster 3: Beyond the Gates of Hell"				★★ "Necronomicon: Book of the Dead" (1994)																							
1	41	SPK		(4:00) "Moonraker" [E]				★★★ "Octopussy" (1983) Roger Moore, Maud Adams. [E]				"A View to a Kill" (1985)																							
9	51	TLC		While You Were Out				Clean Sweep [E]				In a Fix "Landscape O' Love" Fixer-upper home.				American Hot Rod "Rat Rod Build-Off 4" [E]				Overhaulin' "Surfer Kid"															
8	37	TNT		Law & Order [E] (DVS)				Law & Order [E] (DVS)				Charmed [E]				Law & Order [E] (DVS)				The X-Files [E]															
1	86	TRAV		Crustacean Sensations				Made				Made				America's Town Square				Crustacean Sensations															
1	82	TVLND		Munsters		GreenAcre		Griffith		Leave		Sanford		All-Family		3's Co.		3's Co.		Cheers		Cheers													
0	89	UNIV		Rubi				Amor Real				Veremos Todo				Impacto				Noticiero															
0	34	USA		Law & Order: SVU				★★★ "The First Wives Club" (1996) [E]				Club				Law & Order: SVU				The District "On Guard"															
2	3	WB		Friends [E]		Everybody-Raymond		Gilmore Girls "Tippecanoe and Taylor, Too"				High School Reunion (N) [E]				News [E]				Friends [E]															
9	36	WGN		Becker [E]		NBA Basketball New Jersey Nets at Chicago Bulls. [E]										WGN News				Becker [E]		Home Delivery													

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E	S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30																						
36	53	A&E	American Justice "The Perfect Wife" (N) [E]		Road Warriors: The Biker Brotherhood [E]		Biography "Dr. Robert Atkins" (N) [E]		Crossing Jordan "Pandora's Trunk" [E]		American Justice "The Perfect Wife" (N) [E]																							
4	6	ABC	Lost "The Moth" [E] [E]		Lost "Confidence Man" [E] [E]		Wife Swap "Donahoe/Baker" (N) [E]		News [E]		(:35) Nightline [E]	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) [E] [E]																						
26	48	ANPL	Animal Face-Off "Lion vs. Tiger" [E]		The Jeff Corwin Experience		Miami Animal Police "Snakes on the Loose"		Animal Face-Off "Lion vs. Tiger" [E]		The Jeff Corwin Experience																							
63	54	BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio [E]		Tom Cruise		Project Runway [E]		The West Wing "Debate Camp" [E]		Significant Others [E]		Significant Others [E]																					
7	11	CBS	60 Minutes [E] [E]		The King of Queens [E]		Center-Univ		CSI: NY "Grand Master" [E]		News [E]		(:35) Late Show [E] [E]	The Late Late Show [E]																				
24	50	DISC	MythBusters "Best Animal Myths" [E]		MythBusters [E]		American Chopper "Jet Bike" [E]		Motorcycle Mavericks [E]		MythBusters "Penny Drop" [E]																							
33	44	DISN	Lizzie McGuire [E]		Lizzie McGuire [E]		Lizzie McGuire [E]		Lizzie McGuire [E]		Sister, Sister [E]		That's So Raven [E]		★★★ "Cadet Kelly" (2002, Comedy-Drama) Hilary Duff, Christy Carlson Romano. [E]																			
49	81	EITV	Anna Nicole Smith: The E!		True Hollywood Story [E]		Jackie Collins Presents [E]		Howard S. [E]		Howard S. [E]		Saturday Night Live [E]																					
22	56	ESPN	College Football MasterCard Alamo Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Oklahoma State. (Live) [E]		SportsCenter (Live) [E]		Outside [E]																											
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball [E]		Junior Hockey: World Champ. -- Belarus vs. U.S. [E]		Fastbreak [E]		NFL Live [E]																									
32	46	FAM	★★ "National Lampoon's European Vacation" [E]		Whose? [E]		Whose? [E]		The 700 Club [E]		Fam. Mat. [E]		Fam. Mat. [E]																					
9	17	FIT TV	Low Carb [E]		Low Carb [E]		Extremists [E]		Extremists [E]		Peak Performance [E]		Low Carb [E]		Low Carb [E]																			
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★★★ "The Terrorists" (1975) Sean Connery. [E]		(:01) ★★★ "The Detective" (1968) Lee Remick [E]		(:01) "Chain Reaction" [E]																											
53	68	FOOD	Emeril's Year End Blast [E]		BBQ With Bobby Flay [E]		Foodnation [E]		Good Eats [E]		Good Eats [E]		Iron Chef Cooking competition. [E]		Emeril's Year End Blast [E]																			
13	7	FOX	That '70s Show [E]		Quintuplets (N) [E]		Nanny 911 "Rock Family" [E]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]		Bob Newhart [E]		Bob Newhart [E]		Mary Tyler Moore [E]		Mary Tyler Moore [E]																	
40	38	FX	(4:30) "Vertical Limit" [E]		Fear Factor [E]		King of Hill [E]		King of Hill [E]		★★ "America's Sweethearts" (2001, Comedy) [E]																							
30	55	FXSP	College Hockey: Michigan St. vs. New Hampshire [E]		Rocky Mt. [E]																													
5	14	HBO	(5:00) ★★★ "That Thing You Do!" (1996) [E]		★★ "Chasing Liberty" (2004) Mandy Moore. A Briton and the president's daughter travel Europe. [E]		The Sopranos "Cold Cuts" [E]		The Sopranos "Cold Cuts" [E]		The Sopranos "Tony thinks of an old flame. [E]																							
62	67	HGTV	Renovation/Building [E]		Sensible [E]		Mission [E]		Curb [E]		Curb [E]		House [E]		House [E]		Renovation/Building [E]																	
58	52	HIST	UFO Files Evidence of UFO activity in the Bible. [E]		The Bible Code: Predicting Armageddon [E]		Bible Code II: Apocalypse and Beyond [E]		Hooked: Illegal Drugs and How They Got [E]		UFO Files Evidence of UFO activity in the Bible. [E]																							
25	35	IND	Friends [E]		Friends [E]		Funniest Commercial of the Year: 2004 (N) [E]		Sex and the City [E]		Sex and the City [E]		(:10) ★ "Showgirls" (1995, Drama) Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan. [E]																					
18	63	LIFE	"A Crime of Passion" [E]		★ "Don't Look Down" (1998) Megan Ward. [E]		The Nanny [E]		Golden [E]		The Nanny [E]		Golden [E]																					
23	77	MTV	Challenge [E]		Challenge [E]		Pimp Ride [E]		Pimp Ride [E]		Pimp Ride [E]		Pimp Ride [E]		Pimp Ride [E]																			
3	9	NBC	News [E]		Ent. Tonight [E]		Law & Order: Criminal Intent [E]		The West Wing "Full Disclosure" [E]		Law & Order "Veteran's Day" [E]		News [E]		(:35) The Tonight Show [E]		(:37) Late Night (N) [E]																	
8	8	NBC	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [E]		The West Wing "Full Disclosure" [E]		Law & Order "Veteran's Day" [E]		News [E]		(:35) The Tonight Show [E]		(:37) Late Night (N) [E]																					
34	43	NICK	"The Rugrats Movie" [E]		Full House [E]		Full House [E]		Fresh Pr. [E]		Cosby [E]		Roseanne [E]		Roseanne [E]		Fresh Pr. [E]		Fresh Pr. [E]															
2	2	PBS	Live From Lincoln Center Flutist James Galway performs. (N) [E]		The Congregation Conflict between United Methodist Church and congregation. (N) [E]																													
38	83	SCFI	Paranormal [E]		Ghost Hunters [E]		Score [E]		Score [E]		Paranormal [E]		Ghost Hunters [E]																					
61	41	SPK	(4:00) "Thunderball" [E]		★★★ "You Only Live Twice" (1967, Adventure) Sean Connery. [E]																													
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out [E]		Clean Sweep [E]		In a Fix Newlyweds' house is a mess. [E]		Storm Force "Tornado Alley" [E]		In a Fix "The Big One" (N) [E]																							
28	37	TNT	Law & Order [E] (DVS)		Law & Order "Amends" [E]		★★ "Road House" (1989) Patrick Swayze. [E]		The X-Files [E]																									
51	86	TRAV	Vegas: Beating [E]		World Poker Tour "Cruisin' Mexico" [E]		Vegas: Beating [E]		World Poker Tour [E]																									
21	82	TVLND	Munsters [E]		GreenAcre [E]		Griffith [E]		Leave [E]		Sanford [E]		All-Family [E]		3's Co. [E]		3's Co. [E]		Cheers [E]		Cheers [E]													
60	89	UNIV	Rubí [E]		Amar Real [E]		Don Francisco Presenta [E]		Impacto [E]		Noticiero [E]		Los Metiches [E]																					
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law & Order: SVU [E]		Law Order: CI [E]		Monk [E]																					
12	3	WB	Friends [E]		Everybody-Raymond [E]		Smallville "Perry" [E]		Big Man on Campus (N) [E]		News [E]		Friends [E]		Will & Grace [E]																			
99	36	WGN	★★★ "Deathtrap" (1982) Michael Caine. [E]		WGN News at Nine [E]		Becker [E]		Becker [E]		Home Delivery (N) [E]																							