

# Hospital gown stories bring on smiles



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

DEAR READERS: Believe it or not, I'm still getting mail regarding the letters I printed about hospital gowns. Some of them gave me a chuckle, and I thought I'd share them with you. So pour yourselves a cup of coffee or tea, sit back, and as they say, "Bottoms up!"

DEAR ABBY: Your column about hospital gowns reminded me of an item that appeared in the Milwaukee

Journal Green Sheet years ago. "Did you know that hospital gowns come in three sizes?"

"Short, shorter, and don't bend over!"

—A. BEYERSDORF, MILWAUKEE

DEARA.: No, but that sounds like good advice to me.

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letters about hospital gowns, I won-

dered if your readers know that the first hospital gown was designed by a man named Seymour Heiny. — R. McA., JOHNSTOWN, PA.

DEAR R.: A true visionary.

DEAR ABBY: I am a nurse who works in intensive care. We have a saying where I work: "That's why they call it an I.C.U." — KEN THE RN

DEAR KEN: And I'll bet you've seen more than your share.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, I was in the hospital going through a miscarriage, wearing a hospital gown. My roommate was a large woman who complained to the nurse that hers barely covered her. I told them we were wearing designer

gowns. My roommate responded that it couldn't be true — hers looked like a regular gown to her. I told her ours were made by "Jordass."

Once she stopping laughing, the nurse said she thought I'd emotionally and physically survive the miscarriage if I could make a joke at a time like that. Two years later, I became pregnant with my son, who's a high school senior this year. Even if you can't print this, I thought you would get a laugh from it. — YOU CAN LAUGH OR YOU CAN CRY

DEAR YOU: I did — and I want you to know I admire your strength in the face of adversity.

DEAR ABBY: Feel free to use all or part of this story from my latest

book, "The Dog Ate My 'Things to Do' List — What a Good Dog!" A brief history of the hospital gown: "There is the straitjacket, the bullet-proof vest, the lead apron that wards off stray X-rays, and then there is the 'just put it on backward hospital gown.' Some say that Betty Barebottom invented this product. Betty, according to this account, wished to teach men two things. One: It isn't easy to wear a skirt and not expose your anatomy to a gawking world. Two: Men should understand how difficult it is to fasten things behind your back.

"Others claim that the designer of this impossible gown is a man named Seymour Butts. ... Although he con-

siders the hospital gown the culmination of his life's work, Seymour currently works as a fashion designer. His line of unusual designs bears the label "Butt First." — DEAN CHAPMAN, CONCORD, CALIF.

DEAR DEAN: Whether Seymour's clothing line is famous or infamous is debatable, although no one can deny its popularity. The low-slung hip-hugger is "hot" from coast-to-coast regardless of the weather or the sex of the wearer. But that's another column.

P.S. Anyone interested in purchasing books by Mr. Chapman can get ordering information by contacting him: deanchap@aol.com.

TUESDAY EVENING		E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone FEB. 1, 2005									
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	Cold Case Files	Cold Case Files	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Crossing Jordan "You Can't Go Home Again"	Cold Case Files			
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez	According to Jim	Rodney	NYPD Blue	News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live	
26	48	ANPL	Austin Stevens: Snake-master	The Most Extreme Nasty animal behaviors.	Animal Cops San Francisco	Animal Cops San Francisco	Austin Stevens: Snake-master	The Most Extreme Nasty animal behaviors.			
63	54	BRAVO	Celebrity Poker Showdown	Celebrities compete on behalf of their favorite charities.	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	The West Wing "7A WF 83429"	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy			
7	11	CBS	College Basketball	Wichita State at Creighton.	Judging Amy	"You Don't Know Me"	News	(:35) Late Show with David Letterman	Late Late Show		
24	50	DISC	Monster Nation	Monster Garage "Box Truck/Wrestling Car"	American Chopper	Old-school bike.	Pompeii: The Last Day	Pompeii lies undisturbed under volcanic debris for over 1,500 years.			
33	44	DISN	Braceface	Kim Possible	Lizzie McGuire	American Drgn	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ ★ "The Color of Friendship" (2000, Drama) Carl Lumbly.	The Proud Family	
49	81	EITV	101 Celebrity Ooops!	101 Celebrity Ooops!	101 Celebrity Ooops!	101 Celebrity Ooops!	101 Celebrity Ooops!	101 Celebrity Ooops!	Howard S.	Howard S.	Saturday Night Live
22	56	ESPN	College Basketball	Winter X-Games	From Aspen, Colo. (Live)	SportsCenter	(Live)	Outside	Gamenight		
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball	Florida at Mississippi State.	NBA Nation	(Live)	NFL Live	Fastbreak			
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "Death Becomes Her"	(1992) Premiere.	Who? Who?	Who? Who?	The 700 Club	Videos	Videos		
59	-	FIT TV	Ultimate Goals	(N) (Live)	Extremists	Extremists	Extreme Survival	"Heart"	Ultimate Goals	Extremists	Extremists
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "The Longest Day"	(1962) John Wayne, Rod Steiger.	Roker on the Road	Roker on the Road	Iron Chef "Bamboo Shoots"	Emeril's Big Game Party	Tips for a football bash.		
53	68	FOOD	American Idol	(N) (Live)	House "DNR"	(N) (Live)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Bob Newhart	Bob Newhart	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore
40	38	FX	King of Hill	King of Hill	Fear Factor	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Life or Something Like It"	(2002)	
30	55	FXPSP	Sports List	Rocky Mt.	AFL	Football	Championship Poker	Best Damn Sports Show	Rocky Mt.	I, Max	(N)
5	14	HBO	Matrix Revol.	★ ★ "Mr. Wrong"	(1996, Comedy) Ellen DeGeneres.	"PG-13"	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"	(2002, Comedy) Nia Vardalos, John Corbett.	"PG-13"	★ ★ ★ "Secret Window"	(2004) (PG-13)
62	67	HGTV	Designed	Designer	Decorating	Mission	Designers	Design	House	Designed	Designer
58	52	HIST	Wild West Tech	Technology used in saloons.	Modern Marvels "Engineering Disasters 13"	Modern Marvels "Silver Mines"	Modern Marvels "Gold Mines"	Modern Marvels "Gold Mines"	Wild West Tech	Technology used in saloons.	
25	35	IND	Friends	Friends	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:15) ★ ★ "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood"	(2002, Comedy-Drama) (PA) Sandra Bullock, Ellen Burstyn.	"3 Men & Baby"		
18	63	LIFE	"The Right Temptation"	"When Husbands Cheat"	(1998) Tom Irwin	The Nanny	Golden	The Nanny	Golden		
23	77	MTV	TRL (iTV)	Challenge	MTV Cribs	Direct Effect	Sweet 16	Sweet 16	Real World	Real World	
3	9	NBC	News	Ent. Tonight	The Most Outrageous Moments in Live TV 3	Scrubs	Committed	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	"Obscene"	News	Tonight Show
8	8	NBC	The Most Outrageous Moments in Live TV 3	Scrubs	Committed	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	"Obscene"	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Late Night	
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob	School	Full House	Fatherhood	Fresh Pr.	Cosby	Roseanne	Murphy	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS	Nova	"Treasures of the Sunken City"	(DVS) Without Fear or Favor: The Best	Frontline "Secret History of the Credit Card"	BBC World News	That's My Boy	Charlie Rose	(N) (Live)	
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Waterworld"	(1995) Kevin Costner, Dennis Hopper.	Shining	(Part 1 of 3)	★ ★ "Deuces Wild"				
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure	Wildest Police Videos	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	★ ★ "Deuces Wild"				
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out	Clean Sweep	Functional room.	In a Fix	The Kustomizer	Overhaul'n	Lance Armstrong's GTO.		
28	37	TNT	Law & Order	(DVS) Law & Order	(DVS) Charmed	Charmed	Law & Order "Sweeps"	The X-Files	"Vienen"		
51	86	TRAV	Pizza Parades	Made	Made	Future City	Pizza Parades	Made	Made		
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven	Griffith	Leave	Sanford	All-Family	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cheers	Cheers
60	89	UNIV	Rubi	Amor Real	Jugando al Amor	Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez			
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU	★ ★ "Major Payne"	(1995) Damon Wayans.	Law & Order: SVU	The Dead Zone				
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	Gilmore Girls	"Come Home" (N) (Live)	One Tree Hill	"Between Order and Randomness"	News	Friends	Will & Grace
99	36	WGN	(5:30) ★ ★ ★ "The Hunt for Red October"		WGN News at Nine	Becker	Becker	Home Delivery			

WEDNESDAY EVENING		E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone FEB. 2, 2005									
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 Monster Inside"	San Francisco Vice	"See Arnold Run"	(2005, Docudrama) Jürgen Prochnow, Mariel Hemingway.	American Justice "The Monster Inside"				
4	6	ABC	Lost "Raised by Another"	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live			
26	48	ANPL	Day of the Groundhog	The Jeff Corwin Experience	Trip to Brazil.	Animal Cops San Francisco	Animal Cops San Francisco	Day of the Groundhog	The Jeff Corwin Experience	Trip to Brazil.	
63	54	BRAVO	Project Runway	Project Runway	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	The West Wing "The Dogs of War"	Project Runway			
7	11	CBS	60 Minutes	Wednesday	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	News	(:35) Late Show with David Letterman	Late Late Show		
24	50	DISC	Monster Nation	Monster Garage "Quarter-Mile Cadillac"	American Chopper	"Comanche 2"	Superweapons of the Ancient World	MythBusters	"Buster Special"		
33	44	DISN	Braceface	Kim Possible	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ ★ "Treehouse Hostage"	(1999, Comedy) Jim Varney, Joey Zimmerman.	PG
49	81	EITV	Rock Star Kids: The El!	True Hollywood Story	The Entertainer	Howard S.	Howard S.	Barbi Twins: THS			
22	56	ESPN	College Basketball	College Basketball	Duke at Wake Forest.	SportsCenter	(Live)	Outside	Gamenight		
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball	Texas A&M at Oklahoma.	NBA Basketball	Denver Nuggets at Portland Trail Blazers.	Fastbreak	Videos	Videos		
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "She Gets What She Wants"	(2002) E!	Who? Who?	Who? Who?	The 700 Club	Videos	Videos		
59	-	FIT TV	Low Carb	Low Carb	Extremists	Extremists	Extreme Survival	Low Carb	Low Carb	Extremists	Extremists
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Breaking Away"	(1979, Drama)	Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef America "Flay vs. Tsai"	Emeril's Manly Man Tailgate			
53	68	FOOD	American Idol	(N) (Live)	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore	
40	38	FX	King of Hill	King of Hill	Fear Factor	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Die Hard 2"	(1990, Drama) Bruce Willis.		
30	55	FXPSP	Sports List	Rocky Mt.	AFL	Football	Championship Poker	Best Damn Sports Show	Rocky Mt.	I, Max	(N)
5	14	HBO	(5:00) "In & Out"	(1997) Elaine Stritch at Liberty Award-winning, one-woman show.	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "Girl With a Pearl Earring"	(2003, Biography) Colin Firth. Premiere.	"PG-13"	Carnivale	Ben's relative reveals dark secrets.		
62	67	HGTV	Renovation	Weekend	Home	Landscap	Curb	Curb	Design	House	Renovation
58	52	HIST	Modern Marvels "Metal"	Full Throttle Classic	1964 Chevy Impalas.	Modern Marvels "Hydraulics"	Modern Marvels "Towing"	Modern Marvels "Metal"			
25	35	IND	Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:15) ★ ★ "Sweet November"	(2001, Romance) Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron.	
18	63	LIFE	"Without Her Consent"	★ ★ "A Face to Kill For"	(1999) Doug Savant.	The Nanny	Golden	The Nanny	Golden		
23	77	MTV	TRL (iTV)	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Ashlee	Newlywed	
3	9	NBC	News	Ent. Tonight	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Model Search	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Late Night	
8	8	NBC	Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Model Search	State of the Union	President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech.	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Late Night			
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob	Unfabulous	Full House	Full House	Fresh Pr.	Cosby	Roseanne	Murphy	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS	Antiques	Ripley-Believe	Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State	The Allies never bombed the railways leading to the gas chambers.	BBC World News	Two's Company	Charlie Rose	(N) (Live)	
38	83	SCIFI	Ripley-Believe	Ripley-Believe	Ghost Hunters	Shining	(Part 2 of 3)				
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure	Wildest Police Videos	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	The Hoop Life				
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out	Clean Sweep	Office: living room.	In a Fix	"Nick's Hell House"	Moving Up "Country Kitch Carnage"	In a Fix "Fine Art Vision"	(N)	
28	37	TNT	Law & Order "Flight"	Law & Order "Venom"	★ ★ ★ "Maverick"	(1994, Western) Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster.	Maverick				
51	86	TRAV	Alaska on the Edge	World Poker Tour	Alaska on the Edge	World Poker Tour					
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven	Griffith	Leave	Still Brady	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cheers	Cheers	
60	89	UNIV	Rubi	Amor Real	Don Francisco Presenta	Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez			
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	"Riding the Bullet"				
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	Smallville "Pariah" (N)	Jack & Bobby "A New Frontier" (N) (Live)	News	Friends	Will & Grace		
99	36	WGN	(5:30) ★ ★ ★ "Lying Eyes"	(1996) Cassidy Rae.	WGN News at Nine	Becker	Becker	Home Delivery			

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# Why?

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THURSDAY EVENING		E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone FEB. 3, 2005									
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	Cold Case Files	An arson investigator is suspected of setting fires.	The First 48	Detectives track a killer.	Crossing Jordan "Believers"	Cold Case Files			
4	6	ABC	Happy Days	30th Anniversary Reunion	PrimeTime Live	News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live			
26	48	ANPL	The Planet's Funniest Animals	Pet Star	Animal Cops San Francisco	Animal Cops San Francisco	The Planet's Funniest Animals	Pet Star			
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	Celebrity Poker Showdown	Celebrities compete on behalf of their favorite charities.	The West Wing "Jefferson Lives"	Celebrity Poker Showdown				
7	11	CBS	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	"Nesting Dolls"	Without a Trace "Volcano"	News	(:35) Late Show with David Letterman	Late Late Show		
24	50	DISC	Monster Nation	Monster Garage	Mercedes conversion.	American Chopper "Comanche 3"	Monster Nation	Osama: Dead or Alive	The terrorist's trail.		
33	44	DISN	Braceface	Kim Possible	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ ★ "Gotta Kick It Up"	(2002) Susan Egan. A teacher changes the lives of some Latina students.	
49	81	EITV	True H'wood	The Entertainer	Howard S.	Howard S.	Saturday Night Live				
22	56	ESPN	College Basketball	Tilt	Tilt	SportsCenter	(Live)	NFL Live	Super Bowl		
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "The Man in the Moon"	(1991) Premiere.	Who? Who?	Who? Who?	The 700 Club	Videos	Videos		
59	-	FIT TV	No Opportunity Wasted	Extremists	Extremists	Enduring Extremes	No Opportunity Wasted	Extremists	Extremists		
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Two for the Road"	(1967, Drama)	Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef "Codfish"	Codfish battle.	Emeril's Tailgate Recipe	Contest	
53	68	FOOD	Emeril's Tailgate Recipe Contest	All American Tailgating Cook-Off	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Bob Newhart	Bob Newhart	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore		
13	7	FOX	The O.C. "The Second Chance"	Point Pleasant "The Lonely Hunter"	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	
40	38	FX	(4:00) "Die Hard 2"	Fear Factor "Twins"	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	King of Hill	
30	55	FXPSP	Sports List	Rocky Mt.	FSN Amer	Football	College Basketball	New Mexico State at Denver.	Rocky Mt.	I, Max	(N)
5	14	HBO	★ ★ "Alex & Emma"	(:45) ★ ★ ★ "A League of Their Own"	(1992) Geena Davis. Based on the story of the all-girl baseball league of 1943.	Inside the NFL	★ ★ ★ "The Matrix"	(1999) Keanu Reeves.			
62	67	HGTV	Mission	Designed	Design	Designers	House	House	Design	House	Mission
58	52	HIST	Snipers: One Shot -- One Kill	Snipers: World's Deadliest Snipers	Snipers: Stalk and Kill						