

Help needed to break cycle of abuse



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old woman, married to a 44-year-old man I'll call Harlan.

burned. When he left, I jumped into my car and left for the first time.

Then one day I got in the car with him, and he said we were going for a ride. He pulled out a pistol, pointed it

at my head, and told me I'd never breathe again. He made me get on my knees and beg for my life.

Then he ordered me to get into the trunk of the car. I refused, and he fired a shot. The bullet buzzed past my head.

You would think after all that I'd leave and never come back, because each time I do it gets worse. I have reported Harlan to the police and they had evidence against him, but still refuse to do anything.

hurt. — HURTING IN OKLAHOMA DEAR HURTING: Your letter curled my hair. If you don't leave your husband you will wind up DEAD.

When dealing with a personality like your husband's, you must be very careful about leaving. The people at the National Domestic Violence Hotline can help you formulate an escape plan.

will need psychological help to break this cycle, and I pray that this time you'll get it. You will have to make a new start, and mental health professionals who deal with domestic violence can help you accomplish it.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my smart, funny and caring (then) 16-year-old son, "Will," told me he was gay. I was, and am, very supportive and told him my only wish is for him to be happy.

Two years have passed and still not a word to Dad. I have told Will that I feel his father will be supportive. My son knows that we have gay friends, and he has never heard either of us ut-

ter a derogatory word about gays. I don't feel it's my place to tell my husband, but I feel awful that I have known for so long. I'm worried that my husband will be hurt if he finds out just how long I have known without informing him.

DEAR MOM: Talk to Will and find out why he won't come out to his father. Your son may have his reasons. However, two years is a long time to carry a "secret" like this one, so tell him that the burden of silence has grown heavy for you.

SATURDAY EVENING APR. 23, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and various TV programs like 'City Confidential', 'Cold Case Files', 'The Riverman', etc.

SUNDAY EVENING APR. 24, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and various TV programs like 'The First 48', 'Family Plots', 'Intervention', etc.

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Saturday and Sunday Movies. List of movies including '10:05 25/35 IND Movie "Back to the Future Part III"', '6:11/41 SPK Movie "Project A2"', etc.