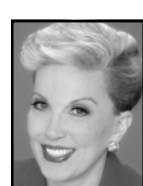


Wife stays with abusive mate who's ill



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Andrew" for four years. It's my second marriage and his third. Two months after our wedding, Andrew was diagnosed with colon cancer. I stood by his side and supported him even though his family did not help me.

— but six months ago he was diagnosed with liver cancer. I couldn't leave him alone at a time like that, so I decided to stay.

Andrew was in remission for three years, during which he was abusive physically, mentally and emotionally. I wanted to take my children and leave

Since then, Andrew has twice threatened to kill himself and take me with him. I'm scared, but I'm afraid to leave him alone because he is my husband. He wants nothing to do with counseling.

During one of his appointments, I learned that he had hepatitis and

didn't tell me. (I have since had myself and the children checked, and we are fine.) I no longer trust Andrew, and I'm afraid to sleep at night. My children now live with my mother, who is not far away. He has done many other things to make me not trust him any longer. His family is no help. Should I stay and continue to be supportive? Please help me. — EXHAUSTED AND SLEEPLESS IN LA

DEAR EXHAUSTED: Schedule an appointment with your husband's doctor and tell him or her what you have told me. Other arrangements should be made for his care.

He appears to be mentally unbalanced, and he could attempt to carry out his threat.

Unless you are willing to risk your children being left with no mother, you will do this for their sakes, not to mention your own.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a new clerical job for only a few weeks. I type a lot of handwritten drafts for my computer-illiterate boss. While typing, I have noticed that the grammar he uses for in-house correspondence is less than stellar.

I correct small mistakes where necessary, but I'm uncomfortable with changing sentence structure or reshaping paragraphs, although my boss's writing could benefit from it. If I could edit as I please, his correspondence would be more concise and easier to read.

Should I bother to correct his mis-

takes, aside from spelling and verb tense?

The public doesn't see any of this, and everyone here is already aware of his writing style. What will make him look worse — poor grammar, or a sudden, inexplicable improvement that seemed to arrive with his new secretary? What will make me look worse — letting this slide, or appearing uppity?

Also, if I should be reworking his drafts, how should I broach the subject of asking permission to do so? He's very casual as far as bosses go, but I don't want to cause embarrassment by pointing out that I have stronger writing skills. — GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT: I see nothing uppity or embarrassing in saying to an employer that English grammar is your strong suit and asking if he would mind if you rework his correspondence — as long as he reviews any draft before it is sent out. Bosses usually value employees who make them look better than they actually are.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please give me your definition of maturity? Thank you in advance. — WONDERING IN WOODBURY

DEAR WONDERING: Maturity is the ability to control our impulses, to think beyond the moment, and consider how our words and our actions will affect ourselves and others before we act.

SATURDAY EVENING MAY 7, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, EITV, ESPN, FIM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NBC, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing programs like 'City Confidential', 'American Justice', 'The Bachelor', etc.

SUNDAY EVENING MAY 8, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, EITV, ESPN, FIM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NBC, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing programs like 'The First 48', 'Family Plots', 'Intervention', etc.

Advertisement for Goodland Star-News featuring the headline 'This space could be yours' and 'Let advertising in the Goodland Star-News help your business.' Includes contact information: Call us 785-899-2338.

Advertisement for Eagle Wireless titled 'Notice: Goodland Area Rural Residents' and 'Saturday and Sunday Movies'. Promotes high-speed internet with download speeds up to 3 mb/p/s! and includes a photo of a woman working on a laptop.

MONDAY EVENING MAY 9, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, EITV, ESPN, FIM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NBC, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing programs like 'Growing Up Gotti', 'The Bachelor', 'Animal Cops Detroit', etc.

Advertisement for Saturday and Sunday Movies. Lists movie titles and showtimes for Saturday Afternoon and Sunday Morning, including 'Yellow Sky', 'The West Wing', 'The King of Queens', etc.