

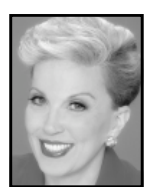
Tradition collects foes

DEAR ABBY: I have never written you before, but the letter you printed from "Dismayed Grandmother" in Laredo, Texas, brought back memories. I couldn't have been more than 8, and it was my father's birthday. There were flowers on his birthday cake, and he said to me, "Smell the flowers. Go ahead, smell the flowers!" I hesitated, but he insisted, so I bent over the cake to smell the flowers and he pushed my face into the frosting.

I am now 72, and I still remember how it felt to be deceived and humiliated by my father. Other people in the room may have been laughing, but I wasn't. My father thought he was being funny. Instead, he lost his daughter's love and trust that day. — WISHES HE HADN'T IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR WISHES HE HADN'T: As I said in my reply to "Dismayed Grandmother," I have never found humor at the expense of others to be funny. In fact, I consider it cruel, hostile, and a form of bullying. That a parent would tolerate, much less participate in, the humiliation of his or her child is an appalling breach of trust. Your reaction proves the truth of my statement.

Read on, because the letter to which you referred brought in some interesting mail.



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: The same thing happened to me. The person who did it was my former father-in-law. He thought it was the funniest thing he had ever seen. Surprisingly, however, when HIS birthday rolled around, it wasn't so funny anymore. Imagine that! — LAWRENCE IN QUEEN CREEK, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: You missed the boat on the face-in-the-birthday-cake letter. Here in Mexico it is common — nay, usual — for the birthday boy or girl (or man or woman) to have his or her face pushed into the cake. After the candles are blown out, the birthday person is supposed to take a little bite of the cake with his or her mouth — not using any utensils — for good luck. It is usually when the person's face is near the cake that someone standing behind him or her pushes their face into it.

I assume that's what happened at the party the grandmother attended, since it was from Laredo, Texas, which is on the border with Mexico. I personally do not enjoy being

pushed into the cake (as I have been on several occasions), and yes, some kids do cry when it happens. But it's all done in fun, and I believe it's important to be a good sport about it.

Whether this tradition should or should not be continued is debatable — but frankly, you are not the one who should be debating (or criticizing) it. When you referred to this custom as a form of "bullying," you were speaking from a U.S. cultural perspective. You and the letter writer may have been "aghast" out of cultural ignorance — just as people from other countries might consider the "pinching" (ow!) that happens on St. Patrick's Day in the United States to be physical abuse. — ROBIN IN MEXICO CITY

DEAR ABBY: Birthday parties shouldn't involve tears, and it's a shame that the boy's celebration was spoiled by this tradition. The hosts of the party should have better prepared the child for the event.

I was introduced to that birthday tradition while living and teaching in northern Mexico. It shocked me the first time it happened, but students explained that, for many children, it's an eagerly anticipated part of their birthday celebration. — AMY IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SATURDAY EVENING

		6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	
		E = Eagle Cable						S = S&T Telephone				
36/47	A&E	Cold Case ATM aids Ky. police. (TVPG)	Cold Case: On the Case: Nacole's Killer	American Justice: The Deer Hunting Murder	American Justice: Mob Ladies (TVPG)	Cold Case ATM aids Ky. police. (TVPG)						
4	6	ABC	"What Lies Beneath" (00, Suspense/Thriller) ★★ Supernatural thriller about a couple whose house appears to be haunted. (R) (HD)		KAKE News (TVPG)	Seinfeld (TVPG)	Enterprise (TVPG)					
26/54	ANPL	Tusks and Tattoos (TV G)	2006 Elephant Diaries		Tusks and Tattoos (TV G)	2006 Elephant Diaries						
63/67	BRAVO	(5:00) "Braveheart" (95, Drama) ★★½ Mel Gibson. William Wallace organizes a resistance against Edward the Longshanks' tyranny. (R)			"Braveheart" (95, Drama) ★★½ Mel Gibson. Scottish rebel warrior leads rebellion. (R)							
7	11	CBS	Close to Home: Baseball Murder (R) (HD)	Cold Case: Best Friends (TVPG) (R) (HD)	48 Hours Mystery: The Bookie's Wife (N)	Eyewitness News (3:35) Drew Carey	(:05) Alias: Cipher (TV14)					
55/42	DISC	Survivor (TVPG)	Survivor: Arctic	The Year's Most Amazing Survival Stories	Ultimate Survival	I Shouldn't Be Alive: Trapped by a Boulder	Survivor (TVPG)	Survivor: Arctic				
33/56	DISN	Emperor's (TV G)	The Buzz (TVY7)	Life Derek (TV G)	The Suite (TVY7)	So Raven (TVY7)	So Raven (TVY7)	"George of the Jungle 2" (03, Comedy) ★ Mother kidnaps daughter and grandson. (PG)				
49/66	EITV	The El True Hollywood Story: Demi Moore	SNL: Ashton Kutcher	Dr. 90210 (TV14)	Simp. Life	Simp. Life						
22/28	ESPN2	College Basketball from Hartford, Conn. (HD)	College Basketball from Reno, Nev. (HD)	College Basketball from Denver (Live) (HD)	College Bball (HD)	College Bball (HD)						
23/29	ESPN2	College Bball (HD)	College Basketball from Reno, Nev. (HD)	College Basketball from Denver (Live) (HD)	College Bball (HD)	College Bball (HD)						
32/58	FAM	"The Parent Trap" (98) ★★ Twins conspire to reunite their parents.			"Splash" (84) ★★							
35	-	FMC	"The Great White Hope" (70, Drama) ★★	"All That Jazz" (79, Dance)	Roy Scheider.	"Gr. White Hope" ★★						
53/45	FOOD	Emeril Live: Emeril's Delmonico (TV G)	Bringing Back the Bayou: Katrina Recovery	Tasting Ireland Play visits Ireland.	Iron Chef America: Play vs. MacMillan	Emeril Live: Emeril's Delmonico (TV G)						
13	7	FOX	Cops (TV14) (N)	Cops (TVPG) (R)	America's Most Wanted (TVPG)	St. Elsewhere: Remission	Blind Date (TVPG)	Blind Date (TVPG)				
27/25	FX	Happy Hour (Live)	NASCAR	NASCAR Busch Series from Las Vegas	Motor Speedway	"The Core" (03) ★★						
30/27	FXSP	W. Bask. From Dallas	Rodeo (Taped)	Beyond Glory	Boxing (Taped)	Around Trk	Poker					
-	60	HALL	Diagnosis (TVPG)	"McBride: Fallen Idol" (06, Mystery) (NR)	"McBride: Fallen Idol" (06, Mystery) (NR)							
5	-	HBO	(5:30) "Because of Winn Dixie" (05) ★★ Jeff Daniels. Life lessons.	"Along Came Polly" (04) Woman tries to liberate a cautious man.	"White Noise" (05) ★★ Man uses electronics to speak the dead.	(:45) Making (TVMA)						
62/44	HGTV	Design Divines	1st Place reDesign	Design	Design	Gardener	Trading Up	Design	Divine			
58/48	HIST	"JFK" (91, Drama) New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy becomes an obsessive and relentless pursuit of the truth. (R)			"JFK" (91) D.A. investigates assassination.							
25/38	IND	"Shanghai Noon" (00, Western) ★★ Jackie Chan. Imperial guard & bandit head out West.	(:15) "Scary Movie 3" (03) ★★ Anna Faris. Reporter tries to stop an alien attack. (PG-13)	"Little Nicky" (00) ★½ Satan's son in NYC.								
18/63	LIFE	"Bad Seed" (00) (R)	"Best Laid Plans" (99) Quick cash scheme.	"Alex in Wonder" (01) ★★½ Aspiring ballerina.								
54/74	MTV	Gauntlet World: Key (TV14)	Key West	Ocean	Diary	N. Cannon	N. Cannon	The Shop	The Shop			
3	9	NBC	Entertainment Tonight	Dateline NBC (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (R) (HD)	Conviction: Denial (TV14) (N) (HD)	9 News (N) (HD)	Saturday Night (HD)				
8	8	NBC	Dateline NBC (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (R) (HD)	Conviction: Denial (TV14) (N) (HD)	KSN News at Saturday Night Live: Matt Dillon; Arctio Monkeys (TV14) (HD)						
34/55	NICK	Zoey 101 (TVY)	All That	Amanda	Full House	Bel-Air	Cosby	Roseanne	Roseanne			
2	2	PBS	Moments to Remember Included: Rosemary Clooney (N)	This Land Is Your Land A celebration of 1960s folk music (TV G) (R)				Tavis Smiley (N)				
38/71	SCIFI	"The Relic" (97) ★★	"Minotaur" (05, Horror)	Tom Hardy, (R)	"Sasquatch" (02) ★ People become prey. (R)							
61/72	SPK	(5:30) "Platoon" (86) ★★½ Soldier's dilemma.	Pros vs. Joes	"The Medallion" (03) Cop has superpowers.								
39/43	TLC	Clean Sweep: Bean Bag Blowout (TV G)	While You Were Out: Tampa: Mac Attack	People: Living Little	People: Twins?	People (TV G)	16 Children and Moving In (TV G)					
28/40	TNT	"The General's Daughter" (99, Thriller) ★★½	"The General's Daughter" (99, Thriller) ★★½	"Entrapment" (99)								
51/49	TRAV	World Poker Tour: WPT Ladies Night 2005	Casino (TVPG)	World Poker Tour: WPT Ladies Night 2005								
21/59	TVLND	Prairie (TV G)	Griffith	Sanford	Times	Happening	Cheers	Court	Sanford			
60/79	UNIV	Sábado gigante (TVPG)				Primer imp	Noticiero	Otro rollo (TV14)				
20/37	USA	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)				
12	3	WB	Star Trek: Enterprise: Awakening (TVPG)	Friends (TVPG)	Friends (TVPG)	Will (TVPG) Raymond (TV G)	WB2 News at Nine (N)	Star Trek: Enterprise: The Forge (TVPG)				
99/39	WGN	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	Home Impro	"Force 2"					

SUNDAY EVENING

		6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	
		E = Eagle Cable						S = S&T Telephone				
36/47	A&E	24: Day 2: 4:00am - 5:00am (TV14)	Meth: A County in Crisis (TV14)	Intervention (TV14)	CSI: Miami: Killer Date (TV14)	24: Day 2: 4:00am - 5:00am (TV14)						
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: White Family (TVPG) (N)	Desperate Housewives (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Grey's Anatomy (TV14) (N) (HD)	KAKE News (TVPG)	Seinfeld (TVPG)	(:05) Lawyer Line	Sports Machine			
26/54	ANPL	Freediver (TV G)		The Most Extreme: Divers (TV G)	Freediver (TV G)							
63/67	BRAVO	Law & Order: Criminal Intent: Poison (HD)	Inside the Actor's Studio: Michael J. Fox	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14) (HD)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent: Jones (HD)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14) (HD)						
7	11	CBS	Cold Case: Sanctuary (N) (HD)	"How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" (03, Comedy) ★★ An ad man loses the author of an article on repelling men. (HD)	EyeWitness News (N)	(:05) News (N)	Alias: Dead Drop					
55/42	DISC	How to Survive Dangerous ordeals. (TV G)	How to Survive Dangerous ordeals. (TV G)	Mt. Everest: Death Mountain (TVPG)	The Year's Most Amazing Survival Stories	How to Survive Dangerous ordeals. (TV G)						
33/56	DISN	Phil (TVY7)	Naturally (TV G)	Life Derek (TV G)	The Suite (TVY7)	So Raven (TVY7)	So Raven (TVY7)	"Inspector Gadget 2" (03, Action) Gadget looks for an escaped Dr. Claw.	French Stewart.			
49/66	EITV	E! Entertainment Specials: Beyonce (TVPG)	# 1 Single	The Girls	E! Entertainment Specials: Beyonce (TVPG)							
22/28	ESPN	"Through the Fire" (06) ★★½ Basketball star.	Knight Sch (Taped)	SportsCenter (Live) (HD)	"Through"							
23/29	ESPN2	International Baseball: World Baseball Classic: Round 2 (Live)	Baseball: World Baseball Classic: Round 2	Line	Line	Lakewood	Children					
32/58	FAM	"Cutting: Gold" (06)	"The Cutting Edge: Going for the Gold"	Line	Line	Lakewood	Children					
35	-	FMC	"Bad Girls" (94, Western)	Madeleine Stowe.	"The Rose" (79) Bette Midler as a rock star in decline.							
53/45	FOOD	Food Network Unwrapped	Iron Chef America: Cora vs. Doloto/Shook	Food Challenge: Super Seafood Grill-Off	Ham on St. Good Eats (TV G)	Food Network Unwrapped						
13	7	FOX	Simpsons (TV14)	War at Home (TV14) (N)	Free Ride (N) (HD)	Remington Steele: Steele's Gold	Fall Guy: 100 Miles per Gallon	Quincy: Accomplice to Murder				
27/25	FX	"The Core" (03, Drama) ★★ A team is assembled to save the Earth.	"Anger Management"	Ordered to therapy.								
30/27	FXSP	Poker Superstars	Poker Superstars	Poker Superstars	Beyond Glory	Spotlight	Around Trk					
-	60	HALL	Diagnosis (TVPG)	Diagnosis (TVPG)	Diagnosis (TVPG)	Matlock (TVPG)	Matlock (TVPG)					
5	-	HBO	(5:45) "Shrek 2" (04) ★★½ Newswed Shrek visits his in-laws. (HD)	"The Chronicles of Riddick" (04) ★★½ Vin Diesel. Criminal battles genocidal invaders. (HD)	Making 'Big Love"	The Sopranos: Members Only (TVMA) (HD)						
62/44	HGTV	Designed	Designed	Want That!	reZONED	Wall Could	Ext. Homes	Buy Me	Kitchens	Designed	Designed	
58/48	HIST	How William Shatner Changed the World (TVPG)	Modern Marvels: Walt Disney World Inside look of four theme parks resort. (TVPG)									
25/38	IND	"Shanghai Noon" (00, Western) ★★ Jackie Chan. Imperial guard & bandit head out West.	(:15) "Shanghai Noon" (00) ★★ When a Chinese princess is kidnapped, a lowly guard tracks her to the Old West.									
18/63	LIFE	"For One Night" (06) Teen takes a stand.	Cheerleader (TVPG)	Family	Family	Strong Med	(TV14)					
54/74	MTV	Parental	Parental	Parental	Ocean	World: Key (TV14)	Key West	Ocean	N. Cannon	N. Cannon		
3	9	NBC	Dateline NBC (N)	West Wing: The Cold (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14) (N) (HD)	Crossing Jordan: Death Toll (TV14) (N) (HD)	9 News (N) (HD)	(:35) Over-time (HD)				
8	8	NBC	West Wing: The Cold (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14) (N) (HD)	Crossing Jordan: Death Toll (TV14) (N) (HD)	KSN News at (3:55) 24: Day 1 - 11:00 PM-12:00 AM (TV14)	(:35) Inside Ed.					
34/55	NICK	Zoey 101 (TVY)	Full House	Bel-Air	Hi-Jinks	Roseanne	Roseanne	Cosby	Bel-Air	Bel-Air		
2	2	PBS	Glenn Miller Spectacular (TV G)	Daniel O'Donnell: The Rock 'n' Roll Show A musical stroll down memory lane. (N)	Mystery: Inspector Lynley: A Great Deliverance (TVPG)							
38/71	SCIFI	"The Triangle" (05)	"The Triangle" (05) Ships disappear.	"Tron" (82) Jeff Bridges. Living video game.								
61/72	SPK	"Above the Law" ★★	"Out for Justice" (91) A cop seeks revenge.	Out of Reach								
39/43	TLC	Flop House (TV G)	Flop House (TV G)	Flop House (TV G)	Flop House (TV G)	The 750-Pound Man (TVPG)	Half Ton Man Fattest man alive. (TV G)					
28/40	TNT	"What Lies Beneath" (00) ★★ Woman is haunted. (HD)	(:45) "What Lies Beneath" (00) Woman is haunted. (HD)									
51/49	TRAV	Sand Blasters (TV G)	Best Beaches	Beaches Attack	Sand Blasters (TV G)	Sand Blasters (TV G)	Sand Blasters (TV G)					
21/59	TVLND	Prairie (TV G)	Griffith	Sanford	Times	Happening	Cheers	Court	Sanford			
60/79	UNIV	Bailando por un sueño	Primer imp	Noticiero	Y sigue la furia danda							
20/37	USA	"The Mummy Returns" (01) The mummy is revived to wreak havoc.	Law & Order (HD)	Law & Order (HD)								
12	3	WB	Jamxx Kids All-Star Dance (N)	Charmed: Battle of the Hexes (R)	Charmed: Hulkus Pocus (TVPG) (R)	WB2 News at Nine (N)	Sex & City (TV14)	Will: Head Case				
99/39	WGN	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	24 (TV14)	Exposure (TV14)					

MONDAY EVENING

		6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	
		E = Eagle Cable						S = S&T Telephone				
36/47	A&E	Flop House: Location, Location!	Investigative Reports: Inside Polygamy	RollerGirls: Undeclared (TV14)	Crossing Jordan: Sanctuary (TV14) (HD)	Flop House: Location, Location!						
4	6	ABC	Wife Swap: Stammer/Haggerty (N)	Supernanny: Schwartz Family (TVPG) (N)	Miracle Workers: Bresler/Keller (TVPG) (N)	KAKE News at 10 (N)	(:35) Nightline (TV14)	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel (TV14)				
26/54	ANPL	Animal Planet Sporthouse Cup		Animal Cops - Houston: Baby Love (TVPG)	Animal Planet Sporthouse Cup							
63/67	BRAVO	The West Wing: The Cold (TVPG) (HD)	Conviction: Denial (TV14) (HD)	Outrageous	Outrageous	Outrageous	Housewives	Outrageous	Outrageous	Outrageous	Outrageous	
7	11	CBS	King Qu. (N) (HD)	New Adv.: Pilot (HD)	Two & 1/2 (N) (HD)	New Adv. (N) (HD)	CSI: Miami: Double Jeopardy (TV14) (N) (HD)	Eyewitness News	The Late Show with David Letterman (HD)	Late Late Show (F)		
55/42	DISC	Monster: Georgia High School Dragster	Hot Rod Crew is overwhelmed. (TVPG)	Amer. Chopper: Never Before Seen Special	American Chopper: Mikey's Bike (TVPG)	Monster: Georgia High School Dragster						
33/56	DISN	Nico: Bueno Nacho (TV G)	So Raven (TVY7)	Emperor's (TV G)	The Suite (TVY7)	Phil: Versa Day	So Raven (TVY7)	"Disney's Kim Possible Movie: So the Drama" (05, Family) ★★	Naturally (TV G)			
49/66	EITV	Simp. Life	Simp. Life	101 Incredible	Dr. 90210 (TV14)	SNL: Janet Jackson	Simp. Life	The Soup				
22/28	ESPN	Gamenight (Live)	College Basketball First Round (Live) (HD)			SportsCenter (HD)	BB Tonight	Outside				
23/29	ESPN2	Baseball: World Baseball Classic: Round 2	Tennis Masters from Indian Wells, Calif. (Live)			Quite from New York						
32/58	FAM	Wildfire: Break Down	Beautiful	Line	Line	The 700 Club	Wildfire: Break Down					
35	-	FMC	"Revenge of the Nerds II" (87, Comedy) ★	"Weekend at Bernie's" (89								