

# Nursing home excited when included



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Undecided in St. Paul," regarding her son's wedding and asking what to do about inviting relatives who reside in a nursing home. You advised that instead of sending them invitations, send a chatty letter or card bringing them up-to-date on the happy news — and an announcement after the wedding — so they remain "in the loop."

As an RN with years of employment in a nursing home setting, I know from experience that residents become very excited about being included in family affairs instead of being told after the fact. My suggestion would be to send them an invitation, arrange for transportation, and enclose a small note that states, in a tasteful manner, "No gifts, please."

If friends and family only knew how these people felt sitting in their rooms or in hallways with nothing to do. Nursing homes try hard to keep their residents happy and entertained, but nothing replaces family. — A NURSE WHO KNOWS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NURSE WHO KNOWS: Sometimes I should pay less attention to my brain and more attention to what my heart tells me. I responded the way I did because I did not want the recipient of the invitation to feel obligated to provide a gift, if it would be physically or financially impossible. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband's

grandmother was in a nursing home when we were married. It was nearby, so we arranged for our wedding party to visit her after the ceremony and before the reception. The nursing staff was excited because that's all his grandma talked about for weeks beforehand. And it was such a special day for the residents! When we arrived, they were all dressed in their "finest" to meet the new bride and groom. The looks of happiness on their faces still makes my eyes tear up! The ladies all wanted to touch my gown and told us about their weddings. Smiles and laughter resounded through the halls. We arranged for a "wedding"

cake to be delivered so they could have a piece after dinner. We were only there for about an hour, but the nurses told us how much everyone appreciated our "gift," and the residents talked about our visit for a long time afterward. Of course, we gave his grandma a photo. She kept it by her bed until she died. — MARTY FROM EASTLAKE, OHIO

DEAR MARTY: Several readers shared stories similar to your own.

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter was married in June. The groom's elderly grandparents who raised him are both in a nursing home. This was the last wedding they expect to see. Our

children's friends volunteered to transport them. It took some arranging because they are both in wheelchairs, but they had a wonderful time. Their gift was their presence. — MOTHER OF THE BRIDE, EAST BROOKFIELD, MASS.

DEAR MOTHER: I'm sure they were as thrilled to be there as you were to have them.

DEAR ABBY: If the only consideration is obligating the folks for a gift, send the invitation! Better to be engaged in life than disengaged. I want to make my own decisions, don't you? — GOOD LUCK TO ALL, MELVILLE, N.Y.

DEAR G.L.T.A.: You're right, and I stand corrected!

| TUESDAY EVENING |       |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        | APR. 1, 2003 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--|
|                 | 6 pm  | 6:30   | 7 pm   | 7:30   | 8 pm  | 8:30   | 9 pm   | 9:30  | 10 pm                  | 10:30                  |              | 6 pm | 6:30 | 7 pm | 7:30 | 8 pm | 8:30 | 9 pm | 9:30 | 10 pm | 10:30 |  |
| 2               | PBS   | Nova "Deep Sea Invasion" (N) (DVS)   | Scientific American Frontiers (N) (DVS)  | Glidpath to Recovery (N) (DVS)   | News  | Being Served   | Charlie Rose (N) (DVS)                       |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 3               | IND   | ★ ★ "Conspiracy Theory" (1997, Suspense) (PA) Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts. A paranoid cabbie's rantings make him a CIA target. (DVS) |  |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 4               | ABC   | 8 Simple Rules   | According to Jim (N) (DVS)   | Lost at Home   | Barbara Walters (N) (DVS)                           | News (N) (DVS)   | (:35) Nightline (N) (DVS)                    | (:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (DVS)   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 5               | HBO   | ★ ★ "Dick Tracy" (1990, Adventure) Warren Beatty. (PG-13) (DVS)  | (:45) ★ ★ "Sweet November" (2001) Keanu Reeves. A kooky gamine changes a selfish ad man's outlook on life. (PG-13) (DVS) |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 7               | CBS   | JAG "Second Acts" (N) (DVS)  | Guardian "Back in the Ring" (N) (DVS)  | Judging Amy "Just Say Oops" (N) (DVS)  | News (N) (DVS)                                      | (:35) Late Show Colin Farrell; Rosanne Cash. (N) (DVS) | (:37) Late Show (N) (DVS)                    |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 8               | NBC   | Three Stooges 75th Anniversary Special (N) (DVS)   | Frasier (N) (DVS)  | A.U.S.A. "The Kiss" (N) (DVS)  | Dateline (N) (DVS)                                  | News (N) (DVS)   | (:35) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)                 | (:37) Late Night (N) (DVS)  |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 11              | TVLND | Brady  | Hap Days   | Sanford  | Gilligan  | Griffith   | Leave  | I Love Lucy   | Flying Nun             | MacGyver (N) (DVS)     |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 12              | ESPN  | Wm. Basketball   | Women's College Basketball   |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 13              | FOX   | American Idol (iTV) (Live) (N) (DVS)   | 24 "Day 2: Midnight - 1:00AM" (N) (DVS)  | Fox Report With Shepard Smith (N) (DVS)  | LAPD: Life on the Beat                              | LAPD: Life on the Beat                                 | LAPD: Life on the Beat                       | LAPD: Life on the Beat  | LAPD: Life on the Beat | LAPD: Life on the Beat |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 15              | MAX   | ★ ★ "Hearts in Atlantis" (2001) Anthony Hopkins. (PG-13) (DVS)   | (:45) ★ ★ "The Hunted" (1998, Suspense) Harry Hamlin, Madchen Amick. (R) (DVS)   |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 16              | TNN   | Real TV (N) (DVS)  | Real TV (N) (DVS)  | Real TV (N) (DVS)  | Real TV (N) (DVS)                                   | Blind Date   | Blind Date                                   | Star Trek: Next Gener.  | "Diamonds-For"         |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 17              | DISN  | Boy Meets World  | Smart Guy  | Sister, Sister   | Even Stevens  | Sister, Sister   | Lizzie McGuire                               | ★ ★ "Zenon: The Zequel" (2001, Science Fiction) Kirsten Storms, Shadia Simmons. |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 18              | LIFE  | Unsolved Mysteries (N) (DVS)   | ★ ★ "Nightmare Street" (1998, Drama) (N) (DVS)   | Golden   | Golden  | Nanny  | Nanny  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 20              | USA   | ★ ★ "For Richer or Poorer" (1997, Comedy) Tim Allen. (N) (DVS)   | JAG "Head to Toe" (N) (DVS)  | JAG "Head to Toe" (N) (DVS)  | Dragnet (N) (DVS)                                   | Tremors  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 21              | SHOW  | (5:15) ★ ★ "Teen Wolf" (1985) (PG) (DVS)   | ★ ★ "Kill Me Later" (2001, Drama) Selma Blair. (TV) (N) (DVS)  | ★ ★ "Soul Survivors" (2001) Melissa Sagemiller. (TV) (N) (PG-13) (DVS)                           | ★ ★ "Rock My World" (2002) Peter O'Toole. (R) (DVS) |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 22              | TMC   | ★ ★ "Billy Elliot" (2000) miner's son takes dancing lessons in secret. (N) (DVS)   | Julie Walters. A British lessons in secret. (N) (DVS)  | (:15) ★ ★ "Hidden Agenda" (2001, Action) Dolph Lundgren, Maxim Roy, Brigitte Paquette. (N) (DVS) | ★ ★ "Beyond the City Limits" (2001) (N) (DVS)       |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 23              | MTV   | Dismissed  | Urban Myth   | Hook Up  | Rock Star   | Tattoo   | Video  | Real World  | Real World             | Real World             | Real World   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 24              | DISC  | Wild Asia "Land of the Red Ape" (N) (DVS)  | Desert Survivor Camel's life. (N) (DVS)  | FBI Files (N) (DVS)  | New Detectives: Forensic Science                    | New Detectives: Forensic Science                       | New Detectives: Forensic Science             |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 28              | TNT   | Law & Order "Panic" (N) (DVS)  | Law & Order (N) (DVS)  | Charmed (N) (DVS)  | Law & Order "Harm" (N) (DVS)                        | X-Files "Grotesque" (N) (DVS)                          |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 30              | FXSP  | NASCAR   | Nuggets  | NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Phoenix Suns. (Live)  | Rocky Mt.   | Rocky Mt.  | 54321  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 32              | FAM   | "The Hired Heart" (1997) Penelope Ann Miller.  | Who's? Who's?  | 700 Club (N) (DVS)   | Caroline Rhea Show (N) (DVS)                        |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 33              | NBC   | News (N) (DVS)   | Ent. Tonight   | Dateline (N) (DVS)   | News (N) (DVS)                                      | (:35) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)                           |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 34              | NICK  | Sponge   | Amanda (N) (DVS)   | Kids Say   | Kids Say  | Wings (N) (DVS)  | Wings (N) (DVS)                              | Wings (N) (DVS)   | Wings (N) (DVS)        | Wings (N) (DVS)        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 36              | A&E   | Biography: Patricia Heaton (N) (DVS)   | Cold Case Files Arsonist: informant; woman brings her mother's killer to justice. (N) (DVS)                              | Third Watch "A Hero's Rest" (N) (DVS)  | Biography: Patricia Heaton (N) (DVS)                |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 38              | SCIFI | "Dr. Jekyll-Hyde" (N) (DVS)  | "Code Name: Phoenix" (2000) Jeanne Chinn. (N) (DVS)  | Crossing   | Twilight Z.   | Farscape "I, E.T." (N) (DVS)                           |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 39              | TLC   | While You Were Out "Miami: NW 150 Street" (N) (DVS)  | Hometown: Log Home   | Hometown: Log Home   | Cracking the Case                                   | World's Most ... "Dangerous Police Videos" (N) (DVS)   | Mostly True Stories Urban legends. (N) (DVS) |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 40              | FX    | ★ ★ "True Lies" (1994) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis.  | ★ ★ "X-Men" (2000) Hugh Jackman.   |  |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 45              | FMC   | (:01) ★ ★ "Little Murders" (1971) Elliott Gould.   | (:01) ★ ★ "Jumpin' Jack Flash" (1986)  | "Outside Chance" (N) (DVS)   |   |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 49              | EITV  | Price of Fame  | Anna   | Anna   | On E! (N) (DVS)                                     | Howard S.  | Howard S.                                    | Wild On...  |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 51              | TRAV  | Man-Made Wonders   | Secrets "Extreme 4x4"  | Secrets (N) (DVS)  | Secrets "Extreme 4x4"                               |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 53              | WB    | Friends (N) (DVS)  | Everybody-Raymond  | Gilmore Girls "Face-Off" (N) (DVS)   | Smallville "Suspect" (N) (DVS)                      | News (N) (DVS)   | Friends (N) (DVS)                            | Will & Grace (N) (DVS)  |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 54              | ESPN2 | College Basketball: NIT  | Gamenight  | College Basketball: NIT Semifinal -- Teams TBA   | Interruption  | NBA 2Night   | Mycycles                                     |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 58              | HIST  | Deep Sea Detectives "Titanic: High Tech at Low Depth" (N) (DVS)  | Great Blunders   | Modern Marvels "Titanic Tech" (N) (DVS)  | Infamous Murders (N) (DVS)                          | Infamous Murders (N) (DVS)                             | Deep Sea Detectives (N) (DVS)                |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 59              | HLTH  | Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)  | Workout  | Bodies   | Health Specials (N) (DVS)                           | Doctors Diaries (N) (DVS)                              | Workout                                      | Bodies  |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 60              | UNIV  | Las Vias del Amor  | Entre el Amor y el Odio  | Ver Para Creer   | P. Impacto  | Noticiero  | En las Mejores Familias                      |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 62              | HGTV  | Ground   | Landscap   | Room   | Decorating  | House  | Curb   | Ground  | Landscap               | Room                   | Decorating   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 99              | WGN   | ★ ★ "Noises Off" (1992) Carol Burnett. (N) (DVS)   | Rockford Files   | Rockford Files   | In the Heat of the Night                            |  |  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |

| WEDNESDAY EVENING |       |   |  |  |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        | APR. 2, 2003 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
|-------------------|-------|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--|
|                   | 6 pm  | 6:30  | 7 pm   | 7:30   | 8 pm  | 8:30   | 9 pm                       | 9:30  | 10 pm                  | 10:30                  |              | 6 pm | 6:30 | 7 pm | 7:30 | 8 pm | 8:30 | 9 pm | 9:30 | 10 pm | 10:30 |  |
| 2                 | PBS   | Journey to Planet Earth "Seas of Grass" (N) (DVS)                     | American Masters "Joni Mitchell: Woman of Heart and Mind" (N) (DVS)                        | To Be Announced  | News  | Bless Me, Father                                 | Charlie Rose (N) (DVS)     |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 3                 | IND   | Seinfeld (N) (DVS)  | Seinfeld (N) (DVS)   | Ripley's Believe It or Not! (N) (DVS)  | ★ ★ "The Glimmer Man" (1996, Suspense) (PA) Steven Seagal, Keenen Ivory Wayans. (DVS) | Worst-Case Scenario                              |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 4                 | ABC   | My Wife and Child   | George Lopez (N) (DVS)   | Bachelor (N) (DVS)   | All American Girl (iTV) (N) (DVS)   | News (N) (DVS)                                   | (:35) Nightline (N) (DVS)  | (:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (DVS)   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 5                 | HBO   | ★ ★ "Charlotte Gray" (2001, Drama) Billy Crudup. (PG-13) (DVS)        | Cate Blanchett. (PG-13) (DVS)  | (:15) ★ ★ "Mad Love" (1995, Drama) Chris O'Donnell, Drew Barrymore. (PG-13) (DVS)  | Six Feet Under "The Trap" (N) (DVS)   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 7                 | CBS   | Star Search (Season Premiere) (Live) (N) (DVS)                        | 60 Minutes II (N) (DVS)  | 48 Hours Investigates (N) (DVS)  | News (N) (DVS)  | (:35) Late Show (N) (DVS)                        | (:37) Late Show (N) (DVS)  |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 8                 | NBC   | Dateline (N) (DVS)  | West Wing "Angel Maintenance" (N) (DVS)  | Law & Order "Genius" (N) (DVS)   | News (N) (DVS)  | (:35) Tonight Show (N) (DVS)                     | (:37) Late Night (N) (DVS) |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 11                | TVLND | Brady   | Hap Days   | Sanford  | Gilligan  | Griffith   | Leave                      | I Love Lucy   | Flying Nun             | MacGyver (N) (DVS)     |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 12                | ESPN  | NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Washington Wizards.                | NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Denver Nuggets. (Live)                                   |  |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 13                | FOX   | That '70s Show (N) (DVS)  | American Idol (N) (DVS)  | Bernie Mac (N) (DVS)   | Wanda at Large (N) (DVS)  | Fox Report With Shepard Smith (N) (DVS)          | LAPD: Life on the Beat     | LAPD: Life on the Beat  | LAPD: Life on the Beat | LAPD: Life on the Beat |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 15                | MAX   | ★ ★ "Judgment Day" (1999, Action) Ice-T, Suzy Amis. (R) (DVS)         | ★ ★ "Trojan War" (1997, Comedy) Will Friedle. (PG-13) (DVS)                                | ★ ★ "Broken Arrow" (1996, Adventure) John Travolta, Christian Slater. (R) (DVS)    |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 16                | TNN   | Real TV (N) (DVS)   | Real TV (N) (DVS)  | Real TV (N) (DVS)  | Real TV (N) (DVS)   | Blind Date                                       | Blind Date                 | Star Trek: Next Gener.  | "Once-America"         |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 17                | DISN  | Boy Meets World   | Smart Guy  | Sister, Sister   | Even Stevens  | Sister, Sister                                   | Lizzie McGuire             | ★ ★ "The Karate Kid Part III" (1989) Ralph Macchio. A martial arts student defends his local title. |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 18                | LIFE  | Unsolved Mysteries (N) (DVS)  | ★ ★ "Legacy of Sin: The William Coit Story" (1995)   | Golden   | Golden  | Nanny  | Nanny                      |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 20                | USA   | ★ ★ "Raw Deal" (1986) Arnold Schwarzenegger. (N) (DVS)                | ★ ★ "End of Days" (1999) Gabriel Byrne. (N) (DVS)  | Nash Bridges (N) (DVS)   |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 21                | SHOW  | (5:15) ★ ★ "Afterglow" (1997) (R) (DVS)                               | (:15) ★ ★ "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles" (2001, Comedy) Paul Hogan. (TV) (N) (PG) (DVS) | ★ ★ "Dead Man Walking" (1995, Drama) Susan Sarandon, Sean Penn. (TV) (N) (R) (DVS) |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 22                | TMC   | (5:15) ★ ★ "Far and Away" (1992) Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman. (N) (DVS) | (:45) ★ ★ "What Women Want" (2000) ad executive can suddenly read women's minds. (N) (DVS) | "Instinct to Kill" (2001) Mark Dacascos. (N) (DVS)                                 |   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 23                | MTV   | Dismissed   | Punk'D (N) (DVS)   | Frat Life  | Frat Life   | Direct Effect (N) (DVS)                          | Real World                 | Real World  | Video                  | Sorority               |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 24                | DISC  | Web of the Spider Monkey  | White-Tailed Deer (N) (DVS)  | Shipwreck -- The Lusitania (N) (DVS)   | Search for Lewis and Clark (N) (DVS)  | Unsolved History "Custer's Last Stand" (N) (DVS) |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 28                | TNT   | Law & Order (N) (DVS)   | ★ ★ "Dirty Harry" (1971) Clint Eastwood. (N) (DVS)   | Law & Order (N) (DVS)  | X-Files "Apocrypha" (N) (DVS)   |  |                            |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |
| 30                | FXSP  | NASCAR  | Rocky Mt.  | FOX One  | 54321   | Avalanche  | NHL                        |   |                        |                        |              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |  |