

Couple new to Florida aren't happy with gay neighbors

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I relocated to Florida a little over a year ago and were quickly welcomed into our new neighbors' social whirl. Two couples in the neighborhood are gay -- one male, one female. While they are nice enough, my husband and I did not include them when it was our turn to host because we do not approve of their lifestyle choices. Since then, we have been excluded from neighborhood gatherings, and someone even suggested that we are bigots!

Abby, we moved here from a conservative community where people were pretty much the same. If people were "different," they apparently kept it to themselves. While I understand the phrase "when in Rome," I don't feel we should have to compromise our values just to win the approval of our neighbors. But really, who is the true bigot here? Would you like to weigh in? — **UNHAPPY IN TAMPA**

DEAR UNHAPPY: I sure would. The first thing I'd like to say is that regardless of what you were told in your previous community, a person's sexual orientation isn't a "lifestyle choice." Gay people don't choose to be gay; they are born that way. They can't change being gay any more than you can change being heterosexual.

I find it interesting that you are unwilling to re-



DEAR ABBY

ciprocate the hospitality of people who welcomed you and opened their homes to you, and yet you complain because you are receiving similar treatment.

From where I sit, you may have chosen the wrong place to live because it appears you would be happier in a less integrated neighborhood surrounded by people who think the way you do. But if you interact only with people like yourselves, you will have missed a chance for growth, which is what you have been offered here. Please don't blow it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and in high school. My father died in a car accident when I was 8. A man who attends my church took me under his wing and has been like a father to me ever since. He is very supportive most of the time. However, he spansks me with a belt when he feels I misbehave.

My mom doesn't know about it because she works long hours to support the

family. I like the nurturing and encouragement this man gives me, but I can't take another beating. What should I do? — **BLUE IN THE SOUTHWEST**

DEAR BLUE: What you are describing is a form of child abuse. This "nurturing" man has no right to hit you. You shouldn't have to tolerate being beaten in order to feel supported.

Tell your mother what has been going on, or a teacher or a counselor at your school. You appear to be an intelligent young man. Your silence is what enables those beatings to continue, so please do not remain silent about this any longer.

DEAR ABBY: If you are divorced from your wife, do her parents remain your in-laws? This is to settle a disagreement. — **SHARON IN TEXAS**

DEAR SHARON: Legally, no. But relationships are not always based on legality. Sometimes divorced couples remain extended family members, particularly if there are children involved.

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.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

4		9				5	7
			4		3		
2		1		7		3	6
			7	3	6		
3	6					8	2
			2	8	4		
7		4		6		9	1
			1		9		
1		8			6		5

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

9	5	4	7	3	6	1	2	8
2	3	7	4	8	1	5	9	6
6	8	1	5	9	2	4	3	7
4	6	9	1	2	8	3	7	5
8	2	3	6	5	7	9	4	1
7	1	5	9	4	3	8	6	2
1	4	8	2	6	9	7	5	3
3	9	6	8	7	5	2	1	4
5	7	2	3	1	4	6	8	9

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Breaking the Egg Code
Dear Heloise: In a previous column, you wrote that the American Egg Board suggests storing eggs in the refrigerator in the egg carton with the expiration date on it. There are two large, popular food stores in my area that sell eggs. Neither of them prints the EXPIRATION DATE on the carton. They print a code instead.

I currently have two cartons of eggs in my refrigerator, each purchased from a different food store. The code on one of them is 050 P-1065. Someone told me that the code refers to which week of the year it is. I wish they would put the date on it instead. Any thoughts? — Lori F., via email

The three-number code you are referring to is the JULIAN DATE. It will read 001 to represent Jan. 1 and 365 as Dec. 31. This represents what day the eggs were packed. So, your carton number would be read as Feb. 19 for 050. You have four to five weeks AFTER that date to use the eggs.

The "P-number" represents the plant that packaged the eggs. The plant that processed your eggs is No. 1065. Confusing? Yes. I'm with you and would prefer to have just a clearly printed expiration date. — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
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San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com)

Tortillas Two Ways
Dear Heloise: I've been using large flour tortillas for years as impromptu pizza crusts. Just spread the tortilla with a dab of leftover spaghetti sauce, some grated cheese, pieces of salami, ham or other lunchmeats and random vegetables. Pop in the toaster oven, and you have a quick and easy lunch. Also, the other day, when I was out of hot-dog buns, I used half a tortilla to wrap around a precooked sausage before heating it in the microwave. — Susan, via email

Sugar Substitution
Dear Heloise: If a small amount of sugar is required in a salad or salad dressing and all I have is confectioners' sugar, can I substitute it? — A Reader in California
If you substitute confectioners' sugar for granulated sugar, the taste may be the same, but the consistency might be off. But my motto is "Hey, why run to the store if you don't have to?" Also, don't tell on yourself, and your family or friends probably will not know the difference. As long as it tastes good, that's all that counts in my book. — Heloise

Tape For Transport
Dear Heloise: Taking food somewhere after cooking is always a challenge. Here is a hint I have come up with: After cooking in my big, enamel-coated cast-iron pot, I just tape the lid to the bottom with painter's tape. Keeps food in and leaves no residue once removed. — Jennifer K. in Colorado

Obvious Garbage
Dear Heloise: I freeze garbage until trash pickup day. In the winter, our newspaper is delivered in an orange plastic bag to make it easier to see in the snow. I use the orange bags for freezer garbage. — Sheryl in Pennsylvania

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Out-cropping
5 Nuisance
9 Wanders
11 Potential raisin
12 2012 candidate
13 Enter a password, say
14 Drenched
15 Joined a melee
17 Talked like a Texan
19 Overhead trains
20 Kilmer poem
21 Dray puller
22 Showy flower
24 Butter unit
26 Egg-shaped
29 Church talk: Abbr.
30 Proceeded slowly
32 Fished, in a way
34 Put down
35 Skylit lobbies
36 Omit phonetically
38 Deep ravine
39 Casual eatery
40 Hudson or Winslet

41 Alley targets

DOWN
1 Throng
2 Frost or Fulton
3 James Cameron movie
4 Ring feature
5 Ship's front
6 Philadelphia team
7 Sales pitches
8 Looks after
10 Dark-furred martens
11 Delighted

R	I	S	E	S		T	E	R	R	A
I	C	A	M	E		A	R	I	E	L
D	E	N	I	M		B	A	S	S	O
E	D	I	T	E	D		K	I	N	
R	U	T		S	I	G	H	I	N	G
S	P	Y		T	R	A	I	T	S	
				S	E	E	M	S		
	C	O	E	R	C	E		S		
R	E	P	A	S	T	S		A	N	A
A	R	E			S	T	A	L	I	N
	K	E	N	Y	A		E	L	I	T
E	A	T	U	P		R	E	V	E	L
S	L	O	P	E		S	C	A	D	S

Previous Puzzle

16	Make good as new	27	Big Ten's Fighting —
18	Deterioration	28	Make numb
21	In — (aligned)	29	Pile up
23	Steered clear of	30	Chowder bit
24	One of the Krupps	31	Fabric workers
25	Turkish peak	33	Prudent
		37	Gloss spot

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
				10				
9						11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
		22			23			
	24	25			26		27	28
29				30				31
32			33					
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

2-19

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Sub spot
5 Poultry buy
10 Tel —
11 Lively Spanish dance
12 Poet Dove
13 Destroyed
14 They often have pop idols on the covers
16 Twitter symbols
20 Marsh birds
23 Pigeon sound
24 Spring sign
25 Try to pick up
27 Tipsy
28 Referring to
29 Oats holders
32 Cleaning cloths
36 Not present
39 First name in jazz
40 Kennel club categories
41 Tag sale label
42 Didn't act
43 High hits

S	P	E	C	S		I	P	A	S	
T	A	R	O	T		N	I	X	O	N
S	W	A	M	I		C	E	E	L	O
			M	E	S	H		S	O	W
G	E	T	A	G	R	I	P			
I	V	A	N		S	E	R	E	N	E
G	I	L	D	S		F	E	V	E	R
S	L	E	E	T	S		S	E	A	R
			R	E	A	L	I	S	T	S
T	I	M		W	O	O	D			
O	B	A	M	A		T	E	A	S	E
N	A	M	E	R		U	N	B	O	X
G	R	A	N	T		S	T	E	N	T

Previous Puzzle

20	Sports period	30	Nerdy guy
21	Pennsylvania port	31	Toss around
22	Solemn act	33	To boot
25	Weather map marking	34	Silver-tongued
26	James Ingram album	35	Pertness
28	Play groups	36	Crunch targets
		37	Lingerie item
		38	Ready to go

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10						11			
12						13			
14					15				
		16					17	18	19
20	21	22					23		
24					25	26			
27					28				
29		30	31						
		32					33	34	35
36	37	38					39		
40							41		
42							43		

2-20

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

W P E W M P J F E G X P H B G K M P R E
S E R N C G R P R F P S Q P M C P Q S H Q R
K P T E B R P B R J N R F S P L N E T X N R I,
B E S G R R P X F E J N S W X P Q Q N C P
R F P N X E R F P X R G M P B R Q .
— G B L X P J T G X B P U N P

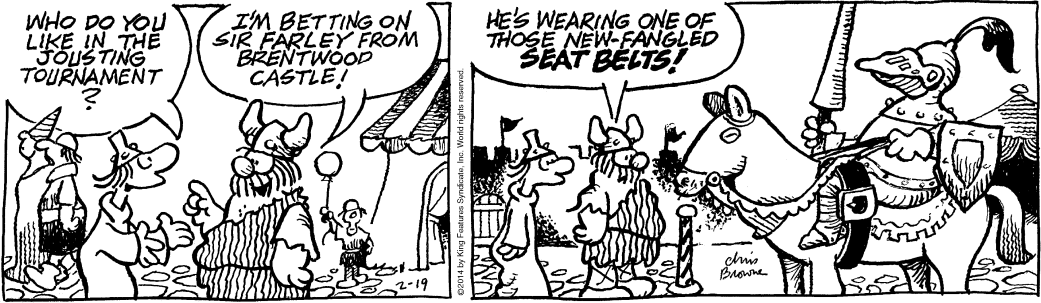
Previous Cryptoquote: IT'S DIFFICULT TO THINK ANYTHING BUT PLEASANT THOUGHTS WHILE EATING A HOMEGROWN TOMATO. – Lewis Grizzard

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Dilbert

