

Teen knows from experience that cutting won't end pain

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old girl. Recently I made a new friend, “Mandy,” and confided to her about my dark past of depression. When I explained how I used to cut myself, she burst into tears and told me she had cut herself the day before. I didn’t expect that response.

I know from experience that what Mandy is doing is not a good way to handle things. What stopped me from cutting was getting a permanent scar from it. Although plenty of people told me that cutting was no way to deal with my pain, the only one I listened to in the end was myself.

I really want Mandy to stop. I told her not to do it, but I’m afraid she will anyway. She’s an amazing person, and she doesn’t deserve the pain she is causing herself. How can I help her? — **BEEN THERE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR BEEN THERE: Continue encouraging your friend to stop cutting, but if she’s not able to, she may need professional help to quit. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

A counselor at school might be able to help if Mandy is willing to talk to one. But if she isn’t, then tell your mother about this so she can let Mandy’s mother know what’s going on. Cutting can be a sign of serious depression, and secrets of this kind are destructive.

DEAR ABBY: I’m 19 and in college on a scholarship. I have decided to declare an art major. I have found a part-time job that will give me a little extra income – figure modeling for some of



DEAR ABBY

the art classes. This would include both clothed and nude modeling.

It isn’t the only job I plan on taking, but it will help me out for the time being. Studying the human figure is essential for any art student, and it is something that has been done for centuries. When I told my parents, it was not well-received.

My mother strongly disagreed with my choice and handed the phone to my sister, who told me if I want to take my clothes off I should be a stripper. Abby, this hurt me deeply. My dad is worried that it will ruin my reputation. I find it hypocritical because my mom was an art major and her portfolio contains nude figures she drew.

My school is diligent about the safety and respect of its models, and I trust them. I’d like to take this job for the experience, and it will allow me to make more connections within the department I’ll be studying in for the next two years.

I’m not looking for my parents’ approval, but I wish they would attempt to understand. What would you suggest? — **SERIOUS STUDENT IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR SERIOUS STU-

DENT: Having studied figure drawing myself years ago, I can attest to the fact that models of all ages were used -- both nude and clothed. There was nothing lurid or sexual about it, and the models were not posed in a suggestive manner or being ogled.

If you wish to display your body in the context of an art class, you shouldn’t have to justify it to your parents or your sister. Your mother appears to have a short memory, and your sister’s comment was out of line.

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old son still calls me Mommy. My daughter, who is two years older, calls me Mom. I don’t want to hurt my son’s feelings, but I think at his age he should transition to calling me Mom. What do you think? Should I just give it time, or is there an age limit for calling one’s mother Mommy? — **JUST MOM IN FLORIDA**

DEAR JUST MOM: I think you should keep your mouth shut. There is nothing shameful or wrong about a son calling his mother Mommy if that is what he has done all his life. Frankly, it’s rather sweet, and it’s far more loving than some of the names people have written to me when referring to their mothers.

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.

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

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

Previous Puzzle

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

It’s never too late to get healthy, Aries. Find time for some exercise and replace some calorie-laden foods with fruits and vegetables. You will appreciate having an extra hop in your step.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a week of passion and romance awaits you and your special someone. Everything you do draws the attention of others. So make it work to your advantage.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, it can be challenging to get your head wrapped around certain tasks. Somehow you will manage to pull everything together and get everything accomplished.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, maintain your focus in the coming week no matter how difficult that proves to be. Personal concerns may have you reeling, but your heightened focus will serve you well.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may have something on your mind, but now is not the time to share such concerns. Do your best to solve a problem on your own, but rely on the advice of others if need be.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, do your best to avoid being let down by the negative attitudes of others. Friends or coworkers may just be in a bad mood, but that does not mean you need to be.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a little extra concentration will find you tackling your workload with time to spare. Commit your time now and enjoy the time to take things slow later in the week.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, significant changes are afoot and you are not quite sure how to prioritize your goals. Enjoy the change, but make use of down time to reestablish your priorities.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, though a pressing issue in your relationship may seem like it needs immediate attention, you have a lot of time to work through any issues.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your normally conservative approach won’t work this week. You have to take a couple of chances, or you won’t accomplish much of anything.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you have only a few days to learn some new procedures at work. It is natural to feel nervous, but put aside those feelings and concentrate on the tasks at hand.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, don’t worry too much about an upcoming change around the office. You’re in position to benefit from some restructuring.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 24
Billy Connolly, Actor (71)

NOVEMBER 25
Billy Burke, Actor (47)

NOVEMBER 26
Natalasha Bedingfield, Singer (32)

NOVEMBER 27
Brooke Langton, Actress (43)

NOVEMBER 28
Ed Harris, Actor (63)

NOVEMBER 29
Diego Boneta, Actor (23)

NOVEMBER 30
Kaley Cuoco, Actress (28)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Indistinct images
6 Flower part
11 Accumulated
12 “Thereby hangs —”
13 Come up
14 Perhaps
15 Checked out
17 Nasty dog
18 Poem type
19 The Brooklyn Dodgers, affectionately
22 Lawn makeup
23 Fresh-water varieties
24 Businessman’s crime
25 Chunnel city
27 Drill part
30 Multiply by ten
31 Lennon’s love
32 Pendulum path
33 Layers
35 Track events
38 Solemn ceremonies
39 Mission man

40 Deal maker

- 41 Winter weather
42 Bash

DOWN

- 1 Opera cheers
2 City on the Rio Grande
3 One way to stand
4 Reddish brown
5 Place to get tickets
6 Rick’s pianist
7 Seventh letter
8 Union concession
24 Winter bug
37 Clique

ODDS	S	SQUAWK
VERA	A	AUNTIE
ALEX	B	BADEGG
LIN	Z	ZERO
CLERK	WHO	
JOHAN	SIREN	
AMID	DEFT	
PANEL	LENTO	
ERG	ISAAC	
FLAX	HAT	
GAWAIN	MILLO	
AMAZED	ANDY	
STRESS	EGOS	

Previous Puzzle

9 Band output

- 10 Lusty looks
16 Halts the progress of
20 Cheese setting
21 Vase item
24 Winter bug

25 Breakfast choice

- 26 Give in
27 Straw hat
28 Meaning
29 Comfortably warm
30 Muffles
34 Latvia’s capital
36 Uno plus due
37 Clique

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			

11-23

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Dance with a line
6 After a while
11 Hunter in the stars
12 Green hue
13 Train station
14 Nostalgic song
15 Office sight
17 Antlered animal
18 Avoids work
22 Opposed to
23 Courting
27 Occupy the throne
29 Cowboy contest
30 Big parties
32 Pigeon’s cousin
33 Chocolate treats
35 Old horse
38 Sandwich shop
39 Suspect’s story
41 Quartz variety
45 “Robinson Crusoe” writer
46 Low digit
47 Cast member
48 Sword material

DOWN

- 1 Atlantic catch
2 Mine rock
3 Tiny taste
4 Noble quest, figuratively
5 Poker payments
6 Seek
7 Everything
8 Ocean motion
9 Demonic
10 Smell awful
16 Boar’s mate
18 Attire
19 Top draft rating
20 Singer Redding

MIDI	O	LIVER
ERAS	P	PACINO
NAYS	A	AGENCY
UNFURLED		
LEO	RUMBA	
ABODE	SPARS	
MEW	YAP	
PEEK’S	RAFTS	
SPREE	ALL	
PLUM	COTS	
ABATES	AWOL	
SALINE	PETE	
HYENAS	PROD	

Previous Puzzle

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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	44
45					46				
47					48				

11-25

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.

11-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

DAWH VUZ AQOW JUHBGFWHJW,
VUZ JQH AQOW Q YUX UB

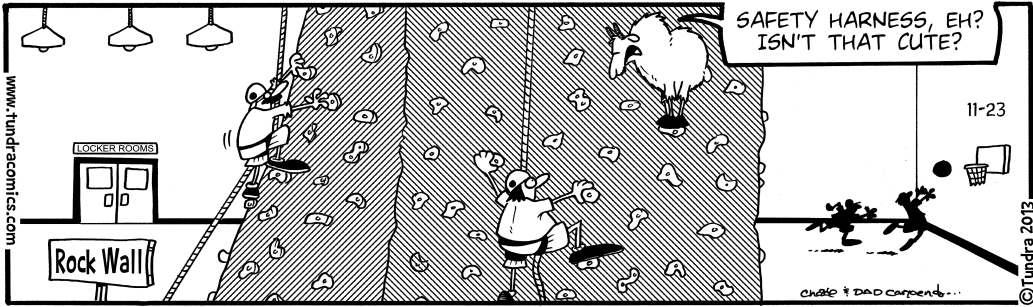
BZH. QHF DAWH VUZ AQOW
BZH, VUZ JQH FU QKQMGHC

XAGHCN. — RUW HQKQXA

Previous Cryptoquote: ONE OF THE MOST SINCERE FORMS OF RESPECT IS ACTUALLY LISTENING TO WHAT ANOTHER HAS TO SAY. – Bryant H. McGill

COMICS

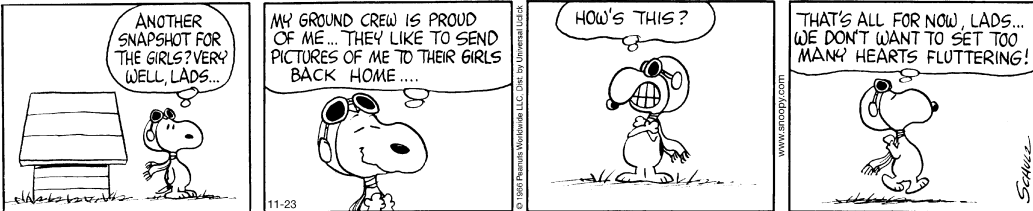
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

