

Teen begins to recognize parents' emotional abuse

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl who has two younger brothers. My parents are good people, but they can be extremely harsh and cruel. They curse us out and scream at us for petty things almost every day. I told my best friend about it and she said that it is emotional abuse. I disagree.



DEAR ABBY

Valentine's Day came around, Chris asked if we could celebrate it a few days late because he was scheduled to have his son that night. I was heartbroken because even a Valentine dinner for the three of us was out.

I am beginning to think there is no future with Chris. He seems fine just dating and seeing me every other weekend as someone to hang out with, but not to commit to. Suggestions? — **DISMISSED IN DENVER**

DEAR DISMISSED: When you started dating Chris, his son was 12. It seems to me that what he has done is put his parenting responsibilities before anything else, and I respect that.

If romance and marriage are what you're looking for, I suggest you stop asking Chris about living together and ask instead about whether the two of you have a future. Chris has been treating you like a friend with benefits for four years. The pattern is set and it isn't likely to change by itself.

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

If there are family members or close friends who can intervene, help your parents to see how damaging their lack of control is and convince them to get help, you should confide in them. It might be a good idea for you and your brothers to spend as much time with friends in healthier families as you can. This will get you out of the line of fire and enable you all to see what normal family interactions are like.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a divorced man, "Chris," for four years. He has a son who is 16. On the weekends Chris has his son, I become the "invisible girlfriend." Sometimes the three of us will go to a movie or out to eat, but I am NEVER welcome to spend the night.

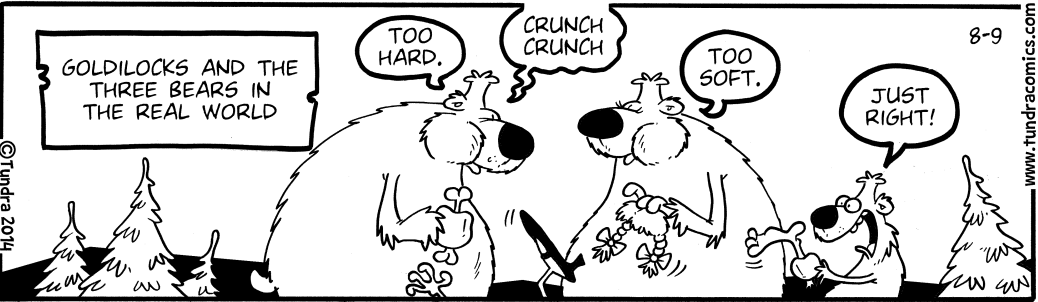
Chris and I have talked about living together, but never in depth. Unless I bring it up, he never says anything about it. When

DEAR TIRED: The answer to your question is yes, your friend is correct. Because your parents have been doing this on a regular basis, it qualifies as verbal/emotional abuse. Be glad you now recognize it, because their lack of control isn't normal.

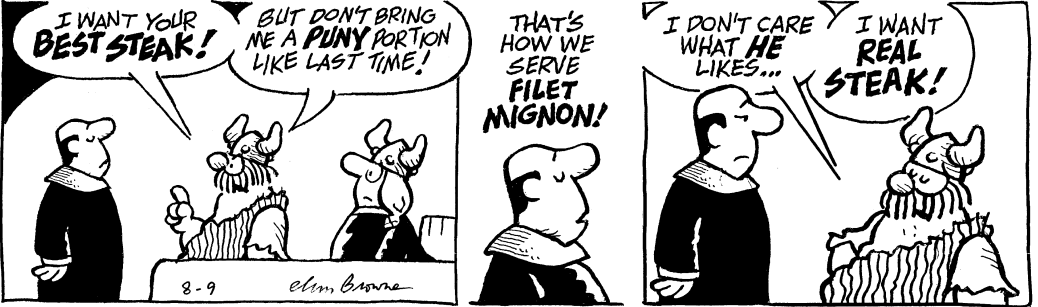
Their anger and frustration may have nothing to do with you and your siblings. The problem with this kind of abuse — as opposed to physical abuse — is that although it is damaging, it is often not taken seriously.

COMICS

Tundra



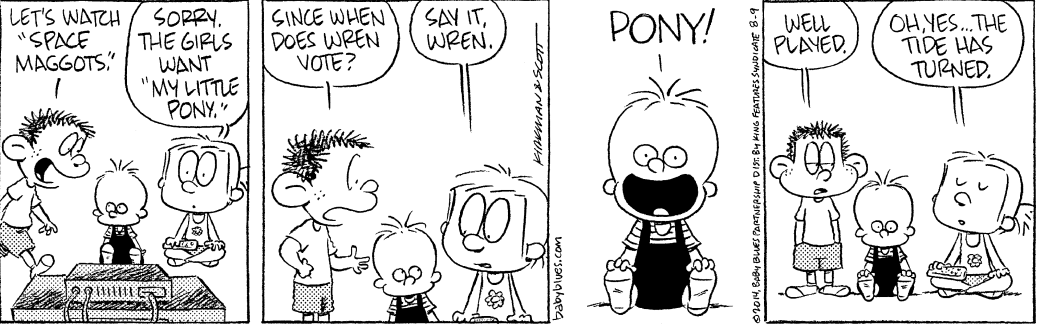
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may have to make a few minor changes to your original plan, but other than those minor adjustments there is nothing standing in your way this week.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Home improvement projects continue to pile up, Taurus. Use this week as an opportunity to get everything in motion and on the path to completion.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

A few more tweaks and your master plan will be complete, Gemini. Now you just need a few able-bodied volunteers to work with you through some of the hard labor.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a late-summer trip makes the perfect finale to a few good weeks of recreation. A little adventure is in your future, so make the most of this opportunity.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, once you have your mind made up, it is extremely difficult to sway your opinion. Others will try this week to get you onto their side. But you're just not feeling it.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, whether you have been lucky or unlucky in love as of late, this is the week for some romantic surprises. Your entire perspective could be turned on its head.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

A small disappointment has you out of whack, Libra. Don't let it get to you for too long. Family members will help pull you out of a brief funk and get you on your feet.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may be ready to make some really big changes. Forge ahead with the plans you have created, and you will be glad for having done so.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Financial issues come to the forefront of a relationship, Sagittarius. Keep arguments from escalating by being open and honest about all purchases. Things can be worked out together.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Few things can wipe away the smile on your face this week, Capricorn. You are in an eternally good mood, and your positivity is intoxicating to others around you.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you will have an enormous sense of accomplishment when you finish a task you thought above your skill level. Always believe in yourself.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

There is little room for things other than work this week, Pisces. Now is not the time to take on new chores. Save them for later.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 10
Justin Theroux, Actor (43)

AUGUST 11
Chris Hemsworth, Actor (31)

AUGUST 12
Cara Delevingne, Model (22)

AUGUST 13
Sam Champion, Meteorologist (53)

AUGUST 14
Steve Martin, Actor (69)

AUGUST 15
Jennifer Lawrence, Actress (24)

AUGUST 16
Vanessa Carlton, Singer (34)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Window part

5 Small nails

10 Less friendly

12 Maximum amount

13 Door holder's words

14 Saw

15 Be

16 Shade provider

18 Address ender

19 Like tears

21 Chef's collection

22 Geometric shapes

24 Fiery crime

25 Geometric solids

29 Julia of films

30 School papers

32 Curator's concern

33 Belief, in brief

34 Geese formation

35 Principled

37 Come up

39 Twang, as a guitar

40

Jeans material

41 Transmits

42 Simple

DOWN

1 Miserly

2 Pole

3 Petite

4 Writer

5 "Kapow!"

6 Free

7 Second-longest river

8 Number makeup

9 Dance units

11 Shuttle

17 Walkers' straps

20 Considering everything

21 Homes for koi

23 Loses it

25 Con quest

26 Beat at the track

27 Deep gorge

28 Mate's answer

29 Highway exits

31 Message from the boss

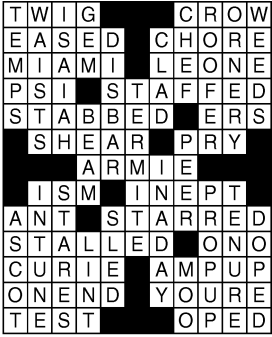
33 Sorts

35 Con quest

36 Plus

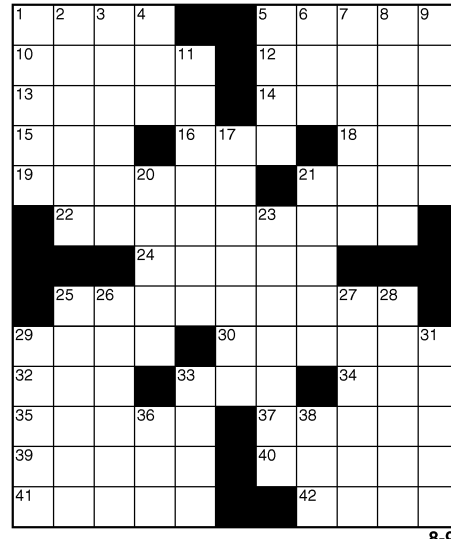
38 "Stand" band

39 Twang, as a guitar



Previous Puzzle

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



8-9

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Move like a moth

5 Trojan War hero

9 Runway sight

10 Grottos

12 Acts the shyness

13 Spin

14 Pardon

16 Chopping tool

17 Hive group

18 For adults only

21 Mountain road shape

22 Boulders

23 Bash

24 Competition including skateboarding

26 Back muscle, briefly

29 Apollo Theater setting

30 Foot part

31 One, for Juan

32 Breathe out

34 Bolivian city

37 "The Thinker" sculptor

38 "Skyfall" singer

39

Zodiac ram

40 Previously owned

41 Longings

DOWN

1 Bends

2 Cavalry weapons

3 River of Pakistan

4 Hardy heroine

5 Play division

6 Mouth part

7 Fly high

8 Persian king

9 New cadet

11 Winter glider

15 Radical

19 Decays

20 Some amount of

22 Identical

23 Chum

24 Kubla

25 Feels for a light switch

26 Fill with stuff, as a moving van

27 Axis foes

28 Prom crowd

29 Island dance

30 Beach setting

33 Inner picture

35 Pub brew

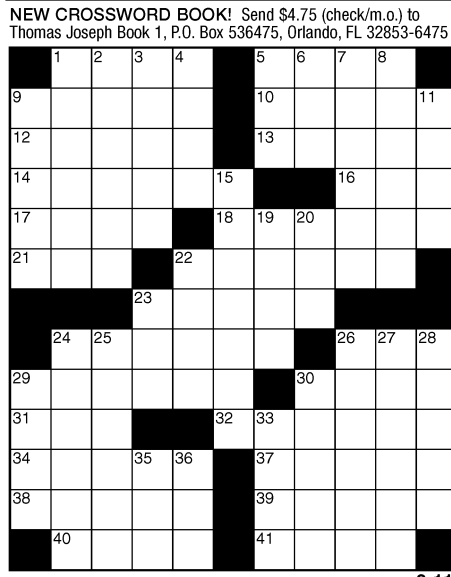
36 Last letter, in London

37 "The Thinker" sculptor

38 "Skyfall" singer



Previous Puzzle



8-11

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

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.

8-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

K B S C S O C S K P U S H X B S W
D O C S W K B T T G H S S U H W T K B P W J
I A K L S S G P W J K B S U T A K B
K B O K I P K S H M T A . — D S K S C
G S F C P S H

Previous Cryptoquote: THE FIRST HALF OF OUR LIFE IS RUINED BY OUR PARENTS AND THE SECOND HALF BY OUR CHILDREN. – Clarence Darrow