

Woman discovers old flame blew smoke about his past

DEAR ABBY: I have been single for five years. I recently reconnected with a man I lost contact with 13 years ago. We went out a few times and it was wonderful.

Out of curiosity, I began checking him out online, starting with his mother, who he had mentioned was a surgeon. When I could find no information on her, I started looking up other things. Abby, I could find nothing about him or his family. His mother does not have a medical license, and there are no property records or any record of a marriage license to his second wife.

When I confronted him, he was furious and accused me of not trusting him. Now he doesn't want anything to do with me. I'm heart-broken. I loved him years ago and thought this was for real.

I feel guilty for not trusting him, even though I know he hasn't been honest with me. Is it wrong to do background checks on people you date? — **DATING A MAN WHO DOESN'T EXIST**

DEAR DATING: It isn't wrong to do some checking. In fact, these days it's very common. But I wonder, having known this man years ago, what made you curious enough to double-check? Also, how good are you at research? And when you "confronted" him, were you hostile, which would have made him react defensively?



DEAR ABBY

Please do not waste another minute feeling guilty about this. If he isn't the person he portrayed himself to be, you may have dodged a bullet.

DEAR ABBY: My 7-year-old son is a great winner when we play games, but he's a terrible loser. When he loses a game, he loses control. He screams, yells, hits and sometimes bites. Is there a way to stop this behavior or am I stuck with a son who hates to lose? — **LOSING THE BATTLE AT HOME**

DEAR LOSING THE BATTLE: You have described a child who is unable to handle frustration or control his emotions. When a child is 2 or 3, this kind of behavior is understandable. But by age 7, your son should have learned to manage his frustration more appropriately.

If his poor sportsmanship continues, it will cause problems with his peers. You should discuss this with him while he is rational, BEFORE you play any

games with him. Explain that games are supposed to be fun, and "when we lose, we are given the chance to learn from our mistake." The same is true in sports. Athletes use their mistakes to improve their skills.

It might also be helpful to impose consequences when your son acts out. But if that doesn't help him, then you should have him evaluated physically and neurologically to make sure there is nothing medically wrong with him.

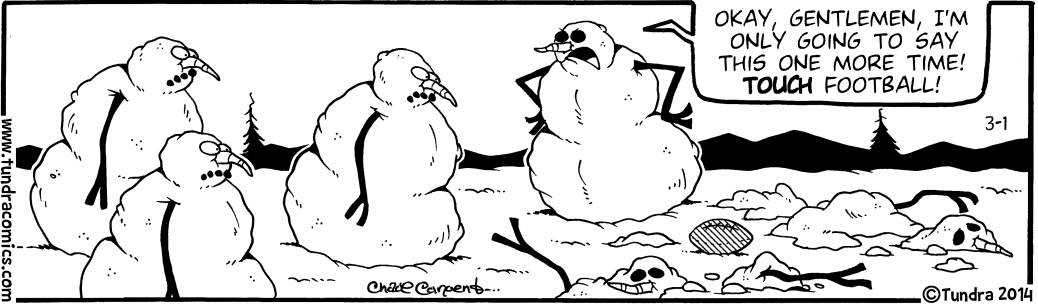
DEAR ABBY: I'm an 11-year-old girl, and my mom has a boyfriend who lives with us. Mom said that he comes first in her life. When she told me that, I felt like she didn't love me anymore. He tries to be my father, acts like he owns the house and gets me in deep trouble. I have considered moving in with my dad. What should I do? — **PRE-TEEN IN FLORIDA**

DEAR PRETEEN: Now that your mother has made her priorities clear, I think it is time you discussed this with your father. If he is willing and able to take care of you, you might be better off living with him.

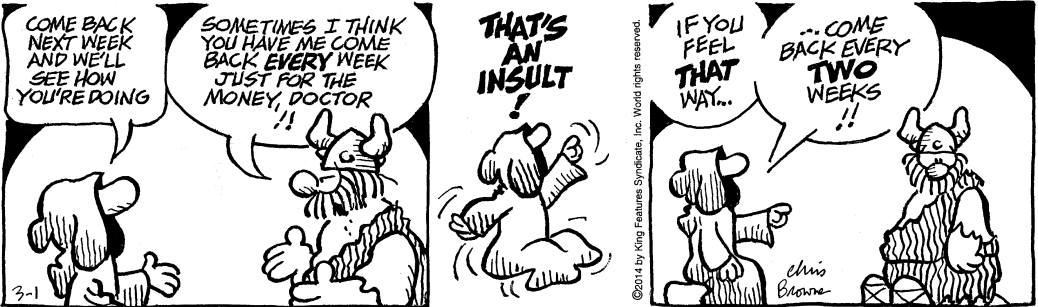
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

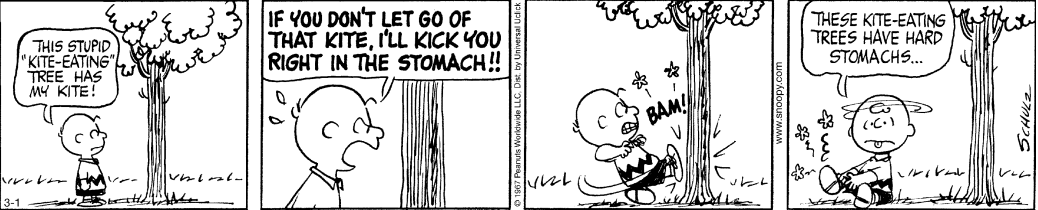
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



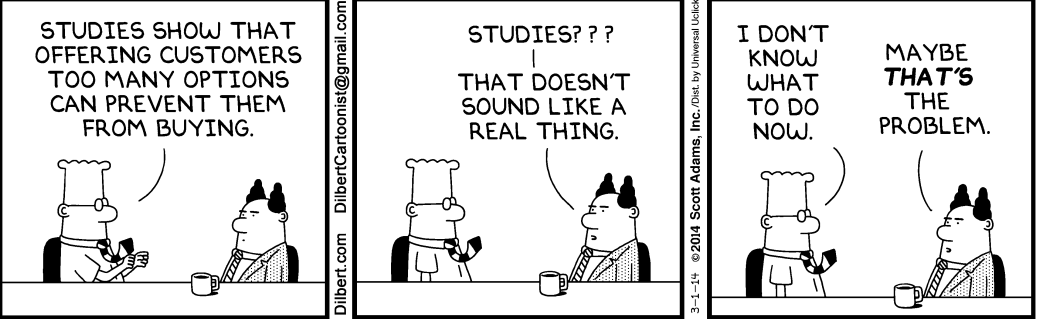
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

Previous Puzzle

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Don't feel a need to take charge of others, Aries. People will respond to your cues even when such hints are subtle. Step back from the dictator's podium.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you should be able to accomplish your objectives this week, in spite of some early distractions. Things will right themselves before long.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, concern about those closest to you might be foremost on your mind this week. Shift that focus to your own life and responsibilities for the time being.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Your professional life takes precedence this week, Cancer. Allow yourself ample time to tackle all the things on your plate at the office, and you will be glad you did.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Use the power you have carefully, Leo. Sometimes it surprises even you just how great an impact you can make and the wide-sweeping consequences of some of your actions.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, uncertainty about your priorities arises over the next few days. Take time to think things through, but don't be idle for too long. Do your best to stay motivated.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Long-term career goals are on your mind, Libra. Make time to develop a plan that can make those goals a reality. Consult with colleagues for advice or guidance.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, there is always room for compromise, even when compromise seems unlikely. Don't be too quick to assume there is no room to work out an agreement.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Your focus is at an all-time high this week, Sagittarius. Now is a good time to establish clear objectives at the workplace or for important personal matters.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Friends and family bring you a sense of well-being, Capricorn. Surround yourself with plenty of people in the days to come. Open your heart, and you will get much in return.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, coworkers turn out to be a source of much-needed support when you receive some unexpected news. Thank them for their support and kind gestures.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, expect others to seek your help in the coming days. Do your best to help, and those around you will greatly appreciate it.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 2
Chris Martin, Singer (37)

MARCH 3
Julie Bowen, Actress (44)

MARCH 4
Whitney Port, Actress (29)

MARCH 5
Dan Carter, Athlete (32)

MARCH 6
David Gilmour, Musician (68)

MARCH 7
Bryan Cranston, Actor (58)

MARCH 8
Nick Zano, Actor (36)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

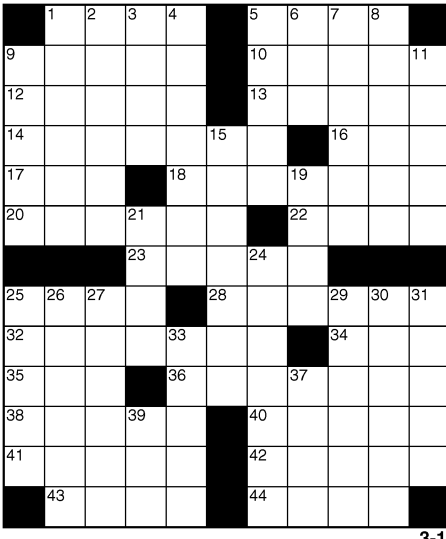
ACROSS
1 Scots' toppers
5 Game fish
9 Polite
10 Assists illegally
12 Sports spot
13 Baseball's Yogi
14 Xylophone relative
16 Ran into
17 Summer in NYC
18 "Edward II" playwright
20 Reduce
22 Taverns
23 Ice cream parlor choice
25 Track shape
28 High jinks
32 Bond's drink
34 Opening
35 Play part
36 Radio pioneer
38 Emperor Selassie
40 "Loot" playwright
41 Puzzled
42 Staff symbols

43 Harrow rival
44 Relaxing resorts

DOWN

1 Diatribe
2 Deflects
3 Skirt type
4 Viciously insulted
5 Storybook elephant
6 Japanese prime minister
7 Sunday speech
8 Scattered
9 Caravan creature
11 Appeases
15 Kerchief
19 Dryer
21 Pretzel
24 Shackled
25 Plains tribe
26 Leave empty
27 Monet or Manet
29 "This — see!"
30 Indian crafts
31 Roulette rounds
33 Clarifying phrase
37 Riding whip
39 Summer sign

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3-1

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

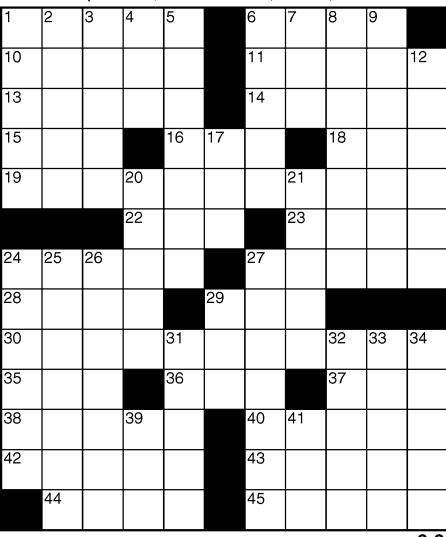
ACROSS
1 Flower holders
6 Price
10 Mirror sight
11 Some beans
13 Dance in a line
14 Similar
15 Paintings and sculpture
16 Junior, to senior
18 Victor at Fredericksburg
19 Lectern's kin
22 Poem of praise
23 Assess
24 Blackjack player's request
27 Car part
28 Field unit
29 Lass
30 Catalog of course books
35 Say further
36 Take to court
37 That woman
38 Girder material
40 Pitcher Ryan
42 Paris river
43 School paper

44 Tennis star
45 Good quality

DOWN

1 Parish head
2 Love, to Luigi
3 Blitzen's boss
4 Easter find
5 Resort site
6 Trolley sound
7 Squeak stopper
8 Show friendliness toward
9 Likes instinctively
12 Harry Potter's position in quidditch
17 Low digit
20 Like the Capitol
21 Wry
24 Pester
25 Summer drink
26 Car price reducer
27 Purplish hue
29 Safari sight
31 Music's — Brothers
32 Resort sites
33 Disgrace
34 Principle
39 Last part
41 Surprised sounds

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3-3

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
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.

3-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

FR URSUAUFZ QCF CWWRJY
ZR HA QCKXLZ TF C ZTUA
VCJI CFY AMTDZ TF C DZCZA
RW DKDIAFYAY CFTUCZTRF.
— ZLARYRJA HTOAN

Previous Cryptoquote: PERHAPS NO PLACE IN ANY COMMUNITY IS SO TOTALLY DEMOCRATIC AS THE TOWN LIBRARY. THE ONLY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT IS INTEREST. – Lady Bird Johnson