

Girl who takes to the stage leaves friend in the wings

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, “Kyra,” has joined the drama department at our school. She has made a lot of theater friends now and hangs out with them every day after school. She used to meet me occasionally at my locker after school, but no longer does so. The only time I see her, she’s with her theater friends, and I’m uncomfortable because I don’t know them and I’m shy.

I’m trying to make friends with Kyra’s friends, but when I’m with her, she kind of ignores me and doesn’t try to include me as much as she could. It’s depressing that my best friend would rather hang out with other people than me. I’m missing her. What do I do? — **CAST-OFF IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR CAST-OFF: Kyra’s behavior is insensitive, but I don’t think you can change her. So the solution will be for you to become less emotionally dependent upon her. A way to do that would be to develop some outside interests of your own and start cultivating them.

While Kyra might have a flair for drama, perhaps you might be more interested in sports, art, computers, etc. If you start to explore what activities are available, it will provide you with a larger circle of acquaintances, and you’ll miss your friend less because you are filling your time with other things. Please give it a try.

DEAR ABBY: Three times in the last week I have been hugged by people who



DEAR ABBY

then informed me that they were sick. At dinner last night, one friend blew his nose throughout the meal and then wanted to shake hands. Yuck!

A little reminder during cold season: If you are sick, “coming down with something” or even just “fighting off a little bug,” don’t hug others! Don’t give a little peck on the cheek or shake hands. You can politely mention that you are “a bit under the weather and don’t want to share.” Other people won’t be offended or think you are being standoffish. They will be grateful for your thoughtfulness. — **TRYING TO STAY HEALTHY**

DEAR TRYING: That’s good advice, if folks are willing to heed it. I can only add that flu vaccinations, frequent hand-washing and a small bottle of hand sanitizer can lessen the chances of getting these viruses when our friends are in a state of denial, and it wasn’t “an allergy.”

DEAR ABBY: I’m not particularly attractive, pretty or girly. I don’t think I’m what boys are looking for, so I tend to not be too

involved with them. I have a lot of male friends, but I have never had a first kiss, a first date, etc.

Yesterday, a guy friend asked me out. I was shocked. I saw him as only a friend and never thought of him as a boyfriend, so I said no. He acted like it wasn’t a big deal. Things aren’t awkward between us, but I think I may have hurt his feelings or his self-esteem.

After school – he’d asked me out after my third class – I couldn’t stop thinking about him. I don’t regret my decision, but I’m worried about him. Can you help me? — **CONCERNED IN EUGENE, ORE.**

DEAR CONCERNED: It might help to recognize that people ask each other out for a variety of reasons – which can include needing a date for an event, romantic interest or just wanting to hang out with someone who is good company. Not knowing your friend, I can’t guess what his reason was when he asked you out.

Because you think you may have hurt his feelings, make a point of telling him that you hope you didn’t. And mention that since you are new to the idea of dating, you think you may owe him an apology because you care about him as a friend.

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are inspired to take on the world, but you may want to focus on smaller goals this week. Finishing a long-lingering work project is a viable option.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, something does not seem to be falling into place. Take stock of things at home and at work to see if you can crack this nut. A little more investigation may be necessary.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

You may be offered a professional opportunity this week that is too good to pass up, Gemini. Despite this great offer, do your best to stay focused on work for the next several days.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Exercise caution and do not jump to any conclusions at work, Cancer. While you may know what your boss expects from you, it is better to wait to hear what he or she has to say.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you can envision exciting adventures ahead, and those times will be here before you know it. Channel your enthusiasm so you can get a head start on planning your adventure.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you have a desire to be different from everyone else this week. It’s good to be original, but don’t stray too far off the beaten path or you may find yourself lost.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a friend may shock you by doing something really outrageous. You do not know what to make of this change in personality, but do your best to take it in stride.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, work figures to put a lot on your plate in the coming week. You can handle everything that comes your way, so long as you keep your cool and continue to work hard.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You may be tempted to sneak off and play hooky from work, Sagittarius. Just make sure you handle all of your obligations first. Now is not the best time to kick up your heels.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have so much to do now that your mind may be in a complete jumble. Others will come at you with questions, but take a deep breath and answer them one at a time.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Change is not the best idea right now, Aquarius. It is much better to stick with the status quo for a little while longer. Then you will have enough stability to make a change.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you have many new ideas about how to get rich quick, but you will probably want to find more sensible ways to earn a living.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 2
Shakira, Singer (37)

FEBRUARY 3
Rebel Wilson, Actress (28)

FEBRUARY 4
Gavin DeGraw, Singer (37)

FEBRUARY 5
Cristiano Ronaldo, Athlete (29)

FEBRUARY 6
Mike Farrell, Actor (75)

FEBRUARY 7
Garth Brooks, Singer (52)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Zhivago’s

portrayer

7 Luggage

accessories

11 Eastern

temple

12 Foot or

hand

13 Stood for

14 Church

part

15 Church

doings

16 Office

clerk, at

times

17 Band-

leader

Kenton

18 Re-

nounce

19 Chris

Hems-

worth role

21 Empty

talk

22 Simple

25 Barber’s

offering

26 Monu-

ment

Valley

sight

27 Conve-

nient

29 British

stables

33 Senses

34 Small-

scale

35 Jazz

combo

36 Poplar’s

kin

37 Church

part

38 Basic

39 Brings

in

40 Wobble

DOWN

1 Prepares

for a

fight

2 Wont

3 Heartburn

4 Marmots

and

muskrats

5 Mid-

month

day

6 Mania

7 North

African

capital

8 Counter-

parts

23 Church

eschewer

36 Humorist

ERASE	SCAM
RATES	OPERA
RILES	BIDON
ONUS	RENAME
RON	VAL
SUCKED	IN
THIN	SEAL
TUCKED	IN
VAT	SOS
ORIGIN	GENT
COBRA	AUDIT
ASIAN	PRIZE
LEAD	TUNED

Previous Puzzle

9 Collapse
creator
10 Boat
backs
16 Forest
worries
18 Under
seda-
tion
20 Church
songs
22 Muse of
music
23 Church
eschewer
24 Eeyore’s
25 Beach
cover-up
28 African
lilies
30 Showy
display
31 Penned
32 Gardener,
at times
34 Vein
setting
36 Humorist

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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			

2-8

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Pack

down

5 Chases,

as base-

balls

10 General

Bradley

11 Chatty

bird

13 Plaything

on a string

14 Not too

late

15 Wearing

away

17 Catch

sight of

18 Mocks

19 Sizzling

20 Obtained

21 Horse

feature

22 Real

bargain

25 Circus

star

26 Sledding

site

27 Passing

craze

28 Had lunch

29 Museum

display

33 Ocean off

Cal.

34 One with

access to

secrets

35 Lure

37 Candidate

of 2000

38 Watch

parts

39 Opera

piece

40 Coat of

arms

41 “Why not!”

DOWN

1 Trifled

2 Love, to

Luigi

3 City

leader

4 Wasteful

5 Small

piano

6 Puts on

the wall

7 Museum

stuff

8 “The Firm”

author

24 One with

a ballot

25 New Mex-

ico resort

27 Of the

best

16 Pop star

21 Bard’s

song

22 Molded

23 Ship in

1912

headlines

24 One with

a ballot

25 New Mex-

ico resort

27 Of the

best

16 Pop star

21 Bard’s

song

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