Woman on the rebound wants back in ex's court

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: After a two-year relationship ended, I got pregnant on the rebound. I called my ex and told him I was having a baby with another man because I wanted to hurt him. Apparently it worked – at least that's what his best friend told me.

Now that a few months have passed, I ran into him and all those loving feelings I had for him came rushing back. Should I tell him? The father of this baby is a good-for-nothing deadbeat. He wants to be father-of-the-year without helping me financially.

What should I do about my feelings for my ex, and what should I do about the father of my baby? — **CAN'T DECIDE IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR CAN'T DECIDE: It is time for you to grow up and accept responsibility for the situation you're in right now. Your behavior has been immature and irresponsible. The child you're carrying is going to need someone who can provide for him or her financially and emotionally.

Because you have feelings for your ex, contact him and let him know, but don't count on him wanting to reconcile. Then you should also contact a lawyer about ensuring that "Babydaddy" lives up to his financial responsibilities.

And in the future, when you decide to have sex with someone, recognize there could be consequences and use birth control. Every time!

DEAR ABBY: Recently my mother and I got into an argument on a four-hour road trip. She didn't like my opinions or my answers, so she kicked my 17-year-old daughter and me out of her vehicle and abandoned us in an unsafe neighborhood two hours from our home. She has done it twice before, and I have yet to hear an apology from her for dumping us on the curb.

Luckily, my son was able to come and retrieve us. Most people would have cut her off the first time she pulled this stunt, but I'm a "three-strikes-you're-out" kind of person. I have given my mother many opportunities to apologize for her behavior, but she refuses to acknowledge her own wrongdoing.

I have decided this is the last time this will happen to me. I no longer speak to her and won't allow my daughter to go anywhere with her for fear she will be dumped somewhere unsafe. My other kids ---ages 21 and 22 – say I should get over it. Was cutting her off a reasonable response? — **THUMBIN' FOR A RIDE**

DEAR THUMBIN': Your mother appears to have a short fuse and poor judgment. Is cutting her off a reasonable response? I think so. Dumping someone in an unsafe neighborhood could get the person killed, something we see all too often in the media. If you ever decide to relent, however, and go anywhere with her, make sure you are the one behind the wheel because it's clear Mama can't be trusted when she's in the driver's seat.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I moved to Iowa when I was in high school to be closer to the other side of the family. Because we had lived in California, we didn't interact much with our Iowa family. So now, even though we have been back in Iowa for the last eight years, they still forget our birthdays and don't include us in family get-togethers. How should I deal with this situation? — **EXCLUDED IN THE HAWKEYE STATE**

DEAR EXCLUDED: It appears you're being punished for the "sins" of your parents. (Could there have been some friction with the Iowa relatives that caused the move to California?) All you can do is talk to them and see if you can improve the situation. Consider inviting them to YOUR family get-togethers and you may get a positive response.

However, if they are not receptive, then it will be up to you to create a "replacement" family out of the people you have become close to in your community since your return.

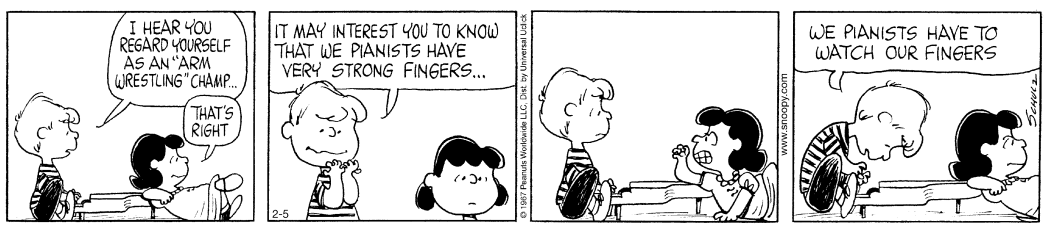
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra

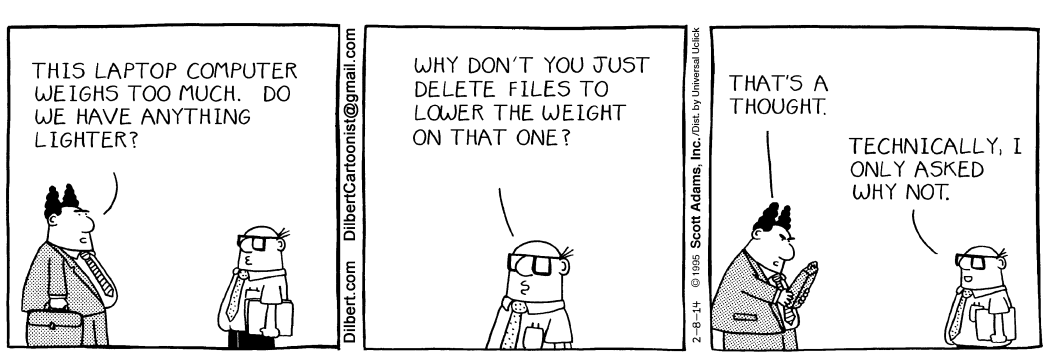
Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Keeping It Crisp

Dear Heloise: I live by myself and need to save as much food as possible. I clean a WHOLE STALK OF CELERY, then cut it in lengths to fit in a large jar. I put cold water over it, put the lid on and put it in the refrigerator. It keeps for a long time and stays crisp. — L.H. in Mississippi

This is one way to store celery. I do something similar so I can just grab a stalk and munch away! However, you really need to put only about an inch or so of water in the jar, as the stalks will soak that up and stay crisp and crunchy! — Heloise

Safe Food

Dear Heloise: Recently, a friend made an expensive seafood gumbo with $150 worth of fresh seafood. She called me when she opened the refrigerator and said that, upon lifting the pot's lid, it was bubbling.

Restaurants cool down large quantities with large ice wands. My hint for at home is that you freeze a 1- to 2-liter soda bottle (plastic). You can place it in the pot when you pull it from the stove, and it will start to cool down. — Miriam J., via email

Oh dear! What a waste of some yummy (NOT cheap to make, either) gumbo! This is a good lesson for all of us. After cooking large quantities of something, try putting it into smaller containers before placing in the refrigerator. However, cooling down soup using your hint certainly would help prevent the bubbling over that your friend experienced.

Another method for cooling soups in large pots is to submerge the pot in a sink or tub filled with ice water. Soups are a great meal to cook ahead and freeze for later, which is why I wrote my Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet. To receive one, send $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Freeze soup in smaller quantities (one serving, two servings or four servings) for unexpected guests or for a quick meal. — Heloise

Frozen Pops

Dear Heloise: I love your column in the Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal and clip a lot of them.

Pudding snacks were on sale, so I bought a lot. I cut a slit in the foil, insert a wooden craft stick and freeze. I cover it with foil so the stick will stand up. Kids love them. — Barbara C. in Texas

Tiny Funnel

Dear Heloise: Recently, I couldn't find my small funnel to refill my salt and pepper shakers. I grabbed a round icing tip from my cake decorating set and used it. It worked well, as there were no spills! — Lisa Z. in Texas

Crack Open

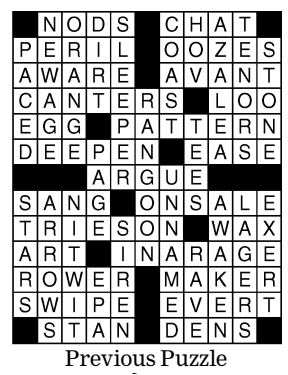
Dear Heloise: I have difficulty opening packages, bottles and jars. I solved the problem of opening small, screw-top bottles by using a nutcracker that has been in the family for years. Works like a charm! — Virginia E. in California

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

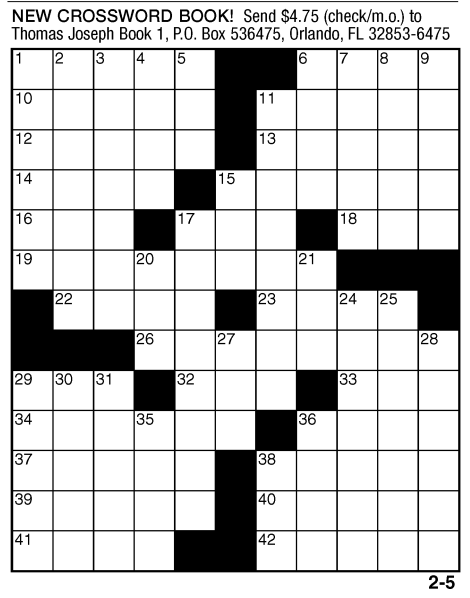
ACROSS
1 Make blank
6 Swindle
10 Billing info
11 Musical drama
12 Annoys
13 Try to get, at an auction
14 Responsibility
15 Change the title of
16 Harry's friend
17 Kilmer of "The Doors"
18 Informant
19 Defrauded
22 Svelte
23 Walrus' cousin
26 Ready for slumber
29 Brewery sight
32 Distress call
33 Buck's mate
34 Source
36 Nice guy
37 Mongoose foe
38 Accounting check
39 Korean or Thai
40 Award
41 Heavy metal
42 Fixed the piano

DOWN
1 Blunders
2 Ballpark disappointment
3 Away from one's desk, in a way
4 Spots
5 Twisty turn
6 Take turns
7 Fragrant wood
8 Fragrance
9 "The Balcony" painter
11 Stone pillars
15 "Far out, dude!"
17 From the second planet
20 Young fox
21 Maiden name label
24 Included
25 Treat as a celebrity
27 Swindle
28 Took in
29 Outspoken
30 Happened
31 Leg bone
35 June celebrant
36 Wise teacher
38 Fitting



Previous Puzzle

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



2-5

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Doughy ring
6 Milk buy
11 Yucca's kin
12 City-based
13 Like the Capitol
14 Bumbling
15 Blows one's top
17 Techs' place
19 Cobbler's cousin
20 Acquire
23 Take to the sky
25 Store come-on
26 Charades and the like
28 Team
29 Sidewalk stuff
30 Golfer Ernie
31 "You betcha!"
32 Fork over
33 Mail-related
35 White's colleague
38 Russian range
41 Wise words
42 "Walk Away —"
43 Locker room need
44 Studio stand

DOWN
1 Misbehaving
2 Before today
3 Grouse and pheasants
4 At any time
5 Preceded
6 Rather
7 Fancy planters
8 Homer's dad
9 Grammys category
10 Blasting stuff
16 Runs through
17 Oversight
18 Profit
20 Strategies
21 Supreme Court justice Kagan
22 Irritable
24 Saloon supply
25 Rick's pianist
27 Hand signal
31 Sticks figure
33 Newspaper part
34 District
35 Plopped down
36 Bustle
37 Mouth part
39 Sheltered side
40 Poivre partner

Previous Puzzle

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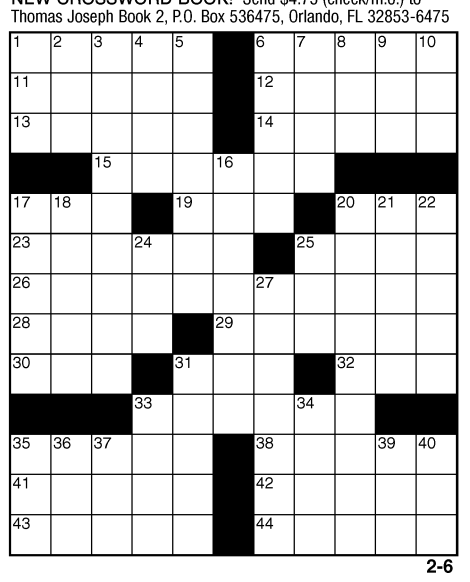

2-6

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.

2-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

V QGE'N HJCXR LVGNX, ACN V QG HJCXR HGEICXVGE. FRGFTR ILRRYR KORE NORS XFGN PR. — NGP OJEBX

Previous Cryptoquote: THE FIRST LADY IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, AN UNPAID PUBLIC SERVANT ELECTED BY ONE PERSON, HER HUSBAND. – Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson