

Mother-in-law’s prayer is just one of many ‘keepers’

DEAR ABBY: I recently lost my address book in which I kept a copy of your “Keepers” booklet that I had sent away for a few years ago. I love the memorable poems and essays in it.

I’d like to replace the booklet if it is available. I read through it so many times and now feel lost without it. I have read your advice for many years. Any help or information would be greatly appreciated. — **PENNY IN EUREKA, MO.**



DEAR ABBY

one of the gems that always makes me smile:

A Mother-In-Law’s Prayer

“O, Lord, help me to be glad when my son (or daughter) picks a mate. If he brings home a girl with two heads, let me love both of them equally. And when my son says, ‘Mom, I want to get married,’ forbid that I should blurt out, ‘How far along is she?’

“And please, Lord, help me to get through the wedding preparations without a squabble with the ‘other side.’ And drive from my mind the belief that had my child waited awhile, he or she could have done better.

“Dear Lord, remind me daily that when I become a grandmother, my children don’t want advice on how to raise their children any

more than I did when I was raising mine.

“If you will help me to do these things, perhaps my children will find me a joy to be around, and maybe I won’t have to write a ‘Dear Abby’ letter complaining about my children neglecting me. Amen.”

DEAR ABBY: I’d like to know why they still call ex-presidents “president”? For example, President Clinton or President Bush. They clearly are not president any longer. — **JUST WONDERING IN EUGENE, ORE.**

DEAR JUST WONDERING: True. However, this is a courtesy, a gesture of respect extended to individuals for their public service. Included in this category are retired former presidents, senators, governors, mayors and high-ranking military officers.

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.

su | do | ku

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

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

Previous Puzzle

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

Is Time on Their Side?

Dear Heloise: How long are **CONDIMENT PACKS** from fast-food places good? Example: ketchup, honey, jams. I read you in The Bay City (Mich.) Times. — Joyce K., East Tawas, Mich.

Hi, Joyce. Thanks for reading the column. This question comes up often at lunchtime, in break rooms and workplaces across the country, as well as at home. These packets don’t have an expiration date (I sure could not find one), because they really are meant to be consumed in a short time.

That said, if the packets are unopened, they supposedly don’t need to be refrigerated, just as ketchup, mustard or honey at home does NOT have to be stored in the refrigerator. You can keep them in the refrigerator if you want to, which the companies say does help prolong the taste and quality of the product.

The real key is, don’t toss them in a hot glove box in the car or truck, or keep them someplace they might freeze and then thaw, etc. — Heloise

P.S.: Hey, readers, want a challenge from Heloise? Go to the stash of these little condiment packets that are lurking at work or home. Count how many there are! Yikes, between my kitchen and the one in Heloise Central, we had, oh, let’s just say about 1/2 of a vegetable bin full. So, the count is on for fast-food condiments!

Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com) (please put in subject line “condiments”).

Letters: Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279.

Pistachios Open

Dear Heloise: If you enjoy a handful of pistachios, you probably have come across a nut or two that is hard to crack open. Don’t use your teeth (especially if you have a lot of dental work) or a fingernail, which can split in an instant.

My Uncle Bobby taught me this hint: Use half of a shell and stick it in the opening of the pistachio, and twist the empty shell. The closed shell usually pops open. — K.M., Waco, Texas

No Coffee Confusion

Dear Heloise: I’m the only one in the house who drinks caffeinated coffee, so when I made a pot, I was always being asked, “Is it caffeinated or decaf?” I saved two plastic soda-bottle caps -- one red, one green. I put the green cap on top of the coffee maker if I’ve brewed decaf, and red if the coffee is caffeinated. No more questions. — Scott R., via email

Scott, I love it! Just like at a restaurant, the orange/red rim around a pot is the real full-ledged deal, and a green rim around the pot means decaf. Don’t get them mixed up! Here’s to a good “cup of joe” to start the day. — Heloise

Mushroom Stems

Dear Heloise: I found an easy way to remove the stems from mushroom caps. I grabbed my melon baller, and it worked amazingly. One swirl around, and the stems lifted right out. Don’t know what took me so long to figure that one out. — Martha in Port Charlotte, Fla.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Harvard rival
- 5 Sound of delight
- 11 Ellipse
- 12 Dawn goddess
- 13 Computer drive part
- 14 Actress Laura
- 15 Cabinet wood
- 16 Not his
- 17 Delete
- 19 Beanie or beret
- 22 Blasé
- 24 Mongrel’s warning
- 26 Nerve impulse relayer
- 27 Capital on a fjord
- 28 W.C. Handy’s music
- 30 With zero chance
- 31 Fixed
- 32 Alert
- 34 Company
- 35 Beavers’ creation
- 38 Like cows and sows
- 41 Matador’s foe
- 42 Warring woman
- 43 Sci-fi award
- 44 Radio knobs
- 45 School near Windsor

DOWN

- 1 Luke’s teacher
- 2 Rara —
- 3 Launched a verbal attack
- 4 Antlered animal
- 5 Company division
- 6 There are 20 in a ream
- 7 Fancy planters
- 8 Long, long time
- 9 Verb for you
- 10 Place down
- 16 Suffered from
- 18 Painter Magritte
- 19 Quit gambling
- 20 Singer Guthrie
- 21 Work the fields
- 22 Pokes roughly
- 23 Car bar
- 25 Recess
- 29 Mariner
- 30 “Platoon” setting
- 33 Small songbirds

- 34 Disconcert
- 36 Best Picture winner in 2013
- 37 Earth orbiter
- 38 Diet no-no
- 39 Running bird
- 40 Supply with crew
- 41 Common article

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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3-11

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Mount Olympus group
- 5 Sermon site
- 11 Creative germ
- 12 New York lake
- 13 Frolic
- 14 Warning horn
- 15 Remarkably striking
- 17 Kicker’s aid
- 18 Like some messages
- 22 Stage comment
- 24 Opposition
- 25 Scary cry
- 26 Compete
- 27 Batting plays
- 30 Giraffe features
- 32 Fiery crime
- 33 Fiery
- 34 Seamstress’s need
- 38 Under-standing
- 41 Big book
- 42 Orchestra pieces
- 43 Privy to
- 44 Maximally

DOWN

- 1 Encircle
- 2 Sneaker problem
- 3 Military punishments
- 4 Weakened
- 5 Elbow
- 6 Loosen, in a way
- 7 Entice
- 8 Films, slangily
- 9 Wedding words
- 10 Sandy color
- 16 Singing Sandra
- 19 Prayers
- 20 Give off
- 21 Colors
- 22 “Water-loo” band
- 23 Pucker-producing
- 28 Heckler’s weapon
- 29 Herpetologist’s study
- 30 That lass
- 31 Shylock’s outwiter
- 35 Try out
- 36 Wild
- 37 Microscope part
- 38 Mex. neighbor
- 39 Place
- 40 Singer McGraw

V	I	V	A		S	H	A	M	E
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D	E	N	I		S	E		R	I
S	Y	D	N		E		R	O	O
S	E	A	T		S		A	N	N

Previous Puzzle

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3-12

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.

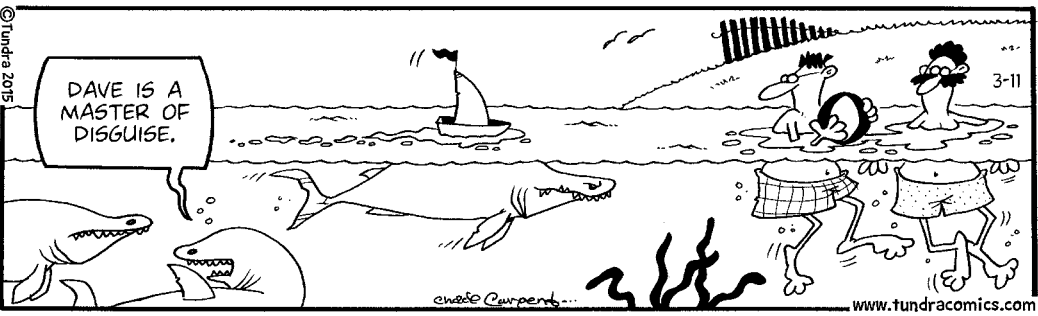
3-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G C W D S P Q U F G L I E P U F G T
E P I D F G L S W Z F U P Q E F D D F Q
S B F L T W F Q C D B W I G L S B G D F
N B G P T F S B G T G K H B E M
I F T D K P C F C G L F P U B G S B F T ’ D
N G T S B . — T G A F T S D G K S B F M

Previous Cryptoquote: THINGS DO NOT PASS FOR WHAT THEY ARE, BUT FOR WHAT THEY SEEM. MOST THINGS ARE JUDGED BY THEIR JACKETS. – Baltasar Gracian

COMICS

Tundra



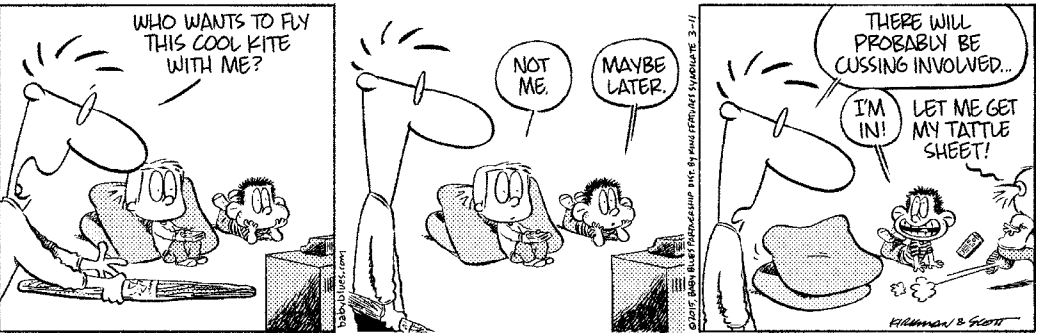
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

