Man stands up for groom's role in wedding planning

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: Why is a wedding always about the bride? Why is the groom often ignored and the occasion not about BOTH of them? I find this offensive as a man who, by tradition, is supposed to "take care of her," but is ignored as a partner in the relationship.

The whole deal about the day being about the bride is sexist, as far as I'm concerned. Television shows like "Bridezillas" make men look like idiots who have no value in a marriage. What are your thoughts? — **MAN WHO MATTERS IN FLORIDA**

DEAR MAN WHO MATTERS: These shows you refer to depend on shock value to attract and sustain an audience, and some of the goings-on that are portrayed are so far-out as to be freakish. Please don't mistake reality TV for reality because nothing could be further from the truth.

Much has changed regarding marriage customs in the last decades. Traditionally, weddings were paid for by the parents of the bride. There was little monetary input from the groom's family, and they did not expect to assist in the planning of the event. Today, however, many couples postpone marriage until they are older and financially independent. They pay for their own weddings and plan them as partners.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior in high school who is already taking college classes. I have told my mom I plan to become a special education teacher. I have been an aide in the special ed class for three years now, and I love it.

My mother and grandmother are not supportive. They keep trying to talk me out of going to college to do what I love. They say I should be a nurse, so I can earn better money, and they tell me I won't be able to find a job if I become a special ed teacher. What should I do when they keep bringing this up? — **THINKING ABOUT MY FUTURE**

DEAR THINKING: Let me first tell you what not to do. Do not allow yourself to be drawn into an argument over this. As much as you are thinking about your future, so are your mother and grandmother.

Because you are taking college classes, talk with a counselor at the school about the kinds of job openings there are for special education teachers. Visit the library and do some research. Both would be intelligent ways to get a glimpse of what will be in store for you if you choose to go into that field.

DEAR ABBY: I have kids who play sports. As I sit in the stands and watch the games, I am disgusted by the negative attitudes and bad-mouthing I hear coming from the parents in the crowds.

How do parents teach good sportsmanship and compassion when the adults they see around them behave worse than the kids? As hard as I try, I can't understand how grown adults can yell or call kids names at a sports event and expect these same kids to grow up with morals and values. — **SPORTS MOM IN MOUNTAIN TOP, PA.**

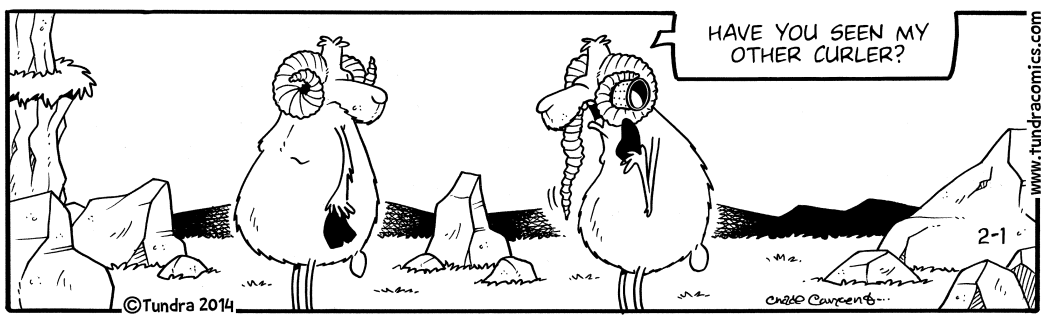
DEAR SPORTS MOM: Positive reinforcement usually works better than name-calling and belittling. Kids are like sponges. They imitate the behavior they see the adults around them exhibit. Effective parents teach their children by modeling behavior they want to encourage in their children. (No one ever said this is always easy!)

The parents you describe may be trying to relive their youth vicariously through their children. Many times, it's not possible for the children to do as well as -- or better than -- the parents, and the result is the children end up disliking the sport.

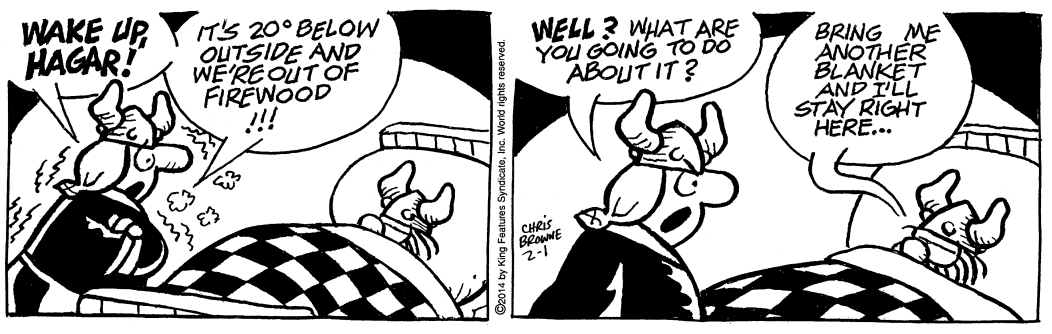
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra



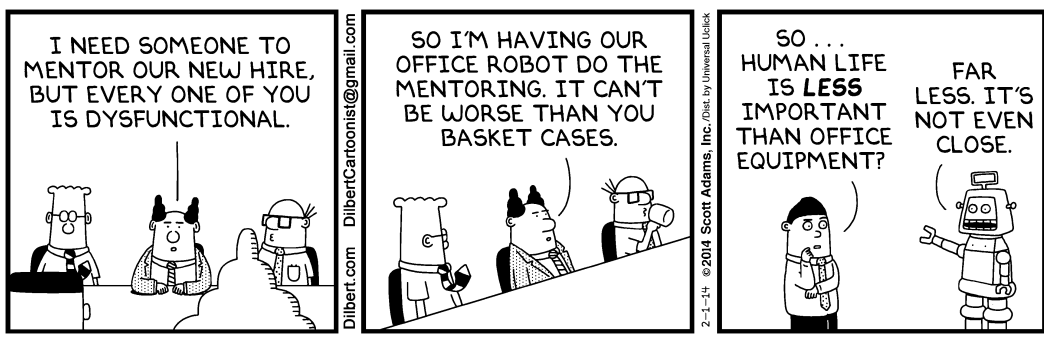
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts

Baby Blues

Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your tendency to say what you feel can come across as being impolite. Many, however, appreciate your honesty and unwillingness to mince words.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

A loved one needs some help, Taurus. This week you will have to figure out a way to assist this person and still tend to your own pressing affairs.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, focus your energy on someone important. This may be a friend, family member or even a romantic partner. Brush up on your relationship skills in the meantime.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You have a natural charm that immediately puts others at ease, Cancer. If you are wooing a client, they will be putty in your hands. Just open your mouth, and you will win them over.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, your stubbornness comes into play this week, and it could cause a rift with friends or colleagues. Try to see their point of view, and put off any serious disputes for another time.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, spend a little time this week plotting your next getaway. You tend to be happiest when you're on the move and exploring. Everyone needs an escape now and then.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Enjoy some local culture this week, Libra. Take in a concert, an art show or a theater performance. Just enjoy anything that will educate and entertain at the same time.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may find that someone you thought was weak is much stronger than they appeared. This person may not need as much of your assistance as you initally thought.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, analyze any problems you may have by breaking them down into smaller tasks. Then you can tackle one thing at a time and come to a happy resolution.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your children or the youngsters in your life will be the center of your universe this week. Make the most of this time and enjoy kids' carefree natures.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

This week may be a little boring, Aquarius. Make the most of your down time, as you could use a few slow days to recharge your batteries and plan your next move.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You are bubbling with energy, Pisces. Make the most of this energy by exercising, partying or taking a day trip.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 26
Anita Baker, Singer (56)

JANUARY 27
Mikhail Baryshnikov, Dancer (66)

JANUARY 28
Elijah Wood, Actor (33)

JANUARY 29
Oprah Winfrey, TV mogul (60)

JANUARY 30
Christian Bale, Actor (40)

JANUARY 31
Justin Timberlake, Singer (33)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

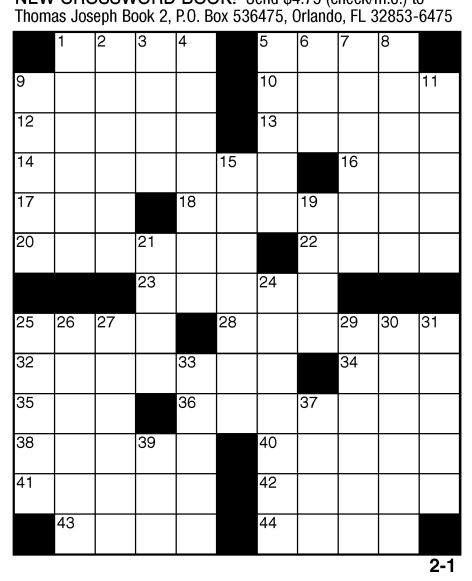
ACROSS
1 Auction bids
5 Casual talk
9 Danger
10 Seeps
12 Not oblivious
13 — garde
14 Easy gaits
16 Old card game
17 Easter find
18 Sewing aid
20 Intensify
22 Naturalness
23 Have a spat
25 Joined the choir
28 Available, in a way
32 Checks the fit of
34 Candle makeup
35 Skill
36 Fuming
38 Crew member
40 Creative sort
41 Take the wrong way?
42 Turn outward
43 Jazz legend Getz
44 Retreats

DOWN
1 Soothing music style
2 Marigold color
3 Tabloid staple
4 Surprise hit
5 Resort spot
6 — lane (carpoolers' place)
7 Flowering shrub
8 Some singers
9 Showed nervousness
11 14 pounds
15 Burmese capital
19 Casual tops
21 Book unit
24 Anonymous
25 Sky sights
26 Quiver stock
27 Pinhead
29 Come to
30 Heady brews
31 Put to use
33 Alarm sound
37 Gushing review
39 Clean Water Act org.

D	E	B	A	T	E	■	S	C	O	T		
A	R	A	B	I	A	■	C	H	O	W		
B	A	T	O	N	S	■	H	O	H	O		
■	■	■	U	S	E	D	U	P	■	■		
L	I	F	T	■	■	U	S	H	E	R		
I	L	L	■	H	A	N	S	O	L	O		
B	I	O	■	O	R	E	■	U	S	A		
R	A	P	T	O	R	S	■	S	I	R		
A	D	H	O	C	■	■	S	E	E	S		
■	■	O	F	H	E	L	P	■	■	■		
O	E	U	F	■	D	I	L	A	T	E		
F	U	S	E	■	G	E	I	S	H	A		
T	R	E	E	■	E	S	T	H	E	R		

Previous Puzzle

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



2-1

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

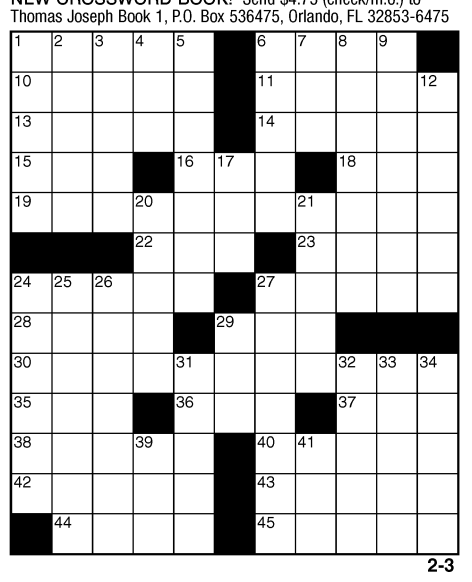
ACROSS
1 Glossy fabric
6 Freshwater fish
10 Tag number
11 Steer clear of
13 Subway patron
14 Art class staple
15 — rule (usually)
16 Neckline shape
18 Use a chair
19 Northwest Territories capital
22 Pool stick
23 Burden
24 Hospital sections
27 Wading bird
28 Aid in crime
29 Provo sch.
30 Symbol of wealthy beginnings
35 Boxing great
36 Dyeing tub
37 Color
38 Mayor before Koch
40 Fill with joy
42 Central
43 Stuck in the mud
44 Coup d'—
45 Flag features

DOWN
1 Aerosol output
2 Stand
3 Kind of wave or basin
4 Bar cubes
5 On edge
6 Czech playwright
7 Gardner of movies
8 "The Barber of Seville" composer
9 Deplorable
12 Abhor
17 Ram's mate
20 Big-screen buy
21 Still in bed
24 Japanese mustard
25 Chisholm Trail end
26 Dependent
27 Methods
29 Lingerie item
31 Tennis legend Chris
32 Scarlett's last name
33 External
34 Must have
39 — culpa
41 Set ablaze

C	A	D	S	■	C	L	O	N	E			
A	N	W	A	R	■	L	O	N	E	R		
S	I	E	G	E	■	O	B	A	M	A		
A	T	E	■	C	O	Y	O	T	E	S		
S	A	B	R	E	S	■	■	E	S	E		
■	■	■	I	D	E	O	■	A	I	R		
■	R	I	D	E	■	B	A	R	S	■		
F	E	W	■	S	N	O	W	■	■	■		
A	G	O	■	■	O	I	L	E	R	S		
R	A	N	G	E	R	S	■	R	E	P		
O	L	D	E	N	■	T	B	O	N	E		
F	I	E	N	D	■	S	U	D	A	N		
F	A	R	E	S	■	■	M	E	L	T		

Previous Puzzle

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



2-3

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.

2-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

N C S E D O G N Y L X U D G , L R X L Y T L U G C L G A S S R , L R W R I L D X I W A Y D V G S O B L R N S Y S V N S X A U K R S I S O G K R , C S O C W G A L R X . — V Y L W X D L " Y L X U A D O X " H K C R G K R

Previous Cryptoquote: THERE ARE MANY LITTLE WAYS TO ENLARGE YOUR CHILD'S WORLD. LOVE OF BOOKS IS THE BEST OF ALL. – Jackie Kennedy