Being boy's second choice diminishes prom's excitement

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to my first prom yesterday. The boy is a senior and the son of a friend of my mom's.

We have a lot in common. We have been friends for years and compete against each other in academics. The problem is, he asked a close friend of mine to go to the prom last week, and he did it right in front of me.

My friends, including the girl who said no, keep telling me he really does like me, even though I was apparently his second choice. The trouble is, I already said yes and I don't want to go back on my word. How do I keep myself from feeling like a consolation prize? — **SECOND BEST**

DEAR S.B.: The boy who asked you to the prom wants to have a good time. As you said, you are friendly and have a lot in common. Please don't let the fact that he asked your friend first get in your way. It's not a contest for anyone's affection; it's only a dance.

DEAR ABBY: I met an amazing lady. She's beautiful, sexy, charming, attentive, classy, smart and conservative. In short, she is almost everything a good man would ask for in a woman except for one thing – she's a tad clingy, and in some instances, it is annoying.

I'm the type of guy who loves my space. She seems to respect it, but gets a little down when I decline an offer to spend time. To avoid hurting or offending her, I sometimes just do whatever will make her happy, although it feels like a chore. Don't get me wrong, I'm physically and mentally attracted to her, but I'm not sure about the emotional part.

The more I feel I'm forcing myself to spend time with her, the more I lose interest. I know this is cliche, but I honestly feel that it's not her, it's me. Am I just not ready to settle down? — **LIKES MY SPACE**

DEAR LIKES: That's what it sounds like to me. And that's what you should tell the lady, because someone with all the wonderful qualities you attribute to her won't be alone and heartbroken for long. In fact, if she knew that you feel you must "force" yourself to be with her, your relationship would already be history.

DEAR ABBY: In June of last year I fractured my kneecap. I was employed at the time and asked my daughter to fill in for me while I recuperated. Not only did she walk away from the job, she has yet to visit or even call me to see how I am doing.

I can't imagine anyone being so cold and distant. It hurts me to this day. How can I get past this hurt and disappointment? — **STILL HURTING IN PALM DESERT**

DEAR STILL HURTING: I can't imagine anyone being so cold and distant – not to mention irresponsible – unless there were unresolved issues between the two of you before you hurt your knee, or your daughter has emotional problems.

How do you get past something as painful as this wake-up call has been? The first option would be to try to understand what has caused your daughter to act the way she has. Another would be to fill your days with enough activities that you don't have time to dwell on it.

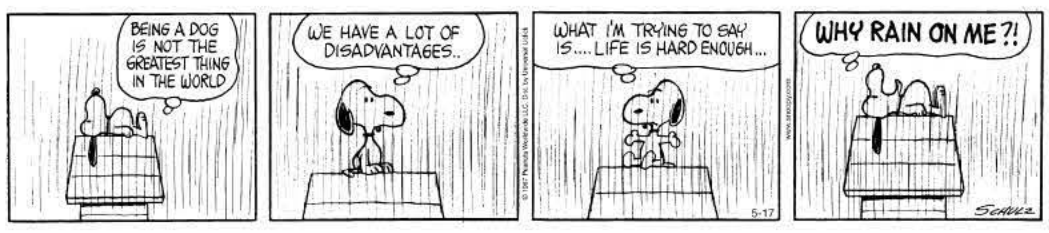
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra

Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your thoughts are distant right now, almost as if you're living in a fantasy world. This is creatively beneficial but not so helpful for practical tasks.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, if you're not careful, you could find yourself debating family and friends this week. Instead, try to sit back and listen rather than fostering debate.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a realization about what is really important to you instills a renewed sense of confidence this week. You will be focused on important things.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, if your finances seem like they are in a state of upheaval, it could be because you have not looked at everything in black and white just yet. Make some changes.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
You come on too strong sometimes, Leo. Those who know you best can handle this approach, but you can scare off potential new friends if you do not ease up.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Be patient and do not demand too much of yourself during the next few days, Virgo. You need to keep your workload light; otherwise, you may get easily overwhelmed.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
This is a time to discover the value of others, Libra. A willingness to try new things and delegate some responsibilities will free up your calendar.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Certain personalities don't always click, Scorpio. Don't feel the need to overcompensate for a strained relationship. Spend more time with those with whom you connect.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Flexible thinking is key, Sagittarius, especially as you face a few new challenges this week. There are some opportunities to reconnect with family later in the week.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
A rush of activity fills your calendar and keeps your phone ringing off the hook, Capricorn. Your challenge will be separating the pressing events from others.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, paperwork has built up and requires more time than you had originally planned. There is no way to avoid this task, but a helper can make it move more quickly.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Moderation is your mantra for the week, Pisces. Do not let the pendulum swing too far in either direction.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 18
Tina Fey, Actress/Writer (44)

MAY 19
Lily Cole, Actress (26)

MAY 20
Sierra Boggess, Actress (32)

MAY 21
Judge Reinhold, Actor (57)

MAY 22
Ginnifer Goodwin, Actress (36)

MAY 23
Jewel, Singer/Poet (40)

MAY 24
Bob Dylan, Singer (73)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

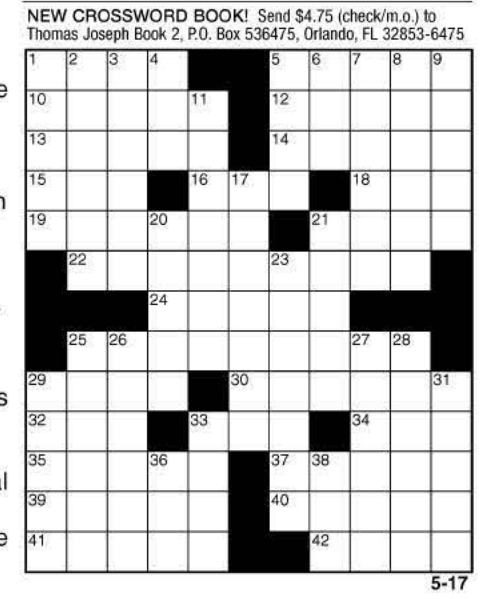
ACROSS
1 Distantly
5 Cutting remarks
10 Descartes and Magritte
12 Stern with a bow
13 Silver bar
14 Word of German gratitude
15 Wonder
16 Arctic explorer John
18 Colt creation
19 Deep bow
21 Stiff drink
22 Hall of Fame catcher
24 "West Side Story" role
25 Hall of Fame pitcher
29 "American Gigolo" star
30 Girls in the family
32 Dijon pal
33 Cardinal cap letters
34 Ray-gun sound
35 Was vocal
37 Each
39 Carl's wife in "Up"
40 Famed lover
41 Canary chow
42 Tip off

DOWN
1 Sills songs
2 Oldest major league ballpark
3 San —, Texas
4 Old auto
5 Await
6 Simile center
7 Texas baseballer
8 Scott of TV
9 Perfume
11 Tries hard
17 Surrounding
20 "Only —" (NPR show)
21 Atlanta baseballer
23 Online merchant
25 Place of worship
26 Baltimore baseballer
27 Skin problem
28 Nervous horse, perhaps
29 Nebula make-up
31 Watch secretly
33 Spots
36 Make fun of
38 Promise

A	P	E	S				M	O	W	S		
D	I	R	E	R		M	A	N	I	C		
H	A	R	T	E		I	R	E	N	E		
O	N	A		P	A	S	S	I	O	N		
C	O	N	T	A	C	T		D	U	E		
	S	T	A	S	H		B	A	T			
			U	T	I	C	A					
	G	A	T		E	R	R	O	R			
S	O	T		A	V	E	N	U	E	Q		
C	A	B	A	R	E	T		T	A	U		
A	L	E	R	T		A	G	A	P	E		
D	I	S	C	S		N	O	T	E	S		
S	E	T	H				B	E	R	T		

Previous Puzzle

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



5-17

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Secluded valley
5 Jon of "Mad Men"
9 Mail in
10 Spreads for breads
12 "With — of thousands!"
13 Pie that's served hot
14 Enliven
16 Turn sharply
17 Oodles
18 Pay no heed to
21 Tax filer's ID
22 Least common
23 Stupefied
24 Quite stylish
26 Knight's address
29 Poem part
30 Fan publication
31 Purr producer
32 Frying sound
34 Filled with excited talk
37 Sword metal
38 Scientist Curie
39 Brutes
40 Watch over
41 Omar of "Resurrection"

DOWN
1 Model stickers
2 Brazilian river
3 Hungarian composer
4 Words from Caesar
5 Spring
6 Ring legend
7 Some opera singers
8 "Don Giovanni" composer
9 Indian princes
11 Cook's mint
15 Public squares
19 Neutral color
20 Homer's neighbor
22 Make fun of
23 Dapper guy
24 Take a — (try)
25 Science study
26 Assess
27 Coves
28 Reacts to a punch
29 Con game
30 "Sharp Dressed Man" band
33 Land in the sea
35 California red, for short
36 Brit's last letter

G	I	G	S			P	O	S	I	T		
I	D	O	L		P	U	M	I	C	E		
B	E	A	U		O	P	E	N	E	D		
B	E	L	M	O	P	A	N					
			B	R	U	S	S	E	L	S		
S	T	R	E	E	P			X	I	I		
C	H	A	R	S		M	O	P	E	D		
A	R	I			R	E	P	O	S	E		
B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T					
			B	R	A	S	I	L	I	A		
B	A	R	H	O	P		M	O	O	R		
I	D	I	O	M	S		A	N	T	I		
D	O	O	R	S			L	E	A	D		

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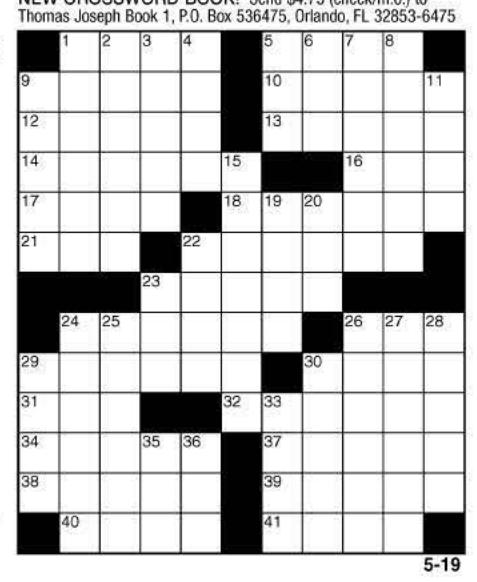

5-19

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.

5-17 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

V K I M Y H Z H C D G O Y H V I Y H P C M V K I O K M Y I R Y D H C P R Y M T H T H V D V H C Z M V K I Y P , F Q V K I O K M U D C F I H T H V D V I N F X C M C I . — R Y D C U M H P - Y I C I N I U K D V I D Q F Y H D C N

Previous Cryptoquote: WHEN I'M DEAD, I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS A MUSICIAN OF SOME WORTH AND SUBSTANCE. – Freddie Mercury