Woman who suspects abuse should resist accusations

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: When I was 10, I faked an injury so I could quit playing soccer. I couldn't articulate why the coach, who was clean-cut, friendly and fair, made me uneasy. After he died a few years ago, it came out that he had molested dozens of girls.

Over the subsequent 20 years, those same instincts have screamed at me three more times – and twice I was proven correct. The third man to set off this alarm is in my social circle, along with his wife. Several of the couples in our group are starting families.

I feel like I'm in a terrible position. Should I say something and risk destroying an innocent man's reputation and the group dynamic, or remain silent and risk the kids being around a predator? I don't have a shred of evidence, just a gut-punch feeling.

I never said anything about the prior abusers, but I don't sleep well wondering if I should have – even if it was based solely on a sixth sense. What should I do? — **NOSE LIKE A BLOODHOUND**

DEAR NOSE: Child molesters belong to every race, both sexes, and come in various age ranges. The problem with criminals of every sort – child abusers and con men included – is they look like the rest of us.

I'm sorry you're having sleep problems, but the solution to them is NOT to accuse someone about whom you have no proof. To falsely accuse him could destroy both of you, and I don't recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm struggling in my marriage. I have asked my husband to treat me as an equal, but it falls on deaf ears. I work part-time, attend school full-time and care for our two children, basically on my own. I pay for almost everything. If I'm broke, he'll pay one of the smaller bills.

He refuses to help with any of the housework, and he has the freedom to go when and where he pleases. I'm only allowed to go to school or work; otherwise I must take the kids with me. He's very controlling and, in the past, when I have threatened to leave, he said he would kill himself. He is verbally and emotionally abusive.

I no longer love him and want a divorce, but I'm scared of what he'll do if I ask for one. I don't know what he is capable of. The stress has taken a toll on me. I'm depressed, angry and bitter. I wish the kids and I could simply disappear, but that's not an option, nor healthy.

Is there an easy way to ask for a divorce, or somewhere I could turn for help? Is there financial help where someone could help pay for a divorce? — **WANTS TO DISAPPEAR**

DEAR WANTS TO DISAPPEAR: There is no easy way to ask a spouse for a divorce, particularly one who is controlling and verbally abusive. If you are worried about him killing himself, please don't. From your description, he is too selfish and self-centered ever to do that.

Because I know of no individuals or organizations that pay for people's divorces, talk to your family and see if one or more of your close relatives is willing to help. However, if you are afraid that your husband might harm you, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The phone number is 800-799-7233. Its counselors can help you form an exit strategy.

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

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.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

Self-Cleaning Cast Iron

Dear Heloise: I read your column every day in The Decatur (Ala.) Daily. If you have CAST-IRON COOKWARE that has a "buildup" on the outside, you can clean it in your self-cleaning oven. Afterward, be sure it is completely cool, then wash in warm, soapy water and wipe down inside and out with a thin coat of shortening. I even have put mine in a 300-degree oven for an hour or so at times for minor cleaning. — Dot B. in Alabama

Dot, don't you love this tried-and-true Heloise hint on how to "easy clean" a cast-iron skillet? Since you need to put it on an oven rack, just leave one rack in the oven when doing this. Many readers leave both racks in when self-cleaning the oven. They may get dull, but they won't be damaged. — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

Microwave Mistakes

Dear Readers: Microwaves are pretty much a standard appliance to have today. They sure make cooking or heating up some leftovers a snap! However, there are some very important DON'TS for a microwave. Make sure you keep the following items out of the microwave, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture says they aren't safe, and that's good enough for me:

■ Containers with metal handles.

■ Any foam-insulated items, such as carry-out containers.

■ Food wrapped in aluminum foil.

■ Cold containers that are used to contain yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine, etc. These should be used only for storage and NOT for microwave cooking.

■ Brown paper bags.

— Heloise

Stubborn Jars

Dear Heloise: I have a problem opening glass jars. Do you have a hint for how to do this? -- Olga V. in New Jersey

Hola, Olga! Readers, Olga wrote to me in Spanish. I read and speak just a little (solo un poco), so I can answer her question. My trick is to wrap the lid in a thick kitchen towel, then "whack" the side of it in several spots with a heavy utensil, or tap it (just the lid, not the whole glass jar!) on the floor. You can use a bowl of hot water and turn the jar upside down just until the water covers the lid. Since heat expands, the metal lid should loosen a little. — Heloise

Easy Trash Takeout

Dear Heloise: I traded out my large garbage can for several small ones, placed in the corners of my kitchen. The one by the sink is for "messy" trash and is handy for meat trimmings and leftovers. It's easy to lift the small can to wherever the mess is, tie it up and toss. — D.M.L. in Mississippi

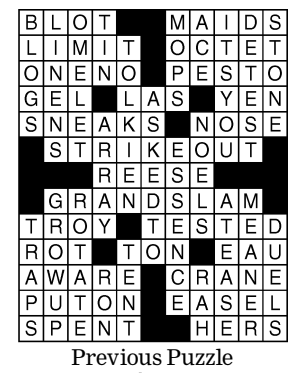
Quick Dry

Dear Heloise: I reuse 1-gallon plastic bags, but they are hard to dry. Recently, I put a bag over a roll of paper towels. I rolled it around several times and dried the inside of the bag. — Addie W. in North Carolina

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

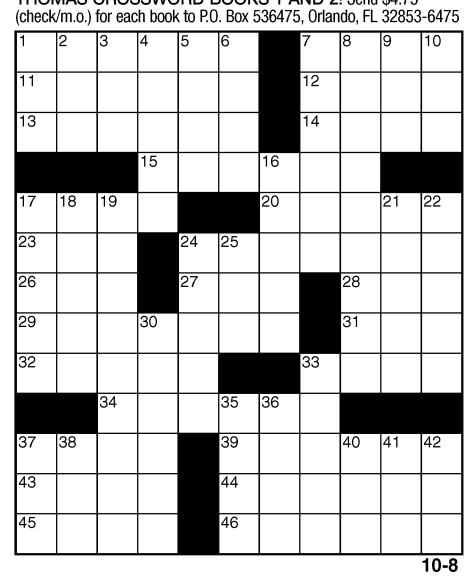
ACROSS
1 First name in home-making hints
7 Masticate
11 Unconcerned with ethics
12 Valiant one
13 Romeo kills him
14 Bring home
15 Store door sign
17 Escapade
20 Houston player
23 Commotion
24 Like some bridges
26 Large snake
27 Impress greatly
28 Rink surface
29 Picked from the menu
31 Butter bit
32 Fashionably dated
33 Nile serpents
34 Increase
37 Singer Redding
39 On cloud nine
43 Aspiration
44 Incense
45 Base meal
46 Store visitor

DOWN
1 Porch sight
2 Writer Tan
3 Hold up
4 CD segment
5 Foyer
6 Choir voice
7 Burger topper
8 Mind-blowing experiences
9 Make mistakes
10 Took the title
16 Was frugal
17 Repair bill line
18 Find charming
19 Long drives
21 News summary
22 "Golden Boy" playwright
24 Billiards shot
25 Need to pay
30 Clears
33 Isolated
35 Chick sound
36 Radius partner
37 Resistance unit
38 Bunion spot
40 Road goo
41 Sense of self
42 Fox hole



Previous Puzzle

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



10-8

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Small valley
5 Foe of Rocky
10 Writer Canetti
12 Game setting
13 Spree
14 Fuses
15 Salt Lake City player
16 Scale of degrees
18 Brainiac
20 Superb serve
21 Vicinity
23 Homer's neighbor
24 Heredity unit
26 Nursery group
28 Kilmer of "The Doors"
29 Tedious
31 Words with pickle, stew or jam
32 Circle spoke
36 Shakespearean conspirator
39 Numbered rd.
40 Took steps
41 Gladden
43 Lorelei's river
44 Located
45 Splinter groups
46 Quite

DOWN
1 Fix code
2 Select group
3 Sheet material
4 Fall back
5 Cry like a baby
6 Metal sources
7 Trustful
8 Persuades
9 Got fresh with
11 Fastened down
17 Language suffix
19 McKellen of "X-Men"
22 World books
24 Chocolate dessert filling
25 Waistband stuff
27 Unoriginal
28 Parish heads
30 Braz. neighbor
33 Hopping mad
34 Complete
35 Run-down
37 Dispatched
38 Mid-month time
42 Tyler of "The Lord of the Rings"

Previous Puzzle

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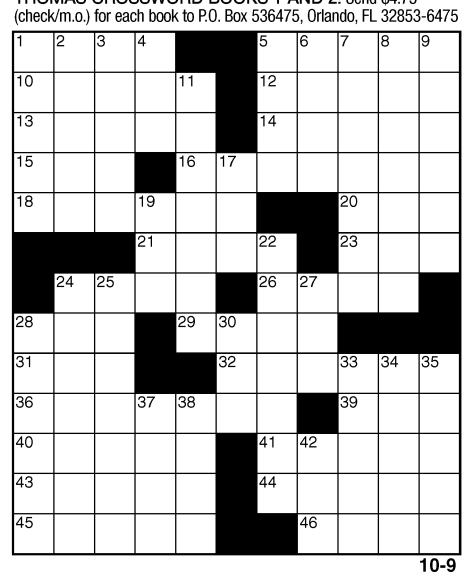

10-9

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.

10-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

D Z R L P V M X F Z B U Q X M W , B Q X F Z B U R X L V ; D Z R L P V M X Z D R X U Q , B Q X F Z B U R X L U D . — X M X L P Z U U Z Z Q X O X M D

Previous Cryptoquote: A CRIMINAL IS A PERSON WITH PREDATORY INSTINCTS WHO HAS NOT SUFFICIENT CAPITAL TO FORM A CORPORATION. – Howard Scott