

Don't wait until tomorrow to tell the people you love

DEAR ABBY: My sister faced various life-threatening illnesses. She always said, "Never put off telling the people you love how you feel about them because you might not have a tomorrow." She practiced what she preached, and we all knew that she loved us. When she passed away eight years ago, it was a painful loss, especially for our mother.



DEAR ABBY

You can, however, understand his childish motivation. Ignore him as much as possible and focus your attention on your nieces since that's your only reason for going over there anyway.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my partner for six years. She is 14 years older than I am. We get along great and have a wonderful relationship.

"Marsha" and I live in a small Southern city. She is well-known and politically active. While everyone knows she is gay, they rarely realize I'm her partner because I look much younger. We are often approached with, "Oh, is this your daughter?"

How are we supposed to respond? Marsha and I work in the same place, so it happens there, too. It's awkward. Any ideas? — **AIN'T MY MAMA**

DEAR AIN'T: Because Marsha is a public person and it's no secret she's gay, when the two of you are asked if you are mother and daughter, Marsha should reply, "No, she is my partner." (And ask them to spread the word.)

TO MY CHRISTIAN READERS: I wish each and every one of you a very merry and meaningful Christmas.

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.

together, he is often condescending and confrontational. I'm tired of arguing when I go to his home and he asks me what's going on. I have started to answer, "Nothing." So now he tells me how "boring" I am, in addition to his other criticisms.

Abby, his comments are hurtful and I try to stay away from him, but I love my little nieces and want to be around them as they grow up. I don't have problems with anyone but him. Our other brother stopped talking to him years ago, but I don't think I can do anything that extreme.

How can I change the dynamic in our relationship? It doesn't seem to have progressed since we were kids. — **UNDER ATTACK IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR UNDER ATTACK: The dynamic in your relationship hasn't changed since you were kids because your brother never stopped being a bully. He calls you boring when you don't take the bait because he considers belittling you to be a form of entertainment. You can't change him. If you point out what he's doing, he will deny it and blame you for being "too sensitive."

DEAR SISTER: The loving message your sister wrote has conveyed her feelings from beyond the grave, and it is understandable that it is even more meaningful now than when it was written. I'm glad to remind readers to verbalize their affection for each other. But the written word is something that can be savored over and over.

DEAR ABBY: My brother mocks everything I do, the friends I spend time with and my politics. When we're

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Turkey Fatigue?

Dear Heloise: For this Christmas dinner, I will once again host family and friends and make a turkey as the main dish. Is it really true that **TURKEY MAKES YOU TIRED** when you eat it?

—Carol J. in New Hampshire
No, it's not true! We just think it is, because many folks overindulge during the holidays with too much food and drink, as well as the stress of the never-ending rush, rush, rush!

Everyone has heard that eating turkey, which contains tryptophan, makes you sleepy. Many meats and foods contain the same amino acid, but they don't seem to make you tired. Plus, tryptophan is effective as a "sleep" enhancer, but many sources say only when ingested on an empty stomach. And I'd say that is NOT the case for a big old holiday meal!

So, enjoy the turkey, and, especially if you are hosting dinner, go ahead and nap afterward – you earned it! — Heloise

SWEDISH MEATBALLS

Dear Readers: Many of you have requested the recipe for Heloise's Spicy Swedish Meatballs. Try it as an appetizer for your next party! You will need:

- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 8 ounces ground beef
- 8 ounces sausage meat (spicy)
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon monosodium glutamate (optional)
- 5-ounce can sliced water chestnuts, chopped

In a large bowl, mix the breadcrumbs and milk. Add all the other ingredients and mix well. Roll the meat into balls (about 1 1/2 inches each) and put on an ungreased baking sheet with sides. Bake at 350 F for about 30 minutes, or until golden-brown. Remove from the oven and place on paper towels to drain. For even more recipes, order my Heloise's Main Dishes and More pamphlet by sending \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Main Dishes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Try these meatballs with an easy-to-make and unusual jelly sauce. Heat equal parts grape jelly and cocktail (red, shrimp) sauce in a saucepan, stirring constantly over low heat until bubbling. Pour over the meatballs and be ready for them to disappear. — Heloise

KEEP TOGETHER

Dear Heloise: Tacos make a great meal, but I'm always frustrated when I take a bite and the taco shell breaks, letting all the fillings fall out. I have finally figured out how to keep the fillings all together. The first thing I place inside the taco shell is a piece of lettuce. I then add all the toppings on top. Now, if the shell breaks, the lettuce still holds all the toppings. — Stacey D. in Colorado

USED CORK

Dear Heloise: I use my old wine corks to keep fondue forks and barbecue skewers sharp. Instead of letting them bang around in a drawer, I stick the ends in a wine cork. This protects anyone reaching into the drawer from getting pricked, while keeping the fork and skewer ends sharpened. — Sharon W. in New Mexico

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sources

for maple

syrup

5 Kite part

9 Lake

swimmer

11 "Divine

Poems"

poet

12 Fashion's

Lauren

13 Singer

Baker

14 "What a

good

boy —"

15 Green

plastic

toys

17 Christmas

travelers

19 Colony

member

20 Tatter

21 PC key

22 Egyptian

dam site

24 Capp and

Pacino

26 Perfect

29 Had

dinner

30 Winter

creations

32 Laborers

34 Sense of

self

35 "A New

Deal for

Christmas"

musical

36 Key

38 Play part

39 Paris river

40 Grazing

group

41 Gum

masses

DOWN

1 Manger fill

2 Friend of

Porthos

3 Shine

4 Dine late

5 Theater

award

6 Zoo

resident

7 Meaning

8 Inclined

10 London

river

11 Consign

to failure

16 Merlot,

for one

18 Important

times

21 Over

again

23 Venus's

love

24 Immediately

25 "Camelot"

lyricist

27 Activist

Bloomer

28 Folk tale

29 Overflowing

30 Hook's

helper

31 Staff

symbols

33 Compassionate

37 Put in

stitches

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10			11	
12							13	
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
		22			23			
	24	25			26		27	28
29				30				31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

12-25

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dealer's

need

5 Book

makeup

10 Massage

target

11 Good

name

12 Scuffle

13 Right

away

14 Bakery

pastry

16 Reverse,

as a

ruling

20 Defeated

23 Surgeon

eggs

24 Burns'

partner

25 Radio

divisions

27 Espio-

nage org.

28 Comes up

29 Post-party

woe

32 Roof

eave, e.g.

36 Film set

on

Pandora

39 War of

1812 port

40 Rise up

41 Writer

Rice

42 Where-

withal

43 Female

rabbits

2 Stocking

shade

3 Burn a

bit

4 Conven-

tion

highlight

5 Friend of

Wendy

6 Left at

sea

7 Colt

creation

8 List-

ending

abbr.

9 Spot

11 Ominous

bird

15 Kitchen

sight

17 Fancy

planters

18 Took the

trolley

30 Boarded

C	A	R	O	L		M	O	A	N	S
A	D	O	R	E		A	N	G	E	L
P	O	I	N	T		L	O	I	R	E
					A	I	D	A		N
C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	S			
A	O	N	E		C	A	T	N	I	P
S	W	A	N	S		N	O	O	S	E
S	E	N	T	O		C	E	L	T	
					S	P	A	R	K	L
S	H	E			E	R	E			I
C	O	M	E	T		S	N	I	F	F
A	L	I	V	E		E	G	R	E	S
M	E	T	E	R		E	S	S	E	S

Previous Puzzle

19 Capone's

foe

20 "Art of the

Fugue"

composer

21 Lamb's

alias

22 Astronaut

Shepard

25 — Rabbit

26 Ditz

28 Turn

aside

30 Boarded

31 Squashed

circles

33 Florence's

river

34 Inverted

six

35 Turns

right

36 Pitcher's

pride

37 Geese

formation

38 Gardner

of movies

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