

Teen seeks right approach to gender-bending classmate

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and a senior in high school. During freshman year, one of my classmates was a boy I'll call "Alex." This year, I have been told that Alex has changed his name to "Aly," a more feminine name. Aly now sometimes dresses like a girl and sometimes like a boy.

What gender should I refer to Aly as? Would it be rude to ask my classmate which gender he/she identifies with? — **GENDER DILEMMA**

DEAR G.D.: Considering that Aly could be in a process of transition, I not only don't think the question would be rude, I think it's an intelligent one. If you ask your classmate politely and privately, I'm sure Aly will be glad to answer.

DEAR ABBY: I gave up a baby girl for adoption 29 years ago. I thought when she became an adult she would want to contact me, but I have heard nothing. I have known how to contact her for many years, but haven't done it because I didn't want to intrude in her life. I have left contact totally up to her if she chooses.

Like I said, so far I've heard nothing, and I'm



DEAR ABBY

just wondering why she wouldn't want to contact me or know anything about me. — **WONDERING BIO-MOM**

DEAR BIO-MOM: Are you certain your daughter knows she was adopted? While many adopted children want to know their birth parents, not all do because they don't feel anything is "missing" in their lives. They may also think it would be disrespectful to the parents who raised them. Please don't take it personally.

DEAR ABBY: I'm stuck in the middle between my mom and my husband, "Gary," regarding a onesie my brother bought for our daughter. Gary is a die-hard Raiders fan. My mom and brother love the Chargers. Mom and my brother thought it would be funny

to gift my daughter with a Chargers onesie. Mom asked me to have my child wear it during the game.

When I asked Gary what he thought, he got upset and said, "Please don't do that. I don't want your mom buying Chargers clothes thinking she can turn our daughter into a Chargers fan."

Mom texted me for a photo of the baby wearing it. I said I was sorry, but her dad doesn't want her to wear it, and she got mad and said, "Whatever!" I can't please everyone. What should I do? — **GOOD SPORT OUT WEST**

DEAR GOOD SPORT: Whether your mother and your brother thought it would be funny to give your daughter a Chargers outfit is beside the point. Your husband doesn't see the humor in it, so my advice is to let the child be logo-free until she's old enough to decide for herself whom to support.

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

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Your fears are the only things holding you back this week, Aries. Confidence is all you need to move forward, so take some initiative and you will be glad you did.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You cannot outmaneuver karma, Taurus. You will reap what you sow this week, so remain positive and things will ultimately work out in your favor.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, do your best to prevent distractions from getting to you or affecting your performance at work. You can overcome these distractions if you just stay focused.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Certain responsibilities require all of your attention this week, Cancer. Set aside some time to tackle these tasks one at a time, and you will be done before you know it.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Circumstances may shift without warning, Leo. It pays to have a backup plan available so you can make any necessary adjustments. Think on your feet.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may be emotionally invested in a cause or a belief, but you cannot expect everyone to share your passion. Give others room to form their own opinions.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Your ambition takes you on a few adventures this week, Libra. Keep an open mind, and these excursions will prove all the more valuable down the road.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

This week may mark a turning point in your love life, Scorpio. Enjoy taking this next step and make the most of all of the new experiences you share together in the days to come.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Take charge of your goals this week, Sagittarius. Many of your goals are worthwhile endeavors that can be achieved through a combination of commitment and hard work.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, plan an excursion or a get-together with friends before boredom sets in. This will give everyone a chance to reconnect and engage in some lighthearted fun.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, it will be very easy to get pulled off course this week. All you have to do is daydream for a while and time will fly. Make a to-do list so you can maintain your focus.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Stay put for a while, Pisces. Now is not a good time to make changes. Stick with what has been working for the time being.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 22
Mia Michaels, Dancer (49)

FEBRUARY 23
Josh Gad, Actor (34)

FEBRUARY 24
Floyd Mayweather, Jr., Boxer (38)

FEBRUARY 25
Lee Evans, Actor (51)

FEBRUARY 26
Nate Ruess, Singer (33)

FEBRUARY 27
Chelsea Clinton, Journalist (35)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Mexican peninsula
- 5 Accolade
- 10 Island greeting
- 12 Not out of it
- 13 Homer work
- 14 Amber, essentially
- 15 Load unit
- 16 Sturdy wood
- 18 Take in
- 19 Hits the campaign trail
- 21 Hamlet, for one
- 22 "Say what you're trying to say"
- 24 Red Square name
- 25 Fight
- 29 Grant of films
- 30 Aslan's place
- 32 Ball
- 33 Hoss's pa
- 34 Application form box
- 35 Blown away
- 37 Not available
- 39 Sheet material

40 Seasonal song

41 Horse

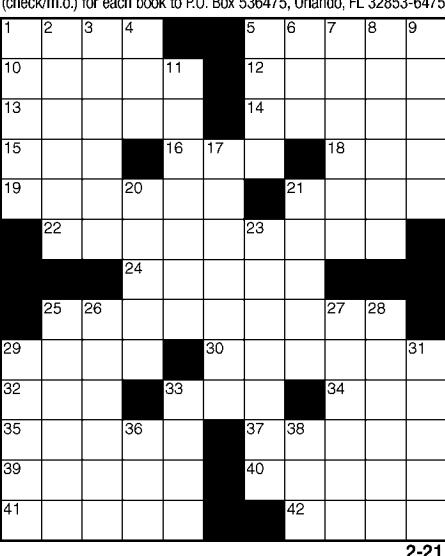
42 Stock holders

DOWN

- 1 Prepares the hook
- 2 Portions out
- 3 Enlist
- 4 Cry of insight
- 5 "Listen!"
- 6 Need to pay
- 7 Cruise port
- 8 Fix one's bearings
- 9 Zellweger of "Chicago"
- 25 "Rats!"
- 26 Polished

- 11 Birth parent seeker
- 17 Foolish
- 20 Like some opals
- 21 Generous one
- 23 Rediscovery of 1985
- 27 Hesitant
- 28 Attaches, as a feed bag
- 29 Spring feature
- 31 Skating spins
- 33 Show flexibility
- 36 Lilliputian
- 38 After-noon break

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



2-21

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Constructed
- 5 Stepped down
- 9 First performance
- 10 Tablecloth material
- 12 Make suitable
- 13 Basil-based sauce
- 14 Curator's place
- 16 Make mistakes
- 17 Previously owned
- 18 Flowering shrub
- 21 Small tablet
- 22 Is real
- 23 Narrow cuts
- 24 Cold and damp
- 26 Cribbage marker
- 29 "Bye!"
- 30 Opera set in Egypt
- 31 Stretch of history
- 32 Champagne bottle
- 34 Bona fide
- 37 Secretary of state under Carter

38 Rob Petrie's wife

39 Fencing swords

40 Spring

41 Cincinnati team

DOWN

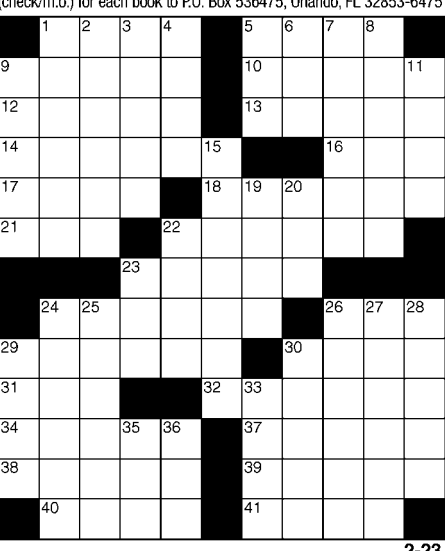
- 1 One of the Gorgons
- 2 Humbled
- 3 Hood-winked
- 4 "—, Brute?"
- 5 Swiss peak
- 6 Tell tales
- 7 Fly or flea
- 8 Block-dropping pastime
- 9 Block



Previous Puzzle

- 11 Nick Charles' wife
- 15 Upper limit
- 19 Metropolis
- 20 Braying beast
- 22 Sailors' saint
- 23 Put into words
- 24 Breakfast choice
- 25 Group of teams
- 26 Like losing wrestlers
- 27 Draws out
- 28 Toy store section
- 29 Vend
- 30 Visibly stunned
- 33 Declare
- 35 S&L offering
- 36 Spigot

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



2-23

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.

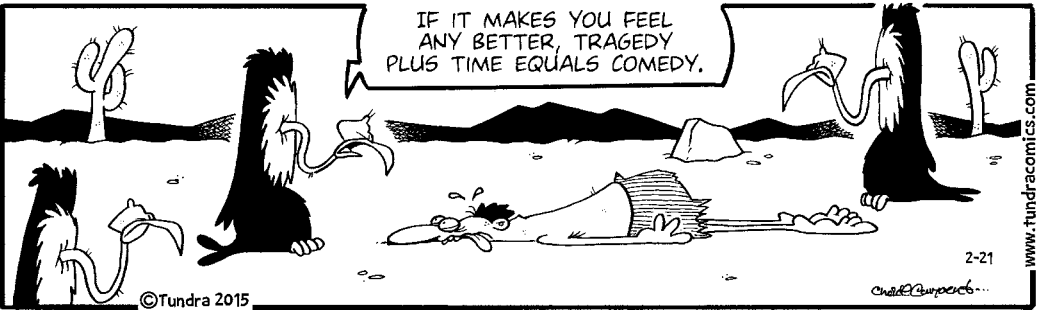
2-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

I F G Z D I B K Z D I, I F G P Y B D V
B K G M W D G R R Q B X Z X T I F G
R S X R F Q X G B K I F G Y Q P F I B K
Y G I G D R, Q R R Q U W Y Q E Q I V.
— O Z Y I O F Q I U Z X

Previous Cryptoquote: THE WORLD IS GOVERNED MORE BY APPEARANCE THAN REALITIES SO THAT IT IS FULLY AS NECESSARY TO SEEM TO KNOW SOMETHING AS TO KNOW IT. – Daniel Webster

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

