Wife hoping for baby wants husband to stop using drugs

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I want to start a family, but until now our circumstances have not made this possible. After a big move and starting a new business, we have decided it's about time.

My problem is my husband uses drugs to relieve stress. I don't feel he abuses them; it just takes the edge off after a hard day's work like a glass of wine does for me sometimes.

I would like him to stop taking the drugs while we are trying to conceive in case it could affect the baby. He is unwilling and it makes me crazy. I have decided that if he can't do this, he isn't ready to be a father. On the other hand, he's a hard worker, and I wonder if by asking him to do this I am being selfish. Please give me some advice. — **READY FOR MOTHERHOOD IN MISSISSIPPI**

DEAR READY FOR MOTHERHOOD: You are NOT being selfish, you are being prudent. According to Dr. June Reinisch, director emerita of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction: "There is some evidence that suggests certain drugs can attach to the sperm and therefore affect the fetus. So the best plan for a healthy baby would be for the man to be as 'clean' as possible before he starts to make a child. This is because sperm are produced about three months before they are released."

DEAR ABBY: One of my husband's relatives is filing for bankruptcy for the third time. His wife recently started to receive disability. I believe they are abusing the system.

I know she was not truthful on her disability application. I work in the health care field and in the past have completed evaluations for disability claims. I know the only way she would meet the requirements would be if she misrepresented her current abilities.

Everyone else in the family works hard to support themselves, so I can't understand how this attitude is tolerated. What has pushed me over the edge is they have announced they're going to have a "bankruptcy party." They have invited everyone over to enjoy food and beverages that will be purchased with a credit card they have no intention of paying.

I feel an obligation to alert the disability office to her misrepresentation. My husband agrees that what they're doing is wrong, but he doesn't want me to do anything about it. This has caused a problem between us because I no longer want to go to family dinners. I know if I keep going and have to listen to them laugh about using taxpayer dollars to support their laziness, I will eventually explode. What do you think about this? — **SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A.**

DEAR SOMEWHERE: I think your relatives are committing fraud and that it should be reported. Disability payments were meant for individuals who truly need them, not those who are gaming the system. And if you choose not to associate with these kinds of morally bankrupt individuals, you shouldn't have to. I can see how it would ruin your appetite. Shenanigans like this should be investigated and the abusers prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

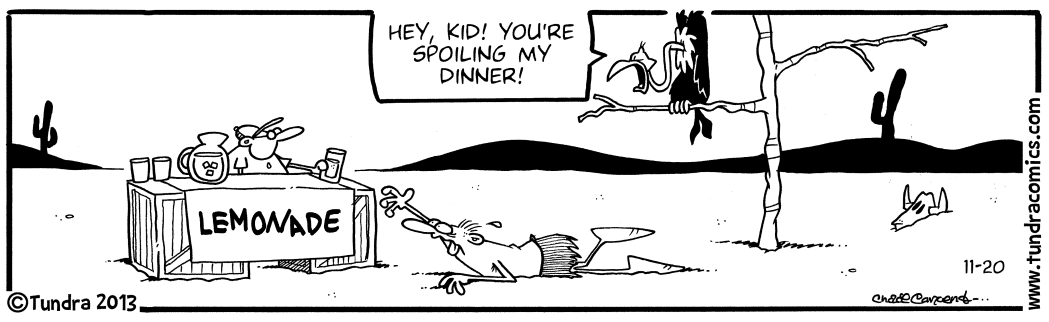
DEAR ABBY: Well, here is a new one on me. I was walking through a Macy's looking for my wife, and right there in front of me was a 40-something woman in her bra trying on a blouse! Please tell me – is this the new normal? — **GREG IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.**

DEAR GREG: It's unusual, but not unheard of -- particularly if all of the dressing rooms are in use. In order to prevent this from happening again, avert your eyes when you're in the women's department.

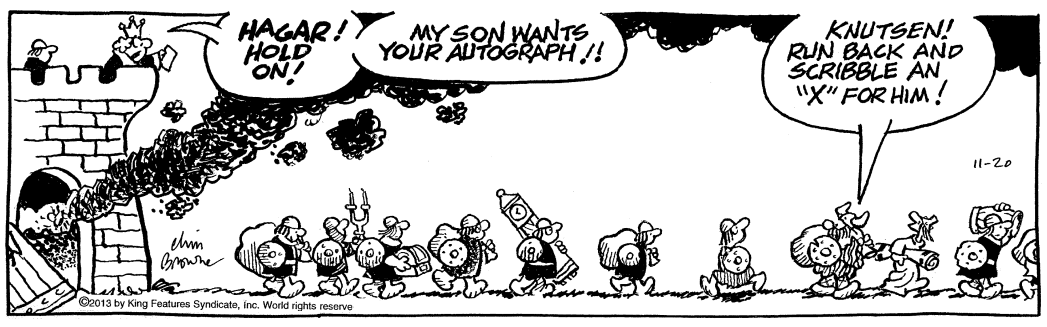
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

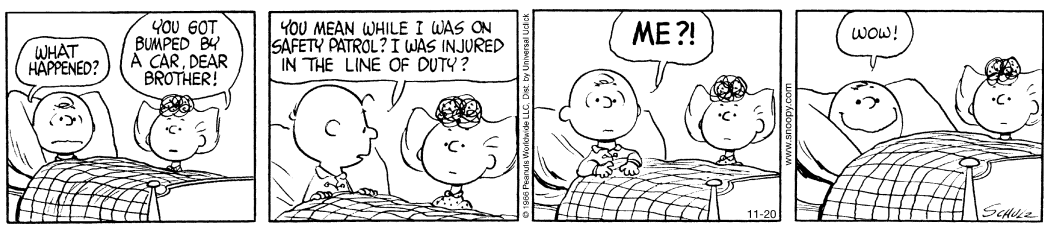
Tundra



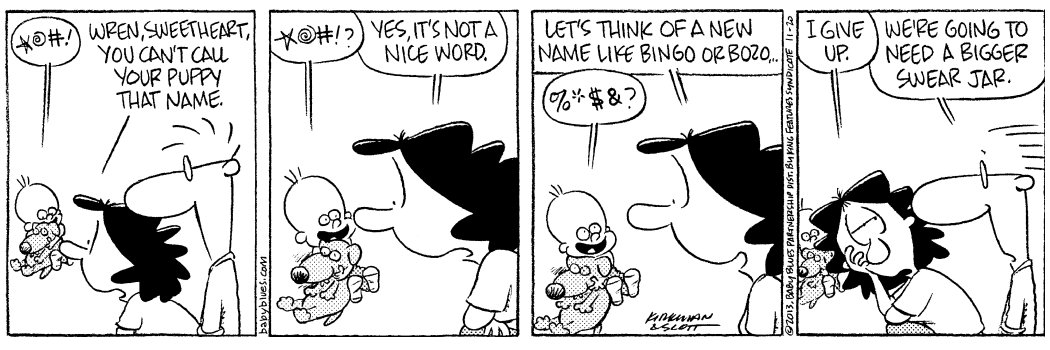
Hagar the Horrible



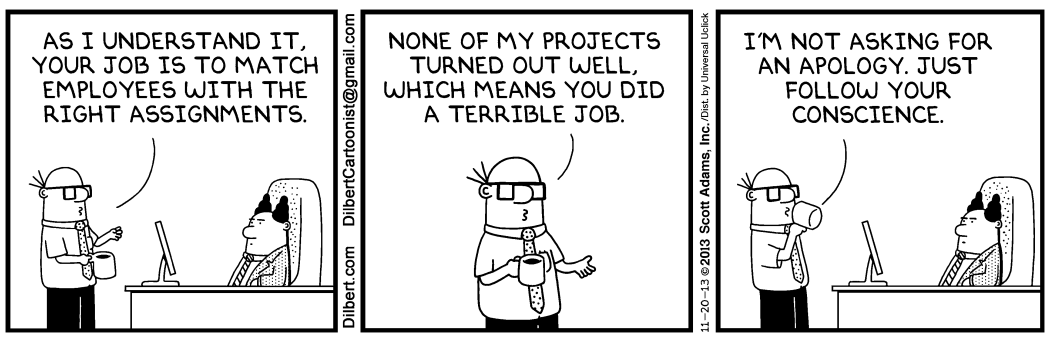
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

The Danger of a Damp Hot Pad

Dear Heloise: I recently BADLY BURNED MY FINGERS while baking cookies because I failed to notice that my hot pad had gotten damp in the process of washing and reusing the cookie sheets. I knew that a damp hot pad or kitchen towel would allow you to be burned, but I was working too quickly that day to notice.

Later, when explaining to my friends and family how the burn happened, I was surprised to hear that some of them didn't know you could be burned by using a damp pad to pick up something very hot. The extreme heat turns the moisture immediately to steam, and the burn can be quite bad.

Please let readers know to watch out for this and never use a damp pad or towel to pick up anything really hot. — Bonnie P. in Houston

Ouch! But in truth, I've done the same thing! Once learned, never again. — Heloise

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

FREEZING AVOCADOS

Dear Heloise: To always have fresh avocados on hand, I peel the avocados, cut them in half and remove the seed. I put the avocado halves in a vacuum-sealed bag and place in the freezer. When I want an avocado, I simply open the bag and take out what I want. I reseal the avocado in the vacuum bag and return to the freezer. They thaw quickly and taste fresh. — Lynda in Amarillo, Texas

For those readers who do not own a vacuum sealer, after removing the seed, press plastic wrap against the avocado flesh. Put the seed back in (to keep the avocado flesh from getting mushy) on top of the plastic and place the entire half, seed included, in a freezer zip-top bag, Store avocado in the refrigerator or the freezer until needed. — Heloise

P.S.: You may want to "double-bag" the avocado just to be safe.

RANCH POPCORN

Dear Heloise: I know people put seasonings or cheese on popcorn. Not being a huge popcorn fan, I have yet to try it. My daughter puts dry ranch dressing on popcorn for her kids. Needless to say, the family insisted I try it. It's delicious. I thought it would make an excellent hint, since I would have never thought of it. — D.H. in New Jersey

GRATED BUTTER

Dear Heloise: I read your column in the Temple (Texas) Daily Telegram.

My hint is when you get ready to bake and the butter is in the freezer or refrigerator, just grab the cheese grater and grate it. Now, I never soften the butter before baking. — Virginia D., Moody, Texas

CAKE CHECK

Dear Heloise: I was baking a cake and found a simple way to check to see if the cake was done. Instead of a toothpick, I wanted something long enough so I wouldn't burn myself and could check without having to get the cake out of the oven. I used a piece of raw spaghetti. — T.A., via email.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

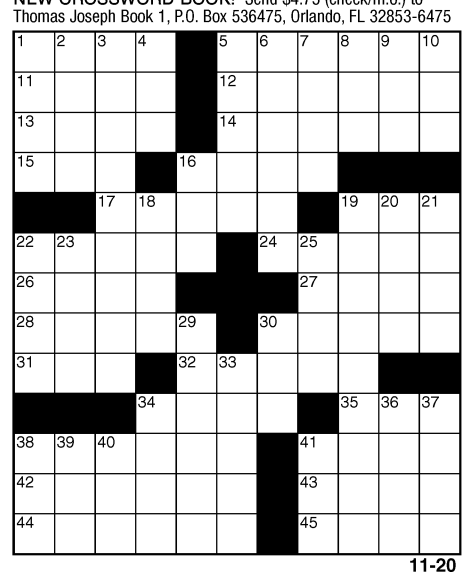
ACROSS
1 Casino calculation
5 Complain loudly
11 Designer Wang
12 Mame, for one
13 TV's Trebek
14 Unsavory sort
15 NBA's Jeremy
16 Goose egg
17 Store worker
19 Comedy first baseman
22 Pitcher Santana
24 Squad car sound
26 In the thick of
27 Skilled
28 Seminar group
30 Slow tempo
31 Work unit
32 Writer Asimov
34 Linen source
35 Bowler, e.g.
38 One of Arthur's knights
41 "The Phantom Tollbooth" hero
42 In awe
43 Tennis star Roddick
44 Emphasis
45 They may clash

DOWN
1 Ellipse
2 Sub shop
3 Like a downpour
4 Getz's instrument
5 Fencing sword
6 Physics particles
7 Destroy
8 Finished off
9 Fake locks
10 Frat party item
16 Buddhism branch
18 Stow cargo
19 Twisting suddenly
20 Influence
21 Aware of
22 Practical joke
23 Poet Khayyám
25 Notion
29 Easter symbols
30 Indulgent
33 Beach bits
34 Disconcert
36 Ray of films
37 Stocking stuffers
38 Heating choice
39 Quantity: Abbr.
40 Simple card game
41 West of Hollywood

A	T	B	A	T	S	■	L	O	L	A				
C	R	A	N	I	A	■	I	R	O	N				
T	E	S	T	E	D	■	N	E	C	K				
E	V	I	L	S	■	R	E	G	A	L				
D	I	C	E	■	S	E	N	A	T	E				
■	■	■	R	A	K	E	■	N	E	T				
■	T	V	S	T	U	D	I	O	S	■				
N	E	E	■	E	L	S	A	■	■	■				
O	X	T	A	I	L	■	M	A	T	S				
S	T	E	R	N	■	B	L	U	R	T				
H	U	R	T	■	H	O	O	D	I	E				
E	R	A	S	■	I	N	V	I	T	E				
D	E	N	Y	■	T	E	E	T	E	R				

Previous Puzzle

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



11-20

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

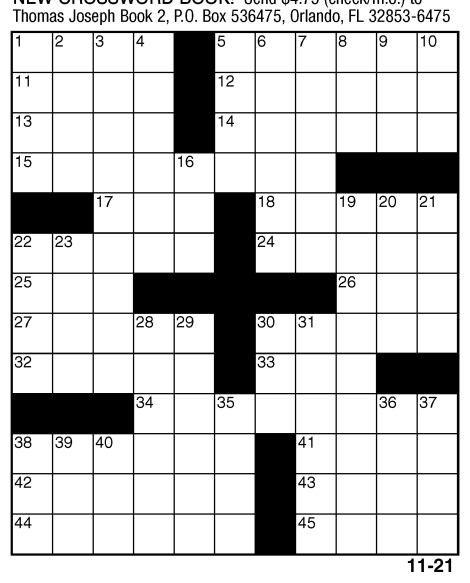
ACROSS
1 Calf-length skirt
5 Best Picture of 1968
11 Historic times
12 "Serpico" star
13 Opposing votes
14 Bureau
15 Opened to the wind
17 Zodiac sign
18 Cuban dance
22 Dwelling
24 Ship poles
25 Kitten sound
26 Puppy sound
27 Furtive looks
30 Flat floaters
32 Binge
33 Maximum amount
34 Hybrid fruits
38 Lets up
41 MP's quarry
42 Like tears
43 Fountain of jazz
44 Wild laughers
45 Urge on

DOWN
1 List of choices
2 Qom's country
3 Purplish bloom
4 Put out
5 October birthstone
6 Heady brews
7 Became frosted
8 Coq au —
9 Ref. wk.
10 Singer Orbison
16 Sturgeon eggs
19 1620 ship
20 Baby sitter's bane
21 Pharaoh symbols
22 Concert boosters
23 Answering machine sound
28 Didn't release
29 Singer Gomez
30 Flock father
31 Dogpatch creator
35 Wields
36 Visitor to Oz
37 Downhill glider
38 Fire remnant
39 Port spot
40 Heady brew

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

Previous Puzzle

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



11-21

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.

11-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

H S I H P J E I X H Q J Q A S U I B I P H B X Q H P B I Q T I U J A Q W U J L W F F V F A Q J I S A S K J H Y E W J W S H J E I B E W Q J H Q W V. — Z B V W S J E. X U K A F F

Previous Cryptoquote: DON'T BROOD. GET ON WITH LIVING AND LOVING. YOU DON'T HAVE FOREVER. – Leo Buscaglia