

Son’s long hair brings out worst in mom’s abusive clan

DEAR ABBY: I have a 10-year-old son. “Zack’s” a great kid, creative, funny and athletic. He has decided to grow his hair long. My husband and I figure it’s not illegal or immoral, so why fight it?

My family does not share our opinion. My mom and sister are cruel in their opposition to Zack growing his hair. They tell him he looks like a girl and call him names. There have been bribes, bullying and instances of utter insanity on their part, trying to make him cut it.

My sister’s son has been physically and verbally cruel to Zack, and she thinks it’s funny. She’s repeating a pattern from when we were children of being the “toughest” – if you can’t handle the abuse, you’re a “baby.”

I need to know how to stand up to these family members for my son. It’s a struggle for me to speak to them face-to-face, and they have called me a coward for sending email messages. My mother lives alone and sometimes has suicidal thoughts. Zack is stressed because he loves his grandma, but can’t deal with her harassment. Can you help? — **GUILT-RIDDEN AND STRESSED IN ONTARIO, CANADA**

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN AND STRESSED: I’ll try. Somehow, for your son’s sake, you must find the courage to tell your mother and your sister to their faces that if they don’t knock it off immediately, they’ll be seeing a lot less of you



DEAR ABBY

and Zack. The dynamics in your family are unhealthy -- but you are an adult now and no longer have to tolerate it. Because Zack is athletic, enroll him in self-defense classes and make sure he knows he does not have to tolerate physical abuse from anyone and that includes his cousin.

As to “Grandma,” your son’s emotional health must take precedence over hers. I seriously doubt she’ll kill herself if she doesn’t have your son to make miserable, so don’t feel guilty about it.

DEAR ABBY: I was on a bus yesterday and a woman seated near me complained about how long the trip was taking for so long and so loudly that I ended up “catching” her negative energy. Because I couldn’t find a nice way to shut her up, I finally put on ear-phones and turned on my music.

When there is a toxic person in a public place, what is the best way to get them to stop spewing their hateful sewage onto everyone else? — **ALLISON IN BROOKLYN**

DEAR ALLISON: The most obvious way would be to put physical distance between you and the person, if that’s possible. If it isn’t, then the way you handled it was appropriate. In the interest of safety, I would not recommend confronting a possibly emotionally disturbed individual.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are retired and financially secure. Our three adult children shower us with costly gifts on Christmas, birthdays, and Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Most of them end up on our closet shelves.

How can we tell them that what we would really prefer is just a kind, handwritten (not store-bought) note with possibly a recent picture of them or our grandchildren enclosed? — **DAD WHO HAS IT ALL**

DEAR DAD: Why not say it the same way you expressed it to me? You are financially secure. Your closets are filled. You don’t have room for any more “things,” and this is the kind of gift you would prefer. If they disregard your wishes and give you more gifts you can’t use, you can always donate them to a needy family.

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.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, shake things up a bit to inspire some much-needed change. Be a tourist in your own city if you cannot afford a trip or immerse yourself in new cultures.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

It is not a good week to begin new projects, Taurus. In fact, cosmic signs point to finishing up anything you have outstanding. Try to focus on financial matters as well.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Cooperate with others this week, Gemini. This works best when you embrace compromise. Listen to what others have to say and always keep an open mind.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a desire to get organized has been on your mind for quite some time. Now is the ideal time to do something about it. Start by clearing out clutter and go from there.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Enjoy a short vacation, Leo. It may be a jaunt to a weekend hideaway or something off the beaten path, but make the most of this well-deserved escape from the daily grind.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are feeling domestic this week, so enjoy puttering around the house these next several days. You can catch up on decorating or renovating the home.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you feel a strong need to communicate with others this week. Share some truths with your loved ones, but try not to come across as if you have an agenda.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may have a desire to travel and seek adventure, but right now finances won’t allow it. If you can keep expenses down, you may have the opportunity soon.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Expect to have luck on your side this week, Sagittarius. As a natural born risk-taker, all you need is a little incentive to get out and take a chance.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Keep your intentions hidden from others until you are ready for the big reveal, Capricorn. This will help make the surprise even more exciting for all those involved.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, discussions reach a point where you want to make permanent changes to your plans. Mull things over before making any final decisions, but enjoy this exciting time.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Personal details about your private life may become public, Pisces. How this information is handled depends on your reaction.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 27
John Cleese, Actor (74)

OCTOBER 28
Matt Smith, Actor (31)

OCTOBER 29
Richard Dreyfuss, Actor (66)

OCTOBER 30
Ivanka Trump, TV Personality (32)

OCTOBER 31
Peter Jackson, Director (53)

NOVEMBER 1
Toni Collette, Actress (41)

NOVEMBER 2
Kendall Schmidt, Actor/Singer (23)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Title holder

6 Keen

11 Variety show

12 Horse opera

13 Delight

14 Sister’s daughter

15 Hampers

17 Had something

18 Words with pickle, stew or jam

19 Kramden’s portrayer

22 Road sealer

23 Bacon slice

24 Free tickets

25 Take for granted

27 “— geht es dir?”

30 Aromatic evergreen

31 Some amount of

32 Historic stretch

33 Gorge

35 Parlor seats

38 Fleet-based

39 Armistice

40 “— kangaroo down ...”

41 Daughter of Barack and Michelle

42 Beginning

DOWN

1 College unit

2 Western state capital

3 Online icon

4 Remote button

5 Source of pressure

6 Heir, at times

7 “Bali —”

8 Comfortable

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

Previous Puzzle

- 9 Parish leader
- 10 Hog the mirror
- 16 Jail, in slang
- 20 Artificial language
- 21 Contented sounds
- 24 Vegas-set series
- 25 Dawn goddess
- 26 Major muddles
- 27 Dispenses with
- 28 Titularly
- 29 Grommet
- 30 Isn’t serious
- 34 Egotistic
- 36 German cry
- 37 Pose- idon’s place

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13									
15									
18									
22									
25									
30									
32									
35									
39									
41									

10-26

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Coped

6 Number part

11 Church sight

12 Remove, as a mistake

13 Fierce fire

14 National bird

15 Puppy sound

17 Capitol Bldg. worker

18 Take in again

22 Singer Guthrie

23 Joined forces

27 Makes headway

29 Took the wheel

30 Think highly of

32 Divisible by two

33 Makes like a bulldog

35 TV spots

38 Matador’s foe

39 November birthstone

41 Battery end

45 Green hue

46 Earth’s neighbor

47 Wendy’s friend

48 Missouri tribe

DOWN

1 Bit of ointment

2 Building wing

3 One — time

4 Loafer

5 Kilmer poem

6 Ruby

7 Writer Levin

8 Jokes

9 Cruise stop

10 Freshman, usually

16 Auction unit

18 Fury

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

Previous Puzzle

- 19 Important times
- 20 Stepped down
- 21 Unembellished
- 24 Chess turn
- 25 At any time
- 26 Bears’ lairs
- 28 Fizzy drink
- 31 Cow call
- 34 Opera cheer
- 35 Resting on (out)
- 37 Rotisserie part
- 40 Broad st.
- 42 “Not — dare!”
- 43 Used a spade
- 44 Language suffix

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13									
15									
18									
22									
27									
30									
35									
39									
45									
47									

10-28

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.

10-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

J M Z J T K R Y C L Q R J V I L M I

O V I R; V L V C Y F L M Y C L M

J V K R M Y X C R O K R C L Q R J V I L