

Girlfriend staying as family’s guest deserves more respect

DEAR ABBY: Last August my husband and I allowed our son’s 17-year-old girlfriend, “Lindsay,” to move into our home from out of state because she needs to live here for a year to establish residency for school. She’s a wonderful girl, mature, social and helpful.

My problem is my other sons (ages 18 and 14) are very angry that we have allowed a “stranger” to move in. My 18-year-old is a college student who lives on campus an hour away, but comes home on weekends. He and his younger brother feel I show favoritism to Lindsay and make frequent comments about the non-family member. They worry that I’m spending money on her even though they know her mom sends her money.

I’ll admit it has been nice to have a girl around. My boys sleep half the day away on weekends, but she gets up and is happy to run errands with me. I still include my sons in many activities without Lindsay, as I always have, and I did not anticipate this hostility. I feel bad for her because they make little attempt to hide it. My son loves his girlfriend, and I want her to feel comfortable and welcome without alienating my other sons. Help! — **MOM OF THREE SONS**

DEAR MOM: You and your husband are the parents, which means you are supposed to be running this “asylum” -- not the inmates. The decision about who



DEAR ABBY

should or should not be a guest in your home is not up to your jealous older and younger boys, who appear to be suffering from a form of “sibling” rivalry.

As a guest in your home, Lindsay should be treated with respect, and it’s not happening. You should insist upon it, and if your wishes are not complied with, there should be consequences.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of five years has three children from previous marriages. Earlier this year he learned some disturbing information about his youngest child. He opted not to share the information with me so as not to violate her privacy. I found out about it a few weeks ago, and I am deeply hurt that I was excluded.

I feel I have never been included as a true part of the family, and this is just another example. He feels his explanation justifies his actions and that should be the end of it. I am concerned that he will keep other things from me he feels are none of my

business in the future. I am not at all comfortable with this situation. Do you think I am overreacting? — **STEPMONSTER IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR STEPMONSTER: Yes, I do. Your husband decided not to discuss something with you that he felt would violate his daughter’s privacy. Much as you might like to, you can’t push your way into being accepted. If relationships are going to happen, they must evolve naturally. So calm down and stop personalizing this. It isn’t a threat to your marriage unless you make it so.

DEAR ABBY: In this day and age, with computers and the ability to backspace, cut, paste and delete so easily, why do you still use a P.S.? Seems to me that P.S. needs to be used only with handwritten letters. — **CANDICE IN PHOENIX**

DEAR CANDICE: Mmmm ... not so fast. The majority of my readers communicate with me via the Internet, as you did. They use P.S. to indicate that what they are saying is an afterthought and so do I in some of my responses.

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.

su | do | ku

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Raw Meat and Raw Veggies Together?

Dear Heloise: I just bought a slow cooker, and I have a question about putting MEAT AND VEGETABLES IN TOGETHER. When a recipe says to put the beef (or whatever) in the cooker and then arrange the vegetables around it, add water, etc., shouldn’t the meat be seared first? Putting it in raw with the vegetables doesn’t sound right to me. — Bob, via email

I know it doesn’t sound quite right, but yes, you can put raw meat in the slow cooker with raw vegetables.

A slow cooker does just that – cooks the food slowly. It uses a lower temperature, but it also cooks the food for a longer period of time. The tightfitting lid and the steaming environment kill bacteria, so don’t worry. Also, don’t put a big old hunk of meat or chicken in there (like a pot roast). Cut the meat into big chunks so they can cook properly. Some slow-cooker recipes say to sear the meat before, so if you feel more comfortable, then do sear the meat first. — Heloise

Toothpick Holder

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint that I learned working in a barbecue restaurant in Dallas: Put toothpicks in a small hot-sauce bottle, and they will come out one at a time. Of course, you need to clean the hot-sauce bottle well before filling it with toothpicks. — Myrtle J. in Kentucky

Better Potatoes

Dear Readers: When making mashed potatoes, there are many alternatives to using milk. Looking for a different flavor? Try using sour cream, buttermilk or nonfat Greek yogurt instead. That’s the fun part of cooking! You can substitute different things to create some yummy flavors. My pamphlet Heloise’s Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes is crammed full of hints for you to live up a meal! To receive one, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Seasonings, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Have a baking recipe that calls for buttermilk, but you don’t have any? Try substituting yogurt. The nonfat Greek yogurt can be used in a zillion different ways! — Heloise

Freezing Crackers

Dear Heloise: You have written in your column about storing crackers in the freezer. After thawing them, is there any moisture in them, and are they soggy? Because if this hint really works, then it is the perfect solution, since I don’t eat very many at a time. — Lois U., via fax

This hint really works! Be sure to put the crackers in an airtight freezer bag or container. You can wrap the crackers in foil for added protection. This keeps out the air, which is what makes the crackers soggy. — Heloise

Organized Spices

Dear Heloise: I often spent time searching for the right spice. To solve my frustration, I put them alphabetically on a two-tiered turntable on the shelf in the cabinet. Now I just give the turntable a spin and find the right spice in no time! — Mary M., via email

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Charity affair
- 5 Go over
- 11 Amorous archer
- 12 Broad street
- 13 Close by
- 14 Heart
- 15 Luggage ID
- 16 Signing needs
- 17 Reviewer Roger
- 19 Slugger Williams
- 22 “The Taming of the Shrew” city
- 24 Fancy wrap
- 26 Heaps
- 27 Gawky at
- 28 Brutish ones
- 30 Tea additive
- 31 Got together
- 32 In the know
- 34 Leave in stitches
- 35 Banned pesticide
- 38 Wordy
- 41 Take to the sky
- 42 Salt additive
- 43 Greek drink
- 44 Was abundant

45 Proofreading mark

DOWN

- 1 Nice guy
- 2 Met song
- 3 Exited a computer system
- 4 Tough wood
- 5 Indy entrant
- 6 Calendar items
- 7 Coop group
- 8 Lowly worker
- 9 Haul into court
- 10 Joaquin Phoenix film
- 16 Soup sphere
- 18 Smoker’s discard
- 19 In fancy attire
- 20 Singer Fitzgerald
- 21 Forest grazer
- 22 Hand part
- 23 Shave cream additive
- 25 See the sights

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

Previous Puzzle

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										
13										
15										
22	23									
26										
28										
31										
38	39	40								
42										
44										

2-12

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Go it alone
- 5 “300” city
- 11 Wrinkle remover
- 12 Holed up
- 13 Kevin Kline movie
- 14 Owing
- 15 Periodic table listing
- 17 Team backer
- 18 Edmonton player
- 22 Forgo frugality
- 24 Night sound
- 25 Guitarist Paul
- 26 Coq au —
- 27 George Jetson’s dog
- 30 Put in office
- 32 Tough puzzle
- 33 Father’s pride
- 34 Feasts
- 38 Gourmet’s sense
- 41 Words of understanding
- 42 Lets up
- 43 Right away, in the ER
- 44 Marries again
- 45 Invites

DOWN

- 1 Flank
- 2 Test type
- 3 Effusive ex-changes
- 4 Kind of band or show
- 5 Tibia setting
- 6 Spotted horses
- 7 Contrib-utes
- 8 Eurasian deer
- 9 Soaking spot
- 10 Court figure: Abbr.
- 16 Goal
- 19 Rendez-vous sites
- 20 Idle on film
- 21 Monthly bill
- 22 Sign of freshness
- 23 Mexican coin
- 28 Money-back offer
- 29 Made speeches
- 30 Lawyer’s letters
- 31 Writer — May Alcott
- 35 Capone’s foe
- 36 Furniture wood
- 37 Jazz club units
- 38 Hole number
- 39 Tad’s dad
- 40 Bar topic

T	A	M	P		S	H	A	G	S	
O	M	A	R		P	A	R	R	O	T
Y	O	Y	O		I	N	T	I	M	E
E	R	O	D	I	N	G		S	E	E
D	E	R	I	D	E	S		H	O	T
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E	N	T	I	C	E		G	O	R	E
D	I	O	D	E	S		A	R	I	A
					C	R	E	S	T	

Previous Puzzle

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										
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22	23									
25										
27										
32										
38	39	40								
42										
44										

2-13

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.

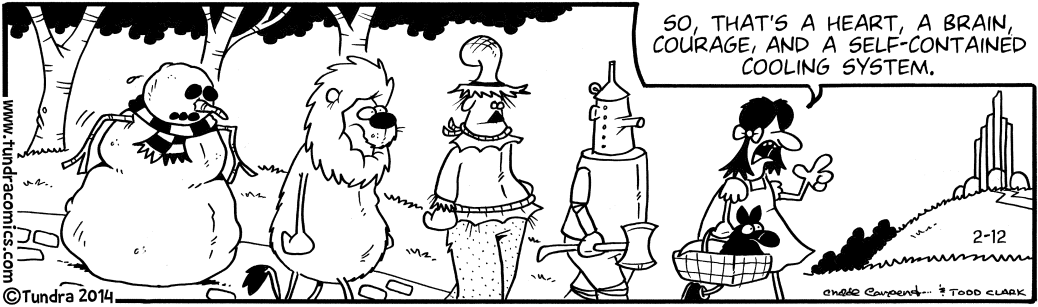
2-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

S T U E F W P W P Y S P W P C
B P E S W J A F P A B F G X T U B E F L ,
S Y S L W P Y O X W U Y H M F .
— _ Z U W F _ U H L Y F W _ _ _

Previous Cryptoquote: FLAMING ENTHUSIASM, BACKED UP BY HORSE SENSE AND PERSISTENCE, IS THE QUALITY THAT MOST FREQUENTLY MAKES FOR SUCCESS. – Dale Carnegie

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

