

Independent daughter wants less help from her parents

DEAR ABBY: I graduated from college, and I'm starting my first full-time job and moving into my first apartment. I bought all the furniture for it, but needed help moving in.

My parents decided to drive five hours to my new home to transport the furniture in a truck they rented -- without consulting me. While I appreciate their help because I would not have been able to lift some of the items on my own, I feel they have overstepped the normal boundaries of parenting an independent 27-year-old daughter. They also decided they would spend the night in my apartment and sleep in my newly purchased bed without asking me.

Am I crazy for thinking my parents are not respecting my space? I don't want to be ungrateful, but I feel violated in some way. This is my first step out into the real world. — **BECOMING INDEPENDENT IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR BECOMING INDEPENDENT: How exactly did you plan to get the large items of furniture from point A to point B if your parents hadn't stepped up to the plate? They were attempting to help you as they always have, not vio-



DEAR ABBY

late you. Although they were mistaken, they assumed that after a five-hour drive plus doing the heavy lifting, they'd be welcome to stay the night and not have to check into a hotel.

Because that wasn't the case, you should have thanked them for their generosity and told them you had made other arrangements for getting the furniture transported and installed instead of resenting them for it. Your problem isn't pushy parents; it's that you didn't speak up in the first place.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old single mom, career-focused and driven in what I do for my son and me. I want the best for him. He is 3.

I am having a hard time meeting someone who will accept the two of us. Men come up to me all the time

at work or when I'm out, but once I mention that I have a small child, it's like they run and hide. If I wait and tell them later, they get upset that I didn't bring it up earlier. I have no idea what to do.

I am ready to settle down and be a "family" with someone. How do I fix this? What should I do? — **LONELY IN SUGAR LAND, TEXAS**

DEAR LONELY: You're doing nothing wrong, and nothing needs "fixing." A man who approaches you and then runs in the opposite direction when he learns you have a child, isn't interested in the kind of relationship you're looking for. He's looking for fun, not continuity.

So be honest about your situation from the beginning. While the idea of settling down is nice, you need to do it with someone whose priorities align with your own, and the men you have met so far don't qualify.

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.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your thoughts are spinning and it's pretty difficult for you to get a hold of any one thing. Take a step back and try to clear your head before proceeding.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, don't let your nerves get the better of you this week. Find someone who can calm your nerves and help you realize you have nothing to be nervous about.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you have plenty of motivation to get a project started. All you need is some help to get things off the ground. Others will be inspired by your enthusiasm.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, others seem to spend time in the spotlight, but you're more comfortable spending time in the shadows. Make the most of this time for quiet reflection.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be anxious to try a new hobby this week, but just don't know which direction to go. Get some recommendations from friends about what keeps them busy.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Sometimes it is difficult for you to talk about your feelings, Virgo. You want to present a brave front, but you're only human and should let others in this week.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, staying the course may be a challenge this week. You have too many things pulling you in different directions. But you'll be successful if you can get a foothold in one thing.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Work associates may not be holding up their end of the deal, Scorpio. You're content to help out once in a while but not take on the work of everyone else.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Use your charm to win someone over, Sagittarius. This is an influential person who will be good to have in your corner. You never know when you might need a good ally.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, if certain ideas didn't work in the past, give them another try. All of the components may fall into place this time around, and you'll like the results.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, the coming weeks may be ideal for some rest and relaxation. Plan for some downtime and make the most of this chance to recharge your batteries.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, expect things to flow much more smoothly this week than they have in recent weeks. You may find you have more free time.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 21
Faith Hill, Singer (47)

SEPTEMBER 22
Bonnie Hunt, Actress (53)

SEPTEMBER 23
Jason Alexander, Actor (54)

SEPTEMBER 24
Rafael Palmeiro, Athlete (50)

SEPTEMBER 25
Lee Brice, Singer (33)

SEPTEMBER 26
Daniel Sedin, Athlete (34)

SEPTEMBER 27
Gwyneth Paltrow, Actress (42)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Stroked
7 Cote cries
11 Sigh, say
12 Pay to play
13 Like flypaper
14 Enthralled
15 Arduous journeys
16 Sire
17 Clumsy ones
18 Ranch pen
19 Ibsen's home
21 Great serve
22 "I have no idea!"
25 Orchestra's place
26 Wild about
27 Copter parts
29 Risqué
33 Golf bag group
34 Paris subway
35 Newborn's need
36 Got on the horn
37 Fed
38 Decorative

DOWN
1 Trattoria sauce
2 Superfluous
3 Shoplifter, e.g.
4 Appends
5 Fraternal group
6 Susan of "L.A. Law"
7 Wearing less
8 Servant for taverns, e.g.
9 Tranquil
10 Reach an agreement
11 Increase
12 Big families
13 Roils
14 Museum display
15 Footrest
16 Seoul brothers?
17 Darkroom output
18 Without letup
19 Travel aid
20 Minotaur's home
21 Alpine trill
22 Sorvino of "Mimic"
23 Period

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

Previous Puzzle

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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		

9-20

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Pharmacist's item
5 Dogpatch fellow
10 Romantic flower
11 "Misery" director
13 Border on
14 Yucatan setting
15 Church activity
17 Earth: Prefix
18 Thwarts
19 60 secs.
20 TV spots
21 Donated
22 Extra
25 Writer Ken
26 Years gone by
27 Use scissors
28 Museum stuff
29 Page edges
33 France's Côte —
34 Composer Salieri
35 Draw out
37 Notion
38 Made over
39 Shaving mishap
40 Hinder

DOWN
1 Takes a card from the pile
2 Mechanical man
3 High-interest lending
4 Series featuring Agent 86
5 Warring groups
6 Microwave sounds
7 Veto
8 Puzzles
9 Take in

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

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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									

9-22

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.

9-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

N F A R C I G S T S X Y F

Y J X C O U Y R J R C Y J X C R A O I U J X

N U I V Y J X C Y U J R C

Y S O U I S T U C A . — E F D U X E Q R C F

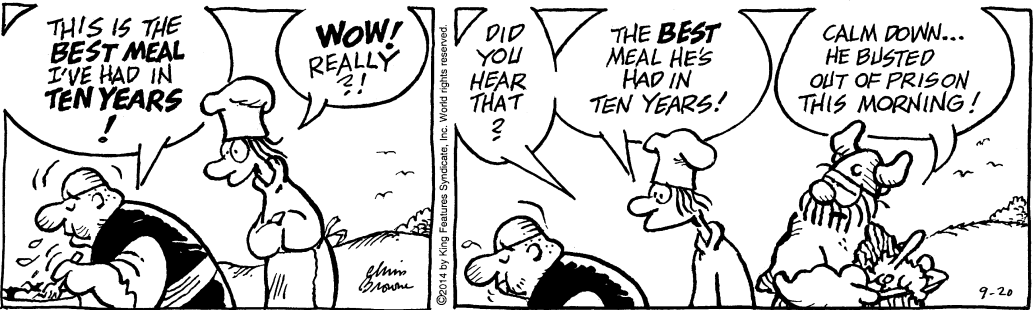
Previous Cryptoquote: A CLOSED FIST IS THE LOCK OF HEAVEN AND THE OPEN HAND IS THE KEY OF MERCY. — Persian proverb

COMICS

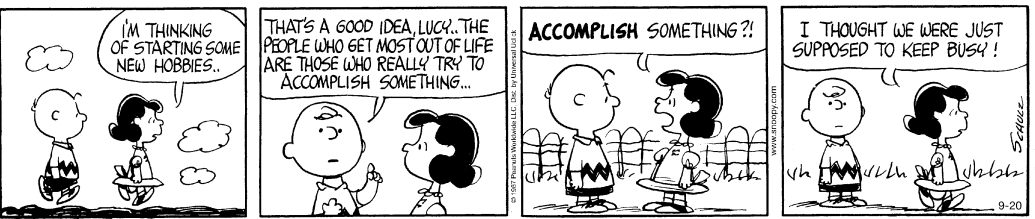
Tundra



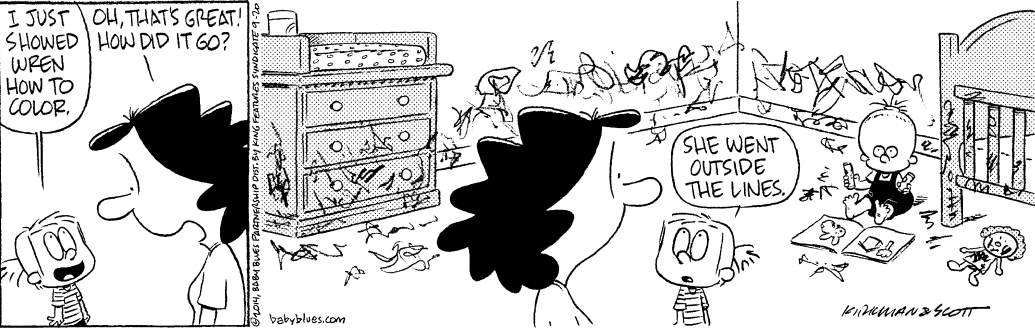
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

