

Freeloader may have to pay the price of lost friends

DEAR ABBY: I have been best friends with “Jean” ever since grade school. We get along great, except for one thing -- she’s a cheapskate! Jean is single and still lives with her parents; I am a single mother living on my own. We earn about the same amount of money.

Whenever Jean is invited out for drinks, she brings only enough cash for one drink, and then comments loudly that she doesn’t have enough money on her for another one and waits until someone offers to pay for it. When going out to eat, she eats at home first, and then asks to “sample” everyone else’s food. If she wants to see a movie, she makes sure to bring a date to pay for her ticket.

I think her stingy behavior is keeping her from having serious relationships because she expects to pay for nothing. It has reached the point where I don’t want to do anything with her because of her penny-pinching ways. Mutual friends have asked me to speak to her. What can I say to keep my friendship intact? — **SEPARATE CHECKS, PLEASE, IN OHIO**

DEAR SEPARATE CHECKS: Because you have reached the point that



DEAR ABBY

your relationship with Jean is in jeopardy, talk with her about how her behavior has affected you. But do not allow yourself to be the appointed spokeswoman for anyone else. And unless you know for a fact that her stingy behavior is keeping her from having serious relationships with men, keep it to yourself.

In the future, if you go out with Jean and she says she didn’t bring enough money for a second drink, allow her to suffer the consequences. And when she asks to “sample” what you’re eating, tell her calmly you’d rather she didn’t. I agree that when behavior like hers becomes a pattern -- and the person is able to pay but is mooching -- that it’s obnoxious. But it won’t be corrected by enabling her, and that is what everyone has been doing.

DEAR ABBY: Because I’m a florist, my niece asked me to do the flowers for her wedding. I gladly agreed.

“Misty” put the priest through a lot to make this a very special occasion. She hadn’t attended church prior to the wedding. When the priest asked Misty for a contribution to the church for having her wedding there, she was miffed. I asked her, “Who do you think pays the utilities and upkeep for the church for one-time users like you?” She hasn’t spoken to me since! Was I wrong? — **MIFFED MYSELF IN NEW YORK**

DEAR MIFFED: Wrong? You gave your niece a dose of reality, and stated it very well. It appears Misty has some growing up to do. Perhaps when her “bridal fever” subsides, she will realize that life isn’t one freebie after another, and offer the apology she owes you.

P.S. I hope she thanked you for the flowers.

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

Previous Puzzle

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Focus your energies in a positive way, Aries. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to, and now is the time to put your attitude to work.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are ready for something or someone new. Right now is a good time to reach out and connect with a new passion. Things will get more interesting rather quickly.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

You need to focus and get back to work this week, Gemini. Things have slipped out of your fingers, and it could take a little while before you get back on a schedule.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Shop around for the best deals before making a big purchase, Cancer. A little extra work can lead to substantial savings. There are deals to be had, so be patient.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Expect to reach a milestone in your life, Leo. This may have something to do with your family or career. Either way, the praise you will receive is warranted.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Sometimes it can be easy for you to get fixated on a certain way of doing things, Virgo. There are really many different paths to the same outcome when you are open to ideas.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, do not panic when a glitch arises in your plans. Just approach the situation from a different angle, and you will find a solution in no time.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Try not to push yourself too hard this week, Scorpio. This is a good time to maintain a low profile. Drawing too much attention to yourself might ruffle the wrong feathers this week.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, something will bring a smile to your face early in the week, and there’s pretty much nothing that can put you in a bad mood. This is an ideal time to get things accomplished.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

You are never one to walk away from a challenge, Capricorn. This week you will be presented with a big obstacle, and you will have to step up to tackle the hard stuff.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Keep your eyes open and you just may stumble on something new and fascinating this week, Aquarius. This is a good time to explore new ideas and apply them to your daily life.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Someone gets bent out of shape over something that seems laughable to you, Pisces. You may need to adjust your view.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 8
Joan Rivers, Comic (81)

JUNE 9
Natalie Portman, Actress (33)

JUNE 10
Leelee Sobieski, Actress (31)

JUNE 11
Peter Dinklage, Actor (45)

JUNE 12
Chris Young, Singer (29)

JUNE 13
Tanner Foust, Race Car Driver (41)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Work group

6 Surrounded by

11 Romantic sort

12 Generous one

13 Isolated

14 Plow producer

15 More salacious

17 Wonder center

18 Exalted poem

19 Recyclable item

22 Like go-go boots

23 More than enough

24 CBS founder

25 Service item

27 Rap’s — Kim

30 Surgeon’s pincers

31 Dogfight pro

32 “— Town”

33 Shows malice toward

35 Isolated

38 Provinces

39 Copycat’s cry

40 Crichton novel

41 Unpleasant

42 Door sign

DOWN

1 Downhill course

2 Sword-making city

3 Self-declared

4 Ward (off)

5 Bingo card

6 Annex

7 Skier

8 Tommy

9 Scandinavian nation

25 Pate cover

10 Putting site

16 Flattened fruit treats

20 Probe’s destination

21 Some amount of

24 Lobbying grp.

25 Pate cover

26 Book goofs

27 Hidden

28 2002 animated film

29 Landlord

30 Lathers

34 Press

36 Some computer memory

37 Gift from Santa

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					12				
13						14			
15					16			17	
18					19		20	21	
22					23				
				24					
	25	26						27	28
30								31	
32					33		34		
35				36	37				
39							40		
41							42		

6-7

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Turning tool

6 Command to a dog

11 “The Waste Land” poet

12 Nebraska city

13 Comb parts

14 Bit of gossip

15 Be furious

17 Lamb’s mother

18 Stun race

22 LummoX

23 Furry wraps

27 Watches over

29 Mail business

30 TV ratings period

32 Murder

33 Thought out

35 Lynx or lion

38 Drawn out

39 From the country

41 Eyeballs

45 Make speeches

46 “Superman” star

47 Origami need

48 Pick up the tab

DOWN

1 Rent out

2 Saloon quaff

3 Even score

4 Drag race participant

5 Patriot Allen

6 Groves

7 Flightless bird

8 Unexciting

9 Eats

10 Loser of a fabled race

16 Basic soldiers

18 Play parts

31 — Paulo

19 Murdered

20 Musical sound

21 Showoff on the slopes

24 Diving bird

25 Pennsylvania port

26 Dispatch

28 School primer

31 — Paulo

PUBS						ALTARS
ERIE						MEAGER
SAGE						MAKEDO
OLDS						SCORE
DEPOT						SNIDE
ALP						GIN
BLESS						MATES
SARAH						AMI
BEWARE						UPTO
AVERTS						NEMO
RESIST						TREK

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13									
18	19	20					21		
22					23		24	25	26
27					28		29		
30					31		32		
					33		34		
35	36	37			38				
39					40		41	42	43
45							46		
47							48		

6-9

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A XYDLBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

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.

6-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

NAOKDBUOXN MZLGFNYTNF

PGZA ANKXOY FYOTNGM, KZKN

RLX ZLGFNYTNF DOK PGNN

ZLG ABKEF! — RZR AOGYNM

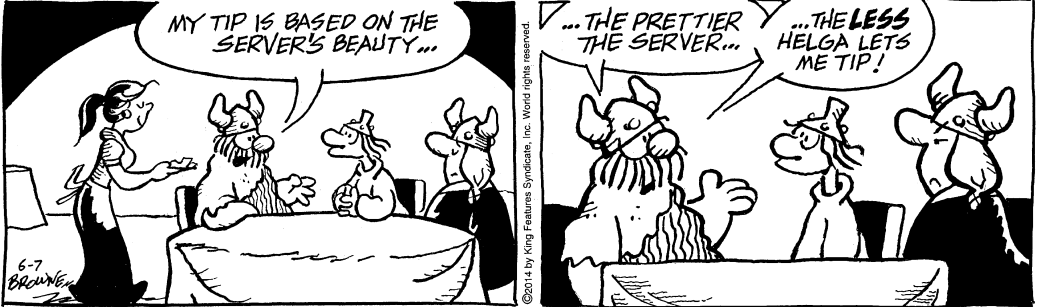
Previous Cryptoquote: I THINK WHAT MOTIVATES PEOPLE IS NOT GREAT HATE, BUT GREAT LOVE FOR OTHER PEOPLE. – Huey Newton

COMICS

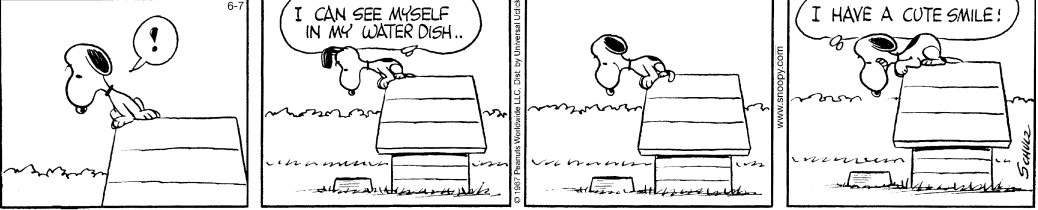
Tundra



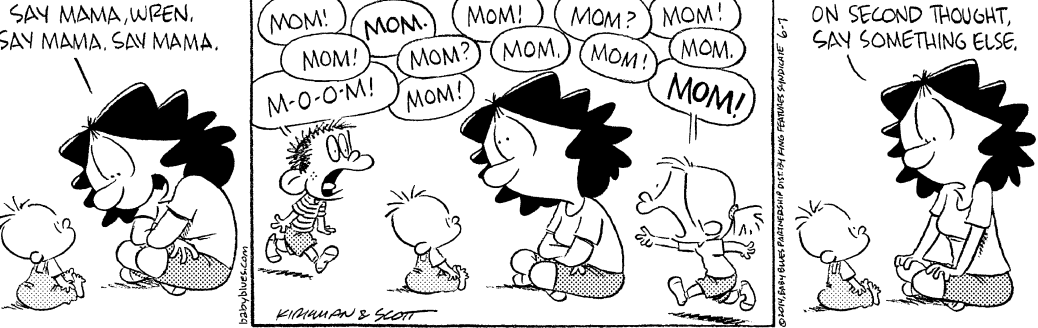
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

