Teen fears she will regret not choosing another path

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Brandon" for three years. I'm 19, going to a four-year college and I'm planning to move in with him. I enjoy his company and can see myself with him in the future, but I wish I hadn't met him so young. I wish I could have experienced more -- other people and situations. I'm afraid I'm falling into a trap where it is more convenient to stay with Brandon.

I don't want to feel confined, but I also don't want to break up with him and find it was the worst decision of my life. We have discussed it. He said he will understand if I want to leave, but I'm afraid it might destroy him.

I enjoy being around Brandon, but I don't want to stay if it means missing half my life. He isn't the most attractive guy compared to others, so maybe that's where all this is coming from. More attractive guys talk to me, and I assume they would treat me as well as Brandon does. Maybe that's what has got me thinking. Some advice, please? — **NOT SURE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR NOT SURE: Feeling as ambivalent as you do, do not move in with Brandon. To do so would be cheating both of you. Because someone seems more physically attractive than your boyfriend does not guarantee the person would treat you as well -- or better -- than Brandon does. However, this is a lesson you may need to experience firsthand.

It could also be a growth experience for Brandon to date others. He has already told you he will understand if you leave, so he may be emotionally stronger than you give him credit for. This does not mean you won't eventually wind up together, but it may make you both more appreciative of the special relationship you share because you will have something to compare it to.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl who would like to fix my relationship with my mom. I love her dearly, but sometimes it is difficult to spend time with her. We have different tastes in music, clothes and what is fun. I know she notices the distance between us and would like to spend more time together, but the things she suggests we do don't appeal to me.

Dad and I are close, which is probably because he's more like a kid. We have similar likes, and he isn't as overprotective as Mom is. We're more like friends than father and daughter.

I really want to be closer to Mom, but I don't know how to do it so we'll both be satisfied. Is this a normal teen thing? — **MAKING AN EFFORT**

DEAR MAKING AN EFFORT: Yes, I think so. However, I'm pleased that you want to build a closer relationship with your mother because, at your age, it's important. Being a mother these days isn't easy, especially if being the disciplinarian and drawing the line is a role that was "assigned" to her by an overly permissive father who prefers to be more of a pal than a parent.

You and your mother need to compromise regarding the things you do when you're spending time together. Part of the time, try the things she wants to do. If you do, you might surprise yourself and discover you enjoy them -- and vice versa. Talk to her about your desire to be closer to her and give it a chance. I'm sure the result will be rewarding for both of you.

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.

su|do|ku

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you will have a lot energy this week. Channel your energy into a project that is especially meaningful to you and those you love.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Nervous energy may leave you feeling a bit out of sorts, Taurus. Find a way to keep busy so your nerves don't get the better of you. Invite a friend over.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a friend may be in a bind and come to you for advice and assistance. Find the right words to heal any wounds and provide the support this person needs.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Changes at home make this an exciting time for you, Cancer. Enjoy these changes for the excitement they bring and take some time to reflect on the good things in your life.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, resist the urge to offer advice unless you are asked to do so. You do not need to expend extra energy on something that is beyond your control and does not concern you.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
You may have to use your intuition to get to the root of a situation, Virgo. Even financial concerns can be resolved if you go with your gut. Trust a friend to help you out.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, make the most of some upcoming free time. Use the down time to reflect on where you want to be going forward and what you need to do to get there.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you have a need to keep a secret, but the excitement is building and making it hard to do so. Keep in mind the surprise will be that much better if you hold out.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a hectic schedule may compromise your ability to get together with friends. Although you may be disappointed, there will be other opportunities.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
A visitor needs a little sympathy and compassion from you this week, Capricorn. His or her situation can put life in perspective and help calm your own nerves.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Plans for a vacation could be hampered by circumstances beyond your control, Aquarius. It may come down to funds being needed elsewhere. Your time for travel will come.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, some unexpected news is coming your way. Prepare yourself for a change and keep the faith that the change will be positive.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 10
Keenan Thompson, Comic (37)

MAY 11
Andres Iniesta, Athlete (30)

MAY 12
Emily VanCamp, Actress (29)

MAY 13
Robert Pattinson, Actor (30)

MAY 14
Mark Zuckerberg, Entrepreneur (31)

MAY 15
Andy Murray, Athlete (28)

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

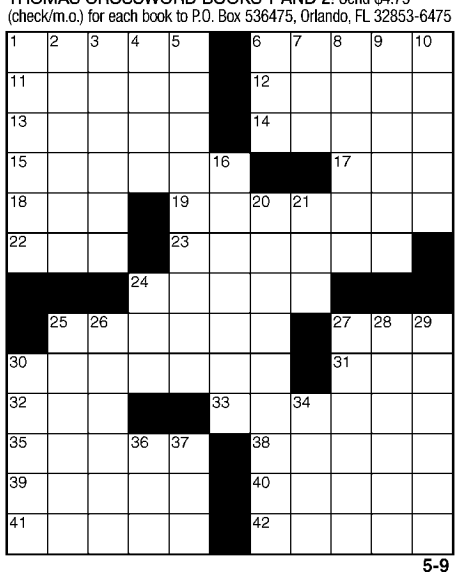
ACROSS
1 Gown material
6 Surgery tool
11 Hackneyed
12 Singly
13 Subway patron
14 Third letter
15 "Foundation" author
17 Auction action
18 Lawyer's charge
19 Billfolds
22 Purpose
23 Famed cow owner
24 Large amounts
25 Secessionist state of 1967
27 Gift topper
30 Member of the Grateful Dead
31 Memorable time
32 Had something
33 Sweet treat
35 Wander off
38 Make passes at
39 "Sophie's Choice" co-star
40 Hirsch of "Milk"
41 Bus units
42 Sized up

DOWN
1 Rake with gunfire
2 Out of bed
3 Cleaned up
4 Article
5 Fictional detective
6 Fall behind
7 Following
8 Grave
9 Hatred
10 Goes through
16 Obama adviser Jarrett
20 Fictional detective
21 — Palmas
24 Shop tool
25 Soda buy
26 Spain setting
27 "Scram!"
28 Baltimore player
29 Cautioned
30 Soaks up the sun
34 City founded by Pizarro
36 Kitchen pest
37 "Sure thing!"

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

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



5-9

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Disney deer
6 Eternal City resident
11 Oak nut
12 "Skyfall" singer
13 Plains abode
14 Make fun of
15 Dr. visit
17 Silent assent
18 Sailors
22 Singer Fitzgerald
23 Overly enthusiastic
27 Limbo residents
29 Music's Abdul
30 Brews, as tea
32 Shoelace problem
33 Well-behaved people
35 Movie role for George Burns
38 Notion
39 Some messages
41 Andean animal
45 Chop finely
46 Houston native
47 Spirited horse
48 Hollywood deal-maker

DOWN
1 Flying mammal
2 Top card
3 Swabbing tool
4 "Good luck!" to an actor
5 Clumsy
6 Seedy building
7 Poem of praise
8 Nasty
9 Too
10 Must have
16 Golf goal
18 "New Girl" girl
19 Oodles
20 Detective's find
21 "Hurry up!"
24 Ladder step
25 Sleep like —
26 Toppers
28 Overindulged
31 Lawn material
34 River area
35 Precious stones
36 Leave out
37 Copenhagen native
40 Rink surface
42 Chopping tool
43 Chess piece
44 Industrious insect

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

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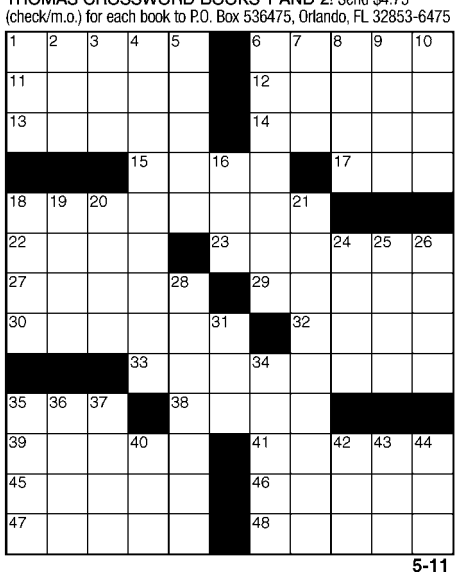


5-11

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.

5-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

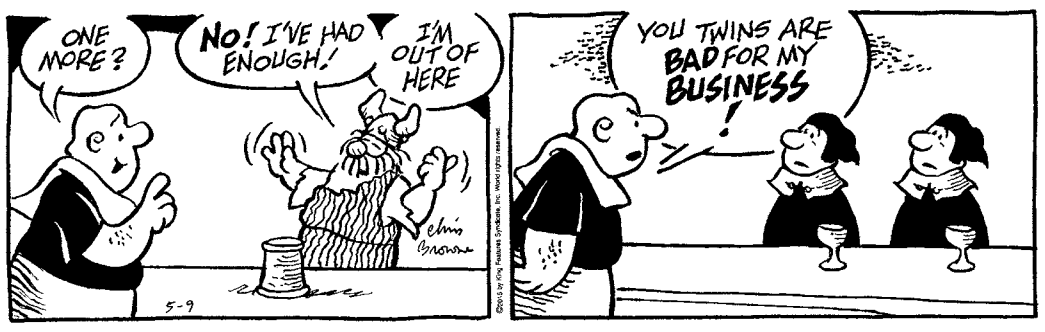
S Q D M W U P H Z Z - O D G Q G X O B Q L D Y X M Q X P O B Q B D W B Q Y O Y U Z U L D Q K R X S Y . . . Y D M J Q O B Q T U N G Q M O D Y T H L Q Z X C Q. — G D Z K L Q K S. C Q L G X M O

Previous Cryptoquote: THERE IS A GOOD REASON THEY CALL THESE CEREMONIES "COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES." GRADUATION IS NOT THE END; IT'S THE BEGINNING. – Orrin Hatch

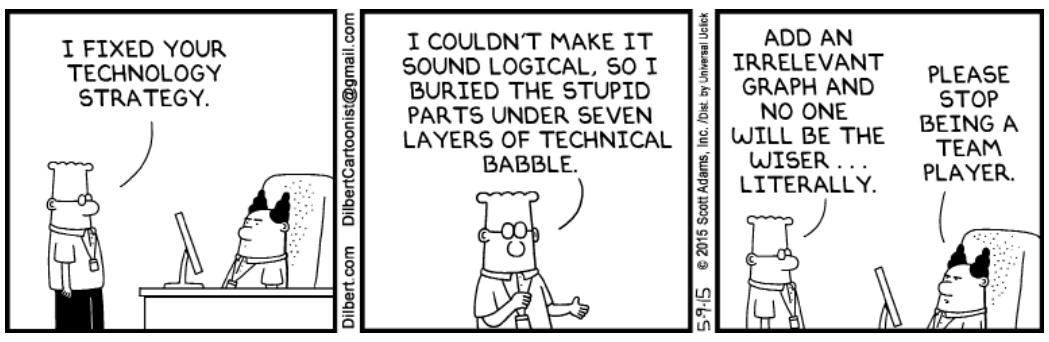
COMICS

Tundra

Hagar the Horrible



Carpe Diem

Baby Blues

Dilbert