

Wrong number leads woman to think she’s met Mr. Right

DEAR ABBY: I met a guy over the phone when he called my number by mistake. After a brief conversation, not particularly polite on my part, the call ended. Forty-five minutes later he called me back, saying he couldn’t stop thinking about me. I thought, “Who is this goofball?”

Over time, my phone has been “pinging” with messages from him. He has sent his life story, photos and address. He even gave me his Social Security number and told me to run a check on him to see for myself that he’s legitimate. We have been talking for eight months and are making plans to meet. He lives in another state, but he has a sister in mine.

Should I meet him in his hometown or let him come to me? I don’t believe this is a game-playing situation. I am 55 years young; he’s 64. We converse on FaceTime daily and at night we have Bible studies together via the Internet. He makes me happy. What is your opinion, and what should I do? — **SWEPT AWAY IN GEORGIA**

DEAR SWEPT AWAY: Your romance seems almost like a Hallmark Channel love story – two strangers who connect because of a wrong number. However, have him visit you first, meet your family, friends and minister. THEN visit him in his hometown and meet HIS friends, children (if he has any), minister, etc. Don’t do this just once –



DEAR ABBY

give yourself enough time to get beyond the endorphin rush. He may turn out to be Prince Charming, but a woman can never be too careful, and you need to proceed with your eyes wide open. If this becomes a successful relationship, it will be a wonderful “how did you meet?” story.

DEAR ABBY: My parents just informed me that they have not been practical about their finances. I suspected it based on the ratio of their salaries to their purchases, but it was confirmed during a conversation in which they said they have saved nothing for retirement. More disappointing, they both had advantages that would have set them financially for life had they been smart with their money.

On the other hand, I save religiously, and I’m on my way to building the retirement I want for me and my wife. I feel bad for my parents, but I can’t help worrying that everything I am working for is being threatened by their poor choices and unwillingness

to change how they deal with money.

When I expressed concern that I would have to support them financially at some point because of this, I was made to feel selfish because of all the sacrifices they made for me over the years. Who is wrong here? — **“BAD SON” IN BALTIMORE**

DEAR SON: Your parents are, for having blown the money they should have been saving and for trying to guilt you into supporting them. (By the way, they’re not alone. MANY Americans in their 50s and 60s have only now awakened to the fact that they won’t have enough -- or any -- money to supplement their Social Security.)

The sacrifices parents make are supposed to be done out of love, not to indenture their children. If there is still time for them to sock away some savings for when they will no longer be working, I suggest they start now. (Suze Orman says that whether you’re in your 30s, 40s or 50s, it’s never too late to start saving for your financial future.) As a GOOD son, ask if they would like your help in investing it.

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

The Art of Slow Cooking

Dear Readers: Isn’t it nice to come home at the end of a long day to the fabulous smells of a great meal? You can, and all it takes is a SLOW COOKER and a little planning. Here are a few hints so you can have a tasty and safe-to-eat meal:

■ Don’t place frozen meats in the slow cooker. All meats should be thoroughly thawed before being placed in the slow cooker.

■ Do make sure you add enough liquid so the meat cooks evenly.

■ Don’t peek! It is so tempting to lift that lid and take a look, but don’t! Every time you lift the lid, it may add 20 more minutes to the cooking time.

■ Do make note of the recipes that turn out super, as well as the ones that don’t.

— Heloise

Smashing Garlic

Dear Heloise: I enjoy watching cooking shows, and I always see professional cooks smashing garlic cloves with the side of a big knife. Way too scary for me! I won’t even try it, because I know I will cut my hand! So I came up with the hint to smash garlic under a metal spatula. It’s a safer technique for me. — Diane T. in Pennsylvania

Potato Soup

Dear Heloise: After a Sunday dinner, I had a lot of cheesy scalloped potatoes left over. Hearing me wonder out loud what to do with them, my 12-year-old grandson said, “Make potato soup!” Good idea! I just warmed up some milk, added the cheesy potatoes and mashed them a bit, and it was delicious! — M. Moger, Temple, Texas

Smart grandson! Why waste something good when you can turn it into a tasty dish? Soups are a great meal that can start like yours did. This is a very smart way to use leftovers for something “new” and not waste money, either. There are many yummy soup recipes and hints in my six-page Heloise’s Spectacular Soups pamphlet. To receive one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/ Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If you’ve added too much water to soup, put a teaspoon of flour along with some broth in a jar, shake to mix and pour into the soup to thicken. — Heloise

Freezing Bread

Dear Heloise: When buying bread, muffins, etc., I take the slices out of the sleeve and put cut-up pieces of waxed paper between them. I place them back into the sleeve and then into the freezer. Voilà – no more slices stuck together. This makes it easy to use slices as needed, once they are defrosted. — Joan W. in Florida

No Waste

Dear Heloise: When needing to save a tomato you haven’t completely used, place the first slice of tomato (that you normally discard) back on top of the tomato. Wrap in plastic. This keeps the tomato moist for future use. — Lynn W., Staunton, Va.

Smart! Sometimes I use a lid from yogurt to “cover” the sliced tomato. — Heloise

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Ref’s decision
5 Let up
11 Bassoon’s cousin
12 Take out
13 1920s art style
14 Stare angrily
15 Yellow-stone grazer
16 Part of RSVP
17 Basketball star
19 Young fellow
22 Enticed
24 Tickle
26 Pop star
27 Aspirin target
28 Old tobacco choice
30 Chopper rider
31 Contrived
32 Ultraviolet filterer
34 N. Mex. neighbor
35 Some crime evidence
38 Wind tightly
41 Court ring
42 Freeway entrance
43 Trick
44 Minute
45 Under-world river

DOWN

- 1 Program lines
2 Cain’s victim
3 Like strikers, sometimes
4 Summer sign
5 Light gas
6 Caspian Sea
7 Novelist
8 Highway rescue
9 Planning time
10 German article
16 Coq au —
18 Pack member
25 Primary

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

Previous Puzzle

- 19 Got a break
20 1975 Wimbledon champ
21 Wood-land grazer
22 Daffy Duck has one
23 Writer Ferber
25 Primary
29 Discussion sites
30 Dickens nickname
33 Energetic
34 Shepard in space
36 Prone to prying
37 Pinnacle
38 Guest’s bed
39 Low digit
40 Anger
41 Day pts.

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					
22	23									
26										
28										
31										
38	39	40								
42										
44										

10-22

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Commotion
5 Wall Street worker
11 Glass section
12 Take back
13 Pay to play
14 Started the bidding
15 Anatomy class prop
17 Equip
18 Legal actions
22 Carrying out
24 Principle
25 Flurry
26 Clinic cost
27 Rich dessert
30 Blood-hound’s clue
32 Fiery crime
33 Galley item
34 Mare’s mate
38 Slays
41 Cherish
42 Entomology subject
43 Trolley’s kin
44 Neatnik’s banes
45 Ibsen’s home

DOWN

- 1 Relaxing resorts
2 Refinery sight
3 Woody Allen movie
4 Finish catching
5 Easy run
6 Correct an online comment
7 Fifth, for one
8 Mafia head
9 — out a living
10 Checkers side
16 Easter find
19 Subordinates
20 New driver, often
21 Proofing note
22 Raw numbers
23 Freshener target
28 Flings
29 Tempt

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

Previous Puzzle

- 30 Peruvian coin
31 Beckon
35 Tiny workers
36 Track shape
37 Animated fish
38 Poorly lit
39 Count start
40 Twisty turn

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15					16					
22	23									
25										
27										
32										
38	39	40								
42										
44										

10-23

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.

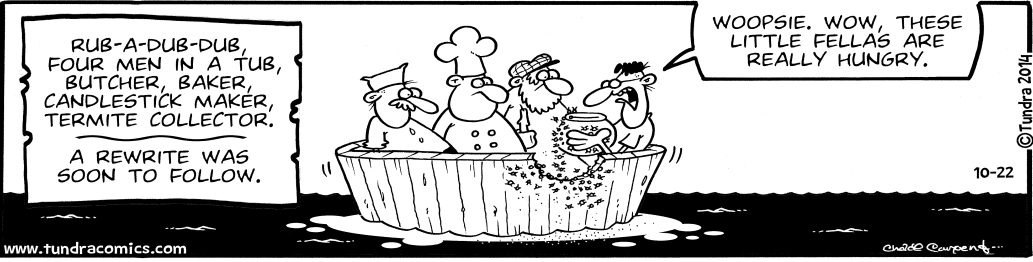
10-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q B D N X X A P N E P A U N A P
X P N E P A U , R M D N X X
X P N E P A U N A P A P N E P A U .
— Z N A A V U . D A M W N Q

Previous Cryptoquote: I THINK THE GREATEST TABOOS IN AMERICA ARE FAITH AND FAILURE. – Michael Malone

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

