

Text announcing pregnancy is no cause for celebration

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, who recently turned 21, sent me a two-word text message, “I’m pregnant.” She has been dating a marijuana-smoking young man for less than a year, and I’m disappointed by this outcome.

Her sister, who is a year older, already has two children by two men. No, they weren’t raised by a harlot. I adopted them when they were early elementary-aged children. It’s not my fault. I’m disgusted by their choices.

I haven’t talked with her yet. I won’t try to lecture her or tell her how she should live her life. The time for that is over. I feel it would be best to say nothing if I can’t be positive. Suggestions? — **DISGUSTED IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR DISGUSTED: It would be better if you said nothing to your daughter while you are angry, or you may say something you will regret. It would not be out of line, however, to text her back and ask, “How do you and ‘John’ plan to support the baby?” If you don’t plan to help her in any way, you should let her know NOW that she’ll be on her own.

DEAR ABBY: Our 13-year-old is addicted to her phone. She stays on it for hours, and it’s affecting the time she goes to bed. She’s now starting to oversleep the alarm in the morning before school. She’s spoiled, and I’m



DEAR ABBY

afraid that removing or limiting phone privileges will lead to major problems with her protesting it. I don’t want truant officers or social workers coming to my house because my wife and I can’t discipline our kid.

How do you handle a spoiled brat without involving outside agencies? She’s nice to people in school, but is lazy at home and totally self-centered. — **FRUSTRATED, EXHAUSTED DAD**

DEAR DAD: You and your wife created this “monster,” and now it’s your job to make things right. Of course your daughter won’t like it when you set rules, but you must establish some for her before your lack of parenting causes even more serious problems.

Set the rules and stick with them. If she won’t follow them, there should be penalties for not doing so. Try this: Start with homework. When it’s done, she can have her phone for a period of time. Inform her that if she oversleeps because she was up too late

on her phone, you will take it at bedtime. And then follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I’m about to be 17 and just started living with my mom after being a runaway for three months. During that time, I made friends with people who were not good for me. However, I still feel I need to cling to these people and be there for them.

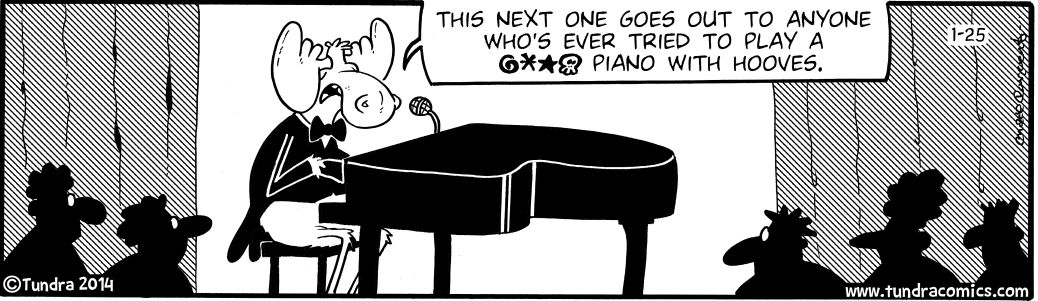
As I write this, one of the girls I was closest to is in prison and will be there for a long time. I have to pretend to be fine and act as if I don’t care for her, but I do, desperately. My mom refuses to be understanding and talk about anything with me. I don’t know what to do. — **TEEN IN LITTLE ROCK**

DEAR TEEN: Your mother appears to belong to the ostrich school of parenting. If she doesn’t hear something, it doesn’t exist. Clearly, you DO need to talk with someone about the feelings you’re experiencing and why you feel the need to “cling to these people.” Because your mother can’t/won’t do this, it’s important that you talk to a counselor at school and ask for the help you need.

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.

COMICS

Tundra



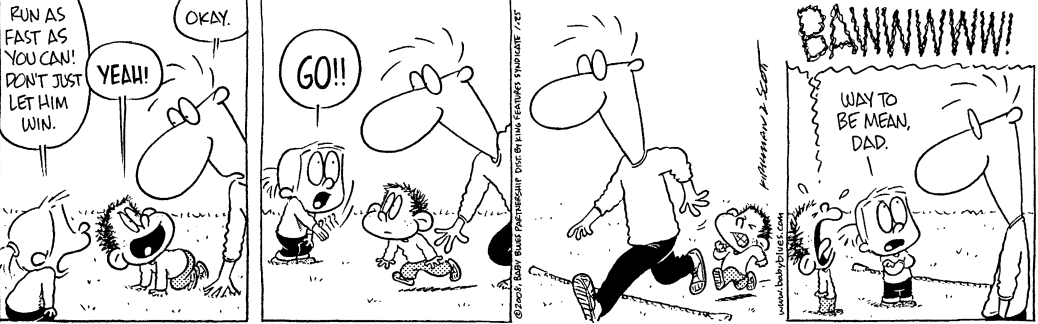
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your tendency to say what you feel can come across as being impolite. Many, however, appreciate your honesty and unwillingness to mince words.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
A loved one needs some help, Taurus. This week you will have to figure out a way to assist this person and still tend to your own pressing affairs.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Gemini, focus your energy on someone important. This may be a friend, family member or even a romantic partner. Brush up on your relationship skills in the meantime.

CANCER - June 22/July 22
You have a natural charm that immediately puts others at ease, Cancer. If you are wooing a client, they will be putty in your hands. Just open your mouth, and you will win them over.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23
Leo, your stubbornness comes into play this week, and it could cause a rift with friends or colleagues. Try to see their point of view, and put off any serious disputes for another time.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, spend a little time this week plotting your next getaway. You tend to be happiest when you’re on the move and exploring. Everyone needs an escape now and then.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Enjoy some local culture this week, Libra. Take in a concert, an art show or a theater performance. Just enjoy anything that will educate and entertain at the same time.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may find that someone you thought was weak is much stronger than they appeared. This person may not need as much of your assistance as you initially thought.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, analyze any problems you may have by breaking them down into smaller tasks. Then you can tackle one thing at a time and come to a happy resolution.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, your children or the youngsters in your life will be the center of your universe this week. Make the most of this time and enjoy kids’ carefree natures.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
This week may be a little boring, Aquarius. Make the most of your down time, as you could use a few slow days to recharge your batteries and plan your next move.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
You are bubbling with energy, Pisces. Make the most of this energy by exercising, partying or taking a day trip.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
JANUARY 26
Anita Baker, Singer (56)

JANUARY 27
Mikhail Baryshnikov, Dancer (66)

JANUARY 28
Elijah Wood, Actor (33)

JANUARY 29
Oprah Winfrey, TV mogul (60)

JANUARY 30
Christian Bale, Actor (40)

JANUARY 31
Justin Timberlake, Singer (33)

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.

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Map line
- 5 Laughable
- 10 Archipelago
- 12 Puzo subject
- 13 TV tryout
- 14 Funeral heaps
- 15 Coffee dispenser
- 16 Cart puller
- 18 Daiquiri need
- 19 Dakota city
- 21 High pair
- 22 Climbing flowers
- 24 Noggins
- 25 Grapefruit cocktails
- 29 Turn down
- 30 —
- 32 Complete
- 33 Private room
- 34 — alai
- 35 “Ninotcha” star
- 37 Show gratitude to
- 39 Bothered
- 40 Following
- 41 Bus units
- 42 Jury member

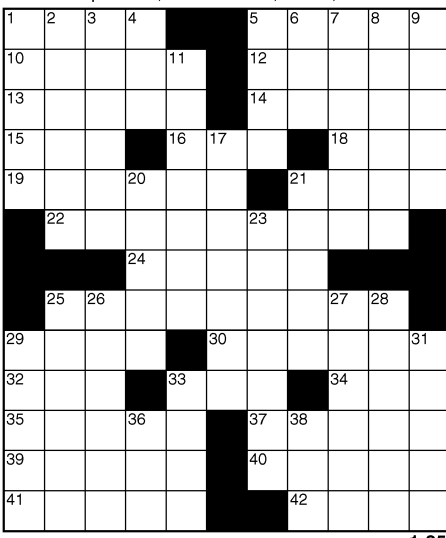
DOWN

- 1 Tatter
- 2 Brother of Isis
- 3 Completely redone
- 4 — gratias
- 5 Little rascals
- 6 Dissenter’s vote
- 7 Serengeti setting
- 8 Reunion group
- 9 Moves cautiously
- 11 Eye rudely
- 17 Do an old newspaper job
- 20 Answer
- 21 Man of morals
- 23 Literalists
- 25 Capitol group
- 26 Tenor Bocelli
- 27 Demi Moore movie
- 28 Spooky gathering
- 29 “The Rehearsal” painter
- 31 Picard’s first officer
- 33 Braille bits
- 36 Diamond club
- 38 With it



Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



1-25

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

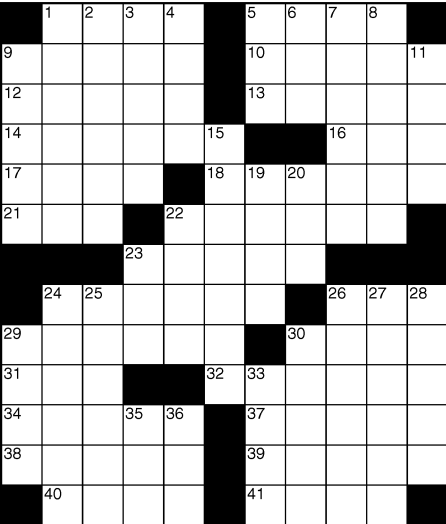
ACROSS

- 1 Does a checkout chore
- 5 Brewing ingredient
- 9 San Diego player
- 10 Make suitable
- 12 Smithy sight
- 13 Singer Haggard
- 14 Shallow boats
- 16 Sprinted
- 17 Exam
- 18 Like this answer
- 21 “— we there yet?”
- 22 Un-wrinkled
- 23 Fast
- 24 Eucalyptus eaters
- 26 Road goo
- 29 “Wait a sec!”
- 30 Mediocre
- 31 Sit-up targets
- 32 One-masted boats
- 34 Become excited
- 37 Playwright Edward
- 38 Sun-powered
- 39 Lend and others
- 40 Butte’s cousin
- 41 Wine list section

DOWN

- 1 Money worker
- 2 Counsel
- 3 Petty swindle
- 4 Egotist’s focus
- 5 Deli meat
- 6 Poem of praise
- 7 Chatty bird
- 8 Diver’s creation
- 9 Lasagna or linguine
- 11 Addition column
- 15 Chinese boats
- 19 Robbers’ chasers
- 20 Singer Orbison
- 22 Farm sight
- 23 Turn sharply
- 24 Explosion sound
- 25 Marked down
- 26 “What a shame!”
- 27 Poplar trees
- 28 Valentine’s gift
- 29 Cronos
- 30 Figure out
- 33 Den
- 35 — de
- 36 Important age

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1-27

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.

1-25
C R O S C G O G M N
S W O S A J, F D C G O G M N S W
W V X J Q E T Y X L C Y G C B G N J T
D Q Y G L L Z B G V V X G R J T
— W V X J E V X M Y Q X J C P T M Y J

Previous Cryptoquote: MYSTERY IS A RESOURCE, LIKE COAL OR GOLD, AND ITS PRESERVATION IS A FINE THING. – Tim Cahill