

Friend has hard time finding a few kind words for bad book

DEAR ABBY: My friend's husband has been writing a novel for several years. He just self-published it, and it's available on Amazon. He gave me a copy, asked me to read it and enter a great review on the Amazon page. The problem is the book is filled with misused and misspelled words, and there is missing punctuation. He even switched the names of two characters. (His wife, who is a "perfectionist," was his editor.)

Aside from the fact that I don't want to finish the book, I know he or my friend will ask me how I liked it. I don't want to lie because I'm afraid if someone else brings these things to their attention, they'll know I didn't read it or think I should have told them. I know they will be embarrassed if I bring it to their attention.

Frankly, I think it's too late to say anything negative because the book has already been printed. I also don't want to cause hurt feelings because I know how long he worked on this project and he's



DEAR ABBY

proud of it. How do I handle this? — **READER IN THE SOUTHWEST**

DEAR READER: He's a friend, right? And you're only a reader, not a literary critic whose credibility will suffer if you don't point out every flaw. Find **SOMETHING** you liked about the book and mention that on the Amazon page. You could call it a "page turner" because you had to turn from Page 1 to Page 2, didn't you?

In a case like this, less is more. And remember, you're doing this in the capacity of being a friend, not an English teacher.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend whose son was involved in a shooting which

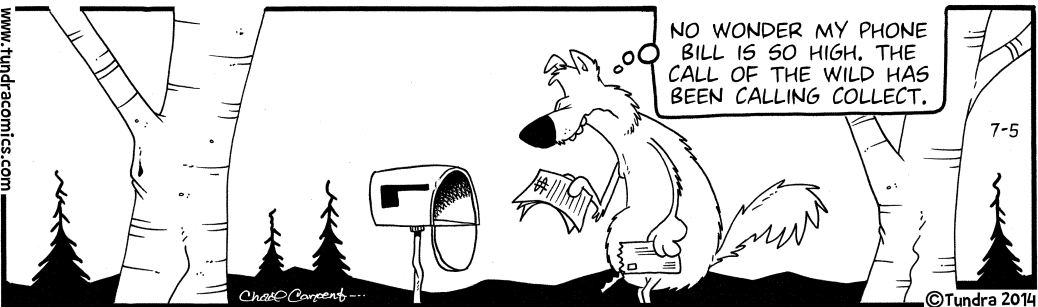
ended in a death in her house. Should I send food, flowers and a nice note in the mail or stand back and not intrude? I sent a text asking if she was OK and if I could do anything for her family, but I don't know what else to do. We are more than acquaintances but less than great friends. — **UNSURE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR UNSURE: If the funeral has been held, your friend does not need flowers. At a time like this, she could use some moral support. Call her and tell her you would like to bring some food over and ask what she may need. Then bring it to her, and be ready to listen if she wants to talk. Your presence and your caring will be meaningful, because when a tragedy like this happens, people don't know what to say, which isolates the person who is grieving.

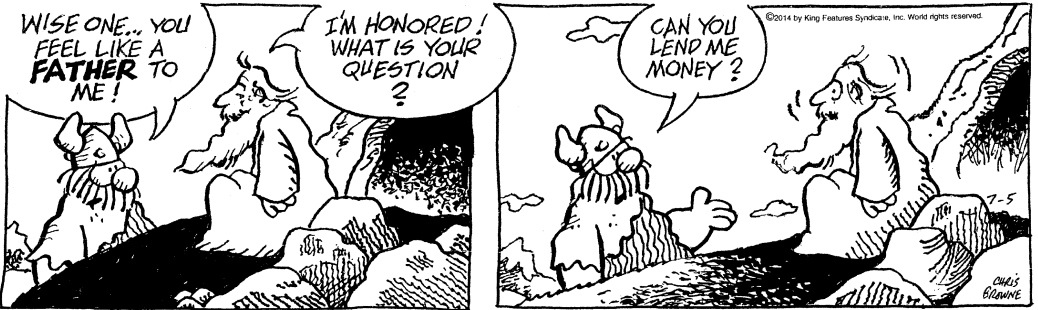
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

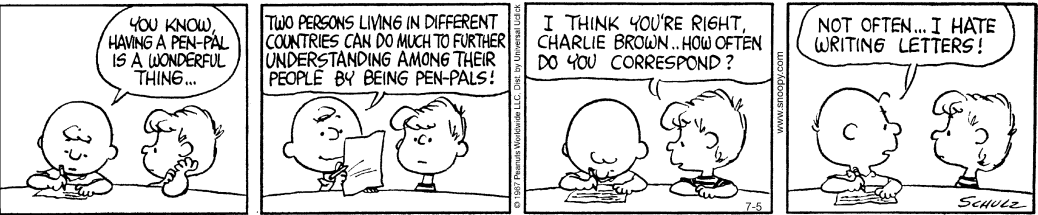
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



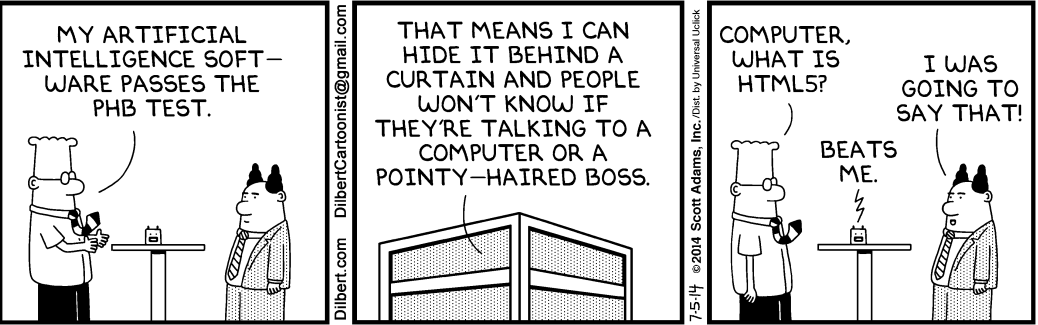
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you enjoy doing your part to keep your world orderly and balanced. However, into every organized life a little confusion will fall. You will handle it smoothly.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, so many good things are happening around you that you should enjoy this time as much as you can. It is a time for indulgence and entertainment.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are ready for fun and celebration. Surround yourself with friends and family so the next several days prove even more memorable.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, focus on recreation this week. You have earned the right to relax and escape the daily grind, so make the most of your opportunities to do just that.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

A welcomed gift will come your way soon, Leo. It may be something big that you have had your eye on for quite some time or something that appeals to your sentimental side.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Cast your analytical nature to the side for a few days, Virgo. Embrace sentimentality and emotion this week, as they will help you make the best decisions.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you have a lot of energy going into this week, so tackle any assignments early on. By the end of the week your energy levels may dip, so get to work.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Secrets you have been keeping for some time are ready to come to the surface, Scorpio. These are good secrets, and others will be eager to share them with you.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't be nervous if you are a little introspective this week, Sagittarius. Use this time to reflect and find answers to some questions that have been on your mind.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Whatever is going on at work will still be there tomorrow, Capricorn. If you cannot get all the tasks done, do not beat yourself up over it. Just begin tomorrow with a can-do attitude.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your mind may wander but it is important to remain as focused as possible. Important information is revealed in the next few days.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a budding relationship appears ready to grow more serious. Take advantage of this opportunity.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 6
Brian Posehn, Comic (48)

JULY 7
Jorja Fox, Actress (46)

JULY 8
Anjelica Huston, Actress (63)

JULY 9
Fred Savage, Actor (38)

JULY 10
Adrian Grenier, Actor (38)

JULY 11
Tyson Kidd, Wrestler (34)

JULY 12
Jay Thomas, Actor (66)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Volume setting
- 6 Irene of film
- 11 Deference
- 12 News item
- 13 Texas player
- 14 Cheese chunk
- 15 Accent
- 17 Swiss peak
- 18 Ball point?
- 19 Vigorous fights
- 22 Pub offering
- 23 Boutique buy
- 24 Approach for a loan
- 25 Himalayan kingdom
- 27 Boar's mate
- 30 Feign
- 31 Pitcher's stat
- 32 King, in Latin
- 33 Humbled
- 35 Personal
- 38 Pol's concern
- 39 Draw out
- 40 Indonesian island
- 41 Squelched

42 Perfect places

DOWN

- 1 California peak
- 2 Low-cost inn
- 3 Menu choice
- 4 Folk tales
- 5 Winter worry
- 6 Chapel seat
- 7 Hail, to Caesar
- 8 Piano parts
- 9 "Life of Pi" director
- 10 Flight units
- 16 Yellow raisin
- 20 News quote
- 21 Dine late
- 24 Crude abode
- 25 Starr of the comics
- 26 Bolt partner

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

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	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						42				

7-5

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Boise's state
- 6 Sailors, informally
- 11 Kick back
- 12 Verdi creation
- 13 Hogs
- 14 Surprise win
- 15 Fabric worker
- 17 Glimpse
- 18 Sun-bather's slang for a tenement roof
- 22 Jai —
- 23 Farm machine
- 27 TV's "Uncle Miltie"
- 29 Sleeper's sound
- 30 Aquanaut's base
- 32 Murder
- 33 Tripped
- 35 Buddy
- 38 Creative germ
- 39 Straighten
- 41 Garlic unit
- 45 Heavysset
- 46 "— de Lune"
- 47 Scout's rider
- 48 Fall flower

DOWN

- 1 Tax agcy.
- 2 Grass droplets
- 3 Boxing great
- 4 Fliers
- 5 Daisy variety
- 6 Research references
- 7 Phone download
- 8 Reduced amount
- 9 Grove growth
- 10 Fill up
- 16 Pencil holder, at times
- 18 Bar bills
- 19 Out of the wind
- 21 Hard rubber spheres
- 24 Swimming spot
- 25 Buffalo's lake
- 26 Tear asunder
- 28 Corrode
- 31 Unopened rose

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

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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		42	43	44
45						46				
47						48				

7-7

Daily Cryptoquote — Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
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.

7-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

N G S F X V Q R X D S V W Z X V F W

R X D S V S W R M S Z X G S R C S X ,

R X A N G S Q ' M S V F F J Z X D A F B X

F X N G S A F A D S M W . — N F O O Q

V R W F M A R

Previous Cryptoquote: EVEN A MISTAKE MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE ONE THING NECESSARY TO A WORTHWHILE ACHIEVEMENT. — Henry Ford