

‘Dear abby’ dinner promises good food and good times

DEAR ABBY: We have enjoyed an international dinner club with three other couples for many years. Besides an international theme, we occasionally have other theme dinners. The host couple chooses the country and is responsible for the main course. Another couple brings an associated entree, the third couple brings dessert and the fourth couple provides the wine. We rotate responsibilities so we host only once every four months.

We have become close friends over many memorable meals together, sharing pregnancy announcements, child rearing, graduations, weddings and anniversaries. I think a “Dear Abby” dinner would be fun to host, and I’d love to plan a meal around your cookbooks. Would you please advise how this avid reader might get copies? — **CHEF MIKE IN CANADA**

DEAR CHEF MIKE: I know a Dear Abby dinner party would be enjoyable, because readers have written to tell me they’ve hosted one, and it made for an interesting and fun evening. The recipes are traditional, easy to read, simple to prepare and delicious. As I mentioned to a reader from Little Rock who inquired about the book-



DEAR ABBY

let, one hostess described decorating her place cards with applied hearts and tiny flowers. She created a centerpiece by making a “bouquet” of envelopes addressed to Dear Abby.

Another woman copied questions from past columns, printed them out and made them into a party game, instructing her guests to supply the answers. She said that after a few glasses of wine, some of the answers they came up with were hilarious, but not suitable for printing in a family newspaper.

My cookbooklet set contains more than 100 tasty recipes ranging from soups to salads, appetizers, main courses and desserts. The recipes can also be used for holiday celebrations and other special occasions. To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear

Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. My mother used many of these recipes for dinner parties, and so have I. I particularly recommend the Pecan Pie recipe – which has been printed in this column before because it has taken prizes at county fairs. It was given to Mama by the chef at the now-demolished Phoenix Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky, and people rave about it.

DEAR ABBY: Folks always tell me that gals like to be wooed, but when I holler “woo” at them, they give me dirty looks. What’s up with that? — **ABBY FAN FROM TWITTER**

DEAR FAN: Decades ago, “gals” would have been flattered. But since the women’s movement, many females would regard your attempt to be friendly as a form of sexual harassment rather than a compliment. Instead of “hollering,” try saying hello and you may get better results.

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

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

A Vanilla Answer About Longevity

Dear Heloise: I bought a bottle of REAL VANILLA EXTRACT at least eight years ago. I was told it would keep forever. Is this true? How long can I realistically keep it? — Jo in New York

Some things are not meant to be kept FOREVER! Yes, the experts say that if it’s really pure vanilla extract and is stored properly, it should last for longer than we need it to. — Heloise

Sticky Pie Crust

Dear Readers: You came through again! I knew you would. Here are two hints that were sent in about how to keep pie crust from sticking to the pan:

■ Carol, via email, said: “I find that crusts don’t stick to the pan if you thaw them thoroughly before adding the filling.”

■ Roberta H. in Arkansas wrote: “To keep refrigerated pie crust from sticking to your dish, remember to flour the bottom of the crust before putting into the dish, just like you would if you had made it.” — Heloise

Favorite Recipe

Dear Heloise: I grew up loving my mom’s homemade sloppy Joes. To my surprise, when I asked for her recipe, it was just cocktail sauce and ground beef. That’s it! So delicious! — Susan B., via email

Isn’t it fun to discover that a family “recipe” is really pretty simple? Cocktail sauce can add just the right “zing” without much effort. Recipes can be a strong connection, and more so when passed down from generation to generation or shared with friends. There are many of my mother’s recipes that I love and used to put together my Heloise’s All-Time Favorite Recipes pamphlet to share them. To order one, go online to www.Heloise.com, or send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/ Recipes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Collect favorite family recipes in a binder or holder and then make copies to give as gifts to siblings. -- Heloise

Easy Clean

Dear Heloise: I found an easy way to clean inside artichokes: by using a grapefruit spoon. It comes out so much easier and cleaner. Being Italian, I make stuffed ones all the time. — Dolly L., Irvine, Calif.

Last Drop

Dear Heloise: I buy olive oil in the large cans and find it difficult to get the last bit of oil out. I use a nail to punch a hole in the corner opposite the spout and tilt the can so it drains into a cup. I get 1/3 cup more of oil that way. — David H., Rindge, N.H.

Turn Around

Dear Heloise: If you have struggles with resealing those resealable bags that products come in, here is a hint: Turn the bag around so you’re facing the backside of the bag. I struggled with a cat-food bag for months. On a lark, I turned the front to the rear, and it now works every time with ease.— Not Struggling in Ohio

I gave this a try, and it did seem to work! Really not sure why, but who cares? — Heloise

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 China flaw
- 5 Audition goal
- 9 Solitary sort
- 11 Roping contest
- 12 Fuming
- 13 Dancer
- 14 Hosp. workers
- 15 Slogan
- 17 Straight path
- 19 Rocker Vicious
- 20 Meager
- 21 Desk set item
- 22 Capital on the Nile
- 24 Myrna of movies
- 26 Blunders
- 29 Team supporter
- 30 Level of modesty
- 32 Writer’s starting point
- 34 Web address ending
- 35 Stellar hunter
- 36 Conductor Seiji

38 Maximum amount

39 Emergency sound

40 Spotted

41 Peas’ places

DOWN

- 1 Ascend
- 2 Throngs
- 3 “I’ll be right with you”
- 4 Fido or Fluffy
- 5 Trend determiner
- 6 Counsel
- 7 Control

8 Muscularly firm

10 Eye screen

11 Latest fad

16 Immunity trigger

18 Like some lingerie

21 Spot for laps

23 Lovers

24 Hugh of “House”

25 Punctual

27 Barber of opera

28 Deceived

29 Ninnies

30 Intimation

31 Singer Faith

33 Beef cut

37 Energy

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
				10		11		
9								
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	

5-13

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Mediocre
- 5 “Downton Abbey” valet
- 10 Shortly, in poems
- 11 “Shoo!”
- 12 Dispatched
- 13 Kenya neighbor
- 14 Bigwig
- 16 Second place winner
- 20 Ranch group
- 23 Much of N. Amer.
- 24 Unbilled role
- 25 Less loony
- 27 “Aladdin” monkey
- 28 Current unit
- 29 Summon
- 32 Ballpark cry
- 36 Like this answer
- 39 Khar-toum’s river
- 40 Veep before Biden
- 41 Finished
- 42 Ocean’s motions
- 43 Rating unit

2 “Dedicated to the — Love”

3 Musical number

4 When raids start, in movies

5 Started

6 Visibly stunned

7 Great weight

8 Purpose

9 Squid’s home

11 Allen’s comedy partner

15 Continental coin

17 Celtic letter

2 “Dedicated to the — Love”

3 Musical number

4 When raids start, in movies

5 Started

6 Visibly stunned

7 Great weight

8 Purpose

9 Squid’s home

11 Allen’s comedy partner

15 Continental coin

17 Celtic letter

18 Manual reader

19 Do a KP chore

20 Racket

21 Forbidden

22 Flightless birds

25 Obscene material

26 Tacks on

28 Pretentious

30 Steak-house order

31 Alleviates

33 Uprising

34 Radius partner

35 Equal

36 Play division

37 Letter before psi

38 Spectrum color

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				17	18
20	21	22						23	
24						25	26		
27						28			
29			30	31					
			32					33	34
36	37	38					39		
40								41	
42								43	

5-14

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.

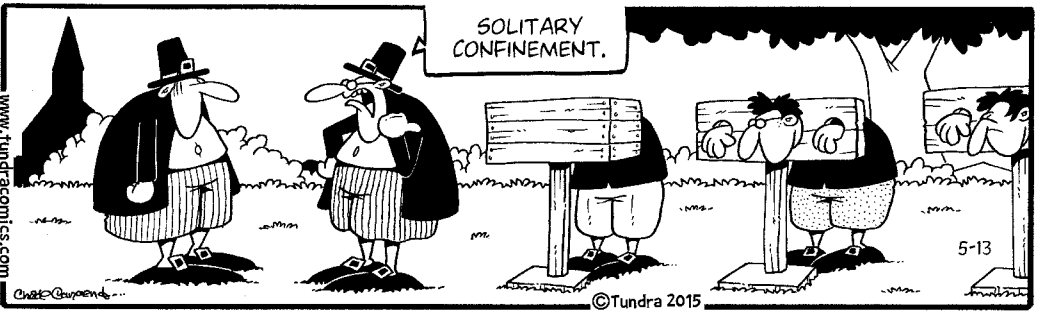
5-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

G B R A A M N B Q S P J F M O Q M J F
B V R M F P, M F P M W A M Y A F J F M
N J S P V S B N A Q, W B S P J F V J F J G U J F
G W A Z M S X B V U B E Q W M F P, M F P
A G A Q F J G U J F M F W B E Q .
— N J S S J M X D S M I A

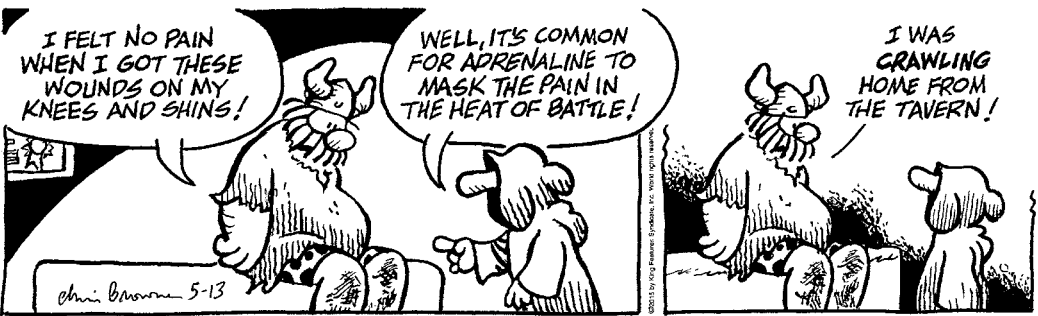
Previous Cryptoquote: BEING A FULL-TIME MOTHER IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST SALARIED JOBS ... SINCE THE PAYMENT IS PURE LOVE. – Mildred B. Vermont

COMICS

Tundra



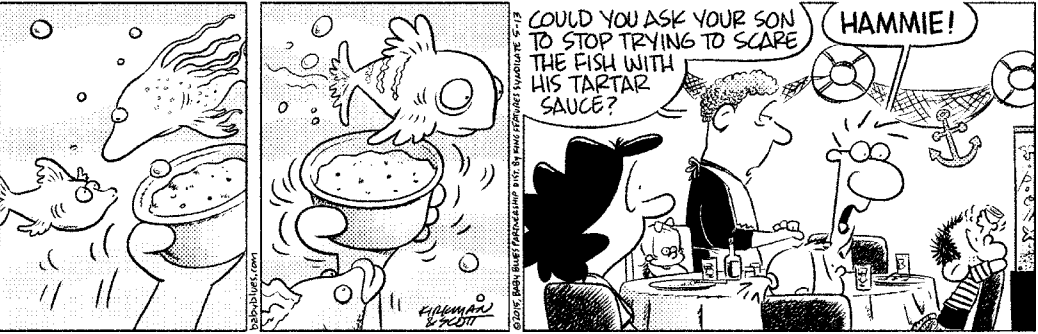
Hagar the Horrible



Carpe Diem



Baby Blues



Dilbert

