

Man refuses to take the hint and buy his wife a diamond

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 40 years. Like all married couples, we have had our ups and downs, but we have a good marriage. We have two children and five grandchildren.

I wouldn't change anything, except I never had an engagement ring. My husband has bought jewelry for me over the years, but never what I really want – a diamond ring.

I have hinted to him over the last few years, left jewelry store catalogs and enlisted my sister-in-law to TELL him. He can afford it. But he just won't buy one for me.

He has been financially helpful to our children and is generous to charity. But when it comes to this, it's becoming clear that he thinks I am just not worth it. I feel unloved and deeply hurt. It seems my needs always come last, and this is just one more. Any comments? — **DISENGAGED IN FLORIDA**

DEAR DISENGAGED: Yes. Diamonds are minerals that have been marketed to the public to seem like something more. Do not let this negatively affect your relationship with your husband. If a diamond ring is what you want, then consider buying one for yourself. You wouldn't be the first woman to do it, and you won't be the last.

DEAR ABBY: My girl-



DEAR ABBY

friend of 18 months, whom I love with all my heart, just learned an ex-boyfriend passed away. They dated on and off for 10 years, and she's inconsolable.

After their relationship ended, she married someone else and divorced. I am having a really hard time with how she's handling this. Can you please help? — **CURRENT MR. RIGHT IN RHODE ISLAND**

DEAR CURRENT MR. RIGHT: Your girlfriend may not be mourning the death of her former flame as much as she's grieving a burial of 10 years of her history. Give her time and let her share her feelings with you. If you do, it will bring you closer. Do NOT allow jealousy to enter into the picture. (Remember, the man is dead, and YOU are her future.)

If her deep grief persists, suggest she get grief counseling. That would be the most loving and supportive thing you could do.

DEAR ABBY: I have

a problem dealing with shopping mall kiosk operators. Many of them are outright obnoxious. They block your way and insist that you listen to their pitch or try their product. I find I have to avoid eye contact with them. They might say something nice as I walk by, but if I answer, it is a guaranteed lead-in to a sales pitch.

I feel bad for not replying, but it's the only way. I know they are trying to make a living, but I can see their product as I walk by. If it's something I'm interested in, I'll stop and ask. Otherwise, I think they should respect my privacy. Am I wrong for feeling this way? — **BOTHERED IN TEMPE, ARIZ.**

DEAR BOTHERED: Not at all. If a stranger speaks to you, no rule of etiquette compels you to reply. When one of these salespeople starts to pitch you, all you need to say is, "Not interested!" and keep walking. However, if someone attempts to physically restrain you, it should be reported to the mall management because that is going too far.

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Romance is on your mind, Aries. That's because you met a wonderful person and are interested in seeing where this relationship may go.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You feel artistically inspired this week, Taurus. Use this inspiration to pursue an array of projects, whether you want to dabble in photography or make home improvements.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Seeing a happy couple together inspires thoughts of a romantic nature, Gemini. Consider taking a budding relationship to a new level.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you aspire to learn a new skill or take on a new project this week. Forge ahead with this idea, which allows you to meet new people and learn some interesting things.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Love, romance and marriage are on your mind, Leo. Work on strengthening an existing relationship or heighten your efforts to find a special someone.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may have an unexpected visitor to contend with this week. This could mean a complete overhaul of your schedule and living space. It's time to get to work.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Your mindset is intense this week, Libra. Others will find it very difficult to change your opinion on certain things, but that does not mean you should not listen to their ideas.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, be prepared for a busy week that gives your bank account a boost. Expect to begin a new work assignment that requires a lot of creative energy.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you're interested in promoting personal health this week. Your research may extend into holistic treatments as well as more traditional alternatives.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Vist some bookstores this week, Capricorn. This will indulge your need to absorb information this week. Don't overlook the value of the library on your quest.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, an encounter with someone new piques your intellectual curiosity. Take some time to gather some information, and give yourself time to digest this information.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Thoughts of a career change are more prominent this week, Pisces. It may be a good time to finally act on those ideas.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 16
Lauren Graham, Actress (47)

MARCH 17
Rob Lowe, Actor (50)

MARCH 18
Adam Levine, Singer (35)

MARCH 19
Glenn Close, Actress (67)

MARCH 20
Spike Lee, Director (57)

MARCH 21
Gary Oldman, Actor (56)

MARCH 22
James Patterson, Author (67)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Fancy flapjack
- 6 Court rapper
- 11 Confine
- 12 Select group
- 13 Next to
- 14 Swagging
- 15 Cola buys
- 17 Pewter component
- 18 Genesis name
- 19 Atlas section
- 22 Poet Hughes
- 23 Some poisons
- 24 Wee
- 25 Fleshly
- 27 — relief
- 30 Deli buy
- 31 Drama division
- 32 Bonanza stuff
- 33 Fifth, for one
- 35 Skirt inserts
- 38 Seething
- 39 Bisected
- 40 Frisco
- 41 Moved carefully
- 42 Bike parts

DOWN

- 1 Swiss lodge
- 2 Experience anew
- 3 Hammed it up
- 4 Needle source
- 5 Dürer work
- 6 Setting item
- 7 In the style of
- 8 Con target
- 9 Moral concern
- 10 Singer Lewis
- 16 "The Bartered Bride" composer
- 20 Putting in bondage
- 21 Artist
- 24 Dude's address
- 25 Solar halo
- 26 Tips off
- 27 Split item
- 28 More keen
- 29 Takes the wheel
- 30 Evil spirit
- 34 War of 1812 port
- 36 Merino mom
- 37 Lawn makeup

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						
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30								31		
32										
33					33			34		
35				36	37			38		
39								40		
41								42		

3-15

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 St. Patrick's Day marchers
- 6 Office notes
- 11 Former capital of India
- 12 Sports venue
- 13 Dropped tomato sound
- 14 St. Patrick's Day color
- 15 Bearing
- 17 Chiding sound
- 18 Gets going
- 22 Dorothy's dog
- 23 Ashtray user
- 27 Put up
- 29 Barrel piece
- 30 Secretly eye
- 32 Bread spread
- 33 Employees
- 35 Feeling down
- 38 Math course
- 39 County north of Limerick
- 41 Swore
- 45 Playful mammal
- 46 Gladden
- 47 Frogs' kin
- 48 More peculiar

DOWN

- 1 Check-cashing needs
- 2 Dem.'s foe
- 3 Sick
- 4 St. Patrick's Day symbols
- 5 Words to the maestro
- 6 Champagne bottles
- 7 Mess up
- 8 Convene
- 9 Small bills
- 10 Went under
- 16 Twisty turn
- 18 Dance move
- 19 Ripped
- 20 Suit to —
- 21 Leprechaun's treasure
- 24 Hardy cabbage
- 25 At any time
- 26 Old autos
- 28 Rags
- 31 Black gunk
- 34 The cops, in slang
- 35 Glasgow native
- 36 Singing voice
- 37 Poll numbers
- 40 Wine choice
- 42 Bankroll
- 43 Summer in Paris
- 44 German article

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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				

3-17

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.

3-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

B Q A B G B C L J Z C X J I C P J G I

A J P B G T P Y Q C N I J I X B C L

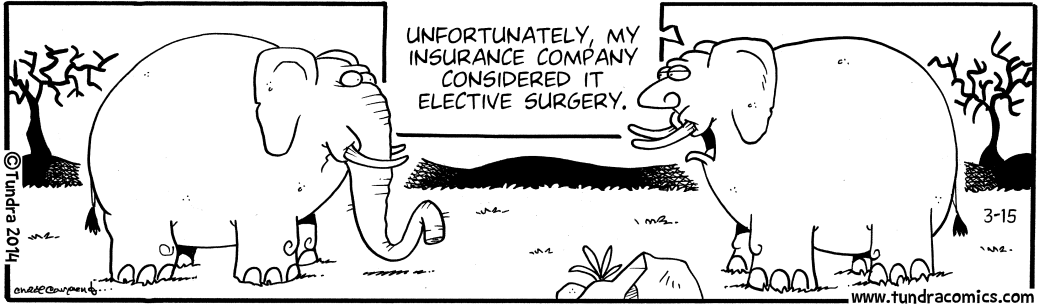
A J I X L W T P I G D Q Q P .

— H G L Q K B H G T W Q N P

Previous Cryptoquote: ALWAYS MISTRUST A SUBORDINATE WHO NEVER FINDS FAULT WITH HIS SUPERIOR. – John Churton Collins

COMICS

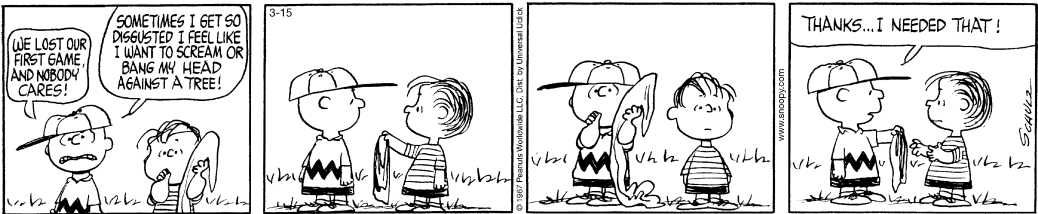
Tundra



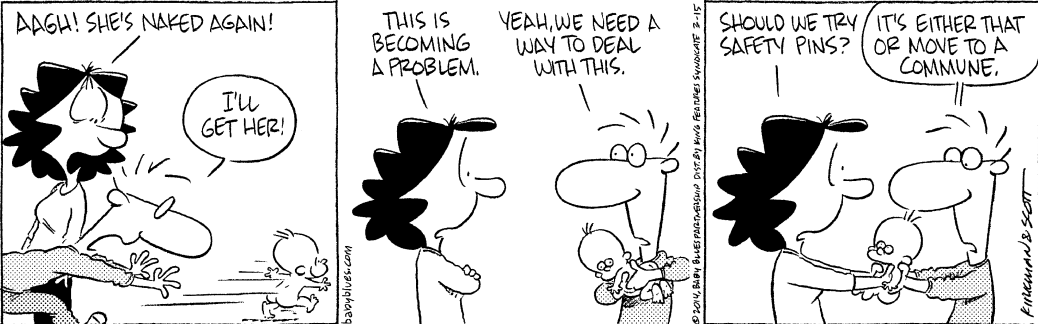
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

