

Mom’s brief cellphone video has lingering consequences

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old son, “Wiley,” was playing a game on my cellphone. I stupidly forgot to delete a short video of myself engaged in a sex act with my ex-husband, “Cliff.” Wiley didn’t confront me or mention it, but given his sudden change in behavior, I’m almost certain he saw it.



DEAR ABBY

The next morning I mentioned it and apologized, hoping we could get past the awkwardness, but Wiley wouldn’t admit this is what’s bothering him. He acted as if he didn’t know what I was talking about. Now he’s shutting down. He won’t talk to me. He’s off in his own world as if I’m a stranger, where a few days before we would laugh, share and trust each other.

I divorced Cliff because he and my son didn’t get along, but in the last six months we have been secretly having an affair and we ultimately want to get back together when Wiley is 18. My son doesn’t approve of him and he’s angry about it.

I’m worried and embarrassed that he saw me doing what I was doing in that few seconds of video, and I don’t want to scar him or have him think differently of me. Wiley’s father has been no help, and I suspect adds fuel to our son’s anger during his weekend visitations. I tried therapy for Wiley -- it didn’t help. Do you have any suggestions? — **MORTIFIED IN ARIZONA**

DEAR MORTIFIED: I’m printing your letter because, once again, it illus-

trates the danger of putting videos of a sexual nature on cellphones. I can think of few people of any age who don’t prefer to think of themselves as products of immaculate conception, and your son is no exception.

Because Cliff and Wiley’s relationship was so poor the three of you couldn’t coexist under one roof, discovering that you are once more intimately involved with your ex must have been traumatic and threatening to Wiley. It might reassure him to know that your seeing Cliff does not mean you will be living together anytime soon.

In the meantime, I recommend that YOU talk with a therapist to help you cope with the changed relationship you now have with your son. It’s a shame that Wiley’s father has used this unfortunate incident for his own selfish purposes. Divorced couples MUST remember that they have to love their child more than they hate each other.

DEAR ABBY: A year and a half ago, I reconnected with “Paul.” We were in grade school together and hadn’t seen each other for many years. We have been

extremely happy and want to spend our remaining years together.

Because of our ages (we’re both seniors) and separate families and incomes, we feel marriage is not what we’d like to do. But we would like to move in together.

Would it be ridiculous for us to do that without being married? Will the world condemn us? Will our children understand or ostracize us? How do we handle questions about why we have chosen not to marry? — **IN LOVE IN LOUISIANA**

DEAR IN LOVE: Many older couples do what you are considering because being married would negatively affect their retirement income. If your children like Paul -- and his children like you -- I doubt you will be ostracized. Most adult children want their parents to be happy.

If you’re worried about how the community will react to your living arrangement, consider talking to a clergy person about being “married in the eyes of God.” As to questions about why you have chosen not to marry, apart from your family, it is nobody’s business and you are not obligated to discuss it.

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Time to Eat Chinese Beets

Dear Heloise: I lost your recipe for Heloise’s CHINESE BEETS. I looked for it, but it doesn’t seem to be anywhere. I read your column in The Orange County (Calif.) Register daily. Thank you for all the years of good hints. — Joan R., via email

Joan, say “hi” to my friends in Orange County! It’s been years since this family recipe was printed. It’s a good time to run it again. Get together the following:

- 6 cups, or 3 (16 ounces each) cans, sliced or whole beets
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 24 whole cloves (less if you don’t want a strong taste)
- 3 tablespoons ketchup
- 3 tablespoons oil (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Salt to taste
- Drain the beets. Set aside 1 1/2 cups of the liquid. In a medium saucepan, place the beets and reserved liquid. Then add all the remaining ingredients. Mix well and cook for 3 minutes over medium heat, or until the mixture thickens. Let cool before storing in the refrigerator. Serve as a side dish or in a salad. Want more Heloise’s All-Time Favorite Recipes? I’ve put them in a pamphlet that you can get by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/All-Time, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. These beets can be too tangy for some people’s tastes. Adjust the recipe by using fewer cloves, and leave out the vanilla for a different flavor. — Heloise

HEARTY HOMINY

Dear Readers: Do you know what hominy is or how to cook with it?

I recently just “rediscovered” it, and I started wondering. I know it’s corn, but ...? It is the center of the corn that is left over after the corn kernel is soaked in a solution to bleach it, then washed.

Hominy can be eaten by itself or added to recipes such as soups, stews and casseroles. I sprinkle some on my salad for a nice addition. — Heloise

MAKING MOLASSES

Dear Heloise: Is blackstrap molasses the same as regular molasses? — Louise S., via email

No, it is not! Molasses comes from the juice of sugar cane or sugar beets. The juice is boiled to remove the sugar crystals. How many times the juices are boiled determines the “type” of molasses.

Light or regular molasses is made from the first boiling, while dark molasses comes after a second boiling. Blackstrap molasses is what remains after a third boiling, and it has a bitter taste. It’s used in slow-cooking recipes, e.g., baked beans or barbecue. — Heloise

SEEDING SQUASH

Dear Heloise: Cleaning out the pulp and seeds when preparing winter squash using a spoon was difficult. I looked in my utensil drawer and chose the larger end of my melon-ball cutter. The insides of the winter squash come out with very little effort using the melon-ball cutter. Don’t turn it; simply pull it along the inside of the squash. The pulp and seeds come out easily. — W.B. in Texas

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.

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Long-eared pooch
- 7 Tattoo site
- 11 Artemis’ twin
- 12 Refer to
- 13 Change the title of
- 14 To boot
- 15 Sports-caster Howard
- 17 Ailing
- 20 Suit pieces
- 23 Writer Tarbell
- 24 “Darn!”
- 26 Sushi choice
- 27 Sought a seat
- 28 Groom’s answer
- 29 Ship kitchens
- 31 Ruin
- 32 Commercial cow
- 33 Ship’s wheel
- 34 So far
- 37 Investor’s hope
- 39 Make definite, as plans
- 43 High point
- 44 Kindle
- 45 Banana leftover
- 46 Provide

DOWN

- 1 Watering hole
- 2 Clumsy fellow
- 3 Heir, often
- 4 Not taut
- 5 Sesame Street youngster
- 6 Low digits
- 7 Justice symbol
- 8 Occupies oneself while waiting
- 9 “— a deal!”
- 10 Fresh: Prefix
- 16 Country singer Sara

SWIG			ATBAT
PANES			SWATH
RIVET			TORTE
AVE		ETA	REF
YESSIR		CENT	
STAGEHAND			
	TENON		
	BOARD	FOOT	
BURN		USEFUL	
ATE		APT	FRA
BALMY		RAINS	
ENSUE		ASCOT	
LEEDS		HENS	

Previous Puzzle

- 17 Prolonged attack
- 18 Perfect
- 19 Asks for a break in play
- 21 Kind of wave or basin
- 22 Tempest
- 24 Dog show category
- 25 Place down
- 30 Music’s Hampton
- 33 Wading bird
- 35 Miles off
- 36 Bike part
- 37 Ravine
- 38 Tennis feat
- 40 Coffee, in slang
- 41 Exploit
- 42 For each

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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
43					44				
45					46				

9-11

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Wild guess
- 5 Smoker’s pipe
- 10 Sagas
- 12 Washer cycle
- 13 Dwelling
- 14 Caper
- 15 Sine qua —
- 16 “Drat!”
- 18 Makeshift book-mark
- 20 Light metal
- 21 Goblet part
- 23 Leaf lifter
- 24 Radiator part
- 26 Skilled
- 28 Course number
- 29 Harry Belafonte hit
- 31 Peyton’s bother
- 32 Golf hole with a bend
- 36 Sirius
- 39 — de France
- 40 Banded rock
- 41 Mosey along
- 43 Sherbet flavor
- 44 Entices
- 45 Salon sounds

DOWN

- 1 Position
- 2 Forbidden
- 3 By the side of
- 4 Garden section
- 5 Toot one’s own horn
- 6 Bout site
- 7 All things considered
- 8 Foolish
- 9 New
- 11 Drugged
- 17 Vein contents

MELT			STEP
VALOR			PARES
ONICE			AGATE
WICKET			SAW
ELIS			HOTELS
LAT			FIBERS
	PACED		
	SKUNKY		FOG
SPONGE			SADE
EAR			TICKET
TREAD			RHETT
STAGE			AMITY
ANEW			NOTE

Previous Puzzle

- 19 Twisty turn
- 22 Like some elections
- 24 Light bulb type
- 25 Folding craft
- 27 Marshy area
- 28 Piano parts
- 30 Nabokov book
- 33 Fall sign
- 34 TV’s De-Generes
- 35 Gaggles group
- 37 Organ part
- 38 Addition column
- 42 Swamp stuff

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		
43						44			
45						46			

9-12

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.

9-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

Y Z Z V Z R L P D Y O V Z H Y P D K P

A Y B W L X Y S P V F Y P D Y Z; P Z M P D

R L H V X X M S R H K P Y W P V X Y S

V S B Q T Q W Y Y W L V O P Z M P D.

— B Y V P V B L P V Q

Previous Cryptoquote: SINCE LOVE GROWS WITHIN YOU, SO BEAUTY GROWS. FOR LOVE IS THE BEAUTY OF THE SOUL. – Saint Augustine

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

