

Troubled high school friend needs a hand, not a handout

DEAR ABBY: I am 18, and like most of my friends, I have gone away to college. We have a friend whose life went off track during our senior year because of drinking, drugs and other misbehavior. She's now without a place to live or any support system.

She calls us from time to time, and we aren't sure what to believe or how to help her since we are all in a different place in our lives, and far away. We won't give her money because we are worried about what she might do with it, but we really do want to help her and be there for her. What is the best approach? — **WORRIED FRIEND IN FLORIDA**

DEAR WORRIED: I agree that you should not give her money. The best approach would be for you to advise your friend to get into a shelter with social services for homeless women. If she does, she may be able to get into a substance abuse program, receive government benefits and straighten out her life. I'm not saying her road will be an easy one, but it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: Is there a polite way to ask a colleague to stop bringing her kids to work? Our offices are next to each other, and the dividing wall doesn't reach the ceiling. I have to hear



DEAR ABBY

them yelling at each other (they are 2 and 4), crying, whining and their mother's attempts at discipline, etc. This isn't occasional – it happens often.

Should I ask her politely to stop bringing them to work? Or should I ask management to shift my office away from hers? — **DIS-TRACTED IN DETROIT**

DEAR DISTRACTED: Rather than risk a confrontation with your co-worker, this is something you should discuss either with your supervisor or your employer. While I empathize with the woman's difficulty in finding someone to supervise her youngsters, if their presence in the workplace is disruptive, your needs should be accommodated.

DEAR ABBY: I have a family friend whose son has been engaged twice, to two different women. The first engagement was broken off by him, and the second by

his fiancée.

Each time, his family threw him an engagement party (which he wanted) – and I was invited to both. Each time, as is customary, I bought a gift for the happy couple. Neither one was returned after the engagement was broken.

The first party was a pleasure to attend. The second one I found slightly awkward, but I wanted to be supportive of my friend. I brought a gift the second time because I didn't want to be impolite.

If my friend's son becomes engaged a third time and has an engagement party to which I am invited, am I obligated to bring a gift? — **POLITE PARTY GUEST**

DEAR POLITE: No. I think by now you have given enough. And considering how your friend's son's luck has been after these engagement parties, I can't imagine his family inviting the same people a third time and expecting them to give him anything more than their good wishes.

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.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, tackle a problem that's been puzzling you head-on this week. A direct approach may just provide you the unique perspective you need to crack this nut.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, state your case carefully when you attempt to get your point across at work. Others will appreciate your thoughtful approach and respond positively.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are up to your ears in work and you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel just yet. Rest assured that it's there, but it could take a few more days in the trenches.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Various responsibilities require your full attention this week, Cancer. Don't be afraid to accept some help so you can get everything done on time.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are invested in reaching a goal, and those around you are inspired by your gusto. Make the most of your energy and help others harness theirs if given the chance.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you work best when you have a plan in place. While you are not usually appreciative of surprises, this week you are willing to be a little more flexible.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

A disagreement at work has you unsure about what side to support, Libra. Stay neutral for the time being until you can get a better grasp of the situation.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, focus on issues at work this week. Channel your energy into productivity at the office, and know that there will be time to daydream down the road.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
You may feel strong winds of change blowing in your direction, Sagittarius, and you do not know what is in store for you. Sometimes it can be exciting to be surprised.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, look forward to the weeks ahead, as some good news is on the horizon. Allow others around you to share in the good times ahead.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, revisit your career goals this week. Even if your goals seem ever-changing, it can be productive to reexamine them from time to time.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Keep things simple this week, Pisces. You will have a lot on your plate in the days ahead, but it's nothing you can't handle.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 8
John Grisham, Author (60)

FEBRUARY 9
Carole King, Singer (73)

FEBRUARY 10
Elizabeth Banks, Actress (41)

FEBRUARY 11
Jennifer Aniston, Actress (46)

FEBRUARY 12
Josh Brolin, Actor (47)

FEBRUARY 13
Peter Gabriel, Singer (65)

FEBRUARY 14
Angel di Maria, Athlete (27)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Tropical

parrots

7 "Shane"

star

11 Turkish

peak

12 Bakery

worker

13 Dear

14 Piccolo's

cousin

15 Some

messages

16 Made

over

17 Lip

18 PR head's

chore

19 "Like

that'll

happen!"

21 Kickoff

aid

22 "The Wall"

band

25 Chess

pieces

26 Gossip bit

27 Blood

line

29 Press

33 Blood-

hound's

clue

34 Cous-

teau's

gear

35 Phi-

losopher

Immanuel

36 Rode the

curl

37 Different

38 Kindle

39 Some

bucks

40 Less

relaxed

DOWN

1 Spiked

clubs

2 Kitchen

come-on

3 Hacienda

homes

4 Skilled

worker

5 Mural

setting

6 Messy

digs

7 Career

soldier

8 pH

measure

9 Clearly

set out

10 Search

the

riverbed

16 Pillage

18 Grant's

bill

20 Avoid

22 Sheet

material

23 Concen-

trated

24 Letter

after

xi

25 Like the

Lone

Ranger

28 Door sign

30 Sewell

of "Dark

City"

31 Past

plump

32 Candidate

of 2004

34 Confident

36 Stopped

standing

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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
33						34			
35						36			
37						38			
39						40			

2-7

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Postmark

feature

5 Play

groups

10 Perfect

place

11 Block-

heads

13 Parachute

pull

14 January

birthstone

15 First name

of 34-

Across

17 "Aw,

shucks!"

18 Some

horse-

shoes

throws

19 — tree

(cornered)

20 Methane

or ethane

21 Pinochle

score

22 Pole

tossed by

Scots

25 Parker of

films

26 Finished

27 Salon stuff

28 Fellow

29 Store

giveaway

33 Show

— (enter-

tainment

industry)

34 February

honoree

35 Late hour

37 Foot or

furlong

38 Said no to

39 Shake-

spearean

king

40 Body shop

challenges

41 Whirlpool

DOWN

1 Model

sticker

2 Sun-dried

brick

3 — cotta

4 Put in

peril

5 Some

smokes

6 Washing-

ton's

successor

7 Army

address

8 Lan-

guages

9 Church

topper

12 Unwaver-

ing

16 Get news

of

21 Chemis-

try class

model

22 Did a

thorough

search of

23 Made use

(of)

36 Coq au —

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