Family dog plays favorites with hand that feeds him

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My family has had our dog "Pouncer" for 10 years. He was originally bought to be a "family" dog, but I am the one who feeds and takes care of him. Because of that he sleeps with me and licks and obeys only me.

When I say Pouncer is my dog, the rest of my family chews me out and insists he is the family's dog, not mine. Don't you think I have the right to call him my dog? — **WILLIE IN WEST VIRGINIA**

DEAR WILLIE: I think this is less a question about ownership than it is about tact. Because you are the one who feeds and takes care of Pouncer, and he sleeps with you and obeys only you -- in that sense, he IS your dog. But unless you are the only one paying for his food and veterinary bills and the roof over his head, Pouncer is also the family's dog. Remember that and you'll get chewed out less often.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married more than 20 years. Her best friend from childhood, "Jill," and her husband, "Jack," are two of our closest friends.

On a recent visit to their home in another state, Jack made a pass at my wife. He said he'd always had a crush on her and asked her to go to our hotel room and have sex while the rest of us were at an amusement park. She refused.

We cut our vacation short and left for home immediately. She told me about it after we got home, concerned that if she said anything while we were there, a confrontation would have ensued. To date, Jill knows nothing about what occurred.

My wife asked me not to say anything until she decides what to do. She's concerned that if she tells Jill, the friendship will be over. On the other hand, if nothing is said, she will be hiding a guilty secret from Jill, which will probably damage the friendship.

Should my wife tell her friend? Should I call Jack and confront him one-on-one? Or should we do nothing? — **UPSET HUSBAND IN NEW YORK**

DEAR UPSET HUSBAND: The friendship has already been damaged thanks to the husband's inappropriate behavior. What you and your wife must now decide is whether he has caused a permanent estrangement.

If you both agree you can look beyond his boorish lapse in light of the length of the long friendship, then by all means call Jack and tell him how you feel about what he did. And when you do, make it plain that if it happens again, you and your wife will discuss it with Jill TOGETHER.

DEAR ABBY: My sisters and brothers and I don't speak and haven't in five years. When I pass, I have a list of people who will be welcome at my services. If someone's name is not on the list, they will be asked to leave. I want my children and some of my grandchildren there, but no one else. Do you think I am wrong? — **TROUBLED IN TEXAS**

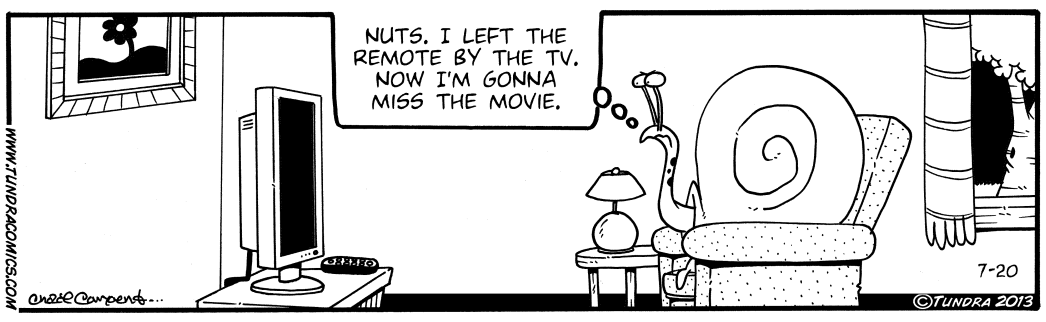
DEAR TROUBLED: No, I don't. Your wishes are your wishes. However, it is sad when families feud and, at the end, things that should be said are left unspoken.

One would hope that anyone who comes to your funeral would be there to support your children and grandchildren, or to pay last respects. I think it would be rude to ask someone who came to leave. A better way to handle it would be to specify in the funeral announcement that services will be for "your children only" and for further information people should contact a person you designate to carry out your wishes.

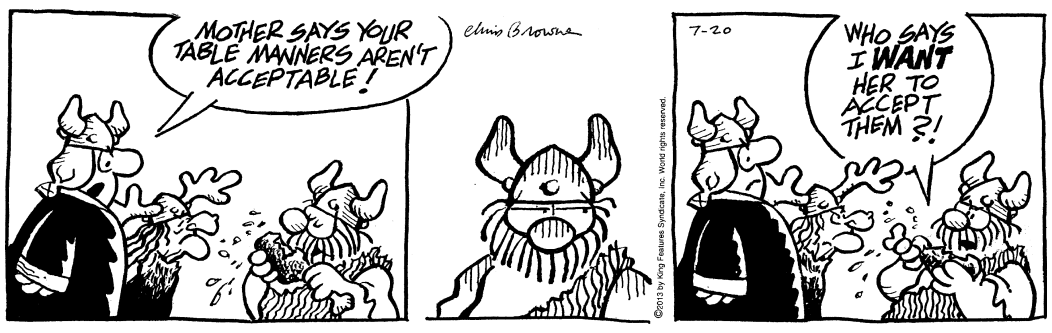
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

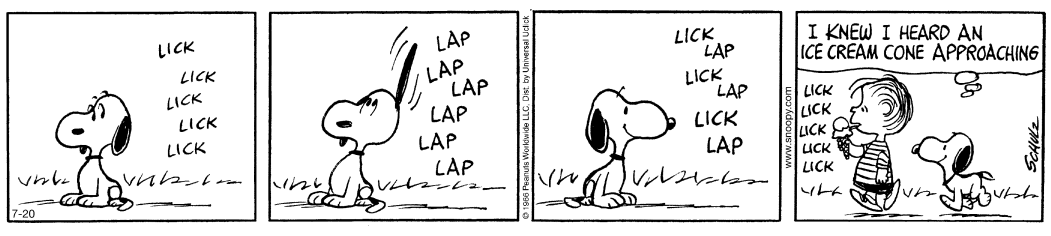
Tundra



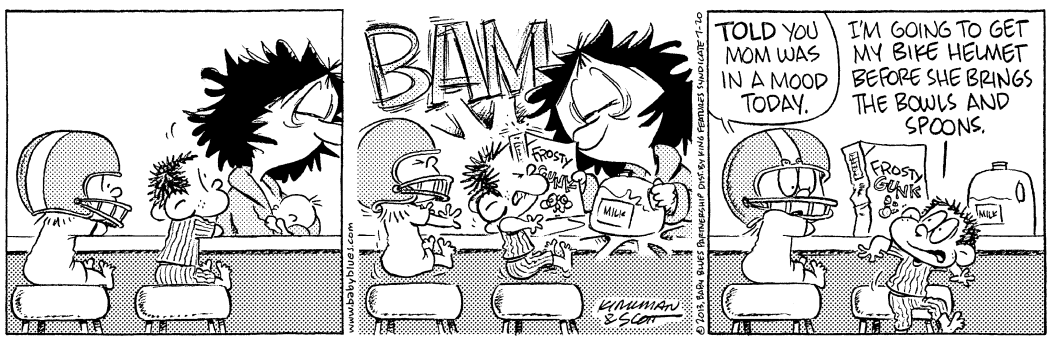
Hagar the Horrible



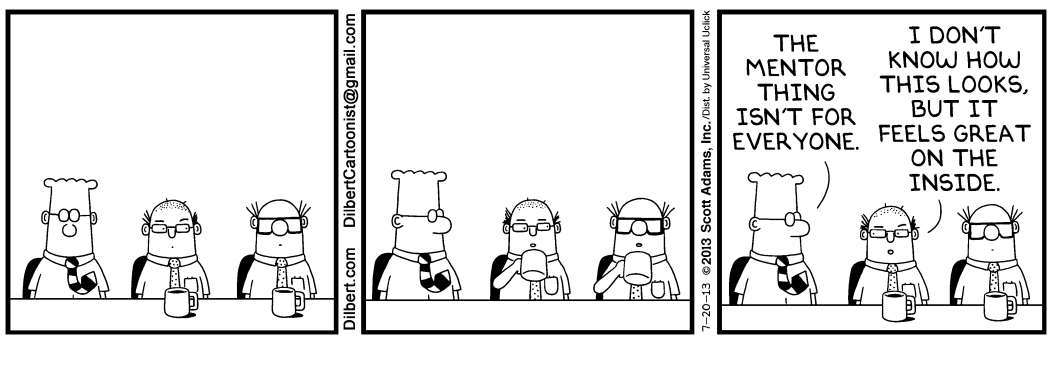
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Avoid making an important decision this week, Aries. Your mind is busy with too many ideas, and you will not be able to focus all of your attention on one task.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may find you are focused on your finances this week. It's a good time to assess spending habits and make some changes for the better.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you may find that luck is on your side this week and you can use this to your advantage. Take some risks you might normally be hesitant to take.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You certainly are in the spotlight this week, Cancer. All of this attention may try your nerves, so you may be interested in hiding out somewhere. Later in the week, you will have the chance.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, a discussion with a friend could be significant this week, inspiring you to expand your goals and pursue new dreams with confidence. Be thankful for the newfound inspiration.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Protect your privacy this week, Virgo. Though nothing serious is on the horizon, now is a good time emphasize safety and security for you and your family.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Restlessness settles in this week, Libra. You might want to plan a little adventure, whether it is a weekend trip or a night out on the town. The goal is to change the scenery.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, stay on top of bills, paperwork and anything else that helps you to get organized. Once you're finished catching up, resolve to be more organized going forward.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You will have to put forth some extra effort this week, Sagittarius. It may feel like others aren't pulling their weight, but you still need to do what you have to do to get the job done.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, take some extra time cleaning up in anticipation of an unexpected guest. While company is always welcome, you want to have a tidy home to show off.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquairus, enlist others to lend a helping hand this week. Others may not offer their time and effort, so be proactive in seeking help with an important task.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it may be tempting to stay at home. But you have responsibilities, and they need to be tended to. You can always relax once your work is done.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 21
Robin Williams, Comedian (62)

JULY 22
Selena Gomez, Actress (21)

JULY 23
Michelle Williams, Singer (33)

JULY 24
Kristin Chenoweth, Actress (45)

JULY 25
Matt LeBlanc, Actor (45)

JULY 26
Jeremy Piven, Actor (48)

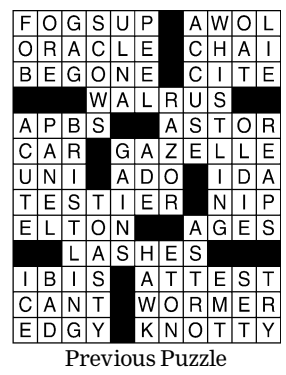
JULY 27
Dolph Ziggler, Wrestler (33)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

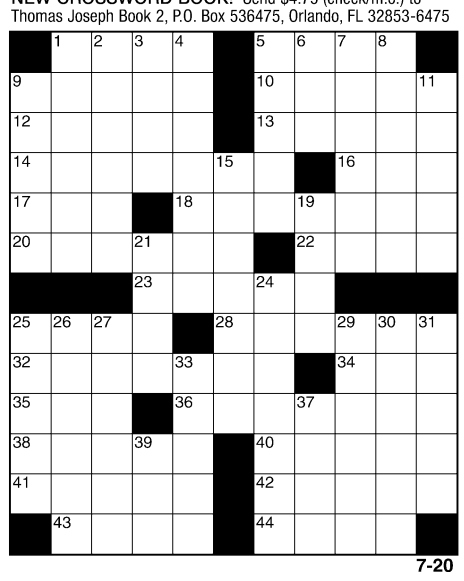
ACROSS
1 Future roses
5 Criticize harshly
9 "John Brown's Body" poet
10 Scooter's kin
12 Job reward
13 Sprightly
14 Dove's stance
16 Apple sampler
17 Long of "Soul Food"
18 Tummy relief
20 Maroon
22 Eye part
23 Crete peak
25 Act the nomad
28 Hits the gas
32 Star in Scorpio
34 Powerful bunch
35 Badminton need
36 Dish, perhaps
38 Tex-Mex staple
40 Pushy person
41 Took on
42 Heaps
43 Casual tops
44 Start of an idea

DOWN
1 Freshman's cap
2 Quarterback Johnny
3 Lucy's husband
4 "Harvey" star
5 Stylish
6 Cabin piece
7 For each
8 Franklin of The Temptations
9 Stock symbol
11 Title documents
15 Immune response cause
19 Ladd of "Shane"
21 Jane Austen novel
24 Arguments
25 Western spread
26 Mind of musical wonder
27 Duds
29 Unattached
30 Poor
31 Russian rulers
33 Forays
37 War of 1812 port
39 Sheltered side



Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



7-20

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Skating category
6 Woman's undergarment
10 Make sense
11 Complete
13 Sleepy mammal
14 Missouri tribe
15 Up to, briefly
16 Quarterback Manning
18 Grazing spot
19 Pre-occupied state
22 Mystery writer Stout
23 Long for
24 Potters' materials
27 Sal of "Rebel Without a Cause"
28 Wallops
29 Possesses
30 Blockage
35 Fido or Fluffy
36 Flow out
37 Conk out
38 Hopping mad
40 Writer Zola
42 In the buff
43 Muscularly fit
44 Sediment
45 Listens to

DOWN
1 Lasagna or linguine
2 Improvise on stage
3 Pop stars
4 Deep groove
5 Orbs
6 Impassive
7 — Angeles
8 Rome native
9 Headline setting
12 Crude shed
17 Indulgent
20 Secret meeting
21 Contort
24 Polish composer
25 Conservative's foe
26 Being risked
27 Banquo's killer
29 Wheel part
31 Oboe parts
32 Menzel of "Wicked"
33 Edmonton player
34 Must have
39 Golf peg
41 One of the Stooges

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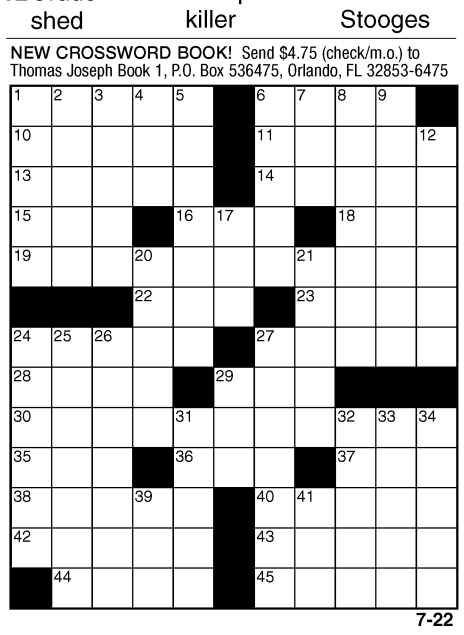

7-22

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.

7-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

K G B I L B V K B Y K Q S Y K V D B U N T
E V M Q V D B S M C S W B S Y K N
Z B E N M K S M T V C C U W B V L S M I
U N T X S C C Q V D B N M B .
— B C Z B L K G T Z Z V L J

Previous Cryptoquote: MIRACLES SOMETIMES OCCUR, BUT ONE HAS TO WORK TERRIBLY HARD FOR THEM. – Chaim Weizmann