

Divorced dad’s girlfriend wants nothing to do with his kids

DEAR ABBY: I am a 42-year-old divorced father of two. I have had a girlfriend, “Dawn,” for about a year. She has met my kids, but she’s still uncomfortable with the “situation.” She has concerns about me having been married before, such as having experienced many of the firsts she has yet to enjoy.



DEAR ABBY

Dawn doesn’t like being in my house because I had it when I was married, and she says my kids remind her of my past. She says she doesn’t want to share me with anyone, including them.

When we’re alone, we are absolutely phenomenal as a couple. We love and care about each other deeply. This is causing a tremendous amount of stress on us, and neither of us knows how to handle it or what to do. Please help. — **TWO’S COMPANY IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR TWO’S COMPANY: Forgive me for being blunt, but you need to break it off with this woman before you waste any more of her time or yours. You may be crazy about Dawn, but your first responsibility must be to your children, and she has made it clear how she feels about them. You may be phenomenal as a couple, but there are more people involved than just the two of you. She needs to find someone who has no encumbrances, and you need to find a lady who has a greater capacity for love than Dawn appears to be capable of.

DEAR ABBY: I often eat out with friends when we travel and when we’re

here at home. Some of them bring their own canned drinks or powdered drink mix to add to water served by the restaurant. I have an uneasy feeling about this. I don’t think it is right to take my own drink into an eating establishment.

I have never said anything negative about it, but I haven’t joined in the practice. Is my discomfort MY problem? What do you think about this? — **TESTY SOUTHERN BELLE**

DEAR BELLE: What I think about it is less important than what the restaurant does, and not knowing the reason your friends behave this way, I am hesitant to judge them. I’m not sure what kind of canned or powdered drink your friends are bringing, but if they are on some kind of restricted diet, then it’s what they need to do for a while. If the restaurant objected, the manager would either tell your friends not to do it anymore or institute a charge to make up for the lost income.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with “Russell” for four months. We live together and eventually would like to be married. Russ is very

honest. He told me he had impregnated a woman prior to me and she was eight months pregnant. I asked him to contact her on my behalf so I can meet her, since we plan on having a future together.

When I called the woman to suggest we meet somewhere, she cursed me out for contacting her and for telling her she can’t communicate with Russ unless I’m involved. When Russ told her the same thing, she ordered him not to contact her again.

Russ has tried calling her since then because he wants to be involved in his child’s life, but she never called him back. What do you think we should do? — **LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE**

DEAR LOOKING: What Russell should do – and you, as well – is talk with an attorney to establish exactly what his rights and responsibilities will be to his child, once paternity has been established.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: At sundown, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins. This is the beginning of our time of solemn introspection. “Le-shana tova tikatevu” -- may each of us be inscribed in the Book of Life and enjoy a good year.

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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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

These Foods Need a Different Can

Dear Heloise: My wife and I canned tomatoes, green beans and tomato juice in 1997. Since then, my wife passed away, and time has moved on. Are these HOME-CANNED GOODS still good to use? I have asked friends and family and continue to get different answers. — Dale, via email

No, they are not safe to eat, especially anything acidic, such as tomatoes. Home-canned foods should be eaten within a year. Unfortunately, you should toss out all of the canned foods. They have been sitting on the shelf too long, and you certainly don’t want to get sick.

For others who can, the quality of food may be affected within just a few months if not canned correctly or stored in a cool, dry place. You should process the amount you know you will use in about a year, or give away to friends and family. — Heloise

P.S.: My heart sends a hug to you on the loss of your wife. You may want to keep a few jars for sentimental reasons, which is just fine.

Send A Great Hint To:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com)

Greasing Pan

Dear Heloise: I read your column on using a pastry brush to get the shortening into the crevices of a fluted cake pan. I use a sandwich bag as a makeshift glove. I scoop the shortening and spread it around the pan. This makes it easy to get into those crevices. Cleanup is easy. — Pam R., via email

Extra Coffee

Dear Heloise: While getting prepared for the approaching Hurricane Iselle, here in Maui, Hawaii, I made several pots of coffee and stored them in a large pot in case the power went off for a few days. As we always keep a gallon bottle of water frozen to help keep things cool in case of a power outage, I now keep frozen bottles of coffee, too. In case of prolonged misery, as the bottle thaws we will have coffee, which can be quickly warmed up on the gas barbecue. — Robert in Hawaii

Aloha to my friends in Hawaii! Glad you made it through the hurricanes! For coffee drinkers who cannot function until they get their morning fix, this is a great hint and a way to have something comforting at these times. — Mahalo, Heloise

Fuzzy Food

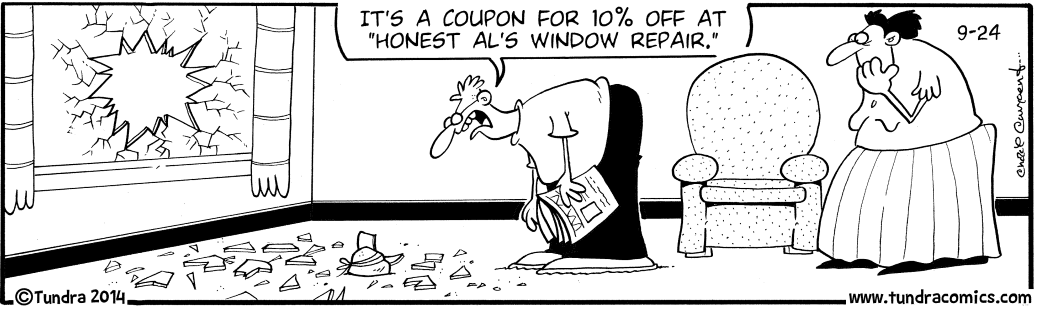
Dear Heloise: I recently read your column about kiwifruit. The easiest way to enjoy kiwifruit is to cut off the end and eat it with a spoon. There’s no mess, and it’s delicious! — Marion K., Edwarsville, Pa.

Vitamins

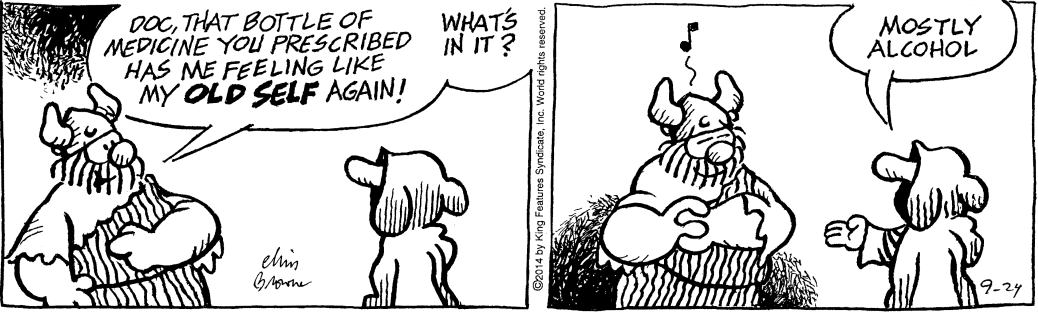
Dear Readers: Want to boost your vitamin C and A intake? Yummy fruits like strawberries, grapefruit and, of course, oranges have lots of vitamin C. But here is an easy way to get your vitamin C and vitamin A daily: Eight ounces of plain old tomato juice (41 calories) has about 70 percent of the daily recommended amount of vitamin C and 22 percent of vitamin A, based on a 2,000-calorie daily diet. — Heloise

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



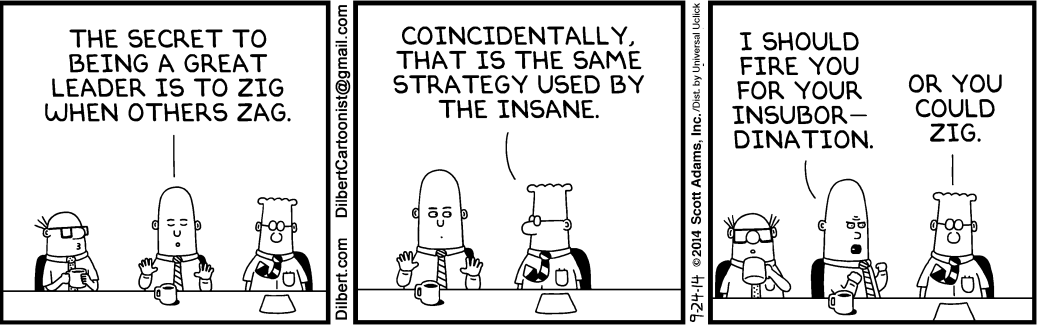
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Red-ink amount
5 Necklace parts
11 Car bar
12 Revolted
13 Pride member
14 Word on a peseta
15 List-ending abbr.
16 Fido and Tabby
17 Uniform material
19 Misbehaving
22 Bygone auto
24 Add up
26 Portal
27 Green stone
28 Blue hue
30 Folded foods
31 Got together
32 Subatomic particle
34 Warbled
35 Rick's pianist
38 Far from ruddy
41 Corn Belt state
42 Broadway's Stritch
43 Game round
44 Mill contents

45

River of Hades

DOWN

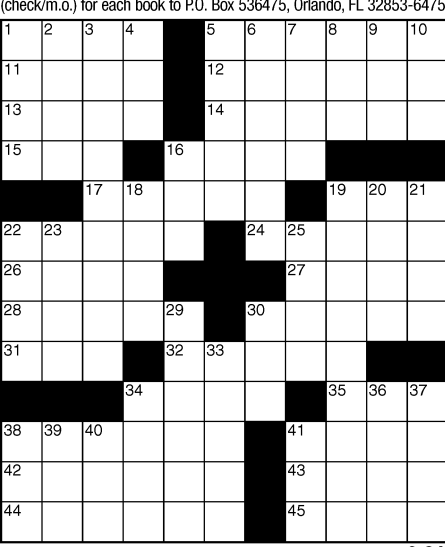
- 1 Secluded spot
2 Way out
3 Plans stage movements
4 Decimal base
5 River feeder
6 Went ballistic
7 African serpents
8 Neptune's domain
9 Groan inducer
10 Hotel amenity
16 Chum



Previous Puzzle

- 18 Munich mister
19 Loses conscious-ness
20 Ray of films
21 Salon jobs
22 Dutch cheese
23 Take a nap
25 Cracked
29 Horse-related
30 Play-ground game
33 Below
34 Marina spot
36 Wrong
37 Tailless cat
38 Energy
39 Pub product
40 Track trip
41 "— your loss!"

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9-24

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Dull pain
5 Depth unit
11 Meat cut
12 Pal of George and Jerry
13 Rainbow maker
14 Be heedful
15 West Indies islands
17 Mine material
18 "Not in a million years!"
22 Inverted v
24 Pie piece
25 "Entourage" agent
26 Greek's X
27 Where-withal
30 Major-ette's prop
32 Wild fear
33 Conceit
34 "Desperado" star
38 Unruly crowd
41 Golfer Faldo
42 Banishes
43 Titled woman

44

Loathe

45

Fresh

DOWN

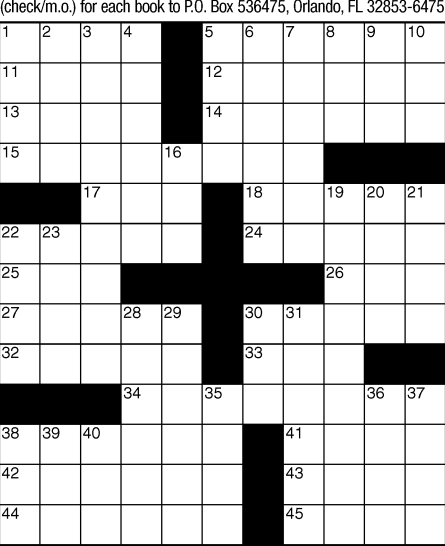
- 1 — mater
2 Mint product
3 Expert on the past
4 Undivided
5 Plum-meted
6 Visitors from afar
7 Fez feature
8 Batter's goal
9 Low digit
10 Fellows
16 Rent out



Previous Puzzle

- 19 Prudish
20 Canyon sound
21 Horse halter
22 Summer spot for some
23 Region
28 Tug on the line
29 Justice symbol
30 Nap sack
31 Meeting slate
35 High home
36 High point
37 Distort
38 Warning color
39 Log chopper
40 Drill need

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9-25

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.

9-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

P F W F E T S M F T S M V R ; Q T
H U N K U , H U N ' I I P F W F E Z F V
N O Q P V B F Y U E P Q P Z .
— Y S E I U V B U Y S R

Previous Cryptoquote: WE MUST BALANCE CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION WITH CONSCIOUS CAPITALISM. — Kevin Kruse