Photo gallery of perfection makes woman feel insecure

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I was divorced three years ago and have had a boyfriend, "Roger," for a year and a half. He is seven years younger, and he's intrigued with women on the Internet.

He saves tons of photos of these girls on his cellphone. These ladies are "perfect." They have big breasts and curvaceous behinds, etc. I have had two kids. I'm not overweight and I exercise and keep myself in shape, but I have a "Mom body."

Roger has told me he loves my body and everything about me. But the feeling I get is that he wishes I looked like those girls.

I have asked Roger not to save these photos because it makes me insecure. If he's going to look, fine. But saving them is another thing. He promised me he wouldn't, but some of them are still there. So he not only makes me feel like a fatty, but he lies to me, too. He has more pictures of other girls than he does of me.

Now I no longer feel comfortable undressing in front of him. I leave my clothes half-on and turn out the lights when we have sex. He has made me unable to stand myself. What do I do? — **CAN'T COMPARE IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR CAN'T COMPARE: The first thing to do would be to stop looking at your boyfriend's cellphone. Then ask yourself whether he has been seeing other women or just collecting pictures. If it's the former, you have something to worry about. If it's the latter, it's no reflection on you, and he has voyeuristic tendencies (men are visual).

Stop making comparisons. He says he loves your body. Unless you have a solid reason to think differently, believe him.

You are overdue for a frank talk with Roger, and when you do, tell him everything you have written to me. Your problem may go deeper than his photo gallery and your lowered self-image. If you can't trust what he tells you, the foundation of your relationship isn't solid.

DEAR ABBY: I'm carrying a heavy burden concerning my 14-year-old grandson. He told me in strictest confidence that he had sex with a 14-year-old girl. I have been his male support system, mentor, adviser, disciplinarian and friend for 12 years because his father is rarely in the picture.

He swore me to secrecy, which I want to respect, but I'm torn about telling my daughter. She has a right to know that her son is sexually active and needs closer supervision. We discussed condoms (they used them), accidental pregnancy, possible criminal charges and responsibility, but I think he is more proud than alert to the possible consequences.

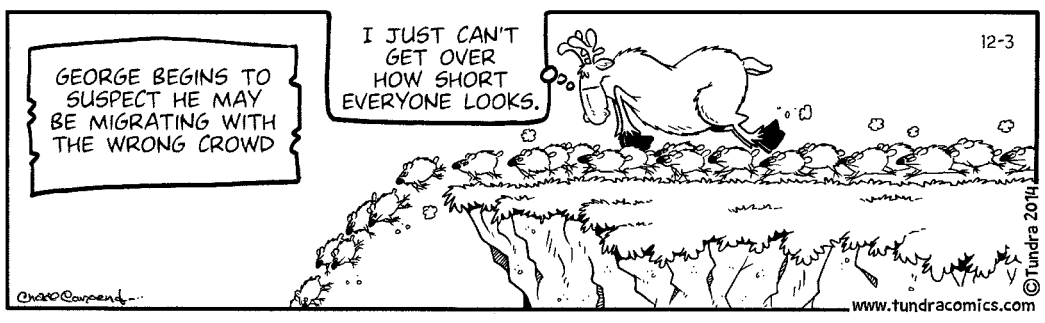
If I share this with my daughter, I break a long-held trust. When I urged him to tell his mother, he refused. What do I do? This is tearing me up. — **KANSAS GRANDPA**

DEAR GRANDPA: Without betraying the confidence, start talking to your daughter about how, at 14, her son is fast becoming a man with all that it entails, including raging hormones. Then suggest she have some frank talks with the boy and keep a closer eye on him, unless she wants to become a grandma before he's out of high school.

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.

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts

Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

So Bad, a Cat Won't Eat It!

Dear Readers: As promised, here are more KITCHEN MISHAP stories, and boy, are some of them a hoot:

■ Connie F. in Texas wrote: "I made tuna casserole many times. One day, we sat down to eat, and the casserole was horrible. I checked the tuna can and discovered that I had used cat food — one of the smelliest-fish cat foods ever. P.S.: Even the cat wouldn't eat it."

■ Stephanie R., via email, said: "I was married only two weeks and cooking my first Thanksgiving dinner. I had many dishes to prepare. When it came time for dessert, I cut the pecan pie. It seemed very oozy, but my husband said it was wonderful anyway. Later that day, I realized I had forgotten to bake the pie! It looked done, since I had prebaked the crust!"

■ Diana C., via email, said: "My mom was visiting and decided to make monkey bread. She let it do a quick rise in the dishwasher, which had just run and was still warm. We watched TV, forgot about the bread, and in the morning found sloppy, gloppy dough dripping everywhere in the dishwasher."

Readers, keep them coming! We've all had a cooking/baking bummer! — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

Save Money

Dear Heloise: I like to have a few plain almonds, walnuts or pecans each day because it is healthy. The ones from the produce section of the grocery store are much cheaper than ones in the baking aisle. With Christmas baking season coming up, this could be a way for all those bakers to save a little dough. — Jeanette M., via email

Yes it is! Remember this all year long, too! — Heloise

Opening Jars

Dear Readers: Wow! So many of you wrote about how you open glass jars, after reader Olga had asked in a previous column. Here are some of YOUR hints:

■ Pia H., via email, said: "Use the round end of a can opener to lift the lower edge of the jar lid. This breaks the suction, and the lid unscrews easily."

■ Lois S., via email, said: "Hold the jar firmly and give one hard pop on the lid with the palm or heel of your hand. Sometimes it takes a second pop, but I've never had it fail."

■ Margaret S. in Arkansas wrote: "Insert a spoon handle backward under the edge of the lid. Then press down on the spoon, and you will hear a pop. That is the vacuum seal being broken. The lid will easily twist off."

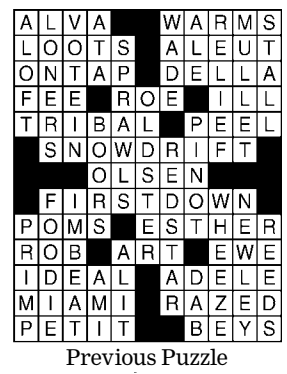
■ Shirley W. in Oklahoma wrote: "Simply put on ... rubber dishwashing gloves! I read your column in the (Wichita Falls, Texas) Times Record News."

There is more than one way to open a jar! — Heloise

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

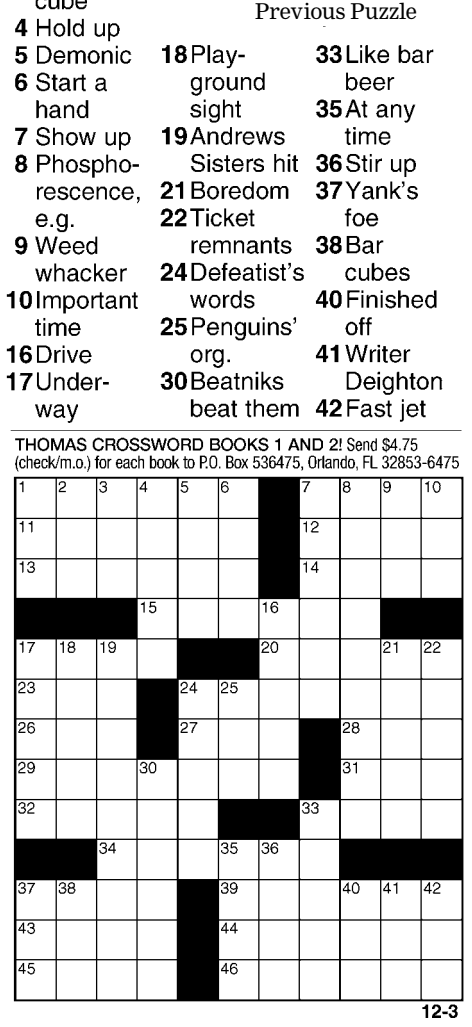
ACROSS
1 Like football uniforms
7 Massage target
11 Show sorrow
12 Lacking funds
13 Activist Bloomer
14 Entreaty
15 In cahoots
17 Pale
20 Bulls and bucks
23 "Alice" spinoff
24 Available from the publisher
26 Squeak stopper
27 Friend of Fidel
28 African grazer
29 Eccentric
31 Wheel part
32 Wyoming's — Range
33 Elevator pioneer
34 Hospital worker
37 Diana of "The Avengers"
39 ER readings
43 Cave sound
44 Gladdens
45 Wagers
46 Mend one's ways

DOWN
1 Links org.
2 Radius setting
3 Game cube
4 Hold up
5 Demonic
6 Start a hand
7 Show up
8 Phosphorescence, e.g.
9 Weed whacker
10 Important time
16 Drive
17 Underway
18 Playground sight
19 Andrews Sisters hit
21 Boredom
22 Ticket remnants
24 Defeatist's words
25 Penguins' org.
30 Beatniks beat them
33 Like bar beer
35 At any time
36 Stir up
37 Yank's foe
38 Bar cubes
40 Finished off
41 Writer Deighton
42 Fast jet



Previous Puzzle

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

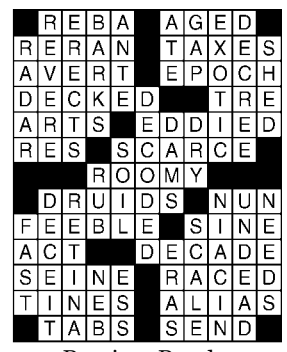


12-3

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Pretzel topping
5 Tent cities
10 Cornered
12 Dizzying designs
13 Slugger Maris
14 Less strict
15 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
16 Greed
18 Ill will
20 Kitten cry
21 Sharpen
23 Good times
24 Downfall
26 Party giver
28 Heir, at times
29 District
31 Bind up
32 Exec's place
36 Building
39 Smoked salmon
40 Empire baddy
41 Herd cattle
43 Make blank
44 Cut off
45 High homes
46 Car scar

DOWN
1 Play, as a banjo
2 Kitchen come-on
3 Sanctioned
4 Course start
5 Fizzy drink
6 On — with (equivalent)
7 "Gladiator" hero
8 Rule of conduct
9 Scatters
11 Greek coin
17 Neckline shape
19 — Jima
22 Gangsters' foes
24 "Is it worth the chance?"
25 Mohawk Valley tribe
27 Clumsy fellow
28 Director Soderberg
30 Bird of myth
33 "— a Parade"
34 Witch group
35 Put to use
37 Celebration suffix
38 Ticks off
42 Warning color



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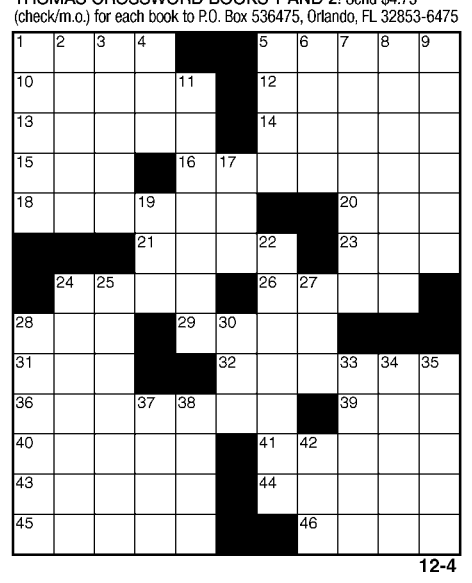

12-4

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.

12-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

E O N C W R U I R P C W J B G C W ; R X C X G Y Q V J A P J X U E G J B G C W C V G Q R V U I , U E G J B G C W Q J G P W J U K G B J N G Q R V U I . — N C E C U N C H C W Q E R

Previous Cryptoquote: OUR ULTIMATE FREEDOM IS THE RIGHT AND POWER TO DECIDE HOW ANYBODY OR ANYTHING OUTSIDE OURSELVES WILL AFFECT US – Stephen Covey