

Woman is puzzled by guy who refuses to get naked

DEAR ABBY: I met a guy four months ago. Our relationship is new and pretty casual for the most part. We like each other's company and spend nights together, but when we're intimate, he keeps his clothes on – boxers and all. He is only 26, but he has told me about past relationships, so I know he has had experience.



DEAR ABBY

Over the past two years he has lost almost 100 pounds. He looks great now – healthy and toned. I have seen him get in and out of the shower. (I noticed a little excess skin on his stomach, but not much.) It's really weird. I don't feel comfortable taking my own clothes off when he doesn't.

This isn't exactly a deal breaker for me, as I obviously am attracted to him. I just would like him to be comfortable with me. Should I address this with him, and if so, how? Or should I just leave it be for now? — **AWKWARD SITUATION IN GEORGIA**

DEAR AWKWARD: It's apparent that he still has body issues having to do with his extreme weight loss. If you know him well enough to spend nights at his house, you should be able to communicate with

him about sex on a mature level and tell him the experience would be more satisfying for you if there was less between you when you are in his arms.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée and I work full time. We are trying to save for our wedding and a deposit for a house. The trouble is, after paying rent, bills and day-to-day expenses, we are left with next to nothing.

I played poker when I was in college, which generated a nice income during my late teens and early 20s. A few months back, I decided to pick it up again and found a group of people who like to play. Since then, I have been playing four hours two or three nights a week, and it has generated an extra monthly income of \$1,000 to \$1,500. Our finances have improved a lot.

There are nights my fiancée wants me to stay home. She says if I had a part-time job, she would understand why I couldn't stay home on the days she asked. But to me, poker IS a part-time job, and it pays more than anything else I could find in this area. I play the same set schedule every week, so she should know what nights I need to go in to "work." What do you say? — **ALL-IN IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR ALL-IN: You appear to be a skillful card player or a very lucky one. Assuming that the games in which you are participating are legal, I see nothing wrong with what you're doing. Because your fiancée feels lonely when you're not with her, suggest that she do something with friends or take up a hobby. After all, you're doing this for the both of you, aren't you? And this "part-time job" isn't going to be forever.

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.

su | do | ku

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Freeze That Fat!

Dear Heloise: I always pour **EXCESS COOKING FAT** into a glass jar rather than putting it down the sink, so it won't clog drains. What I haven't been able to figure out is how to dispose of the jar once it's full. Do you have any hints? — Barbara V. in Virginia

I do! Keep the jar in the freezer so the grease hardens, then simply place it in the trash on garbage day.

When you collect the fat and grease from cooking certain foods and place it into a glass jar with a lid, first make sure the grease is completely cooled before putting it into the jar and then into the freezer. — Heloise

No Mess

Dear Heloise: I like cupcakes and muffins, but I hate the mess to clean up afterward. One evening, I was getting ready to mix up a package of muffin mix when I had to move a quart-size, plastic, zipper-top bag. A light bulb went off!

I put the mix into the bag, added the wet ingredients, slid it shut and mixed by squeezing and pressing the bag together. I then cut the corner off the bag and squeezed the mix into the muffin cups. I pitched the bag into the garbage and put the muffins into the oven. No mess, no cleanup and no dishes to do. — Joanne F., via email

Sweet Recycling

Dear Heloise: This is my favorite hint for tasty, always-available desserts, and it involves recycling. Use a cleaned-out yogurt cup, put several scoops of ice cream or sherbet into it, add some crushed nuts and drizzle chocolate syrup over it. Cover with a piece of plastic wrap, and then a final cover of aluminum foil, and place in the freezer. I usually make four or so at a time. Kids and husbands love them, and they are always ready! — Barbara in Florida

This is such a great hint! If anyone in your family has dietary restrictions, you can personalize the treats! Frozen fruit, graham-cracker crumbs and a little drizzle of honey can make for a healthier dessert, or even using frozen yogurt in place of ice cream. Be creative! — Heloise

Chip Bag

Dear Heloise: When eating out, I occasionally like to get a small bag of chips with my lunch. I open the bag at the top and then pull the bag apart down the back seam. This gives the chips a larger surface to lie on without having to dump them out, and I can pick up a chip without shoving my hand in the bag. — P.W., via email

Crispy Crust

Dear Heloise: I got tired of frozen pizzas with white, limp-bottom crusts. My "thinking cap" was utilized, and I found a simple solution. I now put the baking-sheet pan into the oven while it heats. Then the frozen pizza goes on a hot pan, and the bottom crust bakes beautifully. — Betty B. in Florida

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 TV ad

6 Dune

10 Flatten

11 Court

12 Improve,

13 Select

14 Parachute

15 Wakes

16 Genesis

17 Pinnacle

18 Twisty

19 Complete

22 Rating

23 Borders

26 One who's

29 Relaxing

32 Like some

33 Word on a

34 Chatty

36 Balled

37 Parting

38 Old Testa-

DOWN

1 Situated

2 Takes out

3 Be a

4 Patch up

5 Antique

6 Enterprise

7 Spring up

8 Jottings

9 Attire

11 Danger

15 Sturgeon

28 Tie up

39 Pick up

40 Wise

41 Vend

42 Raft pilot

the tab

saying

listener

in a way

group

glutton

honoree

McGraw

category

for one

topic

eggs

unit

got no

hope

resort

humor

bill

bird

hand

word

ment book

shooting

groups

lettuce

"... who

lived in —"

Famed

lover

Rose

feature

Worked at

home

Change

the title of

Ball

support

Diminish

Fourth-yr.

students

Diamond

stats

"Saint

Joan"

writer

Like calls

from sea

Pucker-

inducing

Ogled

Wrap up

Abel's

mother

Before, to

bards

Engine

type

Swift

Opera

pieces

Writer

Walker

Fly

features

Taxi part

S	C	A	T		B	R	E	R
S	W	A	N	S		E	A	S
P	A	S	T	A		E	M	C
I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	L
T	E	E		I	N	S	I	P
S	E	D	A	N	S		D	E
R	O	O	M		L	E	S	S
I	N	V	A	L	I	D		A
F	I	E		I	N	H	I	B
L	O	R	E	N		A	L	I
E	N	D	E	D		T	I	N
S	O	L	O		S	E	E	R

Previous Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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12								
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40								
42								

6-25

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Play

6 Like fresh

11 "... who

lived in —"

12 Famed

13 Rose

14 Worked at

home

15 Change

the title of

17 Ball

support

19 Diminish

20 Fourth-yr.

students

23 Diamond

stats

25 "Saint

Joan"

writer

26 Like calls

from sea

28 Pucker-

inducing

29 Ogled

30 Wrap up

31 Abel's

mother

32 Before, to

bards

33 Engine

type

35 Swift

38 Opera

pieces

41 Writer

Walker

42 Fly

features

43 Taxi part

DOWN

1 Purr

2 Tough

3 Coot or

curlew

4 Went fast

5 Movie-

maker

6 Cake bit

7 Capital on

the Tiber

8 Little devil

9 Spot

10 Okra unit

16 Free from

blame

17 Refine-

ment

18 Patriot

Allen

20 Coast

21 Less

22 Nobel, for

one

24 Fitting

25 That

lady

27 Play-

ground

sights

31 Down

source

33 Casino

cubes

34 Composer

Satie

35 Flock

father

36 Pub stuff

37 Deep hole

39 Maturity

40 Retired

plane

S	T	A	F	F		S	K	I	S	
C	O	R	A	L		C	E	N	T	R
U	N	I	T	E		A	W	A		S
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F	R	E	N	C	H	F	R	I	E	S
			Y	E	A		A	N	T	E
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S	P	A	N	I		S	H	R	I	C
H	E	N		N	E	O			M	A
E	R	A	S	E			S	H	A	M
R	O	T	O	R			T	I	G	E
	R	E	N	T			S	M	E	L