

School year drags on for girl separated from boy she likes

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 12-year-old girl and I like a boy named "Chris." We go to different schools now, and I don't know how to get in touch with him to tell him how I feel. At times for the past two years we have been flirting on and off. We will be reunited again next year. I can't hold on much longer, and he's at a school with his ex. What should I do? — **LOVER GIRL IN ALABAMA**



DEAR ABBY

DEAR LOVER GIRL: You have held on this long, so remember the school year is already more than half over. In the fall, you and Chris will be attending the same school again without your having to do anything.

For now, be patient. Stay active and involved with school, and time will pass more quickly. Focus on activities you enjoy and your friendships.

Do not waste your time worrying about the other girl. She and Chris are exes for a reason. If you and Chris are "meant to be," the chances of that happening will be better when you're classmates.

DEAR ABBY: A friend from high school has invited me to her wedding in September. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the bachelorette party I was also invited to.

Even though I sent my regrets to the organizer of the party, she has tried to solicit gifts from me twice. This seems extremely tacky, and it has made me feel I was invited only for the gifts I

could bring.

Abby, I don't want this to reflect poorly on my friend. Should I tell someone in the wedding party so they can fix this faux pas, or am I wrong about wedding etiquette? — **PERPLEXED IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR PERPLEXED: You're not wrong. That the party organizer is trying to extort gifts from you is extremely rude. The person to inform is the mother of the bride. She should be able to put a stop to it before anyone else is embarrassed.

DEAR ABBY: What if someone wants to move away from one parent but not the other? I'm 25 and interviewing for jobs. It would be nice to become independent, but for the right reasons. I am tired of my father's selfish, ignorant attitude, but I would miss seeing my mother. As she gets older, she seems to accommodate my dad's all-for-himself attitude even more.

If I take a job that's out of state, I don't want to feel like I'm "running away." How should I approach leaving the one family member I

care about? — **MOVING FORWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR MOVING: Continue interviewing for jobs for which you are qualified, regardless of where they are located. If more than one company wants to hire you, select the one that offers the best wages and benefits and seems to be the best fit for you.

If the company is located in your city, you may not have to leave your mother and you may be able to limit the time you must spend with your father. Should you get an enticing offer that bases you in another location, to accept it would not be running away; it would be making an intelligent career choice. Your mom might be able to visit you sans Dad periodically if the expense isn't prohibitive, and you would be establishing your independence for the right reason.

DEAR READERS: If you live in a state in which daylight saving time is observed, don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed tonight. Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. tomorrow. Hallelujah! It's my favorite "holiday."

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, give a loved one the benefit of the doubt before jumping to conclusions. This beloved confidante deserves your trust and ardent support.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, expect some powerful emotions to surface when you meet a new person this week. You may be immediately drawn to this individual, so embrace the attraction.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, the week starts off on a bumpy note but quickly turns itself around. By Friday, you will have a smile on your face and be ready to make the most of the weekend.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, some long weeks have left you physically and emotionally wiped out. Take some time out for yourself in the coming days and resist the urge to jump back into the fray too quickly.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

A romance at work begins to heat up, Leo. This may be the perfect opportunity to find your match. Just don't let feelings get in the way of productivity.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

A problem dominates your thoughts as you work to find a solution, Virgo. Until you pull away and focus on something else, you will not be able to see the answer clearly.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you have a difficult decision to make, but forge ahead with what you think is best. Keep a level head and weigh all of the consequences of your decision.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Friends jokingly suggest you have psychic powers, Scorpio. They are put to the test this week when you suspect something is amiss. Rectify the situation in due time.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Avoid taking a big financial risk this week, Sagittarius. Hold on tight to your money and resist the temptation to spend any money for the time being.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, pressure to complete an important project will find its way to you this week. No matter how quickly you need to get things done, calmly approach the tasks at hand.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Resist the instinct to keep your feelings bottled up this week, Aquarius. Get your thoughts out in the open, and you will instantaneously feel much better.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you will be very productive this week as you benefit from a new outlook. Plan ahead for some magic.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 8
Aidan Quinn, Actor (56)

MARCH 9
Emmanuel Lewis, Actor (44)

MARCH 10
Carrie Underwood, Singer (32)

MARCH 11
Anthony Davis, Athlete (22)

MARCH 12
Liza Minnelli, Actress (69)

MARCH 13
Danny Masterson, Actor (39)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "Key

Largo"

co-star

7 Reduced

amount

11 Egypt

neighbor

12 Olympics

weapon

13 Physical

Muses

count

15 Sister of

Anne and

Charlotte

16 Parish

head

17 Take it

easy

18 Tiny

19 Lunch

hour

21 Piston

connec-

tor

22 Wood-

stock

singer

25 Easy

mark

26 Grove

growth

27 Compo-

nents

29 Cockpit

guesses

33 Charged

34 Squash,

for one

35 Pub

orders

36 Less

leisurely

37 Covet

38 Chuck-

walla's

cousin

39 Toppers

40 Pinball

bonus

DOWN

1 Tower

site

2 Kitchen

come-on

3 Spanish

port

4 Chisholm

Trail

terminus

5 Symbol of

purity

6 Put down

7 Bolshevik

leader

8 Food

lover

9 Capitol

worker

10 Be furious

16 Singer

Gill

18 Ties down

20 Quartet

doubled

22 Fronton

activity

23 Like

some

flexible

34 Cook's

mint

36 Pine's

kin

24 Stays

informed

25 Spread

out

28 Play

groups

30 Utter

31 Concert

venue

32 Wander

off

34 Cook's

mint

36 Pine's

kin

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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	32
33						34			
35						36			
37						38			
39						40			

3-7

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "— Las

Vegas"

5 Dishonor

10 Like a

desert

11 City of

Australia

13 Tennis

star

Sampras

14 Build up

15 Just for

fun

17 Lupino of

films

18 Feels

empathy

19 "My

country

— of

thee"

20 "— your

loss!"

21 Blanchett

of "The

Lord of

the Rings"

22 Disrepu-

table

25 Store

events

26 Story

27 Fellow

28 Building

wing

29 Lake

vessel

33 Tavern

drink

34 Gist

35 Richards

of

"Twisted"

37 Solemn

ceremony

38 City of

Australia

39 Hotel

offering

40 Bus units

41 Landers

and Lee

ACIDS		BELLA
IONIC		AXIOM
DOTER		SETUP
	ITALIC	
DOM	PEN	ISA
AWAKEN	ONUS	
INTERST	ATES	
SEEN	CHROME	
YDS	JAR	NET
	CUPOLA	
WOWED	WATTS	
ARENA	ONEAL	
DEBTS	NASTY	

Previous Puzzle

DOWN

1 Mist

2 Singer

Cara

3 Essential

4 City of

Australia

5 Stock

units

6 Pawns

7 Jackson 5

hit

8 Kind of

bliss

21 Blanchett

of "The

Lord of

the Rings"

22 Disrepu-

table

25 Store

events

26 Story

27 Fellow

28 Building