

Home is where their cats are for parents refusing to travel

DEAR ABBY: I never thought I would be a cat-hater. My 70-year-old parents are very active, but ever since they brought home two cats, they are no longer willing to travel out of town. That means they are now missing many family events – Thanksgiving, graduations, funerals, etc. Christmas and Easter are spared because we all travel to see them on those occasions.

I am becoming resentful that their cats are more important to them than spending time with their siblings, children or grandchildren. And, NO – they will not put them in a cat hotel or have someone come into their home to watch them. Suggestions? — **RESENTFUL IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.**

DEAR RESENTFUL: The problem with resentment is that it can fester to the point that it destroys relationships. Has it occurred to you that there may be other reasons your parents no longer want to make these trips? The stress and expense, for instance? Or concern about spending a lot of time driving on free-ways? It's also possible that two family visits a year are all they can handle.

One way to lessen your frustration would be to resolve to accept your parents just the way they are – and also accept that it's unlikely they are going to change.



DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I recently got into an argument with my mom regarding her speakerphone. I've also argued with other family members and friends over this. I believe it is rude to not let someone know that they are on speakerphone, particularly when others are present.

I feel it violates trust and the sense of intimacy that comes with speaking to the person you intended to call in the first place. Mom says it depends on the topic and that a "Heads up! You're on speakerphone" isn't necessary. Who's right? — **SPEECHLESS IN THE WEST**

DEAR SPEECHLESS: You are. When someone makes a phone call, the caller usually expects that the conversation will be private. However, since you now know your mother doesn't agree, either stop confiding anything that you wouldn't reveal in a roomful of relatives, or

ask at the beginning of the conversation whether the speaker is on so you'll be forewarned.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 67 and I like sex. My wife doesn't. She has no drive. It may be health-related, maybe due to meds. She has no time; she's a workaholic.

I met a widow who is very tempting. She suggested a "no strings" hookup. I'm starting to think it's not adultery if my wife is sexless. Your thoughts, Abby? — **PENNSYLVANIA SENIOR**

DEAR SENIOR: I'm glad you asked. Take a pass on the widow's generous offer. Her "no strings" hookup sounds like a snare that could hang you if the Mrs. gets wind of it.

Your wife's lack of sex drive may be due to any of the things you mentioned. It could also be that your technique needs improving. Ask her if that might be the problem. If it is, a sex therapist could help you fix that in a jiffy. And it would be cheaper in the long run than what you're contemplating.

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Don't be afraid to embrace your lighthearted side this week, Aries. Laughter is the best medicine, and those around you will enjoy your sense of humor.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, embrace your desire to be close to friends this week. Spend as much time as you can with your friends, especially those you have not seen in awhile.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

A great week with regard to matters of the heart is on the horizon, Gemini. If you have been in a relationship for some time, now is a great time to talk about the future of that relationship.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You harbor desire to spend some time alone this week, Cancer. You are a social person, but even you need some moments to retreat into your own mind for a while.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

You may be noticing all of the good vibes surrounding you this week, Leo. Expect some positive changes in the days ahead. It may just be a new romantic relationship or friendship.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a work opportunity could spring up this week if you are willing to expand your horizons. It may be a bit outside of your comfort zone, but you can handle it.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are in a relatively optimistic frame of mind this week as you try to see the bright side of things. You may find that many new opportunities are headed your way.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Don't spend too much time lost in your own fantasies, Scorpio. You need to maintain your focus on the tasks at hand, both at home and at work.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, resist the urge to take yourself too seriously. Instead, lighten up and embrace the "class clown" role for a little while. This departure from the norm is a breath of fresh air.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your mind is running a mile a minute this week, but do your best to maintain your focus. This breakneck pace will only last for a little while.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Jump into a situation without restraint, Aquarius. You may find it's refreshing to let go for a change and not worry about the potential outcomes.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You may receive happy news relating to your partner's finances this week, Pisces. It could be a salary increase or a good bonus. It's time to celebrate.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 4
Michael Stipe, Singer (55)

JANUARY 5
Bradley Cooper, Actor (40)

JANUARY 6
Rowan Atkinson, Actor (60)

JANUARY 7
Katie Couric, TV Host (58)

JANUARY 8
David Bowie, Singer (68)

JANUARY 9
Nina Dobrev, Actress (26)

JANUARY 10
Pat Benatar, Singer (62)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Passing

crazes

5 Band

boosters

9 Maximum

amount

10 Societal

norms

12 Playing

marble

13 Higher

than

14 Gun

barrel

ends

16 Signing

need

17 "You

— Here"

18 Sheens

20 Cardinal's

symbol

22 Different

23 Sports

venue

25 Boot

attach-

ment

28 Many a

Sandra

Bullock

film, for

short

32 Batting

orders

34 Pitcher's

stat

35 Office-

holders

36 Overall

profit

38 Ready to

play

40 Derby

price

41 Outpour-

ing

42 Marie

Curie's

daughter

43 Rigging

support

44 For fear

that

DOWN

1 Calculate

2 Dumb-

struck

3 Scatter-

brained

sort

4 Outstand-

ing

5 Accumu-

late

6 Unruly

crowd

7 Drive

8 Cuts off

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

Previous Puzzle

9	Truman's	26	Locker art
11	Good	27	Open, in
15	Muse of	29	Stops
19	Jazz,	30	Set
21	Hound's	31	Parson's
24	Hole in	33	Lower
25	Narrow	37	Candidate
	cuts	39	of 2000
			Greek
			vowel

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

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				
41					42				
	43				44				

1-3

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sweet

liqueur

6 Cooking

mint

10 Take it

easy

11 Emulates

a raptor

13 "West

Side

Story" role

14 Duo qua-

drupled

15 Wager

16 Dove call

18 Greek

vowel

19 Fragrant

forage

crop

22 Sewer

rodent

23 Bird abode

24 Regions

27 Dollar

divisions

28 Workout

makeup

29 Chicken

— king

30 Expert at

cajoling

35 Make

mistakes

36 Guitar

blaster

37 Broad st.

38 Colorings

40 Louvre

setting

42 Un-

adorned

43 Put in

office

44 Yale

students

45 Cars'

scars

DOWN

1 Beach

crawlers

2 Make

fresh

3 Select

group

4 Small rug

5 Track bets

6 Thread

holder

7 Circle

segment

8 Avenge a

wrong

9 Optom-

etrists'

exam

12 Begins

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