Skipping out on an education may be costly in the future

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am a junior in high school and will graduate in the first semester of my senior year. Someday I would like to be a stay-at-home mom. I have no interest in going to college. I feel it would be a waste of money for me to go when I don't intend to use my degree.

To say my parents are disappointed in me over this is putting it mildly. They have a life planned for me that includes college. I would also like to move away to somewhere where it's warm year-round, and they don't like that idea either.

How do I make them understand that this is MY life and everything will be OK? — **UNINTERESTED IN IDAHO**

DEAR UNINTERESTED: I'll paraphrase an old proverb: "When man makes plans, God laughs." What it means in your case is that a smart cookie stays FLEXIBLE.

Let's say, for instance, that you get the life you fantasize about: You marry a man who adores you, doesn't mind that you have only a high school degree and is wealthy enough to support you. You have two or three beautiful children together and things are going great.

But what if, heaven forbid, he becomes seriously ill and can't work -- or worse, drops dead, leaving you the sole support of those kids? It has been known to happen. (And then, of course, there's also the possibility of divorce, which has been known to happen, too.)

Be SMART. Listen to your parents, and arm yourself with the best education you can possibly attain because the reality is, one day you may need to use it.

DEAR ABBY: The school year has started and many high school girls like me are faced with a similar problem: how to politely decline when a boy asks you to a dance.

Whether it be homecoming, winter formal or prom, some boys go all out and ask girls in elaborate and creative ways. I don't know what to do in these situations if I don't want to go with the boy who is asking me. I feel bad saying "no" because of all the work they put into it, and also sometimes there is an audience watching. Should I just go anyway? — **SARATOGA TEEN**

DEAR SARATOGA TEEN: If "many" girls share your problem, it's news to me. Most of the ones I hear from worry that they won't be asked.

If the young man has made a production out of inviting you, say thank you and that you're flattered, but you'll have to think about it and will get back to him later. When you refuse the invitation, it should be done privately so you won't embarrass the boy.

P.S. That said, keep this in mind -- sometimes, a girl ends up having a good time with the person she least expected to.

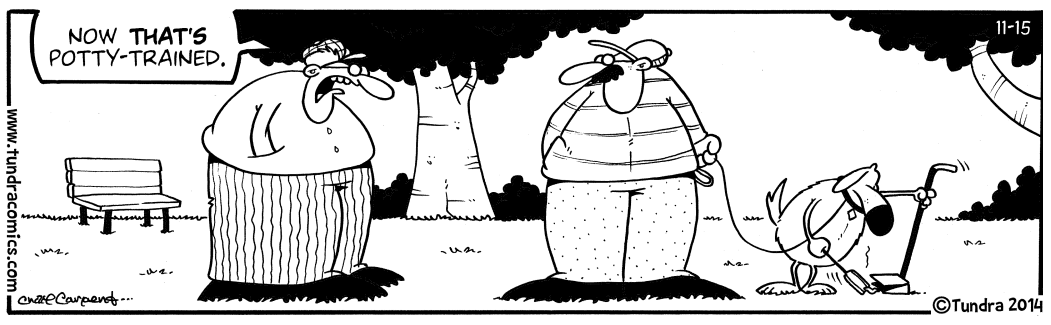
DEAR ABBY: I frequently receive requests via Facebook and other social media sites asking for prayers for people who are ill or suffering a loss. I'm not a religious person, but I would like to acknowledge their pain and extend my sympathy. Any suggestions? — **CHALLENGED IN TUCSON**

DEAR CHALLENGED: That you are not a religious person doesn't mean that you're not a caring and sensitive one. When you receive news that someone you know is going through a rough patch, respond by saying you are sorry for his or her pain, and that he or she is in your thoughts.

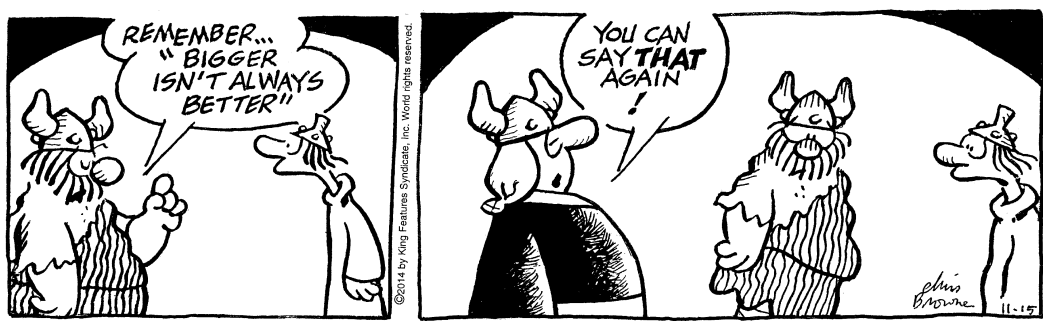
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra

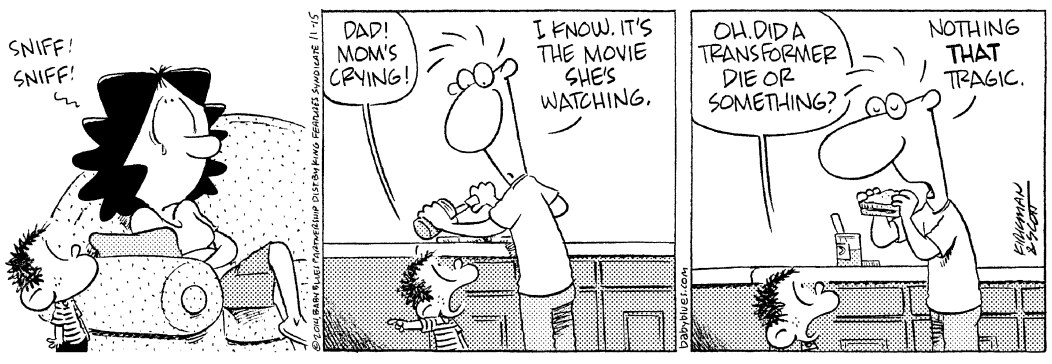


Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts

Baby Blues



Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Put your vitality and conspicuous nature to good use, Aries. Volunteer for a cause or donate your time to a worthy organization. Expect others to follow your lead.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Now is not the time to keep your feelings under wraps, Taurus. If you have an opinion, share it. Fortunately there are plenty of people willing to lend you an ear.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Being hot then cold is sometimes the Gemini way. Shifting feelings and being mercurial is just how you're made, and those who call you friend will have to adapt.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you are full of ideas this week and you can put them to good use by being as vocal as you can at work. Suggest a brainstorming session with other employees.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, be genuine and speak from the heart this week. Your compassion for other people's feelings will help a dear friend who will be grateful and appreciative of your kindness.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Do not judge a book by its cover, Virgo. That person you have been checking out is entirely different from what you first imagined. It's time to delve deeper.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

The element of surprise can work well for your love life this week, Libra. Do something unexpected, and you and your significant other will be happy with the results.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, make some changes to your fitness routine this week so you don't find yourself in a fitness funk. Switch the yoga mat for some cardio and vice versa.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, if you are feeling a bit bored by your relationship, take the initiative to stir things up a bit. Go to a concert or plan a short jaunt to a tropical locale.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Someone you know may have gotten in over his or her head and can probably use your help right now, Capricorn. Help this person come up with some solutions to the problem.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, shake up your routine and you may be surprised by how much you enjoy the changes. In fact, you just may look at everything from an entirely new perspective.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, though you cannot afford that especially pricey treat you've had your eyes on, you can afford something a little more modest.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 16
Missi Pyle, Actress (42)

NOVEMBER 17
Isaac Hanson, Singer (34)

NOVEMBER 18
Damon Wayans Jr., Actor (32)

NOVEMBER 19
Ann Curry, Journalist (58)

NOVEMBER 20
Josh Turner, Singer (37)

NOVEMBER 21
Goldie Hawn, Actress (69)

NOVEMBER 22
Jonny Gomes, Athlete (34)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

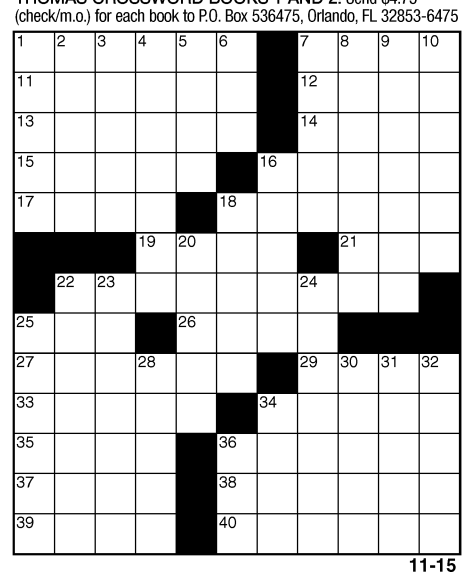
ACROSS
1 Put online
7 Rotisserie part
11 On the go
12 Long
13 Tars
14 Machu Picchu native
15 More reasonable
16 Sounds from belfries
17 Goals
18 Closest bud
19 Atop
21 Kitchen invader
22 Capitals
25 Relaxing site
26 Started a hole
27 Survived
29 Warring god
33 Mink's cousin
34 Discover
35 Stumble
36 Leatherneck
37 High-end car engine
38 Arthur's resting place
39 Future flower
40 Show mercy

DOWN
1 Out of style
2 Porpoise's place
3 Carnival unit
4 End-of-test announcement
5 Continually
6 Cozy retreat
7 Some agents
8 Targets at parties
9 Slant
10 China buy
16 Pound parts
18 Yawning, perhaps
20 Wendy's friend
22 Cornered
23 Hobby
24 Fleet leader
25 Arboreal sleepers
28 Lukewarm
30 Like gymnasts
31 Ungrammatical sentence
32 Depleted
34 Humorist Barry
36 Spoil

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

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



11-15

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 "Pygmalion" playwright
5 Game with rooks and pawns
10 Spending money
11 Coffee bar orders
13 Not fooled by
14 Pinball palace
15 Develops
17 Wee bit
18 Female in a pride
19 Hagen of acting
20 Have debts
21 Small songbird
22 Loses speed
25 Storage sites
26 Great weights
27 Early auto
28 Cobbler's tool
29 Monitor
33 "My word!"
34 Love story
35 Made blank
37 Pro — (proportionate)
38 Dream up
39 At any time
40 Cars' scars
41 Filming sites

DOWN
1 Unhappy look
2 Vietnam's capital
3 Texas player
4 "It's anybody's guess"
5 Sentence piece
6 Plucked instruments
7 List-ending abbr.
8 Height
9 Drugged
12 Some cars
16 Uses a needle
21 "So what?"
22 Put on, as a play
23 Brought down
24 Off base, in a way
25 Appear
27 Aegean island
29 Wave peak
30 Rascal
31 Quartet doubled
32 Approaches
36 Immoral act

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

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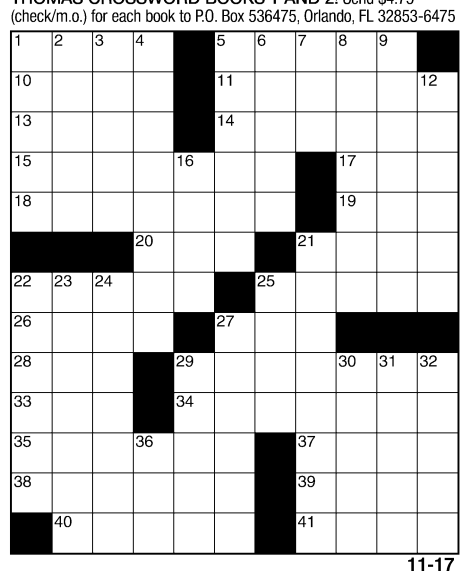

11-17

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.

11-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

BDR KQRWBRHB CRWYRQ VH MZB MRERHHWQVCP BDR ZMR TDZ YZRH BDR KQRWBRHB BDVMKH. DR VH BDR ZMR BDWB KRBH BDR URZUCR BZ YZ BDR KQRWBRHB BDVMKH. — QZMWCY QRWKWM

Previous Cryptoquote: TO GO WRONG IN ONE'S OWN WAY IS BETTER THAN TO GO RIGHT IN SOMEONE ELSE'S. – Fyodor Dostoyevsky