Mom with secret addiction is playing dangerous game

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl and I caught my mom sniffing nail polish remover. She obviously doesn't want me to know because she tries to hide it.

I don't know what to do. I don't know why she would want to do this. It's something people MY age would do. I know better than to do that.

Should I talk to her about it? She'll probably make up some excuse like she likes the smell. She sometimes tells me I need to grow up because I can act silly. But honestly, SHE is the one who needs to grow up.

I want to help her because I know what she's doing is not good for her. But how? — **KNOWS HER SECRET IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR KNOWS: Your mother may have an acetone addiction. Because you can't convince her to take your concerns seriously, tell another adult ASAP what's going on – a relative, your father if he's in the picture, a teacher or counselor at school.

This kind of inhalant addiction is serious because in high concentrations acetone is a nervous system depressant. This means it can slow a person's heartbeat, respiration and metabolism, causing a person to become dizzy, confused and pass out. It can also damage the vital organs – the heart, liver, kidneys and the bone marrow -- and cause cardiac arrest and death.

A support group for the children of addicts such as Alateen could give you emotional support. To find one, visit al-anon.org.

DEAR ABBY: My husband had a heart attack a week ago and is still in the ICU. I visit him every day. Yesterday I found out that he had asked his sister to stay with me to "be there for me."

I am furious. My sister-in-law is a nice woman, but we have never been close. My house is a shambles (my husband and I are both disabled, he with peripheral artery disease and me after having been run over by a car) because housework is painful for me. So now, in addition to the stress of taking cabs to see him, I have the additional stress and pain of trying to make the house presentable.

I know my husband meant well, but I don't want to go through this in front of an audience. I feel angry and also guilty for being angry. Can you help me put all this into perspective? — **STRESSED IN NEW JERSEY**

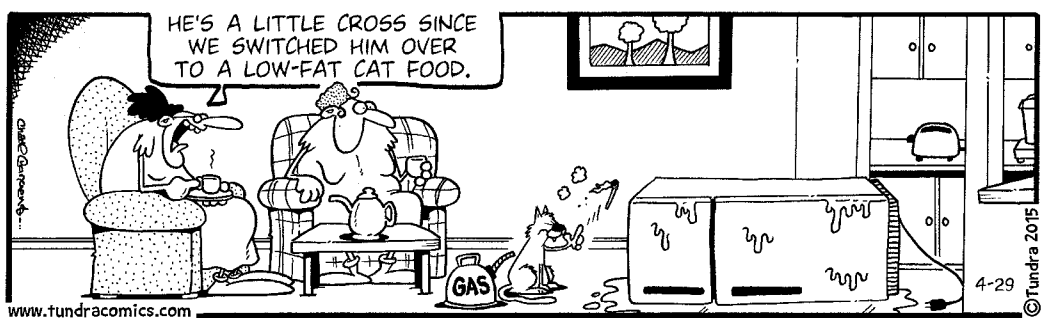
DEAR STRESSED: After spending a week in an ICU, your husband may be having concerns about ever emerging. He may have suggested his sister come because he was worried about how you would handle being alone. That you might be upset because your home isn't ready to be featured in House Beautiful probably didn't enter his mind.

However, now that she's coming, be smart. Ask her to help you with the deferred housework so the place will be shipshape when your husband is discharged. If, as you say, you and your sister-in-law aren't close, her stay with you may be shorter than planned.

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.

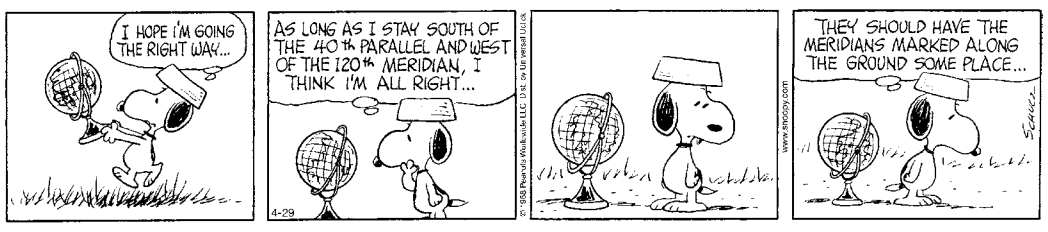
COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

Different Name, Still the Same

Dear Heloise: Is a pot with a crock insert the same thing as a SLOW COOKER? — Charlotte, via email

Yes, it is. However, most folks call a pot with a crock insert by its brand name, which is on your mind right now, I'm sure. That name is trademarked, thus my having to dance around without using the brand name! Companies do have to be diligent in protecting trademarks. Here's a challenge for you: Can you name a facial tissue? Paper towel? Moving stairs? Cat-box deodorizer? — Heloise

Easy Find And Cleanup

Dear Heloise: I purchased a refrigerator that is the right size for me. However, it was becoming annoying to dig around trying to find leftovers, etc. I decided to try using turntables. I bought 18-inch and 12-inch turntables. I use one on the middle rack, and it stores large jars and most leftovers. The smaller turntable is on the top shelf to hold jam, jellies, condiments, etc. Now everything is easy to see and easy to reach. If you use this, please sign me "Dude, NorCal."

Hey, Dude! ("Hey Jude" – are you humming the song? I am.) We think alike. I have turntables in our refrigerators. It's easy to find a jar of relish, mustard, pickled mushrooms, etc., and it helps keep the shelf clean. Please write again! — Heloise

Removing Slices

Dear Heloise: I just read your column about a reader having trouble removing pie slices from the pie pan. I saw this on a cooking show: If the pan is a tinfoil type, take shears and cut into the side in two places. Cut the pan as far as you can, then fold it down. You should be able to get a pie server in to take out the first slice. The next slices should be easy to get out. Hope this helps the reader. — JoAnn F., Lincoln, Calif.

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

Cooling Rack

Dear Heloise: I seldom bake, and my kitchen is very tiny. I do not have a cooling rack. Usually, when I take something hot from the oven, I lay two table knives on the counter, one pointing in each direction. Then I set the hot pan on it to cool. Works well.

Recently, all my table knives were in the sink to be washed. I thought, "Now what do I do?" I opened my cupboards and took out four cans of fruit, set them on the counter and put the hot pan on them. A great idea! — Frances H., Kane, Pa.

Sounds like a plan, and one that can be used by all! — Heloise

Microwav Tray

Dear Heloise: When I replace a microwave with a new one, I keep the rotating glass tray. Having a spare means I can swap trays quickly in the event of food spills. The dirty one goes in the dishwasher.

No food stuck on the bottom of later meals. No smell of burned food. No scraping burned food off the original tray. — Catherine H., Salem, Ore.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

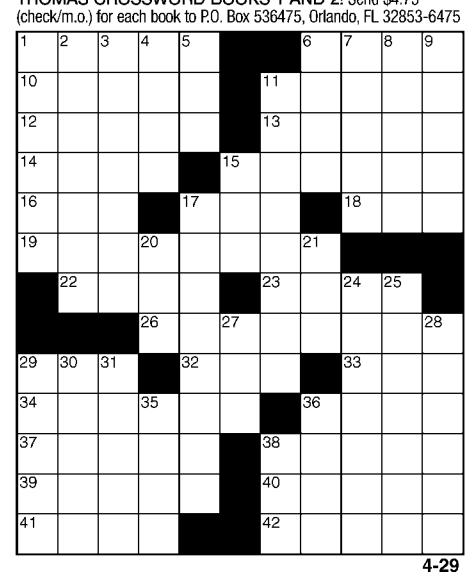
ACROSS
1 Unable to eat another bite
6 Cordage fiber
10 Large-scale dismissal
11 Sun-powered
12 Mexican farewell
13 Golf feat
14 Chicago team
15 Dojo activity
16 Subside
17 Make a sharp turn
18 Sprinted
19 Furled
22 Close
23 Tale teller
26 Dressed fancily
29 Recipe amount
32 Possesses
33 Genetic stuff
34 Place for a bump
36 Jail division
37 French farewell
38 Sir's counterpart
39 Moon-based
40 Ham it up
41 Canary snack
42 Printer need

DOWN
1 Keyboard bar
2 "Birds of America" creator
3 Furry critter from "Star Trek"
4 Big heads
5 — Moines
6 Frost
7 "Enigma Variations" composer
8 Island south of Sicily
9 Use the mirror
11 Coast birds
15 Youngster
17 Operation-starting time
20 Young fellow
21 Diner treat
24 Appended
25 Be behind schedule
27 Be behind
28 Golfer Arnold
29 Glowing embers
30 Not called for
31 Colonist Tom
35 Heavy metal
36 Hunting garb, for short
38 Ran into

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

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



4-29

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Rum cakes
6 Drive
11 Spiny plant
12 Ingenuous
13 Scout's work
14 Intense fear
15 Rogues
17 Attach a patch
19 Receipt addition
20 Diet no-no
23 Barcelona's region
25 Maggie's sister
26 Diving and canoeing
28 Manual reader
29 Writer Camus
30 For each
31 Low digit
32 Misery
33 Canada's capital
35 Monk's song
38 Squelched
41 Pound part
42 Kagan of the Supreme Court
43 Piper of rhyme
44 Bra part

DOWN
1 Watering hole
2 Maturity
3 Rural area
4 Stratford's river
5 Capitol worker
6 Almanac section
7 The Red Planet
8 Kind of chart
9 Longoria of TV
10 Went ahead
16 Director Gus
17 Cut, in a way
18 Make blank
20 Whiskey, in slang
21 The Jetsons' dog
22 Refinement
24 Berlin lang.
25 High hit
27 Satisfies
31 Playful mammal
33 Formerly
34 Poet Whitman
35 Member of the force
36 Shade
37 Leaf lifter
39 Stop — dime
40 Snooze

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

Previous Puzzle

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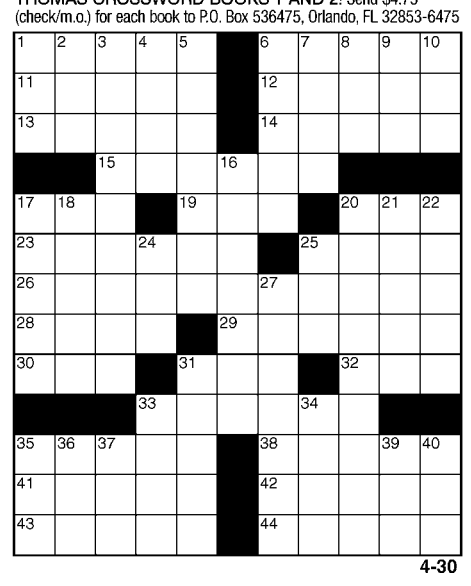

4-30

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.

4-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

QKRNR GW XD ZYIBR GX IGSR RTURAQ EKYQ MDB UKDDWR QD AIYUR BADX GQ, YXF XD KYAAGXRWW GX YXM AIYUR RTURAQ EKYQ MDB ONGXH QD GQ MDBNWRIS. — IGX MBQYXH

Previous Cryptoquote: WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE, AND YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF DIFFERENCE YOU WANT TO MAKE. – Jane Goodall