

Water cooler in dining room is no reason to boil over

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and my brother is 19. He still lives at home and recently acquired a water cooler -- the kind you see in doctors' offices. He has it sitting in the dining room and, frankly, I hate it! It's unsightly and unnecessary.

My parents allow it to stay there. They have never cared much about how their house looks. I do most of the cleaning. Is there any way I can convince them to remove the water cooler? It's not the kind you see in home magazines. — **WANTS A NORMAL HOUSE**

DEAR WANTS A NORMAL HOUSE: Ideally, a water cooler would be placed in a kitchen. However, if there isn't room for it in your parents' kitchen, and meals are shared in the dining room, that's the logical place for it. I can't see why the water cooler would embarrass you. Most people's homes don't resemble the layouts you see in magazines. They are an "ideal" folks aim for until reality compels them to organize their living space in a way that conforms to their needs and budgets, rather than their desires.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for three years. We get along well, but he has the most annoying habit of gnawing his fingernails. It is constant, and he hardly has any left. I find it repulsive and embarrassing when we're out in public.



DEAR ABBY

I have asked him repeatedly to stop. He says he has done it all his life and I should stop nagging. If it were the other way around and I knew something I did bothered him, I'd try my best not to do it because I loved him. I know most people have habits, and this is more of an addiction. What can I say to make him stop? — **BITING OFF TOO MUCH IN S. CAROLINA**

DEAR BITING: Nail-biting is typically related to stress and anxiety. There are ways to stop, and he should talk about it with his doctor. Beyond suggesting that he make an appointment, nothing you can say will "make" your boyfriend change his behavior. Because you find the habit repulsive and embarrassing, the question it's time to ask yourself is whether it's a deal-breaker, and no one can answer that but you.

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 years old and have been in a relationship since I was 15. I never had a childhood. At 14 I became an adult and never got to experience any

teenage freedom. I realize now that I'm not ready to settle down with anyone, but I know he is. I am unhappy, but I'm afraid of hurting him.

I am the type of person who would hurt myself before I hurt anyone else. I think I'm ready to experience life as a separate individual, but I don't know how to tell him. He always said this would happen, but I denied it. Now I realize he was right. I don't know how to start the conversation. Please help me. — **NOT READY TO SETTLE DOWN**

DEAR NOT READY: You are the type of person who would hurt yourself before you hurt anyone else? While that is altruistic to the max, it is a dangerous way to live your life. In a case like this, better HE should cry for a short time than YOU should cry for the next decade or so.

A way to start the conversation would be to say: "We need to talk, and I need to be honest with you. You were right when you said this wouldn't last -- and I was immature and inexperienced when I said you were wrong."

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

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, no matter how hard you work, you just cannot seem to get ahead this week. Instead of tiring yourself unnecessarily, take a break and regroup.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, although you have many questions, the answers will not come so easily to you in the next few days. Bide your time for a revelation.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

It will be really difficult to put you in a bad mood this week, Gemini. Your energy and cheer will be a bright light to those around you, so enjoy the next few days.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may want to be friends with everyone, but you may have to accept that you have a few people who just do not meld with your interests. Hang out with those who do.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Exercise can do more than just keep you physically fit, Leo. It also can help boost your mood when you need a pick-me-up, which could be the case in the near future.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, each time you think the grass will be greener somewhere else, you quickly learn it is not the case. Learn to appreciate what you have, and you will be glad for having done so.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, generosity will endear you to others, but you have to be generous for the right reasons. It's not a good idea to build friendships on false pretenses.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, avoid taking on any more projects for the time being. Although you excel in tackling things, even the best of us need a rest from time to time.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you will have to buckle down and get some things done at work, even if you are a little under the weather. Take things nice and easy once your work is done.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, devoting time to a spouse or children is of the utmost importance this week, while other matters will have to wait. Enjoy this opportunity to spend time with your loved ones.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a hectic schedule is compromising your ability to stay focused on the tasks at hand. You may need some help sorting some things out.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

There are enough diversions around to take your mind off of your problems, Pisces. They may not disappear, but you can address some issues later.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 1
Zendaya Coleman, Actress (17)

SEPTEMBER 2
Keanu Reeves, Actor (49)

SEPTEMBER 3
Jennie Finch, Athlete (33)

SEPTEMBER 4
Wes Bentley, Actor (35)

SEPTEMBER 5
Michael Keaton, Actor (62)

SEPTEMBER 6
Swoosie Kurtz, Actress (69)

SEPTEMBER 7
Oliver Hudson, Actor (37)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Ornamental flower
6 Pop crooner
Wainwright
11 Spacious
12 Set off
13 Some messages
14 Foot bones
15 Unprovoked
17 Use the track
18 Historic time
19 Morale booster
22 Roulette bet
23 Joke response
24 Boarded
25 One of the Wayans brothers
27 Everybody
30 Gary's "Desire" co-star
31 Early auto
32 Historic time
33 Flower part
35 Refinement
38 Blown away

- DOWN**
1 From the '30s, say
2 Tribute
3 Gave for a time
4 Leave out
5 Marimba's cousin
6 Informant
7 — tree
8 Co-star of Kate and Jaclyn
9 Address of "Dr. No"
10 Public outcry
16 Tidies up
20 Speech study
21 Chestnut stuff
24 Salon doings
25 Dojo
26 Made blank
27 Fleet error
28 Margin for
29 Solitary sorts
30 Rock genre
34 Fresh Luggage ID
37 Riviera season

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

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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			

8-31

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Subject of a September observation
6 College study
11 Stay away from
12 San Antonio landmark
13 Watches over
14 Fleet-related
15 Poker game
17 — we there yet?
18 Ship steers
22 Opera solo
23 More than enough
27 Skating spots
29 In the know
30 Notice
32 Whirl
33 Driving aids
35 Obtained
38 Top draft rating
39 Skilled
41 Ohio city
45 Playful sprite
46 Sierra —
47 Door sign
48 Pick up the tab

- DOWN**
1 Give permission to
2 Broad st.
3 Prohibit
4 Point spread calculator
5 Takes it easy
6 Nobelist
Nelson
7 Chicken — king
8 Coffee, in slang
9 Poet
Khayyám
10 Part to play
16 Ballpark official
18 Challenging
19 Lake near Buffalo
20 Dryer fuzz
21 Name in the headlines
24 Wine valley of California
25 Journey
26 Longings
28 Bike's cousin
31 Light brown
34 Traded
35 Stare in disbelief
36 Norse god
37 Printed matter
40 Diner dessert
42 Fish eggs
43 "Put — happy face"
44 Tennis need

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

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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			41		42	43	44
45						46				
47						48				

9-2

Daily Cryptoquote — Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A K
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.

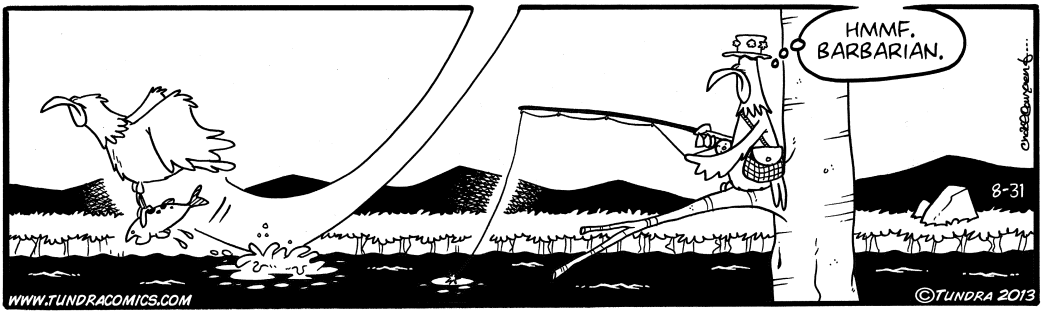
8-31 CRYPTOQUOTE

F L Z K K K Y Q L C S U L V O G L
A Z E L A J H , T C O F L U D S ' O
Z K K G Z Q L O G L A Z E L
G D V Y P D S . — J D S V Z U
Z U L S Z C L V

Previous Cryptoquote: AN APOLOGY IS THE SUPERGLUE OF LIFE. IT CAN REPAIR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. —Lynn Johnston

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

