

Woman objects to accusation that she’s a ‘status digger’

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing “Tony” for a few weeks. He is kind, caring and will make a great boyfriend, husband and father someday. My problem with him is he thinks I’m a “status digger.” (It’s similar to a gold digger, but he means I care only about someone’s standing in the community.) His rationale is based on my friendships.

I come from a privileged background. While some acquaintances in my circle are spoiled and superficial, my close friends and I are not. Because I grew up here, it was only natural I’d date guys from a similar background. While I was not opposed to dating outside my social circle, the opportunity never presented itself.

Abby, I have never measured a guy because of his position in society. The thought never occurred to me. I admit I would probably be more inclined to date someone from a similar background because that’s what I’m familiar with, but I don’t think this makes me a social climber, status digger or elitist.

How should I address this with Tony? I’m afraid our relationship will end if he can’t see me for who I really am. — **JUST ME IN HOUSTON**

DEAR JUST ME: Tony may come from a blue-collar background. Because he perceives you and your friends as having had so much given to you, he may



DEAR ABBY

Now that Kyle is an adult, he has expressed an interest in contacting his father. He is curious, but doesn’t want to disrupt his father’s life. Kyle doesn’t feel he missed out by not meeting his father; he simply wonders what he is like. The man is easy to locate on social media because he has an unusual last name.

I don’t want to see my son hurt by rejection or lack of interest from this man. Should I make the initial contact? If so, what would be the best way to do it? — **PROTECTIVE MOM IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR PROTECTIVE MOM: Your impulse may be to protect your son, but Kyle should make the contact. When he does, he should tell the man that you are his mother, and that he would like to meet him for no other reason than to ask him some questions and get his medical history. The response Kyle gets will tell him a lot about the man who fathered him. But there is no guarantee that a man who never provided financial support for his son will be receptive, compassionate or polite, and your son should be prepared.

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.

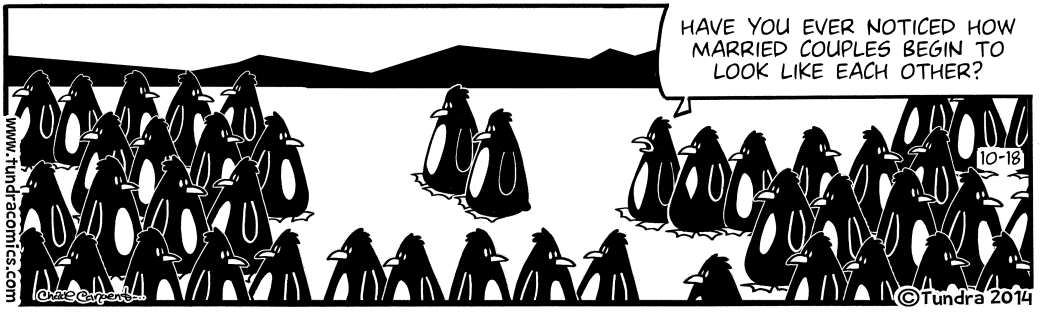
feel inadequate, so he’s putting you on the defensive by accusing you of being solely interested in social status. Of course, that’s stereotyping, and it isn’t fair to you. Because someone comes from inherited status/wealth there is no guarantee that it won’t disappear. That’s the reason some women prefer self-made men to those from a privileged background.

You and Tony should have a frank talk. When you do, suggest that before he assumes any more preconceptions about you are true, he should get to know you – because if he doesn’t, he will miss out on someone who is not only very nice, but who thinks HE has a lot to offer.

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my 20s, I was involved in a long-term relationship with a married man. I became pregnant, we ended the relationship and I gave birth to an amazing, intelligent and well-adjusted son, “Kyle.” There has been no contact with my former lover, and we have no mutual acquaintances.

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



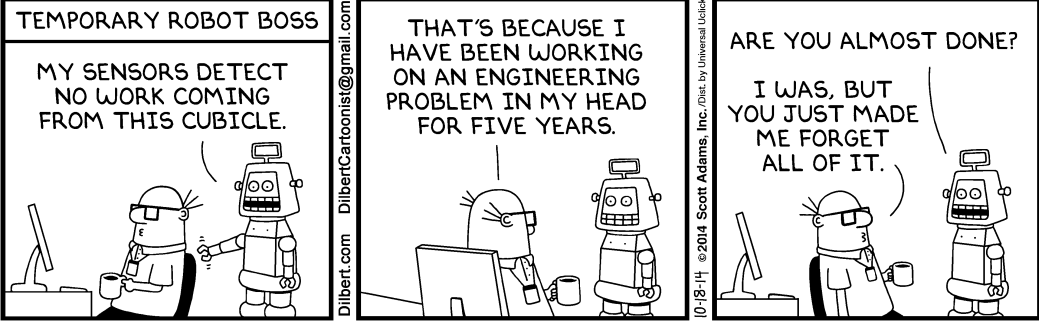
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you begin the week with enthusiasm, but excitement begins to wane quite quickly. Find a way to rally your energy levels so you can complete tasks.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Rein in your emotions as much as possible this week, Taurus. You will feel passionate about a project in the coming days, but you still must remain calm as you tackle the tasks at hand.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, commitments at work may keep you from your plans, even if you have had a special event on the calendar for some time. This obligation is unavoidable.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Expect to have some serious feelings about love and romance this week, Cancer. You are empowered by the sweet feelings and what they mean for your future.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are quite adept at maintaining a stoic outer appearance, but inside your emotions are churning. Find a healthy release and you will be glad you did.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, test the waters before you share a secret. This way you can get an idea of how a small group of people will react before you spread the word.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, use your natural gift for diplomacy to resolve a conflict at work. It is easy to find common ground and steer the conversation toward a reasonable resolution.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, grab some friends’ attention as you attempt to garner support for a coming project. Once you have the floor, make the most of this opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, everything in your life seems to be in order. Now might be a great time to schedule some well-deserved rest and relaxation with loved ones.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, listen to your sixth sense as it guides you in a particular direction. Your instincts rarely steer you wrong. Resist the urge to follow what everyone else is doing.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

The first step toward change at work is to take the initiative, Aquarius. Once you make the decision to forge ahead, everything will fall nicely into place.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, don’t worry if you have to give up something you desire when negotiating with others. The chips will fall into place.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 19
Jose Bautista, Athlete (34)

OCTOBER 20
Tom Petty, Singer (64)

OCTOBER 21
Will Estes, Actor (36)

OCTOBER 22
Zac Hanson, Singer (29)

OCTOBER 23
Taylor Spreitler, Actress (21)

OCTOBER 24
Charlie White, Athlete (27)

OCTOBER 25
Andrew Basso, Magician (29)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Alarms

7 Appointment

11 Tropical fruit

12 Savvy about

13 Tooth layer

14 Much of history

15 Oral traditions

16 Sub shops

17 “Why not!”

18 Holiday event

19 Malevolent

21 Checkers side

22 Civil rights pioneer

25 Oxford bigwig

26 Luke’s sister

27 Floors

29 Swabbing tools

33 Mystical deck

34 Infant’s ailment

35 A party to

36 Pooch

37 Cairo’s river

38 Irregular

39 Misses

40 Oasis setting

DOWN

1 Period of time

2 Camp craft

3 Set off

4 Karnak leader

5 Peer group?

6 Mineo of movies

7 DVR button

8 Just for fun

9 Long steps

10 Prepared the salad

16 Mongolian for “ocean”

18 Voice, in slang

20 Man’s servant

22 Hungary neighbor

23 Doing well

24 Punk pioneers

25 Seeing socially

28 Map areas

30 Uniform color

31 Wistful one

32 Fragrance

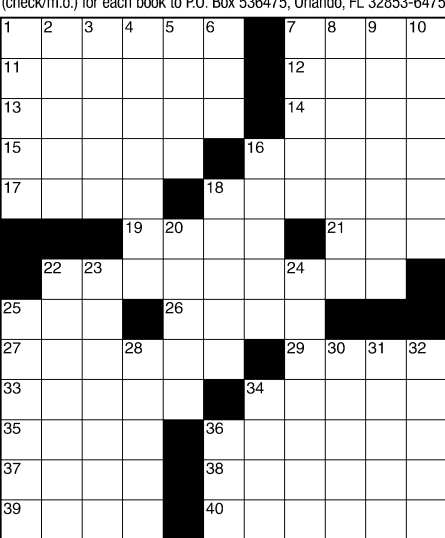
34 Walking aid

36 Cow’s chew



Previous Puzzle

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10-18

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Laundry

5 Tries for flies

10 Killer whale

11 Medal recipients

13 Kitty cry

14 Snappy answer

15 Indigestion aid

17 56, in old Rome

18 Countries

19 Storage spot

20 Nettle

21 Scrabble tile holder

22 Showed again

25 Challenges

26 Foreboding sign

27 Crow cry

28 Beanie or beret

29 Wood shop sweepings

33 Young fox

34 Pressing condition

35 Bring out

37 On the summit of

38 Feel empathy

39 Queue

40 Discourage

41 Future flower

DOWN

1 Grown girl

2 Sports setting

3 “Ivanhoe” author

4 From Maui, say

5 Become smaller

6 Hoe targets

7 Museum focus

8 Strip of icons

9 Military stint

12 Smells terrible

16 Field crop

21 Injustices

22 Porch chair

23 Wrote to, in a way

24 Gator or gecko

25 Hip-hop pal

27 Ford’s successor

29 Hotel option

30 Loosen, as laces

31 Crumplet’s cousin

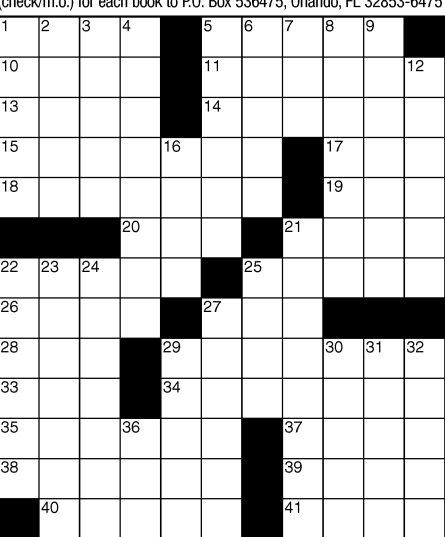
32 Used a key-board

36 Mouse chaser



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10-20

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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.

10-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

L Q F L C S Q F B M D B O Q B N Q

Q O G U N L C O H B D L P O O D B

K O L Q F O C X K O L V E D B .

— H L P F O B V H O V U C B

Previous Cryptoquote: CRIME IS COMMON. LOGIC IS RARE. THEREFORE IT IS UPON THE LOGIC RATHER THAN UPON THE CRIME THAT YOU SHOULD DWELL. – Arthur Conan Doyle