

Couple weighs reconciliation five years after violent split

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my husband got drunk and physically attacked me in front of his family. It was horrible. I was in shock, and our relationship never recovered.

The next four years were a series of court visits for custody of our child and eventually a divorce. Last year, his mother began requesting visits with our son. I was happy about it because I have tried to be accommodating to my ex and his family regarding our son.

Finally, late last year, I called my ex to ask if we could sit down and discuss our son (something we had never done). We have met twice during the last two weeks, and each time had long conversations about everything. (Our son, our past, our relationship.) Many misconceptions were cleared up, and it's obvious that we both have made many necessary changes within ourselves.

Now I'm confused about what comes next. Speaking with him has brought back so many feelings. Prior to the attack, our stress levels had been high and our communication was terrible, but there had been no physical violence. I'm not sure if this is the universe giving us an opportunity to give the family we started another chance. Should we start over? — **WAVERING IN NEW YORK**

DEAR WAVERING: What comes next might be that you and your ex can



DEAR ABBY

become good friends and parent your son in a congenial, cooperative fashion. What comes next might be that you rekindle your romance. Or it might be that you get back together and he assaults you again.

If your ex has sought help for his drinking and anger management issues, a reconciliation could work out beautifully. However, if he hasn't, I certainly wouldn't recommend it. Sometimes people can care deeply about each other, but shouldn't be married.

DEAR ABBY: My 95-year-old mom feels that her age "entitles" her to speak without a filter, and she has become totally intolerant and critical. She is mentally sharp and highly intelligent, which makes her nasty comments even more hurtful to family and friends.

Standing up to her isn't an option because of her age and she knows it. She doesn't seem to recognize how damaging her attitude has become to those who love her. If you could print this and offer some advice,

she might recognize herself. — **A LOVING SON**

DEAR LOVING SON: The fact that someone has celebrated 95 birthdays does not give the person license to be deliberately unkind to others. Negativity is an unattractive trait, regardless of how old you are. People who deliberately say hurtful things invariably find the circle of those who want to be around them shrinking.

My advice to your mother would be, before opening her mouth, ask herself whether what she has to say is true, helpful and KIND. And if it isn't all THREE, she should rephrase her comment or not say it at all.

DEAR ABBY: What does one say to casual acquaintances who stop by uninvited and with no prior phone call? — **NANCY IN AURORA, COLO.**

DEAR NANCY: Let me tell you first what one DOESN'T say. It's "Come in!" It is perfectly acceptable to explain that the person caught you in the middle of your housework or a project you need to finish and, please, in the future to call before dropping by so you can make some plans together.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

What's In Worcestershire Sauce?

Dear Readers: WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE is a staple in many kitchens, one of which is mine! I love the stuff and mix it with soy sauce or red-wine vinegar to use as a dip for egg rolls. Chances are there is a bottle in your kitchen. But how much do you really know about it? Which of the following is NOT an ingredient in regular (original) Worcestershire sauce?

- A) Tamarind extract
- B) Molasses
- C) Pepper
- D) Anchovies
- E) Garlic

The answer is C, pepper! Tamarind extract, molasses, anchovies and garlic all are found in Worcestershire sauce. The tamarind extract comes from a fruit and is actually one of the ingredients that sets Worcestershire sauce apart from other sauces. — Heloise

Stuffed Mushrooms

Dear Heloise: I read your hints daily in the (Waterbury, Conn.) Republican-American and find them really helpful, or there are some I already do and didn't think they were good enough to share. Here's one that I love, and it saves me a ton of time and mess:

I use a 1-tablespoon cookie scoop to fill mushrooms after I mix up my stuffing mixture. This results in perfectly mounded stuffed mushrooms every time! Yum! — Laurie B. in Connecticut

Quick-Fix Food

Dear Heloise: I keep a bottle of my favorite Italian-style salad dressing in my pantry all the time. This "can do" liquid helps make a delicious meal. I marinate chicken before baking and add to cooked pasta and vegetables for a delicious pasta salad. And I place cut-up meat in the slow cooker, add some salad dressing and put it on rolls for a dinner sandwich. — Janet D. in Indiana

These are all clever uses for Italian dressing and examples of how cooking can be fun and easy when experimenting in the kitchen. I like to add different spices and substitutes in recipes. (However, my husband, David, does question some of my "tests.") Many of my hints and recipes are in Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet. To order one, please send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Seasonings, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Another simple marinade for meats is equal parts soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce. — Heloise

Roasting Pan

Dear Heloise: The roasting pan is not just for chicken anymore. I love cooking spaghetti in it, and it's great for corn on the cob. It's my new favorite pan to cook with. The shape of the pan just works better for many foods. I have a stainless-steel one, but I'm sure any type would work. — Claire in Florida

Many people use this hint, especially if cooking for a crowd. Readers, try it, and you may discover that you have a new cooking tool. — Heloise

Pepper Placement

Dear Heloise: When making stuffed peppers the other day, they kept falling over. I placed them in my fluted cake pan. Much easier to stuff, and they don't fall over! — Gina W. in Kentucky

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Den
- 5 Hams' needs
- 11 Radius partner
- 12 Female grad
- 13 Headed out
- 14 Improvised in jazz
- 15 Purpose
- 16 Tarragon or thyme
- 17 Empire
- 19 Words

DOWN

- 1 Doozy
- 2 Pub brews
- 3 Deduction
- 4 Scoundrel
- 5 "Bolero" composer
- 6 Burglar deterrents
- 7 Idiomatic
- 8 Little devil
- 9 Low number
- 10 Blue
- 16 Deli choice
- 18 Move slowly
- 19 Essential state

44 King's stand-in

- 45 High school student

S	P	R	I	T	S		P	I	T	T
P	R	E	N	U	P		A	C	R	E
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S	I	T	E		W	A	S	T	E	D

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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42							43			
44							45			

8-27

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian serpents
- 5 Egyptian beetle
- 11 Shopping aid
- 12 Inmate's hope
- 13 Lab aide of film
- 14 Made speeches
- 15 Baryshnikov, for one
- 17 Employ
- 18 Is missing
- 22 Fresh
- 24 Sculpting medium
- 25 Yale student
- 26 Maiden name label
- 27 Find darling
- 30 Put off
- 32 Stately home
- 33 Flightless bird
- 34 Patriotic symbol
- 38 Queasy feeling
- 41 Ready for picking
- 42 Preoccupy
- 43 Leaves
- 44 Wild ones
- 45 Goals

DOWN

- 1 Battery fill
- 2 Cooking mint
- 3 Excess
- 4 Accent
- 5 Set eyes on
- 6 Winter airs
- 7 Ark's landing site
- 8 Turn bad
- 9 Heady brew
- 10 Garden section
- 16 Baseball's Ron
- 19 Puzzlement
- 20 Patella's place

A	P	E	D		S	L	O	T	H	
D	E	L	I		P	A	R	R	O	T
A	R	I	Z		A	N	G	E	L	A
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E	L	A	I	N	E	S		S	I	T
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C	E	R	I	S	E		T	R	E	K
	S	E	D	E	R		S	Y	N	E

Previous Puzzle

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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38	39	40					41			
42							43			
44							45			

8-28

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.

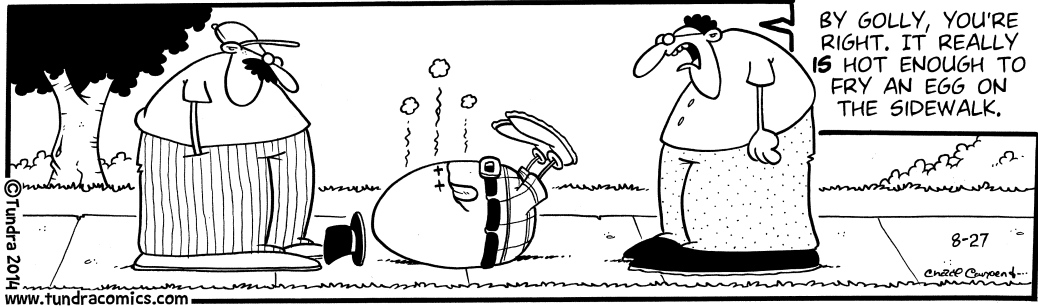
8-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

P Q Z W A D Q Z K A V C T N A W E G V
A S Z G L A A F Q K O H E V A S V L R
F Q S R F A K O C V V R D T V V A
C G Y E Q N R Q V . — C F H R N V
R Q K Z V R Q K

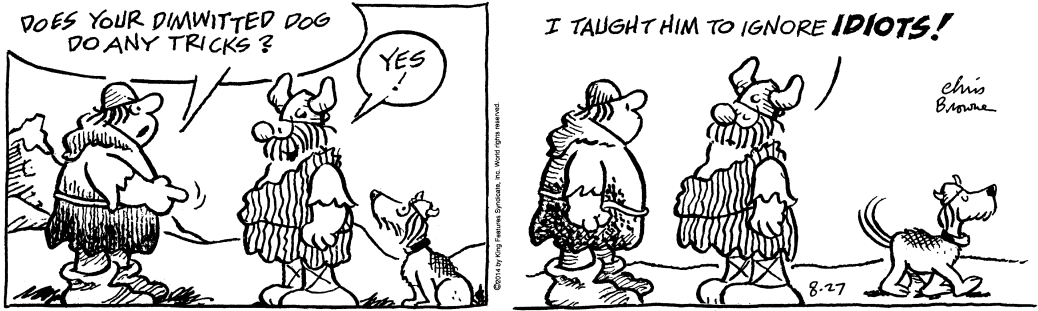
Previous Cryptoquote: AN INFALLIBLE METHOD OF CONCILIATING A TIGER IS TO ALLOW ONESELF TO BE DEVoured. – Konrad Adenauer

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

