

Commuting and email traffic bring out woman’s worst

DEAR ABBY: Have you any advice for how a person can handle mornings better? No matter what I do, I start off every work day irritated and grumpy.

I love the mornings, and even get up early so I can enjoy sitting with my coffee and relax before heading out the door. But as soon as I get out into traffic, I’m immediately in a bad mood. Then, sitting down at work and facing all the emails that come in from my global associates – usually about some emergency that is plopped in my lap – puts me in more of a foul mood.

I actually like my job, despite what it sounds like. I just hate starting off every day like this. Telecommuting is not an option for me. What can I do? — **MS. GRUMP IN DENVER**

DEAR MS. GRUMP: OK, so you’re fine until you leave the house. Many people who find morning rush hour to be nerve-wracking find it calming to listen to audio books or music during their commute. If that doesn’t help you, and it is feasible, consider using another form of transportation that’s less stressful.

And when you arrive at work, take a little time to decompress before turning on your computer, whether it is with meditation or deep-breathing exercises for the first 10 or 15 minutes. Both can do wonders for a person’s outlook.

DEAR ABBY: A cute little girl lives up the street from my husband and me and attends the same



DEAR ABBY

neighbor girl is no longer 5. Three years is a long time for a child to hang onto a crush. Because her behavior bothers you, tell her mother you find it excessive at this point and ask her to tell her daughter she’s getting too old to act that way. It’s the truth, and your husband should back you up.

DEAR ABBY: I thought I’d share my own New Year’s resolution with you. For the past 25 years I have made the following resolution: Each day I will ask myself, “What is the kindest, most loving thing I can say or do at this particular moment?” I invite your readers to consider this. — **WAYNE IN PUYALLUP, WASH.**

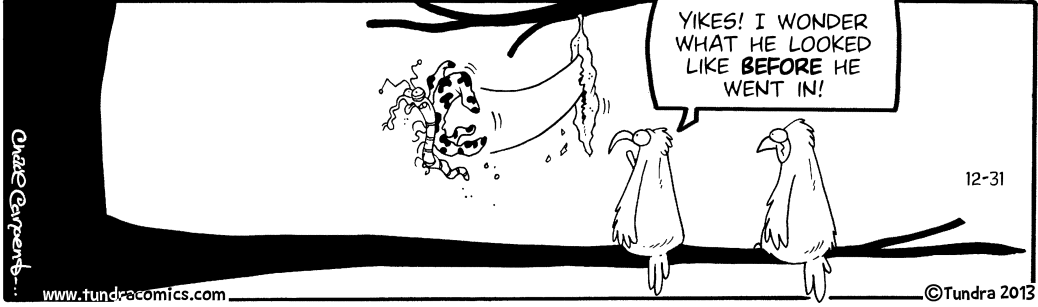
DEAR WAYNE: I consider it a refreshingly positive way to start a day, and I’m sure others will agree and add it to their list of New Year’s resolutions. Thank you for sharing it.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: A word to the wise: If you plan to toast the New Year tonight, please appoint a designated driver. And on this night especially, designated drivers should remember to drive defensively. To one and all, a happy, healthy New Year! — **LOVE, ABBY**

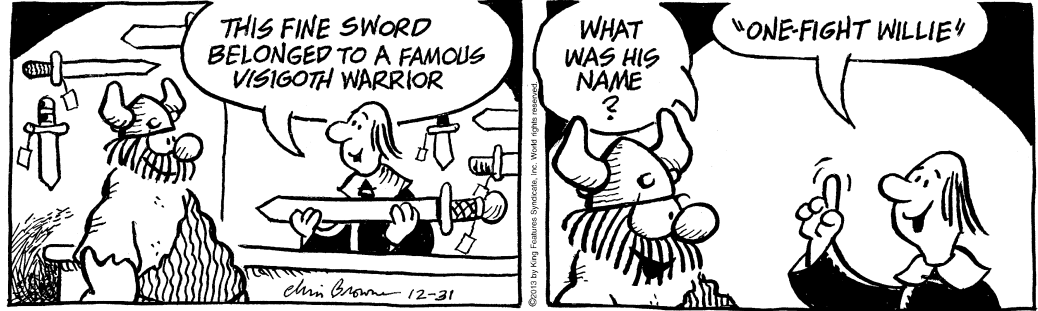
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra



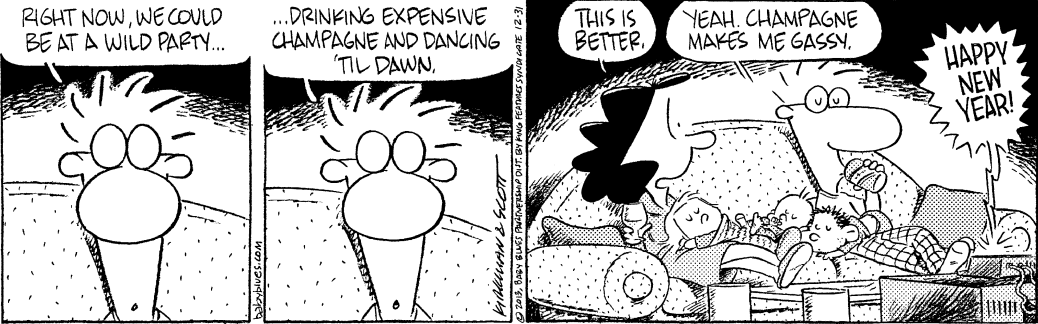
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Get a Deal That’s Not a Steal

Dear Readers: With all the POST-HOLIDAY SALES, many head out to the stores and the mall. Here are some hints to keep you safe:

■ Park as close to a store entrance or elevator as possible.

■ Look around, and be aware of your surroundings. Look for people just sitting in cars “watching” everyone else, or cars just circling.

■ Park near light poles.

■ Do not return to your car to place items in the trunk and then head back into the store. You might think this is safe, but there are people who watch, then break into your trunk! If you do put things in the trunk, try to move to another parking spot so it looks like you are leaving.

■ Don’t take your whole wallet. Try to pare down, and take only a few credit cards that you will need. Pickpockets love women with a BIG purse stuffed full of things. An easy target for sure.

— Heloise

SECURITY CODES

Dear Heloise: We had an experience with three small charges being made on our credit card. These charges were made to an online site. The bank marked one of the charges as fraud and contacted us. We were told that whoever placed the orders had the correct numbers, including the three-digit security code. We didn’t have to pay for the charges, and the bank canceled that card and issued a new one. The bank told us the person using our card probably was making small charges, and when they cleared, the person would make a large charge.

I realized that my security code hadn’t been required other than at online sites.

I don’t understand why that security code is imprinted on cards. — Bobbie in Texas

The security code is there to help prevent fraud, the theory being that the person using the card would have it in hand when placing an order and a thief could not use just the card number, but would need to provide the security code, too. You are right, though -- you usually are asked for it only when shopping online or making mail-order purchases over the phone. — Heloise

DOUBLE UP

Dear Heloise: Every day I would get frustrated when taking a shower, because it was obvious that the shower curtain was not quite long enough to stay in the tub and keep water from getting out. Then I came up with this hint: I bought another set of shower-curtain hooks to add to the first set of hooks. I hooked one hook onto the one hanging off the rod, and essentially doubled the length. The shower curtain now hangs low enough, and the problem is solved! — C.W. in New York

HANDS-FREE

Dear Heloise: I bought a small, cross-body, zipper-top purse specifically for shopping and taking on vacation. It enables me to keep my hands free and keep the purse close to me and away from thieves. — Callie T., via email

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.

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Gizmo

7 Cathedral area

11 Belong naturally

12 Largest of the Mariana Islands

13 Hurt

14 Concludes

15 Skiing variety

17 Highlands girl

20 Fire remnants

23 Memorable period

24 Trip

26 Zero

27 Hailed vehicle

28 Bullfight cry

29 Brewing items

31 Take the prize

32 More mature

33 In addition

34 Happen to

37 Scads

39 Sick in bed

43 Coyote call

44 Summon up

45 Wheel connector

46 Wobble

DOWN

1 Performed

2 Stop

—

dime

3 Electrical unit

4 College heads

5 Jason’s ship

6 Forest grazer

7 Scorn for seniors

8 Party vessel

9 Melancholy

10 Print measures

16 Finger-paints

17 Slow, in music

18 Disney’s mermaid

19 Dinner table

vessel

21 New York’s — Island

22 “— evil”

24 Muffler’s kin

25 Luggage ID

30 Scarab or ladybug

33 Full of energy

35 Stepped down

36 Highway division

37 Cry of insight

38 Smoked salmon

40 Period

41 Luau instrument

42 For every

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
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				

1-1

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Eager reading

5 Run-down areas

10 Locker art

12 Volcano-shaped

13 Took a part

14 Muscular dog

15 Bitterly cold

16 Building worker

18 Hector, for one

20 Simile center

21 Quantities: Abbr.

23 Chest bone

24 Freshener scent

26 Young ones

28 Guide-book feature

29 Go to sea

31 Notre Dame’s Par-seghian

32 Emperor before Hadrian

36 Makes clinking noises

39 Peyton’s bother

40 Met show

41 Before

43 Romulus’ twin

44 Nurse’s

reading

45 Rough guesses

46 Smidgens

DOWN

1 Set off

2 Parish leader

3 Bisected

4 Bill word

5 Work the checkout

6 Norse trickster

7 Jazzercise garb

8 Cell division process

9 Egyptian emblem

11 “A Mind to Murder” author

C	I	T	E		B	A	J	A	
F	I	N	E		R	E	U	R	P
I	N	A	N	E		T	E	M	P
D	E	F	E	N	D		P	E	N
E	M	I	T		E	A	T	I	N
L	A	X			I	S	L	A	N
						R	A	C	E
A	D	A	G	E	S		S	E	T
S	T	E	P	O	N		S	I	R
E	T	C			D	E	P	E	N
M	E	A	L	S		D	O	S	E
I	N	D	I	A		A	R	T	S
D	E	E	P			M	E	A	T

Previous Puzzle

17 Tiny worker

19 Painter

22 Agitates

24 Castle part

25 Beach in a 1964 song

27 In the fashion of

28 College studies

30 Put away

33 “Kiss of the Dragon” star

34 Celeb roster

35 Frasier’s brother

37 Chow

38 Young girl

42 Gist

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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
36			37	38			39	
40					41	42		
43					44			
45					46			

1-2

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.

12-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

H O C W I B M S I Z E L Z R C O Y E ,
I P L Y I P L R C O Y E I Z E L W Z
R C O Y E , I P L Y I P L R C O Y E
I Z E L W B M S . — H . W F M I I
H O I J T L C Z V R

Previous Cryptoquote: YOU SEE, GEORGE, YOU’VE REALLY HAD A WONDERFUL LIFE. DON’T YOU SEE WHAT A MISTAKE IT WOULD BE TO JUST THROW IT AWAY? – Clarence the Angel (“It’s a Wonderful Life”)