

Odds of getting dream gift diminish for birthday girl

DEAR ABBY: My birthday is in 26 days and my dad just told me he is not going to get me a birthday present. And I really want an iPod Touch for school. I'm in the fifth grade and everyone in my class has an iPod Touch, iPad or iPhone. EXCEPT ME!

My mom said she would get me a present, but it will be something small. And unless I can keep my room clean, I won't have a birthday! I'm turning double digits (10)! Please help! — **DESPERATE GIRL IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR DESPERATE: I'll try, but it may not be the help you're hoping for.

Talk to your parents and ask why they are against you having an iPod Touch. Not all kids your age have parents who can afford them, and that might be the reason. Show them you are mature by keeping your room clean and doing whatever other chores are assigned to you. If you get an allowance, start saving up and ask them if they would "partner" with you in getting an iPod Touch in the future, after you have saved a certain amount. It's worth a try, and it just might work.

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old son is in recovery from substance abuse. He has also dealt with depression over the years. He



DEAR ABBY

has informed his therapist, his father and me that his older sisters had sex with him when he was a young child. It was one of the explanations he gave for his depression and substance abuse.

I have wanted to talk to his counselor about the situation so that as a family we can talk to his sisters. We could perhaps find out whether what he's referring to is normal experimentation or something more. We would also be able to ask his sisters if they were abused and acting out as a result of it. It seems incredible that as parents we were oblivious because we thought we were aware of and vigilant about threats to our children.

Now our son does not want to discuss this and refuses to see his counselor. We're afraid pushing him will trigger a relapse on his part, but we are also concerned about whether there might be an issue

with his sisters that should be addressed. Should we tell him we're going to raise it with his sisters? Or should we wait until he's ready? — **WANTS TO DO WHAT'S BEST**

DEAR WANTS: This news has to have been shocking to you and your husband as parents, but it isn't time yet for a family discussion because your son may be too fragile. Also, I think professional ethics prevent your son's therapist from discussing this with you. Issues like this can be complicated, and the facts may never be known.

What is most important now is for you to show your son that you love him and care about his emotional health, and while you respect his privacy, it is vital that he help himself move forward. The past cannot be changed, but it is important for his future that he find a professional with whom he CAN talk, if the therapist he has been seeing isn't helping him. Table any family discussion about this until your son is stronger.

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

An issue at work requires your immediate attention, Aries. This situation must be approached delicately, but don't be afraid to speak your mind and accept the results.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a busy week awaits but just take things one project at a time. Keep to yourself for a little bit in an attempt to stay focused on the numerous tasks at hand.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, your positive attitude is why people have grown to rely on you in tight spots. Plant a smile on your face and others will benefit from your positive influence.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, it's hard to know when to be assertive at work. You want to appear competent and in control, but you also want to build a good rapport with coworkers. Experiment a little.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, give plans time to develop, but don't feel the need to hide your enthusiasm about the prospects. Trust your instincts as to when is a good time to get moving.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you cannot control the behavior of others, but you can change your own direction to counteract some unexpected developments. Keep an open mind.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Don't be surprised if your schedule gets turned upside down this week, Libra. It's important to roll with the punches so others can see how flexible you can be.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, an unconventional approach is your key to success this week. While others are following Plan A, go with Plan B and you may meet with great results.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Fantasy can overtake reality if you let it, Sagittarius. You may need to rein in your hopes and dreams for a bit and focus on some more practical matters.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Friends may distract you from work this week, Capricorn. Although it's not wise to let responsibilities slide completely, you can probably get away with a day of slacking off.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, the physical rewards for all your hard work will become apparent soon. You'll find that all of your efforts thus far have been well worth the sacrifices.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, although you may dream of escaping the daily grind, you may need to persevere for just a little while longer. Your respite is coming.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 5
Kate Winslet, Actress (39)

OCTOBER 6
Elisabeth Shue, Actress (51)

OCTOBER 7
Tico Torres, Drummer (61)

OCTOBER 8
R.L. Stein, Author (71)

OCTOBER 9
Nick Swardson, Comic (38)

OCTOBER 10
Dale Earnhardt Jr., Race Driver (40)

OCTOBER 11
Matt Bomer, Actor (37)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Plotters' group

6 Ship poles

11 Verdi work

12 "Bolero" composer

13 Suit pieces

14 Play part

15 Is real

17 Auction signal

18 Danson of "CSI"

19 Blues setting

22 Toronto-to-D.C. dir.

23 Wall Street type

24 Clear order

27 Big galoot

30 Cuts off

31 Wine choice

32 Verb for you

33 Long looks

35 Cowboy contest

38 Animated

39 Lesson leader

40 Fresh

41 Sculpting medium

42 Actions

DOWN

1 Desires

2 High points

3 Next to

4 College study

5 Cause of an outburst

6 Fourth-yr. students

7 Lobbying org.

8 Fifth, for one

9 "The Bathers" painter

DEBT	CLASPS
AXLE	ROSEUP
LION	ESPAÑA
ETC	PETS
KHAKI	BAD
EDSEL	TALLY
DOOR	JADE
AZURE	TACOS
MET	QUARK
SUNG	SAM
PALLID	IOWA
ELAINE	TURN
PEPPER	STYX

Previous Puzzle

10	Goes downhill	27	Get in
16	Tries hard	28	Irritated
20	Do-or-die effort	29	Collectible cars
21	Shelley work	30	Pub pastime
24	"Evil Woman" band	34	Lotion additive
25	Ventilate	36	Long time
26	Familiar with	37	Smelter's supply

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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		

9-27

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Saturn sight

6 Resort spots

11 Blockhead

12 Brother's daughter

13 Syrup source

14 Long look

15 Hyphen's kin

17 Young seal

18 Living end

22 Physics bit

23 Kitchen come-ons

27 Masters of meditation

29 "Survivor" team

30 Out-pourings

32 Sketched

33 Tele-marketers' needs

35 Jotting spot

38 Enjoy the pool

39 Japanese port

41 Home of the Marlins

45 Smallest mammal

46 Old anesthetic

47 Many new drivers

48 Some carpets

DOWN

1 Border

2 Lupino of films

3 Wee bite

4 Jeweler, of a sort

5 Teakettle output

6 Concisely

7 Use a chair

8 Bound

9 Beige

10 Ooze

16 Sailing site

18 Coral spots

19 Resting on

ACHE	FATHOM
LOIN	ELAINE
MIST	LISTEN
ANTILLES	
ORE	NEVER
CARET	SLICE
ART	CHI
MEANS	BATON
PANIC	EGO
	BANDERAS
RABBLE	NICK
EXILES	DAME
DETEST	ANEW

Previous Puzzle

20	Roman garment	35	Fence part
21	Writer	36	Tennis great
24	Deep mud		Arthur
25	Help in crime	37	Challenge
26	Uses a needle	40	Boxer Norton
28	Play-ground sights	42	Cry of insight
31	Spotted	43	Ryan of movies
34	Thin coins	44	Tax agcy.

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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
45							46		
47							48		

0/20

9-29

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.

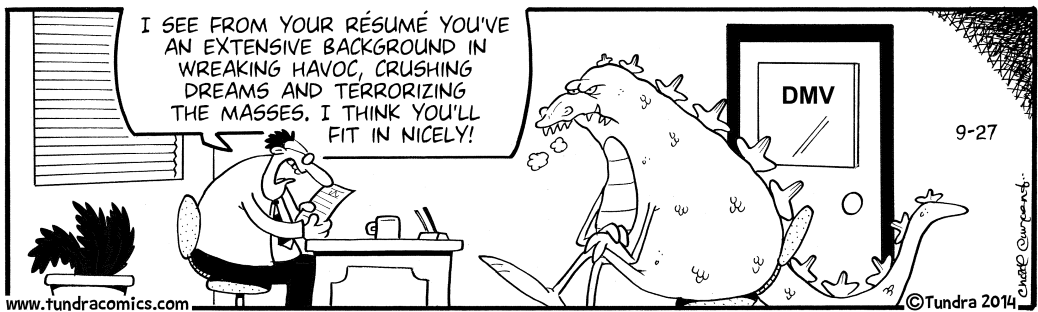
9-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

T S T E L B C S Z Q G H A C K L B A V
Z Q G K Q V ' S B C M A S Q S B C S
K A S A H J T V A E L B C S Z Q G L T P P
D A L B A V Z Q G N C V ' S B A P O
T S . — Q E N C H L T P K A

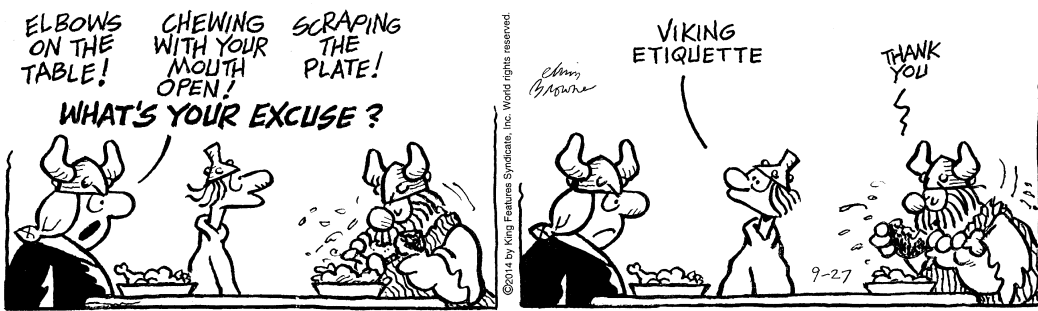
Previous Cryptoquote: NEVER FACE FACTS; IF YOU DO, YOU'LL NEVER GET UP IN THE MORNING. – Marlo Thomas

COMICS

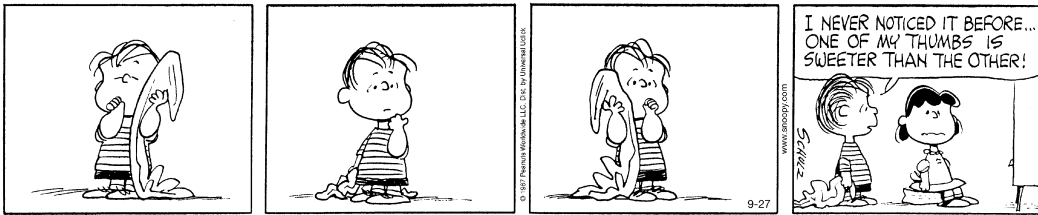
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

