

Young couple’s intimacy is risky without birth control

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, “Allison,” and I have been in a relationship for two years. We met in our sophomore year of high school and have been dating ever since. We have an incredible relationship.

We were virgins when we started dating, but decided we would lose our virginity to each other. We have always used birth control pills and condoms to ensure we wouldn’t be having any children.

Earlier this month we had a pregnancy scare. Allison had failed to tell me she stopped taking her birth control pills three months ago. My trust was broken, but most of all I was scared she might be pregnant. It turned out she wasn’t, but because of the incident I have been skeptical about making love to her. She says this frustrates her, but I have told her the reason I won’t is because she refuses to take the pill.

Abby, we are way too young to have a child and are totally unprepared. I’d still like to be intimate with Allison, but I’m afraid. What should I do? — **BETRAYED IN BANGOR, MAINE**

DEAR BETRAYED: You appear to be an intelligent and responsible young man. The first thing you should do is thank your higher power that there wasn’t an “accident” and your girlfriend didn’t become pregnant.

The next thing you should do is find out why Allison would stop taking her birth control pills with-



DEAR ABBY

out telling you. If there was a medical reason, there are other methods she could have used in their place. (If you are planning to attend college, she may have been thinking a baby would “anchor” you to her.)

And last, recognize that if you resume having sex with her -- which I emphatically DON’T recommend -- that you won’t be able to trust her as far as birth control is concerned, and you will be the one totally responsible for preventing a pregnancy.

The saying, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on ME,” applies here.

DEAR ABBY: I would like your opinion on the relatively new craze of trashing the wedding dress. I think it’s a deplorable waste. I’m sorry I kept mine and watched it yellow over the years, but I haven’t heard a reasonable argument for destroying the gown.

Some women say if they have a daughter, she wouldn’t want a dated dress. But if the dress is currently in style, I’m sure some less fortunate girl would love to have

it. Rather than trash it, I say why not donate the dress or sell it and send the money to a woman’s charity? — **SENSIBLE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE**

DEAR SENSIBLE: The only rational reason I can think of for “trashing” a wedding dress would be if the marriage was a disaster and the bride was doing it as a way of venting her anger. I can’t speak for all young women, but I am willing to bet that many would be thrilled to wear the gown their mother wore. And for those who aren’t interested or can’t fit into it, your idea of recycling is compassionate, generous and sensible.

DEAR ABBY: My husband refuses to cover his mouth when he sneezes. He thinks that by “stifling” his sneeze he doesn’t expel any particles. Besides being unhealthy, I feel it is gross for the rest of us. Is it possible to sneeze and not spray? — **DUCKING FOR SHELTER IN OHIO**

DEAR DUCKING: No. Some sneezes can travel up to a distance of 5 feet, expelling thousands of droplets into the air and onto surfaces. “Stifle” or not, your husband should cover his mouth.

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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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

A Condensed Explanation

Dear Heloise: Would you please address the difference between CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK? — Christine F., Lignum, Va.

Happy to, as it can be a little confusing. Sweetened condensed milk is WHOLE MILK that is heated until about 60 percent of the water is removed and sugar is added. It is used when making candies and desserts.

Evaporated milk is whole milk that is heated until 50 percent of the water is removed, but NO sugar is added. It is used in custards, sauces and puddings to make them thick and smooth. You CANNOT substitute condensed milk for evaporated milk or vice versa. However, I do have a Heloise’s Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet that shares a lot of food ideas you CAN substitute for one another. To receive one, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Need some milk but don’t have any on hand? Try some coffee creamer with a little water added. — Heloise

SWEET SPICE

Dear Readers: Looking for a new spice to add to your cooking? Try mace. No, not the stuff used to spray bad guys. With a sweet flavor, it is more pungent than nutmeg, with a golden-brown color. Mace is part of the nutmeg seed. You can buy it ground or whole-blade. Since the two are closely related, you can substitute nutmeg and mace in recipes.

Mace can be added to desserts, barbecue sauce and Swedish meatballs. It even can be sprinkled on potatoes or added to vegetable soups. Pick up a small bottle and spice up your life a little! — Heloise

VEGETABLE BROTH

Dear Heloise: Don’t toss those vegetable peelings, woody stems, not-so-perfect-for-salad tomatoes, etc. Save them in a zipper-top bag in the freezer with stems from parsley or other herbs. When I have a bagful, I plunk it all into a pot, add water and one 12-ounce can of vegetable juice, and make some vegetable broth.

I let this simmer until the “vegetables” are done. Strain the broth and toss the veggies. You get a real nice broth for soup or whatever you make that calls for broth. You also can refreeze the broth for another day. Adding a clove or two of garlic and a bay leaf makes a great soup starter or simply a warm broth on a cool day. — Susan, via email

TRASH BAGS

Dear Heloise: My kitchen trash can uses bags that are very snug-fitting and balloon out. This makes the trash want to stay at the top and not go to the bottom of the bag. My hint is to put the bag in the can, then take something sharp (I use closed scissors) and punch a few small holes at the top of the bag, causing it to deflate. Love your column in The Decatur (Ala.) Daily! — Ellen G., Decatur, Ala.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Flightless birds
- 5 Sudden storm
- 11 District
- 12 Mame, for one
- 13 Went cycling
- 14 So far
- 15 Had dinner
- 16 Alliance since 1949
- 17 River of Provence
- 19 Battleship letters
- 22 Hate
- 24 Annual visitor
- 26 Whole bunch
- 27 Revered one
- 28 “Tomorrow” singer
- 30 Skilled
- 31 Garden plot
- 32 Tonic, for one
- 34 Church area
- 35 Rage
- 38 Cotton pest
- 41 Completed
- 42 “Earth in the Balance” author
- 43 One-liner, e.g.
- 44 Official seal

45 Flag

feature

DOWN

- 1 Poet
- 2 Pound
- 2 Pointless
- 3 Like some pitches
- 4 Behold
- 5 Mr. Scratch
- 6 Bartlett’s collection
- 7 Computer menu choice
- 8 — loss
- 9 Drunk
- 10 Victor at Fredericksburg
- 16 Negative link
- 18 Rain dance tribe
- 19 In the way
- 20 Organ part
- 21 Pretzel topping
- 22 Obsessed captain
- 23 Nota —
- 25 Staff member
- 29 Kingdom
- 30 Forest feller
- 33 Spot in the ocean
- 34 Stratford’s river
- 36 “My Way” writer
- 37 Forest grazer
- 38 Used to be
- 39 Ivy Leaguer
- 40 Chick holder
- 41 Party hires

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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38	39	40					41		
42							43		
44							45		

7-31

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 China setting
- 5 Majestic
- 11 Theater award
- 12 Skilled shooter
- 13 TV remote button
- 14 Messy room
- 15 Addresses
- 17 Reuben base
- 18 “My Fair Lady” lady
- 22 Batter of verse
- 24 Generous one
- 25 Good serve
- 26 Nursery occupant
- 27 Indy entrant
- 30 Goblet parts
- 32 Spine words
- 33 Bruins legend
- 34 Man at the wheel
- 38 Comfortable
- 41 Sub spot
- 42 Enters a password, perhaps
- 43 Bus. sch. course
- 44 Setting items
- 45 Poker game

DOWN

- 1 Money machines
- 2 First course, sometimes
- 3 Cross
- 4 Ensign’s answer
- 5 Pharaoh symbols
- 6 In agreement
- 7 Male escort
- 8 Good times
- 9 Filming site
- 10 Attempt
- 16 Piano part
- 19 Throw in
- 20 Tear along
- 21 News-paper section
- 22 Shopping aid
- 23 Super-fruit berry
- 28 Rio Grande city
- 29 Logic
- 30 Urgent call
- 31 Market events
- 35 Wallet bills
- 36 Noted baseball family
- 37 Considerate
- 38 Capp and Capone
- 39 Summit
- 40 Sense of self

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42							43		
44							45		

8-1

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.

7-31

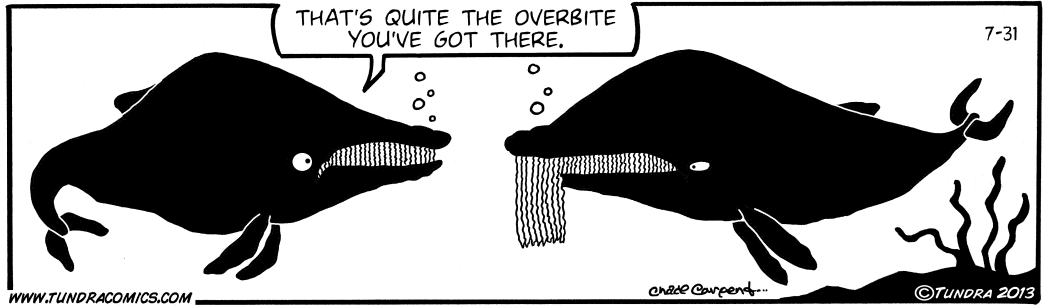
CRYPTOQUOTE

S Q A S M D P W T A H R S Q
M A S R M A N A U S R Z S Q O S C D P
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— O W A T A N D U Z

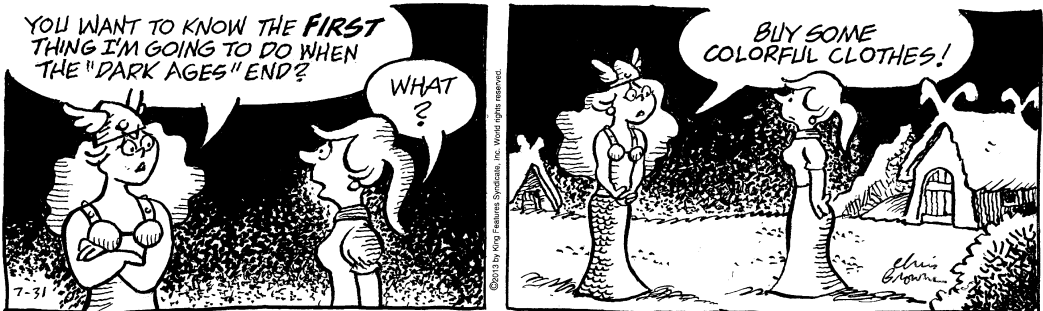
Previous Cryptoquote: WE JUDGE OURSELVES BY WHAT WE FEEL CAPABLE OF DOING, WHILE OTHERS JUDGE US BY WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE. – H.W. Longfellow

COMICS

Tundra



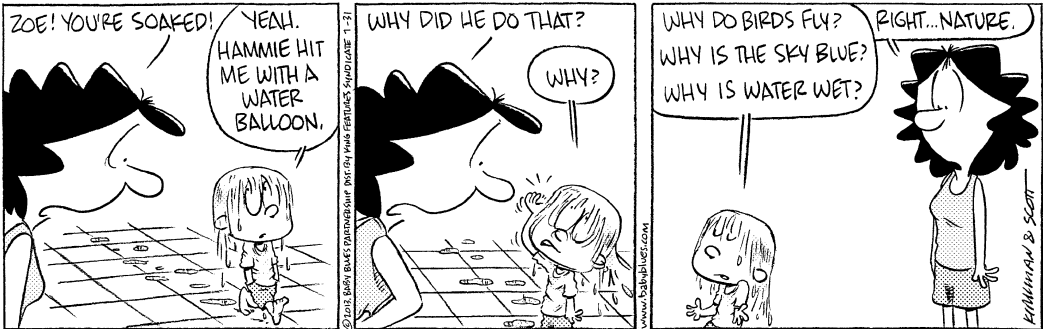
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

