

# Young teen is mocked for not wanting to date

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 14-year-old girl in middle school. I have never seriously dated anyone, and the one time I did I felt trapped. My friends think it's weird that I have never dated a guy and they call me a lesbian. I just want to finish my schoolwork and wait until high school to start dating. I don't want to feel weighed down by anyone. Is there something wrong with me? — **CONFUSED IN S. CAROLINA**

**DEAR CONFUSED:** Something wrong with you? Good grief, no! In fact, I would go so far as to say there is something RIGHT with you. Not every teen – and that goes for boys, too – feels ready to date at 14. It makes me angry that your “friends” would call you something you're not just because you're not doing what they're doing. If it persists, your parents should talk to the school about it. Preferring to concentrate on your studies and waiting until high school to date is nothing to be ashamed of – it's something to be proud of.

**DEAR ABBY:** I attended a friend's birthday celebration a few weeks ago at a chic restaurant. After our entrees were ordered and the appetizers served, the restaurant's fire alarm sounded and the dining room was evacuated. For 20 minutes all of the patrons waited patiently outside while the fire department



DEAR ABBY

was summoned. We learned from another guest that there had been a small fire in the kitchen.

When we returned to the dining room, a heated debate ensued among the guests. One person said that because the fire alarm had interrupted our meal, the lunch should be complimentary. Others insisted the restaurant owed us nothing beyond an apology. We paid our bill, but the question remains: Should the management have shown some consideration for the inconvenience we experienced? — **FOUR-ALARM FRAZZLED**

**DEAR FRAZZLED:** I took your question to Craig Susser, owner of the successful Craig's restaurant in West Hollywood, California. He agreed with me that the restaurant owner should have shown appreciation for the patience that was exhibited by the patrons.

While Craig said he wouldn't have paid for the entire meal for everyone who was dining there that day, he certainly would

have made some adjustment to the bill to compensate them for their inconvenience. “After all, we're in it together,” he added. And that gracious attitude is why he has one of the most popular dining establishments in L.A.

**DEAR ABBY:** What are your thoughts on marriage? Is it an antiquated practice? I don't know if I really want it, or just because society and social media deem it important. — **CINDY VIA TWITTER**

**DEAR CINDY:** I don't consider marriage to be an antiquated practice at all. In a sense, marriage is a “team sport.” It won't succeed unless the team members are dedicated to a common goal and are willing to sacrifice selfish needs to achieve it.

In my opinion, the reason so many marriages fail is that individuals go into it for the wrong reasons. No one should marry because “society” and “social media” deem it important. When you meet the right person, you won't be ambivalent about spending your life and creating a family with that individual.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

su | do | ku

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Be honest with yourself, Aries. Sometimes change can be a good thing, so take a few days to sort through all of your options. You will be glad you did.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have to be clever to solve a particular problem this week. It will be challenging, but you are up to the task and your efforts will be their own reward.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, spend some time thinking about what you want rather than what others want for you. You may discover significant differences between the two, but do what makes you happy.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, it may take some time to get back on your feet after a stumble, but you will get there much faster if you ask a few friends for support. You know the people who have your back.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, very little can disappoint you or affect your mood. Enjoy the responsibility-free week with a free spirit. This is a great time for a vacation.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Think through all of your options before you act, Virgo. While something may seem like a good idea at first, careful thought may reveal some bumps in the road.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Work hard to earn a promotion at work, Libra. While you may need to take on more responsibility and work longer hours, the payoff will be well worth it.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, if you feel you are at a crossroads, take your time to make the best possible decision. This is a significant moment for you, and it requires focus and forethought.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, supporting a family member who deserves it has you riding high this week. This support may be emotional in nature or even financial support if you can manage.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, family activities are getting in the way of business prospects, and vice versa. You may need to make a difficult decision in the near future.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, think through the pros and cons of speaking your mind at work. Your opinions are valid, but you run the risk of alienating certain people, and that should not be taken lightly.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Approach a problem that's been puzzling you from a different perspective, Pisces. This new way of looking at things makes all the difference.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 13  
Harrison Ford, Actor (72)

JULY 14  
Peta Murgatroyd, Dancer (28)

JULY 15  
Brigitte Nielsen, Actress (51)

JULY 16  
Duncan Keith, Athlete (31)

JULY 17  
Luke Bryan, Singer (38)

JULY 18  
Kristen Bell, Actress (34)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 Throws  
1 Place for a coin  
5 Dyeing technique

**DOWN** 1 March honoree, for short  
2 Sports group  
3 Challenge

4 Make a knot  
5 Outlaws  
6 Had a bite  
7 Rich cakes  
8 Ask  
9 Maintains sight to  
11 Welcome  
25 Dawn goddess  
26 Low joints

L	E	D	A			S	A	F	E
A	M	I	S	H		S	E	N	I
T	A	M	P	A		P	E	D	R
H	I	S		S	L	U	R	R	E
S	L	U	F	F	E	D	E	S	E
		S	M	A	U	G	S	A	T
					K	N	I	S	H
	A	L	E		B	L	A	I	R
A	L	A		S	L	U	G	G	E
S	L	U	M	M	E	D		N	E
P	U	R	E	E		G	R	O	V
I	R	E	N	E		E	A	R	E
C	E	L	S		M	E	S	S	

Previous Puzzle

17 Ouster  
20 Kilt's cousin  
21 Litigious ones  
23 How a pig may be roasted  
25 Dawn goddess  
27 Kitchen whistler  
28 Put away  
29 No frills  
31 Giraffe features  
33 God of war  
36 Little laborer  
38 Right away

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
				11		12			
10									
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	

7-12

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 “Sure, why not!”  
1 Rural spread  
5 Bird's gullet  
9 Mother of Tiberius  
10 Felt unwell  
12 Hollywood deal maker  
13 Juliet's love  
14 Romantic time of day  
16 Music's Yoko  
17 Factual part  
18 Army affirmative  
21 Glimpse  
22 Pixie  
23 Watchful  
24 Ski downhill  
26 Game official  
29 Desert sight  
30 Designer Wang  
31 Start of a count  
32 China collection  
34 Dwelling  
37 Wonderland visitor  
38 Eagle's claw  
39 Shows disuse  
40 Title paper

**DOWN** 1 Diagram  
2 Broad street  
3 Washer cycle  
4 Spouse  
5 Sedan or SUV  
6 Carnival city  
7 Nearly  
8 Hot dog  
9 Survives  
11 Elevator  
15 Prepare copy for print  
19 Blunders  
20 Use a chair  
22 Wallop  
23 Cry of insight  
24 Fabled sailor  
25 Bayou cooking style  
26 Stand up to  
27 Puts up  
28 Trio of myth  
29 Protective ditch  
30 Worth  
33 Rank above viscount  
35 Fawn's mother  
36 Last part

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

Previous Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
					10				11
9									
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		

7-14

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R  
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.

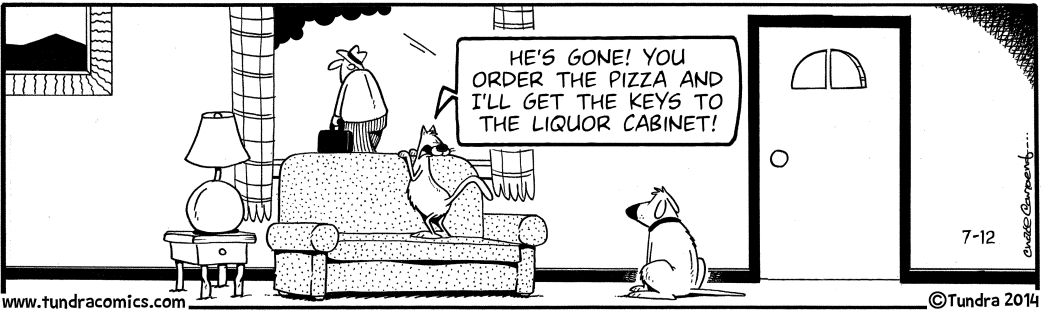
7-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

EXUTU ZTU EXTUU EPIUR DN  
QZRUQZVV IVZPUTR: EXDRU SXD  
OZHU KE XZIIUA, EXDRU SXD  
SZEMX KE XZIIUA ZAG EXDRU  
SXD SDAGUT SXZE XZIIUAR.  
— EDOOP VZRDTGZ

Previous Cryptoquote: A PEOPLE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR PAST HISTORY, ORIGIN AND CULTURE IS LIKE A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS. – Marcus Garvey

COMICS

Tundra



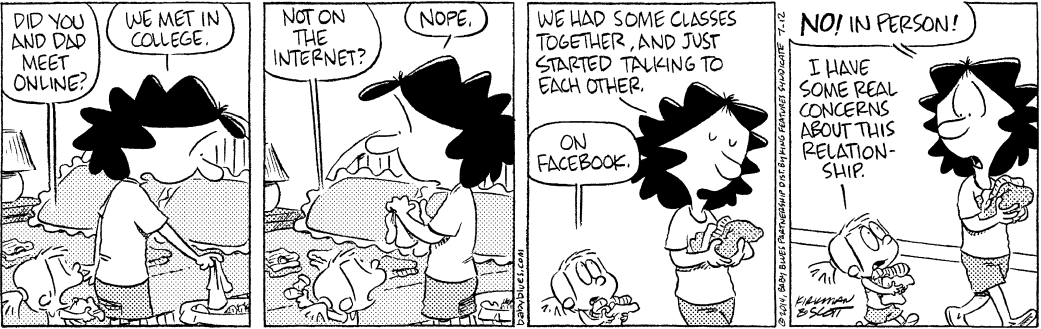
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

