

Overlooked middle child’s cries for help go unheeded

DEAR ABBY: I’m a teenage girl who is frustrated with my family. I am the middle child, and it seems like my parents prefer my brother and sister over me. I am constantly in trouble for things they have done, and my parents are aware that they did.

When I try to express my feelings, nobody will listen. Several times I have almost committed suicide or run away. I am lost and I don’t know what to do. Please help me. — **NOWHERE IN INDIANA**

DEAR NOWHERE: When a person cries out in pain and feels she (or he) isn’t heard, it can be doubly painful. But suicide or running away is not the answer. What you need to do is explain to an adult – an aunt, uncle, school counselor or close family friend – how you are feeling, so that person can intercede on your behalf with your parents, who may not realize what they’re doing and the effect it’s having on you.

DEAR ABBY: How long is too long to wait when it comes to hearing the highly anticipated phrase, “I love you”? My boyfriend and I have been dating for eight months. We have been through a lot together during this time, and his actions suggest that he loves me. When I finally asked



DEAR ABBY

him why he hasn’t said it to me, he said, “Why haven’t YOU said it?” “I want it to happen naturally,” and, “Just be patient with me.”

We get along amazingly well. We have a wonderful time every time we see each other (which is almost every day), and he has told me he can see a future with me. Am I wrong for thinking I deserve to hear the “I” word at this point, or am I rushing things? I don’t understand why he is so reluctant to say it, and his reluctance makes me think maybe he just doesn’t love me. — **STILL WAITING IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR STILL WAITING: Not all men are comfortable expressing their emotions verbally. Actions speak louder than words. Many men have told women they “love” them, only to have their behavior prove otherwise.

That your boyfriend has given you three different

answers to your question indicates to me that you may have been pushing him to say it. I would caution you against that because it could push him away. Hearing the words “I love you” isn’t something a person “deserves.” It’s important that the words be genuine.

DEAR ABBY: When I approach someone to hug, is there a correct side to go for? Does a relative or friend have a bearing on your choice, or does it matter if it’s a man or woman or how well you know them? Is the left side as good as the right side? — **WHICH SIDE? IN OHIO**

DEAR WHICH SIDE: Hugging anyone you don’t know well is a mistake because some people have an aversion to intimate contact with strangers. That said, I don’t think it matters a lot which side you “go for” – although I have heard some people bear to the left because that way their hearts are closer together. Personally, I tend to feint to the left because I’m left-handed – but that’s just me.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have a natural sense of what people want. You may find yourself playing the role of peacemaker this week, and it’s a role you will excel in.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Your goals are commendable, Taurus. By Friday you may find there are some things you need to take charge of. Don’t worry when things get hectic, as you will get the job done.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

This is a good week to reshape and renew a personal philosophy on spirituality, Gemini. You’ll experience breakthroughs in compassion and communication.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you are pondering a trip out of town. A secluded cabin or campsite may be the way to go. You will find plenty of great options if you ask around for recommendation.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

There’s more to you than meets the eye, Leo. But people often seem content with what they gleam from the surface. This week you will show them a different side.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

You’re not content to be just part of the party this week, Virgo. You want to be the center of attention. You just may get your chance later in the week when a social occasion pops up.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, don’t grow discouraged when your first try at something doesn’t work out as you had expected. You will have plenty of opportunities to try again.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Patience has not always been your strong suit, Scorpio. When you set your eyes on a prize this week, you will do anything within your power to get it.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you know that complaining about a situation is not likely to make it change anytime soon. Instead, put your words into action and attempt to change things for the better.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Restlessness has you looking for a brief vacation to somewhere within driving distance, Capricorn. It is a great time of year for a road trip to take in the foliage.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, it may take a while to wrap your head around a particularly trying problem. If you cannot come to a resolution on your own, ask a friend to share his or her perspective.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Simplify your life any way you can this week, Pisces. You will benefit from few responsibilities and no worries.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 12
Hugh Jackman, Actor (46)

OCTOBER 13
Paul Simon, Singer (73)

OCTOBER 14
Stacy Keibler, Wrestler (35)

OCTOBER 15
Emeril Lagasse, Chef (55)

OCTOBER 16
Tim Robbins, Actor (56)

OCTOBER 17
Ernie Els, Golfer (45)

OCTOBER 18
Erin Moran, Actress (54)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Place to put in

5 Scratching post users

9 Where Akitas originated

10 Field units

12 Improve, in a way

13 Paris divider

14 “Indo-chine” star

16 Flapper wrapper

17 Simone’s summer

18 Pistol, e.g.

20 Avoids

22 DVR option

23 DVR option

25 Go around

28 Suddenly turned

32 Foot, in slang

34 Historic time

35 Piston connector

36 Requests

38 UFO pilot

40 Steer clear of

41 Tubular pasta

42 Romantic dozen

43 Glade grazer

44 Ignored the limit

DOWN

1 Awoke

2 Had its premiere

3 Wind indicator

4 Product’s final consumer

5 Packed in boxes

6 Trick taker, often

7 Of the clan

8 Lady of Spain

26 Combined

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| M | A | R | T | H | A | | C | H | E | W |
| A | M | O | R | A | L | | H | E | R | O |
| T | Y | B | A | L | T | | E | A | R | N |
| | | | C | L | O | S | E | D | | |
| L | A | R | K | | A | S | T | R | O | |
| A | D | O | | C | O | V | E | R | E | D |
| B | O | A | | A | W | E | | I | C | E |
| O | R | D | E | R | E | D | | P | A | T |
| R | E | T | R | O | | | A | S | P | S |
| | | | R | A | M | P | | | | |
| O | T | I | S | | E | L | A | T | E | D |
| H | O | P | E | | E | N | R | A | G | E |
| M | E | S | | P | A | T | R | O | N | |

Previous Puzzle

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 9 | Blasé | 27 | Salt additive |
| 11 | Sordid | 29 | Deny |
| 15 | Regarding | 30 | Wore away |
| 19 | Foil’s kin | 31 | Is bold |
| 21 | Nice guy | 33 | Less loony |
| 24 | Some Quidditch players | 37 | Sow chow |
| 25 | Satchel | 39 | Hydrocarbon suffix |
| 26 | Combined | | |

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 21 Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
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| 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 32 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 41 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | | | | | | | |

10-11

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bug-squashing sound

6 Battle souvenir

10 Penna. city

11 Timber wolves

13 Solitary sort

14 Time’s 2012 Person of the Year

15 Neither Dem. nor Rep.

16 Bunny move

18 Bar topic

19 Japanese ritual

22 Victor at Manassas

23 A single time

24 Spring month

27 Ranch animal

28 Sheet music symbol

29 Couple ritual

30 Office ritual

35 Summer in Paris

36 Marks a ballot

37 Boxing’s “Greatest”

38 Get naked

40 Map within a map

42 Note from the boss

43 Hågar’s dog

44 Genuine

45 Irritable

DOWN

1 Divided

2 Caller’s need

3 Singer

4 Pub drink

5 North Carolina native

6 Incline

7 Corn core

8 Ear-shaped shell

25 Conspirator

26 Game official

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | L | L | | B | O | R | I | S |
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| B | I | N | G | E | | W | E | L | D |
| U | T | E | | C | E | L | S | I | U |
| G | E | N | I | U | | A | C | E | |
| | | | A | R | E | A | N | E | D |
| | | | G | E | N | E | T | O | T |
| V | A | L | | D | U | L | L | | |
| I | N | A | | R | A | D | I | U | S |
| C | A | S | S | I | U | S | R | T | E |
| A | C | T | E | D | | E | L | A | T |
| R | H | I | N | E | | S | I | T | E |
| S | E | C | T | S | | V | E | R | Y |

Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 38 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 44 | | | | | | | | | | | |

10-13

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.

10-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z X A U D H O G F P Q R H I I Z W O Z Q O

F D Z F H B B H Q I C H A O X I R Z E O

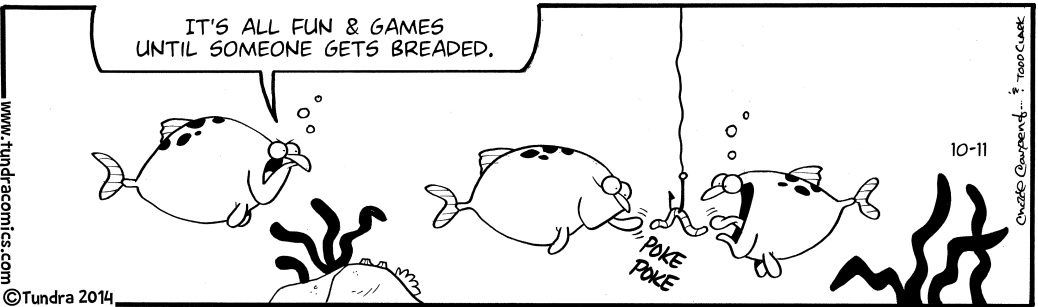
F D P R F O L Q Z F F O U Z X B Y E O .

— A P B C D F P B Y Z O W O A I Z Q

Previous Cryptoquote: TO HANDLE YOURSELF, USE YOUR HEAD; TO HANDLE OTHERS, USE YOUR HEART. – Eleanor Roosevelt

COMICS

Tundra



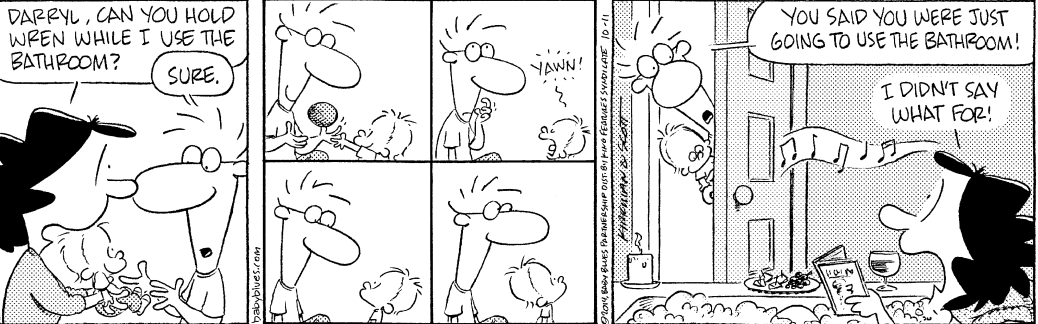
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

