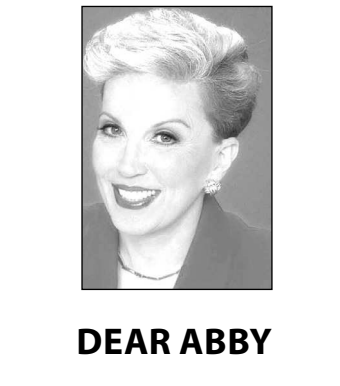


Man longs for thrill he felt when romance was brand-new

DEAR ABBY: I'm in desperate need of help. I have been with my girlfriend for four years. With every long-term relationship, there are bound to be issues. I haven't felt loved by her in a long time, and I think I have fallen out of love with her. I can't even tell her that I love her anymore because I don't want to lie.

When we make love, it's dull and boring. I want to feel the way I used to about her. When I was near her, my hairs used to stand up, my heart would race, my body would quiver and I would never want to let her go. How can I feel that way about her again? — **WANTS THAT OLD FEELING**

DEAR WANTS: The problem with relationships is that they can only be brand-new once. With the passage of time, to some extent the excitement fades. That's where the "work" comes in. Longtime couples must make an effort to keep their relationship fresh and exciting. This means introducing spontaneity and new experiences to each other. You say you haven't felt loved by her in a long time. My advice would be to talk to her about it. Because you can't bring yourself to tell her you love her, has it occurred to you that she



DEAR ABBY

might feel as though she has been emotionally abandoned by you? If you want that old feeling back, you and your lady will need to resume communication on a meaningful level. It's not always easy, but honesty can revive a relationship that's wilting.

DEAR ABBY: I live with my longtime boyfriend in a house he owns. We're five hours away from my parents and siblings and the town in which I grew up. It's a beautiful house with lots of land, and I can imagine raising a family here. However, I always thought that if I had children, I'd live close to the rest of my family. I would want my parents nearby so they could lend a hand, and I want my kids to have a close relationship with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. My boyfriend is open to the idea of selling the house,

but I'm not sure I would want him to. What should I do? I love this house, but how can I start a family so far from my own? — **LOOKING AHEAD IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR LOOKING AHEAD: Before you make any decisions, discuss this with your parents and see if their vision of grandparenthood is similar to your fantasy. Take into consideration how close they are to your siblings and how involved they are in each other's lives. Be sure that the kind of extended family relationship you envision is realistic.

If everyone is on board, then you and your boyfriend should talk about what relocating will mean in terms of not only selling this house, but also the impact it might have on your ability to earn a living. This property may be terrific, but if it cannot offer you the lifestyle you wish for, then you would be better served to move. But only you can decide that.

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.

su | do | ku

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, reexamine the important relationships in your life. Figure out what you learned from each friendship and acquaintance, and put those lessons to good use.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, with so many tasks to complete, you may be tempted to forget about everything and take a mental health day. But everything will still be there tomorrow.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you're brimming with excitement about learning something new this week. You may finally be on the cusp of mastering a particularly challenging skill.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, it may be challenging to settle your thoughts this week. Work is weighing heavily on your mind, but go easy on yourself and you will still get everything done.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, some people around you may be especially busy this week while you really don't have much to do. Think of it as a good omen of things to come.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Share your feelings for someone else with that person this week, Virgo. You may regret your actions if you don't take that emotional leap.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, while you are usually the one who plays peacemaker, this week you are in a position to cause trouble. Don't worry what others think or say.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Remember that success comes in many shapes and sizes, Scorpio. Don't be so quick to consider something a failure. You may just need a new perspective to realize your success.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, there are many entertainment options this week, so it's difficult to choose how to spend your time. Whatever you choose, it is bound to be a memorable night.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Money matters could be taking up a considerable chunk of your time, Capricorn. Focus your concentration on finances and leave other responsibilities on the side for now.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, don't worry if something proves confusing and a challenging nut to crack. Things will sort themselves out in due time, and you will be back on the right track.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

A predicament in your personal life could have you feeling uncomfortable, Pisces. Wait for a clearer picture before taking action.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 7
Chrissie Hynde, Singer (63)

SEPTEMBER 8
Alecia "Pink" Moore, Singer (35)

SEPTEMBER 9
Hunter Hayes, Singer (23)

SEPTEMBER 10
Joe Perry, Musician (64)

SEPTEMBER 11
Virginia Madsen, Actress (53)

SEPTEMBER 12
Louis CK, Comic (47)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Give a

hoot

5 Stylish

10 Verdi

pieces

12 Antisocial

sort

13 Took

notice

14 Pedro's

pal

15 Flightless

bird

16 Decline

18 Cam-

bridge

sch.

19 Nanny's

nappy

21 Long

swim

trunks

22 Old

calculator

24 Hive head

25 Overthrow

29 Give an

edge

30 Euphoric

32 Louvre fill

33 Common

verb

34 That girl

35 Tuck, for

one

37 Minos'

kingdom

39 Florida

city

40 Sounds

41 Sacked

out

42 Cell

feature

DOWN

1 Packed in

boxes

2 Friend of

Porthos

3 Ceremony

11 Acceler-

ate

17 Stud farm

owner

20 Irritated

state

21 Coup

group

23 Keep in

power

25 Mustang's

place

9 Easy runs

26 Punctual

27 Wise

goddess

28 Wobble

29 Tool

handles

31 Getup

33 "I smell

— I"

36 Phone

download

38 Hold up

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

Previous Puzzle

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
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		

9-6

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Watered

down

5 Greek

goddess

of

marriage

9 Cost

10 Singer

Cara

12 Supple

13 In poor

taste

14 Greek

goddess

of wisdom

16 Pub brew

17 Golf pegs

18 Poker

plays

21 Make

mistakes

22 Publicity

acts

23 Musical

drama

24 Canal

setting

26 "My

country

— of

thee"

29 Game

quest

30 Of high

quality

31 Hockey's

Bobby

32 Greek

goddess

of the

moon

34 Tale tellers

37 Snooped

(around)

38 Titled

women

39 Uses a

towel

40 Greek

goddess

of youth

41 Beach

stuff

DOWN

1 Novel

creator

2 Choice

word

3 Massage

targets

4 Acute

5 Batter's

goal

6 Memo-

orable time

7 Get a new

actor for

8 Low joints

9 Setting

piece

11 Facial

pair

15 Greek

goddess

of hunting

19 Mystique

20 One —

million

22 Rigging

support

23 — roll

(doing

well)

24 Outcast

25 Steep-

roofed

home

26 Connects

27 Wanting

28 Garden

starters

29 Hawked

30 Plant life

33 Some

linemen

35 Yank's foe

36 Compass

dir.

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