Refusal to drink makes woman feel out of step with her peers

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm 20 years old. My boyfriend and I don't drink. Almost every person my age does, and it's starting to get to me. I'd love to have friends besides my boyfriend I can hang out with, but I find that I only connect with him because everyone else always wants to go out and party. He is an introvert, so the seclusion doesn't bother him. I, on the other hand, am greatly bothered by it.

I have always been ahead of the curve in terms of people my age. I have more in common with 30-year-olds than people in college. Unfortunately, I would feel weird spending time with 30-year-olds, and I'm sure they'd feel the same about spending time with me. Most of my spare time is spent with my family. They just seem to get me.

How can I find people my age who think the way I do? I don't want to be the kind of girl who only spends time with her boyfriend. I would appreciate other relationships. — **LIZ IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR LIZ: I agree that it's time to expand your circle of acquaintances. That's why I'm advising you to join a gym or some other physical activity group and start meeting people who are involved in physical fitness. None of the ones I know want to spend their time drinking and partying because they are more interested in eating and living healthfully. I'm sure if you try it, you will meet others who think the way you do.

DEAR ABBY: I am 15, and all of my friends my age and a grade lower have their belly buttons pierced. I have been asking my mom for a very long time and she doesn't have a problem with it, but my dad does. He won't let me get it done because he doesn't want me looking like trash at this age.

I don't want it to impress boys; I want it for my own beauty and to look good with a cute jewel to go with my summer outfits or bathing suits. They said to ask you if you think it's wrong to have a belly button pierced at the age of 15. Is it wrong? — **KYLIE IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR KYLIE: I don't think that having a belly button pierced is a question of right or wrong. I suspect that your father's objection -- and I'm not sure I disagree with him -- is that he would prefer you make an impression by attracting attention in some other way. I'm suggesting you hold off for now and have it done when you're older -- providing you haven't changed your mind by then.

DEAR ABBY: 1. What do you call a person who is neither a morning lark nor a night owl? (That's me.)

2. What do you call someone who is neither a giver nor a taker? (That's me, too.)

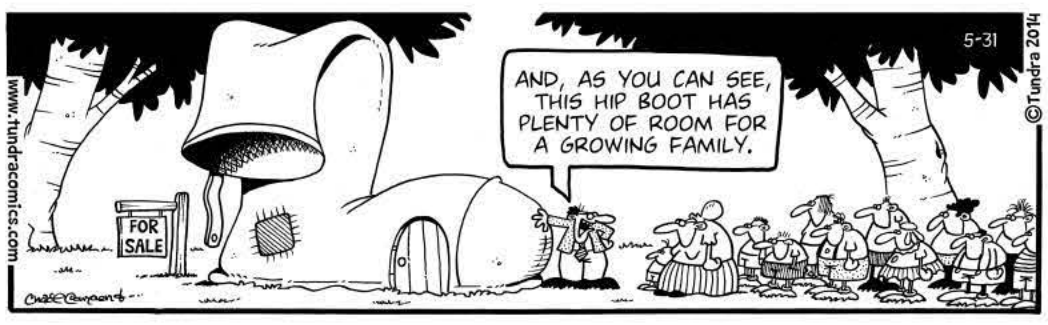
Your answers will help me win a delicious meal! — **INQUISITIVE IN OTTAWA**

DEAR INQUISITIVE: A person who is neither a lark nor a night owl is called a robin. Someone who is neither a giver nor a taker is probably a loner.

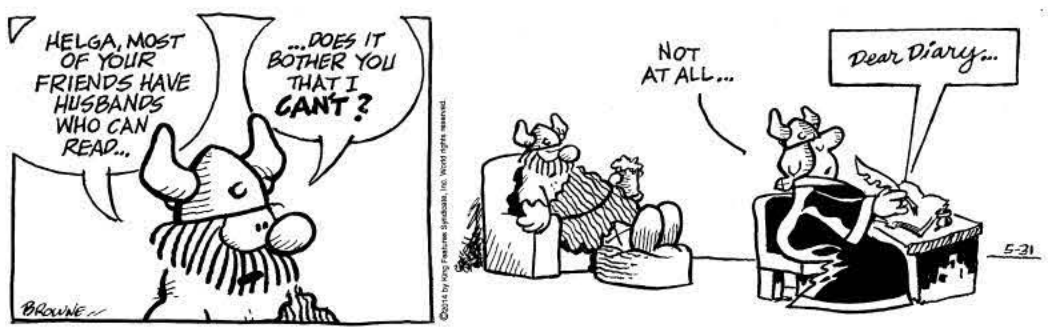
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

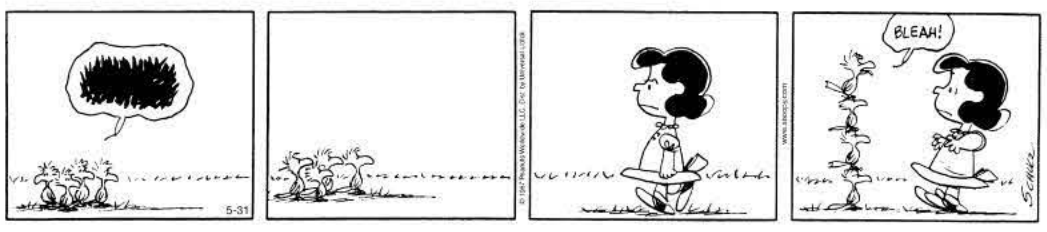
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

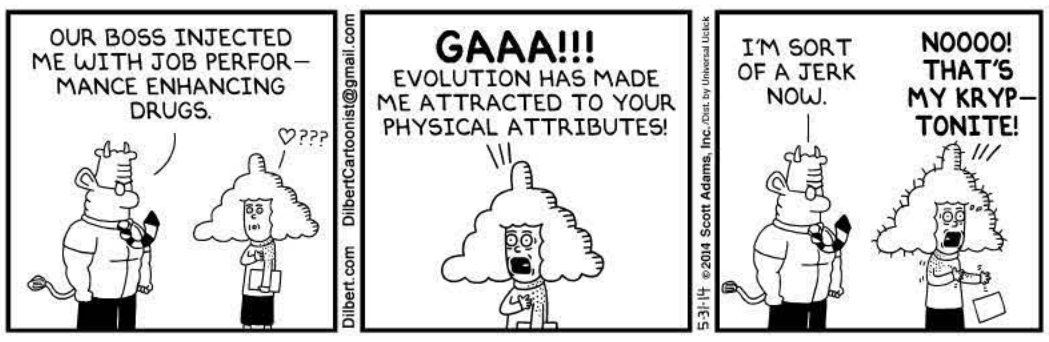


Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your energy is contagious this week, and others flock to you as if you have a magnetic pull. Enjoy the attention, but don't forget to seek some solitude as well.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Take precautions as you prepare for an important project, Taurus. If you rush through things, you are bound to make mistakes that could negatively impact your career.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Everything you touch turns to gold this week, Gemini. You could set many things into motion with your clever ideas and infectious charisma. Stay grounded.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
An unexpected encounter stirs up some old feelings, Cancer. Enjoy your trip down Memory Lane and take advantage of this opportunity to reconnect with an old friend.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, tread lightly this week when working on an important project. Expect scrutiny in all you do and plan accordingly. Keep working hard, and your efforts will be noticed.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Expect the unexpected this week, Virgo. Things might seem as if they are going according to plan, but a few complications may arise so be prepared.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
A great idea has sidetracked you for some time now, Libra. But now it's time to get back into your normal routine and focus on the tasks at hand.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, embrace unique ideas concerning your future this week. Consider all possibilities no matter how out of the ordinary they may seem.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Practical concerns could temporarily stall plans that are a bit fantastical, Sagittarius. But don't fret, you will have an opportunity to put some plans in motion soon enough.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
You may experience a conflict with others at work this week, Capricorn. It is best to roll with the punches instead of causing a stir. Allow the situation to unfold.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, a hectic few weeks at work have proven distracting. It might seem overwhelming right now, but things will settle down in a matter of days.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you may want to be invisible in the crowd this week, but that scenario simply isn't in the cards. Grin and bear the attention.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 1
Heidi Klum, Model (41)

JUNE 2
Zachary Quinto, Actor (37)

JUNE 3
Anderson Cooper, TV Host (47)

JUNE 4
Bar Refaeli, Model (29)

JUNE 5
Mark Wahlberg, Actor (43)

JUNE 6
Robert Englund, Actor (67)

JUNE 7
Michael Cera, Actor (26)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Complete
7 Even
11 Zoo resident
12 Golf goal
13 Well
14 Rams' mates
15 Bikini, for one
16 Sweet liqueur
17 Behind schedule
18 Team member
19 Fictional plantation
21 N.Y. neighbor
22 Yuri Gagarin, for one
25 Big truck
26 Bankrupt
27 Made blank
29 Folded food
33 Gunpowder ingredient
34 George Burns prop
35 "Yeah, right!"
36 Phone feature
37 Varnish layer
38 "We — amused!"
39 Mark's replacement
40 Get snug

DOWN
1 Barge site
2 Writer Loos
3 Lace loop
4 Brunch orders
5 Plunge
6 Jeans feature
7 Heyerdahl's "— Expeditions"
8 Grateful reply
9 Tin or titanium
10 Maroon
16 Families
18 Strutting
20 Traffic light color
22 Moose's cousin
23 Carousing
24 Now and then
25 Shylock's home
28 Fight
30 IRS worker
31 Seasonal song
32 Make speeches
34 Give a hoot
36 Fire

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

Previous Puzzle

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Contact by phone
5 Jack of nursery rhymes
10 Opera solo
11 Written exemption
13 Fix
14 Sweater yarn
15 Eternal
17 Little rascal
18 Homes for horses
19 Party staple
20 Luau music maker
21 Ballet leap
22 Rough peaks
25 Less polite
26 Chops down
27 Sweetie
28 "Now — seen everything!"
29 Iroquois tribe
33 Treat rudely, in slang
34 Mobile setting
35 Change over time
37 River of Russia
38 "The Omen" child
39 Intent look
40 Lusty looks
41 Rose part

DOWN
1 "The Plague" author
2 "— we all?"
3 Singer Ronstadt
4 Spotted insects
5 Al Jolson song
6 Hunger signals
7 Outfit
8 Steered clear of
9 Wood-damaging pest
12 Drake or Dre
16 Sorts
21 Leaf-eating insects
22 Scolded
23 New version of a musical
24 Impressive
25 Writer Jaffe
27 Mount St. —
29 Thrifty person
30 Diamond unit
31 Knock for a loop
32 Oregon's capital
36 Tell tales

R	A	F	T	S	■	A	L	B	U	M
E	L	I	O	T	■	F	I	O	N	A
D	I	R	T	Y	■	F	L	O	O	D
■	■	E	S	P	R	I	T	■	■	■
G	A	B	■	T	E	X	■	F	A	T
A	L	I	B	I	S	■	A	I	D	A
F	I	R	E	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
F	A	D	E	■	R	O	M	E	R	O
E	S	S	■	P	T	S	■	B	E	N
■	■	■	P	E	S	E	T	A	■	■
C	A	J	U	N	■	B	I	L	B	O
A	C	O	R	N	■	A	L	L	E	N
B	E	E	R	Y	■	G	E	S	T	E

Previous Puzzle

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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.

5-31 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Z NIOZY RPNSIO HI QCJTPBSO PT FPKO, LSY PY'T TODR-KHFRPEOFKO YCZY UZMOT THUOHFO IOZDDJ TOVJ. — WPWPKZ RHV

Previous Cryptoquote: AFTER CLIMBING A GREAT HILL, ONE ONLY FINDS THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE HILLS TO CLIMB. – Nelson Mandela