Daughter's obsessive stalker ratchets up his accusations

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am very concerned about my 33-year-old daughter's safety. A man in his mid-60s, someone she met at a previous job, has become obsessed with her. He has declared his love for her, divorced his wife and slathered my struggling, single daughter with gifts over the last three years.

She has refused his advances on nearly a daily basis, and he is now tracking her every move. If she leaves her house for even 30 minutes, he knows and accuses her of going to have sex with someone. If she says she's coming to my house, he drives by to verify it. If it takes her longer than he thinks it should, he accuses her of having sex with someone. She swears that she has never had sex with him.

It has really intensified lately. I'm frantic about her safety. What should I do? — **SCARED MOM IN FLORIDA**

DEAR SCARED MOM: Your daughter's "admirer" is showing all the signs of being a stalker. Why is she carrying on ANY conversations with him and telling him where she's going? If she accepted gifts he "slathered" on her, it may be why he feels she encouraged him. They should be returned.

You and your daughter should go to the police and report what he has been doing. It may be necessary for her to take out a restraining order because this person appears to be unbalanced and may be dangerous.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I recently decided to get married. We plan to go to the courthouse next month and have a justice of the peace perform the ceremony. Since it will be nothing fancy, we have decided to invite just a few family members -- his mom, grandma and brother, along with my mom and dad.

What we need advice about is how to tell his mom. She feels that marriage is just a piece of paper and you shouldn't need it to prove how committed you are. Because of her views, he wants to "surprise" her the day of the wedding when we all arrive at the courthouse. I feel it's a bad idea, and she should have some time to get used to the thought of us being married.

Any advice you can offer on when to tell her, and how to handle what she's going to say? — **FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**

DEAR FUTURE D.I.L.: I agree that your boyfriend's mother should be told beforehand, and the good news should be delivered by both of you. When she delivers the predictable "marriage is just a piece of paper" comment, you should respond that the piece of paper is an important one to you, and your boyfriend should tell her he's doing this because he loves you and, in the event that anything should happen to him, he wants to provide for you. If she gives you an argument, remember that you're asking for her blessing -- not her permission.

DEAR ABBY: Do you think people can change? — **JILL IN CHESTER, PA.**

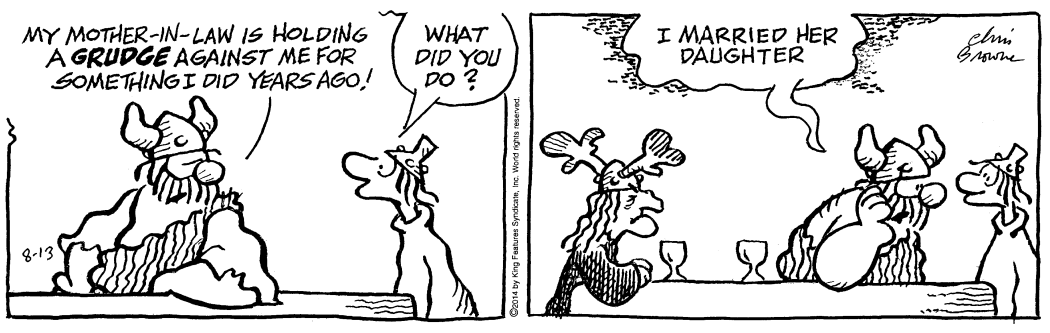
DEAR JILL: I assume you mean change for the better. The answer is yes, of course people can change. With motivation, determination and perseverance, people can accomplish almost anything they set their minds to.

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.

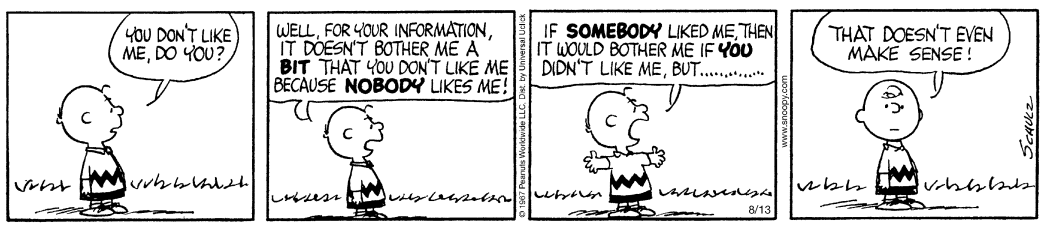
COMICS

Tundra

Hagar the Horrible

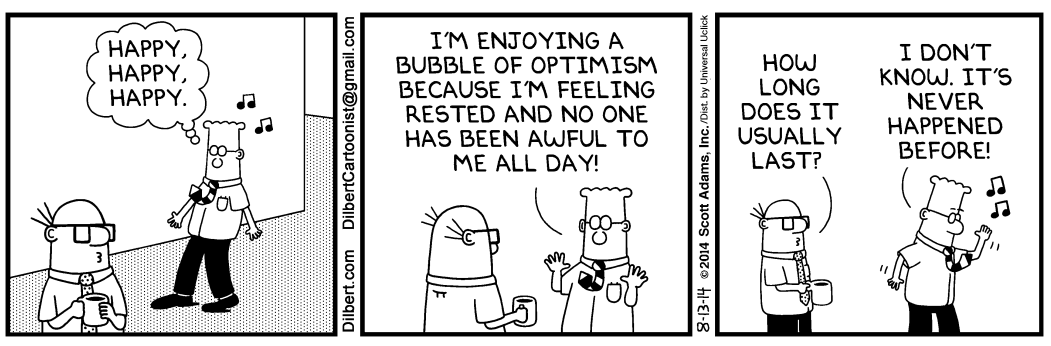


Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

For Want of 100 More Watts

Dear Heloise: I don't like to cook (I am a widow), so I eat a lot of frozen entrees. Every entree I buy says to cook in a 1,100-WATT MICROWAVE. A few years ago, I bought a new microwave, so I asked for a 1,100-watt one. No one had one – they were all 1,000-watt.

Why do manufacturers insist on their products using 1,100-watt microwaves for cooking when all you can buy is 1,000-watt? Everything I cook in the microwave I add 30 seconds to, and it works just fine. Any hints? — Shirley S. in Michigan

There are many more 1,100-watt microwaves available today in all price ranges, from low to high! It might be time to buy a new one, since the average life span is about 10 years, depending on use. If yours is still working fine, it's OK to use. Food cooks faster the higher the wattage, and slower the lower the wattage. Adding a few extra seconds of cooking time (on a low-wattage model) makes up the difference. It's better to "undercook" than "overcook," as you can always "ZAP" it a few more seconds. — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

No Frozen

Dear Heloise: Yes and no to those who want to cook pies on a pizza stone (Heloise here: A previous hint from a reader stated that she bakes many different items on a pizza stone, including pies). Make sure the pie isn't frozen, as my pizza stone cracked during baking. — Carol M. in Indiana

Yikes and double yikes! Thanks for the reminder! You can use your pizza stone to bake and cook many things, but be sure they are not frozen. -- Heloise

Handling Watermelon

Dear Heloise: I frequently buy watermelons in the summer. They are hard to handle, and quite often my clothes are soiled from contact.

My very simple hint: I put the watermelon in one of the plastic bags the market uses to bag my groceries. Not only is the watermelon easier to carry (of course I support the melon from the bottom), but I no longer worry that my clothes will be dirty. I even leave the bag on the melon until I am ready to remove it from my refrigerator. Using a plastic bag makes handling watermelon so much easier and cleaner. — Bette Y., via email

Easy Hint

Dear Heloise: My family loves fresh corn on the cob, but some don't like eating it off the cob. I stick the cob on the inner ring of a fluted cake pan and cut off the kernels. — Dana T. in Nebraska

I do the same, just on my plate. Corn on the cob without a messy face! This is especially nice for someone with braces or dentures. — Heloise

Place-Mat Storage

Dear Heloise: I organize place mats by using pants hangers, the ones with the clips. I hang and organize them by color. It's so much easier than sifting through the endless place-mat pile! — Kelly in Little Rock, Ark.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

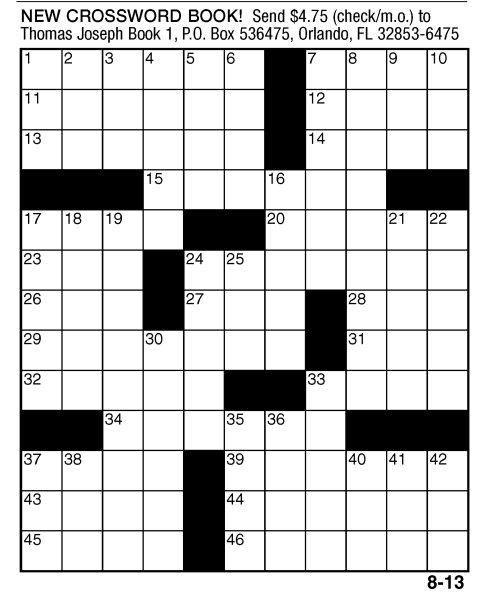
ACROSS
1 Mississippi's source lake
7 Muddy up
11 Domestic denial
12 Computer menu choice
13 Car-washing aid
14 Put away
15 Shortage
17 Life stories
20 Choose
23 Curry on TV
24 Giveaway
26 Gangster's gun
27 Penguin's cousin
28 Saloon brew
29 Draws air
31 Set fire to
32 Most new drivers
33 Lackluster
34 Frank
37 Latte topper
39 Stump figure
43 Singer Fitzgerald
44 Heavenly
45 Water source
46 Checked (out)

DOWN
1 Office-holders
2 Pinnacle
3 Commotion
4 Excites, in slang
5 Parakeet home
6 District
7 Steal steers
8 Alert
9 Groom's answer
10 Depressed
16 Stinks
17 Knock off work
18 Laughable
19 Site for portentous writing
21 Eyelashes
22 Comb parts
24 Unfaithful
25 Regret
30 Muppets drummer
33 Opera cheer
35 Tacit okays
36 Idle on film
37 Handful of
38 Flamenco cry
40 Service reward
41 Low number
42 Spectrum end

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

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



8-13

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

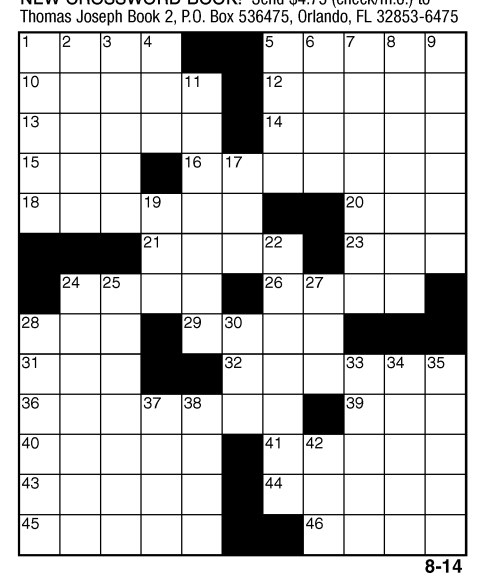
ACROSS
1 Drifting ice
5 NFL pioneer George
10 Mountain group
12 Alaska native
13 Composer Bruckner
14 Yes-man
15 Sgt., e.g.
16 Vibrant
18 Light breeze
20 Presidential nickname
21 Sharif of "Dr. Zhivago"
23 Mercury or Mars
24 Assess
26 Genesis site
28 Penna. neighbor
29 Store event
31 Future embryos
32 Striped equines
36 Pike of exploration
39 Spanish gold
40 Make blank
41 Circus worker
43 City of southern France
44 Wasn't thrifty
45 Mail order pioneer
46 Fluffy wraps

DOWN
1 Composer Liszt
2 Jousting weapon
3 Victorious
4 Sense of self
5 Millinery wares
6 Heaps
7 Tree greenery
8 Bird painter
9 Designed
11 Digestion aids
17 History chunk
19 Very popular
22 Lets up
24 Daydream
25 Crimson Tide's home
27 Ball girl
28 Egg buys
30 Dye type
33 Famed lover
34 Fight site
35 Classifies
37 Manual reader
38 Reduced amount
42 LAPD issuance

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

Previous Puzzle

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



8-14

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.

8-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

A D O D G B E G U D F N G Q B N Q V J U S A D V Q A N D Z Q A L S E B L D S E R D P Q G D E N B S D Z D E A Q Z B S D U Q G N D M J D G U D N. — A Q U S D Z Q J U E J K P

Previous Cryptoquote: THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PARENTHOOD SEEMS NOTHING BUT FEEDING THE MOUTH THAT BITES YOU. – Peter de Vries