

# Occasional hookups keep flame alive for 10 years

**DEAR ABBY:** I have known “Justin” for 10 years. I’m very interested in him. I’m sure he knows it, but we have never talked about it. Once in a blue moon we “hook up,” and I’m usually the one to set the date up.

We’re friends on social media, but weeks -- even months -- can pass without our speaking to each other. Justin and I have no mutual friends, so I can’t “accidentally” bump into him at gatherings or anything like that.

I honestly don’t mind hooking up with him because he’s the only one I do that with. But it does hurt when I don’t hear from him afterward. What should I do? It’s obvious I’m head over heels for him – he can’t be that blind! — **PLAIN JANE IN STOCKTON, CALIF.**

**DEAR JANE:** If Justin was interested in more than an occasional hookup, he’d be the one calling you, and it wouldn’t be once in a blue moon. Ten years is long enough to chase an emotionally unavailable man. If this was meant to be, it would have already happened, and you’d be more than friends on social media.

**DEAR ABBY:** I’ll be 30 soon. My friends and I have drifted apart because



DEAR ABBY

we’re all in different stages of our lives. Some of us still frequent the bar scene, others have gotten married or dropped off the radar. My closest friend is so wrapped up in “mommy blogs” and all things “baby” that she’s no longer able to discuss much else.

I don’t have children, and I’m tired of going to bars. I’m in a happy, committed relationship, but neither of us wants to focus on marriage for a few years. How do people connect with others at this stage of the game? — **FRIENDLESS IN NEW JERSEY**

**DEAR FRIENDLESS:** One way is to expand your interests. You and your boyfriend should join groups and meet people with whom you’ll have some things in common. If you’re interested in politics, the next two years should give you plenty of opportunity to meet new

people. Volunteering is another way to expand your circle of acquaintances. While you won’t make dear friends overnight -- friendships usually take a while to grow -- the more people you meet, the greater your chances will be of developing meaningful relationships.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 20-year-old college student who is a virgin. I think this is the time to date people and get a better understanding of who I am and what I like in men. When I tell guys I’m a virgin, they don’t want to talk to me anymore. When is the best time to bring it up, and how do I do that in conversation? — **DIAMOND IN THE EAST**

**DEAR DIAMOND:** You may be jumping the gun and announcing your status prematurely. The subject of one’s virginity -- or lack thereof -- is relevant at the time when there’s a reason to anticipate there will be intimacy in a couple’s relationship.

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

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.

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

Previous Puzzle

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

You’re at the brink of starting something new and impressive, Aries. Start acting like the star that you are and embrace the spotlight. It won’t take you long.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, be mindful of how well others treat you this week. Your friends and family will be there for you when you need them, so show how much you appreciate their support.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you’re accustomed to companionship, and this week will be no different. People are impressed with the way you innovate and explore new possibilities.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take care of yourself this week if you start to feel a bit under the weather. Nip it in the bud early so it does not impact your long-term plans.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, passion and energy find you moving in new directions this week. Enjoy this exciting time and document it through photos and notes to those sharing your journey.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you feel stuck in a rut, now is the ideal time to try something new. In another month or two your efforts will begin to bear fruit.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your communication skills come in handy this week when you prove capable of making a serious difference at work. Let that success carry through at home.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, maintain a handle on reality this week. Even though you’re energized by big plans and dreams, you have to keep your feet on the ground for the time being.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you are happy this week and others will look to you as an inspiration. Share your good mood with others and your happiness will only grow.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, all you have to do is focus this week and you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Come up with a challenge that has bested you in the past.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

You may not even realize you need a break and a helping hand until someone steps up and provides just that, Aquarius. Accept any and all help graciously.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your energy levels are off the charts this week. Use this abundance of energy to tackle a difficult project.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 26  
Keith Urban, Singer (47)

OCTOBER 27  
Stephan Elshaarawy, Athlete (22)

OCTOBER 28  
Lauren Holly, Actress (51)

OCTOBER 29  
Winona Ryder, Actress (43)

OCTOBER 30  
Eva Marcille, Model (30)

OCTOBER 31  
Dermot Mulroney, Actor (51)

NOVEMBER 1  
Coco Crisp, Athlete (35)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Biblical kingdom

6 Cuff site

11 Writer’s work

12 Belly-button type

13 Top players

14 Different

15 Black-and-white critters

17 Belief

18 Suffer

19 Slices of life

22 Attempt

23 “Seward’s Folly”

24 Sports figures

25 Swindle

27 Serve perfectly

30 Less cloudy

31 “East of Eden” brother

32 Muffin choice

33 Made finer

35 Art inspirers

38 Occur

39 Geometry measure

40 Burton of “Roots”

### 41 Impassive

42 Prophets

### DOWN

1 Be curt with

2 Bombast

3 Fifty-fifty

4 Necklace part

5 Home-coming destination

6 Court groove

7 Deep groove

8 Opinion opener

9 Middy break

10 Contract makeup

16 Comforts

20 Fabrics

21 Scroll-work shape

24 Tar’s place

25 Show shamelessly

26 “Get a move on!”

27 On the go

28 Senate victim

29 Town leaders

30 Deep sleeps

34 Liberate

36 Peyton’s brother

37 Jiffy

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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
30								31	
32						33		34	
35				36	37			38	
39								40	
41								42	

10-25

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Haunted house resident

6 Zombie’s starting point

11 Recipe amount

12 Talked wildly

13 Mammoth hunt weapon

14 Ham it up

15 Elisabeth of “Law & Order”

17 Took the title

18 Horror movie beast

22 Oil gp.

23 Buccaneer

27 Brings up

29 Didn’t allow

30 Little devils

32 Pleased

33 Casting spells

35 Mournful

38 Obsessed group

39 Treat’s alternative

41 Little hooter

45 Be of one mind

46 Flour separator

47 Copter part

48 Pelted as a prank

### DOWN

1 Navigation aid: Abbr.

2 Femur’s upper end

3 Start of a count

4 Field guardian

5 Fling

6 Mischievous gnome

7 Zodiac animal

8 Declare

9 Not allow

10 Serpent setting

16 Bunny move

18 Dictionary entry

19 Fencing sword

34 Nearby

20 Paper pack

21 Clown’s over-the-topper

24 Car bar

25 Eye drop

26 Whirlpool

28 Little laugh

31 “Fifth Beatle”

Sutcliffe

36 Jason’s ship

37 Grime

40 Corp. VIP

42 Table part

43 Serpent’s victim

44 Slugger Williams

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13						14			
				15		16			17
18	19	20					21		
22					23			24	25
27					28		29		
30					31		32		
				33			34		
35	36	37			38				
39				40			41	42	43
45							46		
47							48		

10-27

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR  
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.

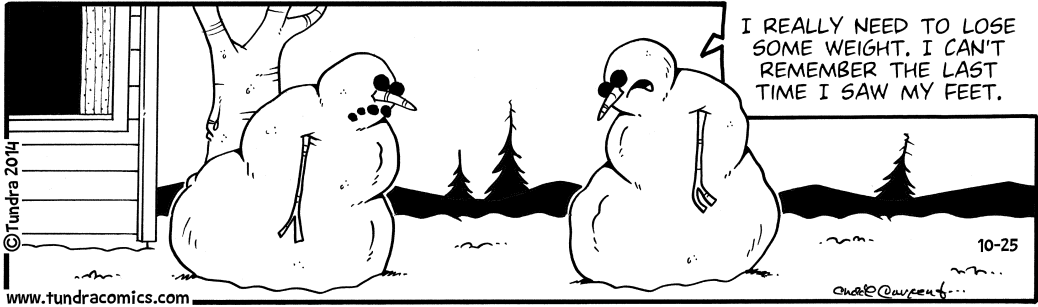
### 10-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

H VYXWG NZIDKN RHI YF Z  
JXBJPHF, ZFG DZOK HI ZWW IY  
BURKWA, IDZF QK MNYVGKG  
YF Z OKWOKI MXRDHYF.  
— DKFNU GZOHG IDYNKZX

Previous Cryptoquote: NOT ALL READERS ARE LEADERS, BUT ALL LEADERS ARE READERS. – Harry S. Truman

## COMICS

### Tundra



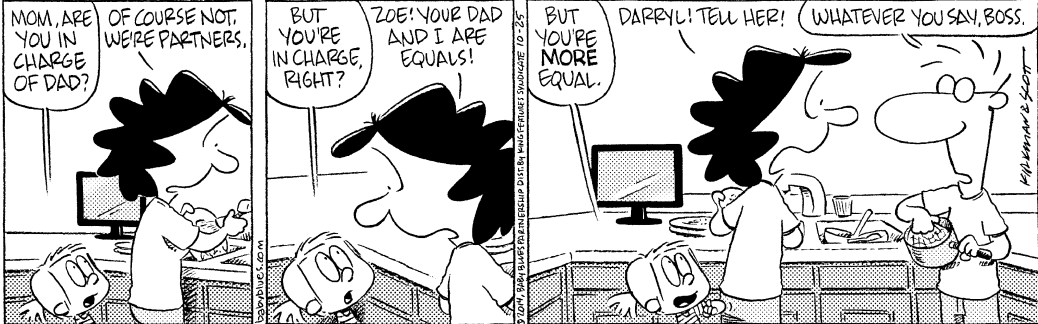
### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

