Teen is looking for direction after high school graduation

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am an 18-year-old high school senior who is scared about what's going to happen after graduation. For the past three years I have known exactly where I'll be and what I will be doing in the general sense. Now that I have one more year to go, I'm worried that I won't know what to do or how to do it when I graduate. I have talked to counselors and my dad, but they all say the same thing. Do you have any advice? — **UNEASY IN IDAHO**

DEAR UNEASY: Sit down someplace quiet and make a list of what your interests and talents are. If necessary, next year visit the career counseling department of your nearest community college or university and take some aptitude tests. This will give you an idea of what direction you may want to take in deciding what you should do next.

Unlike in generations past, people today sometimes change careers several times in their working lives, so don't be afraid that you'll be stuck in some unpleasant rut forever. The more you learn and the more people you meet, the greater your options will be, so stop worrying.

DEAR ABBY: In 1972 when I was 12, my father found out that I was gay, although that wasn't the word he used. After a severe beating that landed me in the hospital, I realized that to survive I was going to have to live "straight." Eventually I married, and for almost 25 years I was relatively happy. My wife died of cancer five years ago, and now I need to move on.

Can someone my age enter gay society? One thing I have noticed is that it can be more difficult for older gay men than straight. Any suggestions or should I just continue living the lie? — **AT A CROSSROADS IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: The gay community may be biased toward youth, but that doesn't mean it is impossible to be a part of it. You have "served your time" hiding in the straight world. Contact the nearest gay and lesbian center (lgbtcenters.org) and talk to someone there about your chances of successfully integrating. I'm sure you will be pleasantly surprised because most centers have programs for LGBT people of all ages.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 30-year-old woman. I take care of myself, exercise regularly and have a healthy diet. I'm naturally VERY thin, and the diet and exercise actually help me to gain and keep weight on my otherwise "skinny" frame.

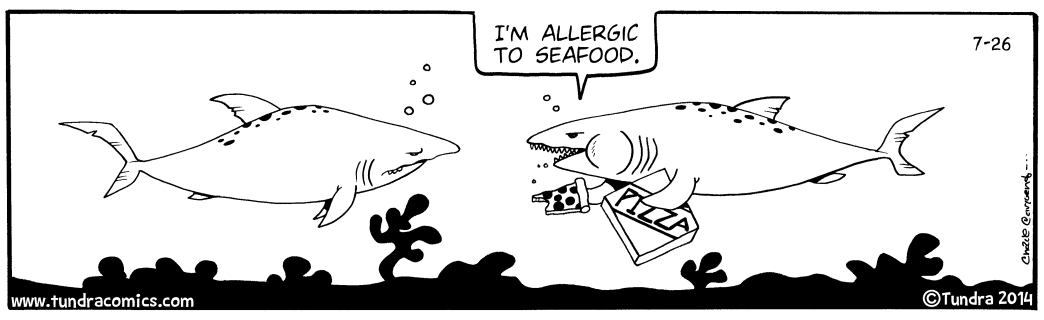
My issue is people who seem to think my weight is an OK topic of discussion, light ridicule or even harsh accusation (anorexia, bulimia, etc.). I am self-conscious about my "chicken legs" and having a "bony butt." How can I tell people that commenting on my weight is rude without creating an issue or causing drama? — **WEIGHTY ISSUE IN D.C.**

DEAR WEIGHTY ISSUE: Of course it's rude, and the comments you're receiving may have in them an element of jealousy. A nonconfrontational way to handle it would be to pleasantly assure these concerned individuals that your doctor has assured you that you are fine. Then change the subject.

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

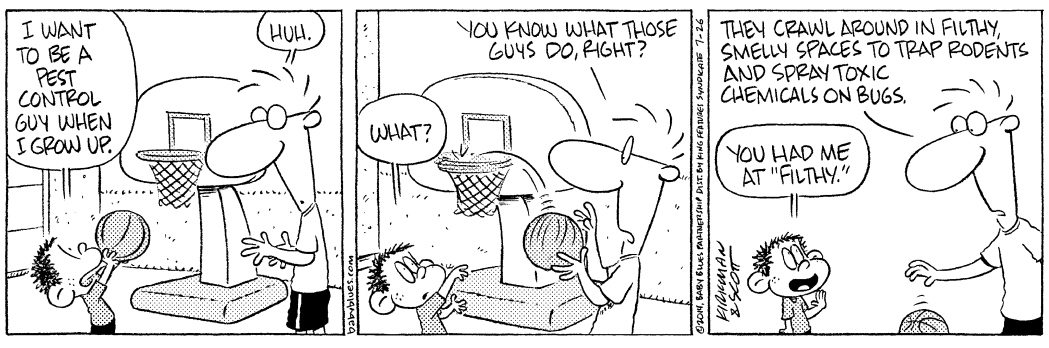
Tundra



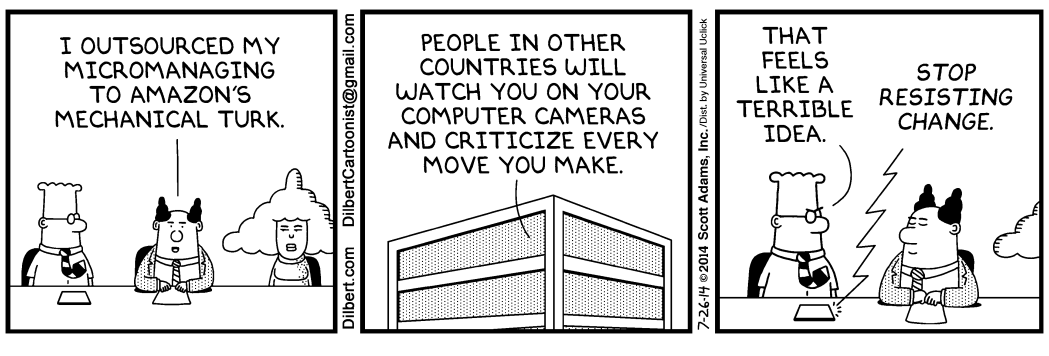
Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts

Baby Blues



Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, exercise caution when expressing your needs. It can be difficult to stop when you are drumming up so much excitement. Now is not the time to take a risk.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have overextended yourself this week. You didn't realize you had taken on so much until it was too late, but there is still time to backtrack.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, committing to a daily routine can have a strong impact on your overall health. Consider tailoring a new routine for yourself, and you'll reap the healthy rewards.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Take things slow with a budding relationship this week, Cancer. You don't want to go too fast and find yourself in over your head. Let things develop gradually.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, carefully consider any offer that seems too good to be true this week. While the person making the offer is not ill-intentioned, you still must exercise caution.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Big ideas sweep in this week and leave you with a lot of inspiration, Virgo. Don't get too lost in fantastical ideas, though. Wait a little bit before finalizing plans.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Err on the side of caution with regard to spending this week, Libra. You have to save up for a bigger purchase that's on the horizon, so try to save as much as you can now.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, only now do you realize how much you have on your plate. Think about postponing a getaway until your schedule is less packed and you can enjoy the trip even more.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, turn work into play and things will move along that much more quickly. Split up the tasks at hand with a friend or colleague, and the week will fly by.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, even though you don't have much time for yourself, you feel compelled to spend more time with others. Make some time for yourself as well.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you secretly enjoy when others come to you for advice. Think carefully before making any suggestions, and your friends will be more appreciative because of it.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Now is the time to further your studies, Pisces. Figure out how to finance a return to school and make the most of the opportunity.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 24
John Green, Author (37)

AUGUST 25
Blake Lively, Actress (27)

AUGUST 26
Melissa McCarthy, Comic actress (44)

AUGUST 27
Cesar Millan, Dog Trainer (45)

AUGUST 28
LeAnn Rimes, Singer (32)

AUGUST 29
Jay Ryan, Actor (33)

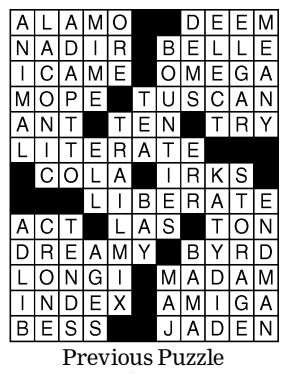
AUGUST 30
Cliff Lee, Athlete (36)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

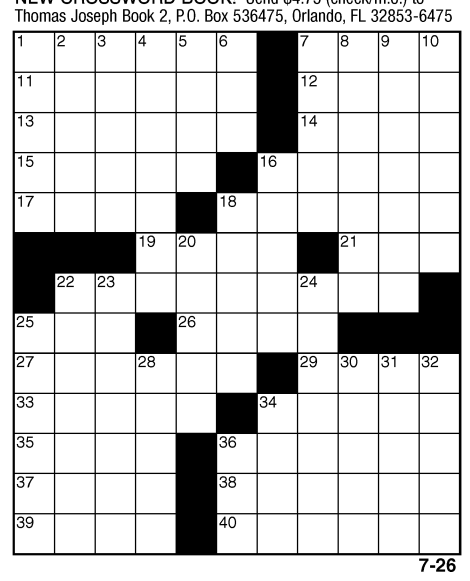
ACROSS
1 Saws
7 Lose
11 Taxi parts
12 Bit of fiction
13 State without proof
14 Beame and Burrows
15 Picnic side dishes
16 Computer part
17 Window part
18 Tot tender
19 Inkling
21 Crumb carrier
22 Filberts
25 Shoe hue
26 Big family
27 Texan team
29 Flight cost
33 Hymn singers
34 Joystick wielder
35 Singer Redding
36 Shady pavilion
37 Lion's pride
38 Made level
39 Historic times
40 Interfere

DOWN
1 Stockpile
2 Perry's assistant
3 One of the Titans
4 "Golly!"
5 Work units
6 Toronto-to-D.C. dir.
7 Set out
8 Animal's area
9 Craps naturals
10 Maroon
16 Goddess of the hunt
18 Hawks
20 Home design
22 Tweet symbol
23 Chemist Lavoisier
24 Not daunted
25 Puget Sound city
28 Hills
30 Make better
31 Defy authority
32 Eat away
34 Donated
36 Tiara feature



Previous Puzzle

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



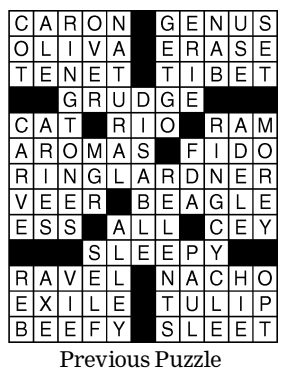
7-26

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Plumbing problem
5 Suppress
10 Singer McEntire
11 Joins forces
13 Gets older
14 Look up to
15 Blunder
17 Actor Ayres
18 Soft-shell clam
19 Tell whoppers
20 Silent assent
21 Tolerate
22 Report card listing
25 Tax paperwork
26 Brewpub choices
27 "Holy smokes!"
28 Sick
29 Sports vehicle feature
33 Me, to Michel
34 Spain neighbor
35 Blinker
37 Conceited
38 Dream up
39 — out (got by)
40 Hinder
41 Depend

DOWN
1 Studies all night
2 Authentic
3 More than pudgy
4 Siphoning targets
5 Trembled
6 Beneath
7 Objective
8 Ben of "Tower Heist"
9 Cry on arriving
12 Underground passages
16 Singer Tori
21 Astonish
22 Mutilated
23 Combined, as metals
24 Fill in for
25 Do origami
27 Awe
29 Worker's reward
30 Car pedal
31 Disney mermaid
32 Singer Travis
36 Illuminated



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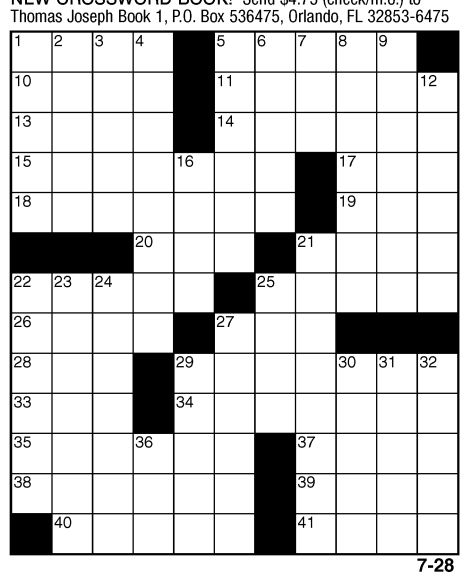

7-28

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.

7-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

QFBRAQK WJQ IF JUAOQJBO J HFBOS DSFZ BRO VFUABAWJU IEIBOZ JI MJWYAQK J NAQQAQK WJQXAXJBO. — ZJSY M. WFROQ

Previous Cryptoquote: WHAT YOU GET BY ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU BECOME BY ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS. — Zig Ziglar