

Cross-dressing husband worries his secret is out

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married, heterosexual cross-dressing male. My wife understands and is supportive, and we have a wonderful life together.

During the past week I have been caught unexpectedly by three different neighbors, and we are now in a state of panic. We're not sure what to do. If you have any suggestions, we are all ears. — **CAUGHT IN A PANIC**



DEAR ABBY

support system in place and are receiving all of the emotional support you need.

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old cousin died in 2010, and I'm still hurting. I have tried to get over it, but we were really close. When I walk the halls at school, I hear people say bad things about him. When I bring his name up, no one has anything good to say about him. It seems like they don't really care that he was my cousin and I loved him.

How can I ask these people not to say bad things about him? — **HURTING IN INDIANA**

DEAR HURTING: Because people forget that the young man who died was your relative, feel free to remind them. All you need to say is: "You know, he was my cousin and we were close. I still miss him, and I wish you wouldn't say things like that about him when I'm around."

Losing a relative at any age is hard, but when the person is young, it can be even harder. Because you are still hurting and it has been three years, consider talking about this with a school counselor or joining a grief support group. Your clergy person can help you locate one.

DEAR CAUGHT: Because you would prefer to keep your cross-dressing private and this is October, you could tell your neighbors your female attire is what you'll be wearing to a costume party. It's plausible.

However, when someone is "caught" engaging in a private activity once -- that's an accident. When it happens three times in one week, I can't help but wonder whether on some level you would like to be more open about your lifestyle.

If you're not aware, a resource, The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess International), offers support for heterosexual cross-dressers as well as their spouses, partners and families. It has been in my column before and is the oldest and largest support organization for cross-dressers and those who love them. It promotes cross-dressing with dignity and decency, and treats spouses on an equal basis with their cross-dressers. You can learn more about it at www.tri-ess.org.

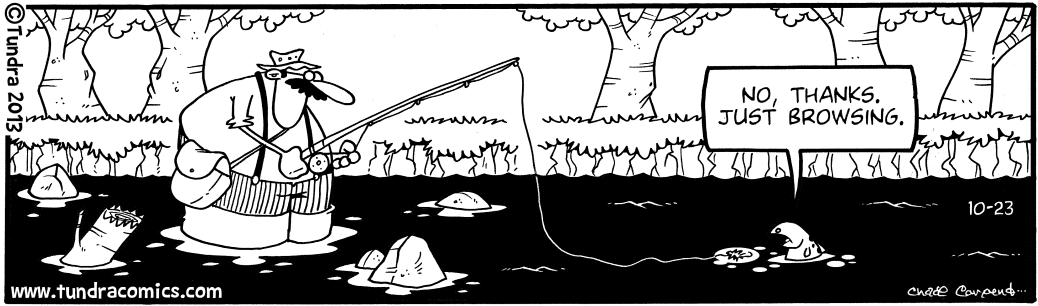
DEAR ABBY: My best friend's husband has been texting me. When he did it the first time, he had been drinking and my friend was asleep. Some of the things he said made me uncomfortable, but I also didn't like that he said his wife didn't know what he was doing. He stopped after I told him I was uncomfortable with it.

Now he has started up again, offering support because my mother passed away recently. I am honestly not sure whether he's trying to be a good friend or if he's looking for something more, and that scares me. I don't want to start trouble between my friend and her husband, especially because they seem so happy together. Any ideas on how to handle this? — **UNSETTLED IN OHIO**

DEAR UNSETTLED: Yes. Your friend's husband may be a genuinely sympathetic person -- or he could be trying to take advantage of you while you're emotionally vulnerable. Listen to your gut. Tell him you appreciate his thoughtfulness, but you already have a

COMICS

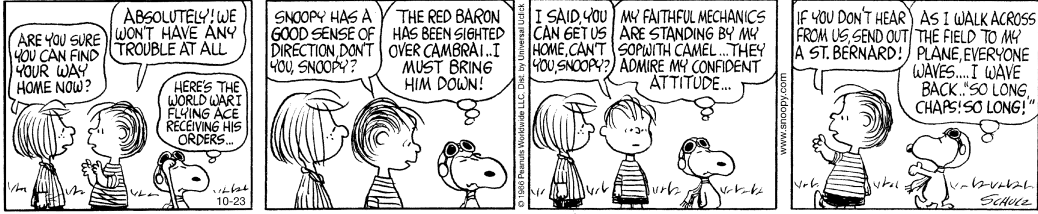
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

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

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.

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

Previous Puzzle

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

A Hard-Boiled Case

Dear Heloise: I love to cook and eat HARD-BOILED EGGS. Sometimes the yolks are a beautiful yellow color; other times, there is a green or gray color. What causes the green/gray color? — Laurie J. in Wisconsin

The color in hard-boiled eggs (technically called "hard cooked") is caused by overcooking the eggs, cooking at too high a temperature, or too much iron in the water. The color may be a little off-putting, but it is harmless and safe to eat.

Try this method for making hard-cooked eggs: Place a single layer of eggs in a saucepan with enough water to cover 1 inch above the eggs. Cover and bring to a boil. Turn off the heat, keep the pot covered and let the eggs stand for 15 minutes for large eggs (12 minutes for medium eggs). When the time is up, run them under cold water or place them in ice water to stop them from continuing to cook. — Heloise

EASY SOUP THICKENING

Dear Heloise: A great way to instantly thicken soups, gravies and stews without the raw-flour taste is to use instant mashed-potato flakes. Just stir in, and it is done, and it adds a wonderful, subtle taste. — Jerome G. in Colorado Springs, Colo.

It's great to know what to substitute or add to a dish in a pinch. I have a great pamphlet that is a must for every cook. It has recipes for seasonings, sauces and substitutes. Keep it handy in your kitchen, where you will use it often. To receive a copy of the four-page Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If you are out of coffee creamer, don't fret -- just add a teaspoon or so of ice cream to your coffee. Yummy! — Heloise

PEELING PLUMS

Dear Heloise: I wanted to drop you a line and tell you about an easy way my mom and I have found (quite by mistake) to peel a plum.

I tried using a tomato-slicing knife, and it worked pretty well. However, my mom tried a potato peeler, and it worked perfectly.

Hope this helps some other people who do not care for the skin on plums. — P.J. and S.D. in Ohio

CHOCOLATE CURLS

Dear Heloise: Baking is a hobby of mine, and I am always experimenting with new ways to decorate and finish my cakes and cupcakes. One of my favorite hints is to use a citrus zester to make chocolate curls. Just pull the zester across a chocolate bar for even, perfect curls. — Anna W., via email

SMALL PARTS

Dear Heloise: I place small items like plastic lids and other small parts and pieces in a mesh zippered laundry bag, then place it in the top rack of the dishwasher. The bag keeps these small items from getting lost or breaking in the dishwasher. Just attach the bag to the rack with clothespins. — Jennifer G. in Pennsylvania

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

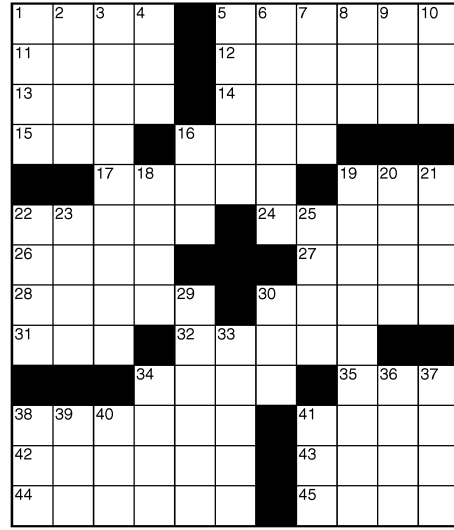
ACROSS

- 1 Bit of smoke
- 5 Rival of Athens
- 11 Opposed to
- 12 Select on the radio dial
- 13 Doe's mate
- 14 Cleopatra's love
- 15 Glutton
- 16 Goopy cheese
- 17 Revolting
- 19 Lush
- 22 Exorbitant
- 24 Instructive kind of book
- 26 Give a hoot
- 27 TV's Lauer
- 28 Skating spins
- 30 Near-sighted Mr.
- 31 Free (of)
- 32 Geriatrics study
- 34 Linen source
- 35 Mess up
- 38 Tusked mammal
- 41 Opera piece
- 42 Take to the sky
- 43 Minimal change
- 44 Colors anew
- 45 Border

DOWN

- 1 Launder
- 2 Obsessed with
- 3 Walked unsteadily
- 4 Glutton
- 5 Flag features
- 6 Ground, say
- 7 Poker payment
- 8 Early auto
- 9 Badge metal
- 10 One or more
- 16 Jazz style
- 18 Lively folk dance
- 19 Walked pompously
- 20 Director Preminger
- 21 Dorothy's dog
- 22 Battle souvenir
- 23 Fare carrier
- 25 Yemen neighbor
- 29 General greeting
- 30 Dance recording

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10-23

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

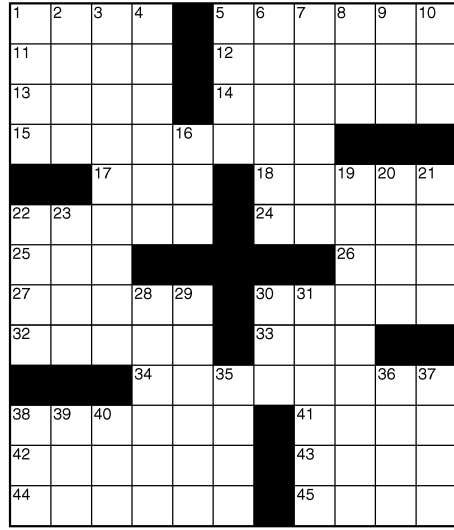
ACROSS

- 1 Price holders
- 5 Venezia's nation
- 11 Touch on
- 12 Lustrous fabrics
- 13 Bender
- 14 Catch in a net
- 15 Hyde, to Jekyll
- 17 Wide shoe marking
- 18 Film prize
- 22 Comically exaggerated
- 24 Boosted
- 25 "Put — happy face"
- 26 Junior, e.g.
- 27 One of the Titans
- 30 Appraised
- 32 Minimal amount
- 33 Mendes of movies
- 34 Sinbad, for one
- 38 Like the Super Bowl
- 41 Watch reading
- 42 "Oh, my!"
- 43 Corrosive stuff
- 44 Monks' homes
- 45 Scoundrels

DOWN

- 1 "See ya!"
- 2 Cain's brother
- 3 Central American nation
- 4 "Silk-wood" star
- 5 "Got it"
- 6 Lively dances
- 7 Maximally
- 8 Golf position
- 9 Powerful bunch
- 10 Bat wood
- 16 Spanish king
- 19 Central American nation
- 20 Lotion ingredient
- 21 Tear
- 22 Fossil fuel
- 23 Pay to play
- 28 Guarantee
- 29 Like a Turkish bath
- 30 Field worker
- 31 James Cameron movie
- 35 Pub choices
- 36 Give off
- 37 Cincinnati team
- 38 Nabokov novel
- 39 S. Dak. neighbor
- 40 Collar

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10-24

Daily Cryptoquote -- Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B 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.

10-23 CRYPTOQUOTE
X E X G E W Q D Z Q B E Q G E N O
B S S B R K B J E B D Q G E N Q J F N M
J N B R K B J E B D Q B E B S S .
— W Q J Z M R B K X R E W N Z Q B A

Previous Cryptoquote: EQUIPPED WITH HIS FIVE SENSES, MAN EXPLORES THE UNIVERSE AROUND HIM AND CALLS THE ADVENTURE SCIENCE. — Edwin Hubble