

# Woman with transgender lover is looking for family support

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a divorced woman with grown children. I have always supported gay rights and thought of myself as straight. But a few months ago, I met a woman, "Stephanie."

We hit it off immediately, and I was shocked to learn she's a transgender woman who was born male. We have spent a lot of time together and are falling in love. Stephanie will be having surgery soon to complete the transgender process.

I have been surprised and disappointed by the lack of support from my family and friends, whom I always thought were open-minded. Some have voiced support, but have shown no interest in meeting her and seem uncomfortable hearing about her.

I'm excited about this relationship and would have thought my family and friends would be happy for me, as I have been alone for a long time. But now I find myself refraining from mentioning Stephanie in conversation.

How can I discuss her with others? We are taking things slowly and not jumping into anything, yet we can definitely see ourselves spending the rest of our lives together. We have already faced disapproving strangers and handled it well. — **LOVES MY FRIEND IN OHIO**

**DEAR LOVES:** It appears Stephanie isn't the



DEAR ABBY

only one in your relationship who is in transition. Both of you are, and because it is new to those around you, they may not understand it – which is why they are uncomfortable.

The fact that Stephanie is transgender should not be mentioned right off the bat. It is not the most important thing about her, and it should not be her defining characteristic. Discuss the matter with your friend and ask how she would like to be introduced and referred to. It's only logical that this will vary according to how close these people are to you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a single mother who has had my share of heartbreak. I was with "Kent" for almost two years. We moved in together and talked often about marriage. Things were going great, but then he lost his job. After that, finding and keeping a job became harder and harder for him.

One day when I came home from work, all of

Kent's clothes were gone. He said he had moved back in with his mother because he didn't feel comfortable with me paying all the bills. He assured me he still wanted to remain in the relationship, and once he could keep a steady job he'd move back.

Three months later, he broke up with me. The following week some mutual friends told me he had gotten married!

When I confronted Kent, he told me he still wants to have a sexual relationship with me. I refused and haven't spoken to him since. Yesterday I learned that I am pregnant with his child.

I am turned upside down without a clue what to do. Is it wrong to feel hatred for him? — **BETRAYED IN TEXAS**

**DEAR BETRAYED:** Under the circumstances your feelings are understandable. Now, here's what to do. Contact Kent AND his wife and tell them the "happy" news that he is going to be a father -- and you expect him to shoulder all the responsibilities that go with it. Then talk to a lawyer to be sure he does.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

8				2				6
		6	3		5	2		
2	9						4	3
		5	2	8	4	1		
		1	6	5	3	8		
7	3						5	2
		4	7		8	9		
6			3					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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

## HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

### Self-Cleaning Oven Has Drawbacks

Dear Heloise: I love the SELF-CLEANING FEATURE on my oven. I have noticed, though, that sometimes I have a lot of smoke and smells that linger in the house during and after the cleaning cycle. Do you have any hints? — Emily D. in Oklahoma

There are some things that you can do. Try not to let too much time pass between cleanings. The more food spills that build up in the oven, stuck to the bottom, the more chance of smoke and fumes during the self-cleaning.

If there are a lot of spills, try cleaning it as much as possible before starting the cleaning. Then, during cleaning, open some windows to help get out the heat, smoke and odors. — Heloise

### Countertop Protection

Dear Heloise: I have discovered a great use for those pizza stones that many people have but find useless except for cooking pizzas. Whenever I use a slow cooker or a tabletop cooking appliance (for example, an electric indoor grill), I place my pizza stone beneath it to protect my countertop from heat. Works like a charm, and makes me feel better about the cooker staying on for so long in my absence. — Carolyn B., via email

### Cleaning Kettles

Dear Heloise: I have a stainless-steel kettle that keeps getting calcium deposits in the bottom of it. Vinegar cleans it beautifully, giving it a like-new appearance. I now make cleaning the kettle with vinegar a regular part of my routine. — Heidi L. in Indiana

So glad that you have discovered this Heloise classic hint! Readers, to clean your kettle, fill it with vinegar (full strength) and bring it to a boil for 20-30 minutes. Allow the vinegar to cool, scrub the kettle for a final cleaning and rinse thoroughly. Want more hints on how vinegar can be used in your home? Order my Heloise's Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Use vinegar and a microfiber cloth to remove hard-water stains on faucets in the kitchen and bathroom. And be sure to always have a gallon handy for all of the other household hints it can be used for. — Heloise

### Easy Chopping

Dear Heloise: I was browning some sausage for a pan of lasagna and came up with this hint: The sausage was still in clumps that were larger than I would like. I tried breaking it up with my pastry blender, and it worked great. I wish I had thought of this years ago! — Chris E., via email

### Warm Up

Dear Heloise: I read your column every day. My husband suggested that I send you this simple hint that we use for warming our coffee cups: I sit the cups on the heating vent while the coffee is percolating. By the time the coffee is ready, our cups are warm and do not cool the hot coffee. Of course, this only works in the winter! — Melanie C. in Virginia

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Dossier
- 5 Bakery pan
- 11 Track shape
- 12 Pay no attention to
- 13 Military level
- 14 Repeated verbatim
- 15 Put a stop to
- 16 Takes to court
- 17 Produces concern
- 19 Court
- 22 Like some gossip
- 24 Alarm
- 26 Writer Rice
- 27 Bills from tills
- 28 That is: Latin
- 30 Nasser's successor
- 31 —
- 32 Even a little
- 34 Puritanical fellow
- 35 "— pig's eye!"
- 38 Guatemala neighbor
- 41 Winter blanket
- 42 Film set on Pandora

### DOWN

- 43 Still life fruit
- 44 Houston team
- 45 Pale
- 1 Golf cry
- 2 Infamous czar
- 3 Hidden dangers
- 4 Antlered animal
- 5 Irritation
- 6 "If you say so"
- 7 Son of Seth
- 8 Youngster
- 9 Fuming feeling
- 10 Composer
- 29 Lord of Rorem
- 16 Blue hue
- 30 Slump

SW	IP	ES		W	IS	P	
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ON	FO	OT					LAST
NEED							MARCO
AFRO							WINDOW
TIER							ACTONE
ETES							NEARER

Previous Puzzle

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

4-9

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Loaded
- 5 "The Hairy Ape" playwright
- 11 Canyon sound
- 12 Nasty guy
- 13 Adopted son of Claudius
- 14 Will topic
- 15 Gladiators' weapons
- 17 Sermon topic
- 18 Doesn't have
- 22 Gave a score to
- 24 One of the Barrymores
- 25 Boxing great
- 26 Early auto
- 27 Diner pages
- 30 Hard to see
- 32 Fragrance
- 33 Twisty turn
- 34 Almond confection
- 38 Word of caution
- 41 Silent performer
- 42 Wears down
- 43 Binary digits
- 44 Composer Bloch
- 45 Let off steam

### DOWN

- 1 Monthly expense
- 2 Bakery worker
- 3 Stephen King book
- 4 Sweat-shirt variety
- 5 Portent
- 6 Get snug
- 7 Troubles
- 8 One-million link
- 9 Tippy
- 10 General at Antietam
- 16 Cut off
- 19 "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" star
- 20 Acute

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EL	AN			POL	AND		
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ODOR						SEE	
BOO						TEASHOP	
URL						ON THE GO	
SECANT						AILS	
TRADER						IDES	
						STORY	RIDE

Previous Puzzle

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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		17						19	20	21
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38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

4-10

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

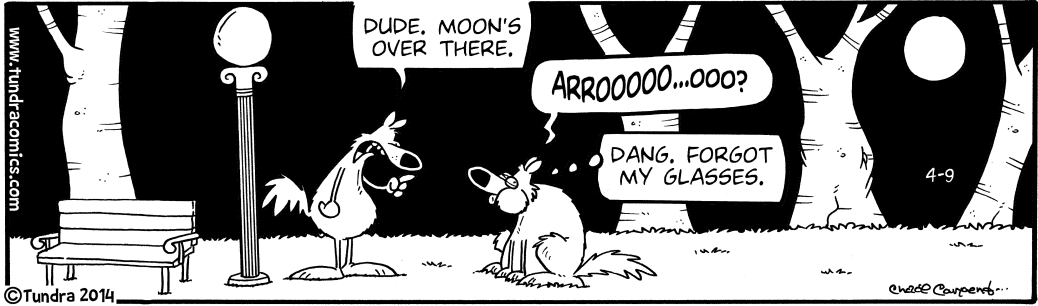
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-9 CRYPTOQUOTE  
O Y T U Y E D V A Y C Z B A T Y D Z  
R Y N A K M Y P K K W M O V D Z D K  
Z B Y Z O M O C O A P A M K V A O  
M O H O D B O ' T T W H K U B K U O Z  
Z F V H A C K F Z . — H K V Y A R B V K H

Previous Cryptoquote: MY FATHER GAVE ME THE GREAT-EST GIFT ANYONE COULD GIVE ANOTHER PERSON: HE BELIEVED IN ME. – Jim Valvano

## COMICS

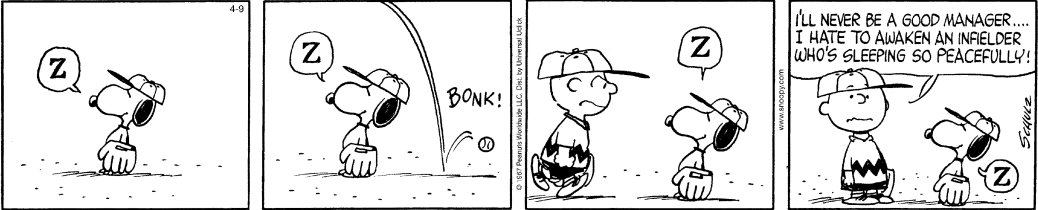
### Tundra



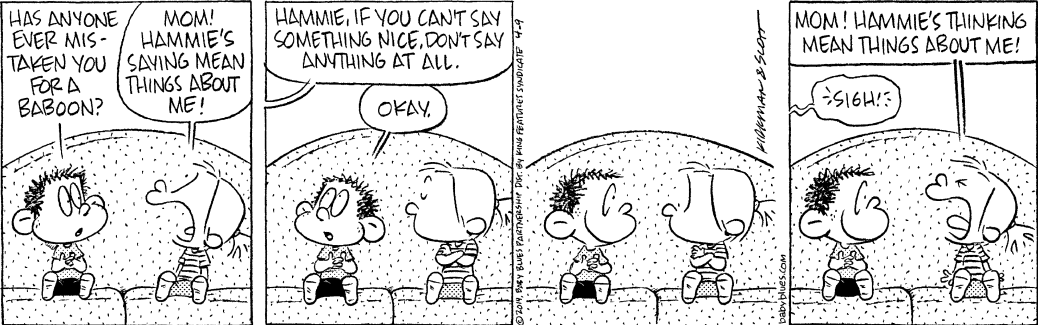
### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

