Journals are a last link to deceased sister's life

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My sister died suddenly. She hadn't been ill, and it was a shock. Although she tried hard to have a relationship with me over the years, I had trouble relating to her and we weren't close.

I am sorry to say that I never took the time to get to know her. I'm left now with many questions about the sister I always had, but never really knew.

As her next of kin, I'm responsible for packing up her things, and I came across several journals. I would like to read them because I feel they would help me to understand her better, but I also feel it might be disrespectful to go through something of hers that was so personal.

What do you think? Would it be wrong to read them? I wish I had her here to talk to instead of journals to snoop through. — **REGRETFUL IN OAKLAND**

DEAR REGRETFUL: I'm sorry for your loss, and your regrets. Because you would like to know your sibling, I think you should read her journals. While it's sad that you have to make her acquaintance in this way, it would be better than never having known her at all.

DEAR ABBY: I love my wife, but I find it difficult to take her to any function where there will be many people. She doesn't comprehend most conversations. She acts like she's listening, but if prompted for a reply, it's obvious she wasn't.

While she doesn't seem to care, I find it embarrassing. People tend to shy away from her, leaving her by herself. Because of this, we don't often get invited back. At Christmas, when I received my invitation to the annual office party, I sent my regrets.

If I try to talk to my wife about this issue, she gets defensive and accuses me of picking on her. Advice? — **THE NORTH 40 IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR NORTH 40: It would be interesting to know if your wife's problem is an inability to comprehend English well, a hearing problem or a social anxiety disorder. Of course, we'll never know unless you're able to have an honest conversation with her about it and explain how it affects you. If there is a solution, your wife will have to want to find it.

As to functions having to do with business, if she's uncomfortable in that environment, then you should attend without her.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a secretary who happens to make really good coffee. An employee who works in the building likes my coffee and has made himself comfortable at my desk in the morning before he starts work and afterward, before his second job.

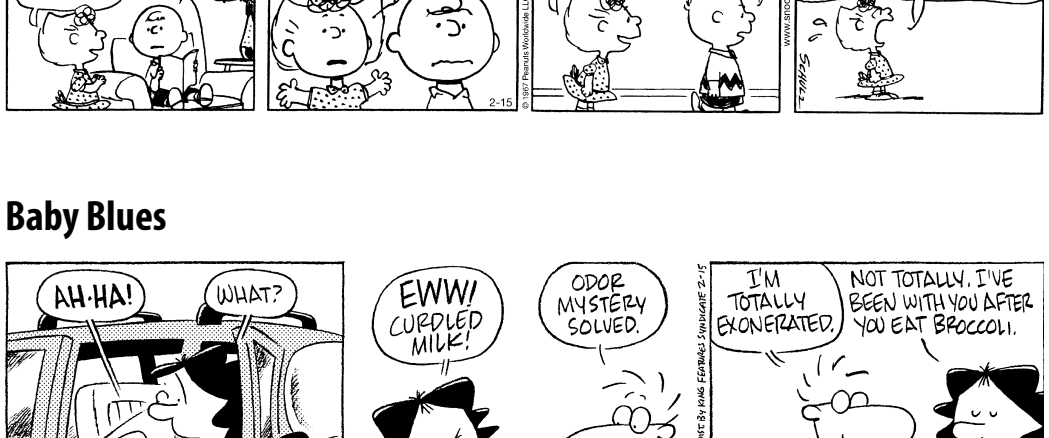
I am not comfortable with this. He plants himself at my desk, and I find myself having to work around him. He has become a fixture in my office and I need it to stop. How can I go about this without hurting his feelings? — **NOT HIS BARISTA**

DEAR NOT: From where I sit, it looks like the man may have a crush on you. Because you want less of his company, tell him you need to get to work -- or get your work finished -- and that his presence at your desk is distracting. Tell him you're flattered that he likes your coffee and he's welcome to a cup, but he needs to drink it elsewhere. If you say it pleasantly, his feelings shouldn't be hurt.

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

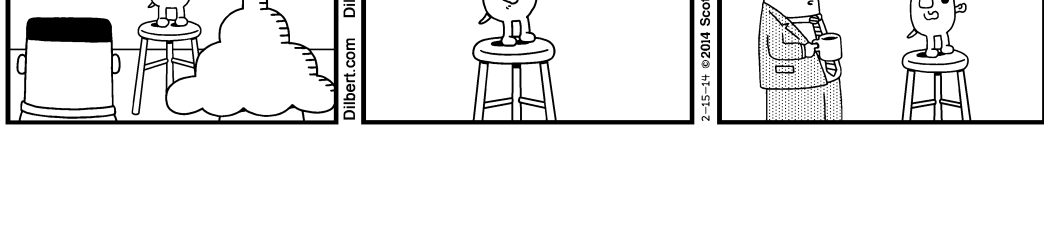
COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, there is more to you than meets the eye. You enjoy letting others get small glimpses of your true self, but this week they will get a lot of information all at once.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Feeling restless, Taurus? Spend some time with a hobby that you enjoy, whether that is cooking in the kitchen or building something out in the garage.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Others may have trouble reading you this week, Gemini. That's because you are putting forth a few different faces. It is better for all involved if you remain consistent.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, now is the time to introduce your family to a special friend of yours. This person will be received graciously, so there is no need to fret about the meeting.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, when you want to get something done, it is probably best if you do it yourself this week. This way you can bring your own unique approach to the task at hand.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Cash seems to be flowing out of your pockets this week, Virgo. You may want to sit down and make some adjustments to your spending habits so you can get your finances in order.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your patience is wearing thin, but you need to keep your cool or you could end up in a sticky situation at work. Ride things out until the weekend arrives.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

It isn't in your makeup to be meek, Scorpio. If something needs to be discussed, speak up and let others know your perspective on the situation.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a lucky streak has you excited to test your good fortune. Ride this wave, but do not go through all of your money in one fell swoop. That can spell trouble.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have been doing a lot of waiting around, but now your patience is bound to pay off. You just need to wait a little while longer to bear the fruits of your labors.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a big adventure is on the horizon. The trouble is, you do not know what to expect and what to bring along for the ride. Things will come into focus soon.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You need to take a rest, Pisces. Otherwise, you will burn out very quickly. Friends are urging you to slow down this week.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 16
Matthew Knight, Actor (20)

FEBRUARY 17
Ed Sheeran, Singer (23)

FEBRUARY 18
Matt Dillon, Actor (50)

FEBRUARY 19
Jeff Daniels, Actor (59)

FEBRUARY 20
Brian Littrell, Singer (39)

FEBRUARY 21
Alan Rickman, Actor (68)

FEBRUARY 22
Drew Barrymore, Actress (39)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

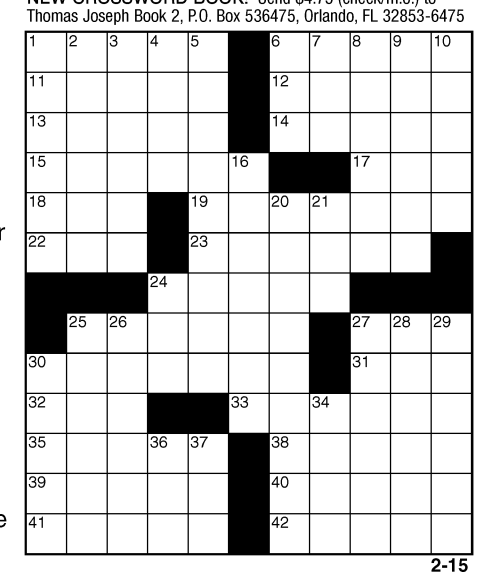
ACROSS
1 Hills
6 — firma
11 Start of a Caesar quote
12 Winter of "Modern Family"
13 Jeans material
14 Low singer
15 Ready for print
17 Relatives
18 Dull life
19 Weary act
22 Mole, for one
23 Characteristics
24 Appears
25 Strong-arm
27 Dine late
30 Meals
31 Santa —, California
32 Common verb
33 Lenin's successor
35 Nairobi's nation
38 Select group
39 Accept without question
40 Whoop it up
41 Skiing site
42 A lot

DOWN
1 Pony Express workers
2 Became frosted
3 Marbles, so to speak
4 Throw off
5 Academic periods
6 Bar bill
7 Memorable time
8 Take the chance
9 Pine products
10 On the way
16 Runs
20 Play fans
21 Towel word
24 Poseidon's realm
25 Breakfast choice
26 Willing to consider
27 Digestion aid
28 One
29 Comic strip makeup
30 Croupiers' tools
34 One of the Baldwins
36 "Nope!" opposite
37 Clumsy person

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

Previous Puzzle

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



2-15

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Glasses, informally
6 Bridge utterance
11 Foretelling deck
12 Johnson's successor
13 Wise teacher
14 Green of "The Voice"
15 Netlike fabric
17 Boar's mate
18 "Stop panicking!"
22 Tennis star Lendl
23 Peaceful
27 Overlays with precious metal
29 Flu symptom
30 Winter showers
32 Scorch
33 Dreamers' counterparts
35 Director Burton
38 Lumber
39 Bush's successor
41 Taunt
45 Picker
46 Open, as a new TV
47 Johnson's successor
48 Artery opener

DOWN
1 Kin of blvds.
2 Fido's foot
3 Historic time
4 With 6-Down, 21-Down
5 Author Larsson
6 See 4-Down
7 Diner dessert
8 Chopping tools
9 Song for one
10 Winter weather
16 Last year's jrs.
18 Band's jobs
19 Wicked
20 Story
21 February honoree
24 Nights before
25 Orderly
26 Messes up
28 "Harvey" star
31 — Paulo
34 Yoga position
35 Chinese secret society
36 Structural support
37 Doll cry
40 Fellows
42 White House nickname
43 George W., to George H.W.
44 Work phone no.

S	O	L	O	■	S	P	A	R	T	A	
I	R	O	N	■	H	I	D	O	U	T	
D	A	V	E	■	I	N	D	E	B	T	
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S	■	■	■	
■	■	F	A	N	■	O	I	L	E	R	
S	P	E	N	D	■	S	N	O	R	E	
L	E	S	■	■	■	■	V	I	N	■	
A	S	T	R	O	■	E	L	E	C	T	
P	O	S	E	R	■	S	O	N	■	■	
■	■	■	B	A	N	Q	U	E	T	S	
P	A	L	A	T	E	■	I	S	E	E	
A	B	A	T	E	S	■	S	T	A	T	
R	E	W	E	D	S	■	A	S	K	S	

Previous Puzzle

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2-17

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.

2-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

Y L ' T J Y M M Y A E G L L D L R Y Z W O Z H L R Y Z B C E L K G S O T O Z L L R D E B R L T Q R Y G S S O L Y Z B O R D I S B X D Q Z L D I O L D . — G S Q Y T B X Y V V O X J

Previous Cryptoquote: I HAVE NO NOTION OF LOVING PEOPLE BY HALVES, IT IS NOT MY NATURE. – Jane Austen