

Teen is reluctant to share summer camp with friends

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14. Last summer I went to camp in a different state with my cousin "Mary." I told my friends at school about our adventures, and a couple of them said they want to go there with me next summer. Mary and I don't get a lot of time together, and camp is one of the only times when I can see her. I don't want my friends to come. How can I tell them that without hurting their feelings? — **TORN IN TEXAS**

DEAR TORN: Out-of-state summer camps can be expensive, and although your friends might want to come to yours, it remains to be seen if their families can afford to send them. However, if it turns out that they will be going next summer, you should let them know beforehand that you may not be seeing a lot of them after you arrive because it's the only time you get to spend with your cousin during the year. The chances of their being hurt will be less if you tell them in advance.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I enjoy entertaining and having family over to celebrate birthdays and holidays. Our son's birthday is approaching and I'd like to get your view of something my husband's older sister, "Jane," has been doing. Jane is 55, divorced and has been dating her co-worker "Chuck" for a couple of years. At our celebrations, after everyone is done eating and cake has been served, Jane makes up a



DEAR ABBY

large plate of food (without asking) and invites her boyfriend over to eat.

Chuck shows up, stands at the kitchen counter and devours the food while complaining about it. Then he helps himself to more and leaves. He never says thank you, never participates in the celebration and, frankly, wasn't invited to begin with.

How should this be handled at the next event? If I confront my sister-in-law, does that make me as rude as she is? My husband doesn't want to rock the boat. However, it bothers him, and he, too, is put off by it. Any suggestions you have would be appreciated. — **AGHAST IN NEW ENGLAND**

DEAR AGHAST: What Jane has been doing is extremely presumptuous and to call her on it isn't rude. This should not be "handled at the next event"; it should be handled before the next event. Tell her you prefer any leftover food be saved for your own family, and that in the future, she should not invite Chuck unless she has first cleared it

with you. If she can't abide by your wishes, you should not invite her.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up like most children of the '80s and '90s, on fast food and propped in front of the TV. I have worked hard to change this lifestyle. I want to raise my future children in a healthier fashion than I was. However, when I bring up the subject of future grandchildren with my mother, she can't stop talking about how she's going to spoil them with sugary treats because she's the grandma, and "that's what grandmas do."

She knows how I feel about this and knows it upsets me, but she keeps taunting me. I have gone so far as to tell her that if she can't respect me, I will limit her time with the kids. What would you suggest I do? — **HEALTH FIRST IN MAINE**

DEAR HEALTH FIRST: I don't know when you plan to have children, but until you do, I suggest you drop the subject. Your mother may be saying this to get a rise out of you. If she's serious, it will be your job as a parent to enforce the rules you set. But right now, this discussion is premature.

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.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you want more than you can acquire this week and your desires may lead you astray. It is important to exercise self-restraint, even if you get a thrill from living on the edge.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, make a concerted effort to improve your focus in the weeks ahead. There is much to lose if you cannot tackle the tasks at hand, particularly at the workplace.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, it's unlike you to slow down, so don't be surprised when friends start looking at you curiously after you take your foot off the gas. Your free spirited nature will soon return.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, find a routine that works for you and then stick with it. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, and when actions become automatic, you can focus on other things.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

A need for attention could get the better of you, Leo. A little humility goes a long way and can alter others' perceptions of you. You may end up being seen in a more positive light.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you can differentiate between right and wrong, but your judgement might be off this week. Rely on your intuition, but don't make any big decisions without first thinking carefully.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it may seem like you are being led astray by one thing after another, when all you want is to focus on one task at a time. Find a way to block out any and all distractions.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, work on a creative project with a sweet-heart or friend early in the week. Ideas will flow easily and your imaginations will soar together. It is a productive pairing.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

This is not your week to mix love and money, Sagittarius. In fact, keep the two as separate as possible, and exercise caution before lending anyone money.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you want to play outside of the rules this week. You normally like to follow a relatively traditional course, so this catches others off guard.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

You don't always have the patience to stick with the same routine, Aquarius. That means others cannot expect you to conform to their whims if they want you as a friend.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you may need to sacrifice some security for a chance to have a memorable experience. Do something out of the ordinary.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 23
Emily Blunt, Actress (31)

FEBRUARY 24
Jaymi Hensley, Singer (24)

FEBRUARY 25
Rashida Jones, Actress (38)

FEBRUARY 26
Michael Bolton, Singer (61)

FEBRUARY 27
Josh Groban, Singer (33)

FEBRUARY 28
Gavin Macleod, Actor (83)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

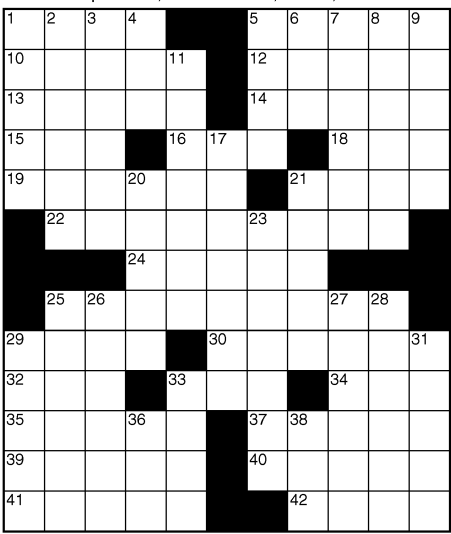
- 1 Pharaoh symbols
5 Folded food
10 Baseball's Rusty
12 Rework
13 — Beach, California
14 — Rica
15 NYC subway line
16 Demand
18 Bob Cratchit's son
19 Run, as an exhibition
21 Stage item
22 Shaw play
24 Insinuate
25 Shaw play
29 Strong wind
30 Tate Gallery setting
32 Strike caller
33 Singer Tormé
34 Cherbourg chum
35 Left over
37 Permitted
39 Unstated
40 Stomach
41 Unforeseen problems

42 Head honcho

DOWN

- 1 Jellied dish
2 Roil
3 Danish, e.g.
4 Total
5 Stable stuff
6 Hubbub
7 Cuban leader
8 Choice
9 Philatelist's find
11 Mariners' boat
17 Mariners' home
20 Texas A&M player
21 Climber's spike
23 San Diego section
25 Flat-bottomed boat
26 Llama's cousin
27 Slow tempo
28 Wanderers
29 Strong winds
31 Frasier's brother
33 1969 Series champs
36 Outfit
38 Sub-side

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2-22

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Bowl
5 Judicious
9 "Taps" instrument
10 Without others
12 Make void
13 Loses traction
14 Economizes (on)
16 Agent, for short
17 Filming locations
18 Seoul man
21 Exalted poem
22 More sinewy
23 Gave a dam
24 Congressional group
26 Martini base
29 Celtics' home
30 Copenhagen native
31 Alley —
32 Useful abilities
34 Revue segments
37 Small body of land
38 Long sandwiches
39 Edinburgh natives

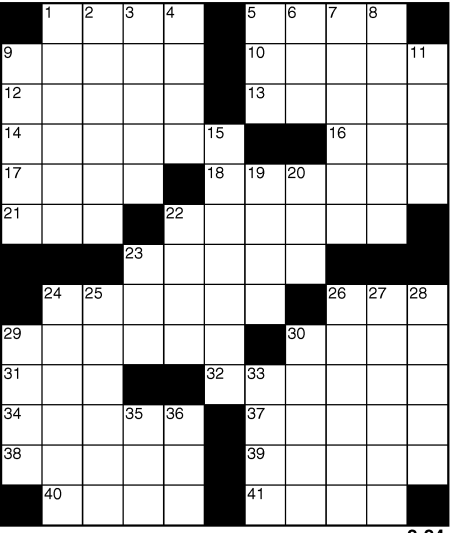
40 Body shop challenge

- 41 Some babies

DOWN

- 1 Enjoyed cookies with milk
2 Set afire
3 Run-down areas
4 Lend a hand
5 Used to be
6 Sort
7 Evening party
8 Make beloved
9 Deep-voiced singer
11 "Sports-Center" network
15 Downhill routes
19 Metal sources (of)
20 Free city
22 Texas city
23 Director's cry
24 Not raw
25 Have hopes
26 Milk buy
27 Coves
28 Bird abodes
29 "Non-sense!"
30 Dance music
33 Smooch
35 Great weight
36 Fast plane

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2-24

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.

2-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

Y F T T X J T S D K L D K K B W B L A D

L Q W L A Y V T W L H L B A D Q T ; V W L

Y V Y X J T S D K L D K K B W B L A D

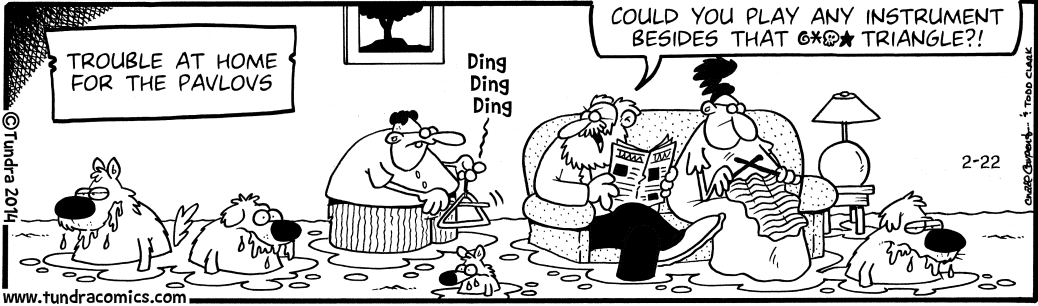
L Q W L A Y V T W L H L B Y W L A T Q .

— F . G . Z A D B L D Q L T J

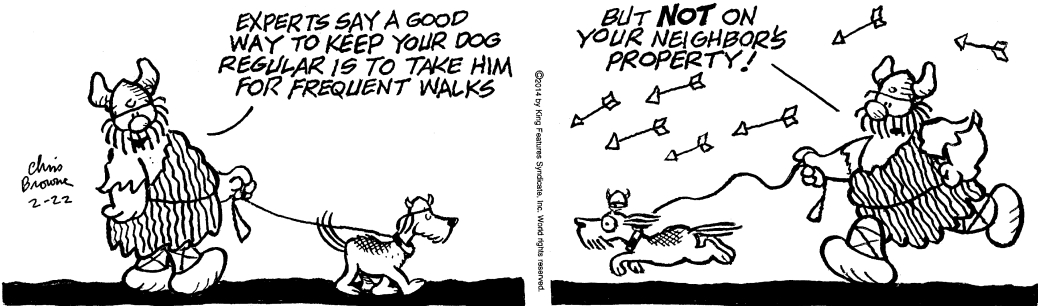
Previous Cryptoquote: PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO MOTIVATE THEMSELVES MUST BE CONTENT WITH MEDIOCRITY, NO MATTER HOW IMPRESSIVE THEIR OTHER TALENTS. – Andrew Carnegie

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

