Friend's growing confusion could be sign of dementia

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend I have traveled with for many years. The last few years she has been showing increasing signs of confusion and forgetfulness. She has difficulty managing her paperwork for travel and remembering what our plans are for the next day.

On the most recent trip she picked up other people's coats and insisted they were hers. My attempts to discuss this with her only made things worse and led to her accusing me of destroying her confidence. I believe this is the onset of dementia. How can I help her? — **NOTICING THINGS IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR NOTICING: You are describing a serious and progressive problem. If your good friend has a spouse, children or siblings, they should be notified about what you have observed.

If she has no one, then someone at Social Services or Adult Protective Services should be contacted before your friend gets herself into serious trouble by forgetting to pay her bills, or getting lost while driving her car.

DEAR ABBY: Have you any suggestions about letting go? A former friend is involved in a New Age sex group. He can no longer hold a casual conversation without expounding on their practices and "theology," as he considers it. My rational self understands that his life is his to do with as he wishes, but my emotional self grieves that he is distancing himself from family and friends.

I know I'm not my brother's keeper, but he was like a brother to me, and I blame myself that I was unable to reach him when this was merely something he was curious about instead of a radical new lifestyle. How do I accept that he's a lost cause and quit worrying about him? — **NOT MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

DEAR NOT: Because you are having trouble accepting that your former friend is a "lost cause," view it as his having taken a different path than you have chosen. If you prefer not to hear about your friend's alternative lifestyle, you should say so.

If he respects your feelings, he will stick to subjects the two of you have in common and quit "expounding." If he can't do that, then recognize that as much as you might wish to, you can't live someone else's life, and then move on because friendships either evolve or they wither.

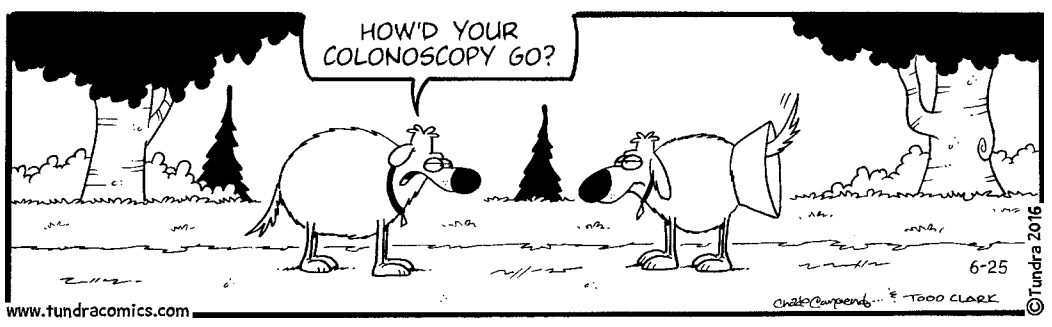
DEAR ABBY: My 16-year-old son and I are having a debate and would love your take on the matter. I think if you stand in a grocery store checkout line and read a magazine without buying it that it's stealing. He doesn't agree. What do you say? — **JUST LOOKING**

DEAR JUST: If your son is reading the magazine from cover to cover, then I agree he's helping himself to something he's not entitled to. If he is only "sampling" to see if there are enough articles in the magazine that he thinks it's worth buying, I wouldn't call it theft. Using your yardstick, judging from the number of people I have seen at checkout counters with their noses buried in the tabloids, that would make us a nation of thieves.

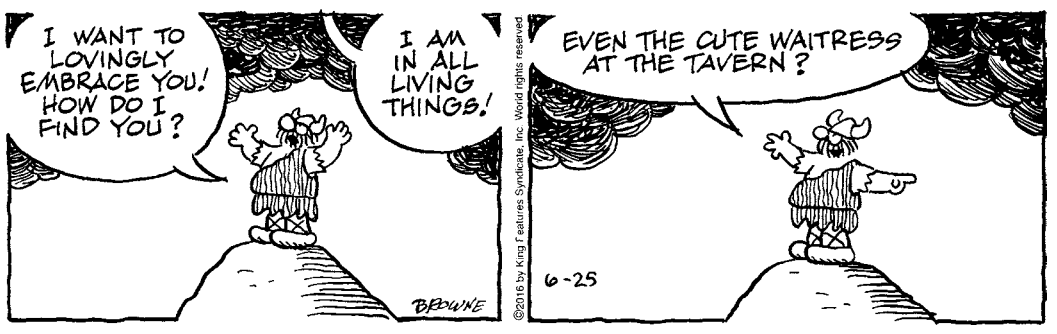
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

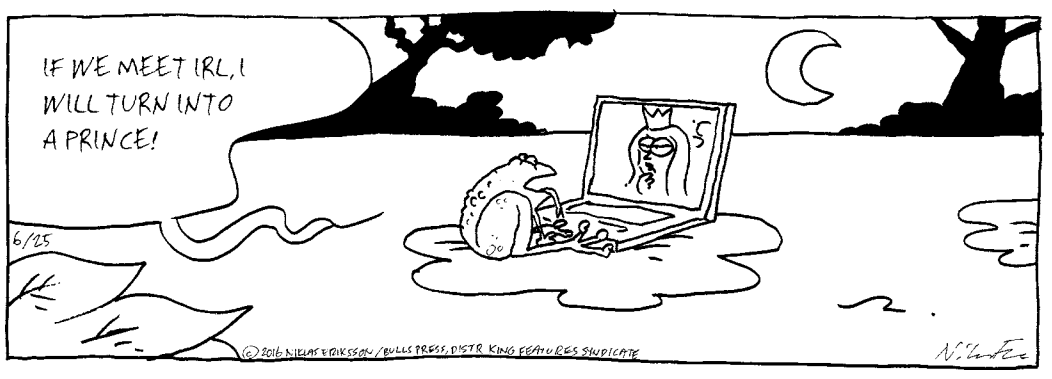
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Carpe Diem



Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, it may not be possible to get away for an extended vacation just now, but perhaps a few days away will offer the brief respite you need to get energized.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, professional issues may be stressful, but try to maintain a positive attitude and the issues will soon be resolved. Rely on a trusted colleague to help.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Face tough issues head on, Gemini. No matter the obstacle, you are fully capable of overcoming it. If necessary, ask for some clarification so you can better focus on the tasks at hand.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, take some time out of your schedule for a fun day trip or another spontaneous activity that enables you to escape the daily grind and unwind for a little while.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
You may need to lend some special skills to a situation this week, Leo. When someone calls on you for help, accept the challenge with dignity and pride.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, make delegation a priority over the next several days. Spread the workload around to lessen some of your burden and to encourage others to contribute.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your mind is set on a new opportunity, but you do not yet have the finances to make it happen. See if you can find an investor or another way to fund the project.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, sometimes you have to take a challenging route even though you desire the easier path. The hard work will be worth it in the end, as you will see shortly.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Helping others is a big part of who you are, Sagittarius. Every effort you put forth will come back to you in time. Enjoy all the moments you have with others.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
It's difficult to fully explain just how busy you are, Capricorn. Start trimming your to-do list so you can maintain your energy and actively involve those around you.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
It's time to try a few new things, Aquarius. Try a hobby or activity that is out of your comfort zone. You may be surprised at how much this new hobby interests you.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
There's only so long you can put off financial concerns before they become a big problem, Pisces. Start addressing things today.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 26
Ariana Grande, Singer (23)

JUNE 27
Drake Bell, Actor (30)

JUNE 28
Kathy Bates, Actress (68)

JUNE 29
Nicole Scherzinger, Singer (38)

JUNE 30
Michael Phelps, Athlete (31)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

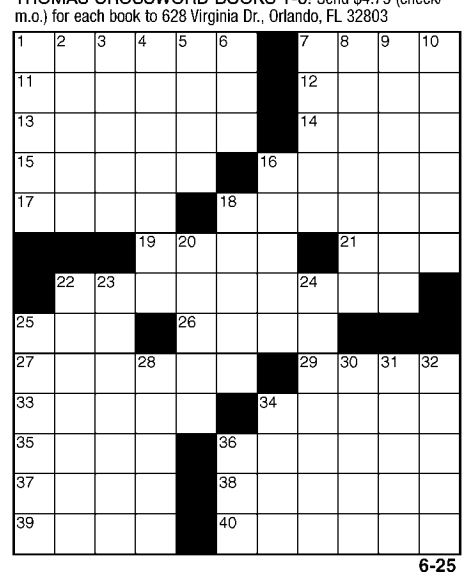
ACROSS
1 Justice symbol
7 "The Phantom Tollbooth" boy
11 Spanish city
12 Shortly, in poems
13 In agreement
14 Tag info
15 Plane part
16 Lugged
17 Make sweaters
18 Jacket part
19 Butter on the farm
21 Historic time
22 Cute in an awkward way
25 Polite address
26 Turn down
27 Fads
29 Fig pollinator
33 Hold out
34 Island south of Sicily
35 Music's Waller
36 Waco school
37 Worry
38 "Becket" actor
39 Takes in
40 Floated on the breeze

DOWN
1 Held fast
2 Role for Arnold
3 Suspect's story
4 "Stop obsessing!"
5 Unspoiled spot
6 Turf
7 Wall maker
8 Monogram part
9 Cough drop
10 Anxious
16 Mythical giant
18 Fishing spots
20 Command
22 Flight cost
23 Conscripted soldier
24 Via
25 Jeers
28 Lemon rind strips
30 Portion out
31 Fancy wrap
32 Did a KP chore
34 — Hari
36 Gift topper

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

Previous Puzzle

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



6-25

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Blueprint number
5 Throw away
10 3D image, for short
11 Alpine home
13 October birthstone
14 Italian cheese
15 Alfresco
17 Ukraine once: Abbr.
18 Dot
19 First aid case
20 Squeak stopper
21 Stalactite setting
22 Word separator
25 Ice cream scoop holders
26 "The Caine Mutiny" writer
27 Building wing
28 UFO pilots
29 Holds protectively
33 Fitting
34 Like some aspirin
35 Steering system part
37 Bear in the stars
38 Peaceful
39 Pack tight
40 Sides in an ongoing battle
41 Piano parts

DOWN
1 Chases off
2 Batter's high hit
3 Gladden
4 Knock unconscious
5 Papyrus document
6 Task
7 Lamb's father
8 Nome native
9 Thoughtful
12 Rich cakes
16 Tom Joad, for one
21 Sparkling wine variety
22 Gym wear
23 Chicken dishes
24 Lacking luxury
25 Lobster part
27 Wears down
29 Genetic copy
30 Peter of "M"
31 School paper
32 Clothing joins
36 Mystery author Stout

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

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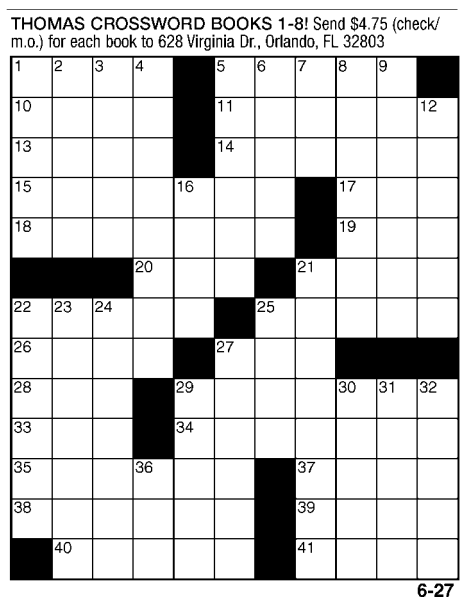

6-27

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.

6-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z M K X U L G M , Q L N Q D O ,

N J C R U V X Z U L N U A J M X Y

Z M S Q H Q D S X F L A N J L

Z F C Q V Q C A Q L N Q D Z U .

— V X F D L U U V F B B U D

Previous Cryptoquote: ADOPTING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE CAN CONVERT A NEGATIVE STRESS INTO A POSITIVE ONE. – Hans Selye