

Man who doesn't want marriage keeps attracting women who do

DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old male who is fit, healthy and has a good job. I also have two failed marriages behind me, which have cost me dearly, both emotionally and financially. I have no intention of making that mistake again! I have been on my own for five years, and in that time I have had five relationships – always with women my age (give or take a few years).

My problem is that women my age seem to have only one agenda: marriage. One very nice lady finally clarified her feelings by saying that at this time in her life, she didn't have time for "just dating" because in a few years she'd be 60.

I understand her dilemma, but I'm not interested in younger women. I try hard to make it clear at the beginning of any relationship that marriage is out of the question, and I don't proceed with the relationship unless the lady wholeheartedly agrees. But somehow I have broken five good hearts, whose only transgression was falling in love with me. — **NOBODY'S RETIREMENT HUSBAND**

DEAR N.R.H.: I admire your self-image. You must be doing something right to have the ladies lining up the way they are. However, you may not be as effective a communicator as you think you are if five different women failed to get the message you said you convey. I have several thoughts about your predicament:

If your only fear of marriage is that you would again be cleaned out finan-



DEAR ABBY

cially, a strong prenuptial agreement could help you avoid any problem if a third marriage didn't work. However, if variety is what you prefer, then you should restate your message every few months as these relationships blossom. (Or you could move to a monastery and stop dangling yourself in the dating pool.)

DEAR ABBY: Once a year I type my ZIP code into a website to see who the registered sex offenders are in my area so I can be better informed and protect myself and my family. A photo, address and the charges attributed to the offender are posted on the site. My jaw dropped to the floor when I saw a man listed that I work with and see quite often. The picture looked recent.

I haven't said anything to him. I have known this person for five years and thought he was a good guy who respected women. I'd like to think it was a one-time mistake and that he would never do it again. But would he?

Should I tell my teenage daughter who sometimes visits me in the office? Should I tell the other women who work here? If a

co-worker knew this kind of information and showed it to me, I'd be grateful to know. What do you think I should do? — **STUNNED IN THE CITY**

DEAR STUNNED: Tell your daughter to keep her distance from this co-worker. But before you drop this bombshell at the office, you should first discuss what you have learned with your employer.

DEAR ABBY: I hope you can help with this etiquette question. My son and his wife believe that when you finish a good meal, you toss your napkin on the now-empty plate. They say this sends a message that the food was great.

I do not agree. Is placing a grubby napkin on the plate inappropriate behavior or is this legit? — **NOT A NAPKIN-TOSSING DAD**

DEAR DAD: Your son and his wife need to re-read the chapter on table manners in their etiquette book. When a meal is finished and the plate is empty, diners should place their used napkins on the table BE-SIDE their dessert plate. It should not be placed on top of a dirty plate.

P.S. If they don't own an etiquette book, it appears they could use one.

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.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

The Same, But Different

Dear Heloise: My mother and I would like to know if SALTED AND UNSALTED BUTTER have different cooking properties? Also, why would a recipe call for unsalted butter, but then require salt? — Michelle and Janet C. in Washington

Very good question, and it is a little contradictory! Salted and unsalted butter don't have any different cooking properties. They are the same, except that one has 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of salt per stick.

Each company may produce a little "different" butter. So, when added to a recipe, there is no way to tell how much salt is really in that butter. By starting a recipe with unsalted butter, you know that the recipe is starting with and ending with the proper amount of salt. — Heloise

Leftover Bacon

Dear Heloise: My family enjoys bacon for breakfast, but because of our busy schedules, we only have it on weekends. This leaves leftover bacon that I use the rest of the week as a topping for baked potatoes, added to salad or as a garnish for beans or asparagus. — Janice R. in New Mexico

Here's another use for the bacon: as a topping for potato soup or other cream-style soups. It's tasty on spinach, too. The great thing about soup is that there are so many different ways to add flavors, use up leftovers and save money. My pamphlet Heloise's Spectacular Soups has family and friend recipes, plus hints to help you save time when making soup. To order one, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Top soup off with croutons as a garnish, or serve soup with breadsticks, crackers or any type of bread to make it a more well-rounded meal. — Heloise

Bagel Removal

Dear Heloise: I love mini-bagels, but they are hard to get out of the toaster. My mom suggested wooden chopsticks, but they are hard to manage. Now I "stab" the bagel with a toothpick and pull it out safely. Works every time! — Alex C., Colorado Springs, Colo.

Last Longer

Dear Heloise: Here is a hint to extend the life of sour cream and cottage cheese. Store the product upside down on a plate in the refrigerator. It lasts much longer. — Betty D., via email

Yep! Love the longtime Heloise hint. Be sure the lid is on tight, and sort of shake the container to move the contents down to cover the lid. Place in a bowl and put it in the refrigerator. — Heloise

Plate Warmer

Dear Heloise: As a single person, I use my toaster oven all the time. When I am heating up leftovers or cooking a new dish, I set my plate on top of the oven. As my food heats up, my plate also warms up and keeps the food heated as I eat. — Tracy L. in California

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Valiant

one

5 Bottle

topper

9 Outdo

11 Oscar

winner

Sophia

12 Anger

13 Make

blank

14 Young

fellow

15 Sandal

feature

17 Reception

feature

19 Building

wing

20 Prepare

for a

game

21 Peculiar

22 Swift

24 Gift from

Santa

26 Figure of

speech

29 Silent

30 Mine,

of a sort

32 Pirate's

place

34 I, in

Berlin

35 Majestic

36 Vicuña's

cousin

38 San

Antonio

landmark

39 Lucifer

40 Misplace

41 Card

collection

DOWN

1 Instruc-

tional

2 Spell-

bound

3 Library

patron

4 Uncon-

scious

5 Succotash

half

6 Made

speeches

7 Found

a new

owner for

8 Prepare to

propose

10 Fear

11 Wolfish

look

16 Syrx

18 — a one

(none)

21 Norse

god

23 Worth

aims

24 Elvis'

birthplace

25 Last

letters

27 Morphine,

for one

28 New

Brunswick

tribe

29 Fable

finish

30 Capital on

a fjord

31 Express

gratitude

to

33 Handle

37 Young

fellow

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

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		11			
12						13			
14				15	16				
17			18					19	
20							21		
22					23				
24	25			26			27	28	
29				30					31
32			33				34		
35						36	37		
38						39			
40							41		

1-22

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Part maker

5 Take the

wrong

way?

10 Andy Tay-

lor's boy

11 Gets a

point

12 Shopper's

place

13 Dojo

doings

14 Hands

and knees

16 Top

players

20 Large

amount

23 Director

Spike

24 Aids in

crime

25 "Common

Sense"

writer

27 Casserole

bit

28 Fountain

order

29 April 1

honorees

32 Licorice

candy

36 Of no use

39 Authentic

40 Egyptian

god

41 Visitor to

Siam

42 Gaggle

members

43 Prone to

prying

DOWN

1 Robin

Cook book

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

Previous Puzzle

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9	
10					11						
12					13						
14					15						
				16				17	18	19	
20	21	22						23			
24											
27						25	26				
					28						
29				30	31						
				32					33	34	35
36	37	38						39			
40								41			
42								43			