

Young couple’s use of birth control is long past overdue

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old son has been dating the daughter of one of my friends I’ll call “Mona.” We didn’t set them up; they met at some parties. Last summer we discovered they were having sex because “Meghan” thought she was pregnant. Luckily, it turned out she wasn’t. They broke up but have gotten back together recently.

When I asked Mona if she was putting Meghan on birth control, Mona said that she wouldn’t because “that would be letting her know it’s OK to have sex.” I said, “Better safe than sorry!” and we left it at that.

I let my son use my car last weekend and found an opened box of emergency contraception on the floor. Because my son never answers his phone, I called Meghan and stressed to her that unprotected sex is irresponsible and that they aren’t ready for a baby. I warned her to take precautions and get on birth control, and I helped her to make the arrangements.

Was it wrong to discuss this behind her mother’s back? Should I tell Mona after promising Meghan I wouldn’t say anything?



DEAR ABBY

What should I do? — **MOM VERSUS FRIEND**

DEAR MOM: Wrong? You deserve a medal. And you should now have the conversation with your son that you should have had before the first pregnancy scare, stressing to HIM the importance of using condoms not only to protect himself and Meghan from an unplanned pregnancy, but also an STD if she isn’t the only girl he’s having sex with. Girls don’t get pregnant all by themselves.

As to telling your friend Mona, who seems to have the parental insight of an ostrich where her daughter is concerned, keep your promise to Meghan and your lips sealed. Meghan needs a woman she can confide in, and your friend seems to prefer living in

fantasyland rather than giving her daughter the support and guidance she needs.

DEAR ABBY: I live in Colorado. In my state marijuana is legal now. What do you think about my inviting my adult children (they are all over 21) and my aging dad to get stoned with me? I think it might stimulate conversation and motivate more family time than we spend together now. What do you think of “family night” with marijuana as a way to improve family unity? — **ORIGINAL THINKER IN DENVER**

DEAR ORIGINAL THINKER: Were you stoned when you wrote this? If not, I think it’s sad that your family would need pot in order to communicate or create family unity. While I applaud your desire to bring your family together, you can have a good time without inviting “Mary Jane.” And that’s what I’d recommend.

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.

su | do | ku

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Have You Cleaned Your Knife Block?

Dear Readers: Have you taken a good look at your KNIFE BLOCK lately? Does it look a little dusty and grimy? What about the slots? To clean them, use the crevice tool on the vacuum attachment. This should remove most dirt, dust and crumbs. Also, you can “wash” a wood block with mild soap and warm water, letting the water run down into the slots. Air-dry, or use your hair dryer to dry the slots.

This may not seem like a big deal, but do take a look down those slots, and I think you will be surprised! — Heloise

Cheesecloth Covering

Dear Heloise: I love cooking with the fresh-squeezed juices of lemons, limes and oranges, but it can be hard to keep the seeds out of the food. I cut these fruits in half and wrap them in a thin layer of cheesecloth with a rubber band. It’s easy to squeeze the juice out while keeping the seeds trapped in the cheesecloth.

Another hint: I get fancy when company is over and tie ribbons (instead of using rubber bands) to secure the cheesecloth. — Judy T. in Pennsylvania

Too Hot

Dear Heloise: Even in the summer, when my kids are sick, they only want soup to eat. The soup is too hot to eat right off the stove, so I always add one or two ice cubes before serving it to them. This makes the soup ready to eat. — Stephanie W., via email

This hint is great any time of year to keep little ones (or even some bigger people) from burning themselves, and I have many more hints, along with soup recipes, available in my Heloise’s Spectacular Soups pamphlet. To order one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soup, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Take leftover soup, pour it into ice-cube trays, freeze and use these “ice cubes” at a later date to cool down soup without diluting the flavor. — Heloise

Marked Butter

Dear Heloise: Here is a baking/ cooking hint that I recently discovered: When I take out a new stick of margarine or butter for my butter dish, I partially take off the wrapper. I then take a butter knife and make indents by each of the tablespoon markings on the wrapper before removing it completely. When I need a specific number of tablespoons, I just count off the markings to measure. — Gerri S. in Florida

Steel-Wool Pads

Dear Heloise: I sometimes use steel-wool pads and found I could extend their use by wrapping a used pad in waxed paper after each use. I reuse the same waxed paper each time. By doing this, I’m able to get several uses out of the pads before they start rusting. — Marie G. in New Hampshire

You also can try this classic Heloise hint: Put the pad in a plastic bag and keep it in the freezer between uses. — Heloise

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mother of Castor and Pollux
- 5 Ump’s call
- 9 Barn-raising group
- 11 Man of Madrid
- 12 Florida city
- 13 Director Almodóvar
- 14 Towel word
- 15 Talk drunkenly
- 17 Discarded
- 19 Jargon suffix
- 20 “The Hobbit” dragon
- 21 Used a couch
- 22 Potato dumpling
- 24 Tavern drink
- 26 Major’s successor
- 29 In the style of
- 30 Punched
- 32 Spent time in squalor
- 34 Maiden name label
- 35 Liquefy
- 36 Clump of trees
- 38 Dancer Castle
- DOWN**
- 1 Wood strips
- 2 Contacts, in a way
- 3 Chinese restaurant choice
- 4 Nile snake
- 5 Oracle
- 6 Tenor Bocelli
- 7 Green shade
- 8 Wear away
- 10 Parties, say
- 39 Like some seals
- 40 Animation frames
- 41 Clutter

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

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
				10		11		
9								
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
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29				30				31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

7-9

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Striker’s foe
- 5 Lightning home
- 10 Sites
- 11 Cheering call
- 12 Esthete’s concern
- 13 In conclusion
- 14 Ideal, as a scenario
- 16 Highway stop
- 20 Conducting needs
- 23 Sphere
- 24 Be real
- 25 Frenzied fear
- 27 Heady brew
- 28 Frees of suds
- 29 Tryouts
- 32 White House area
- 36 Gadget protector
- 39 Jacob’s twin
- 40 Brings to bear
- 41 Some wines
- 42 Sobs
- 43 Pants part
- DOWN**
- 1 Thick slice
- 2 Heart
- 3 Play makeup
- 4 Small eateries
- 5 BLT base
- 6 Puzzled
- 7 Got together
- 8 Crony
- 9 Tan in the bookstore
- 11 Tumbler, e.g.
- 15 Minimal change
- 17 Silver and Wood
- 18 War of 1812 port
- 19 Basics
- 20 Trounce
- 21 Car bar
- 22 Some Father’s Day gifts
- 25 Milk buy
- 26 Puzzle book section
- 28 Shows disuse
- 30 Annoying fellow
- 31 Takes a flat
- 33 “Got it”
- 34 Zip
- 35 Sudden wind
- 36 Chapel seat
- 37 Log chopper
- 38 Casual top

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

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
					11				
10									
12						13			
14				15					
								17	18
20	21	22						23	
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27						28			
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			32					33	34
36	37	38					39		
40							41		
42							43		

7-10

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.

7-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

H O U S O F U C Y D W S Q D D W U
J B S C F U R A U S X D W U Y K O H L D
W Y L D S K Z , S K Y A Y B H B R M Q F D Q K U
Y L F Y J U H D K U U C Y D W S Q D
K S S D L . — E H K M Q L A H K I U Z

Previous Cryptoquote: THE ONLY ANGELS IN LOS ANGELES ARE IN HEAVEN, AND THEY’RE LOOKING DOWN ON THE DODGERS. – Tommy Lasorda

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

