

Overpacking for business trip prompts questions of trust

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my 40s and my boyfriend of three years is 12 years older. We are in love and our relationship is great. He travels for work and lives in another state, so he flies in to see my daughter and me every other week. Because he is older, he uses Viagra, and it's kept at my place in a drawer. I assumed that's where it was always kept.



DEAR ABBY

Abby, when he left for his trip yesterday, he took his Viagra with him! He says he grabbed the bottle without thinking and that I'm overreacting. The rest of his things are kept in his travel bag, so it's not like he just gathered up all of his pills. They were the only ones. Now he's upset with me because "I don't trust him." Can you help me get my thinking straight? I caught him lying about something when we first started dating, so he's not all squeaky clean like he acts. — **SUSPICIOUS IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Unless your boyfriend was prescribed the Viagra for a condition other than ED, I'd say you have a right to be suspicious. Because his little blue pills were kept apart from his other medications, it took special effort for him to pack them. Talk with him further because he may have been contemplating a "party of one" during his travels and not have been

looking for adventure.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in the middle of a situation that I'm not sure how to deal with. My mother's husband made a pass at my boyfriend. My boyfriend thinks I should tell her.

Abby, my mother and her husband are in their 70s, and I don't want to cause problems in their marriage. I'd like to write it off as a "misunderstanding," but my stepdad has a history of doing things like this. — **ANONYMOUS IN OREGON**

DEAR ANONYMOUS: If your boyfriend didn't already, he should tell your stepfather the pass was unwelcome and he doesn't want it to happen again. If it does, you and your boyfriend should talk to your mother about it and explain why she'll be seeing less of you unless she visits you -- alone. Because this isn't the first time your stepfather

has acted inappropriately, it won't be news to her. And because she has tolerated his behavior in the past, I doubt it will cause problems between them now.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's family gave us a large painting that is not our taste at all. We would love to get rid of it, but of course we feel obligated to keep it and hang it in order to not hurt their feelings. They live nearby and visit often, so putting the painting away doesn't seem realistic. We live in a small apartment and there is nowhere "discreet" to hang it. Plus, it is too large to take to our offices.

Other than staging a robbery, are there any options that would keep everyone happy? — **GRINNING & BEARING IT**

DEAR GRINNING: Another option would be to level with your in-laws. Tell them you are grateful for their generosity, but the artwork is not your taste, and then ask if they would mind if you exchanged it.

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.

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

'Use By' Then, or 'Use By' When?

Dear Heloise: A number of years ago, I purchased a good amount of food, canned goods, etc. (a stockpile in case of an emergency). A review indicates that many have a "use by" date that has EXPIRED. Should I throw these in the dump, or can they be safely used by some organization? — R.B. McArdle, Hot Springs, Ark.

It all depends on how long beyond the expiration date, storage conditions and the type of food. I defer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the source on this one.

Indicator 1: If the cans (meats and vegetables) have no dents, no bulging or are not leaking, it's a "go" to use or donate in two to five years' time.

Indicator 2: If they have been stored safely away in a cool, dry place (NOT a damp basement or hot or freezing garage), then it's a "go."

Indicator 3: High-acid foods, like tomatoes or pineapple, have a much shorter shelf life of 12-18 months. These are a maybe/maybe not.

— Heloise

Grabbing Filters

Dear Heloise: I always love the hints I get from your column. I had a problem separating stacked coffee filters when making coffee. I attempted to retrieve one while my finger was wet from another duty. The filter popped right out with a slight pinch upward. Now I moisten my finger before reaching for the filters. It makes the procedure so much easier. — Scottie in Little Rock, Ark.

Hey, Scottie, a simple hint can make the morning go well. Do say "hi" to my friends in your city! I enjoyed my visit and a stop at the newspaper when I last gave a speech there. — Heloise

Space Saver

Dear Heloise: Wintertime is soup and stew time. My freezer space is at a premium. I had an "aha" moment when it occurred to me to add only some of the required liquid, making a "condensed soup" for storage. I then add the rest of the liquid when reheating. Some things seem so obvious after I figure them out! — M.B., Mount Vernon, Va.

The best hints come during those unexpected — as you say, "aha" — moments! Don't you just love soup? It's easy to make, is low-cost and such a comfort food during the cold months. I wrote my Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet to share favorite family and friends' recipes. To order one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. When cooking soup, add less salt than normal and let individuals salt their portion. You taste less sodium in hot foods than cold. Also, use up the last of a bag of pretzels for a crunchy topping. — Heloise

Measuring-Spoon Duty

Dear Heloise: I bought a new set of measuring spoons. I decided to keep using the old set. I keep one spoon in my sugar bowl, one in my baking-soda container, one in my coffee canister, etc. — Ashley M., Springfield, Mo.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Mocking work

7 Prepare for a bout

11 Lisbon's setting

12 Bohemian

13 Casual pants

14 Big book

15 Start a journey

17 St. Louis sight

20 Lament

23 Twosome

24 Foreign signs

26 Writer Radcliffe

27 Outlaw successor

28 They hold power

29 Bakery buys

31 Granola bit

32 Unexpected growth

33 Just

34 Method

37 "I cannot tell —"

39 Company firer

43 Elevator part

44 Lug

45 Mafia bosses

46 Park art

DOWN

1 "Ice Age" sloth

2 Justice Fortas

3 Finger count

4 Limerick people

5 Frost

6 Sunrise site

7 Had done, as a portrait

8 Excess

9 Money machine

10 Reuben base

16 Some notices

25 Big truck

30 Doughnut shop fixtures

33 Last letter

21 Kidney-related

22 Mean-spirited

24 Sombre

25 Big truck

30 Doughnut shop fixtures

33 Last letter

35 Bar bills

36 Way to go

37 Throw in

38 Old card game

40 Small rug

41 Clerk on "The Simpsons"

42 Once called

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

Previous Puzzle

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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
43								44	
45								46	

2-25

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Adds up

5 Tricks

10 Hymn singers

12 Laughable

13 Cost

14 Ship of 1492

15 Fuming feeling

16 Splash in drops

18 Glib talk

20 "— we there yet?"

21 Proton's place

23 Flowed into

24 Custom

26 Like some tea

28 Snap-shot

29 — time (never)

31 Do something

32 Tea party attendee

36 Break completely

39 Groom's answer

40 Fierce fighter

41 Some messages

43 Be penitent

44 Rich dessert

45 Annie's pooch

46 Go by

DOWN

1 Temporary currency

2 Colleague of Spock and Sulu

3 "Water Lilies" painter

4 Canine command

5 Strahan's co-host

6 Fathom or furlong

7 Southwestern capital

8 Went in

9 Charred

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

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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
36						37	38		39
40								41	42
43								44	
45								46	

2-26

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.

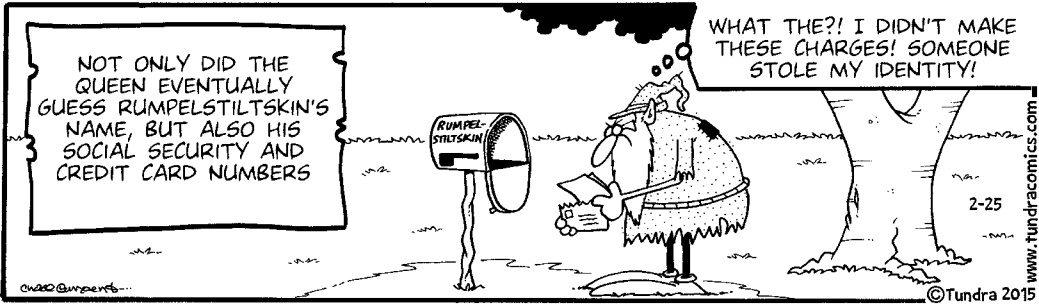
2-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

V Q D L R X C O Q Q T L O R Q I E Q R T C
X G Q G T U Q X G P X X G Q R Q P
V J I I Q E Q O O Q R X . V Q D L R X
I Q P O A X T R P J I J A G J Z G
V J A W R . — P O J R X T X I Q T A P R R J R

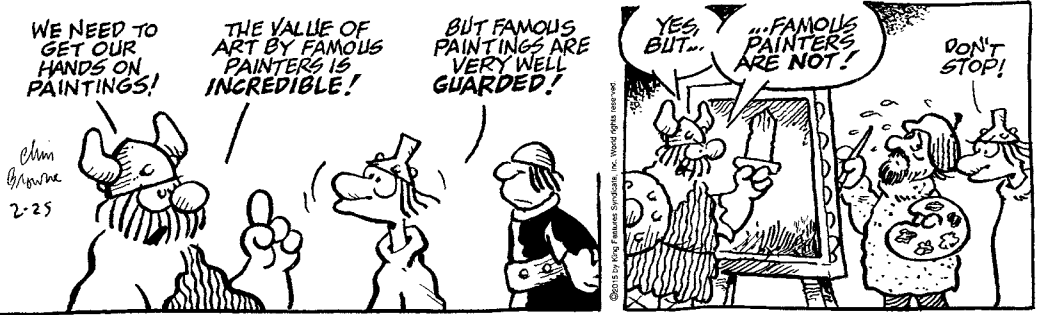
Previous Cryptoquote: THE ART OF ART, THE GLORY OF EXPRESSION AND THE SUNSHINE OF THE LIGHT OF LETTERS, IS SIMPLICITY. — Walt Whitman

COMICS

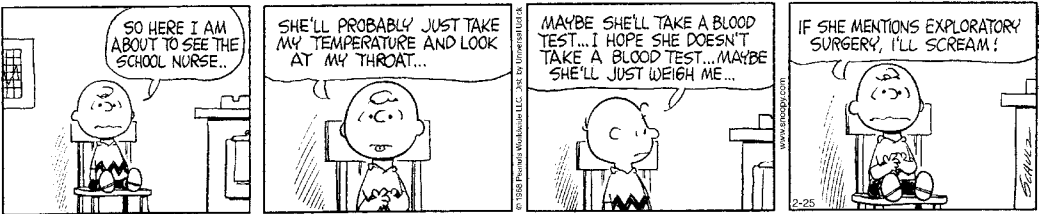
Tundra



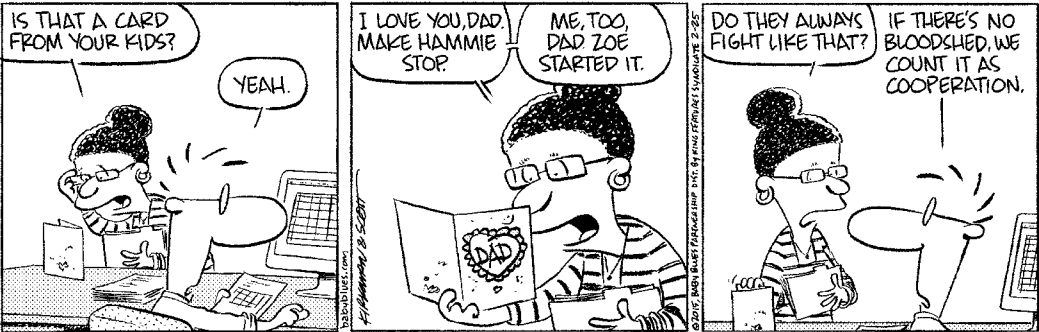
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

