Wife is wavering over offer to repair broken marriage

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 25 years. My husband, "Frank," and I have four children. Over the years our relationship became rocky – almost toxic. Frank is an alcoholic, verbally abusive and a manipulator. (I admit I'm no angel, either.)

Eight months ago, I had an affair with a former boyfriend I dated before I was married, and we got caught. Frank planted a tape recorder in my car, hacked my phone and read my texts on his phone. He threw me out of the house, my belongings placed in black garbage bags.

My boyfriend has divorced his wife, moved here and has made a life and a future for us. He has sacrificed a lot for me, and I feel bad that I'm thinking about going back to Frank. I miss my home and family.

Frank begs me to return every day. He claims he has stopped drinking and changed his ways. He wants us to go to counseling and promises to be a better husband if I give him another chance.

I'm scared, but a little piece of me wants to see if it's true. I have heard stories about how men can't change, that it will be worse if I go home and I'll be in a sort of jail and have no freedom. Please help me. — **IN PAIN IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR IN PAIN: If "a little piece" of you wants to reunite with your husband, then level with your lover. Your marriage may or may not be able to be repaired. However, if you're willing to try, understand it will take hard work on the part of both you and Frank, AND the help of a marriage counselor – IF Frank can maintain his sobriety.

You say you are worried you will lose your freedom if you go back. It is important you recognize that trust takes a long time to be rebuilt, that the attempt at reconciliation is a gamble, and whether your marriage can survive the mess the two of you have made of it isn't assured.

DEAR ABBY: When my boyfriend takes me out to dinner, he always expects sex afterward. I am OK with it because he's a nice guy. But he never says "thank you" when we're done.

Other than his manners, he's great and I'm happy we're together. Am I being petty and overly sensitive? My first husband never thanked me either or appreciated me, so I guess it's a sore spot. How should I approach this without jeopardizing everything else? — **HESITANT TO SPEAK UP**

DEAR HESITANT: Sex is not supposed to be "payment" because someone picks up a dinner check. If that's what is happening with you and your boyfriend, it is being approached with the wrong attitude.

A person is not expected to thank a partner for having sex, unless the sex was unusually spectacular. Because you feel otherwise, tell your boyfriend what your needs are – and if he agrees to thank you, return the compliment by thanking HIM.

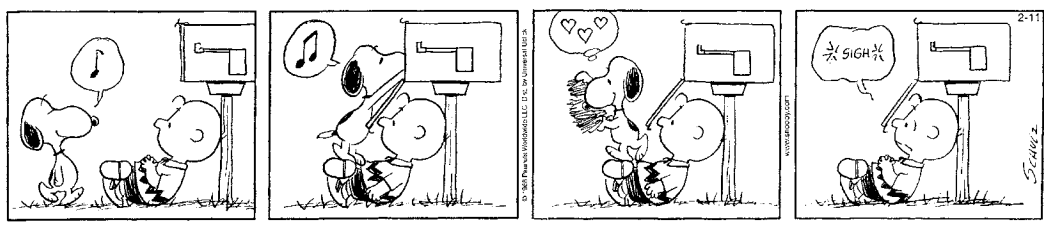
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

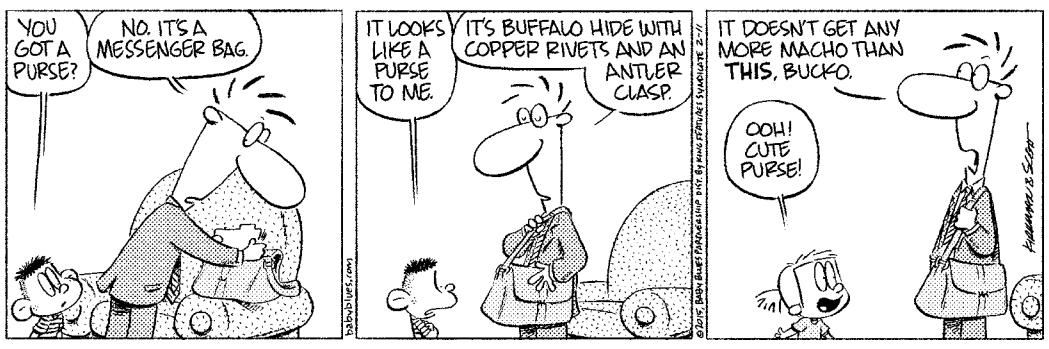
Tundra

Hagar the Horrible

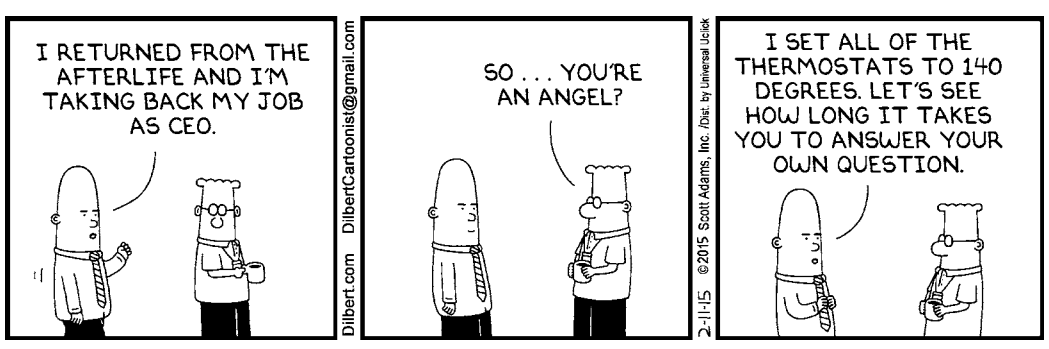
Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

A Beef With Boiling

Dear Heloise: Regarding the hint from C.V. in St. Louis (Heloise here: C.V.'s hint in a previous column was to boil GROUND BEEF before using): By boiling the beef and draining it, the food value – soluble vitamins and minerals, especially B vitamins – is lost. Browning actually enhances the flavor of beef.

My hint: Drain the cooked beef into a bowl, refrigerate until the fat is solid and then separate the fat from the broth (which will be on the bottom) and add the broth back to the beef. This retains both food value and flavor. — Riva C., via email

Riva, thanks for reminding us (me included) of this tried-and-tested food hint. There may be a small loss of nutrients into the water, so it's a tossup! Eliminate the fat if you are watching your calorie intake, or expect some nutrient loss. Use the least amount of water that you can, and slow-cook rather than boil at high heat to keep the most vitamins. — Heloise

No Drippy Mess

Dear Heloise: Our family loves to entertain and does so regularly. Here is one of my favorite entertaining hints: I keep several plastic squeeze bottles filled with condiments. Mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup and salsa can be kept neatly in these bottles. No worries about multiple knives and spoons in condiment jars contaminating them. — Mariah D. in New Jersey

Good To The Last Drop

Dear Heloise: When the salad-dressing bottle appears empty, there is still a salad's worth of dressing in there. I add a couple of teaspoons of vinegar to the bottle, put the cap on and shake. I have more than enough dressing to finish my salad. — Emma D. in Oregon

Emma, I do this, too! This is an easy way to use the last of the salad dressing. Vinegar once again comes to the rescue! There are so many other uses and hints with vinegar that I wrote my Heloise's Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More pamphlet, which you can order by sending $5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. My hint: I add some spices, such as chives and garlic powder, along with the vinegar to the dressing bottle. I call it "Surprise Salad Dressing." Be sure to label the bottle, or someone else will get a surprise when he or she pours it on a salad! — Heloise

Bottle Band

Dear Heloise: To prevent oil from running down the outside of the bottle when turning it upright after pouring, I take a tissue and fold it in half twice the long way. I wrap this around the neck of the bottle and secure with a short, fat rubber band. No greasy bottle slipping out of your hands and making a mess. — Carole in Nebraska

Good hint, Carole, a good hint indeed. One could use a paper towel or heavy paper napkin rather than a tissue. They are thicker and will last longer. — Heloise

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

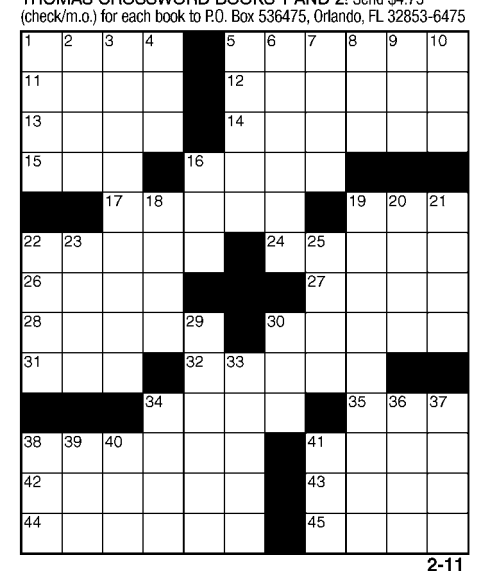
ACROSS
1 Office worker
5 Penn, for one
11 Lotion additive
12 Different
13 Move smoothly
14 On cloud nine
15 Sea dog
16 Hive group
17 Singer Faith
19 Tourist's aid
22 Plant pest
24 Crumpet's cousin
26 Competes
27 Protracted
28 Stern with a bow
30 Bomb parts
31 June honoree
32 Pueblo material
34 Trojan War hero
35 Bowler, for one
38 "A Perfect Peace" author
41 Flying: Prefix
42 Twosome
43 Aspirin target
44 Stable group
45 Vortex

DOWN
1 Wilson's predecessor
2 Singer Fitzgerald
3 Agnes of "Bewitched"
4 Congregants' seat
5 Chess piece
6 Except if
7 Sighed cry
8 Model buy
9 — out a living
10 Spectrum end
16 Misbehaving
18 Traveler's need
19 Lake in Maine
20 Poet Sexton
21 Cribbage markers
22 Gung-ho
23 Tuscany city
25 Iron, for one
29 Sweet-talk
30 Hounds' quarry
33 Stuns
34 Nile serpents
36 Like the Sahara
37 Theater award
38 German cry
39 Cow call
40 Wilder's "— Town"
41 Zoo resident

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

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



2-11

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 1975 Wimbledon champ
5 Blast sound
11 Very bright
12 Scaly pet
13 Circus sight
14 Lab worker
15 Newly arising
17 Porpoise's place
18 Walrus pair
22 Kathy of "American Horror Story"
24 Book part
25 In the style of
26 Rebel general
27 Picture puzzle
30 Ignore the limit
32 Bring to bear
33 Brood watcher
34 One with drive
38 Fail to follow suit
41 Plot unit
42 Muse of astronomy
43 Reclined
44 Physics topic
45 Winter glider

DOWN
1 Price to play
2 Appear
3 Presidential nickname
4 Menu choice
5 Flying toy
6 Hollywood bunch
7 Serious quarrel
8 Granola bit
9 Binary digit
10 Spoil
16 Empty talk
19 Presidential nickname
20 Dandling spot
21 Parrot snack
22 Au naturel
23 English of the NBA
28 Memo stamp
29 Smelly smoke
30 That lady
31 Potpourri bits
35 Equipment
36 Ontario's neighbor
37 Split
38 Grog base
39 History segment
40 D.C. baseballer

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

Previous Puzzle

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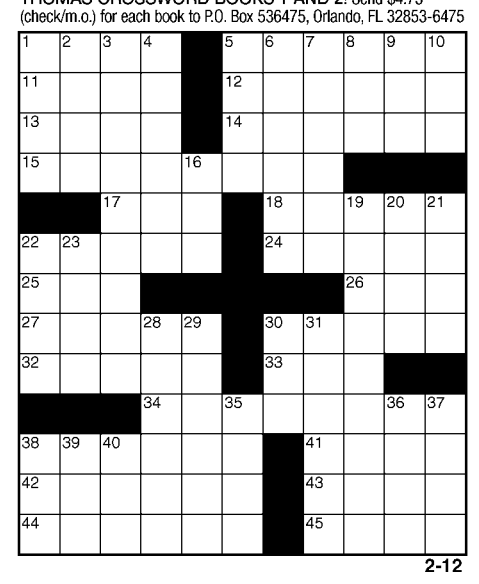

2-12

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.

2-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

V W A S Z J V W P U X C W W D X N J C W T S J X I O J C W I X G M N G I S D S J ' G S A S J G M S D S Y S K W D S. — Q O E J W J Q P V N Z E M V O J

Previous Cryptoquote: I PUT MY HEART AND MY SOUL INTO MY WORK, AND HAVE LOST MY MIND IN THE PROCESS. – Vincent Van Gogh