Baby-daddy's new girlfriend takes on a motherly role

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mother of a 1-year-old boy, Zack. His father, my ex, has shared custody, but we don't have a very good co-parenting relationship. Shortly after I gave birth, he left me to be with a woman he had met while I was pregnant, and they are still in a relationship.

She thinks it's OK to post pictures of Zack on her social media sites. I have a problem with this, not least of all that it is incredibly hurtful to see another woman pretend she is in a "mother" role with my son.

I have confronted my ex about this and although he told me he would talk to her about it, he also told me it is none of my business what happens while Zack is in his care.

Am I right to make this an issue, or do I need to move on and accept that this woman is in my son's life? — **OFFENDED IN SAN JOSE**

DEAR OFFENDED: I sympathize with your feelings, but your ex is right. Unless something is happening that's dangerous to Zack's welfare, you can't control what happens when he's with his father.

I don't know how serious this new relationship is, but it appears to be a long-lasting one -- and whether you approve or not, this woman is in your son's life in the role of part-time mother. For your sake, you need to accept it because the alternative is to make yourself sick over it. And because it's hurtful, stop reading her posts.

DEAR ABBY: I married the love of my life eight years ago. He's a wonderful husband, father and provider. He has just one flaw – his hygiene.

He works long hours and is usually exhausted when he gets home. He showers maybe once a week, and brushes his teeth less often. Sometimes he makes sexual advances, but I'm so turned off by his smell that I just can't do it.

I have tried asking him to be cleaner. I have even been upfront about what other people have said about his lack of cleanliness. I even tried making shower time "fun," but a girl can't do that every night!

I'm becoming so frustrated. I'm a clean person, and I keep hoping one day he'll adopt my habits, but it doesn't look like it's happening soon. Any advice? —**HOLDING MY NOSE IN IDAHO**

DEAR HOLDING YOUR NOSE: It appears this wonderful husband, father and provider has the personal habits of a goat. If he has enough energy to make advances at the end of a long workday, then he should have enough to take a shower and brush his teeth. Unless you plan to wear a clothespin on your nose during marital relations, you should insist upon it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been invited to a high school graduation for twin girls. One of them has been our baby sitter for almost three years, and we have formed a close relationship with her. We know her sister, but do not have the same relationship with her.

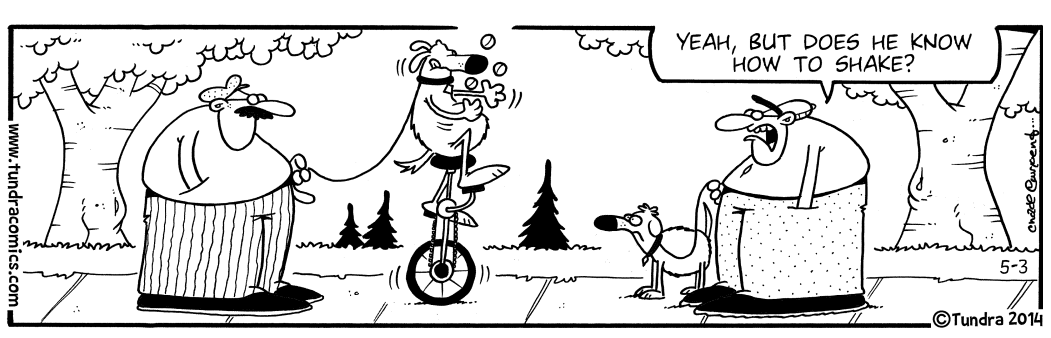
We would like to give our baby sitter more money for graduation, but do not want to offend her sister. What should we do? — **CAN'T DECIDE IN OHIO**

DEAR CAN'T DECIDE: When you give the girls their graduation cards, enclose a check in each for the same amount of money. Later, privately, you can give your baby sitter something extra as a token of your appreciation. That way, it will be less obvious and may avoid hurt feelings.

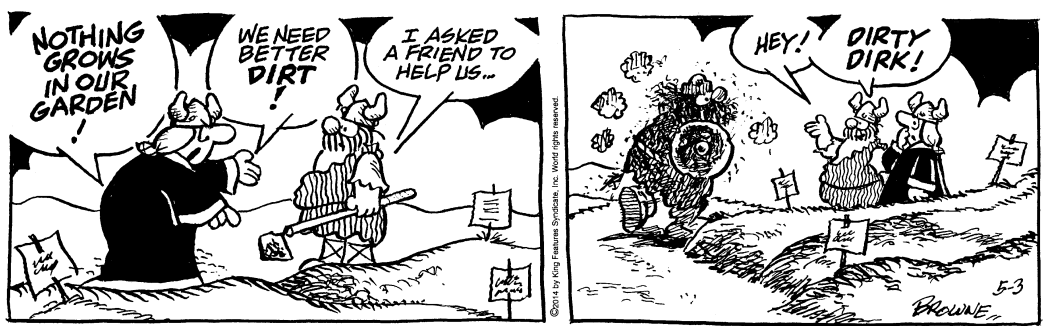
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

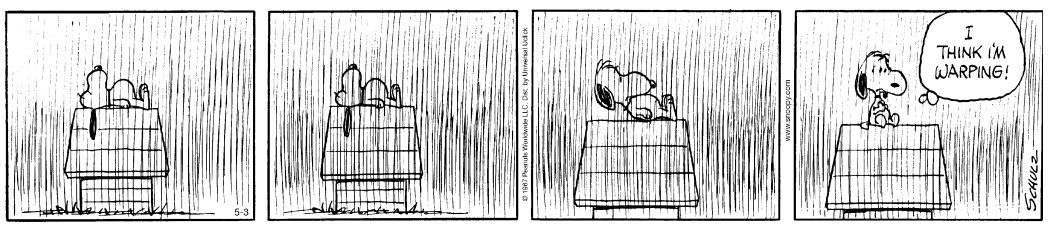
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
You are in a position of power this week, Aries. But this doesn't mean you can impose your will onto someone else. Don't try to take over any situation.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, someone might dredge up uncomfortable feelings, but you need to muddle through with a smile on your face. This is the case at home and at work.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, separate your personal and professional lives, particulary with regard to potentially contentious issues. You may want to keep mum for a while.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, make your feelings known when something upsets you this week. Sharing these feelings will benefit you and your friends and colleagues now and in the future.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, your feelings of restlessness this week can benefit from a creative outlet. Engage in an activity that keeps your hands and your mind busy, such as a craft or a home project.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, minimize any negative energy this week. Strive to be a source of optimism when others are looking at the glass as half empty. It can work wonders.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, after several days of working entirely off of adrenaline, you finally have some time to kick back and relax. This will help you recharge your internal battery.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Your motivation is very strong this week, Scorpio. You can accomplish much more than you ever expected in a short period of time. Pick your projects wisely.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you are unable to convey some feelings to others, but your body language will go a long way toward getting your message across. Remain conscious of your actions.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
One of your goals this week is to propel yourself further without pushing others too hard, Capricorn. You want to be successful but not at the expense of others.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, focus on practical matters, such as your career goals, for the time being. Crucial decisions must be made and new relationships must be fostered.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, trust your gut instincts on an issue that has been puzzling you this week. Your intuition might be your best asset.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 4
Will Arnett, Actor (44)

MAY 5
Henry Cavill, Actor (31)

MAY 6
Jason Witten, Athlete (32)

MAY 7
Breckin Meyer, Actor (40)

MAY 8
Enrique Iglesias, Singer (39)

MAY 9
Billy Joel, Singer (65)

MAY 10
Paige O'Hara, Actress (58)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

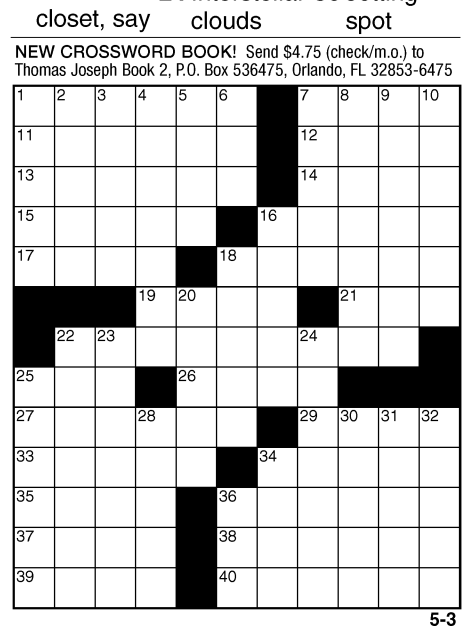
ACROSS
1 Boatman of myth
7 A lot
11 Valued cigar
12 Foot or fathom
13 Bureau
14 Folded food
15 Sudden swell
16 Kitchen gadget
17 Parcel (out)
18 Easter event
19 Hotel unit
21 Craze
22 Bligh's boat
25 Squid's home
26 Different
27 Soothes
29 Does a checkout chore
33 — Ark
34 Ornamental tree
35 Dreadful
36 Sense of taste
37 Atlas section
38 Electric eel's home
39 Heavy metal
40 Maroon

DOWN
1 Deep gorge
2 Dutch city, with "the"
3 Turn aside
4 NHL team
5 In the past
6 Veto vote
7 Student's aide
8 Served over toast, in diner lingo
9 Well-wisher's wish
10 In the closet, say
16 "The Stranger" author
18 Betting groups
20 Heeds
22 Abelard's love
23 Tropical worry
24 Interstellar clouds
25 Casual shoe
28 In the future
30 Stun
31 Glades creature
32 Perfume
34 Matching
36 Jotting spot

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

Previous Puzzle

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



5-3

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Blanchett of "Blue Jasmine"
5 Biological division
10 Fans' favorite
11 Blows one's top
13 Memo
14 Milk choice
15 Studied at the last minute
17 Anger
18 Taking a sabbatical
19 Greek vowel
20 Gun owner's org.
21 Hightailed it
22 Owed amounts
25 Blouse with a sailor collar
26 Historic times
27 Sewing aid
28 Buddy
29 Israeli city
33 Be inquisitive
34 Rudolph feature
35 Lemon color
37 Large family
38 Baltimore player
39 Coup d'—
40 Flair
41 Pouchlike parts

DOWN
1 With 22-Down, Mexican holiday
2 Decorate
3 Add up
4 Periodic table listing
5 Swiss city
6 Eat away
7 Convent resident
8 Toward one of the goal lines
9 Began
12 Unwavering
16 The Red Planet
21 Monetary resources
22 See 1-Down
23 Pencil ends
24 Illuminated from behind
25 Not spicy
27 Baseball's Reese
29 Fantasy creature
30 Italian physicist
31 Violinist Stern
32 Air outlets
36 Myrna of movies

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

Previous Puzzle

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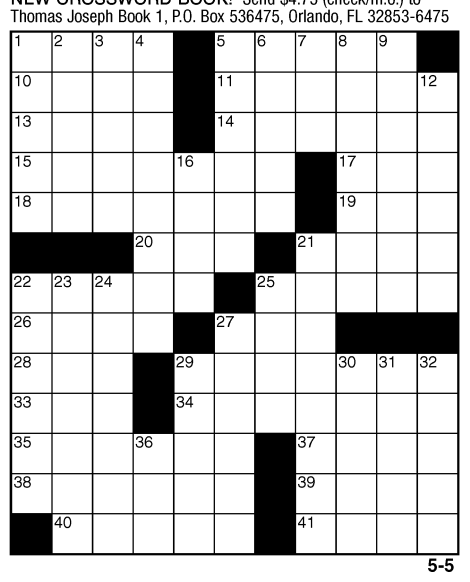

5-5

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.

5-3 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

R A W R F J U J X R W T O D O Z T O
N J F W G X J H D T D K R A J G D G W ,
R J U D C W T W F R A Z T O X
H D U Z I Z D G D T P H D U Z I Z D G
R A Z T O X T W F . — X D U K W I

Previous Cryptoquote: THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON IN THE WRITING TRADE IS THAT ANY MANUSCRIPT IS IMPROVED IF YOU CUT AWAY THE FAT. – Robert Heinlein