

DEAR ABBY | JEANNE PHILLIPS

Grandma's term of endearment is not appropriate for toddler

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law -- I'll call her "Irene" -- refers to our 3-year-old daughter, "Amber," as "sexy." When she buys clothing for Amber, she will say, "This is sexy." When Amber was younger and would pull up her dress in play, Irene would say, "Are you trying to be sexy?" Luckily, when it has happened, Amber either didn't hear or remember her comments.

kindergarten. She doesn't need to be sexually objectified by her grandmother, too.

DEAR ABBY: "Frustrated in Colorado" (March 1) complained about people attempting to send faxes on her phone line. She should be thankful for a stable, busy job in a thriving business.

Most fax machines today scan documents into memory and put them into an automated "queue" -- the same one that usually tries to transmit three times. I handle it by simply hitting the "transfer" button on my phone, so the call is routed to my fax line. Then I move on to other tasks. If you pass this on to her, it will relieve her frustration.

Tell her I said to "smile, have a nice day, and remember the words of Sgt. Joe Friday: 'It's just the fax, ma'am.'" -- LARRY FROM MARLTON, N.J.

DEAR LARRY: Thank you for the technical advice.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl. My boyfriend and I are planning for a future together. We are seriously discussing marriage.

My problem is, when I was 14, my older brother molested me. I eventually found the courage to tell my parents. They confronted him, he apologized, and we all got on with our lives. We haven't spoken about it since.

Should I tell my boyfriend

about this? It has affected my life. I have trouble trusting people, and I feel this is something he needs to know. However, my brother and I get along well now. I don't want my boyfriend wanting to hurt my brother every time we have a family function. What should I do? -- TROUBLED IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR TROUBLED: Although your brother has apologized and the subject hasn't been spoken about since, it has affected the way you perceive others. And the behavior your brother displayed when he molested you shows that -- at least at that time in his life -- he had a lack of empathy for the feelings of others, namely you.

You could benefit greatly by discussing what happened with a counselor who has expertise in sexual assault, and frankly, so could your brother. However, I see no reason to discuss what happened with your boyfriend until you become formally engaged, particularly because he might react in a volatile manner. 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.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

YOUR HEALTH | DR. DONOHUE

Diet can often lower triglycerides

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Every year I see my doctor, and every year he says the same thing to me: "Your triglycerides are too high. Lose some weight." That's the end of the discussion. I am 5 feet 10 inches tall and weight 175 pounds. Is weight loss the only thing to do for triglycerides? Incidentally, I wouldn't mind learning what they are. -- A.C.

omega-3 fatty acids into your diet. You can do that by eating two fish meals a week. Cut back on the amount of alcohol you drink. Limit the amount of sugary foods eaten. Stay away from fat: the visible fat on meats and whole-fat dairy products. If you base your diet on fruits, vegetables and whole grains, triglycerides will fall. Get in some daily exercise.

When there is a pressing need to lower triglycerides, medicines like Lipid bring them down.

There is a situation when triglyceride treatment calls for immediate intervention. That's when levels are very high, 500 to 1,000. In those instances, the high triglycerides lead to pancreas inflammation -- pancreatitis, a most serious condition.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: In the 1960s when I was pregnant with my son, I was prescribed DES to prevent a miscarriage. My son was born full-term and healthy, and he has been healthy all his life. Now he is a father of a newborn son. Could this child suffer any consequences from my having taken DES when I was pregnant with his father? -- D.F.

ANSWER: During the times when it was used, DES -- diethylstilbestrol -- was thought to be a good idea for pregnant women

threatened with having a miscarriage. Then it was noted that a few daughters of women who took this hormone developed an unusual kind of vaginal cancer. DES treatment was stopped and hasn't been used since 1971.

Some sons of DES mothers also had problems. In a few, the testicles failed to descend from the abdomen, where they are for most of fetal life, into the scrotum.

To date, studies of grandchildren of DES grandmothers haven't found any evidence that these children suffer consequences from their grandmother's treatment. Studies are still ongoing.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Readers may also order health newsletters from www.rbmamall.com. 2006 North America Syndicate Inc. All Rights Reserved

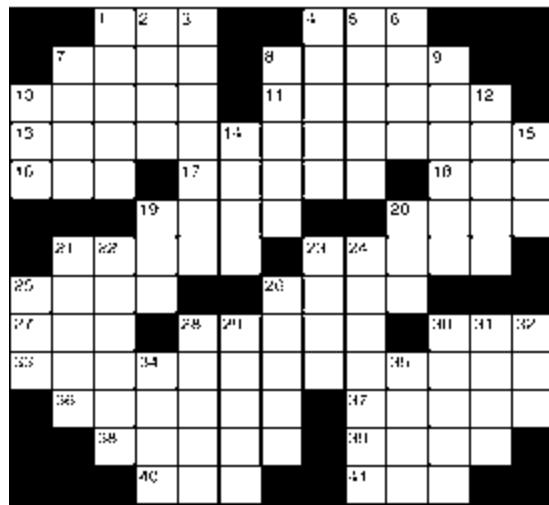
CROSSWORD | EUGENE SHEFFER

- ACROSS 1 Height of fashion? 4 Wield a needle 7 Antioxans 8 Melodies 10 Slip-on garment 11 "Sleepy Hollow" storyteller 13 Deliriously out a living 17 Resembling 18 Stipend 19 Unable to hold any more 20 Undressed 21 Fisherman's basket 23 Hosiery shade 25 Lotion additive 26 "Dragon" star 27 "Terror" 28 Garlic myon-naise 30 Comic Leno 33 Bit of folklore 36 Caught 37 Land of the Rearing Sun 38 Covered in dirt 39 Tarzan's clique 40 "Of course" 41 Homer Simpson's neighbor DOWN 1 Therefore 2 Canal zone 3 Fitness monkey 4 Cruises the Net 5 Ballad conclusion 6 Dairn across to his son 7 Foun-dered 8 Re ocean motion 9 Grab suddenly 10 Piroquette pivot 12 Open area in a forest 14 Invalid 15 Cautic solution 19 Retainer 20 Gist 21 Talons 22 Getting dressed (in) 23 He got the point across to his son 24 Côte d'Ivoire city 25 Fore and -- 26 "Toy Story" cowboy 28 Lofty home 29 Express-lance tally 30 Made tun of 31 "Sad to say..." 32 Longing 34 Grant or Flwes 35 Record-ing

Solution time: 21 mins.

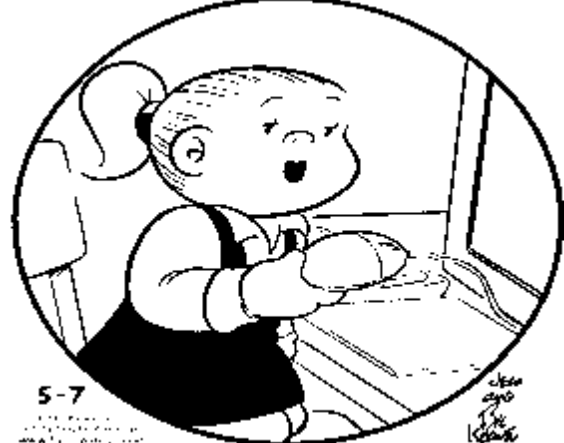


Yesterday's answer: S-Z



FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



"Instead of a mouse, couldn't I get one with a kitten?"

RETAIL | NORMAN FAUTI



HOROSCOPE | JACQUELINE BIGAR

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2007

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Pressure builds quickly. You cannot seem to juggle all the various interests, no matter how hard you try. Knowing that, choose your priorities. Start at this point, and you might avoid frustration. Family and domestic matters gain in importance. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Speak your mind if you want to, but know that there will be ramifications no matter which way you go. Communication will open up the more willing you are to discuss a problem. Clear the air. Romance builds. Tonight: Tell it like it is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Push comes to shove. How will you handle the problem? It is up to you to make the right call. Investigate your options with an eye to growth and change. Investments in property could be slow to come to fruition. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Don't let someone's determination upset you. Knowing what you want could be important. Avoid a power play no matter what. It is as simple as the word "no." Communication will flourish once you relax. Tonight: Say yes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Step back and think. You don't need to get involved in a brouhaha. Walk away if possible. Your instincts carry you through in a money matter. Listen to news with an eye to positive change. Your inner voice plays a big role. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You cannot determine what you want, no matter which way you turn. Investigate without feeling as if you must make a decision. You'll move in the right direction once you ascertain all the information. Focus and priorities carry you through. Tonight: Aim high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Take a must show and use it to your benefit. You might need more personal time, but right now you cannot get it. Listen to feedback that heads in your direction. Your instincts will lead you once you devour news. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You might want to reverse gears and start down a new path. Your willingness to transform your style might shock some, but it separates you from many. Reach out for someone who has a different attitude. Tonight: Watch a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Work with one person directly. Your ability to read between the lines lets you realize what is happening. Convincing others might depend on one person. He or she impacts others differently. Tonight: Team up with someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might be much harder or difficult to deal with than others realize. Your ability to get to the bottom of a problem earmarks your behavior. Look to positive change through discussion. You see life in a new light. Tonight: Sort through suggestions.

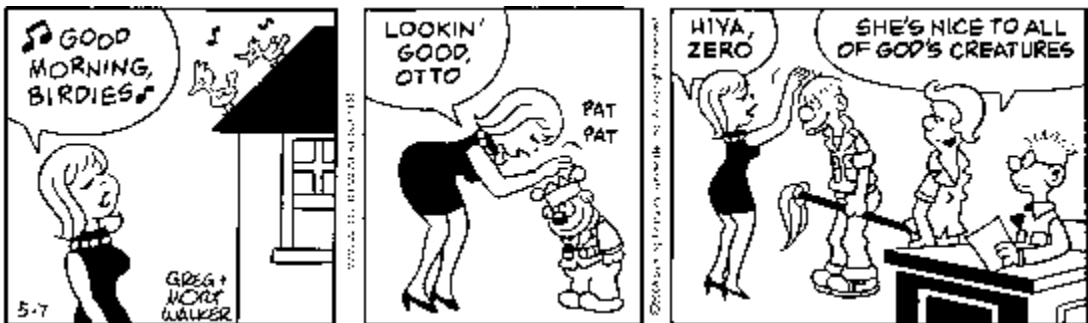
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Emphasize what you can accomplish. Though you might be involved with mental shenanigans, you would be best off to let go of some of your wilder ideas. Work with someone directly. One-on-one relating flourishes. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Add more creativity and fun into your life. Withdraw from someone who always wants to do something his or her way. Understand what might be happening with this person. A partner has a fun suggestion; go with it. Tonight: Enjoy as if there is no tomorrow.

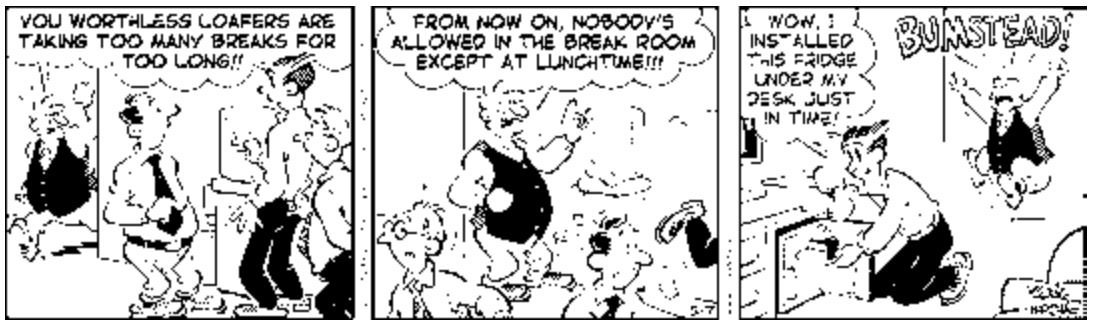
5-7 CRYPTOQUIP

E W I P B W J B Q U J A I P X
E Q I Q J H Q Q J - Q Q X U - W G C C U Q E E Q C
R X U T G O A J R A J H Q U H A T Q :
"X H Q Q J N P Q U A J P G W I Q E ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LAW IS MADE AND IS VERY STRICTLY ENFORCED, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT IT'S SUPER-IMPOSED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



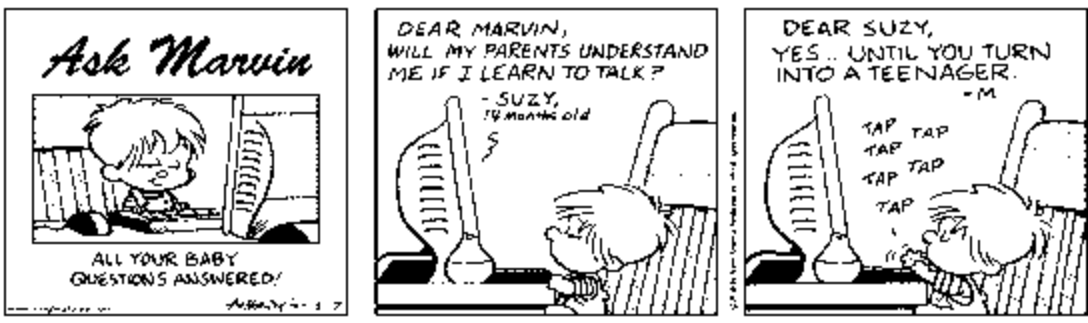
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



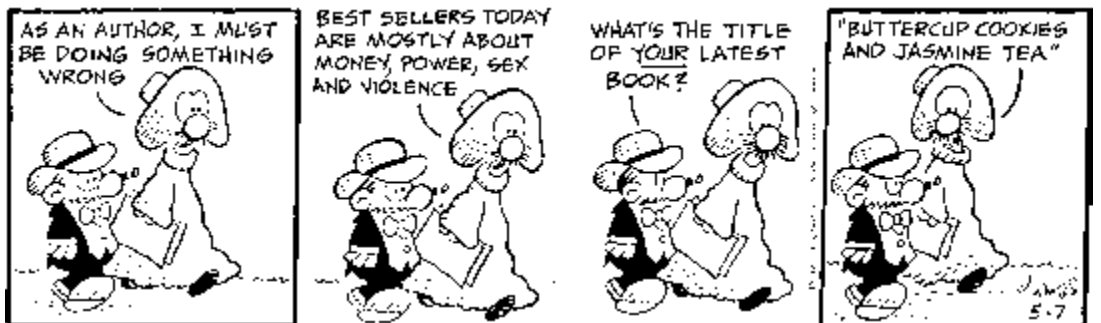
DOONESBURY | GARRY TRUBEAU



MARVIN | TOM ARMSTRONG



SAM AND SILO | DUMAS



SNUFFY SMITH | FRED LASSWELL



ZITS | BORGMAN & SCOTT

