HOROSCOPE • JACQUELINE BIGAR

NOTE: Horoscopes have no basis in scientific fact and should be read for entertainment, not guidance.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision that involves feelings and communication. Your creativity comes forward, and you see life from a different or easier point of view. Do not back off; rather, be aware of the sensitivities of a child or loved one. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Be careful with expenditures. You might be having a hard time coming to a decision. Investigate options that could impact your direction. Know that you do not need to determine which course to take just yet. You could be overwhelmed by what is happening. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Your smile is a winner. You seem determined and sure of yourself. Others respond. You discover whether you feel threatened by the level of your response. Understand rather than judge. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Vanish and assume a low profile if need be. Understanding grows if you listen rather than react. You might be surprised by the realization you can achieve. Anything becomes possible. Tonight: Take your time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Reach out to others if presented with the unexpected or a difficult situation. Listen to feedback that comes from a meeting or a group of people. Your creativity emerges in dealing with a problem, making you a sure-fire winner. Tonight: Zoom in and make what you want happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You are called to respond. You might feel pushed to the max when dealing with a child or loved one. You might need to rethink a decision that tosses the status quo into chaos. You like a steady and even approach. Tonight: As late as necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might learn more than you think. Your ability to read between the lines proves to be most helpful, especially as someone cannot be clear, no matter what. Try to stay on top of your game. Tonight: Follow a wild idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You might want to consider taking a very different approach, as the last one might not have been the success you'd desired. Knowing when to take action or perhaps do something very different could be important. Tonight: Togetherness works.

IF AUG. 25 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

This year, you might discover that you could be multifaceted or more changeable than you realize. Your public presentation could be more important than you realize. Head in a new direction, if you have been wanting to. The idea of blazing a new trail might appear spontaneously. You meet people with ease, as you will be more visible than you have been in years. Be careful about mixing work and pleasure! If you are attached, the two of you might need to do more together. You will bond on a deeper level as a result. Gemini pushes you into the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Defer to others. See what they really offer. Your ability to answer to others and get ahead of possibilities could be more important than you realize. You see a situation from a very different perspective. Start sharing. Tonight: A tete-a-tete talk

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Easy does it, knowing and establishing your limits. You could be too tired for your own good. Take a much-needed break. A boss overdoes it and goes overboard, not necessarily in a good way. Tonight: Do for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your creativity comes through in whatever area you focus on. If you are single and open, in this type of mood, someone could find you very attractive. If attached, the love temperatures soar. You could be frustrated with communication. Tonight: Forget what night of the week it is, just enjoy living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You need to be anchored and direct with a family member. Your instincts serve you well. Your energy could be off, and your nerves are shot. Verify our feelings before acting on them. Make it OK to be distracted. Tonight: At home.

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Two plus two equals four

Martha Padgett gave birth to quadruplets in Riverside, Calif., last month, but she did only half the work. The other two babies were born to her partner, Karen Wesolowski, using Padgett's eggs and the same sperm donor, and whose two came along 22 hours after Padgett's two. The women carried two fertilized eggs each only because they had failed five times before with in-vitro fertilization and just wanted to improve the odds of having at least one child between them.

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

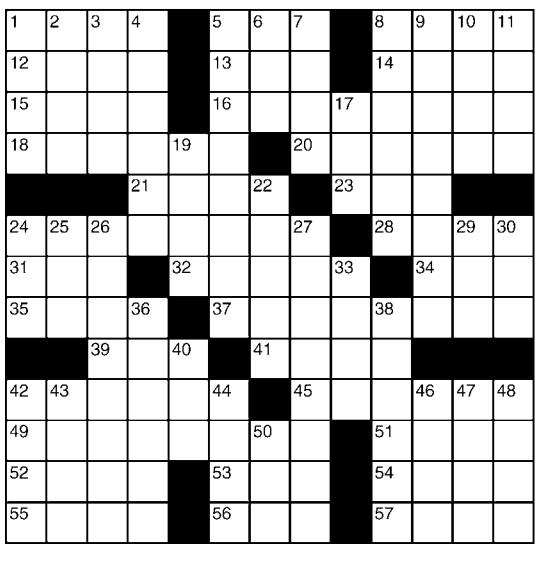
ACROSS
1 Apiece
5 Despondent
8 Vagrant
12 Sly tactic
13 Praise in verse
14 October birthstone
15 Charged particles
16 Walled-in group of buildings
18 Use a seven-second delay, e.g.
20 Scads
21 Brilliant-hued fish
23 Female deer
24 UNIVAC, for one
28 Formerly
31 Honest politician
32 Paddock papas
34 Intimidate
35 Platter
37 Entire
39 Opposite of "dis"
41 Tragic
42 Beetle talisman
45 Mythical maidens
49 Collected into a volume
51 Hodgepodge
52 Sheltered
53 "Hail, Caesar!"
54 PBS science show
55 Sail support
56 That woman
57 Dance lesson

DOWN
1 Grand story
2 Lotion additive
3 R.I. neighbor
4 Mint often used as an herb
5 Re Plato's teacher
6 Commotion
7 Showroom sample
8 Jinx
9 Wealth
10 Poison
11 Automaker Ransom Eli —
17 Legume holder
19 Piece of work
22 Biblical king
24 Scoundrel
25 Sapporo sash
26 Messieurs' counterparts
27 String around your finger
29 Barracks bed
30 Ram's mate
33 Agile
36 Rug
38 Slot-machine fruits
40 Mai — (cocktail)
42 Con job
43 Pop flavor
44 Mediocre
46 Whodunit blueprint
47 Apiary structure
48 Daytime drama
50 Prior night

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 8-25



Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

8/25

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BRAIN TEASERS • GARY R. GRUBER

1. Terry is half as old as Alice was when Alice was five years older than Terry is now. How old is Terry now?

2. Name three words that end in "dous."

3. Find the next letter in the series: y z v w s t p q
a. l
b. m
c. n
d. o
e. p

4. Bonnie's father has five daughters but has no sons. Four of the daughters are named Chacha, Cheche, Chichi and Chocho. What is the fifth daughter's name?
a. Chuchu
b. Chochu
c. Chuchy
d. Chochy
e. none of these

ANSWERS

1. 5. Translate words to math.
2. The mind may give you the pronunciation of "dous" as "doos." Don't assume that is the correct pronunciation. Realizing that, you may come up with the words "stupendous," "tremendous," or "horrendous."
3. b. Letters are arranged in pairs, backward skipping every third letter: m n (o) p q (r) s t (u) v w (x) y z
4. e. The fifth daughter is Bonnie herself.

www.drgarygruber.com

Gary R. Gruber, Ph.D., is recognized as the leading authority on standardized tests and the originator of the critical thinking skills used to prepare for them. He has written more than 35 books, with more than 7 million copies sold, including the new 12th edition of "Gruber's Complete SAT Guide-2009" (Sourcebooks). A calendar, "Use It or Lose It-2009," will be published by Andrews McMeel in September.

CAROLYN HAX

Older woman wishes she had more intimacy

While I'm away, readers give the advice.

On longing for intimacy: Yes, it is true that we don't get everything in life, and it is true that we all have to learn to live with and appreciate what we do get, not rely upon others to make the core of us happy, etc.

But it really is very, very difficult. I am now moving into old age. I was married for a very long time to, and eventually divorced from, a man who did not value that part of life, or was not able to. I was raised in a time when premarital intimacy was heavily censured, and I went along as did many women my age. I didn't get what I needed in my marriage and it turned out there were few opportunities for an older, middle-aged woman after I divorced.

The longing has never left.

For all the excesses and misuses of sexuality in the modern world, I still think it is better than the severe restrictions on premarital sex and extramarital sex that some of us grew up with.

With a little experience, I might have chosen differently. If we married badly, and stayed married and followed the rules, then our chances for a different life were reduced.

I will mourn this loss forever. It is not assuaged by the successful career I have had, or the good society of friends I have. ...

On ambition: Maybe folks need a review of the meaning of life. It's no mystery; pretty much all major religions and most philosophies consider the meaning of life to be Love: Love your God, love your neighbor, love your family, love your community, love yourself, etc. Add many variations and permutations, but it all boils down to the same thing.

In this context, then, why do we work? Because it is the most loving thing to do. One works in order to (a) not burden anyone else; (b) provide for whomever in the family cannot work (for example, children); and (c) give back to society at least as much as one has received, preferably more. A stay-at-home partner might still be considered to be working, if he or she is taking care of children who need that sort of extra attention (not all families being alike in their needs) and/or creating the sort of home environment that refreshes the breadwinner in ways that money just can't buy.

Therefore, the ideal way to evaluate the contributions someone makes is the degree to which the contributions show love for all concerned.

tellme@washpost.com

DEAR ABBY

Couple hope first meeting of friend's date is the last

Dear Abby: My husband's best friend of 40 years, "Nick," started dating a woman about a month ago. Nick has been down on his luck personally and financially for several years. He called and asked if he could bring "Hattie" to our home for dinner.

Within 15 minutes of meeting her, Hattie told me she was bipolar and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. She has two small children, but when I asked where they were, she changed the subject. Nick doesn't have kids, and he's nearly 50.

When Hattie asked me for something to drink, I offered her tea or soda. She took the soda, then said she preferred beer and wine, and did I have any.

My husband told Nick that Hattie was not the type of woman he needed. If Nick calls and wants to bring Hattie around again, how should we say no?

Don't say no. Suggest that the four of you go out for dinner and make it a short evening.

Dear Abby: When I was in high school I was involved in a car accident that took the lives of two of my friends. I was driving. A deer ran out in front of my car, I swerved to miss it and hit a tree. I was wearing a seat belt, my friends were not.

The police ruled it an accident. My friends' parents believed me, but because of the comments and physical attacks from my classmates I dropped out of school at 17. I got my GED and moved on — or so I thought — until two weeks ago, when I received an invitation to my 20-year reunion.

A handwritten note was enclosed from a girl whom I had thought was my best friend back then. (She turned her back on me when the rumors started.) Her note read: "Come. PLEASE come. I want to see you. We all do."

I don't know what to do. My husband and my parents are pressuring me to go. Please help me decide.

Pick up the phone and call the woman who sent the note. You are not the same person you were 20 years ago, and neither are the classmates who treated you so cruelly. You are now an adult, and you will have your loving husband beside you.

As to "looking guilty" should you choose to stay home you weren't guilty when the accident happened and not attending won't make you seem guilty now. If you attend, do so because you have unfinished business. The choice, of course, is yours, but I think you have more to gain by going than you have to lose.

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