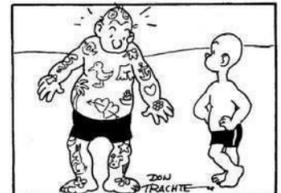
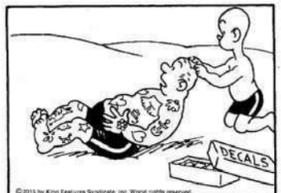
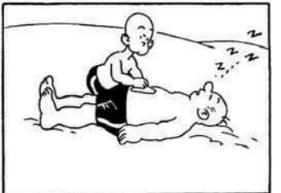
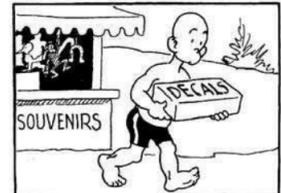
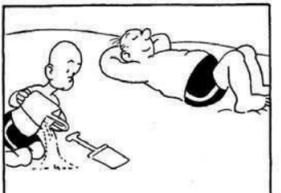
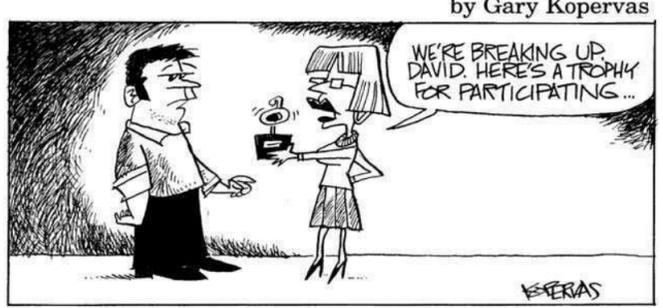
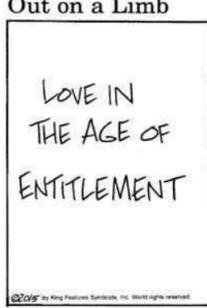
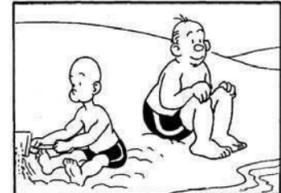
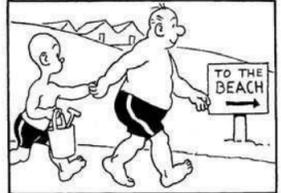
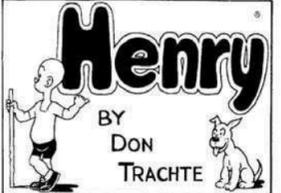
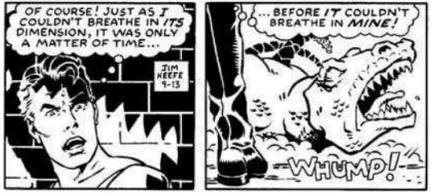
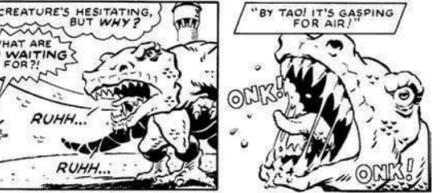
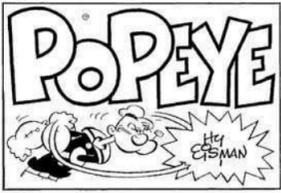


SIDE SHOW



TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Tuberculosis concerns put to rest with test

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 22, and I am a security guard at a local store. Just recently, I detained a suspect for shoplifting. We were in a room no bigger than a small office, and she was coughing up a storm. I was in and out of the room for a half-hour or so. When the local police department showed up, she revealed that she has active tuberculosis. I did my research, and it is contagious when it's airborne. How much exposure is necessary to catch it? What are the symptoms of TB? Is it curable? Please, I'm in need of answers. — E.A.M.

ANSWER: Tuberculosis is an infection caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The most common body location is the lungs, but tuberculosis can infect the kidneys, lining of the brain, bones

and lining of the heart, among others. It is contagious by air only when in the lungs, as you said. The major symptom is cough, but weight loss also is frequent in advanced stages, giving TB its old name, consumption.

The likelihood of getting infected after exposure depends on many factors, including some things we don't know in this case, such as whether she is being treated and whether she has cavities in her lungs.

The good news is that you would be considered a low-risk contact, having been in a room with her only for a relatively short period. The bad news is that it is possible to have acquired an infection. Your doctor or a public health official should evaluate you for evidence of prior infection with a skin test, which should be repeated in eight to 10 weeks.

Tuberculosis is almost 100 percent curable. People with active infection usually are treated with several medications for six months.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife drinks in excess of 3 liters of diet soda a day, sometimes even more. She has colitis, for which she takes Lialda, and on her last visit to her primary care physician, her blood

work revealed borderline bad levels in her liver. The doctor seems to think she needs to stop "drinking alcohol," but I have been married to her for more than 30 years, and I know it's not drinking that is causing this. We both consume only moderate amounts of alcohol. Could it be the chemicals in diet soda? — F.J.R.

ANSWER: Three liters a day is a lot of diet soda, and that much caffeine probably isn't good for her. However, I don't think it is likely to be affecting her liver. Mesalazine (Lialda and others) rarely can cause abnormal liver tests — specifically, high levels of the same enzymes that might lead a doctor to suspect alcohol use.

You didn't tell me what kind of colitis your wife has, but ulcerative colitis, a form of inflammatory bowel disease, is associated with several kinds of liver problems, including fatty liver and primary sclerosing cholangitis, which is potentially severe. I don't think either alcohol or diet soda should be blamed until she has had a more careful workup. I think a visit with her gastroenterologist would be wise.

relationship suddenly might present some challenges you never expected. After talking things out, you might want to consider taking some time to assess what you've learned.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A disappointing response to a request might dampen the Lion's spirits. But you might want to ask the reasons behind it. What you learn can be of great importance in a future undertaking.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A once-volatile situation should be settled by now, giving you a chance to refocus on a project you've been planning for. Look for an interested party to rally to your support.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A business matter that unexpectedly turns into a personal situation could create complications. Best to resolve the matter now before too much harm can be done.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Emotions can run high when they involve personal matters

that no one really wants to talk about. But this could be a good time to create the means to a workable outcome.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A positive response to a workplace request could lead the way to other long-sought changes. Congratulations. A personal situation also takes a welcome turn.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Patience pays off, as that once-overwhelming work situation continues to become easier to handle on a one-by-one basis. Look for positive news from a colleague.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It might be a good idea to take more time to reassess your next move in working out a complex situation. You could benefit from a new perspective on the matter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might want to consider making time to discuss a change of plans with everyone concerned. Be prepared to explain your actions. Also be prepared to listen to alternatives.

SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although practical situations continue to dominate this week, there's time for the Lamb to indulge in the fun things in life — like maybe taking a special someone out for a great evening.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This week favors relationships. Take time to renew old ones, and make time to go where new friends can be found. On a more practical note, expect news about a business deal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You should be seeing some progress on that new workplace situation. Meanwhile, family matters might demand more attention, and you'll want to set aside time to deal with them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15					16			17			
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		21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32			
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37			38		39				40		
41				42		43					
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50	51	52				53	54			55	
56						57				58	
59						60				61	

ACROSS

1 Pod occupant
4 "Scram!"
8 A really long time
12 Hooter
13 Warmonger
14 Flew the — (fled)
15 Encountered
16 All things U.S.
18 Full of self-esteem
20 Consumed
21 Punch
24 Sudden outburst
28 Its capital is Gaborone
32 Jog
33 "Hail, Caesar!"
34 Impales
36 Charged bit
37 Keg contents
39 Kuznetsova of tennis
41 Cancel
43 To be (Fr.)
44 "Family Guy" daughter
46 Glorify
50 Vaudeville star
55 Past
56 Satanic
57 Astrigent
58 WWW address

DOWN

1 "— and Circumstance"
2 Basin accessory
3 Countertenor
4 Follows secretly
5 Lunch meat
6 Have bills
7 Gumbo need
8 Take
9 — long way (last)

10 Many millennia
11 Hot tub
17 "Monty Python" intro solo
19 Constitution letters
22 Long-running musical
23 Jack
25 Operatic
26 Roger Rabbit, for one
27 Sicilian spouter
28 Ali —
29 Microwave
30 Adolescent
31 Help in wrongdoing

35 Rills
38 Gang warfare
40 Superman foe Luthor
42 Meadow
45 Constantly chew at
47 Lacking slack
48 Shrek is one
49 Kinks hit
50 Danson or Koppel
51 Eggs
52 Wrestling coup
53 Kin of 37-Across
54 Gist

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

