

Mr. Right’s only wrong is hanging out with his exes

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating Mr. Right for two years. “Phil” is the man I want to spend my life with. When we are together privately, everything is perfect.

The problem is, Phil hangs out with his old college buddies every few weeks or months, and it often involves his ex-girlfriends. They don’t hang out alone. There is always at least one other person there. The situations usually include drinking, which worries me.

In my opinion, Phil should not be seeing his exes, even though his college friends are still buddies with them. Phil doesn’t understand why I think this is so wrong. I am uncomfortable and think he should avoid these situations.

Am I overly jealous, or should I call it quits because he won’t respect my feelings on the matter? — **HOME ALONE IN KOKOMO**

DEAR HOME ALONE: I don’t think you are overly jealous, but I do think you may be overly insecure. Has Phil given you any reason to think he has cheated on you? If not, you should trust that he is doing nothing more than hanging out occasionally with old friends.

You say he is encountering exes (plural) when he sees his male friends. If it was just one, you might have cause to worry. Remember, these women are exes for a reason. Unless



DEAR ABBY

you want to be another ex, you should lighten up because insecurity and possessiveness are unattractive traits.

DEAR ABBY: We have lived next door to a couple, “Evie” and “Earl,” for five years. I thought we were good friends. Over the years, I vented to Evie about my relationship with my daughter-in-law, “Cate.” I watch my two grandkids most of the week and have complained to her about Cate’s poor parenting skills.

Last summer, my daughter-in-law made a concerted effort to befriend Evie, and they now socialize together -- even though Cate flirted with Earl and Evie didn’t like it. This has pretty much killed my friendship with Evie and worsened my relationship with my D-I-L.

This has affected me emotionally and physically to the point that I either want to cut off ties with my son and/or move -- neither of which is really an option. I have tried talking to both parties to no avail. I don’t

know what to do. Please help. — **BETRAYED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR BETRAYED: If you had concerns about your daughter-in-law’s parenting skills, the person you should have discussed them with was Cate. And if Evie was as good a friend as you thought, she wouldn’t be hanging around with your daughter-in-law to the exclusion of you.

I assume that you, your son and Cate are still on speaking terms and you’re still watching the kids “most of the week.” If that’s not true and you have been cut off by everyone, then the most important thing you need to do is take care of your mental and physical health. Accept that Evie will never be your buddy again and start socializing with others.

If you are no longer watching your grandchildren, your son and D-I-L will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare, which will cost them money they may be reluctant to spend. Then it will be in their interest as well as yours to make peace.

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.

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

Dear Heloise: I remember a recipe of yours for HELOISE’S APRICOT PRESERVES. Could you reprint it, please? — Edith S. in Tennessee

Absolutely! Heloise’s Apricot Preserves recipe uses one 8-ounce package of dried apricots, 1/2 cup of sugar and half of a fresh lemon.

Place 4 cups or so of water in a pot with the apricots and sugar. Slice the lemon into very thin slices and then into pieces. Add to the pot and stir. Cook for 30 minutes over medium heat (without a lid).

After 20 minutes, use a potato masher and give the mixture a good mashing, but leave some pieces. The chunks are what make it like Grandma’s.

Stir again after a few minutes to see if it is thick. If not, cook just a little bit longer. Once thick enough, take off the heat and let it sit until it cools. Place in jars and keep in the refrigerator. This recipe and more can be found in my Heloise’s All-Time Favorite Recipes pamphlet, which you can receive by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Recipes, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. With only 17 calories per apricot, they are yummy as a quick snack, and are great with oatmeal. Use these preserves on waffles, pancakes and as an oatmeal topping. — Heloise

FLAVORED OIL

Dear Heloise: I have started saving the leftover oil from jars of marinated artichoke hearts, minced garlic, sun-dried tomatoes and roasted red peppers. I save the oil in the refrigerator. I put the oil on salad, vegetables or pasta for added flavor. — Linda P. in New Mexico

Love it! That “oil” is flavored, and you have already paid for it, so use it for other things! Try pouring it over cream cheese as a tasty appetizer. — Heloise

STICKY SITUATION

Dear Heloise: When enjoying a nice, icy-cold drink on a hot summer day, condensation builds up on the outside of the glass. If the glass is placed on a napkin, the napkin sticks to the bottom of the glass when you pick it up. To avoid this, generously sprinkle salt on the napkin before sitting the glass down. No more sticking, and it works like a charm every time. — Jan W. in Florida

This is a Heloise classic hint that I love! It works for paper coasters, too. — Heloise

PIE DISHES

Dear Heloise: In our area, there are an increasing number of charity pie auctions. My wife buys used, glass baking dishes at the local thrift shops for a dollar or two. She bakes a pie in the glass dish and then donates both as one package. — Don and Sharon Short in Arkansas

CARDBOARD CARRIER

Dear Heloise: When taking food I made to someone’s house, I take a flat piece of cardboard and cover it with aluminum foil. The cardboard acts like a platter for carrying dishes, and the foil protects it from spills so I can use it many times. — Gayle W. in Wyoming

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Shipping stop
- 5 Flock member
- 9 Provinces
- 11 “C’est —”
- 12 Full range
- 13 Game setting
- 14 Seventh Greek letter
- 15 Stinging insects
- 17 Station workers
- 19 Acquire
- 20 Writer
- 21 Homer’s neighbor
- 22 Not available
- 24 Young seal
- 26 Oatmeal annoyances
- 29 Golfer Hogan
- 30 Hardwood trees
- 32 Cinnamon candies
- 34 Squealer
- 35 One way to read
- 36 Fill with joy
- 38 Lets off steam
- 39 Contract addition

DOWN

- 41 Mineral sources
- 41 Shore flier
- 1 Beeper’s kin
- 2 Made speeches
- 3 Filmed again
- 4 19th Greek letter
- 5 Zhivago’s love
- 6 Get satisfaction for
- 7 Mode change
- 8 Beauty’s love
- 10 Try hard
- 11 Young fellows
- 16 Shoulder decoration
- 18 Brisk pace
- 21 Animated fish
- 23 Soap opera
- 24 Kitchen gadget
- 25 Ruined
- 27 Easter event
- 28 Rink patron
- 29 Cry of encouragement
- 30 Reactor parts
- 31 Boat’s back
- 33 Crude homes
- 37 Set fire to

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10		11	
12						13	
14				15	16		
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29				30			31
32			33				34
35						36	37
38						39	
40						41	

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Rum mixer
- 5 Recap
- 10 Skunk’s defense
- 11 Sentence part
- 12 Movie holder
- 13 Aerie youngster
- 14 “I asked you a question!”
- 16 “I beg your pardon?”
- 20 Le Carré spy
- 23 Old auto
- 24 Homes for koi
- 25 Navajo home
- 27 Superlative ending
- 28 Train stops
- 29 “I want to be on your team!”
- 32 “What was it I said?”
- 36 Cisco Kid’s horse
- 39 Sailing marker
- 40 Forge sights
- 41 Last Stuart ruler
- 42 Pesky swarm

DOWN

- 43 Peruse
- 1 Musical close
- 2 Norse god
- 3 Red-ink amount
- 4 Fuse, in a way
- 5 SeaWorld whale
- 6 Goats on
- 7 — de mer
- 8 Purpose
- 9 Sulky state
- 11 Shelley’s first name
- 15 Alimony payers
- 17 Therefore
- 18 Butcher’s wares
- 19 Ages and ages
- 20 Blueprint number
- 21 Dance in a pit
- 22 Crazy about
- 25 Prefix with sphere
- 26 Reception feature
- 28 Sample CDs
- 30 Satellite path
- 31 Markets
- 33 Sahara sight
- 34 “— Lisa”
- 35 Looked over
- 36 U.N.’s Hammar-skjöld
- 37 Tavern
- 38 One of Frank’s wives

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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			32				33	34
36	37	38					39	
40							41	
42							43	

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.

10-2

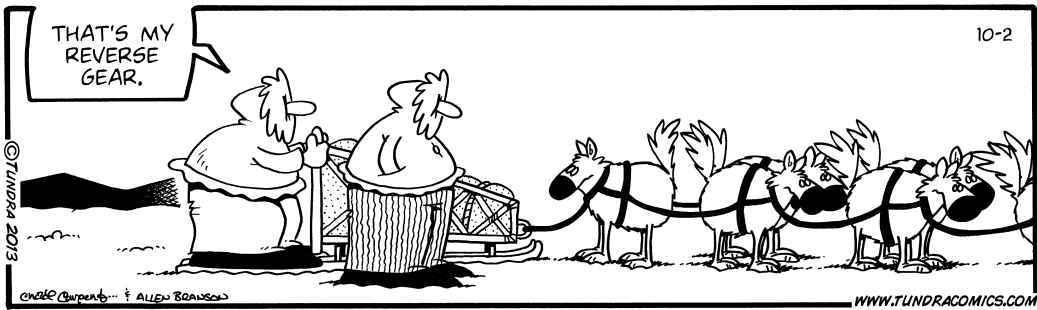
CRYPTOQUOTE

H A A I Y X Q Y H E I F C N T U T I U A T
— U T I U A T C F T H A A Q N F M W N
— O I O T I Y N J T X B T F T Z I I A
C O N J T C F Q I M O L T F Q T H F W .
— N H Q A I F W B C Y N

Previous Cryptoquote: AS FOR A FUTURE LIFE, EVERY MAN MUST JUDGE FOR HIMSELF BETWEEN CONFLICTING VAGUE PROBABILITIES. – Charles Darwin

COMICS

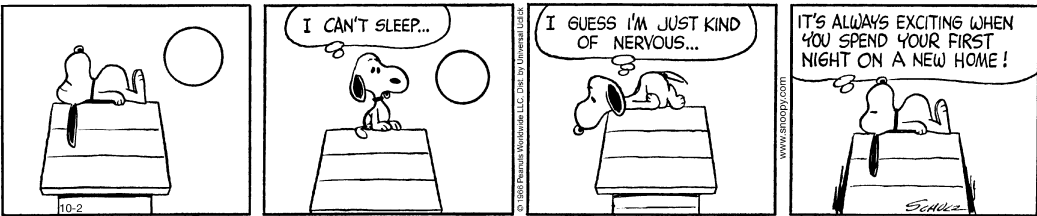
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

