

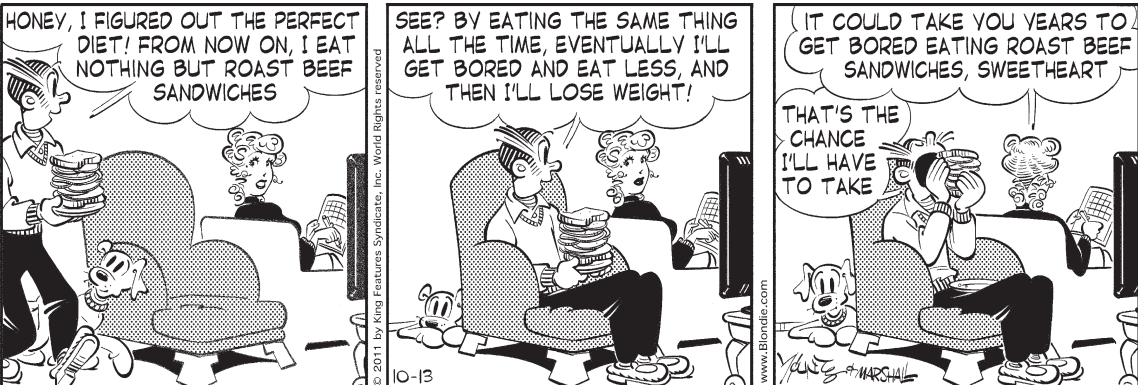
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



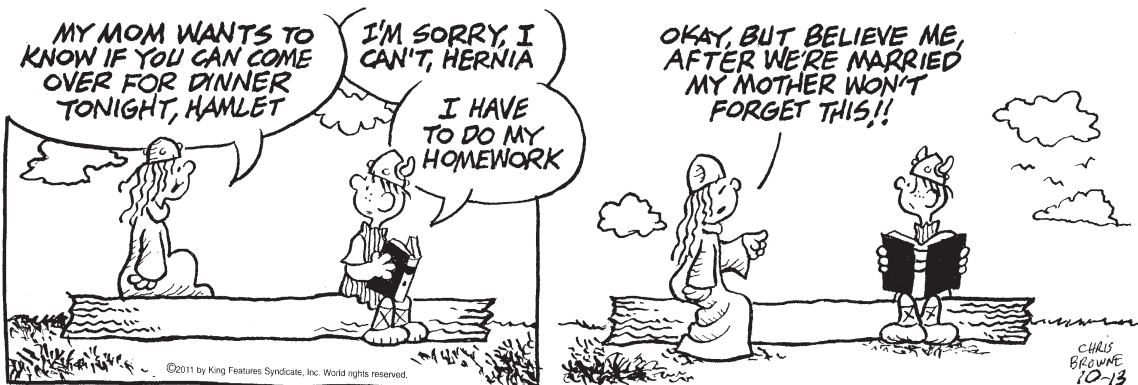
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



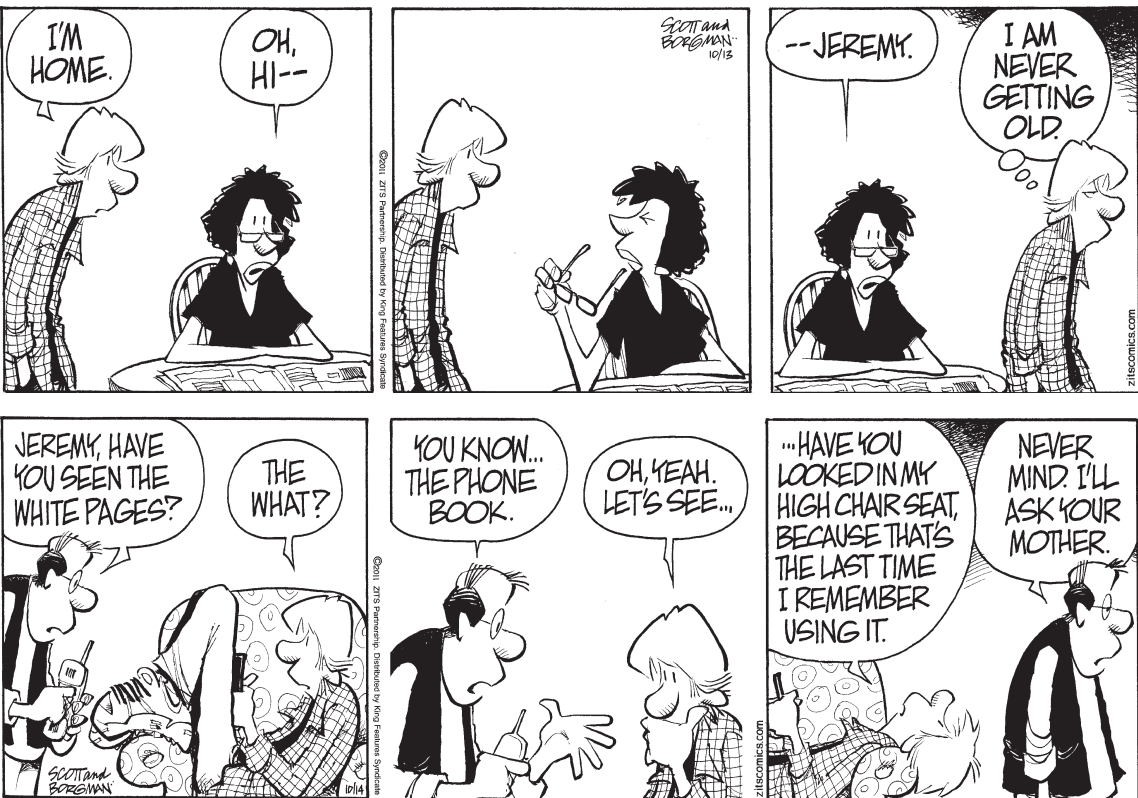
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

She has a crush on an older man

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm happily married, but recently I started working with an older man, whom I really admire. He's also taken a liking to me, and we work closely on a daily basis. My husband travels for business, and I found myself thinking about my co-worker in romantic terms. I would never act on this, and he knows I'm married, but I feel guilty. Is it just plain wrong to have a crush on my co-worker if I'm married? – C.A.

Dear C.A.: The fact that you know you will not act on these feelings, and that you feel guilty for even thinking about it, signals you're probably not at real risk of having an affair. On the other hand, this might be an early warning that something is taking the excitement out of your marriage. Before things progress further, you owe it to yourself to take a look at your marriage and identify whether there's something you're unsatisfied with, and then address those weak points. While there's no harm in fantasizing about a romantic tryst with someone other than your husband (married men and women do it all the time), you don't want to put yourself in the position that this ever might come true.

You should talk to your husband about anything you identify – whether it's his travel or something else – but spare him the details of your crush. Think about the level of honesty and communication you would want from him in a similar situation, and try to follow the golden rule: You don't want to do anything with this co-worker you wouldn't want your husband doing with another woman. If you can work through your problems, this crush will likely pass as easily as it came, and your marriage will be stronger for it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have always been conscious of protecting the environment and being green, but now we have kids, it seems harder. We're constantly rushed and looking for convenience, but I want to teach my kids that protecting the environment and interacting with nature are important. What are easy ways I can integrate these lessons into our family's daily activities and show my kids the value of conservation? – L.R.

Dear L.R.: The best way to teach your kids this lesson is to integrate conservation and environmental awareness into your everyday life, and then point out why you are doing the things you do for the environment. First, include your kids in simple things you may already do – using high-efficiency light bulbs, bringing your own bags to the supermarket or composting. It's great if your kids take these as normal, but you also should explain why it's important that you make the choices you do. Keep the explanations appropriate to their level of understanding, but try to get the basic concepts across.

There also are other, more active ways that you can teach your children to respect the environment and nature. One is by exposing them to natural environments, whether it's an after-school trip to a park or a weekend in the woods. You also can include your kids by planting a garden. Kids love getting dirty, and gardening can be a rewarding and meaningful way for your kids to interact with the natural world – especially if you can help them remember to water and care for their plants so they thrive. If you can identify an environmental issue your kids are interested in, take time to sit down and write a letter to your local congressperson or senator to show your care.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 4
♥ K Q 8 7
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 5 2

WEST

♠ 10 6 2
♥ A 10 9 4
♦ 5 2
♣ 10 9 8 6

EAST

♠ Q 1 9 5
♥ 1 6 3 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ J 3

SOUTH

♠ K 8 3
♥ 5
♦ A Q J 10 9
♣ K Q 7 4

The bidding:

North 1 NT
East Pass
South 3 ♦
West Pass

Opening lead – ten of clubs.

Careful Play Foils the Defense

Let's say you're in six diamonds and West leads the ten of clubs. How would you proceed? If you fail to treat the hand with the respect it deserves, you'll finish down one – assuming best defense.

For example, if you win the club, draw trumps and lead a heart toward dummy, West follows low, and sooner or later you lose a spade and a club.

The best approach, after winning the club lead with the king, is to play a heart immediately. If West takes the ace, you have 12 tricks, so let's assume he lets you win with dummy's queen.

Now you cash the Q-J of trumps, leaving one trump at large, then play the ace and another club toward your queen, hoping to find the suit divided 3-3. East produces the jack on the ace, then goes into a brown study trying to decide whether or not to ruff the five.

Actually, it doesn't matter what he does. Let's suppose he trumps the club. In that case, you follow low from your hand, retaining the queen of clubs. With all the adverse trumps now out of circulation, you can later discard a spade from dummy on the club queen and make the slam by ruffing a spade in dummy.

If East does not ruff the third round of clubs, you are on equally firm ground. After winning with the queen, you ruff the seven of clubs with the king of trumps to produce your 12th trick.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/13

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Cryptoquip

KJ DZSEC PN ZXYAEJY SE AKXA

Y I R R J Y N K X H D J M A P J

M J D S E C X C Y J X A H J E H J

I M X B B I P Z D S B J - P J E A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THINGS BECAME SO ABNORMALLY SILENT AT THE RECYCLING PLANT THAT YOU COULD HEAR A BIN DROP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Navigator's stack
 - 5 Deck in the ring
 - 9 Upper surface
 - 12 Oil cartel
 - 13 Leading man?
 - 14 "Hail, Caesar!"
 - 15 Pianist's ticker
 - 17 Barbie's companion
 - 18 Agreement
 - 19 No stay-at-homes
 - 21 Lindbergh book
 - 22 Plot mathematically
 - 24 Back talk
 - 27 Greet the villain
 - 28 Grant's —
 - 31 Thickness
 - 32 Once around the track
 - 33 Long March leader
 - 34 Yin counterpart
- DOWN**
- 11 Nerd-pack contents
 - 16 Indivisible
 - 20 Choose (for)
 - 22 "The Men of the —"
 - 23 Lasso at —
 - 24 Agent
 - 25 In the manner of
 - 26 Stockholm —
 - 27 Sad
 - 29 Scratch
 - 30 Cranberry territory
 - 35 Joke
 - 37 Edge
 - 39 Butcher's wares
 - 40 Earth (Pref.)
 - 41 Pop group
 - 43 Weaponry
 - 44 Midwest state
 - 45 "So be it"
 - 46 For fear that
 - 49 Witness
 - 50 Playing marble

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15				16					17	
18							19	20		
			21			22	23			
24	25	26			27			28	29	30
31					32				33	
34			35		36				37	
		38		39				40		
41	42						43		44	45
47					48	49	50			
51					52				53	
54					55				56	