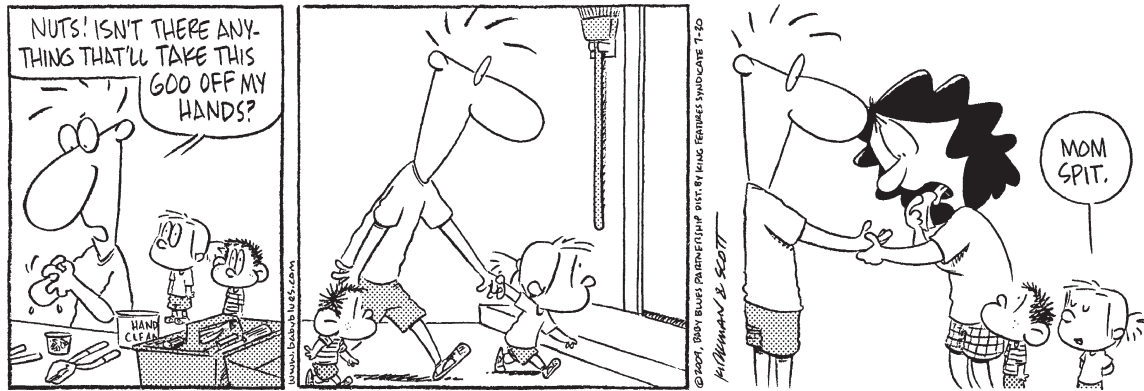


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



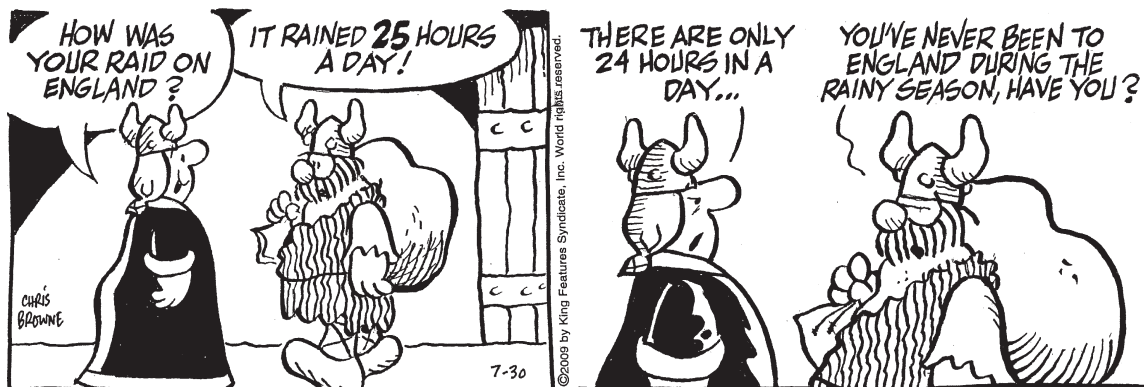
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



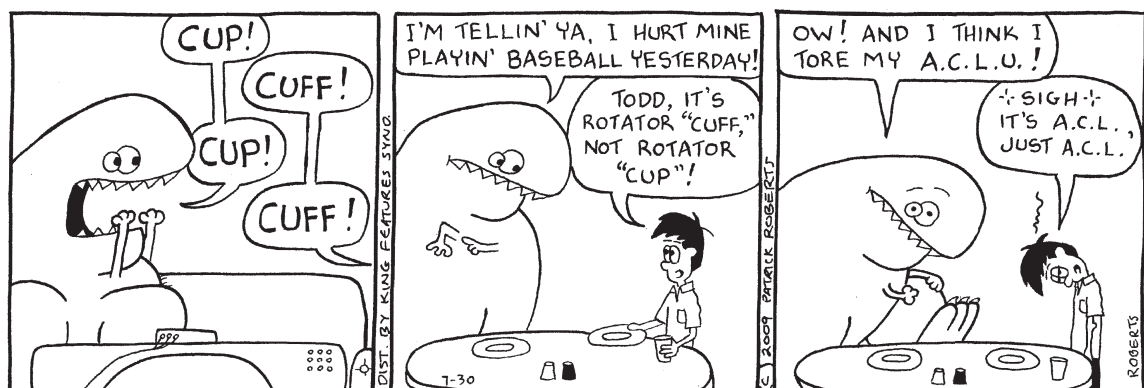
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



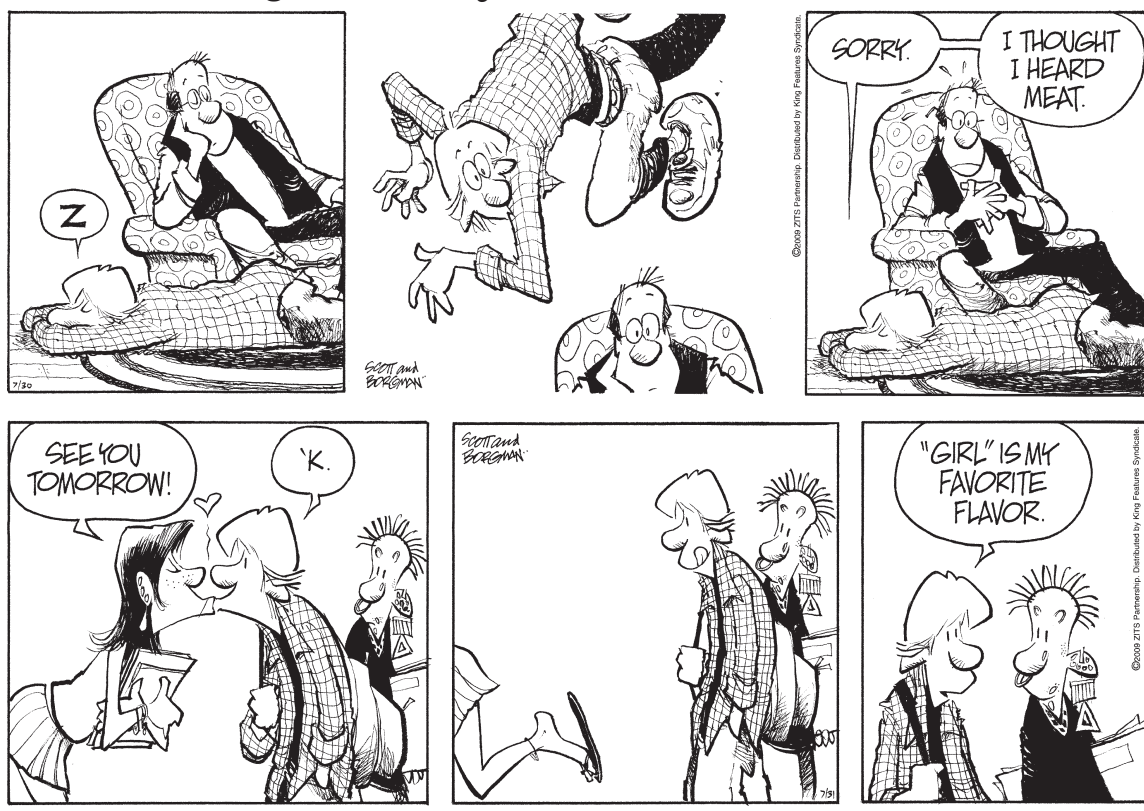
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Job interferes with vacation

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am having a huge argument with my husband about his job and our vacation. We have been planning a cruise for more than a year. We also have been saving up vacation days so we could take three weeks instead of two. Now he tells me we should stay home because he is worried about losing his job. If he loses his job anyway, we sure won't be able to afford the trip. — R.N.

Dear R.N.: I think your husband probably is under a lot of pressure both at work and at home — that's right, from you. Have you thought about trying to see things from his point of view and working together to come to a compromise? What if you go for three weeks, and when you get back you realized that your husband's department functioned just fine without him? Or the other employees were only taking long weekends and he didn't look motivated to help the company through this rough economic time. I know it isn't fair, but that's the reality — his job could be in jeopardy if he goes overboard on vacation time.

Unemployment is nearly at 10 percent, and the Department of Labor's figures are pretty interesting: As workers have lost jobs in the past year, those who remain are working harder than ever. The national output per hour is nearly three times as much as three years ago. So, maybe it is time for you to compromise and take the pressure off your husband. Try a week's vacation in a nearby location, and save the big cruise. I think you will have fun either way, and your husband will have more confidence that his job will be waiting.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My family consists of two parents and four kids who range from 3 to 12 years old — two boys and two girls. They get along pretty well, except that one has developed into a tattletale. This boy, the 8-year-old second child, has been making our lives miserable. He seems to think he is being good, but I feel like yelling at him to stop. Help! — F.J.

Dear F.J.: Whether a person is 8 or 80, no one likes a tattletale. But to correct the situation, you need to understand why the child feels the need to rat on his brothers and sisters. A chronic tattler seeks attention. Since your 8-year-old may feel ignored, he may have assigned himself the role of family cop. Perhaps he wants to set himself apart by showing you how good he is in comparison with his brothers and sisters.

You don't want to punish him for tattling all the time — he might not come to you when his siblings are doing something dangerous. But in the case of something as small as "Ricky took my video game," you might want to help him develop his own problem-solving skills. Instead of getting involved at first, have your son work out his own solution. The most important thing for him to realize is the difference between telling on someone only to get them into trouble, and calling something to your attention that needs intervention. Once he is not rewarded with attention for every little thing, he will grow out of his tattling phase — and you can have a tattle-free home.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A Q J 8
♦ A J 9
♣ Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 10 8 3
♥ K 10 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 3

EAST
♠ 9 6
♥ 9 7
♦ 10 7 6 3 2
♣ A J 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 5 4
♥ 5
♦ K 5
♣ K 10 8 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Oops!
This deal occurred in a women's pair championship. The bidding indicates that North-South were not gun-shy in undertaking slams.

North's five-spade bid, following her two previous forward-going responses, clearly shows she did not come from the shrinking-violet school.

West chose a heart lead rather than a club, hoping to put declarer under early pressure. (Of course, a club lead and club return would have quickly settled South's hash.)

Declarer went up with the ace and drew trumps, ending in her hand. She then led a club to the queen, losing to the ace. At this point, West realized she could have defeated the slam earlier by leading her singleton club. Unable to contain herself, she now said, "Sorry, partner."

This spontaneous remark was not lost on South, who naturally concluded that West had started with a singleton club. And so, when East returned a heart, declarer ruffed, led a low diamond and finessed the jack!!

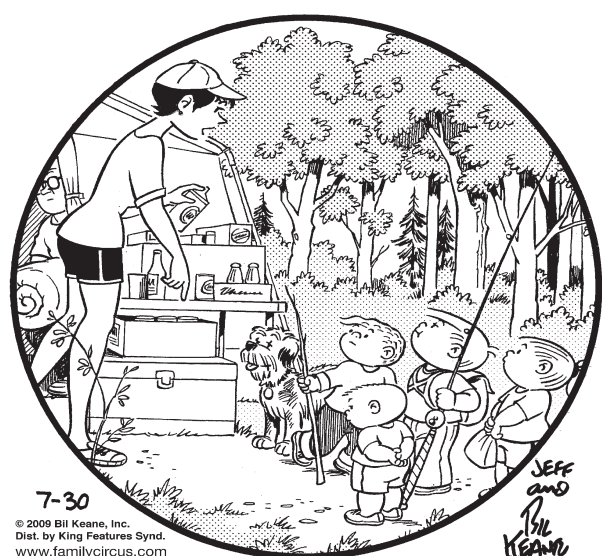
Declarer then played a club from dummy and, backing her judgment, finessed the seven. Next came the king of diamonds to the ace and another club finesse, and the slam was home.

Certainly, South would not have played the hand in this fashion without West's untimely remark. The highly unusual diamond finesse, followed by the deep club finesse -- both plays were absolutely essential -- would not have been taken had West not let the cat out of the bag with her comment.

It is interesting to note that West could have recovered from her indiscretion had she played the diamond queen when South led the five from her hand. This would have killed one of declarer's entries to dummy and made it impossible for South to take more than one finesse in clubs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"If anyone gets lost, just follow the first ant you see and I'm sure he'll bring you back here!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

RU ICEZ IMF QZPEVPRCJD

HBCF GCGYGCJD OMJYZ

PZQZMHZOXU, FV C ECJMX XU

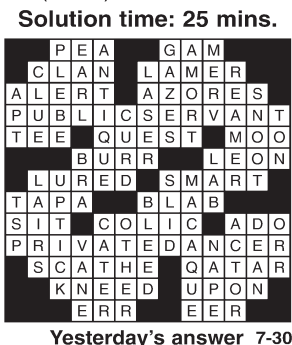
UZXXZO "YMJ HBZ YMJYMI!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF STEPHEN KING'S FICTIONAL PLYMOUTH WERE LIKE NEW, YOU MIGHT CALL IT PRISTINE CHRISTINE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Waterloo" quartet
 - 5 "Go, team!"
 - 8 Too confident
 - 12 Complain
 - 13 Past
 - 14 Banks on the runway?
 - 15 Despot
 - 16 Old soldier
 - 17 "It Romantic?"
 - 18 Doddering
 - 20 Sodium chloride
 - 22 Accordian's cousin
 - 26 Utter disorder
 - 29 Companion to green eggs
 - 30 Proof abbr.
 - 31 Stop
 - 32 Lustrous black
 - 33 Car
 - 34 Under the weather
 - 35 Feathery accessory
 - 36 Fourth estate
 - 37 Having the same midpoint
 - 40 Baghdad's country
 - 41 Nearby
 - 45 Carry on
 - 47 Sub-machine gun type
 - 49 Ontario neighbor-tic?"
 - 50 Rue the run
 - 51 Bit with a charge
 - 52 Jambalaya need
 - 53 On pension (Abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Revue segments
 - 2 Contemptible
 - 3 Cereal choice
 - 4 Brandy flavor
 - 5 Poe's bird
 - 6 Census statistic
 - 7 Position of great anxiety
 - 8 Half a clown's pair, maybe
 - 9 Magical aura
 - 10 Coffee shop vessel
 - 11 Roscoe Myrna
 - 19 Part of UCLA
 - 21 Branch
 - 23 Swindle
 - 24 Trawler gear
 - 25 Big bothers
 - 26 Stylish light?
 - 27 Head until dawn
 - 28 Until dawn
 - 32 Daffodil's cousin
 - 33 Robin Hood and his Merry Men, e.g.
 - 35 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"
 - 36 4-Down has one
 - 38 Words to live by
 - 39 Unfair?
 - 42 Seed covering
 - 43 Pleasant
 - 44 "Monopoly" card
 - 45 "This means —!"
 - 46 Expert
 - 48 Menagerie



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	
45	46					47	48		49	
50						51			52	
53						54			55	