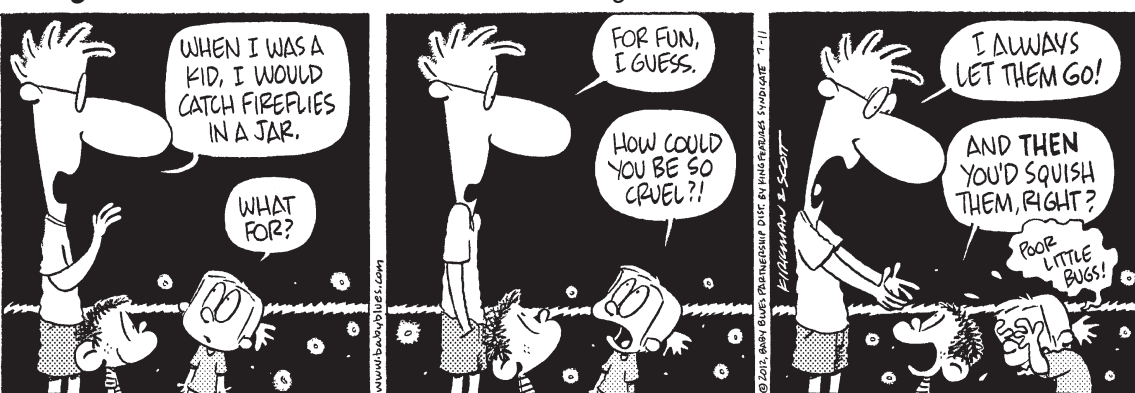
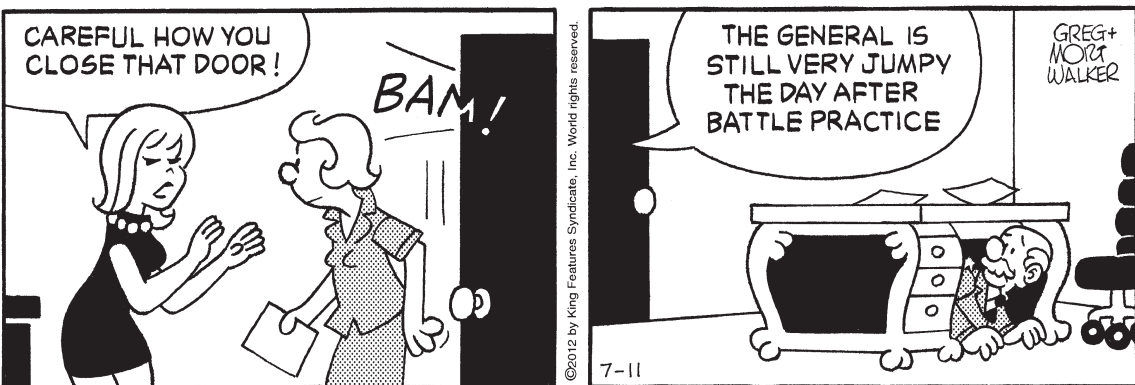


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



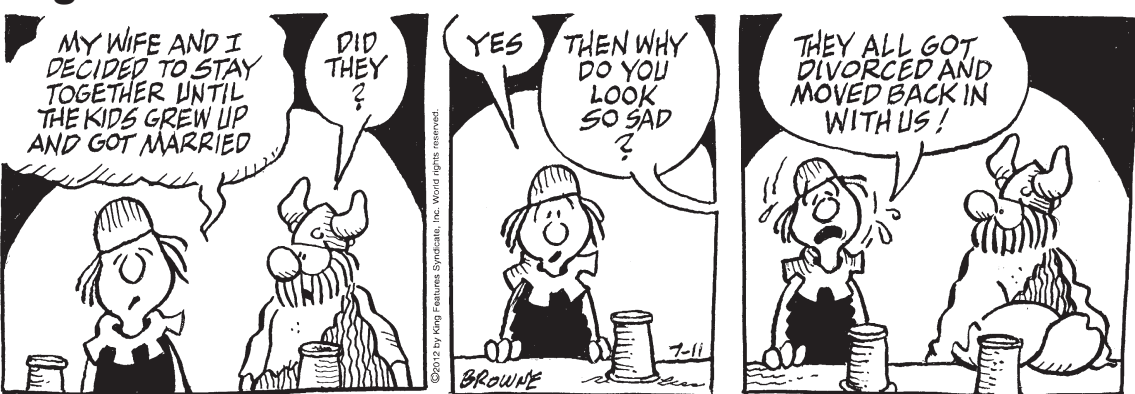
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



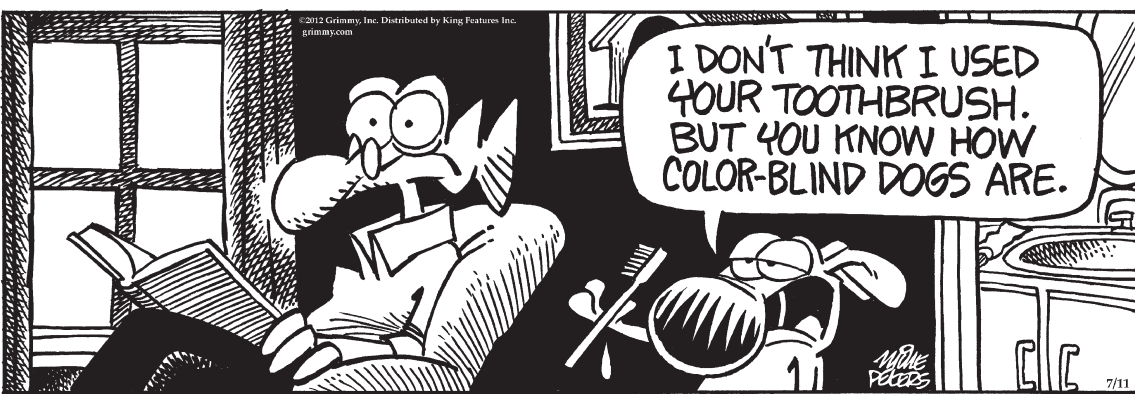
Blondie • Chic Young



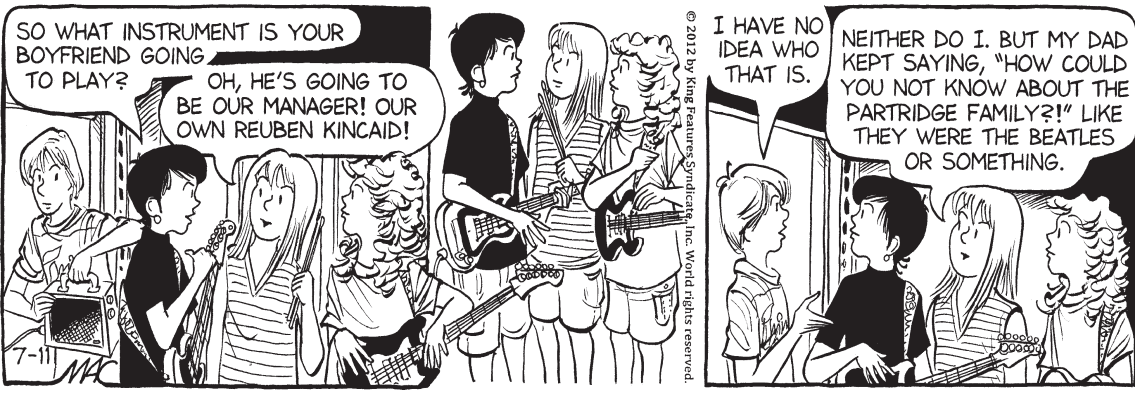
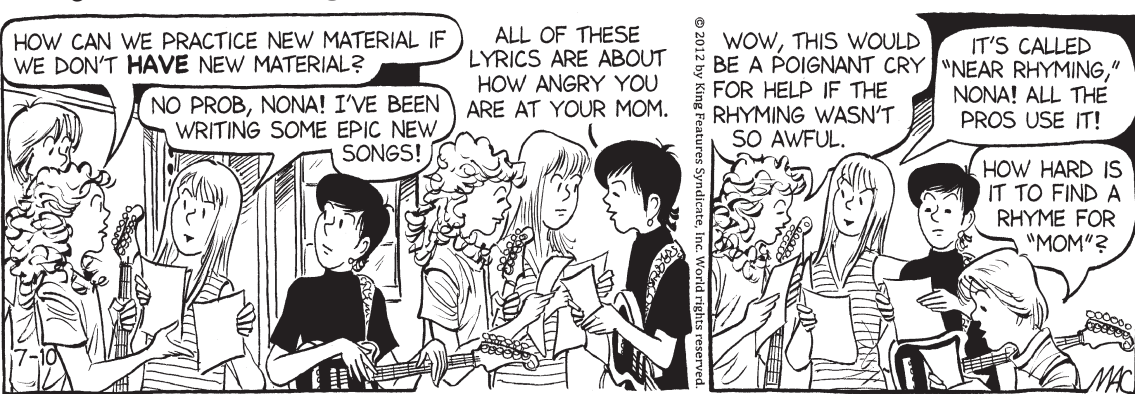
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



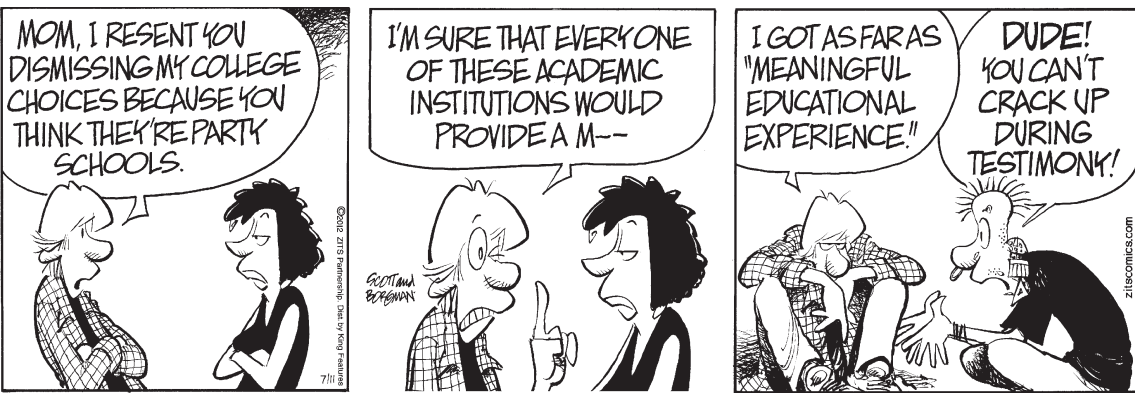
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise



• Hints from Heloise

Good choices help dining out

Dear Readers: It is very hard to watch what you eat and make healthy choices, especially when eating out. Here are some hints from the National Institutes of Health for when you are in a restaurant and want to make better choices.

- Meals today are of such large portions that before you even start to eat, ask that half be wrapped to take home with you.
- Order an appetizer or two instead of a meal.
- Pay attention to every bite. As soon as you feel satisfied and full, stop eating.
- Instead of drinks with sugar in them, try water (with lemon or lime added) or a low-calorie soda. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

SAFETY HINT

Dear Heloise: I remember reading a hint about buying larger packages of meat, chicken, etc., and separating them into smaller portions. After wrapping the individual portions, the writer cut the labels from the packages and placed everything in a plastic bag. I have been doing this for years, but recently something happened that makes this a more important thing than ever.

In the news there was a message to return certain potentially tainted meats. When I saw the package on TV, I realized that I may have bought some of it. I went to my freezer and removed the bag of meat. I was so glad that I had both the brand of the meat and the label that shows exactly how much and the price, because I did indeed have some of that meat. I had no problem returning it, but had I not had that important information and it turned out my package was tainted, I could have become very sick from it. — Helen, via e-mail

CELERY TOPS

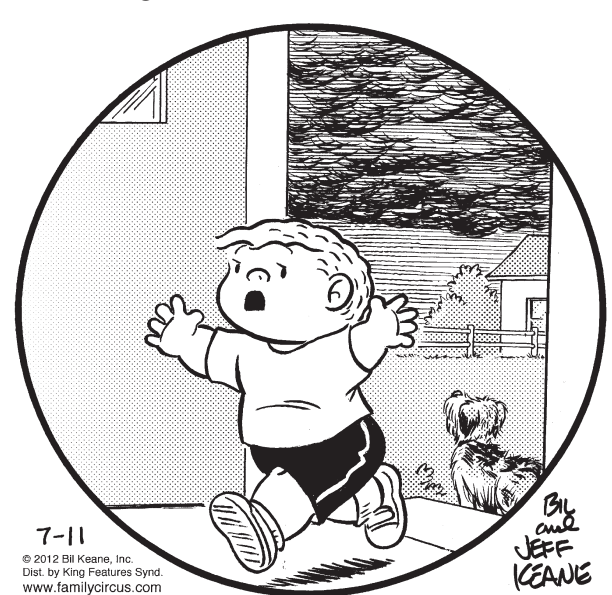
Dear Heloise: Your comment on celery tops (Heloise here: previous column on eating the leaves) prompted me to write to you, as this is one of my pet peeves. Most grocery stores cut all the tops off celery. I'd like to go to their produce people and ask for all those leaves.

Besides salads and seasonings, they are wonderful in soups. I like to saute celery, with onions, before putting it in a casserole or creamy vegetable soup. It certainly adds a lot of flavor to most foods, so please tell those grocers to leave more of the tops on celery stalks! — Bonnie G. in South Dakota

SAVING RINDS

Dear Heloise: When I use oranges and other citrus fruits, I save the rinds. Then I cut them with scissors into small pieces and combine them with dishwashing detergent; afterward, I pour them in the garbage disposer, and the kitchen will have a nice smell for a while. — Lilly G. in San Antonio
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I'm coming back inside. The sky keeps growlin' at me!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/10

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ISBOLA OLMPGFE OZKFDU SLE
WFOLA PLSWDF ZN MPRX,
ZIF UGNA OK KPUFGOLA
UGNR DFSX EFXGOBSZONL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SORROWFUL BROADWAY TUNE ABOUT THE ENTRY OF A GROUP OF GENETIC REPLICAS: "SEND IN THE CLONES."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals A

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nerd-pack contents
 - 5 Intimide
 - 8 Mop the decks
 - 12 "I smell —!"
 - 13 Blackbird
 - 14 Designer Rabanne
 - 15 It may rock you to sleep
 - 17 — time (never)
 - 18 Kitchen fixture
 - 19 Hosts
 - 21 World's fair
 - 24 "— the fields we go"
 - 25 Sunrise
 - 28 Lambs' dams
 - 30 Squeazy snake
 - 33 Eggs
 - 34 Shoe strength-ners
 - 35 Chances, for short
- DOWN**
- 1 Feline feet
 - 2 Part of Q.E.D.
 - 3 Peace-keeping org.
 - 4 Spielberg or Soderbergh
 - 5 Taxi
 - 6 Individual
 - 7 Broad
 - 8 Gap
 - 9 Football team's aide
 - 10 Teen's worry
 - 11 Greets the villain
 - 16 Tyranno-saurus —
 - 20 Rolling stone's lack
 - 22 Incubator sound
 - 23 Little hooter
 - 25 Wall Street stat, familiarly
 - 26 "Hail!"
 - 27 Have fun on waves
 - 29 Engrave
 - 31 Choose
 - 32 Fire leftovers
 - 34 Troubles
 - 38 Wicked Queen's advisor?
 - 40 Ballot caster
 - 42 Expert
 - 43 Charitable donations
 - 44 Layer
 - 45 Vacillate
 - 47 As well
 - 48 Gaucho's weapon
 - 49 Any time now
 - 52 — Khan
 - 53 Huck's pal



Yesterday's answer 7-11

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		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A 10 5 3
♥ J 8 2
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ J 3

WEST
♥ 9 2
♦ K 9 7 5 4
♣ 10 3
♠ K 10 9 2

EAST
♦ K 8 7 6 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ J 9 8 5
♣ 6

SOUTH
♦ Q J
♥ A 10
♦ K 6 2
♠ A Q 8 7 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — five of hearts.

Nine Is Fine

No doubt one of the more tiresome admonitions for the aspiring bridge player is to "count your tricks at notrump." But until that advice is heeded on every occasion, it cannot be repeated often enough.

Today's deal provides a case in point. West led a heart against three notrump, and South won the queen with the ace. Without giving the matter much thought, declarer then crossed to dummy with a diamond, led the jack of clubs and let it ride, losing to the king.

West returned a low heart to South's ten, whereupon South cashed the ace of clubs, disclosing the 4-1 club division. From this point on, the situation continued to deteriorate. With only eight tricks in view, declarer first tried cashing two more diamonds, but the suit failed to divide evenly. He then tried a spade finesse, but East won, cashed the jack of diamonds and returned a heart to put the contract down two.

It is hands like this that have driven many a dummy to drink. After the heart lead, South had nine ironclad tricks. All he had to do was take the spade finesse at trick two. Whether it won or lost, he would have been assured of three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club for nine tricks.

In failing to make his contract, declarer fell victim to a common temptation -- to attack the longest suit first at notrump. While this approach is often right, there are exceptions to the rule, and this deal was one of them.

Interestingly, if South had started the clubs by leading low toward the jack at trick two — the approved way of handling this combination — he would still have survived. After the jack held and East failed to follow suit to the next club, South would put up the ace and turn his attention to spades to secure his contract.

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