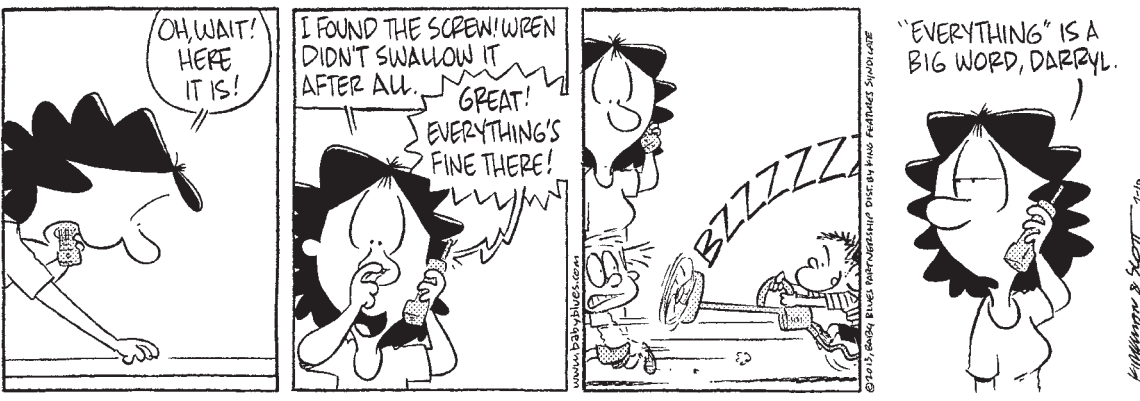
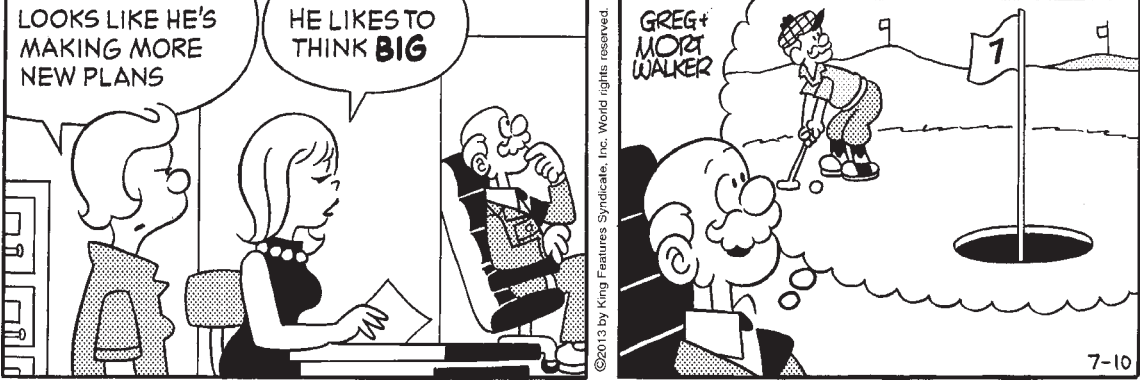


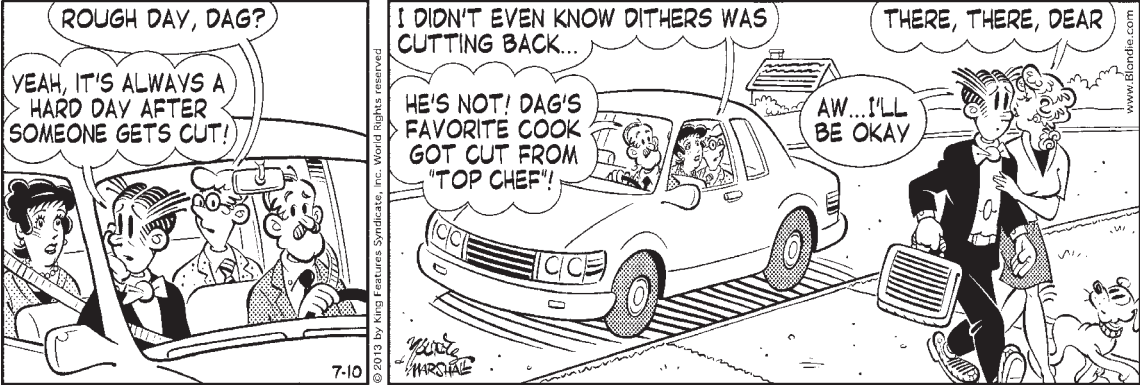
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



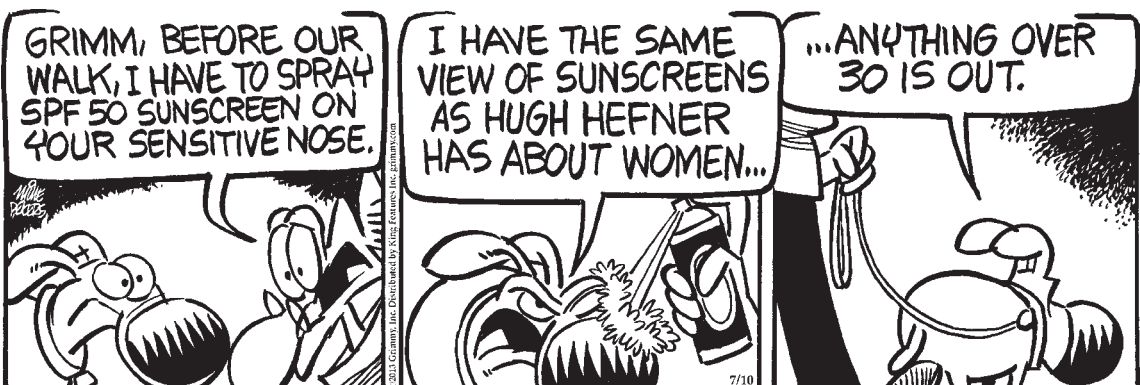
Blondie • Chic Young



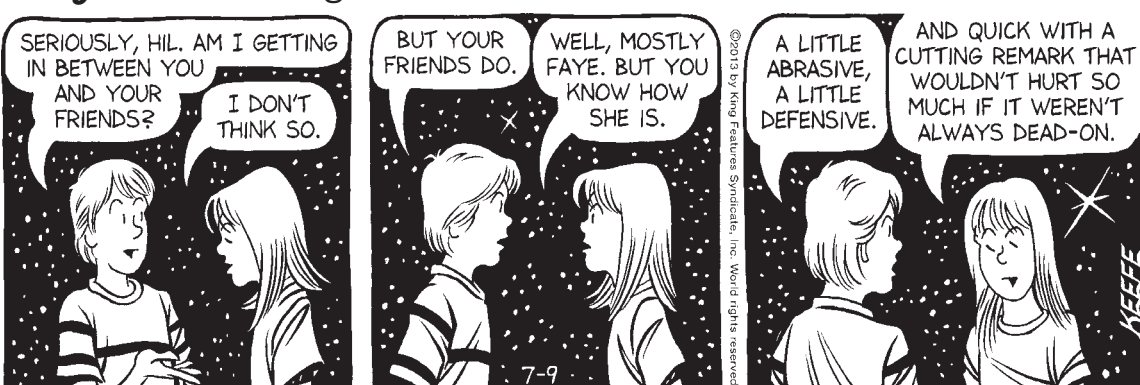
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



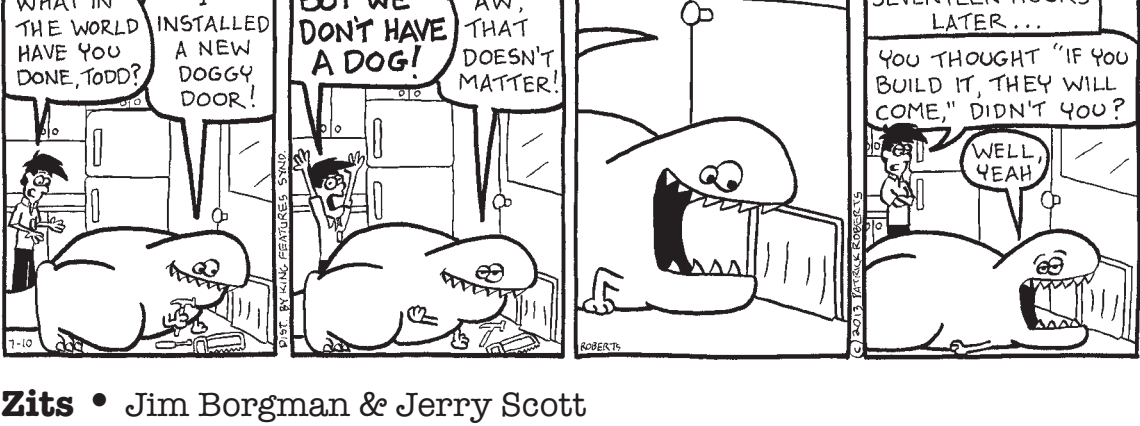
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Dry mustard is just the start

Dear Heloise: What is the difference between dry and prepared mustards? – M.K. in New Mexico
Good question. And as a person who loves all kinds of mustard, I had to think for a second. Dry mustard is the dry, ground-up mustard seed that you buy in the spice aisle. Prepared mustard is the popular condiment that is a mixture of ground mustard seed (dry mustard), water and vinegar.

In most recipes, you can substitute dry and prepared mustard for one another. When the recipe calls for 1 tablespoon of prepared, substitute 1 teaspoon of dry. When it calls for 1 teaspoon of dry, substitute 1 tablespoon of prepared. Want other substitution hints, along with some sauce and marinade recipes? Please send for my Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet by mailing \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, Box 795001, San Antonio, Texas, 78279-5001.

Did you know that most mustard does not need to be refrigerated? Refrigeration may help keep the flavor, but if you prefer your mustard at room temperature, just keep it out! – Heloise

PERFECT PATTIES
Dear Heloise: I have a great way to make hamburger patties without touching the hamburger. Open a 1-pound package of hamburger and place into a plastic zipper-top bag. Zip the bag shut and mash the hamburger to fill the bag evenly (let a little air out midway through to get it perfect). Place the bag on a flat surface and use the dull side of a large breadknife to quarter the bag. Place in the freezer and, when ready, simply break off perfectly formed, square quarter-pound patties for grilling. – F.B., via e-mail

MOVING MUSHROOMS
Dear Heloise: I love to make and eat stuffed mushrooms, and I get many requests to bring them to get-togethers. I discovered a hint to transport the mushrooms: I use a foam egg carton. The mushrooms can sit in the individual cups without losing any stuffing or falling along the way. – Debbie R. in Ohio

For safety, line the carton with plastic wrap before placing the mushrooms in it to keep bacteria away. – Heloise

BAKING FOR BRACES
Dear Heloise: Many of my favorite recipes include things such as nuts, which are difficult for people with dental issues, such as braces or dentures, to eat. I decided to make a treat for a friend with braces. I finely chopped the nuts until they were crumblike in texture. This made it easy to add into the recipe for a great taste, and easier eating for a great friend! – Marceline in Pennsylvania
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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q J 9
♥ A Q 4 3 2
♦ —
♠ 8 7 6 5 4

WEST
♦ —
♥ —
♦ A K Q J 10 9 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 ♣ 3 2

EAST
♦ K 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ J 10
♦ 8 7
♣ 3 2

SOUTH
♦ A 10 8
♥ K 9 8 7 6 5
♦ 6 5 4 3
♠ —

The bidding:
West North East South
2♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
7♣ Pass 7♦ Pass

Dblc
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Practical Analysis
Dear Mr. Becker: I suffer from nightmares -- bridge nightmares, that is -- and I keep having this distressing dream where I always hold the West hand. You might wonder why anyone holding such a hand would complain, but the fact is that it's driving me crazy, and I don't know what to do.

The bidding always goes as shown, and South, whom I have by now grown to hate, invariably bids seven hearts. I double, but South always makes the contract. He is a very smart cookie and does not make the mistake of trying to trump all of his diamond losers in dummy. If he did that, my partner would sooner or later score a trump trick and defeat the contract.

Instead, South ruffs the club lead, plays a trump to dummy's queen and collects three spade tricks, winding up in his own hand. These are the remaining cards:

North
♥ A 4 3 2
♣ 8 7 6 5

West
♦ A K Q J
♣ A Q J 10

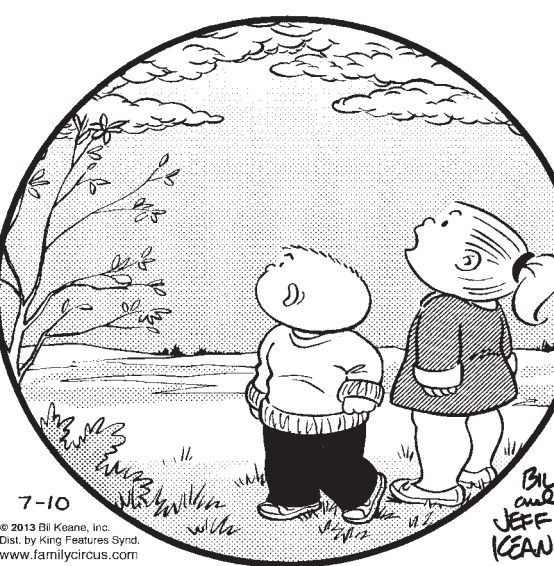
East
♥ 7 6 5 4
♦ J
♦ 8 7
♣ 2

South
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 6 5 4 3

South leads his king of trumps, and I am a dead duck. If I discard a diamond, South stays in his hand and establishes his fourth diamond by trumping three diamonds in dummy; if I discard a club, he overtakes the heart king with ace and trumps three clubs in his hand. Either way, he makes the grand slam.

I have seen quite a few psychiatrists about my problem, and they all tell me the same thing. They say I should pass the West hand as dealer, in which case everyone else would pass and my problem would simply disappear!
Sorrowfully yours, Constant Reader.
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Don't worry, they're not gonna rain on you. Those are friendly clouds."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QLWD KLVNW TYNQV HGYVK
HCWQ GDKN KLW VOCWDFGF
AYJDF TJDND, KLWP HNBDF
GK KYBCP TJQ-GDVOGYGDA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MASTERLY COMEDIAN ONLY IMPERSONATES ACTORS AND POLITICIANS. IT'S HIS IMITATION LIMITATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Carson | DOWN | 22 Ceremony |
| 1 Smeltery | successor | 1 Carpet | 23 Crazy |
| refuse | 38 Requests | style | people |
| 5 Toast | 39 Discoverer's | 2 Ness or Lomond | 25 Foundation |
| topper | Use a | 3 Car | 26 Parisian |
| 8 Swimmers' | 41 Ure's cry | teaspoon | 4 Oscar, for one |
| venue | 43 Weak | 5 Binge | 27 Rope contest |
| 12 Session with a shrink | 46 Baby bird? | 6 Commotion | 29 Jog |
| 13 Oklahoma city | 50 Cry like a baby | 7 Put together | 31 Squid squirt |
| 14 Emanation | 51 Something one excels in | 8 Italian entree | 32 Ph. bk. data |
| 15 Tornado, to an insurer | 54 Elliptical | 9 On "E" | 34 Coin aperture |
| 17 Celeb | 55 Med. care provider | 10 Exam format | 38 Crafty |
| 18 Grave robber | 56 Western state | 11 Rock drummer | 40 Greeting |
| 19 Glorifies | 57 Infamous fiddler | 16 Winter ailment | 42 Equal (Pref.) |
| 21 Finglet | 58 Feedbag tidbit | 20 Picture of health? | 43 Black, to a bard |
| 24 U.K. flyers | 59 Forsaken | | 44 Most-liked, for short |
| 25 Turkish — | | | 45 Reverberate |
| 28 Tittle | | | 47 "Beetle Bailey" dog |
| 30 Martini ingredient | | | 48 Bring up |
| 33 Ostrich's kin | | | 49 Song-writer |
| 34 Tale | | | Gus |
| 35 "I'll take that as —" | | | 52 Ms. Thurman |
| 36 Understand | | | 53 Cauldron |

Yesterday's answer 7-10

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		