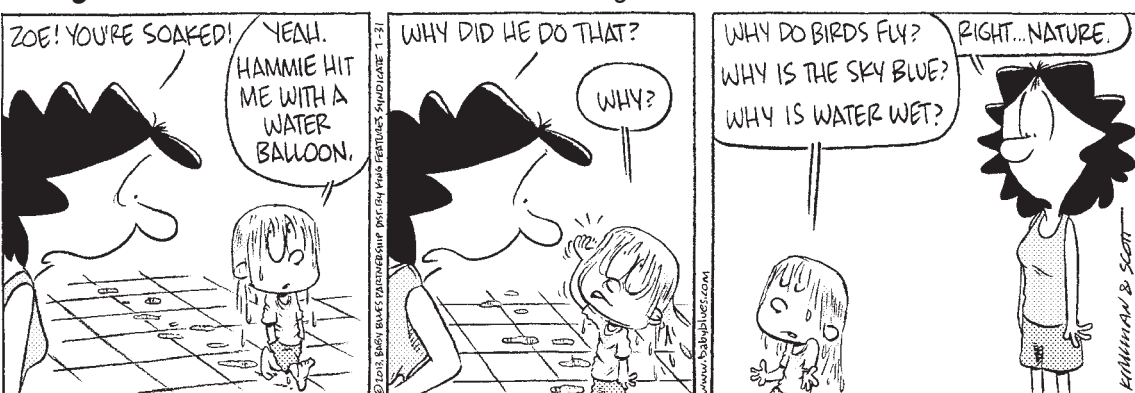


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



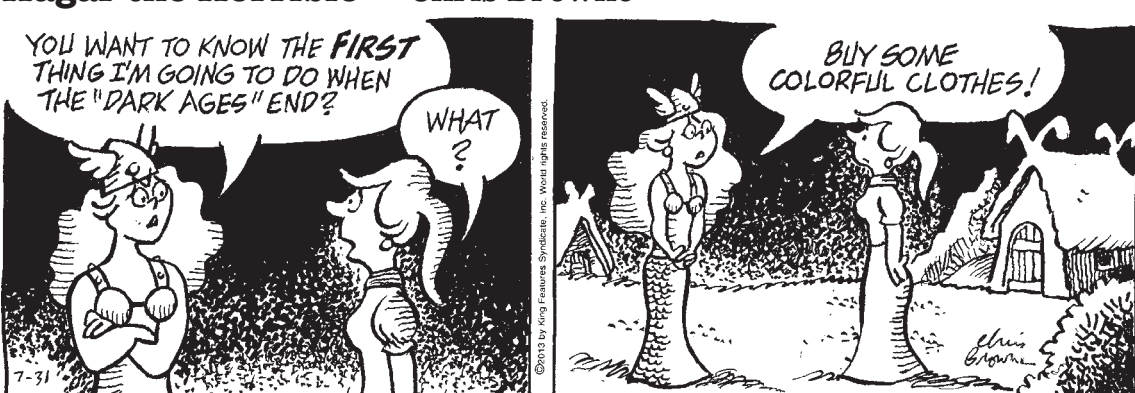
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



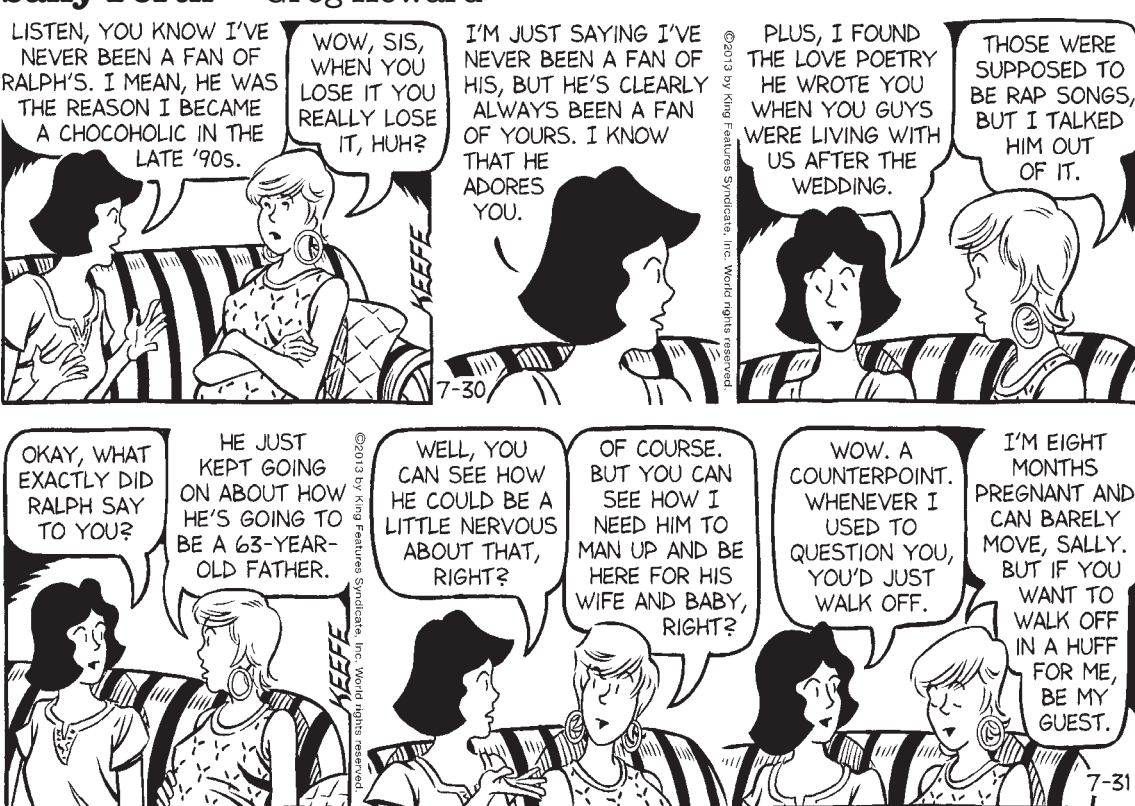
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



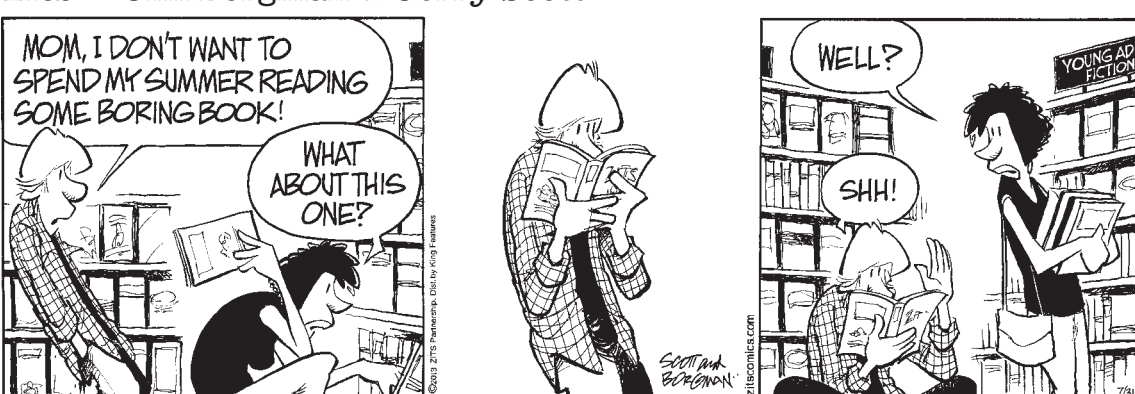
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

**ghghghghg
ghghghghghg**

A Condensed Explanation
Dear Heloise: Would you please address the difference between CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK? -- Christine F., Lignum, Va.

Happy to, as it can be a little confusing. Sweetened condensed milk is WHOLE MILK that is heated until about 60 percent of the water is removed and sugar is added. It is used when making candies and desserts.

Evaporated milk is whole milk that is heated until 50 percent of the water is removed, but NO sugar is added. It is used in custards, sauces and puddings to make them thick and smooth. You CANNOT substitute condensed milk for evaporated milk or vice versa. However, I do have a Heloise's Seasonings, Sauces and Substitutes pamphlet that shares a lot of food ideas you CAN substitute for one another. To receive one, send \$3 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/SSS, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Need some milk but don't have any on hand? Try some coffee creamer with a little water added. -- Heloise

SWEET SPICE
Dear Readers: Looking for a new spice to add to your cooking? Try mace. No, not the stuff used to spray bad guys. With a sweet flavor, it is more pungent than nutmeg, with a golden-brown color. Mace is part of the nutmeg seed. You can buy it ground or whole-blade. Since the two are closely related, you can substitute nutmeg and mace in recipes.

Mace can be added to desserts, barbecue sauce and Swedish meatballs. It even can be sprinkled on potatoes or added to vegetable soups. Pick up a small bottle and spice up your life a little! -- Heloise

VEGETABLE BROTH
Dear Heloise: Don't toss those vegetable peelings, woody stems, not-so-perfect-for-salad tomatoes, etc. Save them in a zipper-top bag in the freezer with stems from parsley or other herbs. When I have a bagful, I plunk it all into a pot, add water and one 12-ounce can of vegetable juice, and make some vegetable broth.

I let this simmer until the "vegetables" are done. Strain the broth and toss the veggies. You get a real nice broth for soup or whatever you make that calls for broth. You also can refreeze the broth for another day. Adding a clove or two of garlic and a bay leaf makes a great soup starter or simply a warm broth on a cool day. -- Susan, via email

TRASH BAGS
Dear Heloise: My kitchen trash can uses bags that are very snug-fitting and balloon out. This makes the trash want to stay at the top and not go to the bottom of the bag. My hint is to put the bag in the can, then take something sharp (I use closed scissors) and punch a few small holes at the top of the bag, causing it to deflate. Love your column in The Decatur (Ala.) Daily! -- Ellen G., Decatur, Ala.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 8 5 2
♥ A K 7 4 3
♦ 6
♣ Q 7 2
EAST
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ Q 5 2
♠ J 2
♣ J 9 6 5
WEST
♠ 10 9 4
♥ J 10 8
♦ A Q 9 7 5 3
♣ 10
SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ 9 6
♦ K 10 8 4
♣ A K 8 4 3
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT 2♦ 3♥ Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — seven of diamonds.

Plain Horse Sense
There are hands where you'd swear declarer must have peeked at the defenders' cards to have played as well as he did. But in most such cases, declarer's plays are found to be based on nothing more than plain common sense.

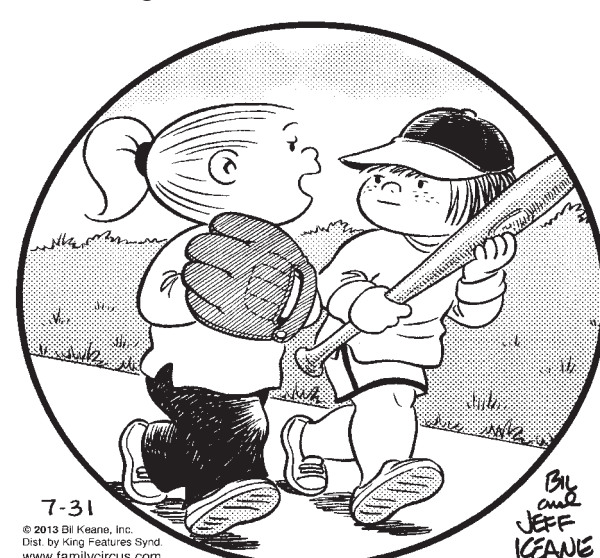
Consider this deal where South played in a way that might seem abnormal, but made the contract as a result. He took East's jack of diamonds with the king, led a club to the queen — on which West produced the ten — and returned a club toward his hand. When East followed with the six, declarer finessed the eight and, after it held, quickly collected 10 tricks.

Had South played the clubs less efficiently — that is, had he simply cashed two high clubs — the expectation of a normal 3-2 division in the suit — he would have scored at most eight tricks. Declarer had good reason to play the clubs as he did. He recognized that he needed only four club tricks to make the contract. This meant he could afford to lose a club trick to West — who could do him no harm if the finesse lost — in order to guard against East's holding four clubs.

South did not really expect the eight of clubs to win the trick — the odds were distinctly against that — but he realized that, win or lose, the deep finesse assured the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My arm's feeling strong today. I'm gonna try to get my fastball over in less than three bounces."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/31

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.

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

Cryptoquip

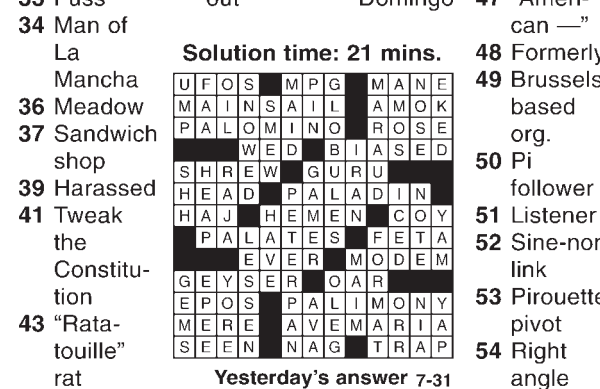
ARWOC R YRLC GP NZPJ FW
PAGZROM JYTQC RW OFEECRWC
NZRWLA, R'Q ZCDTYFZYI
ECFGMCZRWD QI WCAGCF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN BIRD HAS TROUBLE INGESTING FOOD, COULD A VET HAVE TO WATCH THE SWALLOW SWALLOW?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Peculiar
4 "My bad"
8 MP's target
12 Japanese pond carp
13 Rid of rind
14 Cleo's river
15 Shad product
16 Raised an objection
18 Passion
20 Chop
21 Pioneer heading
24 Skewered entree
28 Stripped
32 Portrayal
33 Fuss
34 Man of La Mancha
36 Meadow
37 Sandwich shop
39 Harassed
41 Tweak the Constitution
43 "Ratatouille" rat
- DOWN**
44 Adversary
46 Satirical newspaper, with "The"
50 Asked for evidence
55 "CSI"
56 Drag behind
57 Staff
58 Autumn mo.
59 Verbal
60 Holler
61 Zodiac sign
- DOWN**
4 Weigh heavily on
5 Rowboat item
6 Expert
7 Green
8 Question, on
9 Humoring
10 Bullring bravo
11 Started
17 "A mouse!"
19 Have bills
22 Goblet feature
23 Carreras or Domingo
25 Leave in a hurry
26 Sheltered
27 Abacus component
28 Arp's art
29 The same
30 Field mouse
31 Loser to Clinton
35 Do a home make-over
38 Totally
40 Wd. from Roget
42 Fawn's mom
45 Catch sight of
47 "American —"
48 Formerly
49 Brussels-based org.
50 Pi follower
51 Listener
52 Sine-non link
53 Pirouette pivot
54 Right angle



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						60				61		