

Re: observable language change – "off of" makes it to the NY Times

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- *From:* Adam Funk <a24061@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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On 2008-08-12, Harlan Messinger wrote:

For crying out loud, do you think he made this up? From the OED:

?c1450 in G. Müller Aus mittelengl. Medizintexten (1929) 116 Take a sponfull of {th}e licour..of of {th}e fyir and sette it in good place tyl {th}at it be ny colde, soo as {th}ou mayst suffryn to holdyn {th}er-in {th}in hand. a1616 SHAKESPEARE Henry VI, Pt. 2 (1623) II. i. 98 A fall off of [1594 Falling off on] a Tree. 1667 A. MARVELL Corr. in Wks. (1875) II. 224 The Lords and we cannot yet get off of the difficultyes risen betwixt us. 1678 J. BUNYAN Pilgrim's Progress 49 About a furlong off of the Porters Lodge. 1712 R. STEELE Spectator No. 306 {page}6, I could not keep my Eyes off of her.

I had no idea the expression had such a respectable pedigree. Maybe I'll start using it in formal writing after all. :-)

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This sig no verb.

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