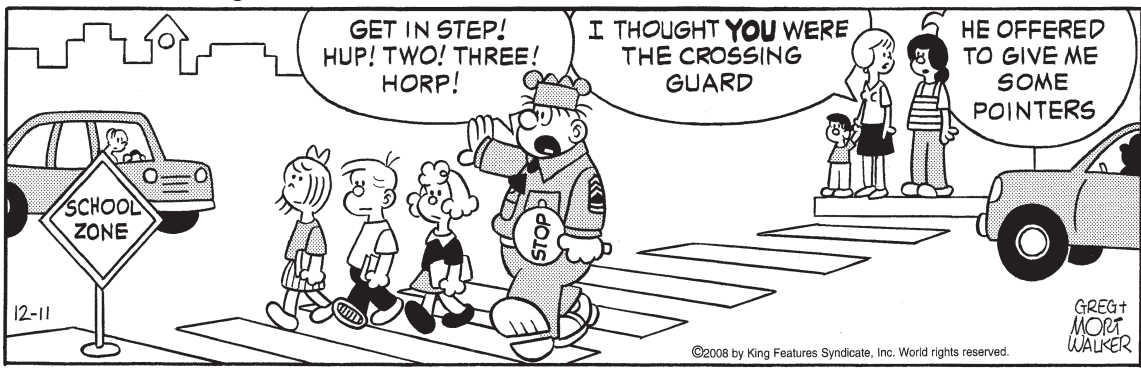


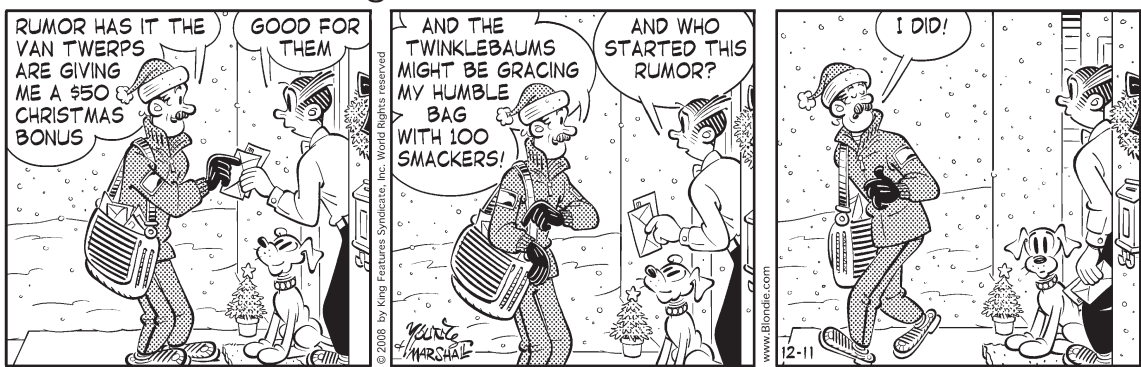
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



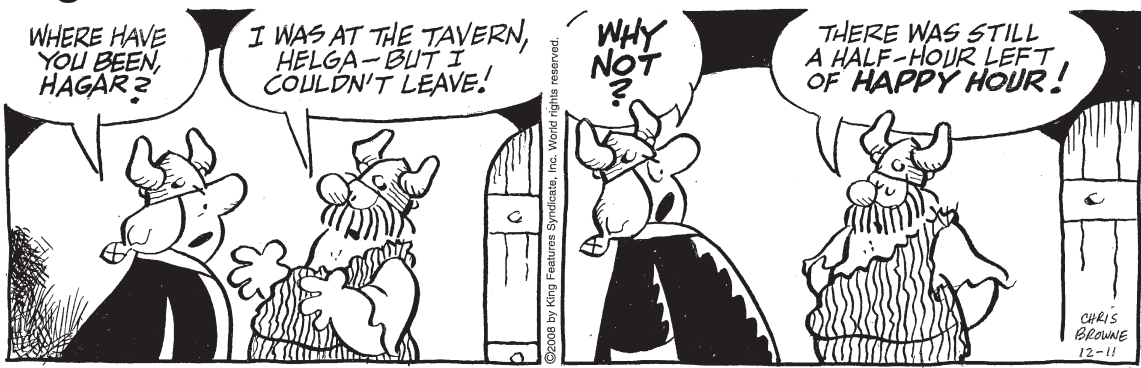
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



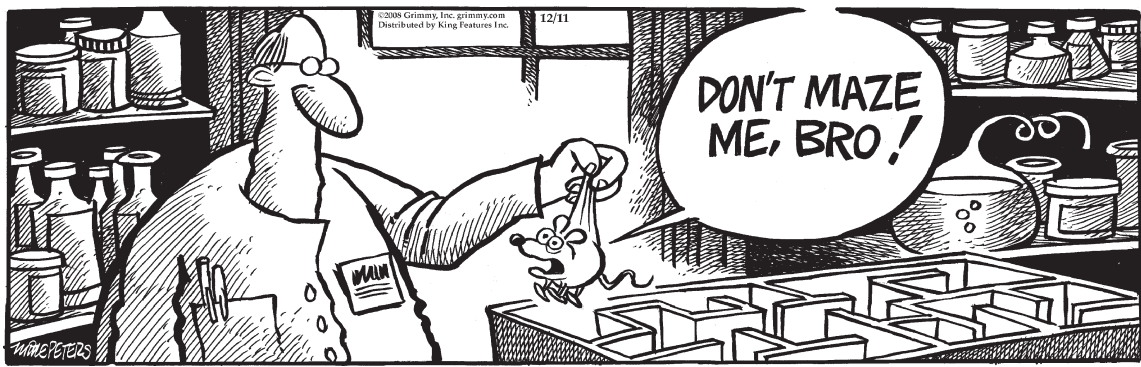
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



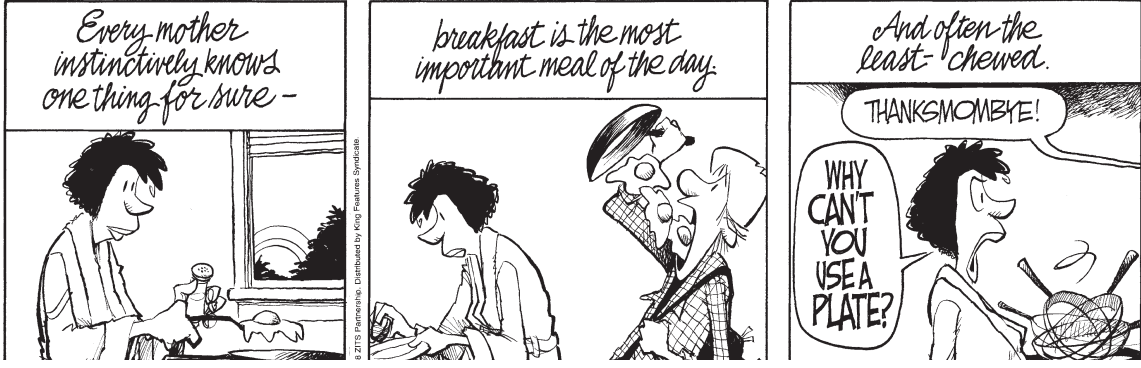
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Tod the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**THANK YOU FOR READING THE**

**COLBY FREE PRESS**

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR:  
NEWS • WEATHER  
SPORTS

155 W. 5th • 785-462-3963

**Cryptoquip**  
12-11 CRYPTOQUIP

F SOJDKB CATMXMKO HTP'R  
YJD SYZE ZYAAO, MYR FB  
OTY VT, REDP F JXO

"STAD CTHVDA RT OTY!"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE THE FACTORY THAT MANUFACTURES SLEEPING PILLS MIGHT BE DESIGNATED A SLUMBER MILL?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals U

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/12

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/10

**Bridge**

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 7 2  
♥ Q 10 5  
♦ 8 7 4  
♣ A K J 10 5

**WEST**  
♠ A Q 9 8 3  
♥ 6  
♦ A K 10 5 2  
♣ 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ 6 5 4  
♥ 9 4 3 2  
♦ Q J 9  
♣ 9 6 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10  
♥ A K J 8 7  
♦ 6 3  
♣ Q 7 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ 1♠ 2♣ Pass  
3♥ 3♦ 3♥ Pass  
4♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Transmitting the Right Message**  
Through the years, numerous agreements have been developed to help make the task of defending easier. The opportunity to use some of these agreements may not arise very often, but when the right situation does come along, they can be worth their weight in gold.

Consider this case from a duplicate game. At most tables, North-South played in four hearts, and the opening lead was uniformly the king of diamonds (or the ace, promising the king). Whether the contract was defeated then depended on how well the defense functioned.

At those tables where East played the nine at trick one, West continued with the ace (or king) and another diamond. Declarer ruffed the third diamond, drew trumps and finished with 10 tricks, discarding two spades on dummy's clubs.

At several tables, however, East found the far more illuminating play of the queen of diamonds on the opening trick. West then led a low diamond to East's jack, whereupon a spade shift sank the contract.

There is no question that both plays -- the nine and the queen -- made by the various Easts to the first trick would normally be construed as signals for a diamond continuation. But one obviously worked far better than the other.

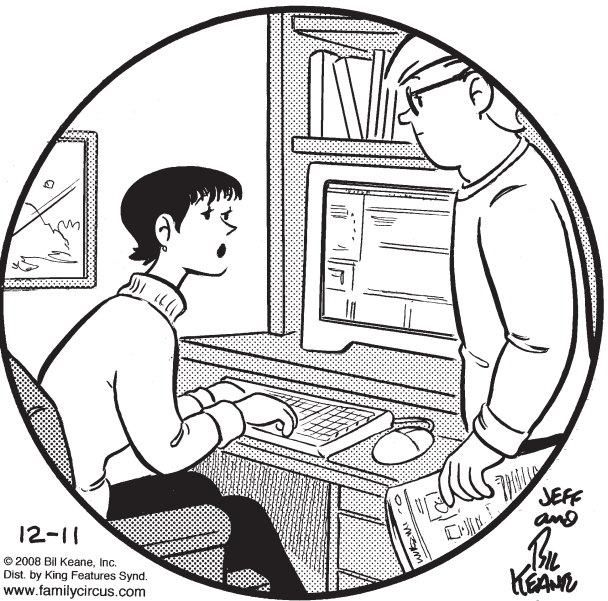
This is because the play of the nine can be made with a doubleton small diamond as well as with the queen. If East had been dealt, say, the doubleton 9-6 of diamonds, the play of K-A and another diamond would defeat the contract, while a low diamond lead by West at trick two would be disastrous.

Signaling with the queen made West's second play automatic. Conventionally, it promised the ability to win the next diamond lead, either because East had the jack or could ruff, giving the defenders an easy route to scoring the first four tricks.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
(c)2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
1 Maintained  
5 Flavor enhancer  
9 Expert  
12 Reed instrument  
13 Follow instructions  
14 Lubricant  
15 China  
17 Vitamin stat  
18 Reddish blue  
19 Skiers' mecca  
21 Perform  
22 Bean or pony  
24 Info  
27 Bawl  
28 Kennel cries  
31 Lennon's lady  
32 Raw rock  
33 Bribe  
34 Bacterium  
36 Performance  
37 Catherine — Jones'

**DOWN**  
1 Pueblo dweller  
2 Black, in verse  
3 Parliament VIP  
4 Make up your mind  
5 Unaccompanied  
6 "The — Daba  
7 Mainlander's memento  
8 Theater critic  
9 Dolphin  
10 Carnival attraction  
11 "The Good Earth" heroine  
16 Id counterpart  
20 Pigs' digs  
22 Veranda  
23 "Yeah, right"  
24 Follow relentlessly  
25 Inseparable  
26 Bears' food?  
27 Daytime drama  
29 Cauldron  
30 Hot tub  
35 Singer  
37 All but one in a million?  
39 Runs easily  
40 "Bow-wow!"  
41 Captain's group  
42 Take on  
43 On  
44 Exile  
45 Parent sharers  
46 Pitch  
49 Halloween abbr.  
50 Pi follower

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

AGUE	WOK	APSE			
MOST	ERE	SUER			
PUSH	CART	PLAN			
STROLL	CHILLS				
	SIT	HERO			
MAP	PHD	WIVES			
OPUS	YEW	NERO			
BELCH	WEN	TRAY			
	LIOAD	LOU			
BEMUSE	LAP	TOP			
ALAR	PUSH	PINS			
SUNG	ONE	EMUS			
ELSE	TOT	REST			

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		