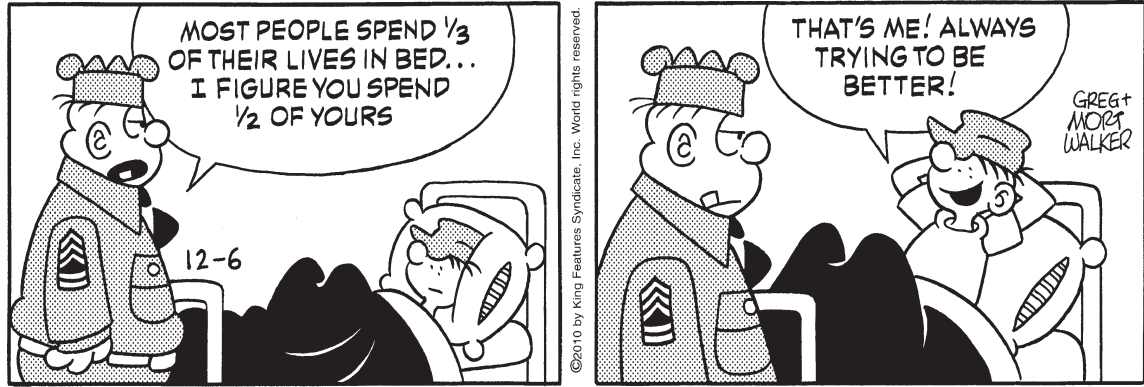


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



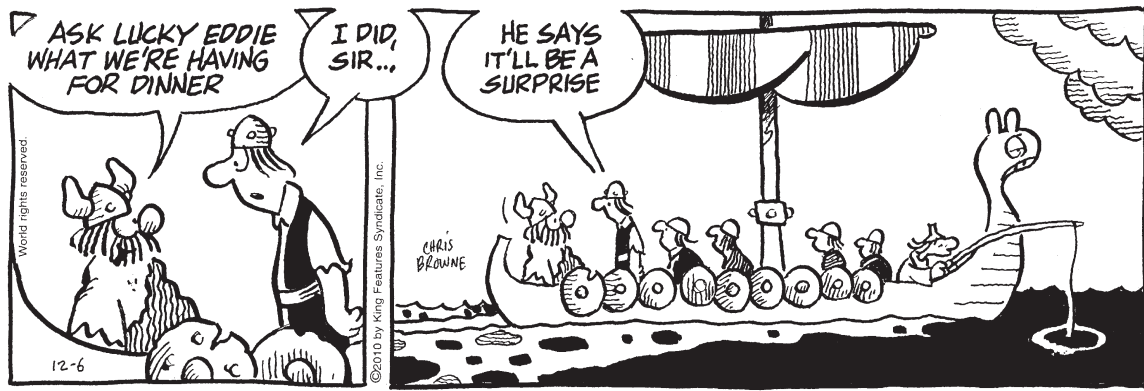
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



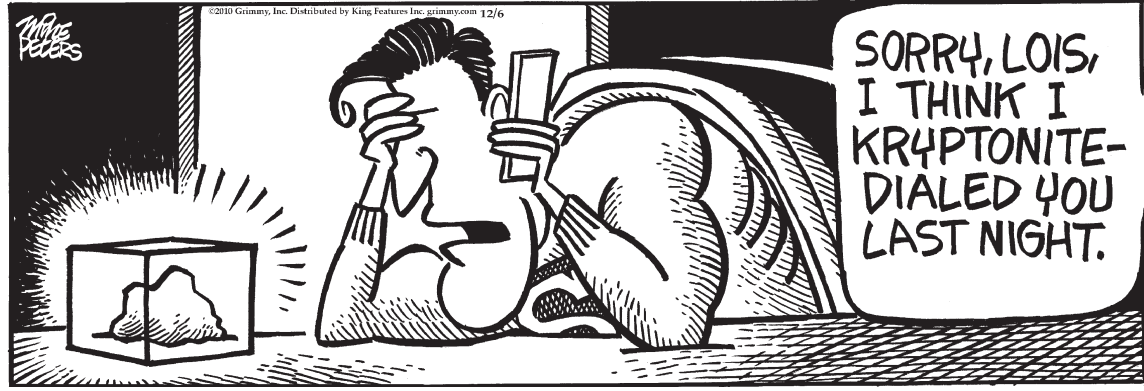
**Blondie** • Chic Young



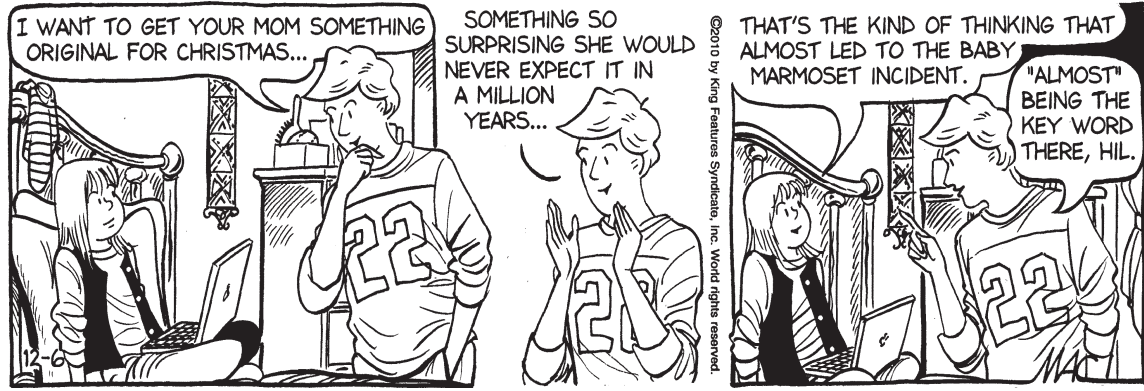
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



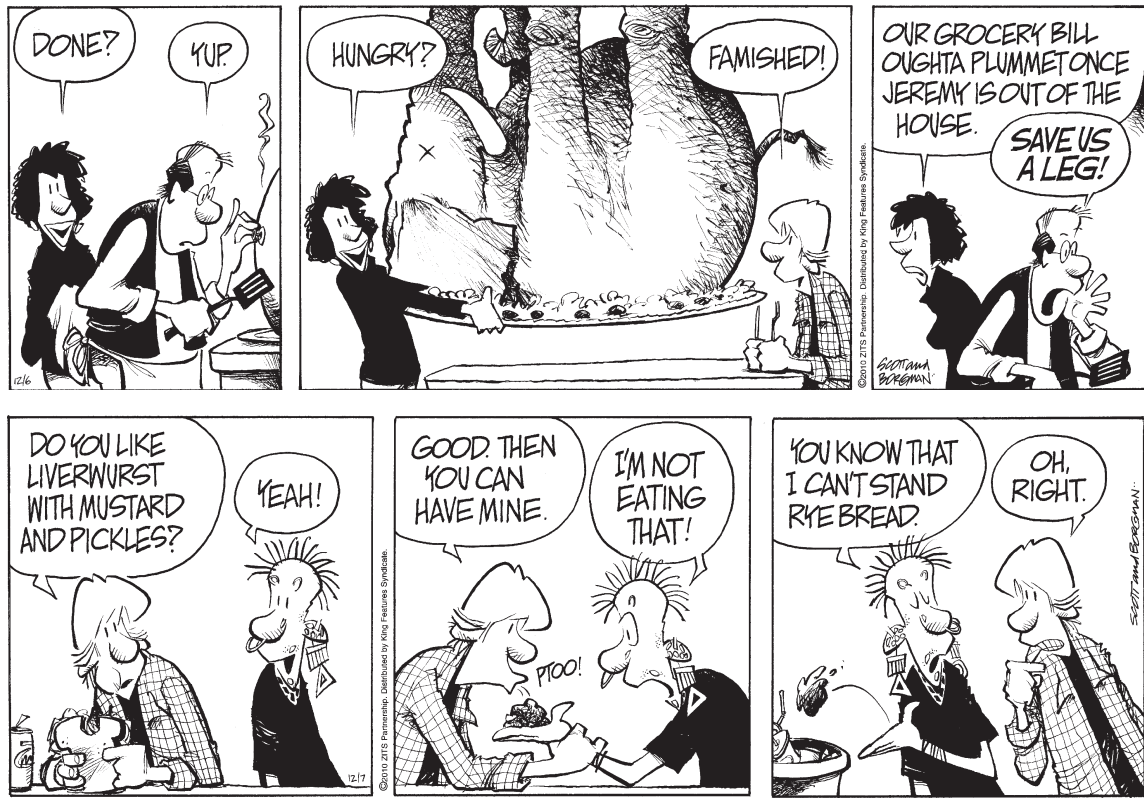
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Capitalize on job chances**

Dear Dr. Brothers: I graduated from a good college two years ago, and I've been unemployed for almost a year. I had a job at a bookstore when I graduated, but the store went out of business. I've been looking for jobs and interviewing, but haven't been successful. I feel qualified, but am getting frustrated. Do you have any tips that might help me get a job? - L.F.

Dear L.F.: In this economic climate, you can't get too down on yourself for not having found a job. The main thing is to keep positive and keep looking, and eventually you'll be in the right place at the right time. But while you're waiting, there are things you can do to make sure you can take advantage of opportunities. Remember the qualifications listed in a job posting are usually the minimum requirements - with the number of job-seekers, if you don't at least meet these minimums, you may not even get a second look.

Another major part of your application is your resume. If you haven't updated it lately, it may be time to do some editing. Using powerful active words and selling your experiences with the right vocabulary is important. You also want to look in the right places. Many jobs are posted mainly online, and social-networking sites geared toward business and professional networks can provide a goldmine of potential. There's no magic bullet that will get you your dream job, though. It might be time to re-evaluate what you're looking for and set your sights to something more realistic. No matter what, persistence will go a long way.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I just started working at a doctor's office in a small town, and I'm getting to know other doctors around the area. They've all been friendly and welcoming except one older man, who I can't warm up to. He hasn't done anything offensive, but he's very formal and cold to me, even though he's quite personable with everyone else. Am I doing something wrong, or is this guy just a jerk? - D.S.

Dear D.S.: As the saying goes, you can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all the time. This might just be one of those times you'll have to accept that a colleague might not be the most open and inviting person. You could try approaching him and asking him why he's taken a dislike to you, but without an overt action to precipitate this conversation, you might make things worse. It's possible he's just resistant to change, and he's resentful of you because of that. If you continue to be friendly, and treat him with respect, he might warm up to you in time.

It's possible that underlying your fear of this doctor disliking you is insecurity in your position. It can be hard to move to a small town, especially when entering an even smaller professional community, and this adjustment can cause anxiety. You should spend time reflecting on your attitude toward the medical professional community that you have joined, and try to maintain your self-confidence and remember that while you may be in a new place, you know as much as those around you, and in time you too will be on the "inside." Keep a positive attitude, and it will help make the transition as pleasant as possible.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K Q 6 2  
 ♥ K J 8 6  
 ♦ A K J  
 ♣ 6 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 9 4 3  
 ♥ Q 9  
 ♦ 8 4 3 2  
 ♣ A 9 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 5  
 ♥ A 10  
 ♦ 10 9 6  
 ♣ K J 8 7 3 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A J 7  
 ♥ 7 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ Q 7 5  
 ♣ Q 10

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
 2 ♠ Dble 2 ♥ Pass  
 4 ♥

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

This deal occurred in the match between Venezuela and Mexico at the 1977 Caribbean Team of Four championship. It features exceptionally good defense by Mario Onorati, who held the East cards for the victorious Venezuelan team and found a way to defeat South's four-heart contract.

North's one-club bid was artificial, indicating at least 16 high-card points, and South's one-trump response showed at least eight high-card points and notrump distribution. North's rebid of two clubs, doubled by East to show a club suit, was also artificial and asked South to bid a major suit if he had one. South duly responded two hearts and was raised by North to four.

West led the ace of clubs and continued with the nine to East's king, felling South's queen. Although Onorati knew declarer had no more clubs, he returned the club jack! He realized that he was presenting declarer with a ruff-and-discard, but he also realized that his only real chance to defeat the contract was to find his partner with the queen of trumps.

Declarer ruffed the club in his hand and led a low trump toward dummy. When West followed with the nine, South guessed correctly by playing the jack, losing to East's ace.

However, declarer's good guess did not help him at all. Onorati, pursuing his well-conceived campaign, led still another round of clubs, and this proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back. West cooperated perfectly by ruffing the club with the heart queen, forcing dummy's king to overruff, and Onorati's ten of trumps became the setting trick.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"No, I got about half of it."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/06

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

**Cryptoquip**

BQVT R PQUD'P OFVBIRZVP  
 OETYFVYRZV ZE VRZ SFVRXNRPZ,  
 WE JEK ZQUTX ZQVJ  
 PQEKAW DFNVF SERZIVRA?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "A TALE OF TWO CITIES" IS SUCH AN ALARMING WORK TO READ. IT SCARED THE DICKENS OUT OF ME!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
 1 12-Down's network  
 4 Upper limb  
 7 Relaxation  
 11 Historic periods  
 13 Hawaiian neckwear  
 14 Mid-month date  
 15 Mischievous Norse god  
 16 Remiss critic  
 18 Between, in verse  
 20 Oodles  
 22 Play-ground game  
 24 Rowling's Harry  
 28 Hedonistic fellow  
 32 Entire  
 33 Weaving device  
 34 LummoX  
 36 English river
- DOWN**  
 1 Irishman, e.g.  
 2 Forehead  
 3 H.H. Munro pseudonym  
 4 Every last bit  
 5 Paper quantity  
 6 Confusion  
 7 9-to-5 shift, e.g.  
 8 Fuss  
 9 Red or Black  
 10 Superlative suffix  
 12 Andy Rooney's show  
 19 Bill
- 21 Heifer's mom**  
**23 Sticky stuff**  
**25 Go sight-seeing**  
**26 Otherwise**  
**27 Clarinet insert**  
**28 Troop grp.**  
**29 Un-escorted**  
**30 Top-rated**  
**31 Sweet potato!**  
**35 "Great!" claim**  
**38 Kreskin's**  
**40 Mai — cocktail**  
**42 Draft animals' joiners**  
**45 Sneaker brand**  
**47 Verve**  
**48 Frizzy hairdo**  
**49 Settle to earth**  
**50 Firmament**  
**51 — budget**  
**52 Not many**  
**54 Morning moisture**
- Solution time: 27 mins.**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | T | H | O | S | F | A | D | F | D | A |
| T | W | E | A | K | A | B | E | A | W | N |
| C | A | C | H | E | B | U | C | K | L | E |
|   |   | K | U | W | A | I | T | I | S | L |
| G | A | L | S | P | A | S | T | E | T | S |
| O | P | E | D | I | N | L | E | T |   |   |
| O | R | D | A | I | N | A | R | E | T | H |
|   |   | M | I | G | H | T | N | A | I | L |
| H | E | M | A | N | A | T | A | C | P | A |
| A | L | A | S | T | R | E | B | E | K |   |
| P | I | C | K | L | E | D | B | U | L | G |
| P | T | A | A | X | E | O | R | E | O | S |
| Y | E | W | M | T | N | T | O | D | D | S |
- Saturday's answer 12-6

|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8  | 9 | 10 |
| 11 |    |    | 12 |    |   | 13 |    |   | 14 |
| 15 |    |    |    |    |   | 16 |    |   | 17 |
| 18 |    |    |    | 19 |   |    | 20 |   | 21 |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|    |    |    | 22 |    |   | 23 |    |   | 24 |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |   | 31 |    |   | 32 |
| 33 |    |    |    |    |   | 34 |    |   | 35 |
| 37 |    |    |    |    |   | 38 |    |   | 39 |
| 41 |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   | 42 |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   | 43 |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|    |    |    | 44 |    |   | 45 |    |   | 46 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 |    |    |   | 53 |    |   | 54 |
| 56 |    |    |    |    |   | 57 |    |   | 58 |
| 59 |    |    |    |    |   | 60 |    |   | 61 |