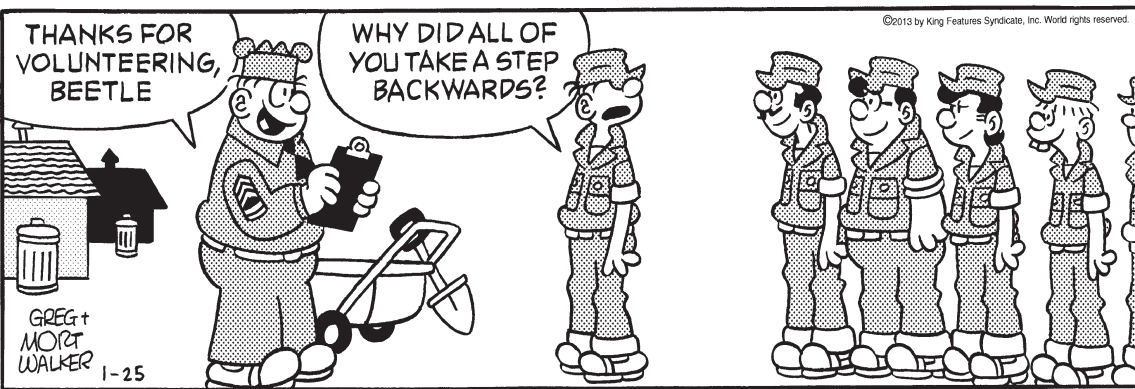


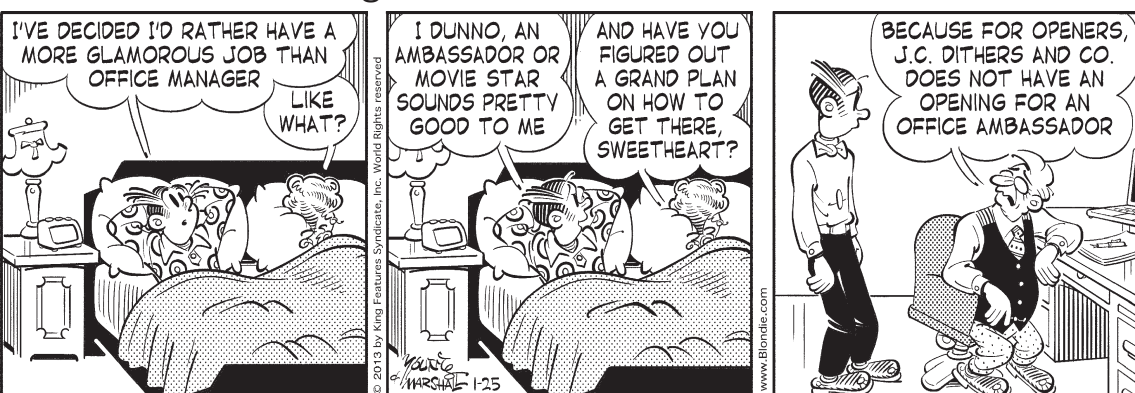
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



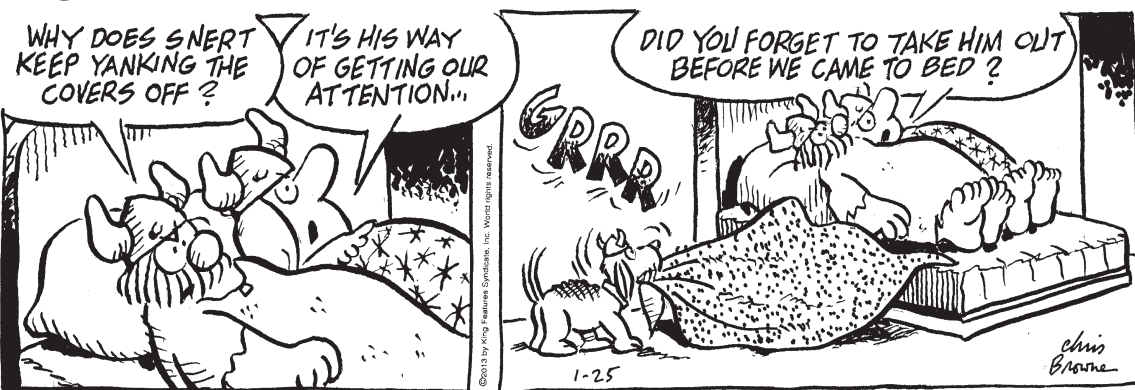
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



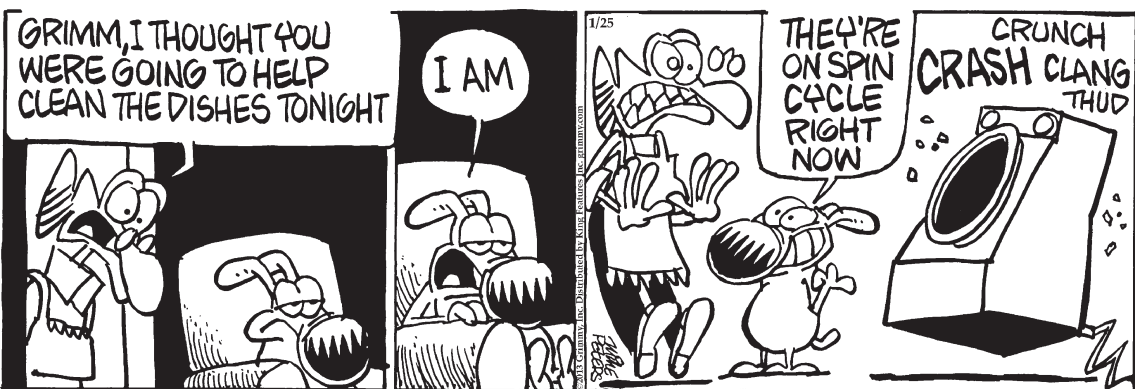
**Blondie** • Chic Young



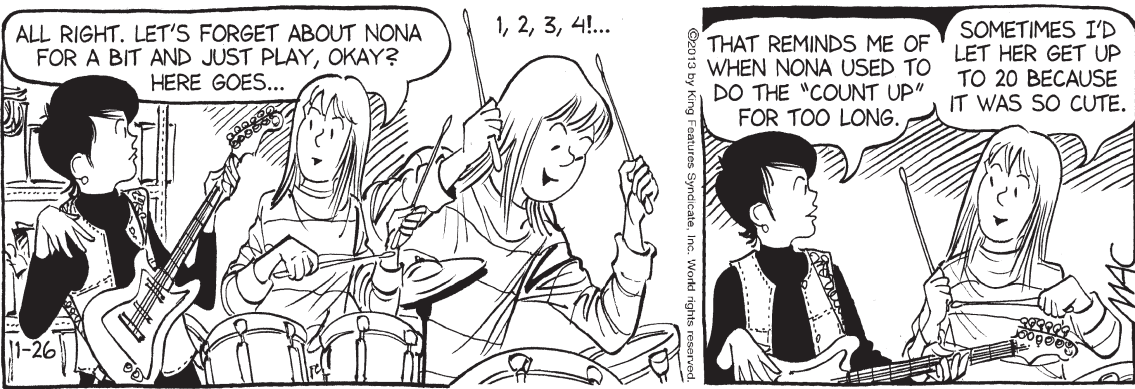
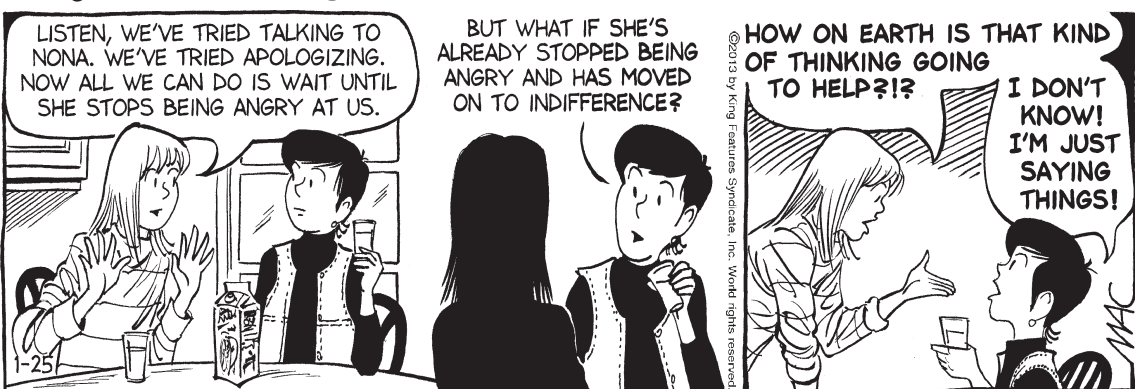
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



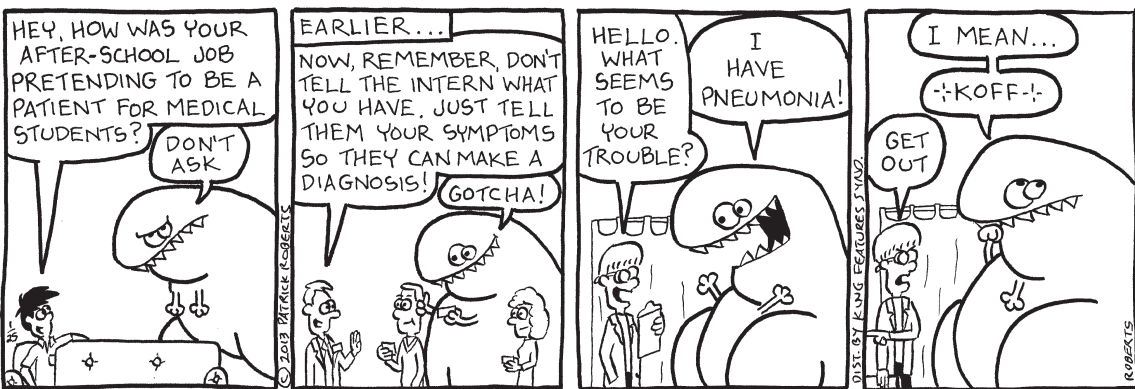
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Is oily stain set for garment life?**

Dear Heloise: I have shirts belonging to my 5-year-old with oily stains on the front. How can I remove the stains once they have been through the dryer? — A Reader in Santa Fe, N.M.

Well, you might be able to, but since they have gone through the dryer, it might be tough. Here is what to try: First, treat the area with a prewash spray or stick. Then rub liquid laundry detergent onto the area until it soaks through, and wash in hot water (or the hottest water that's safe for that fabric). Rinse and air-dry. Do not put in the dryer. It may take two or three times.

Have other tricky stains that you need help with? I have compiled a pamphlet with all of my stain-removing hints. To order, send \$5 with a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Stain Guide, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. If the care label doesn't specify a temperature, any temperature is safe to use on that fabric, but warm water will do and will save money. — Heloise

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: When I purchase a new hair dryer, curling iron, etc., I save the old one unless it is completely unusable. I take the old ones when traveling and leave the new, better ones at home. This way, if I lose it on my trip, it is not a big deal — I still have one at home. — A Reader, via e-mail

**LETTERBOXING**

Dear Readers: Have you ever heard of letterboxing? Are you looking for something fun to get your family outdoors? Letterboxing is a scavenger-hunt game. You take the clues provided and search for "hidden" letterboxes.

According to Letterboxing North America, there are around 5,000 letterboxes hidden throughout North America, many in local parks or attractions.

All you need to get started is a logbook (a blank notebook), a personal stamp (which you can make or buy), an ink pad, a pen and some clues. Once you find a box, stamp its logbook with your stamp, and stamp your logbook with its stamp. With all the boxes out there, think how many stamps you could get!

For a list of clues to boxes in your area, visit [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org). Grab your supplies, and let the family adventure begin! — Heloise

P.S.: A team member of Heloise Central did this with her young son and loved it. Almost free and lots of fun, plus fresh air and exercise.

**GATE GUARD**

Dear Heloise: The first time our new lawn-care men came to the house, they accidentally left the back gate open in the yard, and my dog got out. I drove around for a couple of hours and was lucky enough to find her. Since then, I have placed signs on both gates saying, "Please close the gate." I haven't had a problem since. — Janice in Texas

This happens a lot! Glad you (and your dog) were lucky enough to get reconnected. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

**1. You are declarer** with the West hand at Six Hearts. North leads the king of clubs, which you ruff. When you then play the ace of hearts, North discards a spade. How would you continue?

<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠ A 3	♠ K
♥ A Q 9 5 3 2	♥ K 10 4
♦ 10 9 8 3 2	♦ A K Q
♣ —	♣ J 9 8 6 4 2

**2. You are declarer** with the West hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the ten of spades. How would you play the hand?

<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠ K Q 6	♠ A J 3
♥ A 5	♥ K 8 2
♦ A 7 4	♦ K J 5
♣ A 9 5 4 3	♣ Q J 6 2

**Test Your Play**

1. To give yourself the best chance of making 12 tricks, you should allow for the possibility of either opponent having four diamonds to the jack. Play the ten of hearts under the ace, cash the king of hearts, king of spades and ace of diamonds, then finesse the nine of hearts.

Next cash the queen of hearts and ace of spades, discarding the K-Q of diamonds from dummy! Then play the ten of diamonds to force out the jack, and this will be your only loser.

If the diamonds are divided 3-2, this method of play will cost you a trick worth 30 points, but if they are divided 4-1, you will be 1,000 or 1,500 points richer, depending on the vulnerability.

2. If you were sure of five club tricks, you'd also be sure of the contract, but since the odds strongly favor scoring only four club tricks, you must consider a diamond finesse as your best hope for a 12th trick.

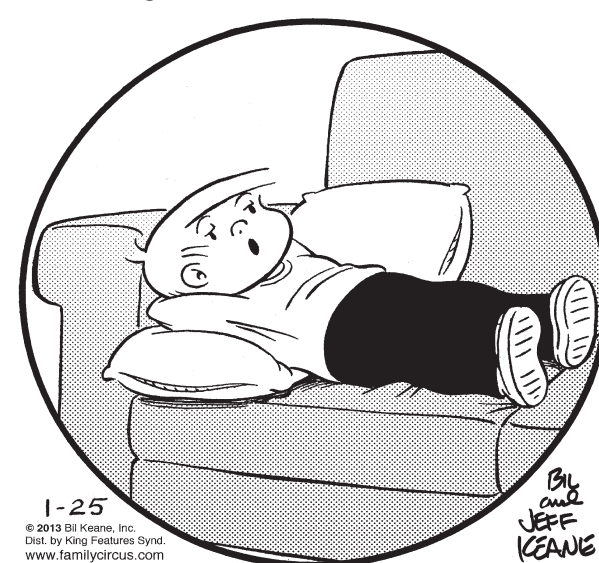
This train of thought leads to the surprising conclusion that since there are two ways to play the clubs and only one way to play the diamonds, you should try the diamond finesse first to help you determine how to play the clubs.

Let's say you take the first spade in your hand and lead a diamond to the jack at trick two, and it wins. Once this occurs, the contract is foolproof. The only remaining problem is to guarantee four clubs tricks, which can be done by returning to your hand in any suit but clubs and leading a low club toward dummy. This enables you to guard against either opponent having the K-10-8-7.

If the diamond finesse at trick two loses, you will then have to hope that South was dealt specifically the K-x or K-x-x of clubs (a 26 percent chance) and rely on a finesse to produce five club tricks.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Mommy, I'm not ready to do my homework yet. I've still got my brain in sleep mode."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/25

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

GA XFRBODIBKO PIBDPEEA

VPHUOUW BJPB X VXEE MU

JXR MURB RBDWUFB. X HDURR

X'G BJU BUPIJUO'R MUB.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A HUGE AFRICAN MAMMAL HAS COSMETIC SURGERY ON ITS NOSE, I SUPPOSE IT'S A REAL RHINO-PLASTY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals M

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	43 Feedbag	57 Private student	17 Second drink?
1 Ham-strings	44 Reed instrument		19 Lucky roll
6 Poorly lit	45 Askew	<b>DOWN</b>	21 Raw rock
9 Moreover	47 In a temperamental way	1 Legislation	22 Prohibit
12 Take as one's own	49 Archipelago component	2 Commotion	24 French noble title
13 Elizabethan, e.g.	50 Emeril's interjection	3 Dock doings	26 Showed affection
14 Luau side dish	51 Saito	4 Duel tool	28 Sis' kid
15 Suitor	52 Lennon's lady	5 First Little Pig's material	30 Little louse
16 Sponge	53 Pigpen	6 Remove a stripe	32 Having a romantic glow, maybe
18 Logic	54 African capital city	7 Press chairman	33 Carte lead-in
20 Clue	55 Pop	8 Chinese garden	34 Profit
21 Sapporo sash	56 A Bobbey twin	9 Garden pest	36 Big gorge
23 Drench		10 Incessantly	38 Gets zero stars
24 Papa		11 Filthy	39 WWII vessel
25 File's partner			40 Spacious
27 Women's home, said John Gray			42 Oust
29 Power source			45 Radius neighbor
31 "The — Cometh"			46 Birthright barter
35 Because			48 Charged bit
37 Portrayal			50 Before
38 Pop			51 Pirouette pivot
41 Expert			

Yesterday's answer 1-25

Z	O	O	M	R	U	M	S	M	O	G
E	X	P	O	E	R	A	K	A	L	E
B	E	A	R	A	N	Y	I	T	L	L
U	N	H	A	N	D	A	O	R	T	A
S	O	Y	B	U	R					
H	A	M	S	M	A	T	I	N	E	E
M	B	A	I	D	A	S	A	L		
M	A	T	R	I	X	E	S	I	S	T
C	A	R	M	I	N					
A	S	H	R	A	M	A	F	F	I	R
B	A	B	E	A	O	N	A	L	O	E
U	F	O	S	A	N	I	N	I	P	E
T	E	X	T	L	E	A	T	E	E	D

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			