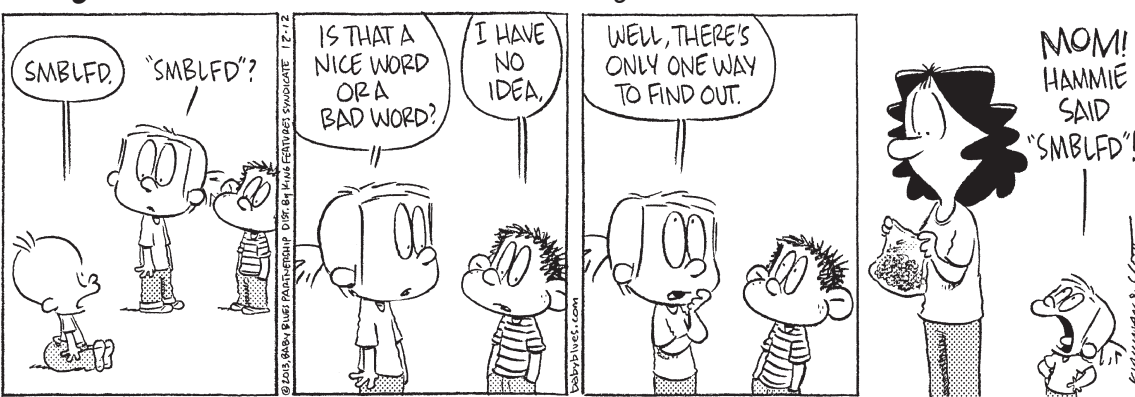
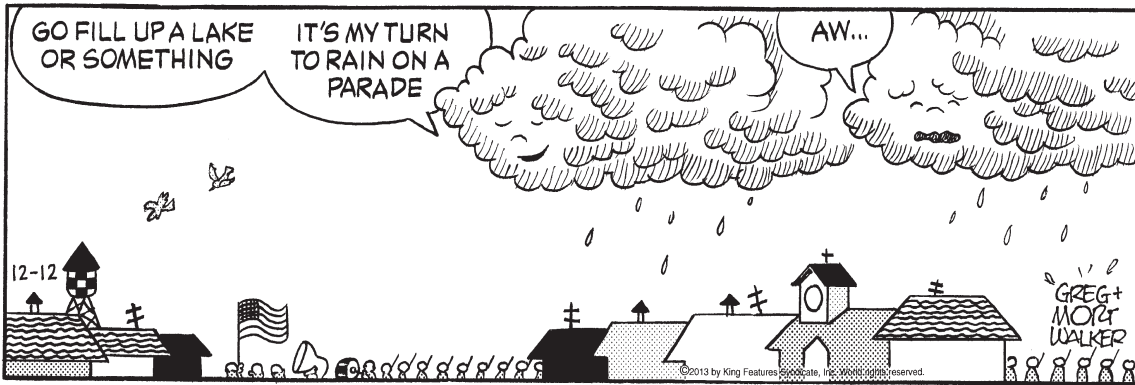


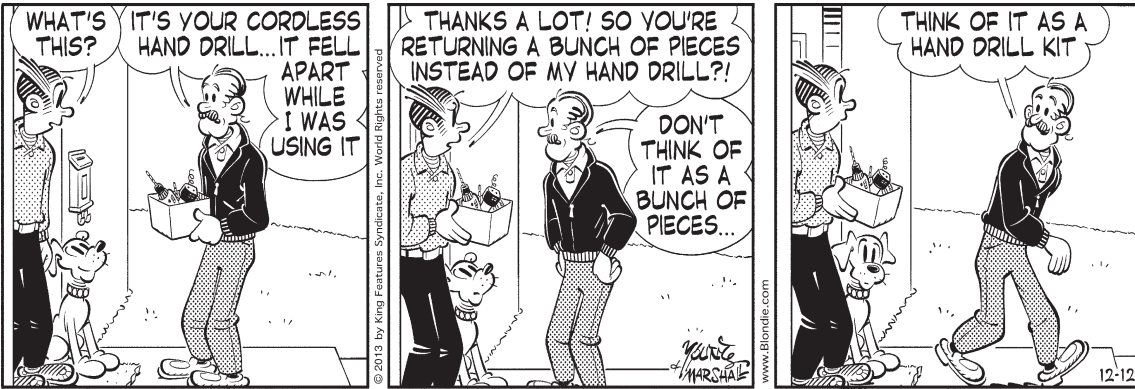
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



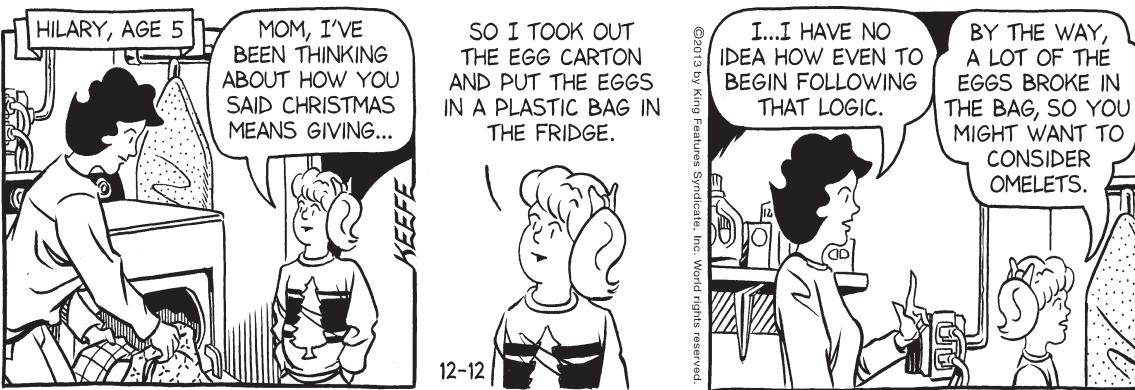
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



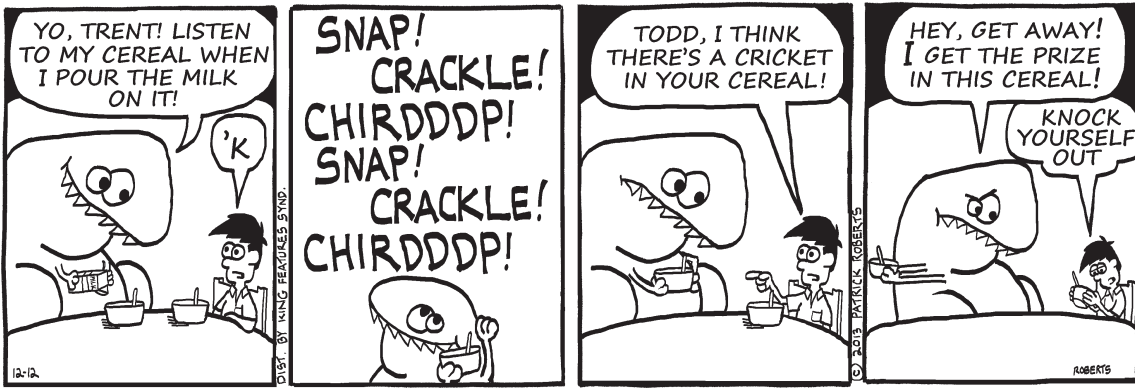
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



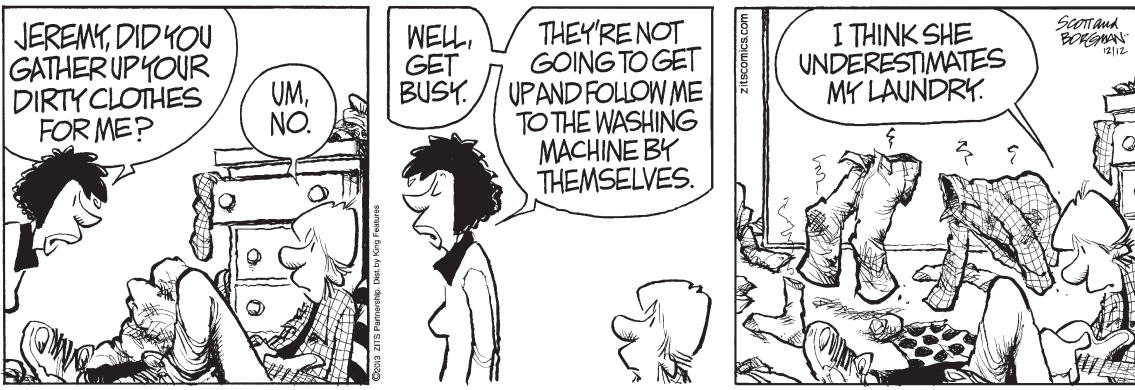
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**  
• Antiques and Collecting

**Porcelain pieces went all over**

**Q:** I have a picture of a bouquet of flowers painted on porcelain. It is framed and there is a label on the back that reads "A Mottahedeh Design." I would love to know more about it and its value.

A: Mottahedeh & Co. was founded in 1929 by Rafi and Mildred Mottahedeh. The couple had the largest privately held collection of Chinese Export porcelain in the world at that time. The company made reproductions of pieces in the collection as well as copies of other fine china. The reproductions were sold at Tiffany and Co. and gift shops.

Mottahedeh also made reproductions of museum pieces, including items made of porcelain, brass, crystal, silver and stoneware. It has made reproductions for the White House, the State Department and several museums and historical sites. The company was sold in 1992, but it's still in business, making reproductions. It has headquarters in Cranbury, N.J. Value of your painted porcelain plaque is about \$150.

**Q:** My mother saved S&H green stamps in the 1970s, and used them to get me a bank that looked like a little cash register. It was green and had a panel on the front that read "Uncle Sam's 3 Coin Register Bank." I loved it, but I lost it years ago. In 1996 we bought a house and found the same kind of bank in our attic, but this one is black tin. It has the same front panel. I can read only the bottom of the back panel, which reads "Durable Toy & Novelty Co., Division of Western Stamping Co., Jackson, Michigan." Does this toy we found in the attic have any value?

A: Durable Toy & Novelty Co. invented a single-coin Uncle Sam's register bank in 1906. The three-coin version was first made in 1923. It was made of cold rolled steel, and instructions for operating the bank were painted on the back. The bank accepts nickels, dimes and quarters and can't be opened until \$10 has been deposited.

Western Stamping Co. bought Durable Toy & Novelty Co. in 1958 and continued to make the bank until the 1980s. Production was moved to Asia in the 1960s, and the bank was then made of tin instead of steel. The tin bank was made in different enameled colors, including black, green and red. A limited edition was made in chrome in 1981 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the bank. Your black tin bank was made after 1960 and sells for \$15 to \$25.

**Q:** I have a wooden coat hanger marked "W.J. Woods, Springfield's oldest clothing store, established 1848." The "arms" of the hanger can be folded so that it completely collapses for storage. Can you tell me when it was made?

A: The W.J. Woods Co. sold clothing for men and boys. It had stores in several cities in Massachusetts, including Springfield, Worcester, Utica, Providence and Brockton. It was in business until at least the 1920s.

**Tip:** Use shallow boxes to store dolls. They are not to be piled on top of each other.  
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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

**Once, Maybe Twice, Never**  
 Expert players don't always play expertly. They make mistakes just like everyone else. The difference is that they do so less often than ordinary mortals.

Consider this deal from an intercity match between Los Angeles and Houston. With Houston North-South and Los Angeles East-West, the bidding went as shown. Six hearts was a sound contract, but six diamonds would have been much safer.

West led the king of spades, East playing the four, and continued with the ace, ruffed by South. Declarer then drew trumps and chalked up 1,210 points for making six hearts doubled.

Of course, the slam could have been defeated. West had two chances and muffed them both. First of all, West should have led a diamond originally. East, the player not on lead, had doubled six hearts, which according to the Lightner slam-doubling convention called for an unusual lead, normally dummy's first-bid suit. The only other suit North had bid besides hearts was diamonds, so this was clearly the lead East was asking for.

Had West led a diamond, East would have ruffed, returned a spade and gotten another ruff to put the slam down two 300 points. But even after the king-of-spades lead, West could have saved the day by shifting to a diamond. Instead, he ignored East's low-spade play on the king which directed West to stop playing spades and continued the suit. After that, it was curtains.

The lesson to be learned is that bridge is a partnership game, and that one shouldn't ignore warning signals transmitted by partner. Once, maybe, but twice, never!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



12-12  
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 www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

CF EFM CJ KXC V RYH H XB XG

LXAO UP PKX VOYC FZ SE

AKXVP. Y'S UHRUEV RXUGY C

U L M H H X P - L G F F Z B X V P.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY MOTHER REALLY HATES GOING TO THE GYM. SHE USUALLY CALLS THE MACHINES THERE DREAD-MILLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                 |                           |                      |                             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | <b>DOWN</b>               | <b>DOWN</b>          | <b>DOWN</b>                 |
| 1 Body powder                   | 35 One of the Brady bunch | 1 Clothing           | 23 Zoo howler               |
| 5 Priestly garment              | 36 Equals                 | 2 Settled down       | 24 Paraphernalia            |
| 8 Model Heidi                   | 37 Inevitable             | 3 Old                | 25 Without                  |
| 12 A little of everything       | 40 Sweater                | 4 Lassie et al.      | 26 Arizona tribe            |
| 13 Chart format                 | 41 Horselike              | 5 In two places      | 27 Persia, now              |
| 14 Follow a nature trail        | 47 Kreskin's claim        | 6 Back talk          | 28 Ceremonial robe          |
| 15 Lass                         | 49 "American —"           | 7 Connecting         | 32 Underbrush cutter        |
| 16 Suitable                     | 50 Neck hair              | 8 Uniform shade      | 33 Pope Francis, et al.     |
| 17 Scored 100 on                | 51 Pirouette pivot        | 9 Franchise operator | 35 Lustrous black           |
| 18 Less fresh                   | 52 Golf gadgets           | 10 Guitar's cousin   | 36 Without delay, initially |
| 20 Stirred                      | 53 Sympathetic sorrow     | 11 Club — angle      | 38 Pal from the 'hood       |
| 22 Readily available            | 54 Right angle            | 19 Type measures     | 39 Ward off                 |
| 26 Urticaria                    | 55 Auction                | 21 Possess           | 42 Thought                  |
| 29 Longing                      |                           |                      | 43 Yuletide tune            |
| 30 The Red or the Black         |                           |                      | 44 Differently              |
| 31 Raw minerals                 |                           |                      | 45 Mischievous tyke         |
| 32 Chaps                        |                           |                      | 46 — chi                    |
| 33 "The Prime of Miss — Brodie" |                           |                      | 48 Scale member             |
| 34 — de de                      |                           |                      |                             |

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-12

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			