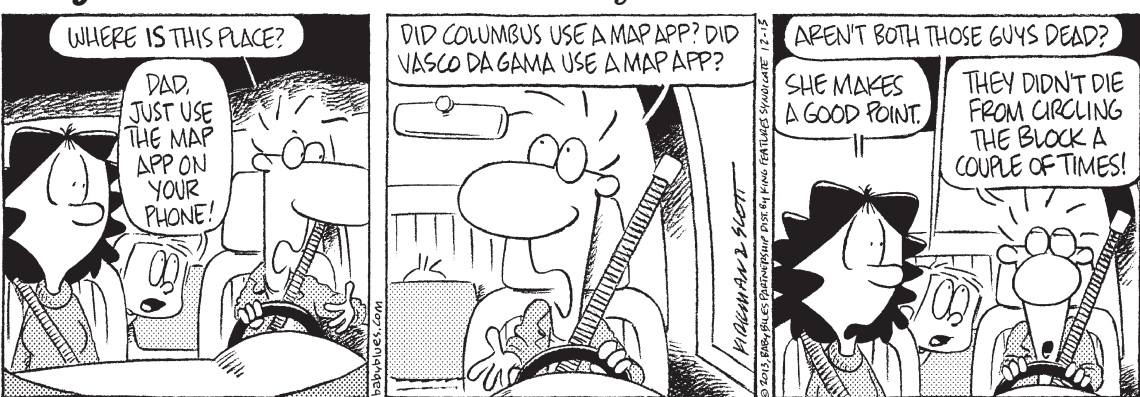
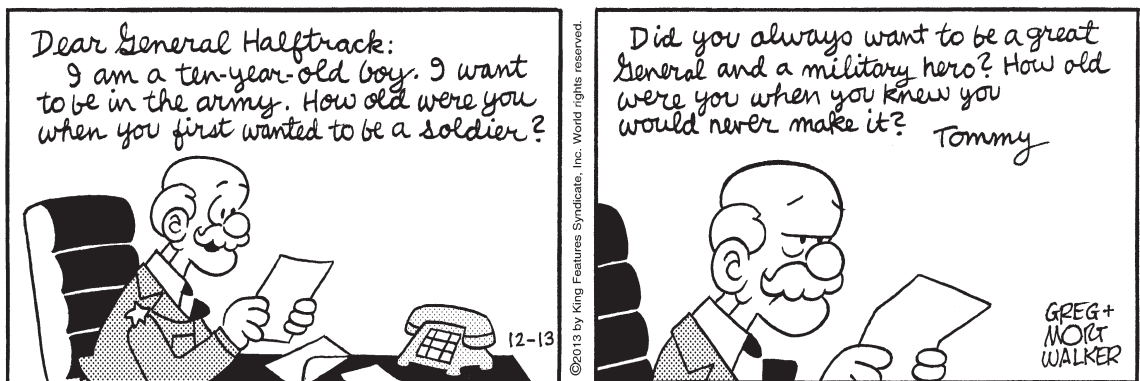


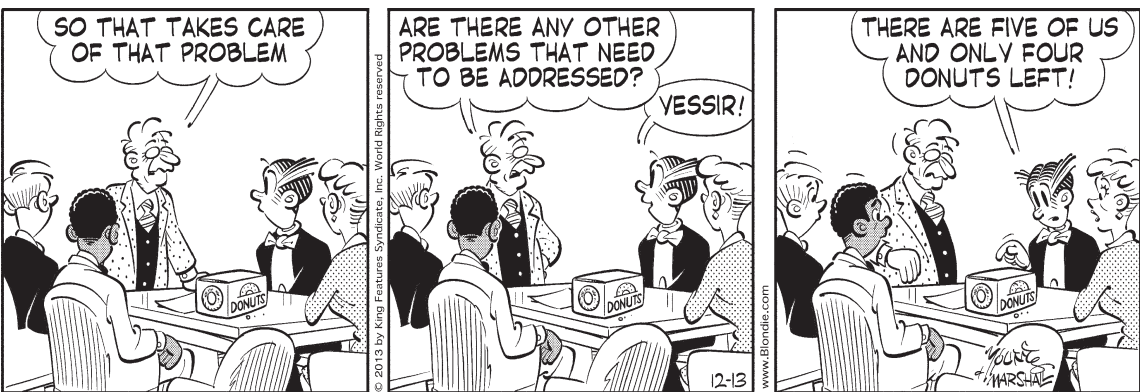
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



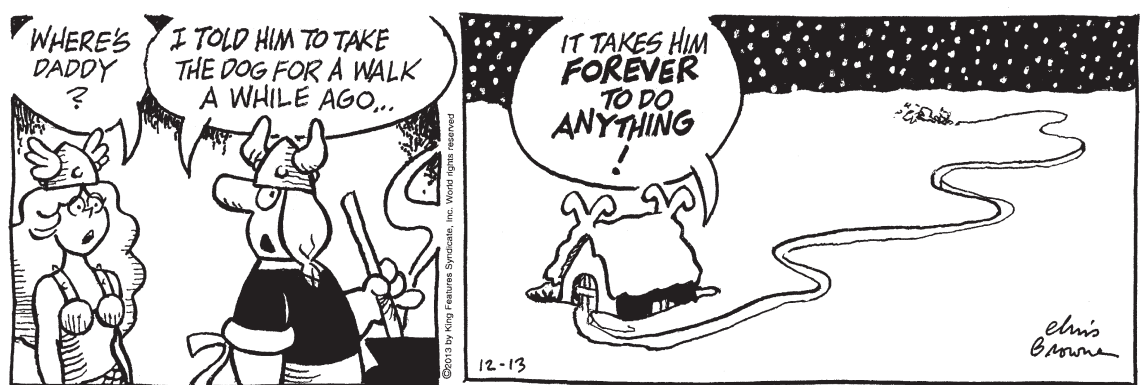
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



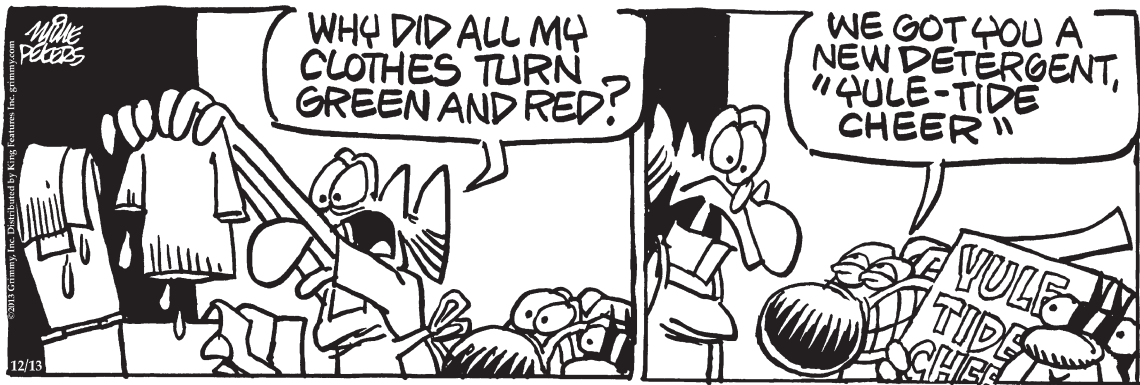
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



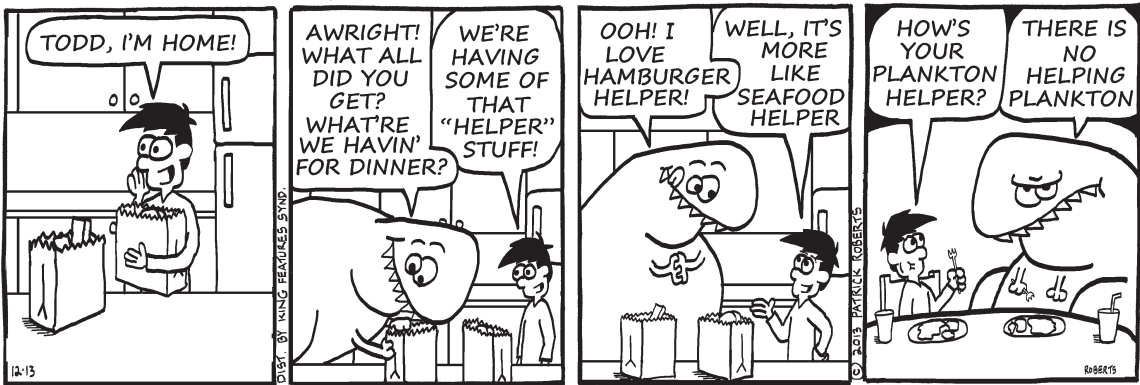
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



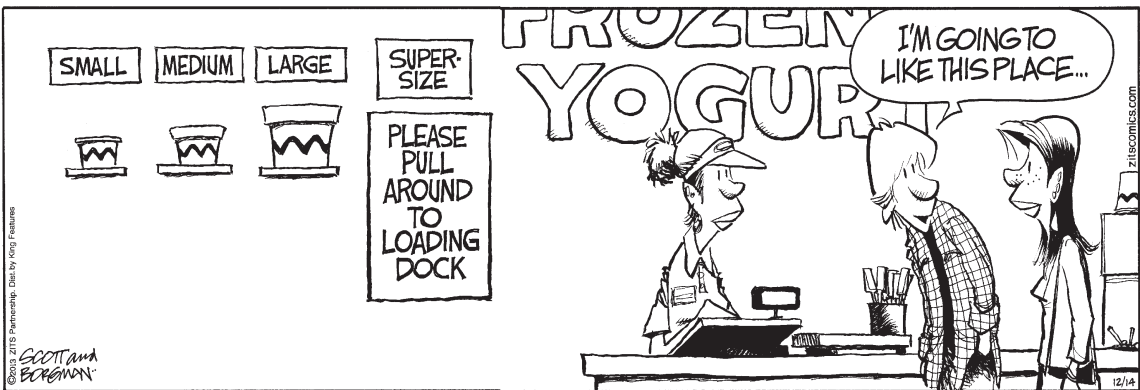
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Holiday decor helped by tips**

Dear Heloise: Here are a few of my favorite tips for holiday decorating:

- Replace table lamps with small, lit Christmas trees.
- Take photos of your holiday decorating (Heloise here: for easier reassembly next year).
- Store decorations in heavy-duty shopping bags. They are easier to take up and down attic stairs.

Also, a tip for cooks: When following a recipe out of a cookbook, cover the page that does not have the recipe with a white sheet of paper. It will minimize the seconds needed to find your place. — Denise in Houston

**TRAVEL HINT**

Dear Heloise: I'm a flight attendant, and on a recent long flight, I worked first class. Before serving the meal, we passed out hot washcloths that passengers could use to freshen up. One passenger cleaned his hands and then wiped down the armrests and tray table. I thought this was a good hint.

In the future, I'll make sure to pack antibacterial wipes for cleaning around my seat. Anything to cut down on germs! — Janet S., via email

**BATTERY CORROSION**

Dear Heloise: My car battery has a lot of corrosion buildup on it. Do you have a hint on how to remove it? A Reader, via email

Yes! It's an easy and safe hint! Just mix a little baking soda and water to make a thick paste. Dab it on the battery terminals with an old toothbrush and scrub away. Do be careful, and protect your hands and eyes. Want to learn many other money-saving ideas using baking soda around your house? Order my pamphlet with all my favorite baking-soda hints. Just send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Have a spill in your trunk that left it stinky? After cleaning, sprinkle with baking soda, rub in well and let sit a day or two, vacuum, and the smell should be gone. — Heloise

**SEPARATE EMAIL**

Dear Readers: Here is a hint from Sharon, whom I met while doing a speech earlier this year. For anyone who is in charge or works to put on an event, I think it's a super hint!

She has been in charge of several large functions and, having done it before, knew that she would be sending and receiving many, many emails. She set up a separate email account just for the function. That way, everything that came in and went out had to do with the function and only the function. Before, she was bombarded with emails in her personal account and had to search through a ton of emails regarding the special event. — Heloise

**NO TANGLE**

Dear Heloise: To keep window-shade cords or others detangled, take a clear soda straw and cut it lengthwise with a small pair of scissors. Push it onto the cord, resting it at the bottom of the cord. Keeps it clean and straight. — Janice K. in San Antonio

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

You are South, neither side vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
 2 ♥ Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠AJ9 ♥QJ95 ♦Q7 ♣K984
2. ♠K54 ♥KJ872 ♦95 ♣Q63
3. ♠10 ♥K97632 ♦Q83 ♣A95
4. ♠J8 ♥KJ73 ♦K962 ♣KQ7

**Bidding Quiz**

1. Three notrump. Since you have an opening bid facing an opening bid, there is no question about reaching game. Only two game contracts are feasible three notrump or four hearts and the best way of reaching for one of them is by jumping to three notrump. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, which partner might pass.

If partner's heart raise was based on four trumps, he will almost surely remove three notrump to four hearts, but if he raised with only three trumps, which is possible, he will no doubt pass and leave you in a contract you're a heavy favorite to make.

2. Pass. Partner has 13 to 15 points, some of which might be distributional in value. Game is therefore unlikely, and by passing, you will almost surely end up with a plus score instead of the minus that might result from bidding, say, three hearts. It is true that you have a king more than you might have had for your one-heart response, but that is not a good-enough reason for continuing to bid when the prospect for game is remote.

3. Four hearts. The strength of this hand lies as much in its distribution as in its high cards. Granting that you have only nine high-card points, the fact is that you have lots of tricks and that's the bottom line in bridge.

Another way of assessing your prospects is to ask yourself: "Am I likely to lose four tricks with this hand after partner opens one diamond and raises hearts?" If the answer is no, as it ought to be, you should go directly to game.

4. Three clubs. You are on the way to game but can't tell whether to play in hearts, diamonds or notrump. Three diamonds (also forcing) might seem a more truthful bid, but it is not as helpful as three clubs in reaching for a notrump game — if that is the right contract. Partner might have something like ♠AQ9 ♥A85♦QJ753♣J4 and be unable to bid three notrump over three diamonds.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



12-13  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/13

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

**Cryptoquip**

KYJQ ZCH EJJR OCUI

WQPTJFJR WQGUWTO KWZ PCC

UHN, GP KGTT RJEGQGPJTZ

FJQRJF FJGQRJFF FCHQRJF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NO YOUNG HENS WILL EVER PECK AT THE SKIN OF MY CHEST. I'M ALWAYS WEARING A PULLET-PROOF VEST.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals O

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 DVD warning issuer
  - 4 Came to earth
  - 8 Turfs
  - 12 Assn.
  - 13 Actress Turner
  - 14 Cut short
  - 15 Ex-hausting
  - 17 Demolish
  - 18 Grand-scale tale
  - 19 Made into a heap
  - 20 Urban fleet
  - 22 Latch (onto)
  - 24 Being, to Brutus
  - 25 Bottom-dwelling food fish
  - 29 Scale members
  - 30 View-point
  - 31 Upper surface
  - 32 Toiletries' purpose
  - 34 Withstand
- DOWN**
- 51 Thanks-giving veggie
  - 16 Fencing prop
  - 19 Sulk
  - 20 Titanic destroyer
  - 1 Pea soup, e.g.
  - 2 "I'm cold!"
  - 3 "Um, sure"
  - 4 Lead-in to "calm" or "bright"
  - 5 Secular
  - 6 Hostel
  - 7 Put a runner out
  - 8 Pinch pennies
  - 9 Exam format
  - 10 Nap
  - 11 Raced
  - 21 Addict
  - 22 \$50 "portrait"
  - 23 Protracted
  - 25 Smooth-talking
  - 26 Forever and ever
  - 27 Wander
  - 28 Agile
  - 30 Hook's henchman
  - 33 Hateful
  - 34 LummoX
  - 36 Im-pressed greatly
  - 37 Unaccompanied
  - 38 Dry
  - 39 — off (angry)
  - 40 Anti-toxins
  - 42 "Golly!"
  - 43 Equipment
  - 44 Dance syllable
  - 45 Height of fashion

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

T	A	L	C	A	L	B	K	L	M
O	L	I	O	P	I	E	H	I	K
G	I	R	L	A	P	T	A	C	E
S	T	A	L	E	R	W	O	K	E
H	I	V	E	S	I	N	T	H	E
O	R	E	S	M	E	N	J	E	A
P	A	S	J	A	N	P	E	E	R
I	N	T	H	E	C	A	R	D	S
M	O	T	H	E	Q	E	U	I	N
I	T	E	M	E	S	P	I	D	O
M	A	N	E	T	O	E	T	E	S
P	I	T	I	E	L	L	S	A	L

Yesterday's answer 12-13

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	