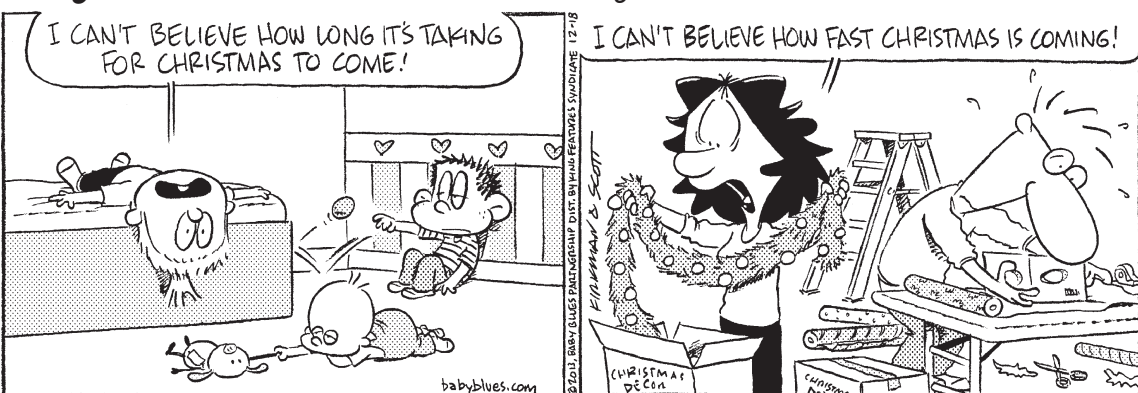
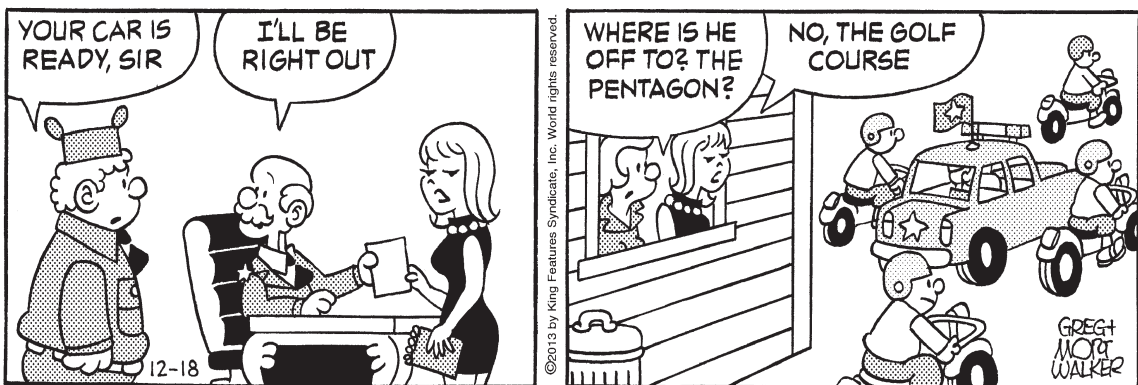


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



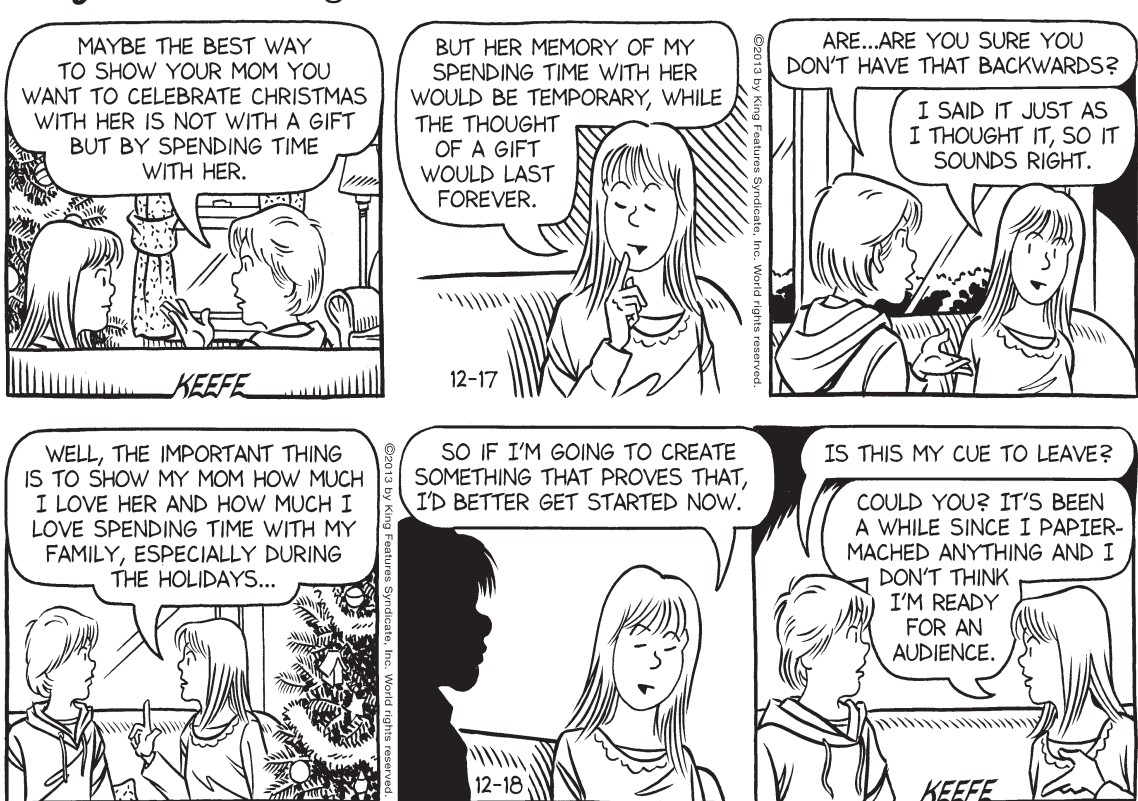
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



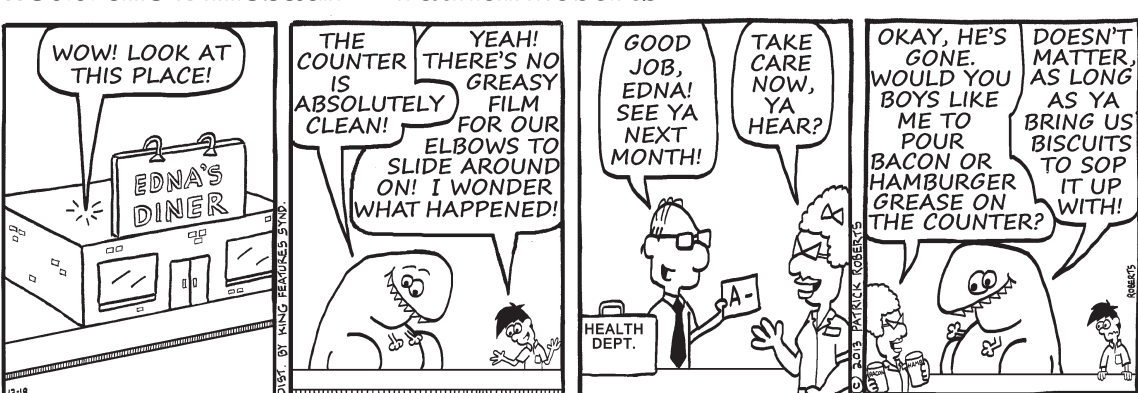
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

- Hints from Heloise

**Bake coconut for easy shelling**

Dear Heloise: I enjoyed meeting you at an event in Houston. I love fresh coconut, but after I drain the coconut and crack the shell, it takes major surgery to get the meat out. There has got to be an easier way to do it. Any suggestions? I saw a Samoan in Hawaii use a pointed stick in the ground, but I don't think I can keep one around for just that! — Ann S. in Houston

I enjoyed meeting you and your daughter; please give her a hug for me! Trying to crack a coconut can drive you "nuts"! The coconut needs to be baked before the meat is removed.

Put the coconut in the oven (on 350 F) for 15-20 minutes. Remove carefully and wrap in a heavy towel. Use a hammer to whack the heck out of it. Just keep hammering away, and it should break into pieces, which makes it easier to remove the meat.

Next, use a flat-head screwdriver, nut pick or a paring knife to pick out the meat. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**

Heloise  
P.O. Box 795000  
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000  
Fax: 210-HELOISE  
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

**THE FOILED TOUCH**

Dear Heloise: When I cook with aluminum foil, I sometimes notice that there are black specks left on the food after cooking. What causes this, and is it something I need to worry about? — Rachel T., via email

Don't worry. These specks can be caused when aluminum foil touches food that contains vinegar or salt or that is highly acidic or spicy. It's a reaction between the foil and the food. It's not harmful, and you can safely eat the black specks. But if you would rather not, then just remove them. — Heloise

**KITCHEN HINTS**

Dear Heloise: While visiting a friend, I asked where she had found the big, wide rubber bands that are so handy for large extension cords, boxes in the pantry, etc. She said that when her rubber gloves develop holes, she cuts across the cuffs to form the wide bands. Not only handy, but a great way to recycle.

Another hint is that after dropping a piece of eggshell into a light-colored batter and not finding it, I now keep a stack of disposable, clear plastic cups in the kitchen. When a recipe calls for eggs, I break the eggs into the plastic cup, and if there is a problem, I can solve it and then toss the cup. — Zelda W. in Missouri

**CUCUMBER PICKLES**

Dear Readers: I love to eat pickles, and I always save the juice after finishing a jar. When I eat a cucumber, I score the sides with a fork and make a design in the skin. This is nice if the skin is a little tough to eat. Remember, the skin is where all of the vitamins and nutrients are! Then I cut it into slices and place them in the pickle juice. The cucumbers stay crispy for a day or two, but still are a delicious treat days after placing them in the pickle juice. — Heloise

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 6 4  
♥ Q 10 4 3  
♦ A 7 6 5 2  
♣ Q 5

**WEST**  
♠ A Q J 8 5 2  
♥ 7 2  
♦ Q 3  
♣ J 10 3

**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 3  
♥ 6 5  
♦ J 9 8  
♣ K 9 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 7  
♥ A K J 9 8  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ A 6 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ 1♠ 2♥ Pass  
4♥  
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

**Defusing a Threat**

In many hands, declarer finds it more dangerous to have one opponent on lead than the other. This is usually because the dangerous opponent, by gaining the lead, can either run a long suit or return a suit that threatens a key card in the dummy or declarer's hand.

Consider the present deal, where South's over-riding concern should be to keep East off lead in order to prevent a potentially killing lead through the king of spades.

Declarer's first step in this direction should be to play low from dummy on West's jack-of-clubs lead, and then also play low from his hand. He should not put up the queen. If he does, East might subsequently gain the lead with a club, while if he doesn't, East can never gain the lead with a club.

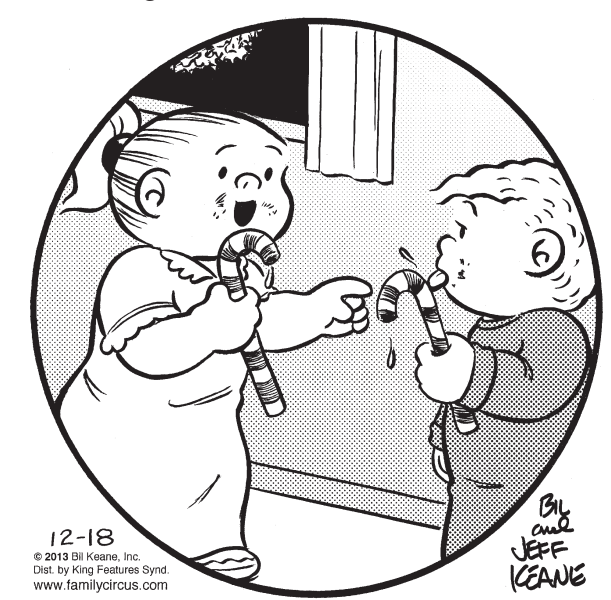
Let's say West continues with a club and South takes East's king with the ace. Pursuing his aim to keep East out of the lead, declarer cashes the A-Q of trumps and returns a diamond from dummy, covering East's eight with the ten.

South's avoidance policy now pays off because West, on lead with the queen of diamonds, can do declarer no harm. In fact, if West doesn't cash the ace of spades at this point, he loses it.

Playing in this fashion does not constitute an especially brilliant feat on declarer's part. It merely shows a healthy respect for the danger East poses to making the contract.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



12-18  
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"Which do you like best — the red stripes or the white stripes?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/18

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

F M D L D I L Z D E F F M D  
P D Z T N T I K H H F I P D E P D  
L K P W M E H T J N P I H E P T D H  
T E H H K Q D F M D O ' P D  
L P E O T J N W K H F I Q D P H.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD NOVELTY SONG ABOUT A SIMPLE MACHINE HAVING BEEN COVERED WITH SHEEP HAIR: "WOOLY PULLEY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals R

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Vacation-ing  
4 Reveille's opposite  
8 Complaint  
12 By way of  
13 October birthstone  
14 Volcano output  
15 Computer key  
16 Walker's gauge  
18 Runny-nose condition  
20 Squeezing snake  
21 Devil's purchase  
24 Yellowish brown  
28 It holds your bust in place  
32 Medal earner  
33 Square root of IX  
34 Luke-warm  
36 Pismire  
37 Formerly, formerly

**DOWN**

1 Above  
2 Angler's catch  
3 Countenance  
4 Highest  
5 Gorilla  
6 Cushion  
7 No  
8 Whiten-ing agent  
9 Dine  
10 First lady  
11 Distant  
17 Cattle call  
19 Work with outs  
22 NCAA's Miners  
23 Bouton-niere site  
25 Get wind of  
26 Sea flier  
27 Memorization method  
28 Harbor structure  
29 Green land  
30 Satellite receiver  
31 Chic beach resort  
35 Runs the show?  
38 Studio session  
40 Prized possession  
42 A couple of cups?  
45 Sgt. Snorkel's dog  
47 Hedge-podge  
48 See to  
49 Relaxation  
50 Salary (out)  
51 Scratch  
52 Use a trowel  
53 Took off  
54 Rage

Yesterday's answer 12-18

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			58	
59						60			61	