

WHAT'S ON

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest
Venue: Army Stadium, Savar, Dhaka
Date: Nov 29-Dec 2, Time: 5pm-4:30am
For online registration, log on to www.bengalfoundation.org (registration and seats on first)

Duet Art Show
Title: Blue Mountain's Scope
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, Rd-13, New Dhammadi
Date: November 15-20
Time: 12-8pm

Int'l Theatre Festival
Organiser: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 16-24
Time: 10-6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 16-24
Time: 11am-8pm

Discussion & Cultural Programme Marking 7th Anniversary of Bonhishikha
Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shaahbagh
Date: November 16-17
Time: 6pm everyday

Closing Ceremony of a Photography Exhibition
Photographer Nazim Ali Mamun on Humayun Ahmed
Venue: Azanna Bhaba Jodi
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhammadi

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mike Woodcock
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Nov 15-30
Time: 12pm-8pm

Nabanna Utshab 1419
Organiser: Jatya Nabanna Utshab Uddigan Parishad
Venue: Ramna Batamul, Dhaka
Date: November 15
Time: 7:30am onwards

Between the Lines, woven in deeply

Nandita Das and Subodh Maskara explore gender inequality that goes unnoticed



Nandita Das (right) and Subodh Maskara.

KARIM WAHEED

What happens when two lawyers, married to each other, find themselves on opposing sides of an attempted murder case in court? Do the educated, affluent, supposedly progressive couple keep it "strictly professional" or does the trial travel home and shed light on issues, until then invisible, creating tension? Acclaimed Indian actor-director Nandita Das' play "Between the Lines" addresses gender inequality that's obvious and not so obvious. The play was staged at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on November 13.

Das and her husband Subodh Maskara took on the roles of Maya and Shekar who have been married for 10 years and have a son. This is a seemingly equal relationship. But then, Maya takes up her first case -- defending a woman who had shot her abusive husband. Shekar, of course, is the prosecutor.

As the trial progresses, things between Maya and Shekar start heating up as well. It starts off with Shekar dismissing his wife's judgment and sensibilities. When it comes to gender violence and inequality, we always say "...it's the poor, uneducated people". The inequality there is glaring. But what about the inequality that's deeply woven in our social conditioning? What about the unfair deal that's considered "acceptable"? Who gets the bigger piece of chicken at home? Why are

terms like "juggling" and "balancing" used when referring to a working woman, and not a man? Is a working wife/mother a circus performer? One of my female friends at the show said, "I can immediately relate to this (play). You, as a man, probably won't."

She wasn't wrong. If for no other reason, I would call Das and the play successful because it made me think about what goes on unnoticed. The play doesn't end on a pessimistic note though. The couple realise that they both need to work on their marriage. It doesn't give up on marriage.

Nandita Das, as an actor, doesn't need a seal of approval from me. This brilliant, beautiful, socially committed thespian has earned accolades in India and abroad. There were ample demonstrations of that brilliance in her monologues.

Her co-actor, Maskara, however seemed a tad rigid. There could be a number of reasons. The play has been written and directed by Das and although the tagline is "a relationship on trial", between the protagonists, Maya gets the better deal. The audience empathises with her. Also, according to the website of Chhoti Production Company (Das and Maskara's film and theatre initiative), "Maskara is an entrepreneur, who is on a sabbatical to pursue his creative passions."

The Dhaka show was presented by The City Bank Limited, and organised by Excalibur Entertainment and Jatrik.

ALBUM REVIEW

Juddho: LRB's fight against odds

JAMIL MAHMUD

LRB has released its 11th album "Juddho" (war) at a time when the music industry, particularly the country's rock music, faces a tough time. The release of rock albums has reduced significantly over the last couple years and at present bands prefer to release new compositions on radio and cell phones first rather than CDs.

"Juddho" was first released on the Banglalink Music Station and later on CD by Deadline Music right before the Eid. The album highlights a new approach by LRB, one of the country's most successful rock acts.

Those 1990s' melodies, for which the band garnered huge success, are prevalent in some of these new songs. The heavy sound that is more popular with the young right now is also noticeable in some tracks. So in a sense, the latest album is a challenge for the LRB quartet to maintain a balance of two different genres, to draw two different generations of listeners.

One can find the 10-track album divided into two parts. The first five songs have heavier sounds while the rest are comparatively mellow in mood. In regards to lyrics, these mellow songs try to contain the essence of the popular LRB oldies such as "Ekhon Onek Raat" or "Ei Shohor Ekhon Ghumiye Achhe".

In the case of "Je Chole Jaye", track number six from the new album, the song provides mellow rhythmic guitar riffs, measured leaks and easy on the ear lyrics. It tries to connect with a broken heart, abandoned by



loved ones. Niaz Ahmed Aungshu wrote this particular song, while all the others have been penned by Sajjad Hossain. "Juddho", the title and first track of the album, has a heavy sound. Taking reference from the Language Movement and the Liberation War, the lyrics are more of a social urge, than political. Front man Ayub Bachchu proclaimed in the album flap, "Day by day, good struggles harder in its eternal fight against evil... If we don't change our ways and outlook, one day our own children will be fighting on the streets for causes which have no names and no remorse..."

The cover-jacket features the blurred and shadowy face of a child soldier with a gun who leads a small squad; the title is written in red letters. It is a symbolic representation against social flaws. One may consider "Abar Juddhey Jabo" as a sequel to the title track.

Those LRB fans who are well aware of Bachchu's interest in blues will be elated when listening to the song "Ondho". It is a great blues number with spectacular guitar by Bachchu. This song along with the final track "Bhoy" are two of the most vibrant compositions on the album.

The other tracks are "Ekti Chhele", "Shap Ludu", "Agun Niye" and "Purotai Phaki". LRB's current line up is: Ayub Bachchu (vocal and lead guitar), Swapan (bass), Masud (guitar) and Romel (drums).

Tanvir Mokammel's Jibondhuli off the ground

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The festivities of Durga Puja in the quaint world of a 100-year-old house of a Hindu family at Nasirnagar (Brahmanbaria district) and the immersion of the idols in nearby Langhan river came alive beautifully during the second phase of the shooting of Tanvir Mokammel's forthcoming feature film "Jibondhuli" last week.

Mokammel told The Daily Star that he shot several scenes of the festival at "Datta Bari", the house of the Datta clan, with the participation of several members of the family -- a move that helped him to keep down the film's small budget.

The third phase of shooting for the film, being funded by Bangladesh government, will

be shot in January in Baithaghata and Chupnagar of Khulna district where the director will recreate the scenes of one of the worst genocides perpetrated by Pakistan army and its local allies on May 20, 1971 during the Liberation War.

To recreate the Chupnagar genocide, Mokammel said he would seek the Bangladesh army's assistance in the form of weapons and some other logistics. The first phase of the shoot took place in Pubail last month.

Asked why there is such a long gap between the second and third phase of the shooting, the director said he would be in London for a little over two weeks, from November 17, for academic work. Besides, it will take some time to seek the Bangladesh army's help in recreating the Chupnagar massacre by Paki-

stani army. Shatabdi Wadud is playing the title role in "Jibondhuli", based on the life of a Hindu 'dhaki' (drummer), his soft corner for a young married woman of the Datta family and subsequent destruction wrought by Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

Among the other lead actors in the film are Ramendu Majumdar, Chitrarekha Guha, Tabibul Islam Babu, Uttam Guha, Wahida Mallick Jolly, Pran Roy, Jyotika Jyoti, Paresh Acharya, Iqbal Hossain, Rimu Khondaker, Mrinal Datta and Reaz Mahmud Jewel.

Mahfuzur Rahman Khan is the film's cinematographer; Syed Shabbab Ali Arzo is music director; Uttam Guha is art director and chief assistant director. Around 30 former and present students of Bangladesh Film Institute are also involved in the project.



A scene from the film.

MAGIC OF LINES

Group art exhibition at Gallery Cosmos-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Cosmos-2 in Mohakhali will organise a nine-day long drawing exhibition, titled "Magic of Lines". The exhibition opens tomorrow (November 16). The exhibition will showcase figure drawings by young artists, done at a workshop recently conducted by the artist Jamal Ahmed.

Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Dr. Urs Haren will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. The participating artists are Afroza Jamil Konka, Anukul Majumdar, Bipasha Hayat, Buddha De Mondal, Farook Hossain, Goutam Chowdhury, Jamil Akbar Shamim, Kamaluddin, Kanak Kumar Pathak, Mahbub Alam, Asif Kabir Chowdhury, Ruhul Karim Rumee, Sadia Sultana, Sohel Pranon and Sourav Chowdhury.

With the aim of encouraging these promising artists, the gallery has arranged the exhibition. The exhibition will also showcase Jamal Ahmed's drawings. About the exhibition and workshop, Enayetullah Khan, chief editor of United News Bangladesh (UNB) and CEO of Cosmos Group and Gallery Cosmos said, "Drawing is one of the key elements in art. It is the basic expression of the thoughts and visions of an artist. Jamal Ahmed excels in this genre of art. To showcase Ahmed's talents and to help promising artists get a proper grounding, the gallery arranged a three-day drawing workshop from October 15 to 17."

The subject of the workshop was "Life Drawing", based on observation of two models -- a male and a female. The drawings depict the human forms in their myriad shapes and capture the dynamic aspects of the subjects in a still posture. The exhibition will continue till November 24.

"1971" staged on Humayan Ahmed's birthday in Chittagong



SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Chittagong

As part of the birthday celebration of noted litterateur Humayan Ahmed, Anadikalpo, a theatre troupe in the port city, staged an adaptation of his novel "1971" at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium here on Tuesday evening.

The play, based on a true incident during the Liberation War, features a boy named Rafiq, who was not directly involved in the war but supported the freedom fighters. Rafiq feigned to be a collaborator with the Pakistani Army but in reality was thwarting all their actions against the freedom fighters.

He even torched some houses in his own village so that the villagers were compelled to flee, escaping the wrath of the Pakistani army. When the army found out his true intentions, he was shot dead.

In the play, the performers put in their best to portray the writer's remorse that even 41 years after independence the contributions of unsung heroes like Rafiq go unnoticed and unrecognised. The play has been directed by Masudur Rahaman. Saifullah Shakeel, Rahul Roy, Ali Reza, Sadia Ameen and Rafsan Galib played different roles.

The set was designed by Shajahan and lighting was done by the director himself.

Noted theatre personality Pradip Dewanjee, in his speech before the play, paid tributes to Humayan Ahmed and praised Anadikalpo for staging the play as a mark of respect to the playwright on his birthday. This was the second staging of Anadikalpo's 10th drama production which won great applause from a packed audience.

In the play, the performers put in their best to portray the writer's remorse that even 41 years after independence the contributions of unsung heroes go unnoticed.

Humayun Ahmed recalled in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shahitya-Shangskritik Kendra, a cultural organisation based at Pabna Edward College, observed the 64th birth anniversary of noted writer Humayun Ahmed on Tuesday.

A discussion and cultural programme was held at the Pabna Edward college premises marking the occasion. Vice Principal of the college Professor Md. Bazlur Rahman inaugurated the daylong programme on campus in the morning.

A discussion was held on the occasion focusing on the life and works of the noted author. Md. Amzad Hossain, president of Shahitya Shangskritik Kendra chaired the discussion while teachers of the college Ashraf Ali, Md. Kamruzzaman and Md. Roknuzzaman spoke on the occasion.

Humayun Ahmed portrayed the general tenor of social life through his literature. Most of his books are satirical, based on social injustice and inequities. It imparts some valuable lessons, the speakers said. Among the students Toza Fahmida Chandini, Hassan Mahamud, Jewel Rana, Tonushri Das, Dishari Sultana, Mizanur Rahman, Shiblu Hossain performed at the programme.

Traditional Dipali observed

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Members of the Hindu community of Barisal observed Maha Shamsan Dipali on Monday night at Maha Shamsanghat and Dipabali Utsab at their homes.

Narayan Chandra Dey Naru, secretary Barisal Maha Shamsan Raksha Committee, said that the religious festival dates back over 160 years and has been observed

with rituals at Barisal Maha Shamsan since 1850 on the night before Kali Puja.

Several thousand people from different parts of the country attend the festival every year. Several colourful balloons

(Fanush), were released in the sky on the night of Diwali. Stalls of sweetsmeats and traditional toys were arranged in a fair at the area. Homes were lit up at night.

Seventh anniversary of Bonhishikha Two-day programme at Central Public Library

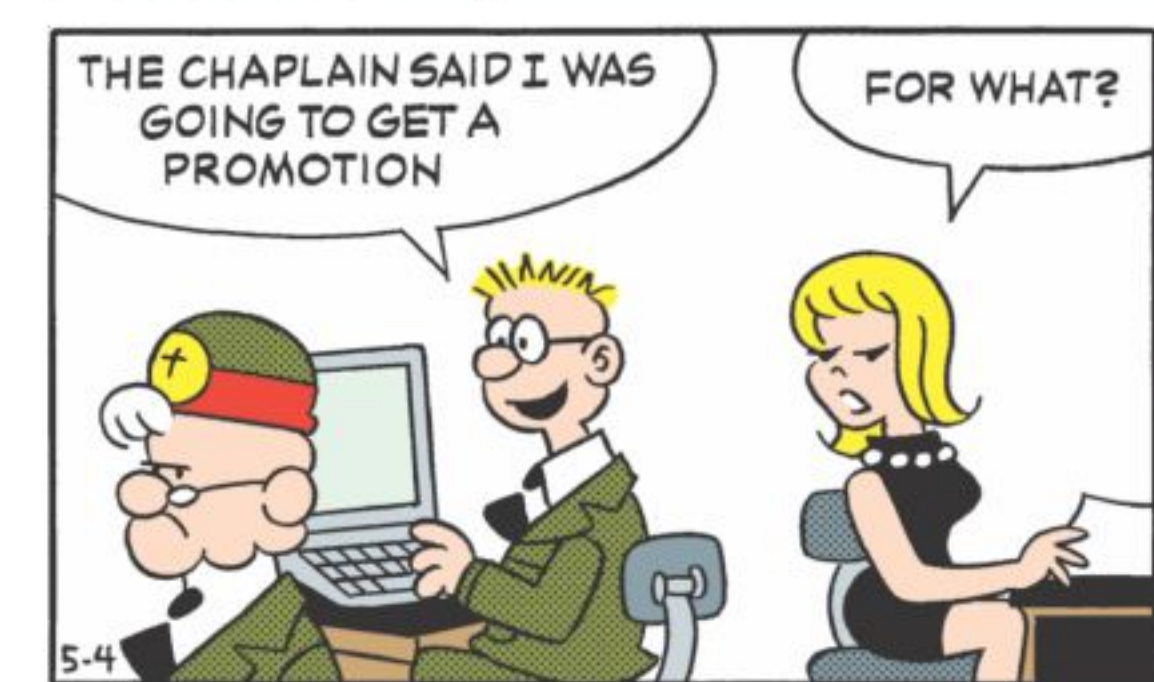
A CORRESPONDENT

Marking seventh anniversary of cultural organisation 'Bonhishikha', a two daylong cultural programme will kick off tomorrow (November 16) at Shaikat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh in the capital.

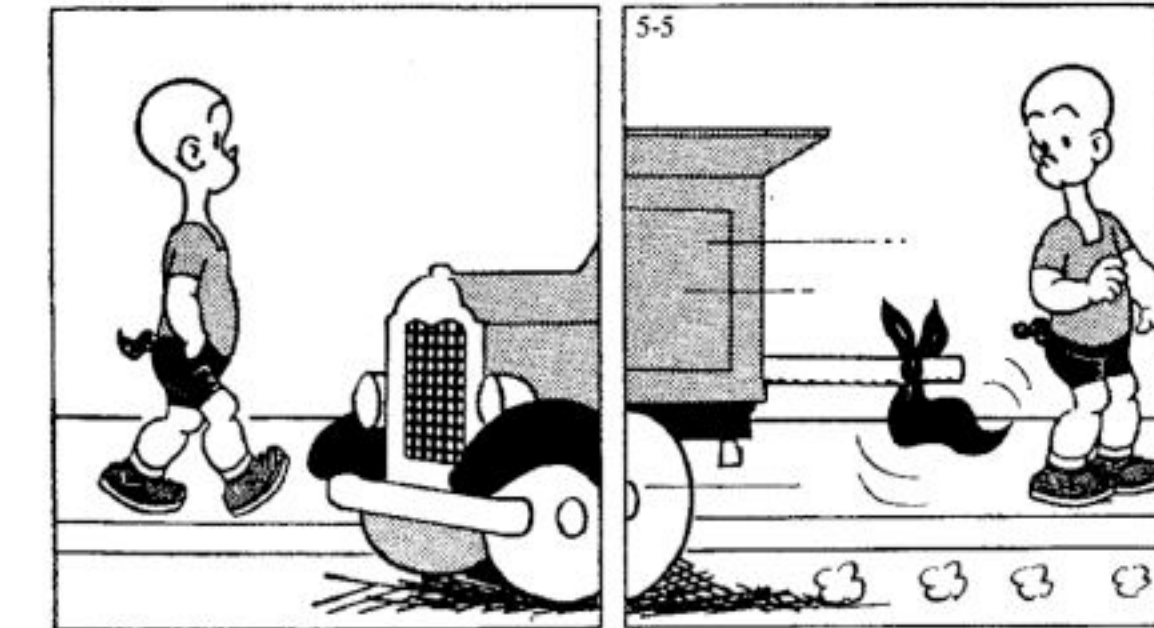
Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will inaugurate the programme as chief guest. Cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP; general secretary of 'Samalay', Sanu Banerjee; and managing director of Trust Bank. Shah Alam Sarwar, will grace the occasion as the special guests.

General secretary of 'Bonhishikha' Rupu Khan will deliver welcome address at the event. President of 'Bonhishikha' Golam Kuddus will preside over the inaugural programme. A cultural programme will follow. Noted Indian film artistes -- Sabitri Chattopadhyay and Haradhan Bandopadhyay -- will participate in the cultural programme. The inaugural day's event will aim to represent the cultural milieu of both Bangladesh and India. Noted Bangladeshi artistes will take part in a cultural event on the second day (November 17) of the programme.

Beetle Baily



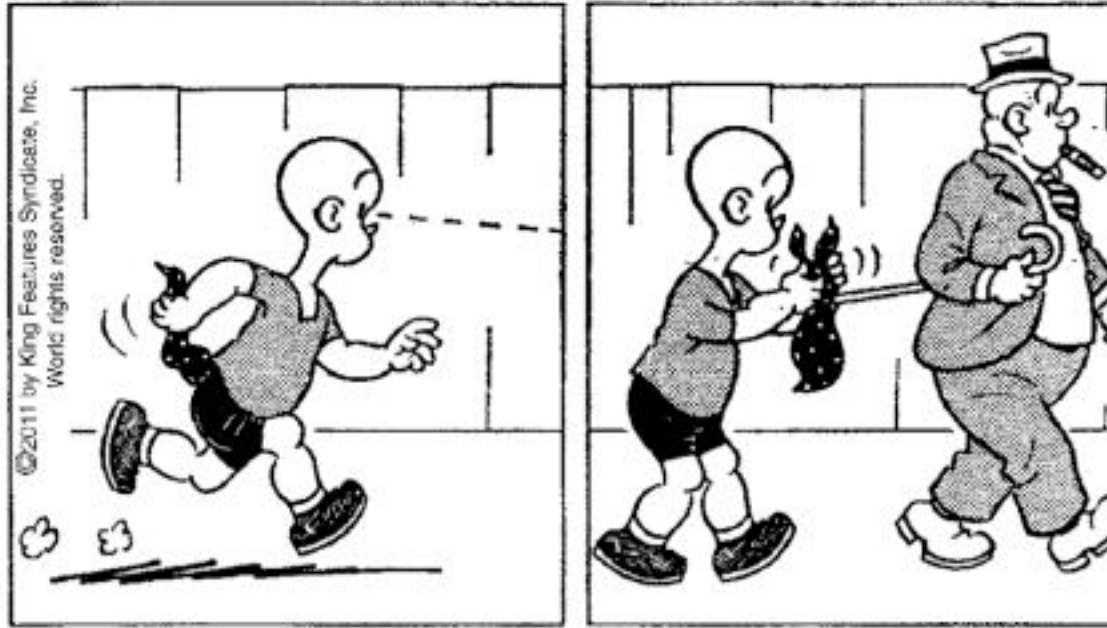
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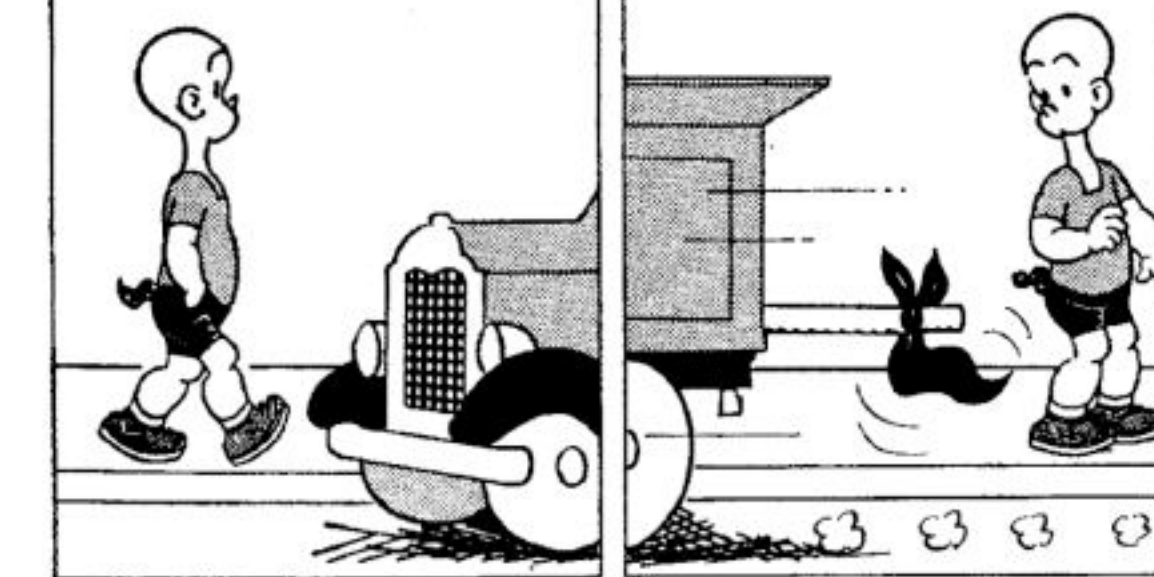
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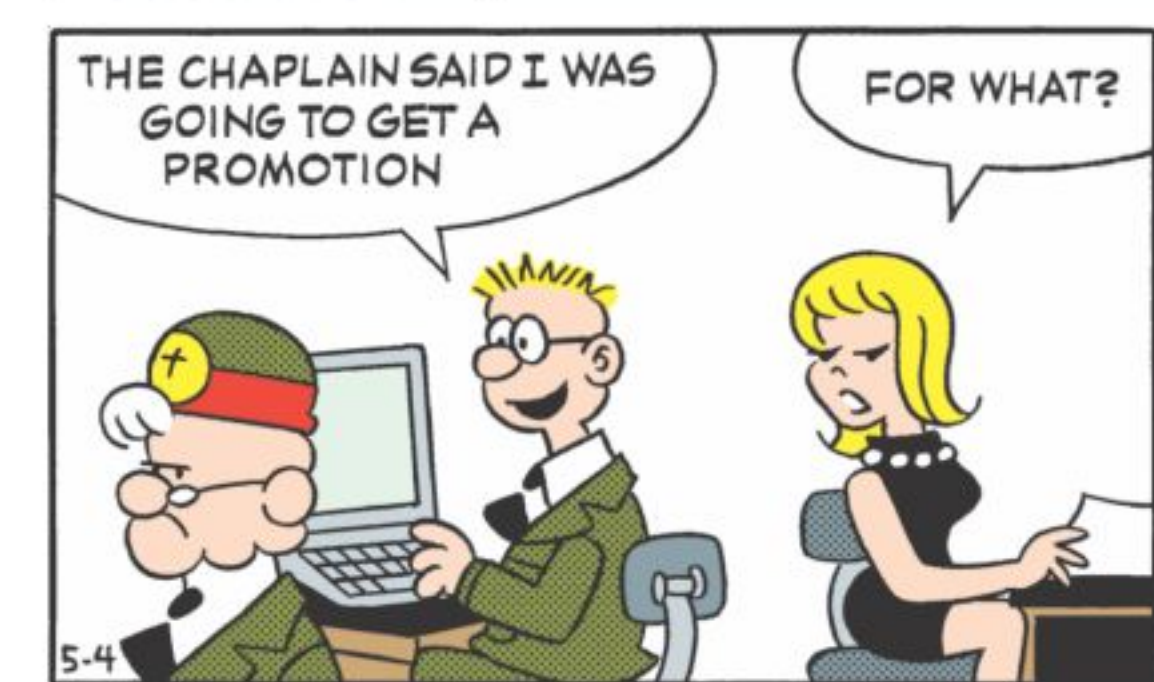
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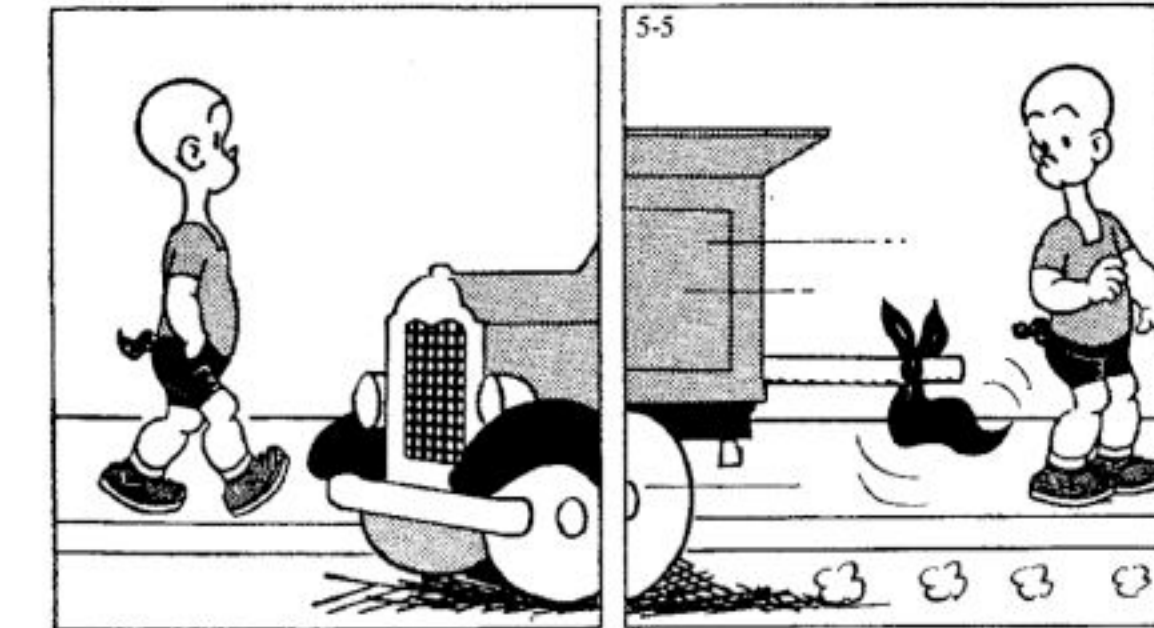
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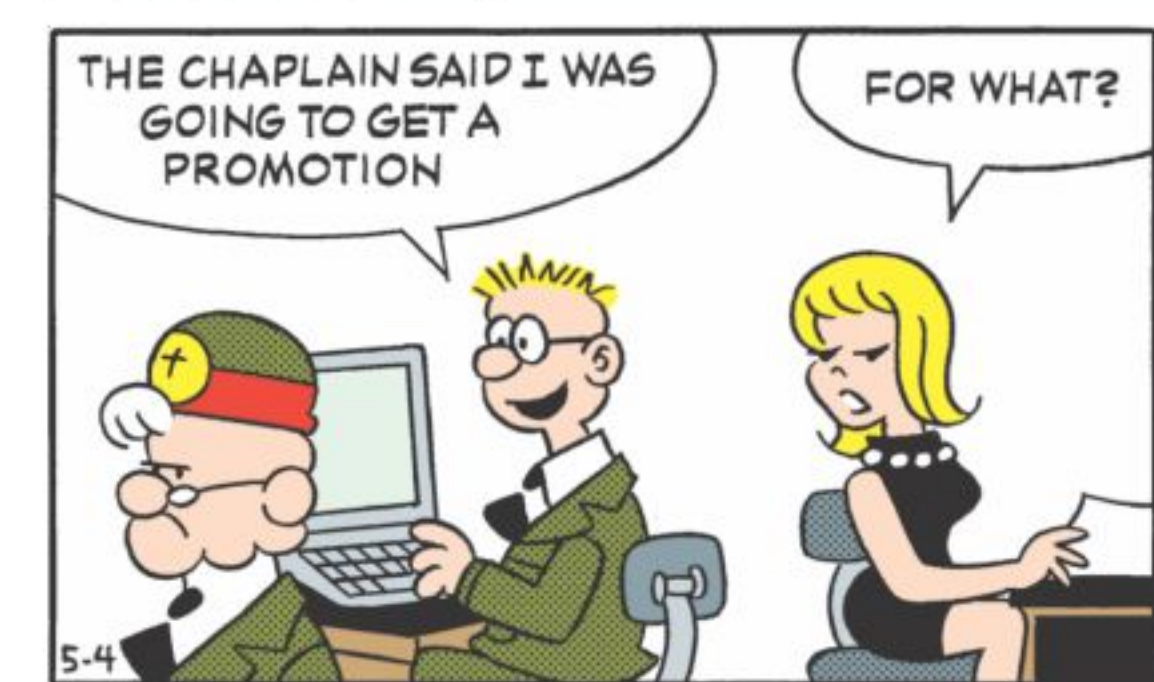
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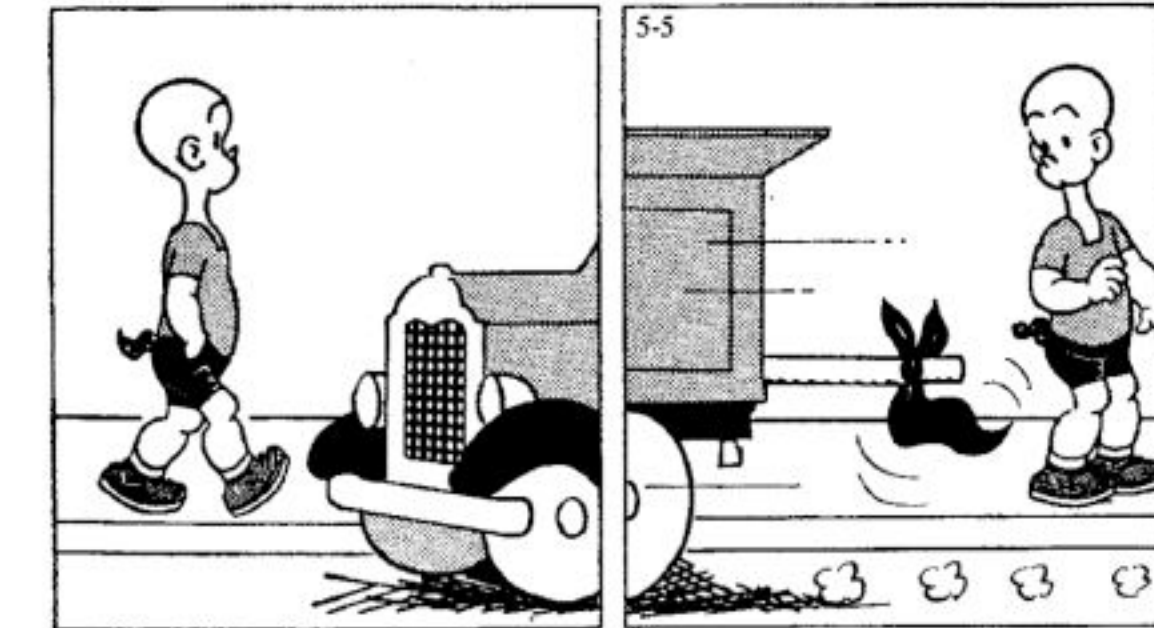
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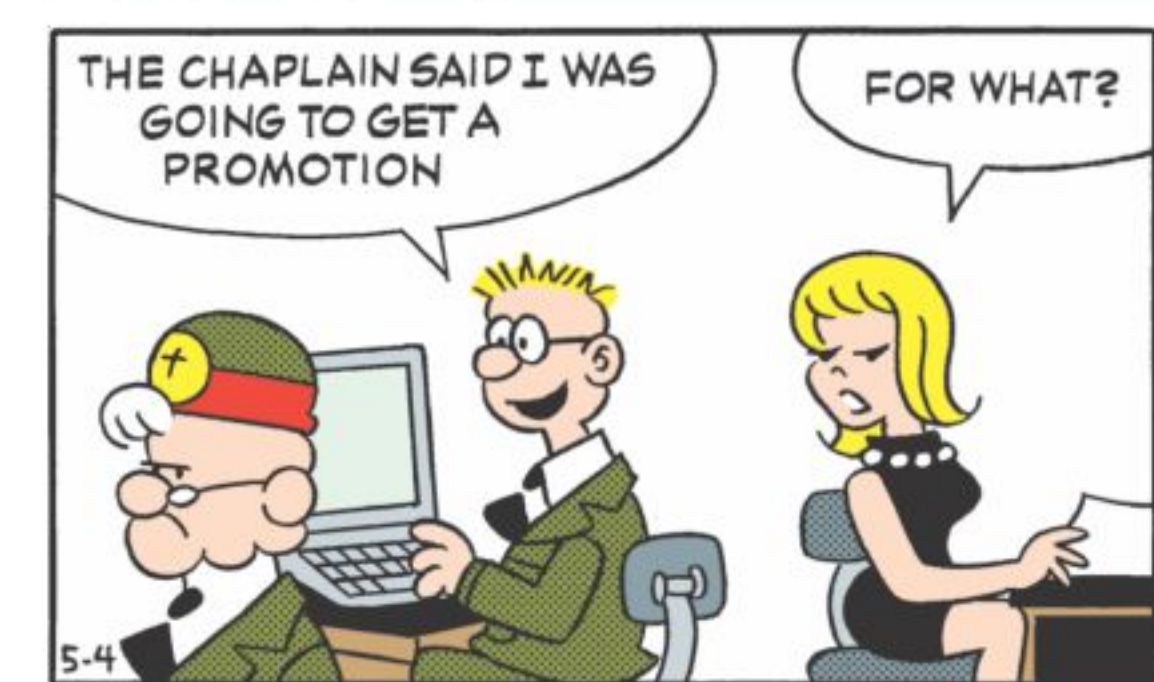
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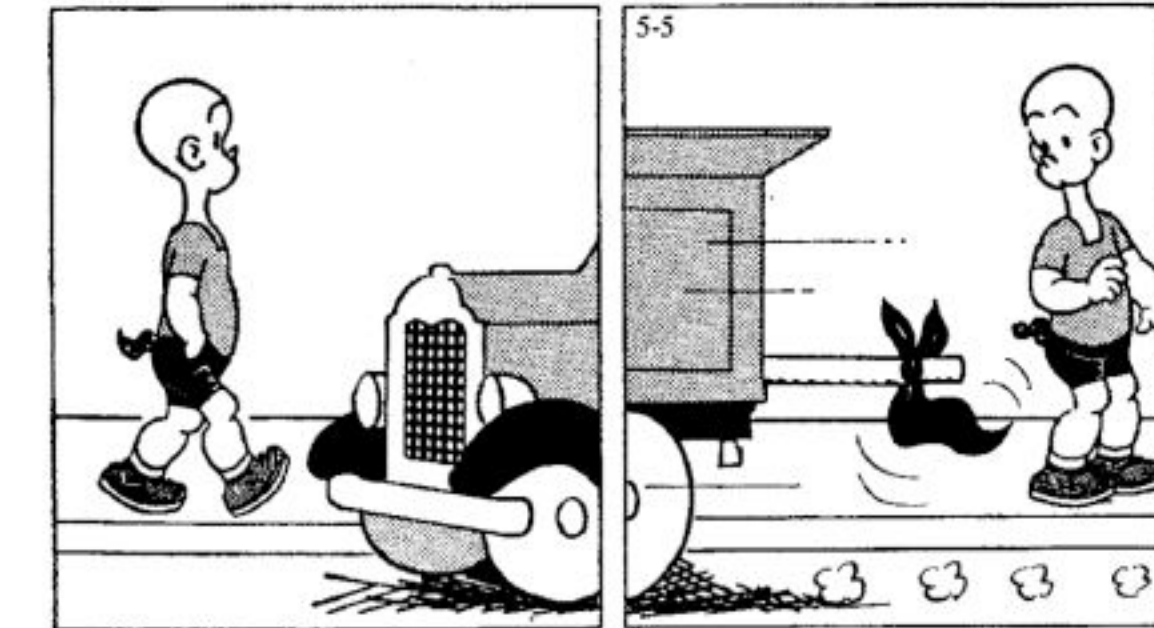
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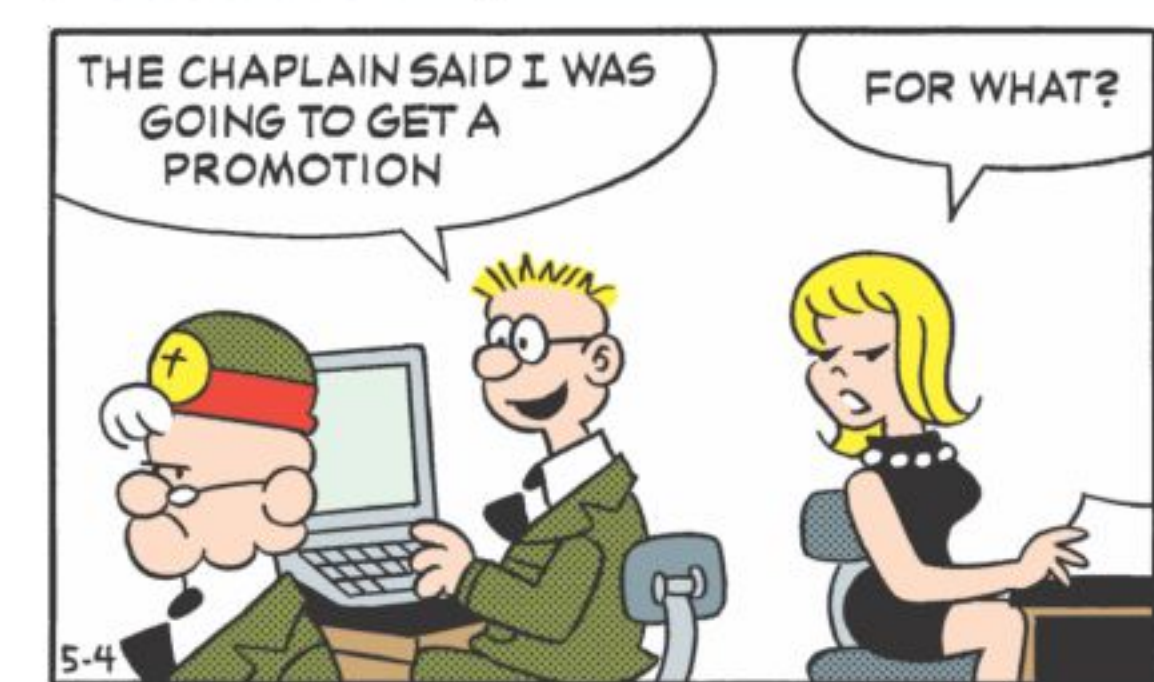
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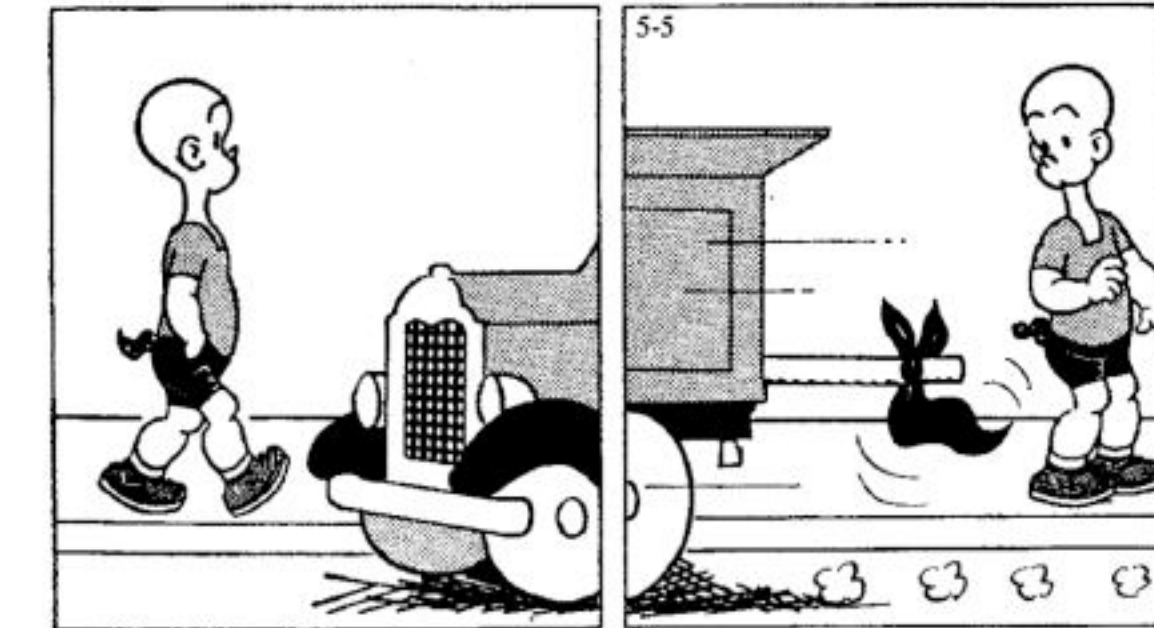
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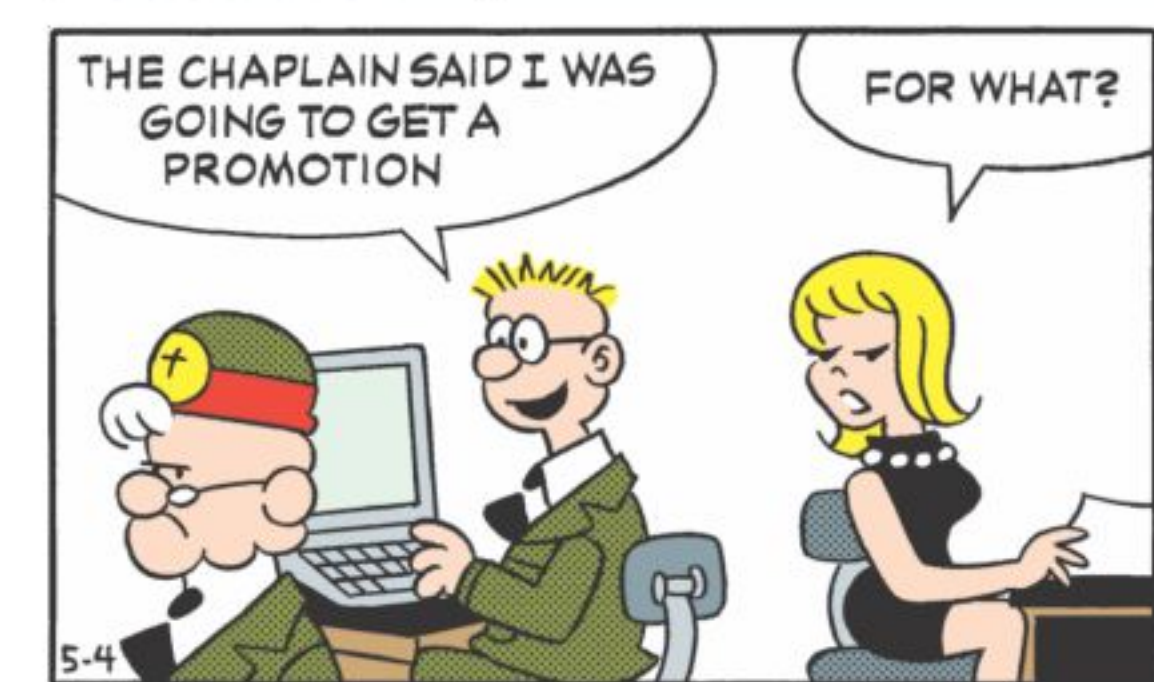
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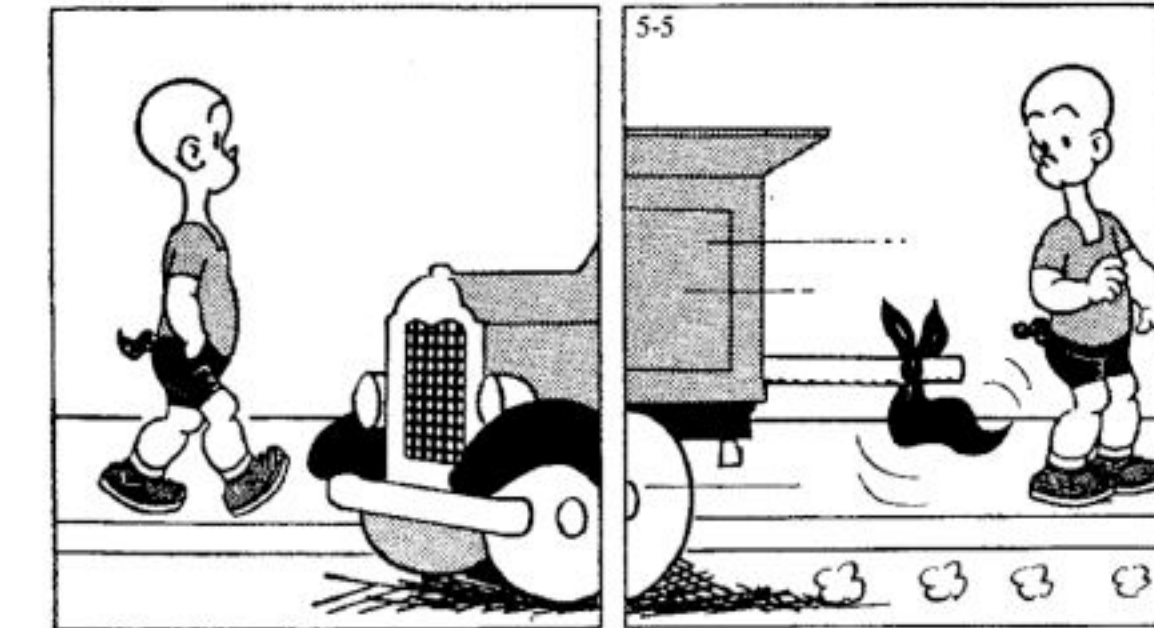
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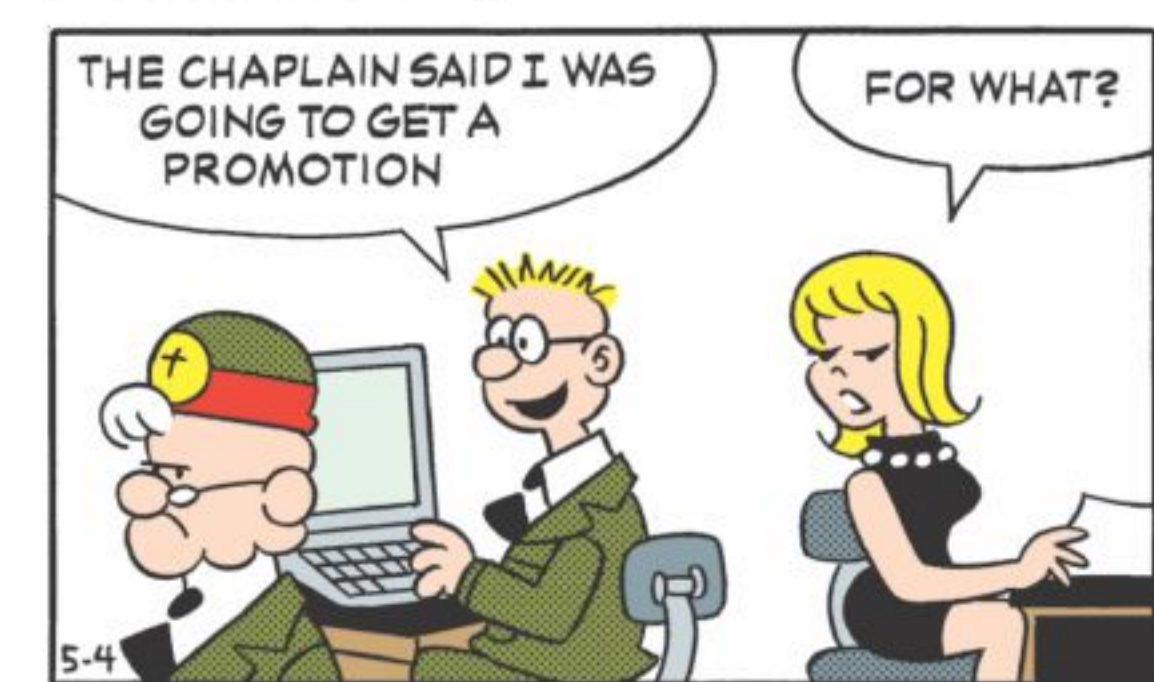
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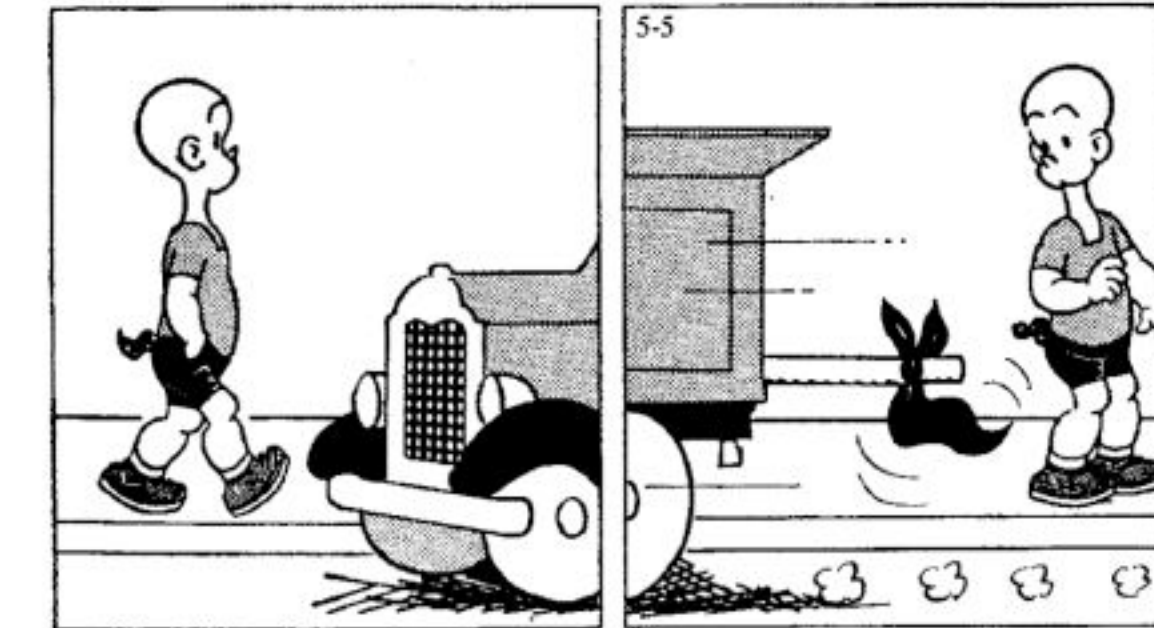
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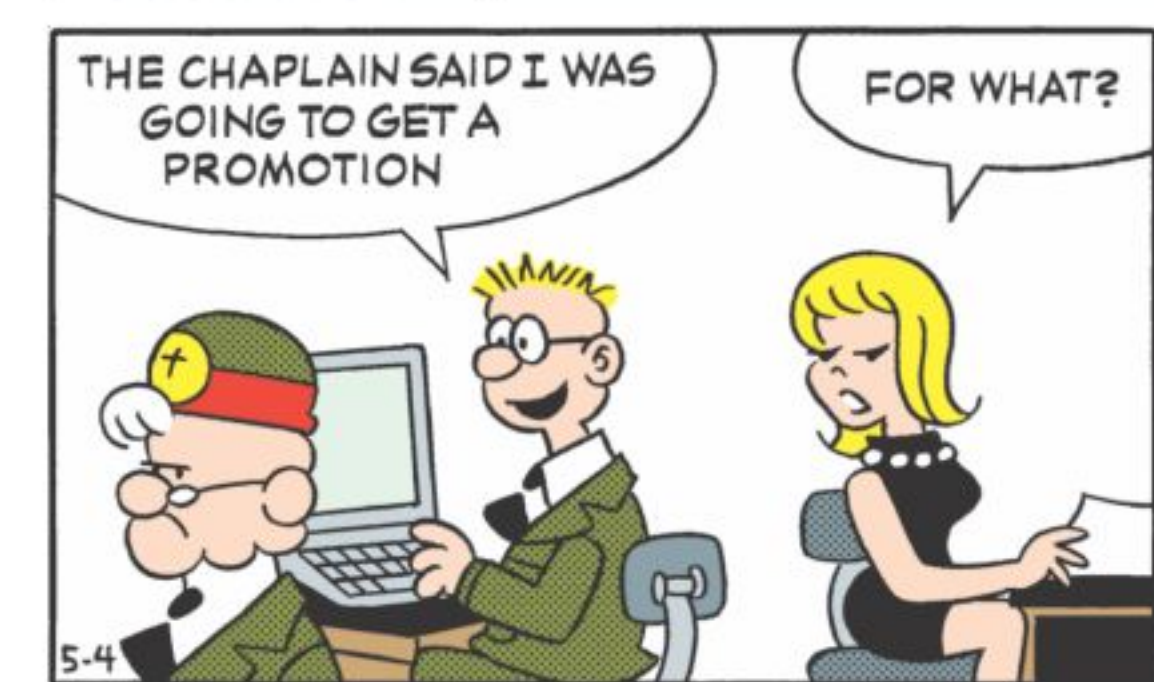
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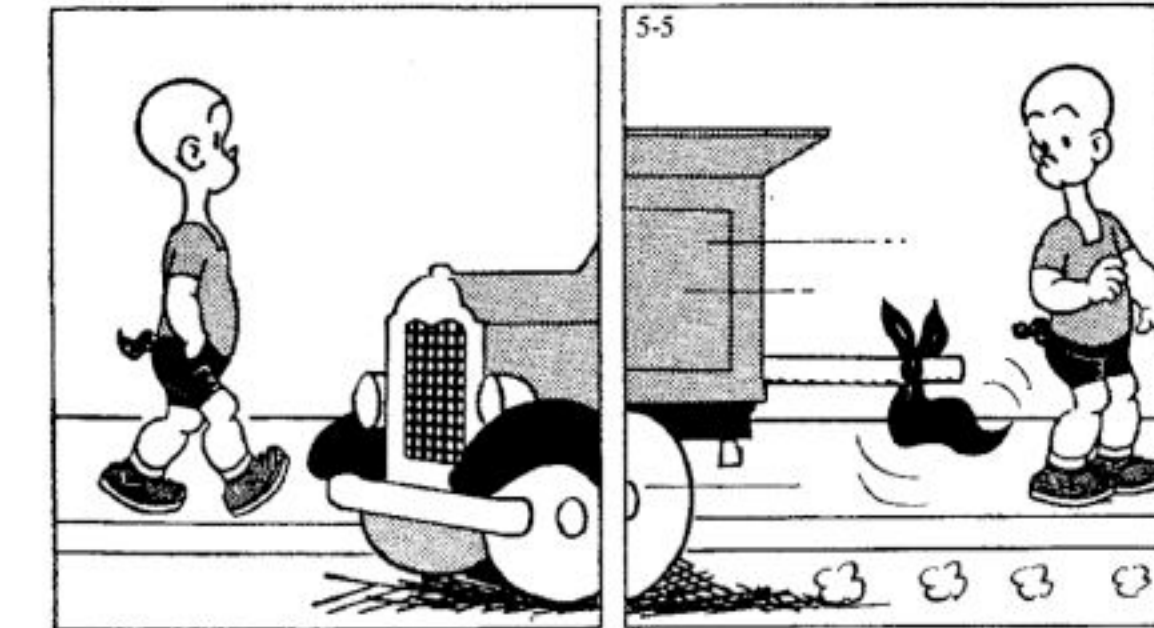
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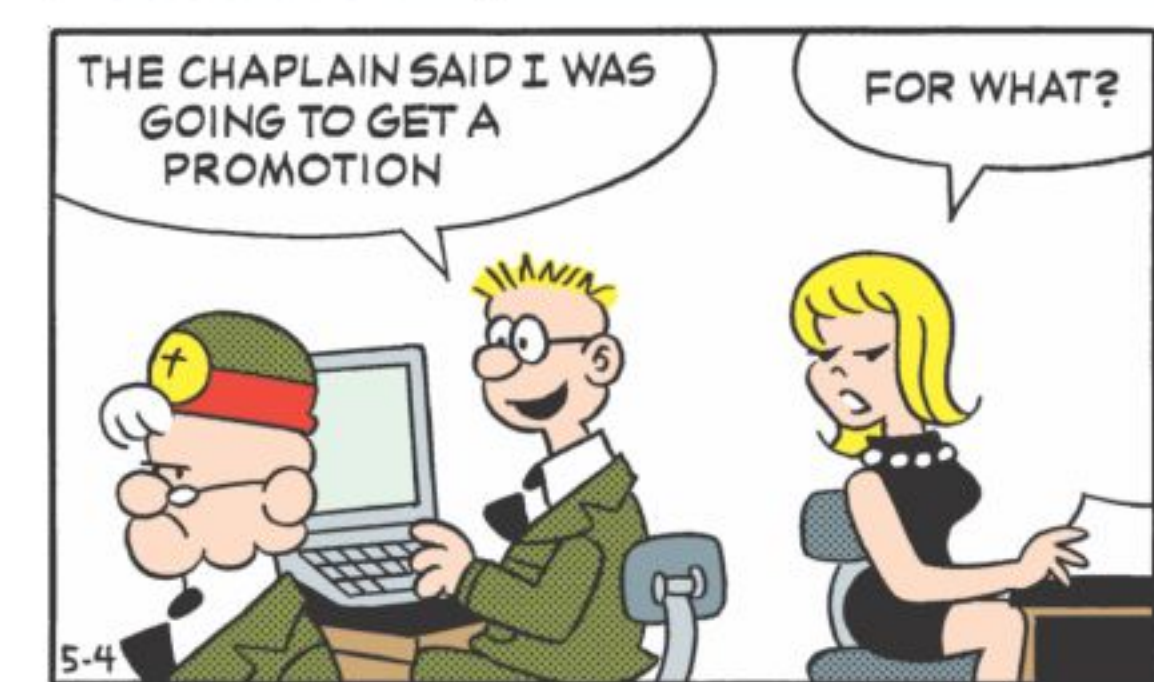
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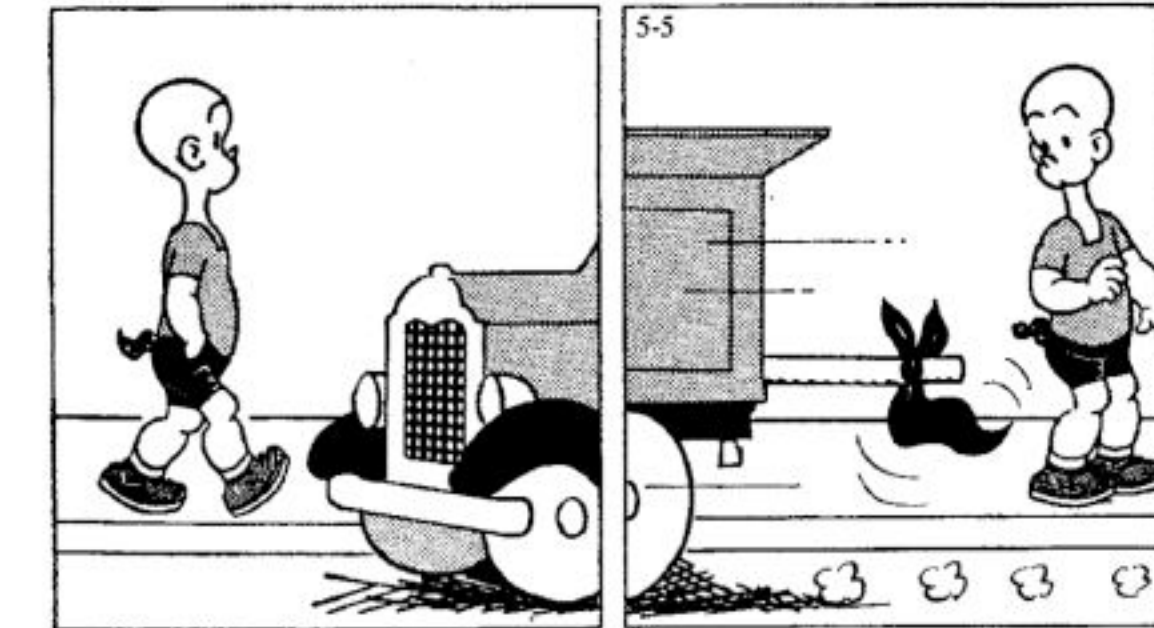
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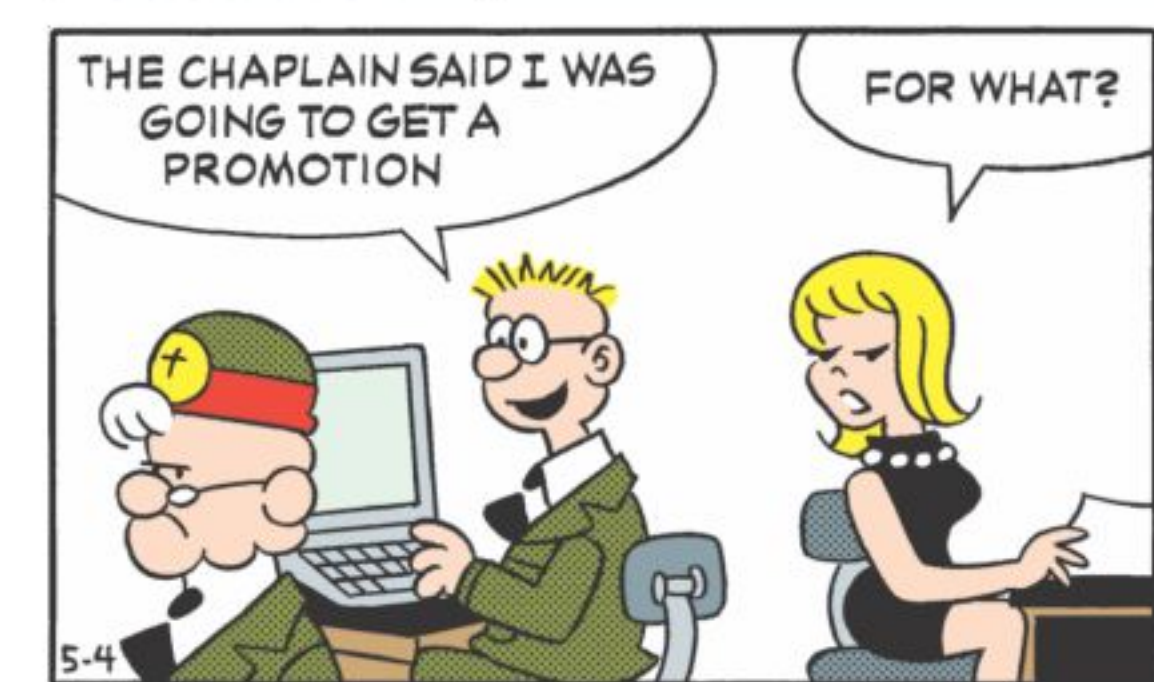
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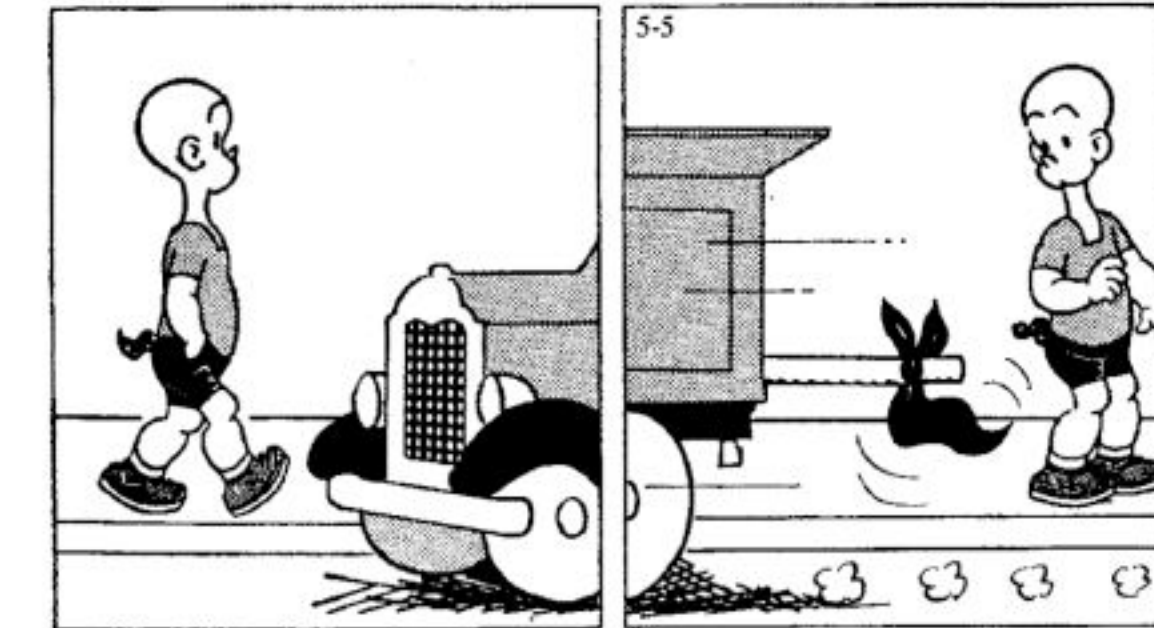
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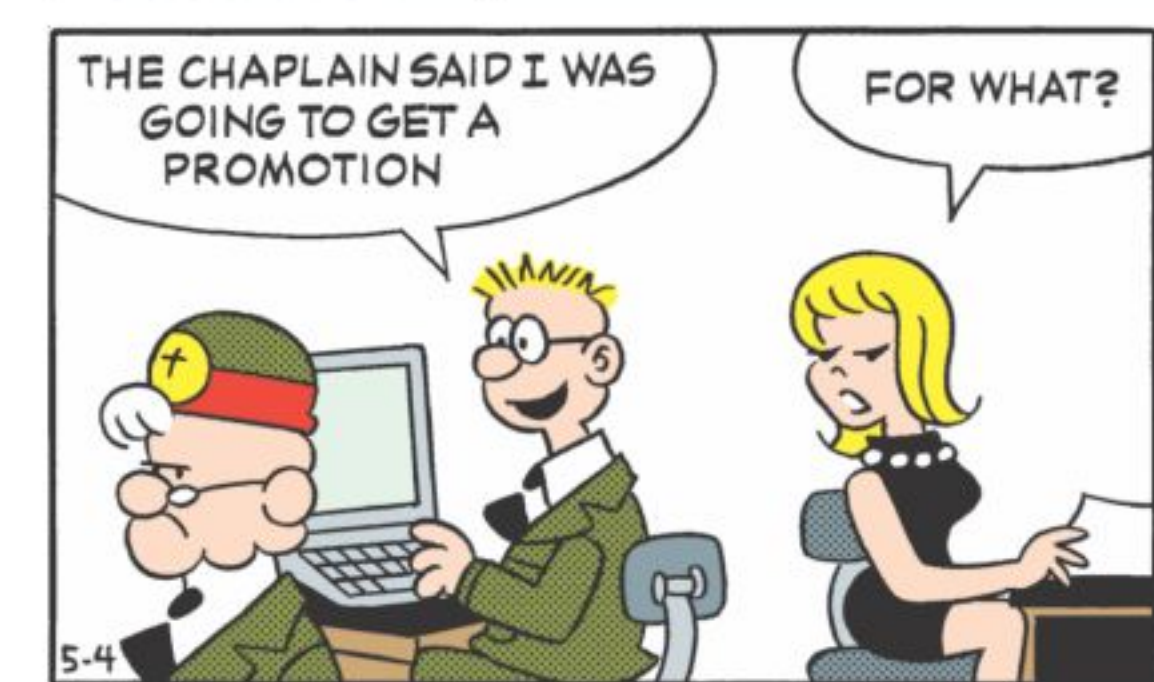
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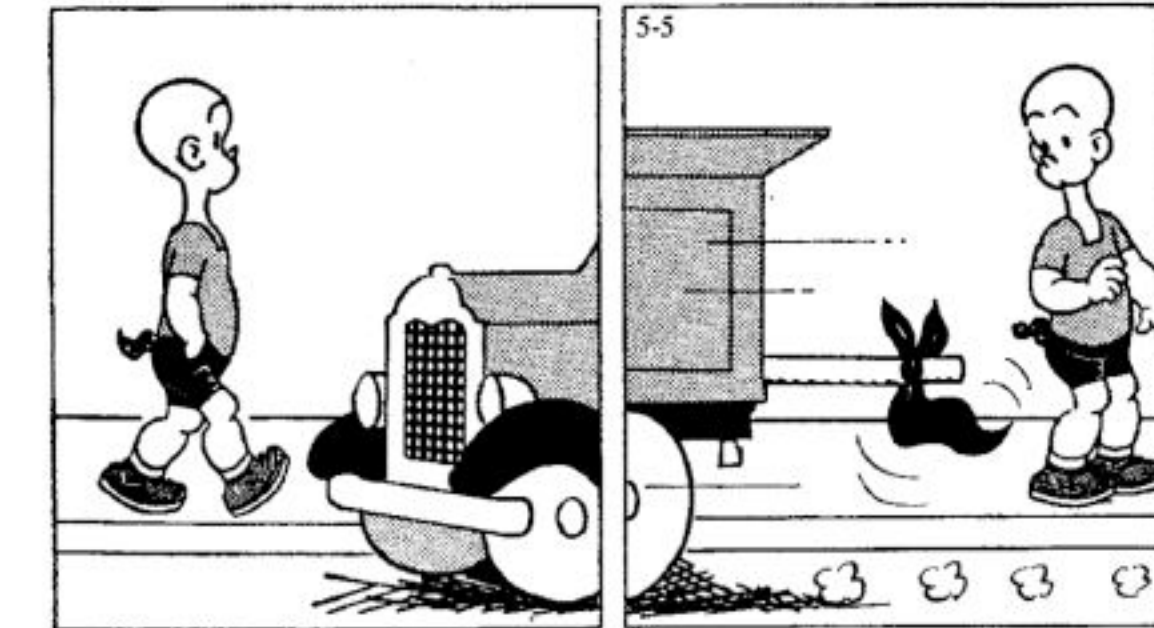
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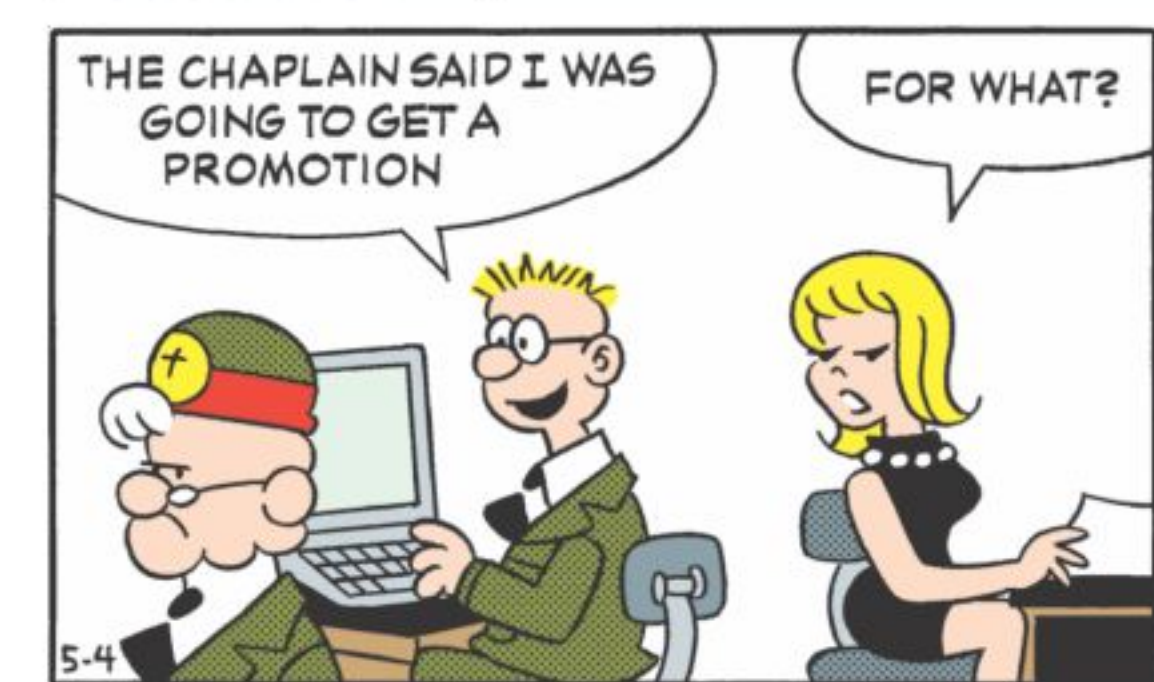
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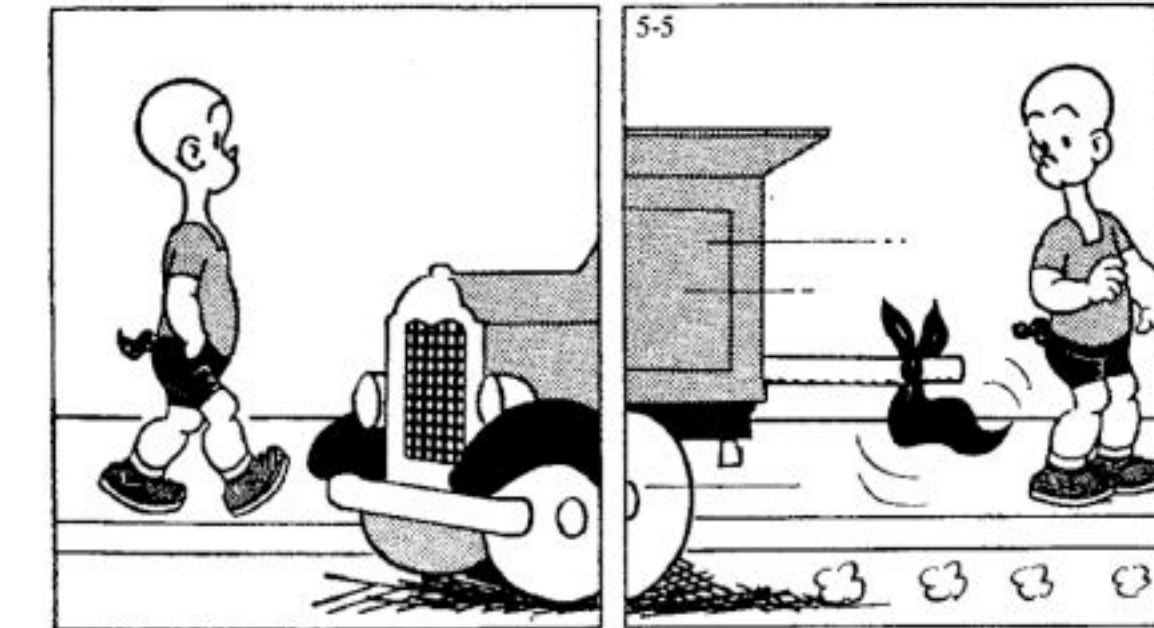
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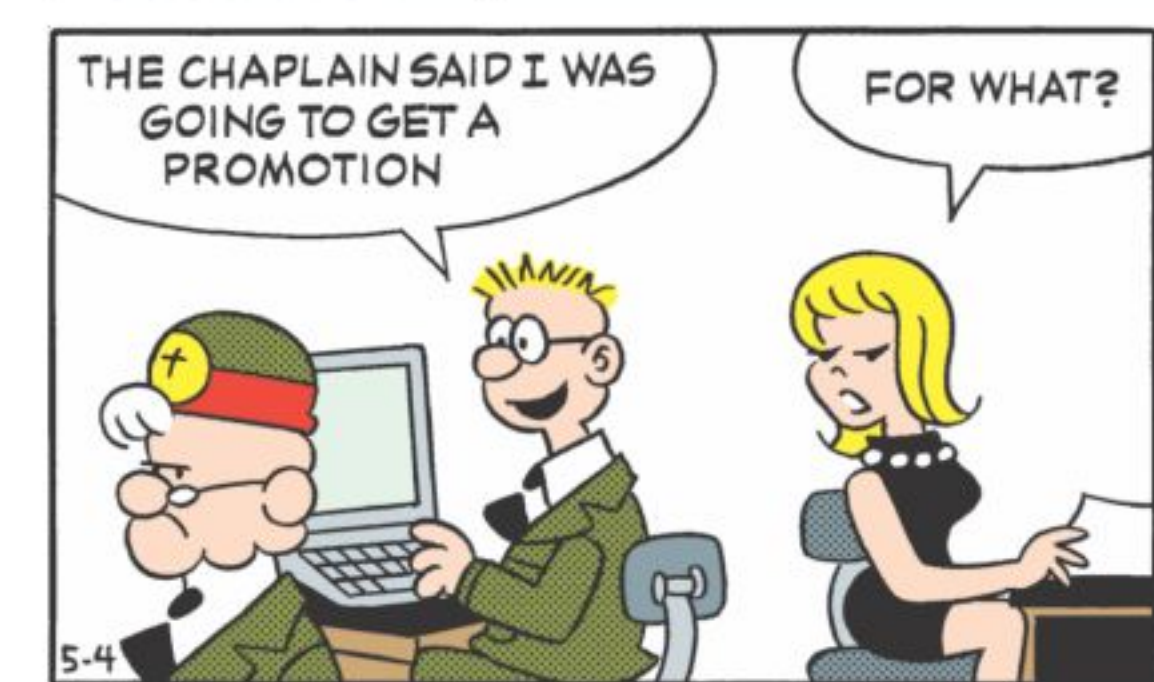
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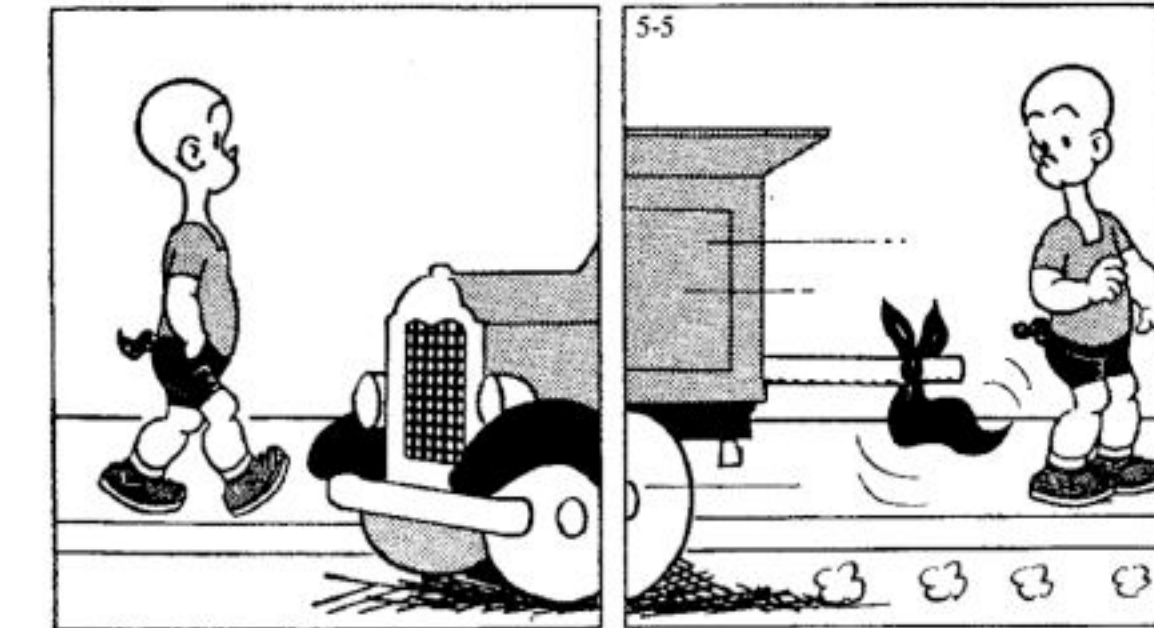
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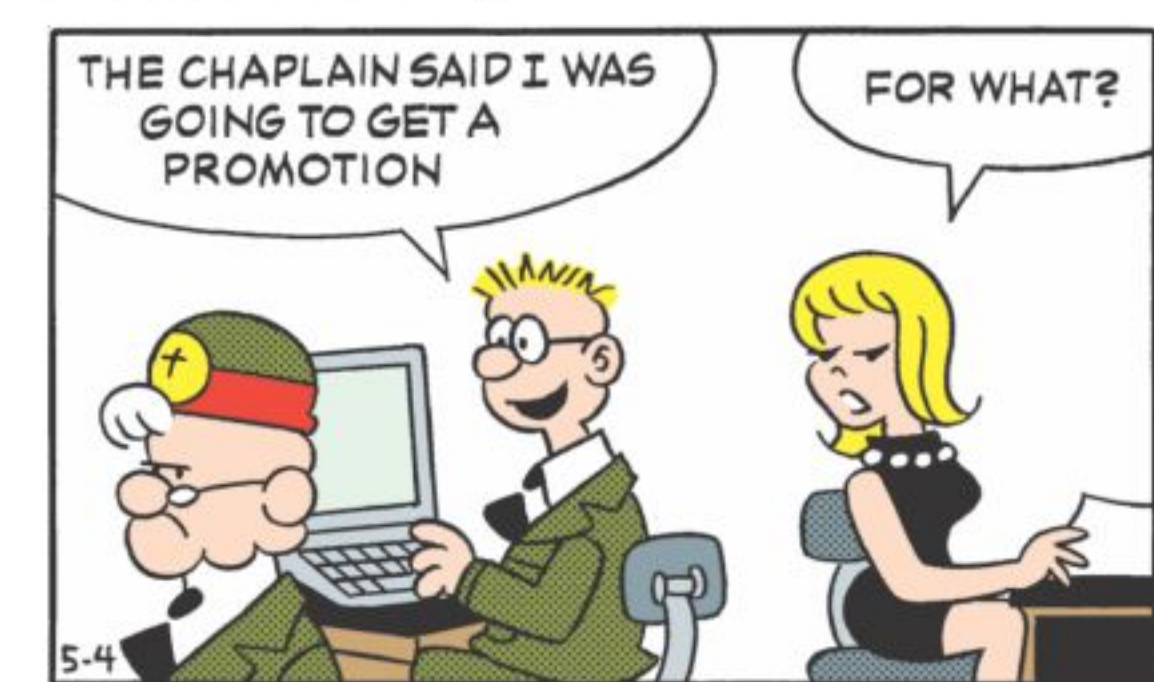
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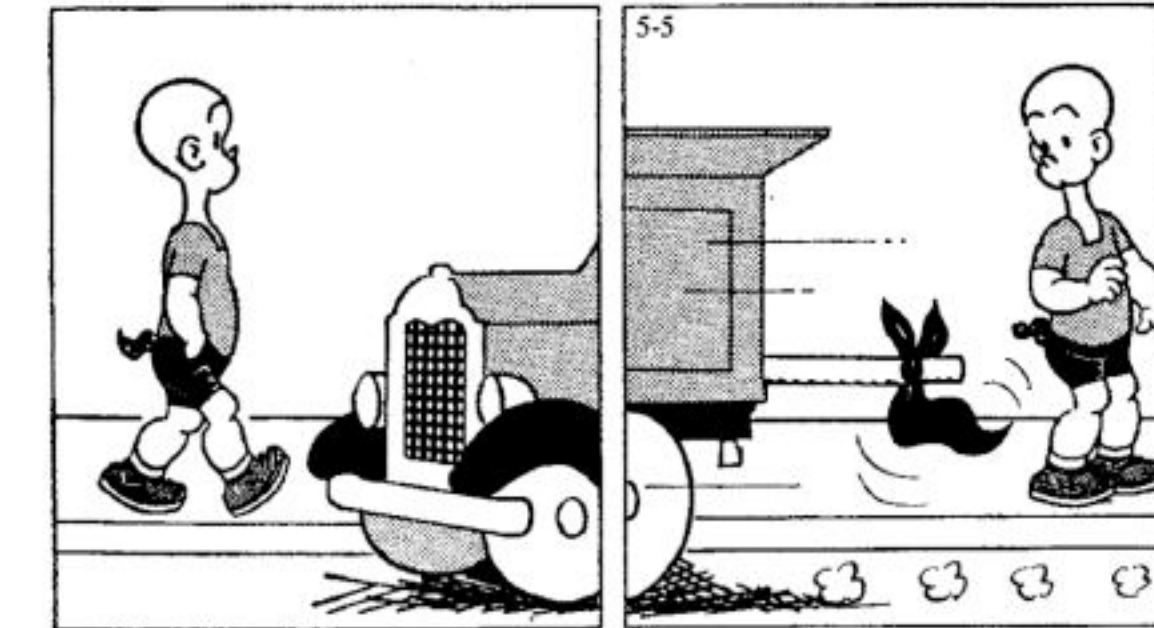
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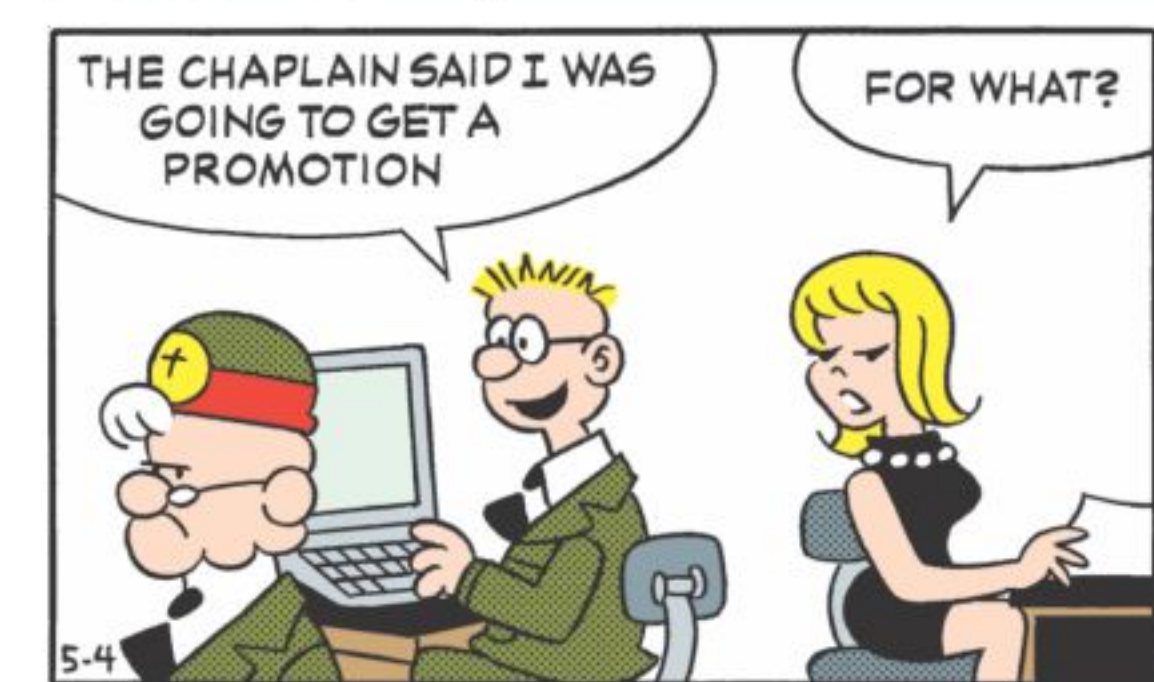
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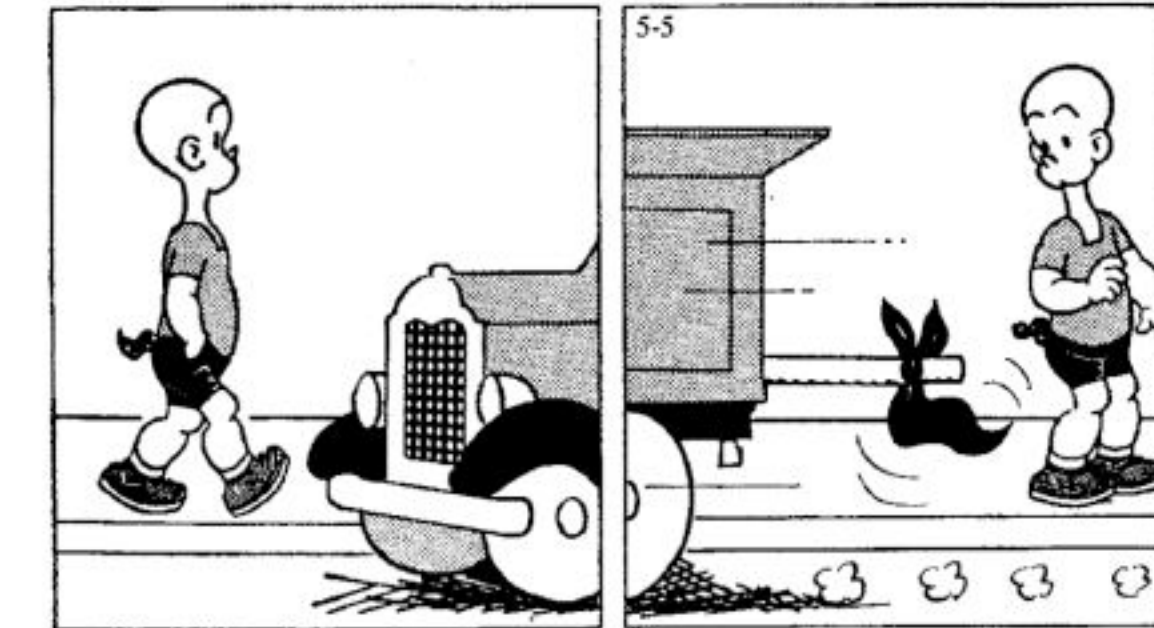
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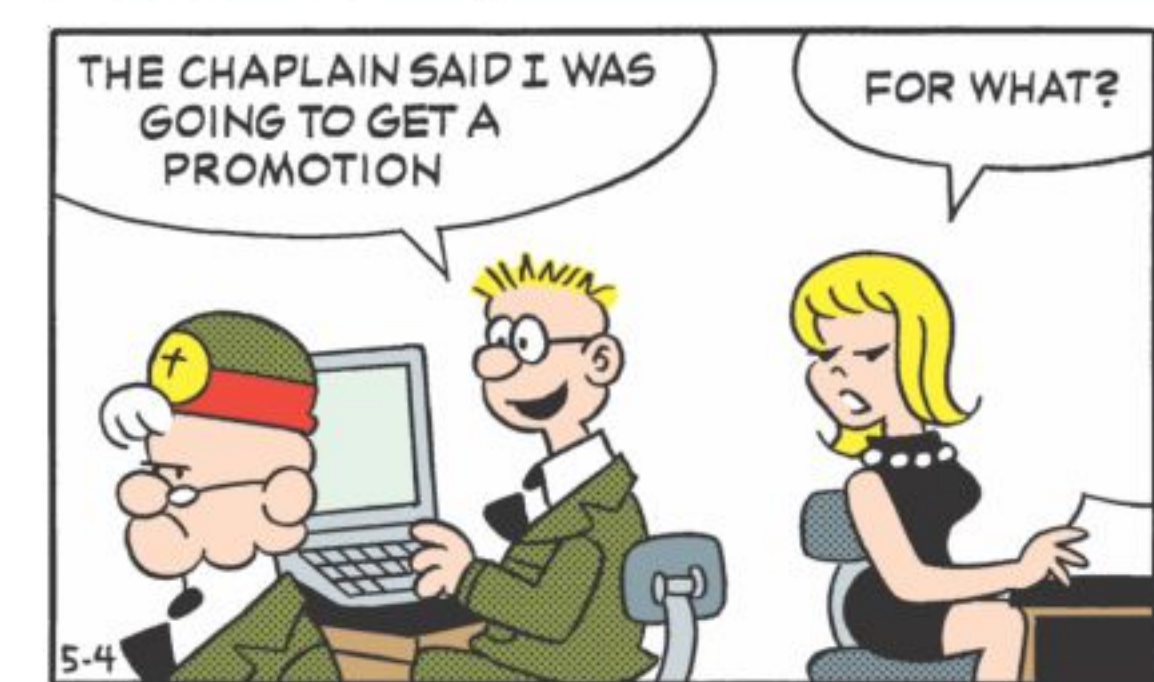
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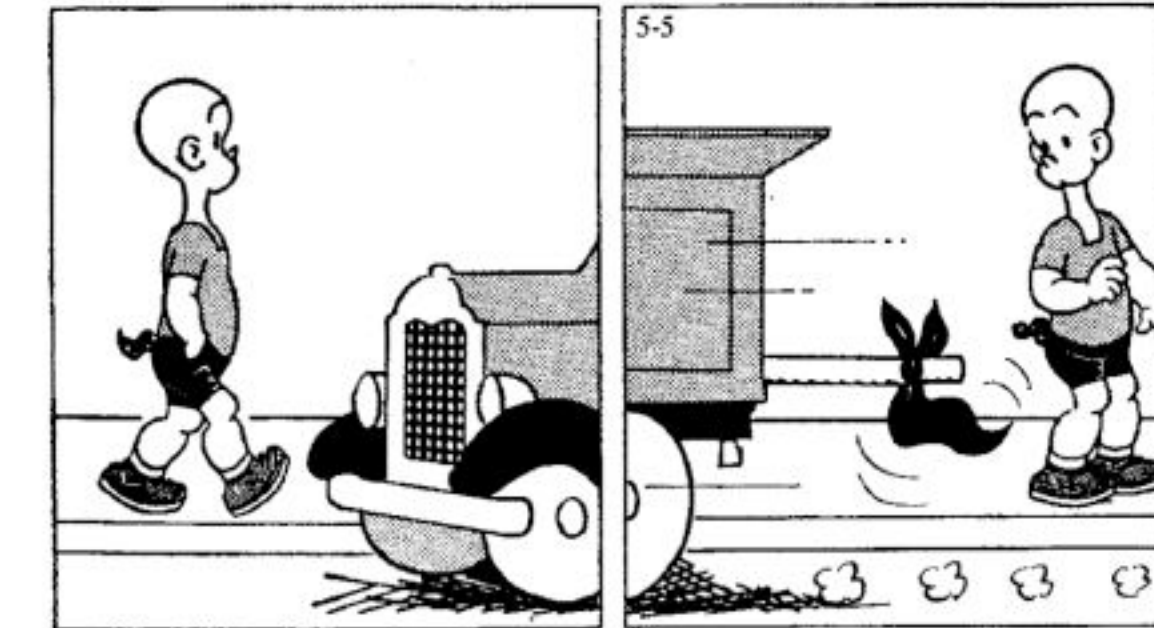
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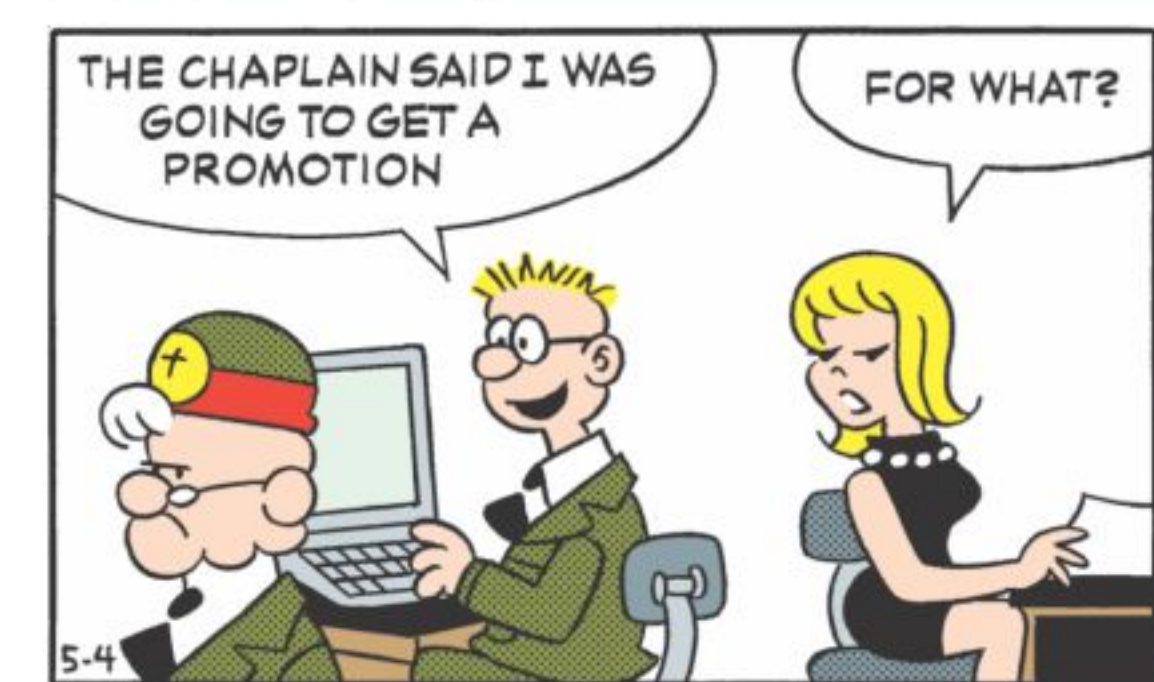
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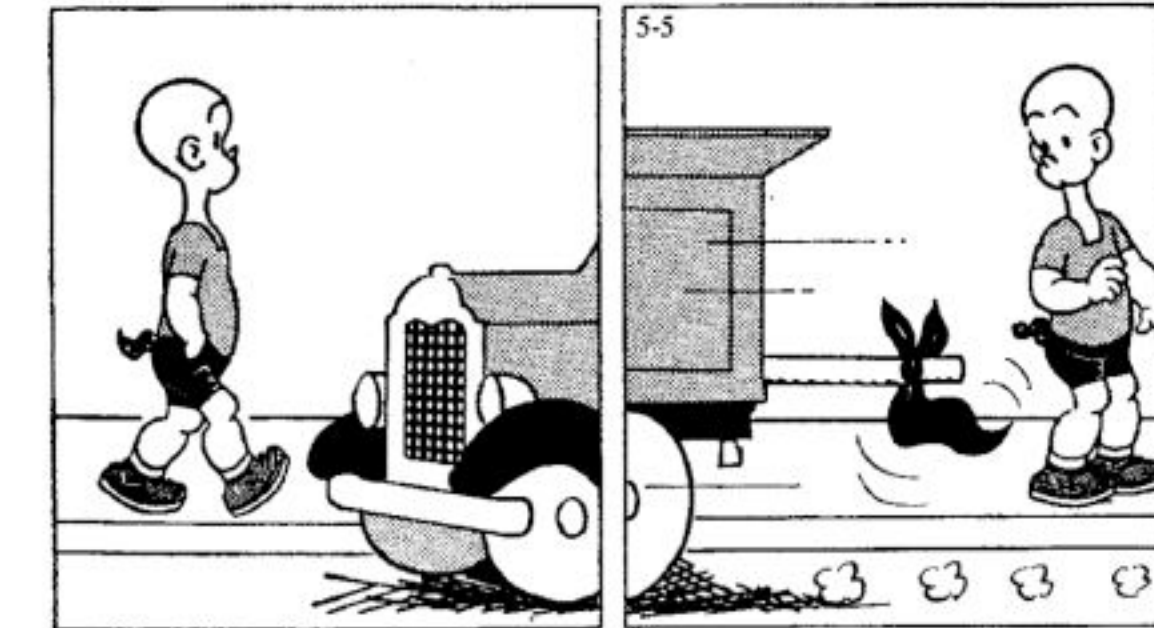
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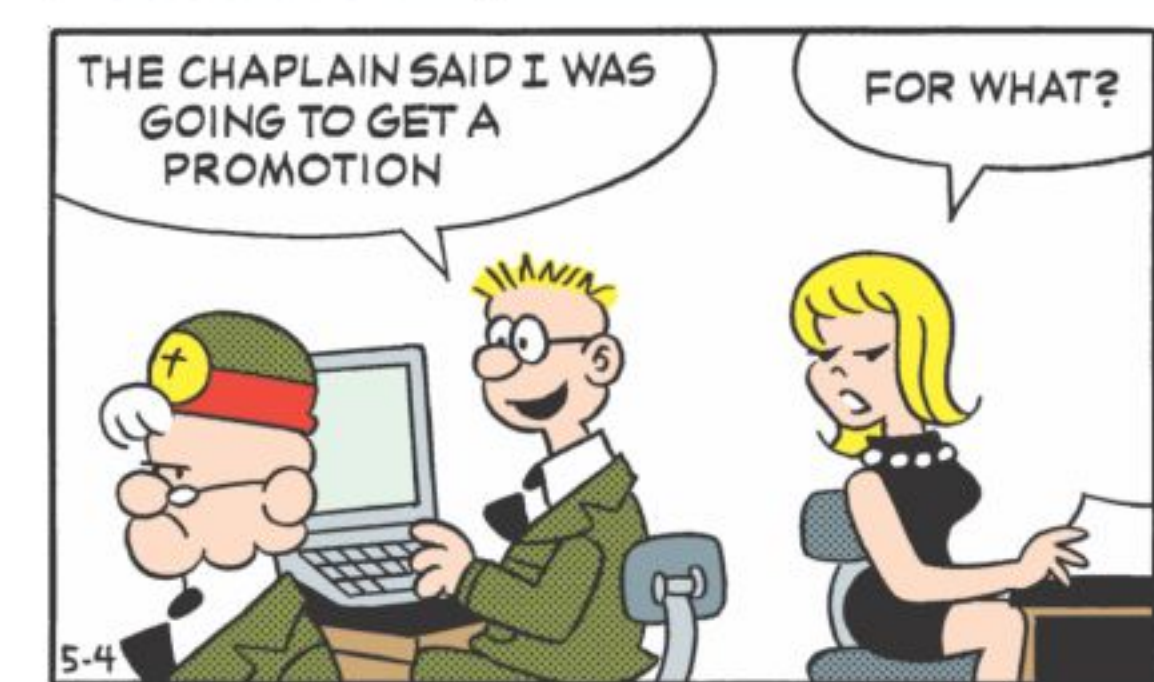
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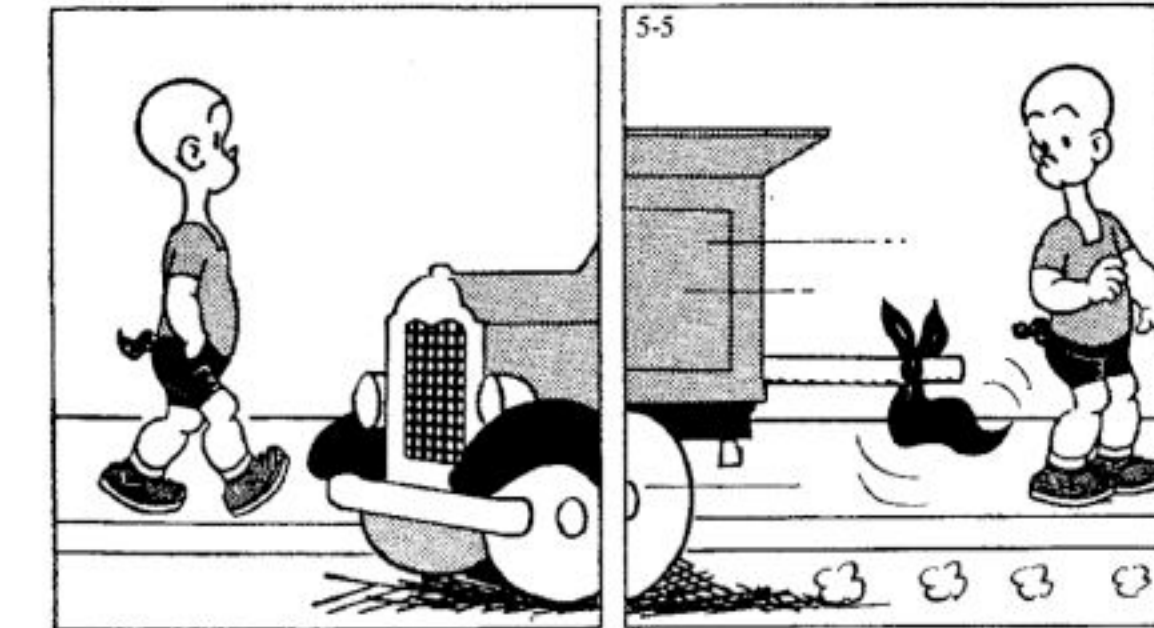
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