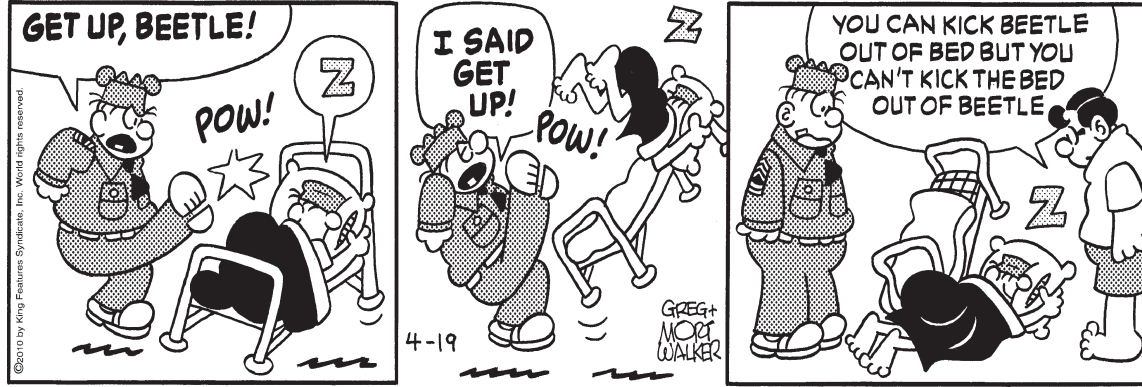


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



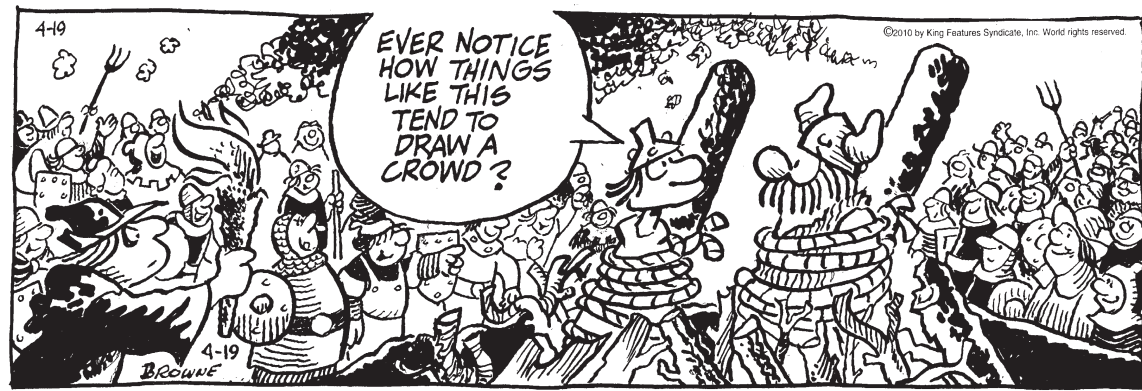
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



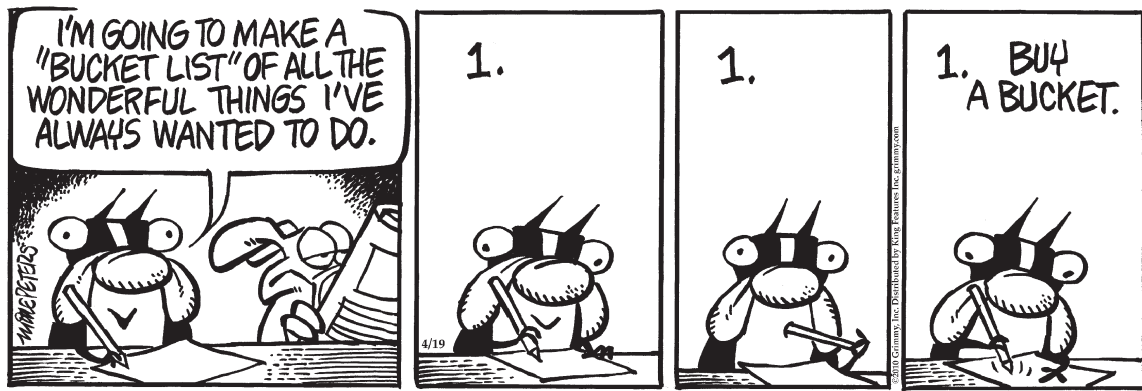
**Blondie** • Chic Young



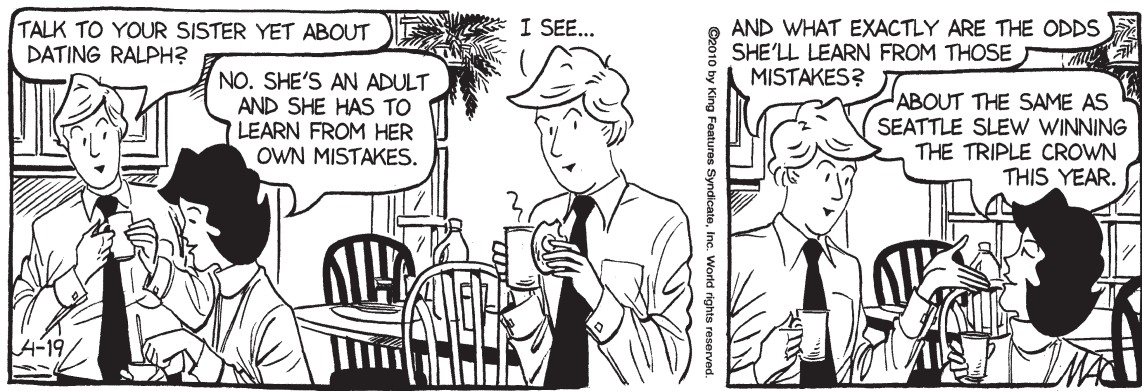
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



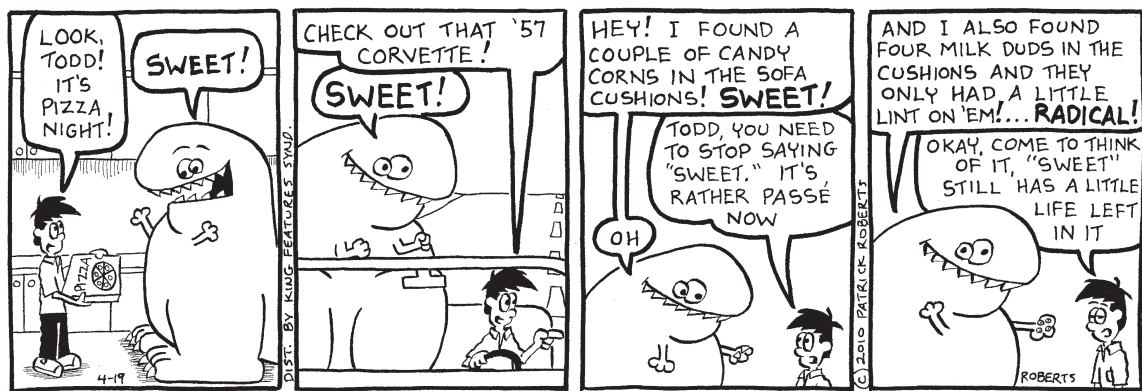
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



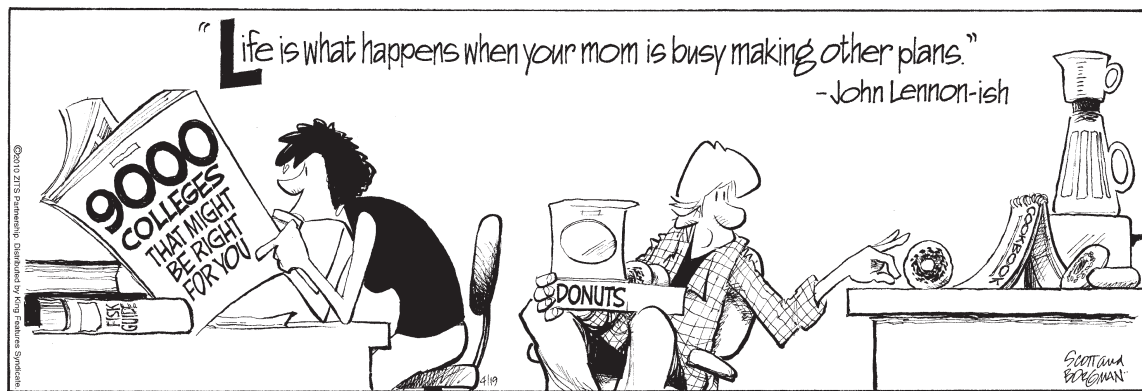
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Divorce effects may be delayed**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My wife and I got divorced about a year ago. It was amicable and easy a process as possible for this sort of thing, and I didn't think it would really affect our three kids much, especially since they're high-school age and older. But my youngest son has been having trouble, and the only thing I can pinpoint is the divorce. Is it possible he's been upset for a year, and I only now am figuring it out? And is there anything I can do at this point to help? - O.H.

**Dear O.H.:** In any divorce, no matter how civil, family dynamics can get mixed up, and this can take a toll on children that we don't necessarily think about. Even when a separation goes well, you can't underestimate your son's sense of loss. Civility certainly limits the damage, and your kids have a better chance of adjusting to this change since you parted on good terms. However, this is still a huge change, and it will have an inevitable impact. This type of loss can cause a child to lose his sense of security at home, and when home is no longer a safe place, that can cause problems in the long term. Your son may have been holding back his feelings for fear of causing problems, and they're now bubbling to the surface.

Being open and allowing your son to express his feelings freely to you can help him get through his adjustment. If he doesn't feel comfortable talking to you about it, that's OK. You can suggest he talk to a guidance counselor at his school, or another trusted adult, and work out his feelings about the divorce and the changes to his family.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** There's been a lot of talk in my "new moms" group about using educational DVDs to teach infants how to talk and even read at an earlier age. Everyone seems to think learning to talk and read as easily as possible will make kids smarter and more successful. I'm skeptical of the value of these DVDs. Is there really any benefit for my baby if she learns new vocabulary words earlier? - B.T.

**Dear B.T.:** You are completely right to be skeptical about the value of educational DVDs designed to encourage language development in toddlers. A study recently published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* presents the most definitive evidence to date that they don't actually do what they claim to do. Several other studies concur, and even suggest that infants who spent a lot of time watching educational DVDs learned fewer words and scored lower on cognitive tests by the time they started preschool than children who didn't watch them.

While we're not sure exactly why these don't work, there are a few potential explanations. It is possible these videos overstimulate infants' brains, and don't allow them to learn in an interactive, repetitive and reinforcing way. However, the effect could be larger than that. Spending time watching a video takes away from time with a parent, engaging and communicating with a live person. Social interaction is critical to children, and is especially important for learning language under the age of 2. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended for several years that kids under 2 not watch any videos or television - there is no substitute for a parent's attention.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K Q 10 6  
 ♥ 8 6 4  
 ♦ Q 7 5  
 ♣ A 10 6

**WEST**  
 ♠ 5 4 3 2  
 ♥ 9 5  
 ♦ K 10 2  
 ♣ K 9 4 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 8 7  
 ♥ 10 9 7 2  
 ♦ J 8 6 3  
 ♣ 8

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A 9  
 ♥ A K 3  
 ♦ A 9 4  
 ♣ Q J 7 5 3

The bidding:  
 South 1♣ West 1NT North 3♣ East 3♣  
 2NT Pass 3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass  
 4♣ Pass 5♣ Pass 5♣ Pass 5♣ Pass

Opening lead - two of spades.

**Famous Hand**

The 1987 world women's team championship was won by the United States after a nip-and-tuck struggle with France in the final. This deal was instrumental in the American victory.

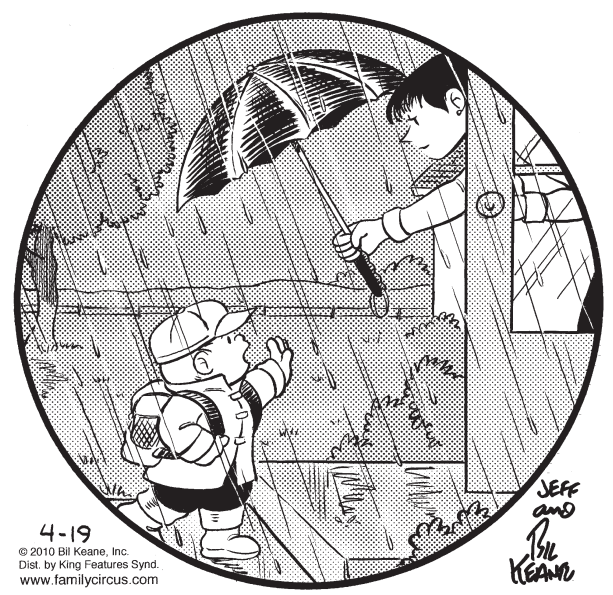
The bidding shown occurred at the table where Judi Radin and Kathie Wei were North-South for the U.S. The opening one-club bid indicated 16 points or more, and the one-notrump response promised eight to 13 points. Four rounds of bidding later, Mrs. Wei found herself in a tenuous six-club contract that appeared headed for down one. However, this assessment proved a bit premature.

West's opening spade lead went to the jack and ace, and Mrs. Wei's hopes brightened considerably when a club to the ten held the trick. But when she returned to her hand with the ace of hearts and finessed the queen of clubs, East showed out, saddling declarer with a sure club loser. Since she also seemed certain to lose either a heart or a diamond, the slam appeared doomed.

There was still a chance, however, and Mrs. Wei pursued it unerringly. She cashed the ace of clubs and the K-Q-10 of spades, discarding a heart and a diamond on the last two spades as West followed suit. Next came the king of hearts, after which she exited with a club to West's king.

As Mrs. Wei hoped, West had nothing but diamonds left and so was forced to lead a diamond from the king, handing declarer her 12th trick with dummy's queen. Making the slam yielded a sizable pickup for the Americans, as the French pair at the other table rested quietly in three notrump, making five.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/19

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.

**Cryptoquip**

RS R RXYQBHY SNOWX NJ  
 LNV YN BXC G HCQYGRJ  
 HNNWRJT NRO, R TBCXX  
 YLGX'X G VCXXNJ OCXXNJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CROSS BETWEEN A WARTY AMPHIBIAN AND A THICK-SKINNED REPTILE MAY BE CALLED A CROAKODILE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                         |                              |                                  |                            |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>           | <b>DOWN</b>                  | <b>DOWN</b>                      | <b>DOWN</b>                |
| 1 Sudden sharp turn     | 41 Deposited                 | 1 Go with haste                  | 16 Parcel of land          |
| 4 Painter of ballerinas | 43 Former president of Egypt | 2 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"          | 20 lds' counterparts       |
| 9 Bill                  | 45 Forever, in verse         | 3 Wilde-beest                    | 21 Steerer's place         |
| 12 Hostel               | 47 Judge Lance               | 4 Scatter                        | 22 Hodge-podge             |
| 13 Angry                | 49 Partner of 15-Across      | 5 Red Sea nation                 | 23 See 9-Down              |
| 14 Coloration           | 54 And so on (Abbr.)         | 6 Group of whales                | 27 First name of 49-Across |
| 15 Half a singing duo   | 55 Bygone anesthetic         | 7 Reef ring                      | 29 Fork feature            |
| 17 Greek vowel          | 56 401(k) alternative above  | 8 Elder                          | 30 Mast                    |
| 18 Select, with "for"   | 57 Born "Jersey"             | 9 With 23-Down, hit song of 1966 | 32 Despot                  |
| 19 Abuts from above     | 58 "Jersey"                  | 10 Car, for one                  | 34 Fir or pine             |
| 21 Noisy owl            | 59 24 hours                  |                                  | 37 Slight colors           |
| 24 Corporate symbol     |                              |                                  | 39 Character               |
| 25 Sprite               |                              |                                  | 42 Below, for short        |
| 26 Meadow               |                              |                                  | 44 Trinity member          |
| 28 One-sided contests   |                              |                                  | 45 Still                   |
| 31 Roster               |                              |                                  | 46 London gallery          |
| 33 Circle portion       |                              |                                  | 50 Pi                      |
| 35 Quick cut            |                              |                                  | 51 Youngster               |
| 36 Damp                 |                              |                                  | 52 Historic time           |
| 38 Heavy weight         |                              |                                  | 53 Troubadour's song       |
| 40 "CSI" evidence       |                              |                                  |                            |

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 4-19

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		