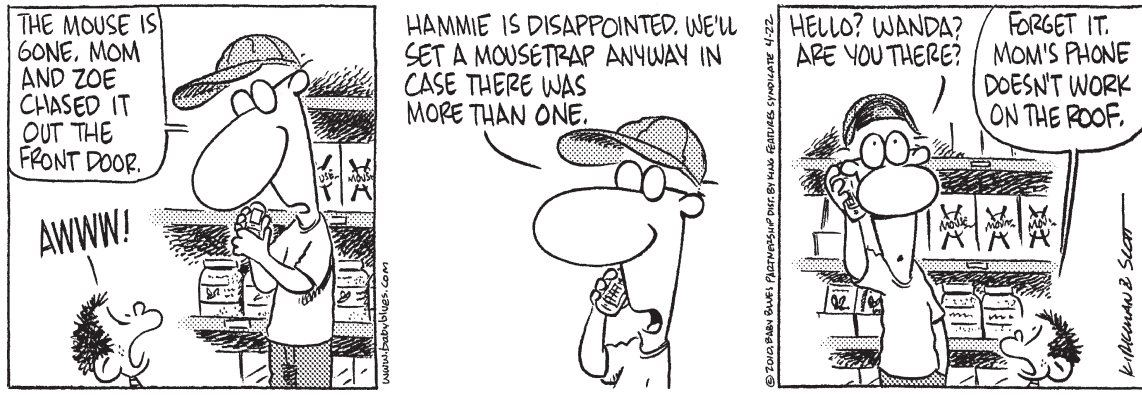


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



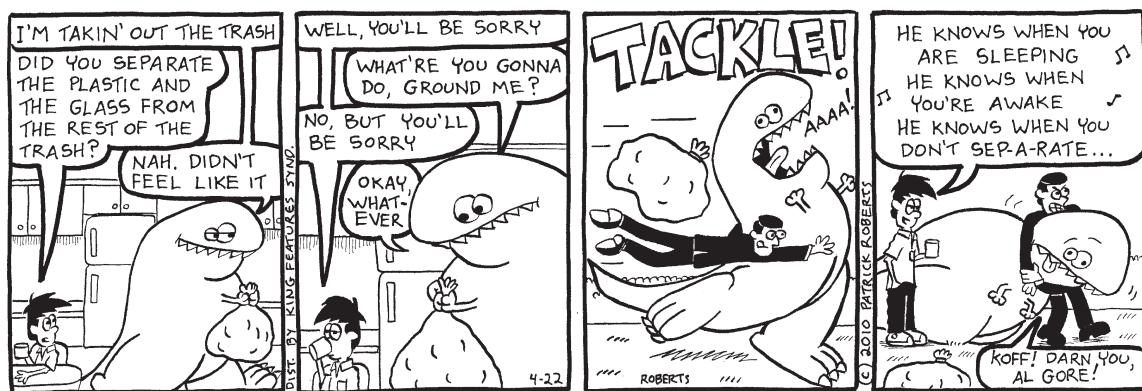
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



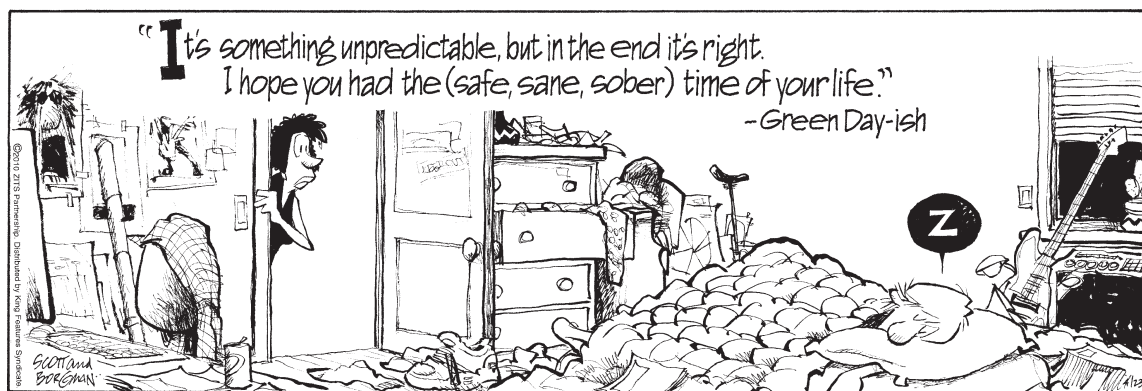
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Teen depression has several causes**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I'm not a parent myself, but in talking with a friend of mine who has teenage kids, I found out a middle-school student in our town committed suicide recently. It seems like depression and suicide in teenagers is getting more common. When I was in school, I don't think I ever heard about depression. Why are so many teenagers depressed? And do depressed teens become depressed adults? - N.P.

**Dear N.P.:** Today, suicide is the third most common cause of death for people between ages 15 and 24. While some teens are more at risk for depression and suicide, some experts agree that teen suicide has become more common in the past five years, after dropping in the 1990s. In reality, no single cause is to blame, but many factors might contribute to teen depression. Not just genetics, traumatic events or family history, but the general environment can be important in whether he or she develops depression.

Teens are apt to think they're invincible, that nothing can ever go wrong. Then when they do feel psychological pain, they are more easily overwhelmed by helplessness. Depression may also stem from how children are raised, with unrealistic expectations about happiness. Chronic stress also can trigger depression, and teaching children how to cope is important. There is cause for hope, though: If teens are able to seek help, 80 percent can be successfully treated for depression. With proper treatment, depression does not sentence a teen to a lifetime of suffering.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My sister's oldest son recently got in trouble with drinking. I have two middle-school-age children myself, and I don't want them to get in trouble like this. Neither my husband nor I drink, and we want to keep our kids away from alcohol as much as possible. What's the best way to be good role models, and to steer our kids away from drinking? - E.G.

**Dear E.G.:** Every child, especially once he or she gets to be middle- and high-school age, is responsible for his or her own choices, but you as parents can have a lot of influence when it comes to alcohol and drugs. You can't completely shelter your kids. While you don't drink, they will be exposed to alcohol in other ways, especially as they get older. You should introduce them to situations in which drinking is an adults-only activity that can be perfectly acceptable when done responsibly. If you try to keep them away from the real world too much, they won't be able to handle the reality of alcohol when confronted by it.

In addition to explicit alcohol use, you should be aware of your kids' social lives. Make sure you know who they're with and where they're going. Check with other parents to see if there's any chance of drugs or alcohol being present when your kids spend time with their friends. Encourage sobriety and remove the temptation to drink by encouraging your kids to have their friends over to your house, where you can supervise. If you make a strong rule against drinking, and also foster loving and respectful family relationships, your kids will have little reason to push the limits with drugs and alcohol.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 7 2  
♥ K 6 5  
♠ 9 8  
♣ J 10 7 6 3

**WEST**  
♦ K Q J 10 4  
♥ 10 4  
♠ 10 5 3  
♣ A Q 8

**EAST**  
♦ 9 8 6 3  
♥ Q 8 7 2  
♠ 7 4  
♣ K 9 5

**SOUTH**  
♦ 5  
♥ A J 9 3  
♠ A K Q J 6 2  
♣ 4 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass 4 ♦  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass 4 ♦  
Pass 5 ♦  
Opening lead — king of spades.

**You Don't Need a Slide Rule**

Planning the play is declarer's most important task, but he does not meet that responsibility fully unless he formulates his plans down to the last detail.

Take this case where West leads a spade against five diamonds. It seems normal to win the spade with the ace, draw trumps, lead the three of hearts to the king and then finesse the jack of hearts. The finesse succeeds, but the contract fails when the hearts prove to be divided 4-2. Declarer goes down one, losing two clubs and a heart.

The flaw in this method of play is that it does not allow for the possibility that West might have been dealt the singleton or doubleton ten of hearts. This possibility is certainly far from remote and therefore should not be ignored.

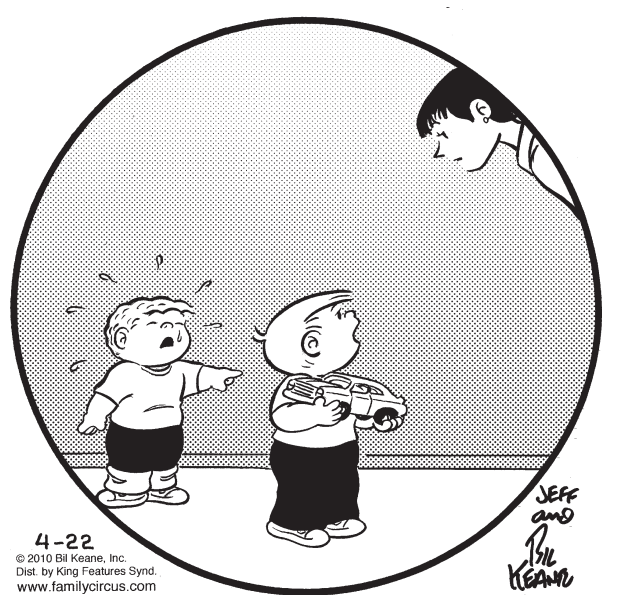
Planning to take a heart finesse is surely correct, but precisely when to take it should be a matter of equal concern. The proper time is at trick two -- that is, immediately after winning the spade lead with dummy's ace.

Observe the effect of leading a low heart to the jack at trick two. The jack wins, and, after drawing trumps, South leads the heart three to the king, on which West plays the ten. Another heart through East's Q-8 allows declarer to score the A-9, and the contract is home.

It requires a certain amount of foresight to recognize the importance of taking the initial heart finesse at trick two. But declarer should realize from the outset that his only real chance for the contract lies in winning four heart tricks, so he should plan his play to give himself the maximum chance to achieve that goal.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



4-22  
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www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/22

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

**Cryptoquip**

FBWA L RBAS KNCK VFEAXFOC  
TFK LBKF KNCK VADPAO  
MDWRDTA, L DXQGMKPC

KNQAS D KDEMAQ KDBKQGE.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE COMPUTER CIRCUIT SEEMED TO HAVE MANY VIRUSES ON IT, I'D SAY IT'S A MICROBE-CHIP.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Tear in two  
5 Mini-whopper  
8 "Yeah, right!"  
12 Addict  
13 Guitar's cousin  
14 Cartoonist  
15 Capri or Wight  
16 Born  
17 Oklahoma city  
18 "Simpsons" bully  
20 Palm leaves  
22 Firmament  
23 Actor Ron  
24 Needing liniment  
27 Pal  
32 Letter before sigma  
33 Blood typing letters  
34 Diving bird  
35 Alternative to Szechwan

**DOWN**  
1 Destroy  
2 Being, to  
3 Brutus  
4 Jodie Foster movie  
4 Black-tie  
5 Specialized drag racer  
6 Mamie's finances  
7 Complaint  
8 Colored ring  
9 Start of the "Sesame Street" theme song  
10 Footnote abbr.  
11 G-men  
21 Dem.'s rival  
24 Branch syllable  
25 Dance  
26 Hive dweller  
28 Sapporo sash  
29 Venture that drains one's  
30 Scoot  
31 — out a living  
36 Holds up  
37 Every iota  
38 Historic White House middle name  
41 First word of the Constitution  
42 High-lander  
43 Rubik's baffler  
44 As well  
46 Poke  
47 Green land  
48 TVA structures  
51 Alias (Abbr.)

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

D	A	M	S	A	S	S	T	O	W
O	B	O	E	H	O	P	H	O	Y
G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E	I	L
S	L	A	T	E	W	H	E	E	Z
				H	O	L	D	E	R
D	I	M	E	A	I	D	A	A	L
U	N	O	B	I	G	O	T	T	E
E	N	D	E	R	I	E	B	E	A
				E	O	N	T	R	E
M	E	R	I	T	S		S	T	R
O	R	A	L	L	I	B	E	R	A
A	N	T	E	O	D	E	A	C	N
N	E	E	D	W	A	G	Y	E	A

Yesterday's answer 4-22

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		