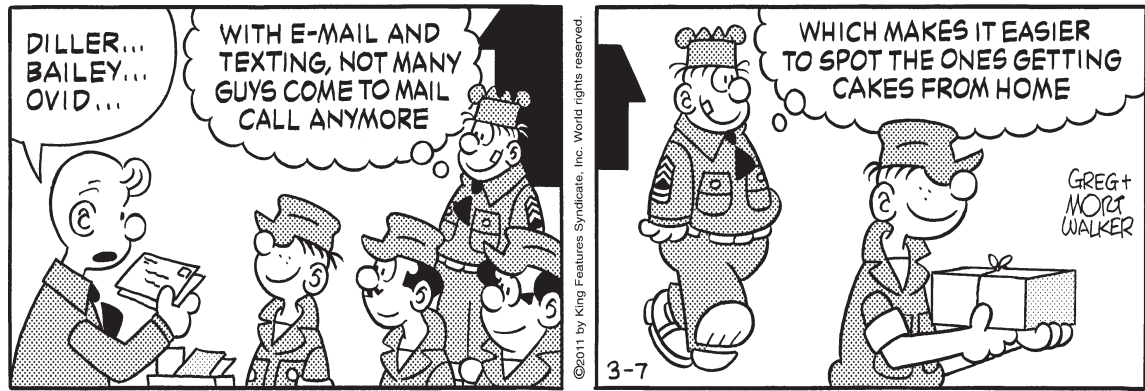


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



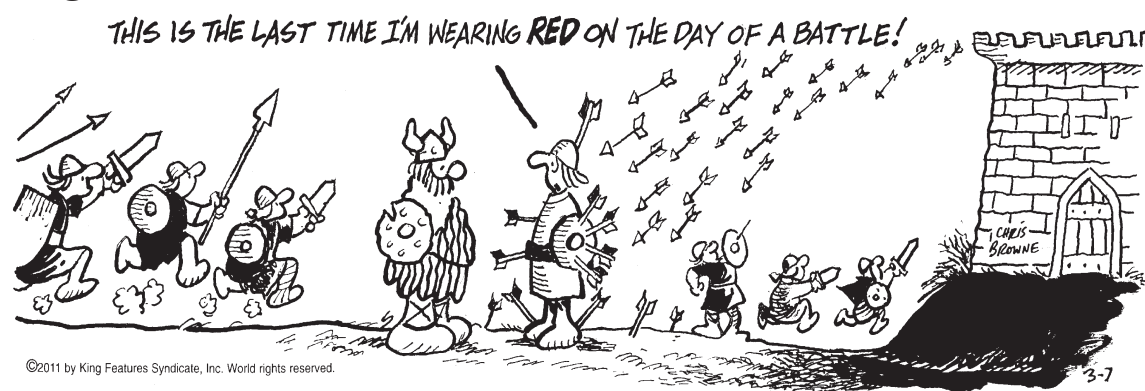
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



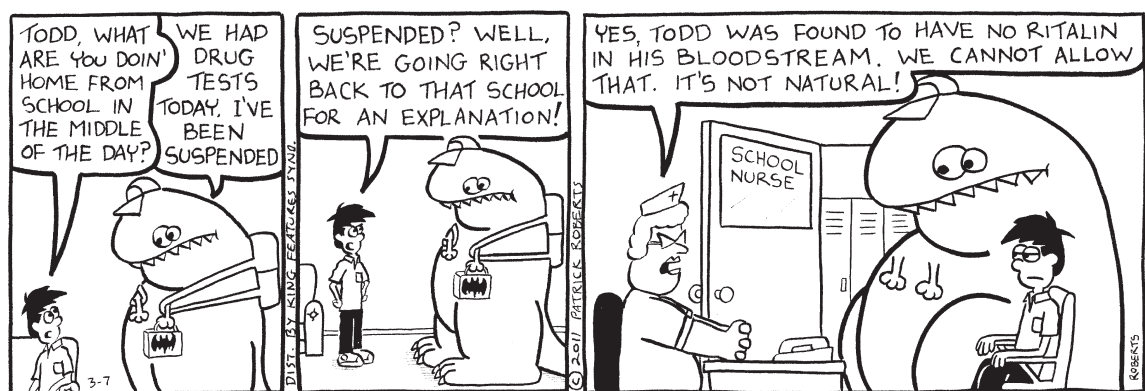
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Wrestling offer a different idea**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My unemployment benefits run out next month. I have a wife and two kids and am worried. I've been offered a different kind of job, which I don't know if I should accept. It's a weekend gig on the amateur wrestling circuit. I'm a big, stocky guy and probably can take the physical abuse (even though it's staged, there's still a lot of stunts); I just wonder if I should hold out for a less dangerous job. — W.D.

**Dear W.D.:** It sounds as though you take your responsibilities as breadwinner seriously, but before you take this job, you might discuss the ramifications with your wife. Assess both of your skills, and if she is not working, explore all options open to both of you. As a father, you probably would like to have weekends with your children. And taking a dangerous job could carry hazards. Do you have health-care coverage? Can you afford to be injured and have that affect your ability to make a living? It might be best to revisit your job experience and skills, and build upon them instead of this literal sideshow.

If physical labor appeals to you, perhaps you could put your bulk and strength to use. Rugged outdoor types usually have little trouble finding jobs in construction, highway department work or other outdoor venues. Try to find something you can use to build a career rather than just a weekend gig to tide you over. It is a difficult time, but you don't want to get into something that will hamper your ability to be a worker and father. So take a breath, and try not to panic. Good luck.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I have a strange problem. Every time I see someone with a laptop I strike up a conversation in hopes that I can fiddle with it. I'm not a techie, just curious to see how other computers compare with mine. I nearly lost my mind when everyone started using iPads. I know I creep people out. What's wrong with me? — C.H.

**Dear C.H.:** I can see how disconcerting it might be if you approach strangers and attempt to get your hands on their computers. Besides being too friendly, most people view their computer as one of their most personal items. In fact, I am surprised you haven't been punched or had the authorities called. People tend to be paranoid about their electronic stuff, and you're playing with fire when you violate those personal boundaries.

An obvious solution to your "problem" is to legitimize it. Either become the go-to guy to friends and acquaintances who need help plumb the depths of their mysterious machines, or get yourself a part-time job as a computer geek at a business whose job it is to fiddle with the computers of strangers. There is nothing really bizarre or terrible about your desire to get your hands on those laptops — you are just in search of a challenge. It's all about finding the right time and place to practice your obsession. Luckily, your skills could lead you to a lucrative career. Find the appropriate venue, and you'll turn from weird stranger to genius at work!

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ K 9 2  
♥ K 7 6 2  
♦ A J 4 3  
♣ A 4  
WEST  
♠ A J 8 5 3  
♥ Q 5 3  
♦ 10 9  
♣ 7 5 3  
EAST  
♠ Q 10 7 6 4  
♥ 4  
♦ K 7 6 5 2  
♣ Q 6  
SOUTH  
♠ A J 10 9 8  
♥ Q 8  
♦ K J 10 9 8 2  
The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 2♦ Pass  
3♦ Pass 5♥ Pass  
6♥  
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

**Famous Hand**

This hand was played many years ago by all-time great Sidney Silodor. He was declarer in six hearts, and West led the ten of diamonds. It seemed highly likely that East had the king of diamonds, so South's chief problem was to escape a trump loser.

Silodor solved the problem in unique fashion. He won the diamond lead with the ace, played a heart to the ace, returned the jack of hearts and finessed after West followed low. After the jack held, he cashed the king, ran six club tricks — discarding dummy's remaining diamonds — and so made seven.

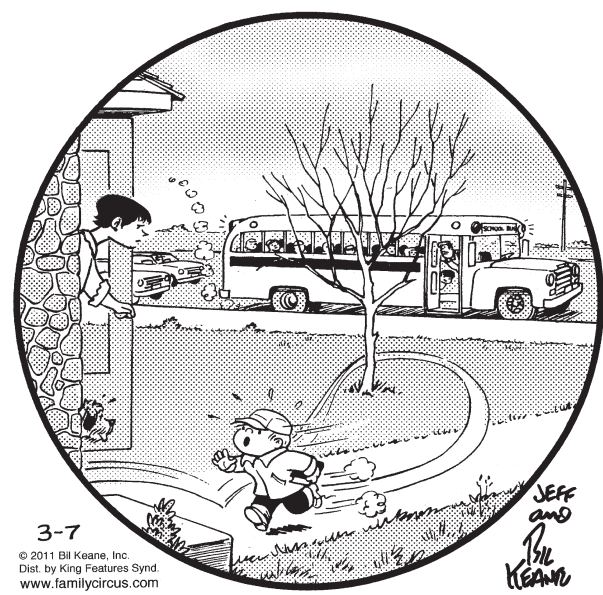
How did Silodor know he should finesse West for the queen of hearts? Why did he go against the odds, which favor playing for the queen to fall under the ace-king when holding nine cards in a suit? Well, there's one tiny item we forgot to mention. On the ace of diamonds, Silodor had dropped his queen!

Silodor didn't really know who had the queen of hearts, but his method of play was designed to make the slam whether East or West had it. Suppose, after he had dropped the queen of diamonds and played the trumps as he did, East had turned up with the queen of hearts. Silodor would have lost a trump trick, it's true, but what would East have done next?

East almost surely would not have played the king of diamonds. He most likely would have assumed his partner had led from the 10-9-8 and that declarer's queen was a genuine singleton. He would probably have returned a spade to his partner's hoped-for ace — unless he had the ace himself, in which case he might have tried to cash it. Had Silodor finessed the opening diamond lead and lost to East's king, he might or might not have guessed the trump position later on, but the way he played the hand, he was an overwhelming favorite to make the slam.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



3-7  
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www.familycircus.com

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 3/07

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

VNDQG JFGK CNC'D J YBFEWC  
JFG ZXANEYV ZESV JFGK  
HXCG, SEYWC KEY VXK JFGK  
ZXQXJGC JFG BAEHNVGV?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT FEMALE DEER PREFERS TO FILL UP ON CERTAIN BAKED TREATS, I NAMED HER "COOKIE DOE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals D

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 "Dragnet" star Jack New-comer to society  
8 Winged Verbal  
12 Raw mineral  
14 Hindu princess  
15 Aware of (from)  
16 Seizing (from)  
18 Jason of football steps  
20 Rural steps  
21 — Hari  
23 Verily  
24 High standing  
28 Not medium or well-done  
31 Actor Harrison  
32 "Get — on!"  
34 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace Grand story
- DOWN**  
37 Tending to excrete  
39 "Quiet!"  
41 Hum-dinger  
42 Get  
45 Holly plants  
49 Inquiry  
51 Alpha follower  
52 Grecian vessels  
53 Joke  
54 Grandson of Adam  
55 Initial stake  
56 Timecard abbr.  
57 Nebr. neighbor  
17 Pigeon  
19 — -tat-tat  
22 Galore, in disco-era jargon  
24 Before (Pref.)  
25 Agent, for short  
26 Current inactivity  
27 Twilight times  
29 Gun the engine  
30 Female sheep  
33 Donkey (Ger.)  
36 Gliding dance step  
38 "Jeopardy!" emcee  
Alex  
40 Smack  
42 Blue shade  
43 Rotate  
44 At hand  
46 TV's "Warrior Princess"  
47 Harrow rival  
48 Back talk  
50 Rowing tool

Saturday's answer 3-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
				21				22		
24	25	26					27	28	29	30
31				32				33		34
35				36				37		38
				39				40		
42	43							44		45
49								50		51
52								53		54
55								56		57