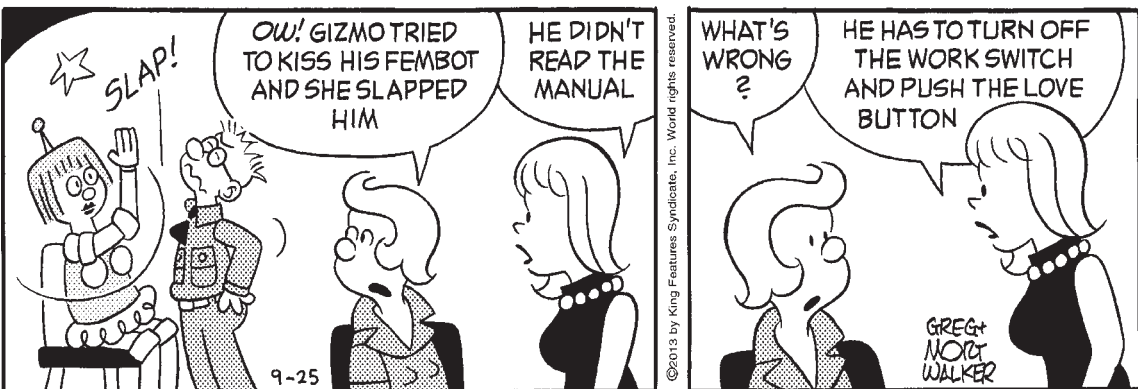


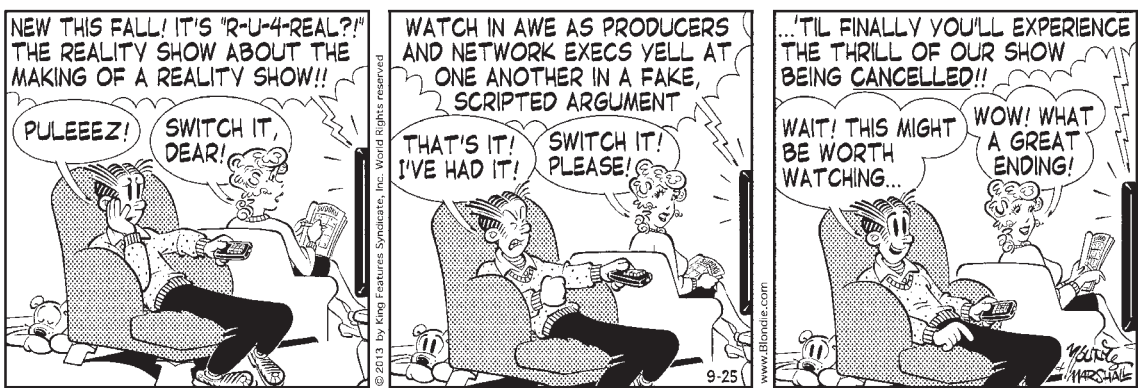
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



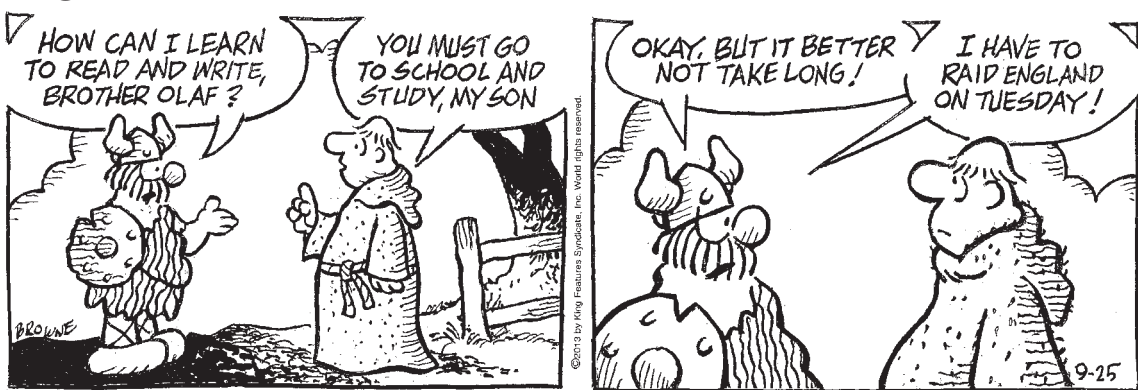
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



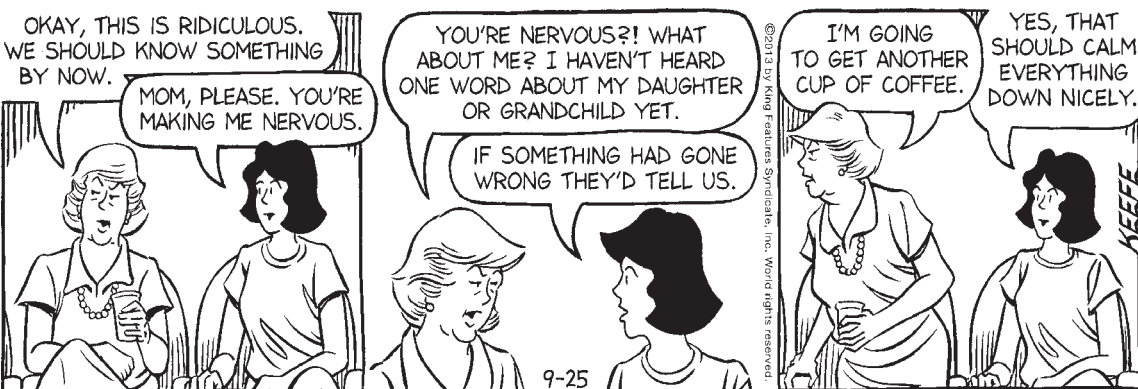
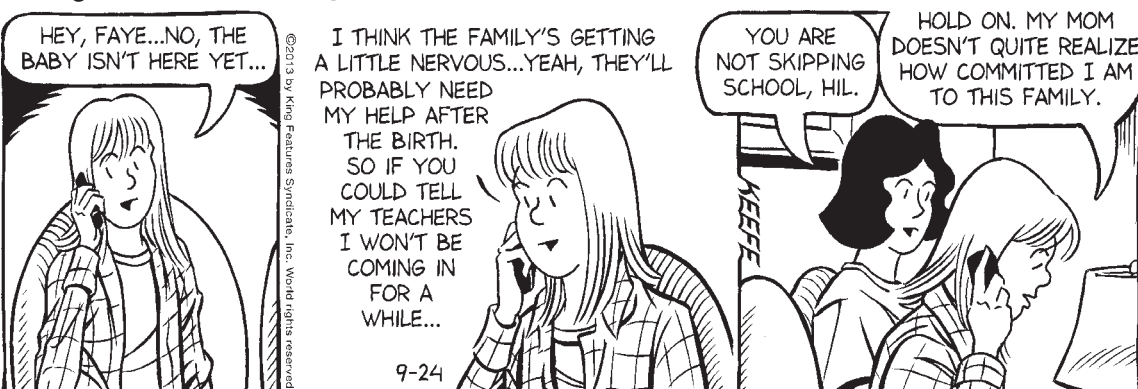
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



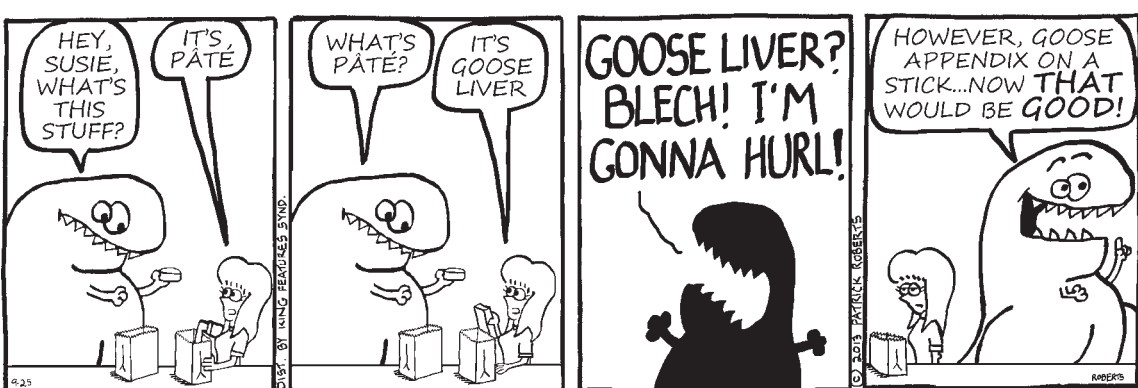
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Shop for one at the salad bar

Dear Heloise: My hint is for people who find it expensive and wasteful to buy bags of onions, carrots and stalks of celery when cooking for one or two. Check out the salad bars in grocery stores, where you can buy smaller amounts of what you need. No waste, and all the items are already washed and clean. You save money, and it is convenient, too. — Sylvia C., Parma, Ohio

This is a "delicious" hint. You are so right. Quick, lots of variety, and already cleaned and chopped! — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
E-mail: Heloise@Heloise.com

SALAD BAR

Dear Heloise: When I have guests over for a meal, I put salad ingredients on a counter near the table: a large bowl of lettuce, vegetables and other ingredients in individual containers, bottles of dressing, vinegar and olive oil, salt, pepper and salad plates. The guests love being able to make their own salads and even go back for seconds. — Helen H., Baton Rouge, La.

KIWI BERRIES

Dear Readers: A new fruit is in town: kiwi berries, a cousin to the kiwi. They are like the kiwi fruit, but different. The inside of the fruit is a green color and has a texture similar to traditional kiwi. These little jewels have a smooth outer skin, do not need to be peeled and can be popped into your mouth like grapes!

They grow on a vine that takes six years to mature and provide a marketable harvest. There are farms in Oregon and Pennsylvania growing it.

Found in specialty grocery stores, the berries should be kept refrigerated and dry, but let warm to room temperature before eating. If you see these berries, grab them fast, because they are available only for a couple of months, September and October! — Heloise

LESS MESS

Dear Heloise: When you make jam or jelly, the mixture has to be at a full, rolling boil. The mixture cannot be stirred down well, because it splatters. I had a long wooden spoon to stir it, but I always ended up with burns on my hands and jam on my clothes.

My neighbor suggested a paint-stirring stick. My son bought me two of these, which I ran through the dishwasher. They work great! I can stand to the side of the boiling pot. It still splatters, but not on me. — Lynn C. in Alabama

EASY ALMOND PEELING

Dear Heloise: I had to remove the skins from about 2 pounds of almonds. I discovered that after blanching them in hot water and draining them, if I put about half a cup at a time on a clean cotton dish towel and then vigorously rubbed them, the skins were either removed completely or came off much easier. Boy, it saved me a lot of time. — R.T., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦K 9 6 2
♥6 2
♠A Q 5
♣K Q J 10
WEST
♦8 3
♥Q J 5 4
♠J 10 8 2
♣A 5 3
EAST
♦5
♥A K 10 9 8 7
♠K 9 4
♣7 6 4

SOUTH
♦A Q J 10 7 4
♥3
♠7 6 3
♣9 8 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ 1♥ 1♠ 2♥
3♠ Pass 4♠
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Delicate Defensive Play

Good defense often requires perfect teamwork, as in this deal where South was in four spades.

West led the queen of hearts, East playing the seven and South the three. It is true that in most leagues a seven is regarded as a come-on signal, and many West players would therefore lead another heart.

This would have been fatal in the present case because, after ruffing the heart and drawing trumps, declarer would force out the ace of clubs and score 10 tricks.

But West shifted to the jack of diamonds at trick two, recognizing that East had played his lowest heart (the 6-5-4-3-2 were all in plain sight) and that East would have played a heart higher than the seven had he wanted the suit continued.

Declarer finessed the diamond queen, losing to the king, and East, aware that another heart lead might be ruffed, returned the nine of diamonds. South won with the ace, drew trumps and led a club. West took the ace and now had to decide whether to try to cash a diamond or a heart.

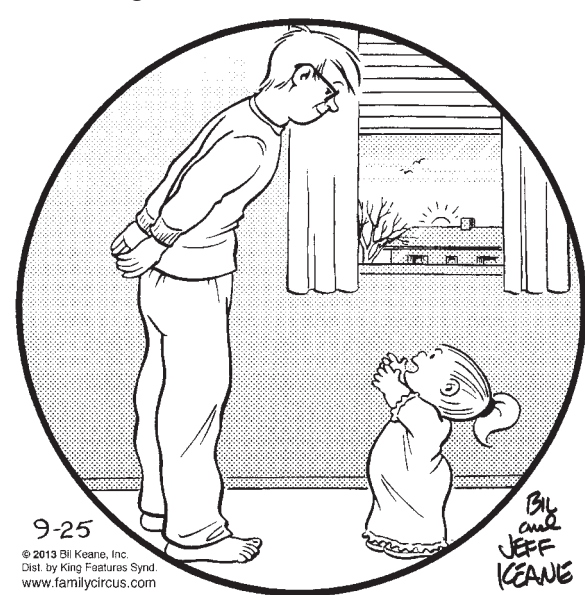
Had he led a heart, hoping declarer had another card in the suit -- West could not know whether East had five or six hearts -- South would have gotten home safely.

But West played the ten of diamonds and so defeated the contract. This was not simply a lucky shot; the solution lay in East's earlier nine-of-diamonds return.

By convention, had East started with four diamonds, he would have returned his fourth-best diamond after taking the king to show his length in that suit. When he returned the nine, he indicated that he had fewer than four diamonds, which in turn told West that declarer had another diamond to lose.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-25
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/25

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.

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

Cryptoquip

IFHNY AXQ ISAQWI WYKJ'D

JKHKMYQI KQY WQXBP OYFQE

SYASBY, OY'QY EYVFHFYBPP

SBKPFHM VAQ NQYYSI.

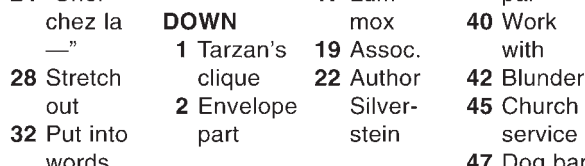
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I SPENT ALL THAT TIME BARTERING PRODUCTS LIKE MAD, I THINK I WENT ON A SWAPPING SPREE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Toward the stern
4 Com-manded into the future,
8 Circulate planwise
12 Thick-ness
13 Cupid's specialty
14 Biographer's story
15 Listener
16 Spiny lobster
18 Reel
20 Former acorn
21 Ans.
24 "Cher-chez la —"
28 Stretch out
32 Put into words
33 Greek H
34 Bristles
36 Journey segment
37 Partially mine
39 Narrow flat pasta
41 Recess in a wall
43 Labels

3 Novice
4 "Swan Lake" and "Rodeo"
5 "I — Rock"
6 Mafia bigwig
7 There-fore
8 Serendip-itous portico
9 Fleur-de- —
10 Fre-quently
11 Tiny
17 Lum-mox
19 Assoc.
22 Author Silver-stein
23 — four (small cake)
25 Niger neighbor
26 Bearing Uris
27 Advan-tage
28 Writer
29 Needle case
30 DEA agent
31 "Peter Pan" pooch
35 Intellect-ual
38 Scooby's pal
40 Work with
42 Blunder
45 Church service
47 Dog bane
48 Ball-bearing items
49 Egg part
50 "Acid"
51 Individual
52 Sister
53 To the — degree
54 Tibetan gazelle



Yesterday's answer 9-25

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		