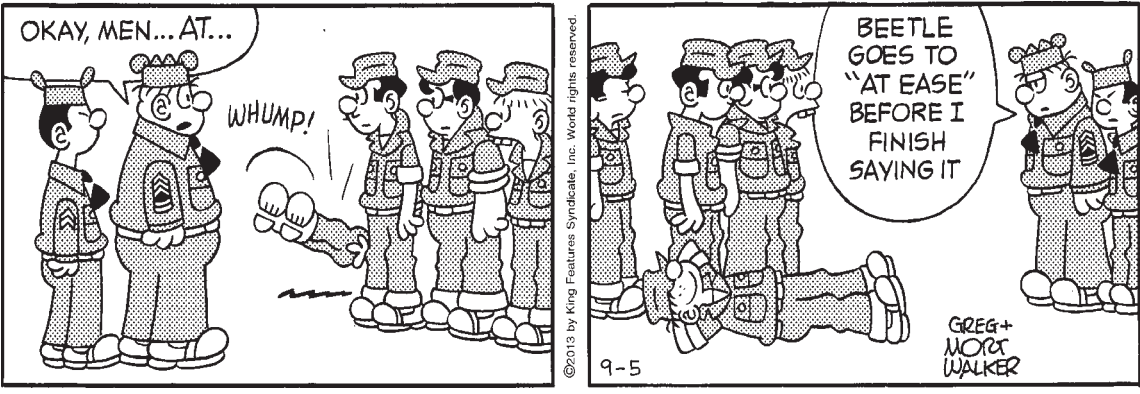


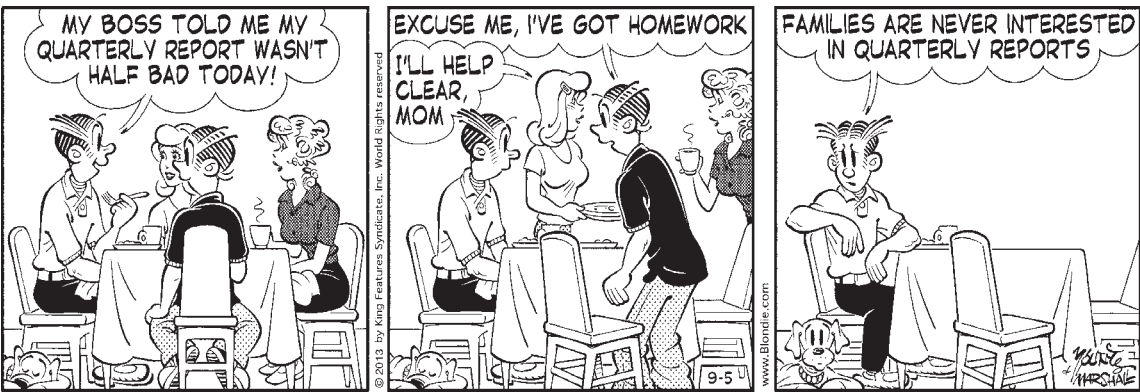
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



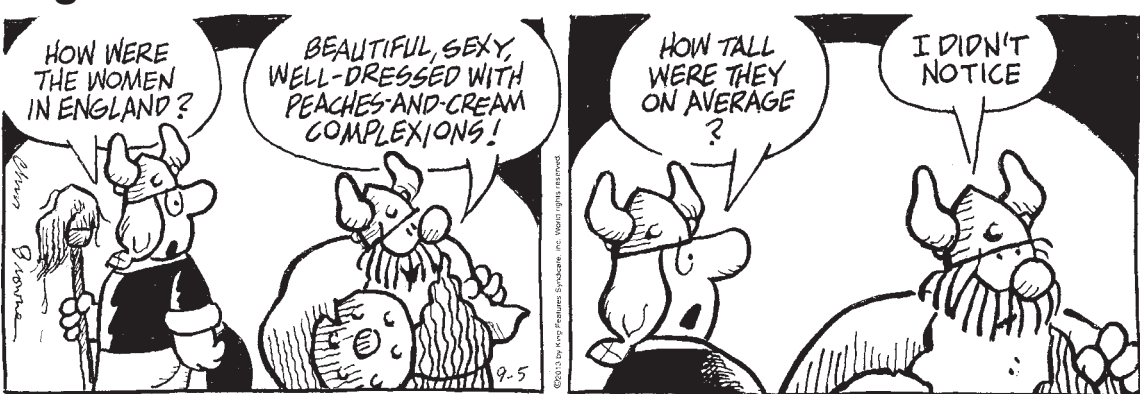
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



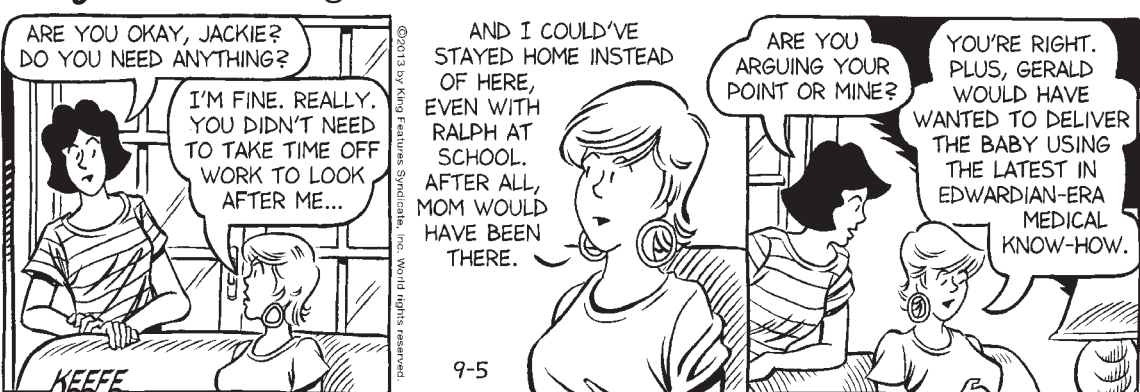
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



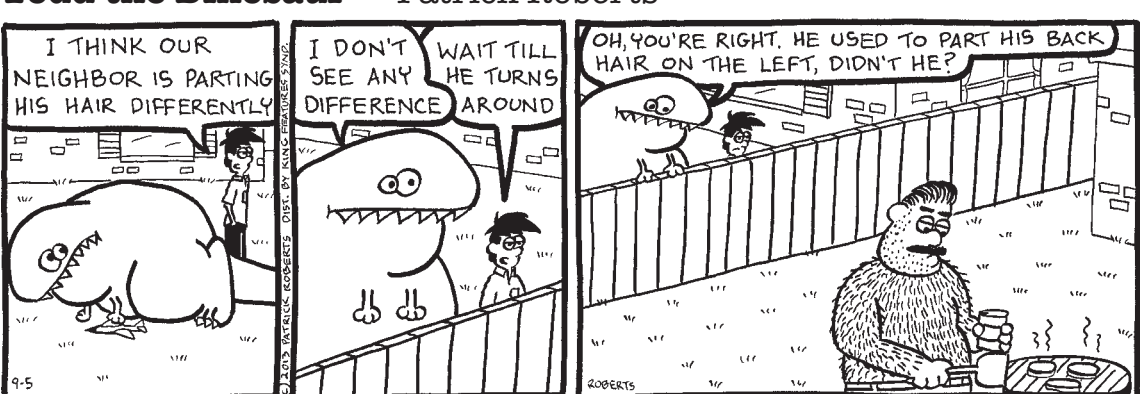
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



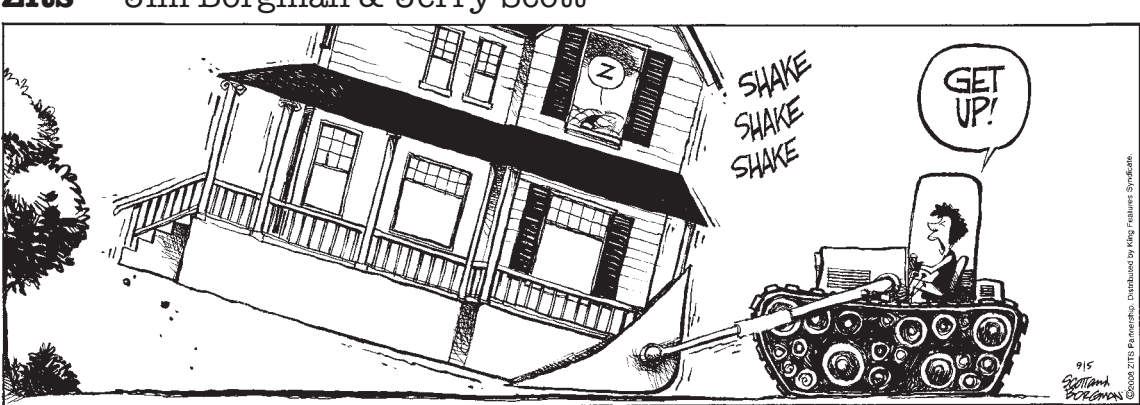
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**  
• Antiques and Collecting

**Furniture shows fantasy at work**

About 20 years ago, two antiques experts wrote a book titled "Fantasy Furniture." It spawned a new style based on past ones.

Pedestals shaped like blackamoors, chairs with seats that look like huge shells, Victorian furniture that seems to be made from plumbing pipes, and carved wooden chairs and tables that have full-size carved bears holding up tabletops or climbing on chair backs were pictured in the book.

Dogs are carved as figures beneath a Victorian-style table. Lifelike figures of women with flowing hair are part of Art Nouveau pieces. Furniture pieces of any age selected for the book were not traditional.

The idea persists today. Modern artists have made tables that look like piles of books, and crouching men form the base of a modern cocktail table.

Best-known of all is the work of Italian artist Piero Fornasetti, who made a cube-shaped table painted to look like a building, and an umbrella stand painted to look like a live cat sitting on a pile of books.

Decorating magazines often show rooms with tables piled with real books to hold a lamp. A table made from a bronze life-size monkey sitting on a leather-bound book and holding another large book over his head sold recently. The 27-inch-high table adds humor to a room at a cost of \$1,342.

To add to the joke, the book held by the monkey is titled "History of Furniture."

Q: **While ago, Charlie Sheen appeared on "The Tonight Show" wearing Babe Ruth's 1927 World Series ring. What is that ring worth, anyway?**

A: Experts think that if the Babe's 1927 World Series ring were put up for auction, it could sell for close to \$500,000. But the "if" is a big one. Sheen bought the ring in a private sale, and the ring's history is murky. At one time it was owned by Barry Halper (1939-2005), a well-known baseball collector. But no one knows exactly how Halper got the ring — and some of the sports memorabilia he owned has been found to be fake.

Tip: Don't put plastic covers on upholstered furniture or the top of a dining room table. Eventually the plastic could stick to the furniture and ruin the finish.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

**Reducing the Risk Factor**

At times, a high degree of foresight may be required to achieve the best possible result. Take this deal where West led a club against six spades. Declarer won with the ace, played the queen of spades and finessed. Had South next played another spade, hoping West had started with the doubleton king, he would have gone down one.

Rather than put all his eggs in this one basket, however, South temporarily abandoned further trump leads in order to first play a heart to the ace and ruff a heart. Now he led a trump to the ace, and when the king did not fall, South continued his long-range plan by ruffing the nine of hearts and cashing the K-Q of clubs.

South then made his bid for fame and fortune by exiting with a trump. West won with the king but, having been shorn of spades, hearts and clubs, had to return a diamond from the king, handing South the contract.

The hand presents a prime example of planning the play. Having noted at trick one that his main chance of making the slam was to find West with the singleton or doubleton king of trumps, South sought and found a way to add to his chances by setting the stage for a potential endplay against West if he had the guarded king of spades.

When the main chance failed, the secondary chance came to South's rescue at the end. South was lucky to find West with the king of diamonds and only three hearts and three clubs, but this is the kind of luck that can save the day for a declarer when he takes the time at the outset to formulate a contingency plan.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/05

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

**Cryptoquip**

BRZEELB EXQJ ZFXSK Z

XQBY-ILGKSXSE CYGEXQ ZQH

PLE GZCLH MZRR MGXN

JGZBY: "EZLQK NLEFYPZILQ"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I'M GIVING AN APE A PIGGYBACK RIDE, I RECKON I REALLY HAVE A CHIMP ON MY SHOULDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals S

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Raced  
5 America's uncle  
8 Long story  
12 Command to Rover  
13 Lemieux milieu  
14 Carbon compound  
15 "Dream on!"  
16 Keanu, in "The Matrix"  
17 Bibliography abbr.  
18 Seat of power  
20 With caution  
22 Tier  
23 Journey segment  
24 Stroller  
27 Poison remedy  
32 Press for payment  
33 Solemn promise  
34 Trawler need

**DOWN**  
1 "Shool!"  
2 Luxurious  
3 Eastern potentate  
4 Misshape  
5 Oscilloscope  
6 Expert picture  
7 Catcall?  
8 Get steamed  
9 Daughter of Oedipus  
10 Target  
11 Partner  
19 "Unh-unh"  
21 Boxing legend  
24 Palm Pilot, e.g.  
25 Scoot  
26 They're new  
28 Neither mate  
29 Duplicitous  
30 Chamomile, for one  
31 Biblical verb suffix  
36 Apple music service  
37 "Bali —"  
38 Reb's foe  
41 Indefinite article  
42 Picnic invaders  
43 TV chef Cat  
44 Mexican entree  
46 Count counterpart  
47 Plankton component  
48 Russell or Redbone  
51 Foundation

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

T	R	O	T	O	N	E	L	I	S	P
R	O	A	R	V	E	X	O	N	T	O
E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E	I	T	E
Y	A	H	O	S	C	R	I	M	P	
			D	O	O	R	H	E	M	
J	A	D	E	M	E	T	A	A	V	E
I	V	E	L	I	C	I	T	T	I	N
M	A	C	E	T	A	L	M	E	A	T
			I	D	O	P	E	R	U	
R	E	M	I	N	D	O	R	L	O	N
I	R	A	N	U	L	T	I	M	A	T
P	I	T	A	K	E	N	U	N	I	X
S	E	E	R	E	A	T	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 9-5

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
							40	41		
42	43			44		45			46	47 48
49					50	51			52	
53					54				55	
56					57				58	