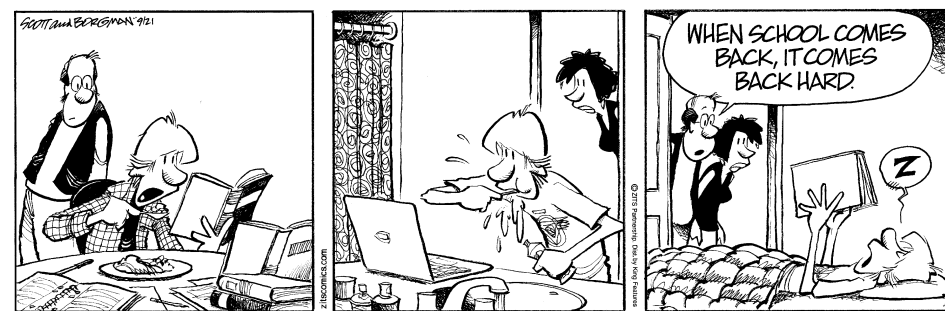


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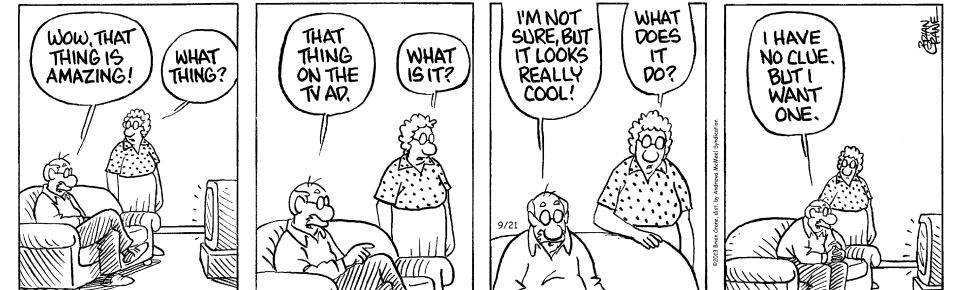
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® BY CHRIS BROWNE



FRANK AND ERNEST® BY BOB THAVES



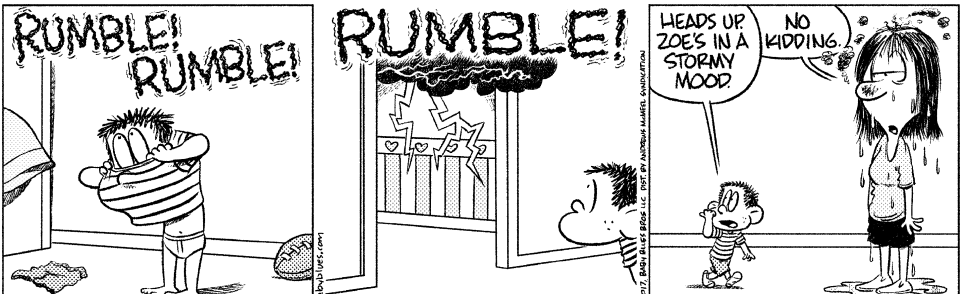
PICKLES® BY BRIAN CRANE



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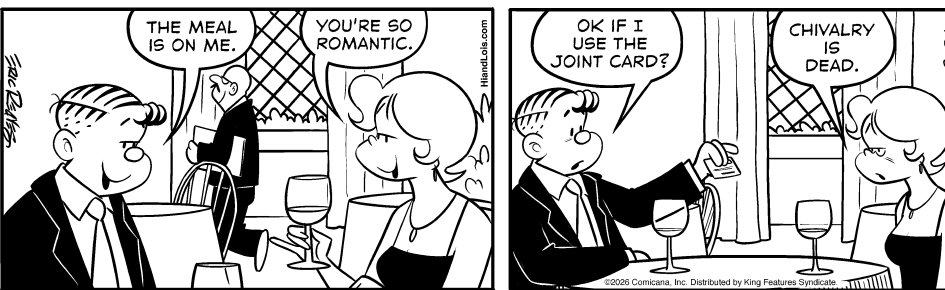
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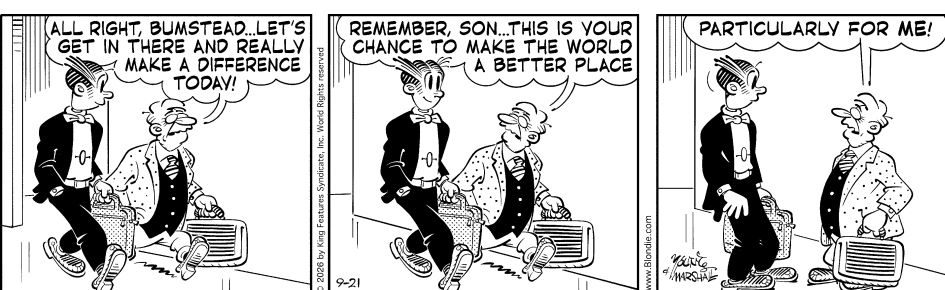
HI AND LOIS® BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER & CHANCE BROWNE



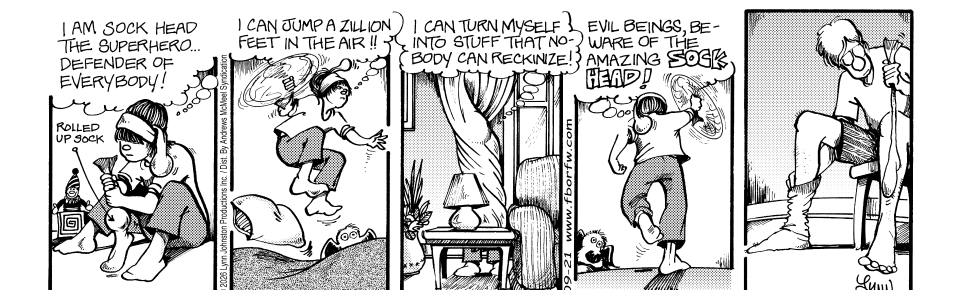
CRABGRASS® BY TAUHID BONDIA



BLONDIE® BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE® BY LYNN JOHNSTON



THE LOCKHORNS®



THE FAMILY CIRCUS®



REALITY CHECK® Dave Whamond



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A J 8 4	♠ 10 7		
♥ K 7	♥ A Q 8		
♦ A 7 4	♦ Q J 9 6 5		
♣ A Q 7 2	♣ J 10 9		

SOUTH		WEST	
♠ K Q 6 5	♠ 10 7		
♥ J 4 2	♥ A Q 8		
♦ 10 8 3	♦ Q J 9 6 5		
♣ K 8 4	♣ J 10 9		

The bidding:
East Pass South Pass West Pass North 1 ♣
1 ♦ 1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Sometimes a bit of knowledge about probabilities can be a dangerous thing, as evidenced by this deal from an early-round match between the United States and Denmark in the 1993 world team championship.

When a Danish pair held the North-South cards, Dorthe Shaltz became the declarer at four spades on the bidding shown. Shaltz won West's king-of-diamonds lead with the ace, drew trump and led the eight of clubs to the queen, on which East, Bobby Levin, dropped the ten. Declarer then returned a club to her king as Levin followed with the jack.

Shaltz was now at the crossroads. If she guessed the club position correctly, she could discard a diamond on the fourth club and lose at most two hearts and a diamond. Relying on the principle of "restricted choice," as well as her knowledge from the bidding that East started with at least five diamonds, Shaltz elected to play East for the doubleton J-10 of clubs. Accordingly, she led a club to the seven, whereupon Levin won with the nine and cashed two diamonds and the ace of hearts for down one. At the other table, East-West were silent throughout the auction, and Mike Becker and Ron Rubin reached three notrump with Rubin, North, as declarer. East led the diamond queen, ducked all around, and continued a diamond to West's king, which also held. West returned a low heart to East's queen, and East reverted to diamonds, driving out the ace. Rubin cashed four spades, East discarding a diamond and a heart, and then had to confront the clubs. He cashed the club ace, also taking care to unblock the eight, and led a club to the king, noting the fall of East's clubs. After much thought, Rubin led the club four and when West followed low, also finessed the seven! East won and cashed his remaining diamond and the heart ace for a two-trick set and a 2-IMP gain for Denmark.

BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

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JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Nkurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SBSLE
GITHT
YNPASP
HRVTEI

Print your answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

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I can't wait to hit the Oregon Trail! I'm so glad other settlers gave us a path to follow.

AMERICA'S WESTWARD EXPANSION THROUGHOUT THE 1800S TOOK PLACE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HOIST LOFTY FUMBLE BEYOND
Answer: All the restaurants in South Korea's capital serve — "SEOUL" FOOD