Making the Cut

Brian Callahan

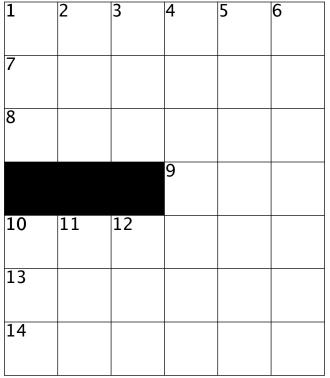
I had my Sunday debut yesterday in the L.A. Times! If you want to check it out, it's still available here. Two clues/answers in this mini are identical to the full-size grid (if you need a head start *winky face*).

ACROSS

- 1. Brand that received blowback from American conservatives in 2022 because some of its formerly feminine-presenting "spokescandies" had adopted more gender-neutral appearances and personas (constructor's note: yes this really happened)
- 7. Give the cold shoulder
- 8. With "the," sandwich ingredient that's idiomatically "cut"
- 9. Gas additive brand
- 10. Political candidate's TV buy
- 13. Suckerfish
- 14. "Strange, huh?"

DOWN

- 1. ___ drop (triumphant post-speech maneuver)
- 2. Distressed Deutschlander's call
- 3. Hailey Bieber ____ Baldwin
- 4. Childish retort



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- 5. With "the," sandwich ingredient that's idiomatically "cut"
- **6.** Member of a blended family
- **10.** ___ Lanka
- 11. Tinkerbell, Peter Pan,
 Diamond Baby, Marilyn
 Monroe, Harajuku Bitch,
 Slivington, Princess Paris
 Jr., Prince Hilton, The
 Pom, Prince Baby Bear,
 Crypto Hilton, or Ether
 Reum, to Paris Hilton
- 12. Meditative syllables