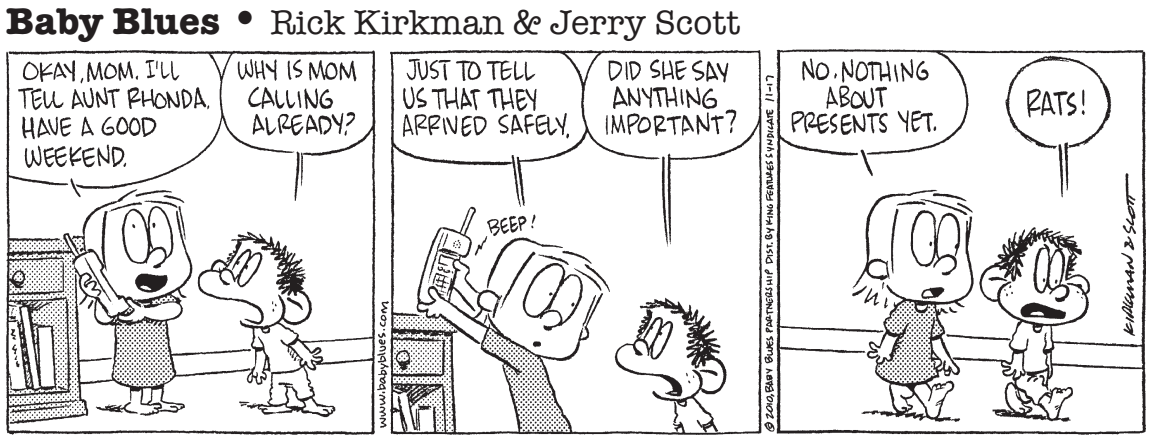
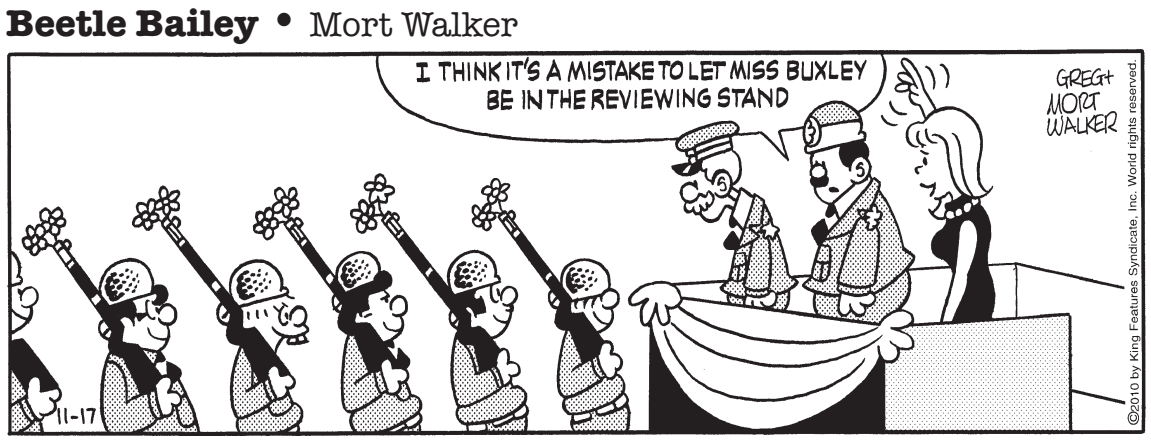
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

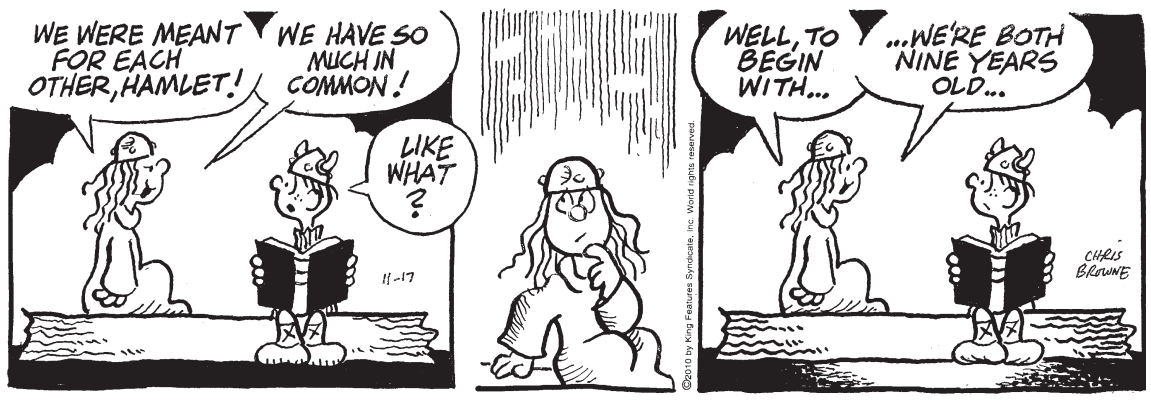


Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

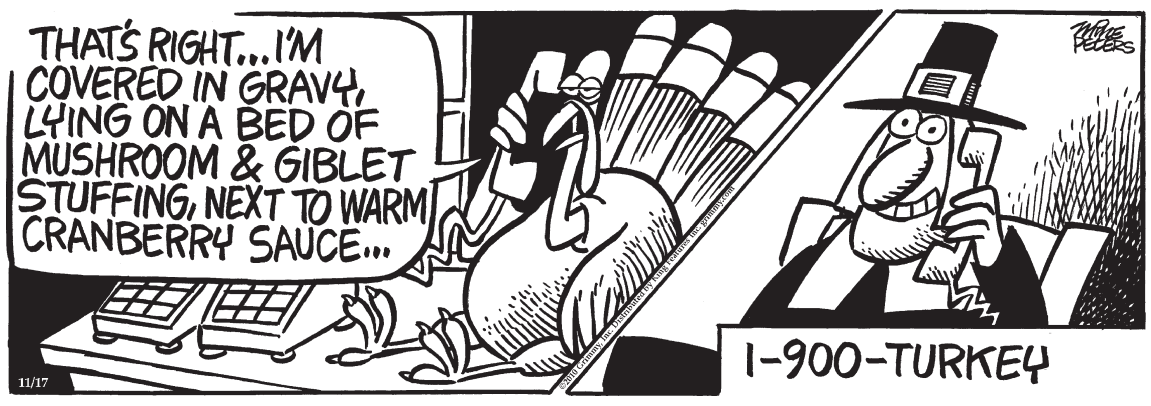


Blondie • Chic Young

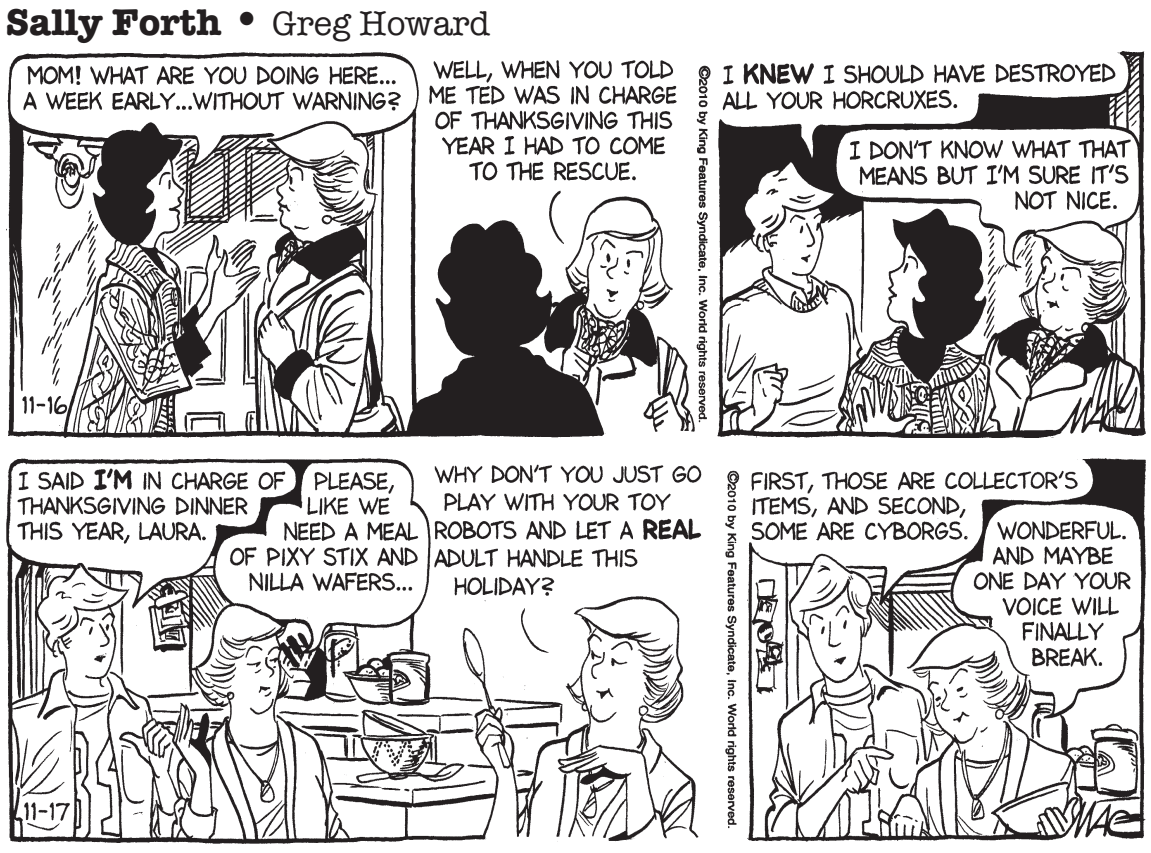
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



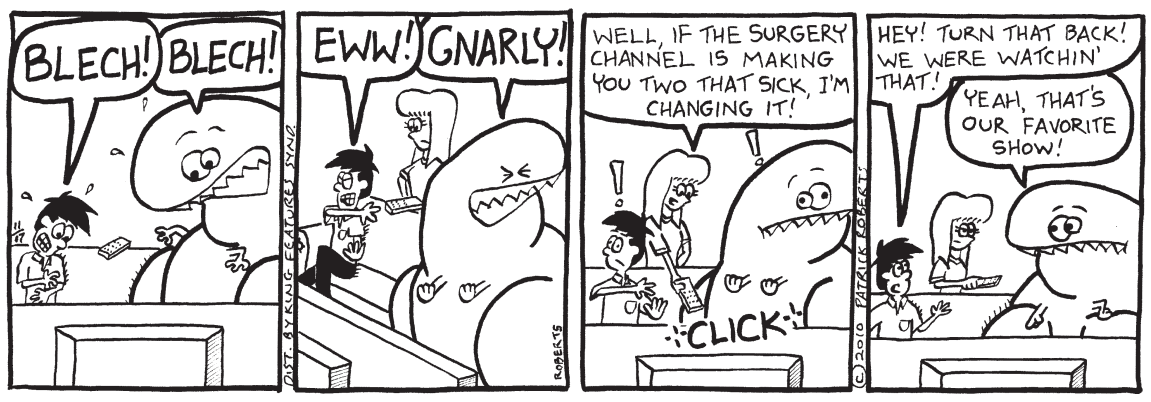
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



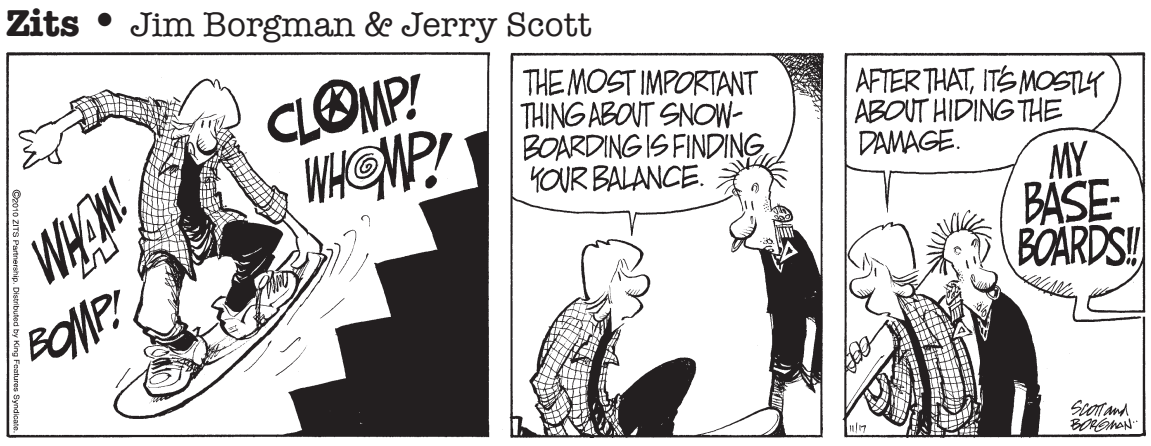
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

• Hints from Heloise

Creative plan clears counters

Dear Readers: Do you love your kitchen? Do you have enough COUNTER SPACE? (Who does?) The National Kitchen and Bath Association (www.nkba.org) says that lack of space, and everything all over the place, is a major complaint. No kidding! We all know that! Here are a few quick hints to help you get organized:

First, go through drawers and cabinets and weed out what you don't need or use. Do one at a time, or just pick out a few things every day.

An often neglected space in the kitchen? Under the cabinets. There are specially designed TVs, radios, can openers, coffee makers and spice racks that can go there.

Store heavy or seldom-used glass bakeware on the bottom shelves, and lighter-weight metal bowls on upper shelves. (This also makes these items generally easier to lift.)

Thinking of your space from a different perspective will help you get organized and save time! – Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

SOME RANDOM KITCHEN HINTS

Dear Heloise: When your soup or cooked cereal is too thin, add some instant potatoes to thicken.

You can add 1/2 to 2/3 cup of shredded zucchini to a cake mix. It will turn out nice and moist, and stay fresher longer, plus you'll get extra vitamins and fiber.

If you are dieting, use lemon juice, vinegar or water to thin out high-calorie salad dressings, or to rinse out the last tablespoon or so when the bottle is empty. – Phronsie, via e-mail

REUSING THE MICROWAVE PLATE

Dear Heloise: When throwing away an old microwave, keep the glass plate for a cutting board. – Peggy in North Carolina

Peggy, these plates also are good for serving trays, cheese platters and cake holders as well! – Heloise

STORING FRUIT

Dear Heloise: I discovered an almost perfect storage solution for fresh fruit, especially cut-up melon. I have an old plastic food-storage container with a lid and a colander that fits down inside (originally for draining and storing cooked pasta, I think). The melon chunks can drain – you know how slimy fruit can get if it's sitting in its own liquid. This also works well for fresh berries.

Then I found a microwave vegetable steamer in the kitchen section of a local department store that works the exact same way. I bought steamers for my daughter, daughter-in-law and myself. – Melinda Capozza in Huntington, Ind.

RISING ROLLS

Dear Heloise: When I am putting any of the frozen dinner rolls or cinnamon rolls out to rise and I want to hurry them along, I use my heating pad. I put the pan right on the top of the heating pad, and as soon as the pan gets warm, they rise so nicely. – Lavonne Gail in Le Mars, Iowa

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 6 4 3
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 4
♣ K 8 5 2

WEST
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ 6
♣ J 7

EAST
♠ —
♥ J 9 8 6 5 3 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ Q 10 4

SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ A Q
♦ A K J 10 7 5
♣ A 9 6 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♦

Opening lead — queen of spades.

The Bidding Tells the Tale

The importance of planning the play of a hand before proceeding cannot be overemphasized. Declarers prone to impulsive play eventually learn how costly this can be.

Consider this case where South reached an excellent six-diamond contract after West opened with a pre-emptive three-spade bid. North's four-spade cuebid showed first-round spade control plus interest in slam, and South was happy to oblige.

West led the queen of spades, covered by the king and ruffed by East. South could not avoid also losing a club at the end, so he finished down one.

Declarer was clearly at fault for losing the slam. Given West's three-spade bid, it was virtually certain that East would ruff the king of spades at trick one. Having been thus forewarned, South should have played a low spade from dummy on the opening trick, preserving North's A-K of spades for later use.

If West next led another spade, declarer would again play low from dummy and ruff in his hand. It then would have been a simple matter for South to ruff the queen of hearts in dummy before drawing trumps, after which the A-K of spades would furnish discards for his two losing clubs. In all, declarer would score six diamonds, two spades, two clubs, the heart ace and a heart ruff for 12 tricks.

A good case can be made for playing a low spade from dummy on the opening trick even with no opposing bidding. But in the given circumstances, declarer's play at trick one was suicidal as well as impulsive, and it cost him a vulnerable small slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane

"... as long as you go where I want."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/17

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/15

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Cryptoquip

U A Y U S F D N E U V D S K D N D

Z B Y U S F A B N E Z E U S O U S F , U

N D I V B S O X E O R B L K B L Q H

I E Q Q X U W W B H D Q U S F I Q E R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN INMATES COME DOWN WITH A VERY COMMON VIRAL AFFLICTION, COULD YOU SAY THAT'S

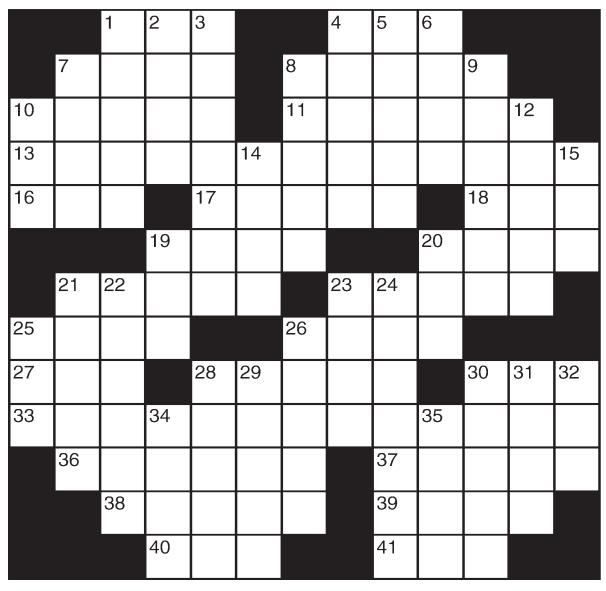
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Oohs and —
4 Doctrine
7 Elliptical
8 Loosen
10 Plant life
11 Howard and Isaac
13 Show great anxiety
16 Scoundrel
17 Bar trayful, maybe
18 Midafternoon, in a way
19 Antelope's playmate
20 Letters for letters?
21 "Surprise Symphony" composer
23 Dissolves
25 Ginormous
26 On deck
27 Actress Thurman
28 "Hancock" star
30 Overseer at JFK or LAX
33 Vent one's anger
36 Lack
37 Montana city
38 Cubic meter
39 Eye part
40 Commotion
41 Roman X

DOWN
1 Dodge
2 Injury
3 Applied thickly
4 Bury
5 Worries
6 Sorvino of screen
7 Earthenware pot
8 Leading man?
9 Sign up
10 TV watchdog org.
12 Missteps
14 Adolescent
15 Bro's counterpart
19 Prepare Easter eggs
20 Last (Abbr.)
21 Sticky, weatherwise
22 Playing marbles
23 Apportion (out)
24 Show
25 "Wha'd ya say?"
26 Recess
28 Tear to bits
29 Subway
30 Belong
31 Red army?
32 Candle count
34 "Bye"
35 Tempt

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	O	O	M	■	A	D	S	■	A	M	O	K
E	S	P	Y	■	L	Y	E	■	R	A	I	N
A	L	A	R	■	T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E
F	O	L	I	A	R	■	D	E	B	A	S	E
■	■	■	A	G	U	A	■	A	I	R	■	■
T	E	N	D	R	I	L	S	■	C	O	P	S
A	V	A	■	A	S	T	I	R	■	N	U	T
B	E	T	A	■	T	E	N	A	C	I	T	Y
■	■	I	R	K	■	R	I	G	A	■	■	■
E	R	O	T	I	C	■	S	E	E	T	H	E
T	E	N	E	M	E	N	T	■	S	H	I	A
N	E	A	R	■	D	O	E	■	A	R	E	S
A	L	L	Y	■	E	R	R	■	R	U	D	E

Yesterday's answer 11-17