

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

SALLY FORTH'S HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

#1. WATCH ALL THE CLASSIC HOLIDAY CARTOON SPECIALS.

11-27

"A Q*BERT CHRISTMAS."

IT'S SORT OF LIKE "THE GIFT OF THE MAGI," ONLY WITH A MULTICOLORED PYRAMID AND COILED SNAKES.

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SALLY FORTH'S HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

#2. GET A JUMP ON THE SEASON COURTESY OF ADVENT CALENDAR CHOCOLATE.

11-28

THE FIRST WEEK WAS ALL PEACH FILLING. BUT THEN THE REST OF DECEMBER TOOK THIS DELICIOUS UPTURN.

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Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

JEREMY, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

ACTUALLY, NO.

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"ACTUALLY NO"??

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WHAT DOES "ACTUALLY NO" MEAN?

ACTUALLY YES.

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Blondie • Chic Young

IT'S TRENDY NOW FOR PEOPLE TO OWN GAS-SAVING VEHICLES

I'LL SAY!

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THE SMALLER THE CAR, THE PROUDER THE DRIVER

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PLLLT!!

THEN THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE JUST DOWNRIGHT COCKY!

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Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

I SAY THERE... MAY WE POO IN AND TAKE ALL YOUR PRICELESS POSSESSIONS?

BY JOVE! FRIGHTFULLY DECENT OF YOU TO ASK, OLD TOP... BUT I'M AFRAID NOT!

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IN ENGLAND IT'S POLITE TO ASK FIRST!

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Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

MEN

YOU HAVE TO WAIT, BEETLE, SOMEONE'S IN THERE

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Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

DANG... HE TOOK EVERYTHING, HOOK, LINE AND SINKER.

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Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

TODAY I OVERHEARD ZOE AND HAMMIE FANTASIZING ABOUT "THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS."

WHAT'S "THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS"?

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IT'S WHEN THERE'S NO END TO THE PRESENTS SANTA BRINGS—WHEN THE PRESENTS KEEP MULTIPLYING BY THEMSELVES.

THEY DON'T NEED SANTA FOR THAT.

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I CAN MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE BY BUYING A COUPLE OF GUPPIES.

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Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

11/27

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 today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

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

Difficulty Level ★

11/27

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 9 7 5
♥ 6 3 2
♦ J 3
♣ A Q 7 3

WEST

♠ A K Q 10 4 2
♥ J
♦ 9 6 4
♣ K 10 5

EAST

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q 8
♣ J 8 6 4

SOUTH

♠ —
♥ A K Q 9 8 7 4
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ 9 2

The bidding:

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 4♥ | 4♠ | Dble |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Famous Hand

The margin between victory and defeat in a given hand is often razor-thin. Foreexample, take this deal played in the 1983 Vanderbilt Team Championship. When Norman Kay and Edgar Kaplan held the North-South cards, they wound up in five hearts doubled on the sequence shown, and West led the queen of spades, ruffed by declarer. Kaplan played a low diamond to the jack, won by East with the queen. East returned a trump to South's ace, and another diamond was won by East's eight. Back came a second trump to the king, and Kaplan ruffed the diamond seven with dummy's last trump. Next came a spade ruff followed by two more trumps, producing this position:

North

[S] J
[C] A Q 7

West

[S] A
[C] K 10 5

East

[D] A
[C] J 8 6

South

[H] 9
[D] 10
[C] 9 2

Declarer now played his last trump, forcing West to part with a club. After Kaplan discarded dummy's jack of spades, East, who could not spare his diamond, also parted with a club. Declarer then led a club to the queen and took the last three tricks with the Q-A-7 to make the contract.

Of course, all the cards had to be perfectly placed and the timing also had to be precisely right for the double squeeze to succeed. But coincidences like this seem to occur quite often when there's a good helmsman at the wheel.

Tomorrow: A switch in time saves nine. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"You'd be happy in Detroit, Kittycat. Their teams are Lions and Tigers."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 — mater
5 Name-tags, for short
8 Skilled
12 Bible
14 Go like a butterfly
15 Spectators collectively
16 — song (inexpensively)
17 Sullivan and McMahon
18 Secular
20 "The Stranger" author
23 Scoff
24 Works with
25 Bygone type of eatery
28 Wrestling win
29 Auto style
30 Joke
32 Southern
34 Positive
35 "Winnie-the- —"

DOWN

1 Khan title
2 Brock of baseball
3 Stylish, in the '60s
4 Farewells
5 Charged particles
6 Billy Ray Cyrus series
7 Bony
8 Validate
9 United nations
10 Old Italian coin
11 And others (abbr.)
13 Hotel furniture
19 A billion years (var.)
20 Half a pint

21 Largest continent
22 List of options
23 A son of Jacob
25 Balloons and fever
27 "G.W.T.W." plantation
29 Pack away
31 Jewel
33 Loofah, e.g.
34 Block
36 Opening course, often
37 Wealthy
38 Sound comeback
39 Person, place or thing
40 Old portico
43 Salt Lake athlete
44 Run-down horse
45 Literary collection
46 Hallucinations letters

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | R | F | F | R | A | J | A | Z | I | P |
| D | E | L | I | A | R | I | D | L | I | R |
| D | E | A | R | B | E | G | S | N | O | T |
| S | K | Y | E | B | A | S | A | C | N | E |
| | | | | T | M | I | A | R | M | |
| M | A | D | R | A | S | W | E | B | B | E |
| A | B | O | U | T | L | U | I | G | I | |
| D | A | N | C | E | R | W | A | L | L | O |
| | | | | K | O | I | R | Y | A | |
| H | E | M | S | A | W | E | N | O | G | O |
| O | R | E | S | L | A | T | C | H | I | P |
| A | G | E | O | T | I | C | E | I | R | E |
| R | O | T | B | O | T | H | S | O | L | D |

Saturday's answer 11-27

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | |

THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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Cryptoquip

KL BQW UGA SGXKQWDZB

YQZQXCA TWGXAD YQSCXKFT

BQWX YGX PUCCZD, PQWZA

BQW MC G LCFACX MZCFACX?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE TV HAD BEEN PLACED SO FAR AWAY FROM ME, I COULD ONLY VIEW IT BY USING A TELLY SCOPE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Y