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



High-society Victorians had a formal way to meet new friends. No playground visits, no social media. The only proper method was an exchange of calling cards, often called "visiting cards." The system gave the elite a chance to screen newcomers and reject the "unwanted." The man's card was small enough to fit in his breast pocket. The woman's card was a little larger. Both were engraved with the person's name and a title, such as Mr. or Mrs., or rank, like Governor, in a simple typestyle. By the end of the century, an address was included, and the typescript was more elaborate.

To meet a neighbor, you went in a carriage to deliver a calling card. Your driver gave it to a maid, who took it to the lady of the house. She decided if she was "not at home" or "at home." The "at home" meant you could meet right away. "Not at home" meant she didn't want to meet you then and may never want to meet you.

A card was left on the pile in a silver dish in the hall. The card with the most impressive name was kept on the top. Calling cards for those of lower social standing were decorated by the end of the 19th century, and these are the ones most collected today. Colorful flowers, birds, hands, faces or designs surround the simple name. Most sell today for \$1 to \$10.

The special silver-plated card trays are another collectible. They often are designed to look like a ceramic dish on a pedestal with a cloth draped on the side or with birds perched in a corner. The imaginative decorations made it clear that the dishes were not meant to serve food. A silver-plated calling-card dish sells for about \$150 to \$300.

Q: Years ago, I purchased a Shaker-style rocker at a tag sale. There's a metal plate on it that reads "American Chair Mfg. Co., Hallstead, Pa." and "Made for G.E. Finkel Furn. Co., Sussex, N.J." The seat appears to have the original metal coils, with burlap wrapped around horsehair. Can you give me any information about the maker of this rocking chair?

A: The American Chair Manufacturing Co. was in business from 1892 to 1930. The company was listed in directories in Brandt and Hallstead, Pa. It was known for its Arts and Crafts furniture, which it first made in 1904.

Tip: Don't stack boxes of Christmas ornaments. The weight may break some of the glass ornaments.

Need prices for collectibles? Find them at Kovels.com, our website for collectors. More than 84,000 prices and 5,000 color pictures have just been added. Now you can find more than 856,000 prices that can help you determine the value of your collectible. Access to the prices is free at Kovels.com/priceguide.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How 'bout you tell me what you want for Christmas, then I'll tell you what I want."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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 regionmust contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

							12/	0.0	
3	7	1	5	4	2	8	9	6	
5	4	9	7	6	8	1	2	3	, Inc.
6	8	2	3	1	9	5	4	7	yndicate
4	6	5	8	9	1	3	7	2	King Features Syndicate, Inc.
8	9	3	2	7	4	6	1	5	King Fe
1	2	7	6	5	3	9	8	4	Dist. by
7	3	4	1	8	5	2	6	9	\$2012 Conceptis Pazzles, Dist. by
2	1	6	9	3	7	4	5	8	onceptis
9	5	8	4	2	6	7	3	1	©2012.C

Cryptoquip TWQEPX WAZED NCE'X MFENF TED OEPUYVFK WX W GDETVAVIFZ ACPDAC MIBUEWDO

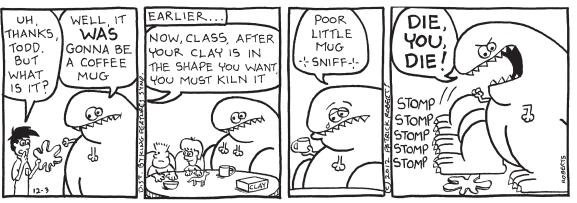
GYWBID: EDKWF TDIIQWF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT BIG DERBY HORSE DEVOURED FIVE POUNDS OF DRIED GRASS AT ONCE, BUT THAT'S VERY HAY-TYPICAL.

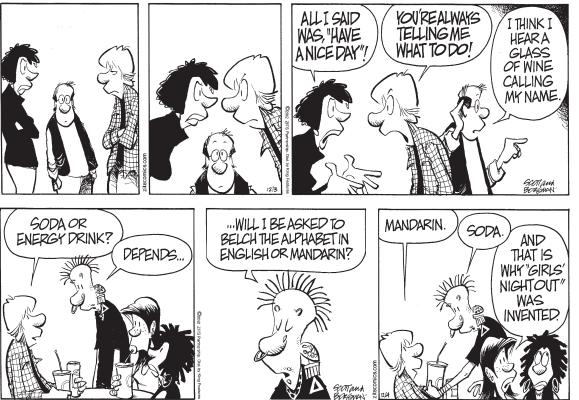
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH \blacklozenge A K J 10 5 \blacklozenge A 6 \blacklozenge K Q 4							
◆875 WEST EAST ◆97 ◆Q432 ♥987 ♥QJ542 ◆109732 ◆A8 ◆104 ◆93							
SOUTH 8 8 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6							
The bidding:							
South	West	North	East				
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass				
3 🐥	Pass	3 🛧	Pass				
3 NT	Pass	4 🗭	Pass				
4 🎔		6 NT					
Opening lead — nine of hearts.							

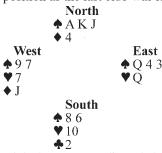
Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1990 world women's pairs in Geneva. North-South were Kathie Wei and Judi Radin of the United States, who narrowly missed adding a second world pairs title to the one they earned in 1978.

Six clubs would have been a much safer spot for North-South, but after Radin opened the South hand with an offbeat one notrump -- ostensibly showing a balanced hand of 14-16 points – Wei not unreasonably drove to the slam in notrump, utilizing an alternate form of Stayman along the way.

Radin won the heart lead with the king and could count 10 top tricks in spades, hearts and clubs. If West had the ace of diamonds, two diamond tricks could be made by leading twice toward the K-Q-4 without having to risk a spade finesse.

So at trick two, Radin led a diamond to dummy's queen. If East had ducked smoothly, she could have given declarer a major headache. As it was, though, East took the first diamond and returned a heart to dummy's ace. Radin then cashed the king of diamonds and ran her clubs to produce this position as the last club was led:



On the club deuce, West discarded her heart. Dummy's diamond was then let go, and East had to part with a spade in order to guard against South's ten of hearts. Reading the situation perfectly, Radin cashed the A-K of spades and dropped the queen to bring home the slam.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43 Puppy's	2 Rose of	23 Billiards		
1 Word with	call	baseball	stick		
special or	44 Conked	3 Burn	25 Leaning		
photo	out	some-	Tower		
4 Gorilla	46 "Jaws"	what	city		
7 Riches	villain	4 Do sums	26 Rise		
11 Chick's	50 Have on	5 Needy	high		
sound	53 Two fives	6 Host	27 Flightless		
13 —	55 Screen	7 Home of	flock		
Perignon	symbol	Eagles	28 Island		
14 Frost	56 Therefore	and	near		
15 Western	57 Old	Flyers	Java		
state	French	8 A billion	29 Culture		
16 One of	coin	vears	medium		
the Seven	· · ·	9 Young	30 Start over		
Dwarfs	King —"	fellow	31 Finish		
17 Bace	59 Noggin	10 Saute	35 Plaything		
place, for	60 Put on	12 Popular	38 Born		
short	61 Superla-	house-	40 — Vegas		
18 Line on	tive	plant	40 — Vegas 42 Old-		
a letter	ending	19 Online	fashioned		
20 Authentic	enung	help	45 Erte's art		
20 Authentic 22 Varnish	DOWN	•			
		page	style 47 Teen's		
ingredient	1 Piece of	21 Boxing			
24 Pass by	work	legend	facial woe		
28 Very	RAFTSN	ILSPA	48 Fishing		
ornate			gear		
32 Figure of	MISDOC		49 Make a		
speech	HOOPL	E NOVA	scarf,		
33 Elderly	W A N T E E O R E M R I		maybe		
34 Tolkien	OCTOPI	RABBIT	50 Char-		
creature	VALV		lotte's		
36 Jacob's	UNTIL I NOON SC	SMYEW HIZO	creation		
brother			51 Before		
37 Burdened	EMSBRO		52 Khan		
39 Bucks	RATCAR	TETRA	title		
41 Pressed	Saturday's	s answer 12-3	54 Sister		
1 2 3	4 5	6 7	8 9 10		

