Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott WHEN THEY GET THE GIANT BOOGER HALL OF FAME WHAT ARE YOU PRACTICING I'M PROUD DOING, HAMMIE? MY SIGNATURE OF YOU. FOR WHEN I'M BUILT, I KNOW YOU'LL BE IN IT! FAMOUS.

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Terry Kovel Antiques and Collecting Glass pitcher not really old

Q: My Mary Gregory pitcher is titled "A Clear Day for Flying." But it's missing some of the painted artwork that should be on the piece. It has the boy flying a kite, but it's missing the sky and ground art as well as the artist's signature.

A: Your pitcher isn't old. It was made in 2008 by the Fenton Art Glass Co. of Williamstown, W.Va. Fenton was one of several U.S. glassmakers that produced "Mary Gregory" glassware beginning in the late 1950s. Everyone used to think that old Mary Gregory glass was named for an employee at the Sandwich Glass factory in Massachusetts, but researchers have discovered that the style - white paintings of children on clear or colored glass - actually originated in Bohemia in the late 1800s.

The style continues to be popular, and Fenton made 1,250 limited-edition pitchers like yours in 2008. We have seen the pitcher for sale at prices ranging from \$100 to \$125. If the paint on yours has simply worn off, it would sell for less. If it's an early prototype by Sue Jackson, the Fenton artist who designed the limited editions, it might sell for a little more than a limited edition.

Q: I have a General Electric Youth Electronics clock radio. My aunt and uncle gave it to many years ago. The numbers on the clock face have 12 different Disney characters, and there are two dials with characters on them for setting the time and alarm. The radio dial is a big, hard plastic Mickey Mouse face. Below the dial it reads "Walt Disney Productions." Can you give me any information as to age and value?

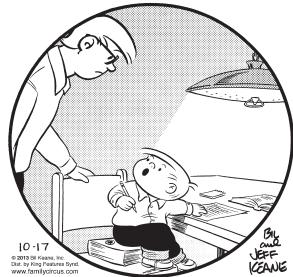
A: Your Mickey Mouse radio is more than 40 years old. General Electric was licensed to make radios for Disney from 1970 to 1975. The radio sells for less than \$20 unless you have the original box. The box adds about \$50.

Q: I have a silver tea service that includes a teapot, sugar bowl and creamer marked "Tiffany & Co., quality 925-1000." The set's tray is marked "Dixon & Sons, Sheffield." Can you tell me the value of this tea set?

since it was made by a different company. Charles Lewis Tiffany opened a retail store in New York in 1837. The name of the store became Tiffany & Co. in 1853. It's still in business. Tiffany & Co. set the standard for sterling silver in the United States, which is 92.5 percent silver. James Dixon 1806. His company was called "James Dixon & Sons" by 1835. The company made Britannia, nickel silver and silver-plated wares. It was out of business by 1992. The quality numbers on the teapot, sugar and creamer indicate they are sterling silver, but the tray is silver-plated. The name "Tiffany" adds value to just about anything. Your set might be worth close to \$1,000.

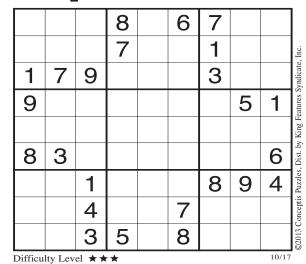
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Don't you think I should get extra credit for doing my homework really fast?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

Cryptoquip

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A: The tray was not originally part of the set, XTSF CE TQQ JCVOGJCQH LIOGBDO, DJTD QTHF LC began working in silver in Sheffield, England, in ATSDLBVQTSQF BTSGEVQ XJG OJG TAASCTBJGO SCTBJGO. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMPUTER THAT APPLE IS MAKING THAT WILL DELIGHT FANS OF A CERTAIN ROCK GROUP: FLEETWOOD IMAC.

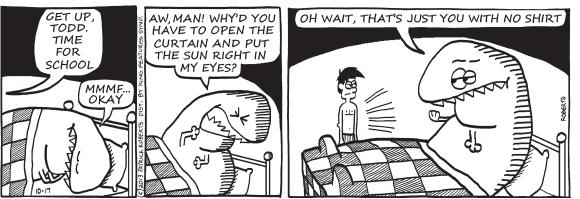
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Bridge • Steve Becker



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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A One-Act Play

In chess, there is a play known as a gambit. It occurs early in the game, when a player deliberately sacrifices a piece in order to obtain a positional advantage that more than compensates for the loss. The deliberate sacrifice plays a role in many other games and sports, and bridge is no exception.

Here is a case in point. South is in three notrump, and West leads a club, dummy playing the queen and East the king. It seems normal to take the ace - it would not occur to most players not to win the trick – but ducking the king is the right play under the circumstances.

It is true that declarer can assure himself of three club tricks by taking the king with the ace, but he should refuse to win the trick nevertheless, even though doing so reduces him to two club tricks. By ducking, South guarantees making three notrump, while if he takes the ace, he jeopardizes the contract and, in the actual deal, goes down as a result.

Let's suppose South takes the ace. If he leads a heart to dummy's king next, West ducks, whereupon South never makes another heart trick. If declarer elects to attack spades instead, either immediately or after the first heart is ducked, he also finds it impossible to make nine tricks.

But if South lets East hold the king of clubs at trick one, he is 100 percent sure of the contract. Regardless of how the East-West cards are divided or what East does next, declarer has nine guaranteed tricks.

Suppose East returns a club. Declarer wins in dummy and plays the K-10 of hearts, overtaking the 10 with the queen and continuing the suit until the ace is driven out. South still has the club ace as an entry to his hand and so winds up with four hearts, two diamonds, two clubs and a spade trick to make the contract.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

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