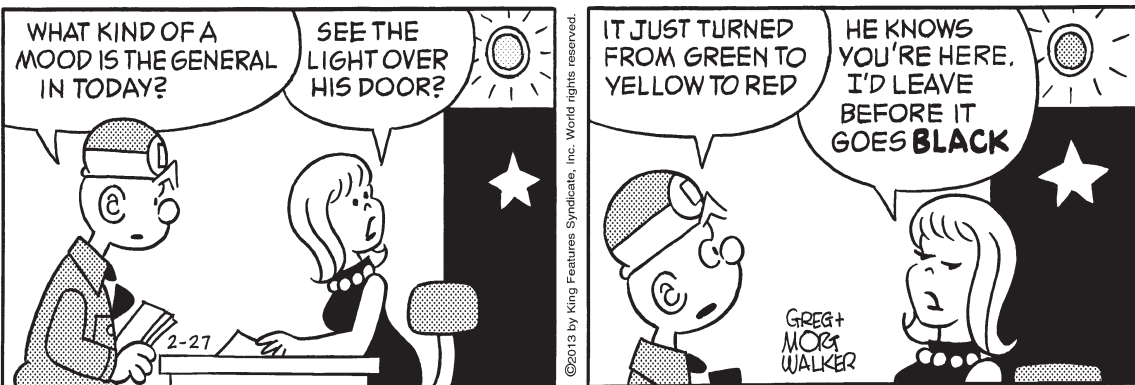


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



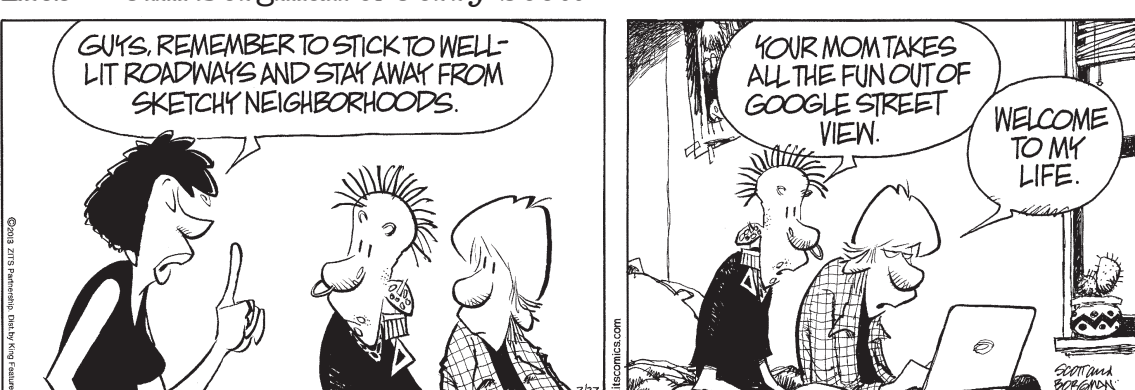
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Heloise**

• Hints from Heloise

**Cutting board takes attention**

Dear Readers: Everyone has a cutting board or two in the kitchen, and some are in pretty bad shape. Here are recommendations from the United States Department of Agriculture regarding cutting boards to help keep food safe:

- Nonporous cutting boards made of plastic, glass or recycled materials are easier to clean than wooden boards.
- Keep at least two cutting boards: one for cutting only fruits and vegetables, the other for meats.
- After use, wash cutting boards with hot, soapy water, rinse and air-dry or dry with paper towels. (Heloise here: Don't use a dish towel, because it can spread bacteria.) Nonporous and solid-wood cutting boards can be washed in the dishwasher. (Heloise here: Although the USDA states that a wooden cutting board can be put in a dishwasher, I hand-wash mine.)
- Over time, all cutting boards wear down and need to be replaced. A sure sign that they need replacing is deep grooves that become difficult to properly clean. — Heloise

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

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

**EGG SEPARATOR**

Dear Heloise: I finally found a way to separate my egg whites from the yolks: I just break them into a small colander! The egg whites easily drop out of the colander, leaving the yolks behind. — Sara B., via e-mail

After testing this hint in Heloise Central, it works, but it takes some time for the whites to get through the colander. What we did was use a slotted spoon to move the egg around a little, then just used the spoon to easily remove the yolk from the whites. — Heloise

**PIE SPICES**

Dear Heloise: Please tell me what is in the apple-pie spice. I cannot find it in the markets. — Janet K., via e-mail

Apple-pie spice typically is a blend of cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice that gives an apple pie its distinct flavor. It should be available at the grocery store, since it is produced by major spice manufacturers. However, if you can't locate it, the spice is available online.

You can add this spice blend to pies, cakes and cookies, or even coffee and French toast. There also is a pumpkin-pie spice available, which is the same blend. — Heloise

**STAY PUT**

Dear Heloise: I had several computer mouse pads that I had received for free. I was at a loss as to what to do with all the other ones.

One day, I was in the kitchen trying to mix something in a bowl with the electric mixer. The only problem was that the bowl kept moving. I placed one of the mouse pads under the bowl, and it no longer slid! I now keep a mouse pad in the kitchen just for this purpose. — Linda D. in Missouri

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 6 4  
♥ A 10 8 3  
♦ J 9 8 2  
♣ A 7

**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 8 5 2  
♥ 6 4 2  
♦ K Q 7 3  
♣ —

**EAST**  
♠ A 3  
♥ Q 5  
♦ A 10  
♣ K J 10 6 4 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 7  
♥ K J 9 7  
♦ 6 5 4  
♣ Q 9 8 5

The bidding:  
East 1♣ Pass South 1♣ West North  
3♣ 3♥ 1♦ Dble

Opening lead — jack of spades.

**Partnership Rapport**

It is generally acknowledged that defense is the most difficult part of the game. For an example of fine defense, consider this deal where East-West performed to perfection and, as a result, took the first seven tricks against South's three-heart contract.

West led the jack of spades, and East correctly concluded that the only good reason his partner could have for not leading a club initially was that he didn't have one to lead. So, after dummy played low, East won the spade with the ace and returned the deuce of clubs, confident that West would ruff.

West ruffed, as expected, and then had to decide whether to lead a spade at trick three (in the hope that East had been dealt the singleton ace) or whether to return a low diamond (hoping East had the ace).

This was not a difficult decision. The meaning of East's return of the deuce of clubs — when it was clear from the bidding that East was not leading his fourth-best club — was easy to interpret. East was indicating, via a suit-preference signal, that he wanted West to lead a diamond — the lower-ranking of the two remaining side suits — after he ruffed the club. Had East desired a spade lead, he would have returned a high club instead.

So, after ruffing the club, West led a low diamond to East's ace, and East led another club for West to ruff. West then cashed the K-Q of diamonds, East discarding the three of spades, and led a spade, which East ruffed. South scored the rest of the tricks, but the upshot was that he was down three — 300 points — as a result of the excellent defense he encountered.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



2-27

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www.familycircus.com

"Do you want me to help hold Daddy down so he'll take his medicine?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

2/27

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

Q'M UQJV LB XZBMNWV C  
EFIZQMOPVM WEQTVYV HZNQL  
KQLE HNPPF YJQT. QL  
KBNUM IV C XVCWEF UQLWEQ.

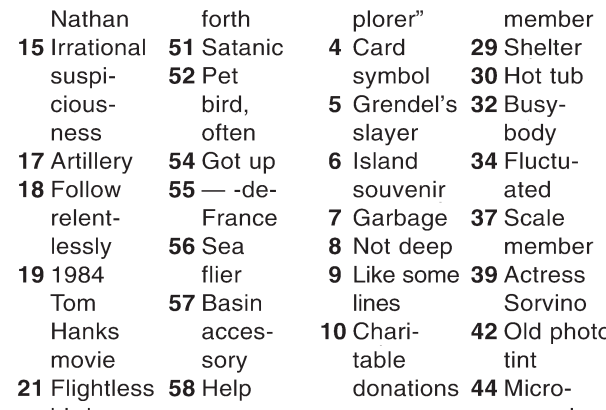
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GUY WHO'S ALWAYS OFFERING DEEP ANALYSES OF RUN-OF-THE-MILL SPUDS: A COMMON-TATER COMMENTATOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals I

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lather
  - 5 Diner order, for short
  - 8 Unwanted email
  - 12 On
  - 13 Always, in verse
  - 14 Patriot Nathan
  - 15 Irrational suspiciousness
  - 17 Artillery
  - 18 Follow relentlessly
  - 19 1984 Tom Hanks movie
  - 21 Flightless bird
  - 22 Knoll
  - 23 Energy
  - 26 North Pole staffer
  - 28 Surveys
  - 31 Leading man?
  - 33 A mere handful
  - 35 Cry
- DOWN**
- 11 Netting glove detection
  - 16 City in Alaska
  - 20 4-Down, e.g.
  - 23 Tase
  - 24 Altar
  - 2 Western affirmative
  - 3 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
  - 4 Card symbol
  - 5 Grendel's slayer
  - 6 Island souvenir
  - 7 Garbage
  - 8 Not deep
  - 9 Like some lines
  - 10 Charitable donations
  - 11 Netting glove detection
  - 16 City in Alaska
  - 20 4-Down, e.g.
  - 23 Tase
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  - 2 Western affirmative
  - 3 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
  - 4 Card symbol
  - 5 Grendel's slayer
  - 6 Island souvenir
  - 7 Garbage
  - 8 Not deep
  - 9 Like some lines
  - 10 Charitable donations

Yesterday's answer 2-27



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 52 53 54 55 56  
57 58 59