MORT WALKER'S THE BESTOFTIMES

FULL-FEATURED FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN MAGAZINE (SM)

CONNECTICUT Greenwich/Stamford & Norwalk/Westport JUNE 2007



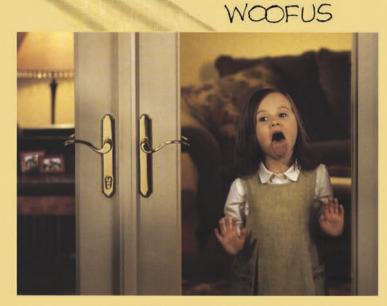
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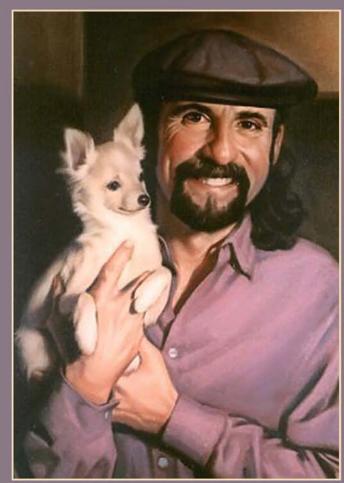




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DEBBIE TRAVIS' HOUSE TO HOME



CHANGE OF FACE BY DEBBIE TRAVIS

The time has come to move outdoors and set up for barbecues, kids playing in the backyard, planting gardens — all the good stuff that spring and summer bring. How does your outdoor furniture look? If you're like me, you're probably a bit discouraged. Without proper storage, the larger pieces remained outside; others have been stuffed under the porch to become a cozy nesting ground for furry animals. But don't despair. With a little elbow grease and some paint, you'll be sitting pretty in no time.

Here are my tips for rescuing outdoor furniture. Whether you have just been to the flea market or you are renewing your own tables and chairs, check first for major flaws. If you do not have the ability to fix broken slats, ripped wicker and wobbly legs, then recycle the piece for someone else to repair. However, chipped paint and rust are not difficult to conquer.

Wicker is resistant to wet weather and is comfortable, making it an ideal choice for the garden, balcony or deck. Clean the wicker with a mild detergent and damp cloth and wipe dry. Gently brush or sand away loose paint flakes. Spray the piece with a coat of white acrylic primer and let dry. Using exterior latex paint, apply your choice of color. When spraying, use a gentle sweeping motion and work from different directions to reach all sides of the wicker. For solid coverage, apply two thin coats to avoid drips.

I wanted the new wicker chair shown here to have an antiqued appearance. After the prime coat, I distressed the wicker by rubbing red paint in random patches into the wicker with a bristle paintbrush, followed by patches of pale green, making sure all the wicker was covered with one of the paint colors. Layering different shades gives the look of years of wear and fading.

Wrought iron, with its stylish lines and solid appearance, is a natural for patio dining, and these pieces endure for decades. To renew metal furniture, first remove any rust with a metal brush and steel wool. Clean with soap and water and wipe dry. Use a metal primer to protect the surface and then paint. New seat cushions add both comfort and life to a single chair or patio set. You can also make seat covers and table toppers with the weather- and mildew-resistant fabrics found at your sewing store.

Wood furniture is an ageless favorite, from Adirondack chairs and cedar benches to pine or barn-board picnic tables. Refresh painted wood by cleaning with soapy water, but don't saturate the wood. Sand to remove paint flakes, and rough up the surface if the old paint has a glossy finish. Then prime and paint.

Choose exterior latex paint with a gloss sheen for a durable finish. If wood has been stained, clean, then sand to open the wood's pores. You have a choice of colored stains as well as the traditional wood tones. Try a combination of purple, blue, red or yellow stain shades to liven up a deck or family seating area.

Even the most common and inexpensive plastic chairs can be stylish and comfy. A can of silver or bronze metal spray paint and sleek, black cushions will produce a modern update quickly.

* * *

Debbie Travis' House to Home column is produced by Debbie Travis and Barbara Dingle. Please e-mail your questions to house2home@debbietravis. com. For more ideas, look for Debbie's newest book, "Kitchens and Baths."

(c) 2007 Debbie Travis
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New wicker gets an antiqued paint treatment with layers of red and pale green applied with a brush to reach in and around all the grooves.

Contact Us: Mort Walker's THE BEST OF TIMES PO Box 7338 Wilton, CT 06897 web: thebestoftimes.us



"Creating a beautiful smile and a reason to use it"

Dr. Stephen H. Wolpo received his dental degree from New York University School of Dentistry, where he graduated from its special honors seven-year Combined Degree Program. Liscensed in both New York State and Connecticut, he began his career as an associate in offices in New York City and Huntington, Connecticut, until opening his private practices in Stamford and New York City in 1990.

In March 2005, Dr. Wolpo received his Masters in Cosmetic Dentistry from the acclaimed Rosenthal Institute's Aesthetic Program. In June 2006, he completed a two-year program in Implantology at New York University, and is a Fellow of the prestigious International Congress of Oral Implantologists. His practice utilizes Simplant, the most technologically advanced computer software available for implant treatment.

Dr. Wolpo has served as a clinical instructor at Columbia University and has lectured at Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital on geriatric dentistry. He is a practitioner of the state-of-the-art "Teeth in an Hour" program, allowing many denture wearers to return to better oral health, nutrition and quality of life. he has served the Stamford community as the consulting dentist at the William and Sally Tandet Center and at Edgehill retirement home.

Amoung his numerous civic affiliations, Dr. Wolpo is a member of the Society for Special Care in Dentistry, Stamford Chamber of Commerce and the Stamford Exchange Club.

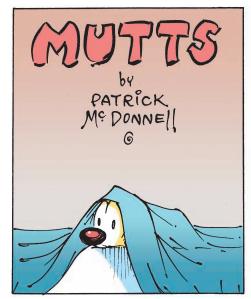
Dr. Wolpo contributes a great deal of his professional time to treating patients with special needs through ARI and ARC. If you know of someone who could benefit from his unique abilities and expertise in this area, please bring them to his attention. In addition, Dr. Wolpo's practice specializes in elder care and the unique needs of our older population.

Dr. Wolpo participates in more than 100 hours of continuing education each year. The office uses the most up-to-date and clinically advanced equipment and techniques, including the new Waterlase Dental Laser for both hard and soft tissue treatments. This painless, drill-free treatment can be used for many cavities, periodontal diseases and to help reduce the appearance of "gummy" smiles. There is an additional charge for the use of this equipment that may or may not be covered by your insurance carrier. If you have any questions as to whether the Dental Laser is appropriate for your treatment, please ask Dr. Wolpo. 203-323-9277 www.smilesensations.com



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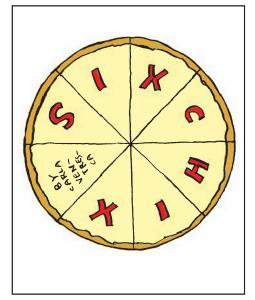
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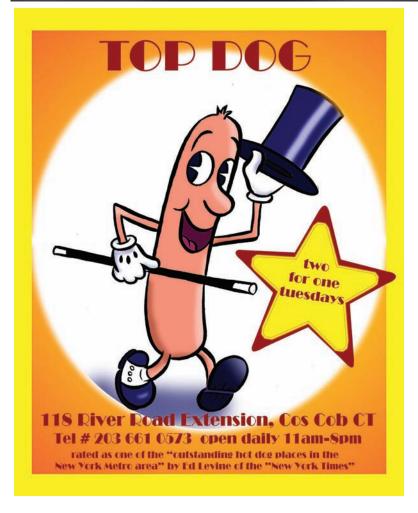
















BIRD SANCTUARY

BY HELOISE

Dear Readers: Do you want to turn your backyard into an inviting bird santuary? With a little effort and a lot of love, before long your yard could be attracting a wide variety of birds. The best way to start is to entice them with appetizing feeders, and the most popular feeder just might be a suet block.

Here's a recipe for making your own suet that so many birds will love, it might only last a day or so. That's why you'll want to make a big batch. You'll need:

1 cup lard (rendered fat of hogs, not vegetable oil)

1 cup peanut butter (crunchy or plain)

1 cup flour

2 cups instant oatmeal

2 cups cornmeal

1 cup raisins

1 cup ground peanuts (unsalted)

Melt the lard and peanut butter, then add the other ingredients. Pour into a pan and put in the fridge overnight to chill, and it will get firm. All you need to do is cut it into blocks to fit a suet feeder. Wrap any leftovers in wax paper or plastic wrap and freeze. You can also reuse the containers that the commercial suet comes in by filling with the homemade suet and freezing.

Wild birds also love fresh water, so add a birdbath or fountain. And for a real treat, cut up an orange. The word will get out that your yard is the place to go! — Heloise

SIMPLY CABBIE

Dear Readers: My miniature schnauzer, Cabbie, loves to play with empty plastic bottles, such as soda bottles. It's a game with her to see how fast she can get the cap off (no matter how tight we turn it). To give her a treat for a job well done, I put a few pieces of hard, crunchy food inside the bottle so that when she gets it open, she then can have a snack. — Heloise

OUICK CLEANUP

Dear Heloise: Yesterday, I couldn't find a scrub brush to clean an outdoor animal drinking container that had gotten rather scummy with green algae while sitting in the sunlight. I thought of something I'd saved under the kitchen sink — one of those plastic mesh bags that onions and oranges come in. I cut it in half with scissors so my daughter and I could each have a scrubbie for the chore. It worked so well, I thought I'd recommend it to others who save such things. — Ruthie Plum, Fayetteville, Ark.

PET NAMES

Dear Heloise: Another funny pet name: My grandson named his adopted kitten Maybe. Maybe they will keep her, and maybe they won't! — Judith Hayes, Middletown, N.Y.

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Dick and Dandie Mowery of Plainfield, Pa., sent this photo of their 2-year-old Norwegian Forest cat, Bentley, in his sunglasses looking like "Mr. Cool."



Mort Walker's THE BEST OF TIMES CONNECTICUT June 2007

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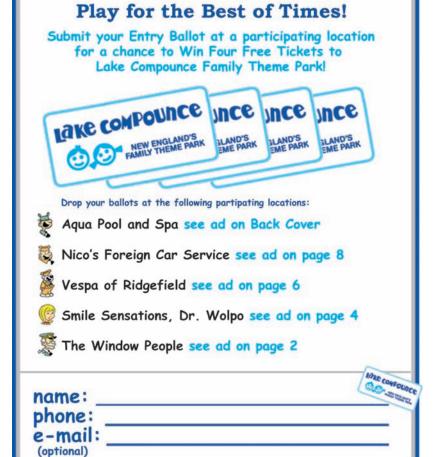




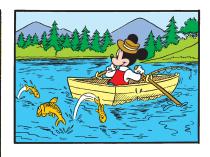












































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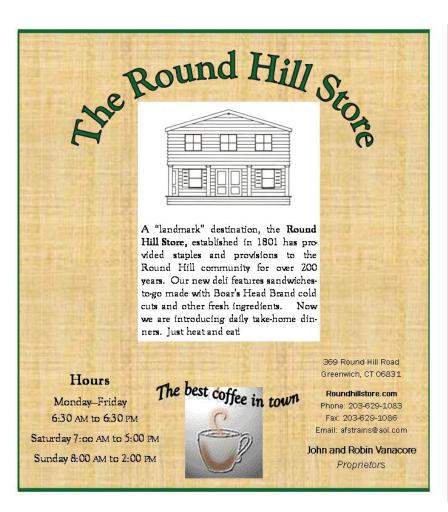


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BUDGET TRAVEL



BY ARTHUR FROMMER

SIX WAYS TO OFFSET THE HIGH COST OF ACCOMMODATIONS IN EUROPE

BY ARTHUR FROMMER

How do you overcome the weakness of the U.S. dollar in planning a trip to Europe? One suggestion I made in a recent column was to use private home-stays in place of standard hotels or guesthouses. In even the most expensive European capitals, families wanting to supplement their incomes will charge as little as \$40 per person per night for the one or two rooms they rent in their private homes or apartments.

Though none of our readers challenged that suggestion, a great many of them proposed other steps:

- (1) OBTAIN YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS VIA A HOME EXCHANGE: "As an Australian," wrote a reader from Down Under, "my dollar goes even less far than yours. And so I use a home exchange for my lodgings, which I obtained by going to an agency based in London, www.homebase-hols.com. I had a wonderful time in London and also saved money by cooking in a well-equipped kitchen (I liked shopping in the local markets and little shops) and could afford to splurge once in a while on great meals out."
- (2) USE PRICELINE TO CUT THE COST OF EUROPEAN HOTELS: "Any discussion of affordable lodging options in the major cities of Europe should include some mention of Priceline.com bidding," wrote an American reader. "Yes, there are drawbacks to not knowing the exact hotel you will be staying at, but you can get rooms at good, international standard hotels in London and (to a slightly lesser extent) Paris for around \$100 or so. Though London has the largest selection and biggest savings, you also can use Priceline for Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome and most other major cities in Europe. As always, the first stop should be to www.biddingfortravel.com and www.betterbidding.com, in order to have enough info to bid intelligently."
- (3) GO CAMPING INSTEAD: "In two weeks, my family (husband, myself and three girls, ages 12, 12 and 16) are traveling through Europe. We have rented a new camper to be picked up in Frankfurt, Germany and plan to go through Switzerland, Italy, Austria and back through Germany. We looked at a rental car plus hotel stays versus a motor home plus campsites. Camping is at least \$1,000 cheaper and comes with a kitchen. We can shop markets and travel freely, as campgrounds do not need reservations. And most of them have pools, grocery stores and pizzerias."
- (4) CUT DOWN ON THE LENGTH AND COMPLEXITY OF YOUR ITINERARY: "One can reduce the scope of the vacation; in planning for this September, instead of covering more territory

(and countries) in my two weeks' vacation as I've done in the past, I'll simply be at a bungalow southwest of Toulouse and in a great apartment in Barcelona. I've talked three friends into going, which greatly cuts the per-person cost, and we get to explore an area in more depth on a week-long car rental in France. Plus, we'll get a wonderful train ride through the Pyrennees. If it's Tuesday, I'm at my private pool in L'Isle-en-Dodon, not running for a train."

- (5) TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LARGE EUROPEAN CITIES: Wrote a British reader: "Prices in London are expensive for us Brits, too. It's not the dollar's fault. Go to any capital city in Europe, and you're paying double. I have the same problem when I stop over in New York and face those ridiculous prices in that giant place. Your effort should be to visit the smaller, secondary locations where prices are always lower. One city (London or Paris) is not an example of how far your money goes in any country."
- (6) VACATION IN PLACES OTHER THAN EUROPE: "What we do," wrote still another reader, "is wait it out by exploring travel possibilities in other parts of the world where the dollar is still strong. I am writing this from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I am spending two months in a luxury duplex apartment in an upscale area for less than \$30 per day. I have floor-to-ceiling windows with a wraparound terrace with views in several directions, 24-hour security, maid service, two bathrooms, a beautiful gym and pool on the premises, cable TV, fine audio equipment, Internet, etc. I couldn't even buy a pizza and beer in Europe for that money these days. Who needs Europe?!"

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The U.S. dollar is still very strong in Buenos Aries, Argentina.





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TAKE PRECAUTIONS BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN BY AL AND KELLY

CARRELL

We're sure you're looking forward to a family vacation about this time of year, but before you go away, you might want to think about protecting your home. Here are some things you should do when planning to be away from home for any length of time.

If you have a monitored alarm system, make sure your contact information is up-to-date, and test your system.

Make sure to stop your mail and newspapers, and have a neighbor double-check to make sure mail or flyers don't pile up on your front porch.

Tell other neighbors that you are leaving, too, so they will know that you are gone if they see something going on there.

THE SUPER HANDYMAN

might want to park in your driveway instead. It's a winwin situation. Set timers for lamps and radios so that it looks like

If they park in the street, they

Set timers for lamps and radios so that it looks like someone is around. Try to follow the same light schedule you are on before you leave in order to appear normal.

Turn your phone ringer off so that it doesn't sound like you are gone. Some thieves call the house to see if you will answer. Transfer your calls, or let the machine get it.

If you have valuables around, stash them in a hiding place, or take them to a friend's house for a vacation of their own.

Turn off your water heater to prevent accidents, and set your thermostats up high to save energy.

Have a friend or neighbor stop in and check things out every few days just to be on the safe side.

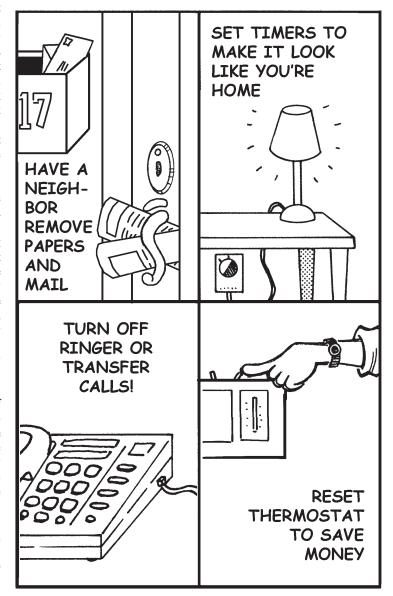
Have fun and relax. It will be a lot easier knowing that you have taken a few extra precautions to protect your home and belongings!

Q: Every summer, we seem to have a moisture problem in our attic. I don't see much of a problem during the winter. What can we do to cut down on some of this? — A.L.

A: You probably need to add more ventilation to the attic. Check your soffet vents to make sure they are not blocked, and make sure that your overhead vents are open in order to create a steady airflow through your attic space. This will help remove the hot, moist air from the area. This will benefit you year-round. Check air-conditioning ductwork to make sure it is sealed, too. If there are leaks, that might explain why you only have the problem in the summer.

* * *

Vinegar is one of those everyday household products that we all have in our homes. But it's not just for making pickles and salad dressing. It has tons of other uses, some you might not even know about. You can use it in the bathroom, shop, garage and even outdoors. It's really inexpensive to purchase and, by using it in place of many store-bought home remedies, it can save you a lot of money. We have put together a list of some of our favorite tried-andtrue uses for the stuff. If you are interested in finding out more and would even like a copy of our list, just send us a selfaddressed, stamped envelope to The Super Handyman, in care of this publication. You can get this information on our Web site at www. thesuperhandyman.com. We hope to hear from you soon. Have a SUPER DAY!



Got a question or a handy tip? Send it to The Super Handyman in care of this newspaper, or visit our Web site at www.thesuperhandyman.com. Those of general interest will be used in future columns.

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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green 2 6 5 1 8 4 9 6 1 5 7 9 5 2 4 3 9 1 4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku number game

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and every 3x3 box
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Solution in this edition





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DESIGN

Cover Artist Johnny Gruelle

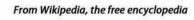
Johnny Gruelle (December 24, 1880 - January 8, 1938) was an artist, political cartoonist, and writer of children's books. He is best known as the creator of Raggedy Ann. He also provided colour illustrations for a 1914 edition of Grimm's Fairy Tales.

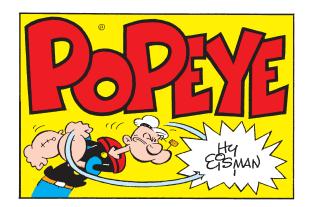
He was born John Barton Gruelle in Arcola, Illinois. His first well known cartooning work was Mr. Twee Deedle which Gruelle created after he beat out 1,500 other entrants in a cartooning contest sponsored in 1911 by The New York Herald. Mr. Twee Deedle was in print from 1911 to 1914.

One day, Johnny gave his daughter Marcella a dusty, faceless rag doll found in the attic. Johnny drew a face on the doll and named her Raggedy Ann. Marcella played with the doll so much, Raggedy Ann became like a sister to her. Gruelle wanted other little girls to have such dolls. Gruelle's Raggedy Ann doll Patent # 47789 was dated September 7, 1915. In 1918, the PF Volland Company published Raggedy Ann Stories. Gruelle then created a following series of popular Raggedy Ann books and dolls.

Gruelle lived in the Silvermine section of Norwalk, Connecticut, where the dolls were first mass produced, and later moved his home and company to neighboring Wilton, Connecticut.

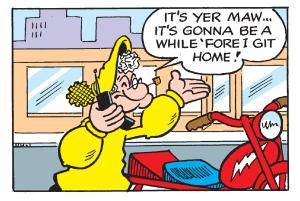
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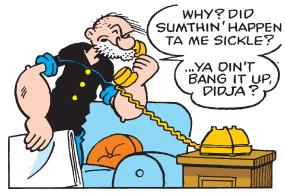




















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PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

38 39

SO-SO **SEWING**

ACROSS

- 1 Mail again, as a package
- 7 The "SA" of ASAP
- 13 Old Chrysler model
- 20 Iron on, e.g.
- 21 Sub-detecting systems
- 22 With ice cream
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Penmen
- 26 Longtime fitness guru Jack
- 27 Tar's mop
- 28 Trainees
- 29 Tizzy
- 30 Table leftover
- 32 "- far far better thing I do ...": Dickens
- **34** "O Sole —"
- 35 Riddle, part 2
- 41 Primitive calculator
- 45 "Well, how obvious!"
- 46 Canyon call
- 47 Tokyo sash
- 48 Of the sun
- 49 3, on some clocks
- 50 Abigail Van --, a.k.a. "Dear Abby"
- 52 Of the Vatican
- **54** Riddle, part 3
- 58 Web page standard
- 59 Young fellow 60 Former Montreal
- team
- 61 Extremists 62 Fifty-fifty
- 64 Smartens (up)
- **65** Is apt
- 66 Old salt
- 69 More vile
- 70 Crony
- 71 Mary's pet
- 75 End of the riddle
- 79 Beef cuts
- 80 Painter Max
- 81 Long groove
- **82** Go rollerblading 83 Citrus cooler
- 84 Atlas datum
- 85 Ardennes article
- 86 Semi engine
- 87 Start of the riddle's answer
- 93 With 96-Across, food seasoning brand
- 94 Dallas denizen
- 95 Gershwin or Glass
- 96 See 93-Across
- 100 Preliminary drafts 104 Gargantuan
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CLUBHEAD TO
REACH THE
BALL AHEAD OF
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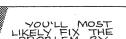
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(news agency)

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YOU'LL MOST LIKELY FIX THE PROBLEM BY SETTING THE CLUB MORE INTO THE PALM OF YOUR LEADING HAND. THIS REDUCES
WRIST FLIPPINESS,
AND ALSO
PROTECTS BETTER
AGAINST DURING IMPACT

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



High and low volleys are tough shots. On high volleys, don't break your wrist as you reach up to make contact. Keep your wrist firm.





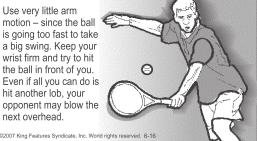
Once the opponent's deep behind the baseline, hit a drop shot short in his court - it will be difficult for him to reach it. Move forward -8 anticipating that at best he'll flick the ball up and if you're at the net, you should have an easy put-away volley -14 ©2007 King Features Syn

When an opponent rips a powerful overhead, many players take a wild swing

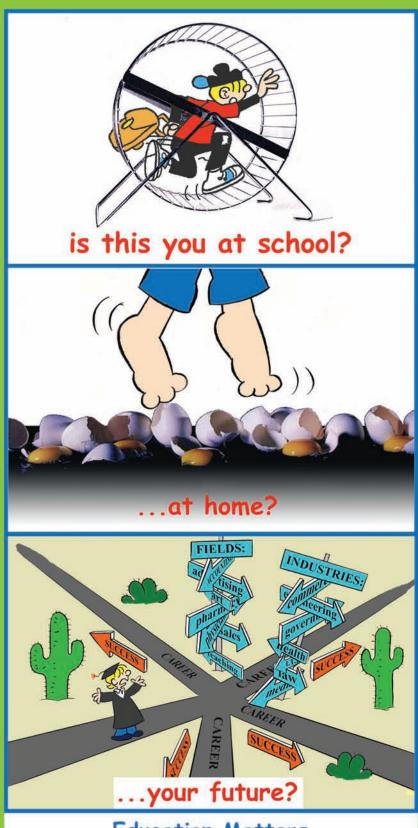
Use very little arm motion – since the ball is going too fast to take a big swing. Keep your wrist firm and try to hit the ball in front of you. Even if all you can do is hit another lob, your opponent may blow the next overhead.

attempting to return it.

Instead, they should block the smash back like it's a volley.



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