



MORT WALKER'S

FREE

The BEST of TIMES™

FULL-FEATURED FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN MAGAZINE (SM)

CONNECTICUT

Greenwich/Stamford & Norwalk/Westport

Holiday 2008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TO YOU AND YOURS
WE HOPE YOURS,
LIKE OURS, ENDURES

Our promise - We will keep you entertained, informed, and smiling with a great selection of columns, puzzles and cartoons.
Available in many convenient locations, so you can enjoy while you are "out and about."

Empowering students to shape the future!



***A 21st Century
High School Education
in a Small Caring
Environment***

What makes AITE unique?

- ★ Small Student Population
- ★ IT & Pre-Engineering Programs
- ★ Technology Rich Environment
- ★ Certified Professional Faculty
- ★ Rigorous Academic Preparation
- ★ Early College Experience
- ★ Integration of Technology in all Classes
- ★ Virtual High School
- ★ Multicultural Diversity
- ★ Develops the Whole Child

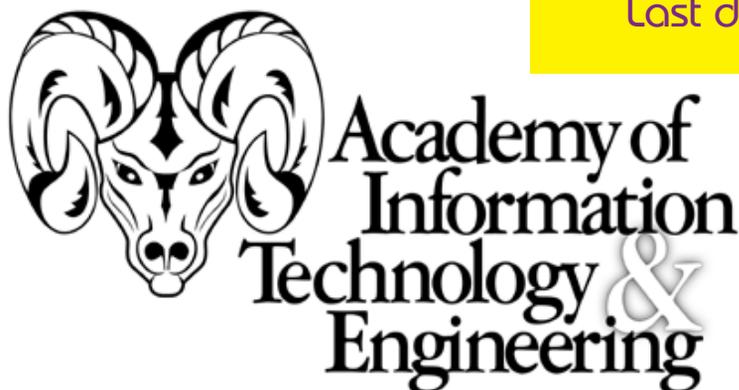
Academy of Information Technology & Engineering

***An Interdistrict Magnet Public
College Preparatory High School
Serving Lower Fairfield County***

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR 2008/2009

Saturday, October 25 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday, December 6 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday, January 8 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Saturday, January 31 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Last day to apply—February 9, 2009



AITE @ Rippowam Campus
 411 High Ridge Road
 Stamford, CT 06905
 (203) 977-4336
 (203) 977-6638 (fax)
www.aitestamford.org

MAXimize

ALL YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS

AT

*Westport's Complete Art Supply Store

Celebrating Our 51st Anniversary

art books art sets pens & pencils
portfolios airbrushes markers canvas
kid stuff crafts supplies drafting tables
easels clay & modeling materials lamps
paints & papers

* **PLUS CUSTOM FRAMING**

68 Post Road East • Westport, CT 06880
226•0716

PUT YOUR SHADES

IN MOTION

ALL SYSTEMS GO

(a division of Designs by Town & Country)

Specializing in Somfy and Lutron Motorized Window Coverings

Drapes • Shades • Blinds

Sales, Service and Installation by
Certified Technicians

Commercial - Residential
Designers, Architects & Integrators
Welcome

All Systems Go
244 Mill Street • Greenwich
(203) 531-0308
jma0308@yahoo.com

Mort Walker's THE BEST OF TIMES[®]
61 Studio Court
Stamford, CT 06903
website: thebestoftimes.us

Mort Walker's THE BEST OF TIMES[®] is Registered in the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office

Connecticut edition Volume 3 - Issue Holiday 2008
Covering Fairfield County - Greenwich, Stamford, Darien,
New Canaan, Norwalk, Wilton, and Westport

Connecticut Circulation 14,000 copies

Full-featured Family-friendly Fun Magazine^(SM) is a
service mark of Mort Walker's THE BEST OF TIMES

All rights reserved. ©2008 Mort Walker's THE BEST OF
TIMES, LLC

Neal Walker, VP, Regional Publisher (203) 968-0748
neal@thebestoftimes.us

Mort Walker, Founder (203) 968-0748
mort@thebestoftimes.us

ADVERTISING

RJ Schwartz, VP, Advertising Director (203) 978-1313
rj@thebestoftimes.us

AD SPECS

(Width x Height)
Trimmed Size = 8 3/8" (8.375) x 10 7/8" (10.875)
Bleed = add 1/4" to artwork (8.625" x 11.125")
Live Area = 7.875" x 10.35"

Full Page 7.875" x 9.875"
Full Page with Bleed 8.625" x 11.125" (Note Live Area)
1/2 Page Vertical 3.8" x 9.875"
1/2 Page Horiz 7.875" x 4.8"
1/4 Page 3.8" x 4.8"

FTP SITE FOR AD SUBMISSION:
ftp.rbma.com
rbmabot
bot

Cover artwork courtesy of National Cartoon Museum archives

Feel free to contact us at neal@thebestoftimes.us

DEBBIE TRAVIS' HOUSE TO HOME



YEARNING FOR COMFORT BY DEBBIE TRAVIS

Dear Debbie: We live in a modest three-bedroom home that hasn't had much attention for about 20 years. We are about to invest in redecorating, and I would like to stay away from all the modern sleek lines of today's hot looks. I want my home to remind me of days gone by. I know I sound crazy, but I want my home to feel like it's giving me a big hug. — *Gwendolyn*

Dear Gwendolyn: Wow, I know how you feel. I saved your letter for the last two weeks of the year, as I think most of the world is feeling like this after the disastrous daily news about the economy. When times are hard, we become nostalgic, and this time of the year makes us feel even more like surrounding ourselves with the smells, touch, sights and sounds of a simpler era — the comforts of home.

When I look back through the past century of design, I note that when times were good, for instance, during the Art Deco and Art Nouveau periods, style was sleeker and more streamlined. The same goes for the '60s. On the other hand, when times were tough, like during the second World War, we saw richer, darker

colors and heavy fabrics.

You are not alone in your thinking. I am seeing that trend happening around us now, and it is starting from the very top. One of my favorite designers, Tricia Guild, and her company Designers Guild, has just launched a new collection of fabrics and wallcoverings. The Royal Collection Fabrics and Wallpapers was inspired by the magnificent interiors of Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, official residences of Her Majesty the Queen, and by works of art in the Royal Collection. I will be telling you much more about this fascinating story and how it came about in a future column, but an example of these glorious fabrics is shown here, and illustrates the best in historic style.

For your own home, I would look toward classic furnishings reupholstered in rich textured fabrics that say one thing — pure comfort — a chair to curl up in, a sofa to cuddle on. Visit auctions and estate sales, and then order fabrics that remind you of the coziness of your childhood.

As we all know, wallpaper is back. Check out the papers that are growing in popularity, that bring nostalgia to the forefront: florals, classic stripes and of course the trend that won't go away — damask, in all its glory.

Paint colors are muted jewel tones, but with combinations that are new and fresh — mousy browns with aqua, silver and gold living happily together, and every shade of berry.

We are once again looking at furnishings meant to be well-used, rugs that fit beside a fireplace, an

armchair with a dog comfortably sleeping and the many patinas of polished wood. To keep these looks modern is simple, less cluttered than our ancestors, and touches of today's more modern shapes and style all thrown in.

Happy holidays, everyone, and much health and happiness for the New Year. I am honored to answer your questions each week, which always seem so much more than about decorating — they are about the way we live our lives.

* * *

(c) 2008 Debbie Travis

Distributed by King Features Syndicate

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."



The Royal Collection Fabrics and Wallpapers produced by Designers Guild. Designers Guild fabrics show the very best in updated traditional style, and will transform your living room into a welcoming oasis of comfort.



HOLIDAY TRAVEL

BY HELOISE

Dear Readers: Is your pet a part of your upcoming travel plans for the holidays? Be sure you pack for your pet, too!

Here are some ideas to keep in mind:

- Bedding and a blanket, especially if your pet is elderly.
 - Bowls for food and water; bottled water for the trip.
 - Food and treats — be sure to measure enough for the number of days and a little extra.
 - Medications and a copy of vet records.
 - And remember, many cities have laws against animal droppings being left behind — so take along a pooper scoop or plastic bags from the newspaper or the store. — *Heloise*
- P.S.: We also bring along a few of Cabbie's toys!

RECYCLE

Here is a helpful pet hint to make a low-cost, warm, comfy bed using plastic grocery-store bags and foam peanuts. Loosely stuff plastic bags with foam peanuts and tie the handles together. You can put these in a pillowcase or a dog-bed cover. When the peanuts squash down, just refill with bags of fresh foam peanuts. — *Heloise*

RAISING BIRDS

Dear Heloise: If you raise birds, you should only put proper bird nesting material (not cotton balls or dryer lint) in their cage. You can buy the bedding at any pet store. I was raising zebra finches, and many times they would have six babies at a time. I started putting puppy food (dry, moistened with water) in the cage to help the mother and father feed the babies. They were all healthy and happy! — *Kelly in Colorado*

SAFETY CAT

Dear Heloise: Don't leave the washing-machine lid open — cats have been known to slip inside! Always close the lid, or check that kitty isn't napping inside. Our cat was missing and was finally found in the machine. The same thing could happen in the dryer, so check both machines when your cat is missing if you are in the habit of leaving the lids open. — *Rachel in Texas*

TRASH-CAN DILEMMA

Dear Heloise: Years ago, I was having trouble with animals getting into my trash can. Even though I never saw them, I was told it was raccoons. One night, I had the cabinet open as I was taking the trash bag out of the can. I spotted the red pepper. I still shake some in the bag every time I put the trash out.

I've always said the raccoons have spread the word not to go near that crazy lady's trash. — *Crazy Lady, Hyattsville, Md.*

FISH AQUARIUM

Dear Heloise: My son said he really wanted a fish aquarium. So, we bought a small one and a couple of fish. In no time, my son was tired of the aquarium, because it does take some work.

So, my suggestion (especially with the holidays almost here) is to research before purchase. This is true of any pet. They all take some time, work and proper care. I should have bought a book first and explained to my son he would be responsible for feeding the fish and cleaning the aquarium. We now have the aquarium sitting in the garage waiting for our garage sale. — *Linda in Tennessee*

PET PAL

Dear Readers: Marie Martin of Oakland, Maine, sent a photo of her all-white (except for black and brown markings on his head) cat, Hobie-com, looking like he is waiting for it to be his turn on the computer. Marie says, "Hobie came to us as a stray and loves the computer, and he watches every move on the screen." — *Heloise*

(c) 2008 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR TITO SAGASTEGUI



- Roofing • Bathroom • Hardwood Floors
- Masonry • Painting • Kitchens
- Remodeling • Designs • Carpentry



HOME IMPROVEMENT TITO'S

1(800) 305-9995 • (203) 323-7893 • Fax (203) 348-5305
65 Webb Avenue • Stamford, CT 06902

NICOS FOREIGN CAR REPAIR

Conveniently located at 1285 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT
1/10th mile north of Exit 35 on the Merritt Parkway



General Repairs

Automobile Electric Specialist

When it comes to foreign cars, we are the oldest and most experienced in the area!



30 Years Experience/Same Location



Bring this coupon in for a free oil change offer expires 2/28/09



903-323-4500

The Round Hill Store



A "landmark" destination, the Round Hill Store, established in 1801 has provided staples and provisions to the Round Hill community for over 200 years. Our new deli features sandwiches-to-go made with Boar's Head Brand cold cuts and other fresh ingredients. Now we are introducing daily take-home dinners. Just heat and eat!

Hours

Monday-Friday
6:30 AM to 6:30 PM

Saturday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The best coffee in town



309 Round Hill Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

Hours@rhillstore.com
Phone: 203-629-1083
Fax: 203-629-1086
Email: afstrans@aol.com

John and Robin Vanacore
Proprietors

GIULIANO'S MUSIC CENTER

School of Music



Bringing Music to Customers Since 1975

Stamford, CT
87 High Ridge Rd
203-359-2559

Darien, CT
351 Post Rd
203-656-2155

Wilton, CT
5 River Rd
203-762-2555

FROMMER'S BUDGET TRAVEL



BY ARTHUR FROMMER

FIVE REMARKABLE BARGAINS IN TRAVEL

With so many Americans feeling financially pressed, the travel industry has been forced to create some of its best bargains ever. Here are just five of them:

1. A glamorous cruise costing \$23 a day. Though this won't happen until Nov. 1, 2009, it's a world's wonder for which you might consider booking long in advance. It's a 14-night cruise on the Norwegian Dawn from New York to Miami, sailing down the east coast of the U.S. to the Caribbean, then circling through much of that tropical sea (and making many stops) before heading up to Miami. Those 14 nights, amazingly enough, can be bought for \$319 per person, which comes to precisely \$22.79 per person per night — surely, the lowest price in travel history for cruises on a quality ship. Call White Travel Service Inc. at 800-547-4790 to buy it. Or go to www.whitetravel.com to learn more.

2. This year, a seven-night Christmas cruise for \$290 per person. That same well-known cruise broker, White Travel Service, is offering inside cabins on the comfortable Costa Fortuna for only \$290 per person on its Christmas-season departure of Dec. 21, round-trip from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for seven nights, going to Key West, Grand Cayman, Roatan and Cozumel — and yes, those dates overlap Christmas, which will be celebrated on ship.

3. A four-night winter “week” in Venice for only \$699, including air. From now until March 31 (excepting only the

holidays), Tourcrafters will be offering midweek departures to Venice (called the “Venice Supersaver”) for only \$699 per person, including airfare and fuel surcharge from either New York or Boston to Venice, four nights at the Hotel Hesperia, overlooking the Canareggio Canal, daily buffet breakfast, service charges and taxes. The package costs only \$30 more from Chicago, \$89 more from Miami, and \$215 more from Los Angeles, and there's an added charge of about \$112 for government taxes and fees. At these prices, Venice is again a travel treasure. For reservations, call 800-482-5995 or go online to www.tourcrafters.com.

4. An air-and-land package to the beaches of Costa Rica for \$649. Most air-and-land packages to Costa Rica bring you to the uninteresting city of San Jose, from which you must then undertake a fairly lengthy car or bus trip to either the beaches of Guanacaste, the Arenal Volcano or other places of interest. By contrast, a new air-and-land package flies you, for as little as \$649, directly into the beach area of Guanacaste, where you are put up for four nights at a fine resort, including all three meals daily, unlimited beverages and much else. The exact prices: \$649 from New York, \$699 from Miami, Houston or Chicago and \$799 from Los Angeles or San Francisco, valid from Nov. 20 to Dec. 15, from Jan. 4 to Feb. 14, 2009, and from March 1-31, 2009. Between Feb. 15 and Feb. 28, add \$185. Contact travelthemesanddreams.com or phone 877-870-7447.

5. The biggest discounts ever at Club Med. Essentially, for stays from now until April 25, 2009 (except for holiday periods), eight of the best-known Club Meds are offering seven all-inclusive nights for the price of three. That's a whopping discount, amounting to a reduction of greater than 50 percent. Go to the Club Med Web site (www.clubmed.com), click on “7-Day Weekend,” and you'll find weeklong rates (airfare not included) of \$793 per person at the Club Med Sandpiper in Florida, \$965 at the Club Med Ixtapa on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, \$965 at the Club Med Cancun, \$929 at the Club Med Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, \$996 at the Club Med Caravelle in Guadeloupe, \$1,065 at the Club Med Buccaneer's Creek in Martinique and \$965 at the Club Med Turkoise in the Turks and Caicos.



The Grand Canal of Venice.

(c) 2008 by Arthur Frommer

Distributed by King Features Syndicate

NASCAR THIS WEEK

By Monte Dutton

Nothing offers greater testimony to Jimmie Johnson's virtuosity than his performance in relation to others more celebrated than he.

Johnson won his third consecutive Sprint Cup championship, matching a feat previously achieved only once, by Cale Yarborough, 30 years ago when it was the Winston, not the Sprint Cup.

How can such a racing dynamo be underrated?

Somehow, Johnson is. Maybe it's his cheerful, modest demeanor. Maybe it's his association with Jeff Gordon, who has won four championships and 81 races. Maybe it's the credit given his brilliant crew chief, Chad Knaus. Maybe it's the unprecedented popularity of another Hendrick Motorsports teammate, Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Even allowing for all that, though, it's still hard to figure.

The last person who will extol the virtues of Jimmie Johnson is, well, Jimmie Johnson.

"I don't think it's my place to really say where I fit in," he said. "I feel like I'm doing my job. Against these guys I'm racing against now, I know where I fit in and how good my team is. The performances that I've been able to put up, I'm very proud of that, but, as far as the history books and things like that, it's just not my place to say.

"On top of that, I'm 33 and have a lot of years left of driving. I think I'll still have more opportunities to increase my position."

Johnson, who grew up in an El Cajon, Calif., trailer park, doesn't have to say a word about himself. The numbers do the talking. During the span of his career, he has won nearly twice as



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

Jimmie Johnson clinched his third straight championship at Homestead.

many races (40) as any other driver. From 2002, when Johnson didn't even win Raybestos Rookie of the Year, to the present, only Gordon (23) and Tony Stewart (21) have met Johnson more than halfway.

Don't think Johnson's great streak is going to end at three, either. Two drivers, Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt, each have won seven championships, total, but no one has won four in a row. With three straight a done deal, Gordon said the real number is four.

"In all reality, that's probably the mark they're really looking at," said Gordon. "Only one other person has done it in the history of the sport with three in a row, and it was a totally different points system then, a different era, a different time, and I think, to really put yourself in your own category and really stand out, it's to go four in a row."

* * *

In a move admittedly grounded in economic reality, NASCAR announced it was suspending testing in 2009 for its three national series — Sprint Cup, Nationwide and what will be Camping World Trucks — and two regional ones. Testing has been a hot topic for months, dating back to a July gathering in New Hampshire. The slumping economy turned the prevailing view in recent weeks from expansion to elimination.

"NASCAR has routinely adjusted its test policy over the years to reflect current conditions," said NASCAR President Mike Helton.

Teams will undoubtedly conduct tests at tracks where no NASCAR-sanctioned races are held, but Helton said the elimination of testing at NASCAR tracks will save the industry millions of dollars.

NASCAR has faced little other than steady growth for the past 35 years, but Helton said NASCAR is adjusting its policies based on recommendations from "stakeholders."

"It's their sport today," he said. "We have to consult with sponsors, race tracks, owners and other partners. That's what decisions have to be based on. We have to talk with the stakeholders to see how they're being impacted."

* * *

Let's say a driver has all but won a third straight championship. Let's say only a disaster could stop him. Does that make him superstitious? More superstitious? Yes and no.

Jimmie Johnson said he has superstitions. He hasn't ever noticed them doing him any good. He's not more superstitious right now, though.

If Johnson sees a penny, he kicks it until it reads "heads." On Friday morning, he set his alarm for 7:03 a.m., the "3" signifying championships. He set his microwave timer at 48 seconds for the number on his Chevrolet.

"I've been there when it's worked, and I've been there when it doesn't," he said. "I guess you do it just in case."

Crystal Theatre
Winter Show Schedule

The Three Dragons December 6th, 2008 at 6:30 PM
December 7th, 2008 at 2 PM

Aesops Fables/Three Piggie Opera
January 11th, 2009 2 PM and 4:30 PM

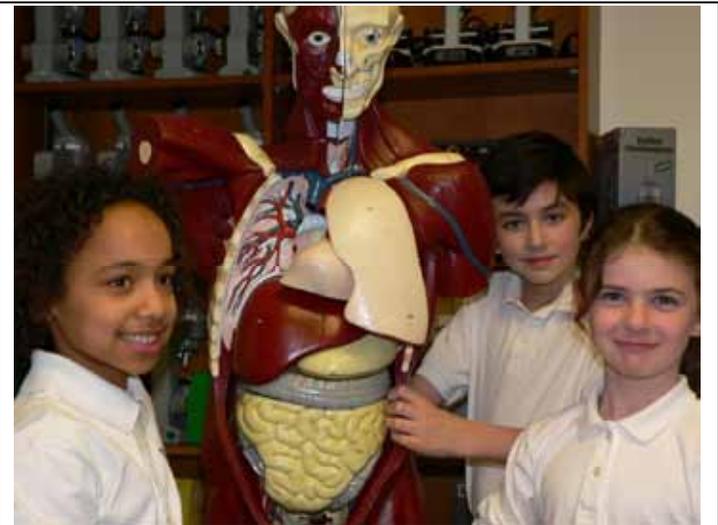
Mother Holly
January 17th, 2009 at 6:30 PM
January 18th, 2009 at 2 PM

Silent Knight
January 31st at 2 PM & 6:30 PM
February 1st at 2 PM

Winter/ Spring 2009 Classes

A Spinning Tale
Sally the Scourge
Mother Goose Retires
New Pre-School Classes
Books Come Alive
Eei-Eei-Oops
Crystal Kids Theatre Troupe I
Crystal Kids Theatre Troupe II

For more information and signups, visit
www.crystaltheatre.org or call (203) 847-4850



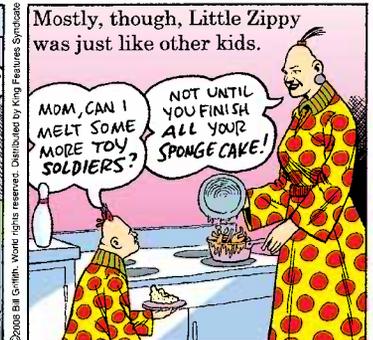
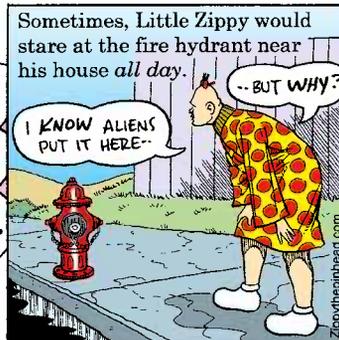
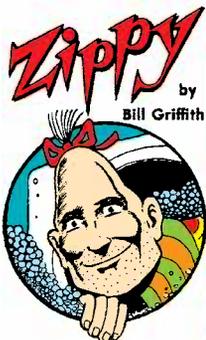
Villa Maria Education Center

*Making Success A Reality
for Children with Learning Disabilities*

Open House 9:30 AM

January 12, 2009
March 2, 2009
May 11, 2009

161 Sky Meadow Drive, Stamford, CT 06903
(203) 322-5886 www.villamariaedu.org



Chicken Soup for the Soul



THE HUG OF A CHILD

By Victoria Harnesh Benson

As we drove across town, I prepared my two children for what they were about to see. A lady from our new church was dying of cancer, and I had volunteered to help her with the housework. "Annie has a tumor in her head, which has disfigured her face," I cautioned them.

Annie invited me to bring my children with me one day, as I had told her so much about them. "Most children are frightened by my appearance," she said. "So I will understand if they don't want to meet me."

I struggled for the words to describe Annie's appearance to my son and daughter. Then I remembered a movie I'd seen two years earlier with my son, when he was 10. I wanted him to understand that disabled people are like anyone else — their feelings can be hurt, too.

"David, remember the movie 'Mask,' about the boy with the facial deformity?"

"Yes, Mom. I think I know what to expect." His tone told me it was time to stop mothering him so much.

"What does a tumor look like?" Diane asked me.

Answering my 9-year-old daughter would be tricky. In order to prevent Diane's revulsion when she met Annie, I needed to prepare her just enough but not too much. I didn't want to frighten the child.

"Her tumor looks like the skin on the inside of your mouth. It sticks out from under her tongue and makes it hard for her to talk. You'll see it as soon as you meet her, but there's nothing to be afraid of. Remember, don't stare. I know you'll want to look at it ... that's all right ... just don't stare." Diane nodded. I knew she was trying to picture a tumor in her mind.

"Are you kids ready for this?" I asked as we pulled up to the curb.

"Yes, Mom," David said, sighing as only a preteen can.

Diane nodded and tried to reassure me. "Don't worry, Mommy. I'm not scared."

We entered the living room, where Annie was sitting in her recliner, her lap covered with notecards for her friends. I stood across the room with my children, aware that anything could happen next.

At the sight of my children, Annie's face brightened. "Oh, I'm so glad you came to visit," she said, dabbing a tissue at the drops of saliva that escaped from her twisted mouth.

Then it happened. I watched David stride across the room to Annie's chair, wrap his arms around her shoulders and press his cheek to her misshapen face. Smiling, he looked into her eyes and said, "I'm happy to meet you."

Just when I didn't think I could be more proud, Diane copied her big

brother and gave Annie the precious, accepting hug of a child.

My throat tightened with emotion as I saw Annie's eyes well up with grateful tears. I had nothing to worry about.

From "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christian Kids." Reprinted by permission of Victoria Harnesh Benson. (c) 1999

THE COLLECTION BASKET

By Jan K. Collins

My mother was my dad's grand passion in life. One of my fondest childhood memories was watching my father flip on the radio each morning before he left for work, then whirl my mother around the kitchen floor in a joyous dance.

But second only to my mother in the love department was my father's adoration of golf. My dad, a Michigan dentist named Cy Collins, cherished the game. He was a deft player, regularly shooting in the low 70s for 18 holes. He played whenever he could, at home and on vacation in Hawaii, Scotland and other locales. Golf was truly his nectar of the gods.

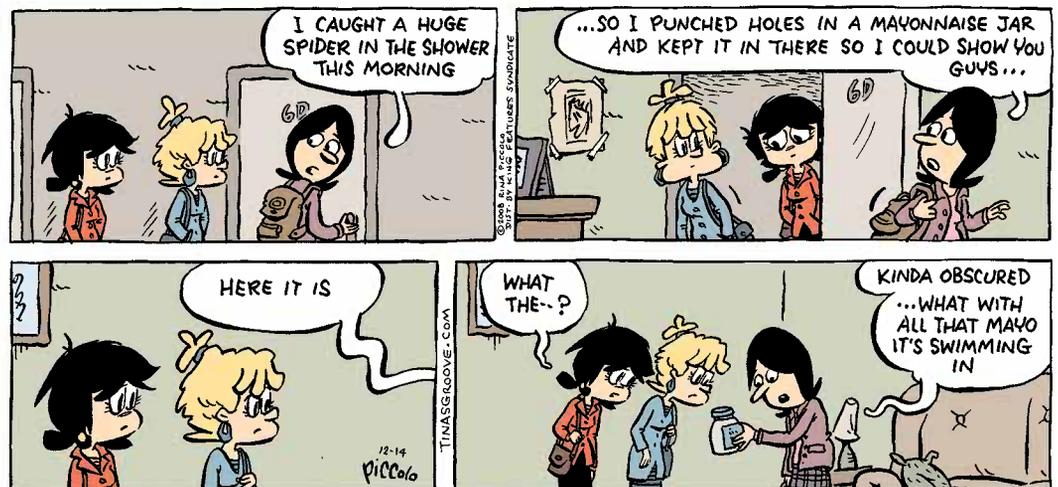
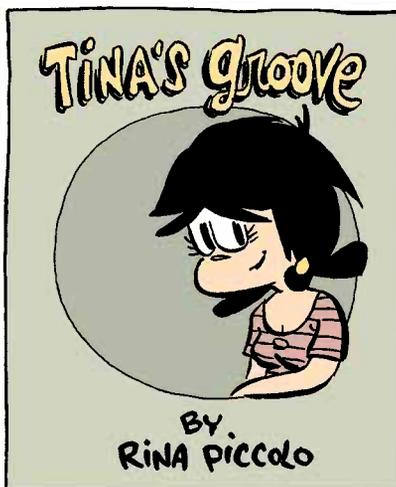
In the early 1980s, we began noticing the early signs of the Alzheimer's disease that eventually took his life. Dad became confused and forgetful. Though he had paid the family bills for decades, numbers now mystified him. Once he took the family car out for a drive and became lost, stopping only when he ran out of gas many miles from home. But Dad's love of golf lived on. He couldn't remember many things, but he remembered perfectly how to play the game. His drives and his putts were as good as ever.

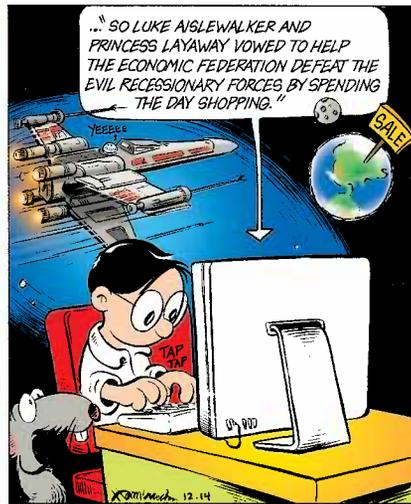
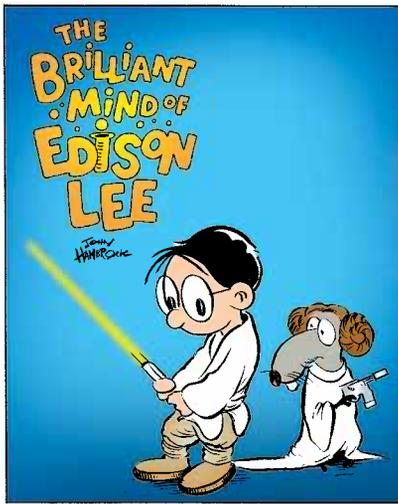
And this is the part of the story where Dad's love of golf and generosity of spirit converged in the most touching way. A few years before he died in the small northern Michigan town where they had a summer home, Mom and Dad went to Sunday Mass as usual. Dad smiled and shook hands with friends and neighbors, then listened attentively to the priest's sermon. And when the collection basket was passed down his pew, Dad very deliberately reached into his pocket and placed in the basket the most precious gift he could imagine: three golf balls.

From "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Tales of Golf and Sport." Reprinted by permission of Jan K. Collins. (c) 1998

(c) 2008 Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen

Distributed by King Features Syndicate





Announcing New Menu

MEERA
Taste of India

FREE PARKING

OPEN 7 DAYS
LUNCH-DINNER-COCKTAILS
We Specialize in Catering

LUNCH BUFFET
MON-SAT \$10.95
ALL YOU CAN EAT

SUNDAY BRUNCH
\$12.95
ALL YOU CAN EAT

227 Summer Street
Stamford, CT 06901
(203) 975-0479

Golden Enterprises

GOLDEN TICKET EVENTS .com
Concerts • Sporting Events • Broadway
WWW.GOLDENTICKETEVENTS.COM
For Premium Tickets to Worldwide Events

Golden EVENTS
EVENT PLANNING SERVICES
WWW.GOLDENEVENTSONLINE.COM

GOLDEN LOGOS
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PROMO PRODUCTS
WWW.GOLDENLOGOSONLINE.COM

215 E. Putnam Ave #4A, Cos Cob, CT 06807
P: 203-629-1300 F: 203-629-1092

CARTOONING SKILLS Phil

PHIL LOHMEYER
GRAPHIC INSTRUCTOR

PHONE: (203) 629-1300, EMAIL: PHIL@GOLDENTICKETEVENTS.COM
AVAILABLE FOR GROUP OR PRIVATE LESSONS THROUGH WWW.GOLDENTICKETEVENTS.COM



KOVELS ANTIQUES

By Ralph and Terry Kovel

OLD BOTTLES

Q: I like to dig for old bottles, and just found two identical blown-glass bottles in a town in Illinois. The bottles are 6 5/16 inches tall, and appear to have had cork stoppers. The words embossed on them are, "Lynn's Medicines are Good."

A: Your bottles originally held a 19th-century "patent medicine" concoction advertised as a treatment for diarrhea. Patent medicines were promoted all over the United States from the mid-1800s into the early 1900s. The extravagant claims manufacturers made for many of these medicines was part of the reason Congress passed the Pure Food and Drugs Act in 1906. Your bottles are rare and are worth \$300 to \$400 each in good condition.

Q: I have a French ceramic coffee set for eight. The bottom is incised "Marius Giuge, Vallauris, France." I can't find any information about this maker.

A: Marius Giuge (1909-1980) was a potter who began working in Vallauris, a small town in Southern France, around 1950. Vallauris has been a pottery center since Roman times, and was known for its cookware. The industry began to decline in the early 20th century, after aluminum and plastic cookware became popular, but revived after Pablo Picasso began designing pottery in Vallauris in 1946. This attracted other potters as well as buyers, and many studios, shops and galleries opened up in Vallauris. There are now more than 200 potters working in Vallauris.

Q: I have been searching for information about a Hopalong Cassidy glass I own. It is milk glass with black and red decorations, and says "Snack Milk." I

have been told the glass is rare and could be worth more than \$1,000. Can you help me with more information?

A: Your Hopalong Cassidy tumbler was part of a boxed set of four milk glass tumblers to be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. They were made with solid-black or black and red graphics. There is also a blue set. Each glass has different pictures. The "snack milk" glass features an image of Hoppy on one side and a verse on the other: "Hoppy says: 'Milk with snacks will help you hustle, builds strong bones 'n teeth 'n muscle.'" The snack glass is the hardest to find, especially the solid-black version. Individual tumblers from this set are selling for \$40 to \$60. The snack tumblers sell for \$100 to \$295. The one with the solid black decoration is at the higher end. Complete sets with the original box could sell for as much as \$600.

Q: Thirty years ago, I was given a large



This whalebone chair is probably American. It had mortise-and-tenon joints and whalebone pins. The style is similar to chairs from the 1810-1830 period. It sold in November at Bonhams in Australia for \$56,742.

cast-iron Uncle Sam doorstop. Uncle Sam's lifted right arm is holding a star, and his left hand carries an American flag on a pole. The figure is marked "Midwest Importers." When I had a garage sale a while back, a man saw it and told me not to sell it because it could be valuable. What do you think?

A: Your doorstop was made in Asia, probably Taiwan, and was new or close to new when it was given to you. The mark is the clue. Uncle Sam was imported and sold here by Midwest Importers. If in good condition, you might get \$50 for it. The doorstop collectors hunt for are older ones made in the United States during the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Some sell for prices into the thousands.

Q: I have a kidney-shaped mahogany desk with a leather top. It's in excellent condition and was made by the Maddox Table Co. of Jamestown, N.Y. Can you give me some information about it?

A: William Maddox, the son of an English immigrant, founded the Maddox Table Co. in 1898. He experimented with new advertising techniques by sending a showman around the world to promote his furniture and was one of the first Jamestown furniture makers to trademark his products. The company made tables, desks and other case furniture. William Maddox invented all sorts of furniture-making machines, including a polisher for tabletops, and later founded a company to manufacture the machinery. His table company was sold to the Shearman Brothers Lounge Co. of Jamestown in 1919, and the Maddox name continued to be used until 1985.

© 2008 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

Distributed by King Features Syndicate



Authentic Japanese infusing a western flair
 Freshest ingredients available
 Imported Blue Fin Tuna &
 Japanese Red Snapper
SUSHI – SASHIMI – SPECIAL KITCHEN DINNERS
 Master Champion Chef Kenny-san



FREE DELIVERY

GRAND OPENING! NOW IN DARIEN

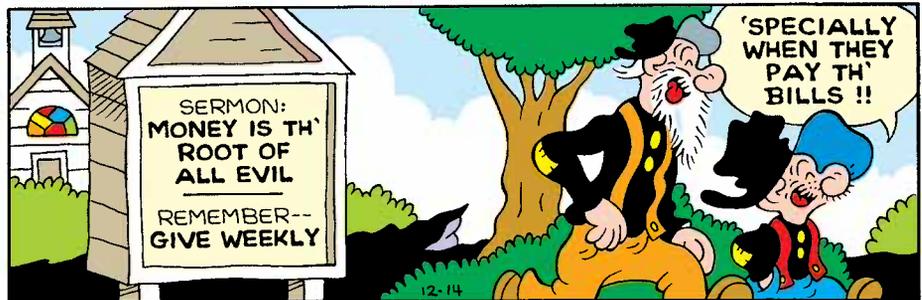
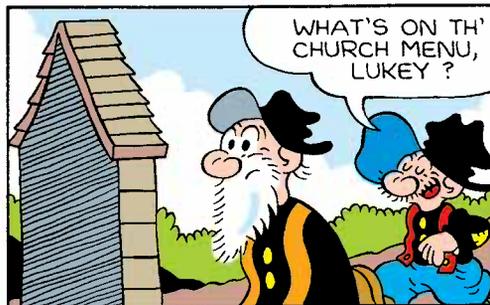
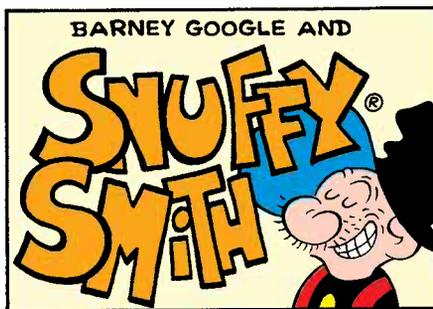
Indulge in the ultimate experience of Japanese fine dining

Open 7 Days at 11 am • 390 Boston Post Rd

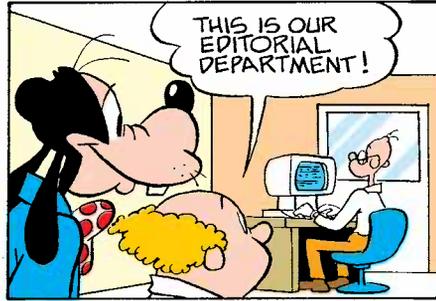
203-655-4999

fax 203-662-9414

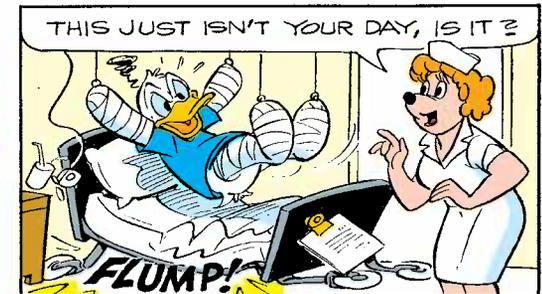
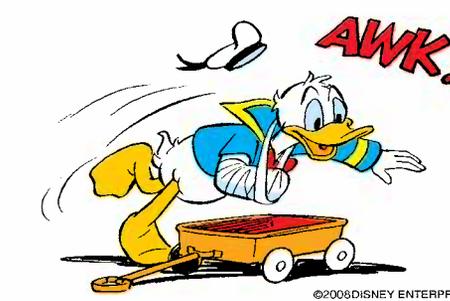
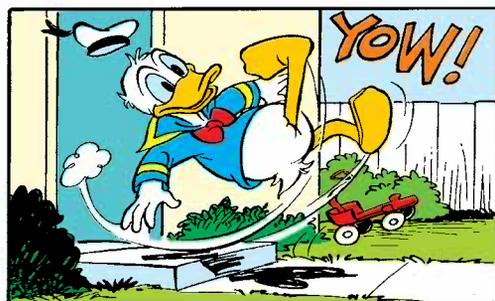
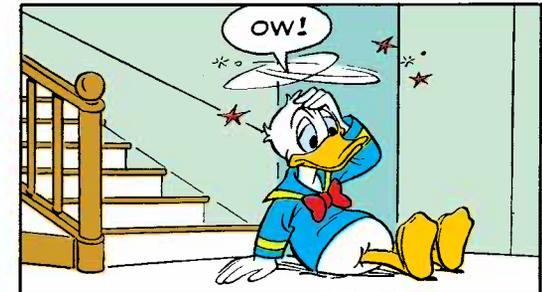
www.matsuricuisine.com



Walt Disney's
MICKY MOUSE

Walt Disney's
DONALD DUCK

A VESPA FOR ME?
WOW! ALL I WAS
HOPING FOR WAS
A DIAMOND
BRACELET!

TOYS FOR TOYS

VESPA RIDGEFIELD
71 ETHAN ALLEN HIGHWAY
PH. 203-544-7600
WWW.VESPARIDGEFIELD.COM

© PIAZZO GROUP AMERICAS, INC. 2008. VESPA® IS A U.S. AND WORLDWIDE REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE PIAZZO GROUP OF COMPANIES. OBEY LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS AND ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, APPROPRIATE EYEWEAR AND PROPER APPAREL. RIDERS REPRESENTED HERE WERE PHOTOGRAPHED IN A SAFE, CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AND MAY BE FEATURED WITHOUT PROPER APPAREL SUCH AS GOGGLES AND/OR GLOVES.

**GREENWICH
CONVENIENT
MEDICAL CARE
CENTER**



GREENWICH CONVENIENT MEDICAL CARE CENTER
1200 East Putnam Avenue, Riverside, CT **203 698-1419**

QUALITY medical care is available immediately and without an appointment when you walk into the **GREENWICH CONVENIENT MEDICAL CARE CENTER**

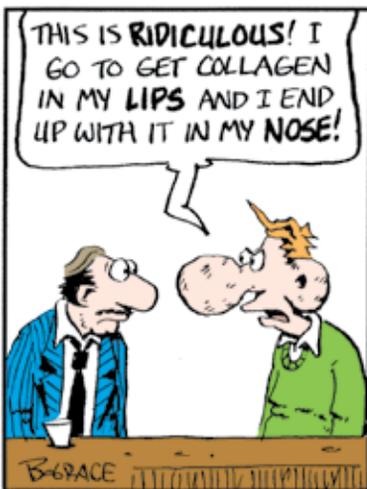
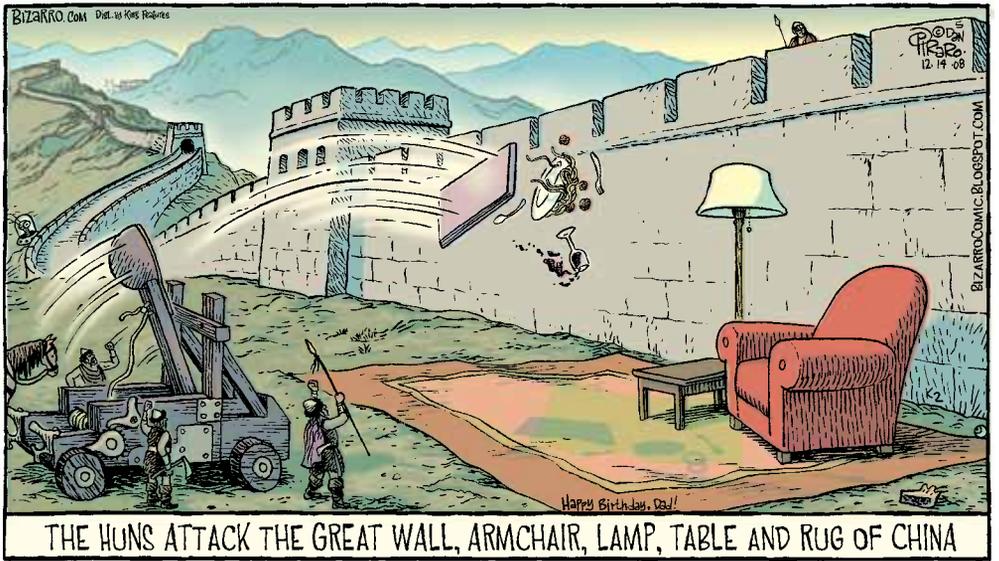
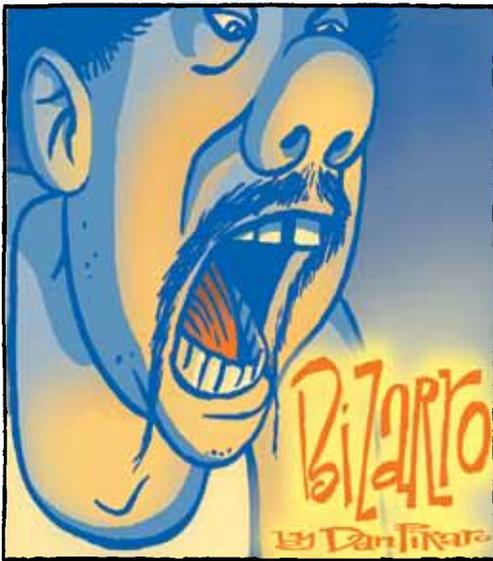
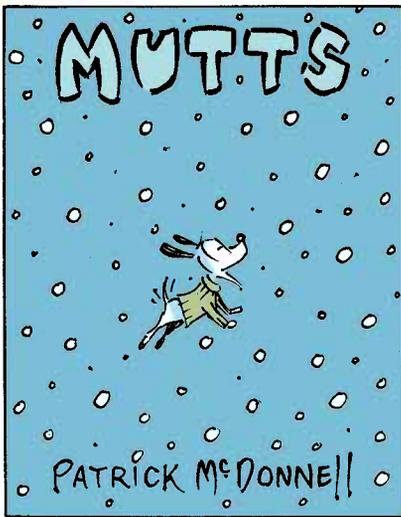
Treatment of routine illnesses and injuries
School and sports physicals
Diagnosis of sprains and fractures
Minor eye injuries
Colds, coughs, flu and rashes
Lyme disease treatment
Summertime injuries including bee stings and tick bites
Lacerations and minor surgical procedures
X-ray and lab
Workers' Comp treatment
Occupational health services
Botox now available

HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

CONVENIENT

From I-95 (North or South) take exit 5. Turn left off the ramp onto East Putnam Avenue. The Center is 500 feet on your left.



THE SUPER HANDYMAN



**BY AL AND KELLY CARRELL
HOLIDAY MANTEL**

For many of us, a sleek, plain fireplace gets a little old. After all, where will you hang the Christmas stockings? The fact is, if you don't have a mantel, you can create one for a lot less effort and cost than you might think. Here are some ideas to get you moving in that direction.

Many antiques stores and even flea markets actually sell fireplace mantels that have been carefully removed from older homes. These can be stripped, repainted and installed fairly easily on a plain fireplace wall. They can be glued to the wall with construction adhesive and/or attached with

concrete anchors.

If that doesn't work for you, take a look at the many pre-fab models. You can shop around and find mantels that are already put together and ready to install; many are very detailed. All are easy to install, and will give your fireplace a real face-lift.

If you really want to do all the work, you can create your own. You can create a basic background design from plywood. You will need two side pieces and a top piece. You will need a sturdy mantel shelf as well as all the trim to make it look the way you want. You will want a good metal tape, a level, construction adhesive, finish nails, concrete anchors and a miter saw. The rest is up to your own personal taste.

Keep in mind that you should keep all combustible materials away from the firebox. Don't forget a nice fire screen and some new fireplace tools to really spruce up the room. Have a happy holiday!

Q: Why do the tube lights in my garage give me so much trouble in the wintertime? — G.V.

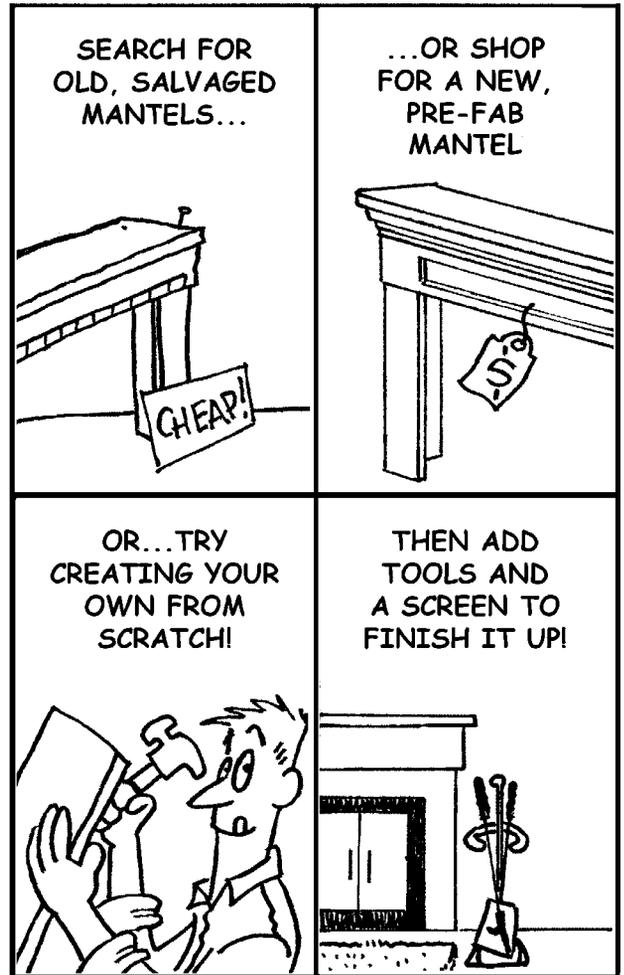
A: They are made

to operate in warmer temperatures, so if the weather is cold and the garage isn't insulated enough, it could cause them to flutter or not function properly. It might be possible to shop for a newer bulb made to work in colder climates, or a new fixture might be in order.

Q: We are going to renovate our bathroom, and we have beige sinks and a beige bathtub. We are having trouble finding a matching beige toilet. What would you recommend, other than replacing everything? — H.J.

A: If you can find the name of the original manufacturer (located on the sink or tub), see if you can contact them for a source of replacement. If they can't help you, maybe they can at least give you the paint code.

If that doesn't work, contact a kitchen and bath supplier, and put them to work on it. You can even check with building surplus houses and see if they have one. Sometimes you can get lucky on eBay or craigslist.com. Good luck!



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

(c) 2008 Cowles Syndicate Inc. All Rights Reserved

Conceptis Sudoku

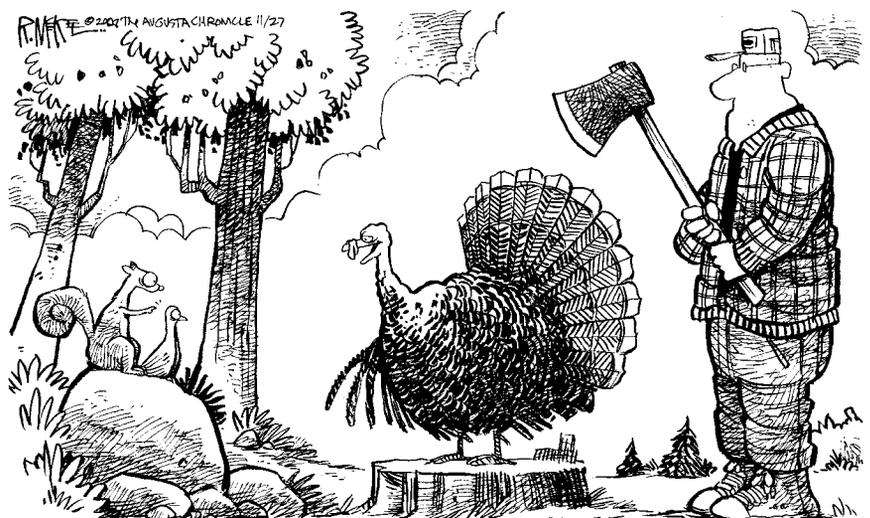
By Dave Green

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

©2008 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/14



"I KNOW IT'S BEEN A TOUGH YEAR and TIMES HAVE BEEN HARD, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR....AFTER ALL, WE STILL HAVE OUR HEALTH!"

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE

BY FAILING TO USE HIS "SPIDER-POWER" WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE, PETER PARKER ALLOWED A CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE THE LAW--A CRIMINAL WHO WOULD LATER MURDER PETER'S GENTLE UNCLE BEN!

THUS DID SPIDER-MAN LEARN THE FATEFUL TRUTH: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!

SO MANY SEPARATE EVENTS CAN HAPPEN IN THE SINGLE STRIKING OF A CLOCK!

BONGG

A WOMAN CAN SCREAM IN STARK TERROR...

KREEEEK

THAT CLOCK--IT'S GOING TO HIT ME!

STAN LEE (2/14) SAVINUK SINNOTT

A MAN WHO CARES FOR HER CAN FEEL ANGUISH...

MARIA IS DOOMED!

--AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!

A VILLAIN CAN SLOAT...

I TOLD MARIA ONE DAY SHE'D PAY FOR DIVORCING ME!

©2008 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

WHILE ANOTHER CRINGES IN FEAR...

BIG-TIME MADE ME DRESS UP LIKE SPIDER-MAN TO COMMIT ROBBERIES!

BUT I DIDN'T COUNT ON BEIN' AN ACCESSORY TO MURDER!

AND A SUPERHERO SAVES THE DAY!

BTHONK!

GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!

NEXT TIME TO KILL!

MARVIN

by Tom Armstrong

©2008 by Mort Walker. Spider-Man, Inc. All rights reserved.

www.kingfeatures.com

YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING, YOUNG MAN?

I'M MAKING MY CHRISTMAS LIST FOR SANTA

12-14

New Age Lawn Sprinkler Group, Inc.



licensed bonded insured

We specialize in custom irrigation with all brass equipment. Lifetime guarantee.

Service contracts

Family owned since 1953
 Marvin M. Lord 1928-1988
 Scott A. Lord, owner

www.newagelawnsprinklergroup.com
 e-mail Scott@newagelawnsprinklergroup.com

Do it right the first time, call New Age
 203-869-4550 or 203-325-8552



A D V A N C E D



BED BUG SNIFFING DOGS

Our certified highly trained dog teams pinpoint areas infested with bed bugs for an average-sized room in about one and a half minutes. Advanced K9 Detectives LLC's methods are the most cost effective, highest level of accuracy.



National Entomology
 Scent Detection Canine Association

Advanced K9 Detectives LLC

888-5BedBugs (888-523-3284) • www.K9bedbugs.com
 • info@advancedk9detectives.com

PARTIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- CORPORATE EVENTS
- FUND RAISERS
- HOLIDAY PARTIES
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- CONFIRMATION PARTIES
- LASER TAG
- SOFT PLAY
- FULL ARCADE
- TOURNAMENTS
- PRIZES
- GRADUATION PARTIES



FUN For KIDS & Grownups Too!

370 West Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902
 Tel: 203-326-5656 Fax: 203-961-9997
 www.fun4kidsarcade.com

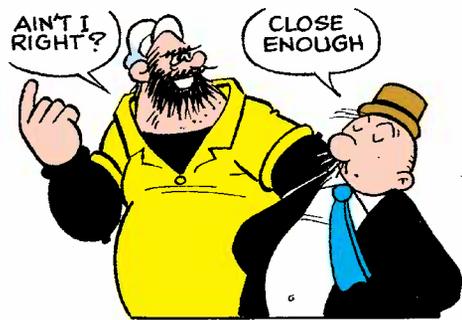
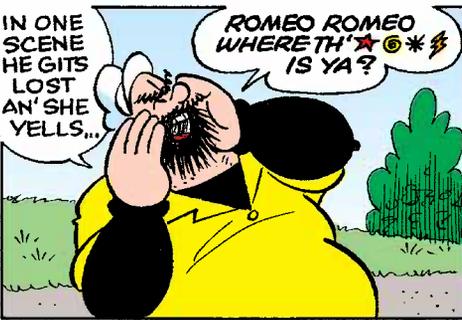
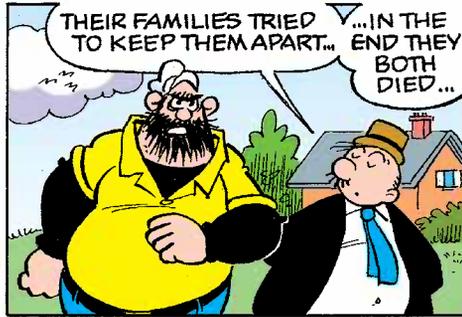
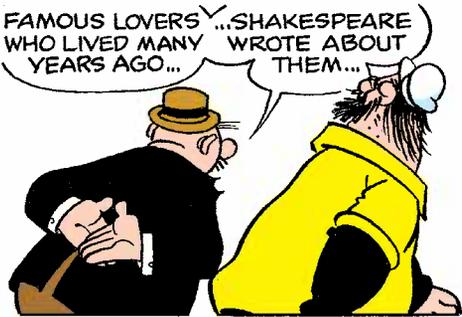
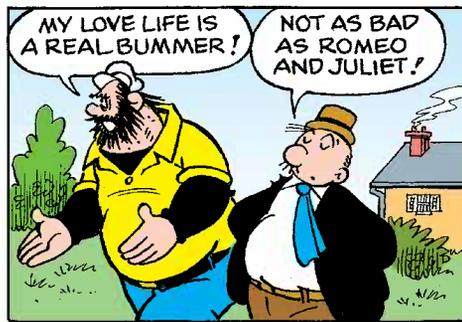
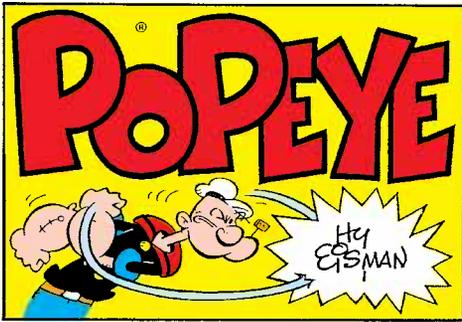
Happy Musings

by Sally Huss

Kindness is good
 for everyone
 every day.



12-6



SOLUTIONS

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/14

©2008 Concepts, Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

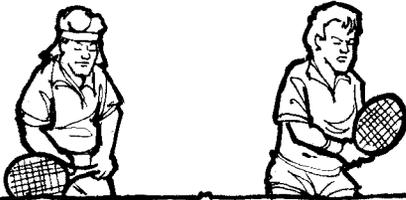
DOUBLES BE ACTIVE

In doubles, it is important that the net player not be timid. A doubles team should discuss ahead of time if the net player is going to go after almost any ball he can reach.



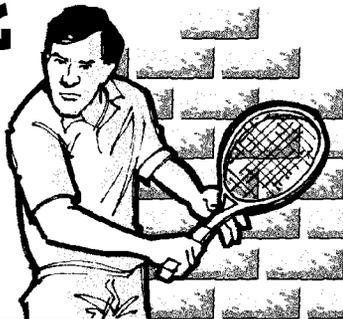
The net player needs to go after as many balls as he can reach. It will make it easier on the server, who is rushing forward, if the net partner intercepts the ball. The goal is to get both players at the net, controlling the point.

©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
12-16

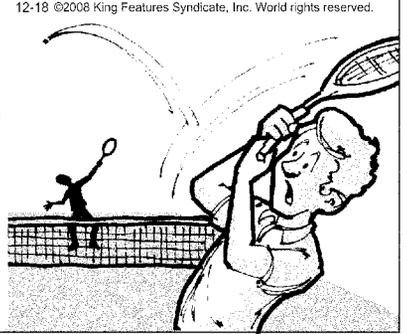


BLOCKING IT BACK

There are times when you don't need to add power. For instance, when your opponent has smashed an overhead at you, try to just block it back – pretending your racket is a brick wall.



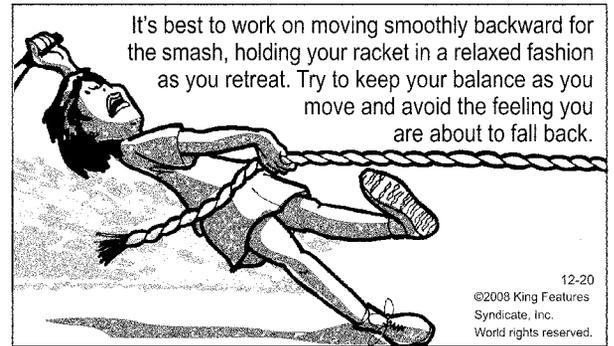
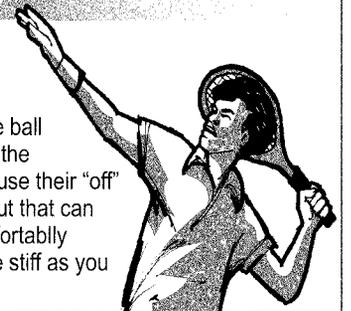
Many players get excited by the power of the overhead and try to smash the ball back harder. The ball already has enough power, so taking a full swing is not necessary.



12-18 ©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

OVERHEAD BE FLUID

It's important to not let the ball drop too low when hitting the overhead. Some players use their "off" arm to point at the ball. But that can make it tough to run comfortably backward, so try not to be stiff as you prepare for the overhead.



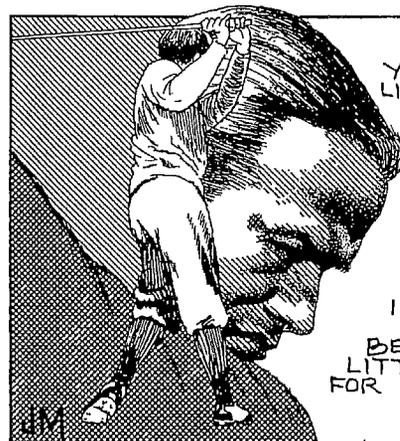
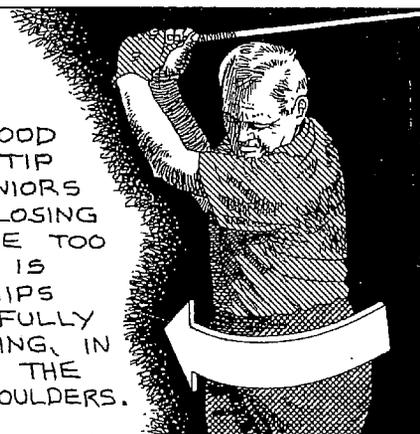
It's best to work on moving smoothly backward for the smash, holding your racket in a relaxed fashion as you retreat. Try to keep your balance as you move and avoid the feeling you are about to fall back.

12-20
©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



A GOOD TIP FOR SENIORS WHO'RE LOSING DISTANCE TOO RAPIDLY IS TO LET THE HIPS ROTATE MORE FULLY ON THE BACKSWING, IN RESPONSE TO THE TURNING OF THE SHOULDERS.



SOME OF THE YOUNGER OR MORE LIMBER TOUR PLAYERS MINIMIZE HIP TURN, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND BOB JONES WON 13 "MAJORS" COILING HIS HIPS ALMOST AS FULLY AS HIS SHOULDERS. I BELIEVE PLENTY OF HIP TURN IS BETTER THAN TOO LITTLE, ESPECIALLY FOR OLDER GOLFERS.

©2008 by King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved.

12-12

We hope you enjoy all the features and entertainment in our fun magazine. Drop us a line if you have any suggestions, comments, or just to say "hello" neal@thebestoftimes.us

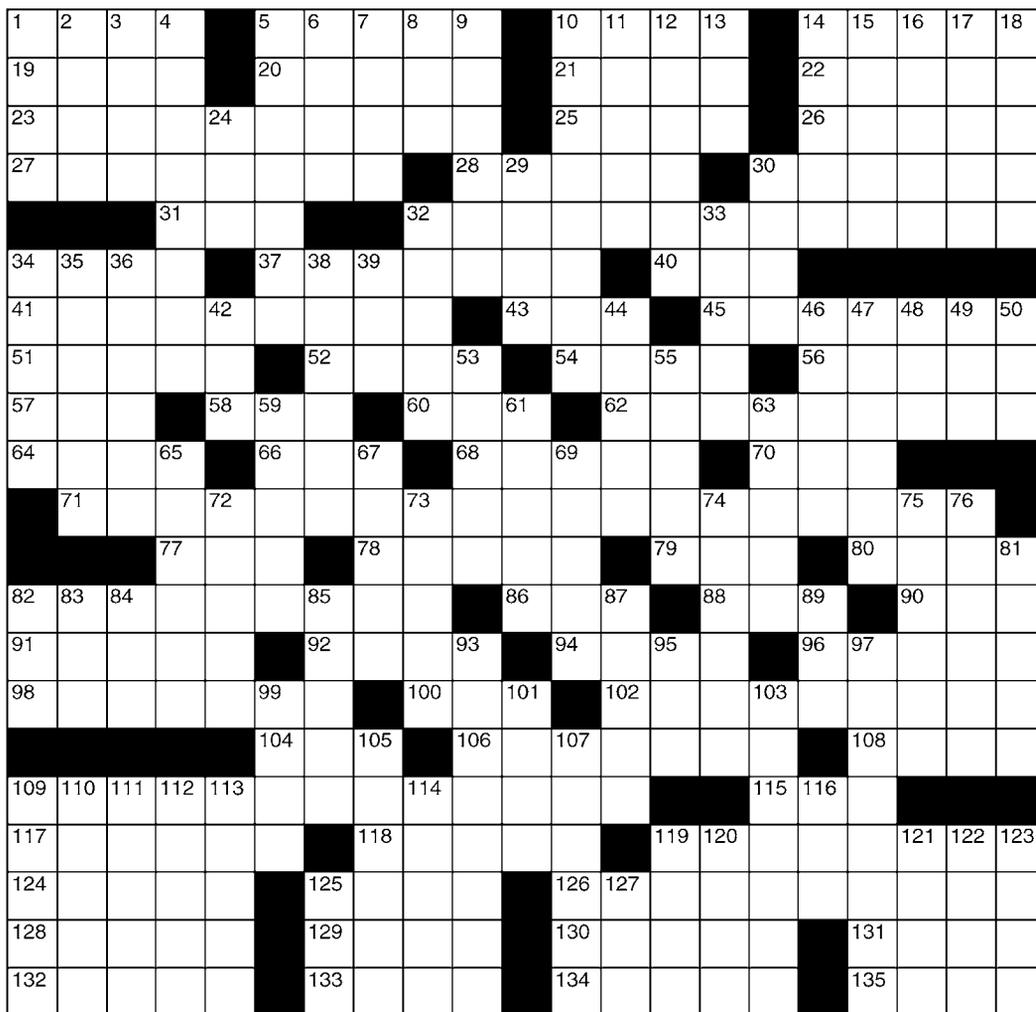
PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

LOOKING FOR BARGAINS**ACROSS**

- 1 Innocent soul
 5 Deodorant brand
 10 Pen tips
 14 Wound coverers
 19 — buco (veal dish)
 20 Uplift
 21 Sit next to
 22 God of Islam
 23 Subtitle of the Whitney Houston #1 song "Exhale"
 25 Whig opponent
 26 Frankie of song
 27 Weighing the most
 28 Groups of three
 30 Contribute
 31 D.C. bigwig
 32 Caused upheaval
 34 Norway's capital
 37 "That just shouldn't happen!"
 40 Comical Caesar
 41 Work land for a portion of the harvest
 43 Flee hastily
 45 Pair for cheerleading
 51 Blanket
 52 Swiss peaks
 54 Speech flaw
 56 Vex no end
 57 Tycoon Onassis
 58 Pitches
 60 Tasty tuber
 62 Certain baseball fielder

- 64 R.I.P. part
 66 Sleuth's cry
 68 Religious artwork
 70 Antiqua or Nova lead-in
 71 Hit for Little Anthony and the Imperials
 77 Actress Dawber
 78 Computer device
 79 Not shut, in poetry
 80 Holiday time
 82 Violent flick
 86 Vast amount
 88 Six-pt. plays
 90 Chess master Mikhail
 91 John who wed Pocahontas
 92 Hesse river
 94 Garr of films
 96 "Hill Street Blues" actor Joe
 98 Without frost
 100 Reticent
 102 It's worn to keep one's hair dry
 104 Code-cracking gp.
 106 "Bed-in" activist
 108 To be, in French
 109 Purse part, often
 115 Actress Ryan
 117 Trifles away
 118 Borat player Sacha Baron —
 119 Bedroom community culture



- 124 Calm down
 125 Hoax
 126 Look for bargains (and a hint that explains this puzzle's theme)
 128 Cyclist
 129 Prefix with sphere
 130 IRS review
 131 Roused
 132 Celebs
 133 — the Red
 134 Musial and Laurel
 135 Wall St. market

DOWN

- 1 Light bite
 2 Tennis great Arthur
 3 "Time — the essence!"
 4 Having tender tootsies
 5 Element #33
 6 Pep squad shouts
 7 Mob brawl
 8 Prefix with thermal
 9 Distances below sea level
 10 Countrywide
 11 Apple laptop
 12 Erupts
 13 Swine home
 14 Parlor
 15 Joust noise
 16 Phony name
 17 Swahili, e.g.
- 18 Ovine one
 24 Pizza, e.g.
 29 Churn up
 30 Playful prank
 32 Mawkish
 33 River horse
 34 Witty Wilde
 35 Coasts
 36 Extravagant
 38 Like sleaze
 39 Scale note
 42 Slice of time
 44 Tearful
 46 D.C. subway
 47 Elapse
 48 Slugger Mel
 49 — Tse-tung
 50 Motor oil additive brand
 53 Tasty
 55 Plumed military hat
 59 Action star Jean-Claude Van —
 61 Marcel Marceau and the like
 63 Did fall yard work
 65 Give insider info to
 67 Clear — (hard to understand)
 69 Actor M. — Walsh
 72 Alma —
 73 Aspirations
 74 Choice

- 75 Surpass on the stage
 76 Two-dimensional
 81 Skip off to the altar
 82 — Lanka
 83 Ad —
 84 Bullring yell
 85 Reagan adviser Edwin
 87 Fabled guy?
 89 Reverse of NNW
 93 Like drumbeats
 95 Pi's follower
 97 Cultivated in advance, as grass
 99 Pulls the plug on
 101 Yesteryear
 103 Australian marsupials
 105 Bowman
 107 Wichita site
 109 Q-tips, e.g.
 110 Fixed practice
 111 Japanese metropolis
 112 Say
 113 Sly looks
 114 Reply of concurrence
 116 Switz. locale
 119 Coke, e.g.
 120 — the air
 121 Bobbing sea marker
 122 Signs, as a contract
 123 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
 125 — -devil
 127 Grass digs

Gems, Rocks and Minerals



YALE PEABODY MUSEUM • I-91, Exit 3 • New Haven

SIX CHIX

BY
K. LEMIEUX



Amusements Unlimited Company

**HOME GAMEROOM SALES
RENTALS AND SERVICE**

7 Gleason Ave, Stamford CT, 06902

(203) 359-2504

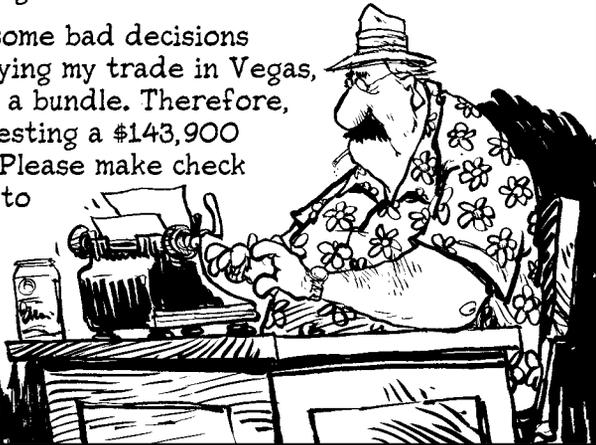


www.AmusementsUnlimited.net

The Best & The Wittiest

Dear Congressman-

I made some bad decisions while plying my trade in Vegas, and lost a bundle. Therefore, I'm requesting a \$143,900 bailout. Please make check payable to



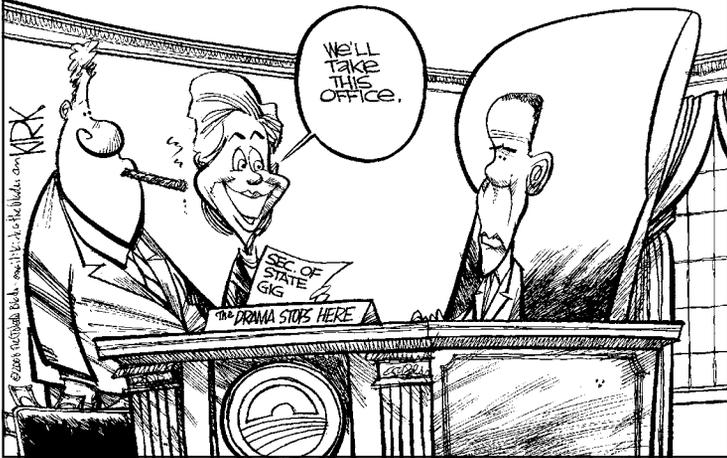
RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH 11/08 **WALKER**



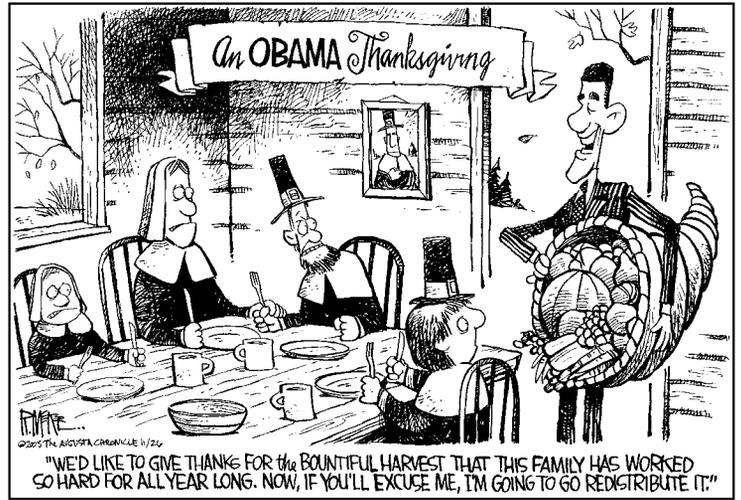
GATHERING ROUND TO GIVE THANKS...

KOERBA
DANA WOODWARD

AS BIDEN PREDICTED, OBAMA WILL BE TESTED EARLY...



©2008 Mort Walker. All rights reserved. **KIRK**



©2008 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 11/26



©2008 The Daily Blade
and the Connecticut Post
KIRK

