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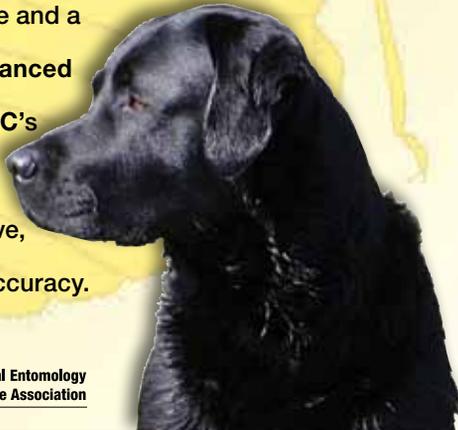
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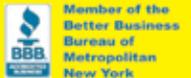
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Connecticut edition Volume 4 - Issue Spring 2009  
Covering Fairfield County – Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Wilton, and Westport

Connecticut Circulation 12,000 copies

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

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

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

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# DEBBIE TRAVIS' HOUSE TO HOME



## BAMBOO BENEFITS

BY DEBBIE TRAVIS

Considering today's drive toward environmentally responsible building and decorating, is it possible to find lush design and rich patinas and coloration in this market? Does going green necessitate going blah? In the past, green products did have the reputation of being bland. In the fashion world it was wrinkly cottons and clunky sandals; at home it was rustic wood everywhere from ceiling to floor. All this has changed.

Through a greater understanding of what makes a healthy home, we are learning how to build with products that are sustainable, durable and free from toxins. Change takes time, and we cannot expect an instant fix, but there are options available that you can trust to be in line with the present mentality of healthy, sustainable living.

Industrial designer James Loppie has founded a company called Umbrella Cabinetry. His mission is to leave a green footprint in the marketplace. This entails building with materials that fit that profile. In the kitchen seen here, Loppie has shown how it can be done. The cabinets are built from formaldehyde-free MDF and trimmed or faced with bamboo veneer. The handles are formed from recycled

material. The stunning backsplash is woven palm, a new idea that adds another layer of interest to the overall design. Loppie uses discarded ends from bamboo to make kitchen accessories, cutting boards and towel racks. The overall look is warm and inviting, easy to live with and healthy for you and the environment.

Stock your kitchen with appliances that comply with Energy Star guidelines to save on energy and water.

It takes some searching to find building materials that qualify as green, but Loppie has done his homework and is happy to share his knowledge and sources. Contact info is on the Web site: [www.umbrellacabinetry.com](http://www.umbrellacabinetry.com).

Bamboo is actually a type of grass, not a tree, but its height and appearance are deceiving. Bamboo is the fastest-growing woody plant in the world; some species grow up to 2 feet in a day, which is why it is such a sustainable building product. It has been used for more than 7,000 years, but the past five to 10 years have seen an explosion of interest in North America, not only in flooring, panels, blinds and accessories, but also as a decorative motif. The tropical theme is popular in northern climates, fostering a sunny, tranquil environment that suits spa-like bathrooms, garden rooms and bedroom retreats.

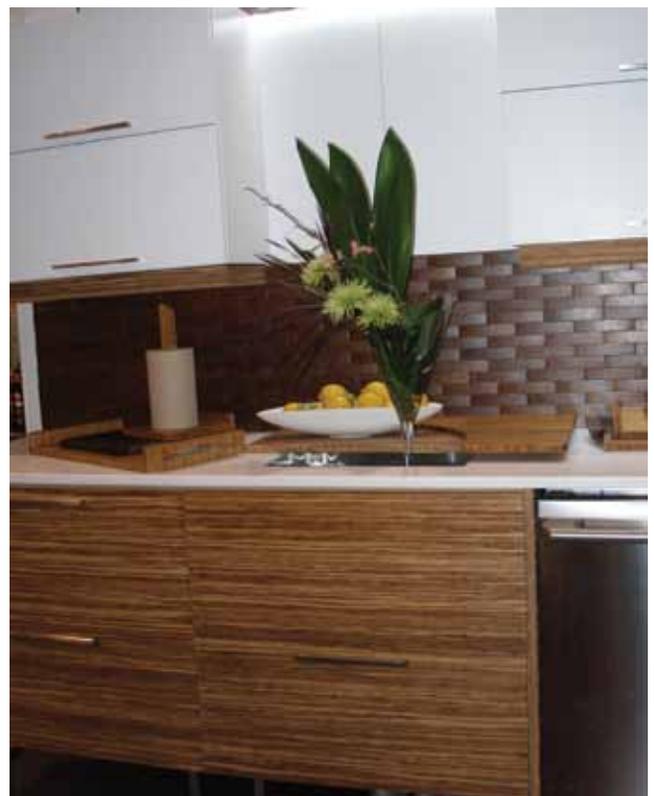
You can find wallpaper with bamboo motifs large and small, bamboo stalks alone or with leaves. I have painted this popular motif on bathroom walls, and it would suit a kitchen too. It's not difficult. Draw and cut out three or four

stencils of bamboo stalks; check the Internet for pictures of bamboo so that you can copy the stalks, ridges and markings. Leaves can be filled in freehand. Choose a medium brown for the stalks, and pale green for the leaves. Divide the paint, adding white paint and glazing liquid to make two or three shades of each color. To get the right scale for your room, draw the wall on a piece of paper and fill in what looks like a good balance of stalks, having some cross over each other. Transfer to the wall using chalk lines as a guide for your stencils.

(c) 2008 Debbie Travis

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



*Cabinets faced with bamboo veneer, a woven palm backsplash and kitchen accessories tooled from bamboo offer modern-day answers to sustainable building.*



## SEED EQUALS WEEDS

BY HELOISE

*Dear Heloise:* Is there a way to keep the birdseed in my bird feeders from making a thatch of weeds underneath them when the birds drop some? Perhaps microwaving it? I'm tired of the weeds! — *Brea in California*

Backyard bird feeding and watching is a billion-dollar hobby for many! It is so enjoyable to watch the little visitors busy at feeders or drinking at birdbaths. But the dropped seeds do present a problem!

Here are some suggestions to try:

- Rake the area under the feeder at least once a week to keep seeds from germinating.
- Use shelled sunflower seeds or other seeds with no hulls.
- Put heavy, weighted plastic down.

And, speaking of bird feeding, here is a hint from Dottie Rose of Colorado Springs, Colo., about protecting birds from her cat, Socks. She says: "I love my bird feeder and get hours and hours of pleasure watching all the busy activity that goes on. My cat is a hunter and scares my feathered friends away every chance he gets. I put a small bell on his collar as a bird warning. Now any bird he stalks hears the bell and flies away unharmed." — *Heloise*

### FRIGHTENED DOG

*Dear Heloise:* When our dog got too old and arthritic to run down to the basement to hide during a thunderstorm, he would frantically run around the main floor and couldn't be calmed down, even with drugs. Plus, drugs left him lethargic the next day.

We solved the problem by blocking him in an interior hall with all of the doors shut and a soft light on. We put his bed, a toy, a ticking clock and a radio quietly playing classical music in with him.

The light and closed doors lessened the contrast between the dark sky and lightning. He felt safe and immediately settled down in the hall and had peaceful nights there during storms — no drugs necessary. I hope this hint helps other people and their dogs. — *Carole, Omaha, Neb.*

Oh my! I know what you are talking about. We had a sweet

golden retriever, J.D., who absolutely freaked out during severe storms. He would come inside and hunker down in the den just shaking. Drugs did help him sometimes. — *Heloise*

### GERBIL DELIGHTS

*Dear Readers:* Gerbils are a popular pet, and they love to burrow and chew. Cut a hole in a small, empty cracker or cereal box or in a paper-towel roll. Put these in the cage and watch your gerbil crawl through the holes and enjoy the new toy. Add some tissue, and they will shred it and make a nest. — *Heloise*

### PET PAL

*Dear Readers:* Christine Belesky of Brick, N.J., sent a picture of her cat, Sadie Lady, who looks like she is stuck to the door, but actually she is jumping up while chasing a moth! We can call her a high jumper!

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## HIDDEN DESERTS

BY SARA BENSON

Southern California's deserts are definitely weird places. Forget about Nevada's Burning Man festival, because more remote Mojave Desert outposts have it beat when it comes to artistic, way-out happenings. Uncover the most offbeat, eccentric and just plain strange spots in Southern California on our psychedelic road trip.

With the quixotic windmills of the San Gregorio Pass in your rearview mirror, it's time to leave civilization behind. Snaking along Highway 111 out of the Coachella Valley, what looks like a mirage sparkles on the horizon. In the middle of the Colorado Desert is an artificial lake, the Salton Sea. Created in 1905 when flooding on the Colorado River caused Imperial Valley irrigation canals to overflow, it's now California's largest lake. On the empty beaches of Salton Sea State Recreation Area, pitch a tent or go swimming (though salt might sting your eyes). A more popular activity is birding, with more than 400 migratory and native species spotted at the national wildlife refuge on the lake's south side.

Niland, with its boarded-up businesses and dusty thoroughfares, is a typically hardscrabble lakeshore community. It takes a special kind of freak to live way out here, and we say that with love. Heading east on Main Street, drive out to Salvation Mountain, where the motto is "God Never Fails." Made of concrete and adobe covered in a rainbow patchwork of acrylic paint, it's the vision of folk artist Leonard Knight, who smilingly waves visitors over from the roadside.

Farther east along Beal Road is Slab City, an abandoned World War II-era Marine barracks where you'll find thousands of snowbird RVers camped during the winter, and a few hardcore residents even in summer. This is the true Wild West, where hippies, vets, conspiracy theorists and social outsiders congregate.

Drive narrow Box Canyon Road to I-10 east. At Chiriaco Summit, pull off at the General Patton Memorial Museum, standing at the entrance to the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Here, more than 1 million troops trained for battle in harsh conditions overseas. Besides exhibits about the ruthless, soldier-slapping general himself, there's a gigantic 3-D relief map of Southern California.

Take the scenic route north through Joshua Tree National Park, rising from the Colorado (Sonoran) Desert into the Mojave. Exit the park near the artsy, beatnik town of Joshua Tree, then follow Highway 62 west to Yucca Valley, turning right on Pioneertown Road. Built in 1946 by Hollywood Western producers, Pioneertown's Main Street is lined with wooden boardwalks and faux frontier-style buildings. Drop by Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace, a real live honky-tonk dishing up saucy roadhouse barbecue plates and live bands. After the show, stumble back to the Pioneertown Lodge and Stables, with rustic cabins where Western movie stars such as Gene Autry once slept.

Built by George Van Tassel, supposedly using telepathic help from extraterrestrial beings, the Integratron apparently sits on a "powerful geomagnetic vortex" near the town of Landers, just east of Highway 247. Thousands of people, from rock stars to meditative yogis, have visited this white dome-shape building for a healing "sonic bath" courtesy of singing crystal bowls.

At Death Valley Junction, a 200-plus-mile drive north via Barstow and I-15, the Amargosa Opera House and Hotel is a Mexican colonial-style courtyard building built in the 1920s. It was revived by New York dancer Marta Becket after her car broke down nearby in 1967. She has painted a trompe l'oeil audience for herself on the walls of the opera house, where she continues to give heartbreakingly bizarre dance and mime performances, even though she's more than 80 years old.

Death Valley National Park is full of natural oddities. But none are as disturbing as the larger-than-life statues of the Goldwell Open Air Museum, created in 1984 by Belgian artist Albert Szukalski. The sculpture garden is on the Nevada side of the border just outside the ghost town of Rhyolite, a short drive east of the national park.

### GETTING THERE

From Los Angeles, drive I-10 east about 125 miles to Indio, then cruise Highway 111 south.

### EAT

Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace 760-365-5956; [www.pappyandharriets.com](http://www.pappyandharriets.com); 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown; mains \$5-\$25. Kick up your cowboy boots, then chow down on barbecue ribs while indie bands play.

### SLEEP

Amargosa Opera House Hotel 760-852-4441; [www.amargosaoperahouse.com](http://www.amargosaoperahouse.com); Highways 127 and 190, Death Valley Junction; \$68-\$84. Rooms lack TVs or telephones, but come with colorful murals, air-conditioning and heating.

Pioneertown Lodge and Stables 760-

365-4879; [www.pioneertownmotel.com](http://www.pioneertownmotel.com); 5040 Curtis Rd., Pioneertown; \$75-\$95. Stay in memorabilia-filled rooms equipped with kitchenettes, satellite TV and wi-fi Internet, but no phones.

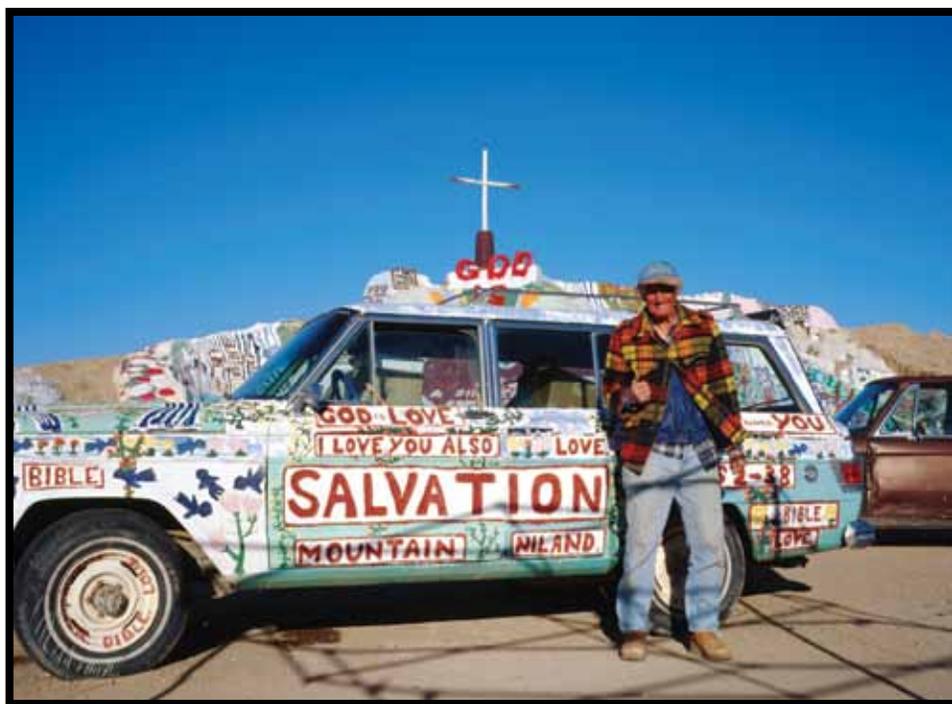
Salton Sea State Recreation Area 800-444-7275; [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com); 100-225 State Park Rd., Mecca; campsites \$12-\$23. Pitch a tent by the beach — there's almost always room here.

\* \* \*

This article was written by Sara Benson and adapted from Lonely Planet's "California Trips" book. "Travels With Lonely Planet" is coordinated by Commissioning Editor Jessica McCall. You can e-mail her at [jessica.mccall@lonelyplanet.com](mailto:jessica.mccall@lonelyplanet.com). For more travel information, visit [LonelyPlanet.com](http://LonelyPlanet.com).

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Posing in front of folk-art creation Salvation Mountain. Photo credit: Corey Wise/Lonely Planet Images

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# NASCAR THIS WEEK

## By Monte Dutton

No driver in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series understands the obligations of his job more than Richard Childress Racing's Jeff Burton.

Burton, 41, is cool under pressure. He is analytical and articulate. He doesn't often speak without gauging the effect and significance of his words. This isn't just handy in the media center. It's beneficial to the team. Burton isn't just a team player by nature. It's something he considers important. He's right.

Just as canny on the track, Burton was asked at Phoenix about the knack of formulating competent strategy for the final laps of races.

"It depends on the kind of race," he said. "Talladega has the potential of being a 20-car pack, with 23 others in the garage, or a 35-car pack. The bigger the pack, the more the danger.

"If something happens with three laps to go, and the first four break away, then being in the front is not as dangerous. Being in the front is dangerous when the guys behind you can get momentum and come get you. ... I do believe, in the old car, you were more protected up front than you are in the new car. With the new car (once known by the acronym COT), you seem to be a little more of a sitting duck than you were in the old car."

In 2008, all three RCR entries made the Chase for the Sprint Cup, but the team won only three races, two of them courtesy of Burton.

"I would stack our team up against anybody," said Burton, a native of South Boston, Va. "I feel really, really good about the way our cars go down the straights. I think we make a lot of power. What we have struggled with is 'deep speed.' If you go back and look at most

of the races that we've won, they've been long-run races, they've been races that had adverse conditions, slick tracks and those kind of things.

"For us to achieve all the goals that we want to achieve, we've got to find a way to win races no matter what the conditions are."

\* \* \*

It was only two weeks ago that Jeff Gordon hadn't won in 47 races. Then he won at Texas Motor Speedway for the first time, and that had the effect of waking up the echoes.

Gordon is just one shy of fifth place on NASCAR's all-time victory list. An 83rd win would tie him with Cale Yarborough and leave him one shy of Darrell Waltrip and Bobby Allison.

This could be quite the historic year. Gordon has won on all but one of the NASCAR tracks he's visited in his career, a total that includes the tracks, Rockingham and North Wilkesboro, that have fallen by the wayside since Gordon's rookie year (1993).

No one in history has ever won at every track he's ever visited, according to NASCAR research.

But first things first.

"Every season, you're looking to get that first win," said Gordon, who never got it in 2008. "When you get that one off your back, you can breathe and relax.

"Every win confirms you have what it takes and gives you confidence."

\* \* \*

A more immediate distinction — Jimmie Johnson failed in his bid for a fourth consecutive victory at Phoenix International Raceway, where he finished fourth. Only nine drivers in history have ever won four straight at one track.

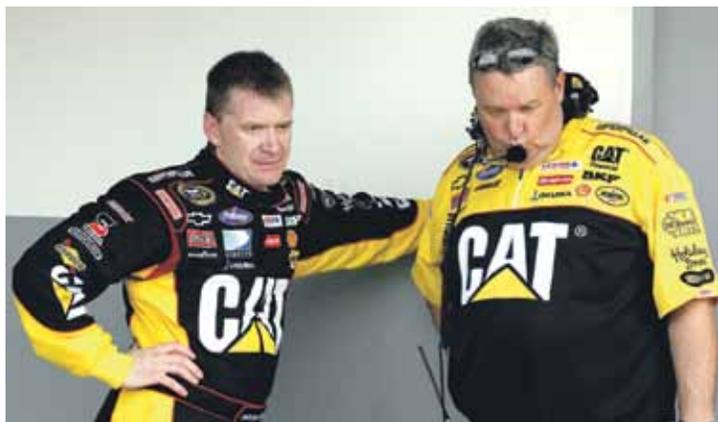
Only three drivers — Darrell Waltrip, Richard Petty and Bobby Isaac — have ever won four straight at one track more than once. Johnson won four straight at Lowe's Motor Speedway in 2004-05. Johnson has a two-race active streak at Martinsville.

\* \* \*

He'll be back — A.J. Allmendinger may not finish this season, but he will be back at Richard Petty Motorsports in 2010.

The team's chief executive officer, Tom Reddin, expressed optimism that sponsorship will be found to keep Allmendinger racing through season's end, though the only commitment is through the end of the 26-race regular season.

"A.J. has done a superb job, both on and off the track, in 2009," said Reddin. "We want to let everyone know that he's going to be a vital part of Richard Petty Motorsports for what we believe will be a long-term, winning relationship."



John Clark / NASCAR This Week

At 41, Jeff Burton's got the skills to compete with the Sprint Cup pack. He currently sits in 11th in the Cup points standings.

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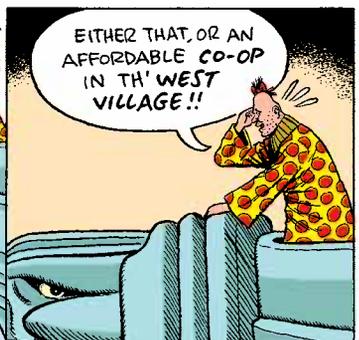
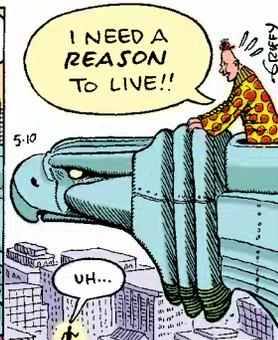
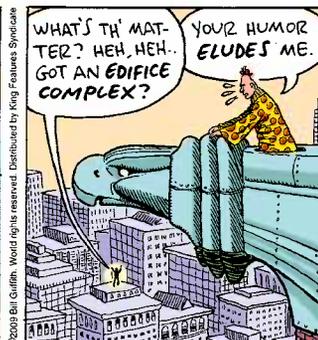
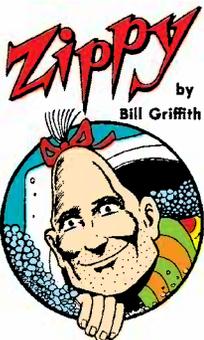
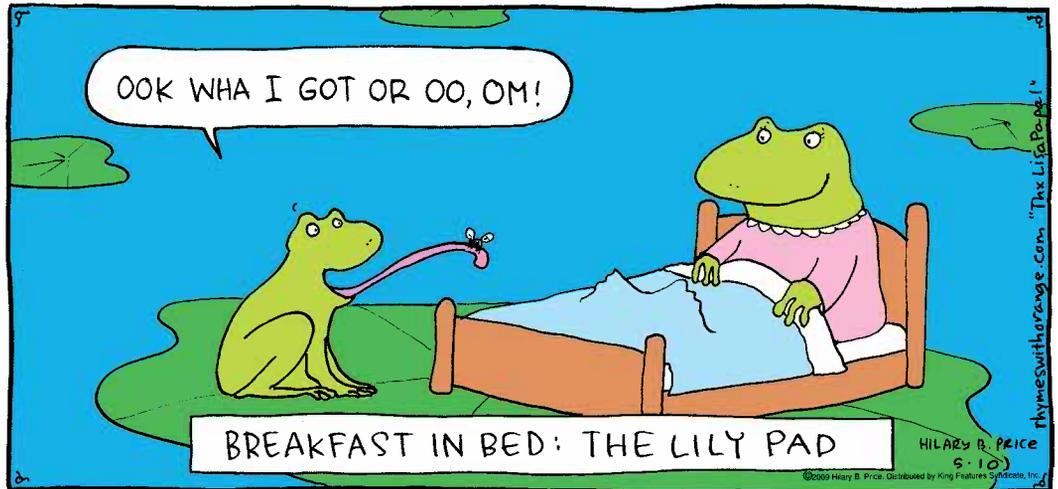
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# Chicken Soup for the Soul



## I NEED A BIGGER FRIDGE!

By C. Lee Cawley

"I think it is time to buy a bigger refrigerator!" my close friend said. She fed her fussy toddler cheese cubes while I reached in to get the milk to pour into our steaming mugs of tea.

"Why?" I asked, looking inside the seemingly spacious interior. A 36-inch-wide Sub-Zero seemed to hold plenty for a family of four. "Oh! Are you thinking of having another baby?!" I exclaimed.

"No, two's plenty! What I really need is more space on the outside, to put up my essential reminders." I saw what she meant. The entire surface was a cluttered mess, covered with calendars, church contact lists, diet tips, her son's sports schedules, babysitter instructions, preschool phone tree, her husband's work contacts, favorite recipes, beloved snapshots and more, all held to the metallic surface by a mishmash of magnets.

This paper explosion obviously contained lots of critical information, intended for quick reference, but it was in such a hodgepodge, she probably could not find anything quickly or easily.

"Remember last week when the toilet was clogged and overflowing, and I couldn't find my favorite plumber's business card on the fridge for the life of me?" I nodded. "There I was with the baby crying, frantically waving the plunger over the toilet like a magic wand not knowing what to do. What a nightmare! If I had more space on the fridge, I would've had a place to put the plumber's number!"

"Speaking of the potty," she muttered, and scooped up her toddler. "Phewy, I think I need to change somebody's diaper!" She excused herself to the upstairs changing station for five minutes. I took advantage of her absence to wave a magic wand of my own!

When she returned to the kitchen, her white fridge was nearly empty and shining, cleared of all the lists, with only the cherished photographs on proud display. "What happened?!" she said, worried and alarmed. "Did you throw my papers out or hide them in a drawer? You know that doesn't work for me, pawing through piles. I must have everything out in the open

where I can see it at a glance."

"And you do!" I reassured her as I opened an over-the-counter kitchen cabinet door with a flourish. Her mouth dropped when she saw what I had done. Armed with just a roll of clear tape and a few minutes, I removed the tangle of notices from the fridge and posted each list to the inside of the cabinet doors.

I carefully grouped the school lists and her son's sports schedules together inside one door. Recipes and diet tips went inside the door above her favorite counter work space, by the sink, where they would be easy to glance at while she was cooking. In fact, each door had a theme to mentally organize it, making the placement of future notices easy and logical.

I placed the contact lists inside the cabinet directly above the phone, so that the tiny numbers were right at eye level for effortless reading. She loved that now she would not need to fetch her reading glasses each time she needed to make a call. At that level she realized that she could see the numbers quickly and accurately.

"Now I don't even need LASIK surgery!" she mused. "Wow, I never thought of putting things on the inside of the doors. You are a genius!"

That was a few years ago, and my friend has easily maintained the "hidden" system to the present. She switches out schedules as new ones come, and she has added a pencil, Velcroed to the kitchen calendar, which is inside a cabinet that the whole family can reach, and update as needed.

Best of all, I have become the family hero, her husband says, as everyone knows where to find all the information they need, and they all stay organized! And I am happy to report that they did get their favorite plumber to fix the toilet after all.

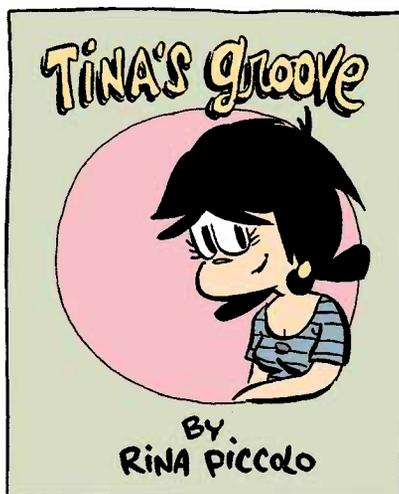
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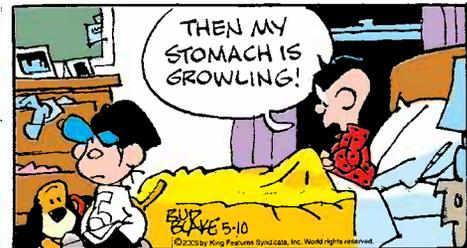
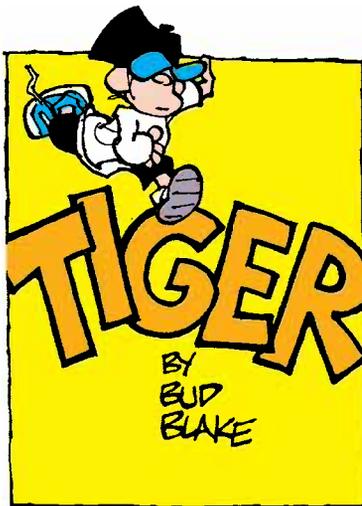
... NO BELLS AND WHISTLES AND  
HIGH-TECH STUFF -- JUST A SIMPLE  
MEANS FOR MY MOTHER TO LET ME  
KNOW IF SHE'S OKAY OR IF SHE  
NEEDS HELP....



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CELL PHONE I GOT  
YOU, ONLY THIS  
HAS ONE EXTRA  
BUTTON

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# KOVELS ANTIQUES

By Ralph and Terry Kovel

## BABY-GRAND PIANO

**Q:** I bought a baby-grand piano for \$500 at an estate sale in 1972. It's labeled "Made and Guaranteed by The Packard Piano Co., Fort Wayne, Ind., Est. 1871, Bond Piano Co." The serial number is 22190. I would like to know what the white keys are made of, and the value of the piano today.

**A:** Albert Sweetser Bond was one of the owners of Packard Piano Co. In 1911, a group of Packard stockholders founded Bond Piano Co. In 1913, they decided it was inefficient to run two separate operations, and Packard began manufacturing pianos with the Bond name on them while continuing to make pianos with the Packard name. Bond pianos were made through 1925. The serial number on your piano indicates it was made in 1924. Piano keys were made of ivory or celluloid before the 1950s, when plastic keys were introduced. Ivory keys were made in two pieces with a seam between the front and back part of the key. The keys are grained and may look yellowish. Celluloid keys were made in one piece and are off-white. A piano has to be seen and played to be appraised, because the condition of the sounding board and internal mechanism helps determine the value.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I have some Shawnee pottery Puss 'n Boots pieces — cookie jar, creamer and salt and pepper shakers. They're figural cats with colored decorations on a white base. I have been looking for a sugar bowl, but haven't been able to find one. Do you know if Shawnee made a sugar bowl or other Puss 'n Boots pieces?

**A:** It appears that Shawnee's Puss 'n Boots pieces included only those you already have. The pottery, which was in business in Zanesville, Ohio, from 1937 to 1961, made very few sugar bowls. You might be able to find one decorated in colors that match your Puss 'n Boots creamer. If you can't find a sugar bowl, look for one of the small utility baskets Shawnee also made. Lots of people use these baskets as sugar bowls.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I have a miniature portrait of an ancestor who lived during the early 1800s. It's in an oval frame, probably gold, that's about 1 by 1 1/2 inches. There's a loop at the top so it can be hung. The picture shows a man with an

elaborate ruffled ascot, a dark jacket and long sideburns, all in the style of the early 1800s. I am worried about cleaning it. Any suggestions?

**A:** Early portrait miniatures were painted in watercolors on a thin piece of ivory, in oils on wood or even in enamels on copper. The miniatures often were worn as mourning jewelry; the back of the frame might hold a lock of hair. Do not let water or even a damp cloth get near the portrait. A watercolor can be destroyed if it becomes wet. Just polish the metal frame and the glass with a dry cloth.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I bought a Coca-Cola bottle-shaped door handle a while ago. It's made of cast iron and weighs 1 lb. 6 oz. The screw-on plate that attaches it to the door says "Have a Coke" at the top. What is it worth?

**A:** To a serious Coke collector, your door handle is worthless. It's a reproduction based on a 1950s original, made of plastic and metal. No known original Coke door handles were made of cast iron. An original plastic-and-metal bottle-shaped handle sells for about \$300.

\*\*\*

**Tip:** We had a friend whose pet cougar liked to chew on the legs of her 18th-century American chairs. Not good for the chairs. Don't even let your dogs and cats near valuable old furniture.

*Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or e-mail addresses will not be published. Write to Kovels, King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.*



*This bisque wedding cake topper is 7 inches high, taller than most. It was made about 1920 by Hertwig and Co., a German firm that also made dolls and dishes. Theriault's of Annapolis, Md., auctioned it last summer for \$504.*

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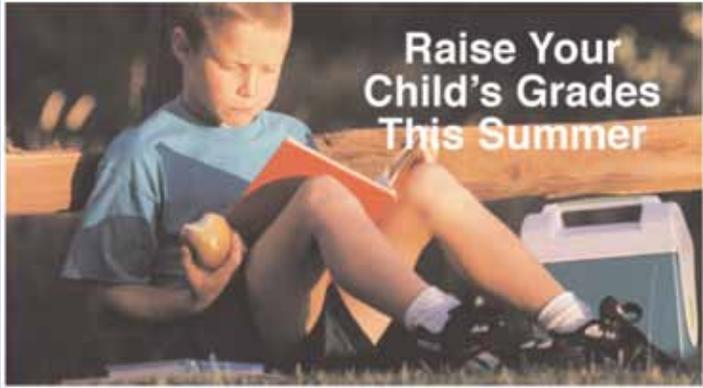
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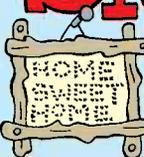
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TH' FLOORS ARE PITCHED AN' THEY SQUEAK !!

LOTSA CHARM AN' CHARACTER !!



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AN' TH' STORE'S A MILE AN' A HALF HIKE BOTH WAYS !!

PRIVATE AN' SECLUDED !!



5-10

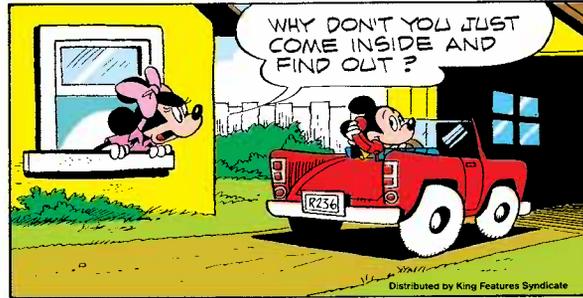
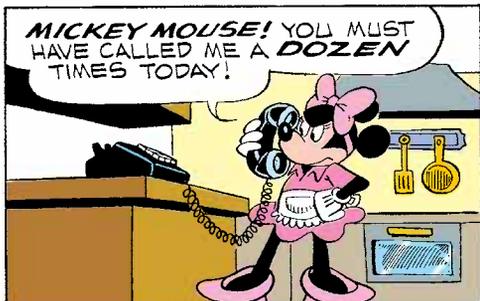
GOSH !! HE MAKES TH' OL' PLACE SOUND PURTY DARN BODACIOUS, PAW !!

YEP !! FERGIT IT, VIC, WE'RE STAYIN'-- THIS HERE'S OUR DREAM HOUSE !!

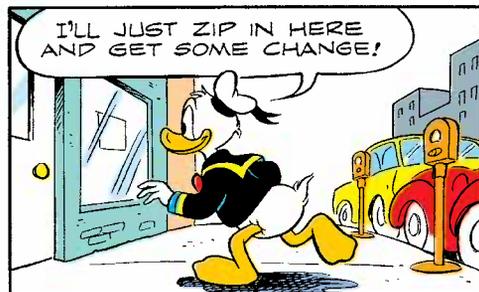
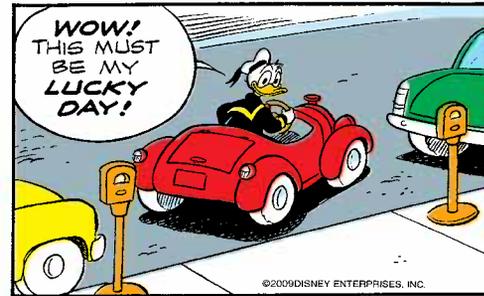
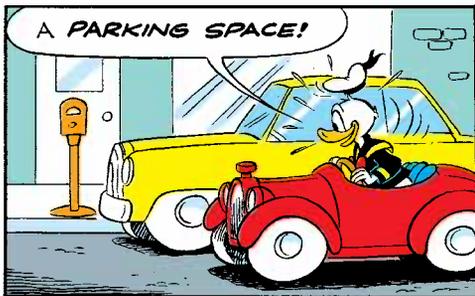
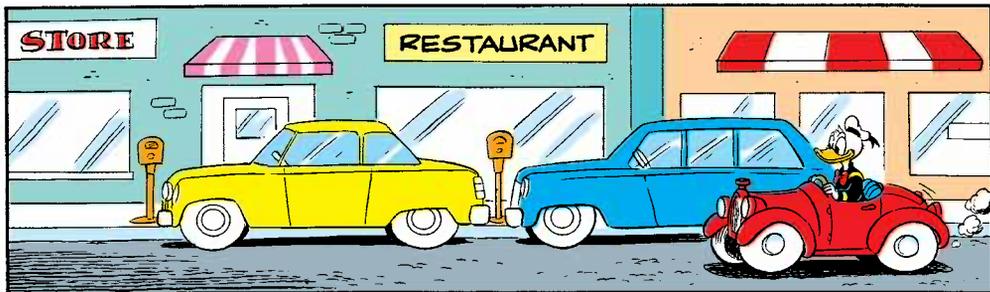


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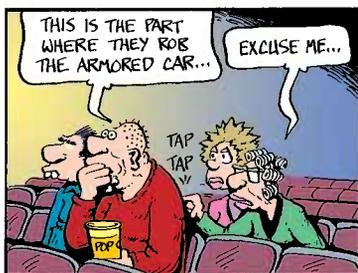
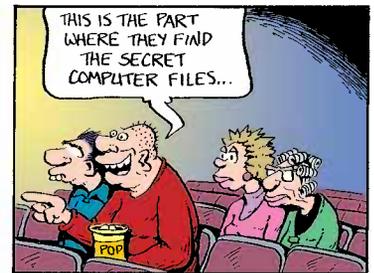
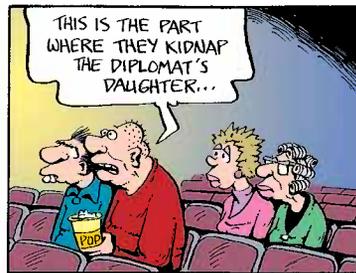
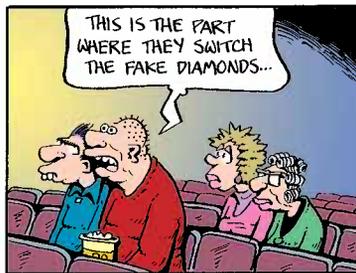
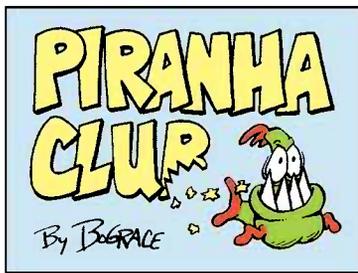
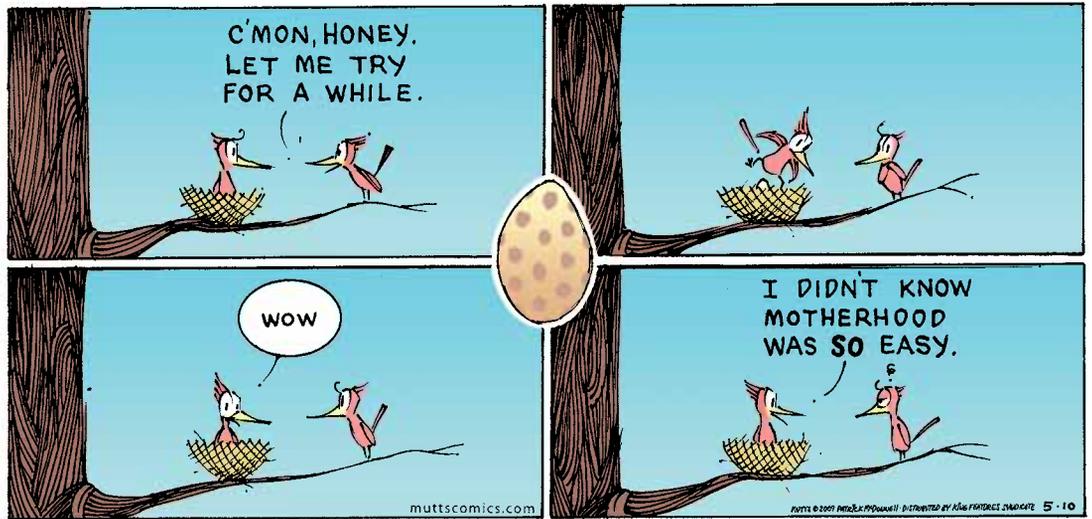
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MUTTS



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THE SUPER HANDYMAN



BY AL AND KELLY CARRELL  
EXCESS RAINFALL

"April showers bring May flowers," and they also can create damage around your home's foundation. Don't get us wrong — we like rain, but too much of it in the wrong place can cause problems. Here are some good ways to handle excessive rain.

Guttering has been a standard way of catching the rain and moving it away from your home's foundation, and it still is today.

Whether you have the inexpensive type or a fancy, custom design, the basics of how it operates are the same.

You should check your guttering to see if it is working properly each season in order to prevent problems before they get costly and critical.

When it rains, put on your raincoat and galoshes and take a closer look at your house. Is water coming out of the downspouts? Is it flowing over the sides at any point? Is it puddling around the foundation or filling up sidewalks and flowerbeds? These are all indications that you have work to do.

Clean leaves from guttering and unblock downspouts. Do this when the weather is nice, and use a spotter if you have to climb high up your ladder. You can use a garden hose, air compressor or a scoop made by cutting the top off a plastic milk carton.

Once the gutters are clean, consider adding a cover to keep leaves out. At least add a strainer to prevent leaves from clogging the downspouts.

A long run of guttering should slope gently toward the downspout. Use a level to check the run, and make adjustments if needed. Replace or repair gutter hangers that may

have come loose or might be insufficient.

If your guttering leaks, seal seams or patch holes with caulking or guttering repair kits, available at your hardware store.

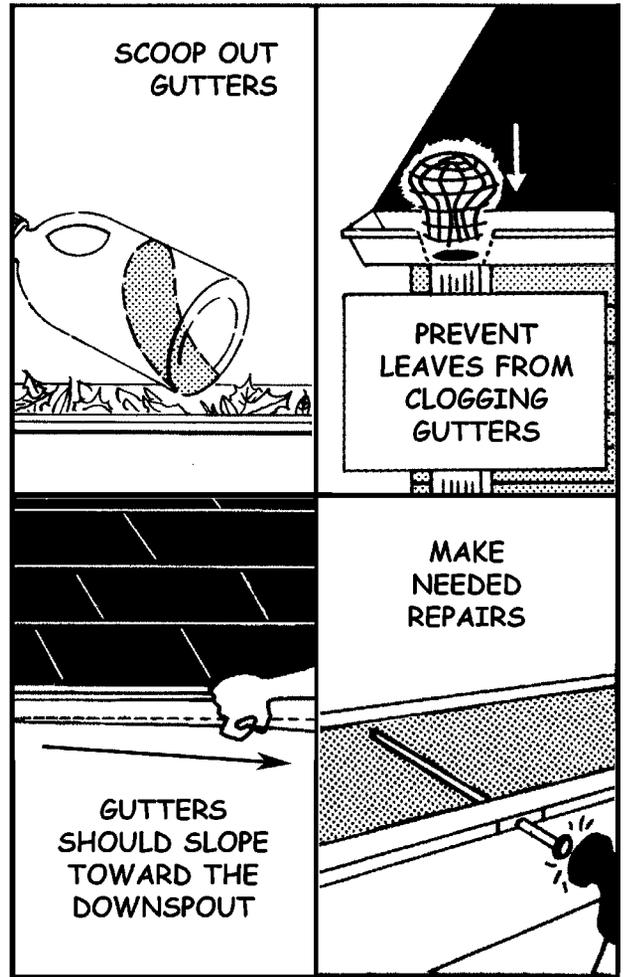
Add guards for leaking corners and extensions and/or splash blocks to the end of downspouts that don't do a good-enough job.

A quick checkup on a regular basis will keep this simple system doing its job and protecting your home. Then you can get busy planting all those May flowers!

\*\*\*

**Q:** We have some newer, fluorescent light fixtures, and we were wondering if we can put dimmer switches on them. Do they make them? — L.H.

**A:** Yes, they do, but they are not the same as the dimmers for incandescent bulbs, so check the package. If you have trouble finding them at the hardware store, go to a lighting-supply store. You are very smart to install dimmers. They are especially money-saving on incandescent bulbs, but are great everywhere.



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](http://www.thesuperhandyman.com). Those of general interest will be used in future columns.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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	1		6		5		
		4		3			
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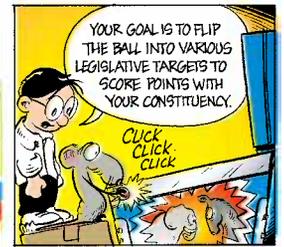
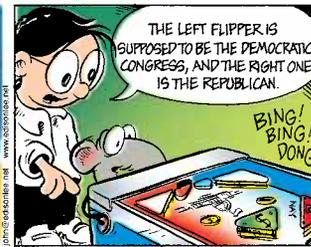
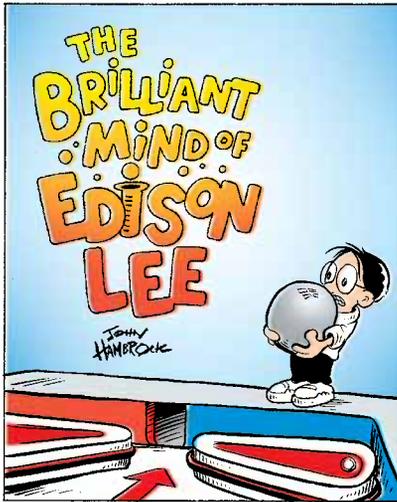
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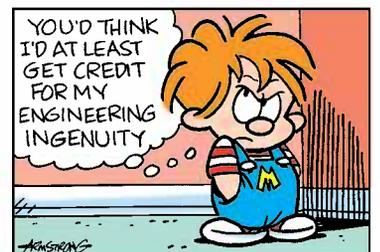
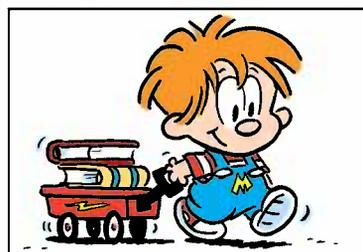
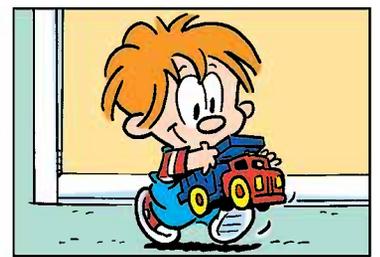
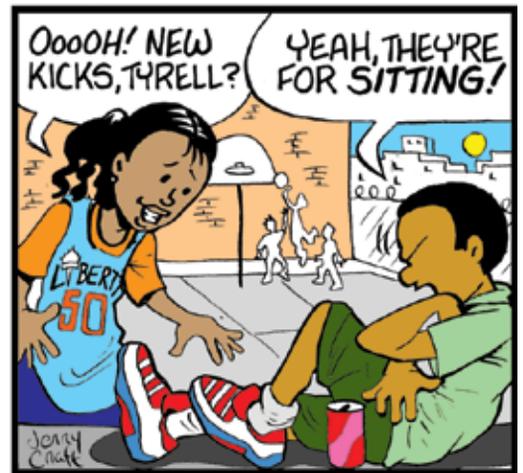
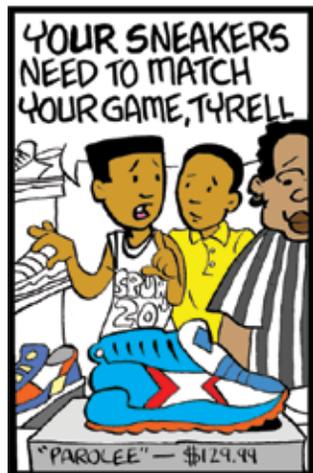
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# AUTO ALBUM

BY TAD BURNESS

09-18 (CLIP AND SAVE)

**1940 MERCURY EIGHT CONVERTIBLE \$1079.**

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(TAD 5-3)

A FEW 1940 MOVIES

GRAPES OF WRATH • DOWN ARGENTINE WAY • ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS • REBECCA • YOUNG TOM EDISON • NORTHWEST PASSAGE • CABIN IN THE SKY • FIGHTING 69TH • THE GREAT DICTATOR • MARK BROS. GO WEST • SABS AT SEA • THE LETTER • A CHUMP AT OXFORD • MARX BROS. LITTLE NELLIE KELLY • ARIZONA • THE PHILADELPHIA STORY • FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT • MY FAVORITE WIFE • FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT • THE THIEF OF BAGDAD • THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT • THE THIEF OF BAGDAD • GHOST BREAKERS • HIS GIRL FRIDAY • BROADWAY MELODY OF 1940 • MORTAL STORM • 2000 CHORUS • TOO MANY GIRLS • TORRID ZONE • FRANK JAMES • COMRADE X

## 1940 MERCURY CONVERTIBLE

It's May, and convertible weather once again — so how about this classy '40 Mercury convertible, a coveted collector's plum today!

History: Ford Motor Company introduced its new Mercury line of cars for 1939, and late in '38 the motor world was abuzz with news about the upcoming Mercury Eight that would bridge the price gap between the Ford De Luxe and the Lincoln Zephyr (the latter being the streamlined junior edition of the big V-12 Lincoln K).

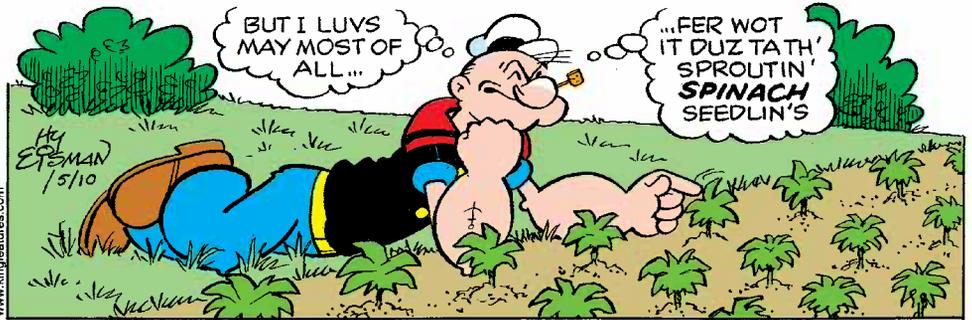
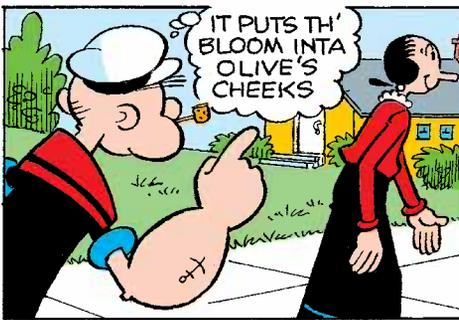
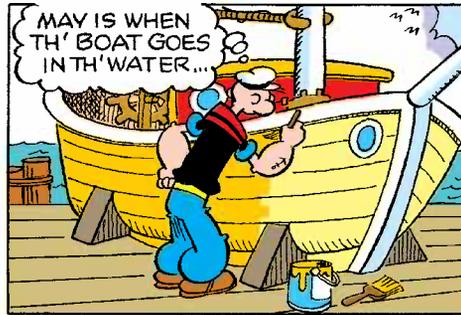
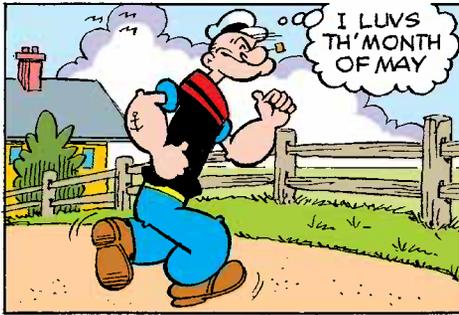
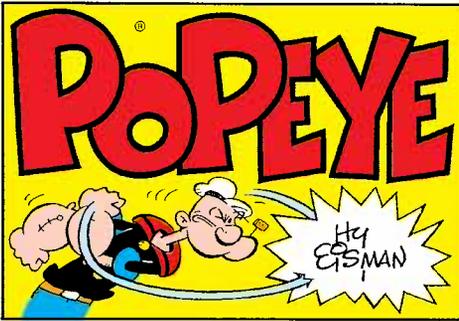
Would you believe that, between 1903 and 1922, there had been six different brands of cars launched in the U.S. bearing the Mercury name, but none had been successful until Ford revived it for 1939?

The previous Mercury ventures were launched, respectively, in Philadelphia (1903); Hillsdale, Mich. (1908); Detroit (1913); Hillis, N.Y. (1918); Cleveland (1920); and Belfast, N.Y. (1922). Evidently, the seventh time was the "charm."

For 1940, Ford's Mercury offered a few small changes: a modified grille (more flaring in its horizontal motif); new sealed-beam headlights (the new standard on most 1940 cars); and a pleasing instrument panel in silver-plated metal and blue plastic (two-tone), plus a few other refinements.

In the lower portion of the illustration, that list of many movies made in 1940 includes a good number that are still well-known and excellent entertainment, even now. Fortunately, some of these films still appear now and then on TV, and quite a few have cars of the 1930s in various scenes. Check the list: How many of these films do you recall having seen, either years ago or lately?

Tad Burness welcomes mail from readers. His address is "Auto Album," P.O. Box 247, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like a reply. If you would like to be contacted by telephone, please include your phone number, with area code, in your reply.



SOLUTIONS

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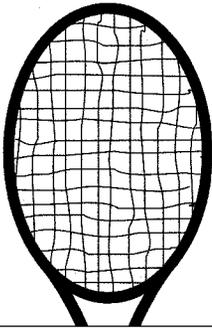
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			R	I	B			S	E	E	M	O	T	H	E	R	W	I	S	E		
S	H	E	E	T	I	N	G			R	E	N	E		S	A	I	L	E	D		
M	A	M	M	O	T	H	E	R	A	S	E	R		Q	T	I	P					
E	B	B			E	L	L	E	N		T	U	T	U		L	E	F	T	Y		
A	L	E	R	T	S			B	E	T		S	H	I	M		A	R	E			
R	A	D	I	I		A	L	A	M	O	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	T	A	T		
			C	L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

# STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

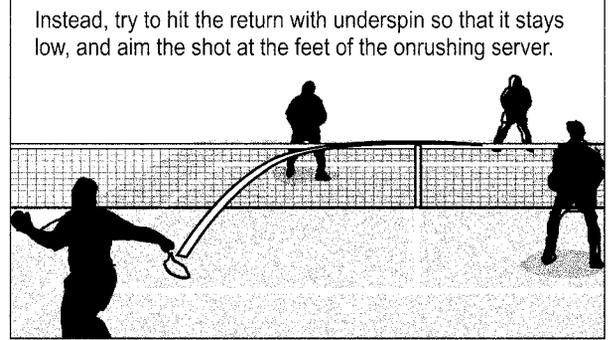


## KEEPING YOUR STRINGS STRAIGHT

Keeping your strings straight gives you a more consistent performance from your racket. Poor alignment can hinder ball response and playability.

5-12

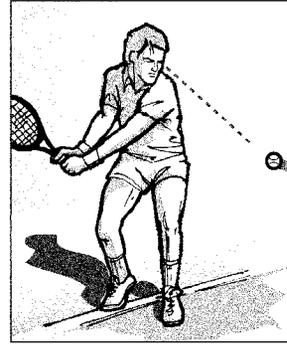
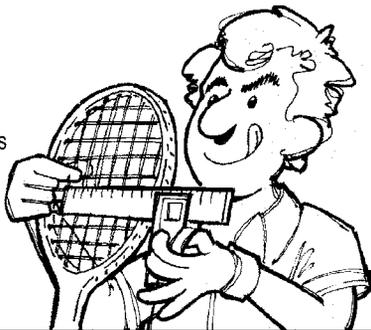
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Instead, try to hit the return with underspin so that it stays low, and aim the shot at the feet of the onrushing server.



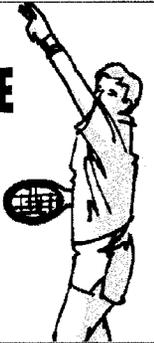
By keeping your strings straight, you ensure the most uniform and predictable ball response, as well as reduce the chance of breaking a string.



## REACT TO THE BALL

On the service return, be sure to track the ball coming in as soon as possible. Turn your shoulders and take a short backswing as you prepare to hit.

## DOUBLE RETURNING THE SERVE

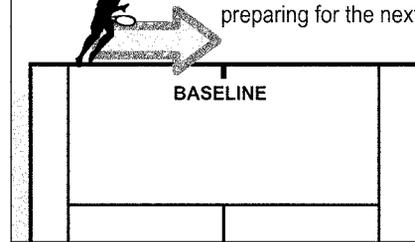


In doubles, if the server is hitting powerful serves and rushing to the net, it can be hard to know where to aim your return. First, don't try to take a big swing at the ball.



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It's important that after hitting the service return, you don't just stand there admiring your own shot. You need to hustle back toward the center of the court, preparing for the next shot.



5-16

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# Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



I'LL "TEXAS WEDGE" A SHOT FROM JUST OFF THE GREEN — PUTT THE BALL INSTEAD OF CHIPPING OR PITCHING IT — ANY TIME CONDITIONS ALLOW. THESE ARE GENERALLY IDEAL WHEN THE TURF IS FIRM AND DRY AND FAIRLY EVEN.



TO PLAY THIS SHOT, USE YOUR NORMAL PUTTING TECHNIQUE BUT HIT A LITTLE HARDER THAN YOU NORMALLY WOULD. AND KEEP YOUR HEAD AND BODY STILL — THERE'S A GREAT TEMPTATION ON THIS KIND OF STROKE TO "PEEK" TOO EARLY. YOU'LL FIND THIS SHOT PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FROM A THIN LIE.

5-11

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](mailto:neal@thebestoftimes.us)

**PREMIER** Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

**MOM'S IN  
THE MIDDLE**  
ACROSS

- 1 Greatly detested things  
10 Approach aggressively  
16 Pindar poems  
20 Toolmaker, e.g.  
21 Agatha Christie sleuth Jane  
22 Teller's cry  
23 Giant monster's angry outburst?  
25 Killer whale  
26 "That's all there — it!"  
27 Proof goofs  
28 Office helper: Abbr.  
30 Diving bird  
31 Barbecue bit  
34 Appear to be different?  
38 Fitting with bedclothes  
43 Philosopher Descartes  
44 Left shore  
45 Huge pencil add-on?  
48 Big name in swabs  
49 Taper off  
50 DeGeneres of TV talk  
51 Ballet garb  
53 Southpaw  
57 Tips off  
60 Put money on it  
62 Leveling wedge  
64 "My lips — sealed"  
65 Hub-to-rim lines  
66 Texas shrine's temperature controller?  
71 Light cigar  
73 "As I see it," in Internet shorthand  
74 — fatale  
75 VIP's car near that place?  
80 Oak fruit  
84 "Take me — am"  
85 "Slumdog Millionaire" actor — Kapoor  
86 Engine additive brand  
87 Meal's main part  
88 Eye color  
91 Iran's home  
93 Cowboy film  
96 Urban transport  
97 Most August babies  
99 Japanese wrestler's injury treater?  
103 "I before E, except —"  
106 — monster (big lizard)  
107 Raises  
108 Gathering together of bushy-tailed rodents?  
112 Gatherer of clues: Abbr.  
113 French pal  
114 Toy with ups and downs  
115 Hanger-on  
118 "... I could — horse!"  
122 Jazz jargon  
124 Oil in Earl Grey tea is announced?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19
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122			123		124			125	126						127	128				
129						130							131							
132						133							134							

- 129 Eclectic mix  
130 Undergo  
131 British jct, e.g.  
132 TV host Seacrest  
133 Dried grape  
134 They may beat as one

**DOWN**

- 1 Prefix with dextrous  
2 Scottish negatives  
3 German for "eight"  
4 Math proposition  
5 That chap  
6 Rock producer Brian  
7 Baseball glove  
8 Pasty-faced  
9 Stair parts  
10 Successful comics  
11 Bottle topper  
12 PC screen  
13 Narcotic  
14 Spill clumsily  
15 Most uptight  
16 Performer Yoko  
17 Get thrown off track  
18 Alibi  
19 Supported, as a tomato plant  
24 Caviar base  
29 Footpath  
32 "Am — blame?"  
33 Fast snacks  
35 Get together  
36 Torrent  
37 Use a towel on  
38 Window-washing flaw  
39 "Se — español"  
40 Fix firmly  
41 Canadiens' org.  
42 Styling stuff  
46 Country star McEntire  
47 Lack of vitality  
48 Paper units equal to 24 sheets  
52 Pilferage  
54 See 116-Down  
55 — -la-la  
56 To date  
58 Part of P.R.  
59 Pinball foul  
61 Mausoleums  
63 "So tasty!"  
66 Sports spots  
67 Actresses Petty and Loughlin  
68 Pretentious  
69 Muscat site  
70 Faith faction  
72 "Got ya!"  
75 "— -di-dah!"  
76 "There — God!"  
77 "Les —" (B'way musical)  
78 "L'— d'Amore" (Donizetti opera)  
79 — the crack of dawn

- 81 Moon's path  
82 Employ again  
83 Builds a tree house?  
87 Was human  
89 Kind of sch.  
90 Jim Croce's "bad" Brown  
92 "— Lang Syne"  
94 See 116-Down  
95 Slippery fish  
98 Fall month  
100 Guys who keep people posted?  
101 Blvd.  
102 Kneecap  
103 Scale with three sharps  
104 Kith and kin  
105 Minutiae  
106 Lieutenant LaForge on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"  
109 Wolf relative  
110 — -Latin  
111 Insinuate  
116 With 94- and 54-Down, gab  
117 Poor boy  
119 Sixth Jewish month  
120 Wigwam  
121 Fruit drinks  
123 Many, many millennia  
125 Gloomy —  
126 Jackie's "O"  
127 South Korea's — Tae Woo  
128 Orang, e.g.



## PRIME TIME WITH KIDS

BY DONNA ERICKSON

You and your preschooler can write a big adventure story in your own little book made from a recycled single-portion cereal box. Use as a “Spring Firsts” nature-walk journal or a photo album, or make a collection where each has a theme such as “the ABCs,” “Counting,” “Farm Animals,” “The Adventures of our Super Kitty” or “Presley’s Top Ten Jokes.”

Here’s how to repurpose your cereal box and transform it into a book:

Remove the liner from a single-portion cereal box. Cut off the top, right-side and bottom panels of the box and toss them in your recycling bin. The remaining portion of cardboard will be the front, spine and back of the book.

Paint or cover both sides of your new book with solid-colored or patterned adhesive-backed paper. Decorate with stickers, drawings or photos, or cut out shapes from contrasting colors of adhesive-backed paper. Write or print with your computer the title of your book on a piece of paper. Cut it to size and glue on the front of the book.

For pages, cut several sheets of construction paper slightly smaller than the book cover.

To bind the book, punch two holes along the center of the spine, one hole 1/2 inch from the top and the other 1/2 inch from the bottom. Punch corresponding holes in the paper. Thread ribbon, cording or string through the holes, from top to bottom, and knot it on the outside.

Help your child write the adventure and illustrate the story with drawings, photos or pictures from catalogs and magazines. Remember to include a title page with the author’s name.

**“The grandkids are coming!” tip:** When your school-age grandchild comes for a visit, start the day with “box-top reading” before you turn the cereal box into a book. Surprise each other with the new vocabulary words you pick up. Read ingredients and nutritional information listed on the side panel of the box, and continue by reading the content on the yogurt and milk cartons sitting on the breakfast table.

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# Who wants to be treated like a dog? All my friends do!

I'm Rhoda Freedberg, Real Estate Broker. My dog, Cricket, was part of my family for over 15 years. She had curly brown hair, just like me. Because she was always treated royally, my friends would say "they want to come back as my dog." She had free reign of the house including all beds and sofas. She never spent a night in a kennel. She ate gourmet dog and people food. When it rained or snowed, she was walked under cover. She swam in the summer and romped in the fallen leaves. As she aged she received the best medical treatment available including acupuncture, water therapy and 24/7 care when needed. "Cricket Care" was the ultimate in care giving.

### What does this have to do with buying or selling a home?

This has everything to do with real estate....or at least your choice of realtor. I take care of my clients as well as I take care of my pets. I'm proud of that. Honesty and good communication are the most important qualities in a relationship. Whether you are selling or buying, I'll educate you about current market conditions, point you in the right direction and take care of your every need. I won't desert you when selling your home or when finding the right home is difficult. In the heat of a negotiation, we will probably speak to each other more than to our family members. After the transaction I'm there to help you with finishing touches. I've supervised major renovations, recommended top service providers from doctors to hair stylists, assisted decorating, etc. I try to be more than a realtor...I try to be a friend.

I realize that real estate is probably your largest investment and I take that responsibility very seriously. At the same time I try to reduce the stress related to a move as much as possible. I loved my dog and I love working for my clients. I promise to give you the best care!

Here are a few rave reviews.... Or call me and I'll give you contact info for some more.

*"I have dealt with many realtors, both as seller and buyer, and I must say that Rhoda is without doubt the most professional, energetic and helpful one I've ever worked with."* Harold Levin

*"Your knowledge is priceless."* Kelly Feda

*"She spent countless hours working with various contractors. I was lucky not to have been paying her on an hourly basis!"* Steven Frenkel

Thinking about a move and have some questions? I'd love to speak with you about the value of your home, market conditions or whether you should expand or move. I'd love to listen to your dreams, needs and concerns. Contact me anytime at **RhodaF@gmail.com** or my cell **(203) 321-9638**. Just one call and you'll understand:



*All real estate agents are not the same!*



**"Cricket"**



30 BUXTON FARM ROAD  
STAMFORD, CT 06905  
PHONE: (203) 329-8801  
FAX: (203) 968-0744