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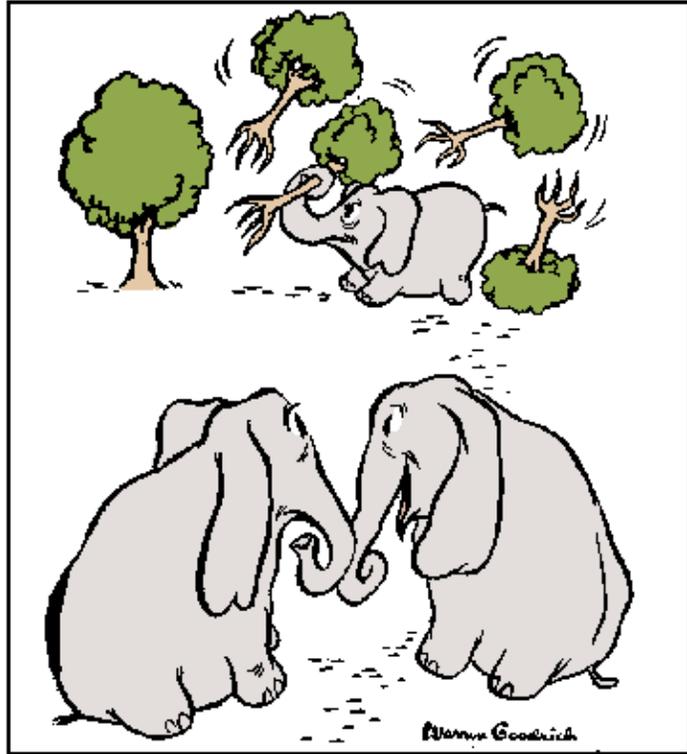
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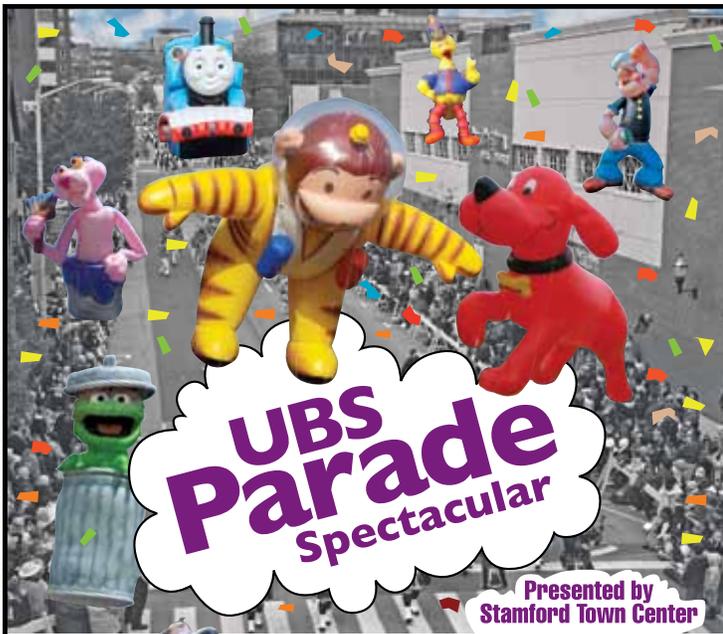
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## DEBBIE TRAVIS HOUSE TO HOME



### HOLIDAY VISITORS

BY DEBBIE TRAVIS

If you are like me, holidays seem to arrive out of nowhere and suddenly I'm expecting a house full of relatives and wondering when I'm going to get the food shopping in. It's the same every year: I hear my inner voices — I seem to have many — excited about seeing the family but acknowledging that there aren't enough beds, the bathroom's a bit scruffy, menus are complicated by vegan and low-carb diets, and wondering how to entertain this motley crew. Of course, it all gets sorted out, and I wouldn't have it any other way. But there is a smarter means to a happy ending, and that is to prepare what you can in advance.

Start by looking around the house with someone else's eyes. This is a good time for a general freshening. A good place to begin is with the bathroom that your guests will be using. No need to renovate; you can accomplish a miracle in a day or less. Modern or old-fashioned, the style is irrelevant. Bathrooms are meant to be clean, clean, clean. The black mold and mildew spots clinging to tile grout are seriously offensive. If

bleach doesn't work, or if the grout is breaking away, then look at re-grouting. There are tools available that are designed to run in between the tiles to remove the old grout. Then apply new grout following the instructions on the package. You can stick with white, or tinted is a decorative option if you would like a contrast. Seal the grout; it is porous, so apply a coat, let it sink in, then repeat until the sealant is fully absorbed.

The sink countertop is another feature that can ruin the look and feel of your bathroom if it is shabby. I have a beautiful white-marble countertop that has been stained over the years. Rather than replace this expensive item, I called in the professionals to wet and dry sand, then buff the stains away. Laminate counters that have warped or been stained will require replacing. The new solid-surface materials resist stains, and most can be buffed down like stone.

For the walls, a fresh coat of paint is quick and easy. Clean the wall and then roll on a good quality primer. Look for water-based paint that is designed for bathrooms. They have mold- and mildew-prevention properties. Since the wall space in a bathroom is small, as is the ceiling, here's a good space to experiment with a color or paint treatment that might be too much for a larger room. Why not paint a sky overhead, or a trompe l'oeil skylight, something you'll enjoy while relaxing in the bath? When choosing a color for the walls, remember

that color reflects. It's worth noting that rosy pink and peach tones are flattering, an important feature in the bathroom, with all those mirrors.

Once the bathroom is sparkling clean, it's time to accessorize. Have a large bath towel and hand towel for each guest, along with a special soap and body lotion. Dress up the countertop with an array of washing sponges and natural bath products. These items are not only useful, but will make your company feel pampered. Liquid soap and hand sanitizers are a thoughtful touch at all the sinks in your home, and are available in an assortment of decorative containers.

If space allows, hang a framed poster or whimsical picture. It can be fun or contemplative and will help set the mood.

\* \* \*

(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. For more ideas, look for Debbie's newest book, "Kitchens and Baths."*



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## EMERGENCY CARE

BY HELOISE

*Dear Readers:* Thank you for your recommendations about arranging for pet care in the event of a personal emergency. As someone who now lives alone with two dogs and a cat, I've often wondered how my housemates would be cared for in the event that I'm stricken while away from home.

I'm fortunate to have a neighbor who cares for the pets when I'm away for extended periods. But how would anyone know to contact him if I'm incapacitated or worse?

I have a hint I'd like to pass on. Most of us are aware of the importance of the ICE code (it stands for "In Case of Emergency" — Heloise) on our cell phones. What do you think of promulgating a similar EPC code ("Emergency Pet Care") for our phones? If that code were publicized and put into practice, our helpful neighbors could be contacted and asked to come to the rescue. — *Mike B., Omaha, Neb.*

You have a good pet hint that I'm happy to publicize. — *Heloise*

### BIRD FEEDING

*Dear Heloise:* I recently needed a scoop for feeding my fine feathered friends, so I cut the bottom from a 1-liter plastic bottle. First I cut the bottom off straight across using kitchen shears, where the label stopped, and then I cut a scoop shape at an angle from the remaining large part. The scoop is great because the cap keeps the seed in the scoop until I get to the feeder.

If you do not cut the scoop at an angle, you also have a wonderful funnel when you remove the cap. This is one way to keep those bottles out of the landfill. Of course, I recycle mine also. One can use only so many scoops and funnels.

Thank you so much for your column. I read it in The (Columbia, S.C.) State newspaper. — *Nancy, via e-mail*

### UNIQUE NAMES

*Dear Heloise:* Many years ago when I lived with my family in the country, a cat showed up at our door and would not leave, so she became our cat. She was very playful, so we named her Happy. A few months later, on Oct. 31, another cat

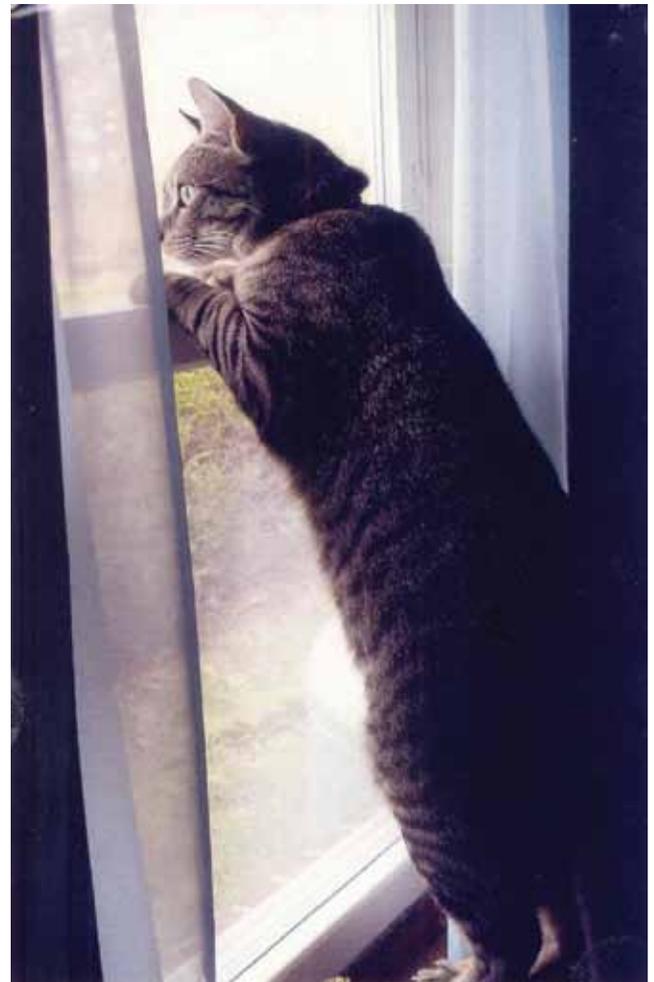
showed up and would not leave. Because of the date we first saw her, we named her Halloween. Both cats became part of our family. They spent a lot of time outdoors, but always came in when I called them, either to feed them or in the evening when it was cold outdoors. It took me some time to realize how strange it must sound to anyone within hearing distance when I called "Happy, Halloween." — *Stella R., Manchester, N.H.*

### OUTSIDE REMINDER

*Dear Heloise:* If your dog or kitty has to go outside during bad weather and you're busy and don't want to forget about letting your pet back in, grab your kitchen timer or set the alarm on your cell phone or oven. — *Natalie in Virginia*

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*Ruth Ferry of Torrington, Conn., sent this photo of her 3-year-old domestic short-haired cat, Sam, standing on his hind feet gazing longingly out of a window.*



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# FROMMER'S BUDGET TRAVEL



BY ARTHUR FROMMER

## CHINA TRAVEL

The ongoing battle among tour operators to China (China Spree, China Focus Travel and Friendly Planet) has reached price war proportions. Early in October, China Spree Travel ([www.chinaspree.com](http://www.chinaspree.com)) announced that in the months of January and February, it would offer an eight-night, three-city (Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai), air-and-land package for only \$888 per person, including round-trip air from San Francisco (add \$300 from New York City). On China Spree's package, you also receive lodgings with private bath, buffet breakfast daily, five lunches, daily escorted sightseeing and all transportation (air and train) within China.

The feisty president of China Spree, Wilson Wu, has often buttonholed me at regional travel shows to tout the quality and low price of his tours, or to advise of his intention to become the biggest operator of tours to China. He has now used some confident language to accompany the gauntlet he has tossed down: "While the Golden Triangle (the name of the \$888 program) may be the lowest-priced tour on the market," says his press release, "it's also the best-quality, with more included features than any other."

That's not quite so. The program does not include daily dinners, as the others do (in fact, it provides no evening meals at all), and consists of only eight nights in China, as compared with China Focus's nine nights. However, I regard the elimination of dinner as a plus, enabling you to make your own choice of the many fine restaurants in these three cities.

Of equal significance, however, is China Spree's decision to raise the price by only \$200 in March (to a total of \$1,088), and by a small \$200 more from April to mid-June. Thus, in what is decidedly a high season to

China (April, May and early June), Americans will pay only \$1,288 — far less than anyone else is charging — for an extensive tour of China's highlights.

To achieve this dramatic reduction in tour costs, China Spree — according to Wilson Wu — has obtained the cooperation of all the major suppliers of China travel: Air China (reducing the trans-Pacific cost), several four-star hotels (passengers will always be accommodated in four-star facilities) and the operators of motorcoach sightseeing. It's clear that the Chinese authorities have "leaned" on each of these groups to keep travel to China vibrant and effective in a time of economic slowdown. (In its supervision of other Chinese industries, China apparently has achieved a faster and more substantial recovery from the recession than any other nation.)

There is, as yet, no reaction from China Spree's chief competitors in the low-cost field, which are China Focus Travel ([www.chinafocustravel.com](http://www.chinafocustravel.com)) and Friendly Planet ([www.friendlyplanet.com](http://www.friendlyplanet.com)). After offering an air-included price of \$999 for many of their winter departures, they have not yet detailed what they will be charging in late winter and early spring. I would expect a matching of China Spree's lead price, which will result in a general acknowledgment that China has now become the single cheapest international destination for Americans. What equivalent tour in Europe, the Middle East or the Caribbean could possibly match the value of a comprehensive 8-night air-and-land package, supplying long-range air transportation, using four-star hotels, and selling for only \$888?

For all the details of China Spree's offer, log on to its Web site, then click on "Specials," then on "10 Day China's Golden Triangle," and when a photograph of Xian's Terra Cotta Warriors appears, look immediately below that image for the words "Dates and Pricing." Note that the \$888

package requires a \$200 deposit, which can be made by credit card. But thereafter, final payment must be in the form of a check or money order, thus sparing the tour operator the cost of processing a further credit-card payment.

## LOCAL EXPERTS

In the course of some 35 years, obtaining short-term apartment stays in Europe for tens of thousands of Americans, the company known as Untours (888-868-6871; [www.untours.com](http://www.untours.com)) has amassed a list of trusted, English-speaking, European associates who serve as troubleshooters for Untours' clients. You travel to an Alpine town, or to a major city, and Untours puts you in touch with its local representative, who has the job of rescuing you from all sorts of troublesome situations.

It recently occurred to Untours that these same individuals could be helpful to Americans in advance of their trips to Europe. So it has now created a program known as "Call the Local Expert" that enables you, on the eve of your trip, to place a phone call to the appropriate European and put all manners of questions to them about aspects of your forthcoming trip.

For their time over the phone, you pay:

- \$20 for 15 minutes
- \$35 for half an hour
- \$60 for one hour of conversation

The full details are set forth in a Web site accessed at [www.untours.com](http://www.untours.com), which answers every question you may have about the service, and which also claims that Untours pays for the toll charges of the call you make. Although I initially expressed surprise at that announcement, I have since spoken with Marilee Taussig of Untours, who has confirmed that, yes, Untours pays for it. The call actually is made from Europe (or three U.S. cities) to you. Through an exchange of e-mails you arrange the time when the "Local

European Expert" will place a call to you. At that time, the local expert uses a low-cost telephone program (either Skype, Vonage or another) to place the call, at no cost to you, and at a cost of only about 2 cents a minute to Untours.

It makes sense, of course, that the expert should be phoning you. Otherwise, that expert could be made the prisoner of a need to handle dozens of calls throughout the day to all the clients of Untours wanting to speak with them. By arranging for the expert to place the calls, the work of doing so can be concentrated in a short period.

For more information about the "Local Expert" program designed for travel, either visit [www.untours.com](http://www.untours.com), or phone 888-868-6871.

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China — the Terra Cotta Warriors. Photo credit: Peter Morgan.

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# NASCAR THIS WEEK

By Monte Dutton

The rules provide for five inductees each year into the new NASCAR Hall of Fame, but only five inductees will ever be able to lay claim to membership in the inaugural class.

A broad-based committee elected two members of NASCAR's ruling family, William H.G. (Big Bill) and William C. (Bill Jr.) France, along with Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Junior Johnson.

"It was interesting," said a member of the voting committee, H.A. (Humpy) Wheeler. "The controversial deal was both Frances getting in. There's a lot of sentiment both for and against that. ... I think it was a fair vote.

"Probably the most disappointed person is David Pearson. I think the rest of it was good, but that's what makes halls of fame interesting is all the emotion. You don't see it so much among those of us who were voting. The families, the friends and the people themselves are the ones who get stirred up about this."

Big Bill France was instrumental in the organization of NASCAR, in 1947, and led the ruling body until 1972, when he handed over the reins to his son, Bill Jr. The founder's grandson, Brian France, now serves as NASCAR's chairman and CEO.

Petty and Earnhardt are the only NASCAR drivers ever to win seven championships. Petty won more races, 200, than any other driver. Pearson, who wasn't selected, ranks second with 105. Johnson won 50 races as a driver, though never

winning a championship (basically, because he never tried; in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, many drivers competed only in the more lucrative races), but then went on to win six championships as a team owner.

All three of the drivers chosen were born and raised in North Carolina. Three of the five inductees — Big Bill France, Bill France Jr. and Earnhardt — are deceased. The specific vote totals weren't publicly released. A NASCAR release said that Pearson, Cale Yarborough and Bobby Allison also received votes.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame is scheduled to open on May 11, 2010. The induction ceremonies are scheduled for May 23, 2010.

■ Tony Stewart doesn't subscribe to the theory that all the Chase contenders are bound to have at least one bad race.

Referring to the leading threesome of Johnson, Martin and Montoya (entering Charlotte), Stewart said: "I would about guarantee one of the three will (keep up the pace). It's hard to think that, after four races, when you've already got three of those guys that have made it that far, somebody of those three won't go ahead and finish it that way."

Assuming that Stewart's correct, it will be difficult for him to overcome the 155 points separating him from Johnson. It's also pertinent to note that Martin and Montoya had off races in the NASCAR Banking 500.

■ From the horse's mouth: When NASCAR announced recently it was changing the carburetor restrictor plates in order to hold down speeds in



Photos by John Clark / NASCAR This Week

NASCAR's best took center stage on Oct. 14 in Charlotte for the soon-to-be Hall of Fame's inaugural class. From top down, NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France talks about the first class. Richard Petty, center, his wife, Linda, right, and son, Kyle, left, were all smiles after he was announced as one of the five members.

two weeks at Talladega, it was a direct result of Carl Edwards' spectacular crash there on April 26. The track also announced that the safety fences are being raised in height to lessen the possibility of tragedy.

"I think that smaller restrictor plates will keep the speeds down," said Edwards. "That's probably a good move considering we're already nose-to-tail,

wide open the whole time. I don't think that will have a detrimental effect.

"I think making the fence taller and stronger is good. That won't keep parts from flying through the fence — that could happen at any race track — but it may help keep an entire car out of the grandstands, which would be catastrophic, so that's a good move, as well."

# THE RED BARN

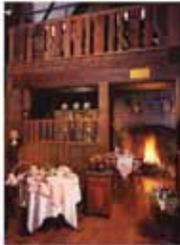


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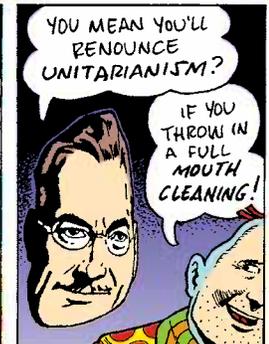
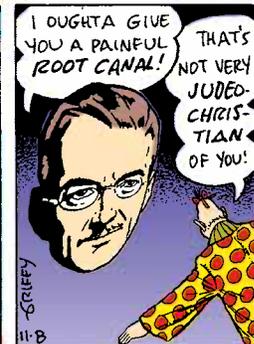
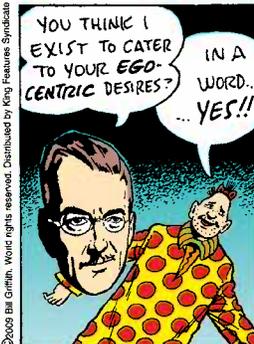
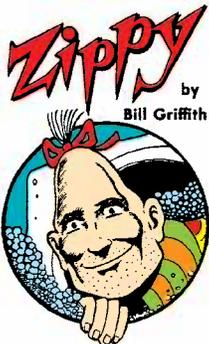
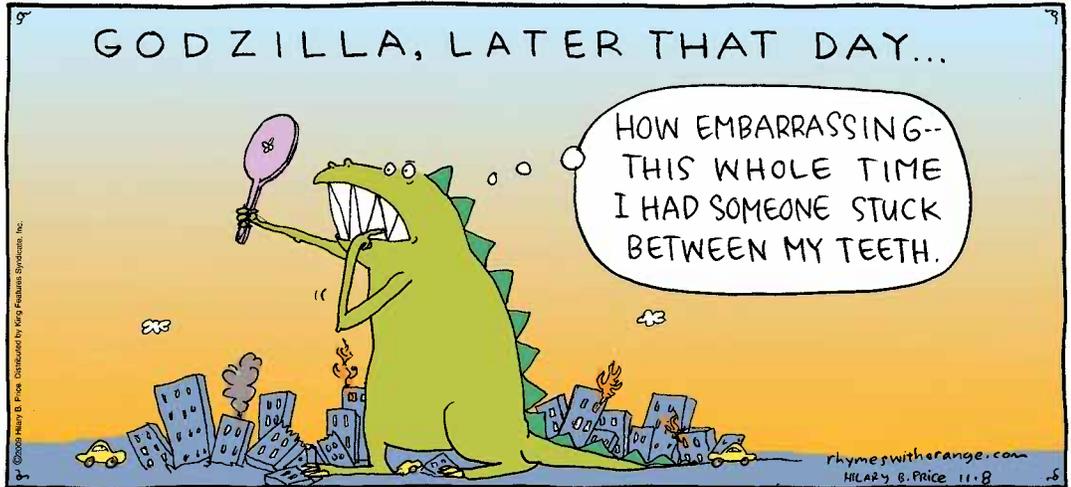
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## JILL JACKSON S HOLLYWOOD

By Jill Jackson

HOLLYWOOD ... Biggest news still bouncing around town is Andrew Lloyd Webber's announcement that there will be a sequel to his "Phantom of the Opera." The new musical will be titled "Love Never Dies." It will be staged in New York, but will open in London in March. "Phantom" was one of the world's longest-running musicals, and folks are still singing the tunes. Yup, there is something to talk about besides Paris, Lindsay, Britney, Leo, George, Julia, etc.

I've always loved the name Parker Posey. It has that rhythmic sort of ring and is fun to say. And news is that actress Parker Posey has joined the cast of "Highland Park," now shooting in Detroit. More about this later when we know more.

Word is this year's Oscarcast will honor Lauren Bacall. And it's high time! That's about all I know about it at the moment. But what I do know is anywhere "Bogey's Baby" goes, there's excitement.

And just in case you didn't know, the lady was named Betty Joan Persky, but took the Lauren Bacall moniker for a more glamorous aura. However, Humphrey Bogart never called her anything but "Baby."

Once again, a bunch of movie writers lurching and battling the breeze about the business. The subject got around to phrases remembered from films. Numero uno was Bette Davis' "Fasten your seatbelt, it's going to be a bumpy ride" from "All About Eve." No. 2 was Clark Gable to Vivien Leigh in "Gone with the Wind" saying, "Frankly Scarlett, I don't give a damn!" No. 3 is Bogart in "Casablanca" saying, "Play it again, Sam," or words to that effect, followed by Bacall in "To Have and Have Not" saying to Bogart, "You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together ... and blow." We went on and on, and it was lots of fun. If you have any favorites, write and let us know c/o King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Big doings in Savannah, Ga., where Southern accents ease the ears. The 12th annual Savannah Film Festival will showcase 22 professional films, 12 student films and lots more individual offerings. This along with singing and dancing and, of course, eating.



Parker Posey

Aside to Barbara B. of Houston: I think I've answered this before, but I guess it bears repeating. Yup, I am performing as that policewoman in charge of Lana Turner in "Madame X." However, even though I had many scenes with her, I really didn't get to know Lana well because I was not allowed to talk to her. I kid you not. And yes, Keir Dullea is still around. He is appearing in a TV series now.

And yes, I was in "Tammy and The Doctor." That was made quite a while back when I first arrived in Hollywood. I can't find myself in this one, though. I was completely covered up from toes to top with a cap, face mask and scrub uniform. But I did get a check, so that told me I was in the cast.

Enough of the early days and back to the present. Governor Arnie — once a Hollywood star, now a bigwig politician — is protecting actors' privacy. He has signed into law an actor's right to sue anyone, from the media or elsewhere, who invades his or her privacy. And believe me, many have done so by hiding in bushes, tailing celebs and other devious means for peeping where they shouldn't.

Chris Pine's agent tells me that she has so many offers for his appearance — in films, onstage, at festivals — that she can't keep up with them. Meanwhile, Chris goes merrily on making pictures, enjoying his popularity and staying the sweet, courteous young man he was before he became a big, big star.

Kirk Douglas once said, "If you write a book, you ask, 'Do you like my book?' If you paint a picture, you say, 'Do you like the picture I painted?' But if you become an actor, you say, 'Do you like me?' That's why it's so painful if people say they don't."

Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand and Leonard Bernstein will be inducted into the National Museum of Jewish History's Hall of Fame. And speaking of "Babs," doesn't she look great? Just hark back to the days when she was doing "Funny Girl" and you'll know what I mean. Maybe it all adds up to a happy married life to Jim Brolin.

The off-the-shoulder little black dresses were rampant at the screenings of several films about town. And Bruce Willis was at one, his head so clean-shaven that you could see the pores in his scalp. Scattered about in the crowd were all his daughters, his latest girlfriend, and Demi and Ashton. Just one big, happy family.

Betcha didn't know that Jodie Foster's given name is Alicia Christian. Next time I see her at the grocery, I'll ask how she chose the name Jodie. Or maybe you already know. She is one of our better actresses and "moms" — and a very nice person. And to bear repeating, I remember when I was first starting out and attended a press luncheon where they were plugging one of her pictures. She was then 6 years old. Adorable. She sat on my lap and announced to me that she "wanted to be a lawyer" when she grew up. As you know, that did NOT come to pass.

# CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

**Q:** Back in the early 1980s, there was a show on TV called "V." I've been seeing a lot of commercials lately on ABC for a new show called "V." Is this a remake of the other one? — Howard F., West Palm Beach, Fla.

**A:** The new "V" is based on the 1983 series; however, this ain't your mother's "V," that's for sure. The basic story line is the same: A race of aliens arrives on Earth in a fleet of huge, saucer-shaped motherships, which hover over major key cities across the world. The "Visitors" reach out in friendship, ostensibly seeking the help of humans to obtain water needed to aid their survival. In return, the Visitors promise to share their advanced technology with humanity.

However, not all is as rosy as it seems — as a resistance group will soon spell out for us. This new version of "V" is the best new show on television, by far. The special effects are feature-film quality; the writing is intelligent and time-relevant; and the acting is first-rate.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I thought that the action/comedy "Chuck" was going to reappear this season, but still nothing. Is the show coming back? — Nettie A., via e-mail

**A:** I love to be the bearer of good news. "Chuck" was renewed for a 13-episode third season, which will begin airing on NBC (tentatively) in March 2010. Keep an eye on your local listings.

\*\*\*

**Q:** One of my favorite rock groups of all time is KISS. Will they ever release an album of new music? — George J., Hamilton, Ohio

**A:** About a month ago, KISS released their first studio album in 11 years of all-new material called "Sonic Boom." The CD features 11 new songs, a separate CD of re-recorded KISS classics and a DVD of a recent concert in Argentina. I spoke with drummer Eric Singer about the new album and he told me: "We kind of look at the new record like another child. Sometimes you have a child that has something special or uniquely different about him, and you love all your children equally, but sometimes one of them is a little bit different, a little more special. That is the way we feel about 'Sonic Boom.'"

**Q:** Can you tell me if "Friday Night Lights" is coming back this season? We love that show. — Jan M., via e-mail

**A:** "Friday Night Lights" has been renewed for two more seasons, and like the previous season, it will be in conjunction with DirecTV. DirecTV airs the new season first on the 101 Network, then NBC airs the same episodes later in the year. This deal was arranged for the fledgling drama prior to the third season in order to help keep it on the air. Season 4 recently debuted on the 101 Network, with NBC airing the episodes later this spring.

\*\*\*

**Q:** There is an actor in the movie "Desperate Hours," with Mickey Rourke and Anthony Hopkins, who looks just like "Law & Order: SVU" star Christopher Meloni. Was that him, and if not, are they related?

— Teresa P., Fort Worth, Texas

**A:** The actor you are thinking of is Elias Koteas, who is often mistaken for Christopher, and vice versa. In fact, I sometimes confuse the two myself — the resemblance is uncanny! Elias is mostly a film actor, co-starring in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "The Haunting in Connecticut," "Crash," "Shooter," "Two Lovers" and the upcoming "Shutter Island," among many others. Christopher is best known for "SVU," but also was featured in "Wet Hot American Summer" and "Nights in Rodanthe," in addition to his extensive television work.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at [letters@cindyelavsky.com](mailto:letters@cindyelavsky.com), or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



Eric Singer

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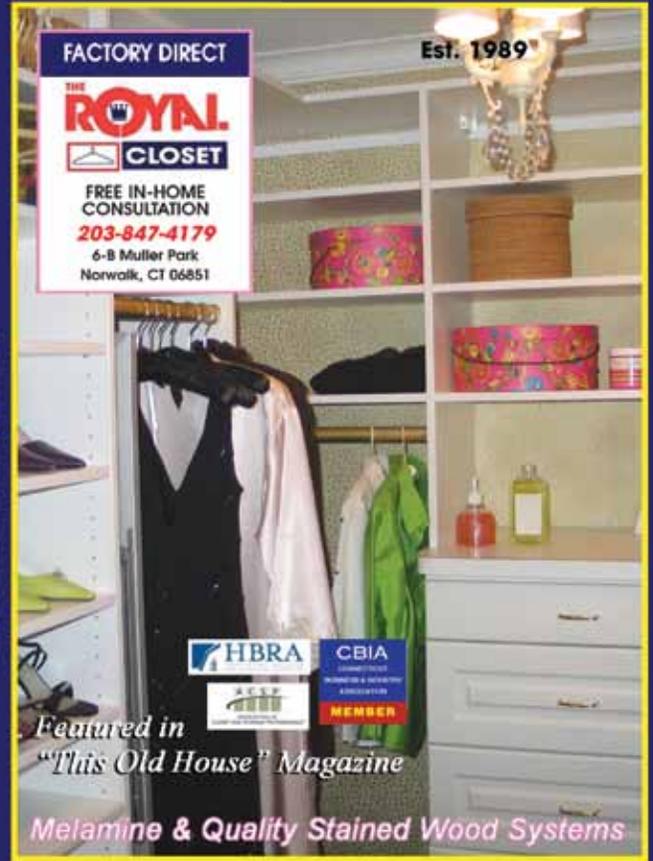
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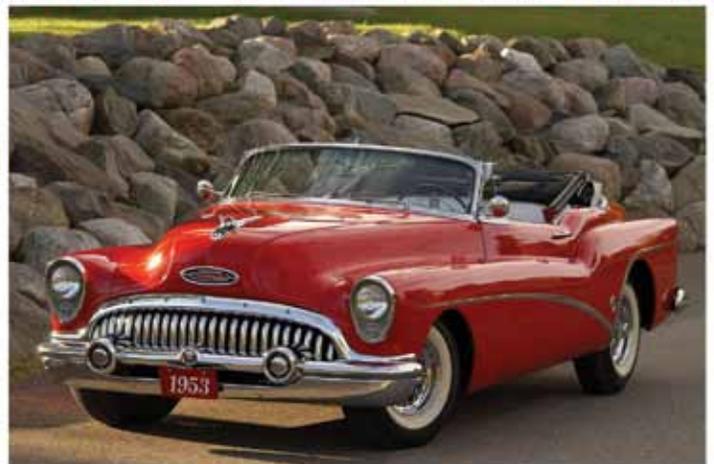


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# Chicken Soup for the Soul



## TRUE MEANING OF VALIANT SPIRIT

By Cate Cavanagh

It wasn't until after a couple of weeks that I noticed something was wrong. Unlike the other kittens, who'd already begun crawling on their tummies, he was rolling like a ball down a hill.

I brought him to one of the local vets, who coldly offered to put him down. He said the little guy had neurological damage and would never be able to walk. As a specialist in developmental and physical disabilities, I never put anyone or anything in a defined box.

Tank was all black and was originally named Tink, after Tinkerbell in "Peter Pan" because of his fluttering and unstable movements. When he was weaned, I had to hold him steady so he could eat, and as he ate, he just wobbled like a foal just born. I never held him securely. I would place my hands just on either side of him and let him wobble into them as he ate. By the time he was a year old, he still wobbled but ate without any help at all.

His walk was a clumsy trot, and at first he would bump into walls and table legs. In time, he gained enough muscle control to move more slowly and learned to lean on the walls for balance. The base of his tail was always bald from his using it for balance as he walked by chairs and table legs.

As for getting on the sofa, he just clawed his way up to curl up and go to sleep. If you have ever seen anyone with a palsied condition, you have an idea of how he walked, sat and perched himself. Tank had a way of always getting what he wanted and, to compensate for his disability, grew into a formidable bully! We had a household of multiple cats and three big dogs, one golden retriever and two yellow Lab mixes, but when Tank sauntered by they all cleared the way for him. If they didn't, he would give a blood-curdling yowl that would send them all into hiding.

I remember one night sitting up in bed reading. Our dogs were all curled up nicely on the old sofa we kept for them in our bedroom when Tank came in. He looked about and then settled his eyes on the sofa. I knew this was his destination. He wobbled over and sat, staring each dog in the eye one at a time. Each one picked up his head and looked at him and then at each other. He swung one paw onto the sofa, claw grabbing cloth, and in one instant all three dogs gave up their spots on the sofa. Tank climbed up and sprawled outstretched right in the middle of the sofa. I had heard of people clearing out a room, and this little guy could clear out a sofa when he wanted it. In fact, he ruled the house.

In all my years of working in the disabilities field I have learned that compensating for one's disability is greatly underestimated by most people. The power of adaptation is amazing to witness, as I have many times in my work. Tank truly demonstrated the real meaning of adapting to one's circumstances and fully utilizing the environment to the fullest to live a normal life.

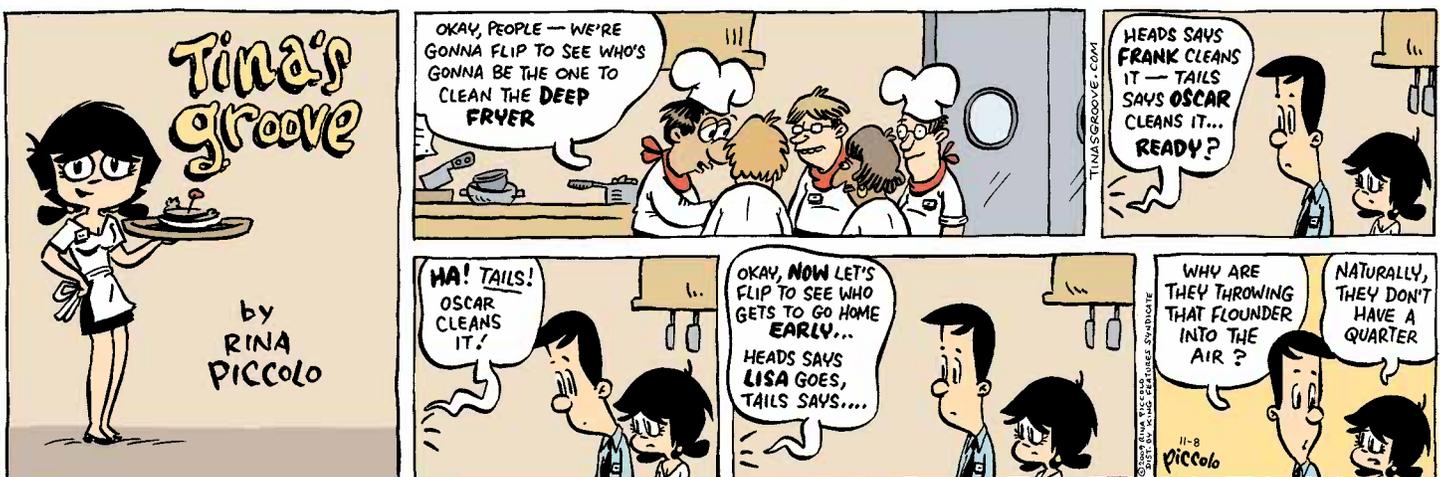
Tank could not jump to where I kept the dry cat food. It wasn't necessary anyway. Like everyone else, he had me trained. When he was hungry, he would walk over to me and stare. I would ask him, "Do you want to eat?" and he would turn tail and scamper to the porch to be fed.

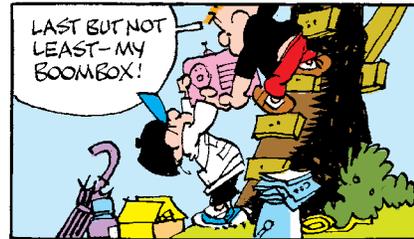
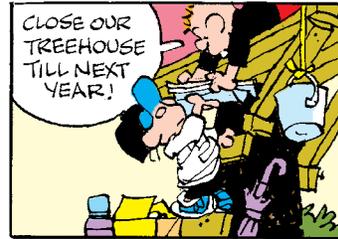
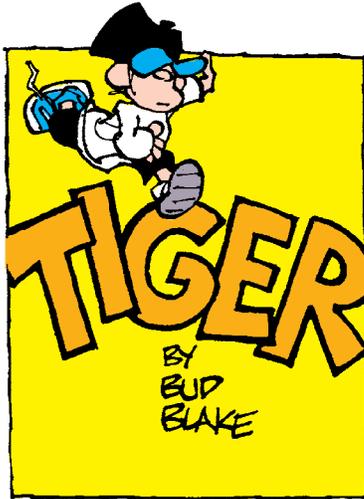
He was born neurologically damaged, and most would have taken the advice of that vet who wanted to put him down. In so doing, they would have been denied the blessing of seeing the true meaning of a valiant, brave and indomitable spirit taking the hand given and playing it to the fullest.

Tank passed away at the age of 17. Not bad. Not bad at all.

\* \* \*

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# KOVELS ANTIQUES

By Ralph and Terry Kovel

## ANTIQUE ODDITIES

Some antiques are so rare and strange that they are classed as "what's its" by collectors. Sometimes they are also so interesting they can sell for high prices. This year two different auction houses offered "Victorian glass parlor fountains" — items that were "what's its" to most collectors. A few years ago, only 12 examples were known. Researchers have discovered that the fountains were patented by Joseph Storer in 1871. A metal stand holds a basin at the top, and underneath it a pair of glass globes attached to a hollow metal rod could swing back and forth. Water was put in the upper basin and forced down into the globes and a series of tubes, then up again as an 8-inch water spout or fountain. The globes moved up and down and the guests were delighted with the unusual centerpiece. The fountains, about 20 inches high, were held in a frame made by James Tufts of Boston, a silver-plate manufacturer. The invention was called a "perpetual fountain" or "automatic fountain." A fancy ruby glass fountain with etched designs sold originally for \$50 — very expensive for a Victorian table decoration.

\*\*\*

**Q:** We still own the bookcase my husband's mother bought for him in the 1940s, when he was a child. It was made by the Gunn Furniture Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. Can you tell us something about the bookcase's history?

**A:** Gunn Furniture Co.'s history can be traced back to 1874, when William S. Gunn started selling furniture at his Grand Rapids hardware store. In 1890 he incorporated his own manufacturing

firm, the Gunn Folding Bed Co. Because the popularity of folding beds was waning fast, three years later he changed his company's name to the Gunn Furniture Co. and started making desks, bookcases, files and other office furniture. The woods he used included walnut, oak and mahogany. The firm was sold in 1953 to Bergsma Brothers, Inc., also of Grand Rapids. Bergsma Brothers closed in 1985.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I have a Titian Ware Royal Ivory plate by Adams that says Adams was established in 1657. Your Web site mentions that the firm was founded in 1769. Can you tell me why the date is different?

**A:** Several members of the Adams family operated potteries in the Staffordshire district of England. The earliest pottery operated by a

member of the family was Brick House Works, established in Burslem in 1657 by Robert Adams and his son, John. William Adams & Sons was established in 1769 and operated the Greengates Works in Tunstall. The 1657 date was added to the William Adams mark in 1896 even though the date refers to a different but related Adams company. Adams became part of the Wedgwood Group in 1966 and some Adams designs continued to be made with the Adams backstamp. The Greengates Works closed in 1992.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I am interested in learning the year my old brass NCR cash register was made and what it's worth. It's a Model 356G. The first patent date is May 23, 1893, and the last is Aug. 30, 1910. The serial number is 1283080.

**A:** National Cash Register Co., which dates back to 1884, made your cash register in 1913. You can check serial numbers of all NCR cash registers at the Dayton History Web site, [DaytonHistory.org](http://DaytonHistory.org). An NCR Model 356G cash register sold recently for \$950.

**TIP:** Clean the inside of a graniteware pot by filling the pot with water, adding a teaspoon of baking soda and bringing it to a boil.

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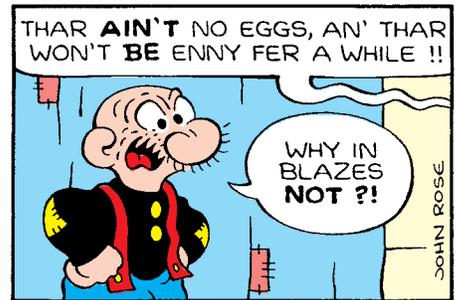
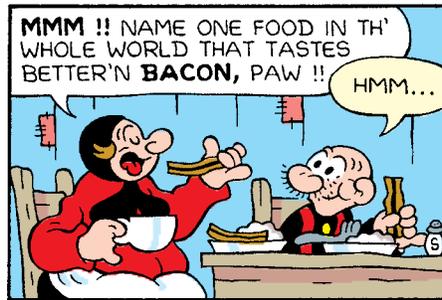
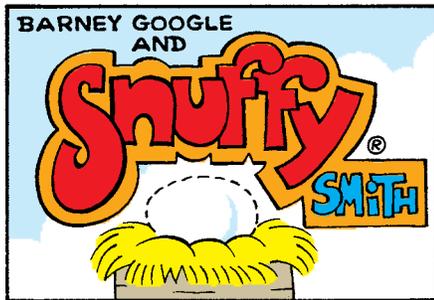
*Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or e-mail addresses will not be published. Write to Kovels, King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New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



*Glass parlor fountains are very rare. This 21-inch-high brass and blown glass fountain made about 1880-90 sold for \$640 at Cowan's Auctions in Cincinnati.*

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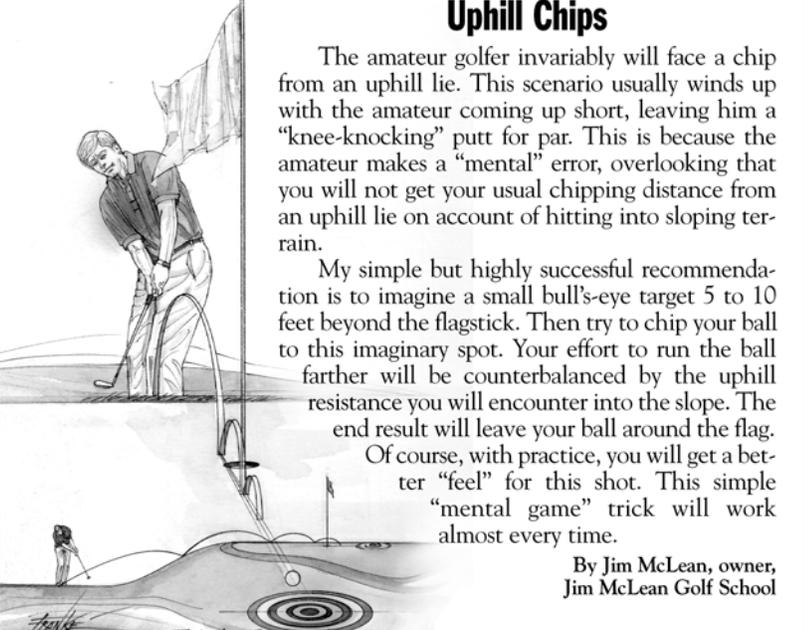
## Uphill Chips

The amateur golfer invariably will face a chip from an uphill lie. This scenario usually winds up with the amateur coming up short, leaving him a "knee-knocking" putt for par. This is because the amateur makes a "mental" error, overlooking that you will not get your usual chipping distance from an uphill lie on account of hitting into sloping terrain.

My simple but highly successful recommendation is to imagine a small bull's-eye target 5 to 10 feet beyond the flagstick. Then try to chip your ball to this imaginary spot. Your effort to run the ball farther will be counterbalanced by the uphill resistance you will encounter into the slope. The end result will leave your ball around the flag.

Of course, with practice, you will get a better "feel" for this shot. This simple "mental game" trick will work almost every time.

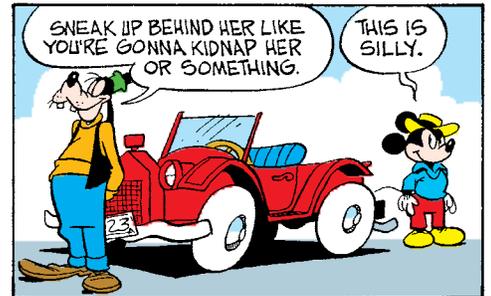
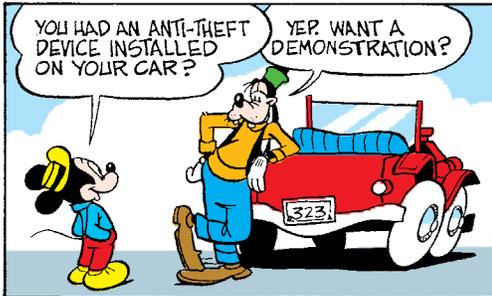
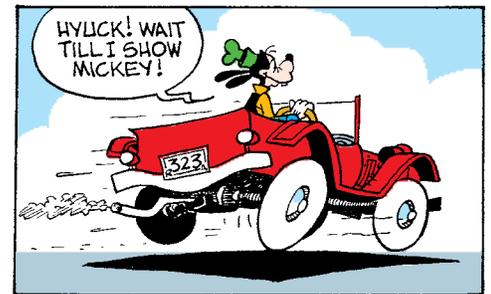
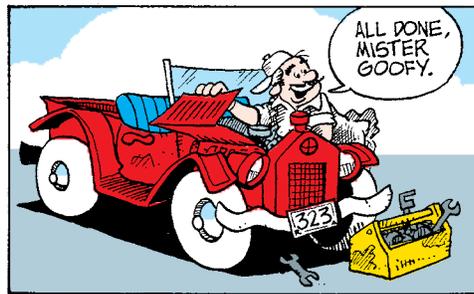
By Jim McLean, owner, Jim McLean Golf School



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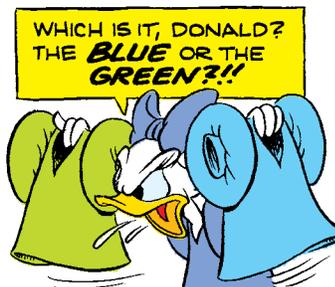
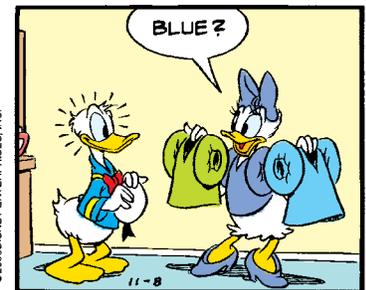
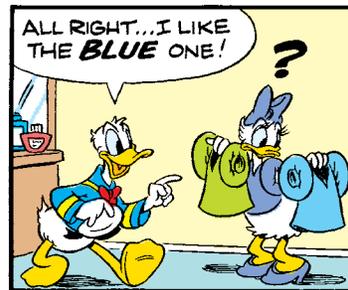
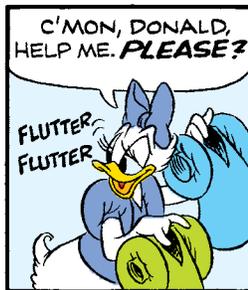
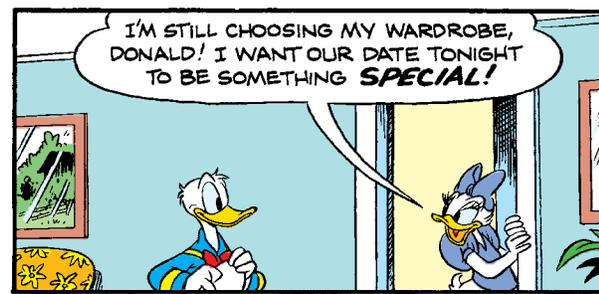
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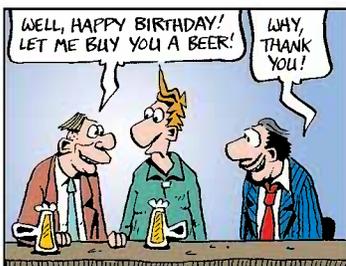
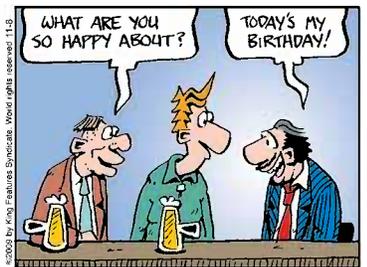
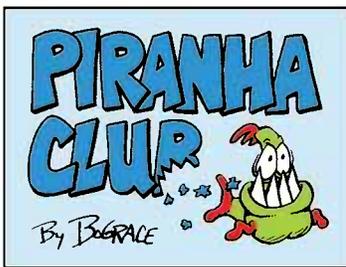
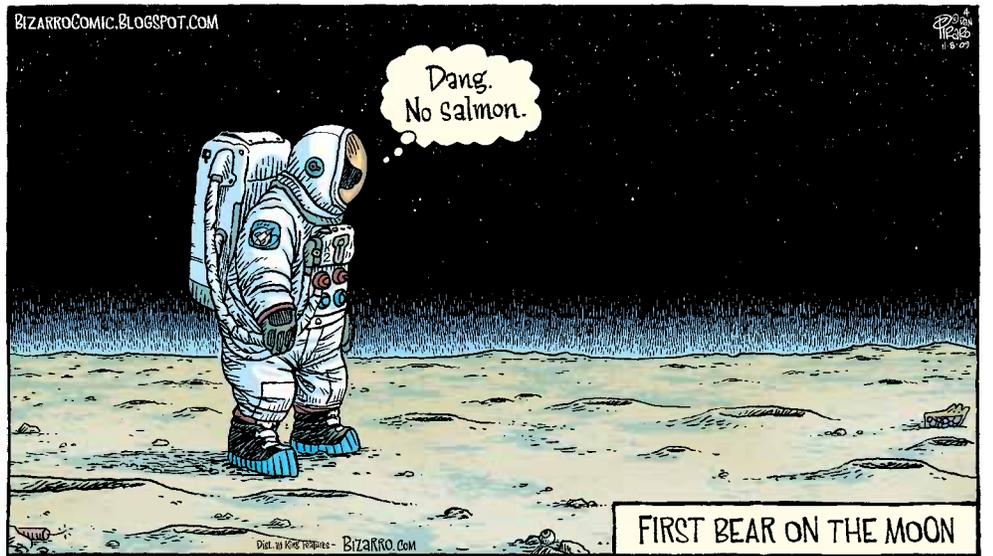
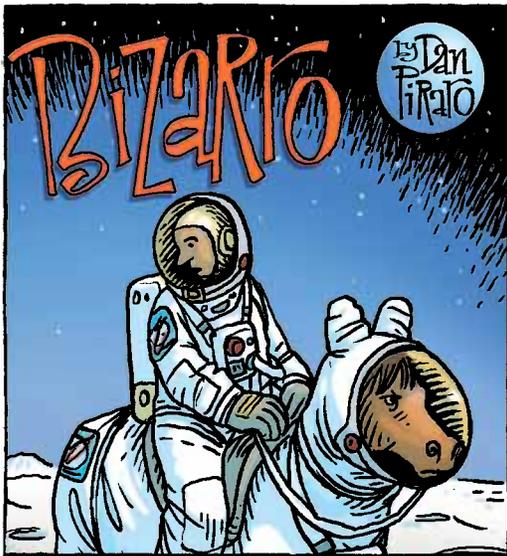
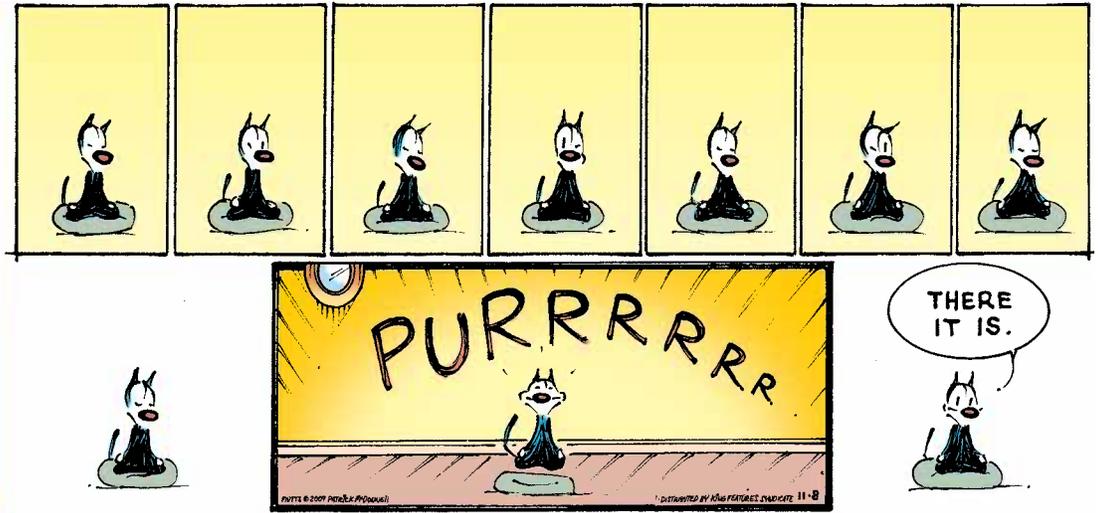
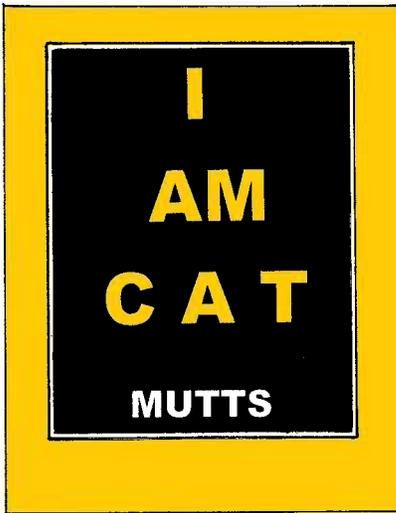
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THE SUPER HANDYMAN



BY AL AND KELLY CARRELL  
YOUR 'R' VALUE

Most everyone knows that you need insulation in your attic to keep your home warm during the winter, but how much is enough? That depends upon where you live.

First of all, check with your local codes to see what "R" value is suggested for your area of the country. The R value is a rating given to different types of insulating material. You need to determine what your current R value is and then see if you need to add to it.

What you add to it usually is up to you, and can depend on your budget as well. You can mix materials also. If you just need to add a little bit more, may-

be a blown-in type would be the best way to go. If you need to add more than that, but have little room, perhaps a high-density batting product might be your best choice. There are some middle-of-the-road choices as well.

If you are adding batt insulation over other insulation, make sure you use a barrier-free type, or makes lots of small slits in the paper, foil or plastic wrapping on it. You don't want to trap moisture between the layers of insulation.

Foam panels offer another way to add to existing insulation, although these make more sense to add to attic walls.

Make sure you don't cover can lights, which need extra clearance to avoid heat buildup.

It's also important to allow adequate ventilation, so make sure soffit vents remain free either by working around them or by installing baffles for sufficient airflow.

Don't forget to add insulation to an attic stairway. There are some pretty great products for that, or just install foam and/or batts to your attic doorway

as well as weatherstripping.

\*\*\*

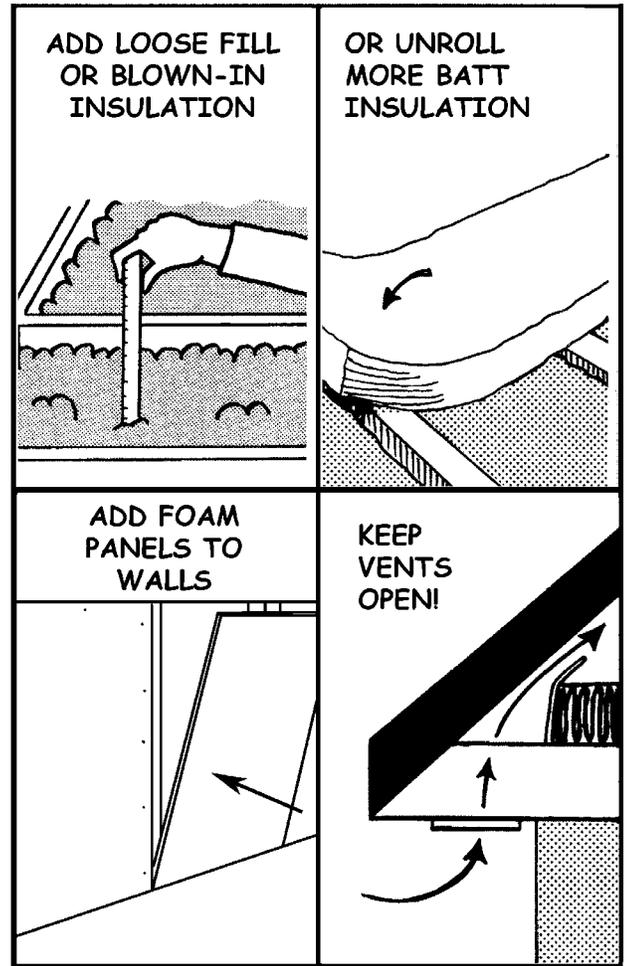
**Q:** We have a lot of hanging baskets that are full of plants we are bringing into our house for the winter. What's the best way to water these without making a huge mess? — J.P.

**A:** Some people take them down and set them in a tub of water and then let them drain before hanging them back up, but that could be really time-consuming if you have a lot. They make some plastic drip trays that hang on these pots. You should be able to find them at your garden center. Also, a plastic shower cap might work, as long as it doesn't have too much water in it.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Our rec room has knotty-pine paneling on the walls. Some of the knots are loose and falling out. What can be done about this? — J.R.

**A:** We suggest just gluing them back into their holes. If there are any that are missing, you can put a scrap of wood into the hole and putty over it, then stain it to match.



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

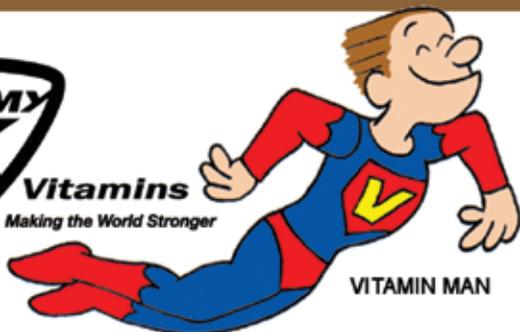
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/08





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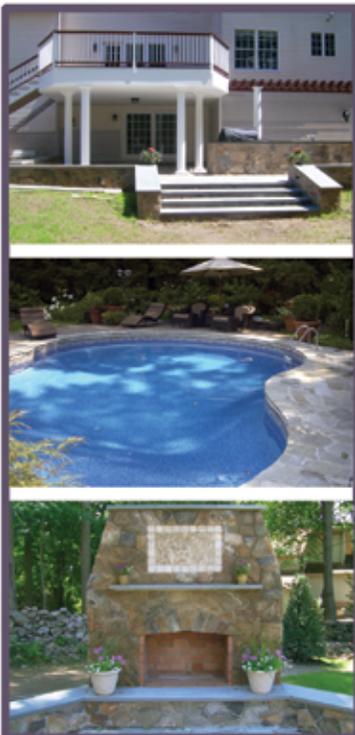
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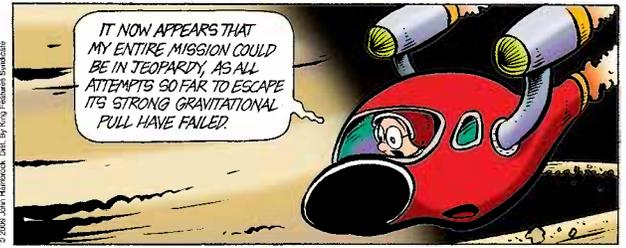
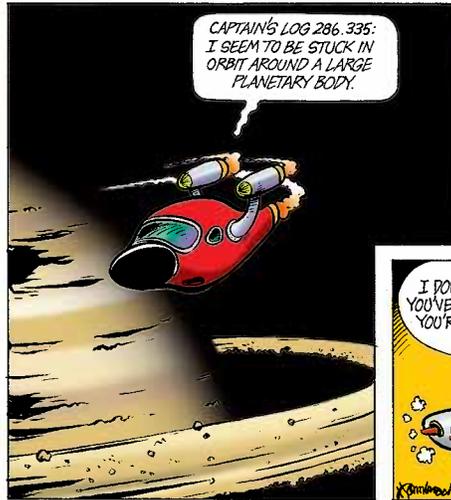
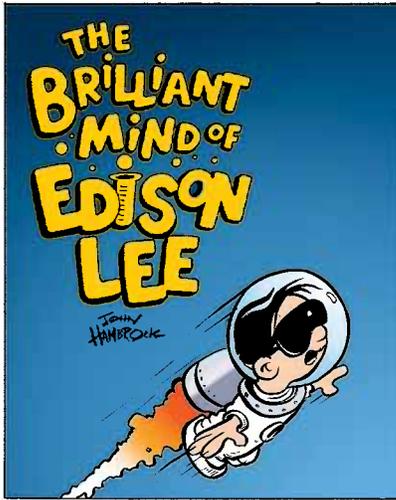
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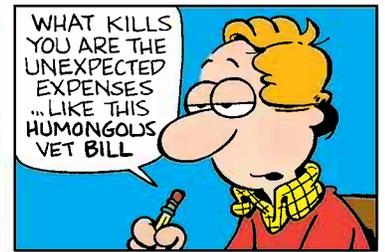
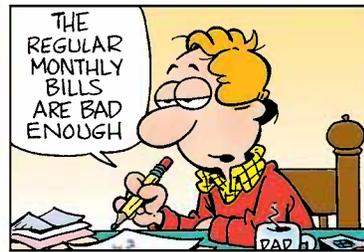
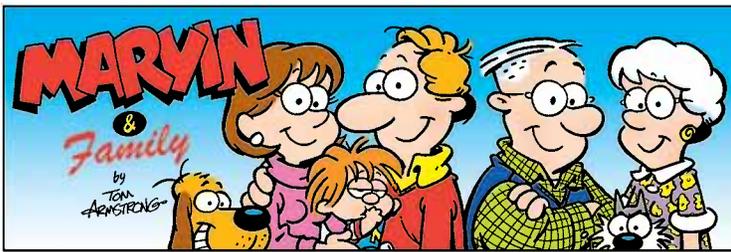
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### 1967 1/2 IMPERIAL

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REAR 17614-TOTAL '67 IMPERIALS BLT.

### 1967 1/2 Imperial

During the middle of the '67 model year, Chrysler Corporation's luxury Imperial made available an improved air-conditioning system that was now thermostatically controlled, automatically adjusting car interior temperature to a preset mid-range of "not too hot, not too cold." It was no longer necessary for the driver to manually monitor and control the heater and air conditioner; the '67 1/2 Imperial with "Auto Temp" thought for itself.

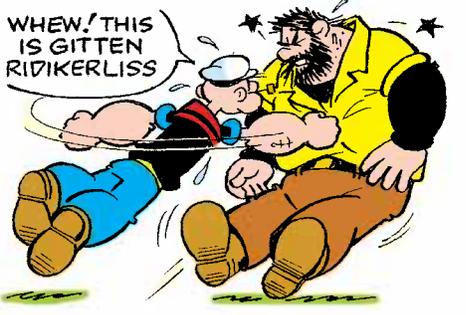
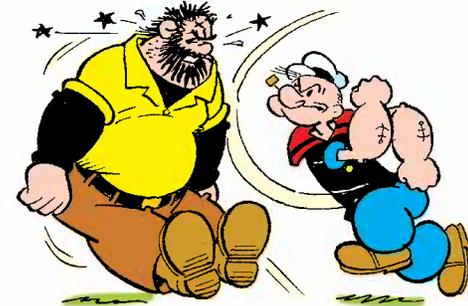
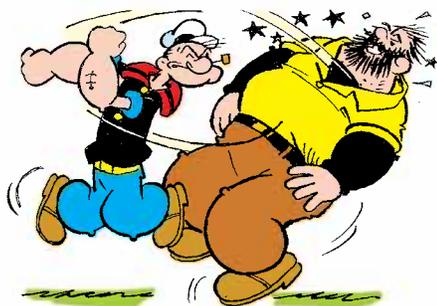
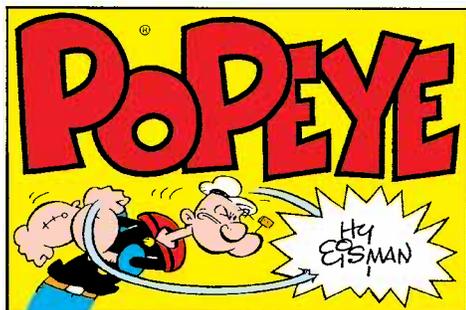
The '67 (and '67 1/2) Imperial was heralded as the "newest prestige car in a decade!" The sales catalog proclaimed that "not in 10 years has any line of American prestige vehicles changed so dramatically." Body and frame were now combined in "unitized" construction.

The 1967 Imperial choices included the Imperial four-door sedan (as shown in the illustration) and the convertible. The two Imperial Crown models were pillarless hardtops, two-door or four-door. Top of the line was the \$6,661 Imperial Le Baron four-door hardtop.

The broad grille of finely spaced horizontal members encompassed the four headlights, and a black horizontal strip in the dead center of the grille carried the Imperial name. Parking and directional lights were large and placed at the tip of the front fenders so they also could be seen from the sides. Full-width taillights provided excellent visibility.

Optional features included air conditioning, automatic headlight beam changer, rear-window defogger, rear seat heater/defroster, power door locks, six-way power seat, power trunk release, power vent windows, additional seat belts and shoulder harnesses, headlights that stayed "on" long enough for the driver to enter the house while in the dark, touch-tone radio and rear speaker (you could add \$36.90 for a reverberating echo-tone rear speaker), tilt steering wheel and much more!

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

2	5	1	4	6	8	3	9	7
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/08

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# STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



## HALF VOLLEY BASICS

Ideally, you should hit the ball in the air when you are at the net. But sometimes the ball drops too low and it bounces right in front of you. On the half volley, you should try to make sure you hit the ball in front of you. If you are late getting to the ball, it will land at your feet, one of the worst places to try to hit it.

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Remember to start slow and warm up. A common mistake on overheads is to hit the ball too hard, trying for more power than you need to put the shot away.



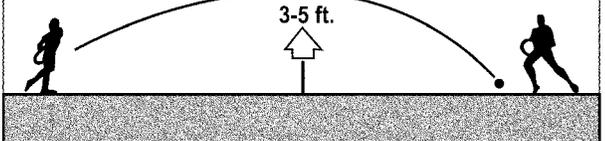
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To gain control on your half volleys, you need to take a short backswing and accelerate through the shot with a long follow-through.

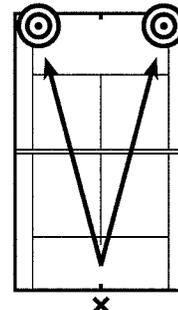
## HITTING THE BALL DEEP

One of the fundamentals of tennis is to hit groundstrokes deep into the opponent's court. Deep balls keep the opponent from coming to the net and keep him on the defensive. A good way to make the ball land deep is to have it clear the net by 3-5 feet.



## PLACEMENT OVER POWER

Confidence is important when hitting an overhead. Practice your overhead by starting out hitting easy lobs that don't require too much running backward. Concentrate on keeping your head up and watching the ball through contact.



Another goal for a good baseliner is to hit the ball to specific targets so he can move the opponent around the court. You will be able to move the opponent around by deliberately hitting the ball into the corners of the court, eventually pulling him out of position in order to return the next ball.



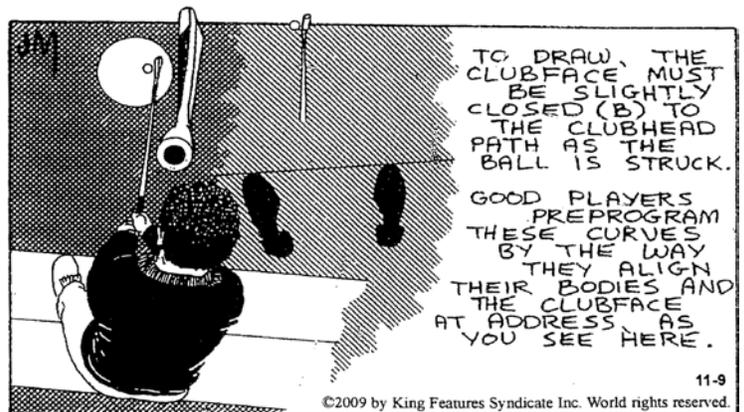
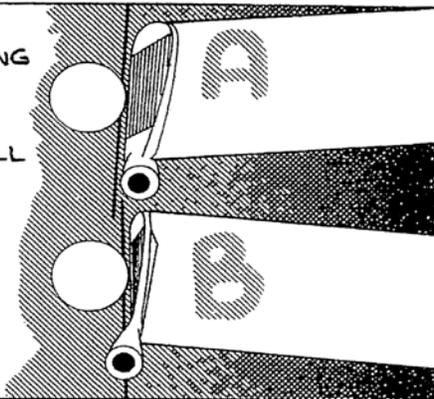
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# Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**U**NDERSTANDING GOLF'S "GEOMETRY" IS BASIC TO WORKING THE BALL SKILLFULLY.

TO FADE, THE CLUBFACE MUST BE SLIGHTLY OPEN (A) TO THE CLUBHEAD PATH AT IMPACT.



TO DRAW, THE CLUBFACE MUST BE SLIGHTLY CLOSED (B) TO THE CLUBHEAD PATH AS THE BALL IS STRUCK.

GOOD PLAYERS PREPROGRAM THESE CURVES BY THE WAY THEY ALIGN THEIR BODIES AND THE CLUBFACE AT ADDRESS, AS YOU SEE HERE.

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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

**SILLY STATESMAN**  
ACROSS

- 1 Force along  
6 Most scanty  
13 Takeoffs  
20 Nick of film  
21 Arranged in rows and columns  
22 Flow out (from)  
23 Irked a lot  
24 Like an itchy spot  
25 Continental or Delta  
26 Start of a riddle  
29 Take — (doze off briefly)  
30 N.J. clock setting  
31 “— the season!”  
32 Historical period  
33 “Ode to Billy Joe” star Benson  
35 — Khan (Shiite leader)  
36 Turn into gel  
38 La — (opera house)  
39 Lofty rails  
42 Riddle, part 2  
49 Manipulator  
50 Not survive  
51 Singer Acuff or Orbison  
52 Banded gem  
53 Lacking in  
56 Impede  
57 “Who am — say?”  
60 Villa d’—, Italy  
61 Security system part  
62 Riddle, part 3  
66 Birds laying blue eggs  
68 More likely to gross out  
69 Riddle, part 4  
74 Vance of “I Love Lucy”  
79 Part to play  
80 Firewood bit  
81 Feel ill  
82 Linked with  
84 Monogram parts: Abbr.  
86 Demolition compound  
87 Forbid  
88 Self-images  
89 End of the riddle  
96 Aussie critter  
97 Battery pole  
98 “Raggedy” playmate  
99 Doubtfire’s title  
100 Mindful (of)  
101 Livy’s lang.  
103 Motorists’ gp.  
104 Nile snake  
107 True-to-life  
110 Riddle’s answer  
115 Large retail outlets  
117 Loving lots  
118 Previous  
119 Tony winner — Carroll  
120 — and goings  
121 Run away to get married  
122 DNA units  
123 Israeli parliament  
124 Amounts of medicine

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**DOWN**

- 1 Blown away  
2 Closet pests  
3 Skirt fold  
4 French political unit  
5 “Time to move on already!”  
6 Data  
7 Route  
8 Old Broadway’s “—’s Irish Rose”  
9 “My cup — over”  
10 British composer Edward  
11 Hollywood’s Hayek  
12 Willow, e.g.  
13 Froth seen at the beach  
14 Friendly  
15 Paver’s goo  
16 Cavity filler  
17 Precipitation  
18 Sicilian peak  
19 Flow slowly  
27 “Anna and the King of —”  
28 Whale type  
34 Silents actress Theda  
35 43,560-square-foot units  
36 Smelling  
37 She-sheep  
38 Retiring  
39 Virtual currency  
40 Cappuccino relative  
41 Scornful look  
42 Poor boys  
43 “Aha!”  
44 Arctic bird  
45 Bride’s vow  
46 Persian Gulf nation  
47 Friendly  
48 “— the idea”  
54 Knife go-with  
55 Bridge dwarf  
56 Restricted part of a street  
57 Blotch caused by a leaky pen  
58 — Friday’s (restaurant chain)  
59 “The Three Faces —” (1957 film)  
63 Bump — log  
64 Frost-filled  
65 Sahara-like  
67 H.S. lab class  
69 Man in a monastery  
70 Big name in infomercial gadgets  
71 Supreme Court member Samuel  
72 Fishing aids  
73 Mental faculties  
75 Competitors  
76 Swenson of the screen  
77 The gamut  
78 Overcurious  
83 Savings acct. buildup  
85 Side at KFC  
86 Beat — rap  
87 Burger part  
90 Trapped  
91 Seoul residents  
92 Garden in Genesis  
93 Persian Gulf residents in Doha  
94 Online pub.  
95 Having very limited space  
100 Oahu adieu  
101 Lured  
102 “Oh, give me — where ...”  
103 Dreadful feeling  
104 “Later!”  
105 Skiing site  
106 Funeral heaps  
107 Cincinnati ball team  
108 Release  
109 On — with (comparable to)  
111 Spine locale  
112 French for “wines”  
113 “Picnic” Pulitzer winner William  
114 Guthrie of folk singing  
116 Jogged



### PRIME TIME WITH KIDS BY DONNA ERICKSON

It wasn't exactly a pretty picture when an unexpected snowfall blanketed the Twin Cities during October. We simply weren't ready for cold temps and a whiteout of fall colors at the very same time that our World Series hopes were dashed and the Yankees triumphed over the Twins with a three-game sweep.

Since we were feeling and acting noticeably glum in our household, it was a moment to step up to the plate with the familiar adage I had repeated to the kids when they were young and the lemon of life had just turned sour on their hopes and dreams: "OK, you guys, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

But we don't grow lemons in Minnesota, so we proceeded to do the next best thing. We rooted through the closet for last winter's mismatched mittens and hats, went out in the backyard to our fledgling, spindly apple tree, picked our last 10 apples from snow-laden branches and collectively mused, "So, when life gives you 10 juicy apples, turn them into applesauce!" And that's exactly what we did.

For a change of pace, we put aside our traditional stovetop recipe and instead sliced and diced all 10 apples and tossed them in the slow cooker with some water, sugar and a dash of cinnamon. It was a success! As the apples sputtered and gurgled to their own rhythm, the sweet and fragrant apple-cinnamon aroma permeated every room of our house. As for life lessons, once we put a positive spin on the situation, we enjoyed cozy indoor time together, and we are no doubt the better for it.

You don't need a "when life gives you lemons" moment to reap the benefits of this yummy and aromatic recipe. Just count up 10 apples, and you're on your way to a special fall treat. Here's what you'll need to turn the apples into 5-6 cups of tasty homemade applesauce:

- 10 large apples, peeled, cored and sliced, or cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg (optional)

Stir ingredients together in a slow cooker. It should be about 3/4 full. Set on the low setting and cook for about 8 hours. Mash with a potato masher before serving for a smoother mixture, if you wish.

Enjoy on hot breakfast cereal, granola, pancakes and waffles in the morning, as a snack in the afternoon, or over vanilla ice cream for dessert after the evening meal.

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