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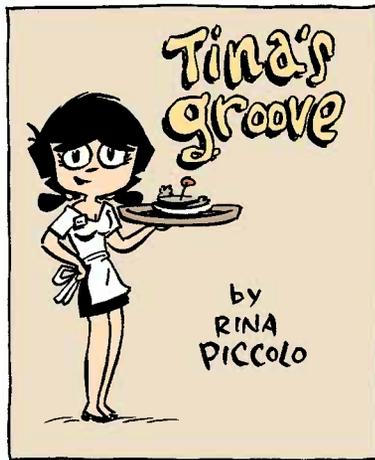
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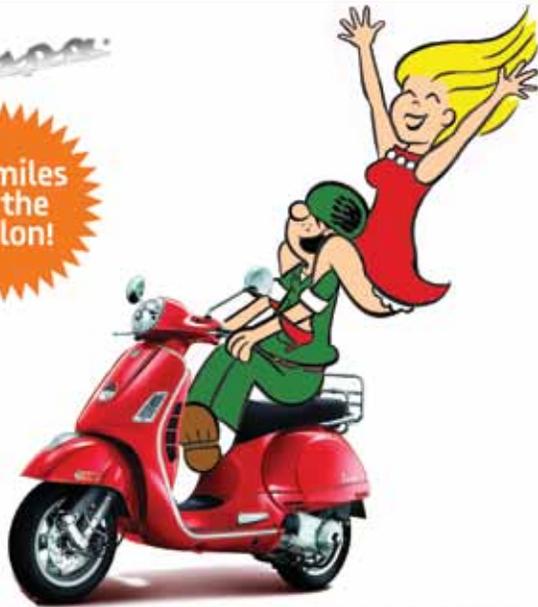
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DEBBIE TRAVIS' HOUSE TO HOME



FUN WITH PAINTED FLOOR DESIGNS

BY DEBBIE TRAVIS

Dear Debbie: We have built a small cottage from scratch and are at the stage where the plywood subfloors are in place, and our budget is totally depleted. Have you any tips for a super low-cost floor covering that will last for a few years? I'm hoping paint will do the trick. Thanks. — Ben

Dear Ben: As long as the plywood is good on one side so that you have a smooth surface on which to work, then you cannot only paint, but have some fun with designs too. I have painted over plywood floors in kitchens, bathrooms and in the rustic cottage living room featured here. By applying textured paint techniques such as ragging and stenciling, you not only add character, but the various textures camouflage any imperfections.

The smooth plywood was primed and given a base coat of cream paint. Diamonds were taped off and ragged with aqua and apricot glazes. The glaze recipe is one part water-based paint to one part water-based glazing liquid. I had some fun with the border. Ask a friend to help you. We used chicken wire as a stencil, held it down tightly against the floor and painted over it with a dry brush using the aqua glaze. It is meant to look slightly uneven. Once the paint was dry, I sealed the floor with four coats of varnish. It's important to let it cure for at least four days before you move any furniture back in.

Enjoy your cottage. Building it and painting it yourselves is just the beginning of lots of happy memories.

Dear Debbie: I have a couch and chair made by Flexsteel that I bought used a while back. I love the colors and design in the upholstery — it's very graphic Southwestern. However, it is time to re-cover them. Would you suggest reupholstering them, or having slipcovers made? They are odd-shaped, large pieces with wood frames on the outside, and the arms curve out. — Jeannie

Dear Jeannie: You have chosen good-quality pieces, so it is well worth having them recovered. The curved details and wood finish will be hidden by slipcovers, so in your case, I recommend having them professionally upholstered. You will find an endless range of fabrics, and your upholsterer will help you with a choice

that wears well and is within your budget. The couch and chair do not have to match, but they should complement each other in some way. Fabric designers have done this for you, and you will discover mix-and-match solutions in the fabric books.

Dear Debbie: Do you have any tips on removing wallpaper that has been hung directly onto drywall? It was in place on our cabin walls 30 years ago, and it's time for a change. Thanks for your help. — K.K.

Dear K.K.: There always should be a sealer primer rolled onto new drywall before hanging wallpaper (or painting). This seals the drywall and protects it from rips when the paper is later removed. If you are having difficulty taking the paper off, then that important first step was skipped. Proceed with caution. Work in sections, starting at the top of the wall. Gently score the paper using a scoring tool, not too sharp. Apply wallpaper remover, which comes in liquid or gel form. Don't soak the paper, as this will damage the drywall. Wait for 10 to 30 minutes, and gently pry paper off with a putty knife. Check that you are removing the wallpaper backing as well. Let the drywall dry, then sand off any paper or glue residue left behind.

Dear Debbie: Our living room has a solid-walnut-paneled wall that was installed when we built the house in 1962. Needless to say, it's outdated and difficult for living-room arrangements. I'd like to paint it to match the other walls. Would this look OK? We are buying a flat-screen TV and console to put against that wall. — Mary

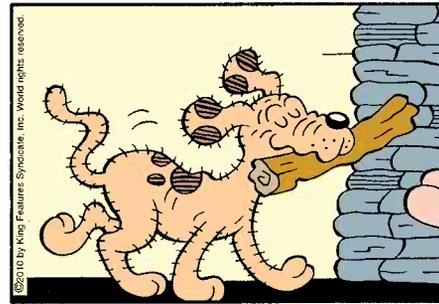
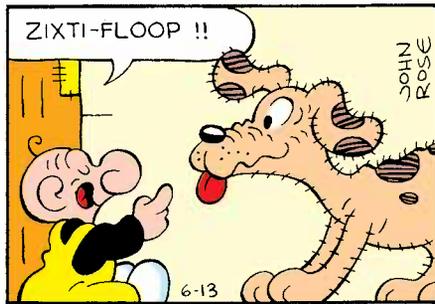
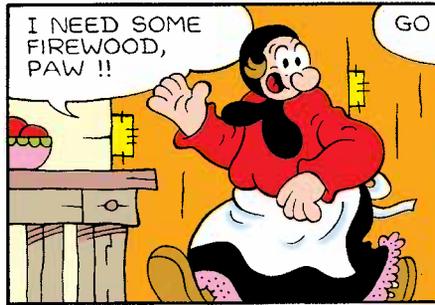
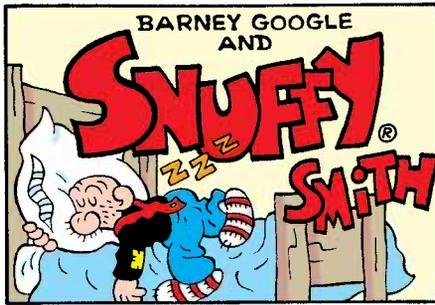
Dear Mary: You don't say whether the paneling is flat or has a raised pattern, but either way you can paint the wood to lighten up your room. Sand and prime to prepare the wood surface for paint. If you have raised panels, it will remain a focal wall, which is fine. Because it is going to be the TV wall, you also could paint it a few shades darker than the other walls.

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IGUANAS GET BIG!

BY HELOISE

Dear Readers: If you or your family is considering purchasing or adopting an iguana, there are a few things to seriously consider beforehand.

Caring for an iguana can be time-consuming and expensive. They require a very special diet of greens, vegetables and fruit. Do not feed the iguana any animal protein, such as dog or cat food or dairy foods.

A full-grown iguana can weigh more than 20 pounds and measure up to 6 feet in length! Our source, the Green Iguana Society, recommends a cage about 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 6 feet tall, with a heat source (called a basking light).

With the room temperature at around 85 degrees, misting the cage will help with humidity. Artificial turf is a good choice for flooring.

Cleanliness is a must for iguanas. They require regular baths, which help them shed their skin. Make sure the water and food bowls are kept tidy, and clean the enclosure every day. Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling the iguana.

Find a special reptile veterinarian (also called a herpetological or "herp" vet) to care for your iguana.

Handling the iguana also is important. They are, after all, wild animals, but interaction, human contact and playtime are vital. However, males still can become very aggressive during mating season! This is vital to know.

Check to see if there are iguana rescue organizations in your area. No matter where you get your iguana, please understand that it is a huge responsibility.

These are just a few hints if you are thinking about welcoming an iguana into your home. — *Heloise*

YUCKY COOKIES

Dear Readers: My mini schnauzer, Cabbie, greets my secretaries each day with a cheerful "woof" (or several) because she knows they will give her a treat (or several)!

Speaking of treats, some grain-based biscuits can contain weevil larvae that may hatch later on. Freezing the cookies will kill the bug eggs. Pop them in the freezer for 48 to 72 hours.

If you buy the snacks in bulk, break them into smaller portions in zip bags or mayonnaise jars, and freeze. — *Heloise*

BIRD ON A WIRE

Dear Heloise: I use wire hangers to hang my hummingbird feeders. To keep the ants from getting into the feeders, I rub a small amount of petroleum jelly on the top of the hanger and the neck. It works great. — *D.P., Seguin, Texas*

And how to clean the oddly shaped feeder? Drop a spoonful of rice and some water into the glass bowl, and agitate carefully. The rice grains will scrub the sides and remove any mildew buildup. Rinse and refill. — *Heloise*

SEEMORE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Dear Heloise: This is a true story! When my children were small, we bought them a goldfish named Seemore. Because I was a city girl, there was no way I would touch Seemore.

One week, I made the water in the faucet tepid, poured out the dirty water and added new. I didn't have a net to catch Seemore, so out he flew into the sink. When I let the water out, down he went into the garbage disposal! I could see him, but didn't want to reach down there. I got the idea to grab my turkey baster, and gently sucked him up with the baster and put him back in the clean tank.

He floated the rest of that day on his side. We sprinkled some food for him and went to bed. In the morning, Seemore was swimming around normally. He lived for a couple more years after that, and I got a fishnet. — *Carol in Cortland, Ohio*

Wow, glad Seemore survived! What an adventure he went on! — *Heloise*

Evelyn Fitzsimmons of South Williamsport, Pa., sent this photo of her black-and-white cat, Meka (on left), and her neighbor's black-and-white cat, Harley, greeting each other with a nose touch.

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FROMMER'S

BUDGET TRAVEL



BY ARTHUR FROMMER

TOP TRAVEL WEBSITES

Travel websites come and go — hundreds of new ones emerge each year — but 10 remain unchallenged, in my view, for their ability to save you large sums of money on nearly any vacation trip:

(1) Momondo.com for the lowest air fares: Created by Danish techies and headquartered in Copenhagen, it has an uncanny ability to find better rates for your next flight, even for purely local trips within North America. That's because, it's claimed, its program surveys all sources of airfares — some 800 of them, even those that pay no commission to Momondo for getting them a customer. Next time you book a flight to anywhere, give these enterprising Danes a look.

(2) Breezenet.com for discount car rentals: A remarkable source of car rentals costing substantially less than normal levels. By surveying the daily offerings of some 14 large companies and countless mom-and-pop firms, it nearly always finds a reduced rate from a rental company hungry for business on a particular day.

(3) Hotelscombined.com for reduced hotel rates: Here's a site that scans dozens of other hotel websites around the world and then produces the best rates for particular dates. If there's a sale going on, or a hotel slashing rates temporarily, Hotelscombined.com will find the bargain, saving you a great deal of money. **GetaRoom.com** is among its competitors, but it finds hotels in only a handful of heavily visited cities.

(4) Homeexchange.com for swapping apartments and homes: It apparently has become the most widely used service for vacation exchanges, as a result of its prominent mention in a recent Hollywood film. Its tens of thousands of home or apartment listings enable you to quickly and effectively find a person eager to exchange his or her home or apartment for yours during the time of your respective vacations, enabling both of you to enjoy free lodgings.

(5) Homeaway.com for renting vacation homes and apartments: After acquiring several smaller home-rental companies,

Homeaway has become the largest source of such rentals, and appears to operate efficiently and reliably. Numerous travelers currently are substituting homes or apartments for hotel rooms, spending less and enjoying more spacious accommodations than a hotel would provide. (Rentalo.com, specializing in apartments, is among its competitors.)

(6) Cruisonly.com (whose main competitors are VacationsToGo.com and OnlineVacationCenter.com) will snare discount rates for most sailings of most major cruise ships. Nearly every cruise line discounts the rates appearing in its catalogues and brochures, and the smart cruise passenger always seeks out these reductions in price.

(7) Xe.com for currency-exchange rates: This two-letter website supplies you with up-to-the-minute exchange rates for all the world's currencies, enabling you to know the dollar equivalent of foreign prices. (Smart travelers obtain their foreign currencies from the ATM machines in all foreign cities of any size; they do much better at ATM machines than from exchange kiosks and counters.)

(8) Hostelz.com for low-cost hostels throughout the world. For the most cost-conscious of all travelers (seeking to pay no more than \$25 a night), Hostelz provides you with photographs and texts describing many thousands of hostels offering low-cost beds to people of all ages, sometimes in hotels that were recently converted into hostels by ambitious entrepreneurs.

(9) Couchsurfing.org for young people seeking free hospitality and **Servas.org** for older ones. Both organizations maintain massive lists of generous people around the world who are willing to put up guests in their homes free of charge for short stays (usually two or three nights). Servas has been in existence since 1948 and has a mainly mature membership; the more-recently founded Couchsurfing caters to a more youthful set.

(10) Airbnb.com for those occasions when all hotels in a particular city are sold out because of large conventions or trade shows. For numerous cities in the U.S.

and Canada, Airbnb.com lists and rents moderately priced rooms in private homes for special use at the time of political conventions or like events.

Runners-up to the Top 10: Though they don't deserve the supreme accolade, a number of other websites are helpful in a broad number of instances:

— Privatemotorhomerental.com for renting an RV directly from its owner, at a considerable savings.

— Biketoursdirect.com for its listings of inexpensive group bicycle tours departing from throughout North America and abroad on numerous dates

— Womenwelcomewomen.org.uk for providing hospitality to female travelers, ranging from a spare cot or room to simply meeting them for a drink.

— Viamigo.com or Rentalocalfriend.com for acquiring a local guide in various out-of-town or foreign cities.

— Theatermania.com, Stubhub.com or Ticketsnow.com for obtaining discount theater tickets in numerous cities.

— Shoretrips.com for inexpensive port visits on cruises, in small-van groups.

* * *

As the volcanic ash continues to drift, intermittently, over portions of Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe, thousands of would-be air passengers are periodically stuck in airports — sometimes overnight, and with no nearby rooms to be had. And no matter how untroubled your own periods of trans-Atlantic air transportation have been, the situation can change at any time. Over the loudspeaker comes the dreaded announcement that the airport's runways have been shut down.

Your recourse? It's to turn to a 14-year-old website, SleepinginAirports.com, that was initially regarded as a joke, and then became a vital source of information for air travelers throughout the world. It's by a Toronto travel agent named Donna McSherry, and she's the creator of "The Budget Traveller's Guide to Sleeping in Airports," along with its associated membership organization, the "Cheap Like Me Travel Society." A young traveler with

no money, but a yen for avoiding hotel charges by sleeping in airports, she designed the site in 1996, and was immediately spotted and publicized by several travel writers enchanted with her initiative. She actually rated the world's airports according to the comforts of their waiting-room benches (those without armrests were given the "Golden Pillow Award") and the scarcity of officious security guards, the guys who wake up sleeping budget travelers.

Today, thousands of impecunious travelers have submitted comments to SleepinginAirports.com about the pros and cons of various airport waiting rooms (all printed in logical groupings and at full length), and these have resulted in actual rankings of the best airports in which to sleep overnight. Singapore currently leads the list.

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Sleeping in airports has become more common since volcanic ash shut down European flights.



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NASCAR THIS WEEK

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In future years, the NASCAR Hall of Fame will choose five inductees a year, guaranteeing that its shrine will always be exclusive.

There is, however, only one inaugural class ... and only one inaugural induction.

"You get to focus on five people every year, and they get their due," said Executive Director Winston Kelley. "It could've been four, and it could've been six. Some people said, 'You need a bunch of people in there,' but I didn't like that concept and gave my feedback to NASCAR."

The first induction class consisted of two men, father and son, instrumental in the organization and growth of NASCAR. It included the driver with the most wins, the two with the most championships and one whose fame stretches from driving race cars to building and owning them.

Richard Petty won 200 races at NASCAR's top level, now known as Sprint Cup. He and Dale Earnhardt each won a record seven championships. Junior Johnson may be the most legendary figure of them all. William

H.G. (Big Bill) France founded NASCAR, and his son, William C. (Bill Jr.) France, took stock-car racing into the American sporting mainstream.

Only Petty and Johnson lived to see the induction, which occurred on May 23.

Even at the dawn of NASCAR — an organizational meeting on Dec. 14, 1947, in a Daytona Beach, Fla., hotel — no one but Big Bill France saw stock-car racing's possibilities.

Bill France Jr. was underestimated when he took over NASCAR from his father, but how could he have avoided it? He had a father who was larger than life. Though he lacked his father's vision, he inherited toughness and ambition.

A record 200 victories do not account completely for Richard Petty's legacy. His personality is

central to the sport. One other man equaled The King's record seven championships, but no one is going to eclipse the 200 victories, or, for that matter, the 27 races he won in a single season (1967).

No race driver was ever tougher than Dale Earnhardt. No one was ever better at closing a deal or doing what it took to win. The presence of Earnhardt's No. 3 was enough to make most drivers make mistakes, hence the apt nickname "The Intimidator." Like Petty, he won seven titles.

Junior Johnson is a living, breathing embodiment of NASCAR's history. He migrated from the highways, where he "ran moonshine," to the dirt tracks and then the super-speedways. He was among the greatest as driver, mechanic and owner.

Dale Earnhardt is the only NASCAR driver to be twice featured on a front of a box of Wheaties, though the latest box, unveiled May 21 and scheduled to be in stores this summer, comes more than nine years after the seven-time champion's tragic death. Earnhardt was first featured on a Wheaties box in 1997, when he drove a Wheaties-themed Chevrolet in what was then The Winston. Son Kerry and daughter Taylor were on hand at Charlotte Motor Speedway for the unveiling of the cereal box ... and a new Wheaties car to be piloted by Clint Bowyer later this season.

Amid declining attendance and flat ratings, Jeff Gordon

said he thinks all in NASCAR is still relatively well.

"I think the health of NASCAR is actually good," he said. "The racing has been fantastic. What we have to offer sponsors is still fantastic. The problem is the costs have gotten extremely high for the teams to operate, as well as what we are asking out of the sponsors. It has gotten very expensive, and with the economy the way the economy is, those two things, cost and economy, are the two things that are affecting sponsors in making their decisions to come into the sport, or stay in the sport, or what they are willing to do to be with certain teams.

"That is what is making it really tough. If you are judging where the sport is based on that, then yes, we're in a tough position right now. I think, from a fan loyalty and a demographic and what we are putting out there, I just don't think it gets any better for sponsors than what we have right now."

Because he is taking blood thinners for blood clots, Brian Vickers, on the advice of doctors, is sitting out the remainder of the NASCAR season. Clots in both lungs left Vickers, 26, hospitalized on the weekend of the Dover, Del., race, when Casey Mears first substituted.

Few, however, expected that Vickers would announce that he would race no more this year. Vickers joked that he could race; he just couldn't wreck.



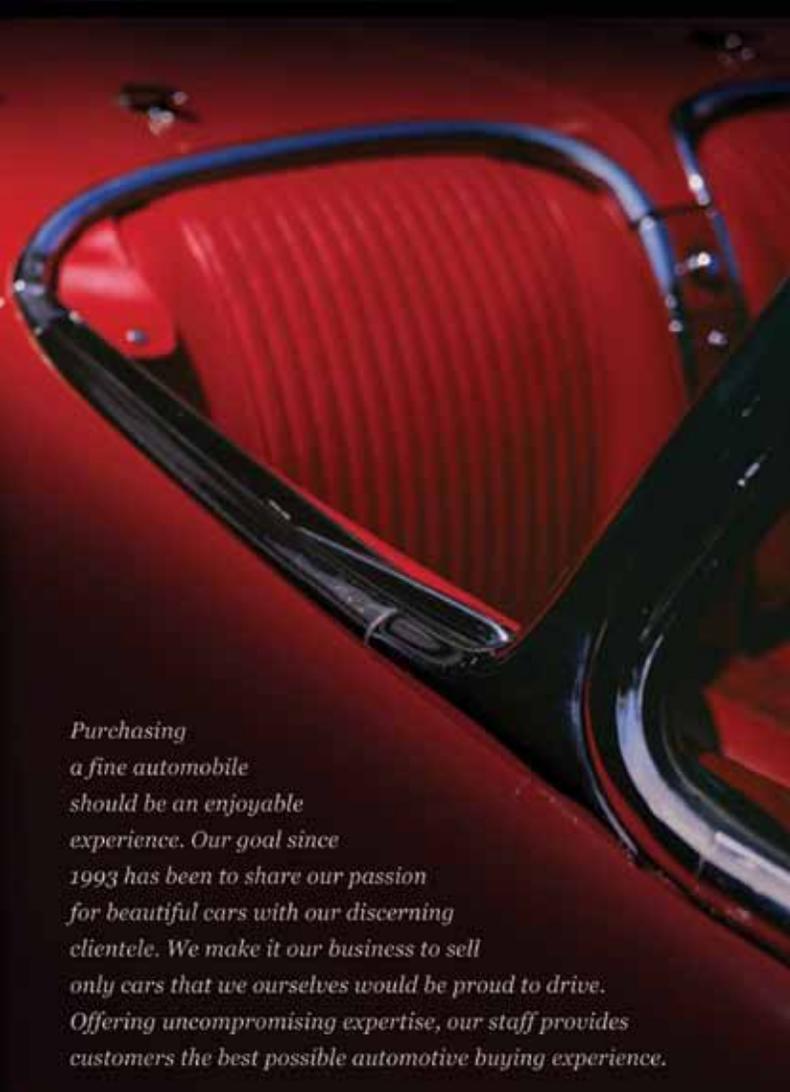
Richard Petty

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Happy Musings

by Sally Huss

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5-29

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JILL JACKSON'S HOLLYWOOD

By JILL JACKSON

HOLLYWOOD ... I'm a "Late Show" watcher, because I'm a late-night "stayer-upper." Which brings me to watching David Letterman and wondering why whoever or whomever thinks up tricks like dropping things from the roofs of skyscrapers onto Broadway is funny or amusing. Things like boxes of ice, bales of cotton, magnums of champagne — particularly the champagne. One time, they even went so far as to break up all the cars on the street. Beats me why. But I watch, don't I? Meanwhile, the Letterman/Leno/Conan debate goes on.

Helen Mirren is being called The Grand Dame of Acting. I always thought that title was held by Meryl Streep or Glen Close. So, let them duke it out. Anyway, Mirren has been cast as the Nanny in "Arthur," a remake of the 1981 comedy. In the original, Dudley Moore played Arthur, a boozy playboy who is set to marry an heiress whom his family feels will make something of him. Instead he falls in love with a working woman. Meanwhile, Mirren commutes from her home in Hollywood to her home in New Orleans. And I am happy to report that the Big Easy is making a great comeback after hurricanes, oil spills and mosquitoes.

Anthony Hopkins, one of the best actors in the business, has signed on to play the villain — an evil sorcerer — in "Arabian Nights," an action-thriller about "a young commander who, after his king is killed in a palace coup, joins forces with Sinbad, Aladdin and his genie to rescue Scheherazade and her kingdom from dark powers."

Debra Winger fans will be happy

to learn that she will be showing up this season, both on the little and big screens. (All projects to be announced.)

Make a note of this name: Juno Temple. You'll be seeing it a lot. The 21-year-old British actress is set to play "Her Royal Highness" in the 3D version of "The Three Musketeers," to shoot in September. Other offers are pouring in, and when everything is finalized, you will get the details. And until they come in, one further comment: Isn't it interesting to learn about all the remakes of past films. And on a further note: I hope everything isn't in 3D. I don't enjoy all those things jumping out at me. How about you?



Juno Temple

Cameron Diaz, with long blond hair and a bright-red dress, joined Antonio Banderas, Eddie Murphy and Mike Myers at the premiere of "Shrek Forever After." After the screening, there was much partying with many names showing for the festivities. As much as I could tell, Diaz was solo, but the "single boys" clustered round like bees heading for a hive. And what a pleasant change with that bright-red dress after all those "little black nothings."

Any time you want a close-up of Jack Nicholson, go to a Lakers basketball game. There he is. Ringside seat. Screaming his head off and doing everything but getting out there

into the game. As to his private life, I haven't learned about any new ladies. Matter of fact, I don't think he spends much time with them when his team is in town.

Aside to Vivian M. of Ocala, Fla.: Hoo boy! I'm going to give it a try in the spelling department. The name of the town in Mississippi where Oprah Winfrey was born is Kosciusko. And while on the subject of the lady, I would not be surprised if one day she runs for president of the United States. That's about all she hasn't reached for AND attained.

A thinned-down Queen Latifah appeared recently on the "The Late Show With David Letterman." Wearing a fancy black dress, her long hair straightened and very auburn at the ends and flung around her shoulders, she was very glamorous and lots of fun. Heaven help us if she and Oprah ever join up on anything. It would explode with dramatics.

Robert DeNiro receives still another award. This at the Taormina Film Festival in Rome. And from what I hear, this is a big honor that goes along with much fun. And for Signore DeNiro, yet another statue for his shelves.

Word from a friend in New Orleans who lives in the lovely old Garden District: She says each day another celeb moves in, and it's fun to look out of her window and see Sandra or John or Nicolas or Angie and Brad running round.

BITS 'N' PIECES: Shirley Temple said she stopped believing in Santa Claus when as a child star she sat on his lap and he asked her for her autograph. ... Robert Mitchum had a delightful sense of humor. Whenever someone asked him for his autograph, he signed it "Kirk Douglas."

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

Q: I was channel-surfing the other day and came across an old episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." I was sure one of the actresses on the show that episode was Ashley Judd. Was it her? If so, what year was that?
— *J.W., via e-mail*

A: That was indeed the "Someone Like You" star, who guest-starred on two episodes of "The Next Generation" back in 1991. That was Ashley's first role in Hollywood, where she came after college and studied with renowned acting teacher Robert Carnegie at Playhouse West.

Q: I was happy to read in your column about David James Elliott's new Hallmark Channel movie "Dad's Home." It got me to thinking that I'd love to see him in another series so I can watch him on a regular basis. Does he have any plans to come back to television in a new series?
— *Kim T., St. Louis*

A: You're in luck. David co-stars in the summer series "Scoundrels," which airs Sunday nights on ABC. He plays Wolf West, the incarcerated patriarch of a family of small-time criminals. His wife (Virginia Madsen) must try to make ends meet as the family tries to go straight.

David is thrilled to try on this new role, telling me: "This guy, he has a lot of me in him, and he's got a lot of

people that I know in him. It's just a great opportunity that came along, and I'm just happy to be a part of it. He's completely different from Harmon Rabb (his character on "JAG"), and that's dynamite."



David James Elliott

Q: I just saw "Iron Man 2" this weekend, and I wondered about one of the actresses in the movie. In the party scene with Robert Downey Jr., there is a blond actress who looks a lot like Irina from "Desperate Housewives." Are they one in the same?
— *Tess G., via e-mail*

A: That's a very good eye you have there, as the actress who played Rebecca in "Iron Man 2" is indeed the same person who plays Irina: Helena Mattsson. The 26-year-old beauty from Stockholm, Sweden, is indeed wreaking havoc on poor Lynette

portraying her son's gold-digging fiancée.

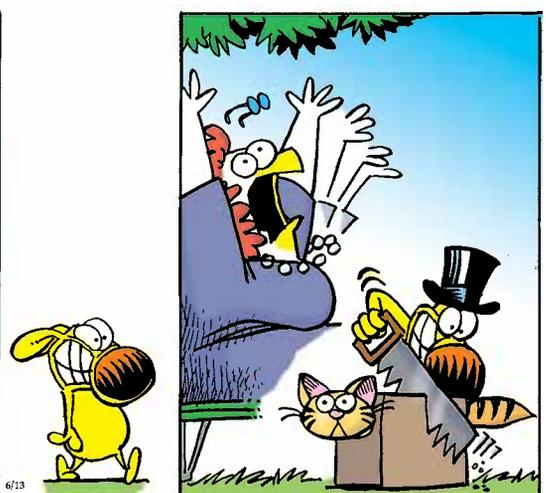
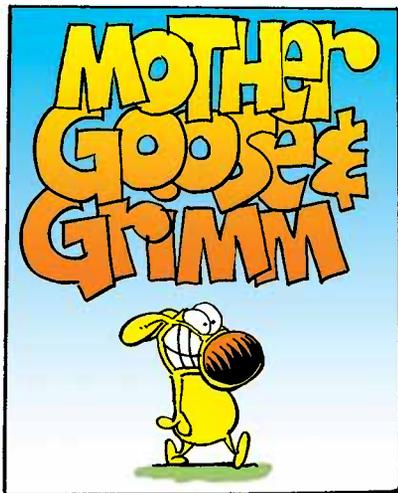
When I caught up with Helena recently, she told me what a joy it is to play the Russian temptress: "It is so much fun to be the villain and to be manipulative. There are so many off-tones, so many layers that only the women understand among themselves. You can always read between the lines. It is also a lot of fun to play a character who's really far from who you are yourself, and really have fun with that and be the villain."

Q: My mother and I are having a disagreement. We both can remember this series of Polaroid commercials from the early 1980s that featured Mariette Hartley and another actor, and they played a cute, bickering husband-and-wife team. My mother insists the actor was Rock Hudson, but I say no. However, I can't remember who it was. Can you help?
— *Genie W., via e-mail*

A: I can, Genie, I can. But I also see this as a perfect opportunity to have another contest. Readers, here's your chance to win an autographed copy of Mariette Hartley's autobiography, "Breaking the Silence." Can you tell Genie who that actor was who co-starred with Mariette in those cute '80s Polaroid commercials?

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com. For more news and extended interviews, visit www.celebrityextraonline.com and twitter.com/Celebrity_Extra.

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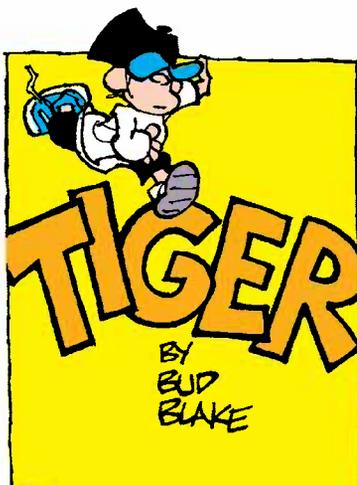
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Chicken Soup for the Soul



A COLD DAY IN FLORIDA

By J.M. Long

"Turn the air conditioner down a little colder," I say. We sit in shorts and T-shirts, staring at unending blue skies outside our windows. We live in Florida, where the temperature often hovers around 92 degrees. It's the land of swimming pools, flip-flops and sun-drenched beaches. It's that place where winter means you might think about wearing a sweater. There's no snow here, of course. No icicles. The roads are sizzling. So my children and I turn our air conditioner lower and pretend that it's cold outside.

We do have a reason ... a good reason, we think. It's about enjoying the simple, good times we have together. It's about home, about being in the kitchen making steaming hot chocolate topped with melting white marshmallows. It's become a family tradition for us — making hot chocolate any month of the year. It's something that brings us together. When hot chocolate is being made, the video game is paused. A book is put down. The computer waits.

My daughter helps me stir milk in a pot on the stove. My son opens a bag of fresh marshmallows. I reach into the cabinet for our three favorite mugs — the by-gones. The recipe is simple: three cups of low-fat milk, one-third cup unsweetened cocoa, one-half cup of sugar and as many marshmallows as you want. We heat the milk, cocoa and sugar slowly so the mixture doesn't scorch. My daughter talks to me as she stirs, and I silently hope that the milk takes a long time to heat.

As my son pours marshmallow into his mug, he asks, "Is it ready yet?"

"Not quite," I say.

Then he reaches his hand into the marshmallow bag, pops a few into his mouth, and smiles. We watch over the pot on the stove, waiting for our hot chocolate to steam. We stir it constantly, and swirls gradually appear on top. The brew smells wonderfully delicious and decadently chocolaty. Then when all the dots of cocoa have disappeared, we pour our homemade chocolate over the marshmallows that line the bottom of each cup. They float to the top to become our first taste of sweetness. Sometimes we drink our hot chocolate in the kitchen. But more often, we take our cups into the family room, nestle into the comfy couch and chairs, and just enjoy being together. A little cold air. A lot of hot chocolate. Family time couldn't be sweeter.

(From "Chicken Soup for the Chocolate Lover's Soul") Reprinted by permission of J.M. Long and Kevin Long. (c) 2007 J.M. Long and Kevin Long.

THE SOUNDS OF THE SEA

By Carolyn Mott Ford

Today the ocean roars, burst upon the old stone jetties uncovered by the relentless waves, and pounds the sand with an exhilarating force. Seagulls swoop down with raucous cries, squabbling over the breakfast delivered up by the tide.

Tomorrow the sea may be calm, splashing softly upon the shoreline and receding with a gentle whisper over the sand and pebbles. The gulls may let out an occasional squawk as they slowly circle, looking like a gray and white mobile in a languorous breeze.

I am blessed to live near the beach and to get my daily exercise. I enjoy walking on the boardwalk. The sounds of the sea are rhythmic and soothing, so I've developed the habit of listening as well as looking while I walk.

I puff along, arms swinging, boards trembling beneath my feet, or occasionally stepping down and strolling close to the water's edge, where lapping waves pack the sand firm enough for a steady pace. Walking alongside the ocean is a delight offering, an ever-changing vista and the comforting sounds of the sea.

This has helped me to realize that so often I don't think of listening in the same way as I think of using my other senses, and maybe this is true of most of us. At the beach we see the water, sparkling with sunny sprinkles or glittering with a silvery path of moonlight. We can smell the saltwater and fishy scent of the ocean and feel on our skin the breeze ruffling the current washing in toward the shore. And if we can close out the everyday noises so often surrounding us, we can hear in the watery to and fro of the tides the music of the sea.

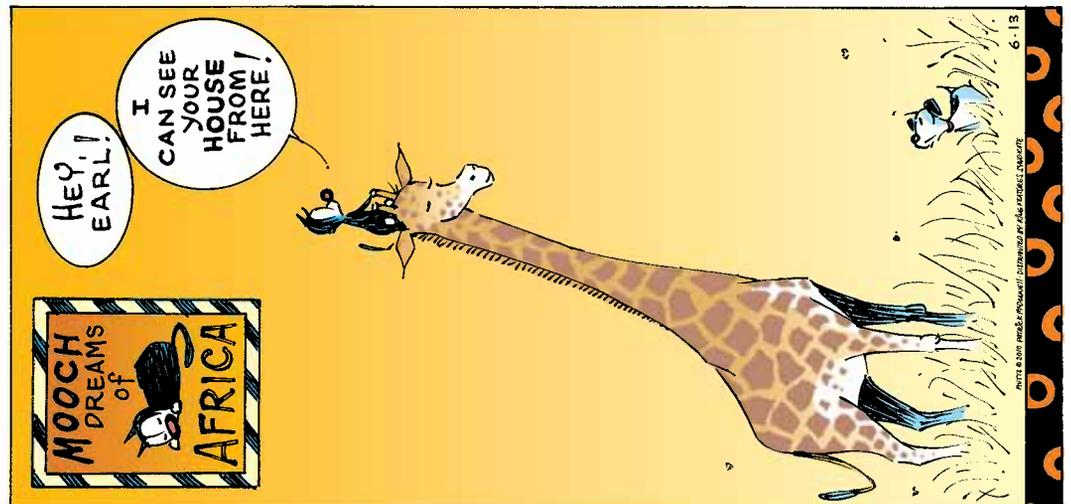
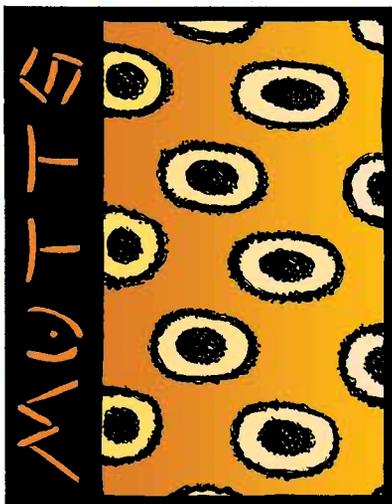
The sounds are all part of the enjoyment of walking, so there are no earphones for me. I listen to tapes, CDs and the radio at home and in my car. While strolling I prefer the sounds of nature and the sounds of the world around me.

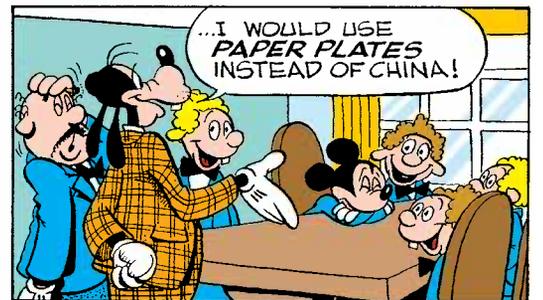
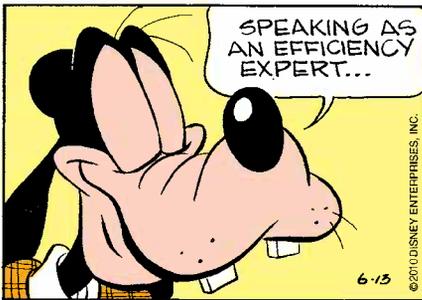
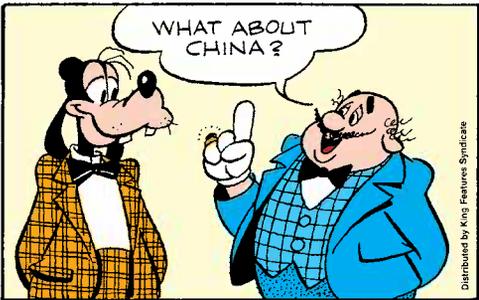
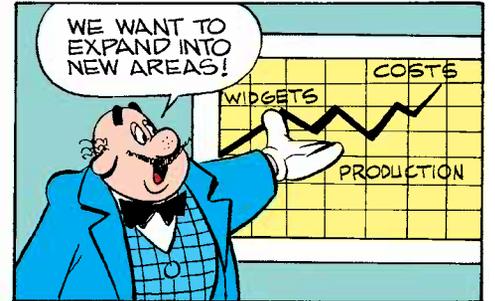
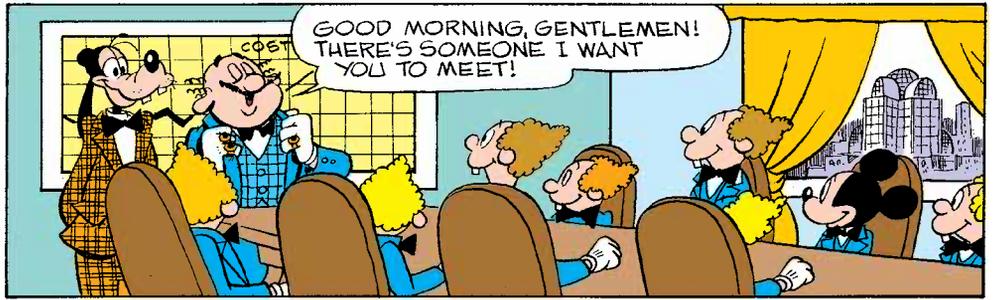
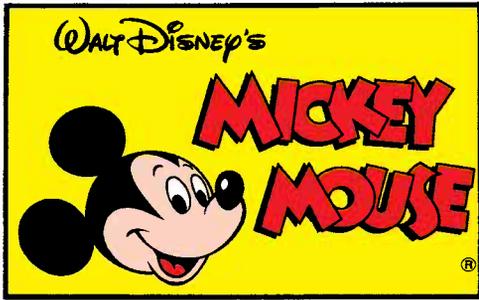
Today the sea roared; tomorrow it might whisper. I'll be walking, and I'll be listening.

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KOVELS ANTIQUES

By Ralph and Terry Kovel

MAJOLICA REVIVAL

The 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition in London included the introduction of many amazing new products, one of them the revival of majolica. In the 19th century, Italian pottery of the Renaissance era was being studied and collected by English museums. England's Minton factory made a copy of the old designs and glazed them in a similar way. The clay was covered with an opaque white glaze, then painted freehand with bright colors. Minton's majolica was displayed at the 1851 exhibition, and by the 1870s the company was making original designs inspired by Italian majolica. Its work was copied by many English, European and American makers. Later, Minton made majolica using colored glazes painted directly on the clay body. Designers made fanciful pieces like teapots with monkey handles; pitchers featuring birds, fish, shells and flowers; urns held by swans; tables held by monkeys; and jardinières decorated with all types of flowers, birds and trees. Majolica went out of fashion in the 1940s, when the beige, uncluttered look was "in." The



This majolica jardinière with water lilies is marked "Minton." It was made in the late 19th century. The bowl sold for \$633 at a recent auction.

colorful look did not come back until the 1990s. Today, majolica made by any manufacturer is popular with collectors. Prices continue to rise. The colors and shapes seem to fit into today's styles.

Q: I have had a wooden table for more than 30 years and was about to give it to my daughter when she turned it over and found a mark. The marks says, "Sept. 29, 1896, 568397, Conrey — Birely Table Co." Is my table older than I thought?

A: Your table is more than 100 years old. The patent was granted to Charles Birely for a method of attaching legs to furniture. Birely lived in Shelbyville, Ind., at the time he applied for the patent and had already been in the furniture business with Jacob A. Conrey for 10 years. The Conrey-Birely Table Co. had manufacturing facilities in Shelbyville and in Grand Rapids, Mich., until about 1909.

Q: I have an old bottle that has an embossed knight's glove encircled by the words "E.R. Durkee & Co., New York." It's pale lavender glass and is 8 1/2 inches tall. Embossed on the bottom of the bottle are the words, "Bottle Patented April 17, 1877." Can you tell me something about this bottle?

A: The original color of your sauce bottle has changed through the years by exposure to sunlight. Clear glass made before 1910 sometimes turns purple when left in the sun for a long time. Glass made between 1910 and about 1930 turns amber, not purple, because the formula for making glass changed. More recently, artificial means have been used to turn clear glass deep

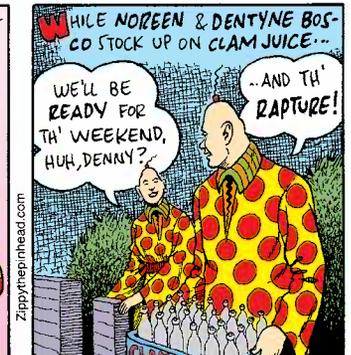
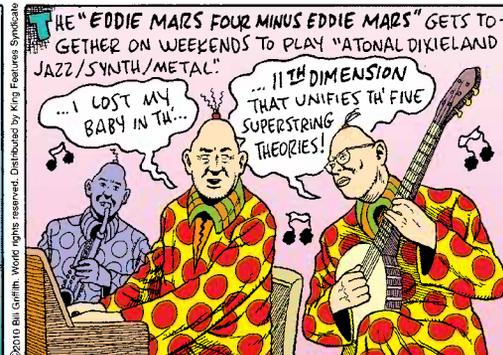
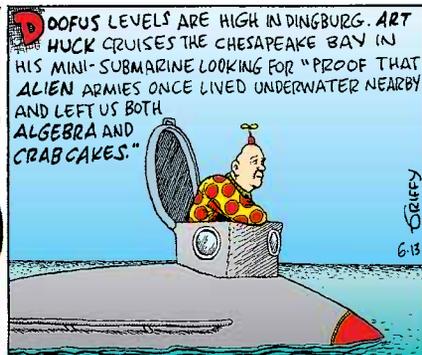
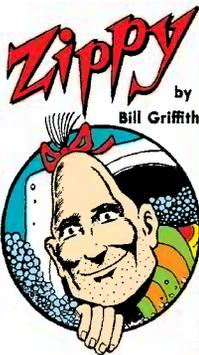
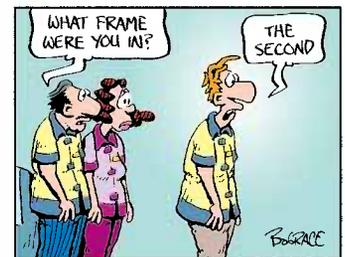
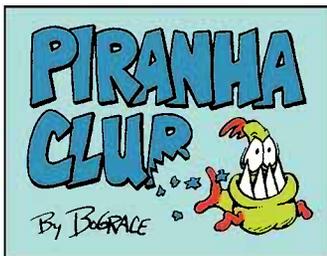
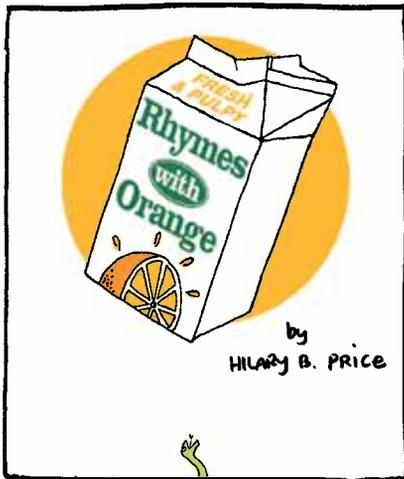
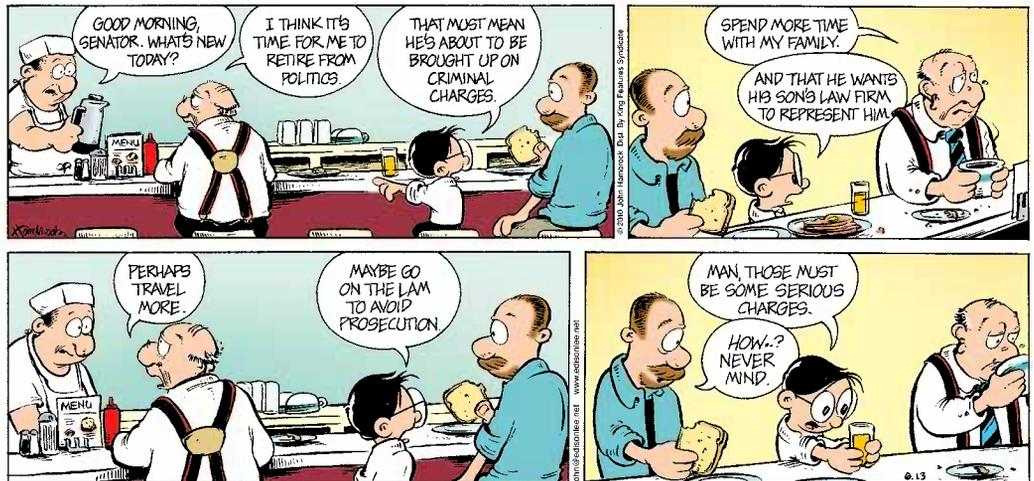
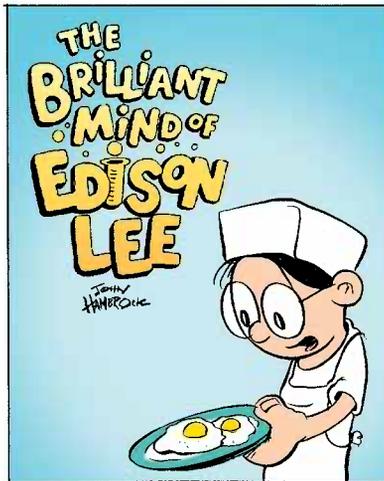
purple. Durkee Spices was founded by Eugene R. Durkee in 1850. The company introduced Durkee Famous Sauce, the first bottled or packaged salad dressing, in 1857. In 1918 Durkee became the first company to package spices in tins instead of cardboard containers. The company has changed hands a couple of times and became part of Associated British Foods in 2005. Durkee has a manufacturing plant in Ankeny, Iowa. Your bottle is not rare and sells for about \$15.

Q: I have a copper skillet and lid that we grew up calling "Mama's copper skillet." We had Christmas dinner in the living room by the fire and Mama served scalloped oysters in the skillet, which is the only time I can remember its being used. I'm 87 years old, so at least I know it's pretty old. The back is marked "Jos. Heinrichs, New York, pure copper, sterling silve" [no "r"]. Both the skillet and lid are completely lined with silver. I have been told it's called a poacher.

A: Joseph Heinrichs founded the Joseph Heinrichs Corp. in New York City in 1897. The company made kitchen utensils for hotels, restaurants, railroads and steamship lines. After the company went bankrupt in 1937, it was bought out. In 1988 it became Legion Industries, which is headquartered in Waynesboro, Ga. A poacher is similar to a skillet but has a taller lid. It is worth about \$400 to \$500.

Tip: Do not use soap on the bottom of sticking drawers. Eventually it will become sticky. Use paraffin wax.

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THE SUPER HANDYMAN



**BY AL AND KELLY CARRELL
REMOVING PAINT**

There's something special about restoring a piece of furniture that was caked with old paint. Sometimes you can find buried treasure underneath an ugly paint job. Here are some tips for uncovering that diamond in the rough.

Chemical strippers are great, and the newer, safer compounds work quite well. The gels are wonderful for getting paint out of carved or detailed areas. Just keep in mind that they can soften the wood as they work. They also can remove glue and loosen joints. Read and follow the directions and protect your eyes, face and skin, as well as the area where you are working.

Once you get the bulk of the old paint off, you probably will have some paint to remove from cracks and crevices and other hard-to-reach places.

Toothpicks are wonderful little tools for scraping and picking the paint out of small cracks and hard-to-reach areas. The wooden ones won't gouge or scrape the wood you are working on.

Old plastic credit cards work well, too. Again, they won't gouge or scrape the wood, which can be softened in the stripping process.

String also can be used to get paint out of crevices. Pull the string through the area to pull the loosened paint out.

Old toothbrushes make great tools, too. Use one that is soft so you don't leave any scratches.

Steel wool is a great tool for light sanding, and can be very helpful in removing the last little bits of paint that the stripper missed. It also can be used in combination with some of the other, smaller hand tools.

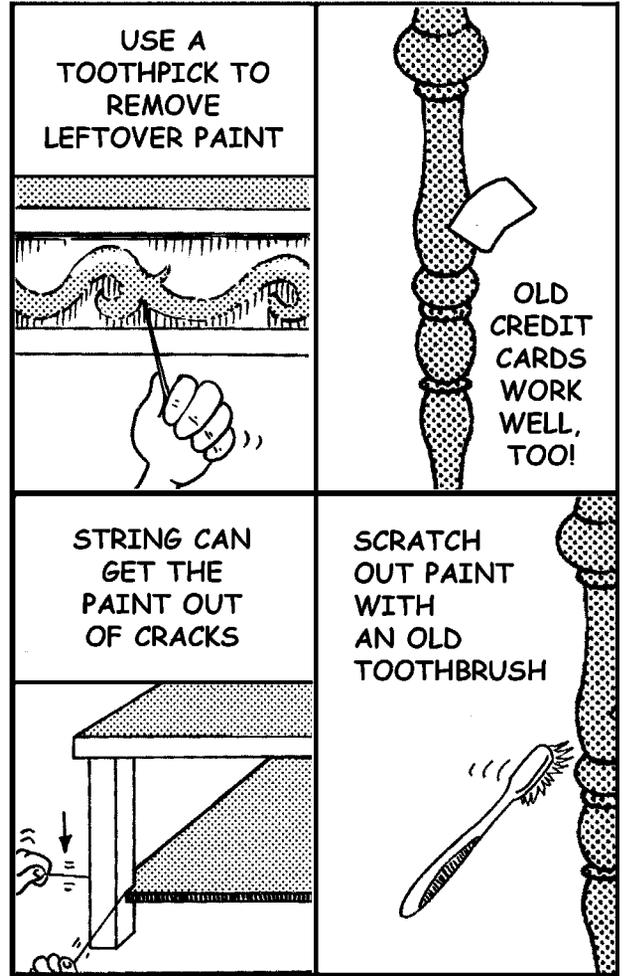
For really difficult areas, you can use a rotary tool like those Ryobi or

Dremel make. There are a lot of different attachments that can be used to get the paint off surfaces. Just be very careful not to take the wood off, too.

Now you are ready for the fun part, so take your time and get the new finish just right, and you will have a real showpiece for your home and something to be really proud of for years to come.

Q: We have stains on our driveway and exterior walls, due mostly to the fertilizer we use. How do we get the rust stains off these surfaces without harming the plants? — G.H.

A: Cover the plants with plastic while you work. Products like Zud and Bar Keeper's Friend work well to remove rust because they contain oxalic acid. Tri-sodium phosphate, or TSP, is another good product. Protect your face and hands while using these materials. Once you get the rust off the surfaces, it's a good idea to seal them with a water seal like Thompson's to prevent this from happening again. Now you can have beautiful sidewalks and a beautiful landscape.



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

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

6/30



PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY

ACROSS

- 1 Eelpot, e.g.
- 9 Los — (New Mexico city)
- 15 Wooden shoe
- 20 "Interview With the Vampire" novelist
- 21 Accumulate
- 22 Sort of
- 23 Cautiously, to a Roman goddess?
- 25 16-Down's husband
- 26 Tic- — -toe
- 27 "Believe — Not!"
- 28 Horse rider's chafing, to a Norse god?
- 30 Flavored frozen treats, to an Egyptian goddess?
- 35 Eye, in Paris
- 36 Frame jobs
- 37 Rockies range
- 40 Musical scale's span
- 45 Nightclub in a Manilow title, briefly
- 47 Reagan decade, to a Greek god?
- 50 Boy or girl
- 53 Lover of Aeneas
- 55 Cats
- 56 Stooped
- 57 Brickell or Falco
- 59 Castle, in chess
- 61 "— favor"
- 62 Old spookswow
- 63 Regions, to a Greek god?

- 68 Fr. martyress, maybe
- 69 "Bewitched" actor Dick
- 70 — the bud (stop early)
- 71 "Romy and —'s High School Reunion"
- 75 Took a chair
- 76 Dwell on an exhausted topic, to an Egyptian god?
- 78 Villain in "Aladdin"
- 81 Abdomen
- 82 Wise
- 83 — colada
- 84 Cain's sib
- 85 Fast photo-developing outlet
- 89 With 7-Down, decide by calling heads or tails
- 91 French for "water"
- 92 Reply of disbelief, to a Roman goddess?
- 95 Magnum —
- 97 Unexpected
- 98 Tuna-snaring nets
- 100 "— drink!" (tense person's cry)
- 104 Viva —
- 107 Attractions with tame critters, to a Greek god?
- 109 Steinbeck novel, to a Norse god?
- 115 Enemies
- 116 — Vegas
- 117 Verbalize

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123								124						125						
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- 118 Bring about changing times, to a Greek goddess?
- 123 Taunt
- 124 Goober
- 125 Sherlockian villain
- 126 Wheel bars
- 127 Church officers
- 128 Emphasizes

DOWN

- 1 "Truth be told ..."
- 2 Having gotten home past one's curfew
- 3 Winter vehicle with treads
- 4 "— a Rebel"
- 5 Uno tripled
- 6 Slowing, in mus.
- 7 See 89-Across
- 8 1959 NBA MVP Bob
- 9 Alcoholic appetizer
- 10 Tyler of film
- 11 Bath beers
- 12 Little plateau
- 13 Defeat
- 14 Digging tool
- 15 Silence
- 16 25-Across's wife
- 17 Fugue writer
- 18 Norway port
- 19 Stratum
- 24 German trousers
- 29 Roaring 55-Across

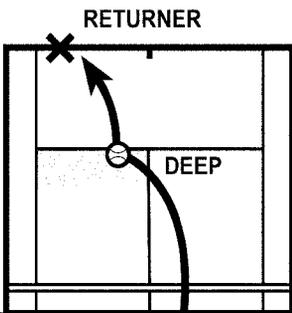
- 31 Jean- — Ponty
- 32 MP3 player
- 33 High-hoper
- 34 Unit of loudness
- 38 "Volare (— Blu Dipinto di Blu)"
- 39 Periodic payments
- 41 Make the rounds in a restaurant
- 42 Fruity quaffs
- 43 "—, vidi, vici"
- 44 Villa d'—
- 46 Begin using
- 48 Seth's son
- 49 Always
- 50 Small casks
- 51 Brainstorm
- 52 Couturier Christian
- 54 — and aah
- 58 Kind of deli sandwich
- 60 Study of motion's forces
- 62 Engrave
- 64 Back end
- 65 Covert org.
- 66 Prone
- 67 River inlet
- 68 Pool player's "English"
- 71 Nearsighted cartoon "Mr."
- 72 U.S. border lake
- 73 Milan moon
- 74 Son of Isaac
- 76 Sacrifice hit

- 77 Take in food
- 78 Leno and Mohr
- 79 "— Ben Adhem"
- 80 Clan quarrel
- 81 Martini liquor
- 85 — the cloth (clerics)
- 86 F. — Bailey
- 87 "I don't give —!"
- 88 Advantages
- 90 Crooned
- 93 Nullifies
- 94 Writer Anya
- 96 "Oh yeah? — who?"
- 99 Cooks, as clams
- 101 Lamprey lurers
- 102 Maiden name of Eva Peron
- 103 Evaluates
- 105 Car variety
- 106 Early Ford
- 108 "Failure — an option"
- 109 It is, in Peru
- 110 Summit
- 111 Shut tightly
- 112 Use a stun gun on
- 113 "— no ideal!"
- 114 Hawaiian state bird
- 119 Karel Capek sci-fi play
- 120 Make a flub
- 121 Golfer Michelle
- 122 Syllables of laughter

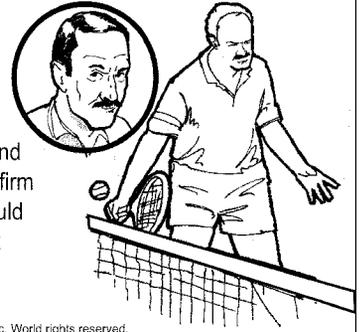
STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

SERVE DEEP

The deeper your serve lands in the service box, the harder it will be for your opponent to hit a powerful return of serve. It is particularly important to make your second serve land deep in the service box.



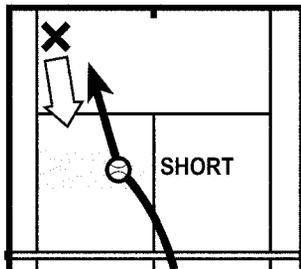
Try to make contact in front of you and keep your swing compact. If you time the ball well and keep your racket head firm at contact, the ball should zip back across the net without your having to make much effort.



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RETURNER

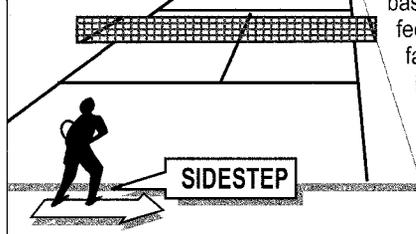
If your second serve lands short in the box, it will be easier to return and he may attack the short serve and put you under pressure.



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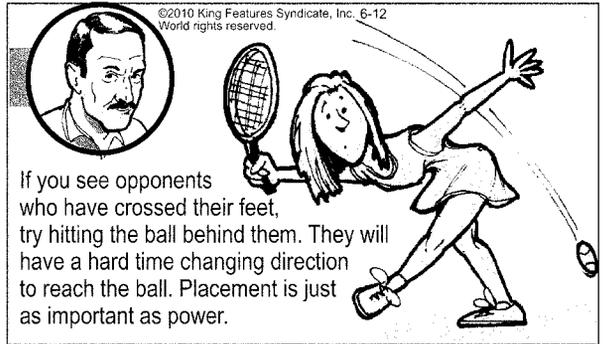
SIDESTEP ON THE BASELINE

When recovering a short distance to the center of the court along the baseline, slide your feet with your chest facing the net. It's easier to push off in either direction if you don't cross your legs while shuffling.



VOLLEY FORM

To add punch to your volley, try to get your body weight moving forward into your shot. You should take a short swing on the volley and move your body forward at contact. Time taking your steps to when you will hit the ball and rotate your upper body so as you hit you are almost perpendicular to the net.



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If you see opponents who have crossed their feet, try hitting the ball behind them. They will have a hard time changing direction to reach the ball. Placement is just as important as power.

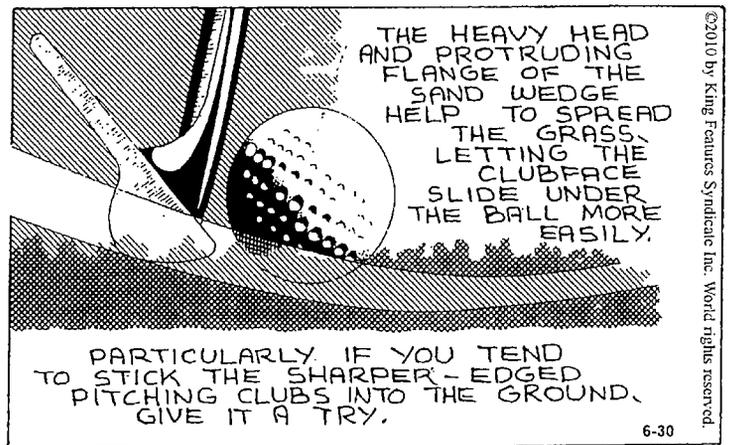
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JM



THE HEAVY HEAD AND PROTRUDING FLANGE OF THE SAND WEDGE HELP TO SPREAD THE GRASS, LETTING THE CLUBFACE SLIDE UNDER THE BALL MORE EASILY.

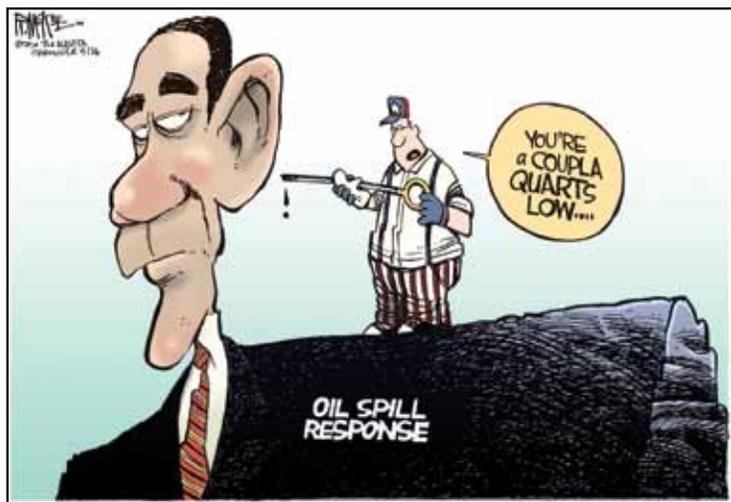
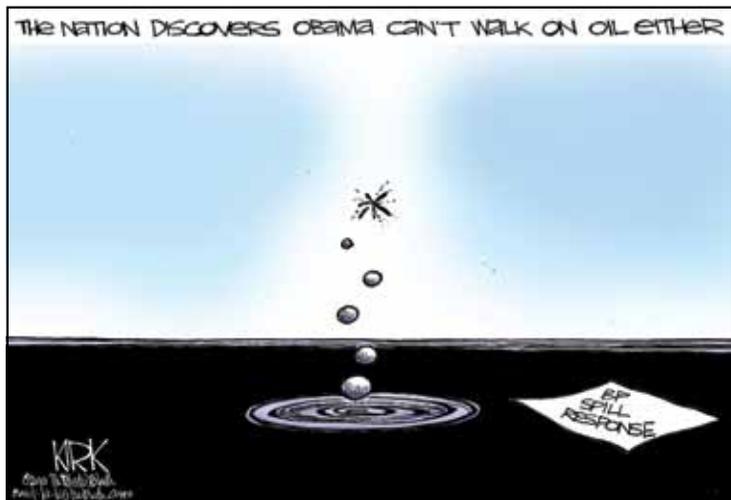
PARTICULARLY IF YOU TEND TO STICK THE SHARPER-EDGED PITCHING CLUBS INTO THE GROUND, GIVE IT A TRY.

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6-30

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"
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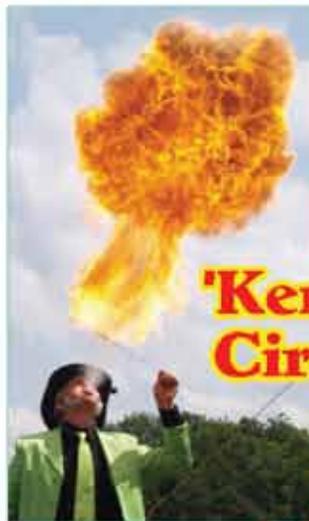
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