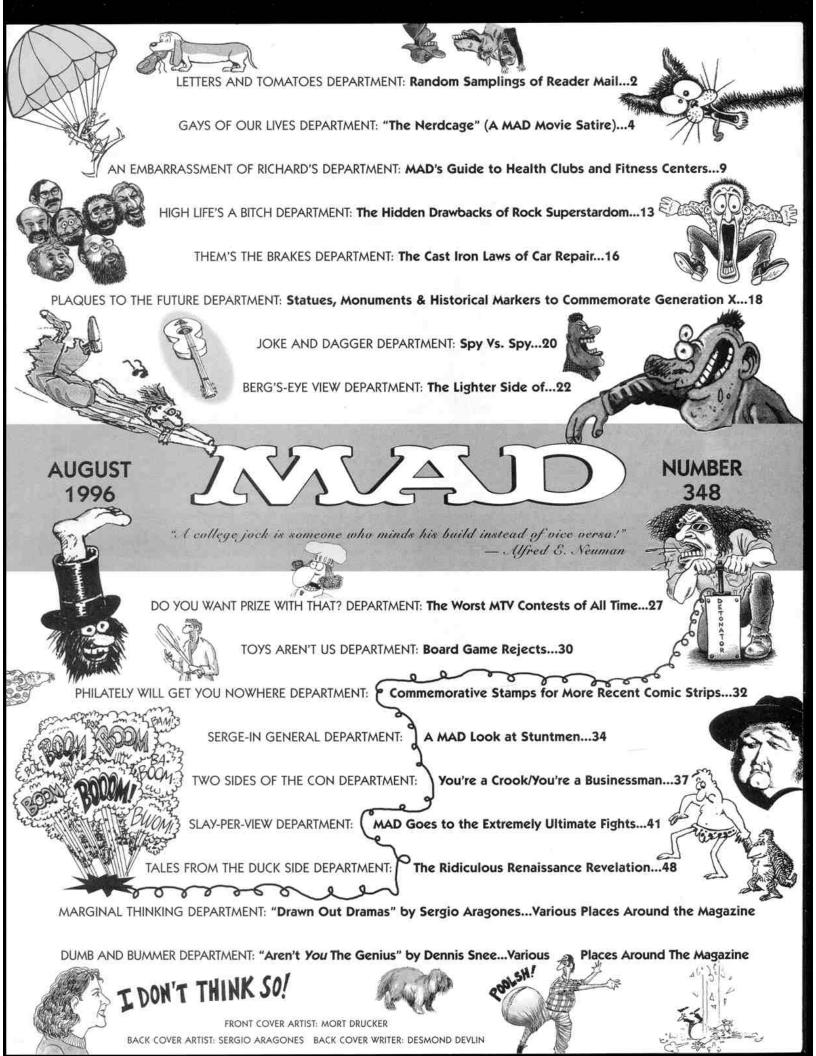


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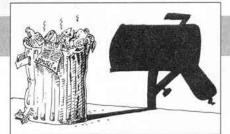
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"MAD'S BEATLES SONGBOOK"

I was very shaken while reading your Beatles songbook (Mad #345) when in one of the pictures there was an image of John Lennon's skeleton in a casket with the sign "R.I.P." under that. I am an avid reader of your magazine but I think that you could have been a little bit more sensitive. I hope that this will never happen again.

DShip67460@aol.com
We apologize for our crass insensitivity and
promise it won't happen again. Besides, the
whole drawing was an error to begin with — We
meant to draw Kurt Cobain! —Ed.

BELOW AVERAGE?

In issue #345 you ran an article called "When 'Per Serving' Information is Placed on Everything." The article was funny until you got to the serving size of a MAD Magazine. You said it contained 576 attempts at humor, but counting up on several issues the average was about 276! Whoever you got to count this up was 300 attempts at humor short! I think you owe us readers an apology.

Aaron Mines Gaithersburg, MD

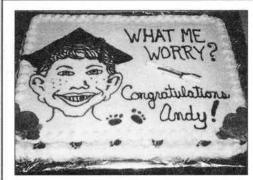
The 576 number you cite was an attempt at exaggeration humor which you didn't count! Therefore, your totals and averages are off by one. Please reconfigure your totals, calculate them again and send us the results in, say, a thousand years! (The preceding, for those keeping a tally, was not an attempt at exaggeration humor. We really DON'T want to hear from Aaron till 2996!) —Ed.







THE MAD BAKE OFF '96



Here's our annual visit to the world of MAD desserts! On the left is Ashton, MD resident Andrew Jones' graduation cake, though the "congratulations" was for being voted "Most

Likely to Receive a Moronic-Looking Graduation Cake"! On the right is Jaison Schafer of Monroeville, PA with his immense Alfred E. Neuman birthday cake. As you can see, it's a very potent cake — Jaison already appears to be enjoying a huge sugar rush just from bringing his skin in contact with the cake box! Fal

LETTERS &

MUSICALLY MAD

Are you spinning MAD Grooves yet? Rhino Records has just released the most incredible CD (or cassette) since the invention of CDs (or cassettes)! Featuring rare and out-of-print MAD recordings (most of which have been unavailable for over 25 years!), MAD Grooves includes tunes from MAD Disco, the '60s Off-Broadway review The MAD Show, the classic song "She Got a Nose Job" and, the most requested and desired MAD recording of all time, "It's a Gas"!!! There are even vintage MAD tunes re-recorded by '90s bands including Green Jelly! Find it at a record store or by dialing Rhino Direct at 1-800-432-0020!



"THE POPEMOBILE FOR RENT"

I was reading issue #345 and I couldn't believe my eyes! In "The Popemobile For Rent," you morons made quite a boo-boo. Didn't any of you take Earth Science in high school? I guess not! You can't get a tan through the Popemobile! Tans are caused by ultra-violet rays, and guess what doesn't go through glass? Duhh, could it be ultra-violet rays? YES! If I'm 13 and I know this, it doesn't say too much about you guys.

Jon Spielsinger Staten Island, NY

Can't get a tan in the Popemobile? Now you know why George Hamilton will never be Popel —Ed.

GOING POSTAL

I have been receiving MAD by mail for the last several years. It infuriates me that the United States Post Office consistently labels MAD a "2nd class" publication. I think your magazine has always been a 1st class publication. I think your editor should have a talk with the Postmaster General.

Ravkoel@aol.com

Smart Idea, Einstein! You want us to do something that will piss off a postal worker? Not a chance! If all the regular letter carriers have automatic weapons, the Postmaster General must have Stinger Missiles!—Ed.

INSIGNIFICANT DATA

MAD #349 ON SALE Aug. 20!!

MAD'S DOUBLE-SIDED SUPER SPECIAL #115 ON SALE July 23!!

TOMATOES DEPARTMENT

PUS AND MINUSES



"The Zit" — The Goo, the Bad and the Ugly!

"The Zit" (MAD #345) was the grossest, most stomach-turning thing I recall seeing in any issue of MAD — and that covers almost four decades of MADness!

John Berger Honolulu, HI

As subscribers to your magazine we have become used to varying degrees of sickening material (and learned to like it, by the way). However, we find ourselves disgusted with the back cover of issue #345, intelligently called "The Zit." Only dim-witted morons such as yourselves could possibly find something so inexpressibly nauseating to be the least bit amusing. Please, for future reference, keep in mind that there are those of us who do not feel the urge to burst into hysterical laughter at the sight of a boy drowning in an explosion of his own pus and vital organs.

Libby Perkowski

Ana Nersessian New York, NY

Picky, picky, pickyl —Ed.

Upon reaching the end of MAD #345, I was disgusted to find "The Zit," What in the world made you deem this humorous AND fit to print? No one in his right mind with any kind of standards would— Never mind.

Charlie Armstrong Rockford, MI

The back cover of MAD #345 has got to be one of the all-time greats! Your artists have always been the best (my all-time favorite is tied between Basil Wolverton and Al Jaffee)! Since I have every MAD you have published — I rate issue #11, May, 1954 as your best

cover ever, and #345 for best back cover!

Dave Jones
65 years "young"

Camano Is., WA

Your kind letters about our "Zit" made us break out — dare we say gush! — with warm feelings!



Please Address All Correspondence To: MAD, Dept. 348, 1700 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10019.

MAD welcomes reader submissions. Manuscripts will not be returned or acknowledged, however, unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope!

Have a computer? Got a modem? Get a FREE DC Comics Online starter kit (featuring MAD online plus 10 FREE hours!) by calling 1-800-203-2600!

GAYS OF OUR LIVES DEPT. Here's a movie that does nothing to quash the negative stereotypes about a much maligned group, a group that for too long has been unfairly and inaccurately portrayed in motion pictures, humiliated and scorned on television, and bashed and attacked by the public at large. Of course, we're talking about right wing Republicans! Here's... Who's Don't same Nonsense! The sex margoing real confusion riages like is with bito yours and marry? Almond's sexuals, poor dears! I know create one who just Himsexual confusion? got engaged! self

Some politicians
say that gay
relationships
like yours and
Allbare's are
a threat to
the American
family!

I don't understand that! We are the proud, loving parents of a son, unlike the childless Pat Buchanan and his wife! And neither of us would ever dream of abandoning our children and our mate who was in the hospital recovering from cancer surgery to run off with someone else like Newt Gingrich did! Nor would we have ever screwed around outside our relationship, which is more than you can say for Bill Clinton! Tell me, just what kind of an American family are they talking about?

I'IIIQT Druck=R

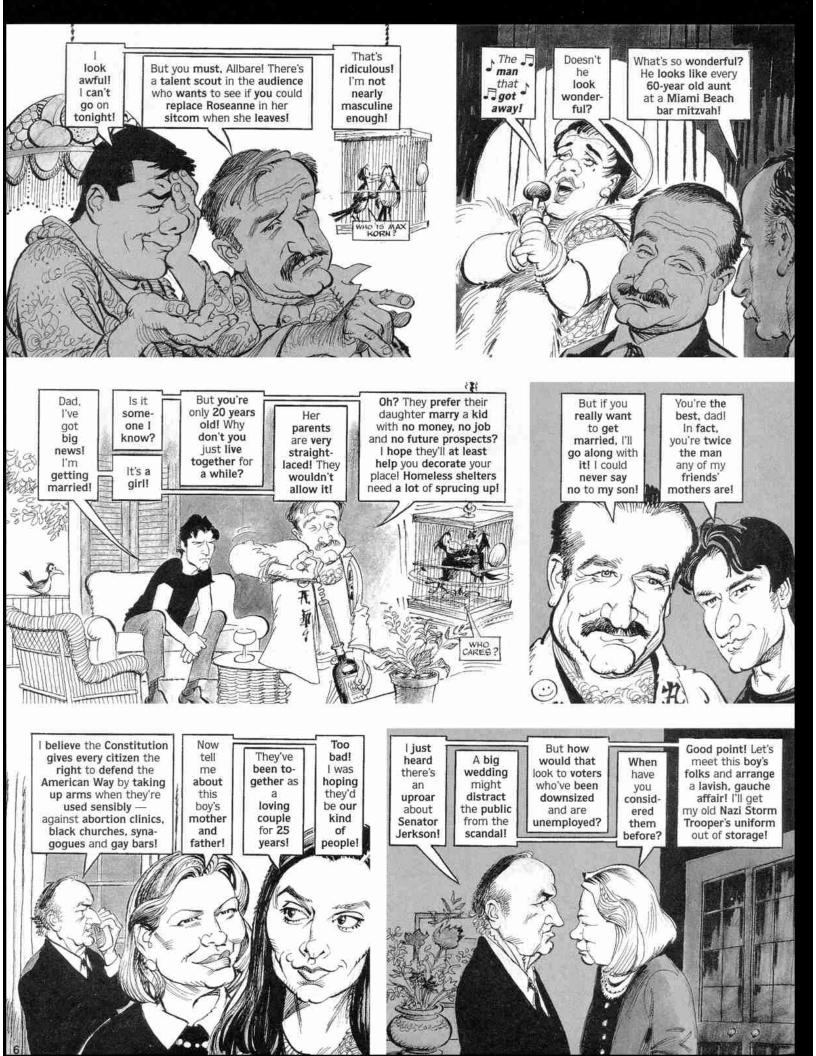
ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER WRITER: STAN HART

KABARET

There's no sex or violence in this movie! Why does it have an "R" rating? For the effect it might have on children! The shock of seeing a loving, caring couple like Allbare and Almond might make a child wonder about his own parents' "normal" relationship!

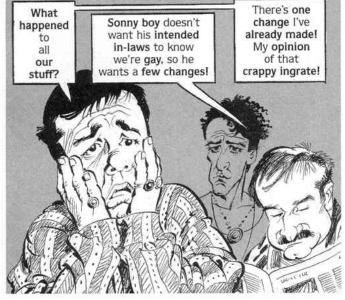
As a straight man, I feel uncomfortable watching those gay guys dance around halfnaked in drag! Is it because you're prejudiced?

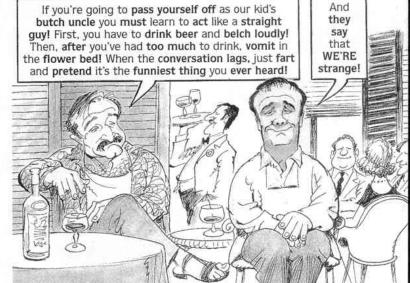
No. it's because I'm sexually excited! Senator Killer, your co-chairman of the Committee to Keep the Government Out of Everything Except the Bedroom and the Doctor's Office has just been found in a prostitute's room! She told the cops that when they started making love, he just lay on the bed motionless! They say he's dead! I don't believe it! If that were a sign of death, my wife would have been pronounced deceased years ago!

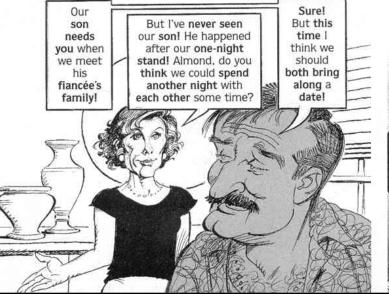




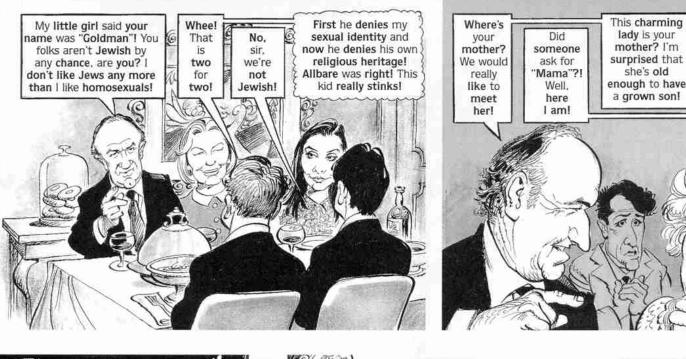




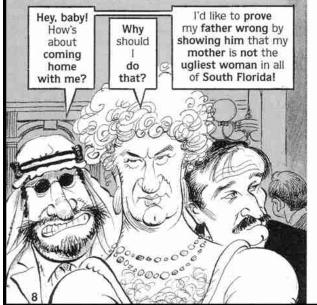


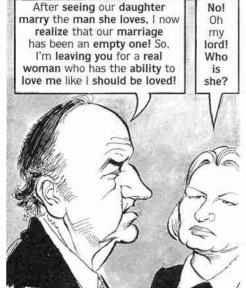














That's only

the first

of many

surprises

Mama" has

in store

for you,

bubellal

AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHARD'S DEPT.

fou paid \$3 to rent Showgirls because it couldn't be as bad as people said it was...Aren't you the genius!

Not long ago, people who wanted to stay in shape went to the gym. Today, they go to the "health club" or "fitness center." The difference? About \$50 to \$75 a month! Yes, Spandex Breath, the cost of working the lard off your buttocks is steeper than ever, which is why it's a good idea get some expert advice before plunking down your hard-earned drachmas! Of course, if you can't get any expert advice and you're really desperate, you can always take a look at . . .

MAD'S GUIDE TO

HEALTH CLUBS & Fitness Centers

JOINING Once you've made the all-important commitment to join a health club, you must then decide exactly when to join! This is a critical decision, one that calls for foresight and careful planning. Make sure you don't join the one day of the year they're not having a special "limited time" sale! SNEAKY SALES TACTICS Don't be impressed or fooled by high-energy come-ons! Listen carefully to what the salesperson says! What sounds like a good deal may not be! BIG SAVING Sign up now and you're guaranteed to avoid the price increase that's due to come before the end of the millennium! And since my boss isn't around, I'll make you an extra special deal! Buy a lifetime membership today and I'll give you another six months free!



THE EQUIPMENT

A good club provides a wide variety of equipment so that

you can work each muscle group individually. Beware of clubs promoting machines that claim to "do it all."

Yep, this baby works your biceps, triceps, quads, glutes, pecs, abs and upper knee caps! don't think you'll need any lessons on how to use it, but if you have any questions ask the instructor! He's the one caught in the machine!

CLUB MERCHANDISING

To increase profits, many clubs sell clothing and

other merchandise with their logo on it. While this is an acceptable practice as a side business, beware of clubs that carry it too far.

what happened to the running machines?

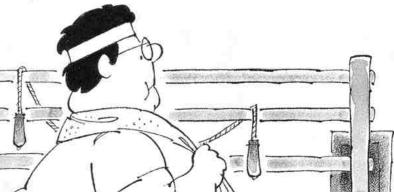
We had to get rid of them to make room for our new T-shirt racks! We figured you can run in the street! I guess I'll go swimming instead!

Better do it now! We're draining the pool later to make room for our new sleepwear department!



CLASSES A quality club should offer a varied selection of free classes in such activities as Aerobics,

Yoga and Step. Think twice before joining a club that offers only esoteric classes!





HEALTH CLUBS & Fitness Centers

PERSONAL TRAINERS

Be sure to choose an experienced and fully qualified Personal Trainer, one who works out

regularly and appears physically fit. On the other hand, beware of Personal Trainers who are too physically fit. They are likely to pay more attention to themselves than to you!



Important Question:

Is the Personal Trainer skilled at exercising ALL of their client's



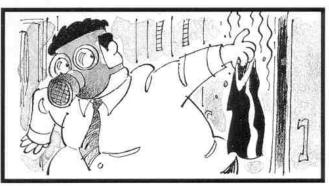
GYM ETIQUETTE

It is acceptable to strike up a conversation with other club members and to make

plans to meet later for coffee or dinner. However, one should not join a health club strictly with the intention of making out. Pushing for commitment at a health club is not a good thing!

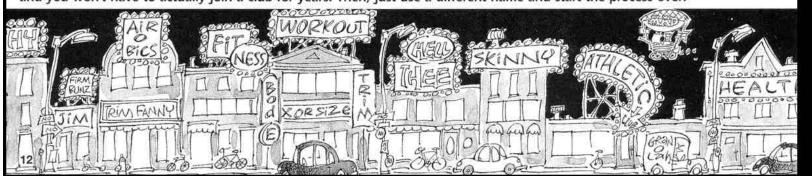


Gym clothes should be laundered APPAREL after each use. If you notice a foul odor when opening your locker, consider washing your workout clothes. If your workout clothes have eaten through your metal locker door, you will have to replace both them and the locker!



DON'T RUSH YOUR DECISION!

With hundreds of health clubs in every city, your entire exercise program can consist solely of "checking them out"! Ask for a free trial workout at each one and you won't have to actually join a club for years! Then, just use a different name and start the process over!



A lot of music fans couldn't dream of a better fate than becoming a rock n' roll superstar! Wouldn't it be fantastic to be as talented as Hootie, as rich as Paul MaCartney, as newsworthy as Michael Jackswell, um, to be like Hootie or Paul McCartney? To quote the great Freddie Mercury, "No, no, no, no, no, NO!" Believe it or not, hitting #1 can just be a bunch of number two, as you'll learn in...

THE HIDDEN DRAWBACKS ROCKS ROCKS ROCKS ROCKS ROCKS

Before your world

tour, you have to learn how to say,

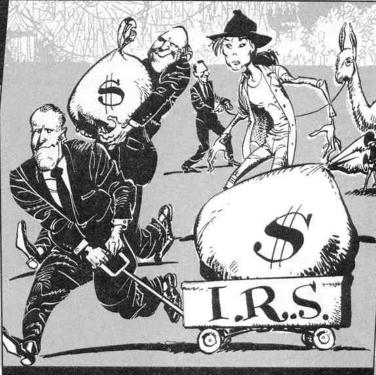
"I want that sequined cape pressed NOW, you worthless piece of crap!" in eight different languages.





You have absolutely no control over the type of person who wears your face on their T-shirt. It's just not humanly possible to give full and equal attention to all five of the groupies in your vibrating water bed.





What's the use in killing yourself making \$250 million. when it's really just \$170 million take home?



When the drinks are watery, the food is lousy and the in-flight movie sucks, you can't complain about it because you own the plane.

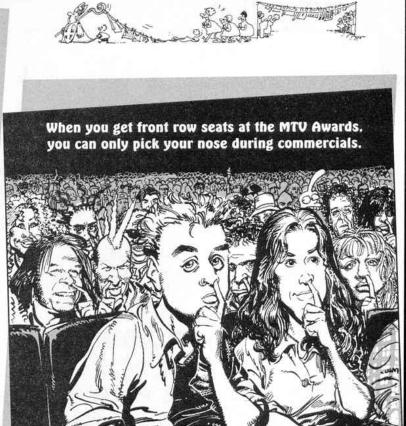


You'll never truly know whether or not the 18-year-old doing the wild thing with you behind the concert arena escalator genuinely loves you for yourself.



whenever one of the guys in your band drops dead onstage at age 27.

Every time starvation or tornadoes hit, you're expected to drop everything and help out with the charity single – but did anybody ask you if you needed a hand after the L.A. quake cracked the screen of your 124-inch TV?





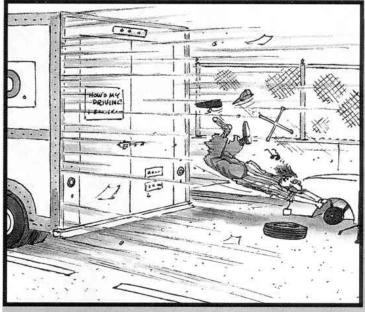
The complimentary courtside seats to all those NBA games increase your chances that one of the sweaty players might brush up against you while diving for a loose ball.

THEM'S THE BRAKES DEPT.



The more you paid for a socket wrench, the faster it will roll towards the garage floor drain when dropped.



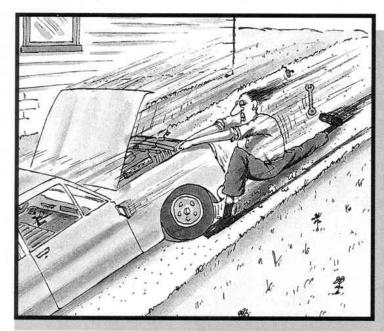


A tire that goes flat on a high-speed expressway will always be located on the driver's side of the car.

AS A PUBLIC SERVICE, MAD IS OFFERING SOME TIPS FOR ALL YOU AUTO ENTHUSIASTS WHO LIKE TO PUT ON YOUR COVERALLS, GET UNDER THE HOOD

THE CAST RONLA

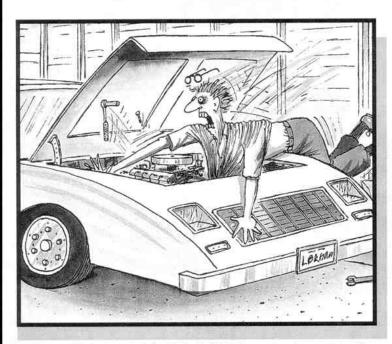
ARTIST AND WRITER: TOM CHENEY



Virtually **any** part you remove from a car parked on a sloped drive-16 way will be directly connected to the emergency brake system.



An airbag that fails to inflate during a collision will **always** inflate when you attempt to carry it back to the auto parts store in your pocket.



A part that can only be adjusted while the engine is running will always be located one inch or less from a spinning fan belt.



A horn that never works will refuse to shut itself off if you attempt to repair it after 2:00 a.m.

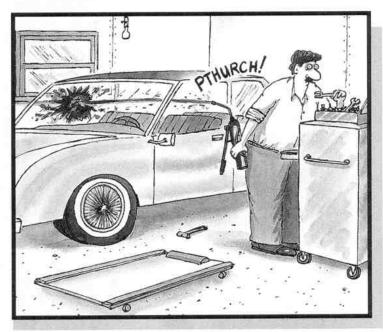
AND GIVE IT THE OL' LUBE JOB...AND PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO FIX CARS, TOO! SO, IF YOU WANT TO ADD NEW SPARK TO THOSE PLUGS, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW...

WS OF CAR REPAIR

When you traveled to England last month you decided to pull out all the stops and go first class — so you had beef for dinner every night...Aren't you the genius!



The least expensive and most frequently replaced part on your car can never be reached without first removing the entire engine.

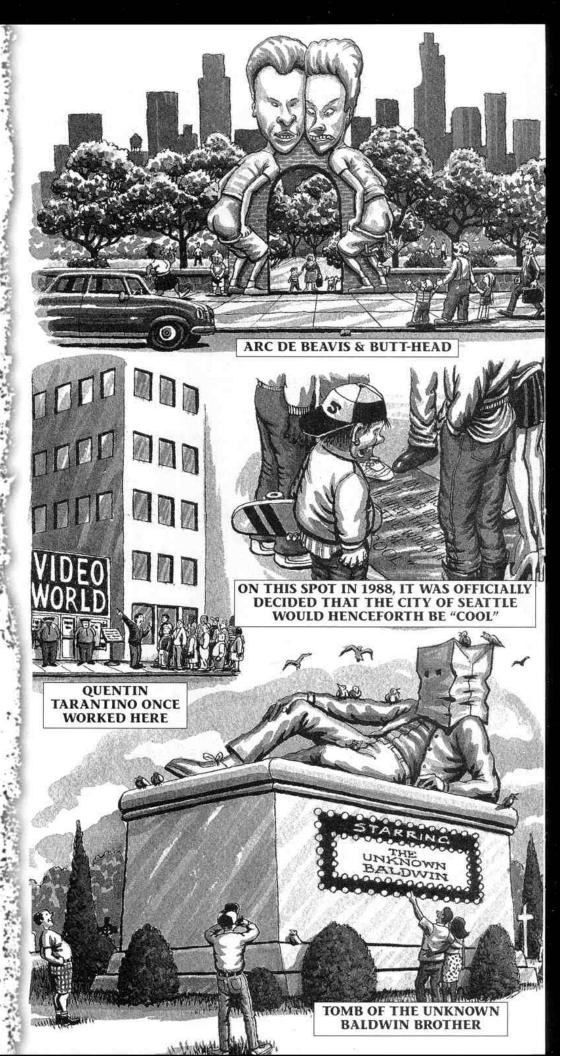


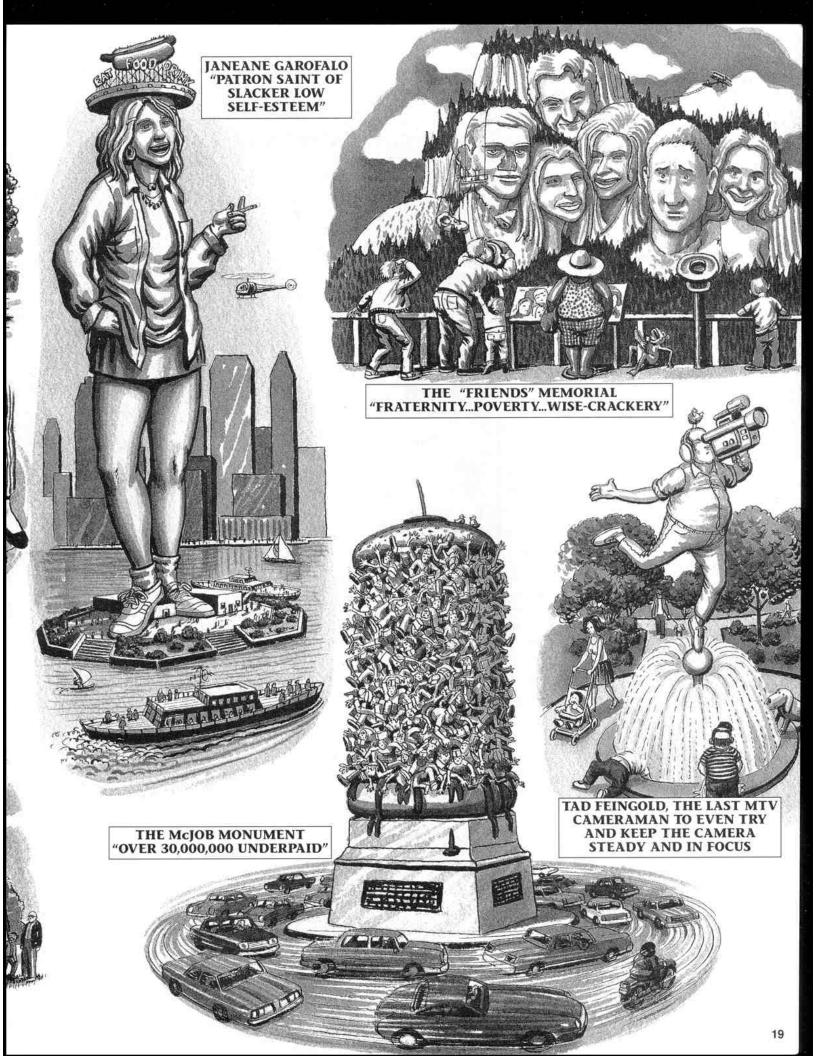
A grease gun will never accidentally discharge, unless it's pointed at an open car window.

PLAQUES TO THE FUTURE DEPT.

Every generation has left its mark on the landscape, whether it be statues of great leaders, monuments to important achievements or plaques on the sites of heroic battles! But let's face it, by the start of the Baby-Boom Generation, all the good statue ideas had already been taken! Somehow a "Woodstock" plaque on a big rock in a field just doesn't measure up to the Lincoln Memorial or Mt. Rushmorel But, hell, the Boomers had it easy compared to the generation that came after them! Today's young adults, the "Slackers," the "X-ers," have to try and glorify this pitiful era with these...

STATUES, MONUMENTS & HISTORICAL MARKERS TO COMMEMORATE





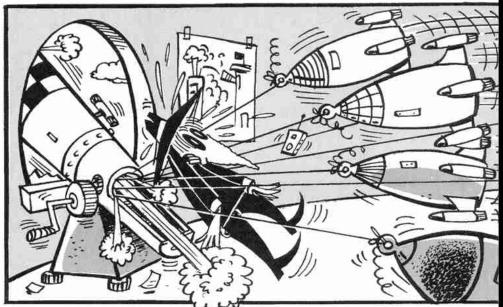


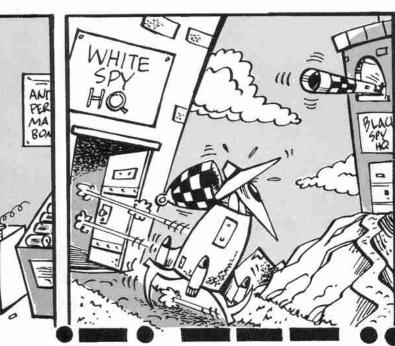






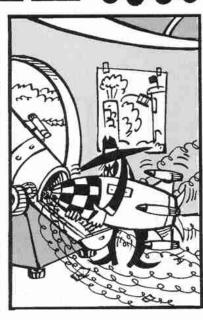




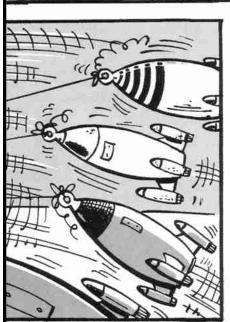


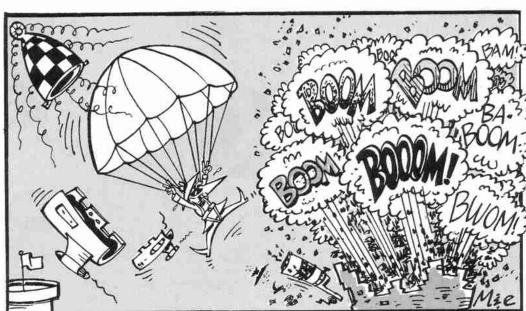












THE SINGLES SCENE

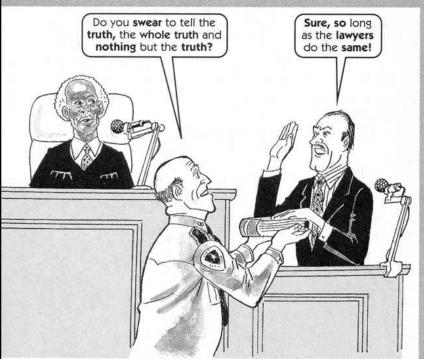




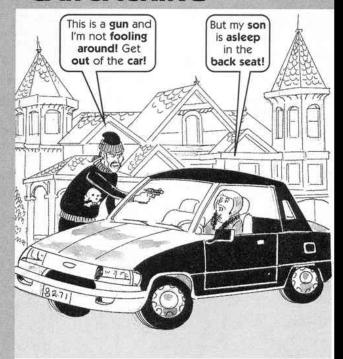
BERG'S-EYE VIEW DEPT.

THE LIGHTE

COURTROOMS

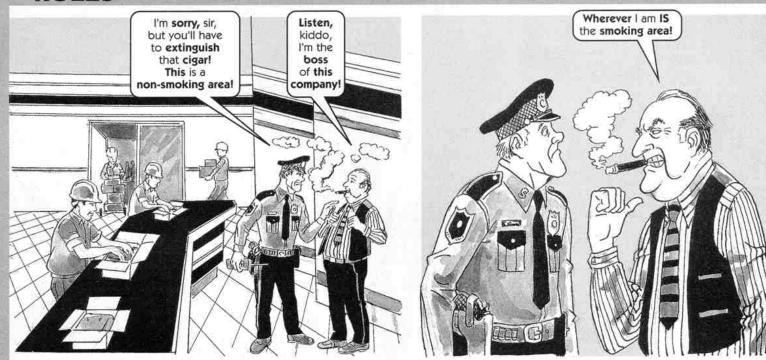


CAR JACKING





RULES



图图图 例。。。

ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE BERG

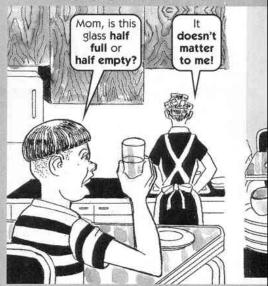




WILLS



PHILOSOPHY

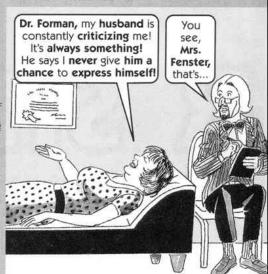


FINANCES





THERAPY



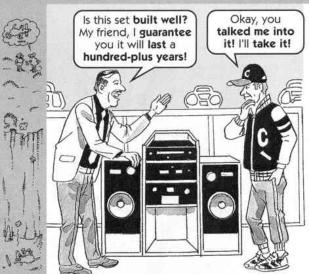
PREPAREDNESS



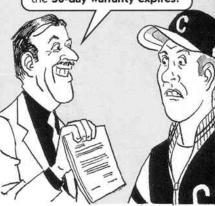


SALESMANSHIP



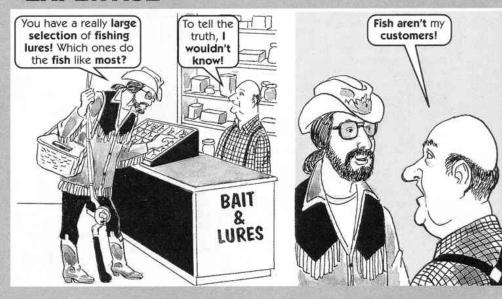


Great! And here's another good tip — pay the extra \$50 for the insurance program in case the set breaks down after the 30-day warranty expires!



EXPERTISE





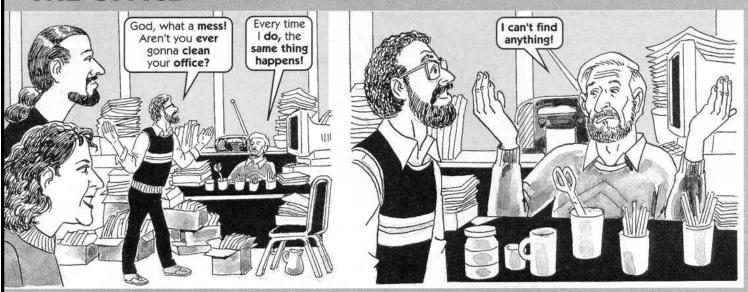
In the '80s you read about one airline crash too many and decided from then on you'd travel only by Amtrak...Aren't you the genius!

ACTIVITY





THE OFFICE



SHOPPING



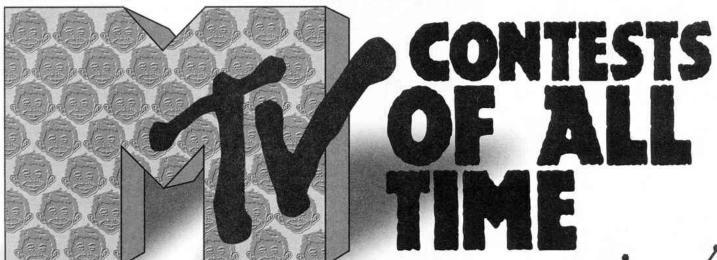
When Michael Jordan retired you gave up your Bulls season tickets because you just knew you'd never get to see him play basketball again...Aren't you the genius!

DOCTORS

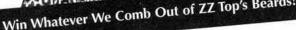


When you think of MTV, what immediately comes to mind? Great videos? Umm...not lately! Clever game shows? Never! Cheesy contests? Bingo! Who in their cotton-pickin' mind thinks up their lame promotions? Win Bon Jovi's dilapidated old house! Win Michael Jackson's guitar! (Yecch! Who wants to touch anything of his?) And those are two of their better ideas! If you want to know the really bad ones, then put down that remote control and read...

THEWORST











ARTIST: RICK TULKA WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

Go Camping with Boy George!







Binge and Purge with Paula Abdul!



I DON'T THINK SO!



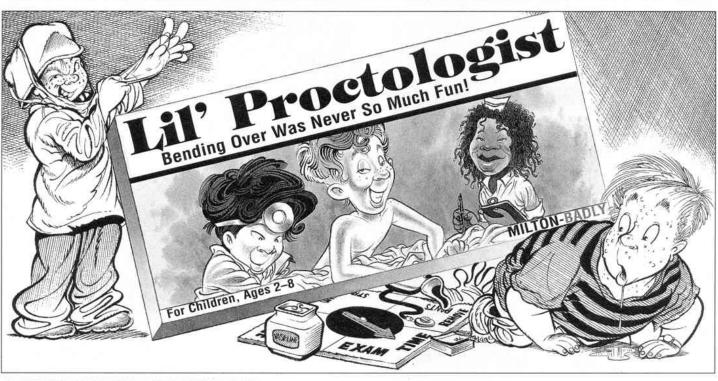
Tour the Vatican with Sinead O'Connor!



MTV Flies You Anywhere in the World While TLC House Sits for You!

TOYS AREN'T US DEPT.

EACH YEAR, TOY MANUFACTURERS COME UP WITH THOUSANDS OF IDEAS FOR NEW BOARD GAMES. A SELECT FEW ARE PRODUCED AND GO ON TO BECOME KIDS' FAVORITES (E.G. MONOPOLY). OTHERS ARE PRODUCED AND GO ON TO BE MAS-SIVE FAILURES (E.G. THE MAD MAGAZINE GAME)! BUT, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, MOST NEVER EVEN MAKE IT PAST THE DESIGN STAGE, LIKE THESE . . .

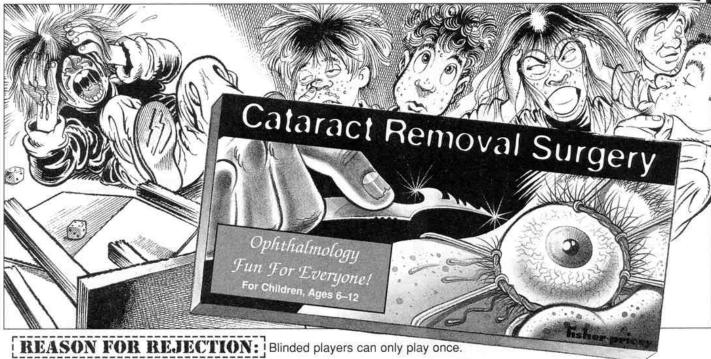


REASON FOR REJECTION: Small children may choke on enclosed rubber gloves.



REASON FOR REJECTION: Consumers likely to be interested in a professional wrestling game probably unable to read the instructions.

EJECTS ARTIST: STEVE SMALLWOOD WRITER: MICHAEL GOODWIN



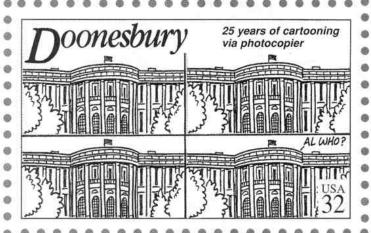


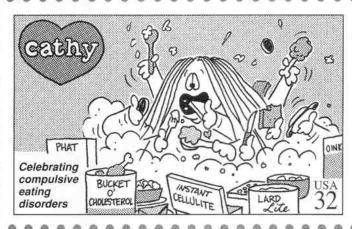
REASON FOR REJECTION: Company attorneys felt selling handguns to minors was "probably illegal."

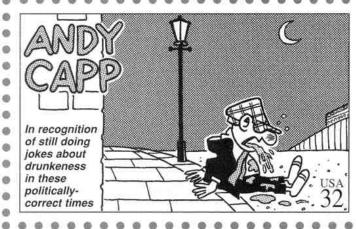
True, the postal service recently released postage stamps ones they're honoring are really ancient, like Krazy Kat and about honoring are restuck on a first class idea: how achievements! Namely, by released postage stamps of the comic stage stamps ancient, like Krazy Kat and comic for a first class idea: how achievements! Namely, by specially delivering these...



ARTIST AND WRITER: STEVE GREENBERG







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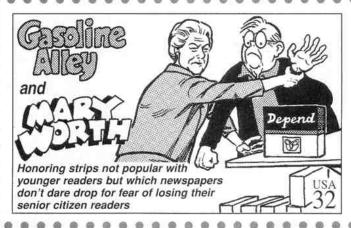
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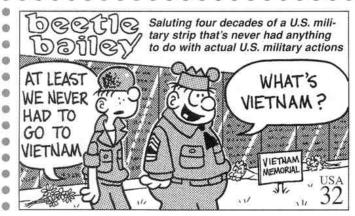
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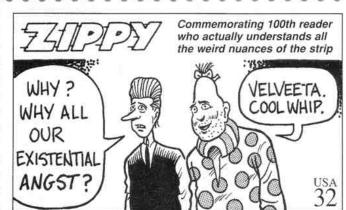
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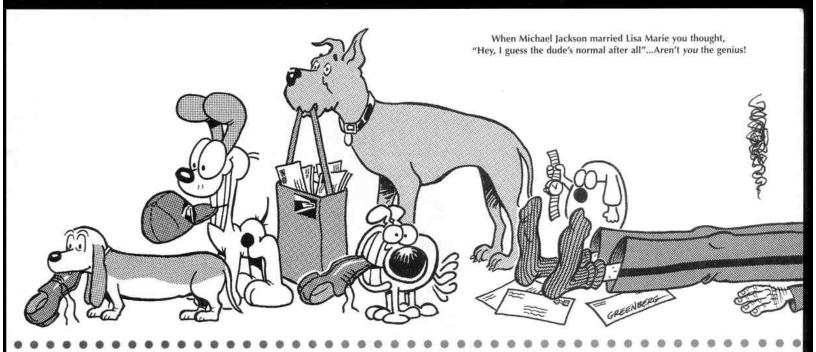
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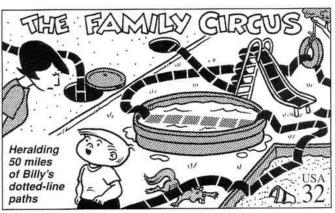
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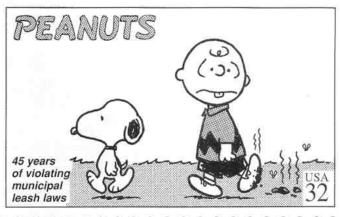


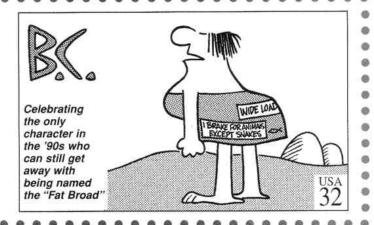


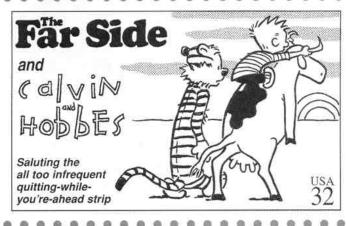




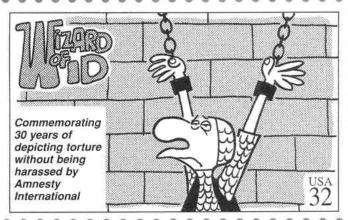






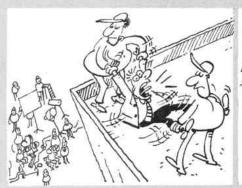






SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPT.

AMAID LOOK AT



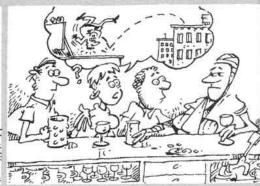


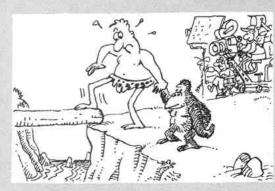










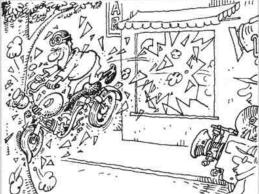


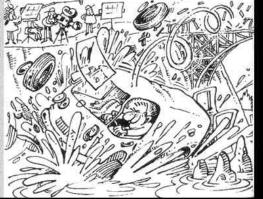




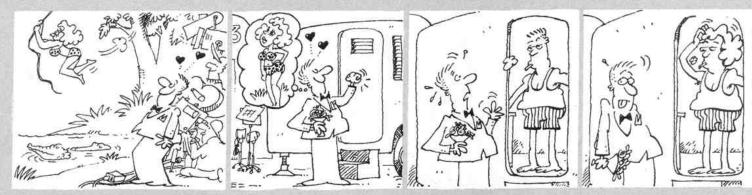
When he first appeared on MTV you had a hunch Pauly Shore would be the next important comedy talent of his generation...Aren't you the genius!













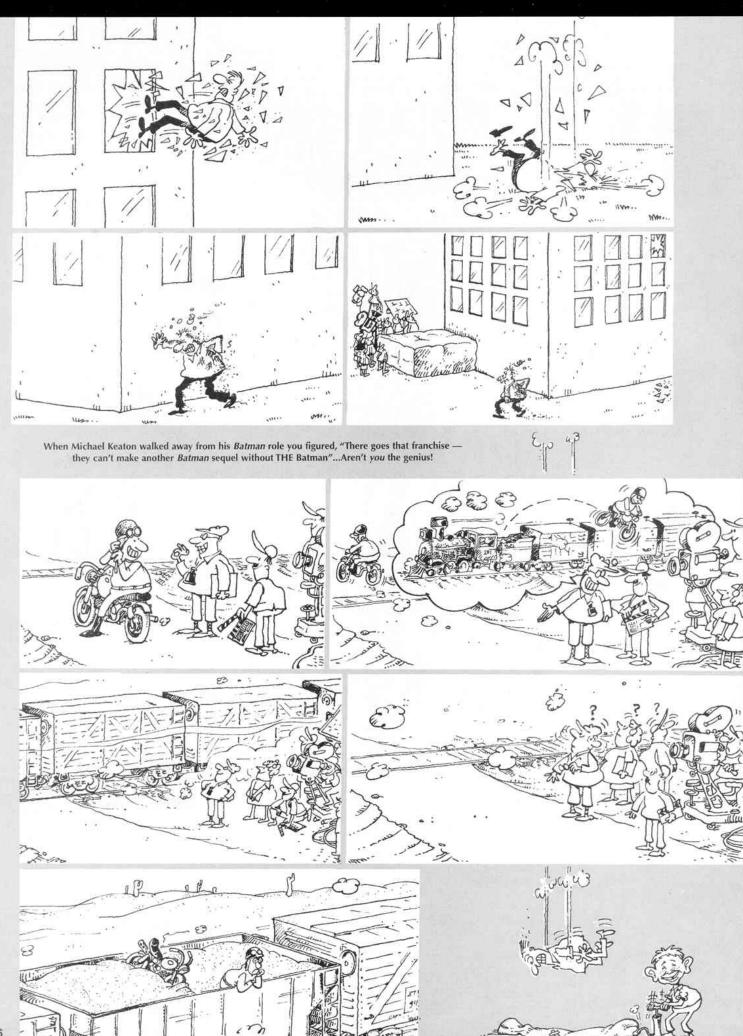












Have you ever wondered why some poor shlub who tries to declare his 40-inch TV as a business expense ends up arguing with his cellmate over who gets to be the wife, while billion-dollar companies like U.S. Steel and Exxon get their tax refunds personally hand-delivered by the Secretary of the Treasury? Well, have you? Nah—knowing you, you're way too busy wondering what Darkwing Duck looks like naked! So we'll let you enjoy your own private mind-pluck, while you completely ignore...

YAURFACROOK



ROOKCROOKCROOKC

If you intimidate store owners into paying protection money with the threat that if they don't cough it up they just might lose everything —You're A Crook





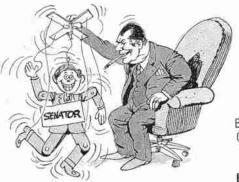
But if you happen to own a sports team, and treat an entire city the same way -You're A Businessman



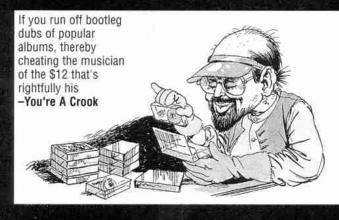
But if you impose the same fee for handing out the concert tickets that a machine just spit out

-You're A Businessman





But if you hire Congressmen to do it -You're A Businessman





But if your attorneys dream up a contract that pays the same musician about \$12 for every million albums he sells
-You're A Businessman

ROOKCROOKCROOKC





But if you sell a skateboard or rollerblades to every putz who comes into your store, so he can go out and do the job himself - You're A

Businessman

If you try to get someone to work at less than the minimum wage





But if you put your company in Ryder vans and move it to a nearby country where you can hire a dozen workers for less than the cost of a can of Pepsi

- You're A Businessman

If you make cheap video copies of Die Harder and Pulp Fiction to sell on the corner or at shady street fairs







But if you produce cheap rip-offs of those films to sell in actual video stores

- You're A Businessman

If your business involves loaning people free money. but making them cough up outrageous interest rates if they're even one second late in paving - You're A Crook



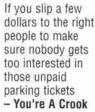


But if you're the president of Visa. Discover or American Express - You're A Businessman

KCROOKCROOKCROO











But if you slip
a few million
dollars to the
people who
can make sure
nobody sees
those pesky
research papers
that show how
your cigarettes
cause cancer
- You're A
Businessman

HII We're the Wholesome Twins. Ashwipe and Mary Cakes!

That's right! And when it came time for MAD to investigate an activity filled with hair-pulling, vicious chokes, elbow shots and the splatter of blood. they realized that nobody knew that kind of violence like us!

Yeah, those mall appearances can be brutal! But at least they made us immune to the gore we'll be seeing when MAD goes to.

THE EXTREMELY ULTIMATE FIGHTS

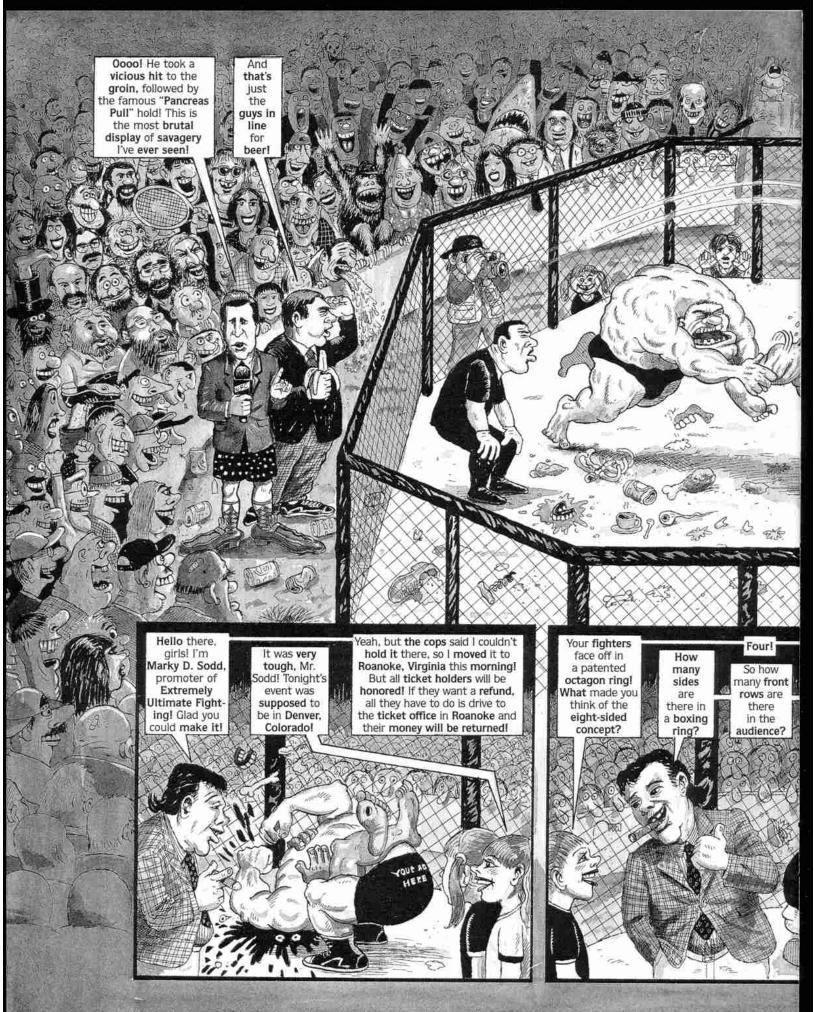
A MAN HEMORRHAGE!

THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

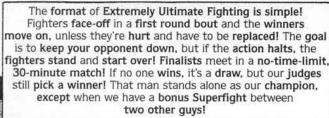
RECOMMENDED FOR SADISTIC AUDIENCES **CONTAINS SEVERAL** HOMICIDES

KICKBOXING VS TAE KWON DO VS SHA NA NA VS FA FA FA VS KARATE VS BABA BOOEY VS KUNG FU VS FOO FIGHT. ERS VS BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI VS BA DA BING BA DA BOOM VS SLAPFIGHTING VS DON HO VS YO-YO MA VS SPY

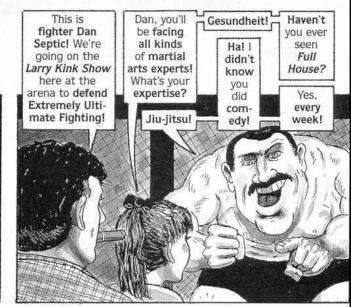
ARTIST: TOM BUNK



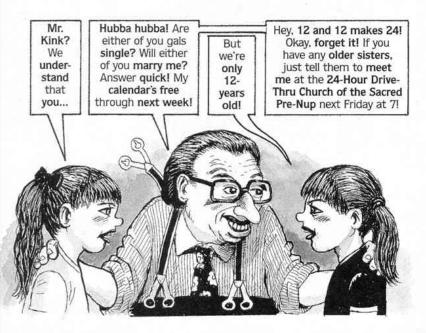


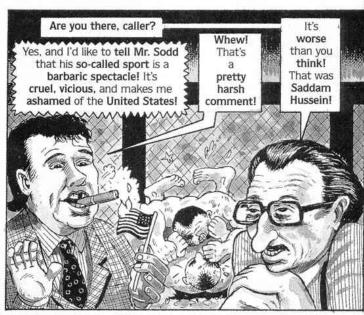


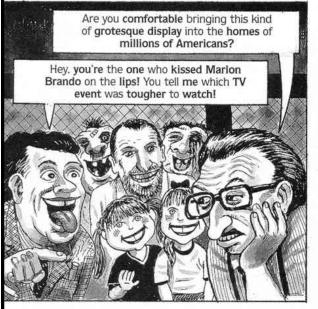
Wow! I
bet you
consider
car
rental
agreements
light
"bathroom
reading"!

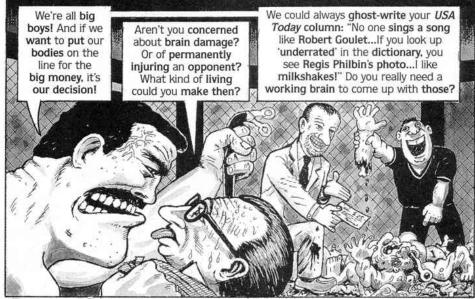


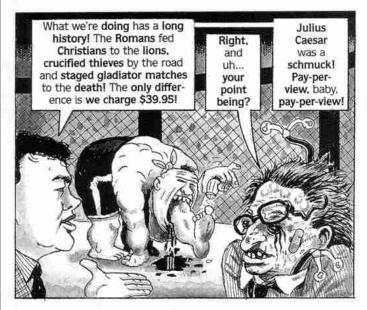








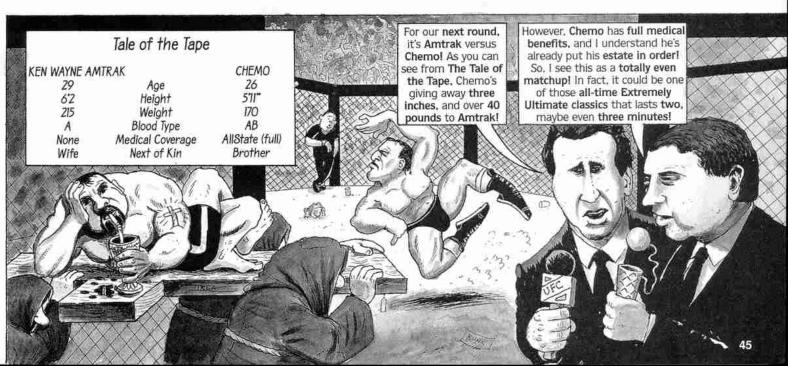




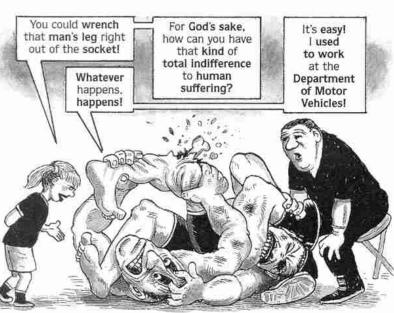




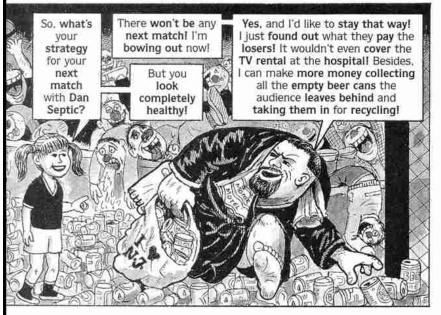




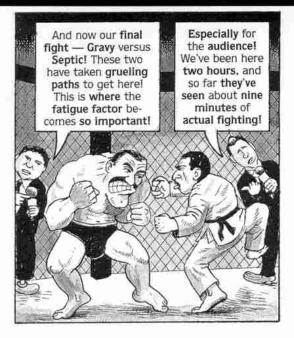


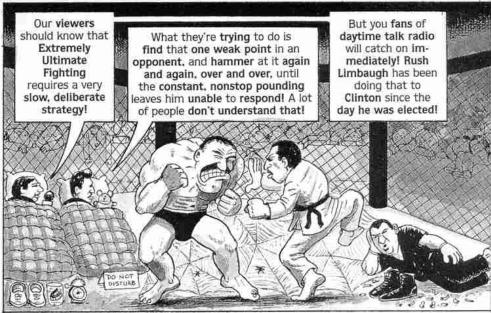




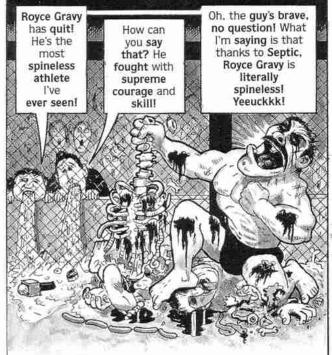


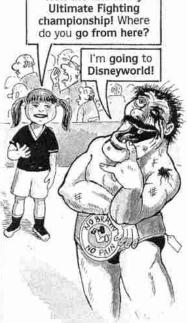






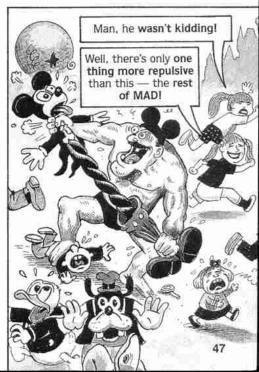






Dan Septic, you've just

won the Extremely

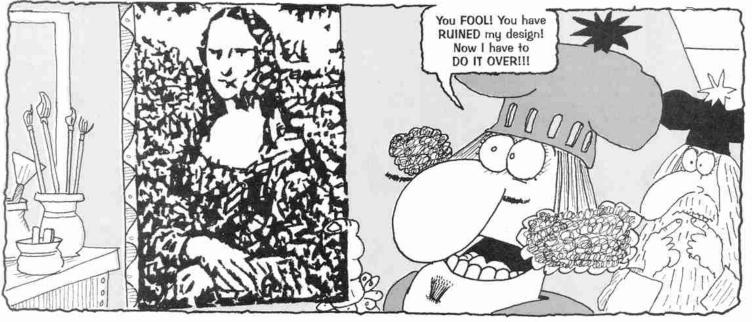


THE RIDICULOUS RENAISSANCE REVELATION









WHAT CRIME **AGAINST HUMANITY S THE GOVERNMENT DOING NOTHING TO PREVENT?**

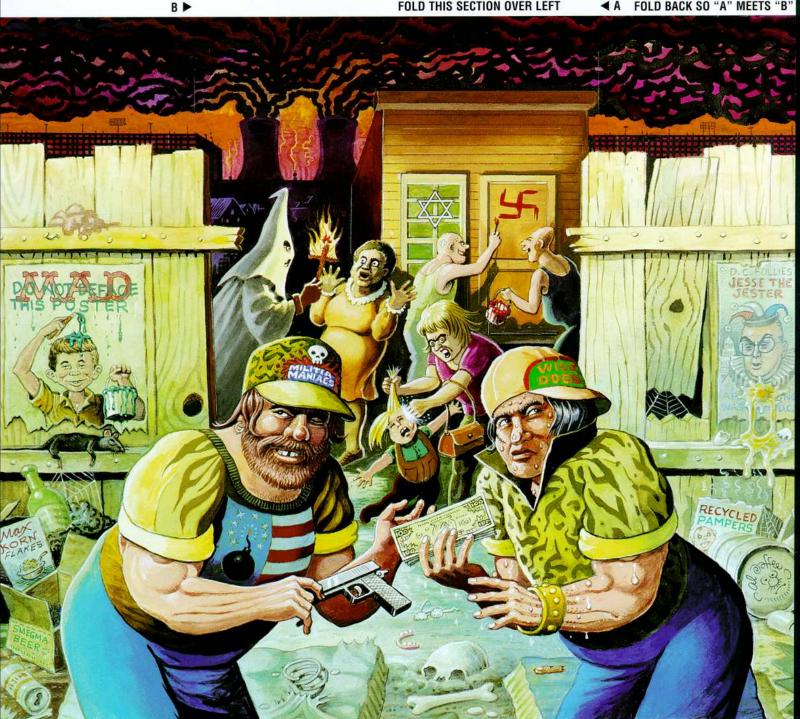
HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

Criminal activity abounds in the world and much of it is taking place right under our noses. Whether it be terrorist acts, racial crimes or drug trafficking, governments usually try to do something to stop it. There is one especially heinous crime, however, that is going unpunished. To find out what this despicable activity is, fold page in as shown.



FOLD THIS SECTION OVER LEFT

◆ A FOLD BACK SO "A" MEETS "B"



ALLOWED TO SUFFER, PEOPLE ALWAYS RESENT BEING GREETED UNCARINGLY BY THEIR LEADERS. NOBODY OWNS UP TO THIS. GOVERNMENT ALWAYS PREFERS TO MOVE SLOWLY WHILE ALL KINDS OF TERRIBLE REPORTS TELL OF SHATTERED LIVES AND BROKEN DREAMS

