

50 YEARS OF STUPIDITY





JULY 2002

NUMBER 419

LETTERS AND TOMATOES DEPARTMENT:

MAD'S SPECTACULAR 14-PAGE

SECTION BEGINS ON PAGE 7 WITH A SNAPPY TUNE WE LIKE TO CALL

THE JEDI BUNCH!



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by Sergio Aragones Around the Magazine



For many bosses, "affirmative action" means hiring more ves men!



ALFRED AND QUEEN AMIDALA COVER ARTIST: ROBERTO PARADA

ALFRED, MACE WINDU AND **OBI WAN KENOBI COVER ARTIST:** MARK STUTZMAN



GREETINGS FROM VENEZUELA

I'm writing just to use you as a channel to tell my loved father that I love him. He has been reading MAD Magazine since 1966, when he got married and had his first son. Vicente Lecuna is the most wonderful father and I wanted to tell him this through your magazine because I'm sure he will get it before The New England Journal of Medicine.

Lucia Lecuna, Caracas, Venezuela

Lucky Lecuna — Subscribing since 1966? We love Vicente Lecuna too! Though we must question exactly what kind of father he was if his offspring choose the pages of our magazine to tell him how much they love him. Whatever happened to the notion of a basket of fruit, a Whitman Sampler or even a nice Hallmark card? Hmmm, as we say in español - tu es el cheapo! -Ed.

POOR JEFFIE WANTS TLC

When are you guys going to do a parody of TLC's Trading Spaces? I am a 20-year-old male and I love the show. I am completely straight. Please don't make fun of me.

Jeff H., Mesa, AZ

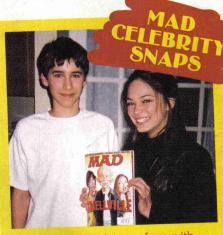
Jeffie — We'll make a deal with you. We'll make fun of Trading Spaces when you stop kidding yourself. You follow? -Ed.

ENDURING LAUGHTER

My name is Captain Eric J. Moore. I am currently with Alpha Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment as the maintenance officer. We "Pachyderms" are providing Chinook support to the 101st Airborne and to just about everyone else here in Afghanistan as well. I am writing to let you know that MAD has found its way into Afghanistan with many a soldier, be it hand carried or sent by care package. Subscribers such as myself won't let a war stop MAD magazine. I was wondering if you could do us a favor. Could the gang or Alfred E. Neuman send some sort of gesture of support to us Pachyderms? Our maintenance crews on flight platoons are working harder than ever to guarantee mission success and would in turn like to send a thank you to MAD for being there at the end of the day for a smile. We'll be patiently waiting in Qandahar enjoying the blowing dust, when we're not working of course!

Eric J. Moore, Afghanistan

Eric — On its way to you at 1600 hours today is a MAD goody bag for you and your fellow servicemen. In the meantime, readers, if you know someone serving in the armed services, why not brighten up these brave men and women's day by buying them a subscription to MAD? If you are too cheap, the least you can do is drop us a letter of support for our troops and we will forward it to Capt. Eric J. Moore. Send your letters to Amy "Operation Enduring Laughter" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. We promise to print a few of the best ones in an upcoming issue, too! -Ed.



Enclosed is a picture of me with Kristen Kreuk, who plays Lana Lang on Smallville and is featured on the cover of the March, 2002 issue of MAD. Kristen, my sister's friend, agreed to pose with me for this photograph. Please consider me for a free three-year subscription to MAD.

Adam Gilgoff British Columbia, Canada

Goff Ball — Consider it a yes! Your threeyear subscription is on its way! As for Kristen Kreuk, watch for more of her in MAD next month. Oh my, oh my! -Ed.

THE SCHMUCK OF THE IRISH

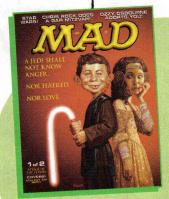
I'm Irish and have been reading your magazine for about 21/2 years and have a subscription, but when I read "Monroe and...Thanksgiving"(issue #412) I was shocked to see how much you insulted the Irish and our way of life which you know nothing about, because the girl was speaking in a Scottish accent. P.S. If I can't have a free subscription at least print my letter.

Chris Caffey, Dublin, Ireland

Daffy Caffey — A free subscription? You must be piss-eyed drunk! Did you write this letter from the local pub? Thanks for writing and may the wind always be at your back! —Ed.

Ozzy Osbourne article on page 31 comes this Cemetery Snap of former Ozzy guitarist Randy Rhoads' grave sent in by Carmen Robles of Redlands, CA. As you joyriding in crashed into Ozzy's tour bus and rented mansion (true story!) Some viewers of MTV's The Osbournes have wondered if Ozzy has been dead from the neck up since 1982! Keep riding that crazy train, Carmen, and enjoy your one-year subscription!







ATTACK OF THE CLONES COVERS

For those of you who don't pay attention to the copy on the front of the issue, this is our big Star Wars Jedi Bunch issue, which has not one, but two collector's covers! Two issues means twice the fun for you and twice the profits for us! So make sure you purchase both of them before you go to sleep tonight!

HELIX, THE CHAT

In issue #416, you published a letter sent in by Jim Dewey who tried to be cool and point out one of your mistakes in issue #413. He said that Watson and Crick, who were working on the Human Genome Project, sent the measurements for a strand of DNA to a "machinist" who figured out that it was a double helix. This story is completely bogus and I'll tell you the real story. James Watson and Francis Crick were not the only ones working on the Human Genome Project. Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin were colleagues of theirs and it was actually Franklin who took the first X-ray of DNA. She was unaware that the picture she took was actually a double helix, but Watson happened to notice it. Franklin did not receive any recognition because she died before the Nobel Prize was given to Watson, Crick and Wilkins. I hope Jimbo is reading this so that he can learn something and give credit where credit is really due.

Mike Faris, Scranton, PA

Mikey — you can talk all about James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin, but in our book, when you're talking helix, only one name comes to mind...Gold medalist figure skater Sarah Hughes and her astounding triple Helix/triple Lutz combination! Don't get us started about the Salchow! —Ed.

BEATING AROUND THE GEORGE W. BUSH

Well, first it was advertising and color. Yuck. Now it's my Land's End catalog. Alfred E. Neuman is on the cover of their current catalog. You guys are totally selling out. I am afraid to look at my next Enron stockholders report for fear of finding Mr. Neuman attired in a Brooks Brothers blue suit and extolling us on the virtues of investments. What's next, President Bush becoming one of the Usual Gang of Idiots at MAD?

Jeff Idelson, Walnut Creek, CA

Jeffie — What? President Bush joining the Usual Gang of Idiots? That'll happen when Hell freezes over — even we have standards! On a related note, our Human Resources department reports that they have received feelers from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's people! —Ed.



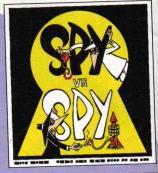


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MAD welcomes reader submissions.
Manuscripts will not be returned or
acknowledged, however, unless they
are accompanied by a self-addressed,
stamped envelope! MAD doesn't
read faxed submissions!

SPY VS. SPY

Spy Vs. Spy is the title of a new syndicated comic strip appearing in Sunday newspapers all over the country! Distributed by Tribune Media Services, the strip features all-new diabolical adventures written by long-time MAD contributor Duck Edwing and illustrated in the classic Antonio Prohias style by Dave Manak! Among the charter newspapers featuring the strip are the Los Angeles Times, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Denver Post and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Want to see Spy Vs. Spy in your local newspaper? Contact the features editor at your newspaper today! In the meantime, here's a look at the first installment:





ENTER TO WIN THE ULTIMATE PRIZE, FROM SOBE

Just log on to www.sobebev.com & enter the MAD/SoBe sweepstakes.

Please see the sweepstakes ad on pg 26



Official rules and regulations:

strued and evaluated according to United States Law You are not eligible to enter or win this sweepstakes if you are not a legal U.S. resident who is located in the United States at the time of entry, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER: There are tweether the time of entry, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER: There are tweether than the United States at the time of entry, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER: There are tweether than the United States at the time of entry, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER: There are tweether than the United States at the United Stat

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Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854







MAY THE HORSE BE WITH YOU

As MAD subscribers know, every issue comes in a protective white wrapper (you know, sort of like the things they sanitize toilets in b-level hotels with)! A few months ago, on the wrapper protecting #416, we did a silly little gag about finding a horse in the issue (see photo). Lo and behold, here are some of the letters we received as a result:

I think I found your horse. I'm not really sure if this is the right one, I think it's on the bottom of page eight. Though I'm not sure because there are also horses on pages 40 and 41.

David Aase, Northfield, MN

I have seen horses as beasts of burden and agriculture. I have seen horses as transportation for the poor and playthings for the rich. I have seen horses (and various parts of horses) as symbols of almost everything imaginable. But now you've taken leave of your horse sense and taken a giant step to the rear using horses as a come-on in a senseless search for a winless contest.

Walt Bittle, Citrus Heights, CA



On the black and white cover of issue #416 it says, "find the horse in this issue and win!" Was that talking about the tiny horse in the margin of page eight? If so, what do I win?

Kelly McKean, Baldwin, NY

Now dear readers, here's a little challenge for you - find the three horses' asses on this page! —Ed.

MONTESP and... THE FAN CLI

As many of you remember from MAD #416's Letter and Tomatoes Dept, Ken McClelland of Reston, VA wrote in complaining about Monroe, at which point we immediately made him President of the Monroe Fan Club. As we expected, mail came pouring in from readers who wanted to join the official fan club and some who didn't! Here's a sampling of what some of those readers said about Monroe and President McClelland:

Allow me to be the first member of your Monroe Fan Club. He is funny and we have lot in common.

Andy Anderson, Lakeland, FL

Dear Ken — I completely agree with you. Monroe deserves to be deleted from the pages of MAD. Do not let the editors push you around and do not accept their nomination as fan club president. Instead, become the President of the Get Rid of Monroe Club.

Darryl Gonzalez, Severn, MD

I will drink Ken McClelland's nose snot if you agree to remove the article "Monroe" from the pages of your otherwise very fine publication.

Rebecca Adamson, Sammamish, WA

I would very much like to join the Monroe Fan Club. I would be very happy if I could become a member.

Taylor Rothbell, Montpelier, VT

Put me in the Monroe Fan Club please. Chris Penner, Manitoba, Canada

It displeased me to see that in the April issue, MAD #416, that your Monroe hate letter was printed. I respect and recognize your opinion, but I must challenge your insight with this simple question: What the heck is wrong with you? Are you crazy or something? Put Monroe in the back? How dare you suggest such a thing. Even after your criminal act, MAD was kind enough to ignore your request and even make you President of the Official Monroe Fan Club. How did you get to be so damn lucky? Anyway, now that you are the President and all, I guess I have to forgive you for your crime against humanity. No hard feelings. Oh, and while you are at it, add me to the fan club list.

Nick David, Seattle, WA

If it is any consolation, I think you are doing a great job as President. And to add legitimacy to your term as our leader, we can cite the record of the President of our nation, the honorable Bush; who was chosen not by his constituents, but by a bunch of idiots. Here is to a long and prosperous reign.

Craig Kysar, Sherman Oaks, CA



William M. Gaines founder

Jenette Kahn president & editor-in-chief

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Contributing Artists And Writers

the usual gang of idiots

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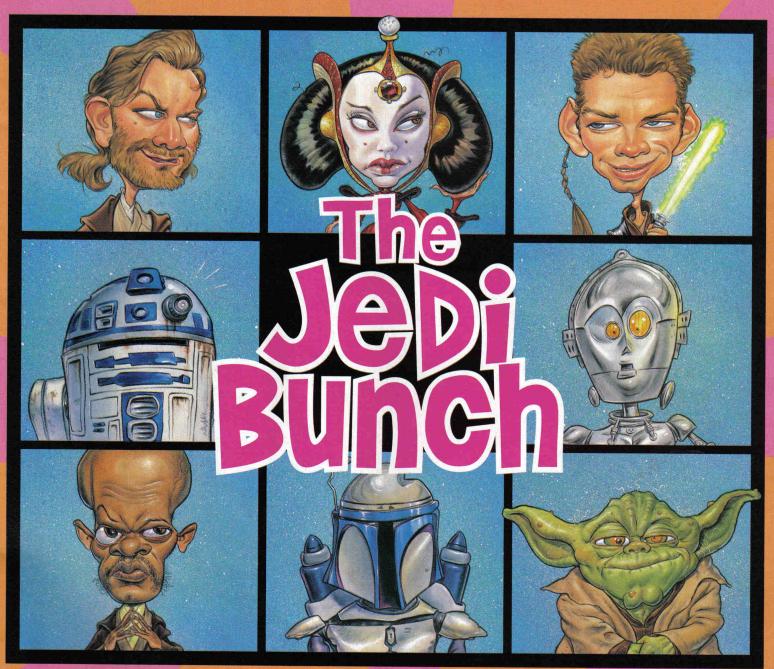
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Call us crazy, but it seems that the characters in Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones are beginning to remind us of television's most popular family — no, not the Osbournes, Ewok head, the Bradys! There's the handsome Greg Brady type who's always getting into trouble (Anakin), the pretty Marcia Brady type who's always changing her outfits (Padmé), the well-meaning but kind of dull dad Mike Brady type (Obi Wan), and even the funny-looking, wrinkly Alice the maid type (Yoda)! So we decided to kick off this special section of six Star Wars articles with a theme song borrowed (well, okay, stolen) from that other bunch! Sing along as we introduce...



(SUNG TO THE TUNE OF...GOOD LORD, DO WE REALLY HAVE TO TELL YOU?)

Here's the story,
Of a sexy girl queen,
Living in a galaxy
far, far away
When she was almost
Killed by rival forces
She Knew she
couldn't stay

Here's the story,
Of a young Skywalker
Who was learn-ing The
Force both night and day
Taught by three Knights,
playing with Light Sabers
It all seemed Kind of gay

Then the people and their robots and the muppet Got together and decided over brunch
That this group, must somehow fight the Dark Side That's the way they all became the Jedi Bunch,

The Jedi Bunch (You'll lose your lunch!)
That's the way they became
the Jedi Bunch!

SPECIAL STARWARD ATTACK OF THE CLOWNS SECTION

Presents... MISSING DIALOGUE from EPISODE III: ATTACK OF THE CLONES



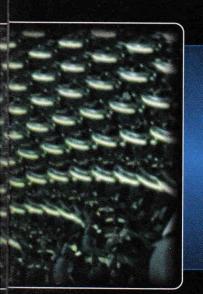


WRITER: GREG LEITMAN



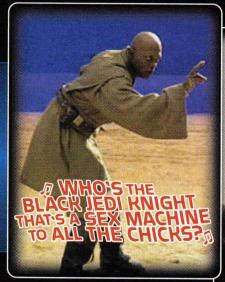


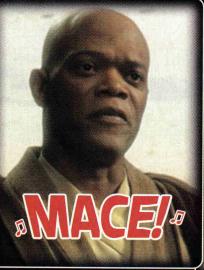


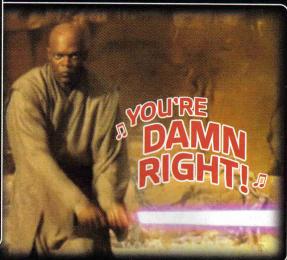






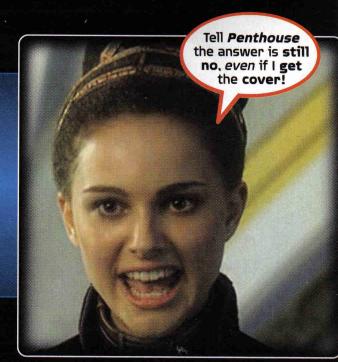














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item view

Attack of the Clones — AMAZING LOT— Script, Props + MORE!!!!!!!! Item # 1237645669

Film:Science Fiction:Star Wars:AOTC:Memorabilia:Worthless Crap

Currently \$1,573.56

Quantity

Skywalker Ranch Location

First bid

\$100.00

of bids 34 bid history

Country/Region USA/Marin County

Seller (Rating) Shady Lucasfilm Warehouse Employee (2)

view lame Star Wars quotes and references left by other fanatical losers in seller's Feedback Profile | view seller's other contraband | use Jedi Mind Trick to convince seller

to end auction early and sell item to you for pennies on the dollar

The Spiel

ead the

Description

High Bid

Payment

Obsessing*On*Kenobi (37) Money Order/Cashiers Checks. Personal Checks. Spice. New Republic Credits.

Will Not Accept Imperial Credits. Barter Okay.

Shipping

Buyer pays fixed shipping charges. Seller ships to United States, Canada, England, Tattooine, Naboo, Endor, and Alderaan. Shipping to smaller moons okay; contact seller with coordinates.

Extra charge for overnight or hyperdrive shipping. Smuggler's insurance optional.

Ruin the Good Name Of ... (the seller) (the sucker)

Miscellaneous

Must have a feedback rating of at least 25 to bid. Will not accept bids from: those with more than 5 negative feedback comments, bidders who have changed user names within last 30 days, or Jawas.

Mmm! Assumes all responsibility for listing item, seller does. Mmph! Contact seller to resolve questions before bidding, you should. Ask....or ask not. There is no refund.

Description

Here's an out-of-this-world lot of original Star Wars: Attack of the Clones ephemera Anakin Skywalker would give his right hand for! Props and other such materials used in the production of Star Wars films are rarely made available to the public (at least legally), so that's all the more reason to bid now and bid high and hope you win, pay, and can take possession of these items before a power even greater than the Force steps in and shuts this auction down—the Lucasfilm Legal Department! Lot includes:

- A fascinating shooting script of the new film featuring many scenes ultimately deleted from the final version and therefore conveniently not subject to any sort of verification. Script pages are littered with indecipherable scribbled notes and doodles in the margins, unattached to one another, and in complete random order in an effort to best emulate the particularly over-complicated, disjointed, confusing feel of this latest entry in the Star Wars canon of feature films.
- •One full quart (32 ounces) of Kenny Baker's sweat collected from the bottom of R2-D2 after a day of shooting in Tunisia.
- ·Sixty-eight pounds of prop Bantha dung made from a mixture of elephant manure and lasagna noodles seen (blurred) in a quick pan of the Tusken Raider village during Sc. 322-A.
- •RARE! An INCREDIBLE FULL SET of Clone Trading Cards. Each card in this pre-production run features a close-up color photo of every clone that appears in Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones! The manufacturer later cancelled production when research showed that there was little interest, even in the most obsessed, die-hard Star Wars fans, of collecting 10,000 identical trading cards.

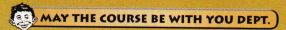
All items to be shipped securely in cushioning materials composed of shredded first draft copies of the script that featured Jar Jar Binks in a more substantial role.





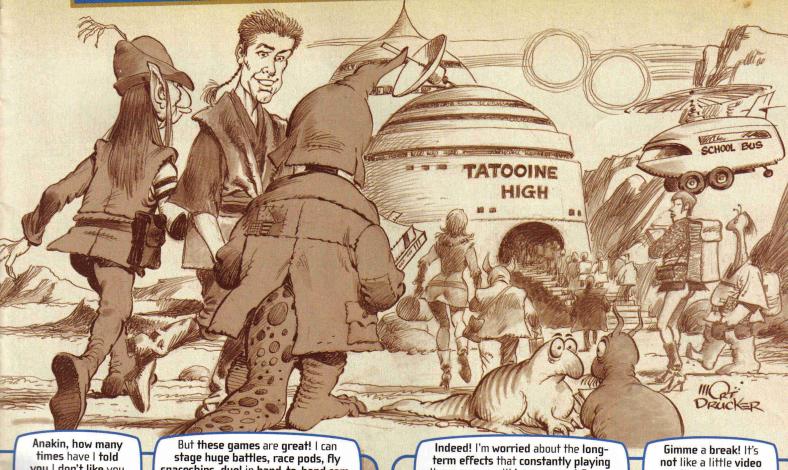
ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER

WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO



When Star Wars Episode I concluded, Anakin Skywalker was a precocious nine-year-old boy. When we meet him again in Episode II, he's already 19! It seems that George Lucas would just like to zip right past what, if he's anything like us, are the most difficult and awkward years in Anakin's life. The years when he's no longer a boy, yet not quite a man. The years of inner turmoil, confusion and, not to mention, (GAK!) puberty. Yeah, Lucas may have skipped over them, but WE won't! Join us as we pay a visit to...

THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS



you I don't like you wasting the entire day playing video games!

spaceships, duel in hand-to-hand combat, even kill innocent people senselessly, without any consequences!



ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

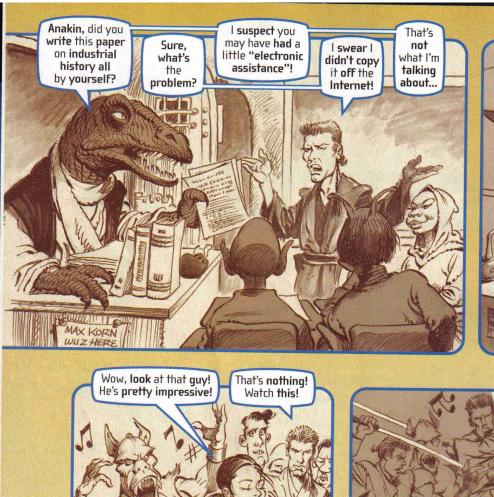
these games will have on you! Games like these can foster all kinds of dangerously violent, antisocial tendencies!

game's gonna make me want to murder an entire planet or something!

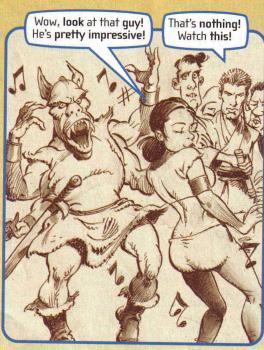


WRITER: KENNY RYFRIY

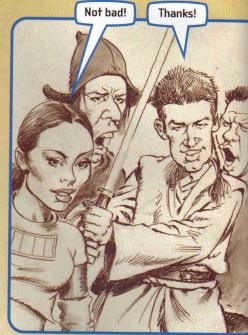
SPECIAL - JUTAIRA WARAS ATTACK OF THE THE CLOWNS SECTION

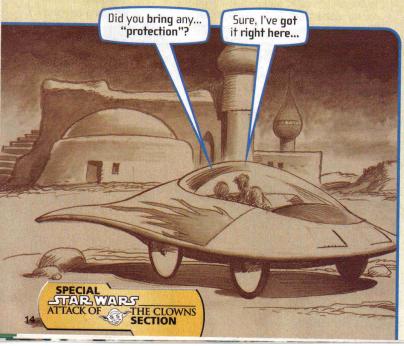


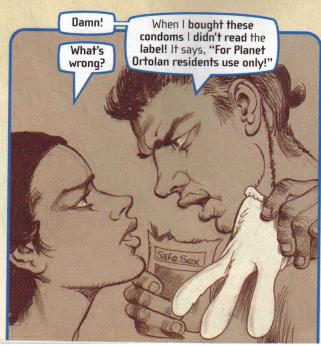


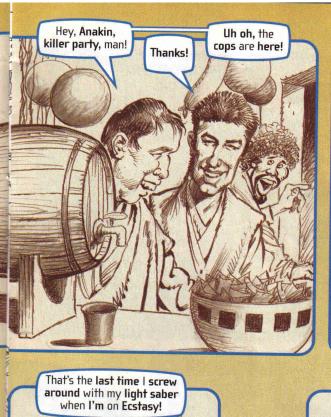


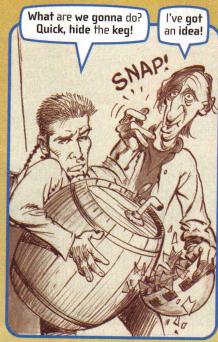










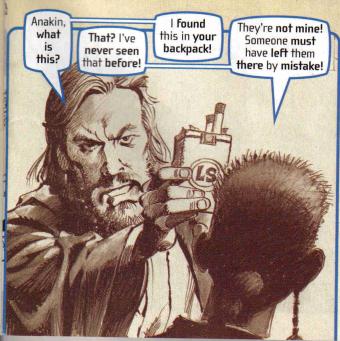


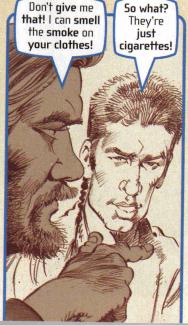






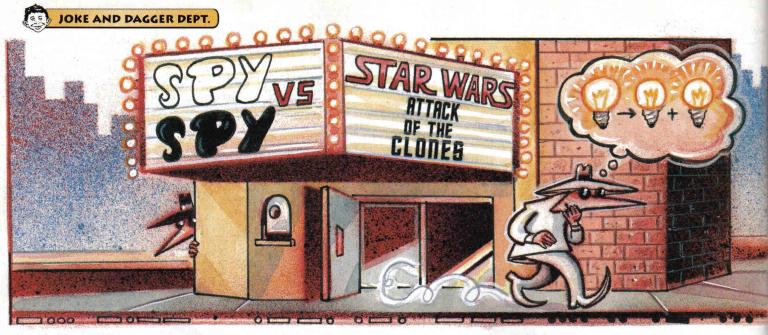








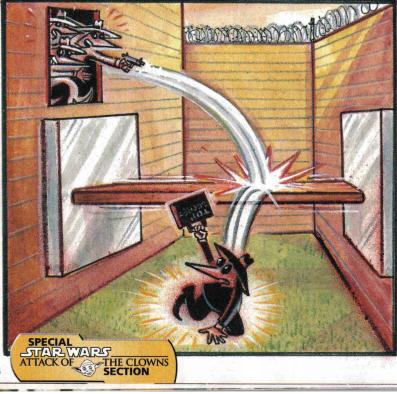


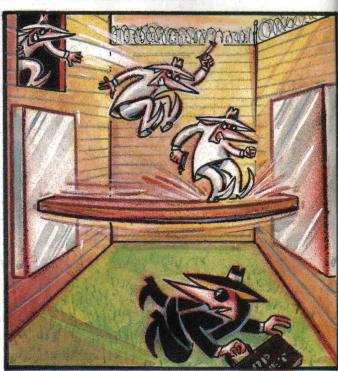












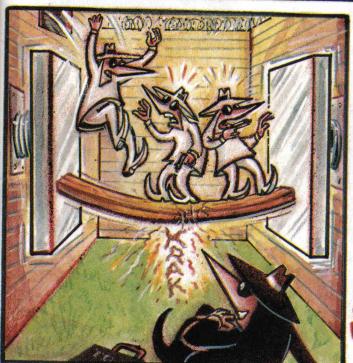


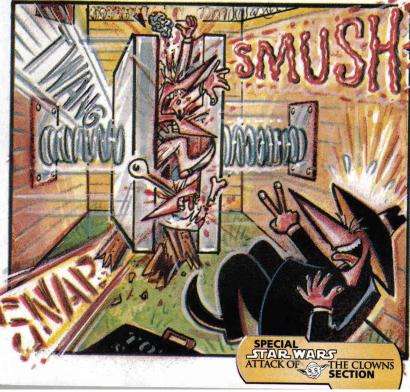












IDEA: JONATHAN BRESMAN



WHO'S IN THE CROWD IN

Howard the Duck

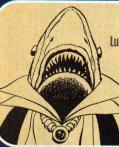
A bitter Lucas still harbors fantasies of turning this ill-conceived character into a Saturday morning cartoon.



Surprisingly, Ebert chose this bit part in the movie over a dozen Krispy Kreme donuts in exchange for a "thumbs up" review.







Jaws

Lucas is paying off a Super Bowl bet to his buddy Speilberg by including the famous Great White in this scene.

The corpse of Alec Guinness Hey, who cares if he's dead. In Hollywood, a contract is a contract.

PARTY.

TAPA



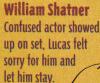
Marlon Brando

Agreed to appear for free because he liked the artistic challenge of playing Jabba the Hutt's senator twin brother.



Anthony (George Lucas' Gardener)

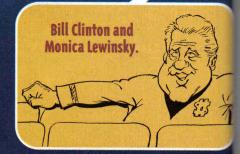
For this, George gets 20% off next year's "edging and mowing" bill.





ME M, Ronald McDonald Visiting senators from Planet Product-Placement





Halle Berry

There to make sure "the door" doesn't close again on women of color, even if that color is green, blue or lavender.



Carrot Top

Lucas hired him because he looks like a space alien without the need for makeup.

Ted Koppel

Exploring a movie career now that it's all but certain he'll soon be out on his ass at ABC



WRITERS: DAN LEVINE AND

Millionaire **Dennis Tito**

Last year he paid his way onto the International Space Station, Now, a few million to Lucas buys him this.



The View's Star Jones

Making a guest cameo as Jabba the Hutt's senator twin sister.



Katherine Harris

Lucas wrote her in to give credibility to the film's "Imperial election was fixed" subplot.



Celine Dion

Admitted by

Senate security who mistakenly mistook her for lar lar Binks.



Ron Popeil There to peddle his GL7 spray-on

hair, thinks it will be huge with balding Wookiees.

Attorney General John Ashcroft His penchant for profiling aliens has really

gotten out of control.



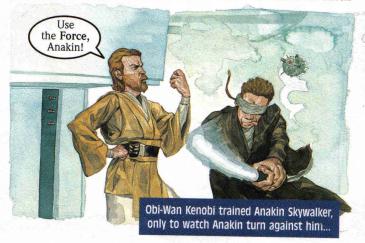
SPECIAL

STAIR WARE

ATTACK OF THE CLOWNS

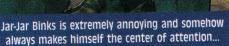
SECTION

There's a famous saying that goes something like, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Well, we couldn't help but notice that a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, a lot of things happened that are awfully similar to what's going on now in the "war on terror." Okay, we'll admit that the Star Wars series is actually fictional, but still — some of the parallels are more frightening than Jake Lloyd's performance as Anakin in The Phantom Menace! Don't believe us? Then check out these...

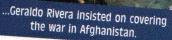






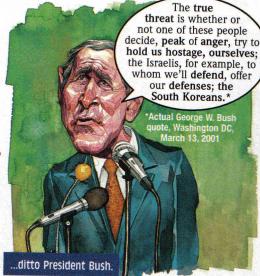














Star Wars characters include several freakishlooking villains like Greedo and Jabba the Hutt..



NG SIMILARITES

THE WARD ON WARD THE WARD ON THE WARD OF T

We are not



... President Bush is advised by Attorney General John Ashcroft, who many believe is brain dead.



Mace Windu is a minority on the Jedi Council, Wielding no real power but trying in vain to negotiate peaceful resolutions to the galaxy's bitter conflicts...



...Colin Powell functions in pretty much the same way for the Bush Administration.





When he's in trouble, Chewbacca pounds on his chest and howls at his opposition...



...When asked tough questions during press conferences, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld behaves in a similar manner.





When you wish upon a star, nightmares can't be very far. At least when you're

MONT25P and.



DISN LEMME SEE.



HERE WE GO!

PAP, YOU CAN'T JUST CHOOSE LETTERS OUT OF THE PILE!

QUIET! I'M WORKING SOMETHING OUT WITH YOUR MOTHER!

WHOA, WE WON A FAMILY TRIP TO

FROM MILTO BRADLEY! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

I KNEW HIM WHEN WE WAS KIDS, ALWAYS A PAIN IN THE ASS WITH HIS DAMN RULES, I DON'T NEED HIS HANDOUTS!



NONSENSE. THIS IS A CHANCE to get together as a family and enjoy the open road!

SOLD THE PLANE TICKETS, DIDN'T

NOW GET IN THE CAR,

BOY ..

TILL LATER ... YOUR ASS.

MONSTERS, INC.
TOYS, SNOW WHITE FIGURINES ATLANTIS SNORKELS. LOOK AT
THIS PLACE! THERE'S DISNEY CRAP EVERYWHERE!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO STOP AT MCDONALDS!



YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY **QUIET** BACK THERE, BOY. YOU'RE NOT MESSING WITH THE NO-NO ZONE AGAIN, ARE YA?

NO! I'M READING A BOOK I GOT ABOUT DIGNEY WORLD. "TEAM RODENT" BY CARL HIAAGEN

GREAT.

OKAY, "DIGNEY IG SO GOOD AT BEING GOOD THAT IT MANIFEST AN EVIL AND IS THEREFORE AN AGENT OF PURE WICKEDNESS."

PETER

PURE WICKEDNESS, EH? SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

DISNET

I REMEMBER
AFTER WORLD
WAR II DIGNEY
EMPLOYEES TRIED
TO GO UNION, I
GOT HIRED TO BUST
SOME COMMIE
CARTOONISTS'
HEADS...THOSE
WERE GOOD TIMES!

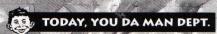












ately, Bar Mitzvahs have become big business! Families are shelling out millions of shekels for entertainment and hiring bigger and bigger stars to play the Bar Mitzvah circuit. In recent years, comedian Jackie Mason has performed at Bar Mitzvahs (go figure), but so has the rap group D12, the rock band Cake, and even the almighty 'N Sync! Which makes us wonder...

WHAT IF CHRIS ROCK PERFORMED AT A

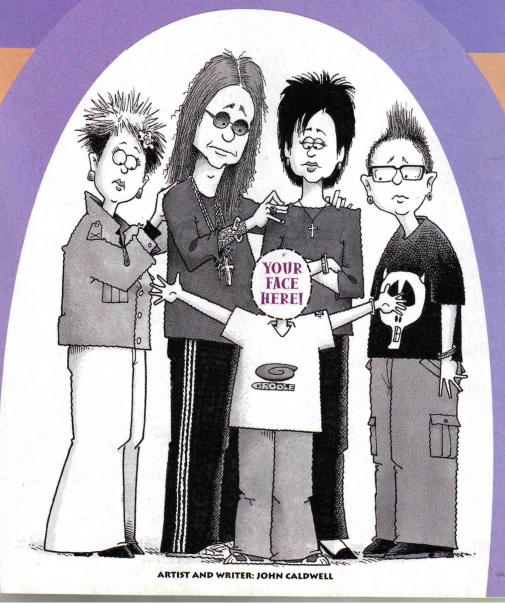






Move over Homer Simpson, there's a new dysfunctional TV patriarch in town! And by the look of the ratings, he's biting the heads off the competition! Unlike Springfield's favorite D'oh! boy, this guy is real. Maybe too real! So if you've spent any time at all watching The Osbournes on MTV, it must have occurred to you to ask the heavy metal musical question...

How Coo Would it be to be a Member of OZZY - Osbourne's Ramily?

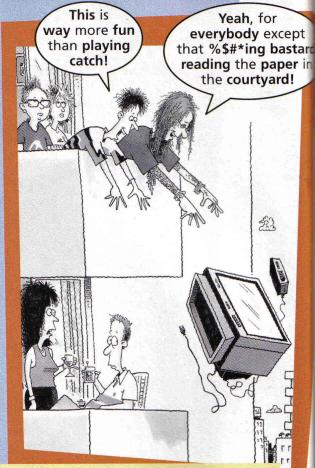


How Cool Would it be to be a Member of Ozzy Osbourne's Family?





When you misbehave, you'd always be admonished with the same threat.



You'd experience the father/son bonding that only comes from tossing a big screen TV off a high-rise hotel balcony.



Bringing Pops to school would always add up to extra credit, be it Career Day, Show and Tell, or a D.A.R.E. lecture.



The reaction to Daddy having helped you with your %\$#*ing homework would be %\$#*ing priceless.

Nathan Hale said, "My one %\$#*ing regret is that I have but one %\$#*ing life to give for my %\$#*ing country"?

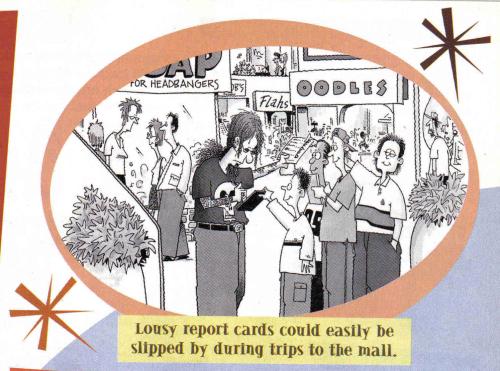
No, the Ozzfest
knickers are quite pretty!
But I need HEADED FOR
HELL to be larger and in a
more girly typeface
on the crotch!



You'd marvel at Mom's ability to juggle her domestic chores with helping out in the family business.

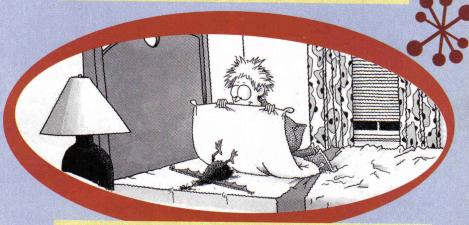


Picking your parents out in the audience at your dance recitals would be a snap.



Nothing is too good for the man who inspired me to get into show business!

As long as you're with the old man, your money would be no good on carnival rides.



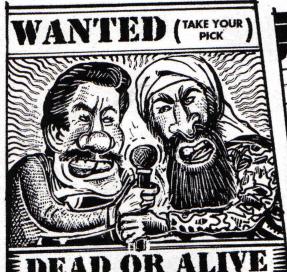
You'd have unique childhood memories, like checking to see if the Tooth Demon came.

100

Immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, news pundits and politicians told us two things:

1) We'll never be the same again, and 2) Let's get back to normal. Let's get back to normal? Are they kidding? We were never normal to begin with. And besides, how are we supposed to get back to normal when "we'll never be the same again"? This kind of idiotic advice from so-called experts and leaders might be the only thing that hasn't changed since that fateful day. Otherwise, here are examples of...

HOW EVERYTHING CHANGED AFTER TING NTTOCKS



Osama bin Laden solidifies his standing as the most hated man in Afghanistan — at least until Geraldo arrives, and then it becomes a toss-up.



Pictures of Osama bin Laden replace Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush on gag toilet paper.



For the first time ever, sales of American flags surpass those of porn in the U.S.



The nation's airlines become 50% more secure, but only because there are 70% less passengers.



Americans sigh a breath of relief every time an airplane or train crash is blamed on the usual mechanical failure or worker incompetence.



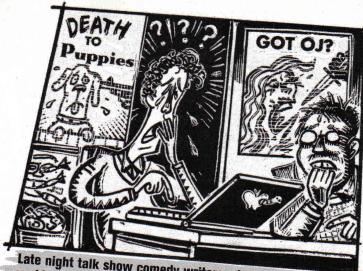
Across the nation, a sudden, chilling realization dawns on most Americans that George W. Bush might actually be more than a one-term President.



Firemen finally get the long overdue respect and admiration usually accorded only to athletes, rock stars and Mafia dons...just not the same salaries.



Beefed-up security in the Capitol means Congressional pages, interns and secretaries are "frisked" by people other than the Congressmen.



Late night talk show comedy writers who didn't have any problem making fun of the deaths of Jimmy Hoffa, Robert Blake's wife and O.J.'s ex-wife suddenly get a conscience.

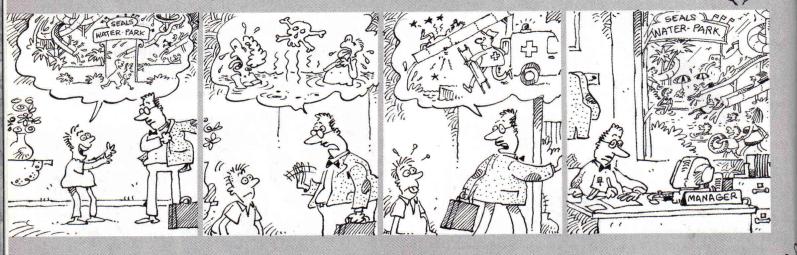


Airlines increase the salaries of their untrained security guards from six dollars an hour to seven dollars an hour, and assure travelers their safety is *now* in the hands of top professionals.



People in the Midwest still refer to New York City as a "stinking cesspool of perverts and muggers," but now it's with an endearing smile.

AMAD LOOKAT







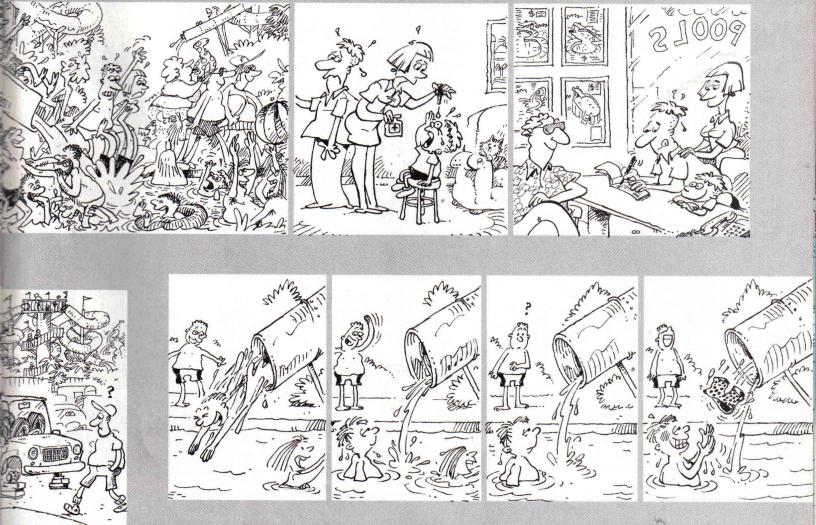


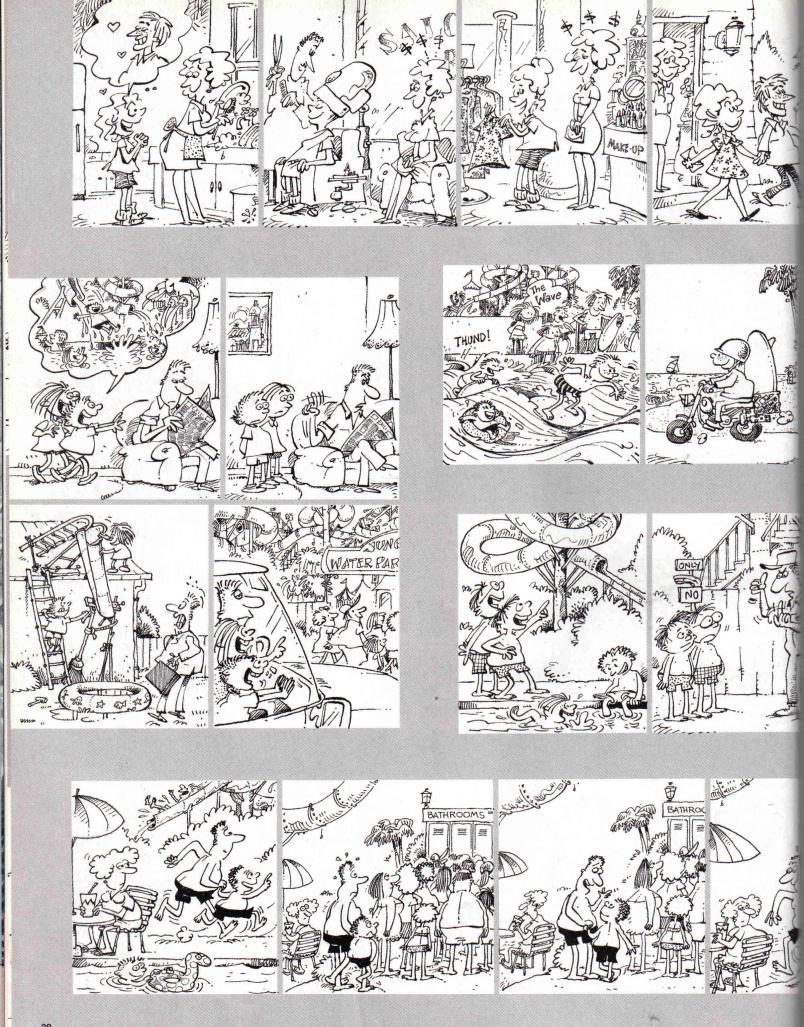


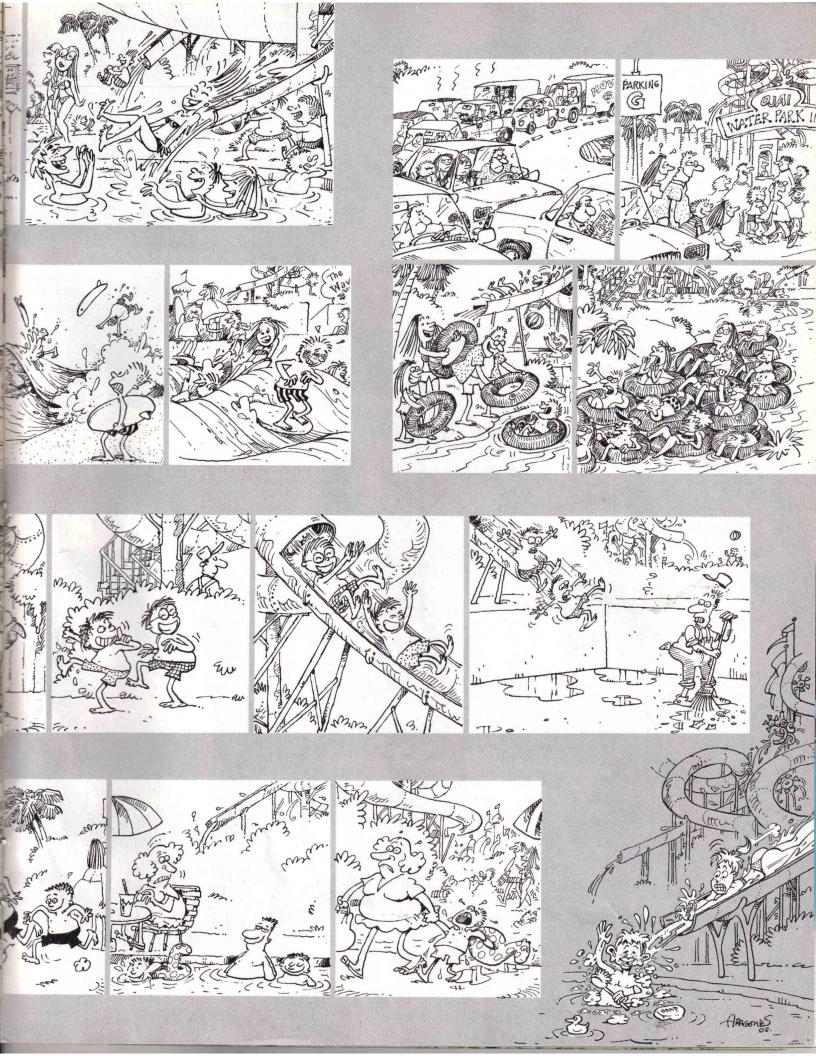


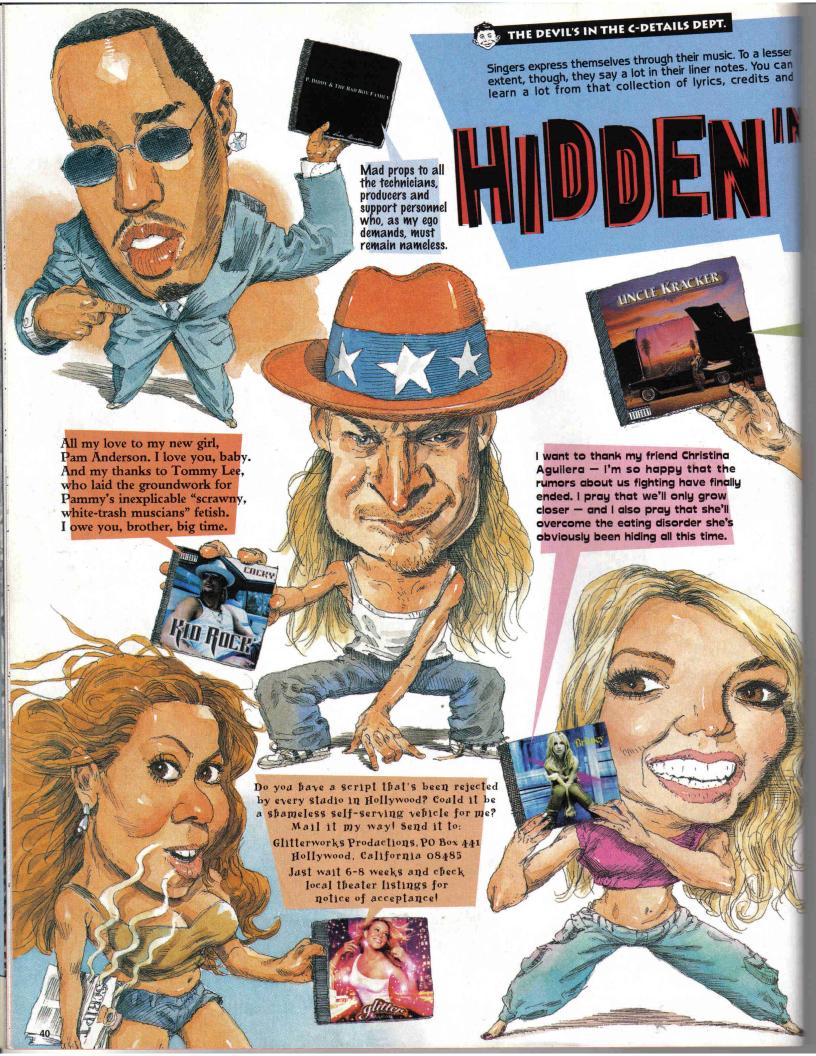


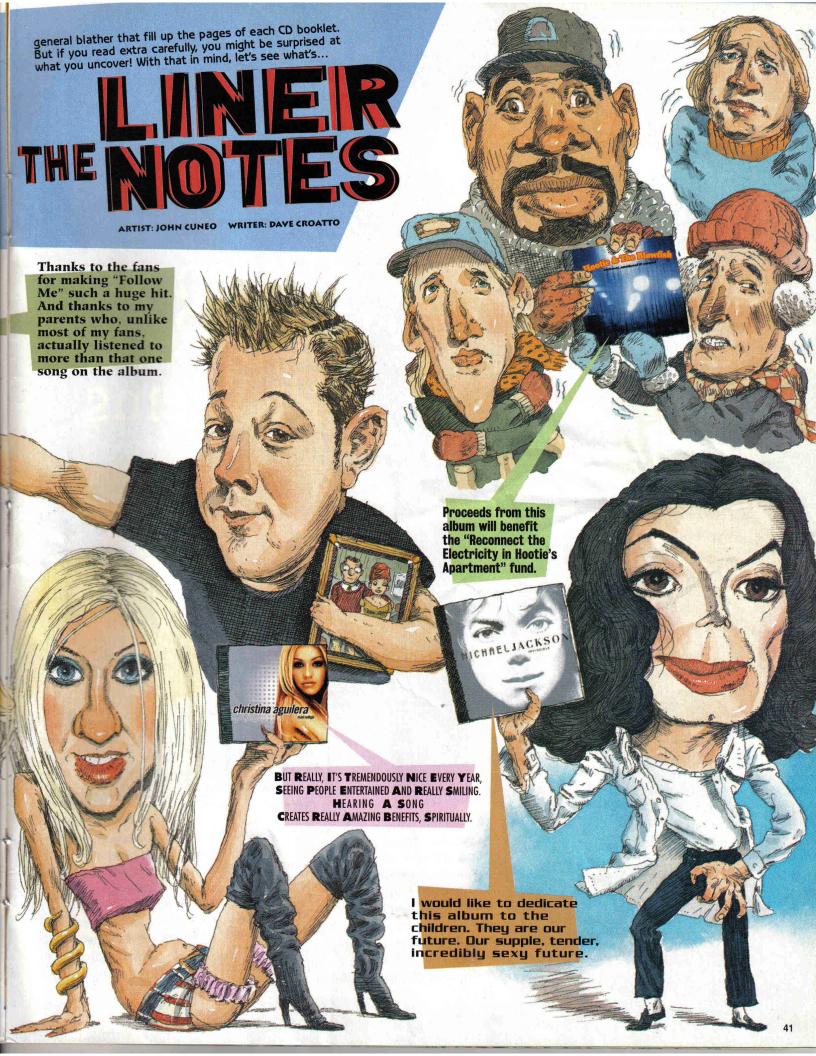
ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES













Whatever the age or condition of a house, homeowners will inevitably encounter common problems with their property things like demon possession, walls dripping blood and dry rot. (Damn that dry rot!) We invite stumped doit-yourselfers to turn off the **House and Garden** Channel and submit your questions to our expert...



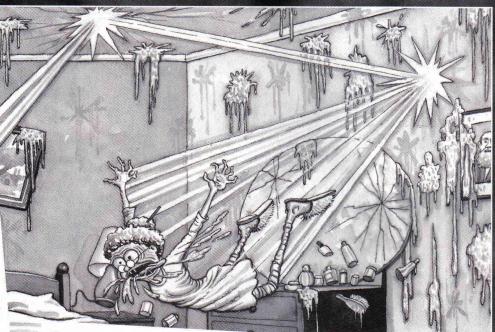
MR. FIX-II

Tackles
your Occult
and Paranormal
Home Repair
Problems

Dear Mr. Fix-It -

My wife and I are planning to paint the interior of our home. It's a simple job with only one major problem that I can foresee. We keep my grandmother, who is possessed by demons, in one of the upstairs bedrooms. The furniture and my grandmother are constantly flying all over the room, banging into the walls and making a real racket. Also, she constantly spits up all kinds of smelly snot and pus leaving an awful residue on the walls and ceiling. Is there a safe way to paint in such an environment? If so, do you think two coats will be enough? I have enclosed a picture of the smelly snot and pus.

Covered in Smelly Snot and Pus



Dear Covered in Smelly Snot and Pus —

Two coats of paint is definitely not enough. Always start with a primer, an undercoat, then two additional coats. In your case I think an oil base paint will have more durability and resist the bodily secretions and potential scuff marks from flying furniture you describe. You are wise to be concerned with safety, as should anyone tackling a home improvement project. You should wear an industrial grade hard hat that meets OSHA requirements. A good pair of ear protectors with a noise reduction rating (NRR) of at least 20 will help drown out most of the ungodly noises and racket. In this situation, you may also want to wear a large Crucifix, especially when working on a ladder.

Dear Mr. Fix-It -

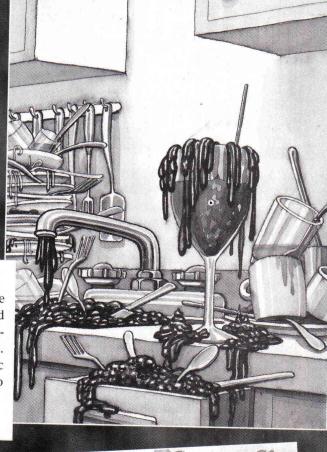
My summer house is built over an ancient Indian burial ground. I can put up with the occasional wobbling staircase, moving furniture and nightly wailing of the desecrated spirits, but recently a thick, black, foul-smelling substance has been oozing up through my drains and out of the faucets. You can imagine how hard it is to use the kitchen or bathroom. I've had to cancel several dinner parties as a result. To top it off, the local repair people are all Native Americans and refuse to help me fix the problem. Please find enclosed a snapshot of some of the sludge. I've collected it in one of our wine glasses so as not to have it appear as disgusting as it really is.

Signed, Baffled in the Country

Dear Baffled in the Country —

Yours is a common problem. Have a sample of the sludge checked to see if it is merely a backed-up septic tank or the decomposed, violated remains of once-proud indigenous peoples. If it is a septic backup, calling a professional septic tank cleaning service is your easiest solution. Come to think of it, if the sludge is Indian remains, call in the septic tank cleaning service too. That's your name on the deed and you can do with your property whatever you want.

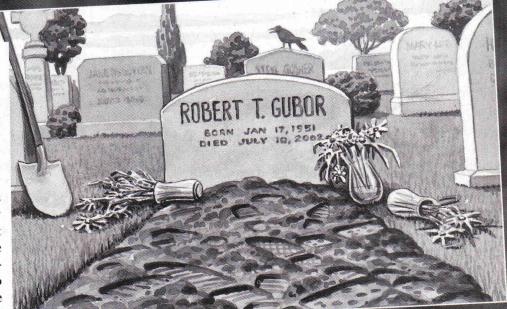
All The Best, Mr. Fix-It



Dear Mr. Fix-It -

I recently volunteered the use of my brand new home for a séance with some close friends. Halfway through the proceeding, we actually made contact with the deceased husband of one of the women there. Somehow he knew I had been boinking his wife while his body was still warm in the grave. Well, this guy went medieval all over my recently refinished hardwood floors. He left scrapes, scratches, gouges and some kind of burn marks that smell like sulfur. I don't know how he could do so much damage, since he was barely there being from the spirit world and all. You could see right through him, for Christ's sake! Anyway, the estimate for repair and refinishing was through the roof, which is where my blood pressure is quickly going. Is there a cheap and easy way I can do the job myself? I've enclosed a picture of the guy's grave just to show you he's really dead.

Signed, Fit To Be Refinished



Dear Fit To Be Refinished —

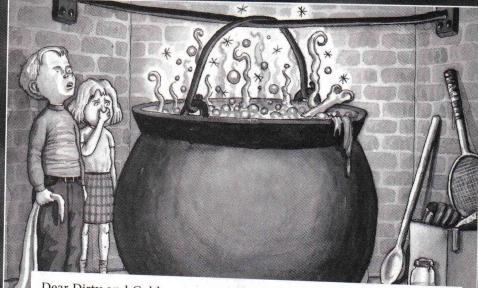
Never do things the cheap and easy way. But if you must, a sanding machine can be easily rented at any large hardware or home supply store. Sand with rough (#8), then medium (#12), then fine grit (#15) pads in that order. There should be no problems except for one: rented sanding machines are easily possessed by the spirits of irate dead husbands, or at least behave that way. Make sure whomever conducted the séance properly banished the spirit from your premises, and allow for adequate ventilation in the sanding area. If you plan on having more séances there, consider carpeting.

VR. FIX—Tackles your Occult and Paranormal Home Repair Problems

Dear Mr. Fix-It -

It was only after I had closed on my house and moved in that I discovered the hot water heater only works on the witches' sabbath. Since, I'm told, there's only a few of them a year, I fear I might have a lifetime of very few showers and dishwashing opportunities. I'm not particularly concerned about the showers, but my dishes were inherited from my mother and have great sentimental value. I just hate to see them gather so much crusty old food. Is there a way to coax the witches to come to my basement more frequently? I've enclosed a photo of the hot water heater.

Signed, Dirty and Cold



Dear Dirty and Cold —

Your photo indicates that what you have there is a good old-fashioned cauldron and not a hot water heater at all. I'm guessing you're a firsttime homeowner. These days cauldrons are hard to come by and yours looks like it's 100% cast iron. The proper care and maintenance of a cauldron is very time consuming and expensive and could be dangerous if you don't know what you're doing. I suggest you take it to Sears to their Wiccan-goods department and trade it in for a 45 gallon electric water heater — one that isn't filled with newt's eyes and bat's blood. Sears was doing that for a while until the FTC cracked down.

All The Best, Mr. Fix-It

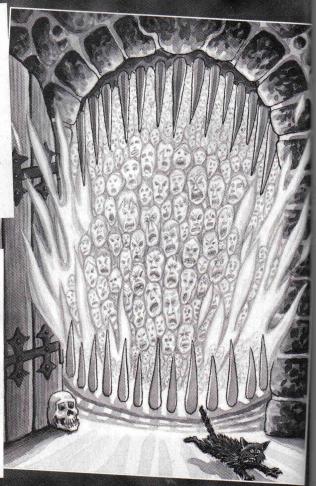
Dear Mr. Fix-It -

While repairing some water damage in the basement I found what appeared to be the doorway to Hell. At first I thought it was a door to a root cellar or something, but when I opened the thing...well, you wouldn't believe it! I came face to face with all the pain and suffering of the eternally damned; weeping and gnashing of teeth, a burning agony like I've never seen in my entire life. I'd like to know if there's any way of harnessing some of that energy and directing it into my home heating system? If I can do this I think I might be able to save a bundle on fuel costs this winter. I've enclosed a photo of the door.

Signed, Soon To Be Toasty Warm

Dear Soon To Be Toasty Warm —

In this era of soaring energy costs and a growing conservation movement, yours is an excellent idea. If you have central heating, the answer may be as simple as running a flexible aluminum heating duct from your newly-found Portal to Hades directly into your system's heat exchanger where it can flow to the vents located throughout your home. If your system is electrically-fired, a solar panel could conceivably convert the energy from the flames licking at the flesh of the everlastingly tormented souls into a virtually inexhaustible supply of usable current. By the way, I think the government offers some substantial tax breaks for those who not only save energy, but use alternative energy sources wisely.





Dear Mr. Fix-It —

I think my house might be alive. I can't tell for sure, but whenever I hammer a nail into the wall, I hear a moaning sound or sometimes a whimper. Can this be possible? I've sent along a photo of the house taken last spring after a new paint job.

Signed, Scared Property Owner

Dear Scared Property Owner —

One sure way to tell if your house is alive is to plant a series of plastic explosives at all the major supporting beams and then set them off. If you hear a real loud yell, then your house was alive. If you decide to rebuild, I suggest you use lumber pressure treated with chromated copper arsenate, as nothing can live through the treating process. But just to make sure, drill holes into all the tender joints. If you hear no complaints, simply fill the holes with construction grade wood putty, let dry, then sand as necessary.

All The Best, Mr. Fix-It

Dear Mr. Fix-It -

My leaf blower is haunted by the ghost of its previous owner. Since I live in an apartment in the middle of a large city, one would think I have no need for a leaf blower, which is true, but it's haunted nonetheless. Whenever I flip the "on" switch a light flashes on the side panel. I'm sure this is being done by the specter of the previous owner because his widow, who I bought the thing from, told me he died as a result of leaf inhalation. So who else could be haunting it? Two more signs it's haunted: besides making an ear-shattering noise when in use, it also flies around the room knocking over and breaking things. Enclosed find a Polaroid of my leaf-free apartment.

Signed, Leafless



Dear Leafless—

Have you checked the manual? Sometimes a flashing light indicates the leaf blower is "on," which may explain why it only happens when you turn the unit "on." Placing the blower in a magic circle composed of dirty, dry, dead leaves may eliminate the phantom apparition, but I assure you, this being a leaf blower, the ear-shattering noise and flying around the room will continue.



THE OPRAH MAGAZINE THE OPRAH MAGAZINE WE'D LIKE TO SEE!

> OPRAH TAKES HER USUAL "MOMENT FOR HERSELF"
> BEFORE A SHOW



I'm a multi-billionaire media mogul who could buy and sell every one of your asses!

of My Next Boring Message Movie That I'll Guilt-Trip You Into Seeing!

ASK DR. PHIL

WHAT HE HAS ON ME THAT I LET SUCH A CLICHÉ-SPOUTING CRACKER LIKE HIM TAKE OVER THE SHOW EVERY WEEK!



If you want to make a good, suspenseful movie, it seems rather obvious that you need a bold, clever idea and a smart, tightly-crafted script. But if all you have is a weak premise about a woman and her kid locked in some fortified area of their expensive Manhattan brownstone, then you have no compelling plot, no suspense, no on-the-edge of their seat audiences. What you have is the...

PANIC RUINED

This townhouse features a "Panic Room," a super fortified hiding place! Notice the high-tech Sony security cameras stationed all over the house, connected to a bank of Sony TV monitors and Sony video tape machines loaded with Sony video tape! It was built to protect the occupants from undesirables, namely JVC, Panasonic, Sharp, and the other Sony competitors! As a Sony company production, this movie elevates product placement to an art form!

This is the perfect place for you and your son...er, daughter...er, your androgynous offspring! There's no other townhouse like this in all of New York City — high ceilings, hardwood floors and the possibility of discovering millions of dollars rumored to have been stashed away somewhere by the previous millionaire owner! And it's in great shape considering his greedy family never bothered to take the place apart to find the stash! So offer the sellers their asking price, and this place can be yours!

Offer the asking price, just like that? You never offer the asking price on anything! I'm spending my ex-husband's money and I want to make sure I'm depleting it fast so his new girlfriend gets only the worst part of the deal — him! I say double the asking price and make everyone happy — except my \$@#&* ex!

I see what you mean when you said there's no other townhouse like this one in all of New York City! The elevator stops at five floors, yet it's only a threestory building! I just hope it's big enough! There's plenty of room for me to ride my scooter, but when I'm a little older and get a car, driving around in here might be a little tight!



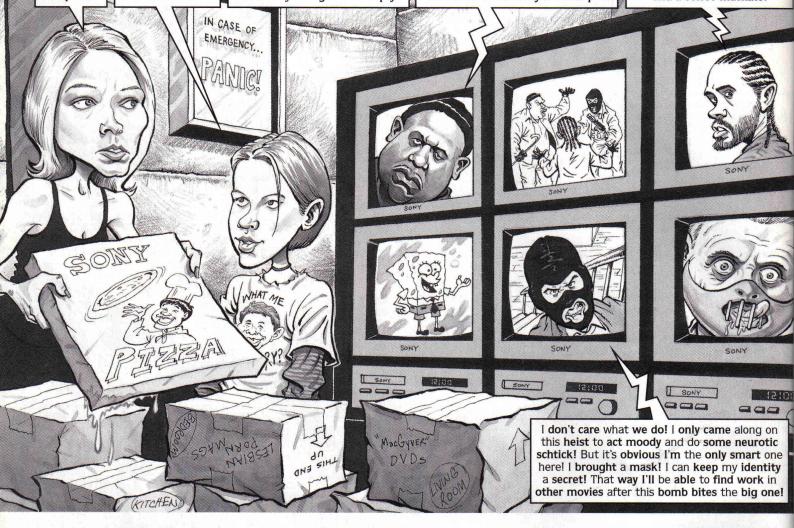
It's our first night here and everything is still in boxes, so I hope you don't mind that I sent out for pizza!

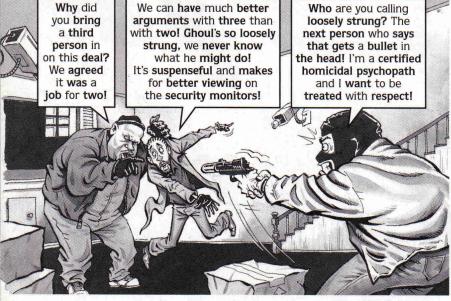
No problem, mom! I know once we unpack, you'll use the microwave and make frozen pizza! You make the best homewarmed food in the world!

Thanks, dear! Your father never appreciated my food warming skills! He will, now that I've got a new recipe for bankrupting him! Let's enjoy these different cable channels! I just hope they're not showing Home Alone, a totally unbelievable movie about bungling goons breaking into a home they thought was empty!

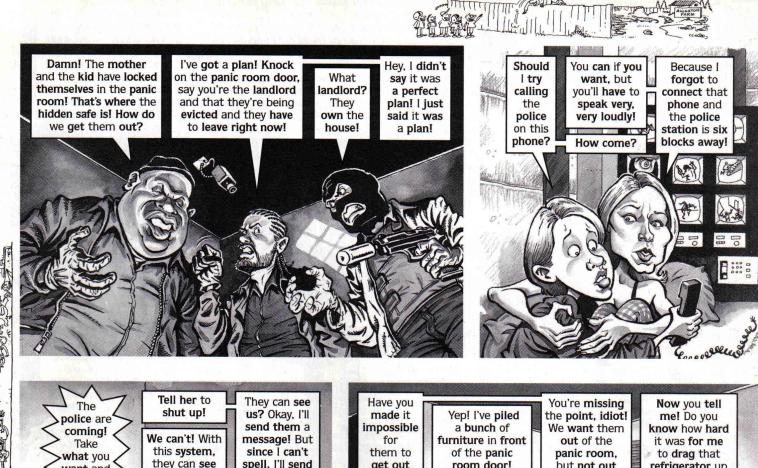
What the hell is going on?
We've been planning to rob this
empty house for weeks, and the day
of the robbery, someone moves in!
I took this job under one condition!
That nobody gets hurt! Let me
clarify that! That I, me, yours truly,
Numero Uno — doesn't get hurt!
The Professional Safe Cracker's
Association has a lousy medical plan!

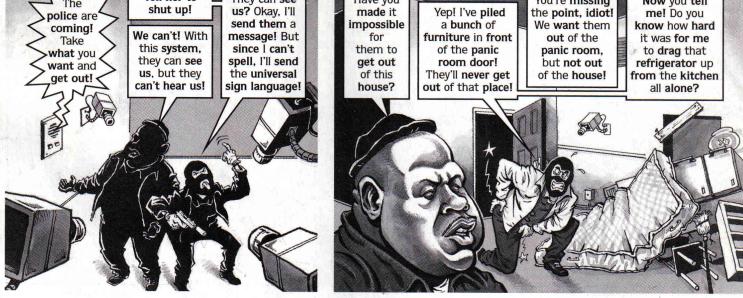
Trust me! This is even better than we planned! We were going to enter this empty house and steal all the cash hidden in the safe in the panic room! Now we can steal that and some of the stuff the new owners have in those boxes! I can use a new toaster oven and a coffee machine!





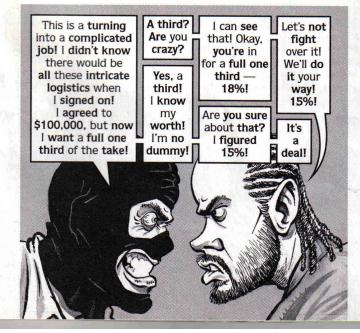






I'm piping

gas into



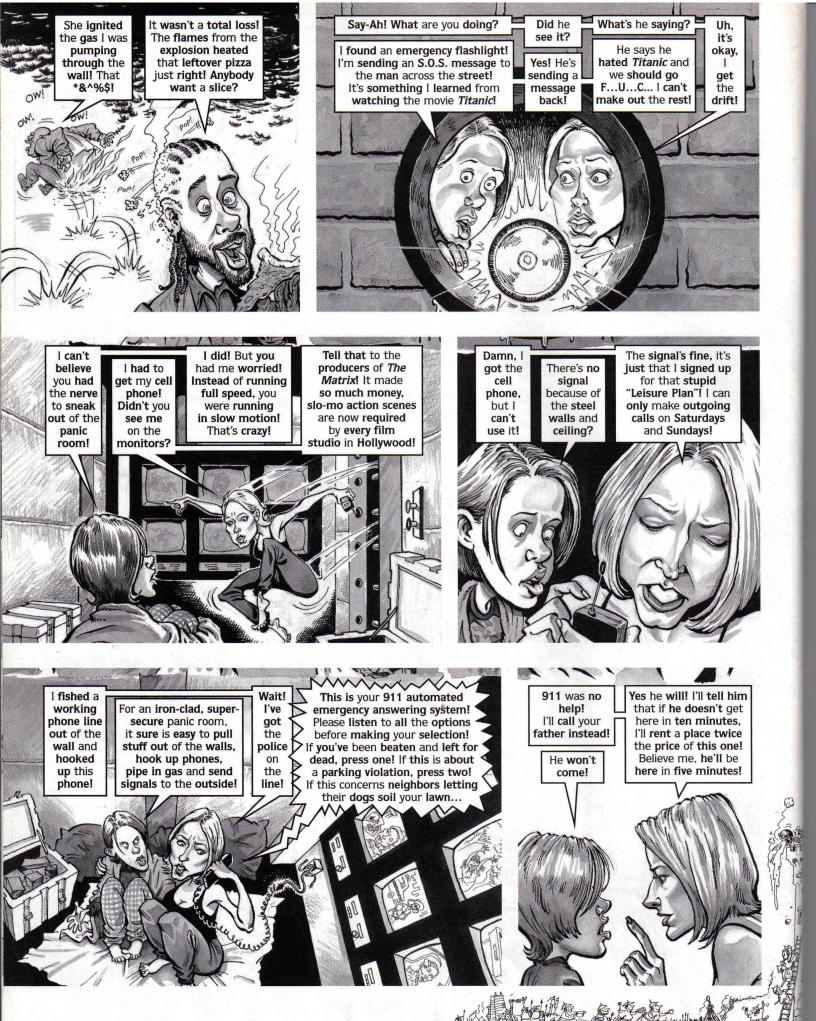


They won't

die! They'll

In other

I said I







Great! A seizure gives me a chance to do that whole "sneaking out of here" scene again! But this time instead of the cell your medicine! Obviously, Larry, Moe and Curly out there won't catch me this time, either!



This job is going Deal! But only if you have down the drain! If you give medical coverage! Not only me my We're finally in the will we get what's in the shot, my safe, but we can make a panic room and the kid is having a mother bundle by overcharging seizure! Worse yet, won't your insurance company her mom's out there give you for giving you the shot, talking to the cops! away! just like real doctors do!

For a state of the art panic room, I would have thought they'd install something a little more hightech than a cheap, crappy, blinking fluorescent light!

Be quiet! I need to concentrate! This safe has a highly sophisticated locking mechanism that... huh? The safe's open!

Oh, yeah! I opened it with a bent paper clip! I got bored in here!

We got a call about this house! Seems someone from here sent out an S.O.S.! Did this building

No, it's been clear sailing, thanks!

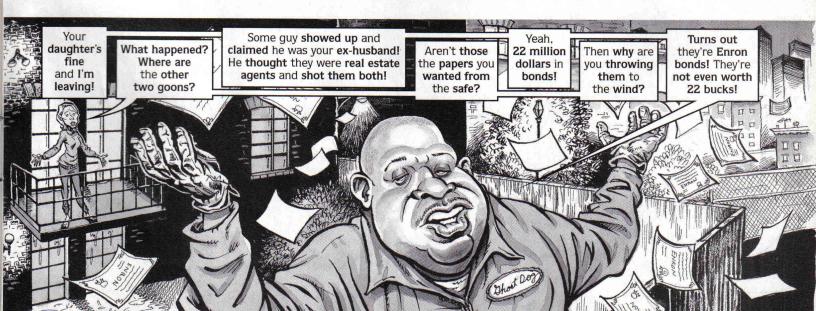
Look lady, if you're in trouble, blink three times! If someone is holding a gun on you, wiggle your ears five times! If there's more than one person in there, twitch your nose one time for each person! If...

Look at me! ľm yawning twice! Which

That you two jokers are boring me out of my skull! Good night already!







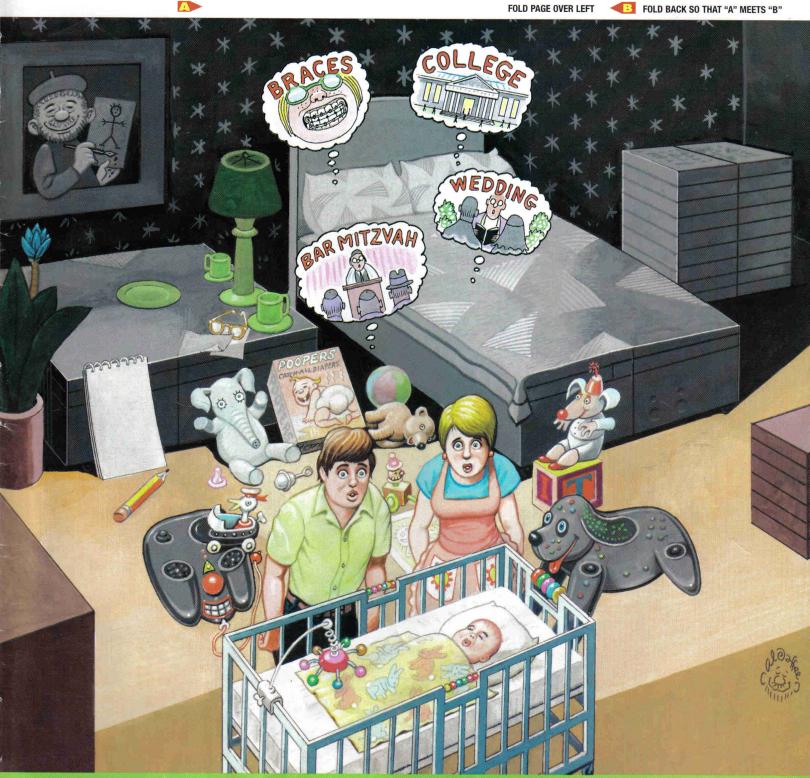
WHAT WHOPPING **EXPENSE LOOMS** ON THE HORIZON **FOR EVERY NEW PARENT?**

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

These days having children is a very expensive undertaking. The money it takes just to clothe and feed the little buggers is enough to put a family in the poor house. But there is one "must have" parents are expected to provide for their children which is staggering in its cost. To find out just what this exorbitant expense is, fold page in as shown.



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BUDGET CONSCIOUS PARENTS FIND THEMSELVES WORRYING ABOUT FUTURE EXPENSES. IT'S NO PROBLEM PRO-VIDED THEIR INCOMES KEEP GOING UP AND UP. BUT TO GAMBLE ON THIS CAN LEAD TO UNPLEASANT SURPRISES