

JACK BLACK ★ REJECTED SUPERHEROES ★ GOVERNOR AH-NULD

MAD^{IND}®

EXCLUSIVE!
MICHAEL
SPEAKS
OUT!



UNITED STATES

#438 FEBRUARY 2004 \$3.50 CHEAP!



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www.madmag.com

WHAT STOMACH-
TURNING REALITY SHOW
HAS MANY ACROSS
THE LAND COMPLETELY
DISGUSTED?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS **MAD FOLD-IN**

Just when it seems like the bar can't be set any lower for reality programming, an even more degrading, humiliating and twisted spectacle pops up. What's even sadder is how much media coverage will be dedicated to the shameless antics of the participants. To find out what this televised circus is about, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



THINGS MANY PEOPLE STOOP TO DOING SOMETIME
DEMONSTRATE A COMPLETE LOSS OF GOOD SENSE. CRA-
VING ATTENTION, THEY ACT OUT WITH AN ANTIC
PRIMITIVE BEHAVIOR OUTSIDE THE NORMAL BOUNDARIES

A

ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE

B

Family reunions are when relatives gather from all over to be reminded why they scattered in the first place!

MAD

FEBRUARY 2004

NUMBER 438

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"MICHAEL JACKSON" COVER: DREW FRIEDMAN

"SUPERHEROES" COVER: BRUCE TIMM

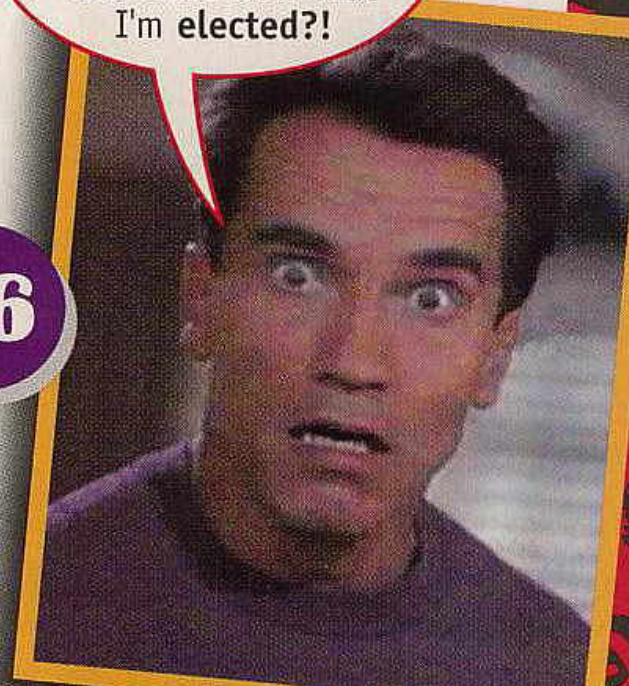
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31



38

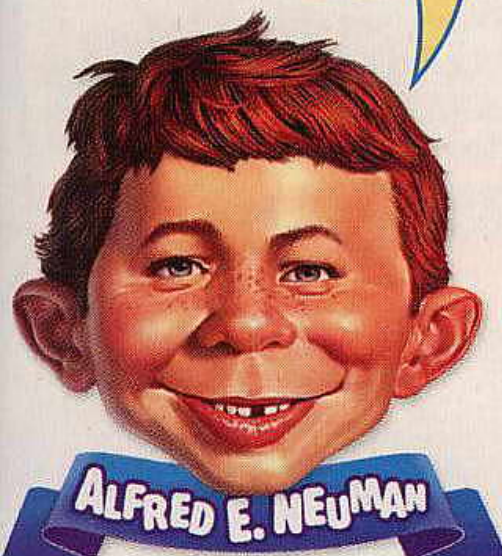
Y-y-y-you mean, I actually have to fix the problems of the state now that I'm elected?!



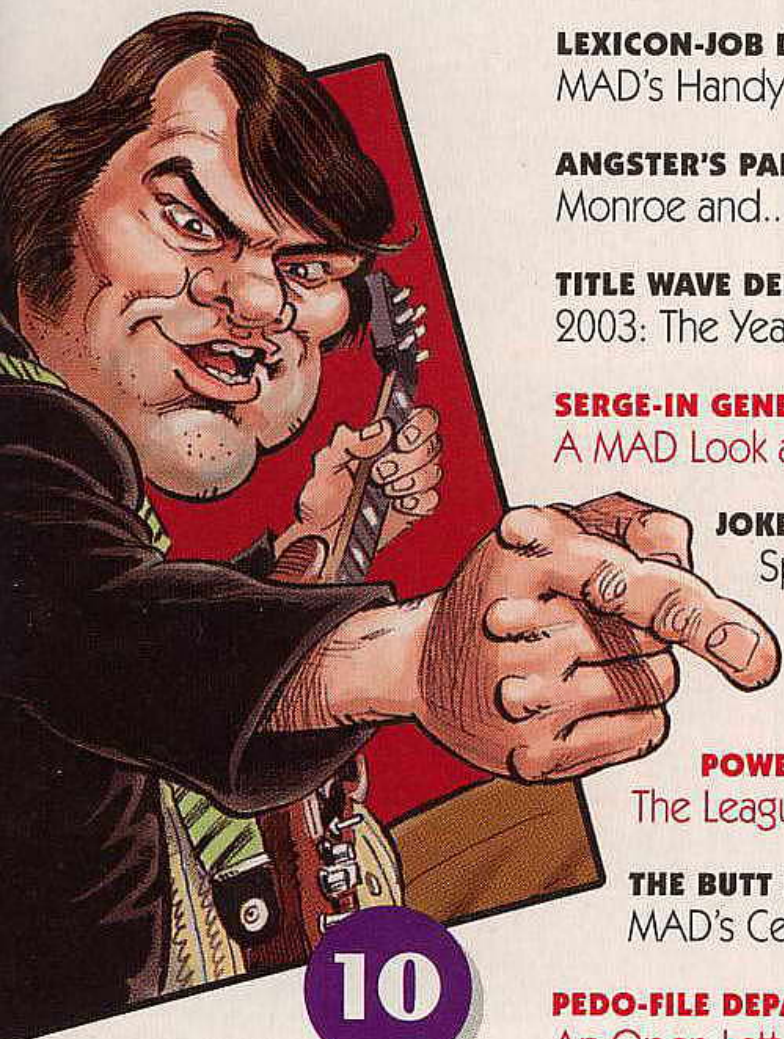
46

10

40



ALFRED E. NEUMAN





YOU'VE GOT JAIL

With a name like "Mike Gidwitz" (who wrote on the Letters Page #435), ol' Mikey would be real popular with the guys from cell block 310. My buddies Mongo, Sticky, Flaco, Dead Eye, D, Moose and Steve all would like to have an, uh, intellectual discussion as to whether Mike earns the handle "Schmuck," "Schmo" or "Dweeb," though I am leaning towards "Schlump." For your info Mikey, we do subscribe to MAD because we need to color the nuances of our life with more than ennui and schadenfreude.

Lou Gary, Avenal State Prison
Avenal, CA

Louski — First off, why doesn't Steve get a cool nickname? As always, we are happy to give a voice to our wrongly-incarcerated fans. By the way Mike, Lou and his buddies asked for your home address. We didn't see any harm in giving it to them, since they probably just want to send you a MAD gift subscription. Thanks for writing and see you at the parole hearing! —Ed.

A PAIN IN THE CLASS

I am a 25-year-old "non-traditional" junior at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. At the beginning of the semester, the campus bookstore had issues of MAD on the magazine rack, but no longer (now I have to buy MAD at the local Wal-Mart). However, being on a campus of "tools," I might have been the only person cool enough to read MAD — hence all the snobbish looks I received from people. I would like to thank you for the laughs I have had from your magazine, I was in tears I was laughing so hard. Thank you for allowing me to have some fun this semester.

Wesley Dyson, Eau Claire, WI

Dys-man — Couple of questions for you: What exactly does "non-traditional junior" mean? Is that the same as "too old to hit on freshman girls"? And another thing, what kind of fun were you expecting to find in Eau Claire, Wisconsin? Everybody knows that Pewaukee is the hotbed of sin and excitement in the Badger State! On the upside, if you're a junior already, that means you probably only have three or four years to go till graduation! Anyway, thanks for writing and go Blugolds! —Ed.

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

To the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™! — I'm asking you to print the photo that bombed me out of my Intro to Photography class. Free stuff is also appreciated and is usually sold to afford non-ramen foods. Please send non-explosive, non-perishable, non-ramen items that I could sell to idiots.

W.T. Deskin, Houston, TX

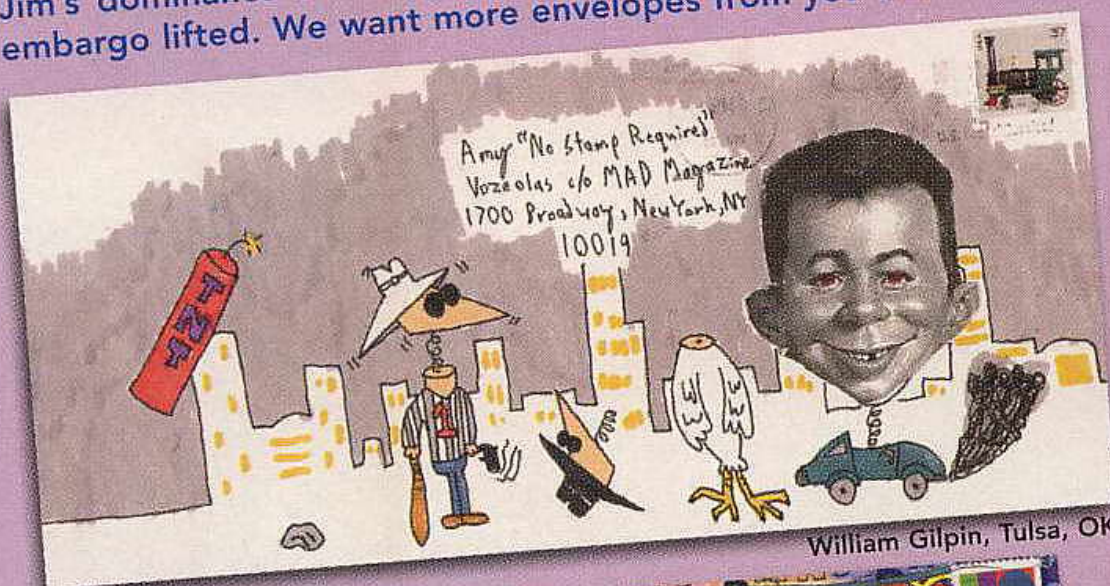


W.T. Deskin's photograph

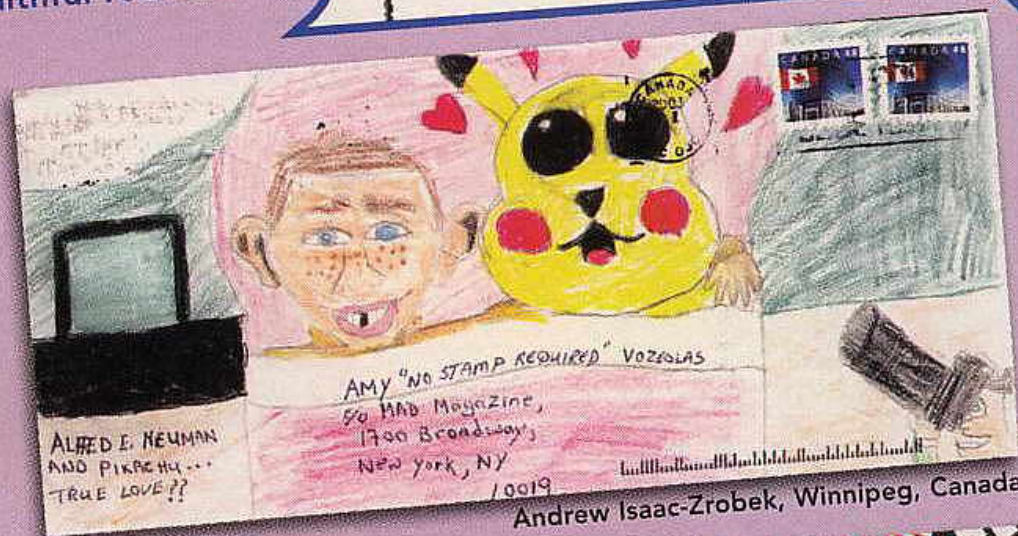
Desky — We salute your effort to hit up the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ for handouts, and while we can't give you free stuff, we *can* print your photograph and hope that it leads to a lucrative career in photojournalism. However, judging by your "portfolio," we're betting that a majority of your income is going to come via blood donations! On the plus side, you'll earn money and get all the sugar cookies you can eat! From there, you can work your way up to selling more profitable fluids! Thanks for writing the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™! —Ed.

STAMP OF APPROVAL

In MAD #435 we asked readers to "end the heinous Jim Hutchings' despotic stranglehold" on the Envelope of the Month feature. We were overwhelmed by the reader response! Below are a few examples of what we received. After looking closely at the submissions, we discovered that we may have been a little hasty in our dismissal of Jim's dominance over the Letters Page. No hard feelings, Jim! Please consider the embargo lifted. We want more envelopes from you and our other faithful readers!



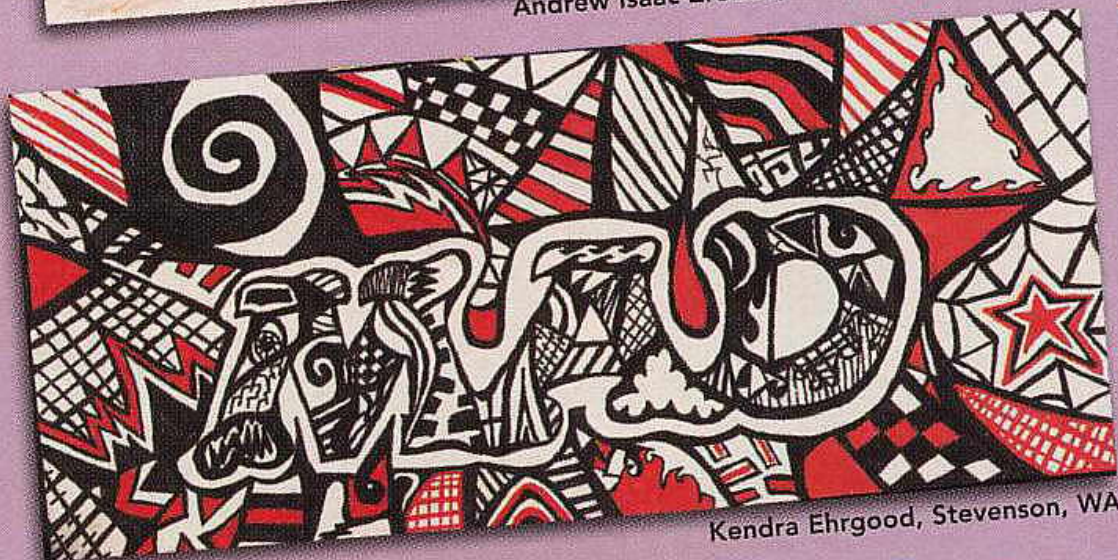
William Gilpin, Tulsa, OK



Andrew Isaac-Zrobek, Winnipeg, Canada



Betty Lee Skelly, Millville, NJ



Kendra Ehrgood, Stevenson, WA

THE BIG PUMPKIN

We asked MAD readers to run right out and buy MAD XL #24 and then send pictures of the Jack-O-Lanterns they created using the stencil of Monroe in that issue. We now proudly print a collection of these MAD-inspired gourds! Thanks to everyone that sent in photos — you can put down the knives now!

Max Kratzke, St. Paul, MN ▶



Melissa Fogel, St. Paul, MN

Becky Farina, Galt, CA



Eric Finkelstein, Edison, NJ



Kristina Larson, Hesperia, CA

Gen Goodwin, Solon, OH ▶



K.C. Mangen, Pacific Palisades, CA



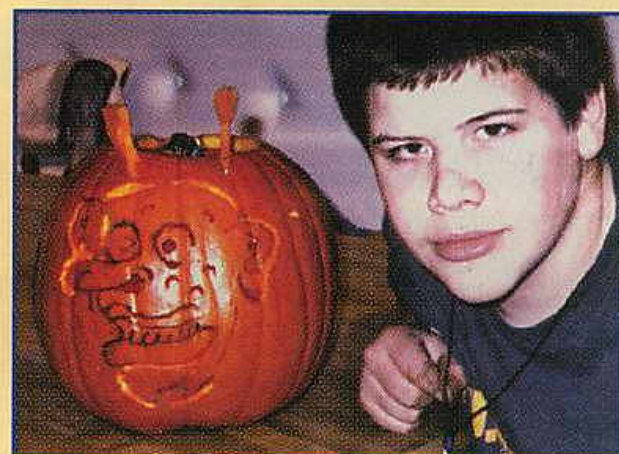
N. Kolbasowski, Milltown, NJ



Barry Fries, British Columbia, Canada



Will Barron, Branford, CT



Aaron Burzak, Salem, NH

READ, WHITE AND BLUE

My name is Staff Sergeant John Reeder. I am currently stationed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am in charge of morale and welfare for 600-plus soldiers assigned to 1st and 5th Field Artillery. I am trying to start a lending library, but due to our current situation, we have been unable to acquire a sufficient amount of books to get this project started. We have a plan in place to turn over any materials that are donated to the next unit that will replace us. The library will eventually be turned over to the Iraqi people. Any support that you can provide us with will be greatly appreciated.

SSG John Reeder, US Army

Easy Reeder — You're trying to build up a library of MADs? We sent you a bunch of issues, but doesn't that work against our government's stated mission of rebuilding Iraq? —Ed.

QUIT AND RUN

Writing letters is very boring, so I decided to un-become the "MAD fan that writes every month." Make someone else do it.

Jake Savage, Baltimore, MD

Jake The Snake — You can't quit now — especially since we've just been made aware that you've been writing to us every month! If you want to succeed, you have to have a little stick-to-it-iveness. Just look at Jessica Lynch, Lance Armstrong and the recently-vindicated Jim Hutchings. But this is also a democracy, so we are putting it to our readers to decide whether young Jakey will be allowed to just give up or if he will be forced to keep writing one letter a month until he grows too old and feeble to do so. Send your comments and votes to Amy "The Big Quitter" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019!



MAD READER OF THE ISSUE

This month's Reader of the Issue is SMSGT Harold Lloyd Clay (USAF, Ret.) of Wilburton, OK, who sent in this picture of himself reading a copy of MAD from 1958. We were so moved by his stirring patriotic reminiscences, that we felt duty bound to retroactively award him the title of MAD Reader of the Issue for December, 1958. Enjoy these long-overdue kudos and God Bless America! —Ed.





MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS



**MAD
#439
ON SALE
FEBRUARY
17!**

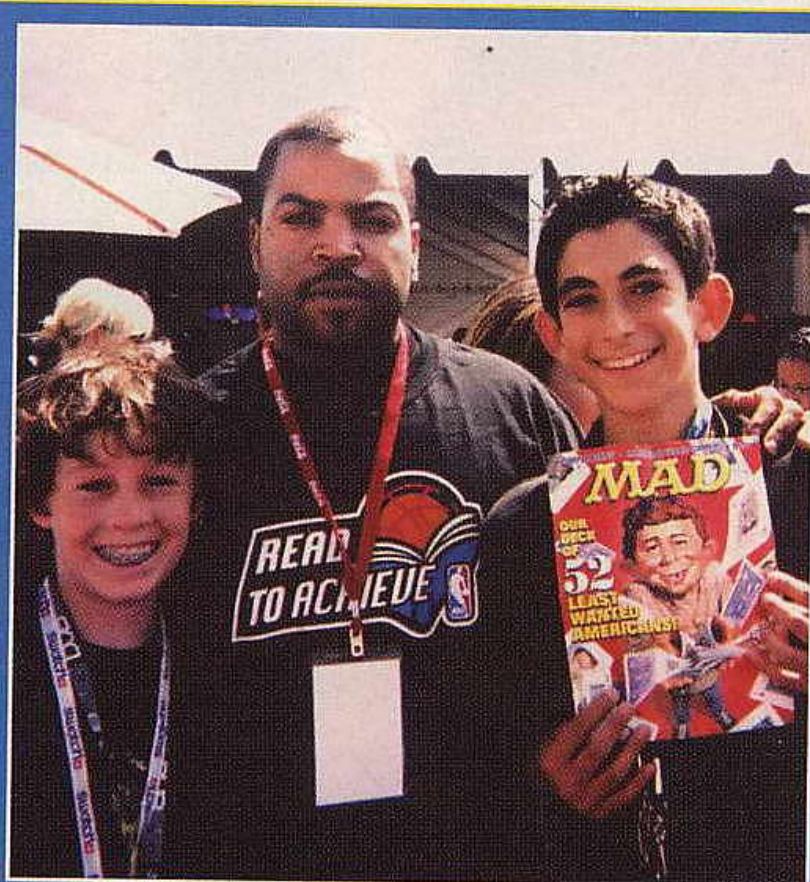


**MAD
XL #26
ON SALE
FEBRUARY
17!**

Here is a picture of me and my friend, Matt Kramer, with my boy, rapper and actor Ice Cube. This was taken at the Shaqtacular charity event in Santa Monica, CA. Incidentally, this photo was taken by CSI star Marg Helgenberger. Marg is my friend's mom, so she invited me and Matt to come.

Jeremy Tramer, Santa Monica, CA

Tramewreck — What's that you say? CBS superstar Marg Helgenberger was scant feet from this photo op and couldn't come from behind the camera to appear in the pages of MAD? Why, that's the least Shaqtacular thing we've ever heard! Ice Cube on the other hand, being a consummate gentleman, displayed some truly Shaqtacular behavior posing with MAD so his boy Jeremy Tramer could get a one-year subscription. Bango, Cube, bango! —Ed.



Matt, Ice and Jeremy — but no Marg!

FILM IN THE BLANKS

Recently, I took the SpongeBob copy of MAD (issue #429) to a San Diego, CA bookstore where Ms. Heidi Fleiss was signing copies of her latest book, *Pandering*. After she spoke I waited in line, gave my camera to her bodyguard and broke out the copy of MAD. To my dismay, when I picked up the film at the drugstore where I bought the camera, the two shots of my smiling face next to Heidi and SpongeBob were negative. I discovered the flash was off. Do I get a free subscription for trying? And how about one for Ms. Fleiss? She's obviously a numero uno celebrity!

Paul Frank Bauer, Corpus Christi, TX

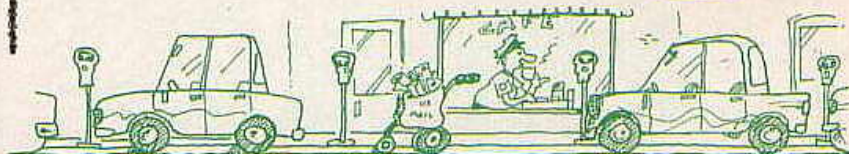
Bau-wow — Unfortunately, without photographic proof we are unable to award you a free MAD subscription. However, if Ms. Fleiss were to contact us requesting a free subscription, we are certain we could work *something* out. Oh my! —Ed.

**MAD MUMBLINGS@
MADMAG.COM**

I just realized something, Death is God's hit man — facechild...I always found MAD to be a very good source of calcium — KingAlfred...What do you do if coffee cups chase you? — madmag90023...Does garbage have feelings? — prisoner 022541...Do dogs talk to bananas or is it just me? — superstarlet...The guacamole is nachos' only problem — PickerelPelee...The voices may not be real, but they tell some pretty good jokes! — Hawaiian Ginger...If you hold a cat upside down, it looks like a tube of toothpaste — SugarRush9...I'm a girl and am not totally repulsed by MAD. Heck, I kinda enjoy it! — Therese Frentz.

ALFRED E. NEUMAN LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST

The entertainment industry is filled with personalities so charismatic, so captivating, so dynamic that they are known worldwide by only one name. Eminem. Madonna. Gallagher. We proudly add another entry to this pantheon of single-named superstars: The Alfred E. Neuman Look-A-Like known only as Ori. Thanks to Dafna Gafny of Holon, Israel for bringing this incendiary new talent to our attention. Mazel Tov! — and next time, include the last name, clod!



**NEXT
MONTH
IN MAD
#439**

**OUR TAKE ON THE
OSCARS AND OUR
GOD-AWFUL JOAN
OF ARCADIA SPOOF!**

**NEXT
MONTH
IN MAD
XL #26**

**MAD ARTIST OF THE
MONTH: WILL ELDER!
NASCAR AND TV
CLASSIC STARKY
AND HUTCH!**

MAD

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founder

John Ficarra
editor

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**Amy Vozeolas, Greg Leitman &
Dave Croatto** associate editors

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Dick DeBartolo creative consultant

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Dan DiDio vp — editorial

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Lillian Laserson senior vp & general counsel

David McKillips vp — advertising & custom publishing

John Nee vp — business development

Cheryl Rubin vp — brand management

Bob Wayne vp — sales & marketing

Contributing Artists And Writers

the usual gang of idiots

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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!

Fax MAD at 212-506-4848!

THE FUNDALIN

CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

OUR TEAM OF CRACK ODDSMAKERS GIVES YOU THE LATEST VEGAS LINE ON HOW ONE OF TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS WILL MEET HIS DEMISE!

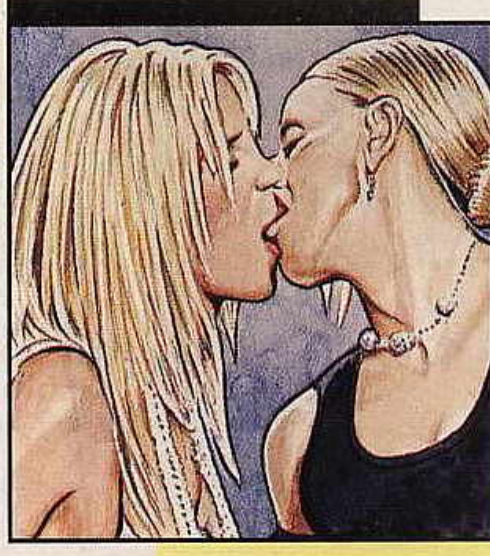
This month:
50 CENT



CAUSE OF DEATH	ODDS
Shock of finally getting good look at that stupid thing he wears on head	20:1
2005 suicide after being overshadowed by new rapper, A Dollar	95:1
Drowns while trying to swim with all his bling-bling on	250:1
Burst blood-vessel in brain from exertion of writing his lyrics	700:1
Actual injury directly related to public feud with rival rapper Ja Rule.....	9,000,000:1

THE GODFREY REPORT

IN	FIVE MINUTES AGO	OUT
Hanging	Lethal Injection	Stoning
Asphalt	Cobblestones	Bridle Paths
Fishmongers	Drug Mules	Horse Whisperers



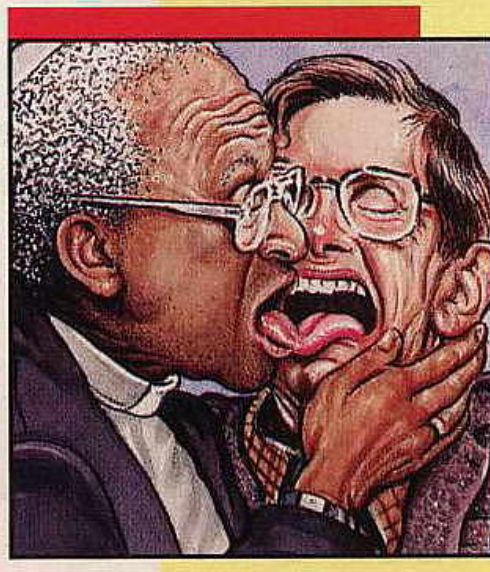
FIRST...

At the MTV Video Music Awards, Britney Spears and Madonna tongue-wrestle.



THEN...

At the Emmy Awards, Garry Shandling and Brad Garrett lock lips.



WHAT'S NEXT?

At the Nobel Prize Awards, Stephen J. Hawking and Bishop Desmond Tutu suck face.

CELEBRITYVERSE

by George W. Bush

*There once was a man named Saddam
I thought had a nuclear bomb
So I started a war
Few nations were for
And now it's our next Vietnam.*



All contributors to Celebrity Verse receive a free MAD sun visor. Congratulations, Mr. President!

01 tbi,
802-
.com
163

YOUR OWN
Non-Working 555-Prefix
Phone Number
Just like you see on TV, movies, and
gags like this. Low set-up fees. Call
for details 555-2746

LOSE MONEY FAST!
Send \$5 and SASE to Me, P.O. Box
251856, LA, CA 90025 — For faster
results, send \$20 (or more) and no
SASE.

MOVIE EXTRAS
Up to \$40 a day. Must be comfort-
able with nudity, getting wet.
Baseball cap worn low over face
OK. 555-3362

USED MATTRESS
Practically new. Slept on 2x by
incontinent old lady with Tuberculosis.
Just needs to be wrung out. Cost
\$2200, will sacrifice for \$10. Just
get it out of here. 555-9288

LIVE-IN NANNY / AU PAIR
Needed to violently shake trouble-
some 1-yr-old. Sm. salary, rm &
board + access to easily jimmied
liquor cabinet. 555-7723

\$\$\$CASH PAID\$\$\$
All Antiques Wanted!
Except yours. 555-2874

Any
46 ST
1200
street
call M

59 St E
Hi tr
theatre
space)

83 ST W
Approx
Call Fr

86 ST/AM

917-559-913

1600 sf co
key. Fast

SOHO
1300sf
next to
Bro

ST

THE 5 STAGES OF SUPERBOWL-OFFICE POOL BETTOR GRIEF

DENIAL

Ah, there's still 1:57 to go in the game — they only need five on-side kick recoveries, all run back for touchdowns!



ANGER

You @#\$\$ bonehead coach! If you'd only gone for it on that 4th down-and-28 back in the 2nd quarter it could've changed the course of the game!



BARGAINING

Please, God, let them score just six more points so I can make my over/under bet — and I'll give big in the collection plate at church! And I'll even stop buying porn...on Sundays!



DEPRESSION

I'm a failure at handicapping the Super Bowl...and a failure at life! Now I don't even have the money to buy a gun and kill myself!



ACCEPTANCE

Oh, well — I woulda just blown the winnings on food and rent anyway!

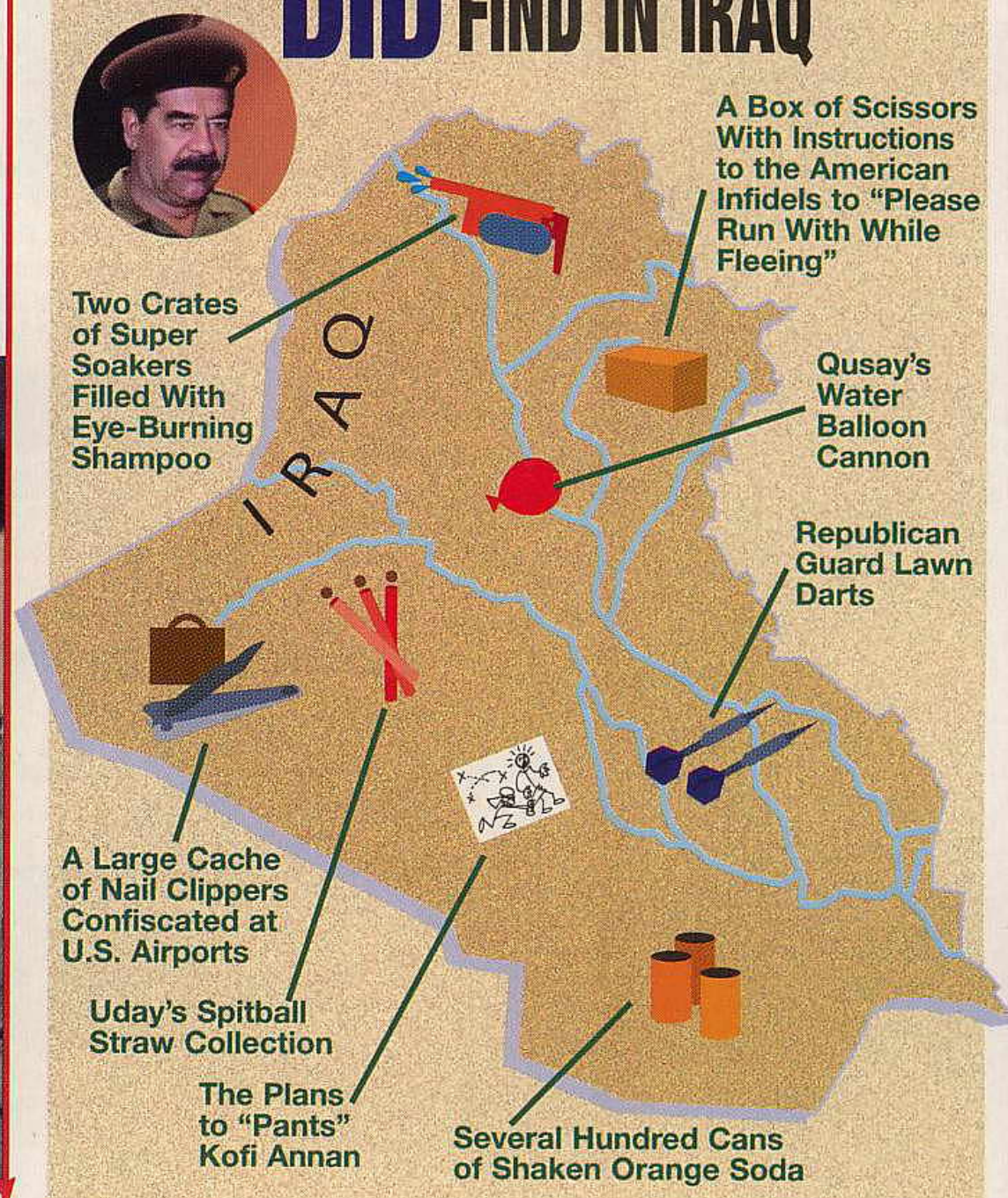


PAGES

MONKEYS ARE ALWAYS FUNNY



WEAPONS U.S. INSPECTORS DID FIND IN IRAQ



BITTERMAN



uhhh...takin' a leak...Why?



What the hell are you doing???



And rule three?

No talking.

Quick school in Three Rules of Male Bathroom Etiquette. Rule one: Always keep one urinal between you and the next chump. Rule two: Avoid any eye contact at all cost. Keep your mind and eyes focused on the task at hand.

Who Needs Air Miles?
Apply for the new
CRISCO
VISA CARD



Receive a
teaspoon of
Crisco for
every dollar you spend!

CLICK ON THE
TUB OF LARD



Earn gallons and gallons of it!
No limit! No restrictions!

THE FAST 5

THE 5 MOST-LIKELY THINGS MICHAEL JACKSON WAS THINKING WHILE HAVING HIS MUG SHOT PHOTO TAKEN

This **bad lighting** and **cheap camera** are gonna make me look like a **FREAK!**

That **policeman** over there is **cute!** Wonder if he has a son?

Oh, **great!** Another **\$20 million** in **hush-money** I've got to **come up with!** Guess I'll have to **sell off** a few more **Beatles songs** for **TV commercials!**

Ha! The **joke's** on **you, cops!** I'm not gonna look **anything** like **this** two months from now!

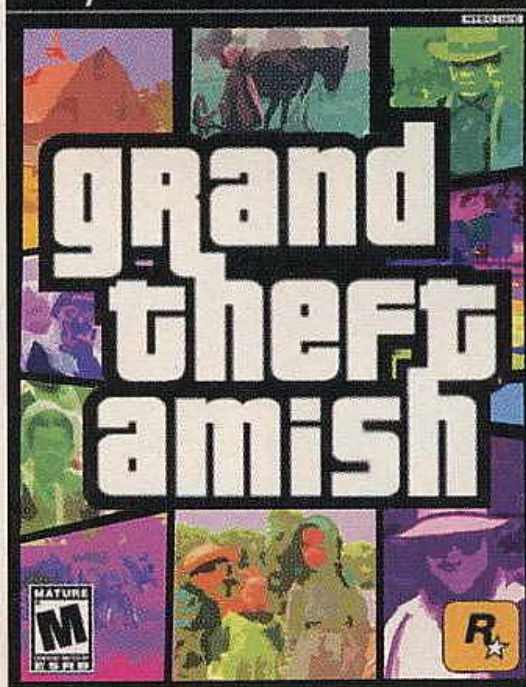
Did I **remember** to **turn off** the **ferris wheel** before I left home?



VIDEO GAME PREVIEW

"Pious" Amos Fisher (voiced by Jackie Chan) is a simple butter-churner. But a bitter turf war over a disputed barley field is turning his world upside down. He's a peaceful man, but the gloves are off after Mennonite warlords abduct his wife from a quilting bee. Now, with pitchfork in hand and vengeance in heart, he must take to the mean streets of Lancaster.

PlayStation 2

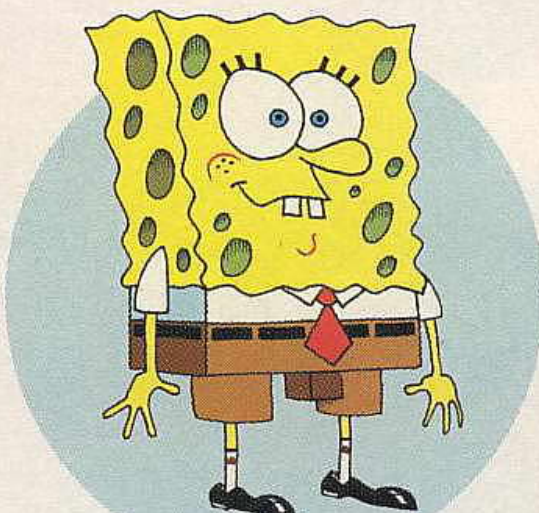


LEVEL III



LEVEL IV

- ★ Hot soundtrack featuring hymns, chanting, and whistled ditties.
- ★ Explore new environments, including modest dwellings, candlelit barns, and a labyrinth of farmers' markets.
- ★ Exciting methods of transportation, including simple horse-and-buggies, humble hiking boots, and rockin' jet-powered skateboards with missile-launching capabilities.
- ★ New assault moves, including the Pitchfork of Piety, Shaolin Kung-Fu barn-raising, and the pacifist skull-cracker.



SPONGE BOB SQUARE PACKAGE

A **VARIETY** AD
WE'D LIKE TO SEE...

FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION

BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS
BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
BEST "SCORE"

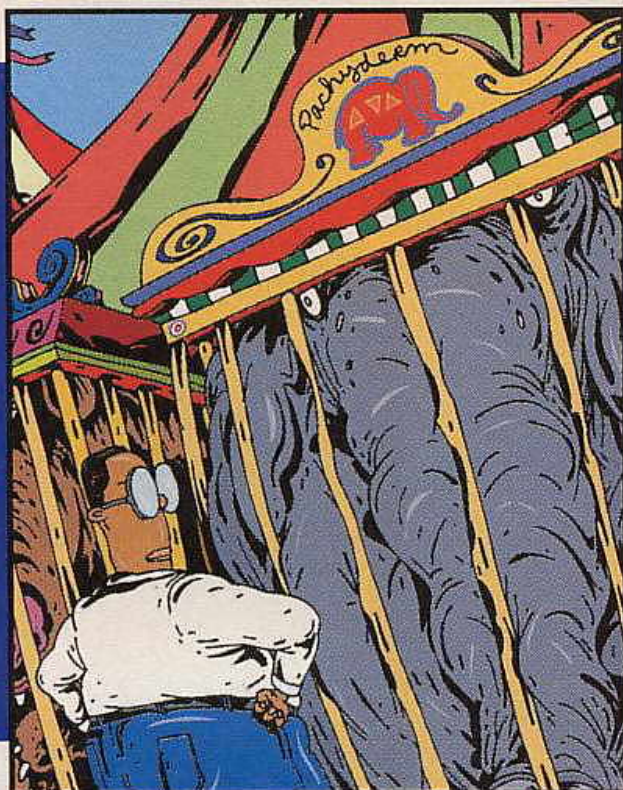
**THE
PARIS
HILTON
SEX VIDEO**

An Invasion of Privacy Production In association with any drooling voyeur capable of performing a Google search

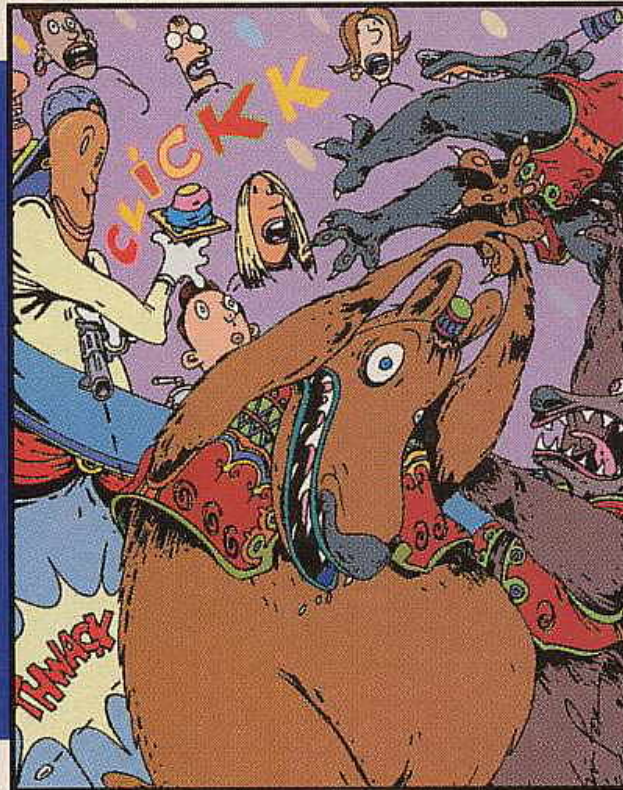
FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Scott Bricher	Desmond Devlin	Charlie Kadau	Kevin Pope
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John Caldwell	Drew Friedman	Scott Maiko	Johnny Styne
Butch D'Ambrosio	Garth Gerhart	Josh Malinow	Mike Snider

MELVIN & JENKINS' GUIDE TO THE CIRCUS



Jenkins is very concerned about cruelty to animals, and looks for any signs that might indicate poor treatment.



Melvin adds his own excitement to the dancing bears segment by sneaking in a pellet gun.

Rap, metal and even country music are bigger than ever! So, with the popularity of classic rock and roll fading faster than our memories of Britney's virginity, a new movie is trying to show kids what's so great about rock. Unfortunately, the end result is more trite and annoying than a Céline Dion boxset. The fate of the music shouldn't have been left to these...

Fools of Rock

I put my heart in my rock music, then when I leap into the arms of my adoring fans, they let me land on my ass! Don't they know I am the keeper of the flame of rock! Rock is my life! The Beatles! The Doors! The Eagles! The Who! Queen! Cream! Of course my brain is so fried from the years of earsplitting, deafening music, all I can remember are groups with short names! But with rock as my guide, things can only get better!

You're finished, Screwey!
You're fired from the band!

Here's the bill
for all the
structural damage
you've done
with your stupid
stage leaps!

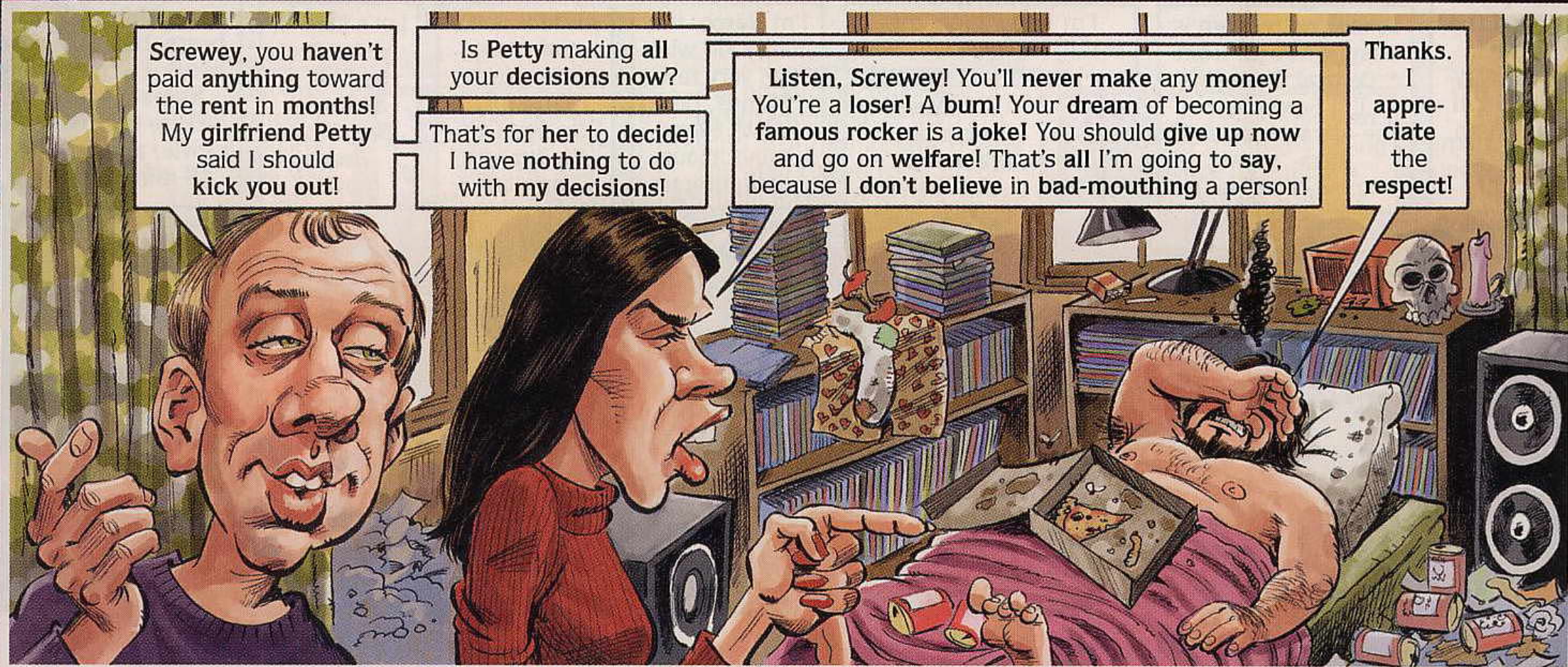
Here's a ticket
for indecent
exposure!
With the pathetic
shape you're in,
removing just your
shirt qualifies
as indecent
exposure!

Give him another ticket
for theft! He stole this
scene! All that tongue-
wagging, eye-bugging,
finger-knotting and eye-
brow-wrinkling is right
out of John Belushi's
Blues Brothers act!

And who
are you?

We're
the cast
of
*This Is
Spinal
Tap!*





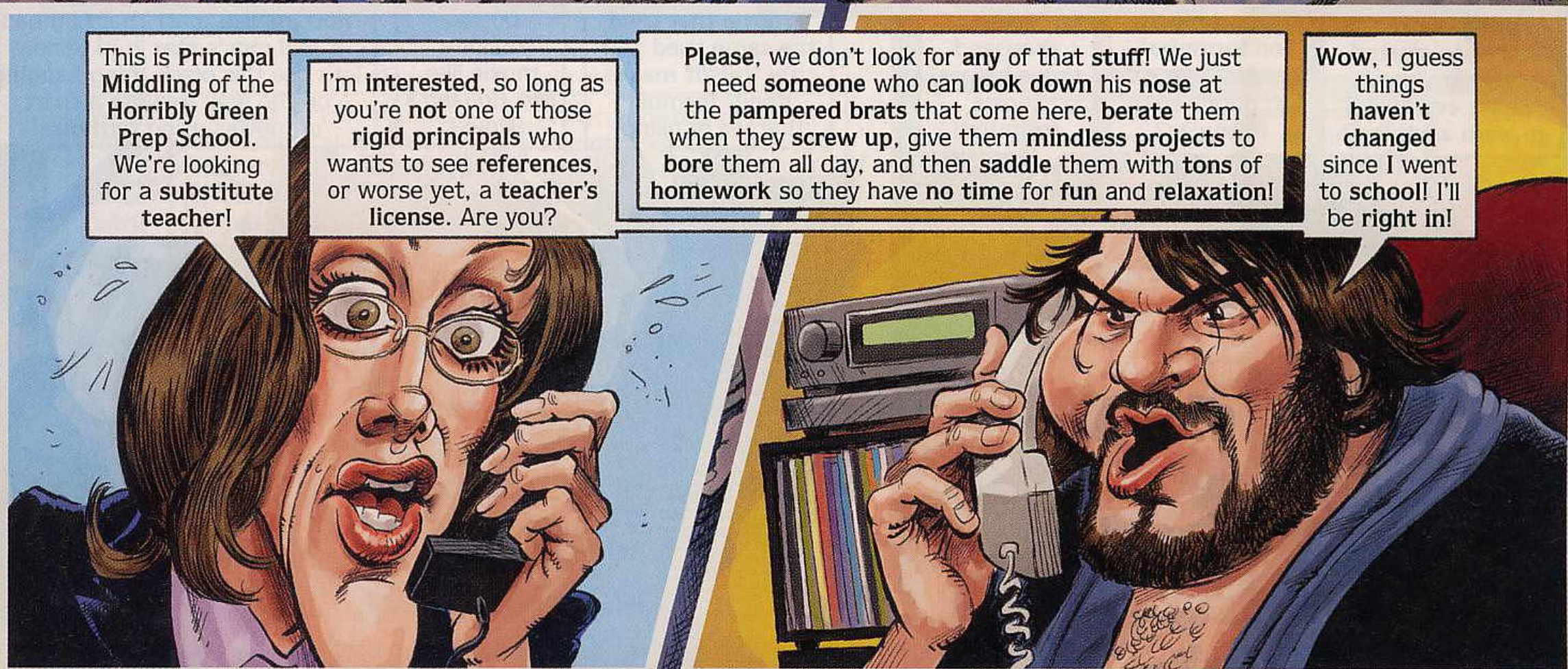
Screwey, you haven't paid anything toward the rent in months! My girlfriend Petty said I should kick you out!

Is Petty making all your decisions now?

That's for her to decide! I have nothing to do with my decisions!

Listen, Screwey! You'll never make any money! You're a loser! A bum! Your dream of becoming a famous rocker is a joke! You should give up now and go on welfare! That's all I'm going to say, because I don't believe in bad-mouthing a person!

Thanks. I appreciate the respect!

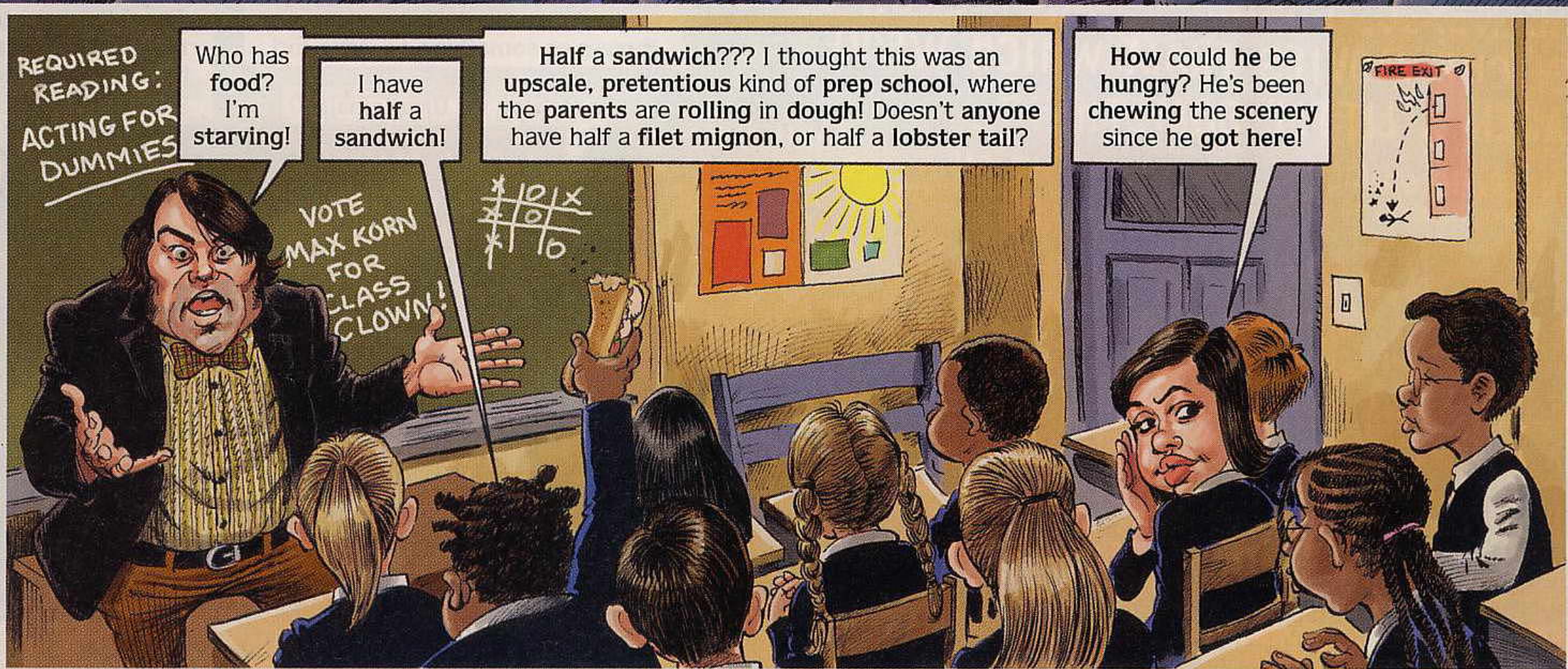


This is Principal Middling of the Horribly Green Prep School. We're looking for a substitute teacher!

I'm interested, so long as you're not one of those rigid principals who wants to see references, or worse yet, a teacher's license. Are you?

Please, we don't look for any of that stuff! We just need someone who can look down his nose at the pampered brats that come here, berate them when they screw up, give them mindless projects to bore them all day, and then saddle them with tons of homework so they have no time for fun and relaxation!

Wow, I guess things haven't changed since I went to school! I'll be right in!



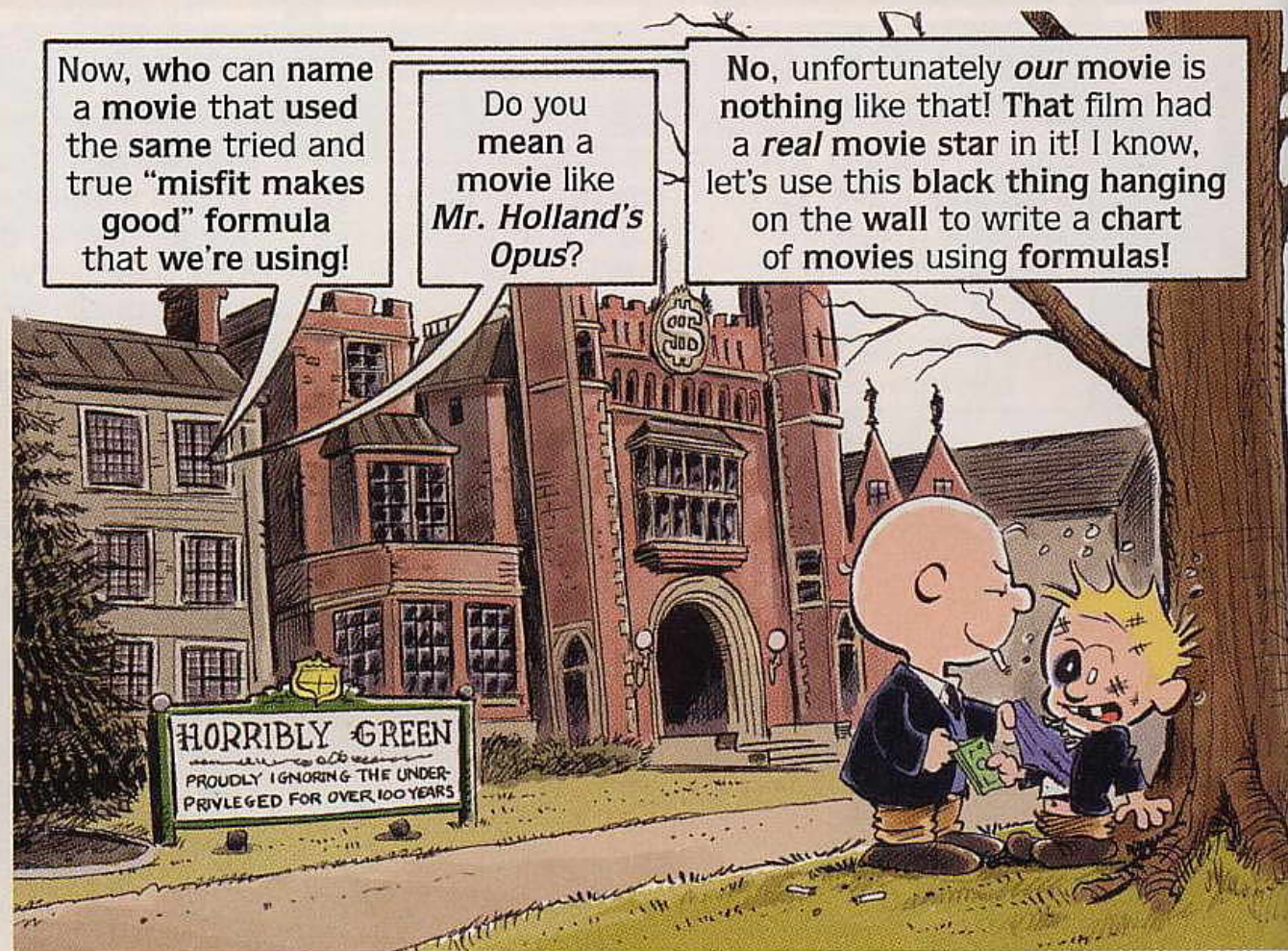
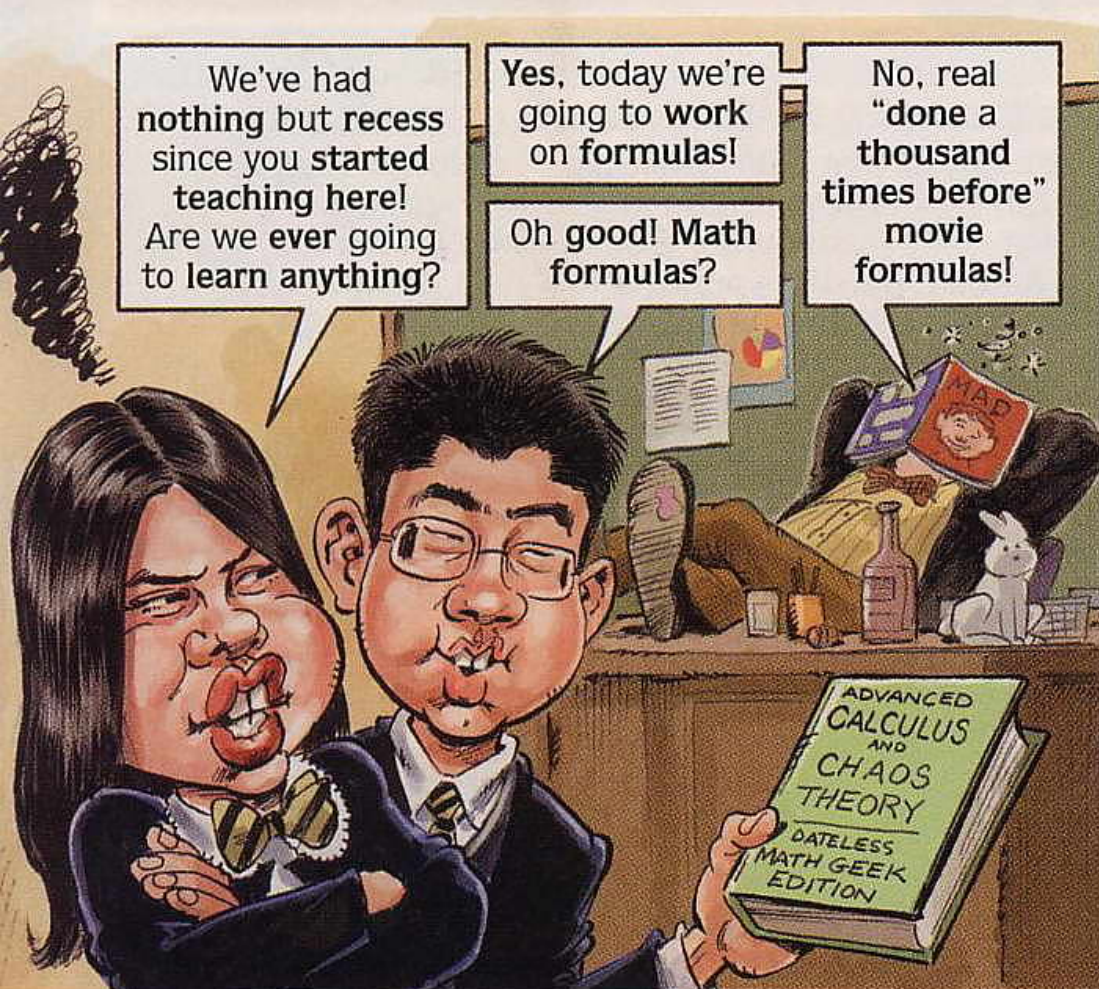
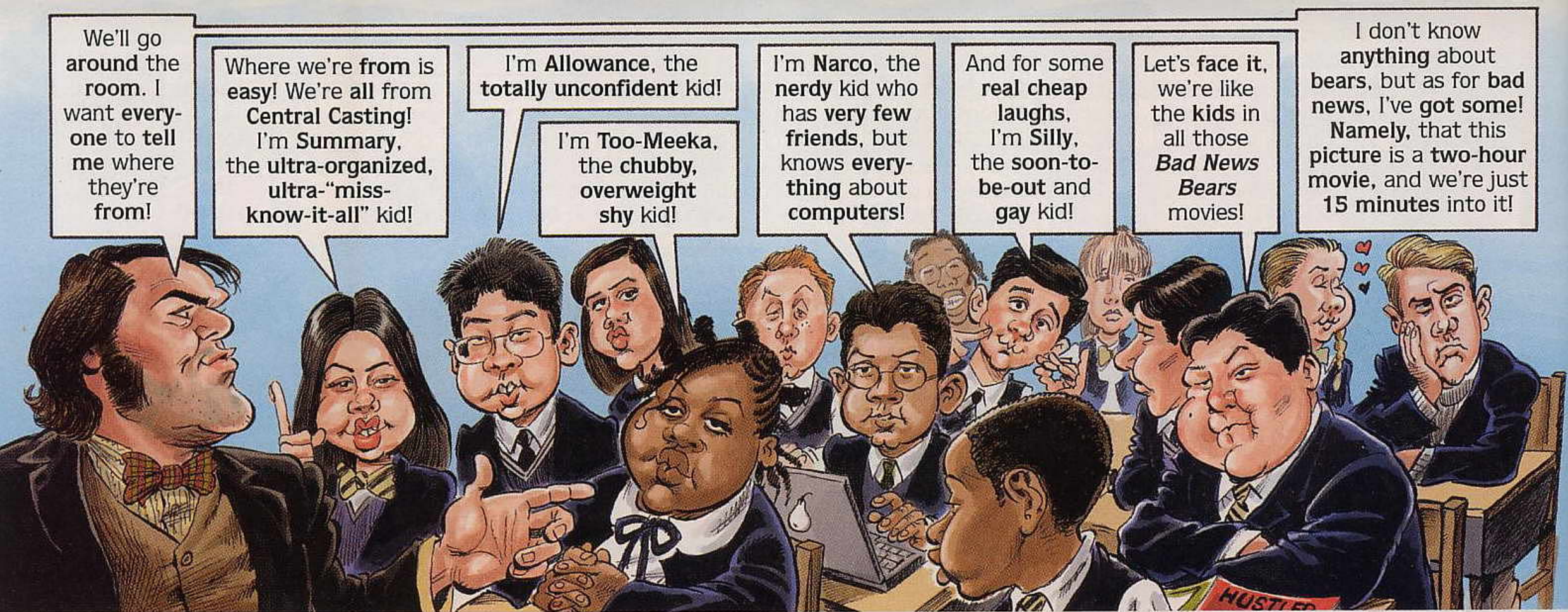
REQUIRED READING: ACTING FOR DUMMIES

Who has food? I'm starving!

I have half a sandwich!

Half a sandwich??? I thought this was an upscale, pretentious kind of prep school, where the parents are rolling in dough! Doesn't anyone have half a filet mignon, or half a lobster tail?

How could he be hungry? He's been chewing the scenery since he got here!



HACKNEYED, OBVIOUS, "HAPPY ENDING" CLICHÉ MOVIES FROM WHICH WE'VE TAKEN A LITTLE SOMETHING...

DANGEROUS MINDS
SAME MOVIE FORMULA AS OURS, BUT USES INNER CITY KIDS

BRING IT ON
SAME MOVIE FORMULA, BUT MISFITS BECOME HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HARD BALL
SAME FORMULA, BUT THIS TIME INNER CITY KIDS PLAY BASEBALL

LITTLE GIANTS
SAME FORMULA, BUT INSTEAD OF BASEBALL PLAYERS, THE KIDS ARE FOOTBALL PLAYERS

THE MIGHTY DUCKS, THE MIGHTY DUCKS 2, THE MIGHTY DUCKS 3

SAME MOVIE FORMULA, BUT THIS TIME MISFIT KIDS PLAY HOCKEY

THE BAD NEWS BEARS
THE BAD NEWS BEARS GO TO JAPAN
THE BAD NEWS BEARS IN BREAKING TRAINING

SAME FORMULA IN ALL THREE, BUT THIS TIME THEY'RE BASEBALL PLAYERS

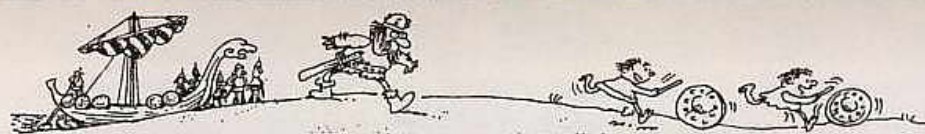
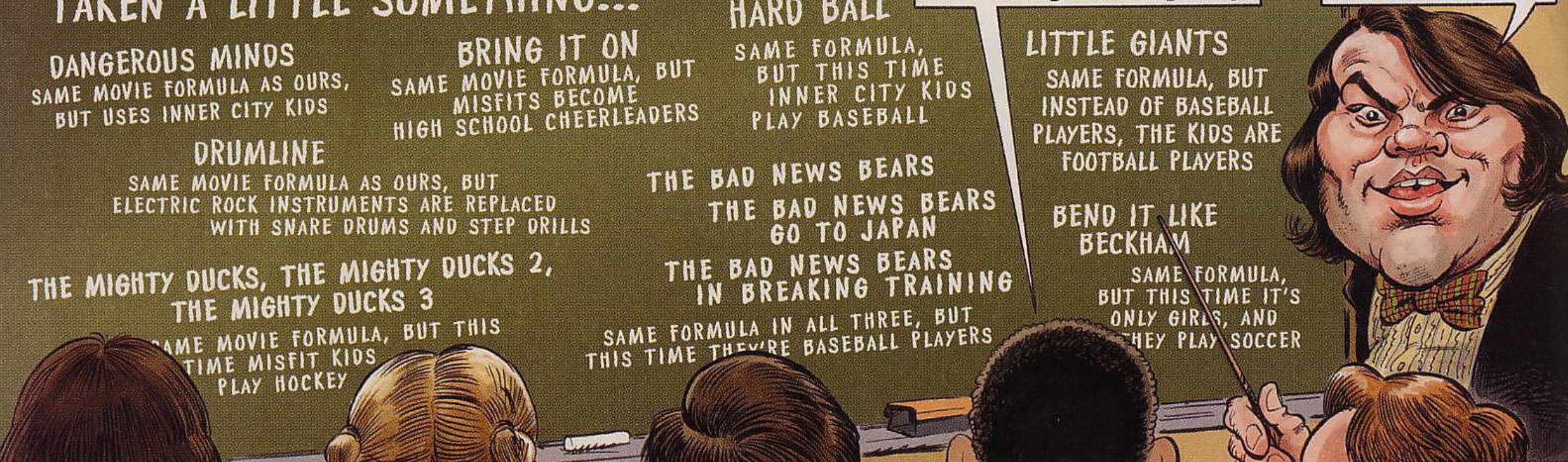
BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

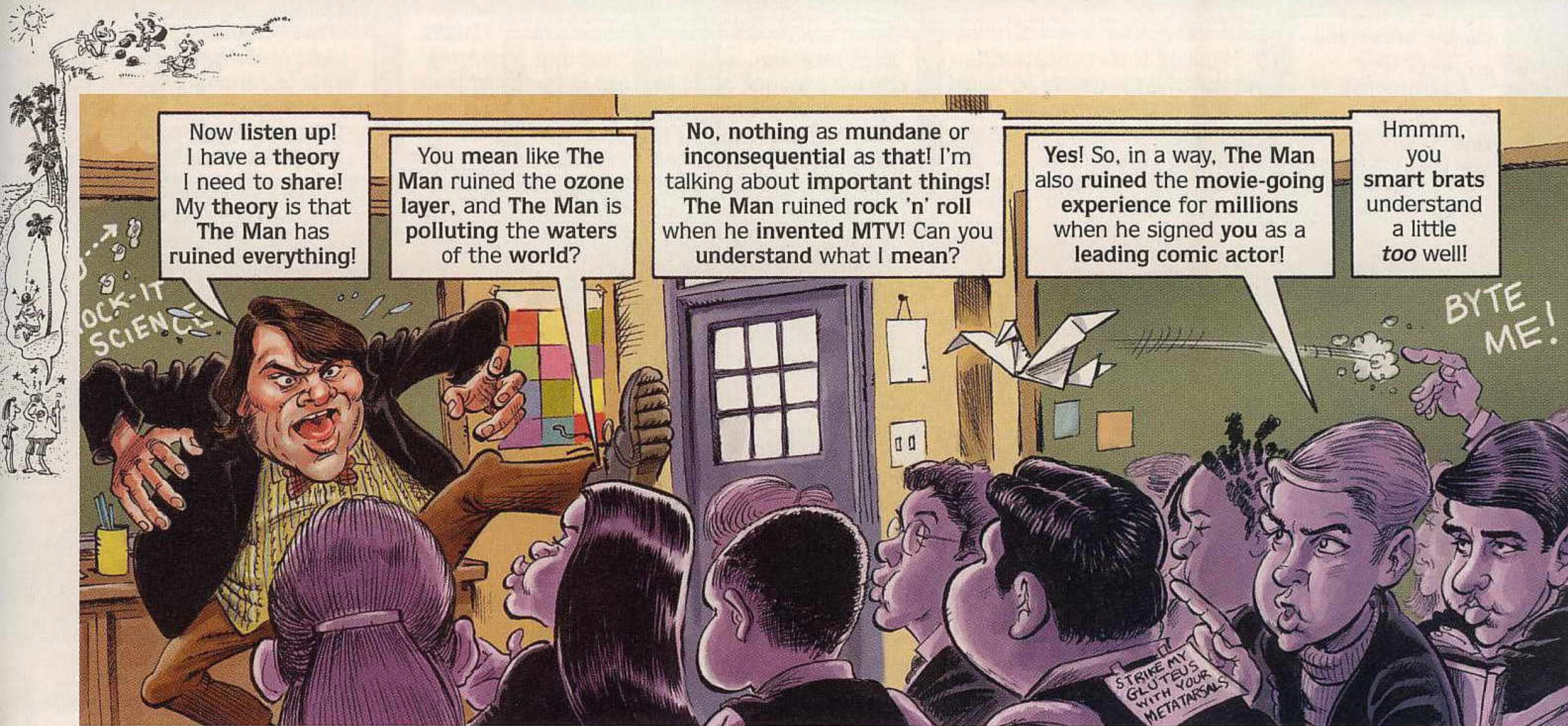
SAME FORMULA, BUT THIS TIME IT'S ONLY GIRLS, AND THEY PLAY SOCCER

Okay, that's just a hint of the formula movies that have gone before us. It gives us something to strive for!

We're striving for UNoriginality?

It's worked for some of the biggest entertainment corporations in the world! Don't knock it!





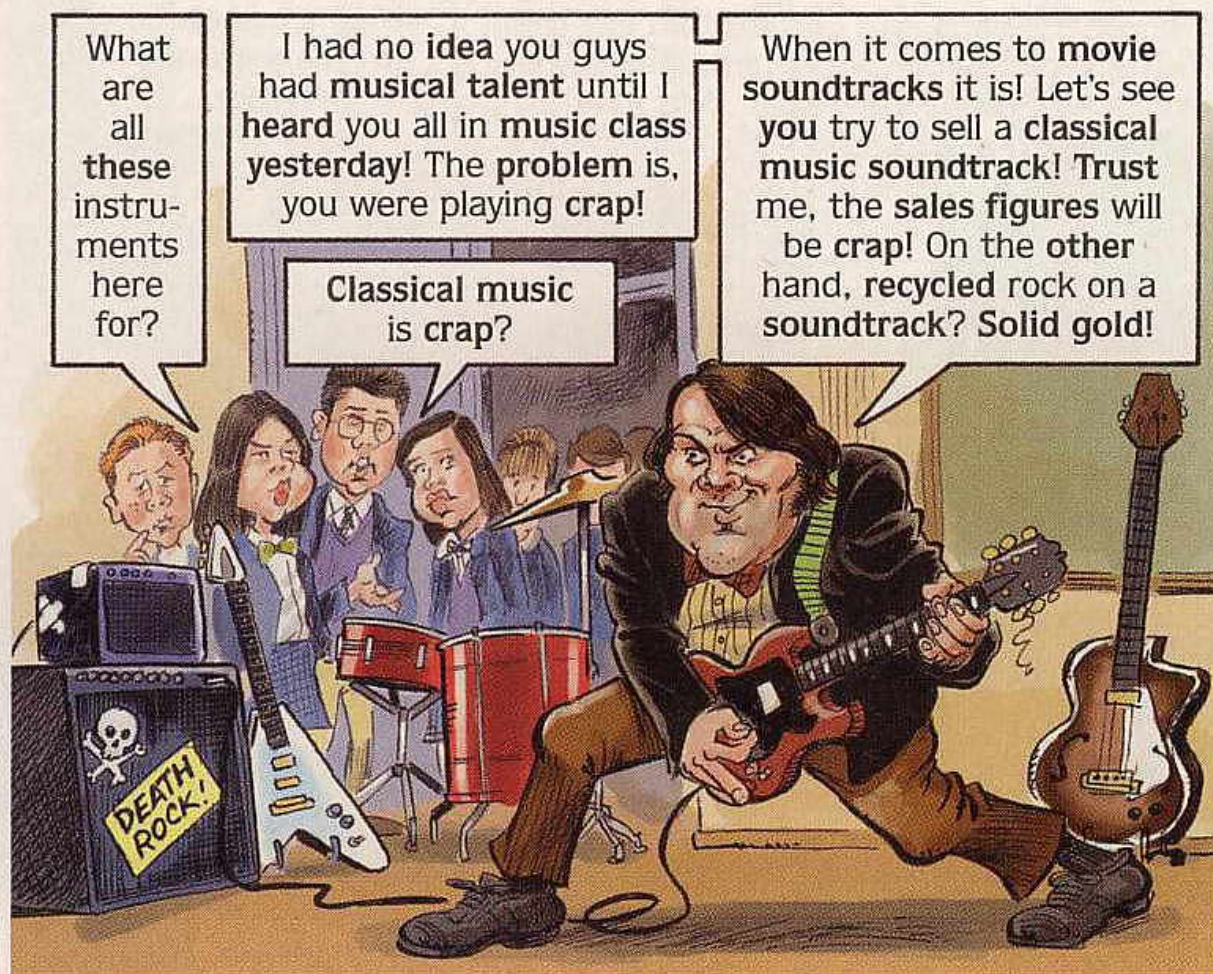
Now listen up!
I have a theory
I need to share!
My theory is that
The Man has
ruined everything!

You mean like The
Man ruined the ozone
layer, and The Man is
polluting the waters
of the world?

No, nothing as mundane or
inconsequential as that! I'm
talking about important things!
The Man ruined rock 'n' roll
when he invented MTV! Can you
understand what I mean?

Yes! So, in a way, The Man
also ruined the movie-going
experience for millions
when he signed you as a
leading comic actor!

Hmmm,
you
smart brats
understand
a little
too well!

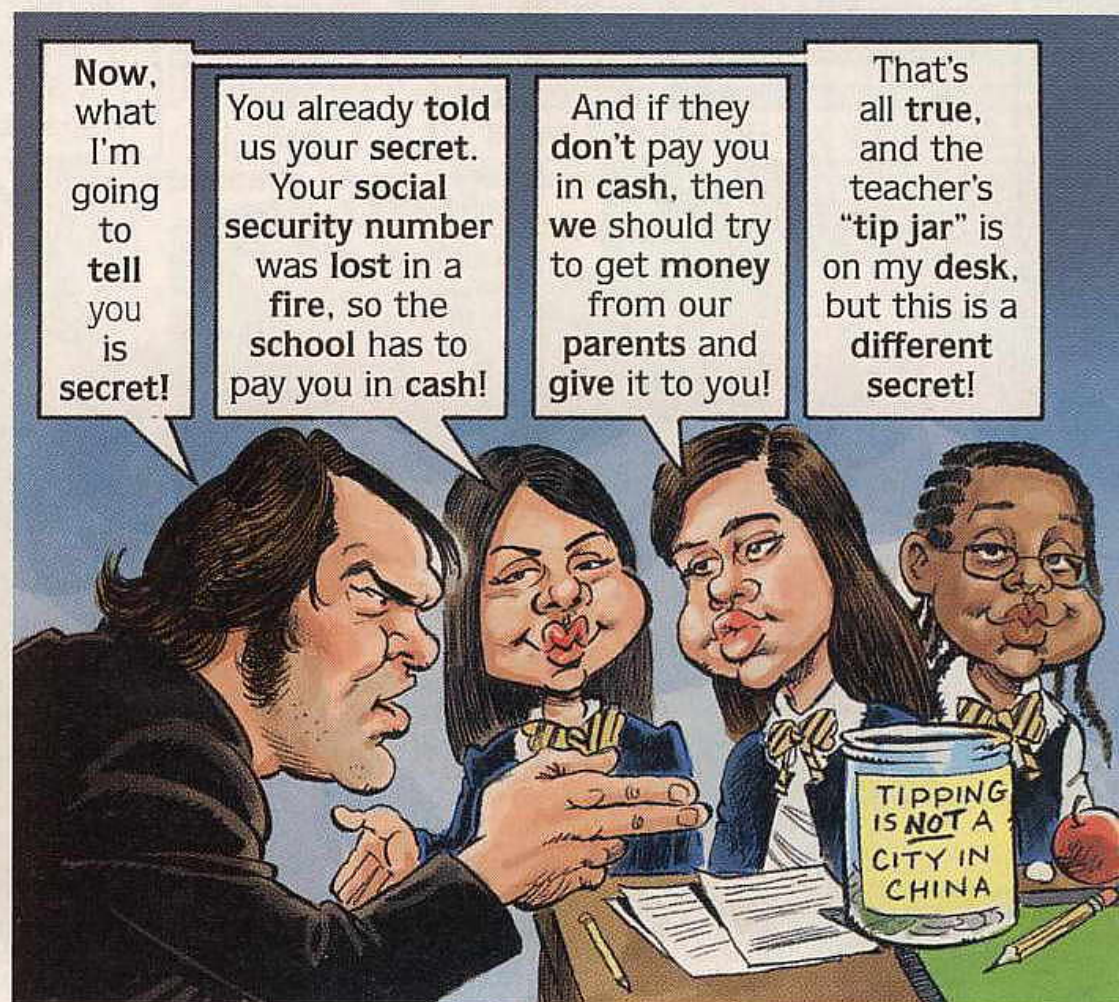


What
are
all
these
instru-
ments
here
for?

I had no idea you guys
had musical talent until I
heard you all in music class
yesterday! The problem is,
you were playing crap!

Classical music
is crap?

When it comes to movie
soundtracks it is! Let's see
you try to sell a classical
music soundtrack! Trust
me, the sales figures will
be crap! On the other
hand, recycled rock on a
soundtrack? Solid gold!

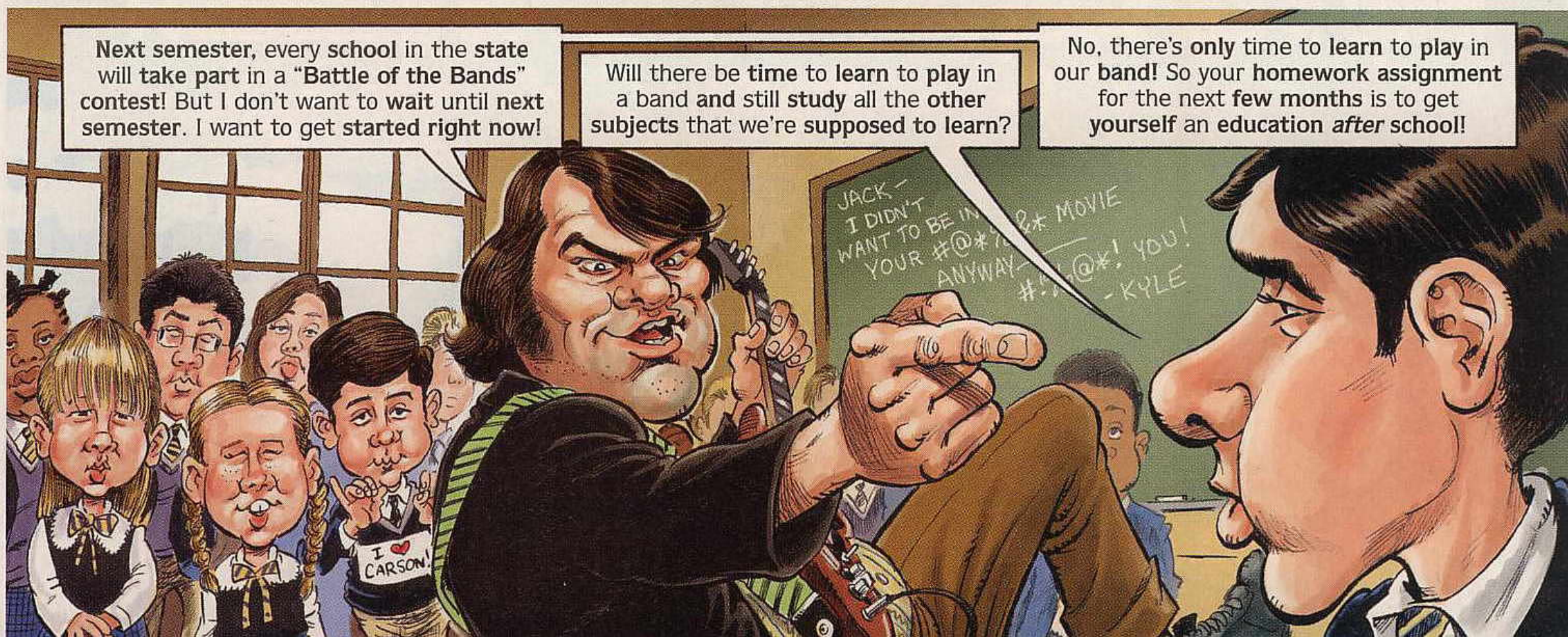


Now,
what
I'm
going
to
tell
you
is
secret!

You already told
us your secret.
Your social
security number
was lost in a
fire, so the
school has to
pay you in cash!

And if they
don't pay you
in cash, then
we should try
to get money
from our
parents and
give it to you!

That's
all true,
and the
teacher's
"tip jar" is
on my desk,
but this is a
different
secret!



Next semester, every school in the state
will take part in a "Battle of the Bands"
contest! But I don't want to wait until next
semester. I want to get started right now!

Will there be time to learn to play in
a band and still study all the other
subjects that we're supposed to learn?

No, there's only time to learn to play in
our band! So your homework assignment
for the next few months is to get
yourself an education *after* school!

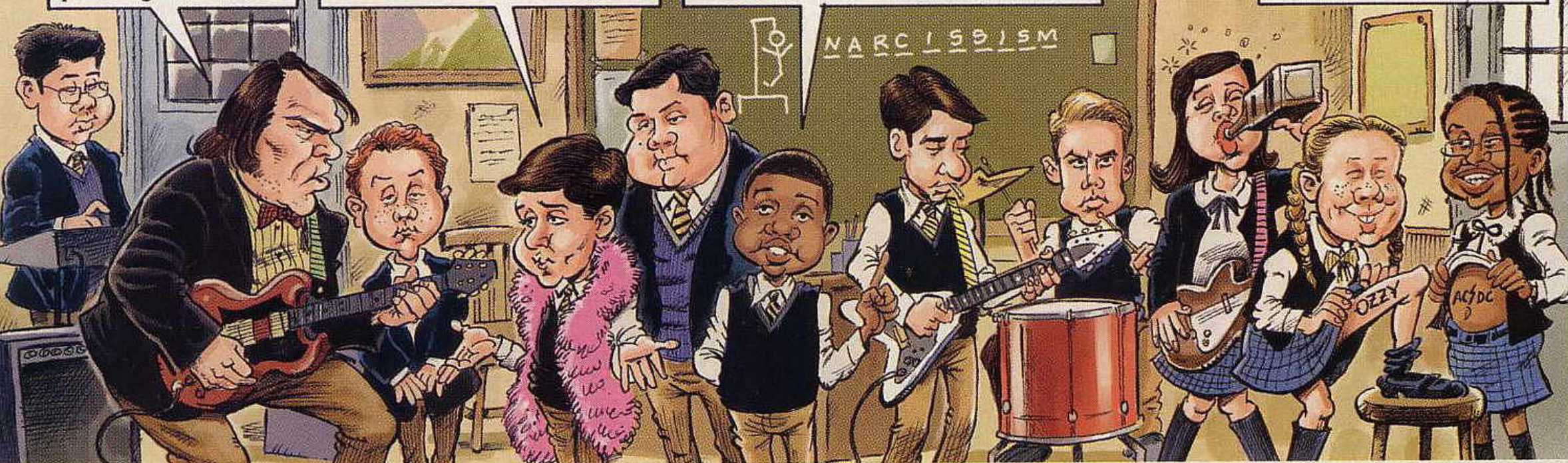
All the musicians have their instruments, how are you guys coming with soundproofing this room?

Making this room soundproof when you have all these amplifiers cranked up will be just about impossible, but we have a perfect plan!

Each morning, we'll sneak into the teacher's lounge and place ear plugs into all their ears! That way, even with all the amps at full power, the teachers won't hear a thing!

That's truly implausible, isn't it?

That's implausible? Asking ten-year-old kids to soundproof a schoolroom full of high-powered music gear is *more* believable?



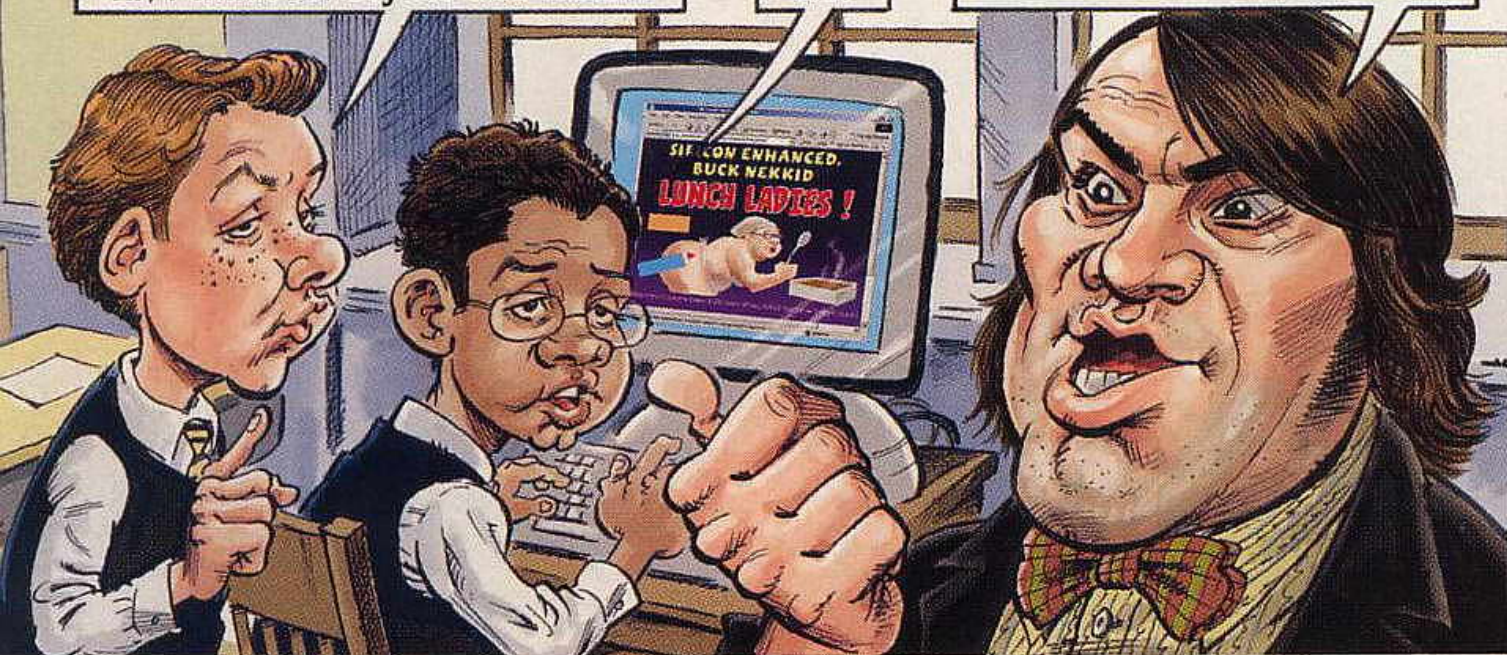
Well, as long as we're talking unbelievable, let's get the rest of this totally far-fetched plot out of the way! Do you two boys know how to make smoke for the stage?

Er, I think so. Dry ice and water?

Yes! And do you kids know how to make lasers?

No!

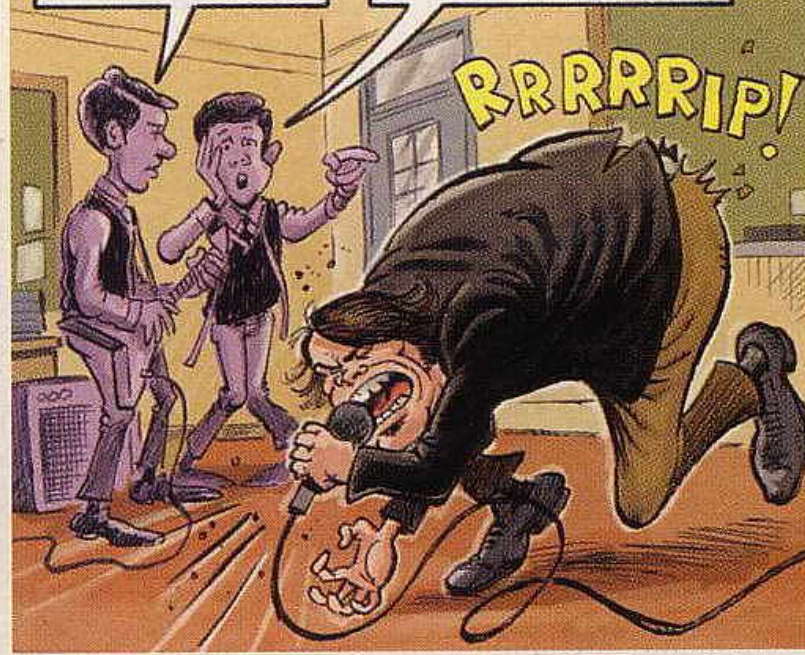
Then put that on your "things to do after school" list! Build lasers! I think you just need some radioactive isotopes and some loose atoms or something! It'll be easy for kids to do. Try Google!



It's too loud! Way too loud! Turn it down!

Lighten up! The amplifier's not that loud!

The amplifier's fine. Turn down that teacher! He's so over-the-top, he's giving a bad name to "flamboyant" behavior!



Welcome to Horribly Green Prep School!

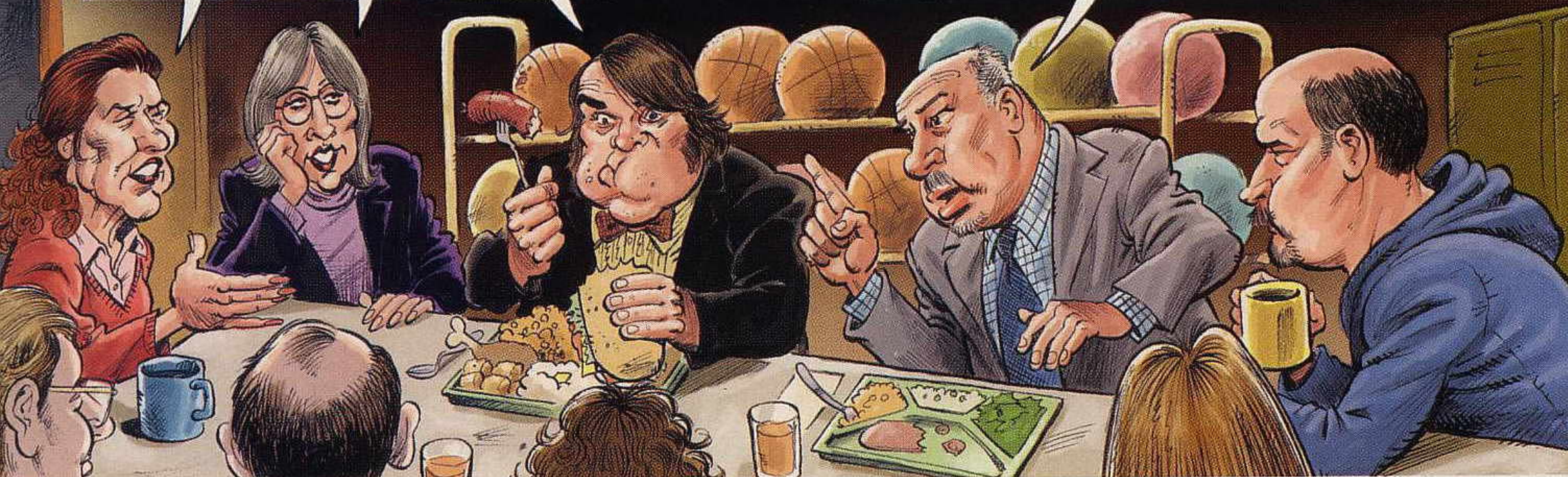
Do you have any special thoughts on teaching kids?

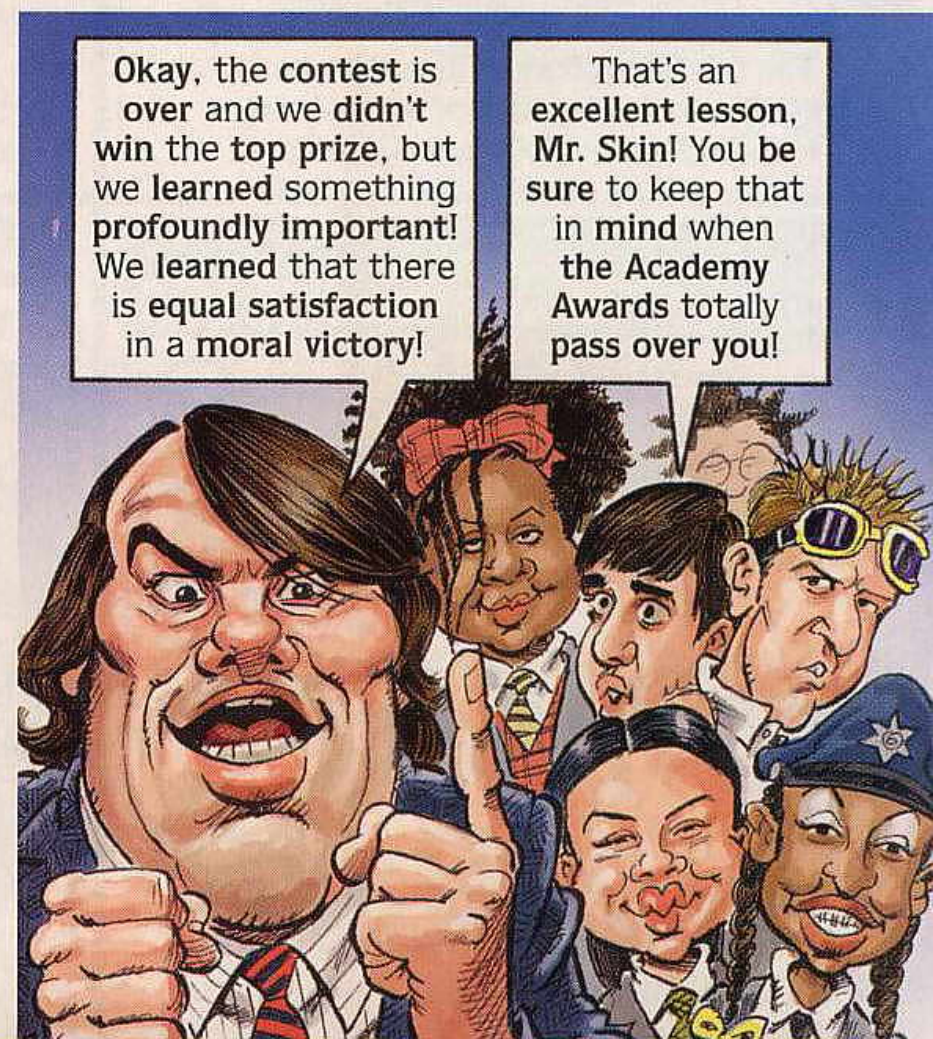
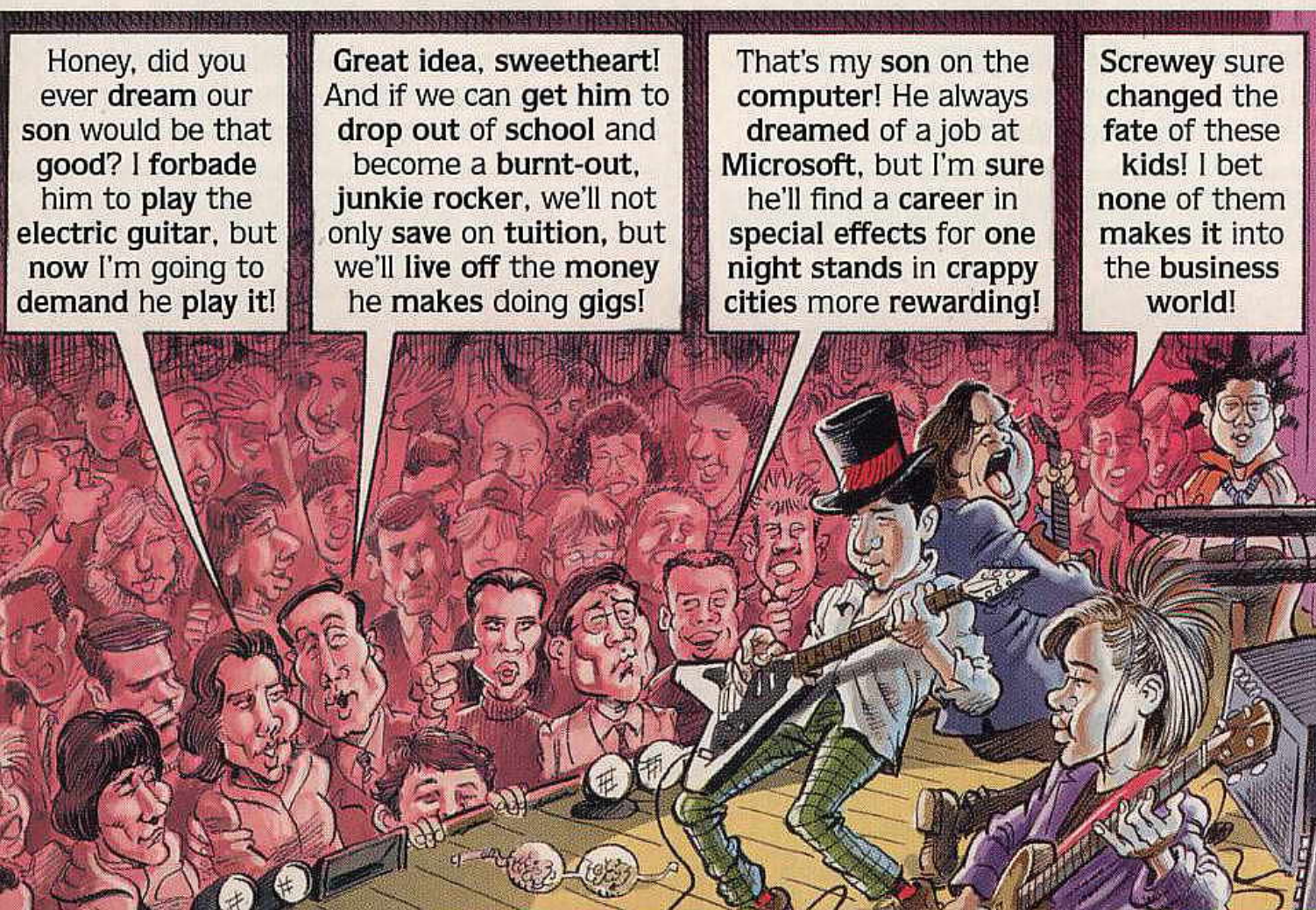
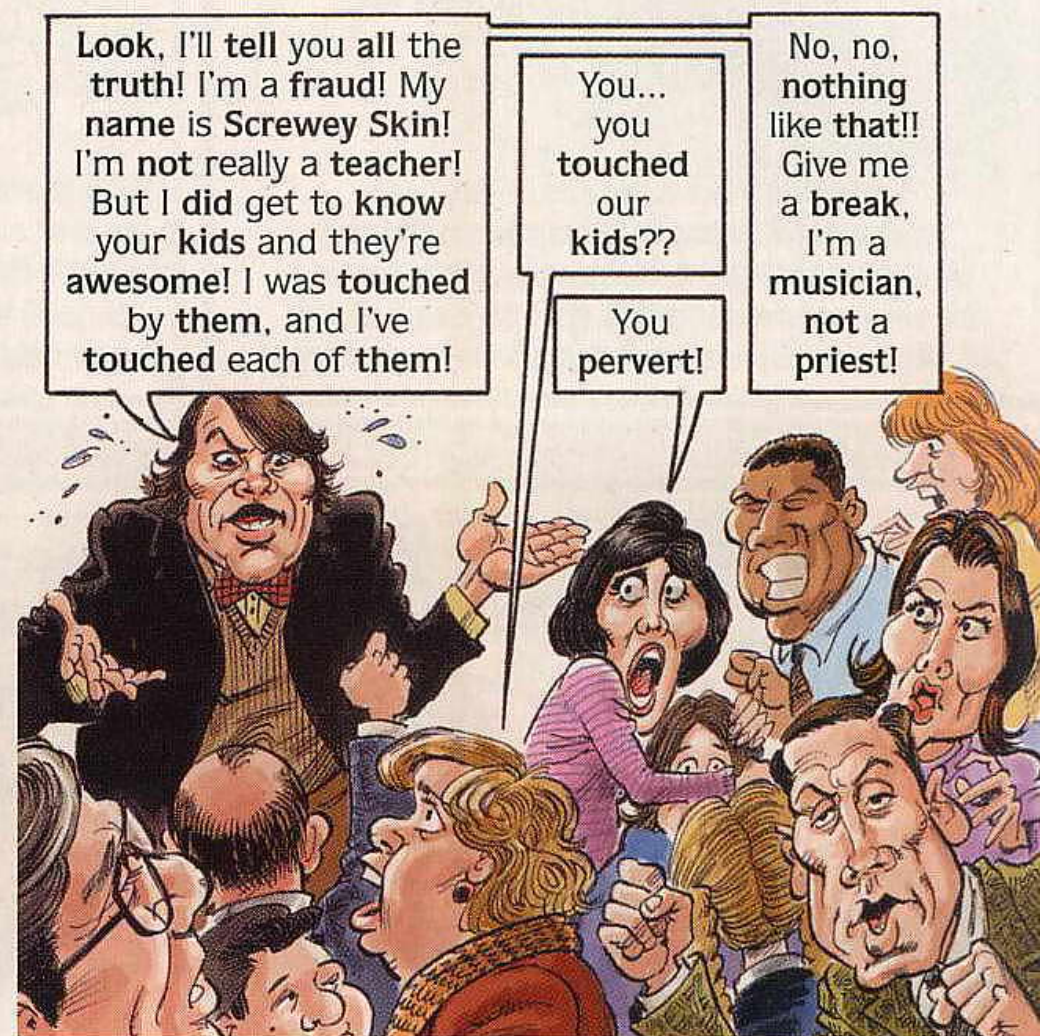
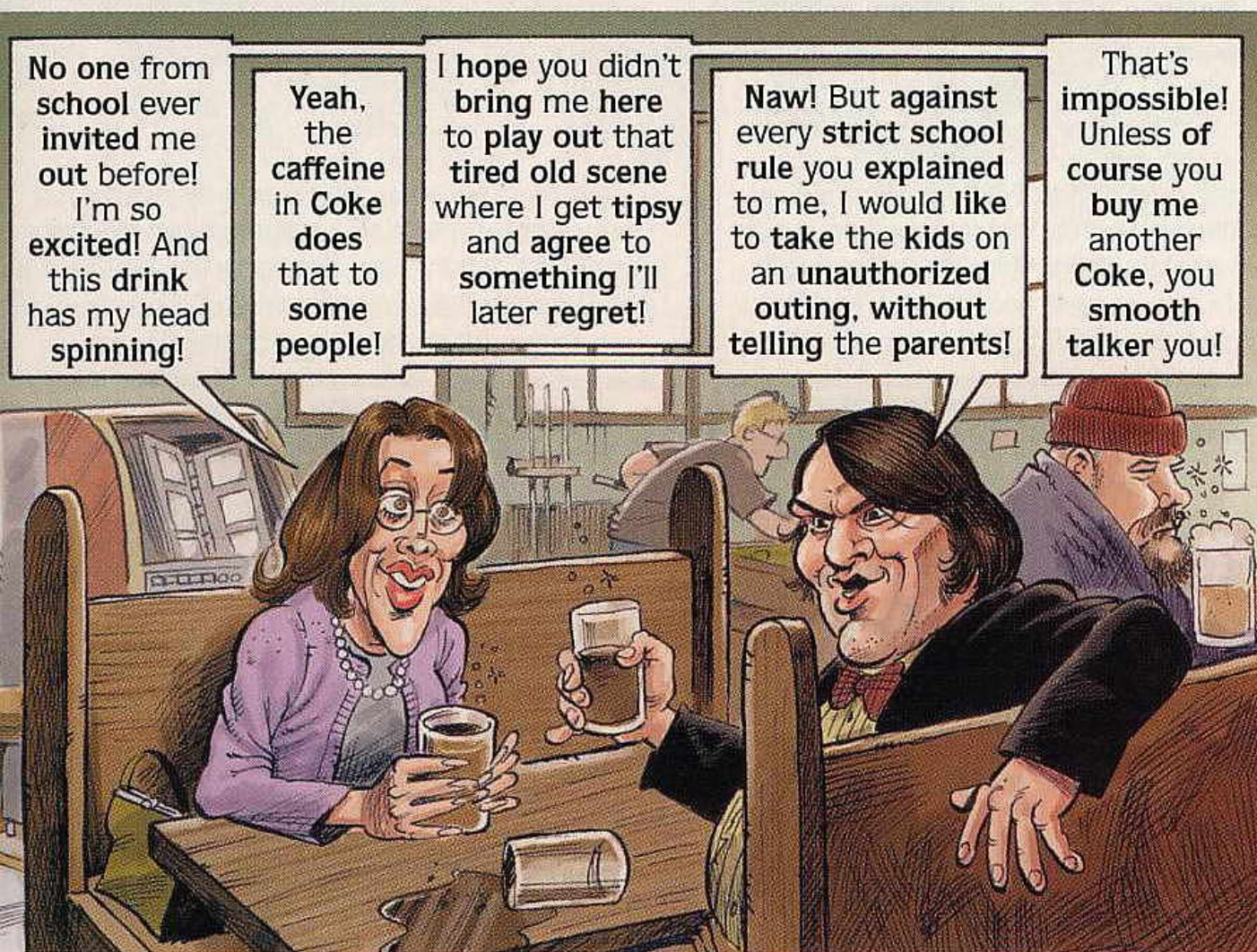
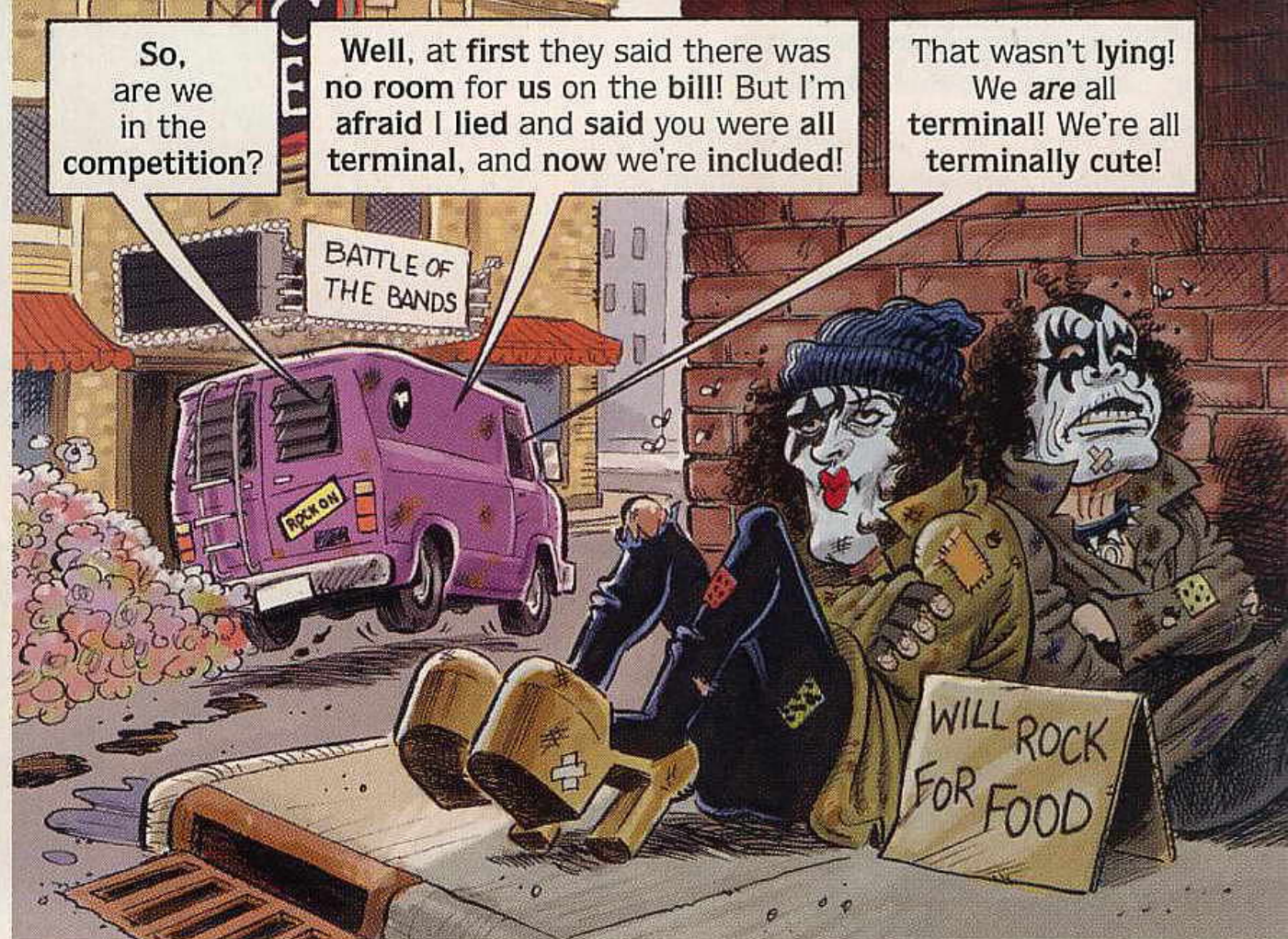
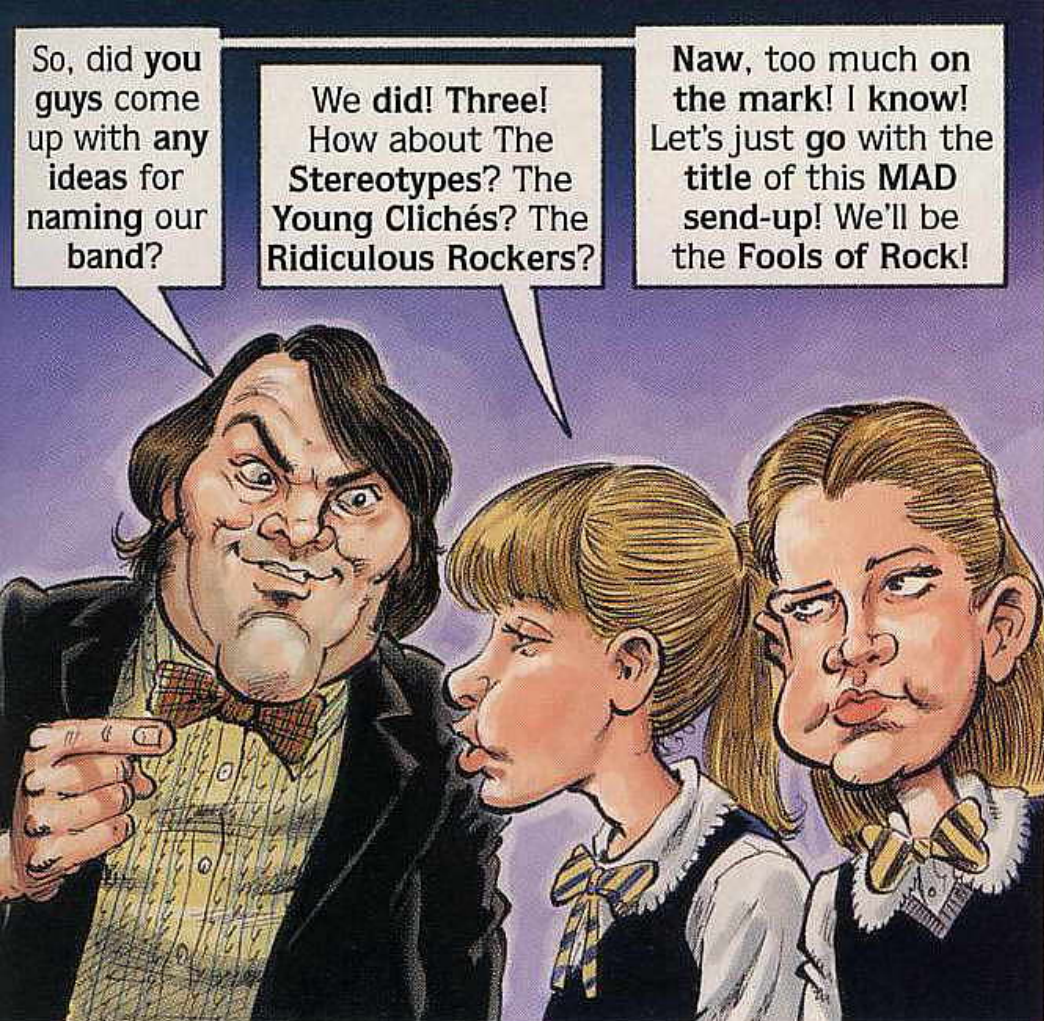
I like to see everything they do grounded in rock!

Yes, I agree! A solid foundation is necessary for all education!

Today I started them working on The Battle of the Bands!

You must be quite thorough! After The Battle of Gettysburg and The Battle of the Bulge, I'm done with military history! It's nice to see you go that extra mile!







During the war, what did the Iraqi army and the U.S. army have in common? Answer: neither of them spoke much English! The attack on Saddam Hussein was described with a desert storm of confusing buzzwords, codewords and non-words. And with Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Saudi Arabia, France and Peru still taking up valuable space on the map, expect to hear a whole lot more of this tongue-twisting Pentagon gobbledygook. Therefore, as a service to our readers who like to watch stuff blow up real good on TV, enjoy the deeply, deeply embedded jokes in...

MAD's Handy to the

CHEMICAL WEAPONS



Something the Iraqi devils probably used on U.S. troops during the 1991 war. (However, Pentagon doctors want to remind all veterans reading this that any symptoms of "Gulf War Syndrome" are 100% imaginary.)

CYNIC



The administration's term for anybody who'd kind of like to see even one bottle turn up from that massive Iraqi supply of "25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, and 500 tons of sarin, mustard, and VX nerve agent" George Bush trumpeted in his State of the Union address.

"ANOTHER VIETNAM"



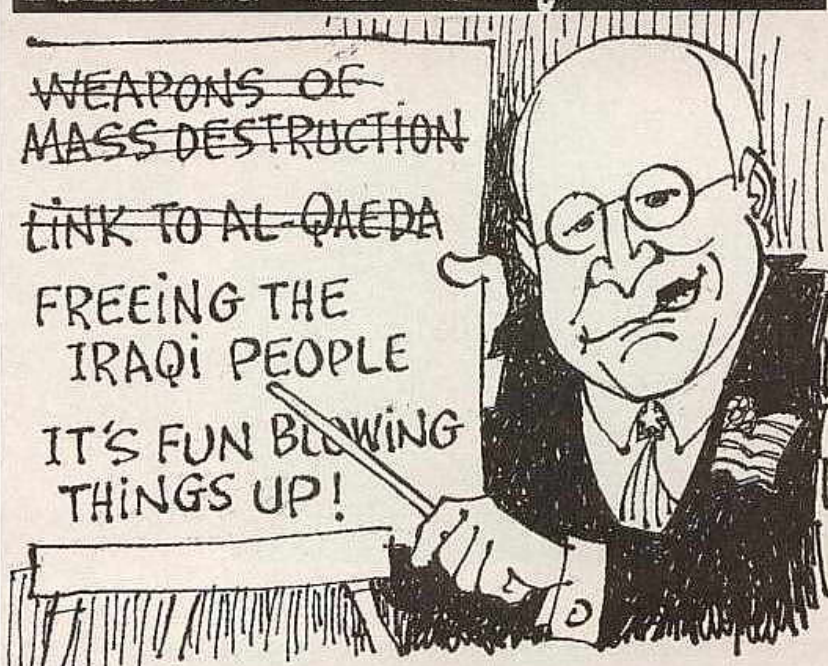
A ridiculous assertion made by the war's opponents, who don't comprehend the very significant differences between the Middle East and Southeast Asia: you can sell a barrel of oil for much more than a barrel of rice.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE



The official military explanation as to why there are so many empty seats lately in Umm Qasr's 4th-grade classrooms.

FREEING THE IRAQI PEOPLE



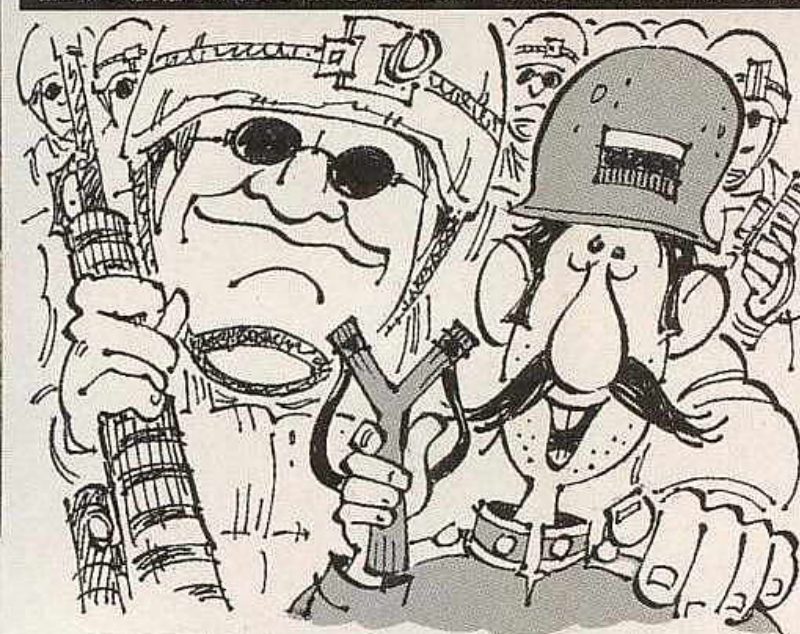
White House catch phrase #3, when it turned out "weapons of mass destruction" and "link to al-Qaeda" didn't work so good.

ACCEPTABLE LOSSES



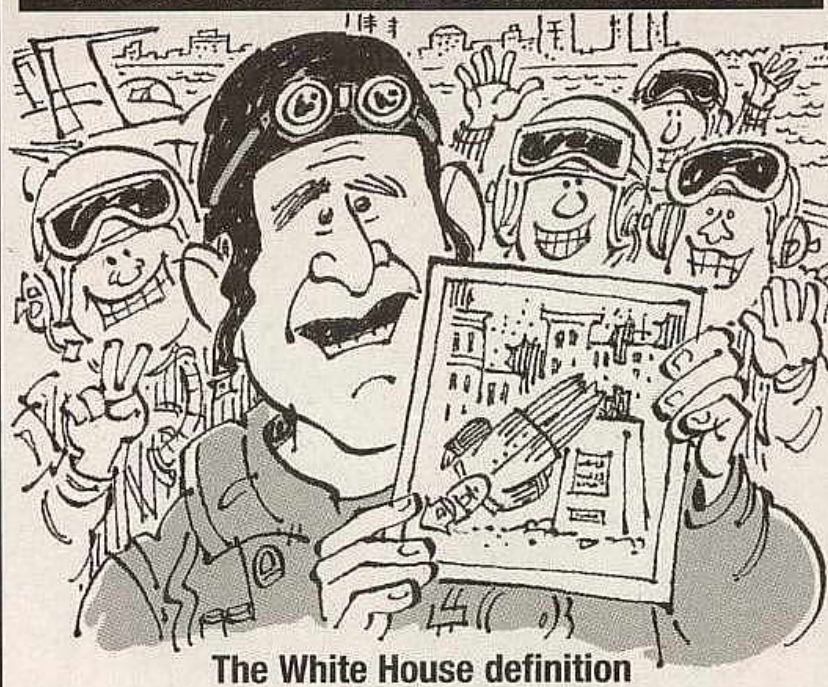
Attorney General John Ashcroft's stance on the Bill of Rights, except for #2 and #10.

BROADBASED INTERNATIONAL COALITION



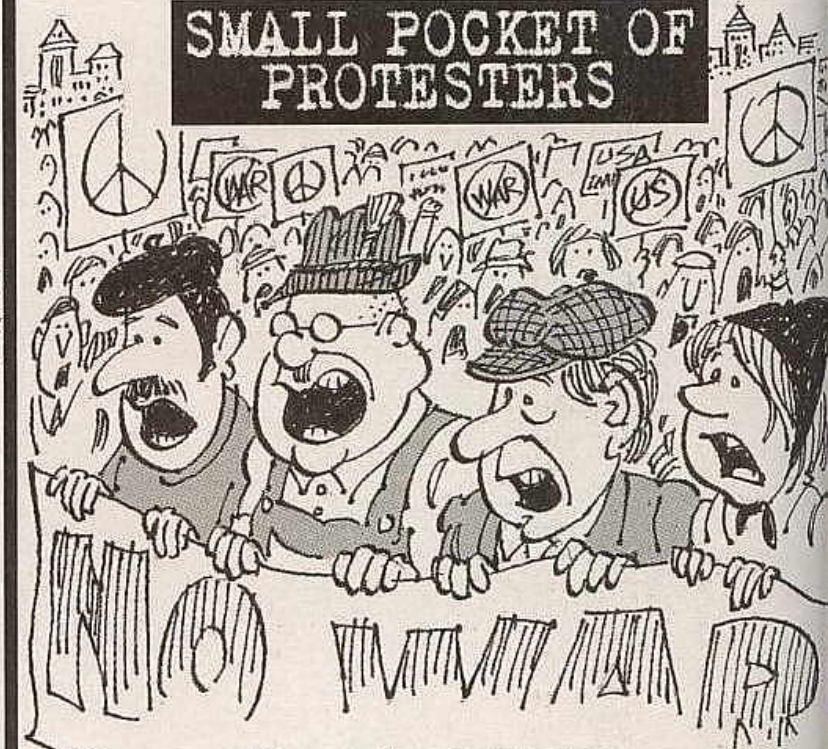
139,000 U.S. troops, and a guy from Bulgaria.

"MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"



The White House definition of knocking over a statue.

SMALL POCKET OF PROTESTERS



The continent of Europe.

Glossary War on Terror

ARTIST: PAUL COKER

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

INCREASED CHATTER



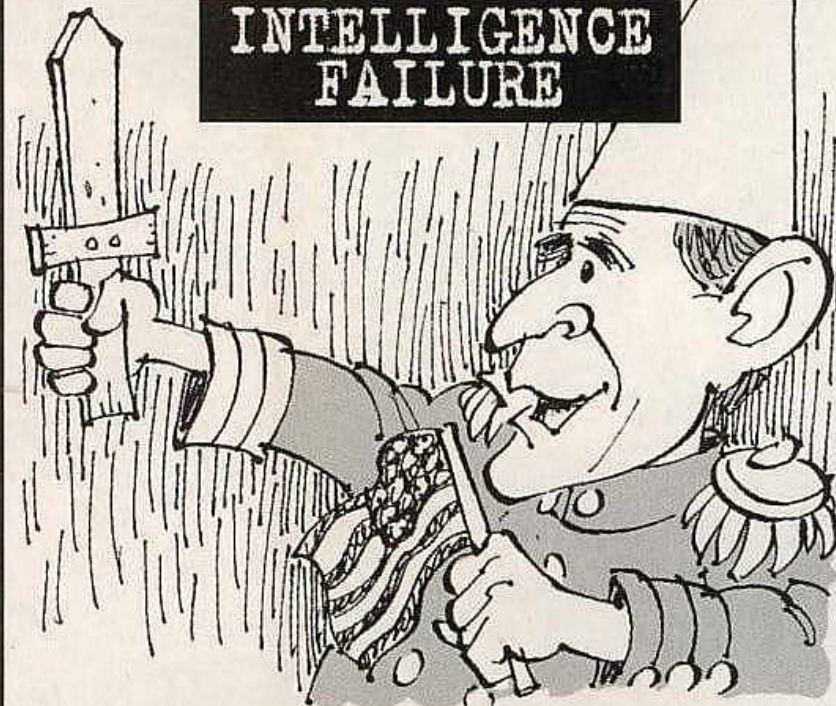
Endless background noise heard on CNN, FOX News and talk radio from thousands of pundits who apparently think that "No blood for oil!" or "I support the troops!" are exceptionally deep statements.

EMBEDDED REPORTER



A professional journalist who will report fully, fairly and without bias on the same people he's dependent upon to keep his ass alive.

INTELLIGENCE FAILURE



Calling the war a "crusade," declaring the fighting "over," inviting motivated killers to "bring it on," or whatever boneheaded thing Bush says NEXT week.

"BRING IT ON"



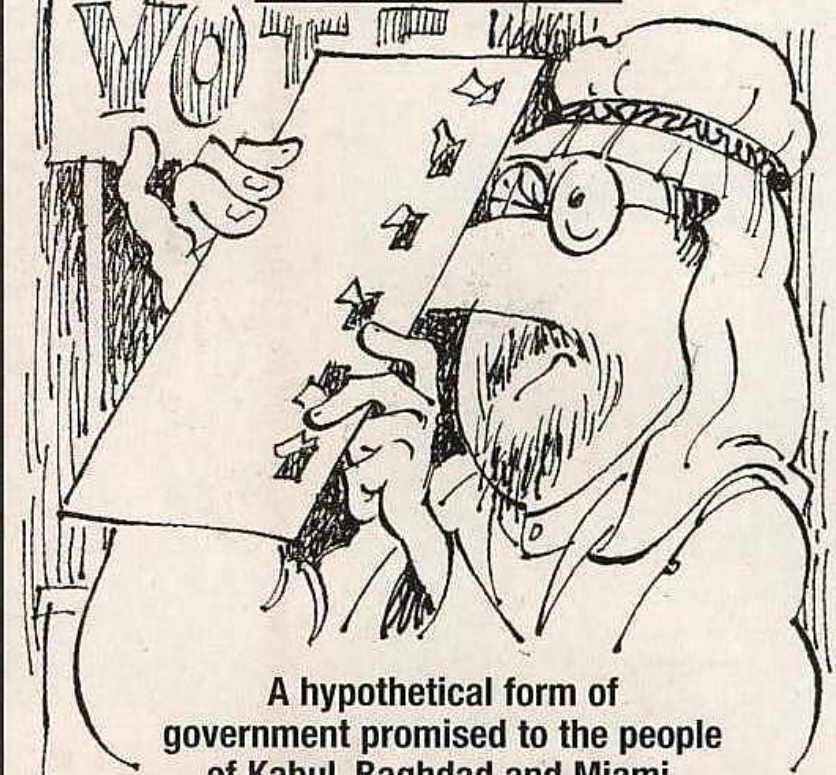
W's taunt to America's enemies, apparently meant to intimidate the sort of people who already blow themselves up with a smile.

NATION-BUILDING



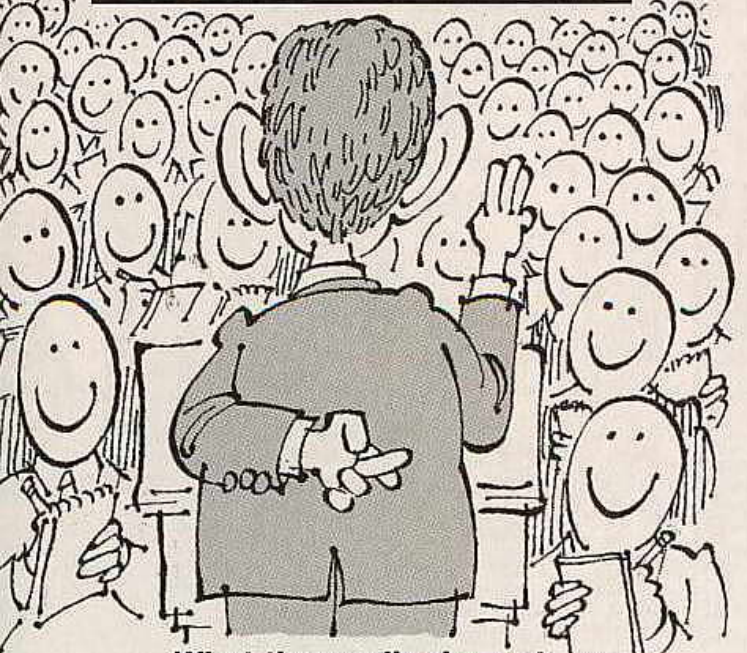
Something you sort of have to do after bombing a nation into jillions of teeny pieces.

DEMOCRACY



A hypothetical form of government promised to the people of Kabul, Baghdad and Miami.

MASS SURRENDER



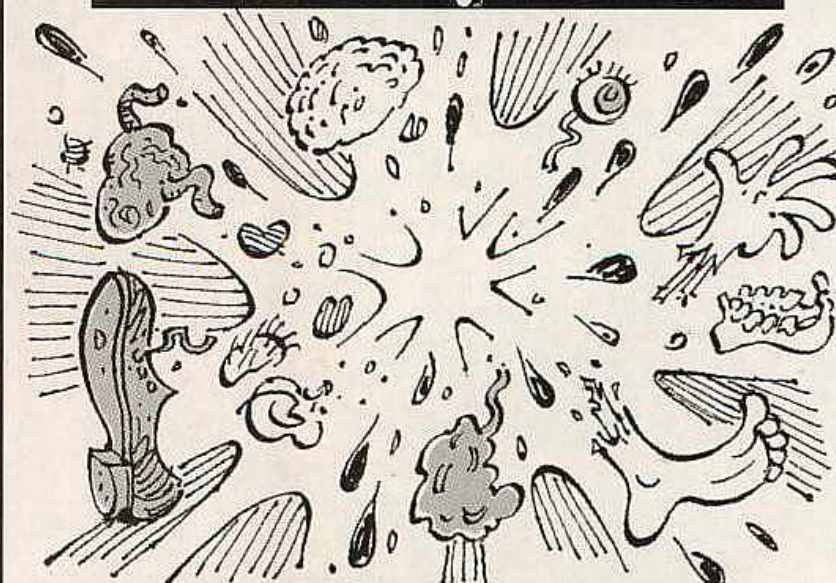
What the media does at every Bush press conference.

PREEMPTIVE WARFARE



A brand-new U.S. policy, apparently thought up after seeing a Mike Tyson weigh-in.

"HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE"



That stuff CNN and FOX don't show you, splattered all over the Iraqi rubble.



Everyone gets their 15 minutes. For our hero it will feel like forever. It's...

Monty and...

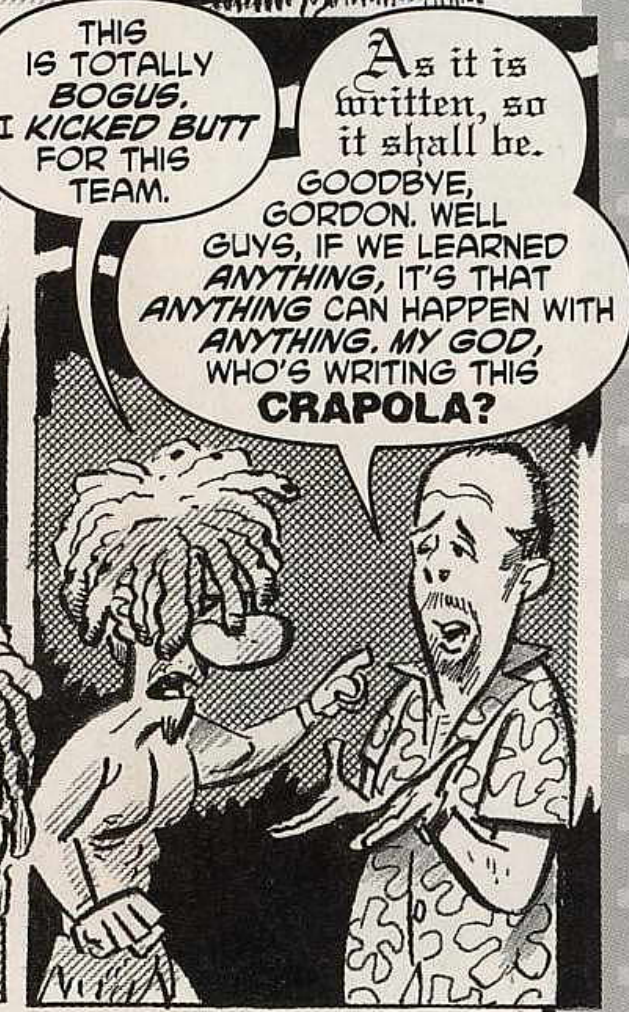


SURVIVOR JR.

PART 1



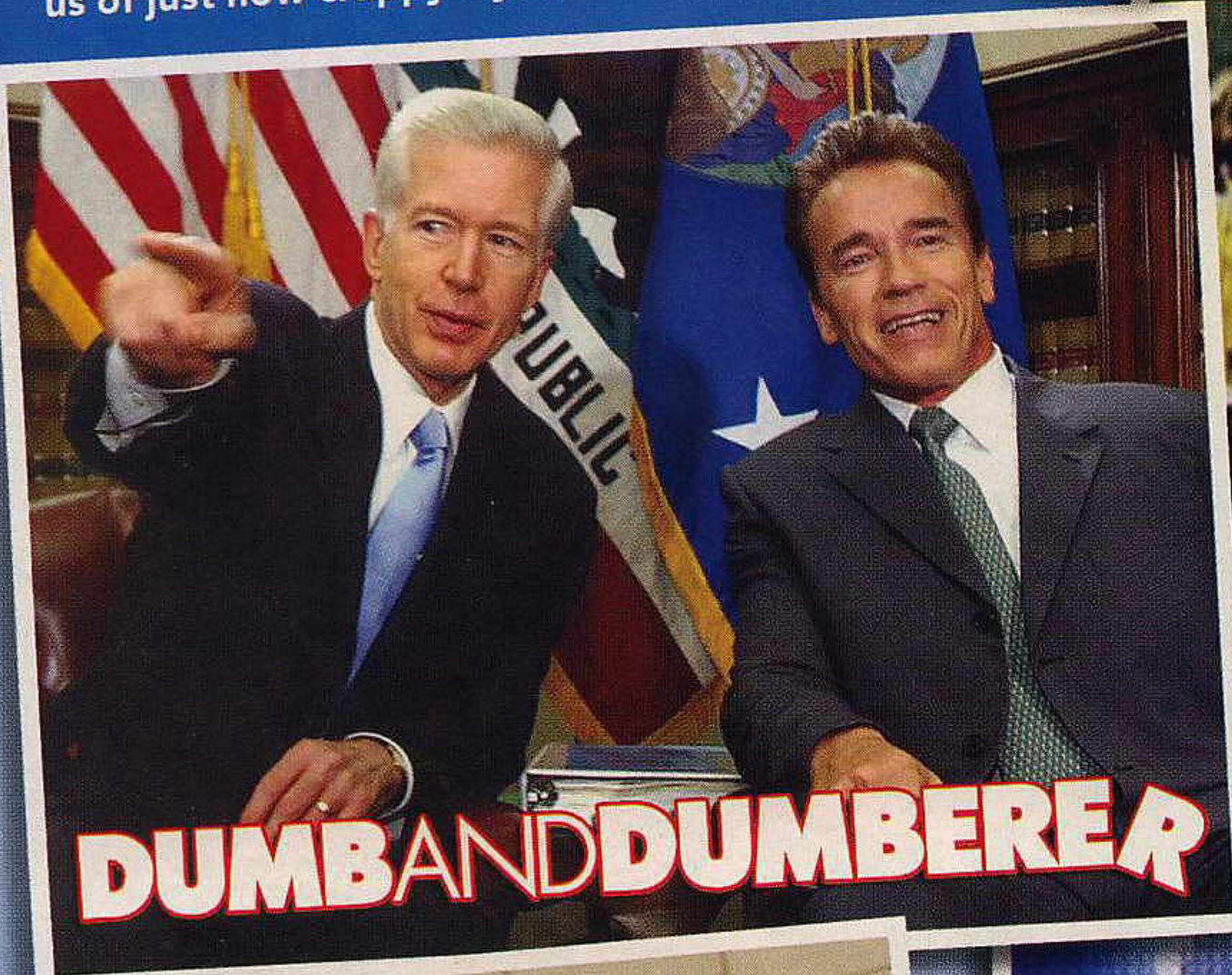






People go to movies to forget the troubles of the real world. Unfortunately, even in the cool, dark, cell phone-free atmosphere of the multiplex, there was still plenty to remind us of just how crappy a year it was.

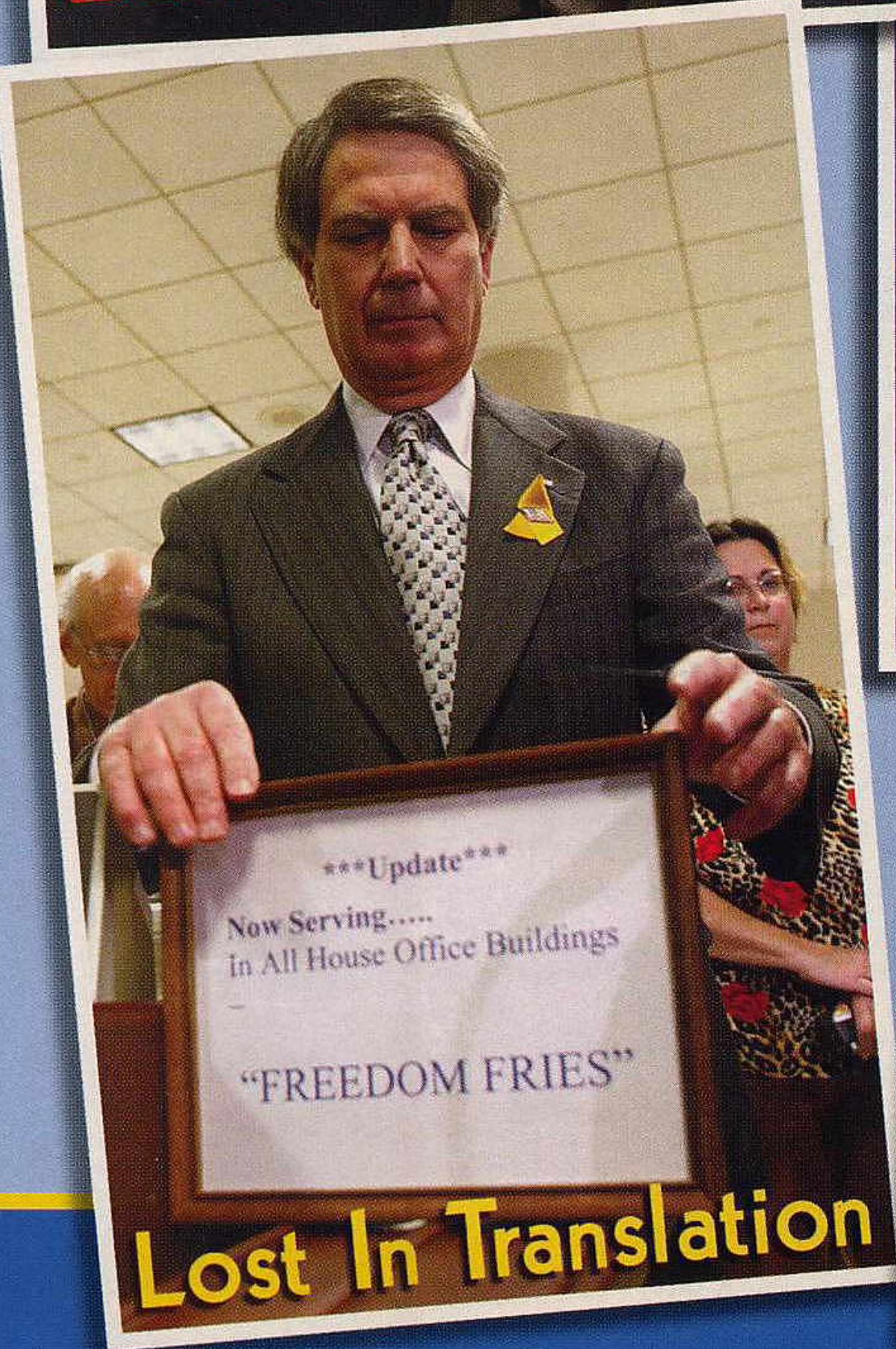
2003: THE



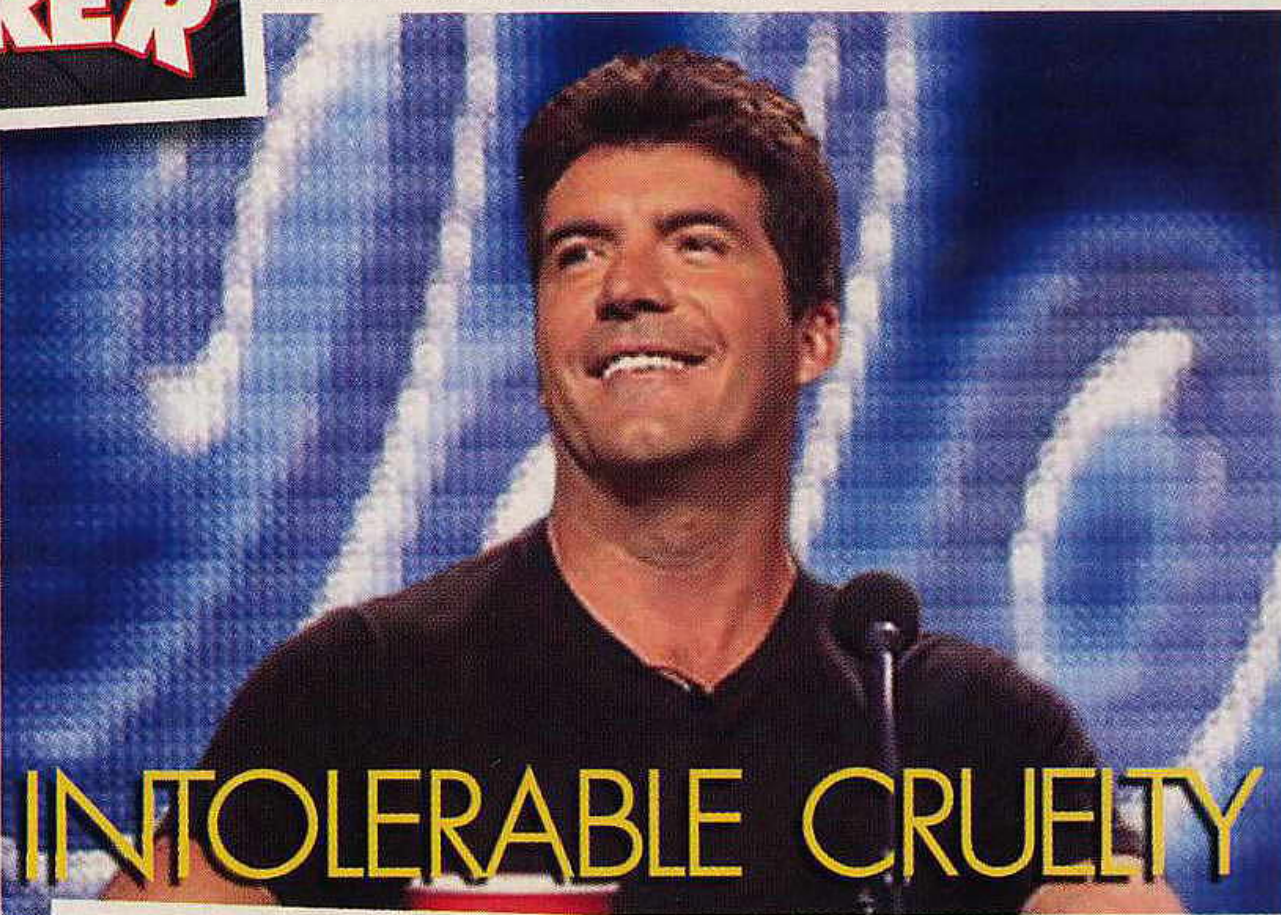
DUMB AND DUMBERER



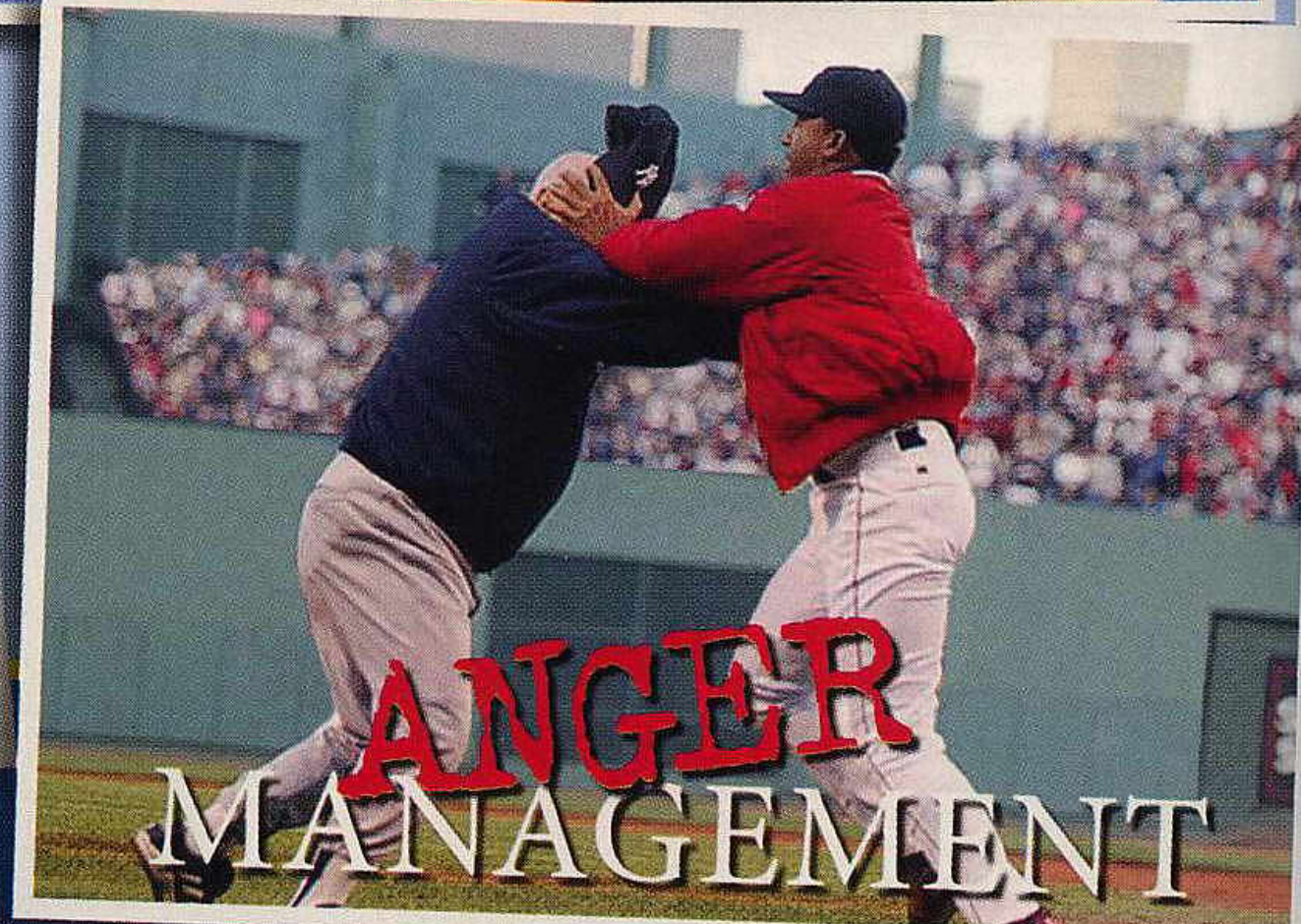
SCARY MOVIE 3



Lost In Translation

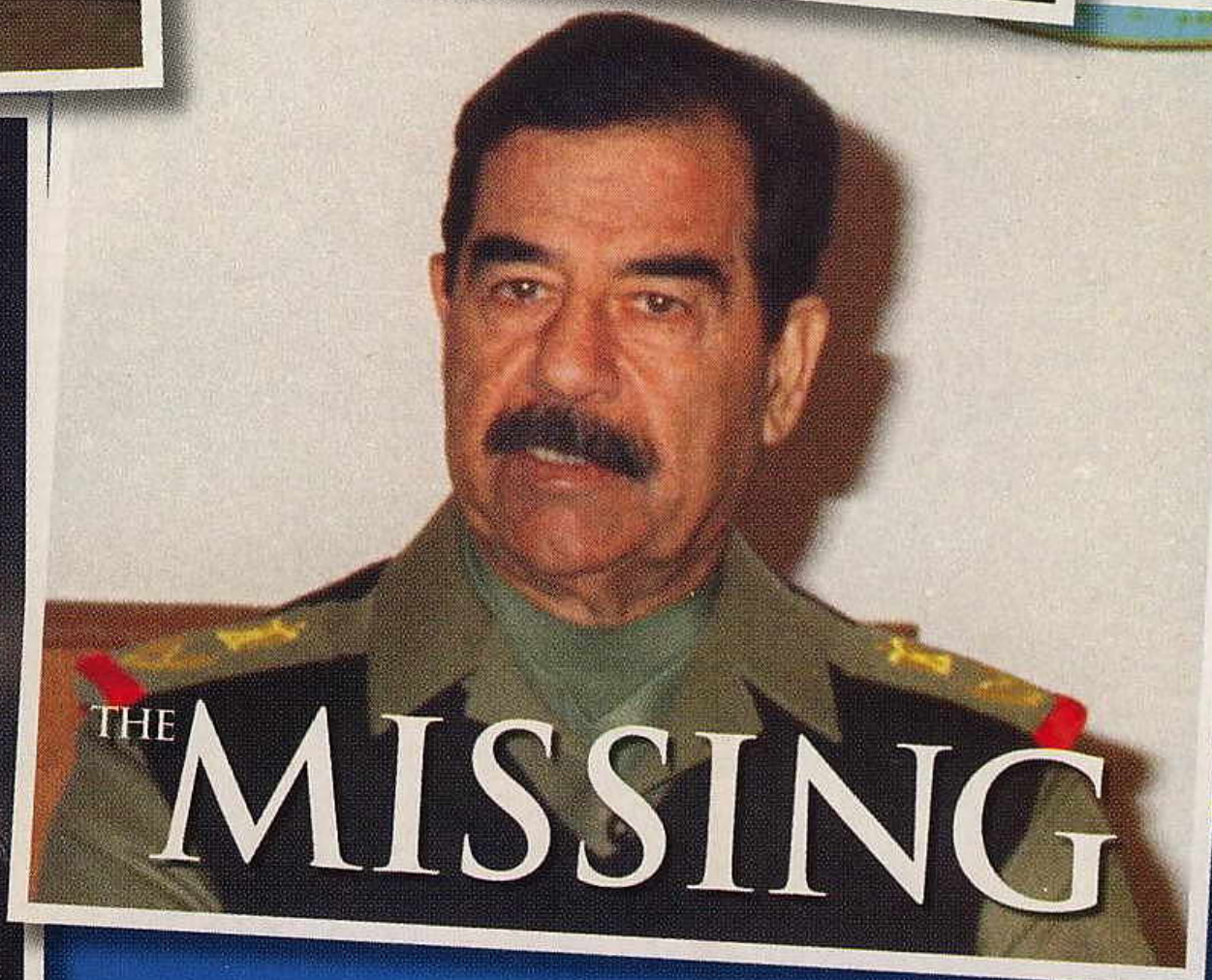
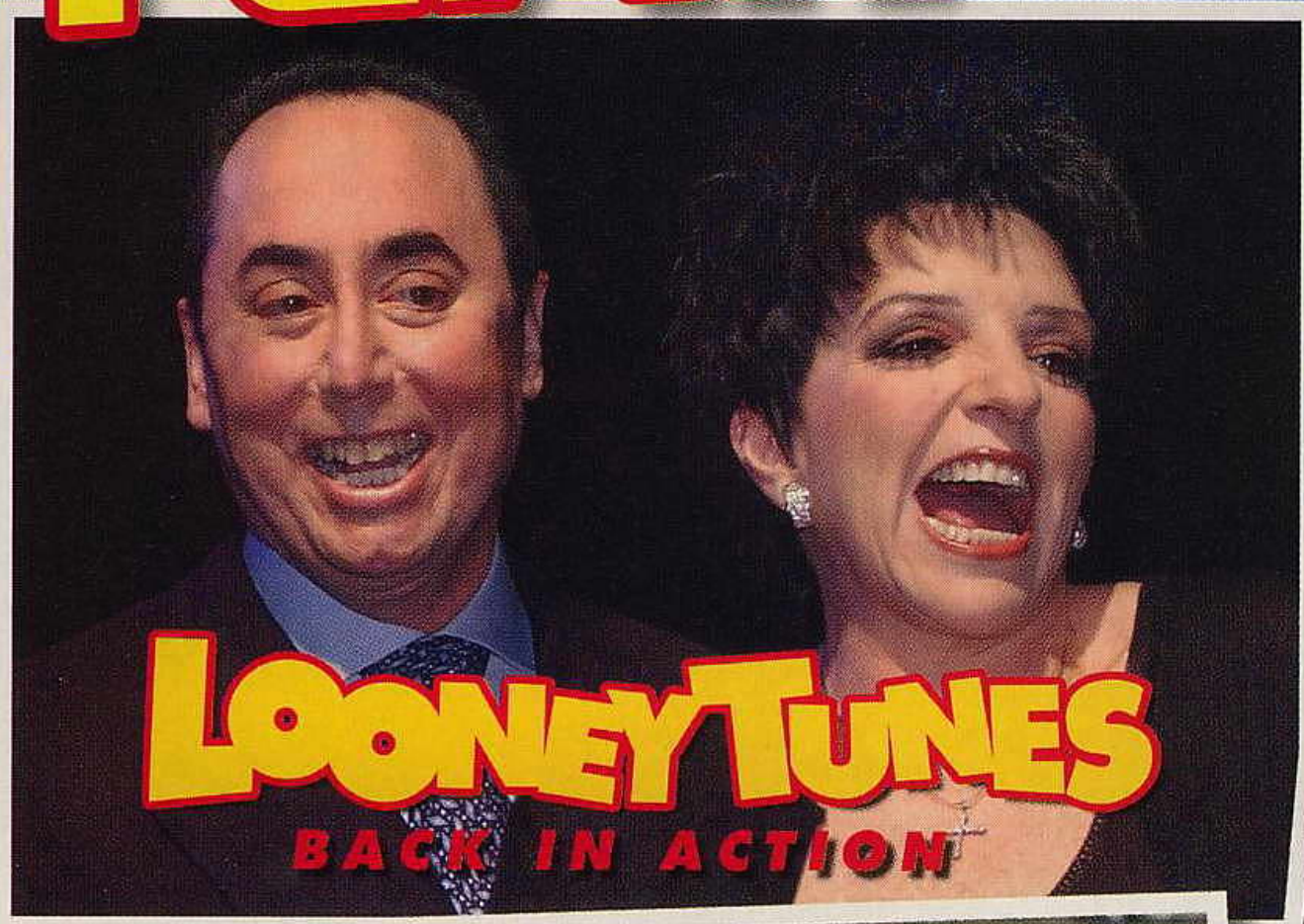


INTOLERABLE CRUELTY



ANGER MANAGEMENT

YEAR IN FILM



PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

SERGIO ARAGONE'S PRESENTS A WALL TO WALL LOOK

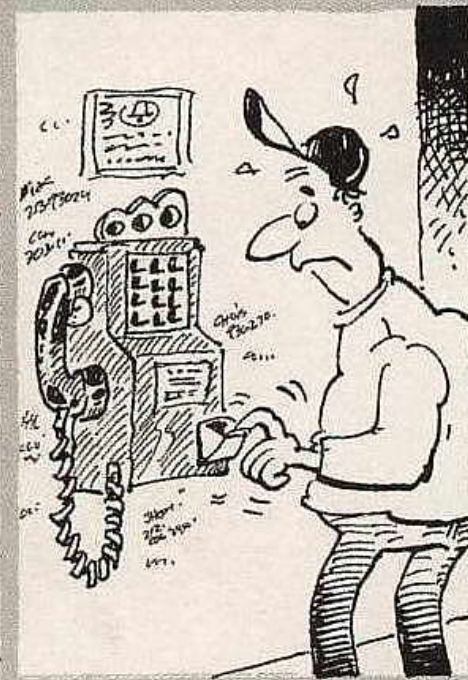


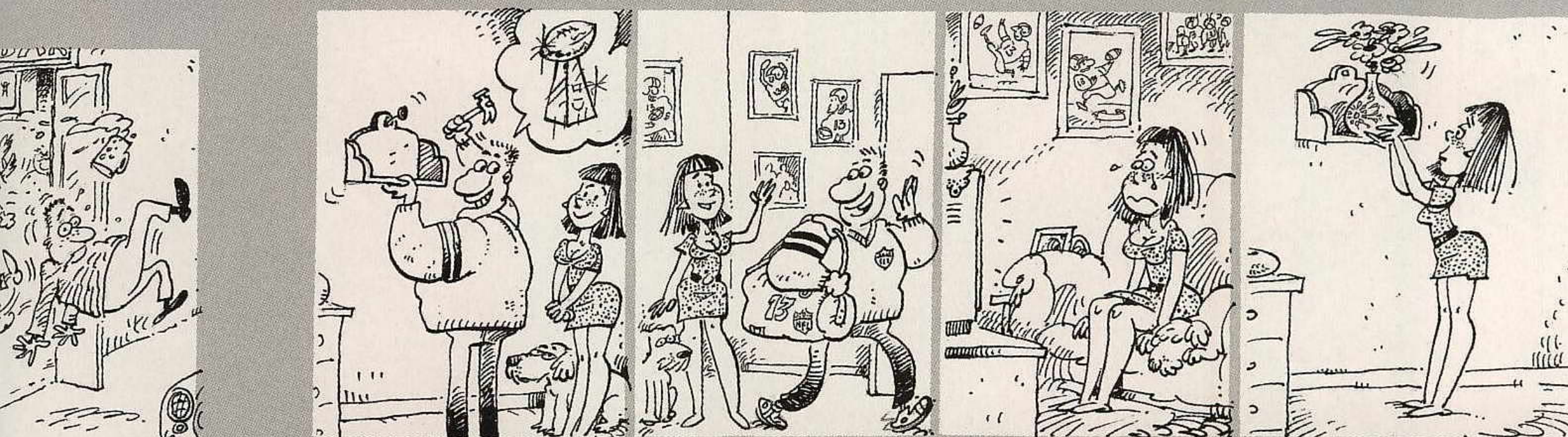
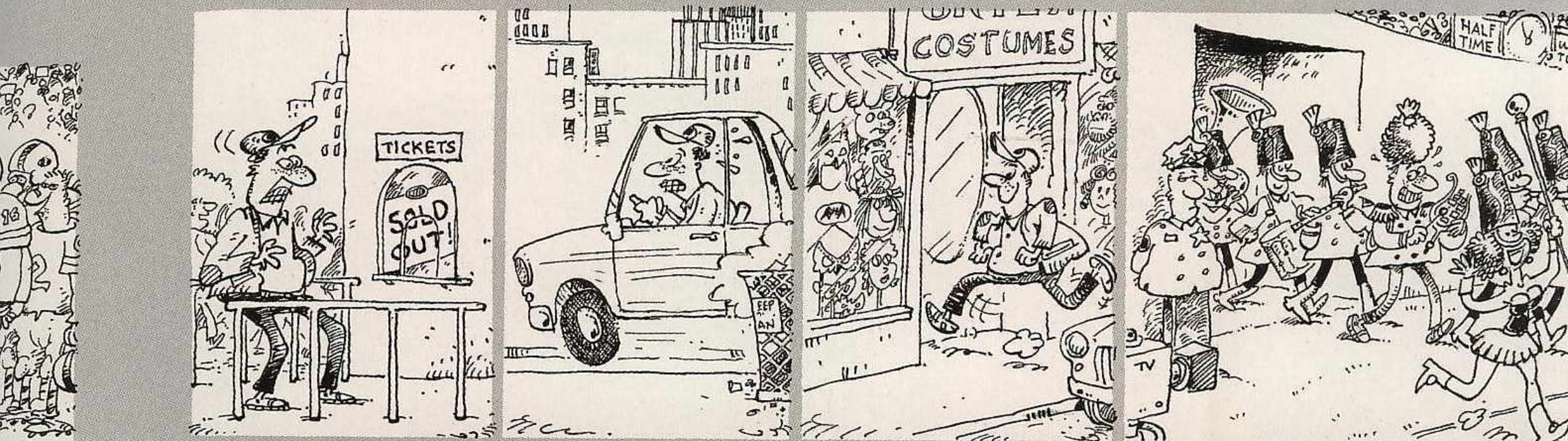
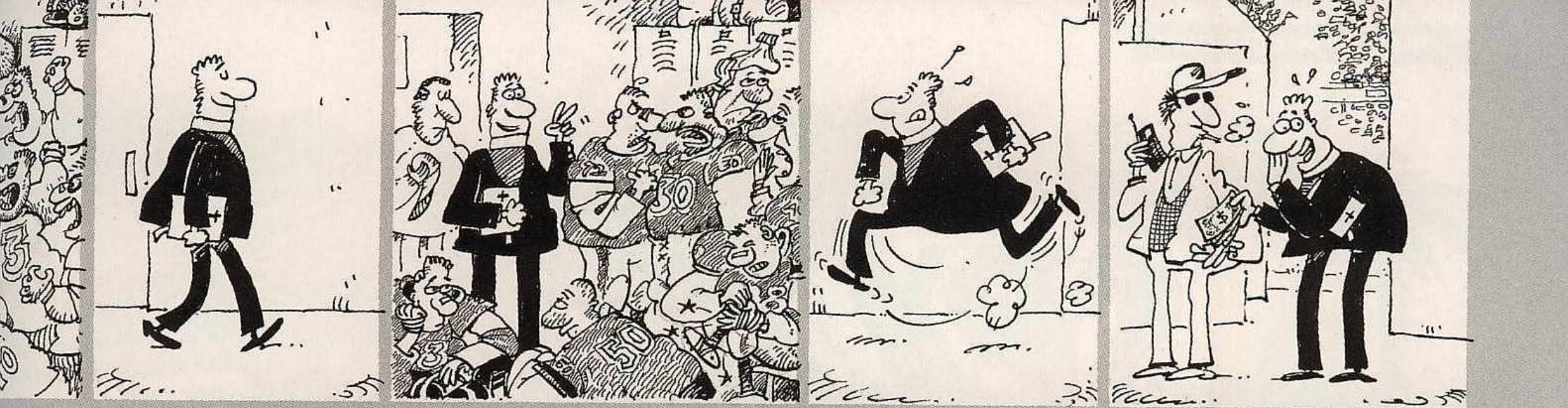
DODGERS

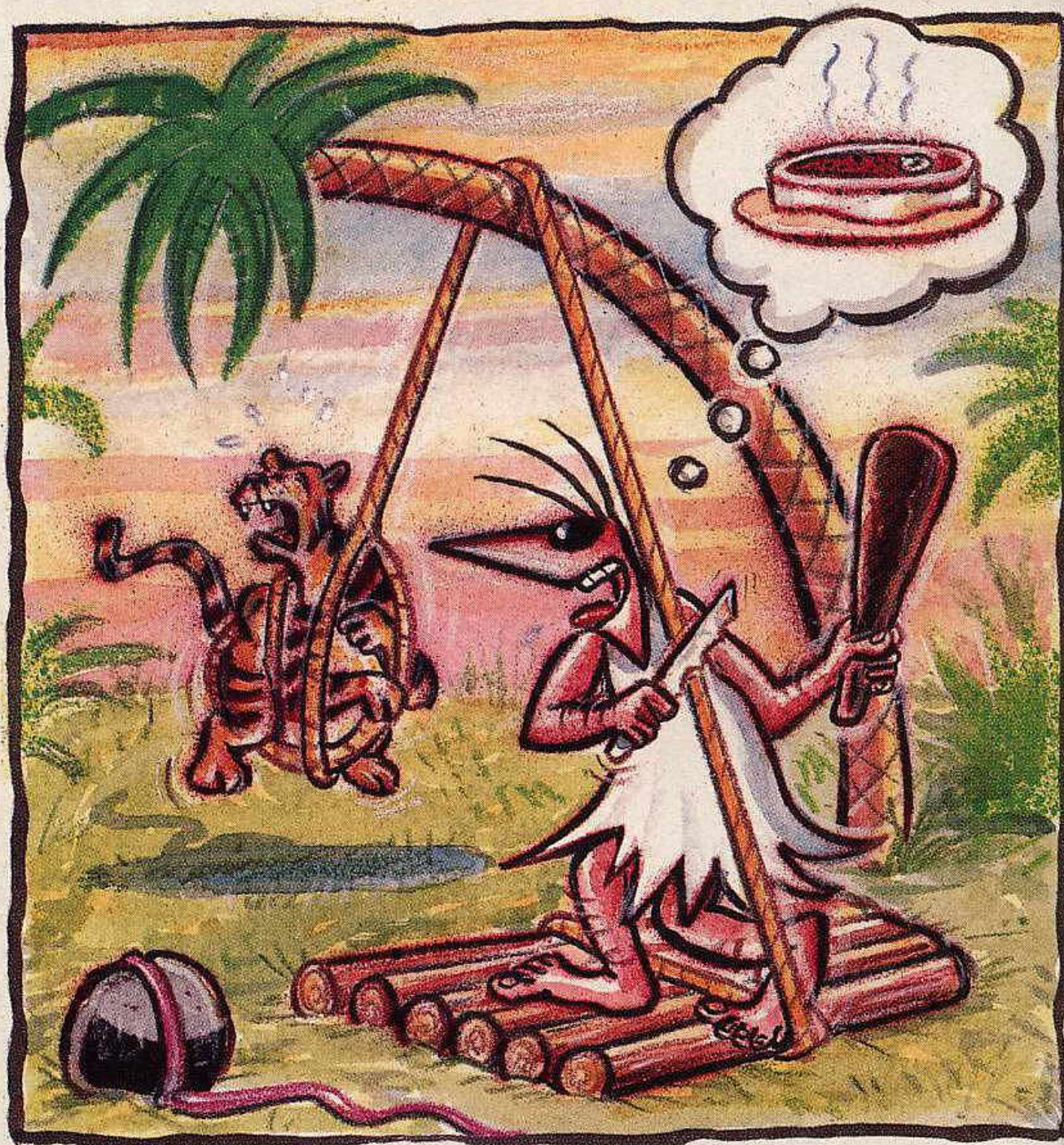
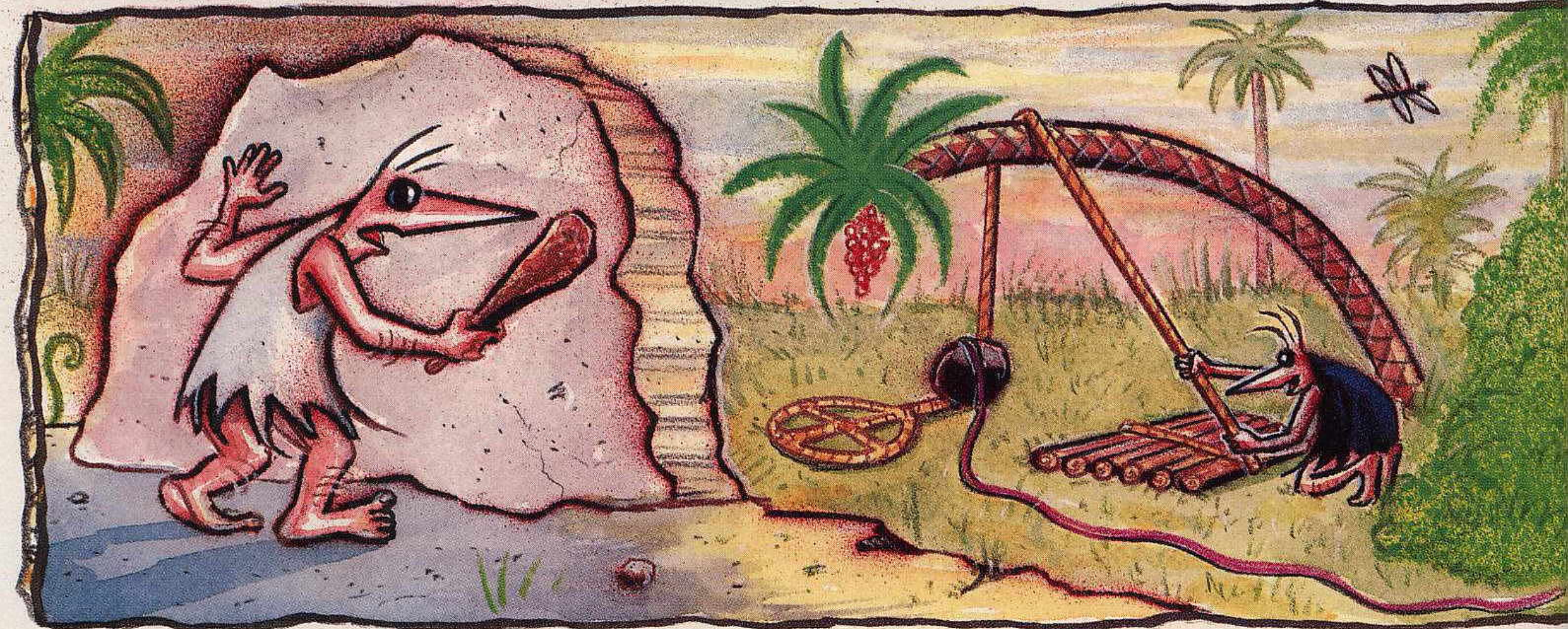
AT THE SUPER BOWL

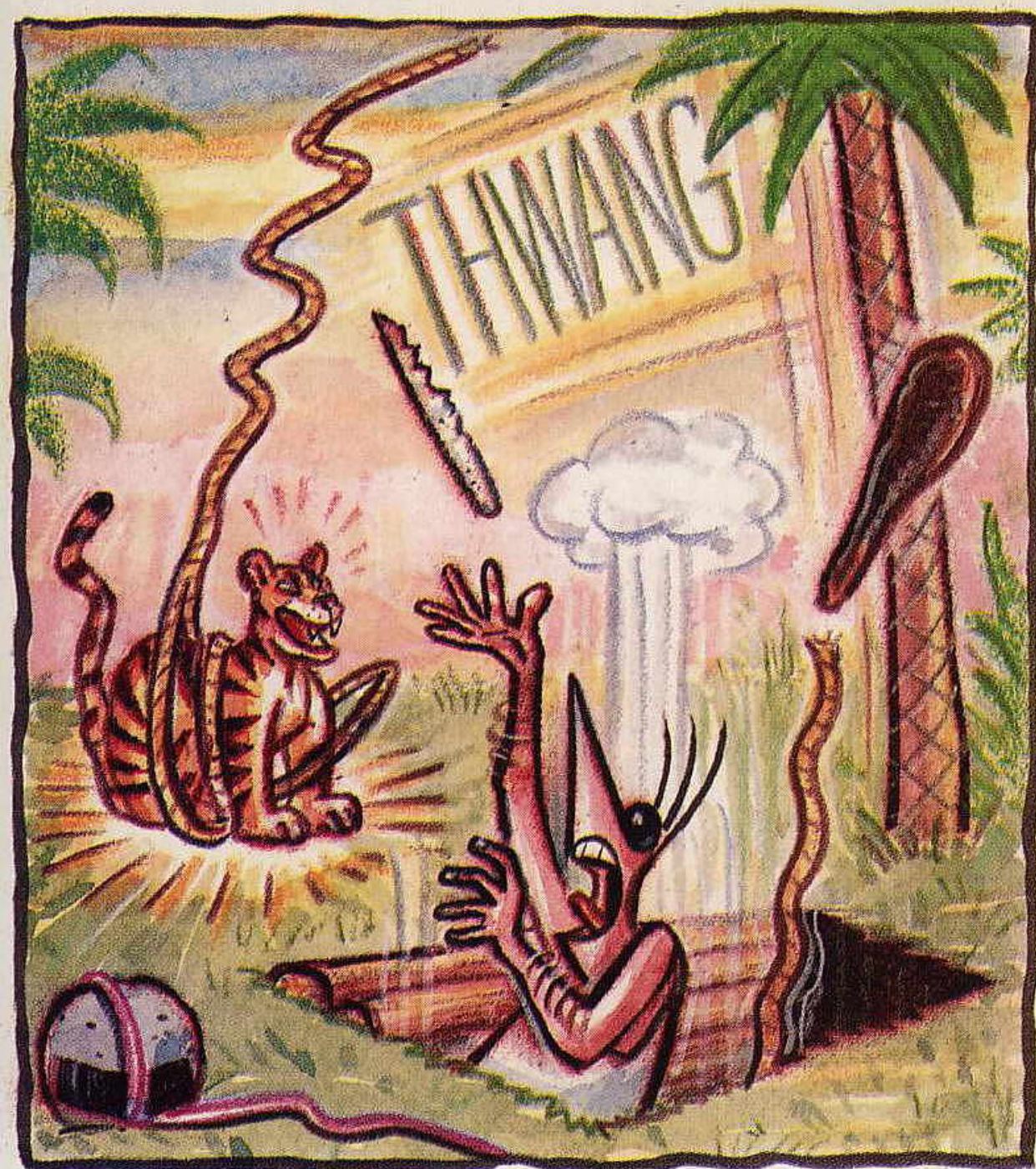
ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES

ARAGONES 25

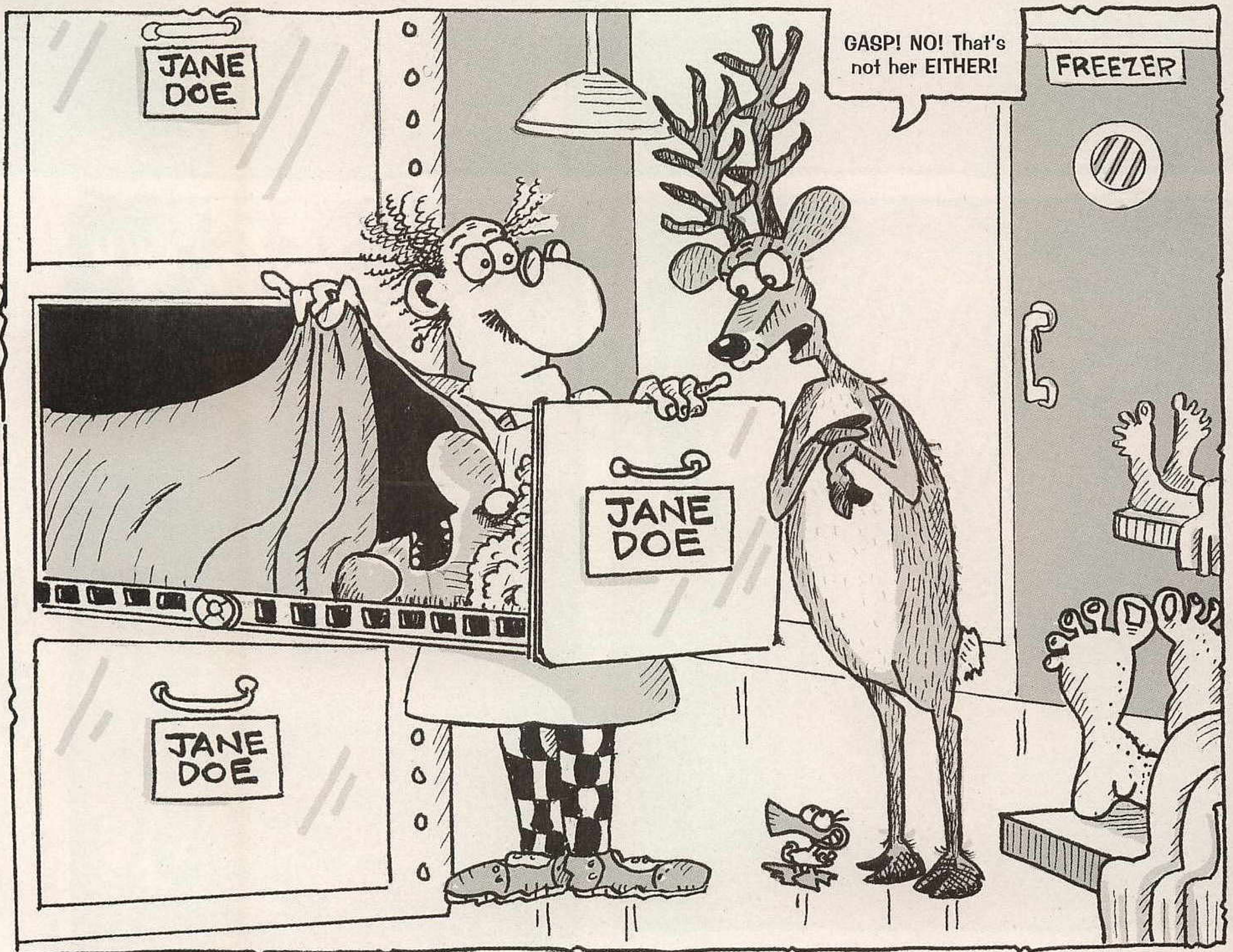
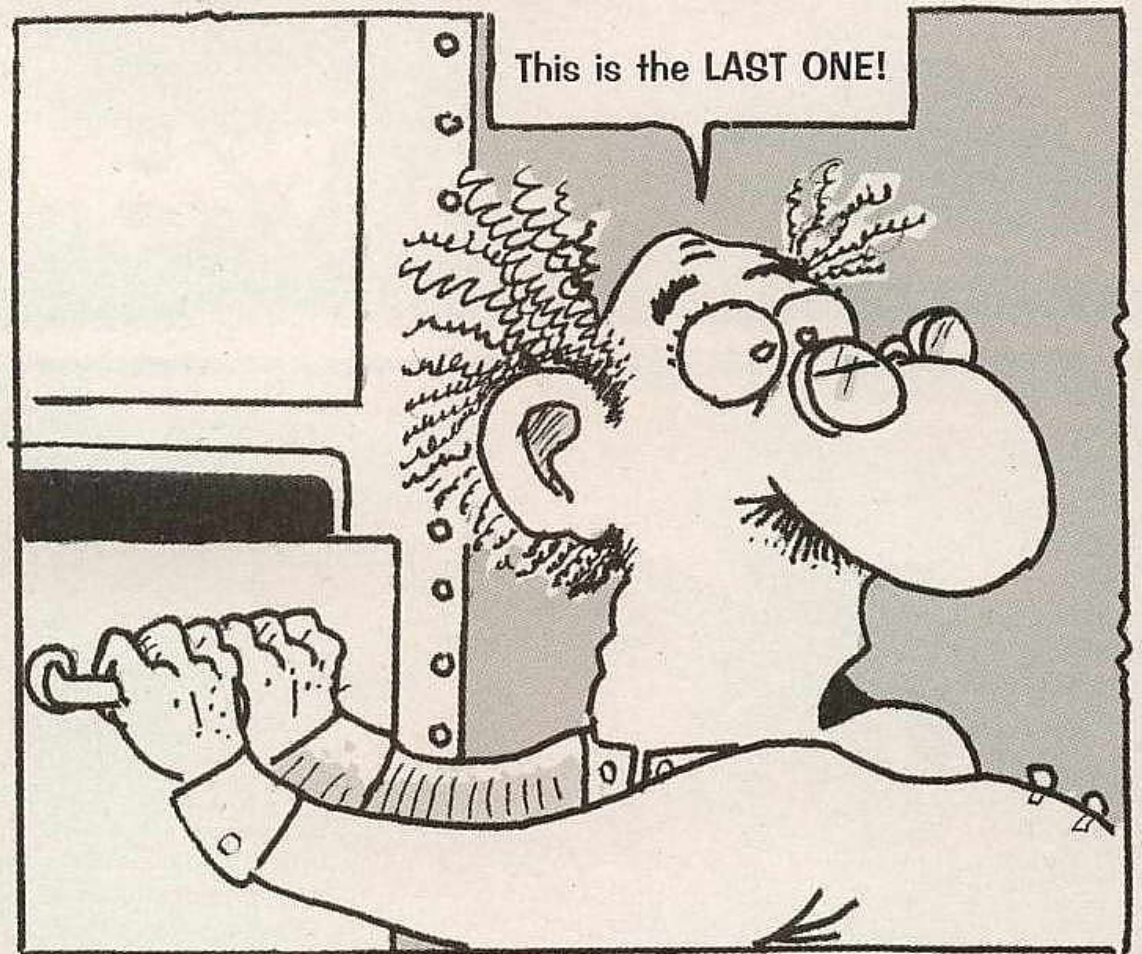
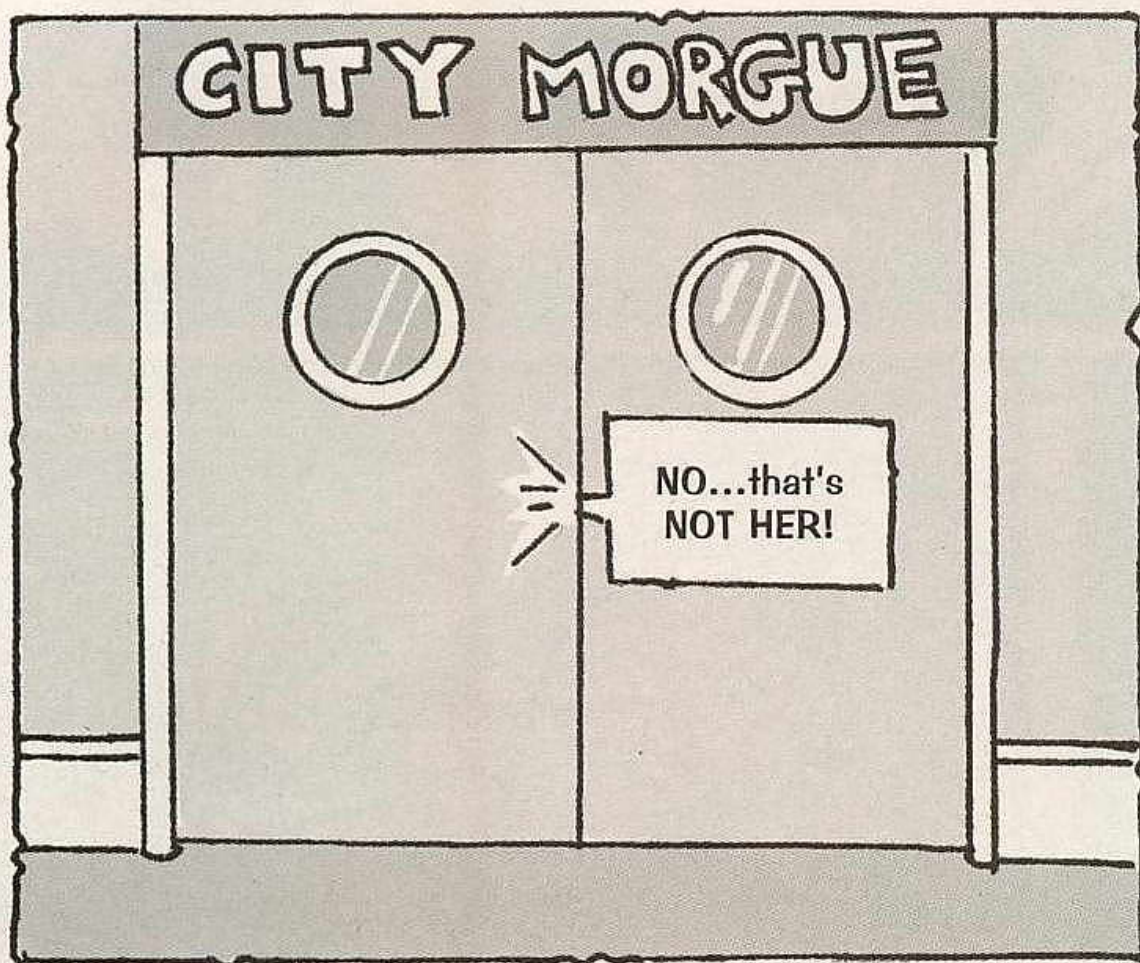








YOUNG





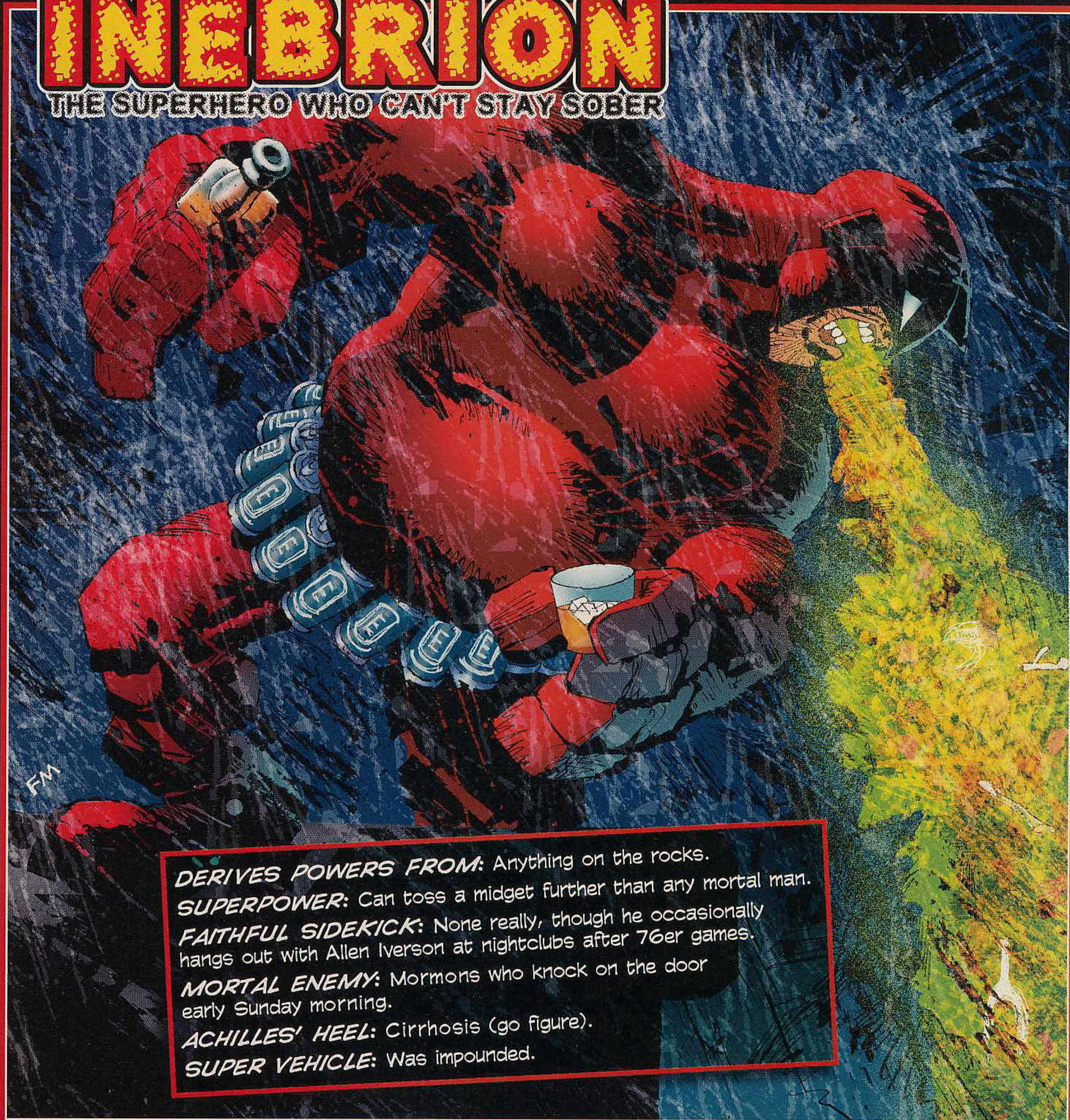
What makes a good superhero? Strength? Honor? Bravery? Yes...that about sums it up! (Well, that was certainly easy!) But what makes a really bad superhero? (Other than Ben Affleck portraying him...) That's a little bit harder to figure out — which is why we got help from some of comics' biggest names (who obviously don't care *who* they work for) to illustrate...

THE LEAGUE OF REJECTED SUPERHEROES

WRITER: JEFF KRUSE

INBRIION

THE SUPERHERO WHO CAN'T STAY SOBER



DERIVES POWERS FROM: Anything on the rocks.
SUPERPOWER: Can toss a midget further than any mortal man.
FAITHFUL SIDEKICK: None really, though he occasionally hangs out with Allen Iverson at nightclubs after 76er games.
MORTAL ENEMY: Mormons who knock on the door early Sunday morning.
ACHILLES' HEEL: Cirrhosis (go figure).
SUPER VEHICLE: Was impounded.

Scantily-Clad Woman



FROM: The Twelfth Vortex of the Wox Galaxy; during the summer, Shelter Island.

SECRET WEAPON: Decoder Nipple Ring.

NOT-SO-SECRET WEAPON: The Wonderbra.

ACHILLES' HEEL: Very sensitive to jokes about her "outie" belly button.

FEE: \$120 for regular crime fighting; \$300 for "full-service eradication of evil."

SPECIAL TALENT: Eating popsicles in slow motion.

ARTIST: J. SCOTT CAMPBELL

COLORIST: MATT MILLA

The Entomologist



DAY JOB: Professor of Icky Bug Studies at Megalopolis University.

SUPERPOWER: Ultra-slow walking ability.

ORIGIN OF SUPERPOWER: Being bitten by a tortoise at the zoo (which really pissed him off since he was hoping for some sort of insect connection).

SPORT HE FINDS BORING BUT HAS TO GO ALONG WITH TO FIT THE THEME: Cricket.

ACHILLES' HEEL: Doesn't have one, but it doesn't matter since he never puts himself in harm's way.

VEHICLE: Volkswagen Jetta, though he'd much prefer a Beetle because he's really haunted by not having that aforementioned insect connection.

ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS

COLORIST: WILDSTORM

mediocre man



FROM: Dobbs Ferry.

ORIGIN: His father had sex with his mother, thus producing a fertilized egg. Then, about nine months later...

SUPER POWERS: Ability to see through windows; can guess most answers on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

ACHILLES' HEEL: Achilles' heel tendonitis.

FAVORITE DEFUNCT USFL TEAM: The Memphis Showboats.

GAINED SUPER-POWER: Via a Sally Struthers home course.

ARTIST: JOHN BYRNE

COLORIST: WILDSTORM

SLOGGTOR OF GLOBBZORR

FROM: Well, GlobbZorr. Duh.

SUPER POWERS:
SuperSavings Coupon Power,
via a weekly mailed circular.

FAITHFUL SIDEKICK:
Actually he has none, but he
tells people it's Kevin Eubanks.

MORTAL ENEMY:
His two-faced, two-timing,
skank of a wife's divorce lawyer.

DARK SECRET: Often
forgets to set his clock ahead
for daylight-saving time.

CATCHPHRASE:
"Buy my cereal, kids!"

DAILY-RAG
EXCLUSIVE

LANDMARK DIVORCE SETTLEMENT FOR SUPERHERO'S EX!

"He wouldn't pay for my boobs!"
"What about my career?"



HIC



JRJR '03



VOCABULON

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



WORDS ARE
YOUR FRIENDS!

PROFILE: Uses his awesome
knowledge of words to annoy and
bore evildoers into submission.

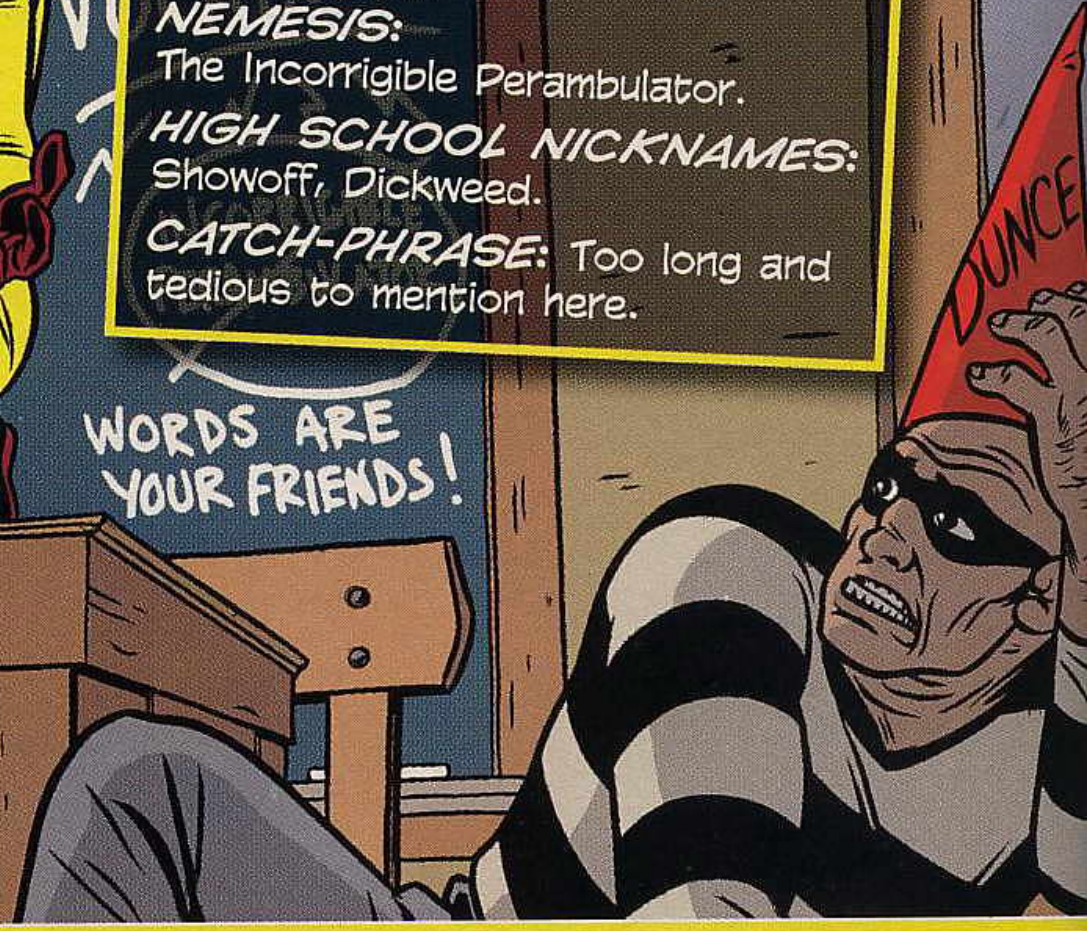
MAIN POWERS:
Perspicacity, erudition.

VULNERABLE TO:
Quotidian obstreperousness.

NEMESIS:
The Incurable Perambulator.

HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAMES:
Showoff, Dickweed.

CATCH-PHRASE: Too long and
tedious to mention here.



APATHENIA

QUEEN OF NOT GIVING A DAMN



RESIDES IN:
So-Whatopolis.

TRUE IDENTITY:
Who cares?

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:
You're joking, right?

MAIN SUPERPOWER:
Ability to sigh and roll eyes upward at same time.

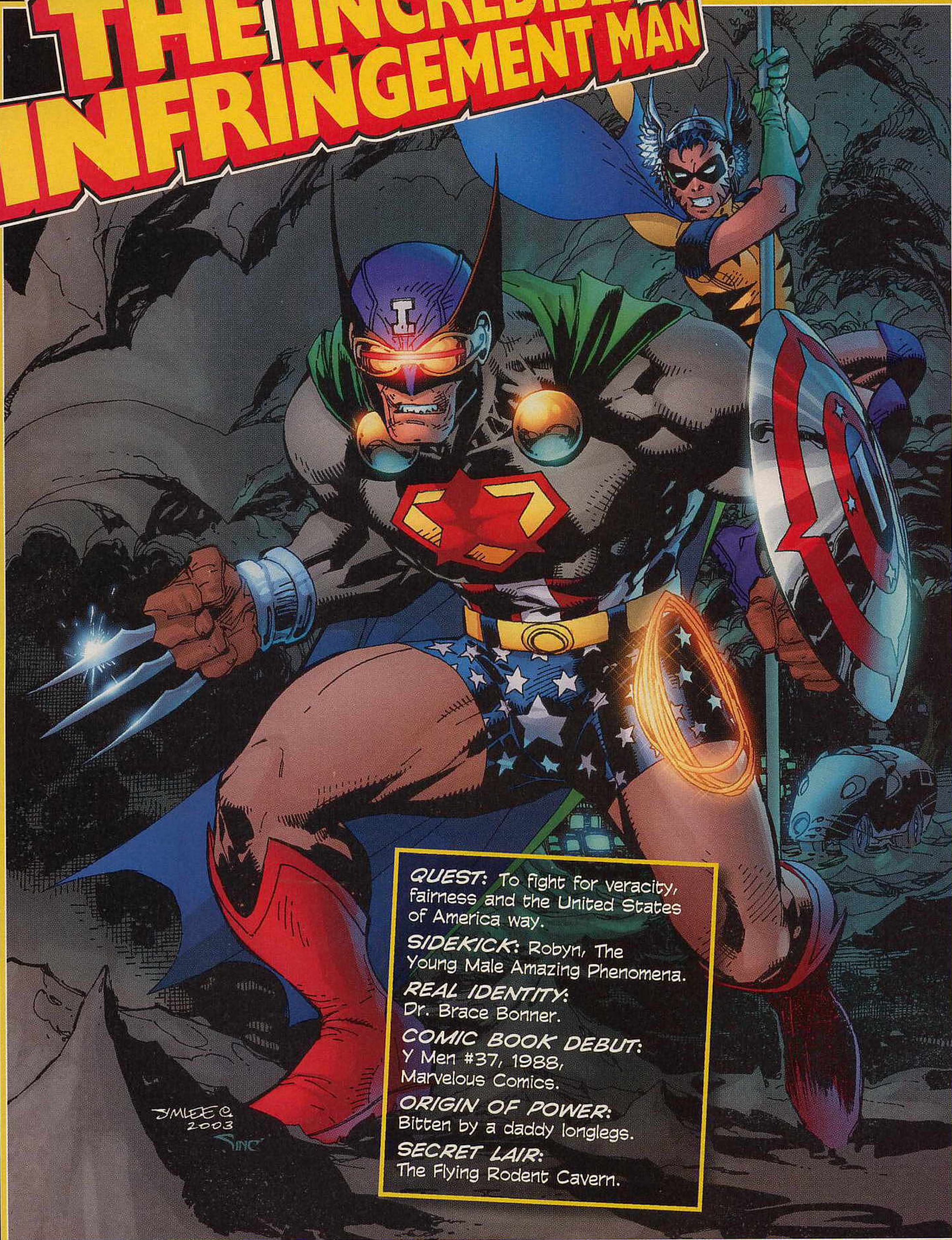
CATCH PHRASE:
"Yeah, whatever."

DEBUT: Apathenia #1,
BFD Comics, 1993.

ARTIST: JOHN ROMITA, JR.

COLORIST: WILDSTORM

THE INCREDIBLE INFRINGEMENT MAN



QUEST: To fight for veracity, fairness and the United States of America way.

SIDEKICK: Robyn, The Young Male Amazing Phenomena.

REAL IDENTITY: Dr. Brace Bonner.

COMIC BOOK DEBUT: Y Men #37, 1988, Marvelous Comics.

ORIGIN OF POWER: Bitten by a daddy longlegs.

SECRET LAIR: The Flying Rodent Cavern.

ARTIST: JIM LEE

COLORIST: ALEX SINCLAIR

The official
press room

Michael Jackson



AN OPEN LETTER FROM MICHAEL JACKSON

This message is to update you all on how I'm holding up under the scurrilous, calumnious and vilipending charges against me. The bad news is that even I'm not sure what I'm saying anymore.

Because of the serious nature of the charges, I hope you understand that my comments will often have to be limited. However, my lawyers and I will do our best to fill the void with anonymous smear tactics, garish goodwill publicity ops, fake, paid-for fan vigils, and blaming the victim.

The accusations against me are LIES, all lies. Remember, a lie runs outside and wins Olympic hurdling events, while the truth is upstairs getting a foot massage. And after all, I'm a guy who faked his age in the Jackson Five, pretended to date girls like Brooke Shields, and continues to insist I had just one minor plastic surgery procedure years ago. So I know a lie when I see it!

Some devilish punchinellos have speculated that these young boys allow me to abuse them because they're dazzled by my fame and superstardom. More media lies, lies, lies! Fact is, it's been so long since I had a hit record that most of the kids who visit me have no clue what I ever did for a living.

Have you ever seen the smile on a sick child's face? Have you ever given your heart to goodness? Have you ever worn a feathered harlequin mask while a bottomless boy dripped candle wax up and down your thighs? Well, in my case, it's a "yes" to #1 and #2, and a "no" to #3.

These charges are so hurtful and so wrong. I have always tried to make this a better world for the children. Whether through my Neverland Ranch Cancer Treatment Clinic for Hot 9-Year-Olds, or through my treacly charity singles that those morons in Bulgaria still seem to like, I live to help the children. I've given away so much of my personal fortune to the kids, occasionally by binding settlement. (Yeah, THAT \$20 mil really paid off for me, huh?) Every penny I make is for the children. In fact, there are rooms in my house where I can't even afford to have windows. Or doorknobs on the inside.

However, there is no so-called secret "molestation room" in my home. And if there were such a room, the entrance would definitely not be located behind the lifesize Pinocchio robot on the second floor. If any police are reading this, do NOT, I repeat, do NOT turn his bowtie to the left.

I cannot address specifics in this case. However, my accuser says that the man who made inappropriate sexual contact with him was a 45-year-old Afro-Caucasio-Mutant with three holes in his nose. EEE hee hee! This proves my innocence, as I now have five holes in my nose. So it couldn't have been me!

I would like to thank those who have stood by me during this ordeal. Friends in the music industry, such as Pete Townshend and R. Kelly. Huge, relevant stars like Elizabeth Taylor and Macaulay Culkin. And, of course, my invisible bear, Rollo.

I believe in the truth. I look forward to answering these succubaneous and asturngnical charges in court, before a jury of my peers. And as soon as you guys find 12 germ phobic elfin freaks with pet giraffes to be that jury, give me a call. Until then, beat it. Just beat it.

I love you all (allegedly),

Michael Jackson



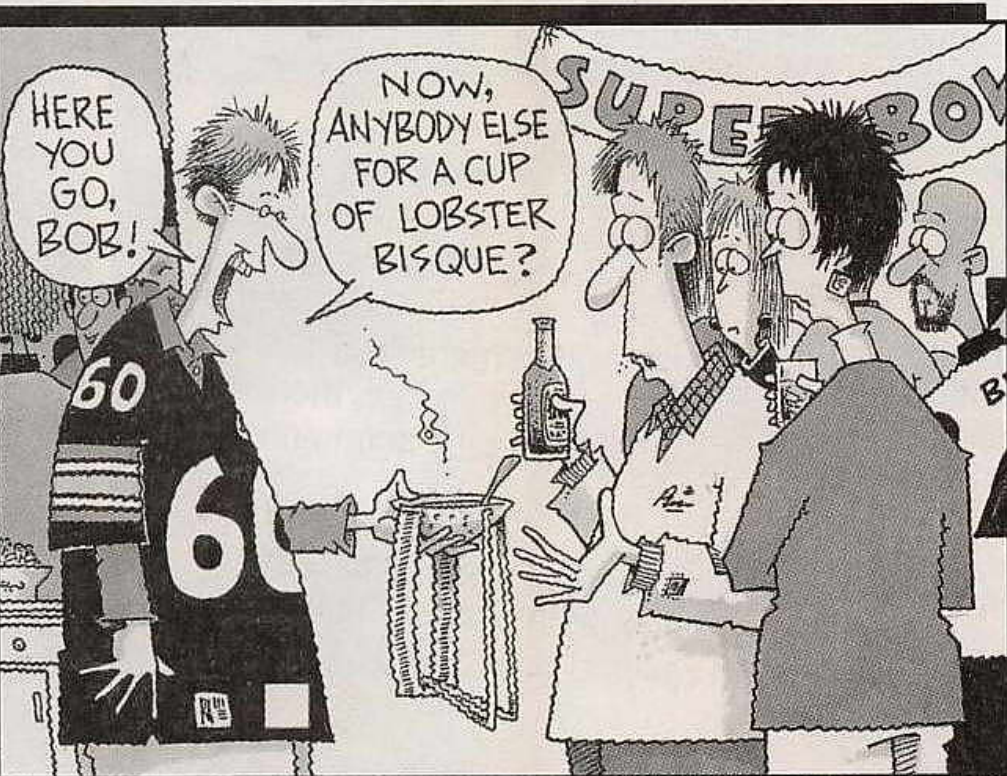
Everybody knows that the Super Bowl is the perfect excuse to get rowdy, eat like a slob and scream wildly at the TV. (In fact, this approach also improves the already-delightful *Two and a Half Men*!). But when you're at a Super Bowl party, you *also* need to remember to be courteous and respectful to your hosts (if only so you're invited back to mooch off them next year). Which is why it's crucial that you know...



Don't try to pass off your 19-inch black and white Sylvania as "old school hard-core football."



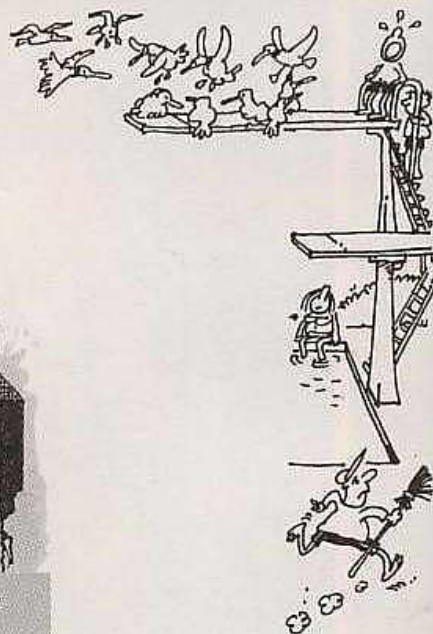
Don't try to use your "Cowboys Suck" ass tattoo as an icebreaker.



Don't overthink the football theme.



Just because it's the Super Bowl, don't get carried away with the stinkin' Roman numerals.



Do consider that \$75-a-call 900 number betting services work just as well on your host's home phone as they would on your own.

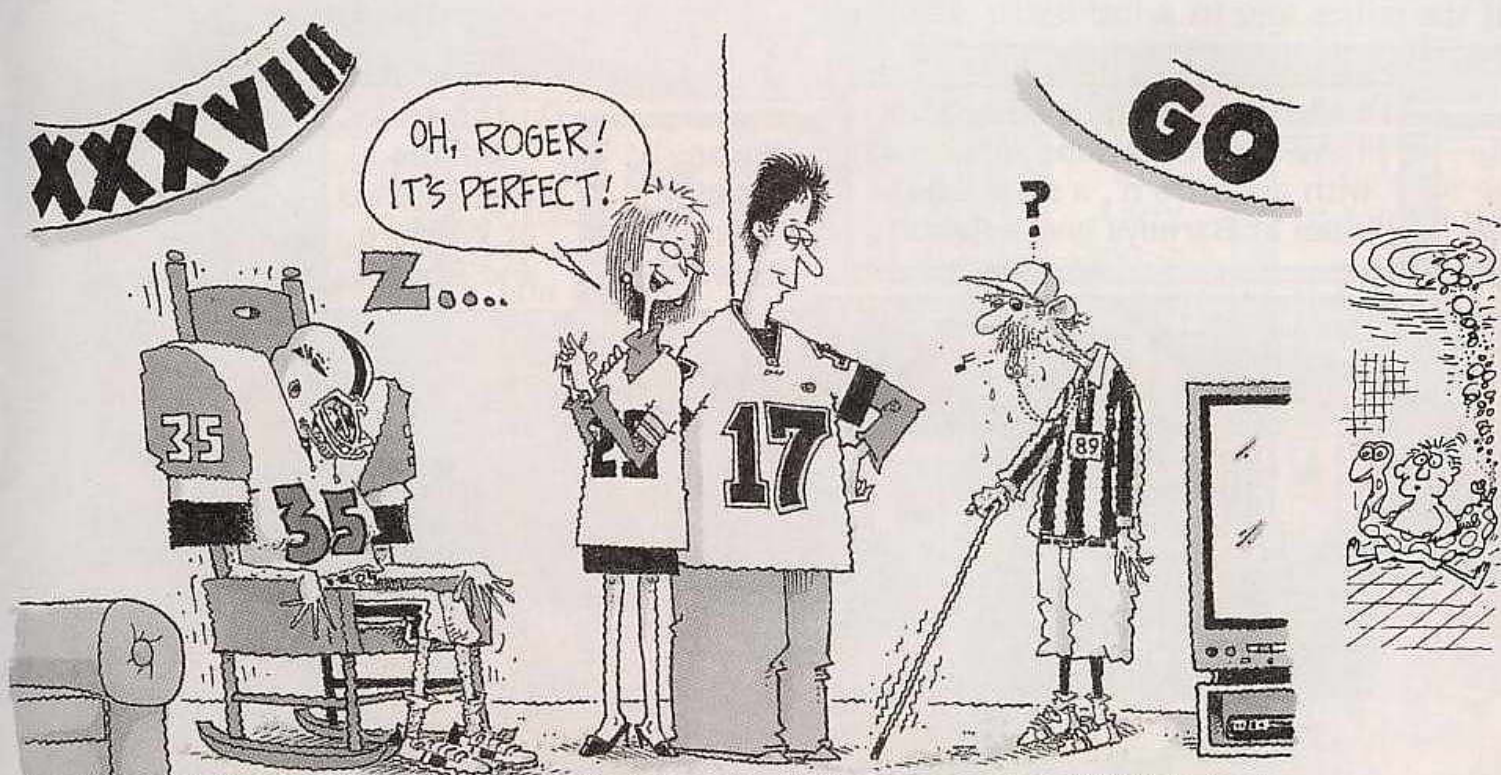


Generally speaking, last-minute over/under and proposition bets don't take precedence over 911 calls.



Don't invite the cast of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*.

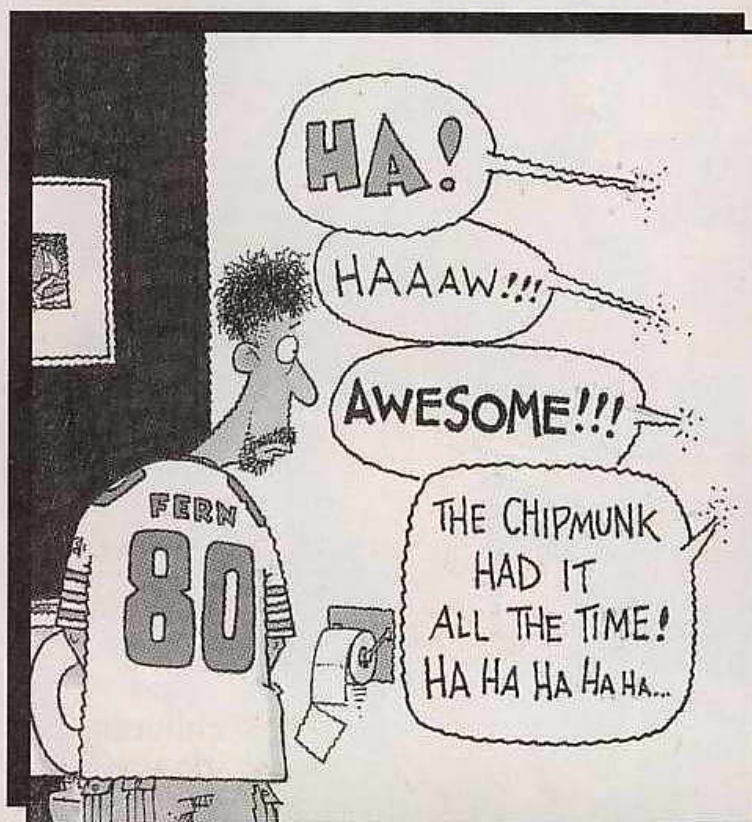
DON'TS OF A SUPER BOWL PARTY



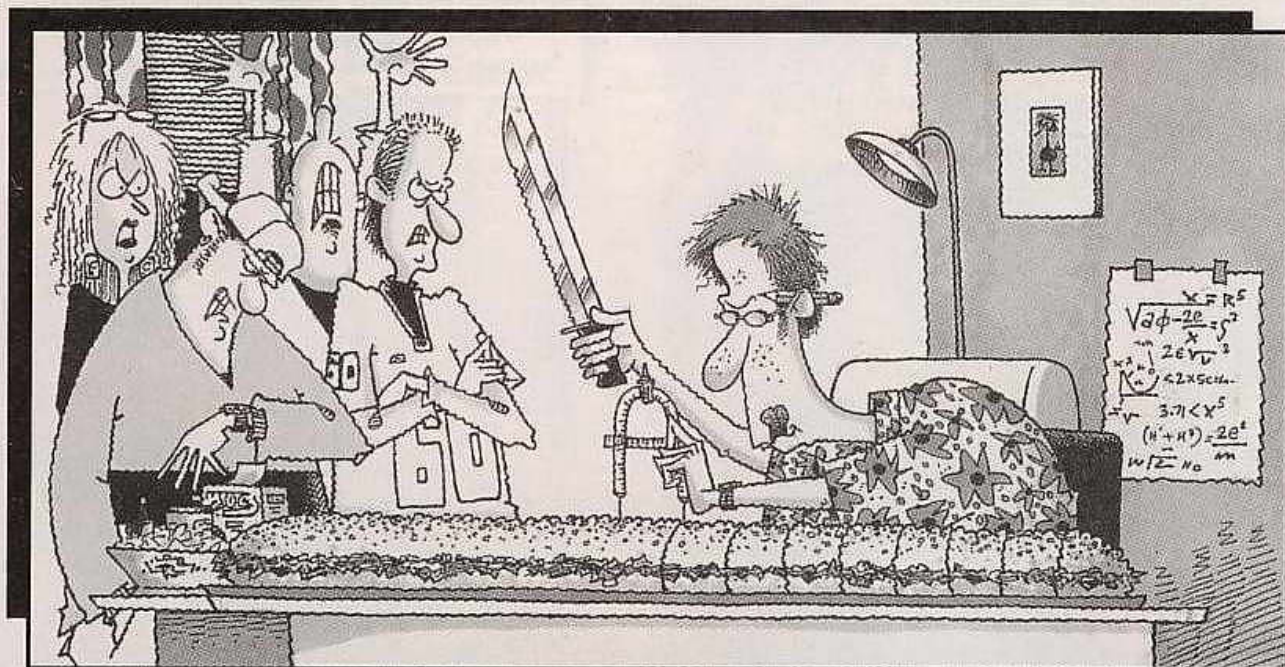
Don't be afraid to transform any out-of-it and/or immobile great grandparents into festive party décor.



Afterwards, do compliment your hosts on the refreshments.



Any exciting plays will be rehashed at half-time, post-game and all night long on SportsCenter. So don't hit the can when there's a chance you'll miss a really hilarious commercial that the sponsor may never be able to afford to broadcast again.



Don't be such an anal-retentive twit as to spend three hours dividing the six-foot sub equally by the precise number of invited guests.

THINGS YOU CAN SAY TO LIVEN UP A DULL SUPER BOWL PARTY

"Isn't there anything else on, damn it?"

"Hey! That conniving tight end bastard just said 'Hi' to my mom!"

"I'm not Rainman or anything, but the offense's jersey numbers all add up to 671."

"Does anybody mind if I go lay down on the bed with all the coats on it and sleep off the bean dip and deviled eggs?"

"I know what the quarterback's going through. My urine's come back dirty a few times too."





Absurd

Hello, I'm Jason Alexander! I played George Costanza on *Seinfeld*! Afterwards, I tried my own series! It failed! Kramer's show also was a flopperoo! And Elaine's show fizzled! It figures that the only two people who became multi-millionaires are Jerry, who makes more now from reruns, and **THIS** guy, who co-created *Seinfeld* and who now has his own hot cable show! Except for a happy, peppy theme song, it's one of TV's most neurotic shows ever produced! But the critics *love* it! A lot! It's...

So hurry up already!

I have twenty-two people to alienate and I only have thirty minutes!

What for?

But we have a meeting with HBO!

I'll alienate HBO later! Right now I have confrontations scheduled with a maitre d', a shoe salesman at Barneys and a Rabbi!

Will any of this play in Middle America?

On *this* series, Middle America ends at Wilshire and Rodeo!



You and Larry have no children, do you?

No, and it's probably a good thing! There are three words Larry won't permit in our house: "Happily Ever After."

Torres

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES

WRITER: JOSH GORDON

What a great morning! The birds are chirping and the sun is shining!

Really? I hear noise pollution and see potential skin cancer!

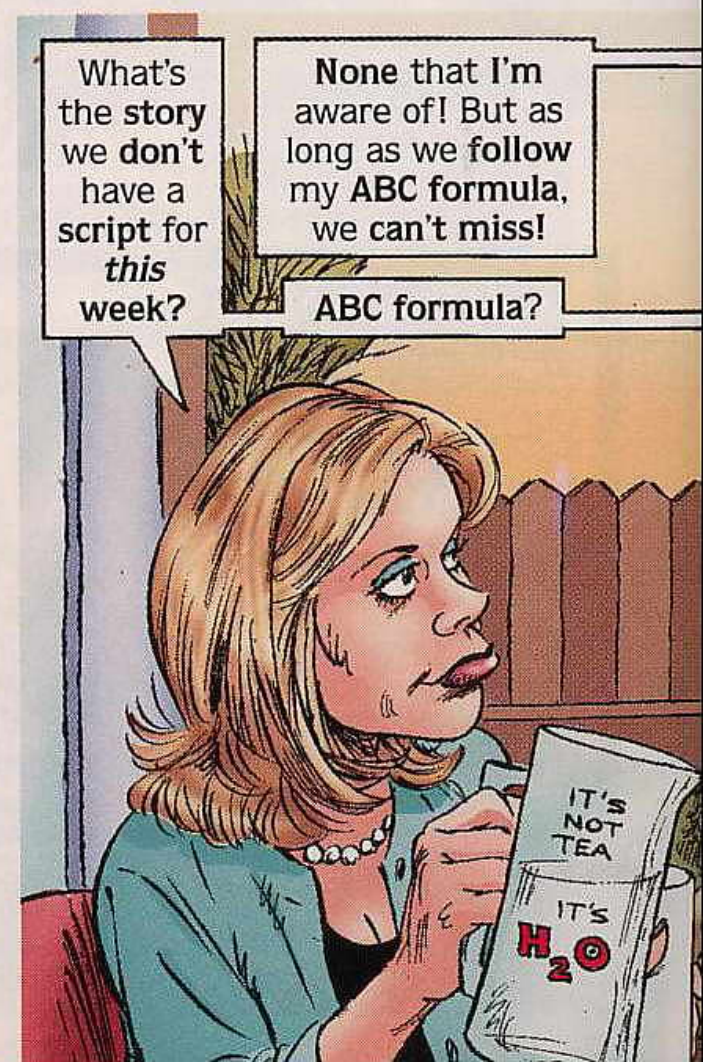
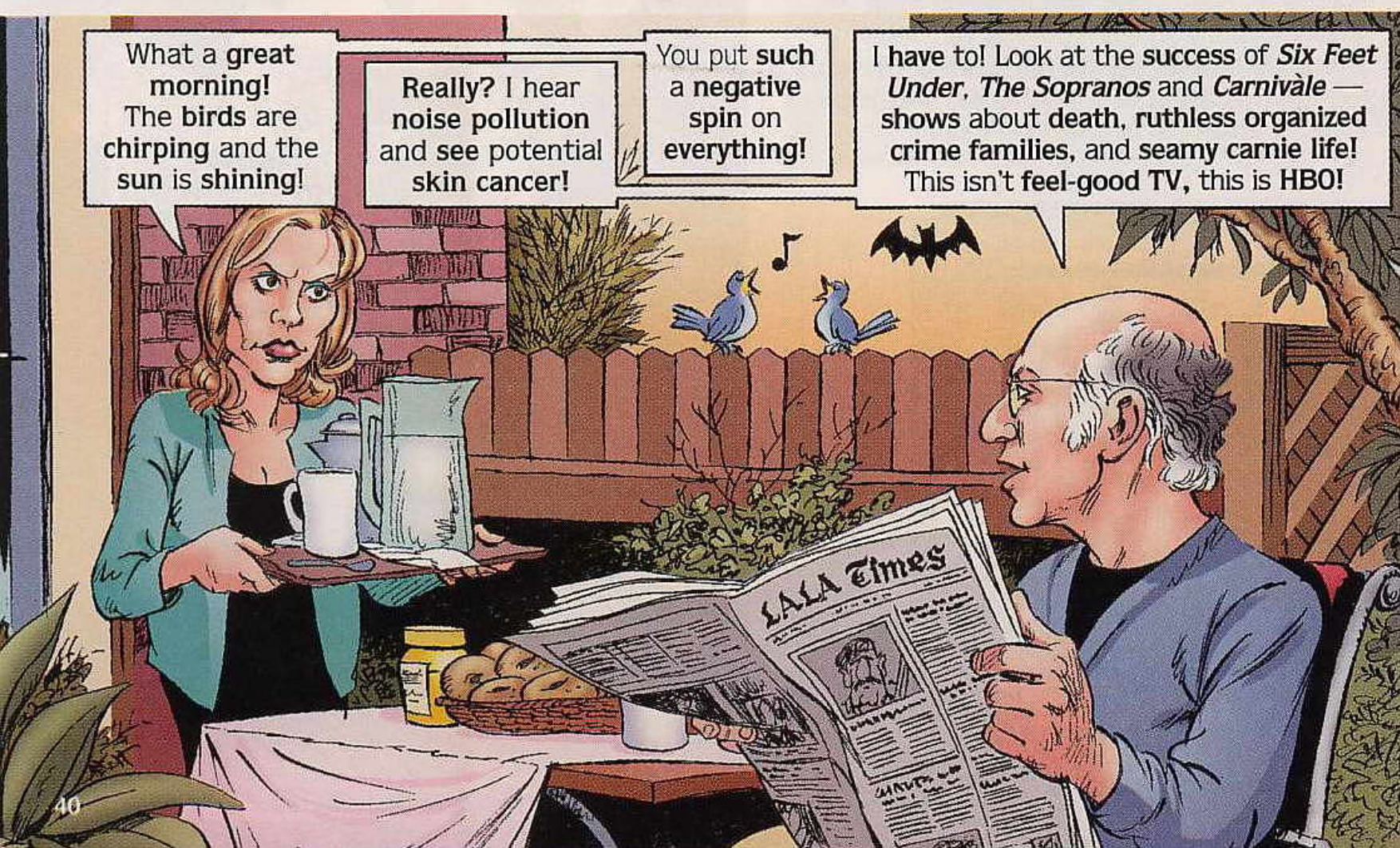
You put such a negative spin on everything!

I have to! Look at the success of *Six Feet Under*, *The Sopranos* and *Carnivàle* — shows about death, ruthless organized crime families, and seamy carnie life! This isn't feel-good TV, this is HBO!

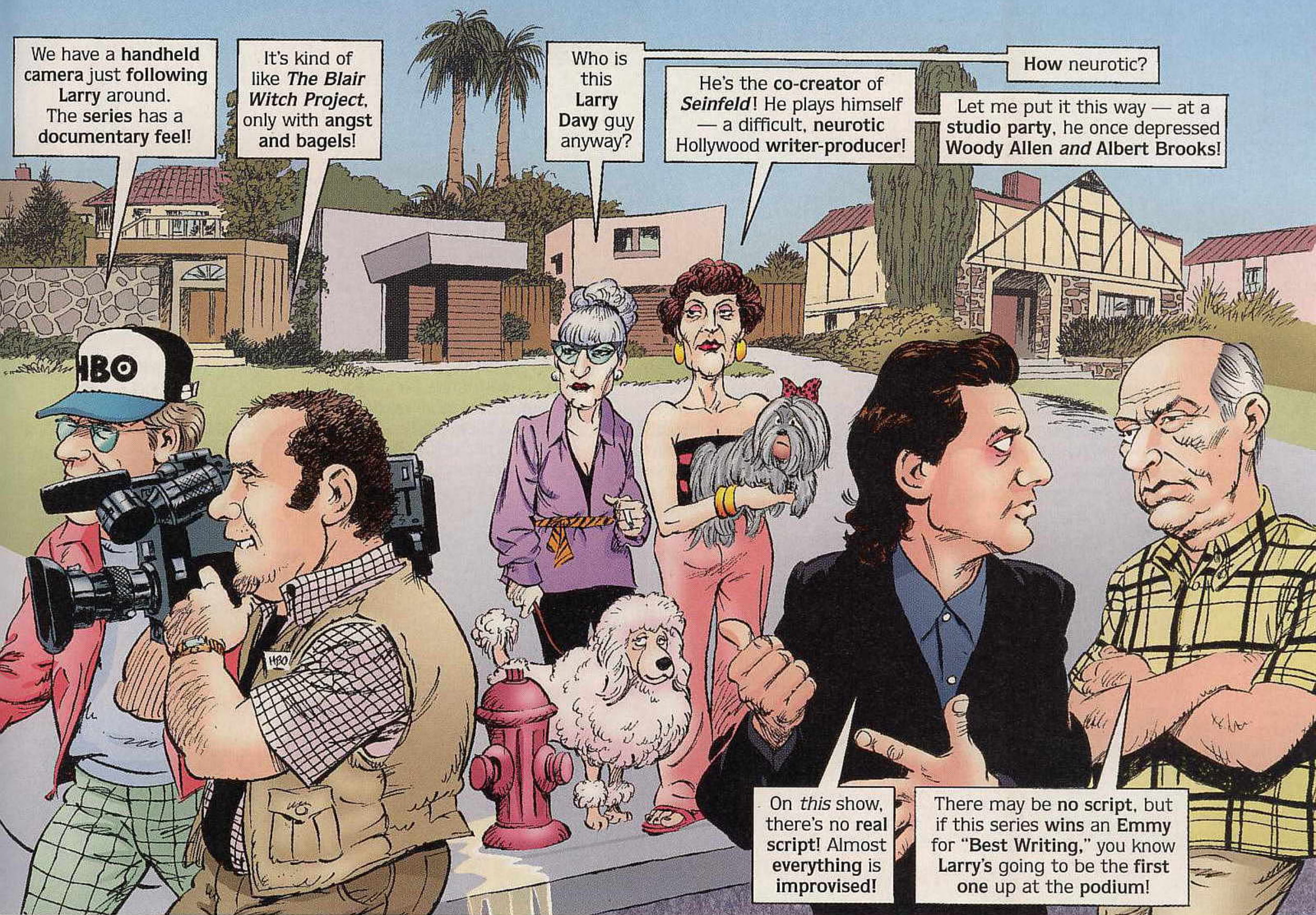
What's the story we don't have a script for this week?

None that I'm aware of! But as long as we follow my ABC formula, we can't miss!

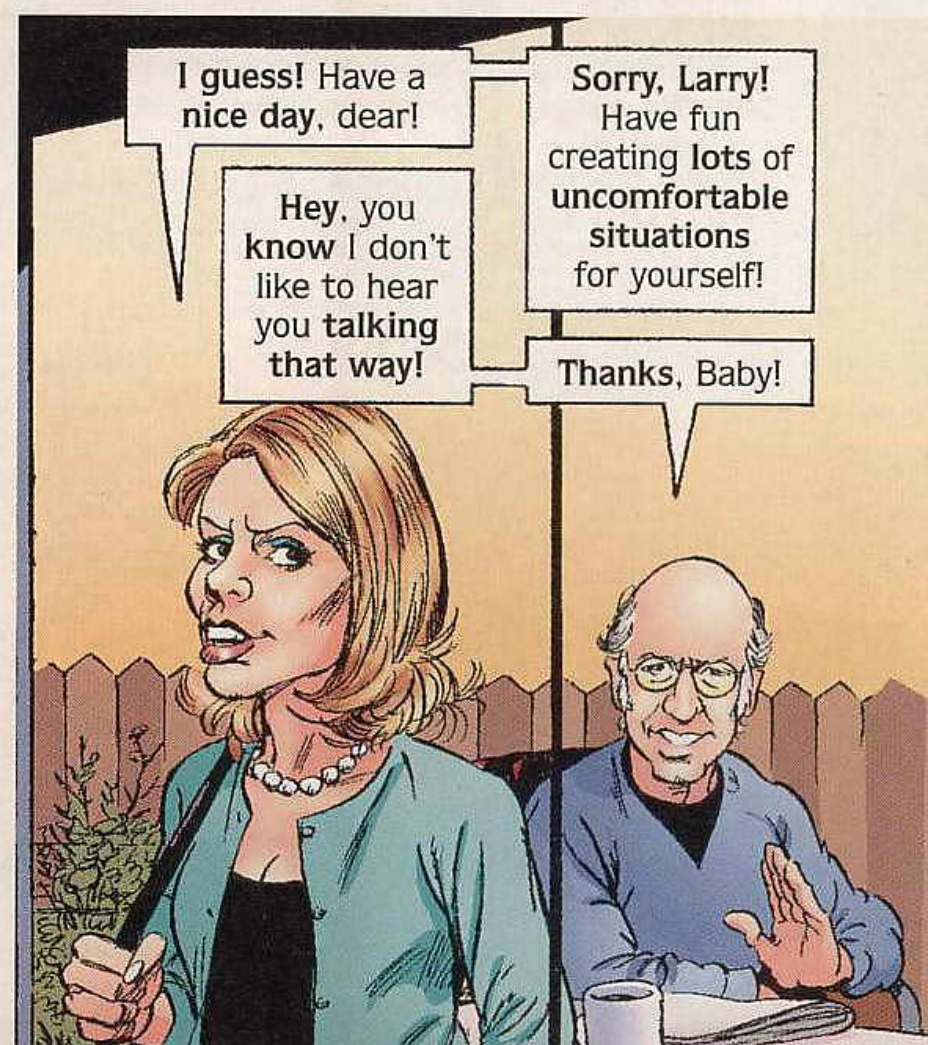
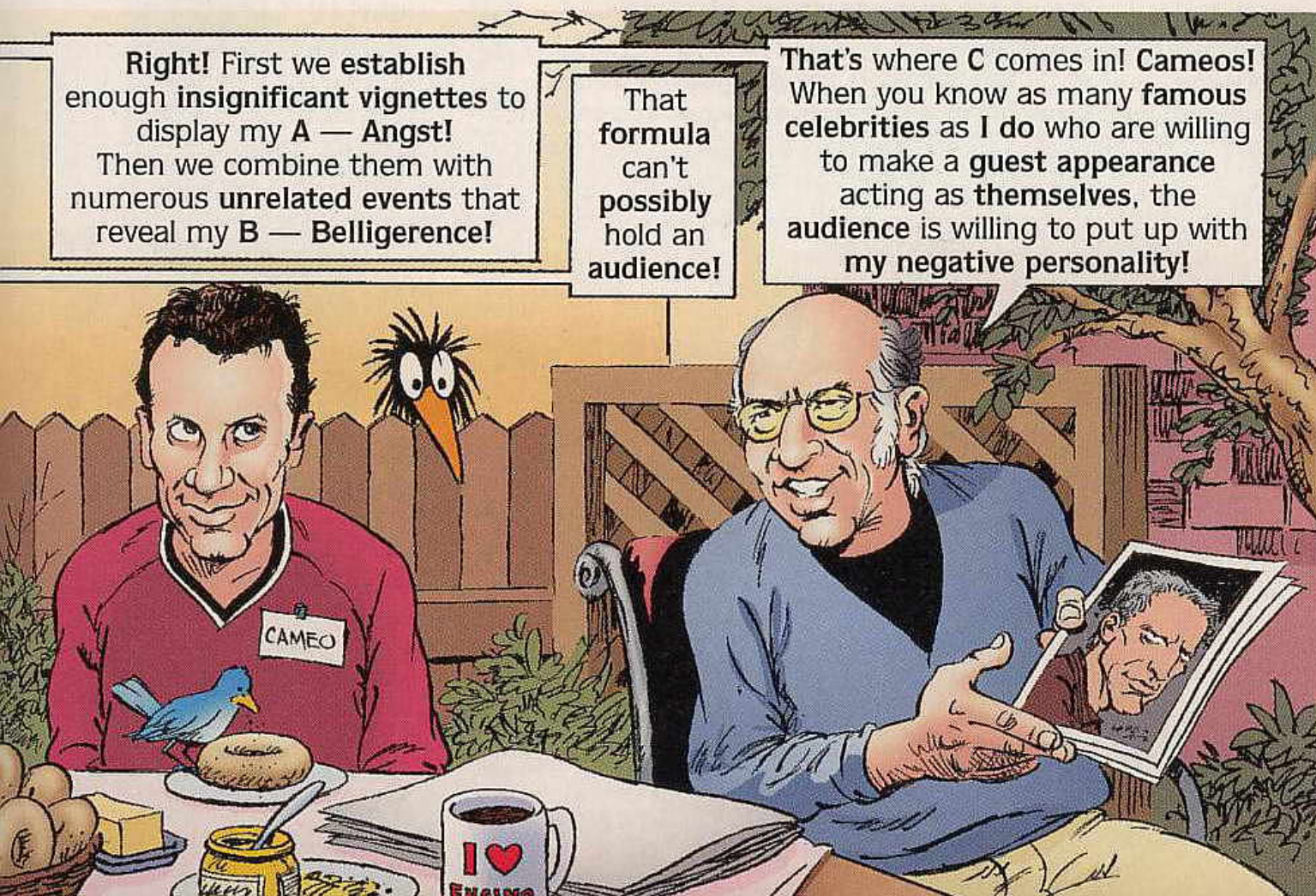
ABC formula?

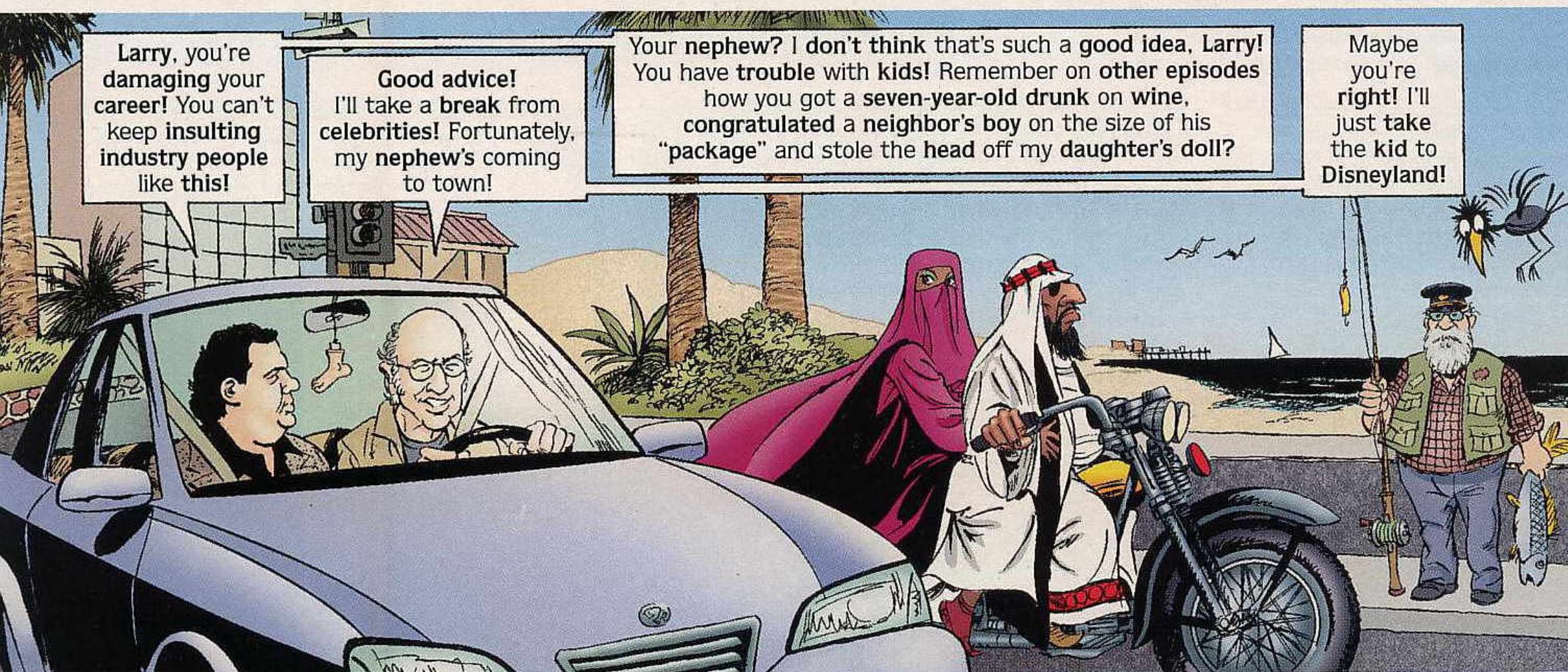
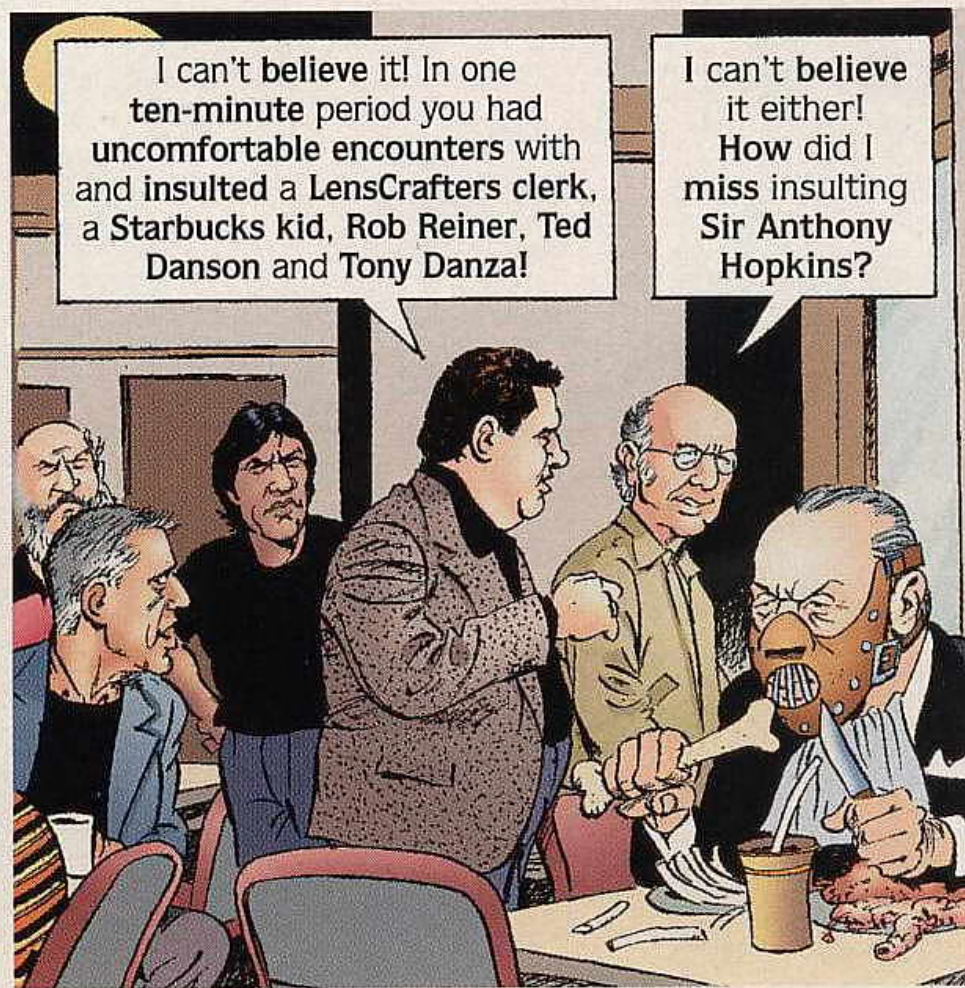
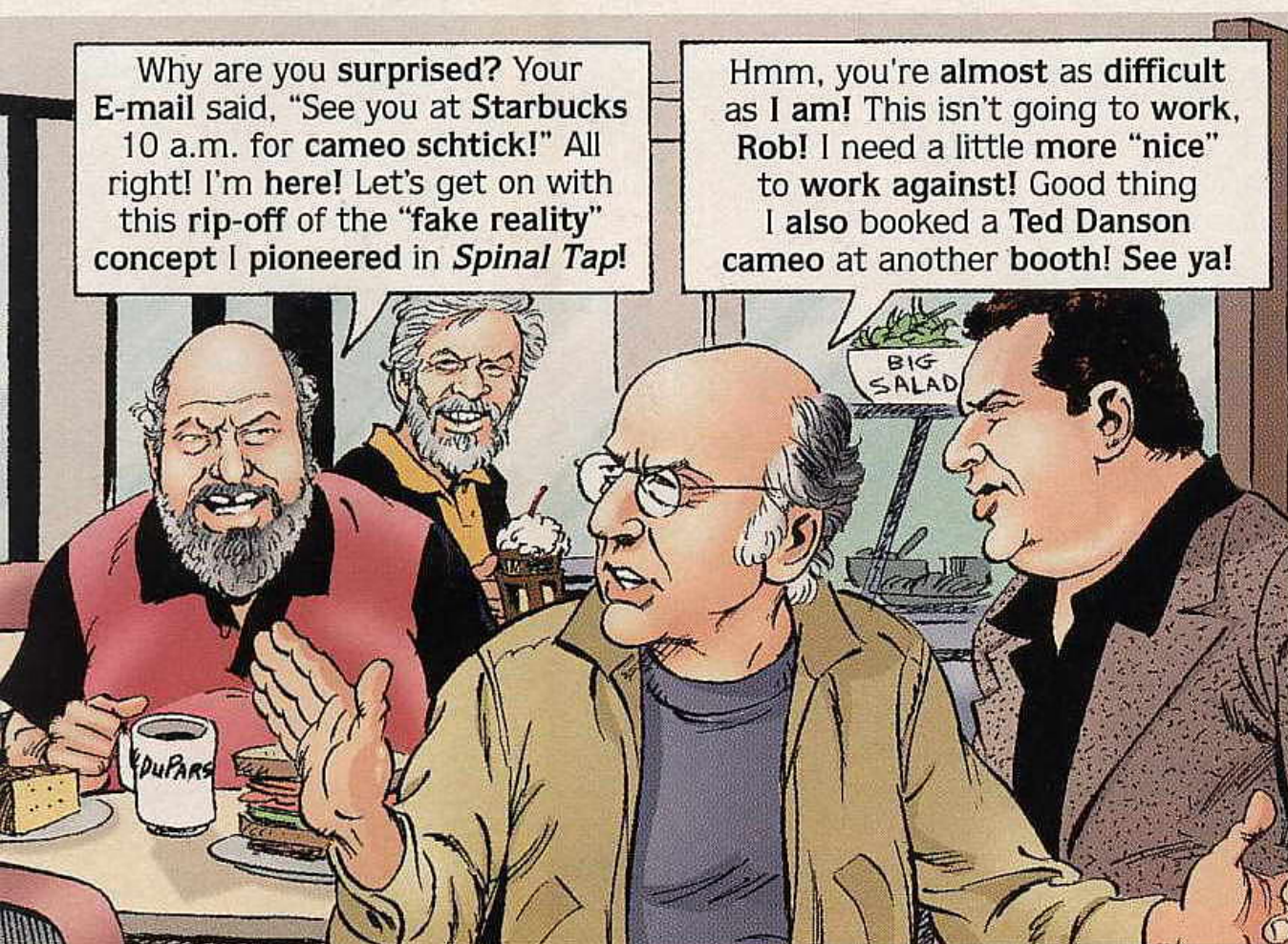
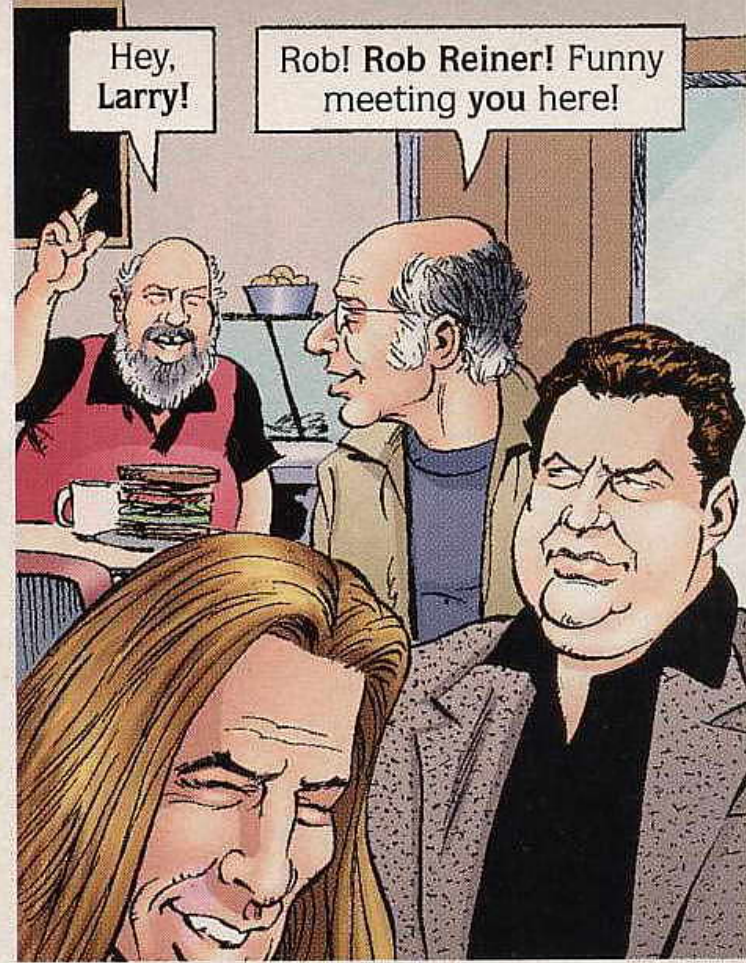
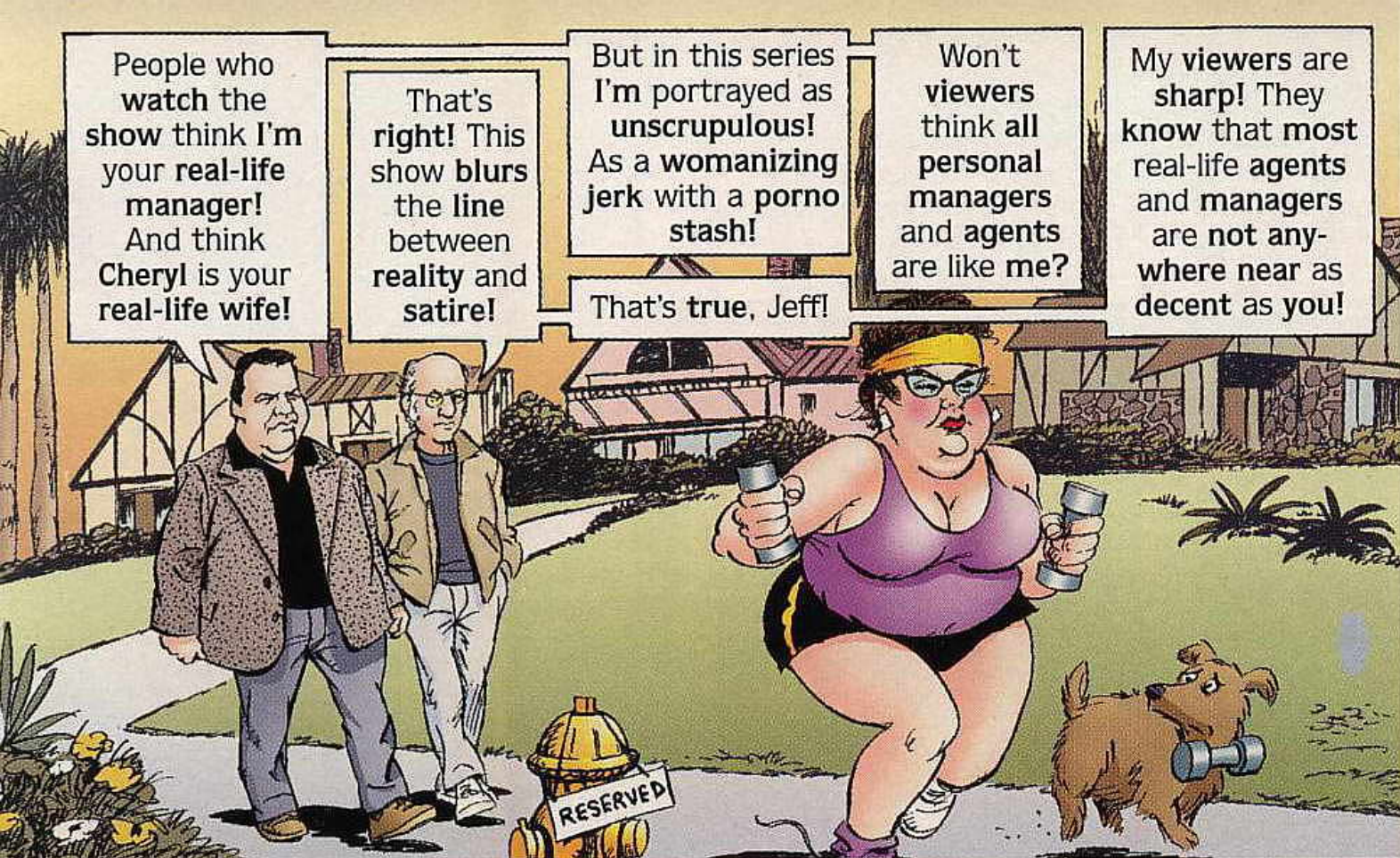


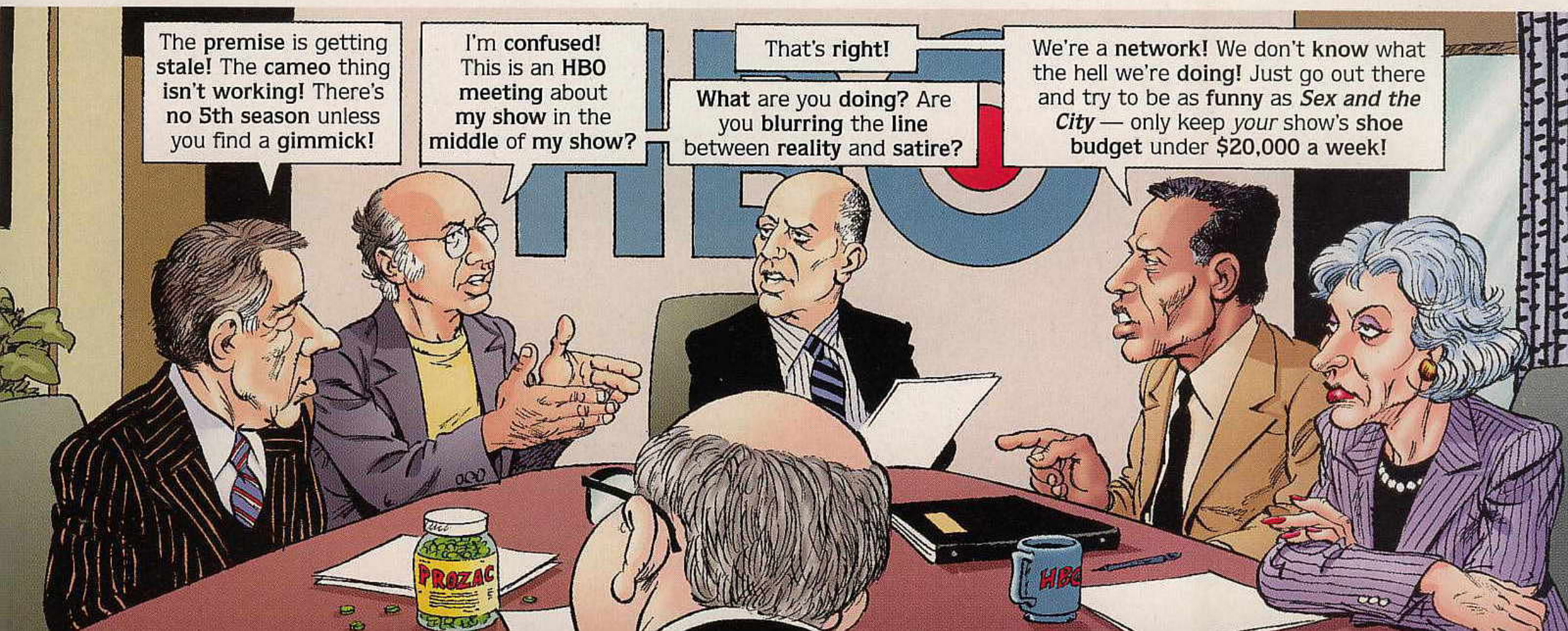
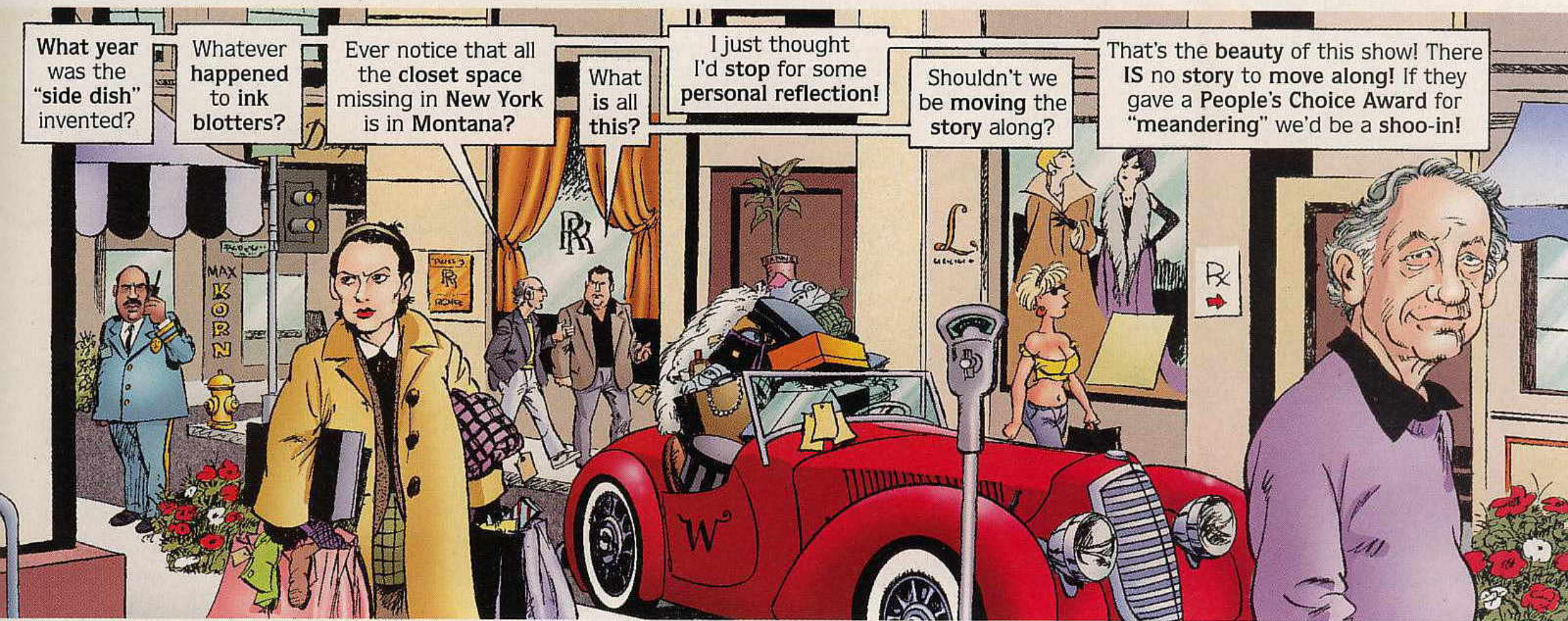
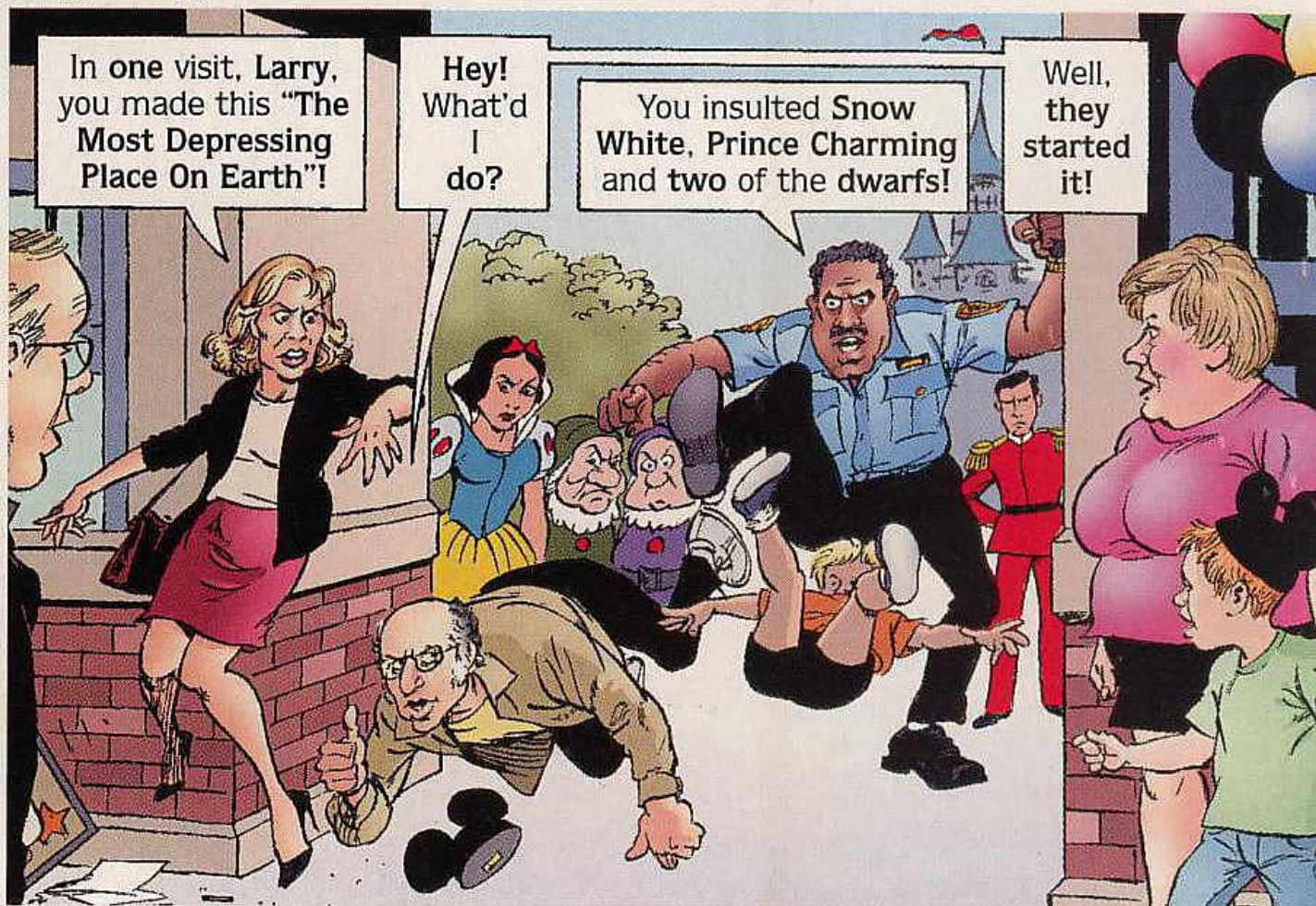
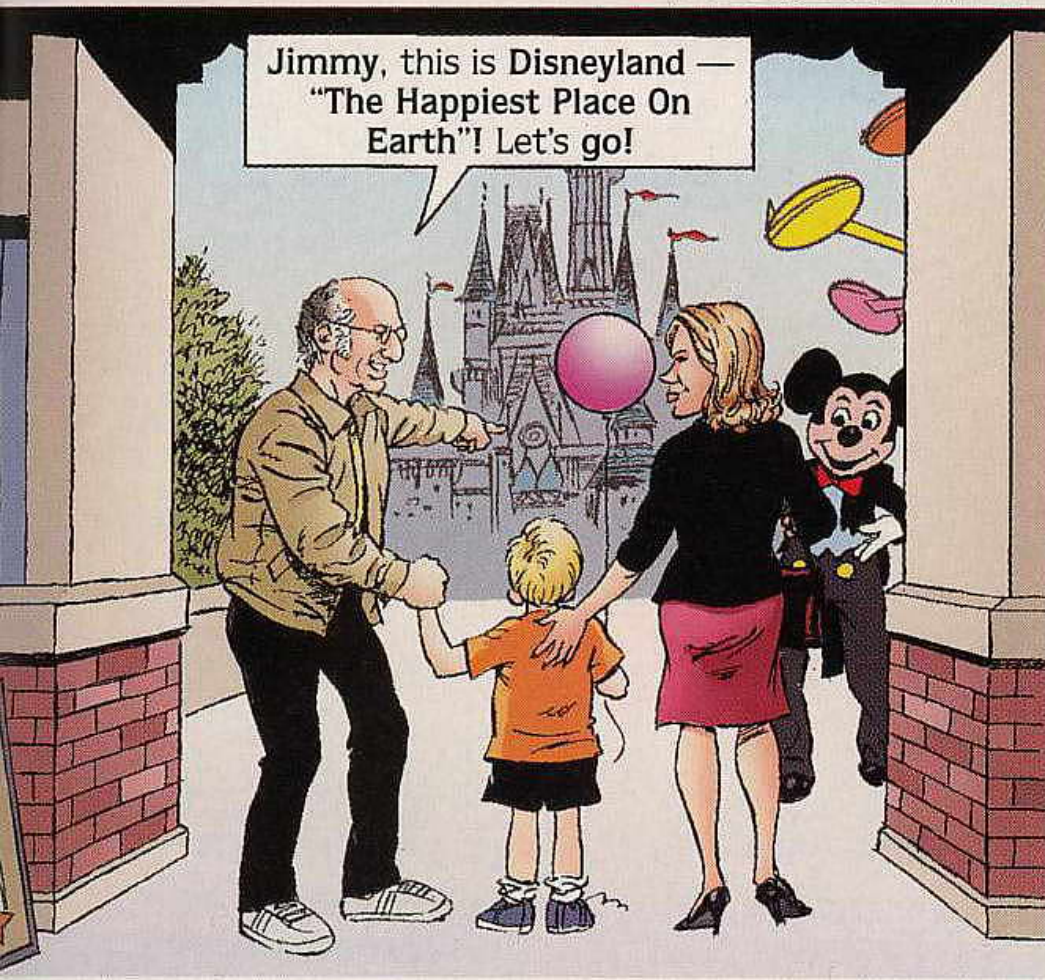
their Enthusiasm

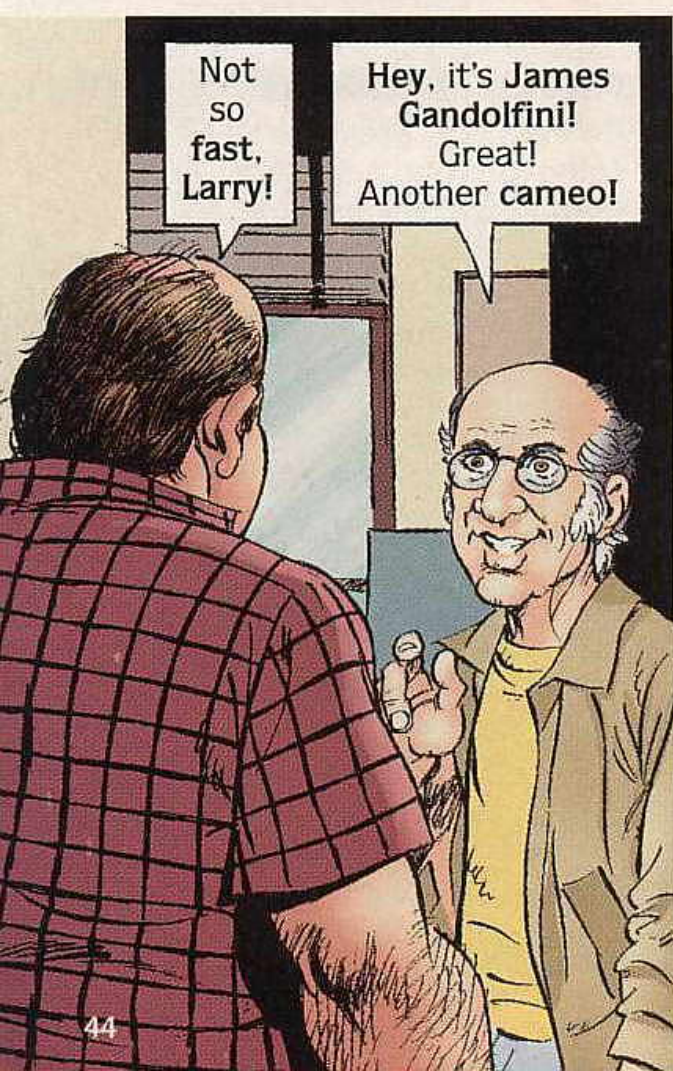
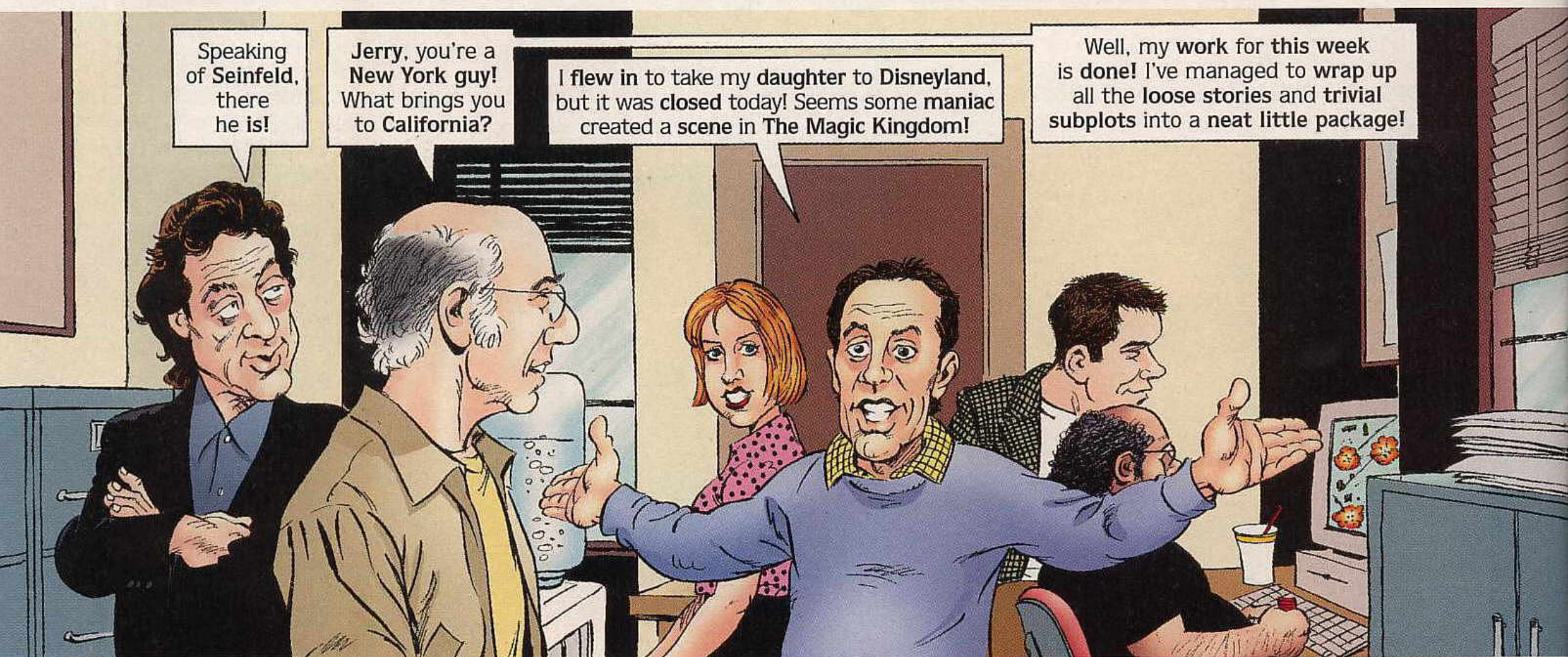
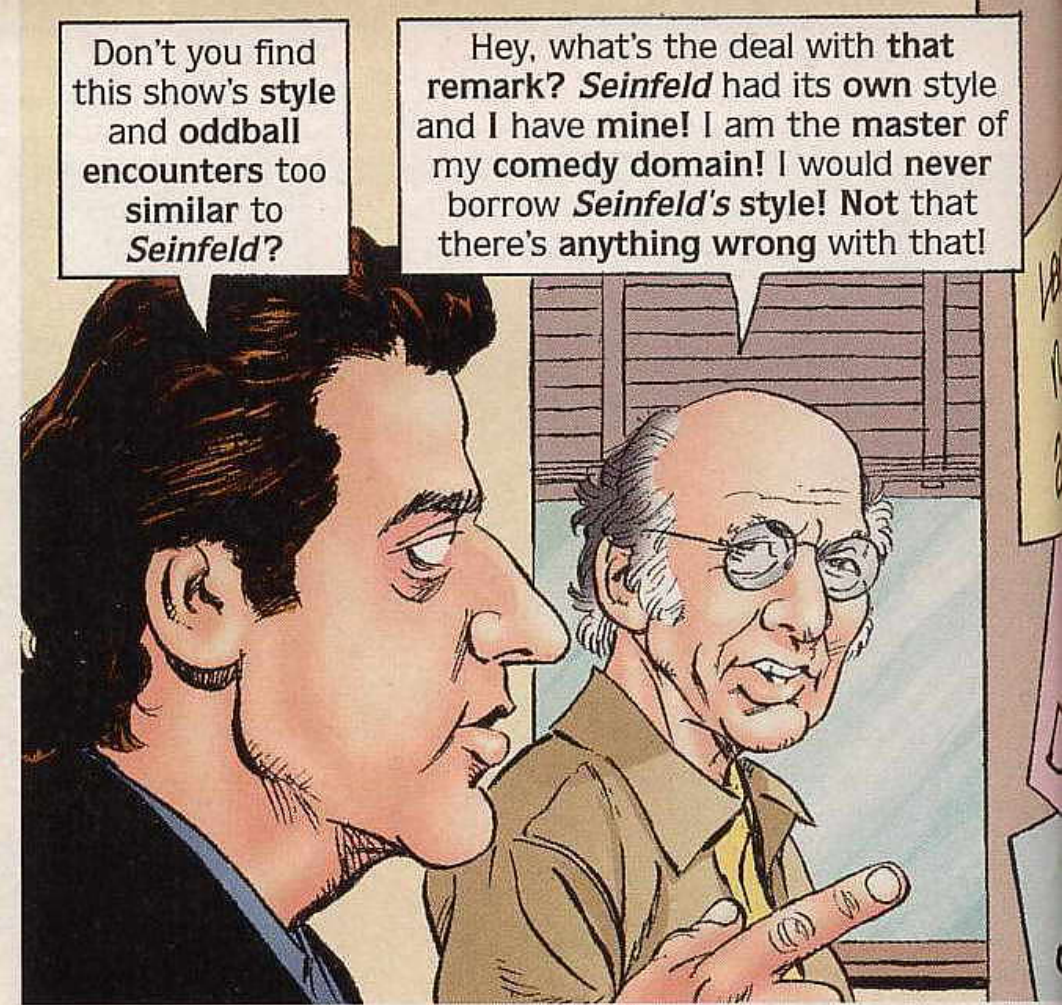
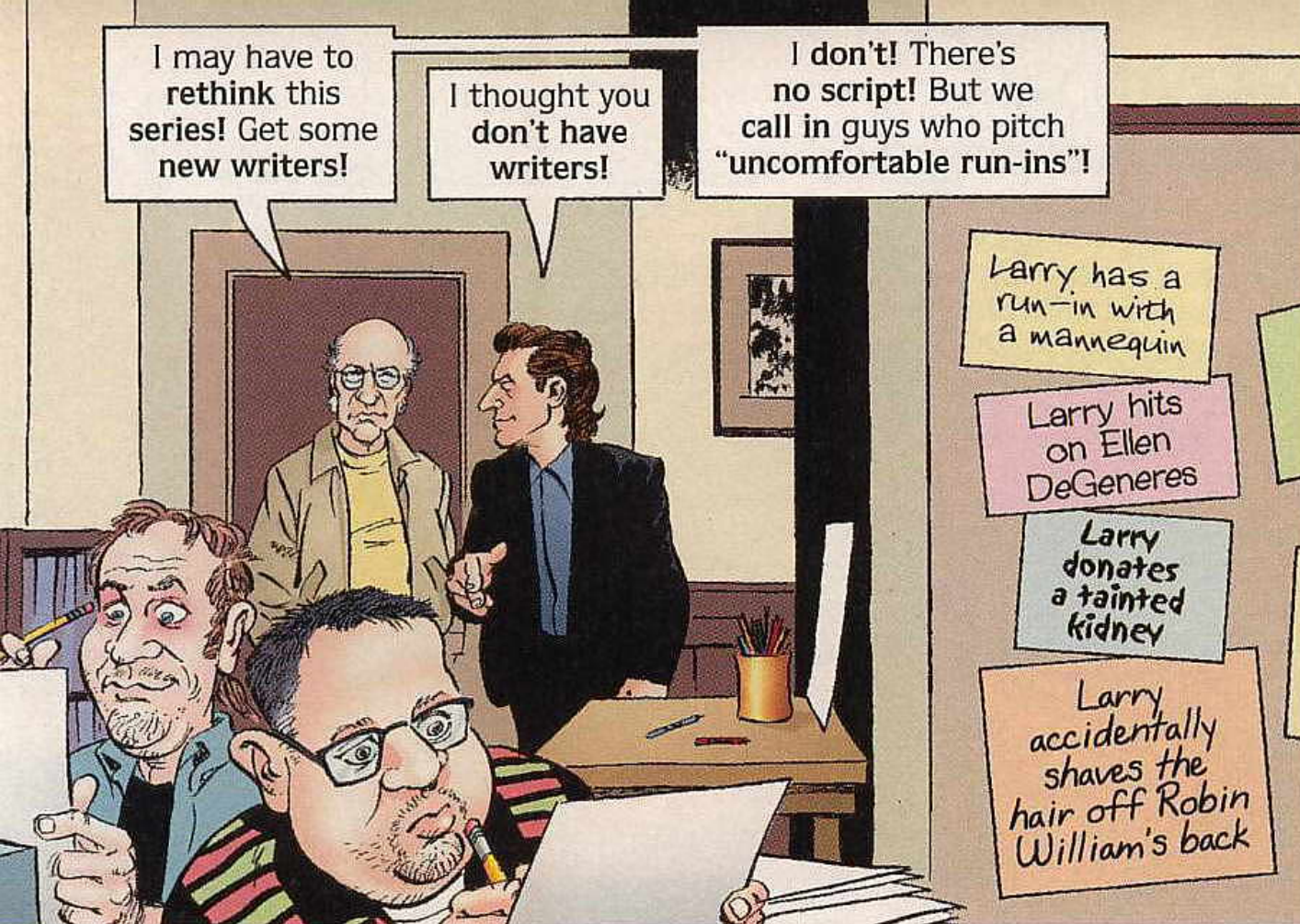


COLORIST: WILDSTORM

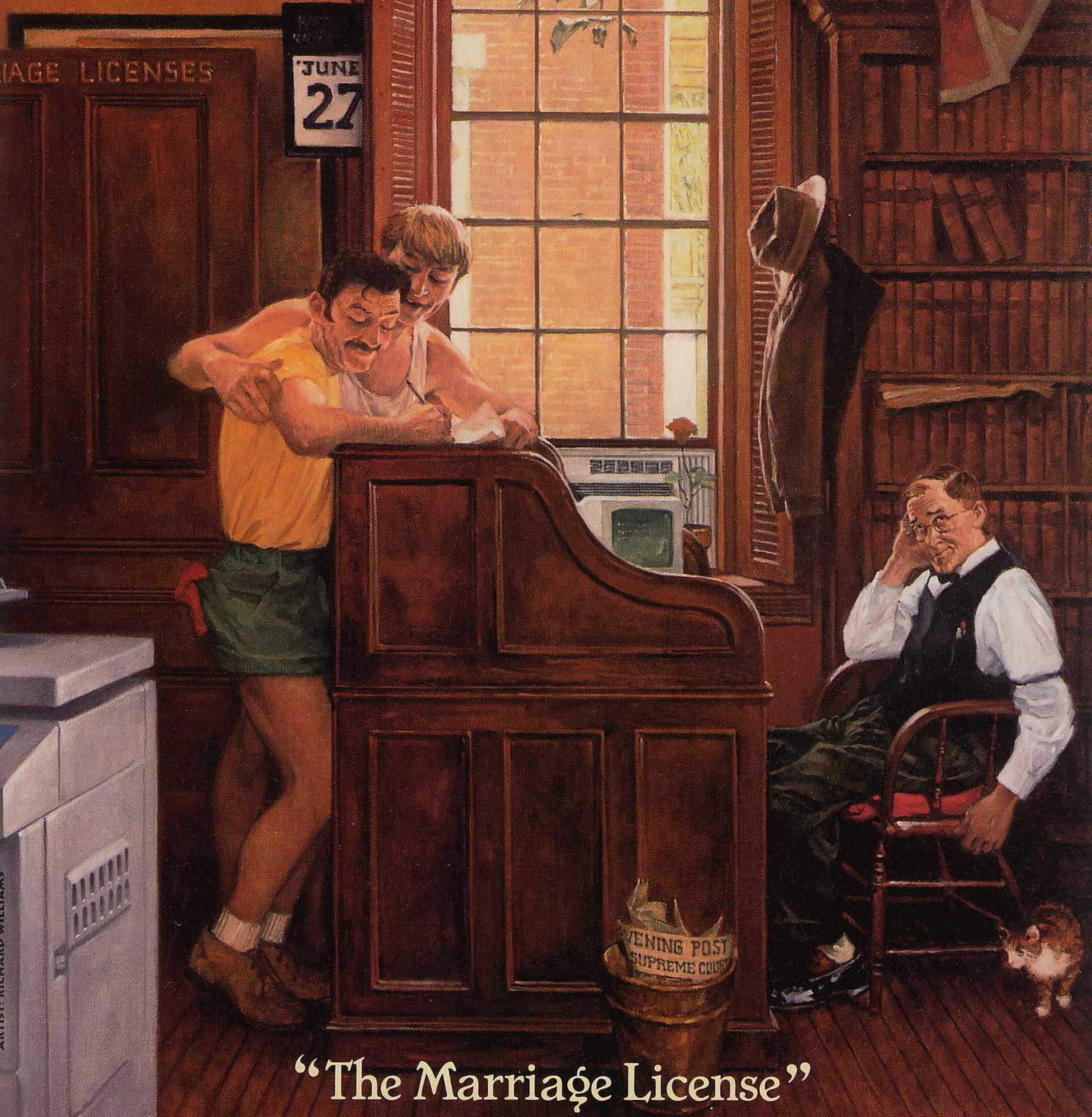








If Norman Rockwell Depicted the 21st Century



"The Marriage License"



A TERM FOR THE WORSE DEPT.

NOW PLAYING at the CALIFORNIA STATE HOUSE:



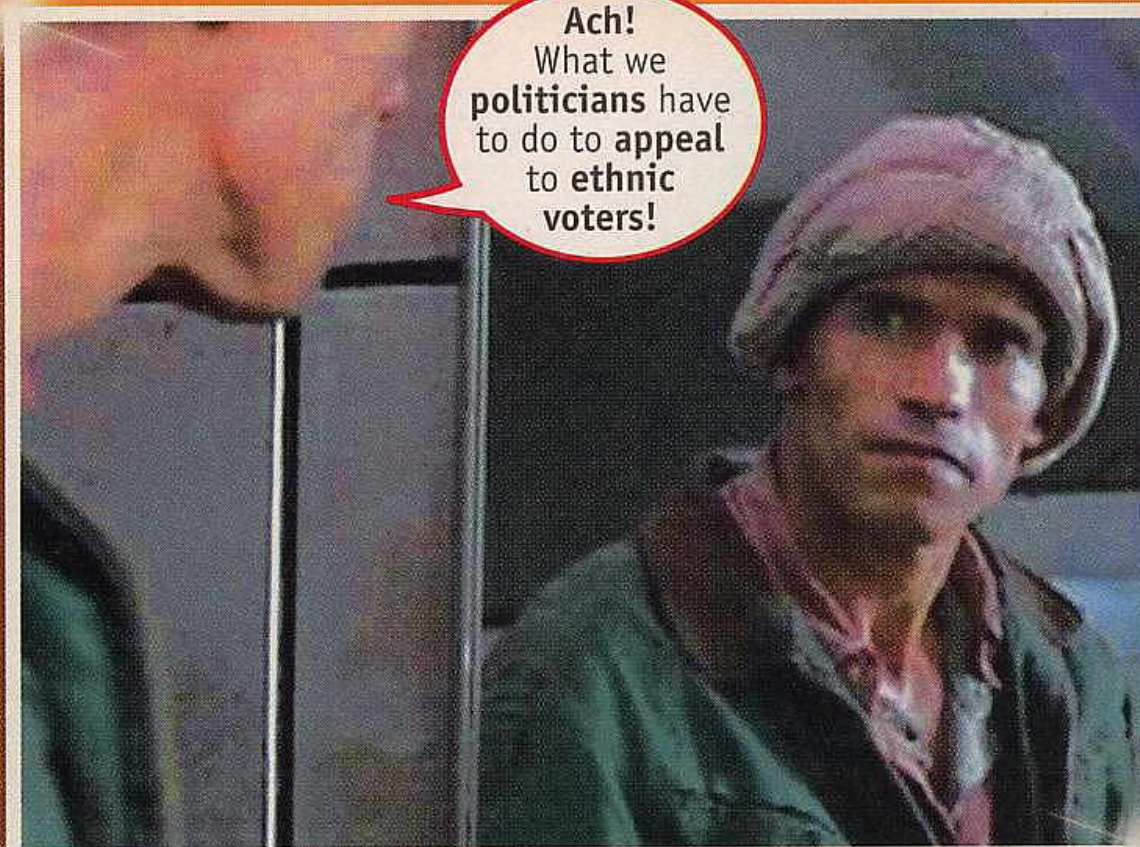
I knew the **democrats** were still **pissed off** about the recall, but **this** is ridiculous!



Pleased to meet you, Gover—
yikes! So, I guess there *is* something to all those rumors about how you treat women!



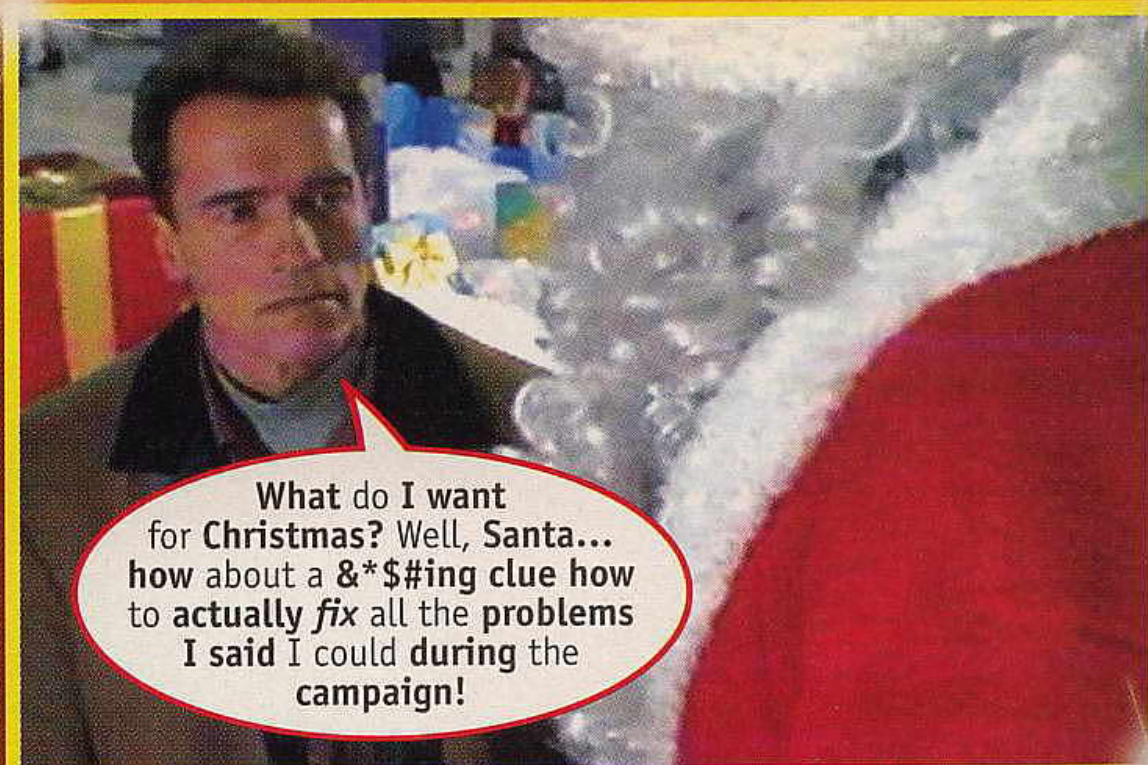
If it took an **8-carat diamond** to pay back Kobe's wife for her **support...**this oughta do the **trick** with Maria!



Ach! What we **politicians** have to do to **appeal** to **ethnic voters!**



Stop saying there's no more gold left in California! I have a **\$38 billion deficit** to make up—or my ass is grass!



What do I want for Christmas? Well, Santa... how about a **&*#\$ing clue** how to **actually fix** all the problems I said I could **during** the campaign!

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER GOVERNOR

