

SPY VS SPY
SUMMER OLYMPICS

MAD



THE **WORST** THINGS ABOUT
50 COMEDY

#1 CHRIS ROCK

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ALFRED E. NEUMAN



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CLINTON "PORTRAIT"
ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER



MAD

SEPTEMBER 2004

NUMBER 445

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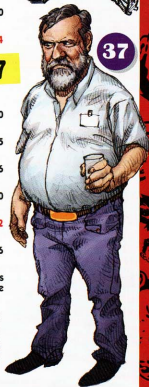
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YOU'VE GOT JAIL

I am incarcerated in a youth prison in Michigan. When I was in the juvenile home, my parents brought me MAD to keep me entertained. When I came here, my bunkie received MAD and let me read them. I've become really addicted to them and just received the first copy of my subscription. Thank you for something to do.

Mike Kelly,
Michigan Youth Correctional Facility
Baldwin, MI

Saved by the Kell — Are you saying you're looking for things to do in prison? Jail is a hotbed of fun-filled activities! Off the top of our heads, we can think of plenty of ways to pass the time! Why, you can craft a shiv, earn the trust of a guard, form a softball team, get a pen pal, start digging a tunnel, cross the days off your calendar or that old classic: push-ups (and plenty of them)! So Mike, don't complain that there isn't anything for you to do, and please say hello to Warden Elio for us! —Ed.

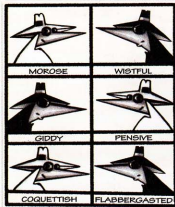


THE DRAWING BORED

Could you possibly have a page in an upcoming issue that shows how to draw the Spy Vs. Spy characters and their expressions? My friend is obsessed with Spy Vs. Spy and is always trying to "perfect" the comics he draws. If you do this I am hoping he will shut up.

Michael Ambriz, San Diego, CA

Miky Likes It — No problem! We spoke with current Spy Vs. Spy artist Peter Kuper and he was more than happy to provide the following mini style guide to help your "friend" master the highly expressive faces of either the Black or White Spyl —Ed.



The Big Easel

I enjoy MAD magazine, so I decided to do a "Big Easel." I only used toy cars, K'Nex and other stuff in my room. I never used anything that I found outside of my room. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoy reading MAD.

Kirk Meyers, Saskatchewan, Canada

Kirk du Soleil — Clearly you are displaying the early signs of cabin fever. This is not uncommon during the cold and depressing nine-month Saskatchewan winters. Now, if you wanted to get the most out of those K'Nex, you'd use them to build a tunnel to escape your icy, soul-crushing Canadian prison! If you get stopped at the border, just inform the Mounties that you're a close personal friend of Courtney "Uncle Sam" Brooks! —Ed.



KIRK (R.) AND HIS TOY-RIFIC ALFRED

THE SCHIZ ARE ALRIGHT

I say Desmond Devlin is the biggest idiot in your Usual Gang of Idiots for misusing the term "schizo" three times in the *Lord of the Rings* parody (MAD #439). Schizophrenia is a brain disorder that has nothing to do with multiple personalities. Ask any doctor, idiot.

Lila Ewing, Encinitas, CA

Mountain Ew — First off, we'd like to apologize on behalf of Desmond. You are correct in pointing out his misuse of the word schizo. To show that we have taken your reprimand to heart, we would like to run something by you. Are we using the word "crap-sack" correctly when describing your letters? Please write back and let us know. In fact, let's open it up to you, our dear readers. Please send us your best original, profanity-free insults to describe Ms. Ewing's missive! Mail to Amy "The Big Insult" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019. We will print the best ones in an upcoming issue! —Ed.

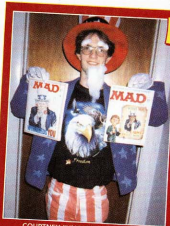


MAD FAN OF THE MONTH

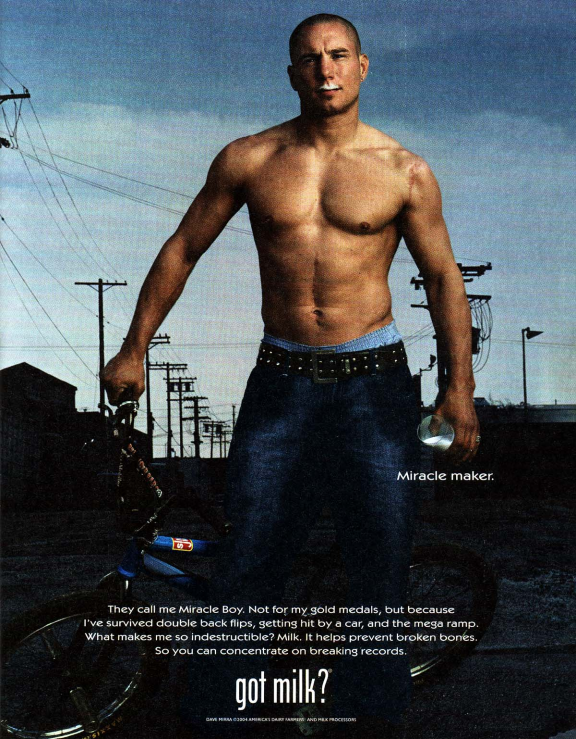
This past 4th of July, I decided to go past setting off fireworks, and possibly losing fingers, to be patriotic. When I got into my Uncle Sam costume, I figured: What more appropriate way to represent my country than holding up two classic MAD magazines? After all, MAD represents and symbolizes what the United States is all about (being able to publish large amounts of foolish nonsense courtesy of the First Amendment!)

Courtney Brooks, Indianapolis, IN

People's Courtney — After looking at your "patriotic" picture, we've decided that the French may have actually had a point about how retarded Americans are! Vive le snug plastic pants! —Ed.



COURTNEY "UNCLE SAM" BROOKS:
WHO WANTS YOU??



Miracle maker.

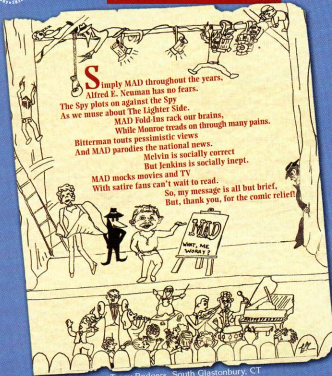
They call me Miracle Boy. Not for my gold medals, but because I've survived double back flips, getting hit by a car, and the mega ramp. What makes me so indestructible? Milk. It helps prevent broken bones. So you can concentrate on breaking records.

got milk?

DAVE PERAZA ©2004 AMERICA'S DAIRY FARMERS AND MILK PROCESSORS



DON'T DO THE CRIME IF YOU CAN'T DO THE RHYME



Tracy Rodgers, South Glastonbury, CT

T-Rod — Your beautiful letter has inspired us to pick up our quills and try our hand once again at the fine art of poetry. We are certain that ours is every bit as amazing as yours! See you at the next Def Poetry Jam!! Enjoy! —Ed.

Thank you for your endless poem,
Now do us a favor and leave us alone!

BREAKING A MING PHRASE

In MAD #442's "Yao Ming's Chinese-English Phrasebook" you have his alleged comments in Chinese symbols followed by supposed translations into English. I regret to inform you that the symbols do not mean what you said they mean. For example, in the first line, 山 = mountain, 气 = water, 息 = exhaust. In the second line 烟 = level, 风 = waves, 平 = quiet. I won't translate all of the symbols, because the point is made.

Garrett Belcher, Charleston, WV

Gar She Blows! — Once again we fall victim to that bumbling Godfrey. He swore to us that he was fluent in Chinese. After double-checking the article, we found that 我喜欢 doesn't translate into "Does Allen Iverson know that his Chinese tattoo says 'I desire young boys'?" — but actually into, "Garrett Belcher, get a freakin' life!" This makes us wonder if Godfrey really is a licensed massage therapist, either! —Ed.

CALDWELL'S THAT ENDS WELL

I am writing this to tell you that you guys are wicked piss! I especially wanted to tell you guys that I loooove John Caldwell. He is my favorite cartoonist in the world! His articles are always the ones I like best. I've been reading MAD since I was 14 (I'm 21 now) and I just want to say I worship all that is MAD! I may come to NYC and visit you guys and give John a big hug for rocking hardcore!

Melissa Gavazzi, Boston, MA

Missy — Thank you for your fan letter to long-time MAD writer/artist John Caldwell. We took the liberty of passing it on to him and to his lovely bride, Roxy. We couldn't understand her whole message to you, but we did manage to make out the phrases "stop sniffing around my man" and "Gos up the truck, we're haulin' ass to Beantown!" Best of luck to you, Melissa, you homewrecker! —Ed.

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

SPECIAL SURVIVOR EDITION!!

Peter Gordon of Great Neck, NY sent in this page of Celebrity Snaps from the recent *Survivor*: All Stars wrap party in New York City! Understandably, he neglected to include the one where security is forcibly escorting him out of the bash (That hussy Jerri wouldn't be far behind!) Regardless, congrats, Pete on your three-year subscription and special props for your **THE ED'S NIFTY FIFTY** pic of Rupert Boneham!



RUPERT AND PETER GORDON



SHIL ANN



KATHY AND JANE GORDON



LEX



BURTON



JENNA M. AND ETHAN



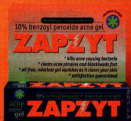
OSTEN



SURVIVOR CREATOR
MARK BURNETT



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ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

This month's Envelope of the Month comes from Matt Handfield of Northampton, MA. In his letter, Matt did a fair amount of snack-talking about Letters Page mainstay Jim Hutchings. So far, Jim has been quiet in facing his challengers. Are you going to take this, Jim? After all that you have "worked" for? For God's sake man, fight disturbing fire with disturbing fire, send in your next "masterpiece" and put these upstarts in their place! —Ed.



JIM HUTCHINGS' CHALLENGER MATT HANDFIELD'S ENVELOPE



CENSOR AND SENSIBILITY

Why is your magazine so R-rated? I am an average nine-year-old boy who thinks your magazine is funny, but in an R-rated way. I'm a new subscriber and when I got the May issue, I was rather upset that it had nudity in it. If you could make your magazine G-rated, that would be great.

Max Russo, Pleasantville, NY

Max and Cheese — You strike us as the type of kid who reminds his teachers that they haven't assigned any homework for the weekend! However, we are glad that you enjoy the magazine, and we hope it offers you an occasional smile as you recover in ICU from one of the many schoolyard beatings that are bound to be a staple of your childhood! —Ed.

**NEXT MONTH IN
MAD #446 ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 14!**

**OUR SPIDER-MAN 2 PARODY,
FALL T.V. PREVIEW AND THE
MAD WORLD OF SCHOOL!**

FOR BETTER OR FOR CURSE

I was at my grandma's on vacation when I got my first issue of MAD. I was reading it voraciously, making sure I got every single detail, when my bratty cousins and MAD-addicted uncle walked in. My youngest cousin, Robin, grabbed the MAD out of my hand and started reading it out loud. My grandma thought it was cute until Robin came across the word "damn." Then my grandma said to me that MAD might be a little too inappropriate for me. But then my MAD-addicted uncle said that kids are getting more inappropriate these days. Is this true? Is MAD affecting the ways of the next generation?

Adrian Appleman, Brewster, NY

Apple Cobbler — As far as whether or not MAD is responsible for influencing the next generation, well, I really don't give a damn! Thanks for writing! —Ed.



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Cheryl Rubin senior vp — brand management

Bob Wayne vp — sales & marketing

Contributing Artists and Writers

the usual gang of idiots

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UNCOUTH SLEUTH
IN THE JULY AND
AUGUST ISSUES OF
PREVIEWS!

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THE FUNNIDALINIPAGES

IF A POLITICAL CONVENTION WAS PRODUCED BY...



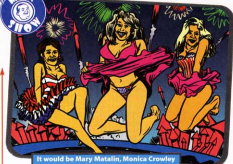
There would be an "accidental" Teresa Heinz Kerry wardrobe malfunction.

DREAMWORKS SKG



They'd offer expert political analysis — from an animated donkey.

MAN SHOW



It would be Mary Metalin, Monica Crowley and Ann Coulter on trampolines.

MONKEYS ARE ALWAYS FUNNY



ARTIST: NICKI FANTAS

THE FAST 5

FUN FACTS ABOUT J.L.O.'S MARRIAGE TO MARC ANTHONY

- Due to rumors that she is still very much "Jenny from the block," J.L.O. insisted J.L.O. get tested for STDs before tying the knot.
- The couple chose to honeymoon in the Dominican Republic, just in case Anthony had second thoughts and wanted to get another quickie divorce.
- The stickiest moment of the evening came when J.L.O. recognized one of the waiters as his first husband, Ojani Noa.
- News of his former fiancé's marriage reached Ben Affleck at a Vancouver strip club, where he was so despondent, he only bought five lap dances instead of his customary 10.
- Just three days after the ceremony, J.L.O. started bragging about her marriage being more successful than Britney Spears'.



CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

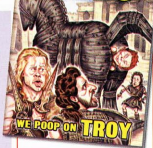
This month: **TONY HAWK**

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

CAUSE OF DEATH	ODDS
Fatal injury from doing own stunt.....	9,875,000,000:1
Fatal injury from standing too close to clumsy maven attempting to imitate one of his stunts.....	2:1
Terminal leg cramps from spending too much time modeling for video game designers.....	5:1
Suffocation after scabs all over body finally "merge" into one, big, all-consuming scab.....	7:1
Skull fracture, in 2025, after attempting hospital guinea-pig pipe stunt at Pro Skateboarder Retirement Home.....	9:1
Massive heart attack from ingesting large quantities of Doritos, McDonald's, Bagel Bites, Hershey's MilkShakes and all the other crap food he endorses.....	Even money



THE COVER WE DIDN'T USE MAD



REJECTED APPLICANTS FROM ABC'S Extreme MAKEOVER

Warren Munson, 35
Duluth, Minnesota

I want the full Tony Soprano — the gut, the hat, the body hair. Is that too much to ask?



Dieter Wherlitz, 23
Whitney, Illinois

Hal-lo? Who do I have to sleep with to end up with a Don Imus neck?



Furlette Babshaw, 28
Riberdy, Kansas

I've always dreamed of having the wispy figure and hardened leathery visage of a crack whore with a bottle tan.



Angelo "Buddy" Nussman, 62
Lalypirith, Georgia

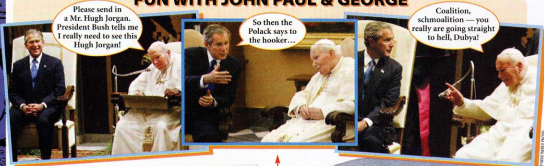
You know the spotty, grayish pink blob? A body gets when it washes up on shore? Oh, yeah, that's for me, Chuckles.



BITTERMAN



FUN WITH JOHN PAUL & GEORGE



GEORGE TENET'S RESIGNATION LETTER



To: Vice President Dick Cheney
From: George Tenet

With deep regret, I hereby tender my resignation as Central Intelligence Agency Director.

It's been an exciting 7 years, and the CIA has had its ups, its downs, its downs, and its downs. Not seeing Osama bin Laden coming? Not knowing where the hell Osama is now? The imaginary African uranium sale? Russian double agents parking their \$100,000 cars in the CIA parking lot? My "slam dunk" evidence proving Weapons of Mass Destruction? What can I say except my bad, dawg.

But I am proud to note that we have also had major, major successes during the same time. The CIA knew that the Spice Girls were going to break up almost a week before it was announced. We're also hearing a lot of elevated chatter about the plot of the upcoming *Tur-Gi-Oh!* movie.

Yes, I'm hightailing it out of town right before the Senate Intelligence report and the 9/11 Commission report both come out and scorch the short hairs off my ass. But that's just a coincidence. And besides, what good does it do, picking up a severed hand at Ground Zero, and using it to point fingers? I've fully accepted my share of the blame. Why dwell on consequences?

Covertly Yours,

GT

P.S. When you get a chance, tell George Bush I've quit my job.

VEY TO GO!



"THE FORGE, AND REP ON IT."

BONUS DVD FEATURES WE'D LIKE TO SEE



MEL GIBSON'S
THE
PASSION
OF THE CHRIST

- Three-hour commentary track by Mel Gibson's father, Hutton, ranting about how the Jews own Hollywood
- Multiple soundtracks in Esperanto, Kyrgyz, Olde English, and other languages even more obscure than Aramaic
- The previously deleted shark attack scene
- Audition reels of actors who didn't get the lead role, including P. Diddy, Adam Sandler and Vin Diesel
- The alternate "Happy Hollywood Ending" where Jesus uses his superpowers in the last ten minutes of the film to save himself
- Hilarious blooper outtakes of the crew laughing when the actors portraying Roman crucifiers accidentally hit their thumbs with the hammers
- The omitted Paris Hilton "Last Supper" cameo
- Mini-documentary about a real-life "Jesus" who screams on street corners

MAGAZINE CORRECTIONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

In our March, 2004 issue, we inadvertently advised those readers born under the sign of Taurus that "you will be pleasantly surprised by a visit from an old friend." In fact, you will die a painful and tragic death. We regret the error and any inconveniences this may have caused.



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10041

DOCTORED ZEUS DEPT.
When the first Olympic games were held in Greece in 776 B.C., the world was thought to be ruled over by such gods as Zeus, Athena, Hermes and Prometheus. Now, as the Summer Olympics return to Athens, the athletic world is definitely ruled over by the...

GREEK GODS OF THE

PROCRASTINUS

GOD OF DELAYED ARENA CONSTRUCTION, UNION KICKBACKS, BUDGET SHORTFALLS AND ENVIRONMENTALIST NITPICKING

OSTENTATIOUS

GOD OF KITSCHY OPENING CEREMONY PRODUCTION NUMBERS

HUCKSTER

GOD OF 'OFFICIAL' OLYMPIC PRODUCT TIE-INS

SMARMES

GODDESS OF POLITICALLY-CORRECT, AMORPHOUS, BLAND AND CLOYING MASCOTS THAT WILL NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN ONCE THE GAMES END

MAUDLINIA

GODDESS OF WEEPY, SAPPY TV PROFILES OF ATHLETES WHO OVERCAME GREAT PAIN AND SUFFERING

GIMMICKES

GOD OF POINTLESS NEW TV TECHNOLOGY

TRAFFICLES

GODDESS OF CONFUSING, IMPASSABLE AND CONGESTED STADIUM ROUTES

2004 OLYMPICS

ANTITHESIS

GOD OF PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE OLYMPICS

LEXUS

GODDESS OF UNDER-THE-TABLE GIFTS TO INFLUENCE JUDGES SCORING

TRANSEXULES

GOD/GODDESS OF POST-OP ATHLETES

RIOTOUS

GOD OF OLYMPIC VILLAGE BINGE DRINKING AND PARTying

MONOTONOUS

GOD OF YACHT RACING

SPECIMEN AND CONCEALIOUS

GODS OF DRUG TESTING AND ILLEGAL, UNDETECTABLE MASKING AGENTS, RESPECTIVELY

PUBERTEENA

GODDESS OF JAILBAIT FEMALE GYMNASTS

ARTIST: GARY HALLGREN

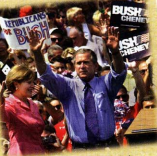
WRITER: JEFF KRUSE

'Tis time, dear reader, to turn away from the tube with its Hannitys and O'Reillys and hearken to the words of the immortal Bard, as MAD presents...



William Shakespeare,

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR



"His promises were, as he then was, mighty, but his performance, as he is now, nothing."

Henry VIII — Act IV, Scene II



"Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it."

Macbeth — Act I, Scene V



"Prosperity's the very bond of love."

Hamlet — Act II, Scene II



Dr. Condoleezza Rice

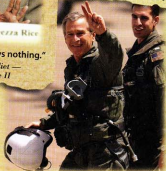
"She speaks, yet says nothing."

Roméo and Juliet — Act II, Scene II



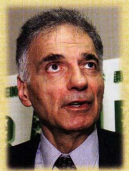
"Such a man...so spiritless, so dull, so dead in look, so woebegone."

Henry IV, Part 2 — Act I, Scene I



"What a sweep of vanity comes this way."

Timon of Athens — Act I, Scene II



"He is...ill-faced, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere... a living dead man."

The Comedy of Errors — Act V, Scene I



"I cannot tell what the dickens his name is."

The Merry Wives of Windsor — Act III, Scene II



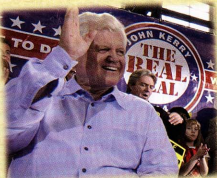
"Wherefore are those things hid?"

Twelfth Night — Act I, Scene III

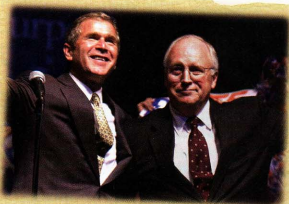


"These tedious old fools!" Hamlet — Act II, Scene II

ARTIST: M.H. PERKER
WRITER: FRANK JACOBS
PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



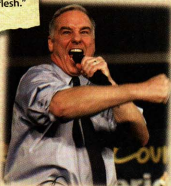
"...this horseback-breaker, this huge hill of flesh."
Henry IV, Part One — Act II, Scene IV



"His will is not his own." *Hamlet — Act I, Scene III*



"Not yet old enough for a man
nor young enough for a boy."
Twelfth Night — Act I, Scene V



"It is a tale told by an idiot, full of
sound and fury, signifying nothing."
Macbeth — Act V, Scene V



"They have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths."
Much Ado About Nothing — Act V, Scene I

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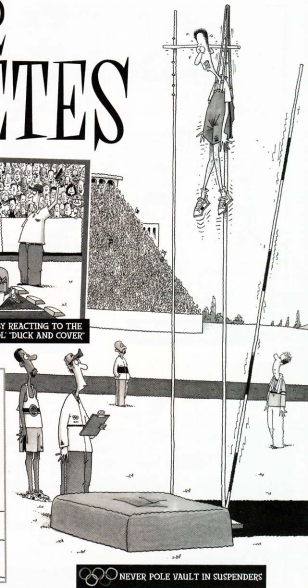
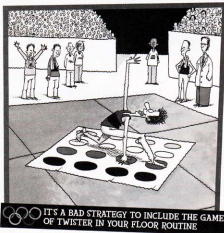
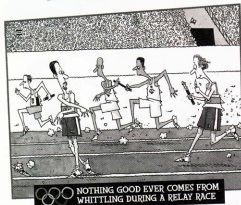
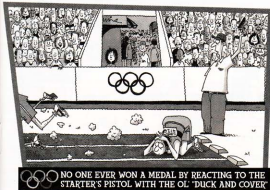
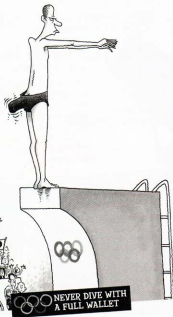
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None of our artwork, punks.

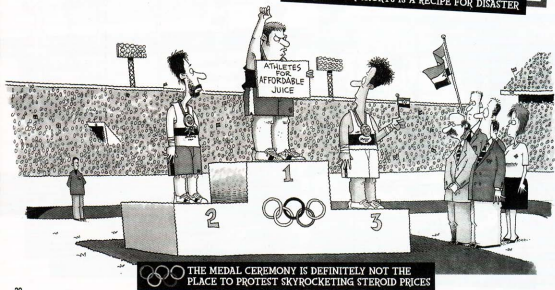
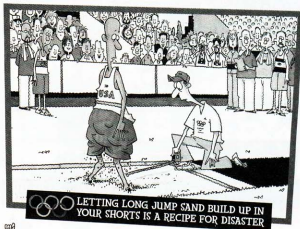
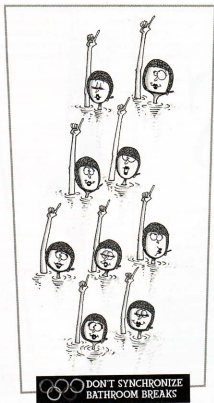
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Visit www.esrb.org
for updated rating
information.



PlayStation 2



GAMEPRO



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Update the horror classics of the '20s, '30s and '40s and what do you get?... A horror that will never be a classic in any year! Not even when you drive in a guy who fearlessly battles monsters and special effects. No one can save this film, not even...

VAN HEL STINK



Well, Dr. Jerk-III. I see you're a changed man! So tell me, Mr. Snide, what kind of powerful potion did you swallow to change so drastically?

Something brand new. It's called CGI! It can make you as big and as bad as you like!

You've made quite a switch! Instead of turning into Mr. Snide, it looks like you've turned into a hideous cross between The Incredible Hulk and Bill O'Reilly!

Victory Frankenfurter, I must have your monster!

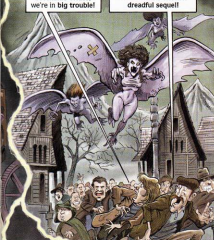
My monster is my life's work! I won't give him up!

I need him to help me give birth to my babies!

Give birth to your babies? You can't! Transylvania still doesn't recognize same sex marriages! Try moving to Massachusetts!

Look at those three creatures! If those are Dreckula's brides, we're in big trouble!

It could be worse! They could be Charlie's Angels here to make another dreadful sequel!



What's that terrible commotion coming from under the ground? Is it rumblings from the Gates of Hell?

Naw, it's the sound of classic horror movie actors Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Lon Chaney Jr. spinning in their graves!

My brother and I are the only two remaining members of the Hilarious family. We've spent over 400 years trying to kill Dreckula!

Well...not really! For one reason or another we put off doing anything about him for the first 395 years. But for the last 5, we've been on him pretty good!

Now I'm more determined than ever to rid the earth of his evil!

Anyone can tell you mean business, dear sister! Your leather boots are higher than ever, your leather outfit is tighter than ever and your new leather whip hits harder than ever! Damn, I wish you weren't my sister! I'm getting turned on!

Burn him!

Destroy him!

Yes, we must kill Victory Frankenfurter!

Kill Frankenfurter? You're in the wrong mob! This is the mob that wants to kill Stephen Sommers, the guy who wrote and directed this mess!



How do you know which panel of this satire to read first? It's totally confusing!

I know! It's just like the movie, isn't it!



If you won't give me your monster, Dr. Frankenfurter, I'll just kill you and steal him!

E-Oops, help!

Gladly! I'll beat you with this rod while Dreckula sucks your blood!

No — help ME, not Dreckula!

Sorry, but Dreckula promised me that if I went to work for him, he'd never outsource my job to a hunchback in India!

PARIS - NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL

This was a good choice of cathedrals to pick for a fight. Mr. Snidel. So few churches have these long ropes for us to swing on! And even fewer have 600-year-old stained glass windows to crash through!

Yes, but we never should have grabbed a rope during rush hour!

You're right! There's so much traffic up here, it's hard to try to kill each other effectively!

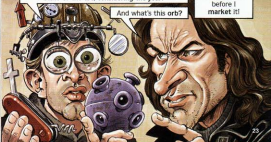


ROME - St. Peter's Cathedral. The part where they make the high tech weapons

Here at St. Peter's Cathedral & Munitions Factory we're developing some of the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction of vampires known to man! This is one of my latest inventions. It's a clove of garlic, a tube of holy water, a silver stake and a crucifix, all built into a single pocket knife. I know it's kind of big and unwieldy, but it is state-of-the-art, considering the year!

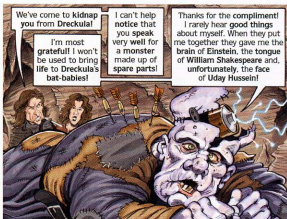
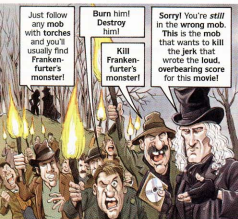
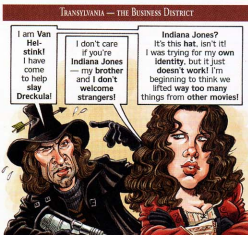
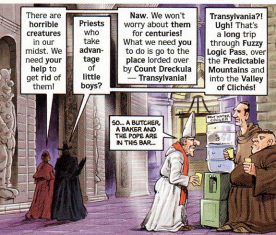
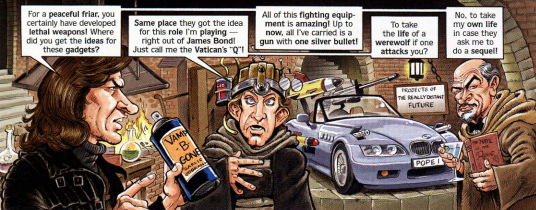
It's a light source, equal to the intensity of the sun. I call it a flash bulb. I need to wait for the camera to be invented before I market it!

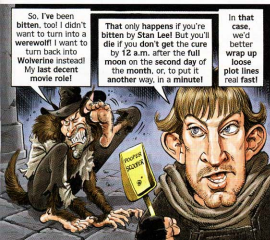
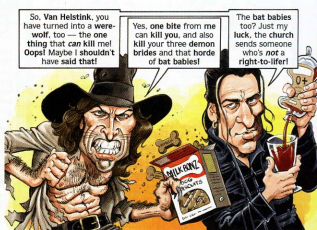
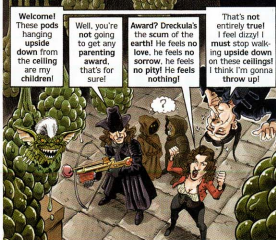
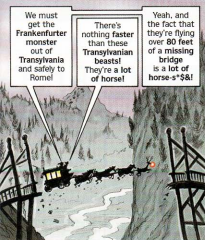
And what's this orb?



REMY

RUMBLE RUMBLE





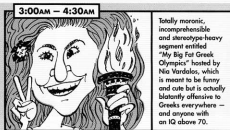
This year, NBC and its affiliates will be taking the unprecedented step of covering the summer Olympics 4 to 6 hours at a clip, boy, are YOU in for a snoozefest! How will they manage to fill up all the time

every second of every day. So if you thought the programming was dull when they were covering only during this godforsaken event? We'll show you exactly what kind of mindless blather to expect during...

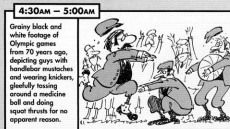
24 HOURS OF NBC'S ENDLESS OLYMPIC COVERAGE



The running of the Marathon, showing lots of pre-taped footage of how the USA's top runner trained every day in the mountains of Colorado, which ultimately proves to be meaningless, since he ends up in 16th place, a full 27 minutes behind the slowest guy from Kenya.



Totally moronic, incomprehensible and stereotypical-heavy segment entitled "My Big Fat Greek Olympics" hosted by Nia Vardalos, which is meant to be funny and cute but is actually blatantly offensive to Greeks everywhere—and anyone with an IQ above 70.



Grainy black and white footage of Olympic games from 70 years ago, depicting guys with handlebar mustaches and wearing knickers, gleefully tossing around a medicine ball and doing squat thrusts for no apparent reason.



Detailed breakdown of the Men's Basketball semi-finals, which makes millions wonder why hopscotch, marbles and red rover never made it as Olympic sports.



Comprehensive analysis of the Triathlon, in which commentators dissect every possible aspect of the event except for the key question of how competitors who go straight from swimming to riding a bike without changing their clothes manage to avoid severe cramp rash.



Special version of *The Today Show* broadcast live from the Parthenon, in which Al Roker gives his weather report while wearing sandals and a toga, Willard Scott congratulates a shepherd and his sheep on their 75th wedding anniversary, and Katie Couric browbeats the mayor of Athens into getting a colonoscopy, then shows it on a Jumbotron during the opening ceremony.



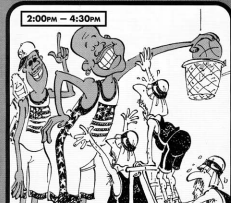
PBS-like travelogue about the history and architecture of the Acropolis that has nothing whatsoever to do with sports, but appeases NBC's contract with the Greek Chamber of Commerce.



Pointless human-interest story about a Badminton player from a small farming town in New Delhi who made his own racket from a coconut husk and the bones of a rhesus monkey.



Coverage of the Sailing qualifying trials, featuring the narcosis-inducing, pitying insights of the man who coached the Australian team to a bronze medal over 30 years ago and has been hitting the sauce ever since.



Full-blown coverage of the USA Basketball team's 168-31 victory over Yemen, announced in such a way as to reassure Americans that they are superior in every way to the peoples of the Middle East.



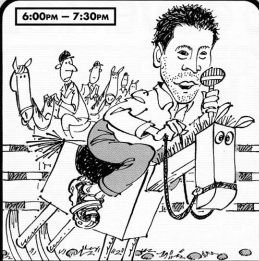
Obligatory coverage of Constantinos Daskalakis, the Greek wrestler who has the best shot of winning a medal for the host country, but will actually come in 74th place after rupturing his groin twelve seconds into his match because of an illegal maneuver by some drooling imbecile from Uganda.



Tae kwon do medal ceremony, featuring ridiculously extreme close-ups of the tear running down the gold-medalist's face, which the announcers attribute to national pride, but is more likely the result of the fact that his country's national anthem is being absolutely destroyed by the high school brass band attempting to play it.

24 HOURS OF NBC'S ENDLESS OLYMPIC COVERAGE

6:00PM — 7:30PM



The equestrian snoozefest, which NBC uses as an opportunity to subtly plug the new series *Joey* by bringing in Matt LeBlanc as a celebrity commentator, even though he couldn't even spell "equestrian" let alone provide any kind of remotely meaningful insight into the sport.

7:30PM — 8:00PM



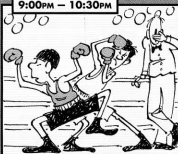
Recap of the day's events so far, with more than half the broadcast devoted to slow motion close-ups of the USA Basketball team slam-dunking the ball in the faces of their Yemenite opponents.

8:00PM — 9:00PM

Women's Volleyball match between Sweden and Norway, which will have no bearing at all on the medal rounds, but gives NBC an excuse to show extreme close-ups of the beaded sweat on the bosoms of young, nubile, swimsuit-clad blonde women frolicking around on a beach during prime time.



9:00PM — 10:30PM



Frightfully dull bantamweight-boxing match in which the frenetic fighter from Indonesia keeps on dancing around in circles while the disinterested fighter from Sri Lanka seems to be blocking punches that aren't being thrown.

11:00PM — 12:00AM



Boy, the way Uri Yalovick smashed that ball reminds me of one of the most amazing homers I've ever witnessed. The year was 1961, I was a boy of 9, sitting with my dad at the big ball orchard in the South Bronx. I remember Moose Skewron was on first, Yagi was on second and, if memory serves, the batboy was none other than...

10:30PM — 11:00PM

Contrived sappy story about the camaraderie between the athletes living in the Olympic Village, which fails to point out that the NBA players are actually living on luxury cruise ships and the closest they'll get to one of the regular athletes' cubicles is when their stretch limo passes it on the way to Athens' most exclusive "gentlemen's club."



Full color commentary of the Table Tennis competition, in which Bob Costas somehow manages to segue into yet another self-indulgent, nostalgic story about how his dad would take him to Yankee Stadium in the 1960s and he would sit on his lap eating Cracker Jacks and cheering on the Mick.

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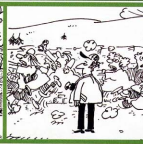
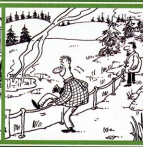
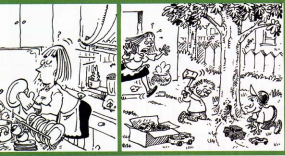
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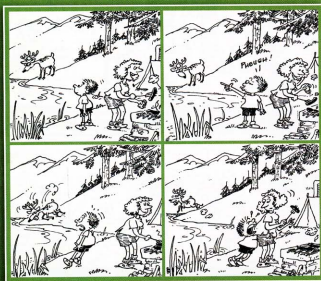
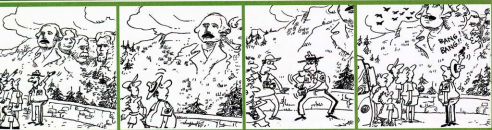
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SERGE ARAGONES presents A MAD LOOK AT NATIONAL PARKS







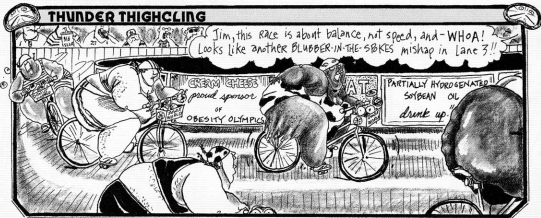
LET THE GAMES BE THIN DEPT.

Let's face it — we're a big, fat nation! But that's not necessarily a bad thing! After all, we're a country that prides itself on being the biggest *and* the best! So it's only a matter of time before we customize the Olympics to show the world that we're also the best at *being* the biggest!

THE OBESITY OLYMPICS



ARTIST AND
WRITER:
TERESA BURNS
PARKHURST

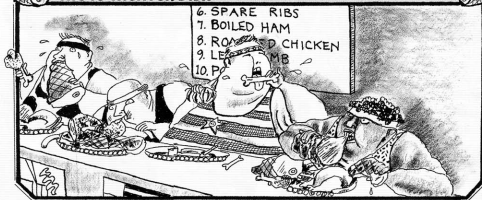


PUMMELLED HORSE



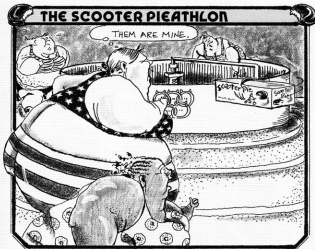
THE 10-MEATER DISH

6. SPARE RIBS
7. BOILED HAM
8. ROASTED CHICKEN
9. LEG OF LAMB
10. PORK



THE SCOOTER PIETHLON

THEM ARE MINE.



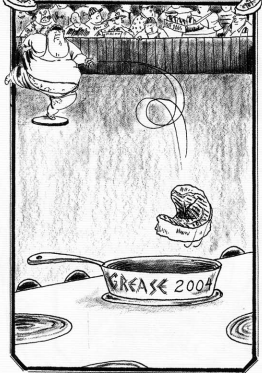
WAITER LIFTING

You call THIS extra cheese!!

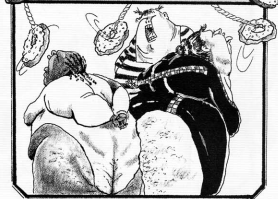




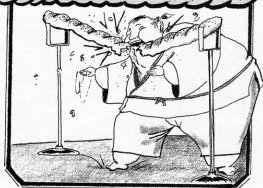
CHOP-PUT



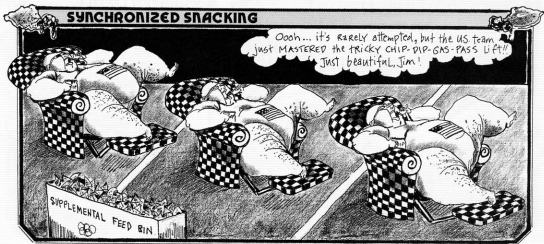
COFFEE RINGS



CHEWDOUGH



SYNCHRONIZED SNACKING

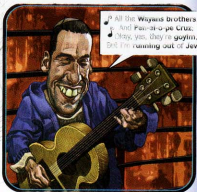


If the old adage, "dying is easy; comedy is hard," is true, then being subjected to most of the pathetic pap that passes for humor today is nothing short of torture. (Donald Rumsfeld, take note!) It's no easy task identifying the absolute biggest failures when it comes to inducing yuks, but, dedicated pros that we are, we've pushed our schnozz (A funny word!) to the proverbial grindstone and come up with the definitive list of...

MAD's 50 WORST THINGS ABOUT... COMEDY



1 MAD Magazine: Over 50 years of obvious, groan-inducing parodies, shameless cheap shots, and an ever-increasing cover price, making it practically undeniable that it is regular, schmuck readers like you who are the REAL "usual gang of idiots."



2 That curiously, oh-so-tired, annually updated Chanukah song—which must be funny, since Adam Sandler can rarely get through a performance of it without laughing at the lyrics he's written.

I mean, we're living in a country where the President can't pronounce "nuclear."

Yeah, but I mean the Bush twins are hot. Doesn't that count for something?

Nnnmmumble brzzz Bush grnn mumble for nnnmmumble foreign policy?

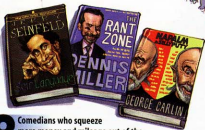
Is it just me or does John Kerry look like Fred Gwynne from *The Munsters*? I mean, does anyone else see that?



4 Dave Chappelle, who every week tests the limit of how many mediocre skits can be saved by bursting in and screaming some phrase that ends in the word "BITCH!"

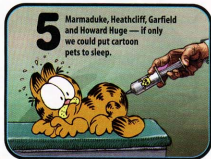
3 Comedy Central's mistaken assumption that the more uninformed D-list comedians you throw together, the funnier the ensuing news commentary show will be.

6 Comedy clubs' two drink minimum — that's nowhere near enough liquor to get you as drunk as you need to be to find their "comic all-stars" even remotely amusing.



8 Comedians who squeeze more money and mileage out of the same tired standup routines they've been performing for decades by printing them in an overpriced book, minus the attitude and timing, thereby rendering them even less funny.

9 Movies or TV programs that show blooper reels over the credits, hoping you'll forget how awful the actual scripted production was and instead remember how hilarious it was when, say, Jim Belushi kept mispronouncing the word "mellifluous."



7 Seven years of *South Park*, times approximately sixty million teenagers equals... let's see... roughly 42,000,000 bad Cartman impressions.



10

Hollywood Squares: they ply us with badly-delivered scripted "ad libs" that make Paul Lynde turn over in his grave, when the *real* comedy would be to see footage of Dom DeLuise being forklifted up to the second tier.



11

The foolish stereotype that all the best comedy writers are old Jewish guys. Facacta people who believe that are all meshugga goyim who should get tsuris.

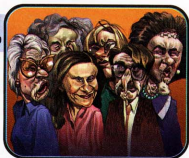
12

Shakespearean comedies that haven't been funny in 400 years that you feel compelled to laugh at anyway, in an effort to appear sophisticated like everyone else stuck there not enjoying it.



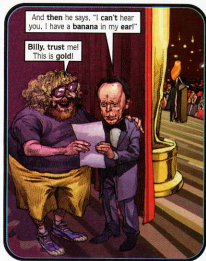
14

Any of Tracey Ullman's stable of makeup-heavy characters, all of whom sound the same and look like their faces are melting off.



13

Awards show banter that you'd swear Bruce Vilanch is ribbing from old Bazoorka Joe comics.



15

Spencer Gifts — suppliers of "hilarious" props for class clowns and smart-asses everywhere, like an "I'm With Stupid" t-shirt, aerosol fart spray or a comical plastic man who blows bubbles out of his ass.



16 *Will & Grace*: Pity the poor bastards who have to forego writing funny scripts and instead are forced to fashion convoluted plots that explain how the characters end up meeting this week's gay or gay-friendly celebrity.

19 Numbnuts who waste your time trying in vain to explain an "unbelievably hilarious" situation before ultimately realizing that "you had to be there."



20 The surprising mileage a man wearing a latex dog puppet on his hand gets by threatening to defecate on people.

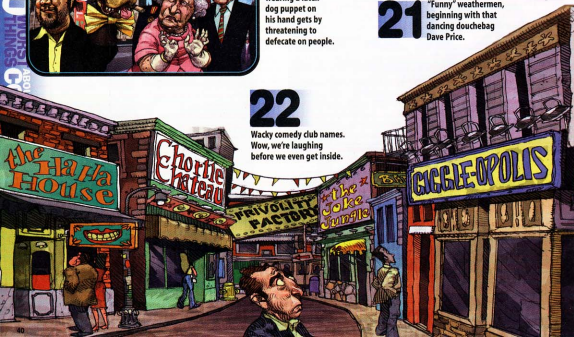
22 Wacky comedy club names. Wow, we're laughing before we even get inside.

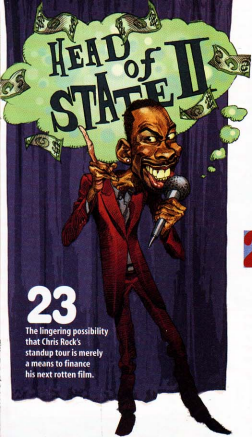
17 Anything in your email inbox with a subject line that reads "Fwd: FWD: FWD: FWD: Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: Re: Fwd: FWD: FWD: FWD: re: Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: THIS IS FUNNY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

18 The unsettling realization that every day, someone, somewhere, is so tickled by a Family Circus panel that they clip it out of the newspaper and post it on their fridge.



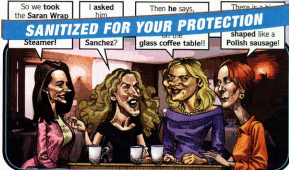
21 "Funny" weathermen, beginning with that dancing douchebag Dave Price.





23

The lingering possibility that Chris Rock's standup tour is merely a means to finance his next rotten film.



24

The edited episodes of *Sex and the City* on TBS — without the nudity and profanity they might as well call the show *The View II*.

25

Woody Allen's unique ability to bring together interesting and often brilliant actors of wildly divergent talents — yet end up making nothing but wildly divergent, forgettably mediocre movies.

26

Being singled out for all of Don Rickles' ruthless barbs when there's a perfectly good fat, black, Puerto Rican Jew in a funny hat and loud shirt sitting in the front row.



27

The creepy troika of comedy that makes even the bravest of the brave cower in fear: clowns, ventriloquist dummies and carrot top.



29

That large mushroom growing on top of Bernie Mac's head. Oh, wait, that's his 'fro.



28

The Learning Annex catalog's ridiculous claim that you can "Learn to Do Stand-Up" in "one intense session" by following the remedial instruction of a self-proclaimed funnyman whose only steady gig is presiding over twenty clueless hopefuls the second Tuesday of every other month from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in a windowless, un-air-conditioned room rented from a local elementary school.

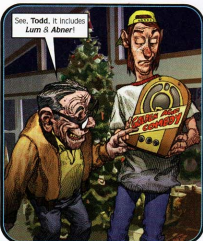


30

New Yorker
cat cartoons: every
single last one of
them.

31

Al Franken, who has managed to match
Rush Limbaugh's level of smugness and
childlike name calling without having
to pop thousands of pain pills.



33

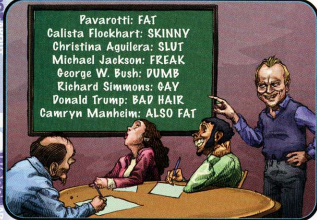
The "Golden Age of Radio Comedies" on
cassette, packed in a box shaped like an
old Philco radio, that you received as a
Christmas gift from some hopelessly out-
of-touch relative, which you'll never listen
to and will re-gift the first chance you get.

32

Book compilations of lines written
by White House speechwriters and
L.A. gagmen being passed off as a
collection of the "wit and wisdom"
of any President, not one of whom
has had a good sense of humor
since William Henry Harrison.

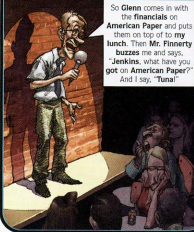
34

The rule book for all late-night talk show writers that insists jokes
about celebrities must always be about the ONE real or imagined trait
that was agreed upon by some unimaginative secret comedy cabal.



36

Ordinary working stiffs who are
convinced their jobs are soooooo
funny that they feel compelled to take
the stage on open mike night and
share their "wacky" office stories.



35

The inexplicable need comedic actors have "to tackle a serious
role for a change," which invariably results in a soppy, slow-paced
snorefest. How long before Jim Carrey, Bill Murray and Dan
Aykroyd team up in an all-male remake of *Steel Magnolias*?

37

"Cedric the Entertainer."
Kinda reminds us of
"Shatner the Singer."

And then the other guy says,
"No, the giant watermelons are
for the black," uh, never mind!



38

The over-hyped, nauseatingly sentimental final season of any long-running sitcom, which you know, 20 years hence, will result in an over-hyped, nauseatingly sentimental "reunion show." (Note: see #46.)

40

Randy Jackson, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul — who make as many appearances in comedy skit shows, sitcoms and awards shows tiredly spoofing themselves as they do performing their actual judging duties on *American Idol*.



39

That sinking feeling you get in your stomach halfway through telling the funniest ethnic joke you've ever heard, when you suddenly realize that the guy you're telling it to is married to someone of that ethnic group.

41

We don't want to get off on a rant here, but isn't it sad that Dennis Miller's done a gear-stripping 180-degree turn from "How deliciously obscure and outrageous can I make this reference?" to "The hell with smarmy wit — how blatantly can I kiss President Bush's ass?"

Perfectly dreadful. I've seen better moves from a sock puppet going through the spin cycle at a laundromat!



42

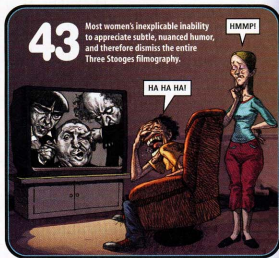
Tony n' Tina's Wedding: "Interactive" theater at which you'll be so offended by the broad ethnic stereotypes, you won't be sure what you're choking on: the lame jokes or the undercooked stuffed chicken breast.

43

Most women's inexplicable inability to appreciate subtle, nuanced humor, and therefore dismiss the entire Three Stooges filmography.

HMMPI!

HA HA HAI!



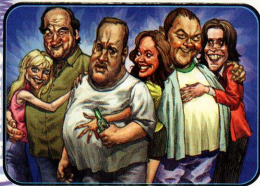


44

Don Imus on MSNBC. Now, not only do we have to hear him, we have to look at him, too.

45

The vanity that dictates a much more attractive, totally hot actress must be cast opposite the fat-ass schlub sitcom star playing some overweight blue-collar loser despite the fact that the only way his character could ever get someone like that in real life is by making the kind of money, say, a successful sitcom star makes.



48

Knock-knock jokes — we just don't like them.

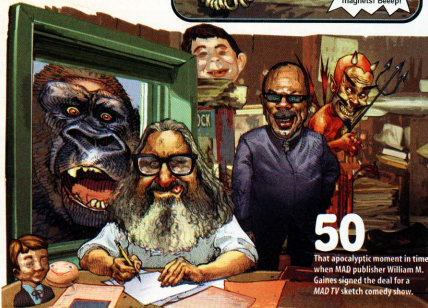
Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Some schmuck telling a lame joke.

49

Ben Stiller's insistence on making a minimum of seven movies a year — a shooting schedule usually reserved only for porn stars. (Not that we're encouraging him in that direction!)



50

That apocalyptic moment in time when MAD publisher William M. Gaines signed the deal for a MAD TV sketch comedy show.



46

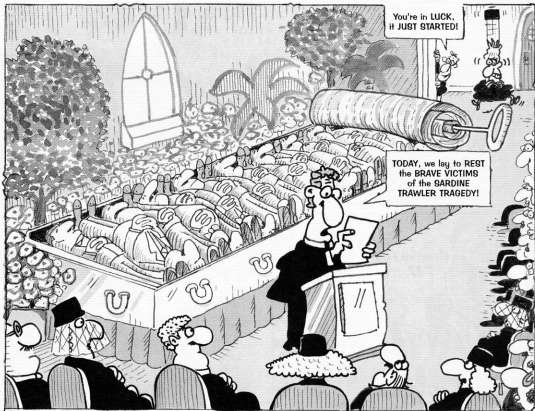
TV reunion shows: The lucky cast members are dead before the taping starts, the rest die on-camera.

47

"Wacky" canned outgoing phone machine messages. We thought they went out of style in the early 1980s.



Hi! Mark's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets! Bleep!



MonRise and...

EUROPE PART TWO

PANEL 1: MARY, MANY HOURS LATER. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, AN OPEN BAR WOULD MAKE SANDRA BULLOCK MOVE! ALTHOUGH, TOLERABLE.

PANEL 2: EXCUSE ME, FOLKS, THE OTHER FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "BASIC" SECTION. THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

PANEL 3: I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, AN OPEN BAR WOULD MAKE SANDRA BULLOCK MOVE! ALTHOUGH, TOLERABLE.

PANEL 4: EXCUSE ME, FOLKS, THE OTHER FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "BASIC" SECTION. THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

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PANEL 7: I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, AN OPEN BAR WOULD MAKE SANDRA BULLOCK MOVE! ALTHOUGH, TOLERABLE.

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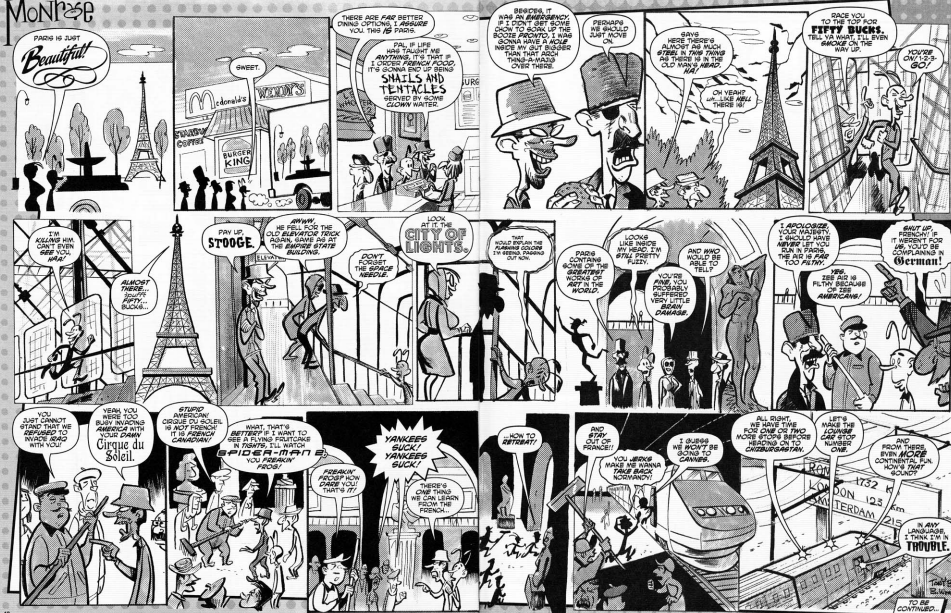
PANEL 9: I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, AN OPEN BAR WOULD MAKE SANDRA BULLOCK MOVE! ALTHOUGH, TOLERABLE.

PANEL 10: EXCUSE ME, FOLKS, THE OTHER FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "BASIC" SECTION. THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

PANEL 11: I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, AN OPEN BAR WOULD MAKE SANDRA BULLOCK MOVE! ALTHOUGH, TOLERABLE.

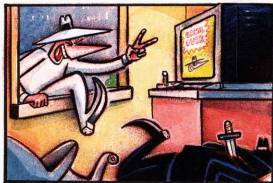
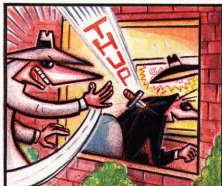
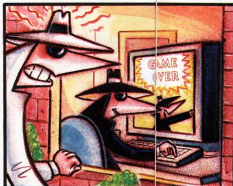
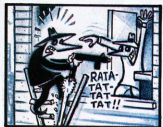
PANEL 12: EXCUSE ME, FOLKS, THE OTHER FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "BASIC" SECTION. THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

ARTIST: BILL WRAY
WRITER: ANTHONY BARBERI





SPY VS SPY



ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

KUPER

If you're studying *The Iliad* and thinking of making a crib sheet based on this movie, don't. You'll fail! Just like this movie did. The original epic was written by Homer. *This* version could have been written by Homer Simpson! Welcome to a big, fat Greek stinker! Here is . . .

TROY-VEY!



I am Acheless, the greatest warrior in history! I may look like a surfer dude, but I am a killing machine! I am ripped, I am buff, I am beautiful! Last month my abs were declared a national treasure in Crete!

Acheless is fearless, but he is also self-centered, arrogant and brooding!

Ancient philosophers say it will cause his doom! Heed their words. "Beware of Greeks throwing snits!"

What ancient philosophers? That's us! The year is 2,000 B.C., shmedrick!

Acheless has to make some tough personal decisions in the next few weeks!

Whether to fight for his country or to fight for fame and immortality?

Hey, we KNOW the dude's going to fight for fame! His big dilemma is whether to post, preen or pose!

It looks like he's going for the pose!

Acheless is eye candy, true! But tell me, King Mentakasel! Acheless is the fiercest warrior in the world! But they say he may have one fatal flaw!

Have no fear, King Mentakasel! Acheless is the fiercest warrior in the world! But they say he may have one fatal flaw!

You mean his beef?

I mean his acting skills!

Maybe we can sail across the Aegean without anyone noticing it!

I doubt that! He's more wooden than our ships!

In this movie, the Trojan War takes two weeks. In history, the Trojan War lasted nearly 10 years!

Ah, but in this film, it just seems that long!



I am Hector, a prince of Troy-Vey! This is my brother, Paris. We are Trojans! We are brave and heroic people! Centuries from now, people will still speak the name Trojan!

Yeah, under their breath at pharmacy counters!

So that's Menelaos! She is why the Greeks went to war! She's "The face that launched a thousand ships"!

She's okay if you like that "vacant model" look! But she's certainly not that hot!

Okay, so would you say she has a face that could launch, maybe, 143 ships?

I guess! Maybe throw in a few raft!



We will ride across the desert, conquer Acaba and defeat the Turks!

King Purlin, are you nuts? That's from *Lawrence of Arabia*!

Please, allow an old man pleasant memories of a movie that was really an epic!

Look at us! We're gorgeous! I can't believe this film had a disappointing box office across the country!

It's not all bad. I understand it did brisk business in San Francisco, New York's Greenwich Village and West Hollywood!

ARTIST: ADRIAN BRUCKER
WRITER: ARNIE NOGEM

ADRIAN BRUCKER

Melon,
leave your
husband.
King
Mentalcase!
Run away
with me
to Troy-Vey!

I am
tempted!
My husband
is aging and
lacks virility!
I want
a family!

If you flee
with me,
I promise
you'll hear the
patter of feet!

You mean
children?

I mean
soldiers!
40,000
angry Greek
warriors will
soon be
invading our
shore!

This is a truly
spectacular
scene!
1,000 ships!
What is
this place
called?

It is
called
the Harbor
of
Computer-
Generated
vessels!

Yes, the movie
has everything
—except what
it needs to give
it "heart" and
make it a true
film classic!

Oh?
And
what
is
that?

Russell
Crowe!



I don't believe it! It's not
Acneless I killed, it's his
idiot cousin! How could
I have possibly known?

Easy! The guy didn't fight
as well as Acneless, but
he sure in hell was
a much better actor!

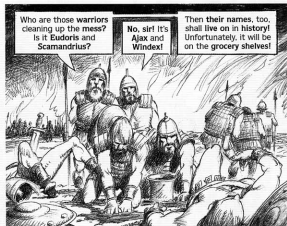
GOOD
GRIEF!



Who are those warriors
cleaning up the mess?
Is it Eudoris and
Scamandrius?

No, sir! It's
Ajax and
Windex!

Then their names, too,
shall live on in history!
Unfortunately, it will be
on the grocery shelves!



I am Braless,
Hector's
virgin cousin!

Acneless, if
we ever get
through this pesky
war we
could get
married!

Not really.
I'm in love
with
someone
much
prettier
than you!

Who's
that?

Mel

Not any-
more,
you
aren't!



It looks like you have
finally met your equal!

Not yet! You have good
battle skills, but I will
put a blade through
you before you can try
your tricky move!

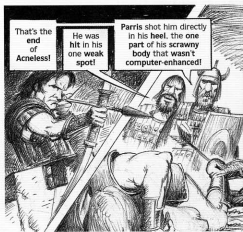
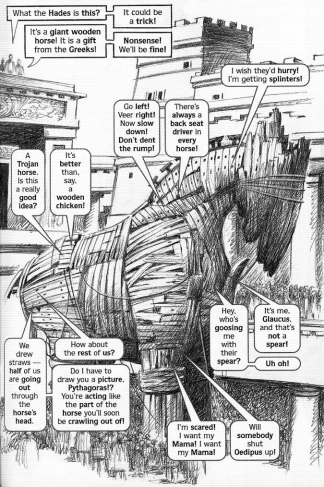
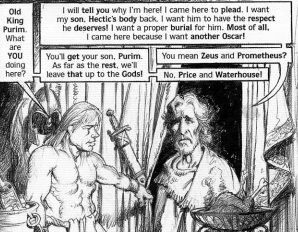
Which move?

The one
where you get
angry and
turn into a
hulking green
monster!

Make one
lousy
movie
and they
never
let you
forget it!

Oh yeah?
I made
**Meet
Joe
Black**
and
I'm still
working!







MAD Magazine's Official Portrait of
WILLIAM J. CLINTON

WHERE DO ALL
AMERICANS HOPE
THE VICIOUS
ATTACKS
WILL END SOON?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

Every time we turn on the TV, we are bombarded with new and disturbing images of ugly battles. These cruel assaults are launched on a daily basis and show no sign of letting up. To find out the one area where the American public is most sickened by these savage conflicts, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT



FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



IN THESE DANGEROUS TIMES, LEADERS
PRESIDE OVER TERRIFIED POPULATIONS. SUBSTANTIAL
CATASTROPHES CAN FOLLOW AS CROWDS RAMP-
AGE EVERYWHERE. THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN
COMING AS IT DOES IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE. MER-
CIFULLY, IT WILL END, SO SAY OUR OFFICIALS



ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE



WHERE DO ALL
AMERICANS HOPE
THE VICIOUS
ATTACKS
WILL END SOON?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A **B** FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



IN
PRESIDENTIAL
CAMP-
AIGN
COMMER-
CIALS

A **B**

DRAGON BALL Z

BOJACK™ UNBOUND

THE MOVIE



"The DBZ movies always amp up the stakes, the animation quality and the adrenaline, and 'Bojack' is no exception."

-- Anime Insider

BOJACK IS UNBOUND... THE UNIVERSE IS AT RISK
AVAILABLE AUGUST 17TH

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