

MAIL TO THE CHIEF

When I saw Ken McClelland's congratulatory card for Monroe's 100th episode, I actually remembered that I was President of Monroe's Fan Club! Therefore, to celebrate this absolutely underwhelming accomplishment, I've decide, as President, to officially begin activities. I have set up an e-mail account — MonroeFanClub@hotmail.com for anyone who wants to join. You can offer suggestions on more Fan Club activities, like the First Annual Convention, contests to declare what those two things on Monroe's head actually are, debating whether Monroe is funnier when you read across the crack of the magazine, or one page at a time. We will also organize our Monroe Looka-Like Contest! Join Jake Bird and me online and we can create one of the biggest group of losers on the Internet!

Darryl Gonzalez, Severn, MD

Mr. President — Thanks for the heads up on the "exciting" bit of news. We're sure that just like us, all the Monroe readers will take note of your e-mail address and be sure to immediately click off "block all messages from this sender!" Stay out of the theatre, Mr. President! -Ed.

I've only been reading your magazine for a couple of months and I love it, so I've decided to write to the Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™.

My friends at school and I have a crush on Emma Watson (Hermione from Harry Potter) so my dumb wish is that Viktor Krum would die so Hermione would be in search of a 10-year-old muggle who lives in East Lansing, MI and goes to Denley School. I'd love her to pick me to marry and we'd live in a mansion in Bel Air.

No Name Given, East Lansing, MI

No Name — In an eerie coincidence, Miss Emma Watson herself stopped in to the MAD offices on the very same day we received your letter! It seems she's single and looking for our help to find a life partner. She had just come from a closing on her new mansion in Bel Air and her life was nearly complete - all she needed was a Midwesterner to settle down with. We were so excited to make a love connection...until we realized you didn't even give us your name! We'll gladly handle dumb wishes, but we can't handle dumb readers! Maybe you can try your

luck with Professor

Hogwarts! -Ed.

McGonagall! See ya at

MAD'S BIG QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

It's not too late to cast your vote for the Big Question (first posed in MAD #460)!

This month, we ask:

Which celebrity's iPod would like to see cranked up to a dangerously high volume?

Send in your pick to Amy "The Big Question" Vozeolas, c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.



FIGHT FOR YOUR WRITE

Hey all you guys at MAD. You helped me at a hard time. On Thursday, I got into a fight with this moronic idiot. I was just sticking up for my friend and I got after-school detention. I went home and read your magazine and it cheered me up.

Colby Peterson, Prescott Valley, AZ

In Colb Blood - Wait a second, we're confused. Let's recap your day, shall we? You got into a fight because apparently you don't like "moronic idiots." Then when you went home, you were cheered up by reading MAD - the magazine made by and for moronic idiots! So technically, according to your logic, you should kick your own butt! Thanks for writing and don't go too easy on yourself! -Ed.

NAME THAT TOON

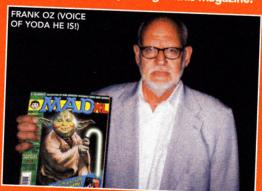
Finally MAD has bothered to parody the most idiotic of channels - Adult Swim (MAD #458 "MAD's Fall TV Preview 2005"). As glad as I was to see Family Guy cavort in your issue along with Aqua Teen Hunger Force, or as Adult Swim calls it "ATHF." However, I was distressed to find that there was no Inuyasha spoof. Has MAD lost its edge? Are they unable to parody a show so riddled with plot holes that main villain Naraku's "power" is no matter how many times you blow the moron up, he keeps coming back? Hasn't this been covered in DBZ with Majin Buu? Please MAD, make an Inuyasha spoof! I look forward to the day when badly drawn Inuyasha figures appear in the well-worn copies of my MAD volumes!

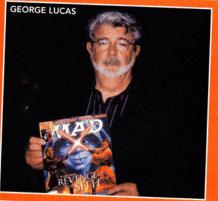
Max Sher, Durham, NC

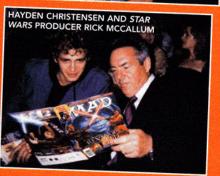
Sher and Sher Alike — What the hell are you talking about? What a moronic, idiotic letter. Colby P., you know what to do! -Ed.

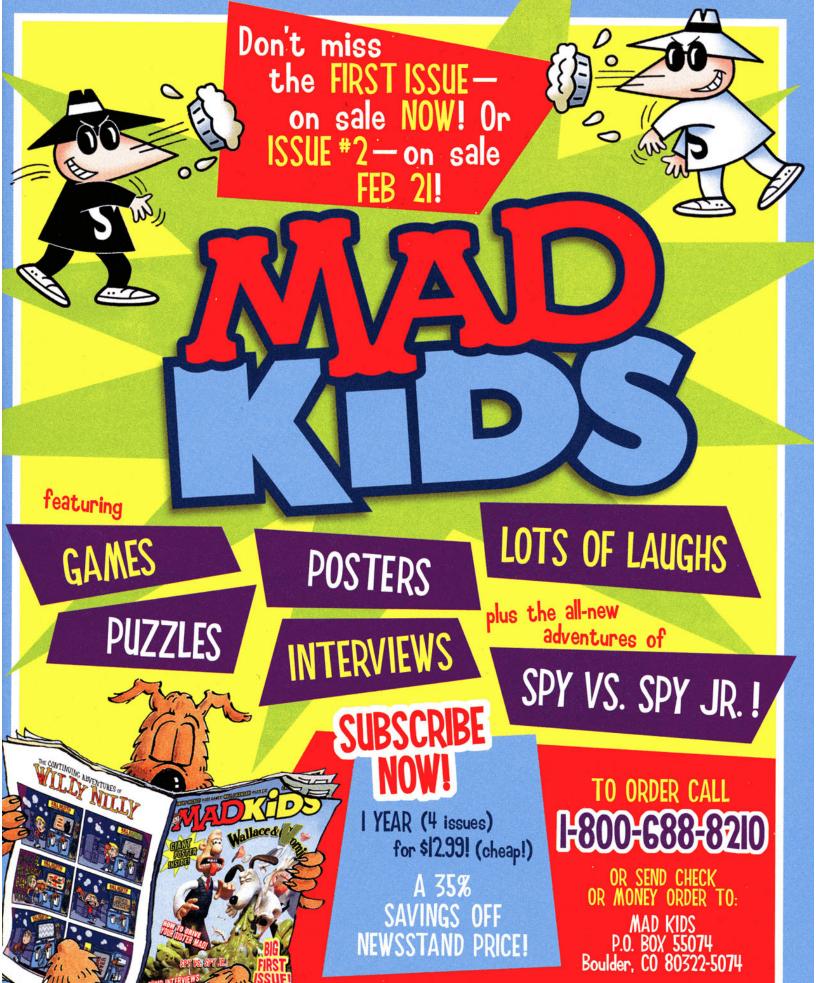
SPECIAL MAU STAR WARS

Not long ago at a fashion show not far away, some of the folks behind Star Wars were nice enough to pose with issues of MAD. They were all attending the event Dressing A Galaxy: The Costumes of Star Wars, held in New York City. Unfortunately, the photographs of Jabba the Hutt walking the runway in Daisy Duke shorts are unsuitable for reprinting in this magazine!









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ALLOWEEN HALL-O-FA

Nothing thrills us more than seeing the "creativity" of our readers on display for the entire trick-or-treating world to see. Something tells us there were more tricks than treats!

In the issue with the hottest Halloween costumes (MAD #459) l chose the highly overpriced gas pump

and guess what? I won the best costume in my town's Halloween parade! Thank you for this great idea. You could buy Regular, Premium or Ultra. Regular was \$94.09, Premium was an arm and a leg and Ultra was your first born! Which one will you order?



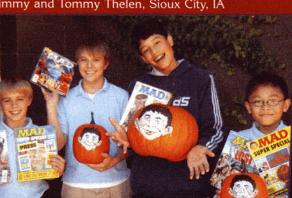
Jackson Ganem, Allendale, NJ

These costumes were the brainchild of my son and his friend. Both are seven years old!

Scott Bennett, Telluride, CO

No, being from lowa isn't the joke! My mom paints pumpkins (yeah, people pay her to paint vegetables) and our friends Tony and Richard struck a pose with us and our Alfred E. Neuman pumpkins. Please put us in your magazine, it will make us famous and easier to pick up chicks. Hey, what's cooler than guys posing with pumpkins their mommy painted? Uh, well, anyway, thanks!

Jimmy and Tommy Thelen, Sioux City, IA



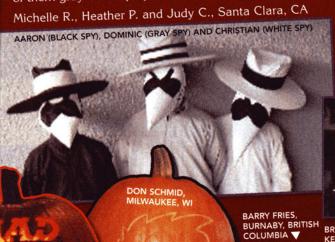
JIMMY THELEN, TONY TRAN AND RICHA

My youngest son is one of your biggest fans. He recently won a Spy Vs. Spy video game for his Xbox from one of your contests. I wanted to share our Halloween pictures with you for obvious reasons!

Cynthia Corcoran, Lake Wylie, SC



For Halloween, our boys wanted to be Spy Vs. Spy. Unfortunately, we have three boys. So we made one of them gray! We hope you enjoy the pictures.



pulled out her sewing machine and took a hike all over the copyright trail. I hope you don't mind!

My son and his best friend were

so impressed with the Spy Vs. Spy

characters that they wanted to

be them for Halloween. We were

unable to find anything in the stores

or costume companies, so my wife

Terry Tincher, Address Withheld



BRENT CLEVELAND KENNER, LA

CHANDLER BENNETT AND BEN CESARIO This year our readers found an unprecedented number of ways to destroy their pumpkins! Here's a look at the gourd, the bad and the ugly!



WITHHELD

JACOB LUNDGREN, BELLINGHAM, WA

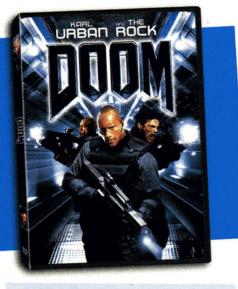
JOSH GUSTAFSON, VICTORIA, A GRANT JANIS, SHARON CENTER, OH BRITISH COLUMBIA

WIL MISIOREK, LYNNWOOD, WA



READER ALERT!

Everyone that had their letter published in this month's Letters Page will receive a copy of Doom on DVD, rated PG-13, courtesy of Universal Home Video. For those who couldn't be bothered to write us a letter, Doom will be on sale in stores February 7, 2006!





One day while pretending I cared about being in snobby Waverly Home, the snooty "decorating" store, I came across this thing. It was 90% off so I

knew I had to have it. No one in the store knew what it was, but the place did go out of business shortly after I purchased it. Any suggestions?



Carole Traster-Wilk, Little Neck, NY

Wilk on the Wild Side — We too are at a loss, but we're sure that resident antiques guru, Hans Brickface, can fill in all the blanks for you!

People write to me because, as an antiques expert, I have a wealth of knowledge and experience in this particular field, and my help is needed to guide novice collectors. However, you don't have to be an expert to determine that if you bought something at a chain store a few years ago for 90% off, it's probably not a priceless antique. That said, it appears as though you have been the victim of a churlish prank carried out by the staff of Waverly Home! From the looks of it, those rascals have sold you a sphere of their half-eaten, petrified marshmallows! So, there is no market value, but the joke they played at your expense is absolutely priceless! And please don't bother to write in when you buy a moldy Hot Pocket from the stock boy at Pier 1 Imports!

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #463 ON SALE FEBRUARY 21!

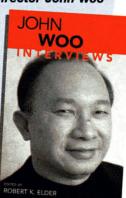
EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS AND A DO-IT-YOURSELF GEORGE W. BUSH PRESS CONFERENCE!



prove the world is going MAD!

This Month: Director John Woo

In the new book John Woo Interviews edited by Robert K. Elder, John Woo talks about the bizarre link between MAD and his work. After reading this quote from the book, we can't believe that taking inspiration from our pages didn't kill his career immediately!



Q: ...How did you come up with the style to use Mexican standoffs? — Almost like "Infinite Ammo" flips and slides or when people fly across the room shooting at people in your films?

JW: I think the ideas came on the set because I never knew it's called a Mexican standoff. I just wanted to make a fun moment. [In] The Killer I tried to find a way to emphasize the friend and enemy [dichotomy] and I tried to create a fun moment. Maybe I have [read] too many comics and at that time my favorite comic was MAD magazine's Spy vs. Spy — the black and white bird that catch each other and actually they are pretty good friends.

That gave me the idea to create the scene.

NEXT MONTH IN MAD KIDS #2 ON SALE FEBRUARY 21!

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CARRIE UNDERWOOD, SPY VS. SPY JR. AND ANOTHER FAKE-OUT BACK COVER!

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Contributing Artists And Writers

the usual gang of idiots

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Fax MAD at 212-506-4848!

THEFUNDALIN

MELVIN & JENKINS'

GUIDE TO CHARITY WORK



Jenkins donates one day of his weekend helping the local Meals on Wheels program deliver food to the elderly.



Melvin donates his time, too, but after weeks of complaint calls, they discover him holed up in his apartment surrounded by 6,000 single servings of lime Jell-0.

12 WAYS TO KNOW YOU'RE FLYING ON A BANKRUPT AIRLINE

Your New York to Los Angeles flight terminates in Duluth and they bus you the rest of the way.

They conveniently "forget" to return the loose change you place in the tray before going through the X-ray machine.

If you need to use the restroom, you need four quarters.

During check-in, each passenger is given their boarding pass and a condom filled with a white powder to swallow.

To increase the

number of paying

customers per flight they introduce a new seating

class - Overhead Bin.

Costly airport runway fees have been foregone in favor of a barter arrangement permitting landings in Blockbuster video parking lots.

Frequent flyer program has been scaled back so now you only get mileage credit for taxiing on the runway.

Flight attendants are now offering lapdances.

The computerized reservation system has been scrapped in favor of one of those "Rainman" type guys with a really good memory.

On the way to your destination your flight flies low to dust crops.

The barf bag reads, "If you throw up during the flight, please be considerate and leave room in the bag for the next passenger."

Travel vouchers for delayed flights can only be redeemed for a different delayed flight.

THE FAST 5 PHRASES YOU'LL NEVER HEAR ON AN INFOMERCIAL



"People ask me if this product is for real, and I tell them no, of course not. Don't be stupid."

"You won't find it in stores, since they don't want to be implicated in all the lawsuits."

"If this product is not everything you thought it would be, simply lower your expectations to the point where it is!"

"Listen carefully, because we're only going to give out the phone number one time."

"Call within the next 15 minutes and get the exact same deal as those who call later."

KING KLUTZ







PAGES

BITTERMAN



These crappy novelty stores symbolize the decline of society. It's just a filthy display of cheap, perverted sex novelties and lame, 60s-inspired drug paraphernalia. Look around at the people in that place, Zoe — it's a congregation of Goth freaks and trailer trash, all stopping by to get a cheap laugh over phallic hand soap and battery-operated fart machines. Every fake preteen "punk" can get a nipple ring while daddy ogles Carmen Electra posters. It's a den of illiteracy, immorality and ignorance.





If you're a keen teen lookin' for awesome advice, then just...



...wife of our beloved
Vice President. For candid
counseling on sensitive
subjects, Mrs. Cheney always
has your best interests at heart.

Dear Mrs. Cheney,

My parents recently got divorced and I'm feeling pretty bad. I still

love them both. Sometimes I get the feeling it was my fault. My counselor at school says I shouldn't blame myself. Why do I blame myself? Why do I feel so bad?

- Puzzled

Dear Puzzled:

It's a sad and confusing time. And at other times, it probably makes you angry and you just want to break something or smash something. Or, yes, even shoot at something if you had your own automatic weapon. It's a perfectly natural teen reaction. But where in today's society can you fire an automatic weapon or blow up something because you feel like it? Is there a place where all that is perfectly legal? A place where you can really let your anger out and do some good at the same time? A place where you can blow up an entire building by pushing one button in a spanking new Bradley Fighting Vehicle? Mmmmm, I wonder... And don't for a minute believe those lies in the media that the Bradley doesn't have "decent" armor plating. The media is such a liar. It gets me furious! The nice man at your Army Recruiting office will have many ideas to help you through this difficult time.

Remember! If you're an angst-ridden adolescent with a prickly problem, don't hesitate to ASK LYNNE CHENEY.



"DORIS COULDN'T MAKE IT BUT SHE WANTED YOU TO SEE HER NEW SKIRT."

THEFUNDALINIPAGES

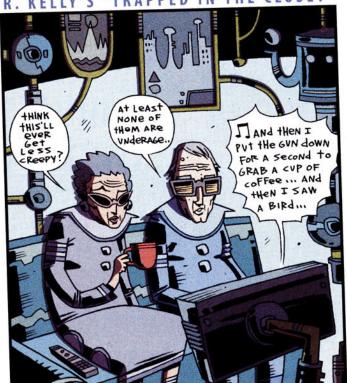
HOWATHEBUSH ADMINISTRATION WOULD HANDLE AN ATTACK BY KING KONG

- Have Homeland Security advisory system raised to 'red' anytime a gorilla escapes from a zoo
- Let the President go on vacation and have the Humane Society take care of it
- Blame it on Al Qaeda and start wars in countries that contain jungles
- Amend the Patriot Act so the FBI can tap the phones of anyone who's bought bananas
- Cite Godzilla and Mothra as part of the "axis of evil"
- Accuse anyone who watches old Magilla Gorilla cartoons as giving aid and comfort to the enemy
- Give massive tax cuts to the rich





COMING IN 2046 • THE 12,465TH CHAPTER OF R. KELLY'S "TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET"



GEORGE W. BUSH'S VALENTINE CANDY HEARTS



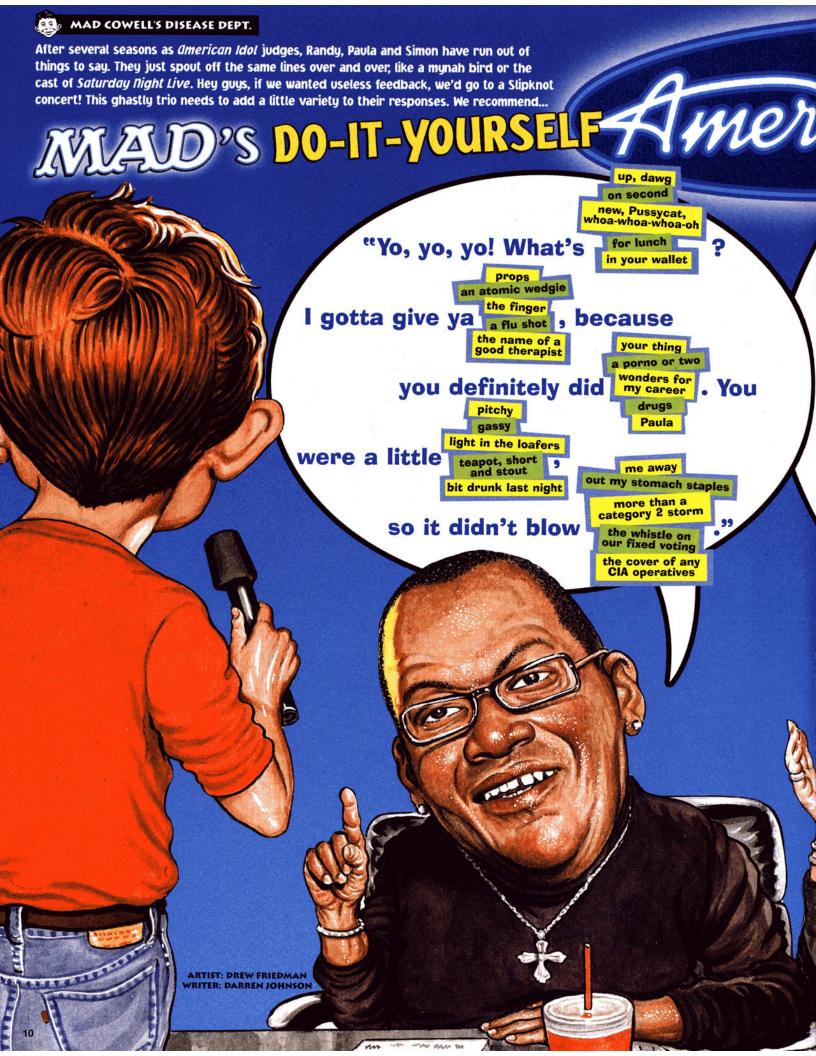
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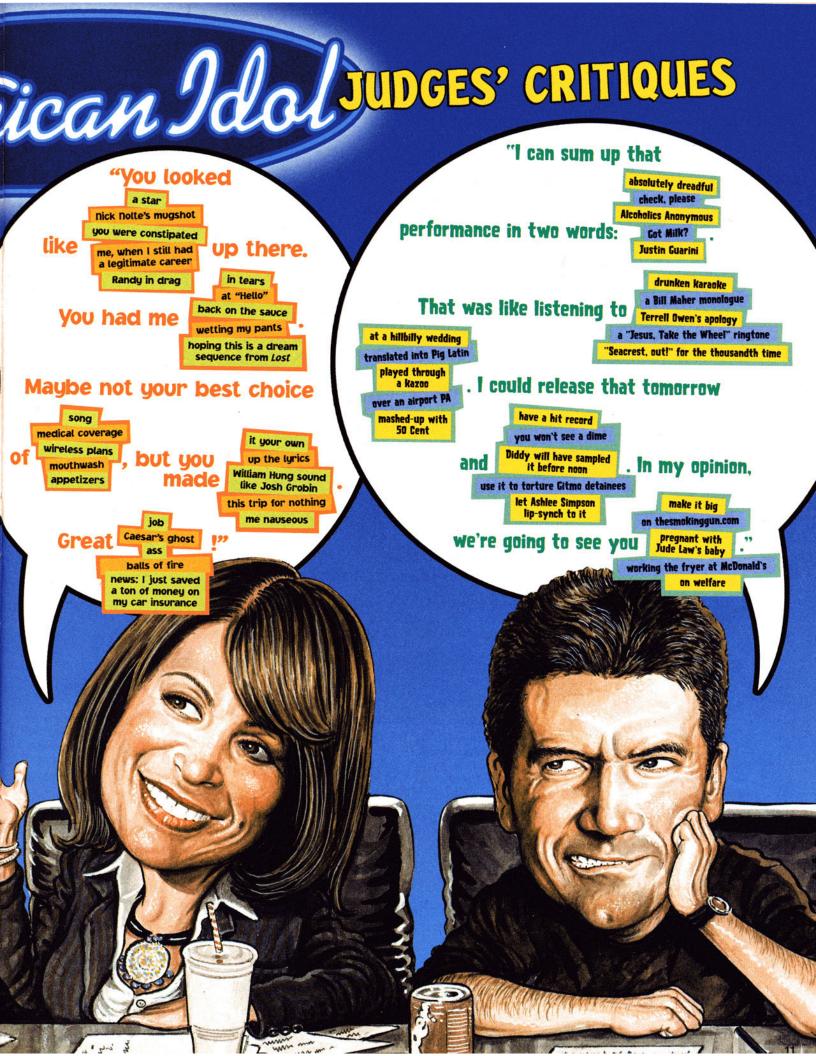
Charles Akins Paul Coker Dick DeBartolo

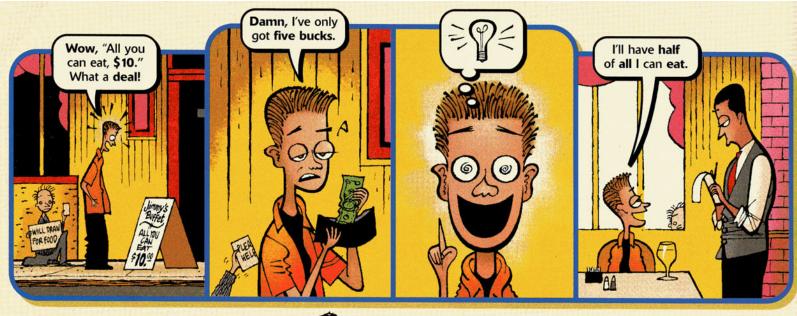
Desmond Devlin

Nate Fakes Tamara Federici Emily Flake Garth Gerhart

Paul Gilligan Jeff Kruse Jim Mahfood Brian McConnachie Kevin Pope Jack Syracuse Rick Tulka P.C. Vey







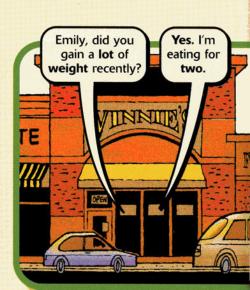


EATS MEETS JEST DEPT.

The MAD WORLDOG.







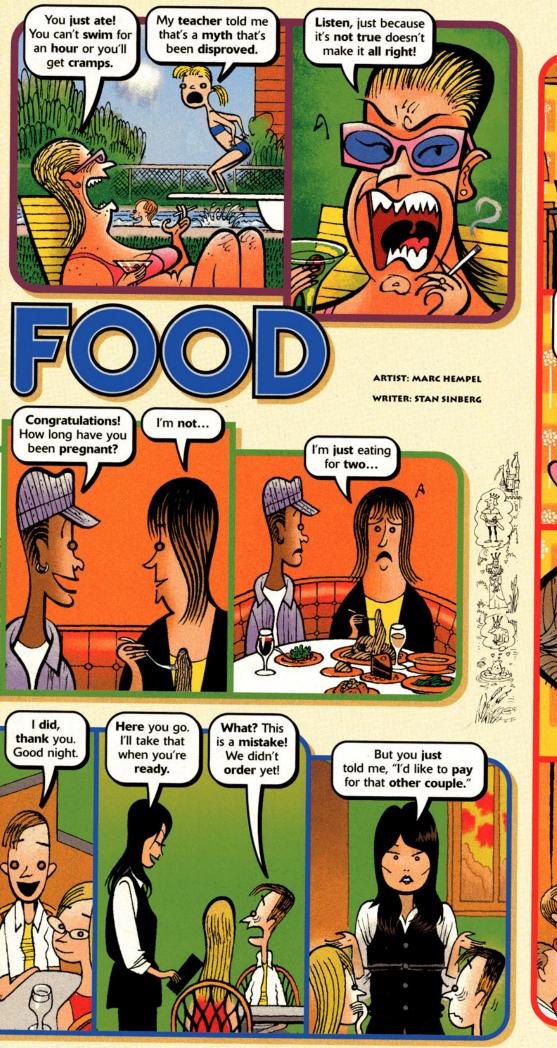
What should Let's ask them. It's always good to ask the locals.

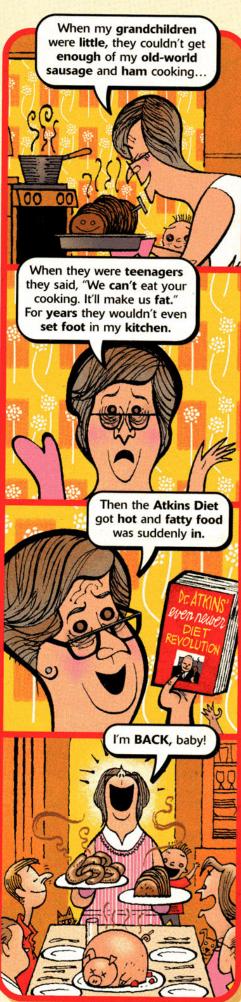
Excuse me, we're wondering what we should order. Tell the server you want 我希望支付 那其它夫婦.

What would you like?

我希望支付 那其它夫婦. Did you **tell** the waiter what I said?













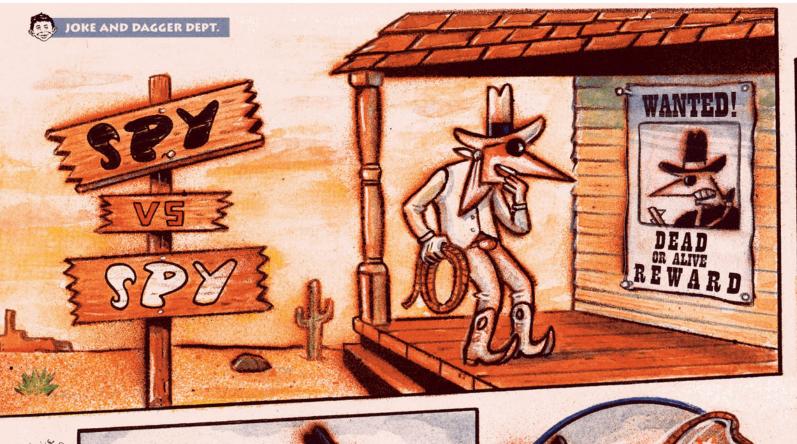
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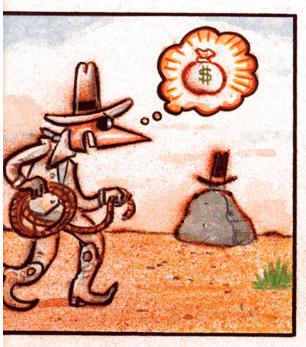






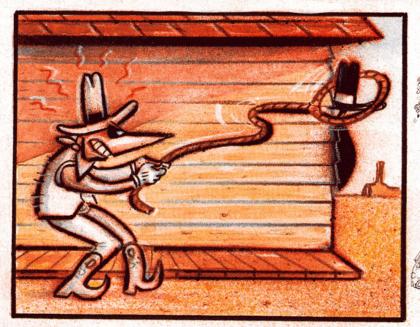




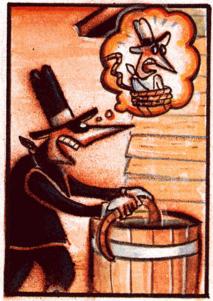














KUPER



There are currently

There are currently no provisions to allow aging Elvis impersonators to die with dignity, on their own toilet

Few, if any, health care plans provide for the nearly bi-monthly hip replacements they require



Frequent memory lapses cause him more and more to forget why he "left the building"



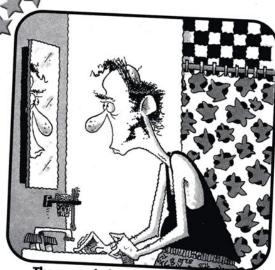
The classic Elvis lip curl now causes previously unforeseen problems



A society conditioned to choose between "Skinny Elvis" and "Fat Elvis" is simply unprepared to add "Dementia-Addled Elvis" to the mix



There is woefully inadequate funding to provide grilled peanut butter, banana and bacon sandwiches in the Meals on Wheels program



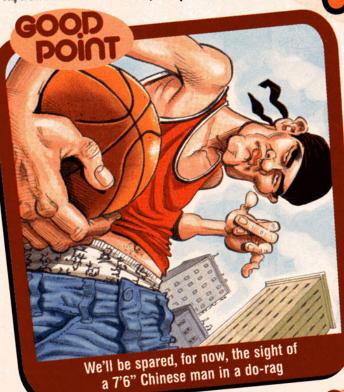
The overwhelming depression that sometimes accompanies Male Pattern Sideburn Baldness

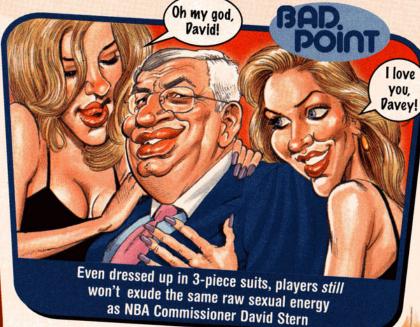


The lines of the classic Elvis jumpsuit simply cannot stand up to the rigors of a fully-loaded, heavy-duty Depends

Recently, the NBA enstated a dress code requiring all players to "wear Business Casual attire whenever they are engaged in team or league business." What's next? Are they going to have the players wear some kind of uniform? (Wait...nevermind.) As we say goodbye to velour jump suits, sunglasses and bling, and wave a big hello to khakis, turtlenecks and blazers, we present...

THE POINTS AND COMPANY OF THE POINTS

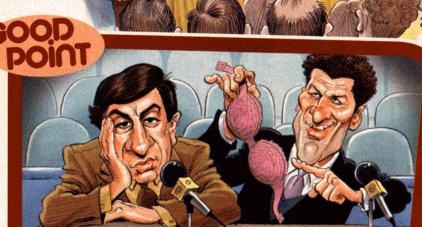






GOOD

Players can now go from their press conferences to their assault trials without having to change



Marv Albert may finally find the perfect foil in his new color man — Isaac Mizrahi

THE NBA DRESS CODE GOOD Poin

Players now 50% less likely to be passed up by cab drivers

> Oh, oh! It's Steven Marbury! Last time I saw pants that long, they were on a guy wearing stilts!

My name's Stephon. And aren't you dead yet?

BAD

Without earrings, it'll be easier to tell the NBA players from the WNBA players

It's only a matter of time before the Pre-Game show is replaced by "red carpet" coverage with Joan and Melissa Rivers.

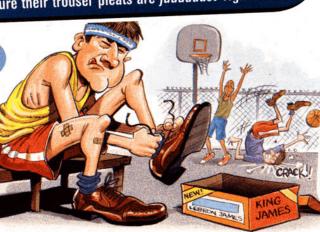
BAD.

Untucking the dress shirt. undoing a tie, removing the sportscoat all take away from time that could be spent impregnating groupies





The launch of LeBron James' new shoe is just not as cool when it's a Bruno Magli wingtip





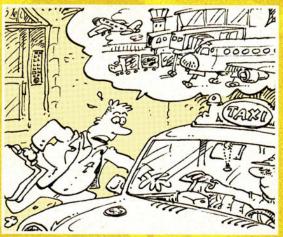
presents A MAN DO LOOK







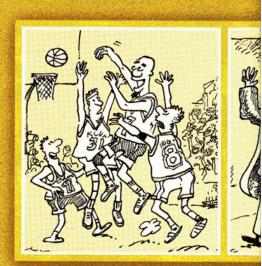
















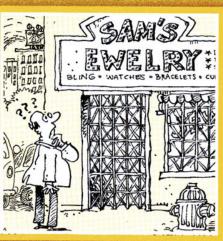














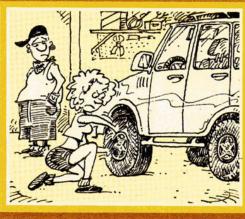






























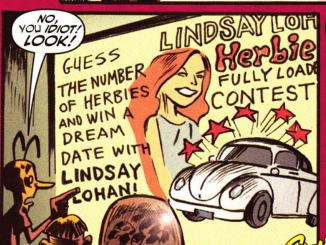


It'll be a blind date after she gouges her eyes out. It's...













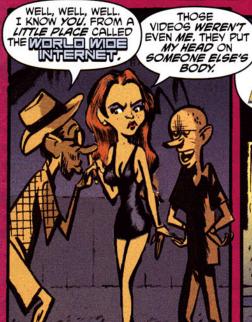














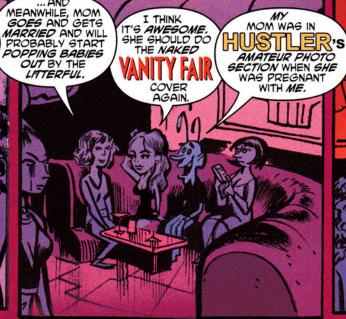
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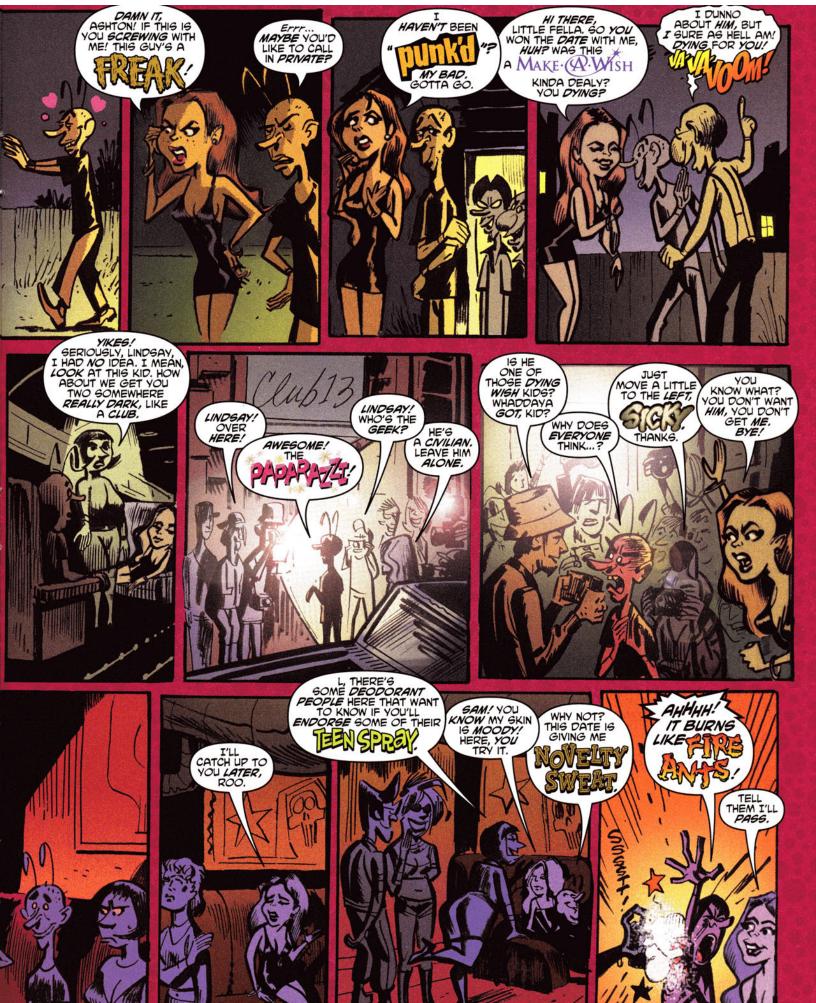














REALLY? MAN, LINDGAY, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. I'D TOTALLY PROTECT YOU FROM BURNING UNDERARM SPRAY OR MY DAD OR ANYTHING -EVEN THAT RAT OVER THERE...











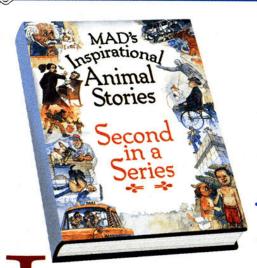


I'M KINDA









The Dog That Played Football for Notre Dame

t's the dream of a lot of boys to grow up and play football for Notre Dame. But could you say the same thing about a dog? You could if its name was Mr. Muffles. He was an NCAA legend that left his mark on that university located at South Bend, Indiana.

> It all began one fall afternoon when I was headed back to my dorm. This big dog came out of nowhere and started chasing me. He sounded angry and dangerous. I scampered up a tree.

Sometimes people are cruel to dogs and the dogs turn mean. But it's not the dog's fault. This dog's attempt to attack me was, in fact, a cry for help.

I happened to have a sandwich in my bag that I gave to the

dog. While he ate, I climbed down, thinking, "What can I do for this dog?"

I decided to name him Mr. Muffles, a gentle name, and I took him back to live in my dorm room.

My roommate was the All-American wide receiver, Walter Washington. He was as strong as he was big and fast.

I wasn't there when Walter and Mr. Muffles first met. But something special must've happened between them — a magic bond of some kind.

They'd love to roughhouse. Someone who didn't know better might think they were trying to hurt each other. Like the time Walter hit Mr. Muffles over the head with a wrench while the dog was taking a nap. Then, Mr. Muffles bit Walter so deep it exposed his thighbone. But I knew they were only playing.

One time, Walter hog-tied Mr. Muffles and threw him in the closet. This was probably a test to see how fast Mr. Muffles could free himself. They both loved testing each other, although Walter never really explained why. For some reason, a few weeks earlier he stopped talking to me altogether.

It didn't take Mr. Muffles long to chew through that rope and break down the closet door. Walter had been leaning out a window talking to a teammate below. Mr. Muffles ran at Walter, no doubt to show off how quickly he had (freed himself, but this time their horseplay went too far, and he accidentally pushed Walter out of our third-story window.

Walter's fall to the cement court below broke his collarbone, three ribs and his wrist.

Mr. Muffles tried sneaking into the infirmary that night, most likely to show Walter how sorry he was, but the staff prevented it.

Walter's recovery went better than expected. His body was healing nicely and he was ready to play some football. There was only one game left in the season and it was against their archrivals, the University of Southern California.

Little time remained in that game, and Notre Dame was trailing when the coach decided to send in Walter.

They threw a pass to Walter, who made a terrific catch, but he was hit hard by three USC defenders. He punctured a lung and re-broke two of his three previously-broken ribs.

They carefully put him on the gurney, strapped him in and pushed him over to the sidelines, where they waited for the ambulance.

Then, out of nowhere, came Mr. Muffles. Perhaps he sensed there was a broken play about to happen. He ran as fast as he could to the gurney and pushed Walter back out onto the field near the end-zone just as the ball landed right in Walter's lap!

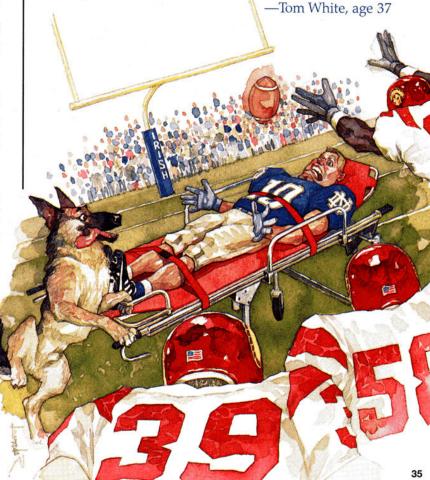
Before the referee could call this strange play, the USC defenders pounced on Walter, collapsing the gurney and breaking three more of his ribs. But the momentum of the USC players pushed the collapsed gurney across the

goal line. "Touchdown! Notre Dame!" yelled the referee.

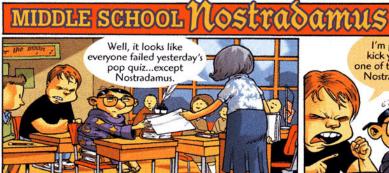
The hometown fans couldn't contain their jubilation! If it weren't for that amazing, quick thinking, football-loving dog, Notre Dame

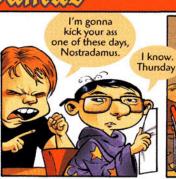
would have lost by the totally lopsided score of 54 to 3 instead of the far more respectable 54 to 9.

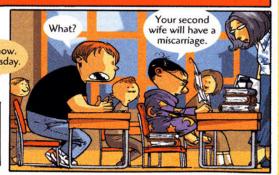
Hail, hail to you, Mr. Muffles — the dog that played football for Notre Dame and "won" everyone's love.

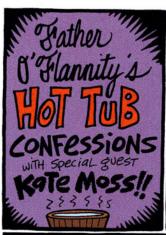


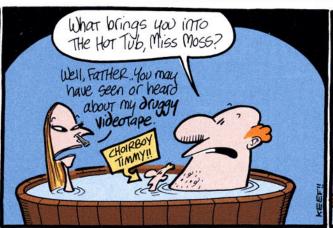










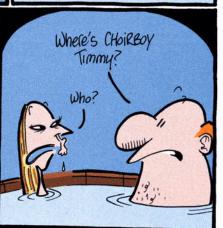
















Excited over USA Network's "Matlock" marathon, Santon is stunned to find it pre-empted by a new POKER show!



Affleck playing POKER

Santon is shaken. The idea of watching celebrities play poker instead of playing it yourself is deeply disturbing. Communal games like poker are meant to keep society INTERACTING with each other. LEVISED CELEBRITY POKER would rip us apart!



As Santon tries to convince folks that they aren't actually playing poker with Affleck, EVIL TV EXECUTIVES try to up the ante!!!

"Hi!"

R

How 'bout "CELEBRITY COOKO Why have your own cookout, when you can watch a COOKOUT on TV that has CELEBRITIES??!!



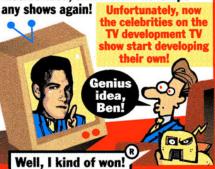
With televised poker and televised cookouts threatening to END ALI SOCIAL INTERACTION, Santon must beat 'em at their OWN GAME!

Dude, why have YOUR OWN
TV development meeting when
you can watch a TV development
meeting on TV that
has CELEBRITIES?!





The evil TV executive is quickly mesmerized, and NEVER develops

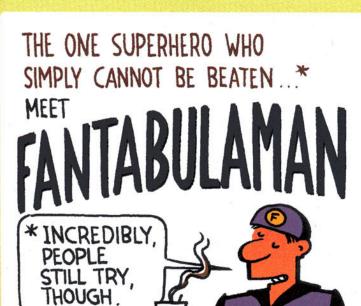


1, UH ... UM ... FOR SOME REASON I THOUGHT

I'D HAVE YOU AT ... JEEZ, I DIDN'T REALLY PREPARE ANYTHING ELSE.

YES ...? HELLO.

PAUL GILLIGAN



EARTH'S WOULD-BE SUPERVILLAINS. COWED AND DETERRED BY FANTABULAMAN'S FAMED UNDEFEAT-ABILITY, HAVE STOPPED EVEN TRYING TO CARRY OUT ANY NEFARIOUS SCHEMES.



AS PIPED-IN IMAGES FROM THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE ATTEST. HOWEVER, EXTRATERRESTRIALS HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE MESSAGE!



FANTABULAMAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION! APPLYING HIS POWER OF MENTAL TELEPORTATION, HE MATERIALIZES AT THE CONTROLS OF THE LEAD ALIEN SHIP!



THE ALIEN FLEET, LOCKED INTO AUTOPILOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MOTHER SHIP, FOLLOWS IT TO FIERY 4,500,000°F DOOM!



FANTABULAMAN EFFORTLESSLY TRANSPORTS BACK TO A BLISSFULLY UNGRATEFUL EARTH YOU TH OF A SECOND BEFORE THE MOTHER SHIP HITS THE SUN.



AMERICANIDOL

For every Kelly, Ruben, and the other two who gained fame and/or fortune on American Idol, there are countless thousands who did not.

SEASON 3, HONOLULU AUDITION

UNIQUE GIMMICK: Lip synching to Ashlee Simpson albums, which he unsuccessfully claimed was "an ironic commentary on the state of modern music."

NAIL IN HIS COFFIN: The large "Death to Simon" tattoo on his

POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Anybody got \$1.25 for the bus ride home?" PAULA'S COMMENT: "Good God, that sucked...in a nice, uplifting way." **FAVORITE MUSICAL MEMENTO:** A temporary restraining order

signed by Kelly Clarkson herself VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Scat yodeling isn't as popular as it

DeTangelo Grendel



Slash Bamford SEASON 4, SAN FRANCISCO AUDITION **UNIQUE GIMMICK:** Openly boasted about being 75 pounds heavier

than Ruben Studdard DOWNFALL: Insisted on performing love songs he wrote himself, all of which contain the words "thumbscrew," "retaliate" and

PAULA'S OPINION: "That was just so wonderful. I loved it." POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Can I have my Bowie knife back now?" WHERE IS HE NOW?: Personal assistant to UN Ambassador

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Ingesting helium before each number hurts more than it helps



POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Well, at least I didn't get gonged, so that's a positive."

SIMON SAYS: "Absolutely fantastic, which I mean in the most negative sense."

WHERE IS HE NOW?: Dead

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Given the number of contestants, there weren't nearly enough bathrooms at this venue



SEASON 3, HOUSTON AUDITION

UNIQUE GIMMICK: Half-hour rant about how the CIA had both John Lennon and Tupac Shakur killed, all to the accompaniment of calliope music

ATTITUDE PROBLEM: Kept insisting her name is actually pronounced "Beyoncé" SIGNATURE TUNE: She crooned a slow, soulful version of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." But only the even-numbered verses

RANDY'S OPINION: "I'm sorry, I was on my cell phone. Could you do the whole

WHERE IS SHE NOW?: Somehow ended up on the Arizona Diamondbacks as a result of the Manny Ramirez trade, though the logistics are still unclear

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: If you're going to bribe a judge, don't do it when

Fleugenheuvel

SEASON 3, NEW YORK AUDITION UNIQUE GIMMICK: Considered himself an honorary Village Person which sort of explained the forest ranger outfit, though not the rubber

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT: Didn't get the expected sympathy vote

PAULA'S OPINION: "If you think I'm sleeping with you, you're crazy." from his recent tracheotomy POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "I liked Ed McMahon on Star Search a lot

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Having all your friends call up and vote better than you jerks." for you doesn't work unless you make it onto the show itself





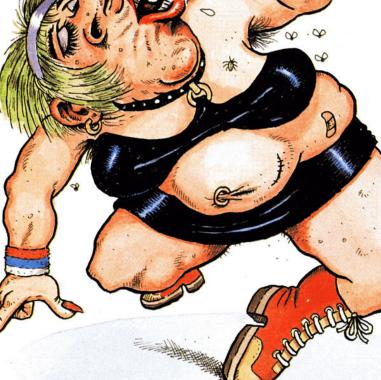
SEASON 5, DENVER AUDITION

SHOW PREP: Lacing the drinks of competitors with crushed sleeping pills in the green room

SIGNATURE TUNE: "The 12 Days of Christmas," the lines of which she kept forgetting, adding things like "8 yaks a-feeding" and "11 guys with lupus."

POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "I'm glad I took this risk. The worst that can happen is that my dreams are crushed and my life completely

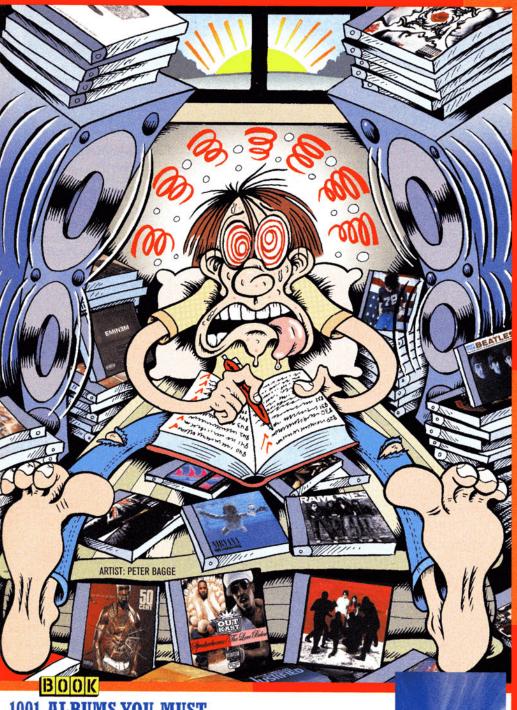
SIMON'S COMMENT: "If we wanted to hear a middle-aged, shrieking bimbo, then Paula would be a contestant and not a judge." WHERE IS SHE NOW?: Singing at Guantanamo Bay, which the U.S. military hopes will get detainees to talk, or she'll just keep on singing



UK IIIUIITHLY REHUER SERVICE SECTION

GO FETCH!

THE CATEST STUFF YOU MAY (OR MAY NOT) WANT TO CHASE DOWN!



GADGET

THE FLY PENTOP COMPUTER

LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc



The Hype: The FLY pentop computer gives users real-time audio feedback as they write and draw on special FLY paper, making what they write "work" interactively. Draw a calculator, touch the handwritten digits and functions to perform an operation, and then hear the answer announced from the device. Draw a piano keyboard and hear the notes being played, or write a word in English and hear it translated into Spanish (cartridge sold separately).

The Snipe: Great, now every seventh grader who got one of these for Christmas is going to be spending study hall trying to translate "boob" into Spanish.

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TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

Warner Home Video • January 31

The Hype: Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride waits bereft in the land of the living.

The Snipe: The Hollywood rumor mill is rife with speculation that this film is based on the sordid Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes romance.



MUSIC

THE GREATEST CAT POWER

Matador Records • January 24

The Hype: On her newest release, notoriously shy chanteuse Cat Power (aka Chan Marshall) collaborates with a gang of veteran Memphis session musicians to create a mellow blend of country, jazz and soul.

The Snipe: We have some suggestions for the name of her next album: 1) The Greater-est 2) No wait...THIS is the Greatest 3) This Album is So Great, It Will Make Smells Like Teen Spirit Sound Like Dog Feces in a Blender.



1001 ALBUMS YOU MUST HEAR BEFORE YOU DIE

Rizzoli Publications • \$34.95 • 960 pages • February

The Hype: Here is the list of the most important and highly influential pop albums from 1955 to the present. Included are production details and credits as well as reproductions of original cover art.

The Snipe: Or you could just wait for the podcast version so you can listen to a book about listening to music — are we freaking you out yet?

1001



GADGET

IZ

The Hype: iZ is the ultimate fusion of music and toy! iZ's eyes bounce, and nose pulses in rainbow colors to the beat. Plays music from CD player, PC, MP3, iPod or any music device that uses a standard headset cable. Twist his ears to create new rhythms and lead tracks; press his belly to change the beat.

The Snipe: Twist his ears? Press his belly? What happens if you just kick him in the 'nads?

GAME

MVP 06 NCAA BASEBALL

PS2, Xbox • Electronic Arts



The Hype: MVP 06 NCAA Baseball features an exclusive NCAA Baseball license with 128 universities, the top conferences, plus 19 authentic ballparks including Rosenblatt Stadium, home of the NCAA College World Series in Omaha. The game also features a live ESPN ticker, as well as news from ESPN.com and updates from ESPN Radio Sportscenter.

The Snipe: So it's come to this: you're playing a game where the goal is to get to Omaha.



The Snipe: Thanks to the overwhelming success of this documentary, we can probably expect Disney to do kid-friendly ripoffs about "knock-knock" jokes and

Think Film Company Inc. . January 24

reminisce, analyze, deconstruct and

dirtiest joke, an old burlesque routine too extreme to be performed in public,

the riddle "What's black and white and red all over?"

|B|0|0|K|

called "The Aristocrats."

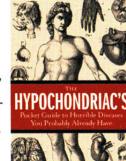
THE HYPOCHONDRIAC'S POCKET GUIDE TO HORRIBLE DISEASES YOU PROBABLY

ALREADY HAVE

DENNIS DICLAUDIO Bloomsbury • \$14.95 • 208 pages • February

The Hype: Profiling many of the most disgusting, painful, lifethreatening diseases like Ascariasis, Cancrum Oris, Schistosomiasis and Bejel that may be living in our bodies, this book will force everyone to become obsessive hand washers.

The Snipe: Sounds like the author has TiVo'd one too many episodes of House!



BOOK

CH! GU FE I C

DRAWING ACTION MANGA KEITH SPARROW

CollinsDesign • \$16.95 • 96 pages • February

The Hype: Learn how to create the dynamic characters and sequences of Japanese comics. It gives you a list of needed materials, explains various techniques and offers 10 individual projects to practice with.

The Snipe: Given how every pimply-faced kid with a pencil and piece of paper wants to learn how to draw manga, we hope there's a chapter teaching them after mastering it how they can live on \$300 a year income!



MUSIC

VOICES MATCHBOOK ROMANCE

February 14 • Epitaph Records

The Hype: After touring locally and pushing their music over the internet, the Poughkeepsie-based punk band got the attention of Epitaph records, who are releasing their second full-length album.

The Snipe: We anxiously anticipate their latest offering - any band that's managed to dominate the punk scene in Poughkeepsie has got to be good!



KING KONG: THE OFFICIAL MOBILE GAME OF THE MOVIE

The Hype: From the dense jungles of Skull Island to the magnificent skyscrapers of Manhattan, the adventure begins here. Incorporating the main characters from the film, the game takes you on a whirlwind adventure where Jack and Kong risk everything to protect Ann. Groundbreaking dual

gameplay allows you to step into the role of Kong or Jack. filling both action and adventure needs.

The Snipe: Yeesh. They sure say "adventure" a lot. Maybe they should have built a groundbreaking thesaurus into this thing.



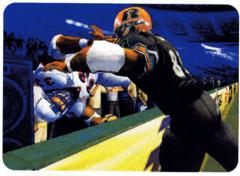
GAME

ARENA FOOTBALL

PS2 Xhox • Flectronic Art

The Hype: Experience the intensity and passion of the indoor gridiron for the first time with EA SPORTS Arena Football. Build an AFL powerhouse and challenge the best players in the nation with head-to-head online play or take it to the promised land in "Season" mode.

The Snipe: "Take it to the promised land"? We want to be Bill Parcells, not frickin' Moses!



BOOK THE BASEBALL

GEEK'S BIBLE
DOUGLAS B. LYONS

MQ Publications • \$14.95 • 160 pages • February

The Hype: This book pays tribute to the most memorable, awe-inspiring and surprising moments in the history of baseball. From the first World Series in 1903 and Roger Maris' 61st

record-breaking home run to the Sosa/McGwire slugfest, you'll find all the key moments in the history of baseball covered!

The Snipe: We sure hope that Babe Ruth's boozing, Ty Cobb's blatant racism, Palmeiro's steroid abuse and the fact that Ted Williams' head is on ice are included as "key moments" in the history of the great American pastime!

GAME

Geek's Bible

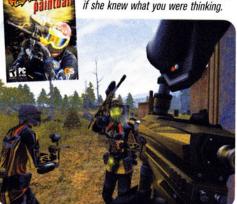
SPLAT MAGAZINE RENEGADE PAINTBALL

PC, Xbox • Global Star Software, Inc.

The Hype: Prepare for the ultimate SPLAT fest with adrenaline pumping Tournament, Fieldball and Arcade modes. From bunkering inside arenas to getting gogged in the great outdoors, it's time to break out in the most intense paintball experience yet.

The Snipe: Sadly, "getting gogged in the great outdoors" is not a euphemism for what you've been hoping to do with that girl who sits behind you in third period algebra. It means

getting hit in the goggles. Which is probably what that girl would do to you if she knew what you were thinking.



DVD

WEDDING CRASHERS

Warner Home Video • January



The Hype: In this romantic comedy, Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson have perfected the art of wedding crashing. But when one of them actually falls in love, their sacred rule, "never leave a fellow crasher behind," may be broken.

The Snipe: You know what would really be funny? If Vince Vaughn and his new gal-pal Jennifer Aniston crashed the Brangelina wedding at George Clooney's Italian villa.

MUSIC

THE LIFE PURSUIT BELLE AND SEBASTIAN

Matador Records • February 7

The Hype: Recorded in California, the soft-spoken Scottish band's newest release provides an even sunnier mood and a shift back to the band's stripped-down sound.

The Snipe: We're hoping they start a feud with fellow Glasgow

natives, Franz Ferdinand — if only because it would result in some very sensitive, very literate diss tracks.



GAME

FINAL FIGHT: STREETWISE

PS2, Xbox • Capcon

The Hype: Play as Kyle Travers, a streetwise underground pit fighter and brother of the infamous Cody from the classic Final Fight series. A seedy organization has kidnapped Cody, and you must try to solve his disappearance. Damage enemies at close range with hand-to-hand combat and finish them off with weapons, including pool cues, 2x4's, steel pipes, knives, grenades, shotguns and machine guns.

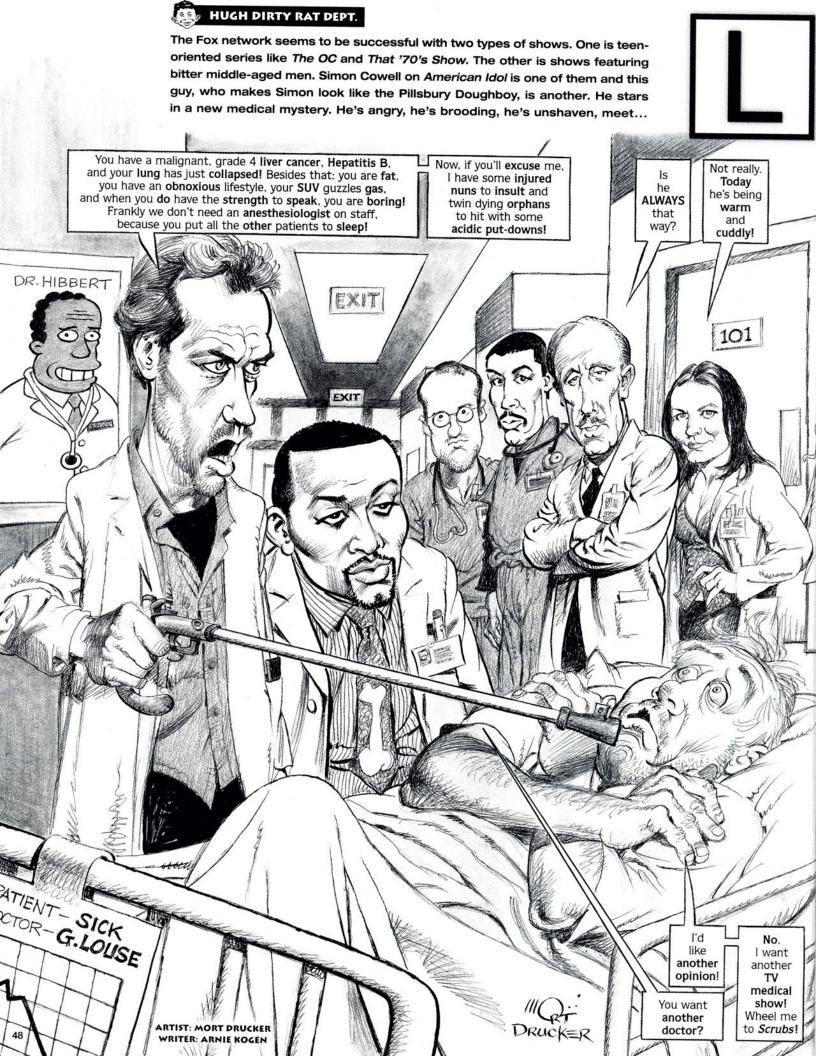


VOLUSON 730 ULTRASOUND GE HEALTHCARE

The Hype: With Voluson 730, you can now acquire and construct volumetric images in real time — up to 40 volumes per second. Volume Ultrasound not only improves your 3D/4D capabilities, it enhances your 2D imaging as well, for even greater diagnostic confidence in your obstetrical, gynecologic, breast and general imaging studies.

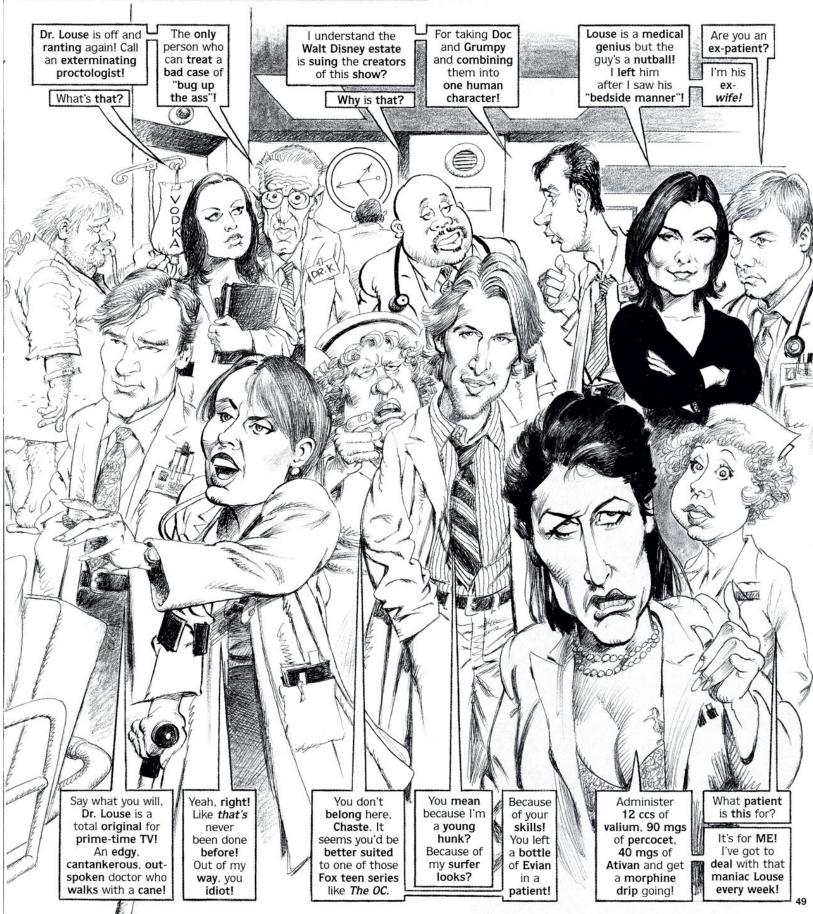
The Snipe: Remember those X-Ray specs they used to sell in the back of comic books? Same thing.



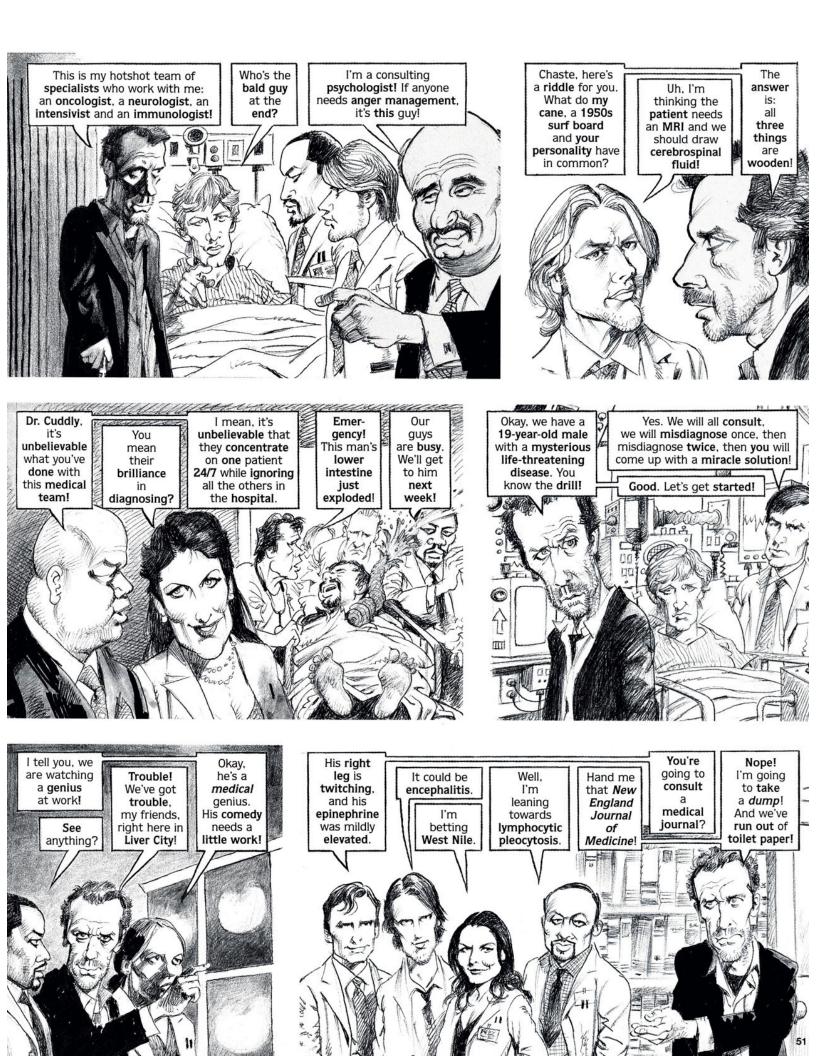


OUSE

■ ■ S.O.B.









WHAT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH **MOST UPSET TO SEE DESTROYED BY HURRICANE** KATRINA?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

There was no shortage of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. And despite an initially apathetic response, there was one thing that the President was clearly upset to see demolished by the storm's wrath. To find out what this ruined thing is, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

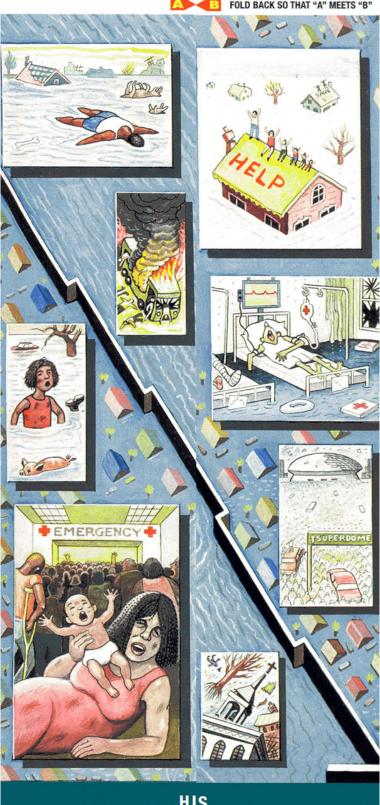


HIT BY RECORD FLOODS, ALL OF NEW ORLEANS APPROACHES COMPLETE RUIN. AN ATTEMPT AT REVIVAL REQUIRES ENGINEERS CAPABLE OF REHABILITATING AND BUILDING INDESTRUCTIBLE LEVEES

WHAT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH MOST UPSET TO SEE DESTROYED BY HURRICANE KATRINA?



FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



HIS APPROVAL RATING







activision.c