

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

FRANK JACOBS FAQs (Featherbrained, Annoying Questions we asked Frank!)



Q: What are your favorite MAD articles that you wrote?

A: "MAD's All Inclusive Do-It-Yourself Country Western Song;" "The MAD Poetry Round Robin;" "American Jokes They're Telling in Poland;" "The Bauble Hymn of the Republic;" "How a Television Script is Born;" "If Sesame Street Branched Into Specialized Areas of Education;" "A 21st Century Guide to American Wildlife;" "Casey at the Dice."

Q: Whom do you consider your influences?

A: Genghis Khan (during his Blue Period); Chaucer (when frolicking); a bartender named Fred during the Holidays in a city I can't remember.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: Edward Hopper; M.C. Escher.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD writer?

A: J.R.R. Tolkien; Jack Finney.

Q: Favorite wine or sports drink?

A: Dr. Pepper '91 — a little fruity but an excellent year nonetheless.

Q: If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

A: Too many to choose from, but a few include my inability to memorize my ATM number, remembering the "cold" faucet is on the right, ridding myself of my yak fetish, regretting the nine years I spent thinking about Fresno.



Frank's very first MAD article appeared in issue #33, June 1957!

Q: What actor should play you in a movie about your life?

A: Either Chang or Eng, but I have difficulty separating one from the other.

Q: Years ago MAD co-editor Nick Meglin had a sign on his office door that said, "Frank Jacobs is the odd couple." What did that mean?

A: Who's Nick Meglin and why is he getting space in my questionnaire?

Q: If you could have dinner with three living or dead people, who would they be?

A: The Marx Brothers — Groucho, Chico and Karl.

Q: What's the best rhyme you ever made?

A: "isometrics" and "stupid pet tricks."

Q: What's the corniest rhyme you ever made?

A: Take your choice. There are hundreds.

Q: Pick a MAD contributor and describe them in one word.

A: Don Martin — unforgettable.

Q: What is your astrological sign?

A: I don't have one. We were too poor.

Q: Who is your favorite poet?

A: Modesty forbids...

Q: You mean it's *not* Jewel?

A: I'm beginning to tire of these questions.

MAD poet laureate Frank Jacobs and Bill Gaines in 1977.





► Safari so good: Frank (far left) in Africa with Don Martin (center) and Al Jaffee (right) during a 1969 MAD trip.

◀ A young Frank and his sister when they were still on speaking terms (and one year before Frank started writing for MAD).



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF AL JAFFEE

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: Africa, fighting off the Tanzanian groupies.

Q: After you, who is the worst roommate on a MAD trip and why?

A: A giant noncompliant sloth in Surinam.

Q: Does anything that happened on a MAD trip stand out in your memory?

A: Yes, but I'd rather not embarrass my colleagues.

Q: What's the best MAD article you ever wanted to write that MAD wouldn't let you?

A: "The Latvian Yellow Pages" stands out. But there were others, such as "Diary of an Army Ant," "Celebrities' Hickeys" and "The Young Man's Guide to Groveling."

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: University of Nebraska.

Q: You've lived in New York and Los Angeles. Do you consider yourself an East Coast rapper or a West Coast rapper?

A: You're running out of questions, aren't you.

Q: Finish this sentence: It was so cold...

A: ...I had to dress very warmly.

Q: Who's the most famous person you ever met?

A: Pharaoh's daughter, in the best past-life experience I ever had.

Q: Do you always split eights or never split eights?

A: When playing badminton, never!

Q: What was the last movie you viewed?

A: *The Great Train Robbery*.

Q: Kurtzman; Feldstein; Meglin; Ficarra — which one is the weakest link?

A: Since I plan one day to update my book about MAD, I'll pass on this one, you sneaky bastards.

Q: Whom would you not want to be stranded on a desert island with?

A: Any of the above.

Q: Who would win a lyric-off between Oscar Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim?

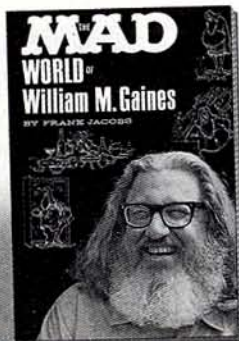
A: Cole Porter.

Q: If you were a porn star what would your screen name be?

A: "Softy." This wasn't hard at all.

Q: Can you close out things with a couplet?

A: I shot a couplet in the air; It splattered on this questionnaire.



◀ Frank plans to update his biography of MAD's founder, *The MAD World of William M. Gaines*, considered (by Frank) to be the best biography of William M. Gaines ever written!

THE STATS:

First Mad Article: "Baseball's Hall of Shame" (MAD #33)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 289

Number of "Verse" Articles Published: 178

Number of MAD articles in this spotlight section: 8
SALUD, FRANK!

Two of Frank's Favorite MAD Articles Appear on Pages 49 and 52!

