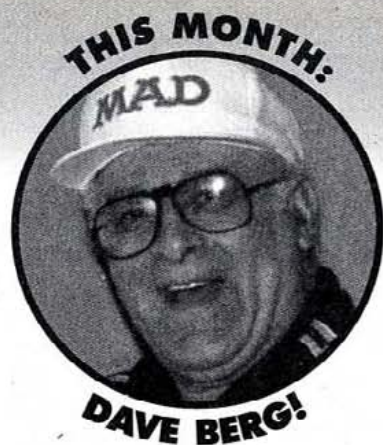


MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

DAVE BERG FAQs (Foolishly Answered Questions we asked Dave!)



Q: When and where were you born?

A: A long, long time ago, and far, far away, in a borough of New York City called Brooklyn. It produced more celebrities than some entire countries. Included are George Gershwin, Woody Allen, Mary Tyler Moore, Jackie Gleason, Danny Kaye, etc. Brooklyn also produced another brand of celebrities. There is Bill Gaines, Harvey Kurtzman, Al Feldstein, Nick Meglin, Mort Drucker, George Woodbridge, Lenny Brenner, Angelo Torres, Arnie Kogen and me as a tagalong — the MADmen. What was our talent? To be born at the right place at the right time.

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Q: Where does the name Roger Kaputnik come from?

A: My mother had four children. When she wanted to call me she'd forget my name. So I made up the name Roger Kaputnik. That name she could remember.

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Q: What are your favorite articles that you have written and illustrated for MAD?

A: "Pushcarts," "MAD Playgrounds," "Barber Shop," "The Lighter Side of Dating" and "The Lighter Side of Junior High."

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Q: Who is your favorite MAD artist?

A: Mort Drucker. He's the greatest caricaturist in the world. May he live a long time — even longer.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: Italy. I am not Italian, but I look it. A Paisano came to me and spoke in Italian. I told him I don't speak Italian. He said, "What's the matter? You ashamed to be Italian?" I told him I'm a nice American boy from Brooklyn. He said, excitedly, "Brooklyn? Hey, you know my cousin Tony? He lives in Chicago."

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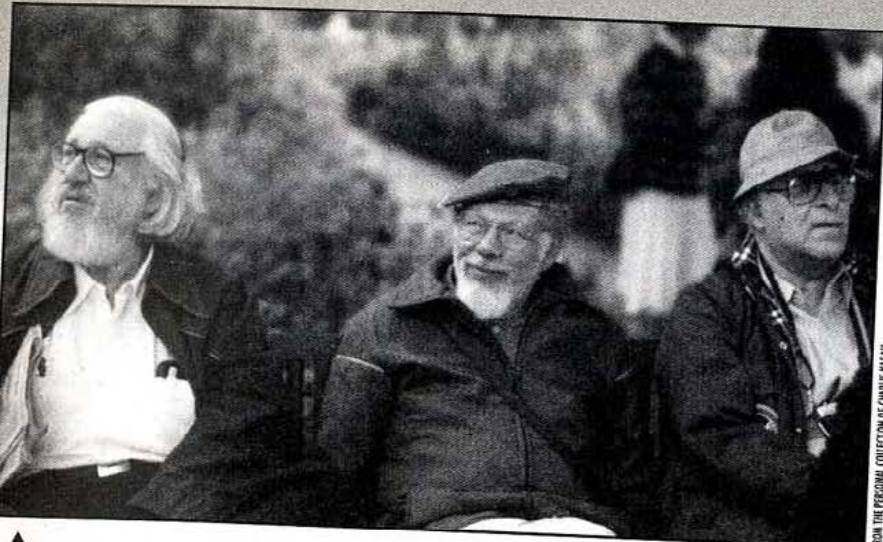
Q: What's the most embarrassing thing that happened on a MAD trip?

A: We had visited the studio of France's famous artist, Claude Monet. On the way back, we stopped at a restaurant in a small village. Duck Edwing got up and said, "A toast to Dave Berg, who came in 1945 and liberated this



►
Throng of fans line the streets to get a glance of Dave during a 1970s Westchester County Memorial Day parade.

◀
The infamous French restaurant where Duck Edwing (fifth from right) turned Dave Berg (far left) into a WWII hero.



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF CHARLIE KALOU



▲ Mount Rushmore minus one: taking a moment to admire the scenery during a 1987 MAD trip to France are (L-R) MAD founder Bill Gaines, Al Jaffee and Dave.

town from the Nazis." Some local people came to me, shaking my hand, kissing me on both cheeks. All was fine, except in 1945, I was a soldier, but in the Pacific!

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Q: Is the doctor in "The Lighter Side of..." based on a real doctor?

A: Yes, only the real one is short, fat and bald. Other than that it's a pretty good likeness. As for me and my alter ego, Roger Kaputnik, I've lost weight and stopped smoking a pipe. Other than that, there's no likeness at all.

Q: What awards have you won?

A: "Chair for the Great Cartoonist" — UCLA. Scoutmaster's award. Little League coach award. Youth service award — New Rochelle, New York. May 28th is Dave Berg's Day, Westchester County, NY. Honorary Doctorate in Theology, Reconstructionists.

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Q: Have you written any books?

A: Yes, 15 MAD books and two theological books. I was sent around the country, being interviewed on radio and television for the book tours, and yet, they still sold well!



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF JACK MESSIN

▲ No, this is not Gilligan and the Skipper. In California, Dave confers with MAD writer Russ Cooper.



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF DAVE BERG

THE STATS:

First MAD Article: "Modern Furniture" (MAD #34, August 1957)

Number of MAD Issues Appeared in: 365

Number of MAD Articles in This Issue: 4

SALUD, DAVE!

DAVE BERG THROUGH THE DECADES!

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