

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

DESMOND DEVLIN FAQs (Frighteningly Anal Questions we asked Desmond!)



Q: What is your favorite MAD article that you wrote?

A: That's like being forced to choose between my ugly, illegitimate children. "The Special Prosecutor's Official Report on Mr. Rogers" (MAD #379) was one that worked out well.

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

A: My wiper fluid.

Q: Who are your influences?

A: Tons and tons: Bob Newhart, Woody Allen, George Carlin, Charles Schulz, Monty Python, Howard Stern, Groucho Marx, Spike Jones, the first run of *Saturday Night Live*, the whole Koch-Siegel-Jaffee-DeBartolo-Hart-Jacobs-Kogen-Silverstone-Brandel crew of MAD.

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

A: Aristotle, William Shakespeare and Busta Rhymes.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: "Harry Potter and the Full Body Cavity Search."

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD writer?

A: Mick Foley.

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

A: Irving Schild: prince.

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

A: Wilson the volleyball.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: I would have to say Monaco (1993) definitely tops my all-time list.



In a "private performance art moment," Des' little homage to Andy Warhol is caught on film.

Q: How many MAD trips did you go on?

A: One, in 1993. To Monaco.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: P.S. 151; Hunter College High School; Queens College. As a dedicated student, I peaked around 3rd grade.

Q: What was the last movie you saw?

A: *Up the Academy*.

Q: What's your favorite ending to any movie?

A: *The Wizard of Oz*. Remember the beginning, when the mean lady takes Dorothy's dog Toto away to be gassed in the dog pound? But Toto gets away? Well, since everything in Oz turns out to be a dream, that means that nothing's changed in Kansas. Or in other words, about 5 minutes after the movie ends, that lady will be coming back to recollect Toto and make sure he gets killed dead. A true family classic!

Q: What's your astrological sign?

A: I was born on the cusp. Which was incredibly painful for my mom.

Q: You've done some writing for television. What can you tell us about that?

A: It's the transmission of continuous visual images as a series of electrical impulses, or a modulated carrier wave.

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

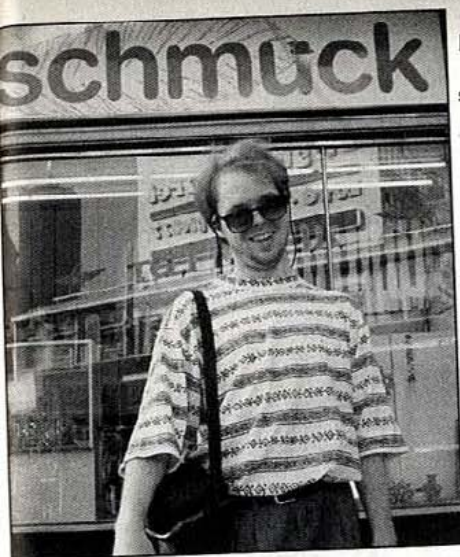
A: Hedwig and the Angry Inch.

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

A: "If the Pope Switched Jobs with Aquaman."

Q: Who is your favorite Stooge?

A: I can't see anything funny about the Three Stooges. Although that could



◀ Berlin, Germany, 1991. The sign says it all.



Fun with cardboard cutouts: During an early '90s trip to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, Des has a run-in with a wizard.

ALL PHOTOS FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF DESMOND DESA

be because I got poked in the eye with a finger.

Q: Do you own your own hot-water bottle?

A: It's a time-share thing. I get to use it in August.

Q: If you were on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, who would your Phone-A-Friend lifeline be?

A: Miss Cleo. She can tell me any answer.

Q: Do you think I'm pretty?

A: Let's try to keep this interview on a professional level. And please put your pants back on.

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

A: So terribly, terribly cold.

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

A: I once swam in the same ocean as Joe Franklin.

Q: You've written loads of music articles for MAD. Do you think that watching so much MTV has affected you in any way?

A: WOOOOOO!!!!!! WE LOVE YOU, CARSON!!!! WOOOOOO!!!!!!

Q: Britney Spears' boobs: real or fake?

A: Both. They're real fake.

Q: You're a lifelong Yankees fan. How did you feel about them finally losing to the Arizona Diamondbacks?

A: It's a total disgrace. All Arizona did was BUY a championship. How can the small-market Yankees compete?

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

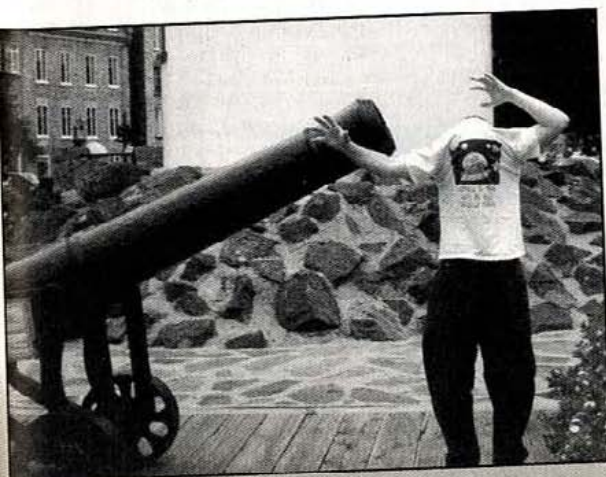
A: Velociraptors.

Q: How has being chosen "Writer of the Issue" benefited you?

A: Any time I want, I get to make MAD writer Butch D'Ambrosio drop and give me twenty.

Q: Is there a song that describes your philosophy of life?

A: "The Greatest Love of All" says that each of us has a precious gift. The lyrics remind me that if I nurture my dreams and believe in myself, I truly can reach beyond the horizon and touch the hem of creation. It's either that or "Bootylicious."



◀ While on an early '90s vacation in Quebec, Canada, Desmond nearly triggers an international incident in this "gag" photo. What's next, Des, the Blackbeard the Pirate missing leg routine? Our sides are aching!

THE STATS:

First Mad Article: "The MAD 1984 Quiz" (MAD #353, March, 1985)

Number of MAD Issues Appeared in: 101

Number of MAD Articles in This Spotlight Section: 5

SALUD, DESMOND!

Research assistance provided by Mike Slaubaugh