

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

PAUL COKER FAQs (Fiercely Absurd Questions we asked Paul!)



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

A: "A Beginner's Guide to Cartoon Sound Effects" written by Duck Edwing. (MAD #282)

Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: Too many to name.

Q: What is your favorite medium to work in?

A: The one I have yet to try — which includes practically everything.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: N.C. Wyeth.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD writer?

A: Charles Dickens.

Q: For many years you lived in Kansas — has your artwork ever been hurt or helped by a twister?

A: Chubby Checker has always been ambivalent about my work.

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

A: Al Jaffee — Inventive.

Q: Were you a Boy Scout?

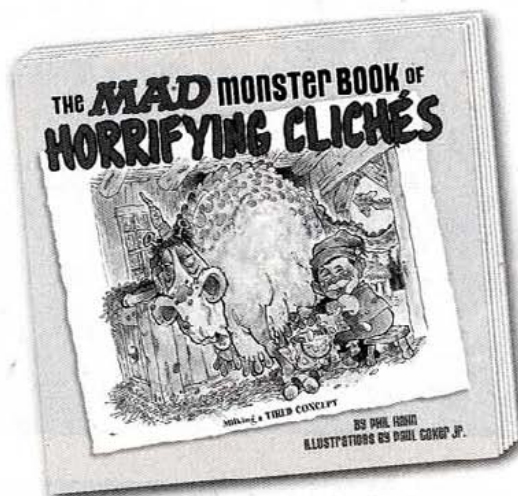
A: I've always been too old.

Q: What is your astrological sign?

A: No parking.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: East Africa.



**A hardcover collection of Paul's
(and writer Phil Hahn's) best Horrifying
Clichés goes on sale any day now!**

Q: Who was your worst roommate on a MAD trip and why?

A: Jack Davis. He objected to the animals.

Q: People say you bear an uncanny resemblance to Cher's grandfather in *Moonstruck* and Macaulay Culkin's neighbor in *Home Alone*. Have you ever been mistaken for anyone else?

A: Cher, before I grew a beard.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Skool? Wat skool?

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

A: William M. Gaines.

Q: Name some other magazines and advertisers you've drawn for.

A: *Open Road for Boys*, *The Terrace Road Scoop*, *The Lawrence Bus Company*.

Q: You've lived in Kansas, New York, Connecticut, California, Missouri and New Mexico; any inside track on who will win the next Miss America Pageant?

A: No.

Q: Over the years, how many greeting cards have you drawn for Hallmark?

A: Lots.

Q: Least favorite cuisine?

A: The stuff I cook.

Q: Mary McCormack or Mary McDonnell?

A: Sorry, I'm already rosemarried. (Paul's wife is Rosemary Smithson -Ed.)

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: *The Real Mother Goose*.



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF ANNIE LAMUS

▲ Paul and wife Rosemary Smithson. Have you ever seen a happier couple?

Q: Tell us about your television work with Rankin/Bass, for whom you designed the characters for the classic holiday specials *Frosty the Snowman* and *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, among others.

A: Very rewarding.

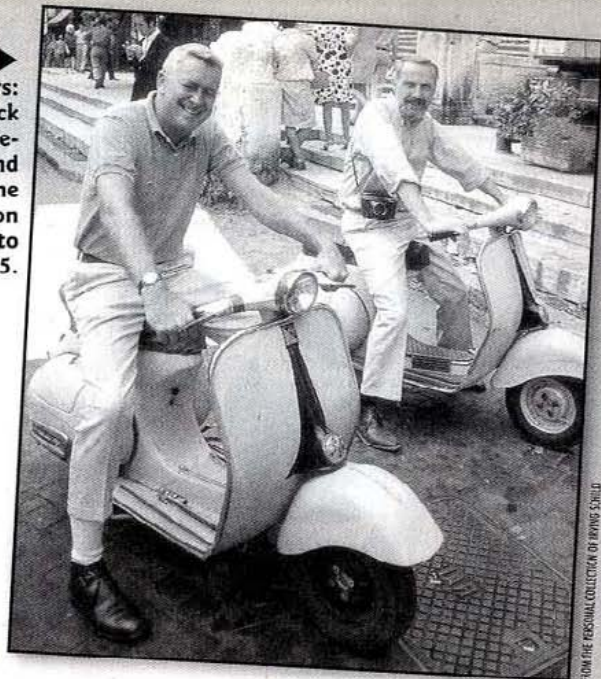
Q: How often do you re-do art assignments without being asked to and why?

A: Often, because the work is awful.

Q: Kansas or New Mexico: where is the wilder nightlife?

A: Who knows? I go to bed at 7:30.

► **E.C. Riders:** MAD artist Jack Davis (foreground) and Paul do the wheel thing on a MAD trip to Bermuda, 1975.



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF IRVING SCHULD

Q: What is this we've heard about you designing your own houses? Nick Meglin refers to you as Frank Lloyd Wrong.

A: Nick who?

Q: Have you ever weighed more than 115 pounds?

A: Yes.

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

A: Illegible.

Q: If you weren't an artist, what would you be?

A: Dead.

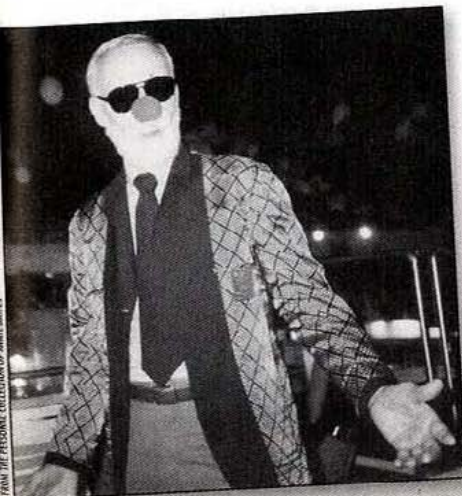
THE STATS:

First Mad Article: "A MAD Peek Behind the Scenes" (MAD #60, January 1961)

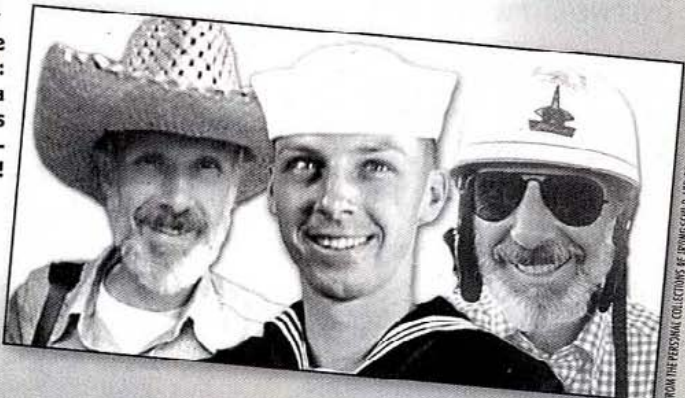
Number of MAD Issues Appeared in: 294

Number of MAD Articles in This Spotlight Section: 8

SALUD, PAUL!



► **A Village People** unto himself: Paul Coker is a man who wears many hats — literally!



FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTIONS OF IRVING SCHULD AND PAUL COKER (SALE)

▲ Paul lets his inner party animal cut loose during a 1991 MAD cruise.