



MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

BILL WRAY FAQs (Flippant, Abrasive Questions we asked Bill!)



Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: Bill Watterson's brother.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD writer?

A: William Shakespeare's grandson.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: The Jackson Pollack School of Intoxicated Dribble Painting.

Q: How old were you when you broke into comics?

A: I would say 3 or 4? It's hard to remember details at that age.

Q: Name some of the comics and cartoons you've worked on.

A: In comics I've worked for: *Laugh Riot Digest*, *Funny Boners Magazine*, *Charlton's Giggle Factory* and I was a star penciller on *X-Men* for 10 years. In animation I got my start on *The Dog and Pony Show*, *Lip Packers*, *Master of Beasts* and *Giant Steel Head*.

Q: What is the last book you stopped reading without finishing?

A: *Visions of the Blind Mice* by Mahogany Brown.



Q: Tell us about the work you did on the original *Ren & Stimpy* cartoon.

A: The great creator John K. [Kricfalusi] did all my painting for me, so I just mostly stood around and told him what a genius he was and rubbed his tired shoulders.



Bill (upper left) celebrating his 9th birthday in Hue, Vietnam. The party was later ruined by what was only referred to as "The Origami Swan Incident."

Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: Puberty, *Playboy* and beer.

Q: Do you have any nicknames?

A: "Blowfly."

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

A: Lenny Brenner: mysterious.

Q: Now could you do that without using any vowels?

A: I could, but I'm not the type to give people who are trying to toy with my mind any satisfaction.

Q: What is the worst gift you ever received?

A: A plus-sized male bra.

Q: What episode of "Monroe" did you have the most fun with?

A: "Monroe and the Gerbil."

Q: The biggest misconception about you is...

A: Everyone thinks I'm paranoid.



Q: If you were going to write a letter to *Penthouse*, how would you start it?

A: With my pants off.

Q: You shave your head — what are you hiding?

A: A nappy Afro.

Q: How would you describe your relationship with "Monroe" writer Anthony Barbieri?

A: Like a brother you hate.



Bill gets chummy with "Monroe" writer Anthony Barbieri, while visibly-uncomfortable MAD writer Scott Maiko slowly edges his way towards a fire exit.



In a shameless play for a "MAD Celebrity Snaps" three-year subscription, Bill and Anthony Barbieri corner legendary MAD-man Dave Berg.

Q: Jessica Simpson: brain-dead diva or misunderstood chanteuse?

A: I don't know why they do so many episodes featuring her. I like Bart way better.

Q: Who is the last person you "Googled"?

A: Jessica Simpson.

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

A: Jessica Simpson.

Q: What actress should play your wife?

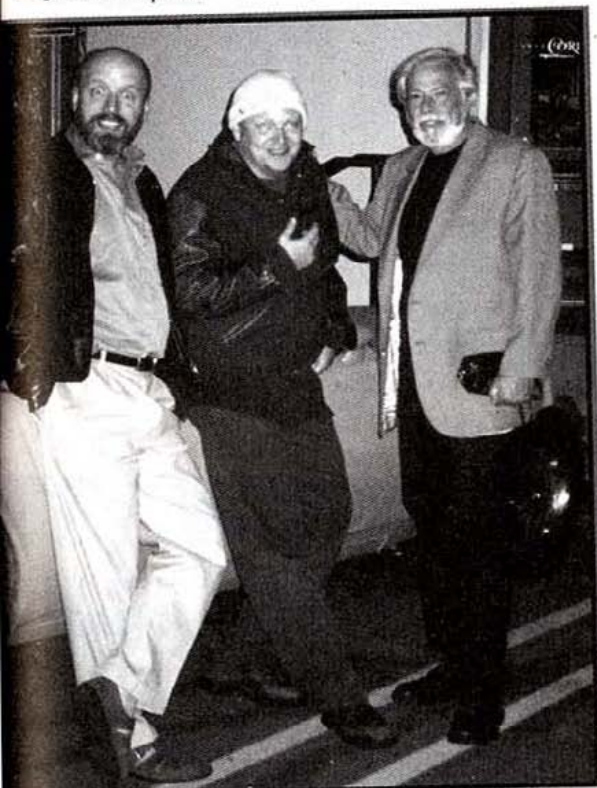
A: Jessica Simpson, Brian De Palma directing.

Q: What exactly is going on with Monroe's hair?

A: It's a metaphor for my virility.

Q: If you were conducting this interview, what question would you have asked yourself?

A: What about the children?



Bill, Anthony Barbieri (Sensing a pattern here?) and MAD editor Nick Meglin on the streets of L.A., in what they assure us was not an undercover drug bust.

Q: Are you creeped-out when you hear that some readers long for Monroe's mom?

A: Actually, it's a nice source of income on the side.

Q: Have you ever played 3-card monte?

A: I prefer 2-card.

Q: Favorite *Law & Order* spin-off?

A: Truly Heinous.

Q: Salad dressing — right on top, or off to the side?

A: Straight up.

Q: How many "anytime minutes" are on your mobile calling plan?

A: I don't use one out of fear of brain cancer.



Bill, working on a cover for *Classics Illustrated* in the late 80s.

THE STATS:

First MAD article: "Single Louts" (MAD #350, October 1996)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 83

Number of MAD articles in this spotlight section: 4

SALUD, BILL!

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY
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