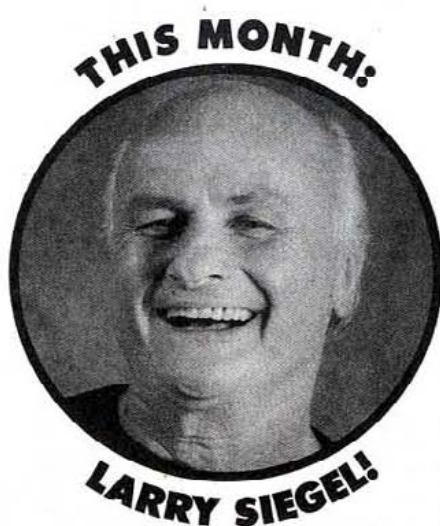


MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

LARRY SIEGEL FAQs (Foul, Astounding Questions we asked Larry!)



Q: You live in California — what time is it there right now?

A: According to the L.A. Chapter of Mensa, the little hand is on the three and the big hand is on the nine.

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

A: "Flawrence of Arabia," without which there would be no peace in the Middle East today.

Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: I got my intelligence from my father, Irving Siegelovitchchakaforski, who believed that immigrants were supposed to lengthen, not shorten their names.

Q: Which Desperate Housewife do you think you have the best shot of scoring with?

A: My wife, but since we've been married for almost 49 years, there's no rush.

Q: What other publications has your work appeared in?

A: *Playboy*, *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Esquire*, *American Legion Magazine*. And, of course, the award-winning Bazooka Joe bubblegum card I wrote in 1961.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD writer?

A: I don't believe there ARE any...as for my favorite non-writer in MAD, there was always Dave Berg (until recently).

Q: We understand you've written for *Playboy* — what are some of your turn-ons?

A: For one, watching Hef's first pair of pajamas being bronzed for the Smithsonian Institute — while he was still wearing them.

Q: Have you ever been to the mansion?

A: Once with Harvey Kurtzman, when I was helping him write his *Playboy* comic strip, "Little Annie Fanny." I remember begging, pleading and groveling, but Hef still insisted I had to continue writing it.

Q: How's the parking there?

A: Great, but not for CARS. I once recall seeing Lenny Bruce (who I wrote the first major story on in *Playboy*) circling over the mansion for a few hours and then flying home (but he usually made better time when he was in a plane).

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

A: Those God-damn Depends. They give me terrible diaper rashes.

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

A: David Spade. Who else IS there?

Q: What's your favorite pizza topping?

A: I don't believe in eating pizza. We happen to keep a very sensitive anchovy as a house pet.



Not quite "The Last Supper" — (left to right) Grant Geissman, Sergio Aragonés, Chris Meglin, Arnie Kogen, Jay Kogen, Nick Meglin and Larry.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: Going to the police station to bail out Bill Gaines, who was picked up for lethal sloppiness on a citizen's arrest by the editor of *Gentleman's Quarterly*. He was wearing a painter's drop cloth and a beanie with a B-29 propeller blade, at the time...the editor of *Q*, that is...Gaines was wearing something AWFUL.

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

A: The pathetic begging in Haiti. But the natives wouldn't give me a dime.

Q: What was your involvement with the off-Broadway play, *The MAD Show*?

A: Gaines asked me to write it. I told him I knew next to nothing about writing for the stage, and asked him if Stan Hart could help me. Gaines asked me how much Stan knew. When I said, "Nothing," he agreed that that was more than I knew, which proved he knew less than both of us. But the show was still a hit.

Q: What are some of the TV shows you've worked on?

A: Carol Burnett, Mary Tyler Moore, Bob Newhart, *That Was the Week That Was*, a few episodes for Norman Lear, etc.

Q: Tell us about writing with Stan Hart?

A: Working together at *The Carol Burnett Show* office was a picnic. The three-legged races around the desk, those wiener roasts by the file cabinet and, of course, there were always plenty of ants around.

A flock of Siegels — the many faces of Larry.



(left to right)
Stan Hart, Nick
Meglin, and
Larry Siegel in
The Virgin
Islands circa
1962.

Q: How do you know Al Jaffee?

A: Actually, we've never met, but the longer we're not introduced, the closer we become. We're planning a big non-reunion this year. So far he doesn't want to meet in Albuquerque, while I'm anxious to avoid Kenosha, Wisc. We probably won't work it out.

Q: What's currently your favorite sitcom?

A: I'm jumping the gun a bit, but I hope it'll be the one I'm trying to sell right now: *Everybody Wishes That Raymond Should Only Plotz Already*.

Q: What are some of the awards and honors you've received?

A: Three Emmys, one Writers Guild award and a dozen or so Emmy and Guild nominations...plus a trophy as the World's Greatest Mom from my third son, who has a terrible identity crisis.

Q: Where do you keep your Emmys?

A: In my wallet. It's a huge one Bill Gaines willed to me.

Q: Is there a special polish you need to use on them?

A: Can you suggest one? One of them is corroding and starting to look an awful lot like my October, 1960 McDonald's Employee of the Month trophy.

Q: What's your favorite midnight snack?

A: I usually eat a glass, which is a little hard on my teeth and my intestines. In the good old days there was always a pheasant under it.

Q: Dental floss or dental tape?

A: No thanks. I just ate.

Q: Who's your favorite *American Idol* judge and why?

A: King Solomon would have been great. I would love seeing those suckers being cut in half.

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

A: Elderly people were losing their limbs...little babies were freezing to death...Eskimos had trouble breathing...traffic was stalled on whole continents...the Atlantic Ocean became one big hockey rink with not nearly enough players to use it...Don't ask.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Perhaps the last one I wrote, but I'm not sure. I haven't had a chance to read it yet.

Q: What are the three funniest words in the English language?

A: "My aardvark approaches." Which is hilarious to everyone but ants (including the ones in the Burnett Show office).

Q: Favorite breakfast side dish?

A: Lunch. When you're having a great meal, it's hard to stop.

Q: Osama bin Laden — any thoughts on his whereabouts?

A: Larry Siegel — no.

THE STATS:

First MAD article: "MAD'S M.V.I.B.A. Awards" (MAD #43, December 1958)

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Number of articles in this spotlight: 7

SALUD, LARRY!