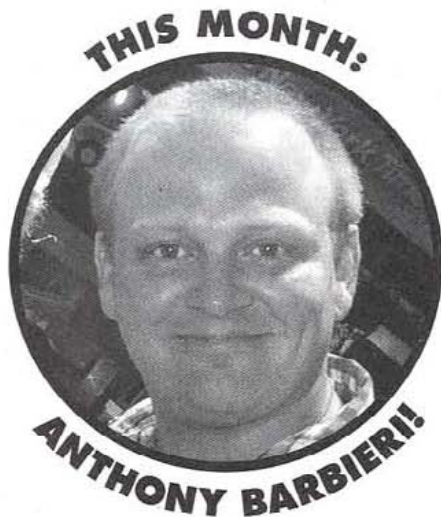


# MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

## ANTHONY BARBIERI FAQs (Faintly Apoplectic Questions we asked Anthony!)



**Q:** Who do you consider your influences?

**A:** MAD was like a guidebook for me. As a kid, I thought all songs began with "to the tune of..." Frank Jacobs had me belting out "Chopped Liver" ("to the tune of 'Moon River'") meanwhile, Al Jaffee's Snappy Answers were coaching me how to be a wise-ass to every single thing my parents asked me. "Are you brushing your teeth, Anthony?" "No, I'm rubbing this thing against them to start a fire."

**Q:** Where did you go to school?

**A:** NYU. During the day I went to Tisch School of the Arts in the Village and at night I would tend bar in my Dad's Brooklyn Disco. Pretty much gives you the full spectrum of a New York education.

**Q:** What was high school like for you?

**A:** Went to High School in South Florida. Our school mascot was a Quaalude. Not exactly the age of enlightenment. Camaros, feathered hair, Molly Hatchet. It was awesome. I had to get the hell out of there.

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

**A:** Sammy Davis, Jr. and Mothra. I also invited Natalie Portman but Mothra ate her.

**Q:** Tell us about your TV work.

**A:** I just finished my pilot for The Food Network called *Does this Taste Funny?* We're all very excited.

**Q:** How do you know Jimmy Kimmel?

**A:** Interesting story. Jimmy and I started in the same dance troupe. He was the Prima Ballerina and I was the young ingénue he took under his wing. After Desert Storm we met up again and I started writing for him. He's a dear man.

**Q:** Who's Jake Byrd?

**A:** Jake Byrd is Michael Jackson's number one fan. He's trying to raise awareness of MJ's blindingly obvious innocence. He's met with Bill Clinton, Paris Hilton, Madeleine Albright and Billy Joel.

**Q:** Where'd Niles Standish come from?

**A:** Niles is a close relative of John Quincy Adams, the producer of *Windy City Heat*. ("The Funniest Movie Ever." — Howard Stern) Though Niles is much more of a sensualist.

**Q:** The biggest misconception about you is...

**A:** That I use my good looks as a weapon.

**Q:** Who's the less talented celebrity sibling — Ashlee Simpson or Jamie Lynn Spears?

**A:** As a late night joke writer, I'm forever indebted to Ashlee.

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

**A:** Carnie Wilson.

**Q:** What is the worst gift you ever received?

**A:** Gab.

Felt up:  
Anthony  
with Crank  
Yankers  
cohort Niles  
Standish.



"Jake  
Byrd"  
shows his  
support to  
Michael  
Jackson's  
father,  
Joe.

**Q:** Where'd the idea of "Monroe" come from?

**A:** It started as a single gag about a kid who had to buy tampons for his Mom but (editors) John (Ficarra) and Nick (Meglin) saw it as something bigger and coerced me into giving it some life. Blame those two idiots.

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**Q:** "Monroe" just had his 100th installment — which was your favorite?

**A:** I can't play favorites. They're like my children. I resent them all.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Q:** Do you have any nicknames?

**A:** Doctor Boogie. Cause I'm all like, "Shut up and dance."

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

**A:** Someone totally awesome. Maybe Bruce Boxleitner.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Q:** Who should play your wife?

**A:** Crap. He's married to Melissa Gilbert, isn't he?

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**Q:** They're going to pick a location for the 2012 Olympics soon — are you pulling for any host city in particular?

**A:** Where does your Mom live?

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**Q:** Have you ever been on a televised game show?

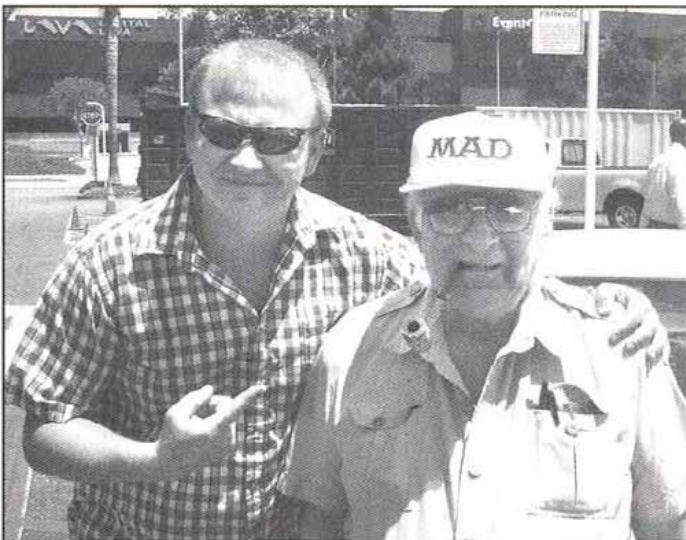
**A:** Is *Cops* considered a game show?

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**Q:** Favorite artificial sweetener?

**A:** Melissa Joan Hart.

**Anthony (second from left) at the premiere of the Comedy Central TV movie *Windy City Heat*, which he cowrote. (If we'd written that movie, we'd wear a disguise, too!)**



**Anthony with legendary (and visibly uncomfortable) MADman Dave Berg.**

**Q:** You worked on *The Man Show* — and now you have two daughters. Do you believe in karma?

**A:** *The Man Show* (The Jimmy and Adam years. The others were an abomination.) was as fun a job as anyone could have. Great times. That said, my daughters will never see a trampoline.

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**Q:** What is your favorite non-"Monroe" MAD article that you wrote?

**A:** I don't really remember anything else. Is this a way to remind me to send in more stuff?

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**Q:** Do you pronounce it adver-tise-ment or advertis-ment?

**A:** I pronounce it "the day MAD sold its soul."

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**Q:** Where do you fall on the 50 Cent/The Game feud?

**A:** I'm straight up old school Brooklyn so I gots mad love for Fiddy but right now Compton is in the house. Without a doubt.

**Q:** How would you describe your relationship with "Monroe" artist Bill Wray?

**A:** He's like my brother. I rarely speak to him, either. Bill is an amazing artist and a gift from comedy heaven to us mortals. He brings the strip to such twisted life that I'm forever indebted.

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**Q:** Is it okay to wear brown shoes with a blue suit?

**A:** What the hell do I care? Wear whatever you want. I can't even see you. We're doing this interview over the phone.

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**Q:** Crunchy peanut butter or smooth?

**A:** Crunchy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Q:** All right...but what kind of jelly?

**A:** Please tell me you're not hitting on me.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**A:** That is so weird. I would have asked myself that question.

#### THE STATS:

First MAD article: "Realistic Police Shows We'll Soon Be Seeing" (MAD #353, January 1997)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 101

Number of articles in this spotlight section: 7

**SALUD, ANTHONY!**

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MIKE SLAUBAUGH

