

MAD

DECEMBER 1998 **NUMBER 376**

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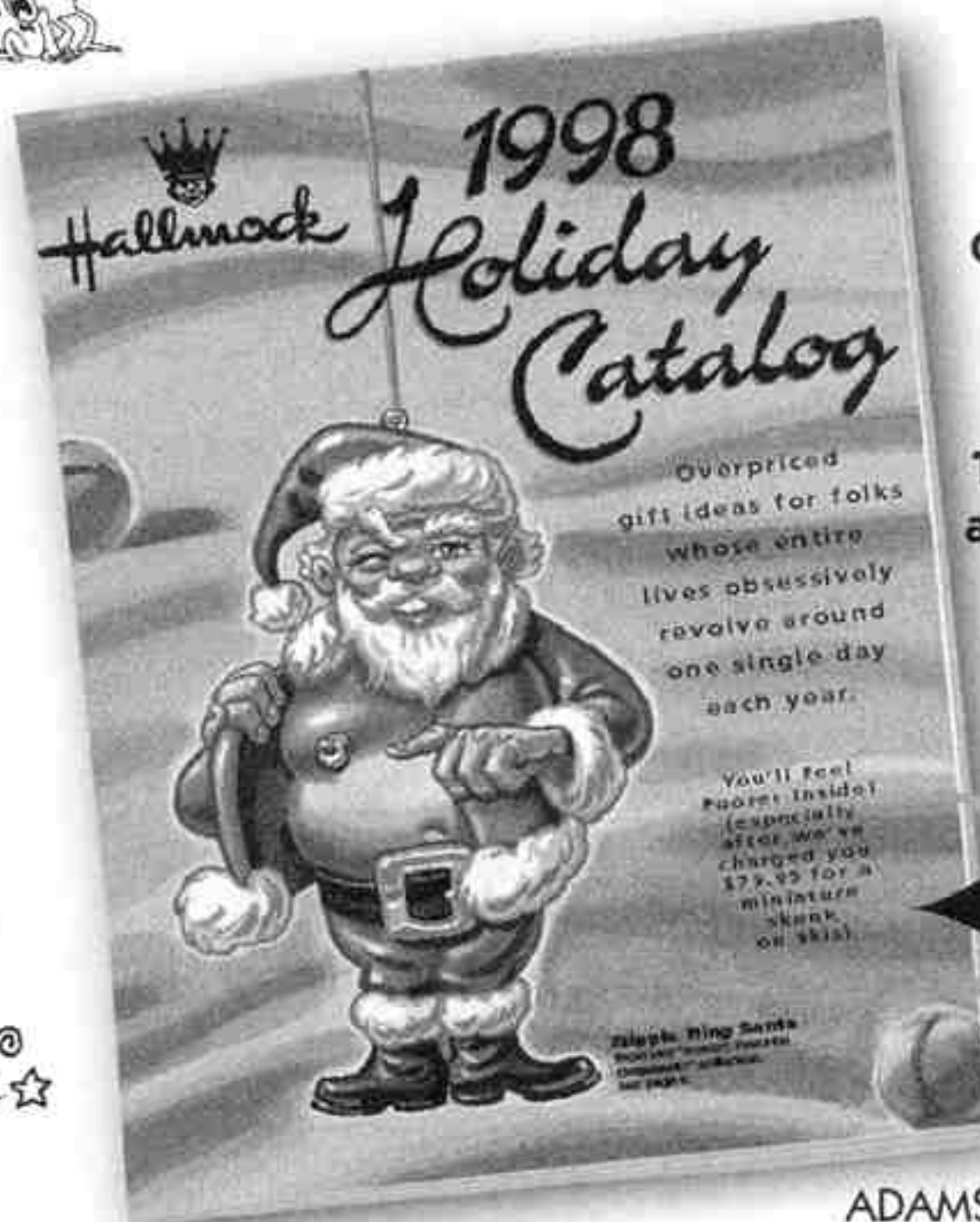
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MAD #377
ON SALE
DECEMBER 15!



IT MUST'VE BEEN OLD-TIMERS DAY

I went to a San Francisco Giants game when they played the Florida Marlins. To my amazement, Florida's shortstop was named Dave Berg! How is that possible?

Nick Fehr
Berkeley, CA

Nicky — Well, the cat is out of the bag! MAD's own Dave Berg is spending time away from the drawing board shagging flies, working on the bad hops, practicing 6-4-3 double plays and thrilling the pants off Marlins fans! Unfortunately, Dave was put on the 21-day disabled list. Baseball fans everywhere hope for his speedy recovery!

Bad news, Berg! The groin pull is worse than we originally thought! You're going to need the body cast!

Oh my God!



MAD MUMBLINGS @aol.com SPECIAL ALL-QUESTIONS EDITION

When people go to a ballgame, why do they sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" if they are already there? — Magus223...Did you know that an egg and a tire can make a boring day fun? — DIEHARD861...24 beers in a case, 24 hours in a day, coincidence? — Way2DrUnK... Do you think cheese could beat a banana in a fist fight? — RATT02...Are alcoholic vegetarians allowed to drink Beefeater's Gin? — Oenone4evr...I'm sucking earthworms through a straw! Why aren't you? — Ash148...Will you fill my Pez? — Markus7266...If practice makes perfect, and nobody's perfect, why practice? — SammyB33

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For all subscription-related matters (including change of address) in the U.S. and Canada, please call 1-800-4 MAD MAG or write P.O. BOX 52345, Boulder, CO 80322-2345! Please DO NOT phone, write, fax or E-mail our New York office — we're too dumb to help you there!

HOW TO REACH US

Please Address Correspondence To: MAD, Dept. 376, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York 10019. MAD welcomes reader submissions. Manuscripts will not be returned or acknowledged, however, unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope! MAD doesn't read faxed submissions!

A MUSICAL NOTE

I always read your "Pop Off Video" spoofs. They're usually hilarious, but there's one problem. *Pop Up Video* is on VH1, but all the captions refer to MTV! Is this just an accident, or the first part of your plans to confuse MTV viewers like myself?

Mark Hurd
Flower Mound, TX

Marky Mark — You've raised a good point. To get to the bottom of this scintillating VH1/MTV controversy we contacted one of the original VJ's of MTV, Mr. Mark Goodman. Unfortunately, Mark was unable to answer your questions. It was a particularly busy time for him. He had a batch of fries waiting to come out of the fryer, he had 10 cars backed up in the drive-thru, the shake machine was on the fritz and he was damn near out of pickles! But perhaps most exasperating for Mark was the pimple-faced manager who kept screaming at him, "Hey nimrod, if I've told you once I've told you a thousand times, when a customer says no onions, he means NO onions!" Mark did say, however, thanks for writing and thanks for remembering! —Ed.



MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

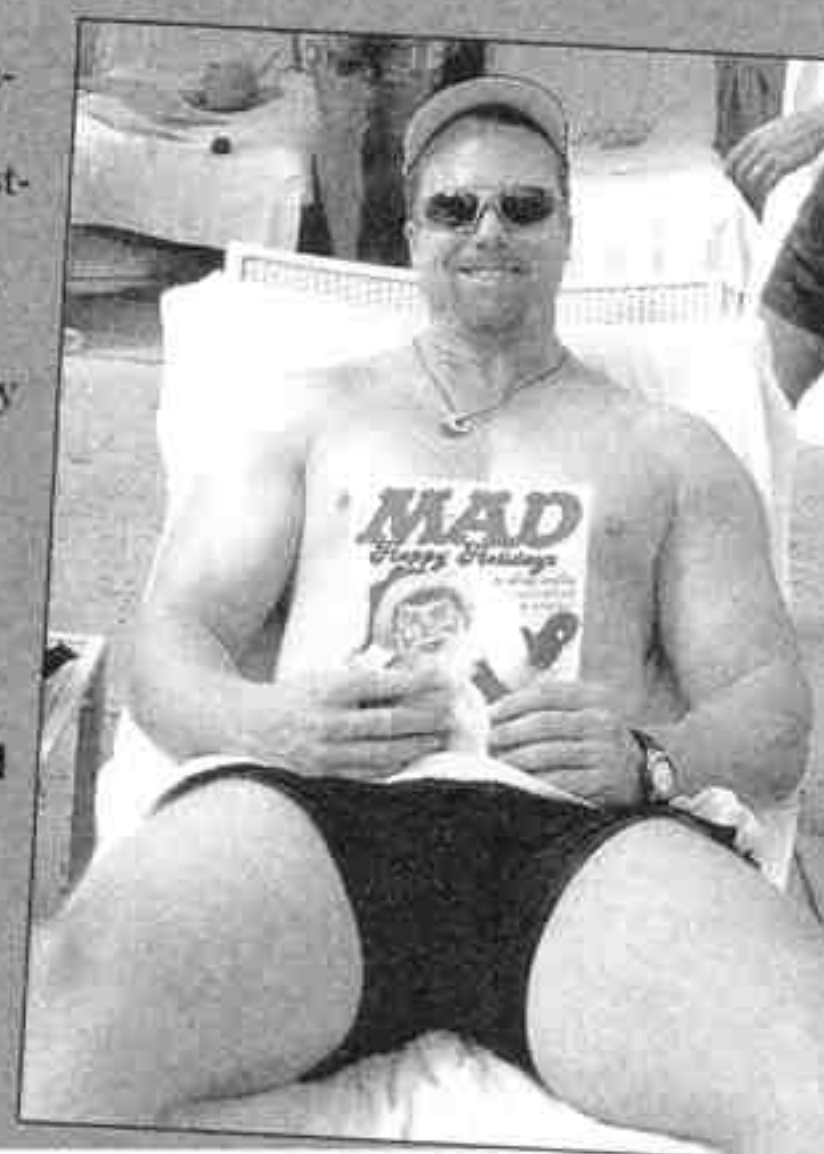
EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently we received the following "celebrity snap" from Elliot Bershader of Staten Island, NY. Due to a crazy misunderstanding, we returned it because we didn't think it qualified for our little feature. This prompted Elliot to write back with this stinging query: "What is wrong with this photograph? What exactly are you looking for? I submitted a picture with your magazine posing with WNBA star Rebecca Lobo, the #1 female basketball player in the world!" Oops! Our mistake! We thought some woman had sent in a photo of herself posing with former *Eight is Enough* munchkin Adam Rich! Well excuse us Elliot! O.k. we'll give you a one-year subscription, but you have to promise that with the money you save you'll get yourself a decent haircut!



Enclosed is a picture of the baseball phenomenon of the year, Mark McGwire, holding the Christmas issue of your magazine, in swim trunks in Hawaii. He was a very good sport about having his picture taken when he was clearly on vacation.

Hannah Smith
Mountain City, TN

Hannah's got the camera, here's the pix, it's a fabulous shot, way way better than Adam Rich's stupid photo of that Lobo chick, that baby is going, going gone! It's a home run for Hannah! This is one for the record books! Congrats on your three-year subscription, how about that!

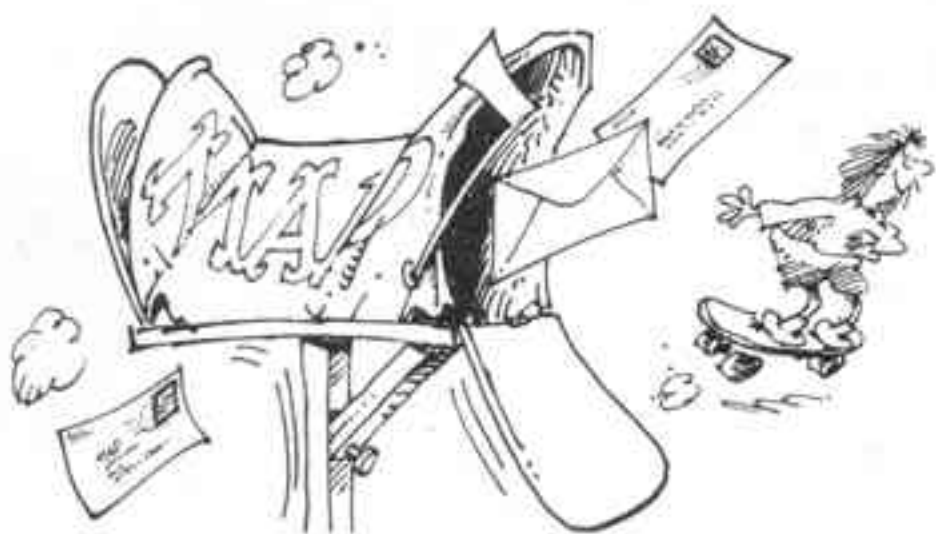


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#134 ON SALE
DECEMBER 15!**

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VIA AMERICA ONLINE!
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MONEY IN THE 'THANK

Thank you so much for printing my letter to you, as a gift to my father (Letters page #370). All of our friends and family got a huge laugh out of it and my father was just beside himself when he saw the letter. We bought 20 copies of MAD and gave all but 18 away. You're the best!

Maeve Sanchez
Chesapeake City, MD

Maeve — Much thanks for your heart-warming letter. We passed it around the office for everyone to read. One of our crack staff suggested we print your thank you letter (and any subsequent thank you notes that you send) so we can maintain the 20-copy blip on our sales charts. Even bumbling Godfrey agreed that this idea may be the greatest marketing plan in MAD's 46-year history! —Ed. P.S. Say "hi" to Papa Hession for us!

RECEIVING A HANSON NOTE

I recently was reading a few articles in your magazine that were making fun of Hanson (i.e. "Letters to Hanson" MAD #369). I'm really getting sick of listening to you making fun of them. Why would you think it would be funny to put that stuff in there about them? By putting that crap in about Hanson it's making a lot of people upset, so don't be surprised if your sales go way down!

D.L.
Fargo, ND

Heavy D. — Sales going down? Ha ha ha, don't make us laugh! We don't have a care in the world about our sales going down now that we've implemented a fool-proof marketing plan, Operation Papa Hession! 20 copies here, 20 copies there and we're on MAD Easy Street! Say "hi" to the Hanson "boys" for us! —Ed.



HEADS UP, CLODS!

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GUARANTEED!**

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STUPID Heroes!

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SWILL OF FARE DEPT.

Whether you're in a haughty four-star clip joint, some trendy ethnic dump or an overhyped theme restaurant owned by has-been movie stars, the one thing you don't want is an unpleasant culinary surprise. So even if the waiter assures you that it "tastes like chicken," pore over the daily specials and bolt for the nearest exit if you come across any of these...

Phrases YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE ON A Restaurant Menu

...with just a hint of placenta...

...served in its own sinus cavity...

...pre-masticated...

...au mucus...

...pavement-cured...

...swamp-ripened...

...trowel-fed...

...and a splash of ol' fashioned bladder squeezin's...

...a melange of taste-tempting testes...

...a succulent parasite...

...robust secretions of...

...and landfill-raised truffles...

...tenderly gelded morsels...

...smothered in natural discharges...

...freshly strangled...

...in a medley of live bait...

...cockfight quality breast meat...

...stillborn quail...

...slaughterhouse fresh...



ARTIST AND WRITER: JOHN CALDWELL

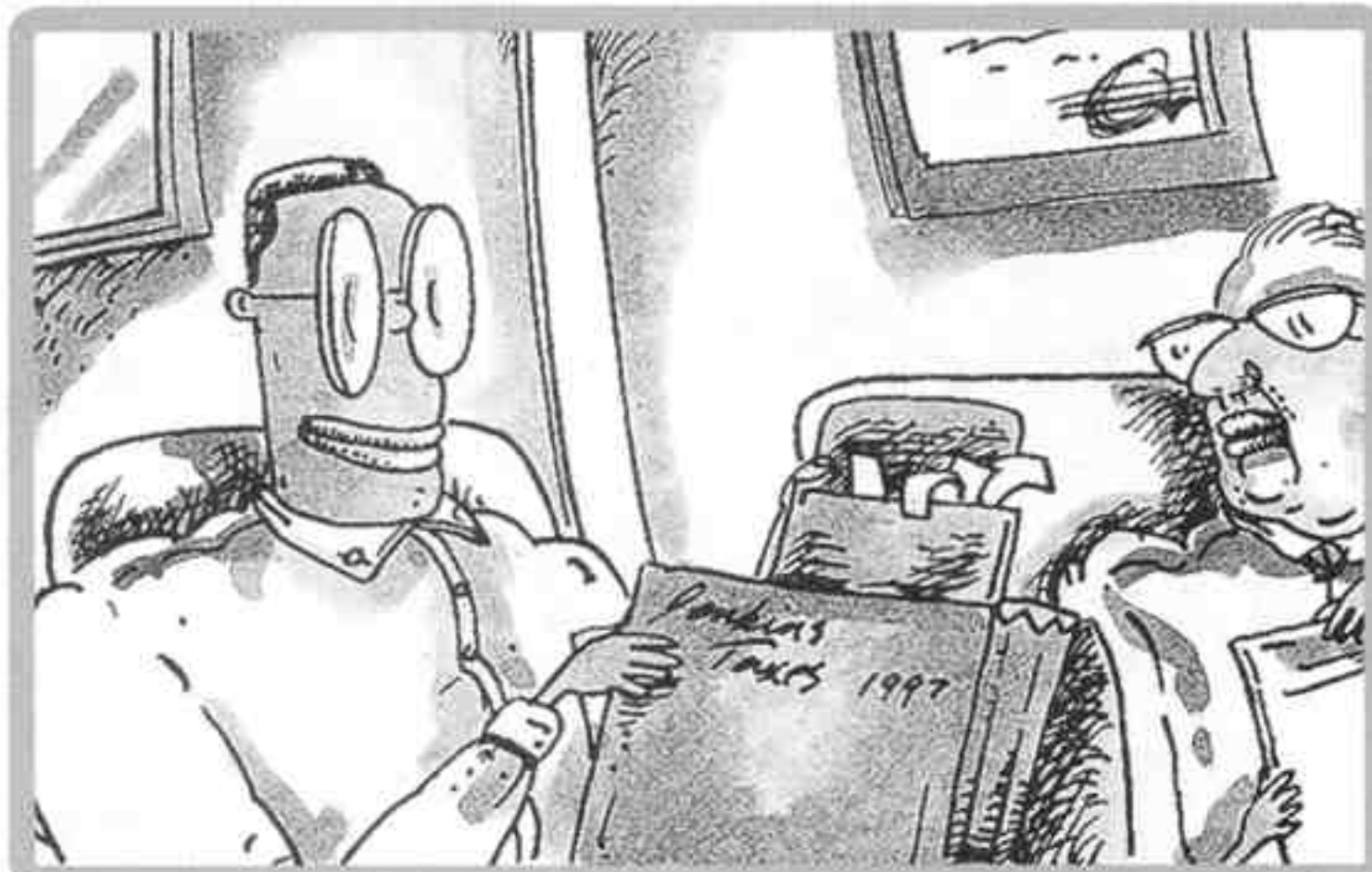




There is an old adage "a fool and his money are soon parted." Well, this saying fits these motley fools to a tee. With the way these bozos spend and earn money it won't be long until the entire monetary system collapses and we're all trading beaver pelts and seashells! Here's...

Melvin & Jenkins

GUIDE TO MONEY



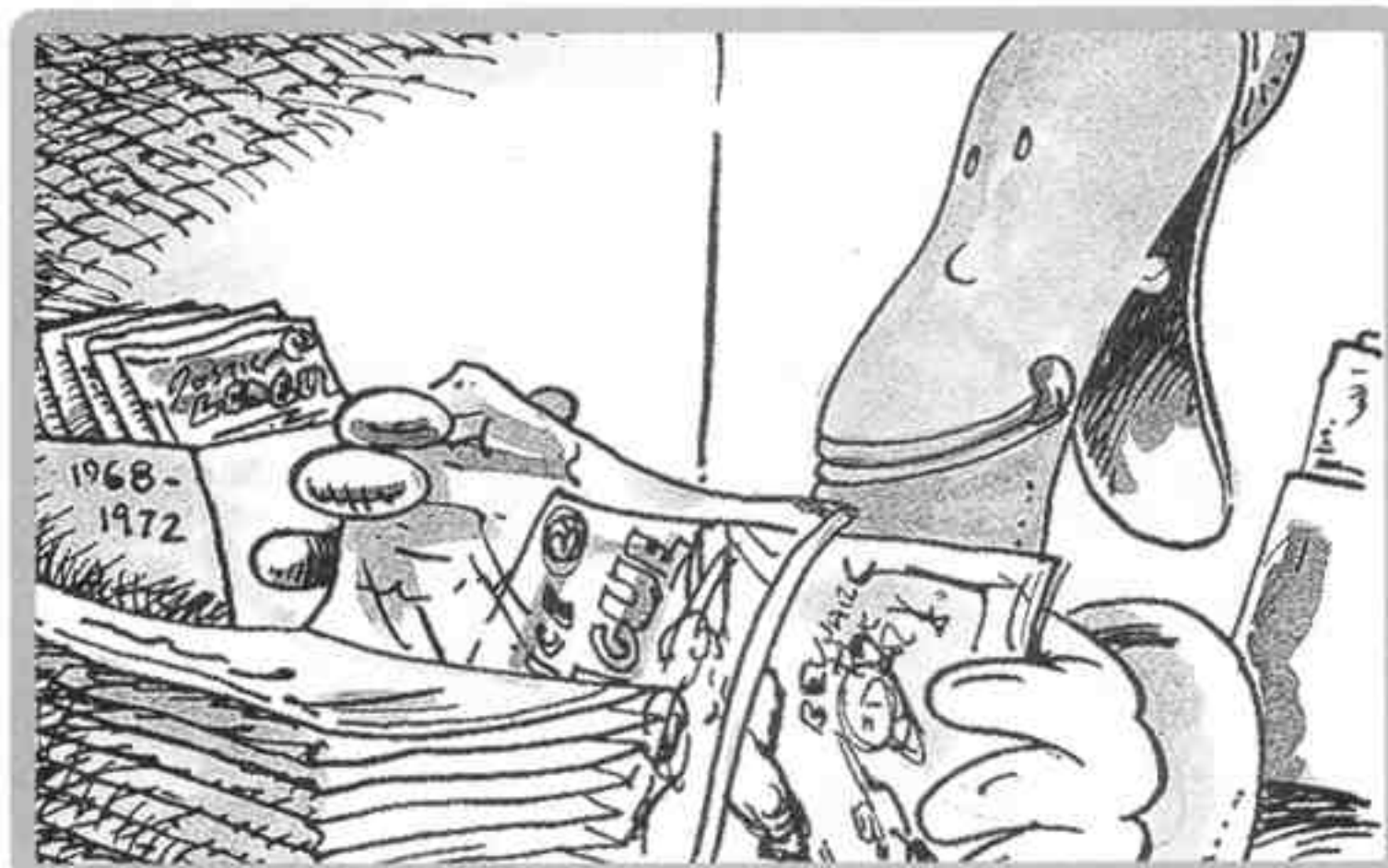
JENKINS goes to his tax audit with careful notes and a folder filled with two years' of receipts.



MELVIN does not impress the IRS auditor with his offer to "be the woman."



JENKINS feels that over the long haul, mutual funds are the safest way to guarantee a small but steady profit.



MELVIN banks his entire retirement on his huge cache of near-mint *Junior Justice League* comic books.



CANUCKLEHEADS DEPT.

THE MASKED MOUNTIE AND HIS WONDER DOG, BISCUIT

CHAPTER XLI

"THE MOUNTAINS OF MAYHEM!"

GREAT SCOTT, Biscuit!
BARON VON VINGLEHEIMER
is CARRYING AWAY the lovely
GWENDOLYN for EVIL PURPOSES!

QUICK, Wonder Dog,
CUT MY BINDS with that
SAMURAI SWORD the
Baron left behind!

YEEEEEEEEK

NYAH
HAR
HAR.

Make HASTE,
Gallant Hound!
The FIEND is ESCAPING!

EEEEAAKKKKK
WOOWAHH

CACKLE

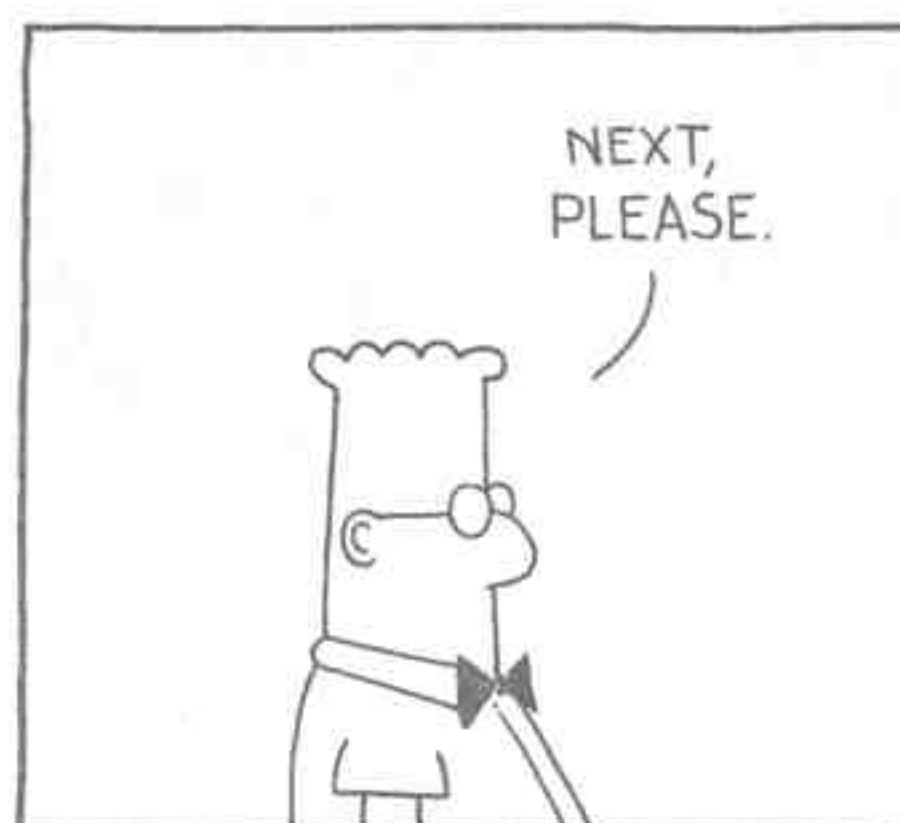
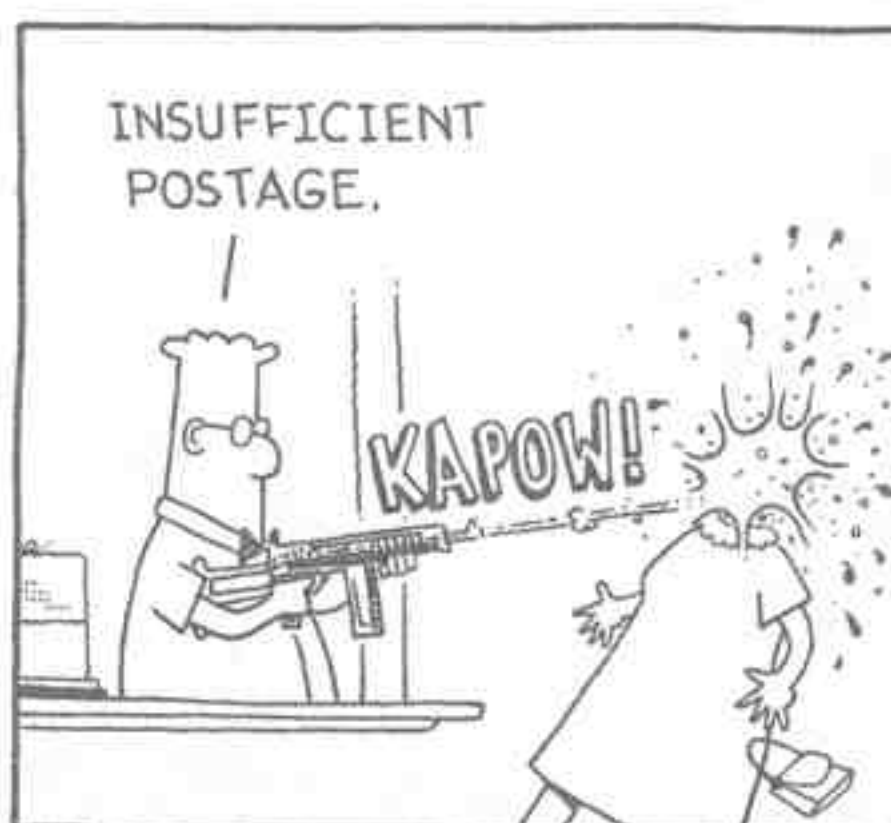
GOO
GWISH

FWOMP!

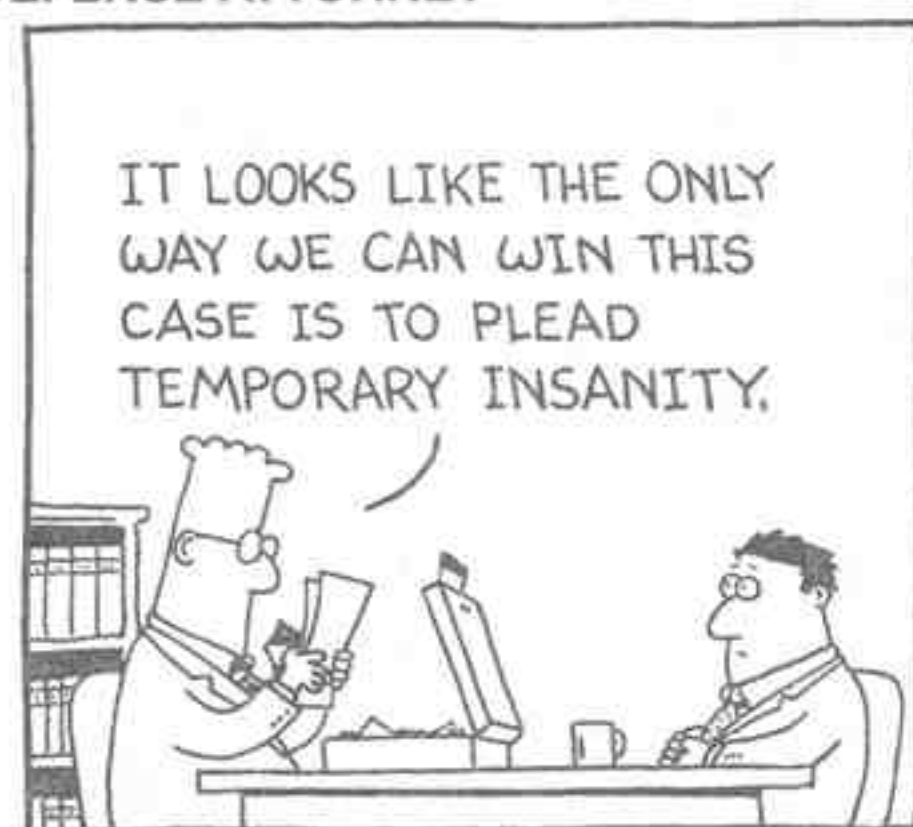
DON'T MISS
THE NEXT CUTTING EPISODE

"PLAY IT AGAIN,
SAMURAI!"

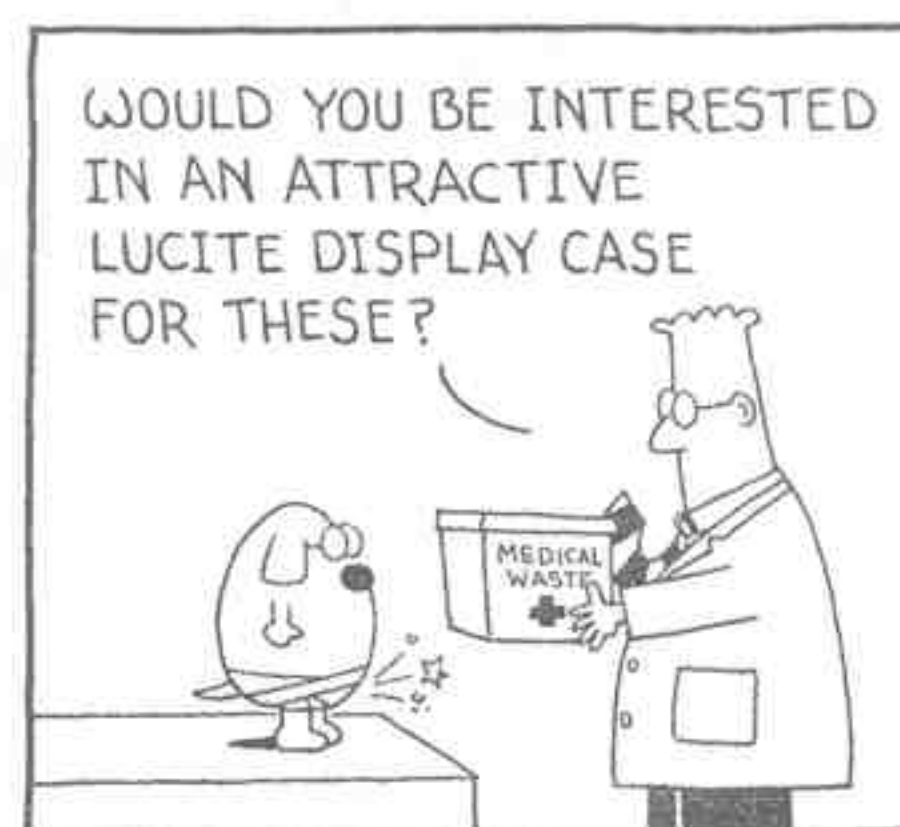
POSTAL WORKER



DEFENSE ATTORNEY



VETERINARIAN



ADULT FILMMAKER

