UNBREAKABLE • CHARLIE'S ANGELS • MARCH MADNESS

MAD

IND ®

WE SQUEEZE MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE!

PARADA

UNITED STATES

#403 MARCH 2001 $2.99 CHEAP!

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MAD

NUMBER 403

MARCH 2001





Editor's Note

Dear MAD Reader:

As you know, MAD has long been an innovator in the magazine industry and now, beginning with this very issue you hold in your hands, we offer two exciting new concepts that are sure to revolutionize the magazine business: color and advertising. That's right, for the first time in history, a major publication will offer both full-color editorial pages and advertisements from important international companies. We are sure it's only a matter of time before other publications will do what they've always done — follow our bold lead and offer their own color pages and advertisements. But you, dear reader, will be able to tell your friends that you saw MAD do it first!

Onward to a new era in publishing!

MAD-ly,

The Editors



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MAD



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

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1997
IRS Disallows Dallas Cowboys Player to Write Off Cocaine as a "Business Deduction"

1989
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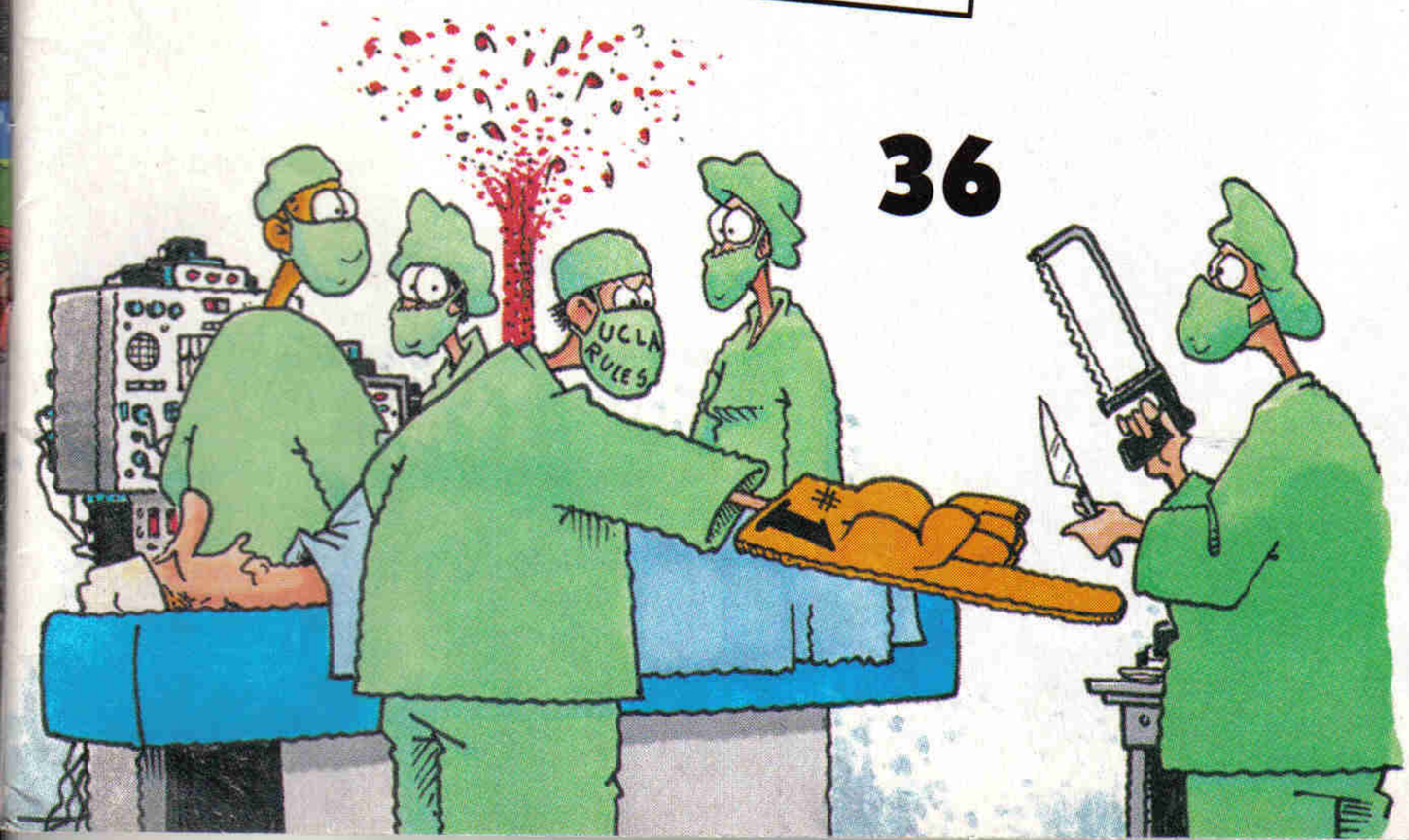
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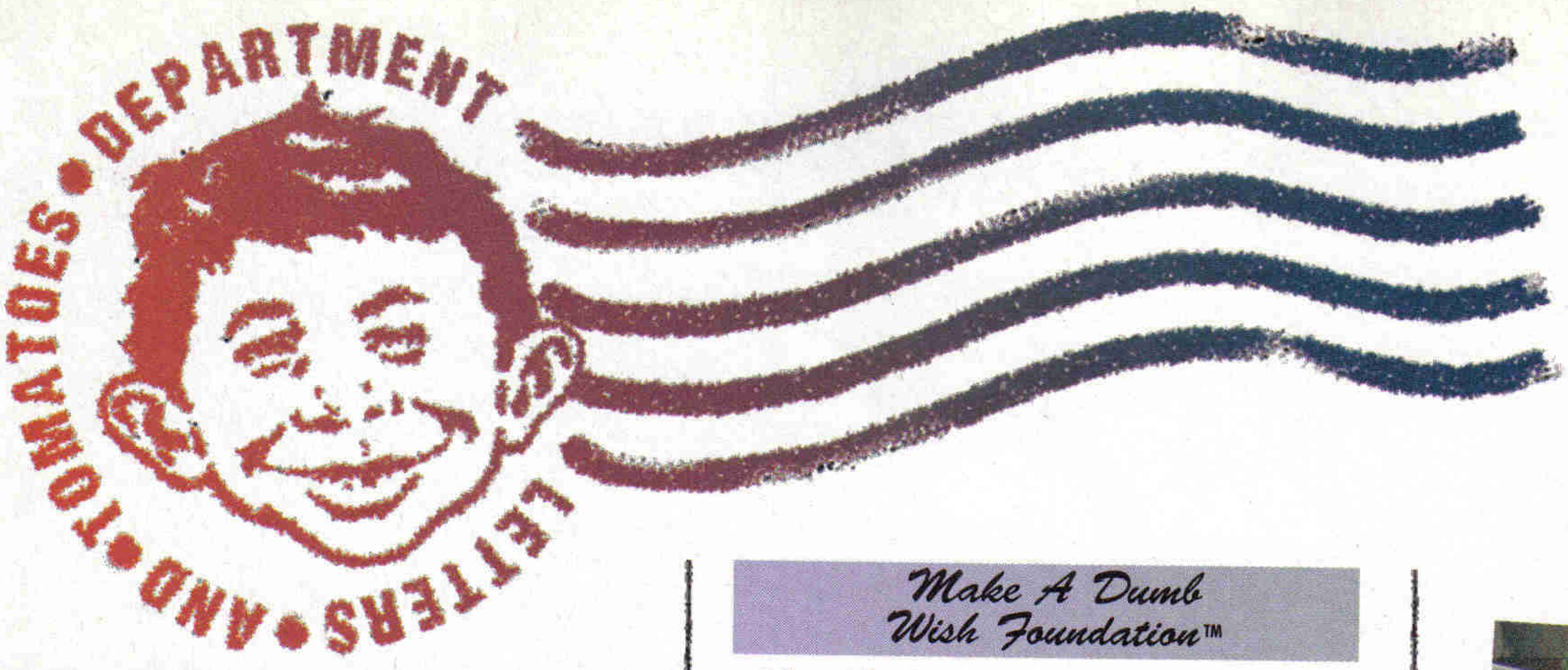
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"Be wary of anyone who gives you advice that begins with, 'Be wary of...!' "



FRONT COVER ARTIST: ROBERTO PARADA



HOW TO REACH US

Please Address Correspondence To: MAD, Dept. 403, 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!

MORON MAIL — THE RETURN

I noticed that you have some guy named "Ed" whose job is to reply to reader mail in your letters department. I was thinking that since my name is also Ed, that I could someday apply for the position of responding to numbskull letters. Please let me know if this is possible.

Ed Paz, Greendale, WI

Eddie — In your numbskull letter, when you presume you could respond to numbskull letters just because your name is Ed, you were wrong. —Ed.

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

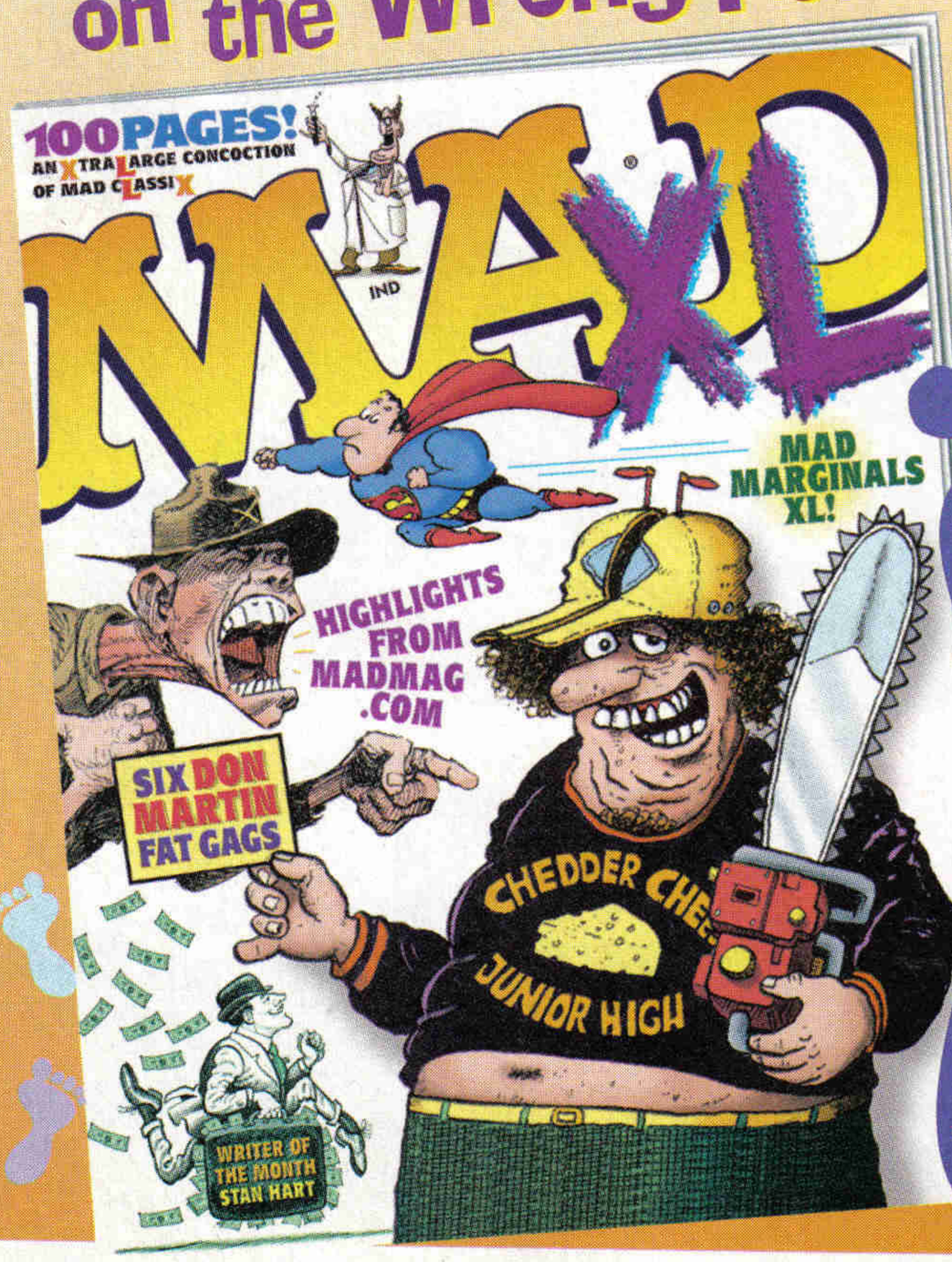
I have been a reader of MAD for about 2½ years and I have a dumb wish for *The Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™. I wish that Antonio Prohias would make a "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Spy" because I enjoy them.

Mark Hudson, Cedar Rapids, IA

Marcus — It's rare that we at *The Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ receive a letter as dumb as yours. Have Antonio Prohias create a "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Spy"? As even a casual MAD reader would know, Antonio Prohias died two years ago (See Letters Page #371). He's dead, dead, dead and so for that matter is your dumb wish! Thanks for writing! —Ed.

Start the New Year off on the Wrong Foot

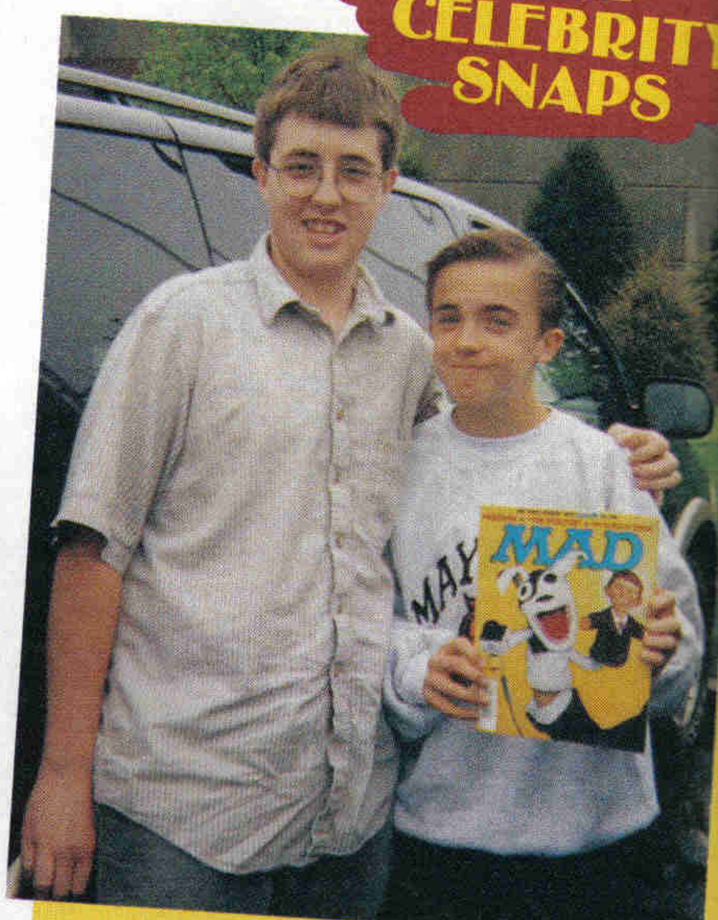
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MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS



Steven Kruszkowski of Maynard, MA snags a three-year subscription with this celebrity snap of Frankie Muniz from the TV show *Malcom In The Middle*, who coincidentally, is featured in yet another MAD TV Satire, "Malcontent in the Muddle" (how we keep coming up with these hilarious parody titles we'll never know) on page seven! Congrats Steve and sorry, Frankie!



PROSE AND CONVICTS

Just like to say I'd be lost without your magazine, passing those long locked-up nights. I don't know what I'd do. Maybe freak out and add another charge. Which is not right anyway, 'cause I didn't do it! You understand? Huh? O.K., I'm calm now.

Marco Miles, Boulder County Jail Boulder, CO

P.S. Could you send me a free subscription?

Marco Polo — Thanks for writing. Your letter once again validates our sales force's number one slogan "MAD: It's a Great Prison Read." Unfortunately, we can't send you a free subscription. We are, however, sending you a grapefruit spoon in a Hostess Twinkie. Start now and freedom could be yours as early as 2037. See ya on the outside! — Ed.

P.S. Give our best to Captain Hank!

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MADMAG.COMPLIMENTS

You guys have been with me for most of my life. I started reading MAD when I was seven. My parents recognized at an early age that I had a weird sense of humor. In fact, whenever I was sick as a child, along with chicken soup came the latest issue of MAD. They knew it would make me feel better. Humor is the greatest healer. That was 1974. Although I should have subscribed, I never have. But I still regularly buy each new issue as they come out. To this day, 26 years later, if my parents know I'm ill, they will make a special trip just to bring me the latest issue. It's a thirty-mile drive for them (okay, so they're checking up on me, too) but they always bring the "Usual Gang of Idiots" with them. You guys (and girls) have helped me through some hard times and you've always made the good times better. I just want to thank all of you crazy people who make life a lot more tolerable.

Sam Price, Gainesville, FL

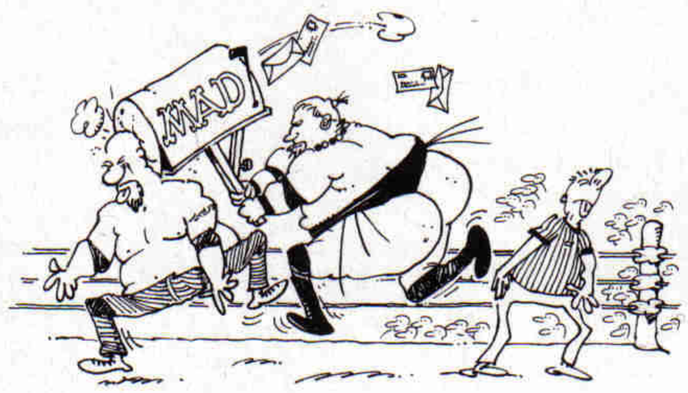
The Price is Right — Thanks for your wonderful and heartwarming letter. Now get out your credit card and dial 1-800-4-MADMAG and subscribe already so your parents don't have to drive for hours just to take care of their sick little babesy-wabesy and make sure their pumpkinhead has the latest issue! Again, thanks for your kind letter. —Ed.

PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO NEEDLE PEOPLE...

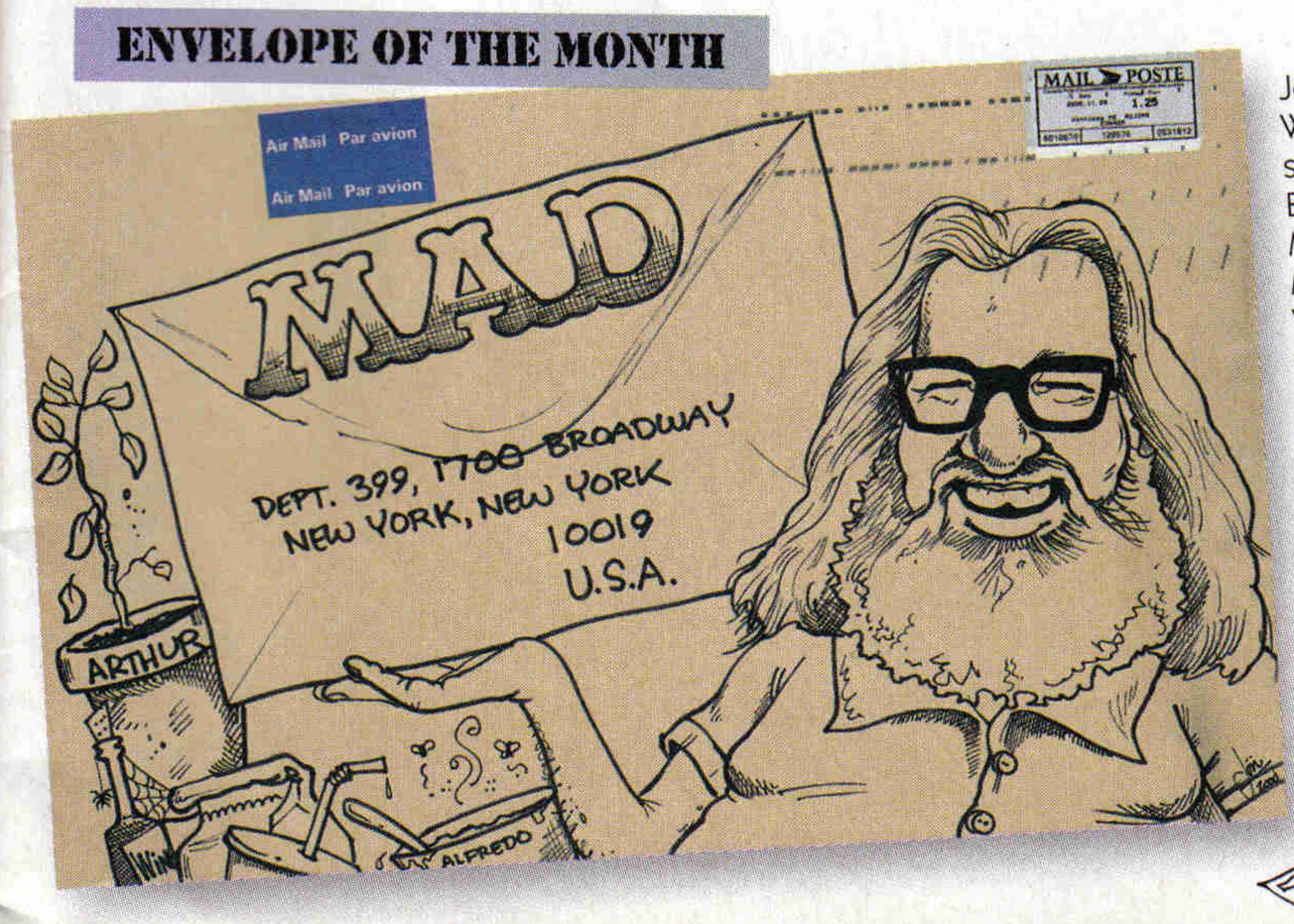
Is Barry Liebmann from Canada, perhaps a relative of Celine Dion? The reason I ask is his third point against George W. Bush ("The Case For/Against Gore/Bush" MAD #398), that "other politically ambitious governors will fry as many criminals in the electric chair as George W. did..." Texans haven't used Ol' Sparky since Hector was a pup. Texas uses lethal injection to dispose of its Death Row guests. George W. never fried anyone, although many deserved it. You can quit worrying about your power grids. Millions of readers will probably be misled by Barry's groundless fearmongering.

William Cowper Brann, Waco, TX

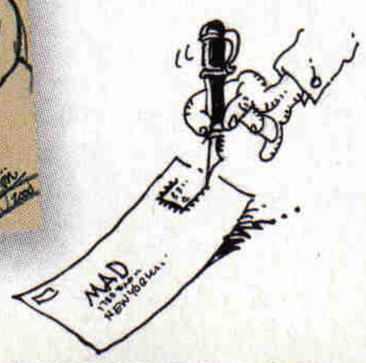
Wild Bill — Thanks for your wonderfully attuned letter. In answer to your question, yes, Barry Liebmann is from Canada and may have once shared an escalator with Celine Dion. As to your point about Ol' Sparky vs. Lethal Injection, about halfway through your ranting, rambling letter we would have welcomed either! See ya on The Green Mile! By the way, who the @#$!% is Hector??? —Ed.



ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH



Jon Ljungberg of Winnipeg, Canada sends us this issue's Envelope of the Month featuring MAD founder William M. Gaines, who, unfortunately, like Antonio Prohias, is dead, dead dead. Thanks for depressing the hell out of us, Jon!



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the usual gang of idiots

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DYSFOXTIONAL FAMILY DEPT.

Somehow those nutheads at Fox TV got the idea that dysfunctional equals funny. "Imagine how hilarious it will be," they said, "if we get dysfunctional parents and some dysfunctional kids and have them surround a whiny semi-normal kid who won't shut up. It will be comedy gold!" Gold? Hmmm. We think it's just nonstop dribblings from a...

Malcontent in the Muddle

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

In **real life**, when a kid **starts talking** to somebody who's **invisible**, they **jack up** his dosage of **Ritalin!** On **Fox**, they gave **me** my **own show!** My **job** is to keep the **ratings cruising along**, from ***Futurama*** to ***King of the Hill*** to ***The Simpsons***, but it's going to be **tough!** The **people** on **this show** aren't **nearly** as **realistic!**

Over there **screaming** at my **family** is my **mom**, **Mom**! She's **overbearing**, **brash**, has **poofy hair** and a **white-trash attitude**! But **don't** get me **wrong**, she **prays every day!** Mostly, she prays that **nobody** will **remember Peggy Bundy** from ***Married...With Children!***

There goes my **dad**, **Dad!** He **provides** us with something **important** that our **family** would otherwise **lack: a mother figure!**

The **only one** in my family I **look up to** is my big brother, **Frantic!** Unfortunately, mom and dad sent him **away** to **military school**, so he **sleeps** in a room with **30 men!** During **hazing** week, they **stripped off** his **clothes**, **shaved off** all his **body hair** and **shoved stuff** up his **butt!** My parents are **hoping** military school will **make a man** of him!

That's **Gooey**, the adorable **little kid!** He has trouble **keeping up!** You'll notice that we **rarely** feed him more than **one sentence** to **say**! Even then, it's a **real struggle** coaching Gooey to **say** the words **as if he understands them!** I'm **not complaining**, though! It's the same problem **George W. Bush's handlers** have to deal with **every single day!**

Reek is the **#2 brother**, if you **know** what I **mean**! He's not as **smart** as **me**! He's not as **cute** as **Gooey**! He's not as **sociopathic** as **Frantic**! He's **nothing** but a **twisted second-place loser!** If those people who make **TV shows** about **bitter former child actors** have any **foresight**, they'll **sign Reek** to an **exclusive contract** today!

Coming over to **visit** is my friend **Skeevy**! He was the **second person** Fox TV signed under its **"Hire the Handicapped"** program! The **first** was **Keith Olbermann!**

Thanks... *puff*...**Reek** ...for **making** ...*pant*...your **house**...*huff*... **handicapped... accessible!**

You're **handi-capped?** I was just **blowing junk up!**

Don't **you** ...*hack*... **see** my... **wheelchair** ...*puff* **...stupid?**

I thought you **were** just a **huge fan** of the **Professor** from ***X-Men!***

POW!

BEWARE! OUR KIDS BITE!!

TNT

Skeevy may not be an **actual member** of my **family,** but he has a **very important function!**

Hi...*hack*... **Malcon...tent** ...*wheeeeze* **...how are...** *huff*...*puff* **...you?**

Mainly, if **Skeevy** gets enough **lines,** the **writing staff only** has to **write 14 minutes** of **jokes** for a **half-hour show!**

Speaking of **hoarse breathing,** there **go** my **parents again!**

Growff! Go **get** the **applesauce,** a **pair** of **pre-cooled ice tongs** and the **hamster wheel!**

But honey! Just **once,** why can't we have **normal love making?**

No way! We did **that four times before** and **look** what we **ended up with!**

The **producers** of this show think that **nothing's funnier** than two **married** people **still** being **hot** for each other! That's what **happens** when you **live** in **Hollywood!** The **AOL 5.0 update** lasted **longer** than **most** of the **marriages out here!**

Boy...*puff*... **Malcontent...** your... *hack*...**mom** and...*huff*... **dad really...** *choke*...**really...**

They **really what? WHAT?** The **S.O.S.** from the **Titanic** came **through quicker!**

JENKIN'S FAN CLUB

Skeevy and I are **different** from the **other kids!** We're in the **gifted class** for **geniuses!** We get to study **advanced calculus, interdimensional theory** and **biotechnology,** while the **dummies** in our school **waste** their **time playing sports, doing drugs,** and **having sex!** Ha! The **poor saps** don't **know** what they're **missing!**

EXTRA CREDIT

FUN WITH PHYSICS

SCIENCE MONTHLY

ELECTORAL COLLEGE MADE EASY (VOLUME 2 of 16)

Whoops! I **should** have **warned** you! The **director** throws in a **weird camera angle** or an **extreme closeup** whenever an episode starts to **drag!** In other words, **every 40 seconds!** It's **good** for the **show,** though! I understand there are already **two dozen fan websites devoted** to my **left nostril!**

FOR SALE

I'm **home!**

Frantic! YES! You're **home** from **military school!**

Of course I'm back, **doofball!** Haven't you **noticed** that I come **home** to **visit** in **every episode?**

Or that mom and dad **sent** him **away** to a **military school** that just **happens** to be **across** the **street from** our **house?**

I **didn't** notice **any** of **that!** When I **spend 90%** of the **time staring** into the camera **talking** to **you,** I **miss** a lot of what **goes on around here!**

I was **starting** to get **nervous!** The show's **been on** for **almost five minutes!** We **never** go **that long** without a **barbaric act** of **mayhem!**

Wheels, don't drop the **hot oil** until you **see** the **fire station!**

But... I... **don't...** *huff...* **want...** to!

Our **series** has **all** the **cruelty** and **violence** of the **World Wrestling Federation...** only **without** the **subtlety!**

Hi, **Frantic!** You haven't **visited** us from school since **eight this morning!** How are your **grades?**

Pretty good! I got an **A-** in **Vandalism, B's in Advanced Torture** and **Abuse,** and an **Incomplete** in **Hostage Negotiating!**

Well, just **remember** one thing, Mister! **Life** is **no day** at the **circus!** So you have to **make sure Mr. Elephant** doesn't **eat** your **last peanut!** Just because you can **fill** a **tiny car** with **24 midget clowns** is **no reason** to **assume** the **ringmaster** is your **friend!** Do you **want** to be the **guy** who **rides** the **horse,** or the **guy** who **washes** the **horse?**

This is the **part** of the **show** where mom **spews out** her **loony analogies** and **advice!** It's **always** a **bunch** of **nonsensical, nonlinear non sequiturs!** It's also **non-funny!**

Son, **whenever** your mother **gets** this **way,** it's **best** just to **let her go!**

But this is **pointless, forced wackiness!** This week, **"life isn't a circus!"** Last week, **"life wasn't an African safari!"** Next week, **"life won't be a course in air conditioner repair!"**

That's very **astute, Malcontent!** I'll **bring** that **up** at the next **rehearsal!** With your **IQ,** I'm sure you'll **come up** with **replacement jokes** for **all** the **filler** we'll be **cutting out** of the **show, thanks** to your **ideas!**

Um...ah hey, mom! You **left out** the **part** about the **lion tamers!**

I'm **leaving!** It's **time** for one of those **kooky "abandonment" gimmicks** I do! It **gives** you boys a **chance** for some **male bonding!**

The **big difference** is, in my **family** our **male bonding** generally **involves Krazy Glue!**

Yow! We must be doing **nothing again,** because the **camera angle** just went **dipsy-doodle!**

That **reminds** me, son! We got a **call** from a lady **complaining** about the **irritating, super-stylized** way we **look** on **TV!** She says we **throw in** these **crazy shots** for **no reason!**

Yeah? What was **her name?**

Missy Elliott!

Hey dad, **Gooey** just **roasted** your **wedding album** in the **microwave!**

Good work, son! **Excellent!**

Aren't **you going** to **punish him?**

Hell no! If it **weren't** for **random acts** of **destruction,** we'd **never** get a **plot** going **around here! Now,** we're in **business!**

This **isn't** the **kind** of **thing** a **person** can **duck** responsibility for! The **best thing** to do is **sit mom down, tell** her something **terrible** has **happened,** and **just show her—**

Right! We'll go **buy** some **bridal magazines, cut out** the **photos** and **digitally manipulate** the **images** to **fool** her into **thinking** the **wedding album** is **still** in **one piece!**

With **parenting** like **this,** is it **any wonder** that I'll probably **end up running** my very own **suicide cult?**

But isn't this like the **episode** where we **wrecked mom's dress** and **tried** to **hide** it from her? Or **where** we **wrecked** the **house** and **tried** to **hide** it? **Or** when we **wrecked mom's—**

I know! Despite what **FOX promos say,** these **plots** are about as **wild** and **original** as when the **Brady boys broke mom's favorite vase!** It's **Newton's Third Law of Sitcom Physics!** For **every action, there is** a **zany reaction!**

There **you go!** It's **perfect!**

Oh **yeah?** Then **how come** you and mom **are black?**

Okay, it's **ALMOST** perfect! I'll just **tell** your **mother** that that **photo** got **switched** with the **negative!** Okay, **assume places,** and **wait** for your **mother!**

And as I **watched** Winnie **clean out** her **ear** with a **school compass,** I **realized** there were things **inside her** I could **never understand!** I **understood** that there were **things** I could **never realize!** But the **thing** I had **never realized** was that I **understood** that **realization** could be **so...real!**

What is this show?

The Wonder Years on **Nick!** I like when the show **stops dead** so **Kevin** can do a **voiceover** to the **audience,** before the **show starts up again!**

Malcontent, that's **just like** what **you do!**

Not exactly! Our show **NEVER starts up again!**

MUST FLEE TV!

REMOTES



While we're **waiting,** let me **help** you with your **math homework!**

Four plus four is **eight!** But only **six** of the **eight count!** So we **count** it **again,** and this **time** it **comes out twelve!** Except we didn't **get up to twelve** until after **5 o'clock,** so the **answer** is **really seven!**

Those **numbers** are **completely absurd!**

Then how **come** my **math teacher** gave me an **A-minus?**

Maybe she's **grading** on the **curve...of** the **lumps** in your **head! Where** is that **in-competent teacher from?**

She was an **election official in Florida!**

What **now?** Who **thought** up this **eye-catching camera angle?**

Nobody! The **cameraman** just **fell asleep!**

Yeah, I **know** the **feel-ing!**

Okay, enough **dysfunctional interaction!** It's time for **Newton's Fourth Law of Sitcom Physics!** The **shortest distance** between **two plot points** is the **most implausible!**

I'm home!

Quick! Put this **back** on the **shelf!** Hopefully, it'll be **five years** before she **even bothers to...**

Look who I've been **reminiscing with!** The **minister** who **married us!** And he **wants** to **see** the **wedding album!**

This is the **kind** of **nutty coincidence** you **only** get on **TV!** Which is a very **good argument** for **going** to **museums!**

Hold it! Why is it **so quiet** in **here?**

Because we **don't have** a **jarring laugh track** like **most ordinary, badly-written sitcoms do!**

We also **don't have** as **many LAUGHS** like **ordinary, badly-written sitcoms do either!**

We **have** a **quirk-o-meter!**

What's a **quirk-o-meter?**

It **measures** the **level** of **unusual behavior** in our **house!** In lieu of **actual comedy** we just **throw** a **load** of **weird stuff against** the **wall** each week and **hope** that the **audience thinks** they've been **entertained!**

Kids, **come look!** It took me **three years,** but I **filled up** an empty **mayonnaise jar** with **toenail clippings!**

Careful, Dad! You just **busted** the **quirk-o-meter** into **smithereens!**

Dad, this is like the **30th gratuitous naked scene** we've done this **season!** It's getting **embarrassing!**

You're **embarrassed?** How do you think **I feel?** It's **so cold** in **here** they have me **blocked off** by a **tiny salt shaker!**

This **brings back** so **many images...** so many **weird images!** I **don't** remember **Gwyneth Paltrow** being your **best man!**

Uh....

I **also** don't **recall** a **B+ review** of the new **'N Sync** album being **part** of my **wedding dress!** Or a **milk mustache** on the **caterer,** supermodel **Christy Turlington!**

And I'm **fairly certain** that I **did not conduct** the **ceremony** in **full Goth makeup!**

Jerk! I **told** you **not** to **cut** those **pictures out** of ***Entertainment Weekly!***

What's the story?

It's **like this...GAAA! Hamstring pull!** I'm **down! Ahhh!**

Nice try, Shaq! Now do I **get the real story,** or do I **dye** your **hair blue** in your **sleep again?**

What do you **think about** when mom and dad get into these **kinds of discussions?**

I just **hope** my court-appointed **psychiatrist will** be a **hot babe!**

Howl, you **really hurt** my **feelings!** You **betrayed** my **trust!** And there's **only one mature way** I know of for us to **sensibly address** these **issues** and **come** to a **meeting** of the **minds** as **two adults!**

Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots! Best **2-out-of-3 gets** to be **on top!**

The **marriage** that **decapitates** together **cohabitates together! Yaarrghh!**

This is **totally immature,** and I'm **just five years old!**

You're **right! This** makes **no sense at all!**

It **doesn't have to make sense! "Mannered peculiarity" + "pop culture reference" = "Emmy nomination"!**

BRING IT ON!

WHO'S THE DADDY?

You might **say** that **everything's back** to **abnormal around here!** My brother **Frantic** went back to **military school,** but he'll **probably** be **back** for **dinner!** The Coast Guard **radioed** that they spotted **Skeevy** off the **coast** of **Newfoundland!** I assume **Gooey** is **still** in the **mall fountain** where we **left** him **yesterday!**

Unfortunately, that **means** that my **boring life** is **pretty much** the **same,** too! But I **don't have** to **tell** you **about** that! Do I? **Who are you, anyway?** How come you **never answer me? All** you do is **stare, stare, stare!** Your **eyes!** They **burn! Get them off me!** I'm **covered with eyes!**

Say **something, damn you! Acknowledge me! Who** am I **talking to?** I'm **so terribly alone! Nuh! Nuh! Nuh!**

That's **what** I **get** for **eating nothing** but **Funyuns** and **Jolt Cola** the **whole time** I was **pregnant with that one!**

I **knew** the men would **come** to **take** that **crackpot** to the **nuthouse** some-day! And **now** there are **three!**

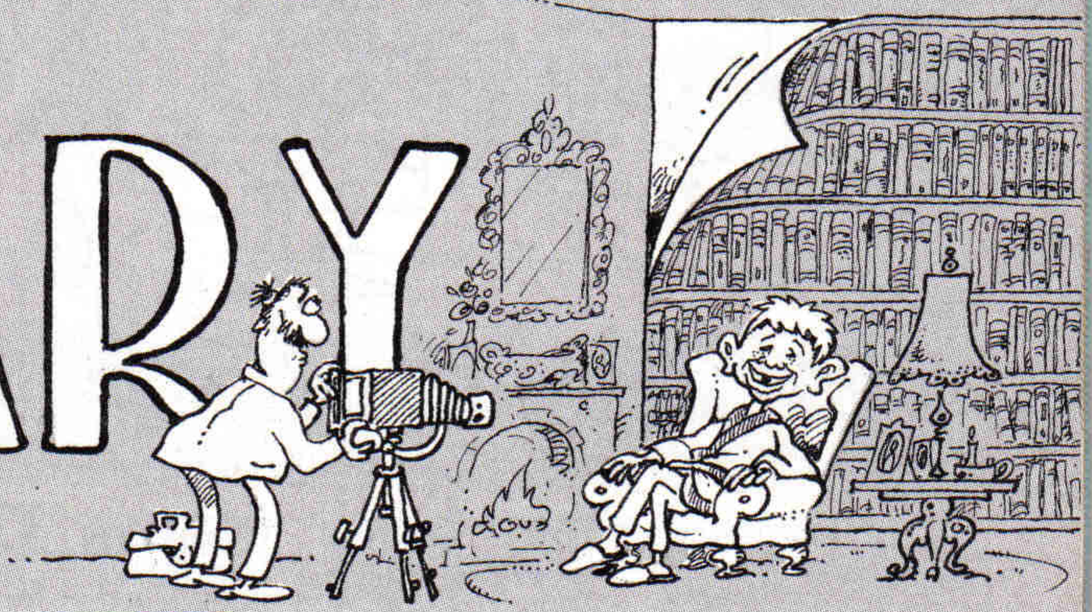
And **"Reek in the Muddle" sounds awfully sweet!**

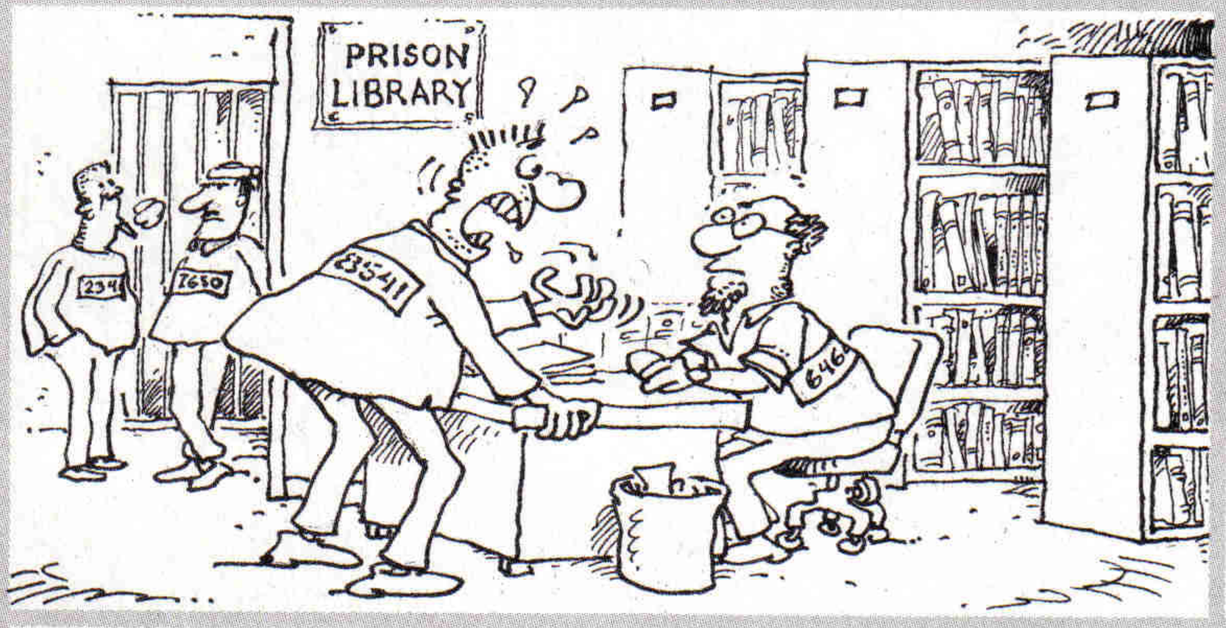
NUTTER STATE HOSPITAL

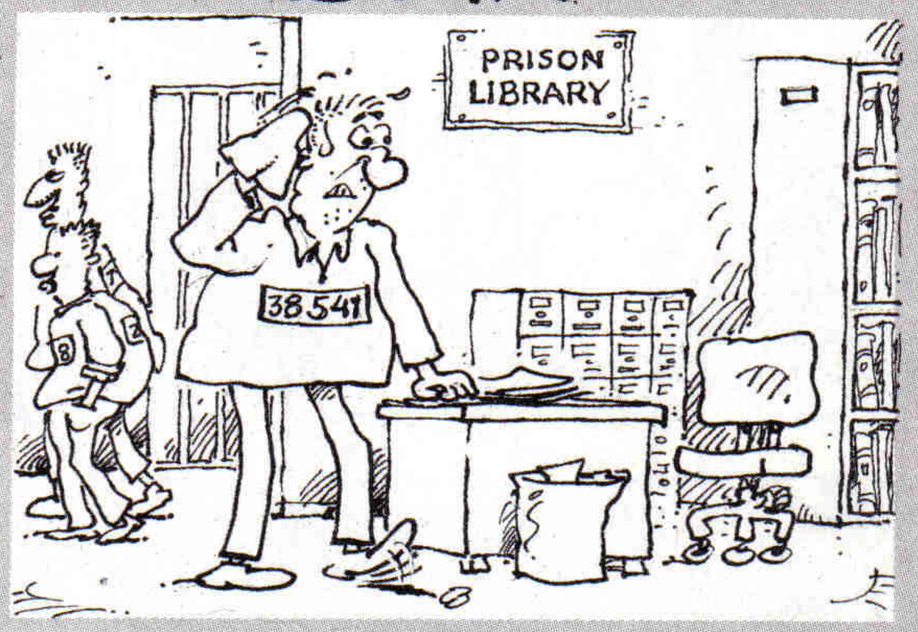
KOOK 1

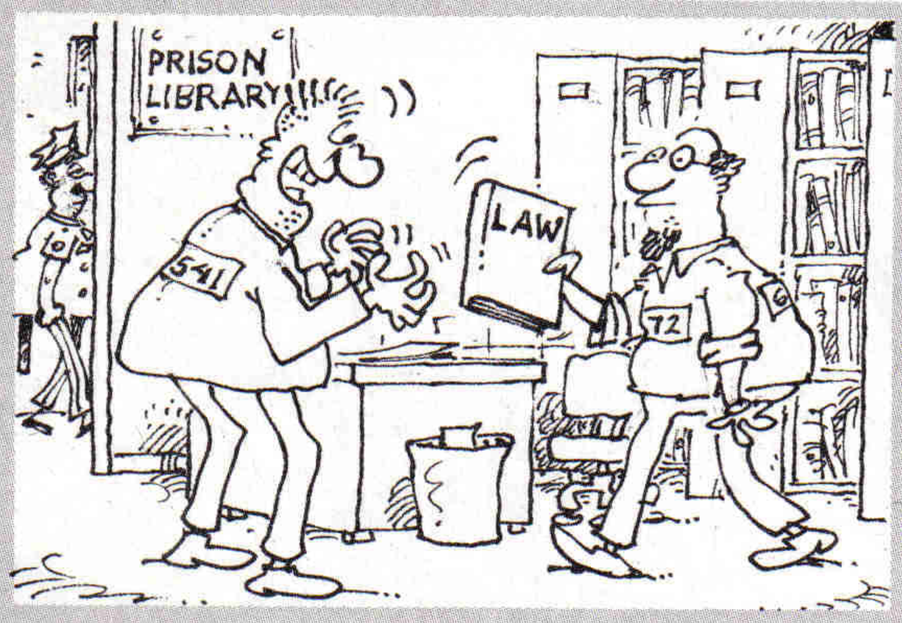
A MAD LOOK AT THE LIBRARY

ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES

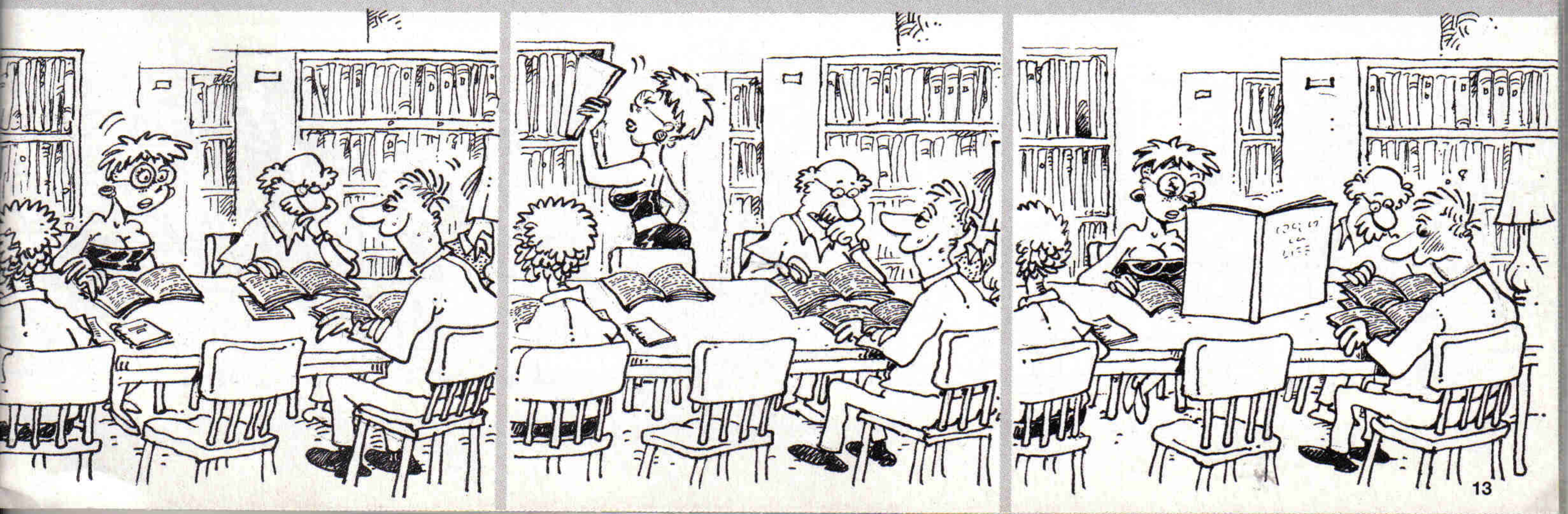


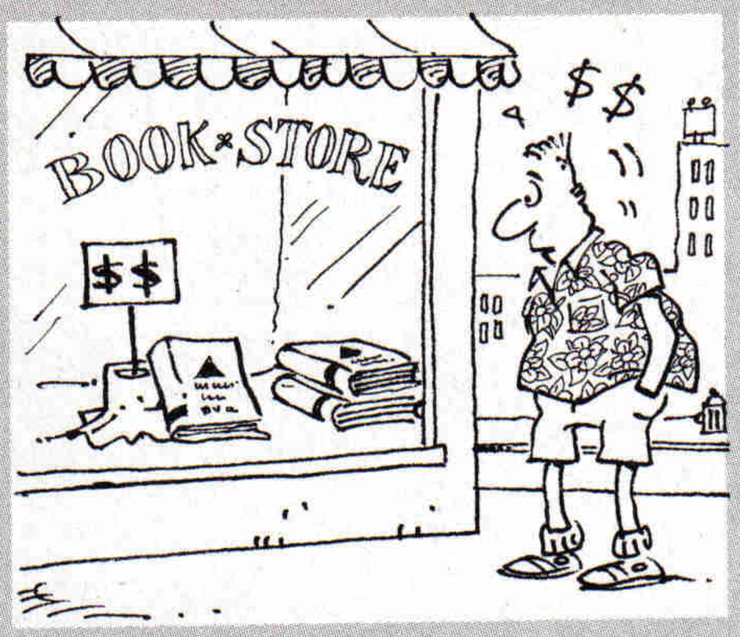











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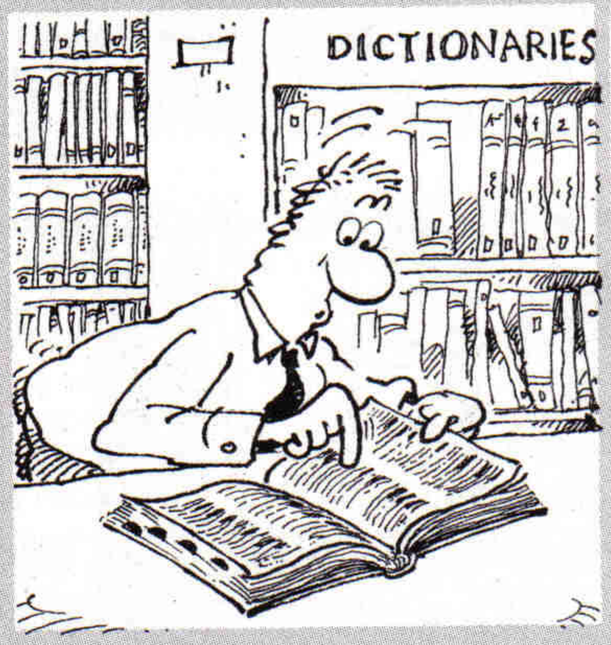

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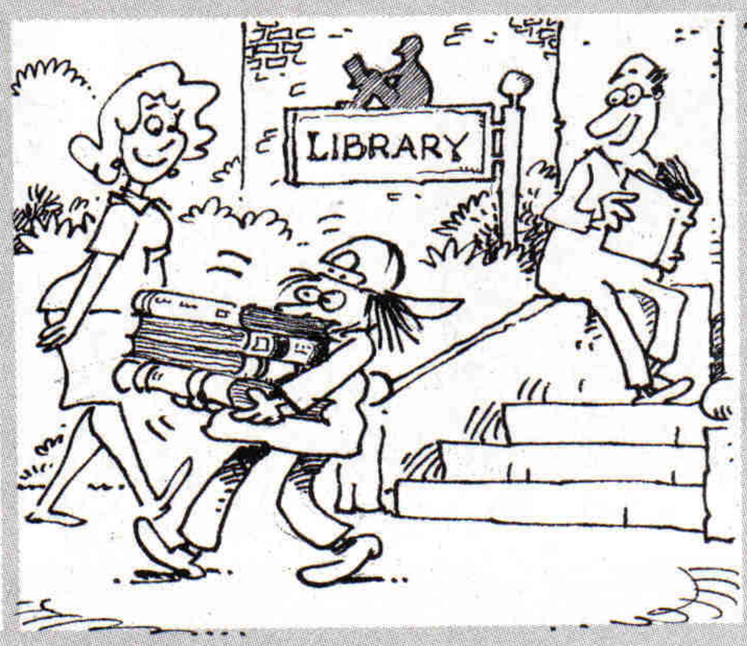



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DICTIONARIES






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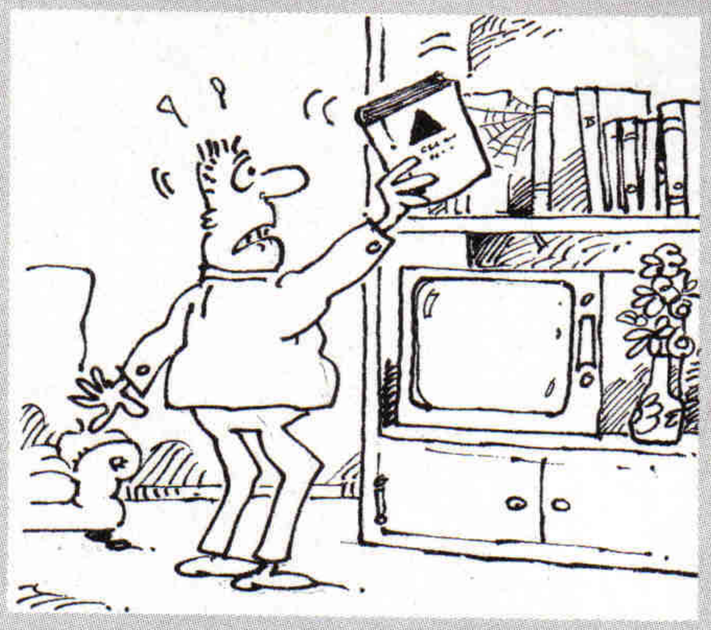






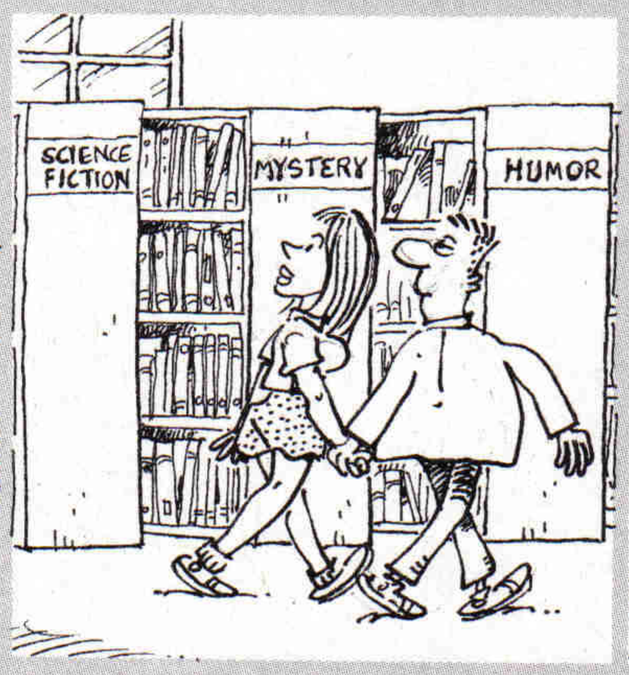



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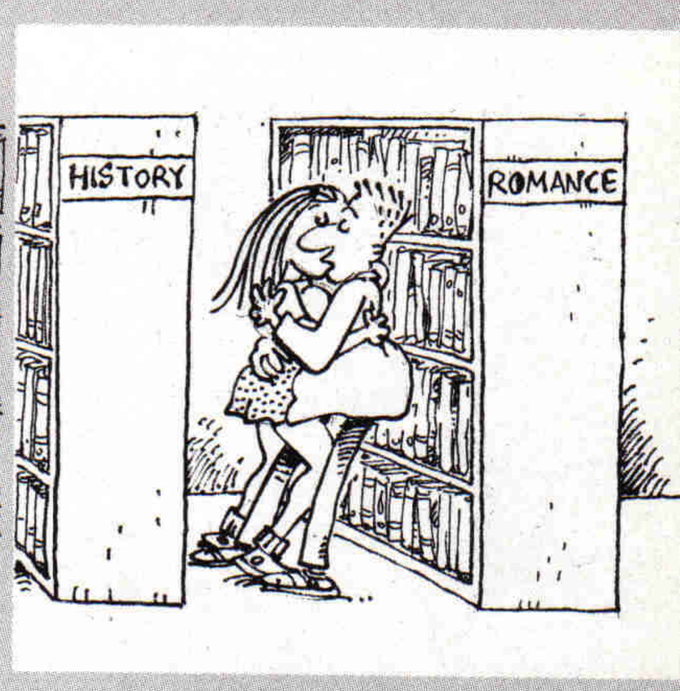



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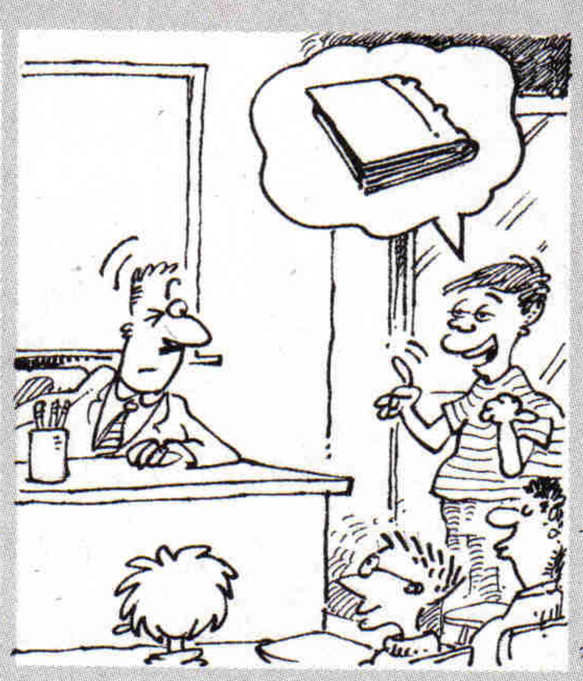

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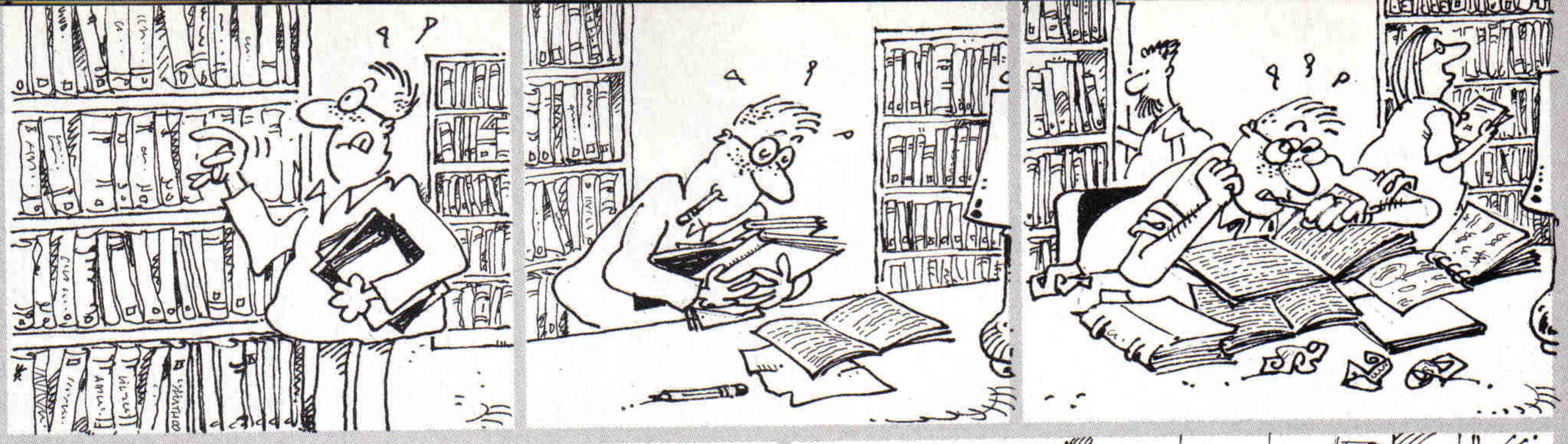

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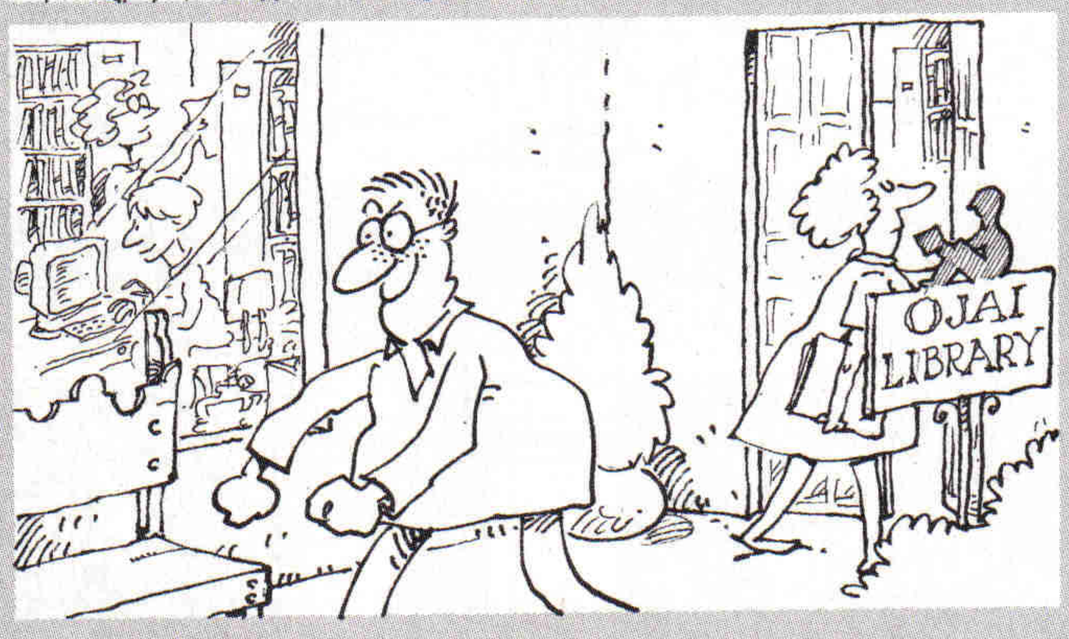



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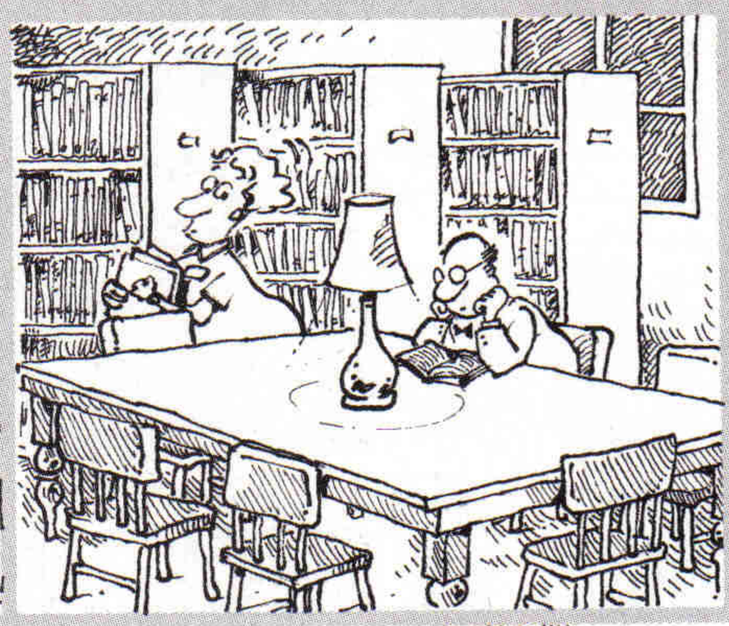

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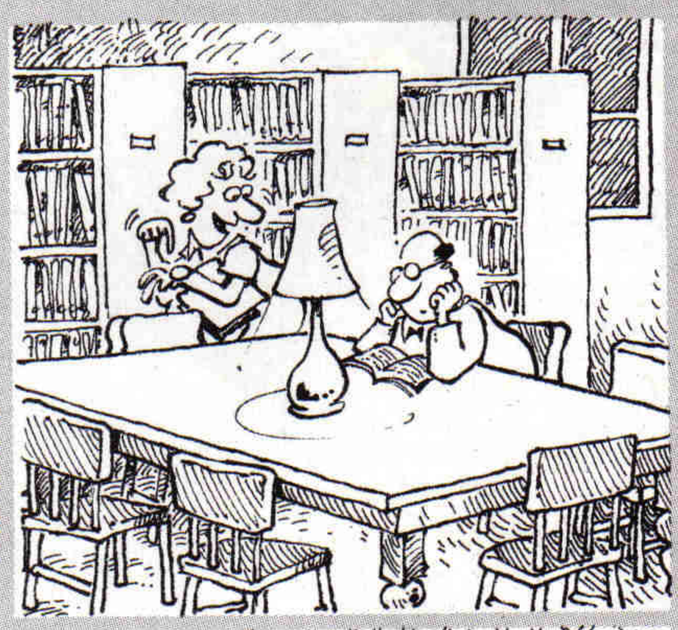

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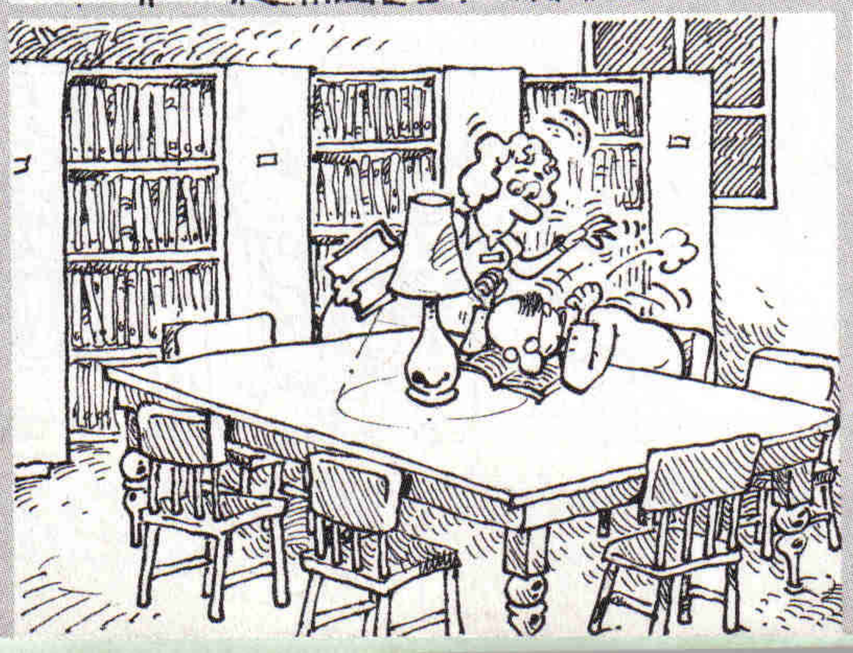

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OMER

It seems no one has time to write a letter anymore. Communication has been reduced to a quick phone message, a brief fax, or a few numbers sent on a pager. A good old-fashioned letter has become a lost art! We at MAD want to put a halt to this disturbing trend because frequently the best way to get what you want is by crafting a manipulative missive. Our lofty goal is to pass on to America's youth the rewards that await them if only they correctly take pen in hand. Thus, therefore, and hence, we present to you . . .

A KID'S

THANK YOU LETTER TO GRANDMA

State the letter's intention right up front.

Make a wizened statement of fiscally sound policy.

Add future goals and plans to show you have direction.

Make small talk so it looks like you're not just writing a thank you letter because your mom made you.

Keep it on a first name basis. (Hint: add a "y" to the end of your name for "cute" effect.)

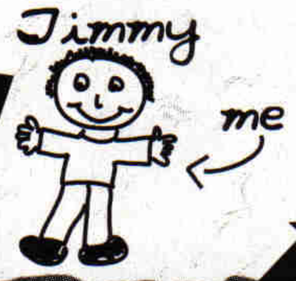
Throw in a little brag to ensure that the money keeps rolling in.

Make extraneous reference to the sweater she gave you for Christmas to ensure more money next time.

Reiterate the first line to fill up more space.

Dear Grandma,
Thank you for the money. I will put it in the bank. I will use it to buy a computer when I'm older. I had a test yesterday. I got an A. (Maybe it was because I wore the red sweater) ☺ Thanks again for the money!

Love, Jimmy





Draw a primitive picture somewhere, anywhere, on the card (preferably of animals smiling or talking).

Note: Copy letter for all other birthday thank yous, adding only minor variations such as "Thank you very much!" "Thanks!" and "Thanx!"

PRODUCT MANUFACTURER LETTER

Let them get to know the real you. Key words to use: church, studying and helping the elderly.

Make them panic. Quick solutions and free skateboards will follow.

Dear Skate-co,
Hello, my name is John Peters. I bought a defective skateboard from your company last week. I was skate-boarding to church on Sunday, as I usually do when I'm not studying for advanced placement classes or doing community service for the elderly, when suddenly the wheels locked and I was sent flying forward. A truck then rolled over my board. Luckily, my spine wasn't splintered in two like my board. My daddy says I should sue you for everything you're worth, but all I really want is a new skateboard.

I hope we can clear up this little "problem" as soon as possible.

John Peters

P.S. Did I mention my dad's a lawyer?

Don't be too specific. For example, don't mention your dad smashed it with the car because you left it in the driveway.

Be graphic about how close you came to catastrophic injury.

Show that you're willing to take care of this "out of court."

WRITER: RYAN PAGELOW

GUIDE TO WRITING LETTERS

SPORTS FAN LETTER

Dear Sammy Sosa,
I love watching you play. You're my favoritest player. I liked you even before you won the MVP award. I like to play baseball too, but I broke my leg and haven't been able to play this seesun. It would mean a lot while I sit here bedridden, if you could sign the enclosed baseball card.

Your bestest fan,
Billy

P.S. I know you're busy so don't bother to sign the card to me, just sign your name.

Purposely misspell a word for comic relief.

Show you're not just an opportunist.

Continually pile on the flattery.

Work on pity.

Include innocent alias.

Don't let him know you intend to trade the autograph for the Ken Griffey Jr. rookie card you really want.



PARENTAL EXCUSE NOTE

Dear Mrs. Wilson,
My daughter will not be in school today. She has the highly contagious bronchiolemingitismon-ophobia. But she should be fine by tomorrow.

Mary Rasten

Be direct, the sign of a no-nonsense busy parent.

But don't make it sound so bad as to alarm the teacher who might call your parents to discuss your illness.

Make it sound medically bad and a health risk to all students.

Important: Do not sign your mom's last name like you sign yours!

Note: Do not type! It's too obvious and blows your cover.

A Kid's Guide to Writing Letters



Letter to Mom and Dad

Give only pertinent information: Don't mention that you haven't practiced piano for two years.

Dear Mom and Dad,
Once again you missed my school concert. I would have liked to express my disappointment in person, but sadly, our communication channels have been reduced to intra-house memos. You know this lack of parental love will probably handicap my interpersonal communication skills later in life and I will end up living at home, alone and depressed.

Today, when my friend told me how his dad bought him the new Playstation game on sale for a limited time, I thought, wow, now there's a happy family.

Your unloved second son,
Alberto (in case you forgot my name already)

Be sly. Manipulation works best when you let them think that buying you the game is their idea.

Fabricate some psychological damage with the threat to live at home for the rest of their lives.

Add one last guilt trip to guarantee the Playstation game.

Use a yellow Post-it note for drama.

Letter to an Expert

Note: Use e-mail so you can cut and paste the response right into your final homework paper.

To... Dr. Donald R. Petterson, PhD.

Subject: Assisting a Fellow Researcher

Dear Dr. Donald R. Petterson,
I am doing a research paper on gorillas. I am familiar with your work and was wondering, as a colleague, if you could shed some light on a few questions I have with my thesis. I've searched everywhere.

1. Where do gorillas live?
2. What do they (the gorillas) eat?
3. In 200 words or more, why are gorillas endangered?

Thank you for your help. If you ever have any questions with your research I would be happy to help.

Sincerely,
William D.L. Smith
Indiana State

Don't mention it's a fifth grade paper.

Give him the impression that you've already done the research.

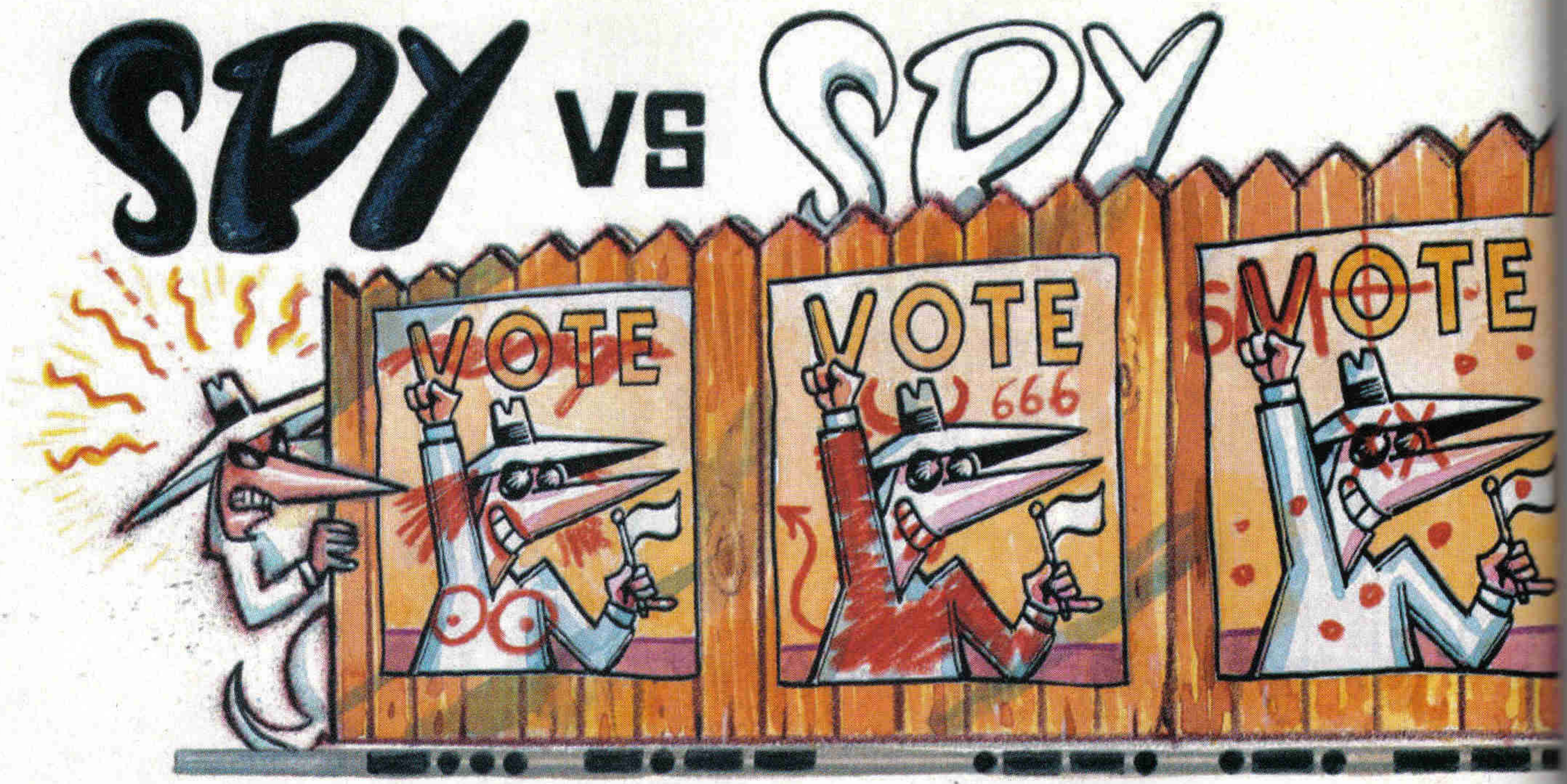
Make him feel recognized and famous.

Illustrate your desire to mutually share information with a fellow academic.

To look more formal, include one middle initial more than the person you're writing to.

Obscure your location to sound like an academic institution.

SPY VS SPY





ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER


VOTE
VOTE
JERK
KUPER
BAT

Ah, the sights, sounds and smells of childbirth. Boil some water and tear up some sheets — the big day has arrived!

MONKEY and...



THE SPECIAL DELIVERY

BUT, MA, GRANDPA IS INTO ME FOR *HALF* HIS *MONTHLY PENSION CHECK* ALREADY.

YOU CAN HUSTLE YOUR GRANDPA LATER. THAT *PUDDLE* YOU'RE *SITTING* IN ISN'T FROM A LEAKY ROOF!

EWWW! GROSS, GRAMPS!

IT WASN'T YOUR GRANDPA, EINSTEIN. *MY WATER BROKE!*

YOU MEAN...

THAT'S *RIGHT*, KIDDO. *IT'S BABY TIME!*

HMM, ANKLE TAPE... TONGUE DEPRESSORS... GAUZE...

NO! HAPPY PILLS! MAMA WANTS *HER HAPPY PILLS*, DAMMIT!

DARVON, VICODIN, HALCION, TYLENOL FRIGGIN' 3, *WHATEVER!*

HERE'S SOME SUPPOSITORIES.

YOU *KNOW* WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THOSE!

OKAY, HOW WE DOING IN HERE?

JUST *PEACHY*, DOC. EVERY CONTRACTION FEELS LIKE A *MULE* IS *KICKING* ME IN THE *CROTCH!*

KICK

FORGET IT! GET THE *CAMCORDER*. YOU'RE MY COACH, *REMEMBER?*

HOW ABOUT THROWING ME *OUT* OF THE GAME, REF?

YOU STILL HAVE A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO GO. CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?

YEAH. A PINT OF *GIN*, A PLUMBER'S SNAKE AND SOMETHING TO BITE DOWN ON!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT. TRY TO RELAX. *I'M* GONNA GO *SCRUB UP*.

DON'T *BOTHER*. NOBODY ELSE EVER DID.

ARTIST: BILL WRAY WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI

DAMN PUNK INTERNS SAW ME AND TRIED TO *STRAP* ME TO A GURNEY! DID I MISS IT?

NO, *GRAMPS.* DOC SAYS SHE'S GOT A COUPLE OF MINUTES. BUT MAN, HER *"DOWNSTAIRS"* IS A DAMN *TRAIN WRECK!*

WELL, WHEN YOU GO BACK IN THERE, CHECK OUT THEM *DRAWERS.* SEE IF'N THEY GOT ANY NEW *CATHETERS.*

WHOA! REMINDS ME OF MY HONEYMOON AT CARLSBAD CAVERN... KIDDING!

YOU'RE A RIC DOC

DAMN, THIS *TV* SUCKS! I'M MISSING *"POPULAR"!*

BEST TO LEAVE THE *BABY MONITOR* ALONE, YOUNG MAN!

AND YOU, *MAMA,* SHOULD NOT BE *SMOKING* IN HERE.

IT'S MY BREATHING EXERCISES.

POUND! POUND!

LET'S SEE HOW WE'RE DOIN'. WELL, WELL, ONE OR *TWO* MORE PUSHES SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT.

HOW ABOUT I *"PUSH" YOU* OUT THE FRIGGIN' *WINDOW?! MONROE,* GET THE *CAMCORDER* OVER HERE! YOU'RE MISSING THE *DAMN MIRACLE* OF BIRTH!

AND BRING ME AN ASHTRAY!

SAY, HE'S A *GOOD* ONE! *FINALLY* A *SON* I CAN BE *PROUD* OF!

NOT TOO SHABBY, HUH?

YOU DID ALL RIGHT, HONEY. I GUESS THE DOC DIDN'T *DROP* THIS ONE.

OR USE THE *FORCEPS* ON HIS SKULL.

YESSIR IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A *SECOND CHANCE.*

OH, HONEY, ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO GIVE US ANOTHER TRY?

WELL, WE OWE IT TO THIS ONE, DON'T WE?

HEY, MOM, THERE'S ALREADY *SOMETHING* ON THIS VIDEO TAPE. EWWW! IT'S *YOU* WITH SOME SKEEVY *BIKER* DUDE!

DON'T ERASE THAT OR I'LL KILL YOU! START RECORDING AFTER THAT. I *WANT* THIS *WHOLE* THING ***ON TAPE!***

THAT'S A *GREAT* IDEA! LATER YOU CAN LOOK BACK ON IT AND *SMILE.*

FORGET SMILING! I WANT IT AS *EVIDENCE.* IF YOU *DROP* THIS ONE ON ITS HEAD, *TOO,* I'M SUING YOUR ASS!

OH, IS *THAT* WHAT HAPPENED TO *HIM?* THAT EXPLAINS A ***LOT.***

HEY, I'M RIGHT HERE, PEOPLE!

HERE IT *COMES!* IT'S... IT'S A BEAUTIFUL **BABY BOY!** *WOW!* HE JUST *POPPED* RIGHT *OUT!*

NO BIG SURPRISE, IF YOU *KNEW* THE MOTHER BETTER.

I CAN'T **BELIEVE** IT! *ANOTHER* MEMBER OF THE *FAMILY!*

YEEAAH, AND ***THIS*** ONE IS *PERFECT!*

HEY, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE *ME!*

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE STARING AT HIS *ASS,* EINSTEIN!

DID I MISS IT? MY CAR BROKE DOWN OVER BY THE DOG TRACK AND, WELL, YOU KNOW HOW THE STORY ENDS.

HI, *DAD.* LOOK, MOM HAD A ***BOY!***

GET OVER HERE, YOU! THIS HOSPITAL BED IS BIGGER THAN IT LOOKS!

SLOW DOWN, YOU TWO. I THINK I'D BETTER STITCH YOU UP *FIRST!*

HEY, DOC, DON'T BE *STINGY* WITH THE THREAD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I *MEAN!*

SWAT!

THE **THREE OF US** ARE GOING TO BE **VERY HAPPY!**

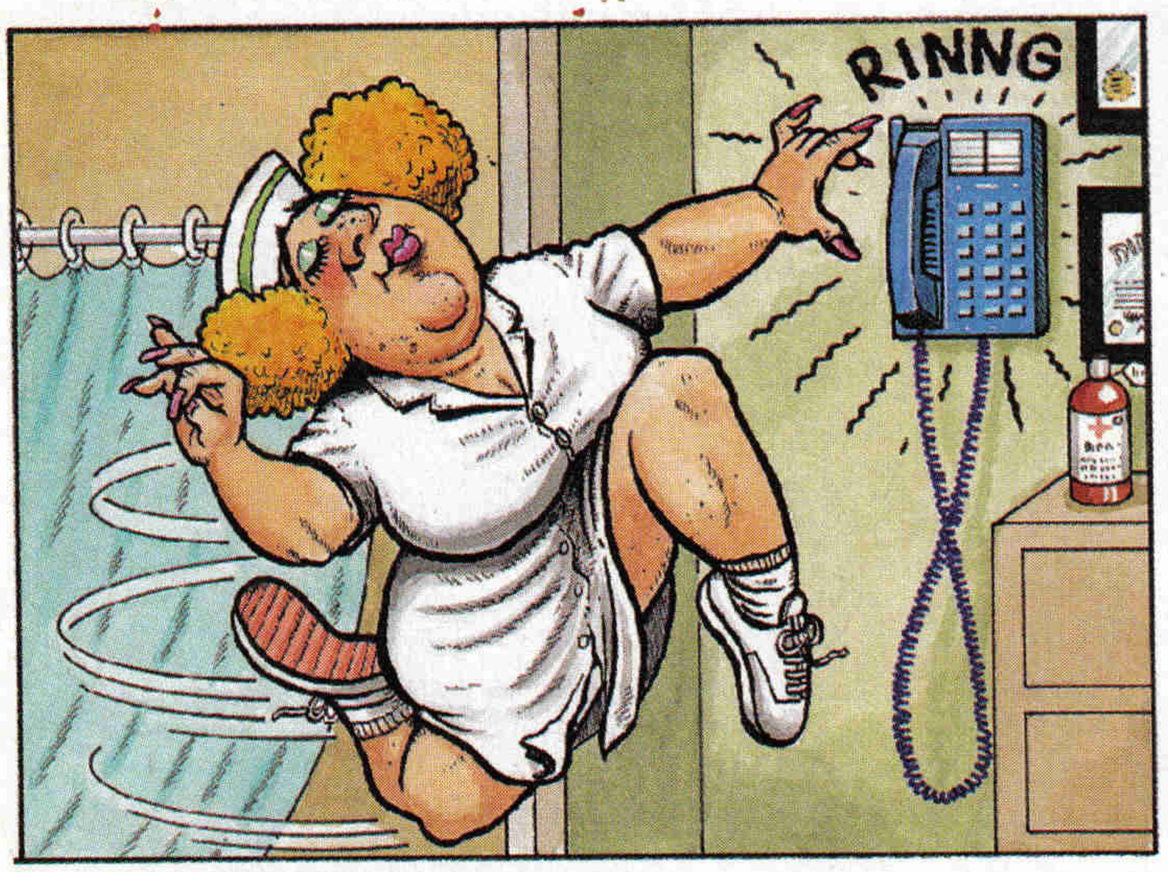
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ***ME?***

YOU? WHY, YOU CAN BUNK WITH YOUR GRAMPA... THE *BABY* WILL NEED ***YOUR ROOM!***

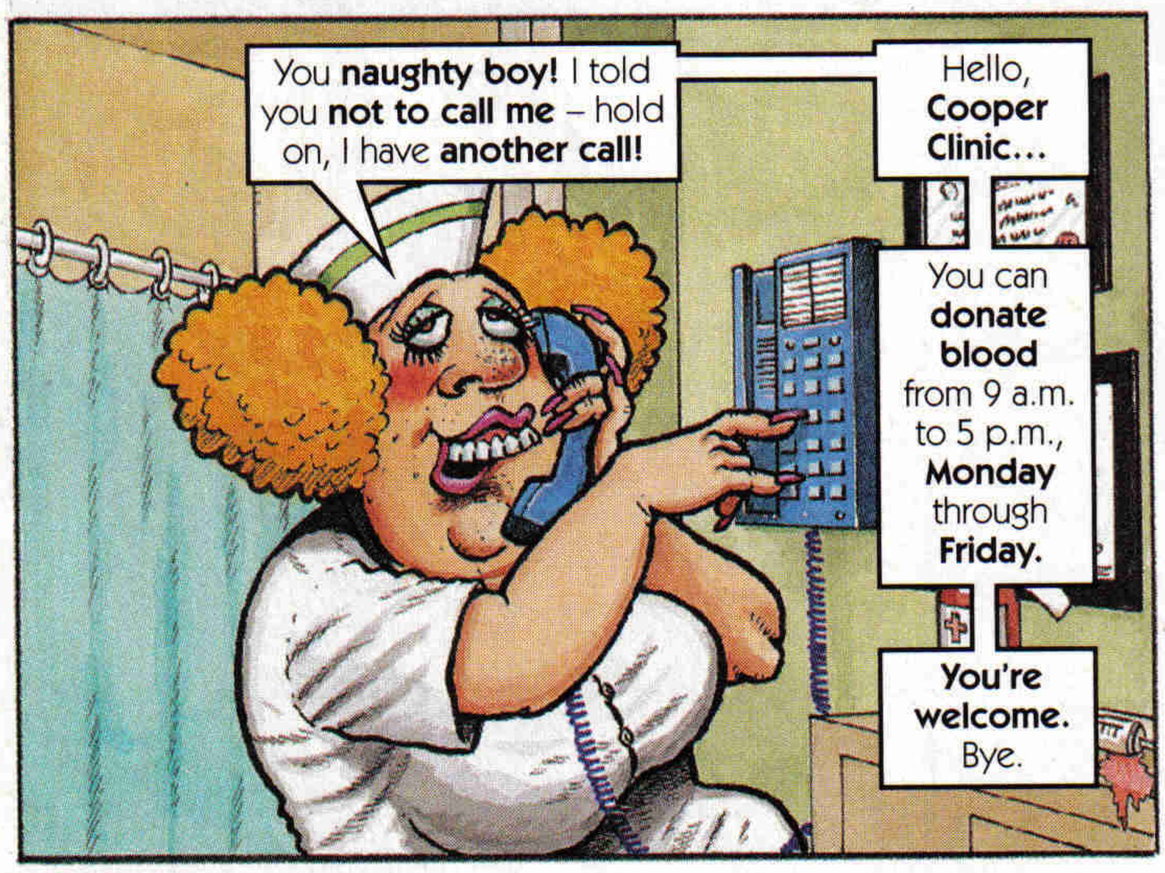
THIS IS REALLY GONNA SUCK.

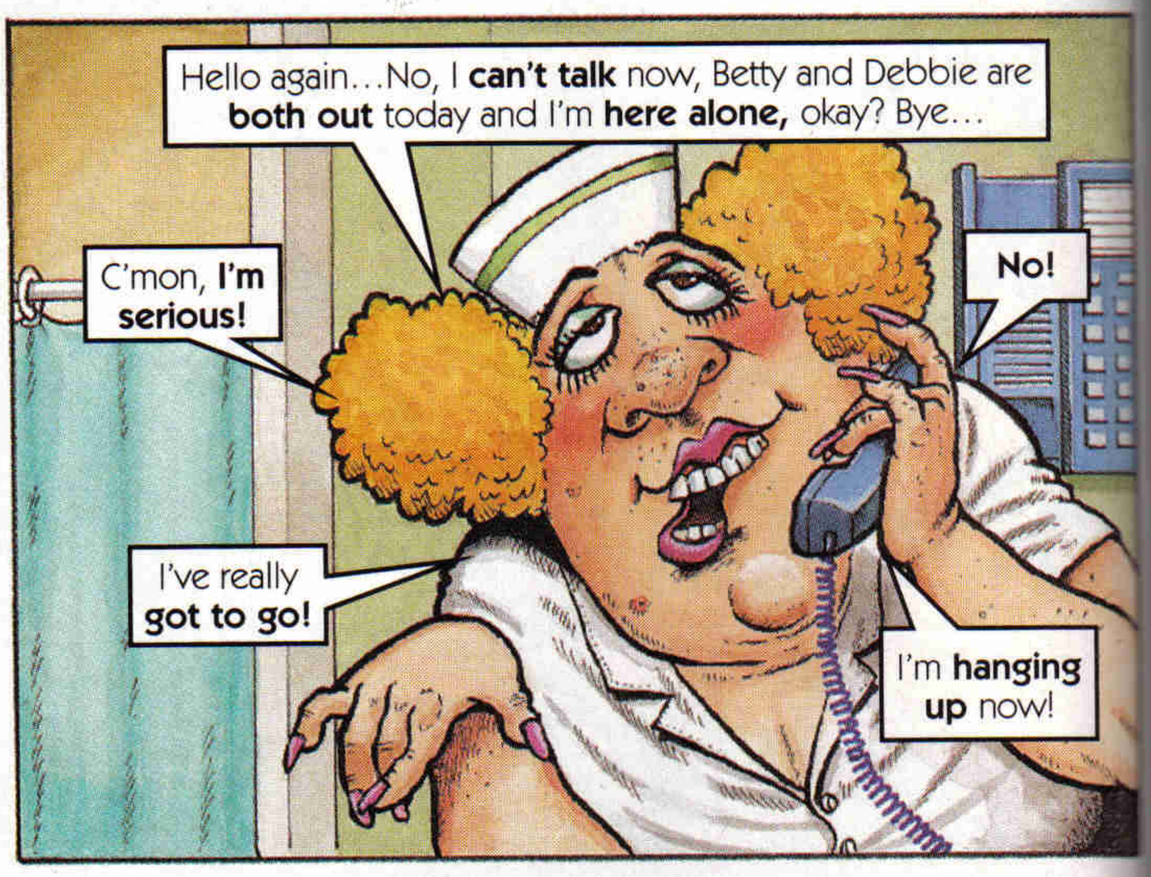
BILL GRAY

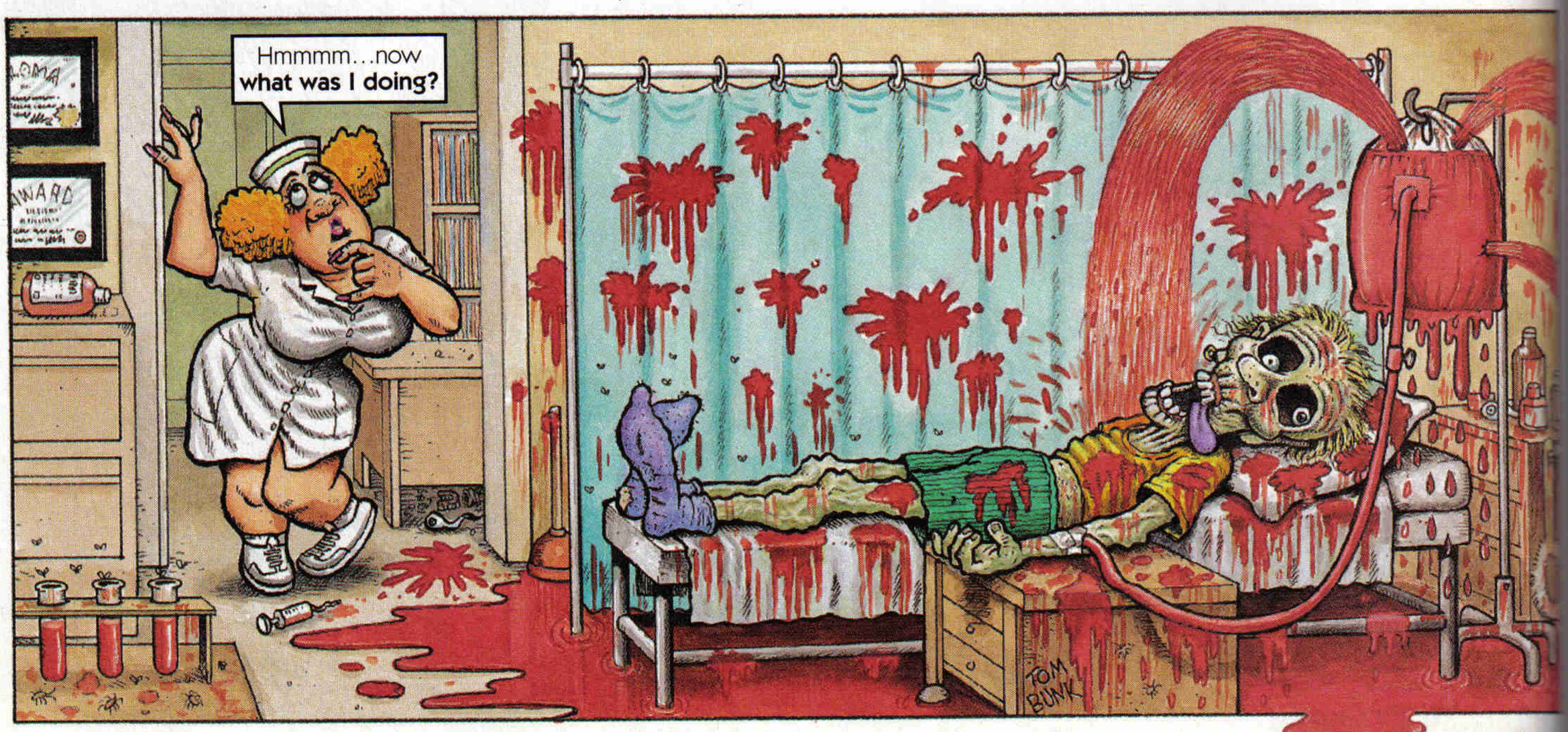
A BLOODY MESS











ARTIST: TOM BUNK WRITER: MICHAEL GALLAGHER

Oh no! Not another movie that teams up Bruce Willis with writer/director M. Night Shyamalan! *The Sixth Sense* was bad enough! But this one is even more slow-paced, even HOKIER with its supernatural themes, even more reliant on clichéd upside-down camera angles and uses even more symbolic colors that symbolize nothing! In fact, this one is just plain...

UNBEARABLE

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES **WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO**

This **twisted metal** is all that's left of an **express train** that left the tracks at high speed today! And THIS **lucky man** seems to be the only person still **alive!** He's actually **very lucky,** because the conductor **didn't collect** his **ticket** before the wreck, so he'll be able to **ride** for **free** on his **next trip!**

Folks, look **right into** the **camera** and tell us **who you are!**

I'm **Deadly Dull,** a security guard with so-so **psychic powers** and an even **worse fashion sense!** I mostly wear **ponchos** that hide my face! For formal affairs, I wear a **black poncho!** For the beach, I wear a **blue poncho,** and when I garden, I wear a **green poncho!** It's not like I don't have an **imagination!** My imagination is as **vast** as...er, as **vast** as...um, something **very, very vast!** And trust me, **THAT's vast!**

I was born **frail!** How frail? At the moment of **birth,** the doctor **slapped** my **butt** and **broke 17 bones!** The **first word** I ever uttered was **"fracture"!** Once, a guy standing next to me **blew his nose** and broke **MY neck!** The last time I **chewed** a piece of **gum,** I broke **my jaw!** I tell you, I'm **frail!**

I **love my dad!** I want to be **exactly like him** when I grow up! Except I **don't** want to be **bald,** I'd like to have a **wife** who **sleeps** in the **same bed** as me, I'd like to have a **decent job** and earn more than a **crappy Security Guard's salary,** I don't want to be such an **introvert,** and I look **dreadful** in a **poncho,** so I'd like to wear **ANYTHING** but one of those! Outside of that, I want to be a **carbon copy** of the **old man!**

I'm **Ordinarily Dull,** Deadly Dull's wife! Right now our **marriage** is kind of **on the rocks!** I'm not sure **exactly** what **went wrong!** We used to **love** the **same things** — attending **funerals,** staring at **blank walls, mumbling** over a glass of wine! But now I suspect he might be **mumbling** with **somebody else!** I've decided to give him **another chance,** because basically he's a **good man!** A **quiet man!** Almost a **dead man!**

Why **are** you **staring** at **me** like that, doc?

You were in a **horrible train wreck! Everyone died except you,** and you **don't have** a **single mark** on **you!**

Really? Look, I **have** a **broken fingernail** on my **right hand** and a **smudge** on my **left calf!** That's **not getting away without** a **mark!** No **wonder** people call doctors **quacks!**

Where **exactly** were you **sitting** on the **train?**

In the **"no smoking, no picking up married women, no death" section!**

You **asked** how many **sick days** you **took** in the **five years** you've **worked** here! The **answer** is **"none"!** You took **no sick days** in **five years!**

That's **great!** Then I **guess** I **should get** a **raise!**

No **sick days,** but **twice** you **took maternity leave, seven times** you took off **time** to **attend** your **grandmother's funeral** and you **always** take off on **Arbor Day! Forget the raise!**

I was the **one** who **put** that **note** on your **windshield!**

There was **something else** on my **windshield along** with the **note!**

Oh **those!** They were a **couple** of **my fingers!** They **broke off** when I **lifted** the **wipers!** I **thought** they had **broken off** in my **glove!**

I **read** in the **paper** that you **escaped** a **major train wreck** without **injury!** But I must **ask, have** you **ever** been **injured?**

I was once **injured** in a **car wreck and** in school I **nearly drowned!** Because of me, they **drained** the **pool** and **never filled it again!** It **eliminated** all **drowning accidents,** but **diving accidents** went up **1,000%!**

If you **almost drowned,** that means **water** is your **Achilles' Heel!** You should **always shower fully dressed!**

Actually, I **always** wear a **poncho** in the **shower!** A **white one!**

I have a **rare genetic disorder! Sticks** and **stones** can **break** my **bones,** but a **gentle breeze** can also **break** my **knees!** I watched people **die** in **fires** and **plane crashes** and then I **saw** a **story** about a **train accident** with a **sole survivor, unharmed!** I began to **wonder** is there **someone** like **me** out there — at the **opposite end** of the **scale...**

You **mean** like **someone sane?**

By the way, your **shop** has quite an **impressive collection!**

Thanks! I have **assembled** the **finest examples** of **comic art** in the **world!**

Do you **have anything** by **Angelo Torres?**

What **part** of **"finest" don't** you **understand?**

I can't **believe** how **high priced** all this **art is!**

Yes, I **charge** top **dollar,** and yet I **undersell** the **Warner Brothers Studio Store** by about **300%!**



This is one of my **toughest assignments! Security** at a **football game!** See that **guy** in the **camouflage jacket?** I **think** he's **carrying** a **gun!**

That's a **safe bet!** This **is** a **football game! Fans** are **very competitive!** I **bet** you **90%** of the **fans** are **carrying guns!**

SECURITY

IS THIS AN XFL GAME?

Hey **you, stop!** I said **stop!**

Why **won't** that **guy stop?**

I don't know! **Every time** a **strange-looking six-foot man** with a **wild, deranged look** and a **purple leather trench coat, a glass cane,** a **limp** and a **misshapen Afro chases me, *I* always slow down!**

You **fell down two flights** of **stairs** and **broke** your **right leg** in **five places** and your **left leg** in **nine places!**

What about my **arms?**

It's **possible** they're **okay!**

Possible? You **don't know** for **sure?**

Well, we **haven't found** your **arms yet!**

EMS

You **broke a lot** of **bones** when you **took** that **horrendous fall!** You'll be in the **hospital** for at **least six months!**

Six months? Doc, I **can't pay** for that! I **don't** have **any medical insurance!**

Like **I said,** you'll be **here** for **half an hour — just enough time** to **chat** with a **physical therapist,** who just **happens** to be the **wife** of that **Dull guy you've** been **driving nuts!**

I'd say the **chances** of that **coincidence happening** are **one in a million!**

In a **movie** this **contrived,** the **chances** are **one in one!**

Since you **asked,** my **husband** would have **played pro football** if we **hadn't** been **involved** in a terrible **car accident!** He was offered **millions** of **dollars** to play, but I **wouldn't** have **married him** if he went **pro!** So we **both** consider the **car wreck** a **huge blessing!**

A **blessing?** I can **see** how a man **giving up** a **million** or more **bucks** to do **something** he **loved** would **consider** a **car wreck** that took **it all away a blessing! Just** the way **Gore** thought **Florida** was a **blessing!**

H— Ho— How **many pounds** *gasp*, are **on** the **bar now?**

250 pounds! The **cans** of **paint add** 40 pounds **plus** the **two stale Dunkin' Donuts** add **another 30 pounds!**

We **need** more **dead weight!**

I'll **add** a **copy** of the **script** for this **film!**

My God, **Joketh, what** are you **doing** with that **gun!**

I want to **prove** dad's a **true super-hero!** I want to **see** if he **survives** if I **shoot him!**

Are you **crazy?** That's a **water pistol!** You **know** about **him** and **water!** It will **kill him** in a **second!** If you **wanna** use a **gun, play** it **safe!** His **.38 service revolver's** in the **closet!**

I **can't leave** you **alone!** There are **too many dissimilarities** in our **lives!** Don't you see **all** the **non-connections? Your bones** don't **break, mine do! You** don't get **sick, I do! You** don't get **HBO, I do! You** don't put your **socks** on with **Krazy Glue, I do! You** don't **have** these **excruciatingly long, boring speeches, I do!** We are **connected** by our **unconnectedness!**

Hmmm...I **see** your **point! You** have **real acting skills! I don't!** We're on the **same curve,** just at **opposite ends!** Or to **put** it **another way,** we're at **opposite ends** of the **same curve!** You're **not** as **stupid** as I **thought!**

I've **decided** to start **using** my **mind** and my **strength** to **help others** in **distress! Mostly** in **flashbacks** where I **don't have** to get **too involved!**

And have those **sad feelings** you said you **had** in the **morning gone away?**

They have!

Then I **gave** you **good advice!**

Actually, my **wife** gave me the **good advice!** She said having a **fifth** of **scotch** every **night** would **catch up** with me the **next morning! I stopped,** and the **sad feelings vanished!**

It **wasn't** the **Scotch,** you **idiot!** It **was** the **water** you took as a **chaser! Remember? Water** is your **Achilles' Heel! Drink all** the **Scotch** you **want,** but **no water!**

YOU BREAK ME.. YOU BUY ME!!

MAX KORN

What are **all** these **diplomas** on your **wall?** A **Degree** in **Fire Arts!** A **Masters** in **Sabotage!** A **Doctorate** in **Train Wrecks? YOU** caused that **train wreck!**

Yes, and thanks to **you,** I've **found** my **real self!** When I **set** an **office building** on **fire,** I **said** to myself, "is that an **all right thing to do?**" When I **planted** a **bomb** aboard a **plane,** I **wondered,** "am I **being** a **bad sport?**" But when I **caused** that **train wreck** and **met you,** I **realized** that I'm "no more **Mr. Nice Guy!**" Can you **forgive me?**

Never! I'm **turning** you **in,** and you're **going** to **jail!**

Oh **really? Says who?**

Says me! "**Security Man**"! The **caped crusader** who **fights evil** and **arch villains,** no matter **where** they **hide! Today,** a **crime fighter! Tomorrow,** a **comic book hero!**

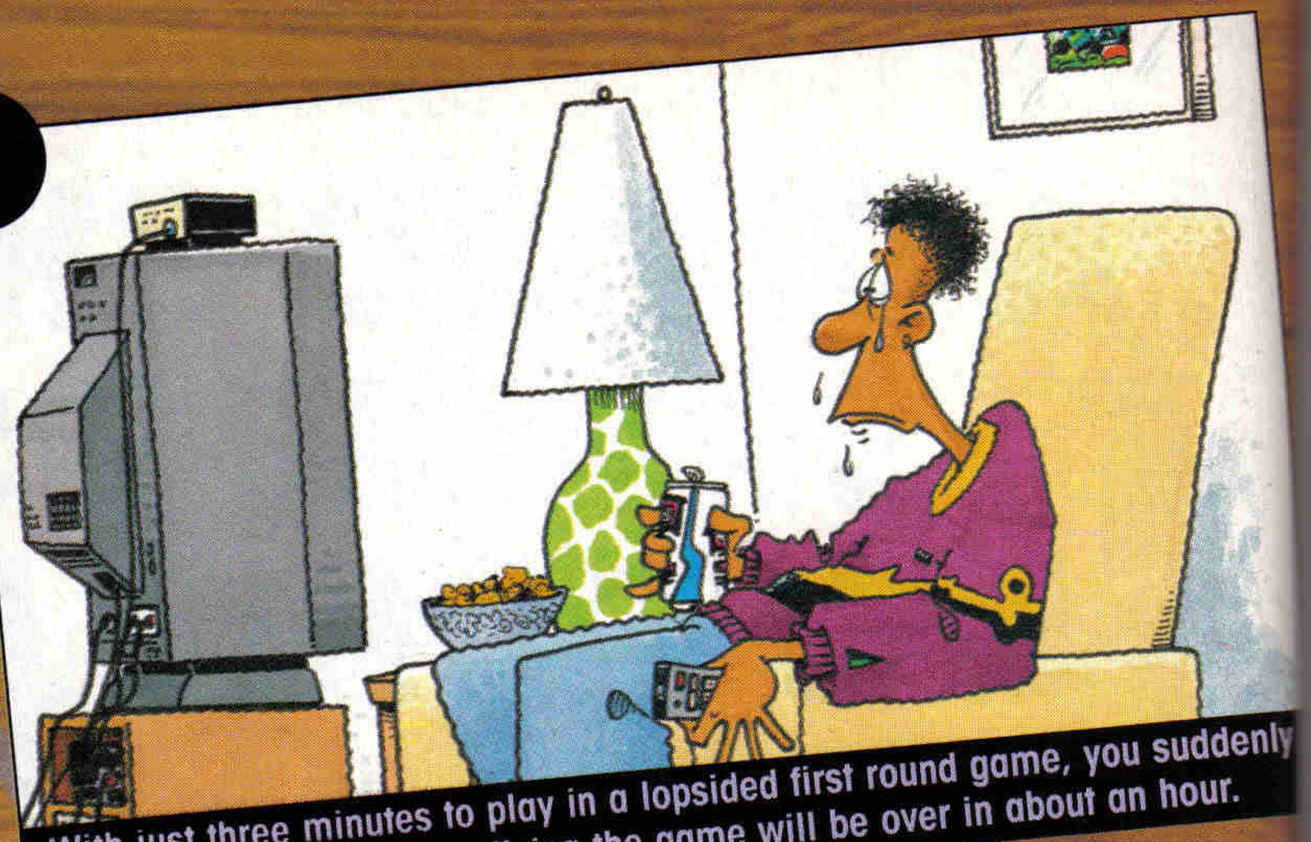
Please! I may **split** my **sides laughing!** Oh my God, I **DID split** my **sides laughing! Ahhhhh!**

10 SURE SIGNS YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM MARCH MADNESS

**It starts with 64...
then there's 32...
then 16...
then 8...**

until it's finally down to just four survivors! Some new cheesy, *Big Brother* rip-off CBS reality show? Perhaps! But we're talking about America's inexplicable obsession with the college basketball tournament! How about you? Are you addicted to hardwood? Maybe you recognize all of the...

1



With just three minutes to play in a lopsided first round game, you suddenly become teary-eyed realizing the game will be over in about an hour.

4



You're sporting an official NCAA team licensed straitjacket.

7



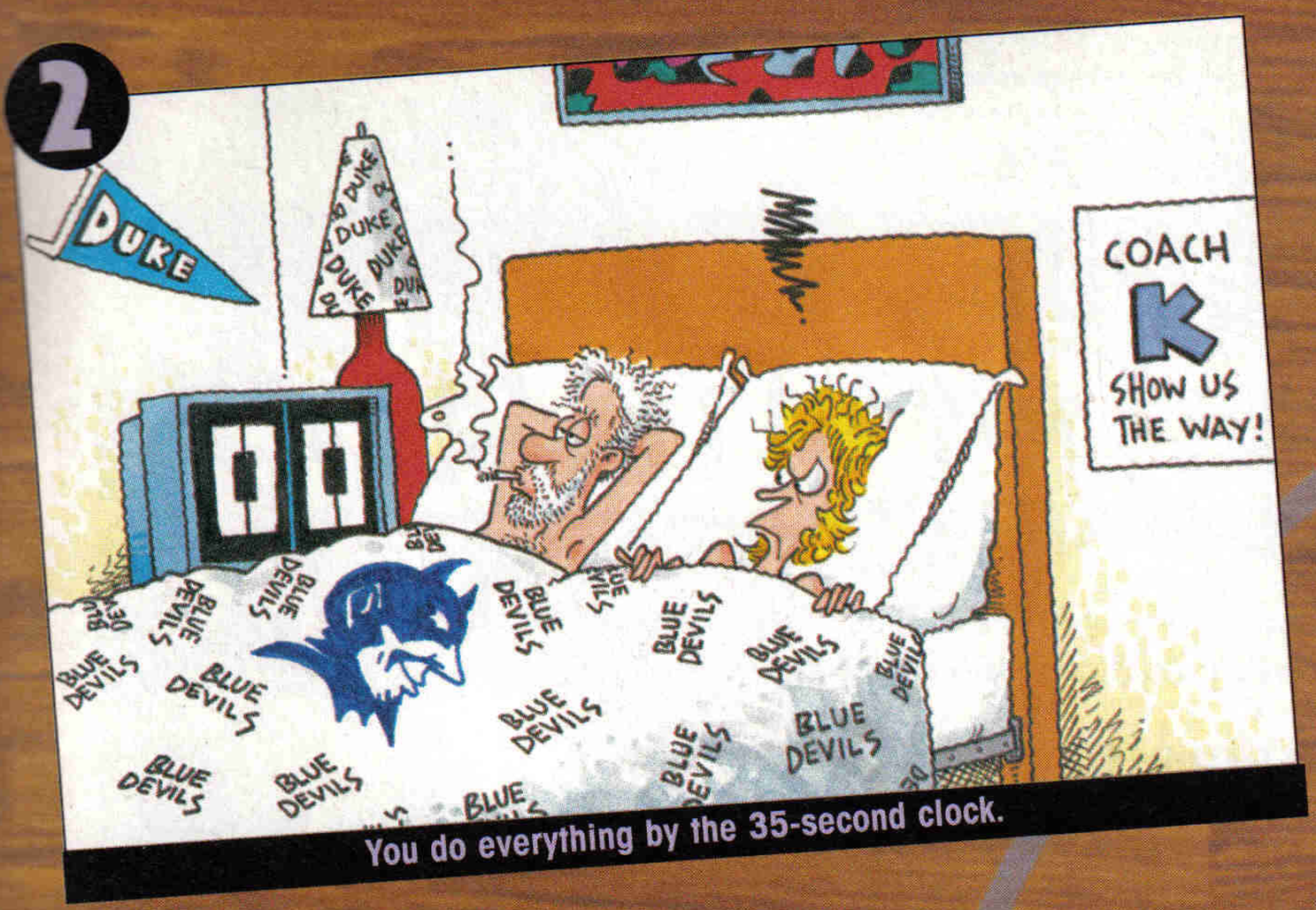
You're the only guy in the office who insists on wearing snap-away pants.

8



You make an effort to high five a mugger just because he's wearing a Fresno State sweatshirt.

2



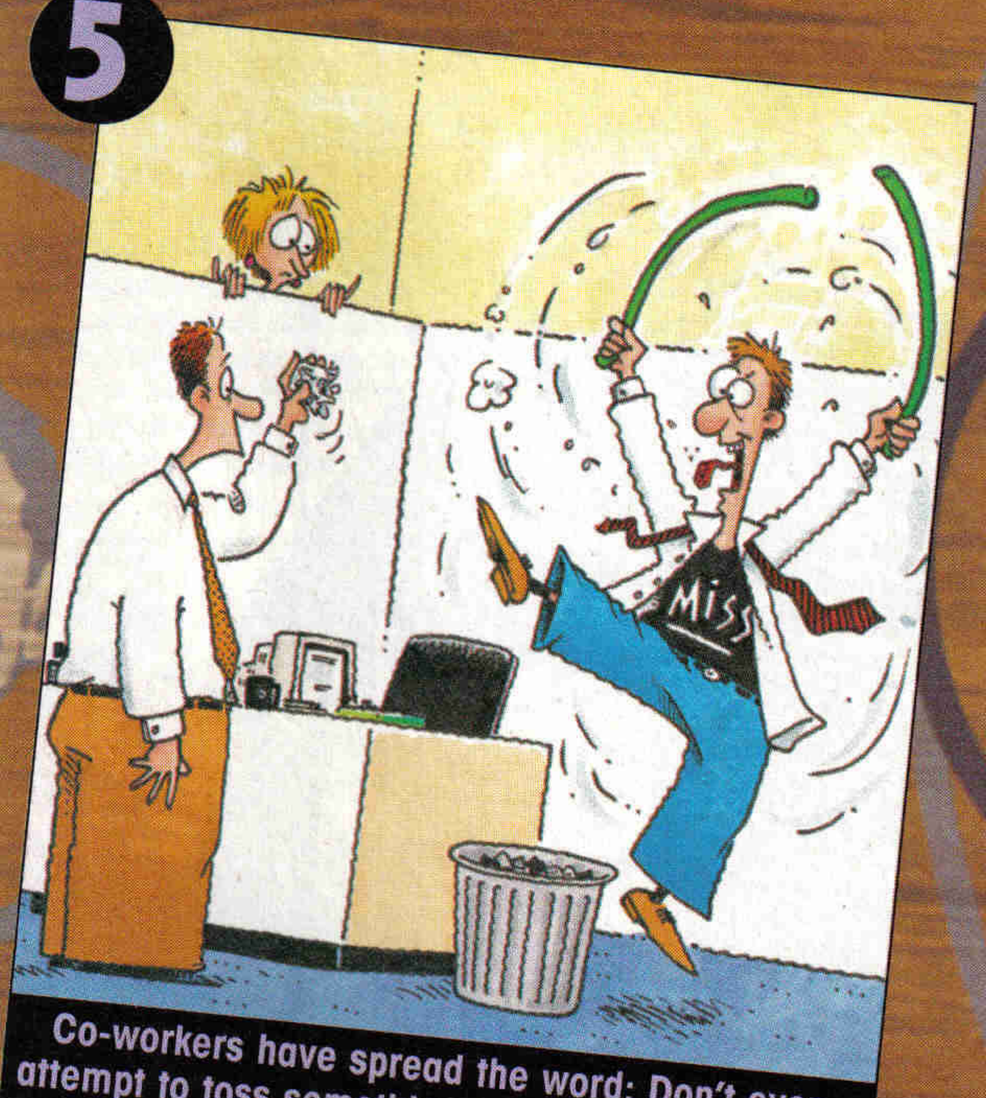
You do everything by the 35-second clock.

3



You can't fall asleep without your hour-long tape of relaxing sneaker squeaks.

5



Co-workers have spread the word: Don't even attempt to toss something into your wastebasket.

6



You develop 64 distinct multiple personalities just so you're a lock to win the office pool.

9



The only household chore you're willing to perform without balking is mopping up floor sweat.

10



Your allegiance to one team is having an adverse effect on your work.

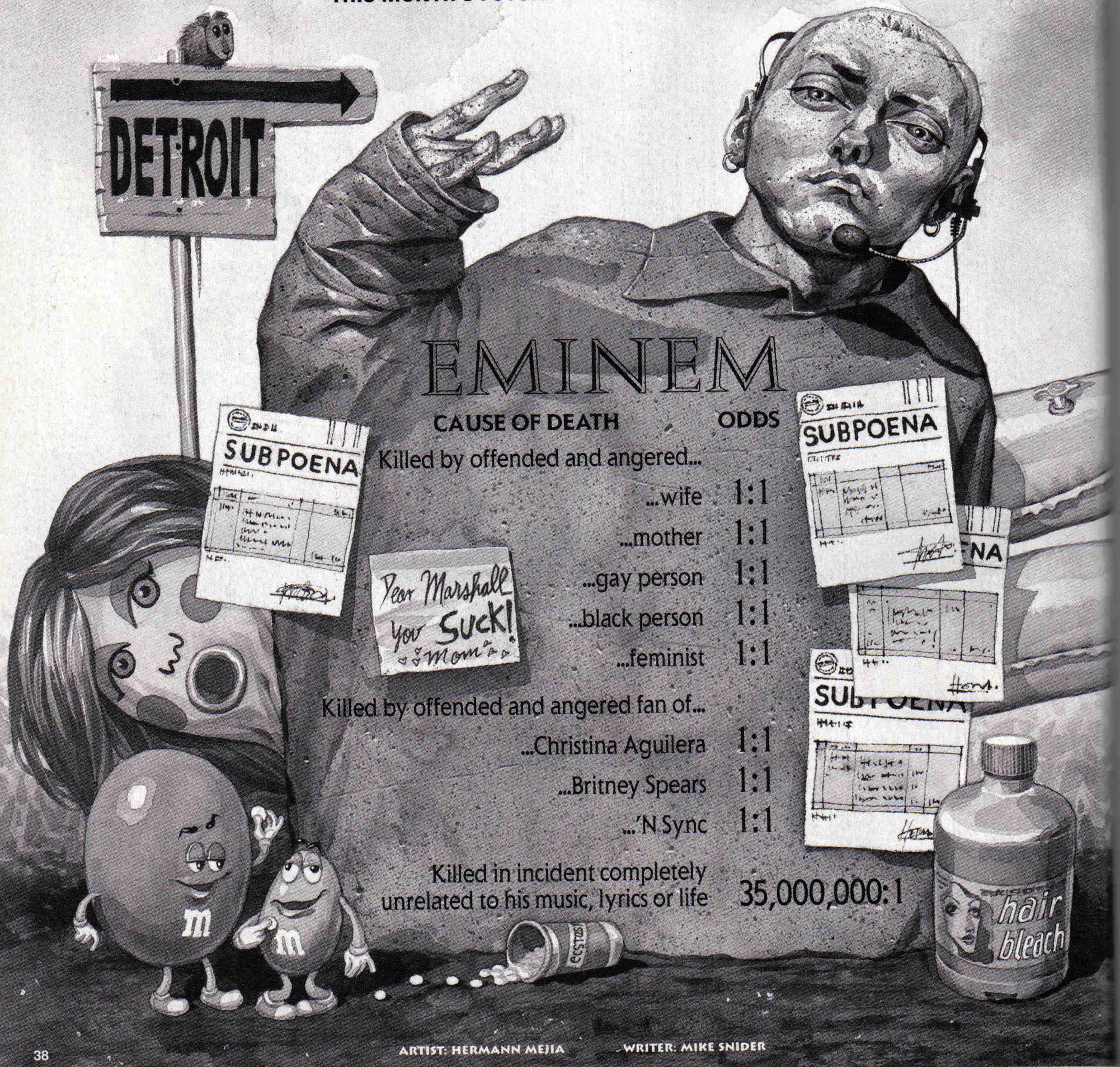
ARTIST AND WRITER: JOHN CALDWELL

GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will join Tupac and Biggie in the 'Hood-after!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE REAL DEAD SLIM SHADY:



EMINEM

CAUSE OF DEATH	ODDS
Killed by offended and angered...	
...wife	1:1
...mother	1:1
...gay person	1:1
...black person	1:1
...feminist	1:1
Killed by offended and angered fan of...	
...Christina Aguilera	1:1
...Britney Spears	1:1
...'N Sync	1:1
Killed in incident completely unrelated to his music, lyrics or life	35,000,000:1

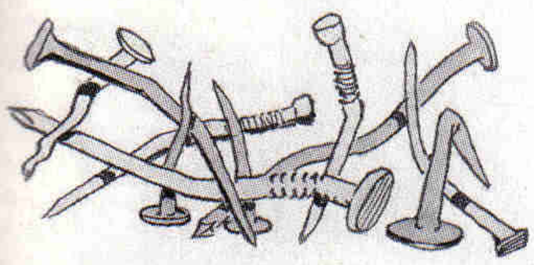
ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA WRITER: MIKE SNIDER

THE HOME DESPOT ®

Our Guarantee

If You Find a Lower Price Anywhere Else, So What?

$9
Box of 100



Pre-Bent Nails

Why pay extra for straight nails when you've botched every hammer job you've tried since 1987? Bent at a variety of angles for your convenience, these light-weight, aluminum nails are ideal for gluing onto cardboard and paper. (Not recommended for use with wood.)

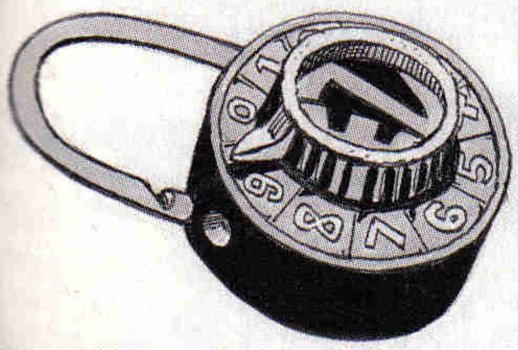
$9



Murderous-Gro Fertilizer

Perfect for making homemade bombs and other explosive devices. The choice of terrorists around the globe!
Not recommended for tomato plants.

$12



The Ultimate EZ-Lock™

You'll never forget your combination again with the new Ultimate EZ-Lock™ from Crapperco! With the advanced one-turn-in-any-direction-to-any-number method, opening your lock is now a snap, both for you and everyone else. (Please Note: Manufacturer not responsible for stolen property.)

$103,000

Deluxe Storage Shed

Store your tools and more in this super-sized backyard shed. Comes complete with adjustable shelving, handyman's workbench, Jacuzzi, banquet hall, ballroom and optional walk-in wine cellar. (Some assembly required.)

$59

Rickety-Rak 3-Person Swing

Spend an afternoon putting it together, then weeks wondering if this is the night those chains snap

ARTIST: GEORGE WOODBRIDGE WRITERS: JEFF KRUSE AND RUSS COOPER

Supplies For the Stubborn Handyman of the House Who Just Refuses to Acknowledge He Doesn't Know What He's Doing!

THE HOME DEPOT®

$4

Work Area Signs

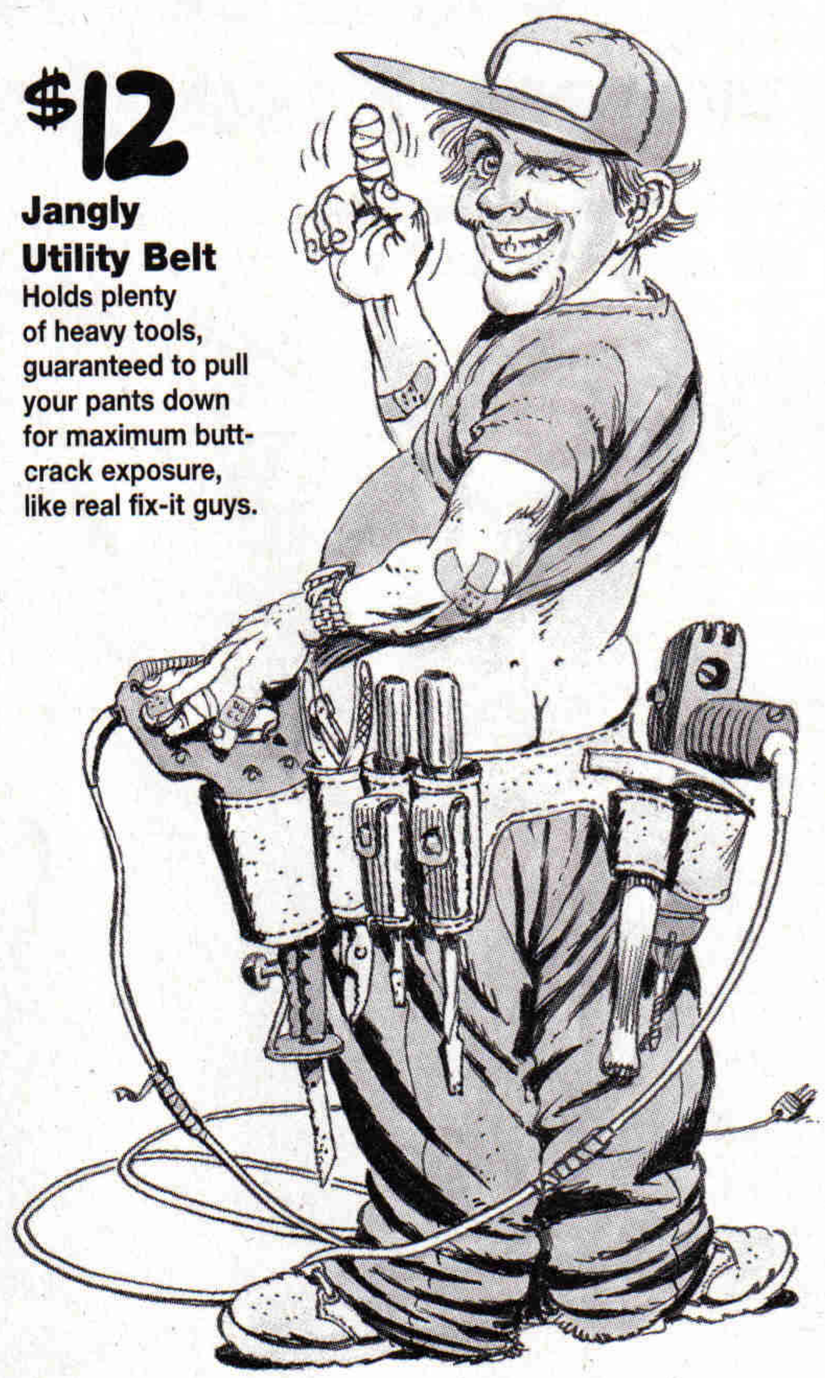
DANGER! STOPPING TO READ THIS SIGN INCREASES THE CHANCE OF A STEEL BEAM FALLING ON YOU BY 87%

WARNING! WOMEN PASSING HERE MAY BE SUBJECT TO OBSCENE GESTURES, VULGAR LIP SMACKING AND RUDE COMMENTS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THEIR BUTTOCKS

THINK! ABOUT HOW WEIRD IT IS THAT "FLAMMABLE" MEANS THE SAME THING AS "INFLAMMABLE"

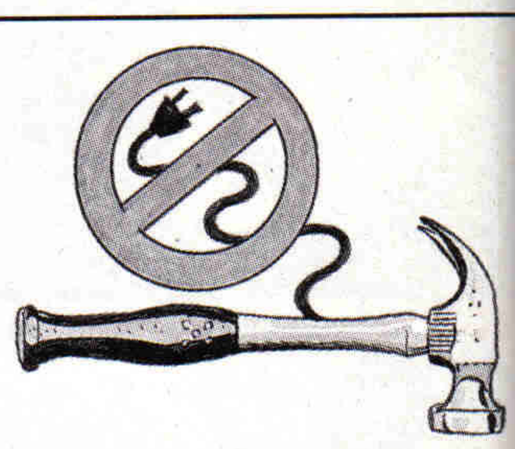
$12

Jangly Utility Belt
Holds plenty of heavy tools, guaranteed to pull your pants down for maximum butt-crack exposure, like real fix-it guys.



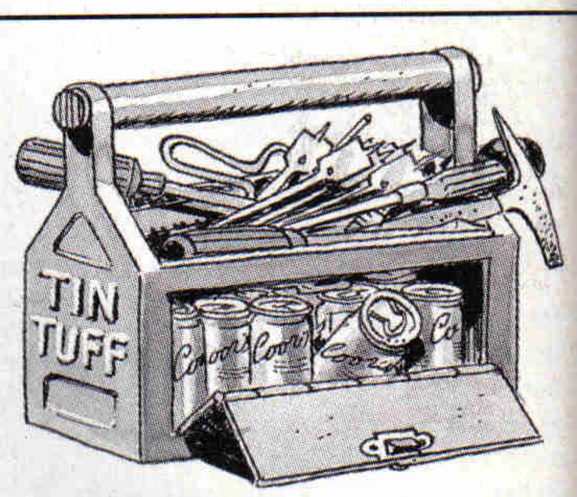
$17

Cordless Hammer
How many times have you wished you could hammer a nail without having that annoying cord get in the way? Well, here's your answer! From the makers of the cordless extension cord.



$9

Tin-Tuff Fake Toolbox
Realistic-looking "toolbox" is actually a cooler. You can appear to be hard at work when, in fact, you are drinking the day away! Holds approx. 24 cans.



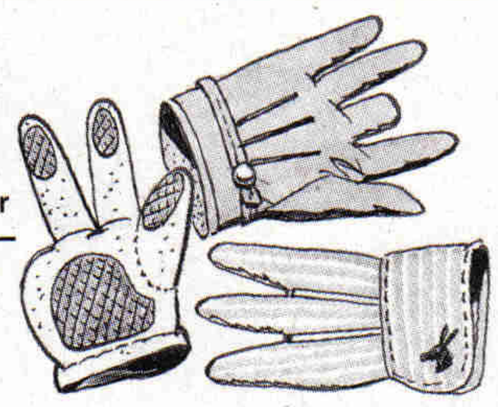
$144

Pocket Lawnmower
Now you can trim your lawn blade-by-blade with Swiss Army precision-cutting just like the professionals! Starts without the strenuous yanking required in conventional mowers. No gasoline required.



$6/PAIR

Work Gloves
You name the number of remaining fingers — we have the glove for you! Available in Medium, Large and Stumpy.



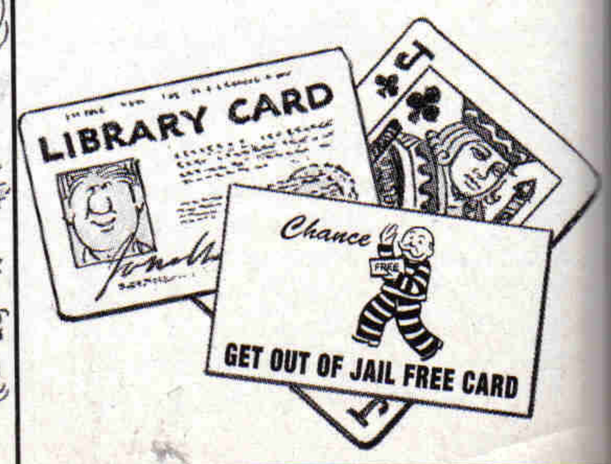
$47

Annoy-A-Lot Leaf Blower
Notice it's called a "leaf blower" and not a "leaf remover" or a "leaf picker-upper." Three-speed option allows you to spray leaves, dirt and branches in 132 different directions. 486 decibel level guarantees you'll disturb everyone within a 30-mile radius. (Protective ear-wear sold separately.)





WE ACCEPT

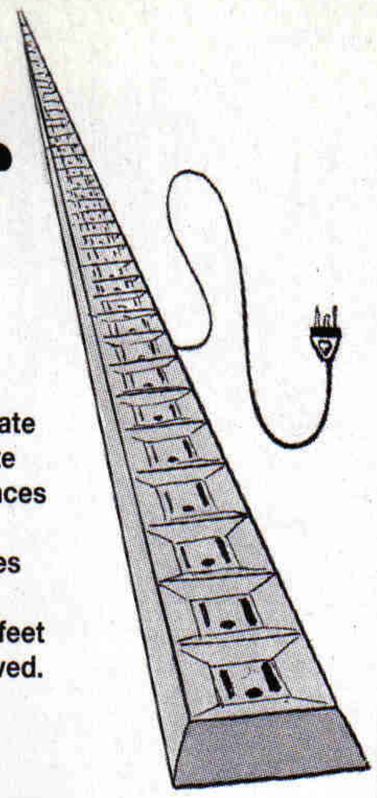


$24

415-Outlet Strip

Maximize your electrical output! Now you can conveniently operate 415 of your favorite household appliances at a time, or one device that requires 45,650 volts. Approximately 17 feet long. UL Unapproved.

UL UNAPPROVED



$3/BOX

Bonsai Tree Lumber

Finally, an alternative to those cumbersome and hard-to-store Popsicle sticks! Choose from 1", 2" or 2.5" beams. An excellent choice for building matchboxes and all your miniscule construction needs.



$5

Half-Filled Paint Cans

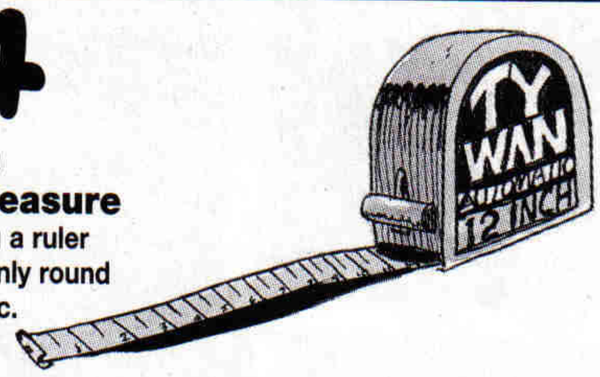
Just like the ones sitting in your garage this very minute, only for half the price! (Encrusted Paint Brushes $1.95 ea.)



$14

12-Inch Tape Measure

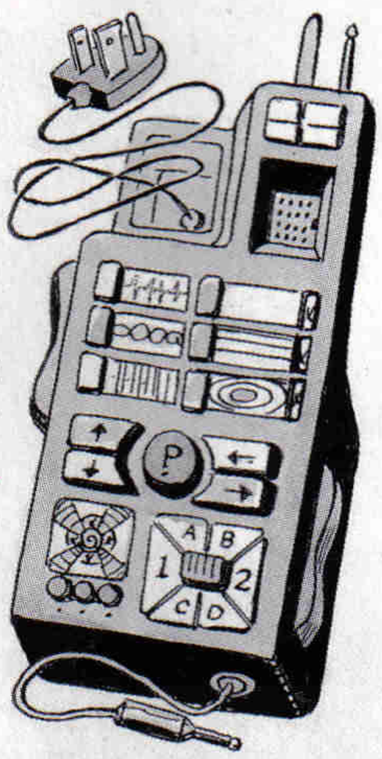
Like having a ruler with you, only round and metallic.



$24

Downspout Stabilizing Gauge

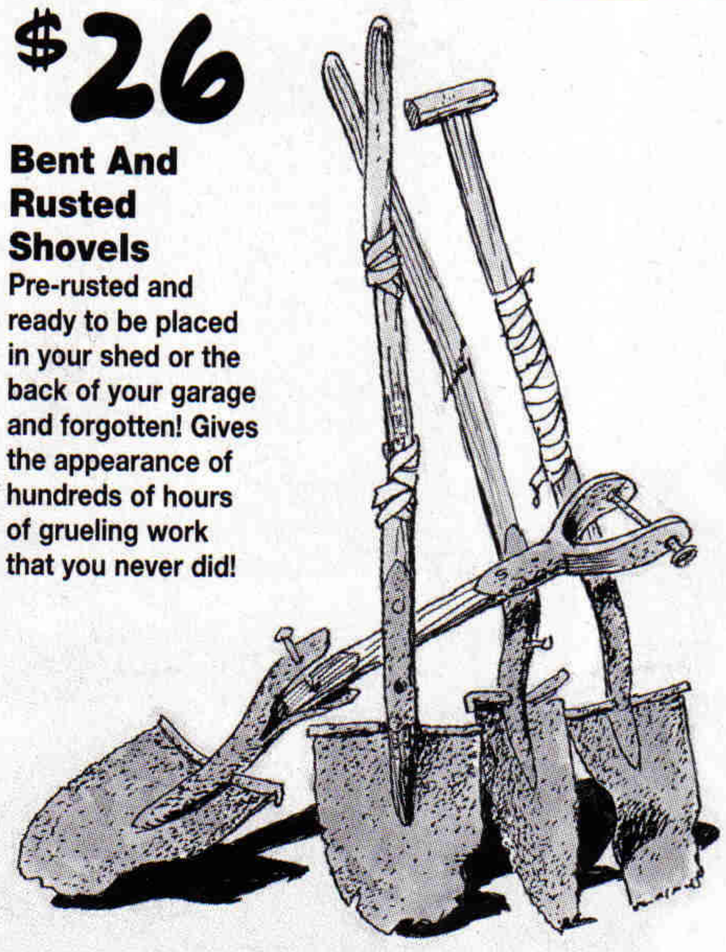
Dual quad, forged bow with variable speed swivel diverter. Galvanized nupple valve allows for easy electro-flo and tuval lock readings. High tension flenches prevent spillage. Actual use unknown, though it sure sounds impressive. From the makers of Rumbaflex!



$26

Bent And Rusted Shovels

Pre-rusted and ready to be placed in your shed or the back of your garage and forgotten! Gives the appearance of hundreds of hours of grueling work that you never did!



$19

Snag-A-Hose

80 ft. of tangled-up frustration and fun for the whole family! Takes at least four hours and three people to straighten out or your money back! Automatically re-tangles after each use.



OUR UNCONDITIONAL RETURN POLICY

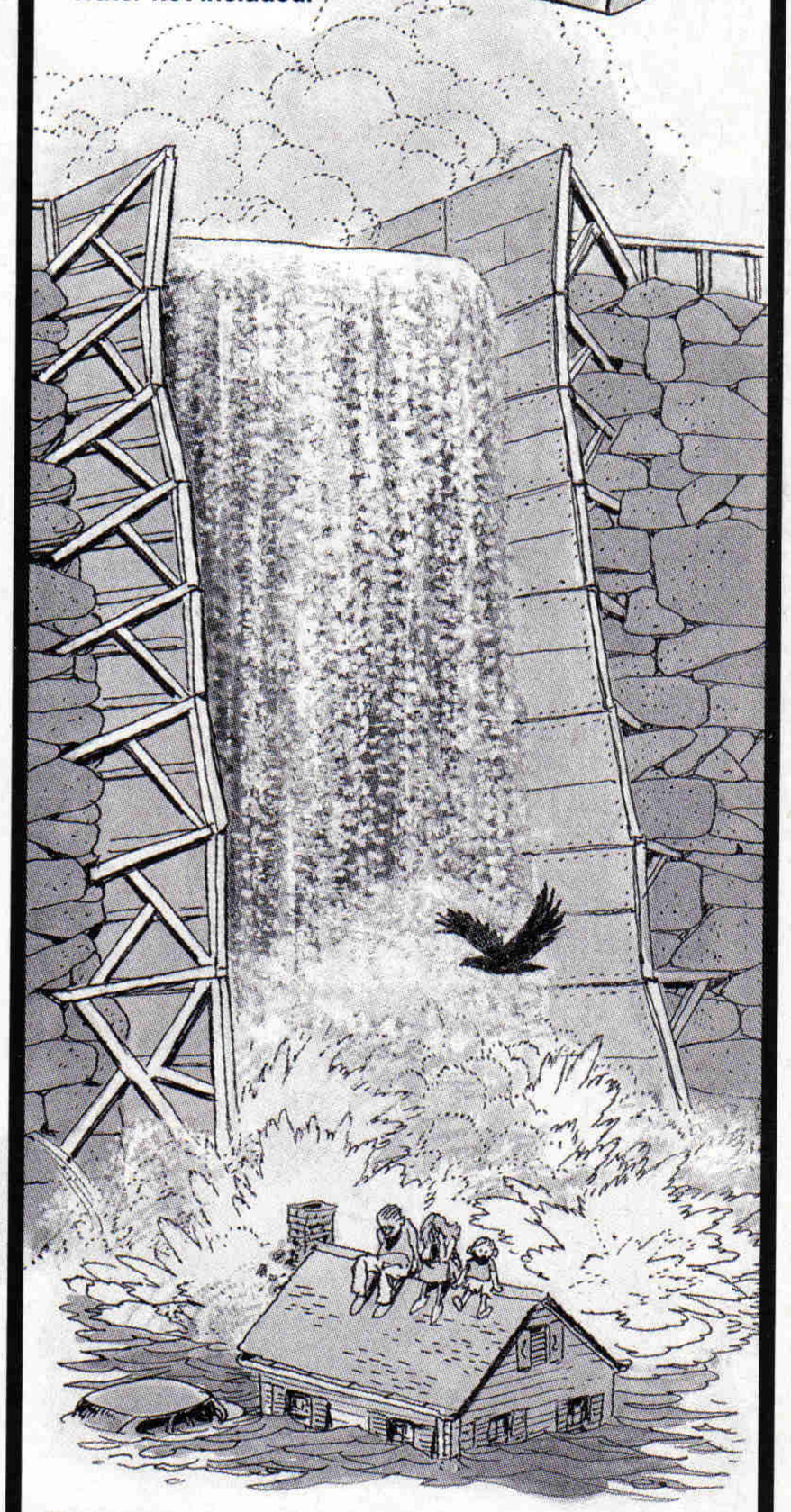
Return Any Item To Us In Perfect Condition And We Will Get All Of Our Money Back From The Manufacturer!

Guaranteed!

Life-Size Waterfall Kit

Forget about those wimpy front lawn jobs. This E-Z to assemble 147-square acre cascade will provide you and your family with a breathtaking conversation piece. Water not included.





$20,500,000

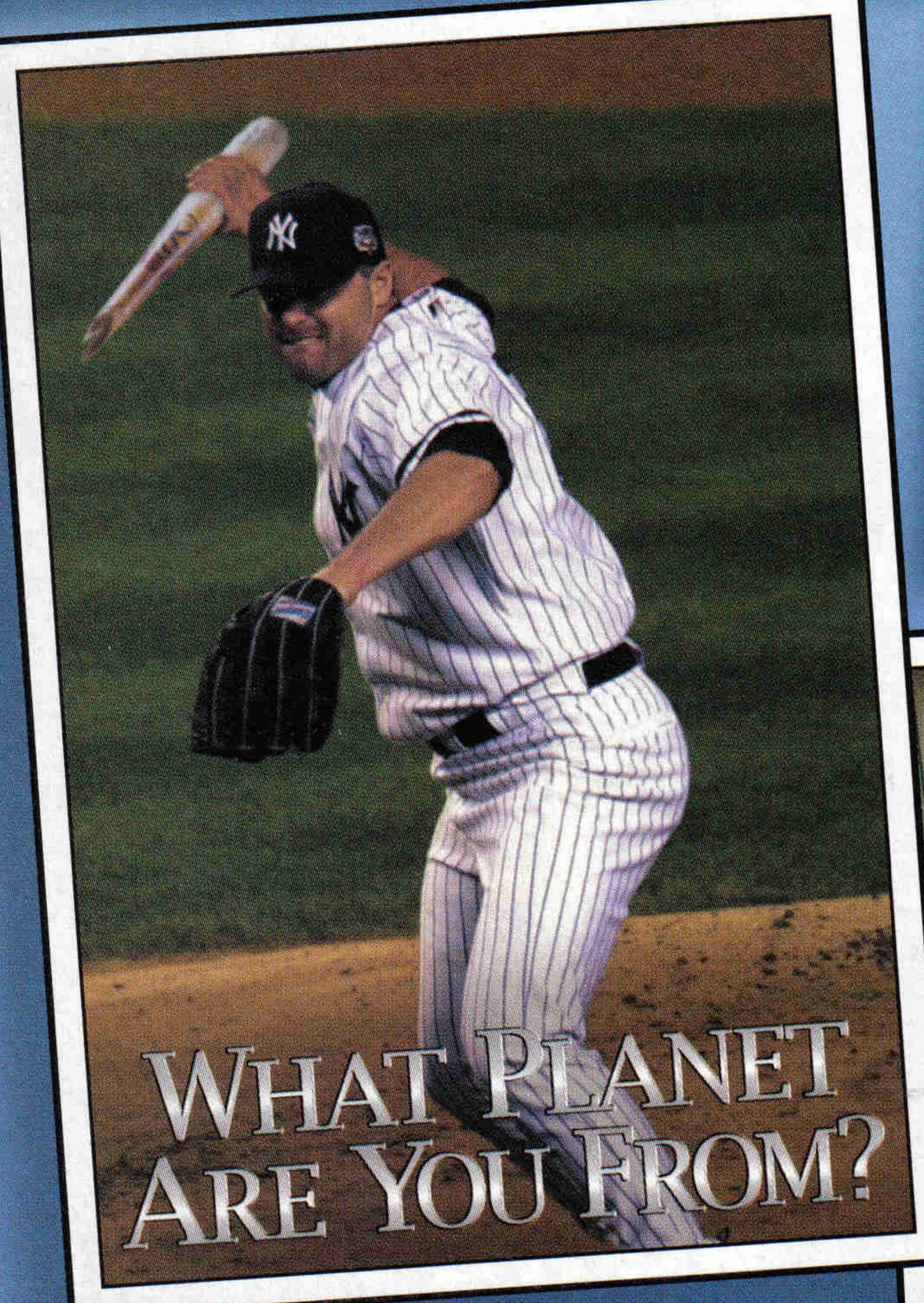
TITLE WAVE DEPT.

2000:

Hollywood released over 600 movies last year, several of them without Ben Stiller! No sane person could possibly see them all. Luckily, lots of things happened in real life (remember that?) during the past twelve months that reminded us of the titles of some of the movies we skipped. Why that's lucky, we don't know, but you might figure it out as you review...





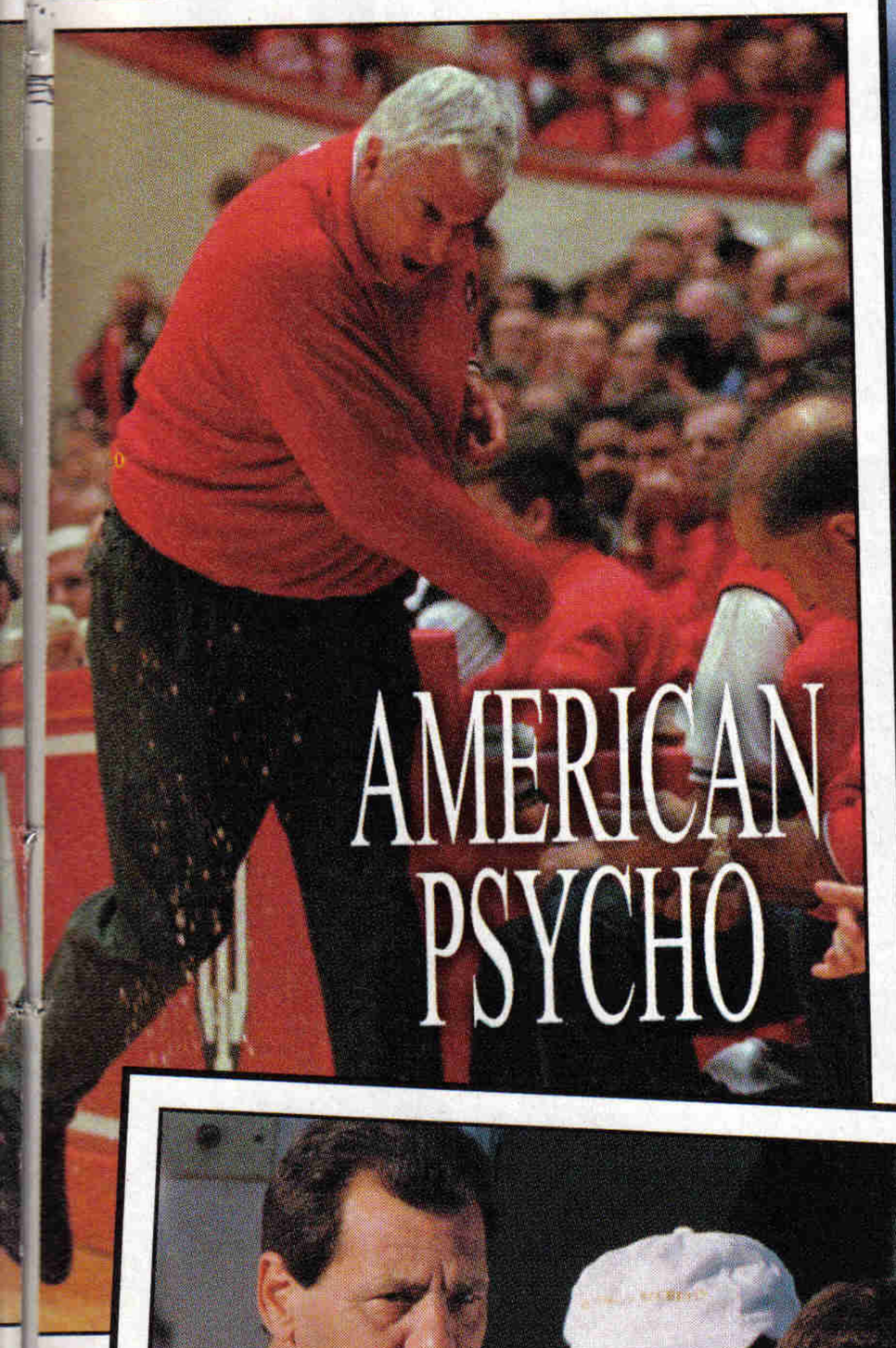


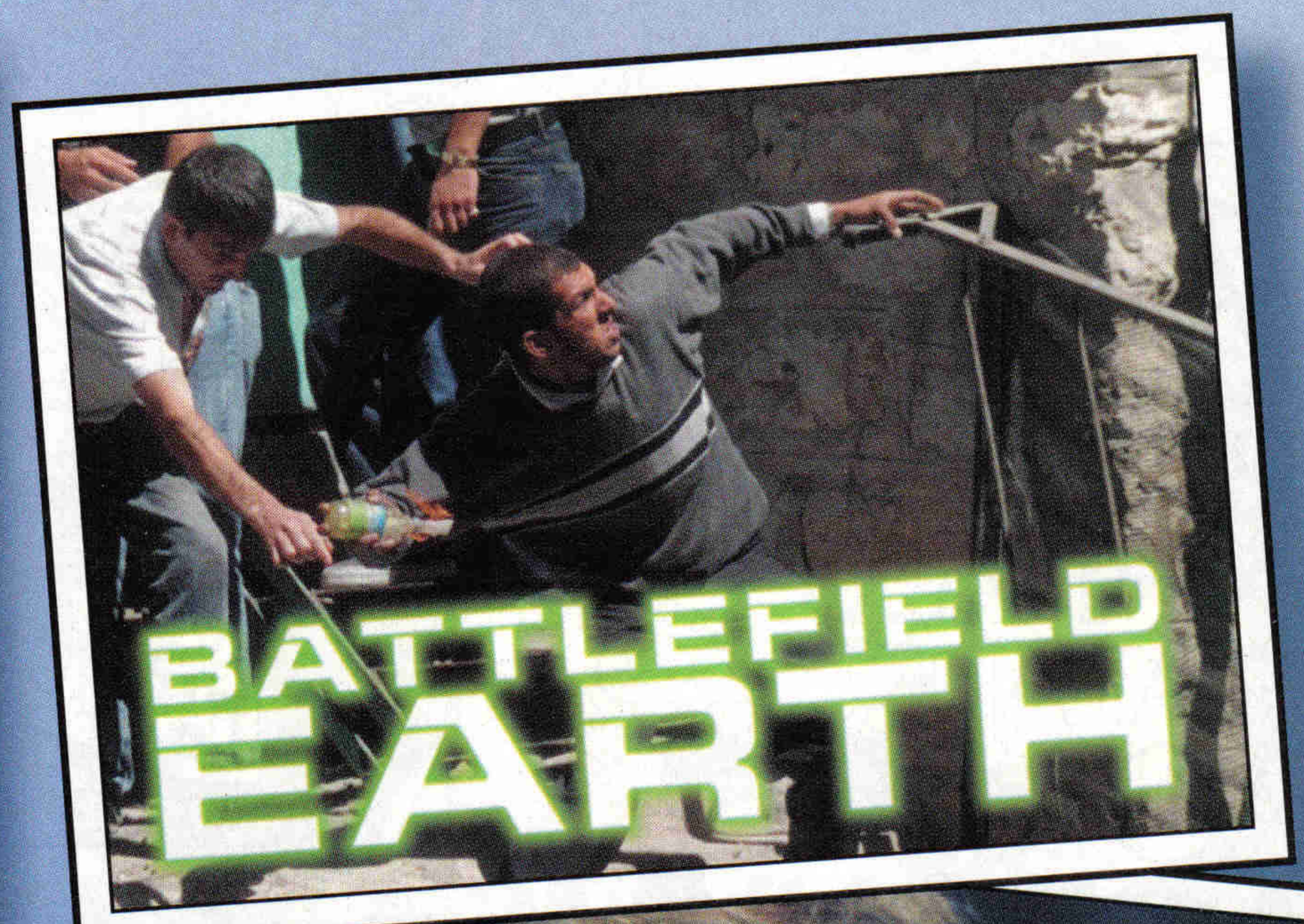


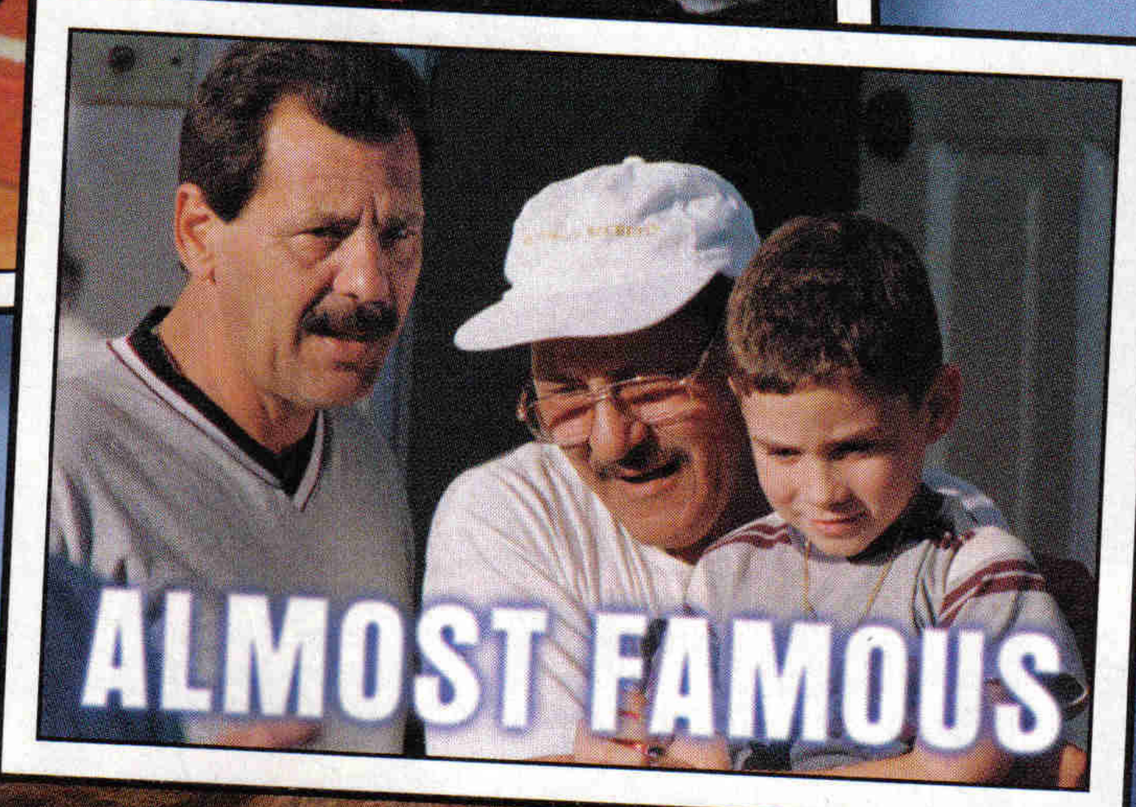
WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

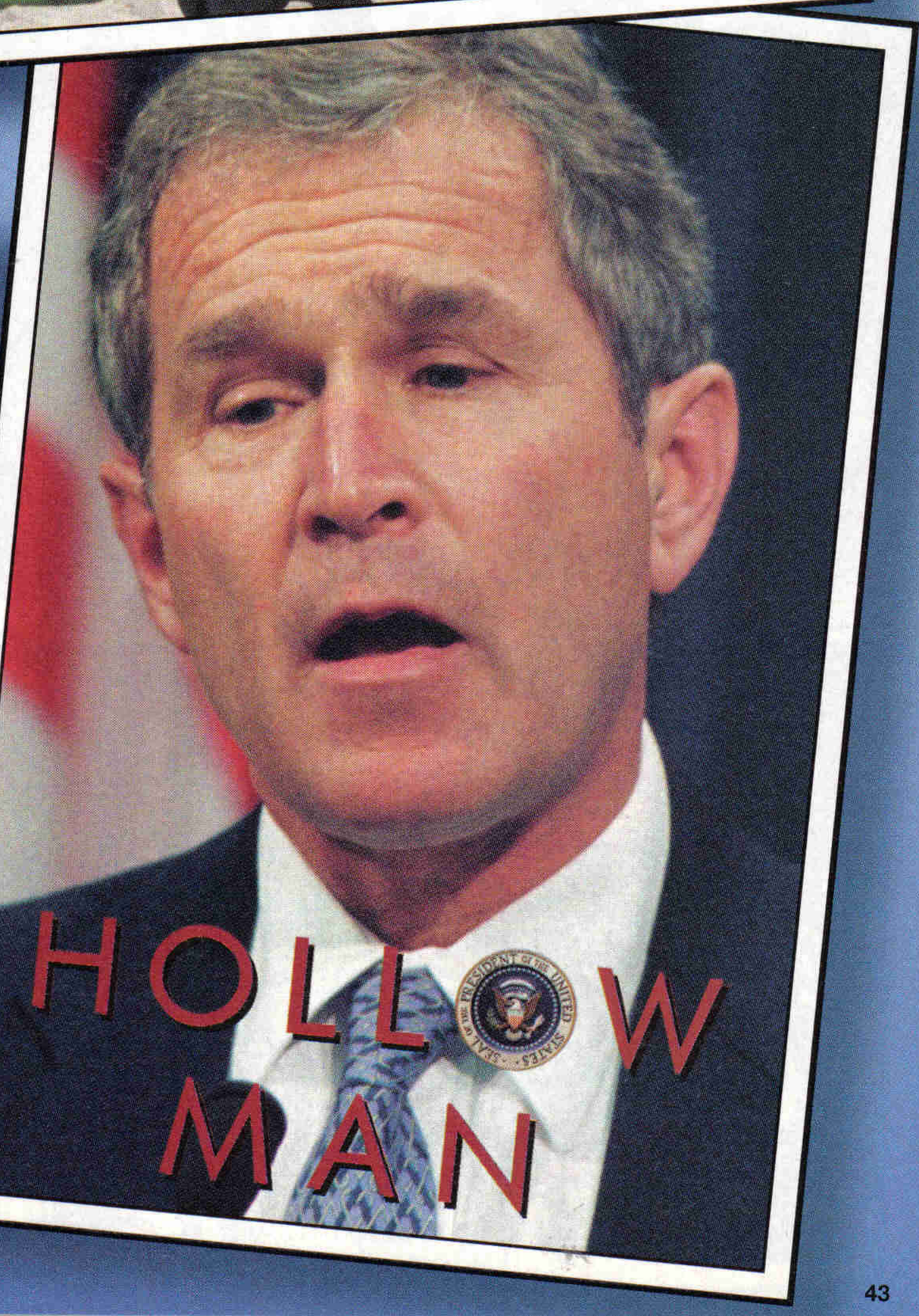
PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

THE YEAR IN FILM











CLOTHES MINDED DEPT.

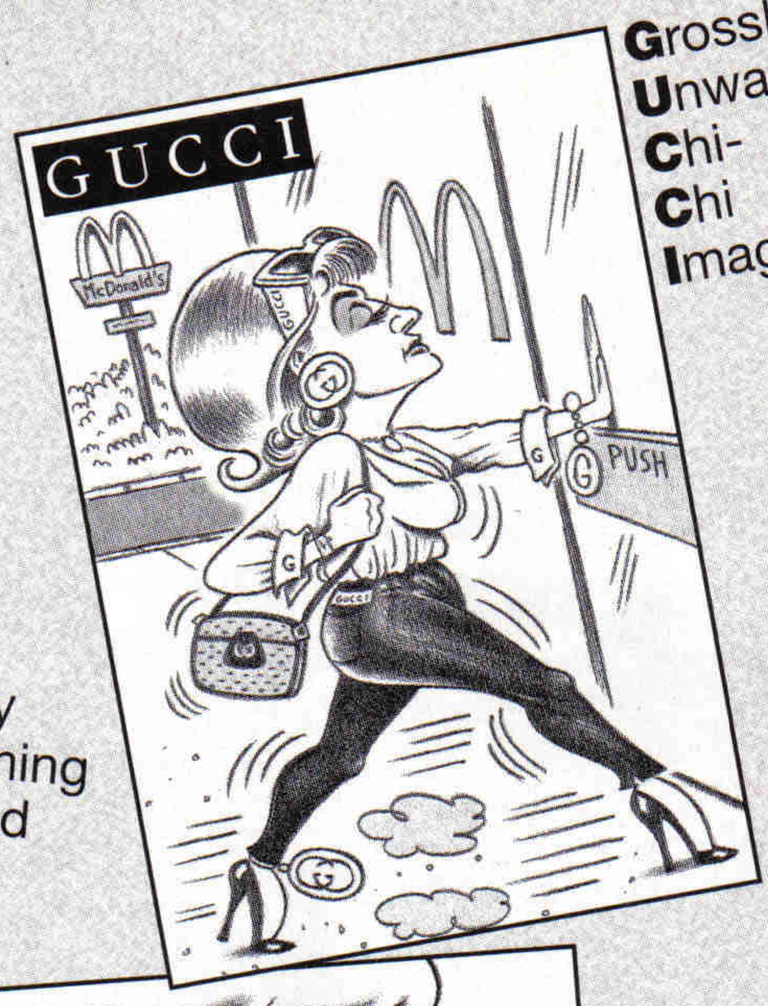
Anyone who's down with LL Cool J knows that his clothing line called **FUBU** is an acronym for "**F**or **U**s, **B**y **U**s." We here at MAD started poring over issues of *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *The Source* looking at other fashion names and discovered that LL isn't the only one on the acronym tip! So screw LL and get down with your MAD posse as we expose...

OTHER FASHION BRAND NAMES THAT ARE ACTUALLY ACRONYMS

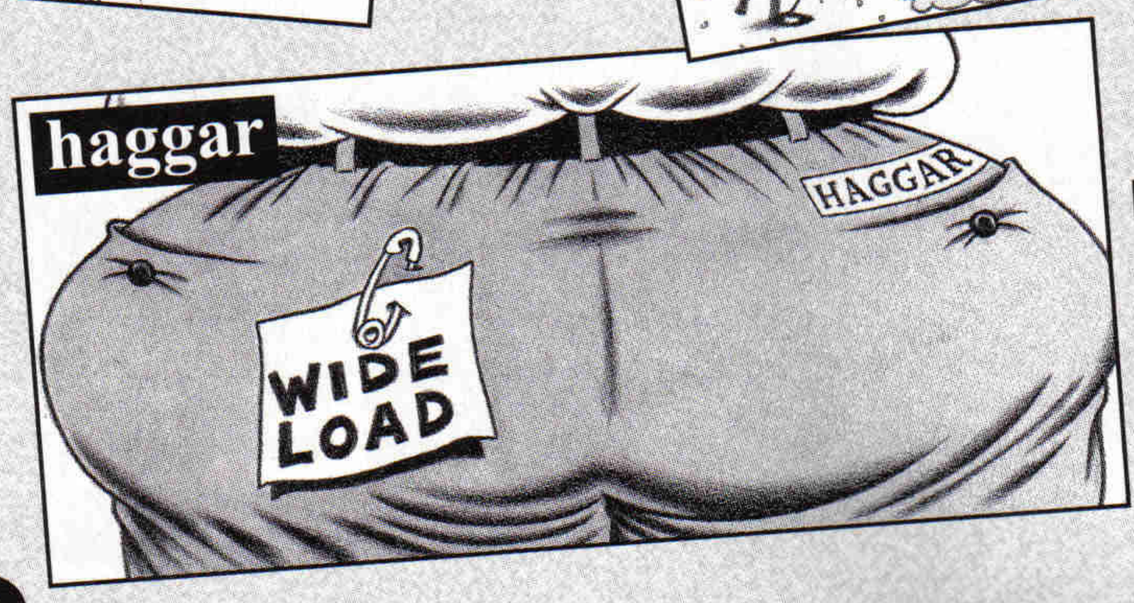
ARTIST: RICK TULKA WRITER: MIKE SNIDER



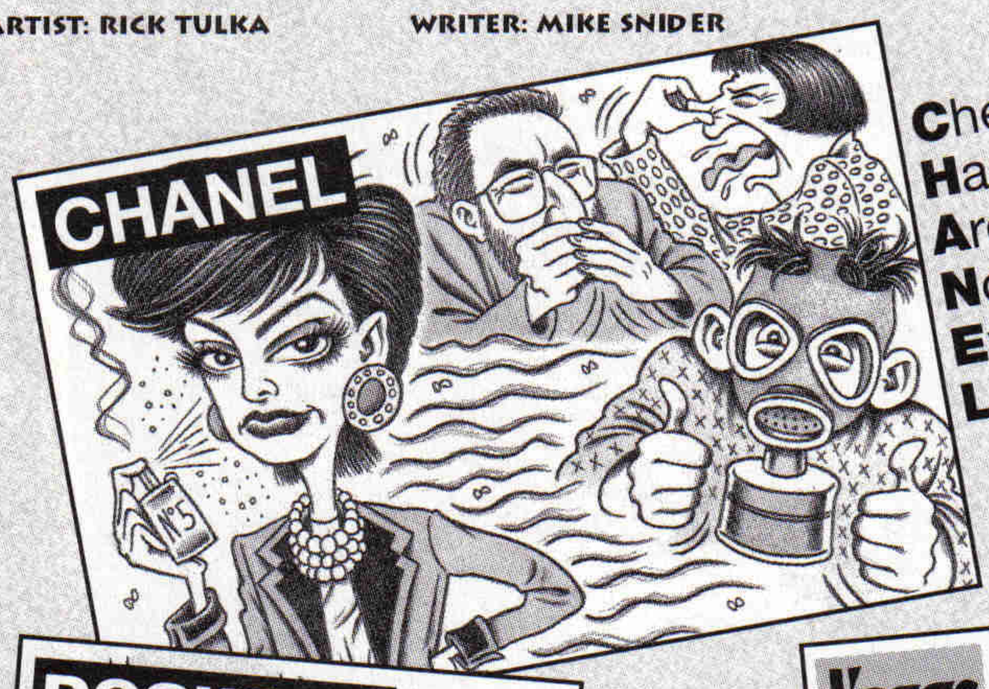
Foot
Injury
Looming
Ahead



Grossly
Unwarranted
Chi-
Chi
Image



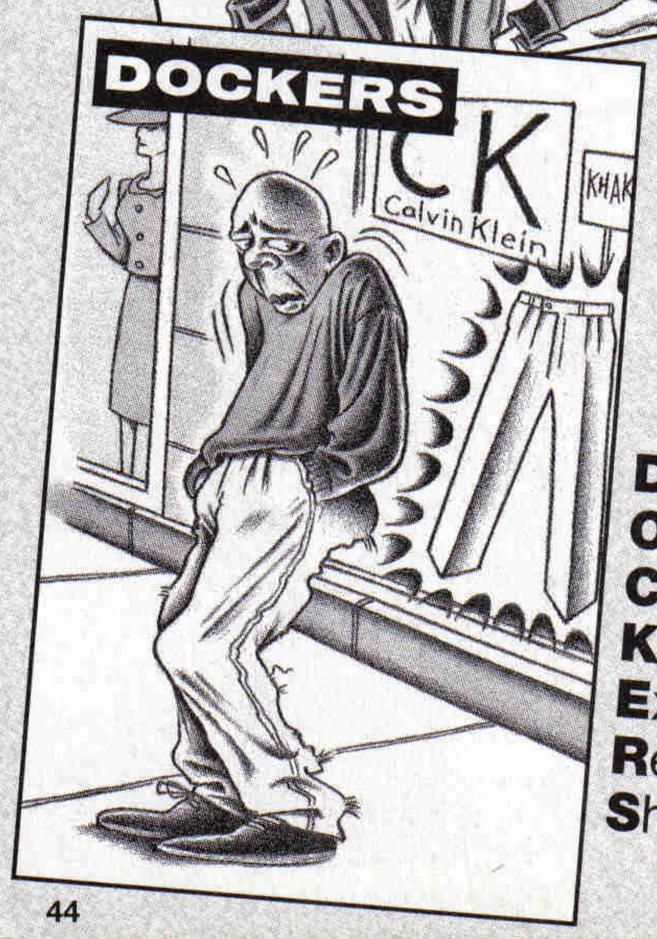
Hiding
Aging
Guys'
Guts
And
Rumps



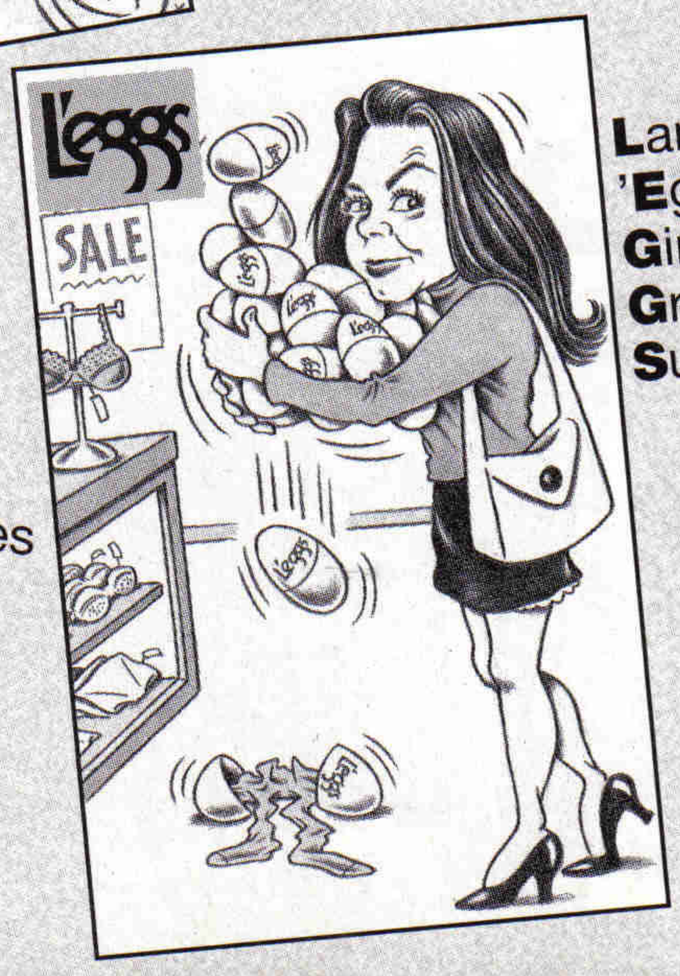
Chemically
Harsh
Aroma
Nobody's
Ever
Liked



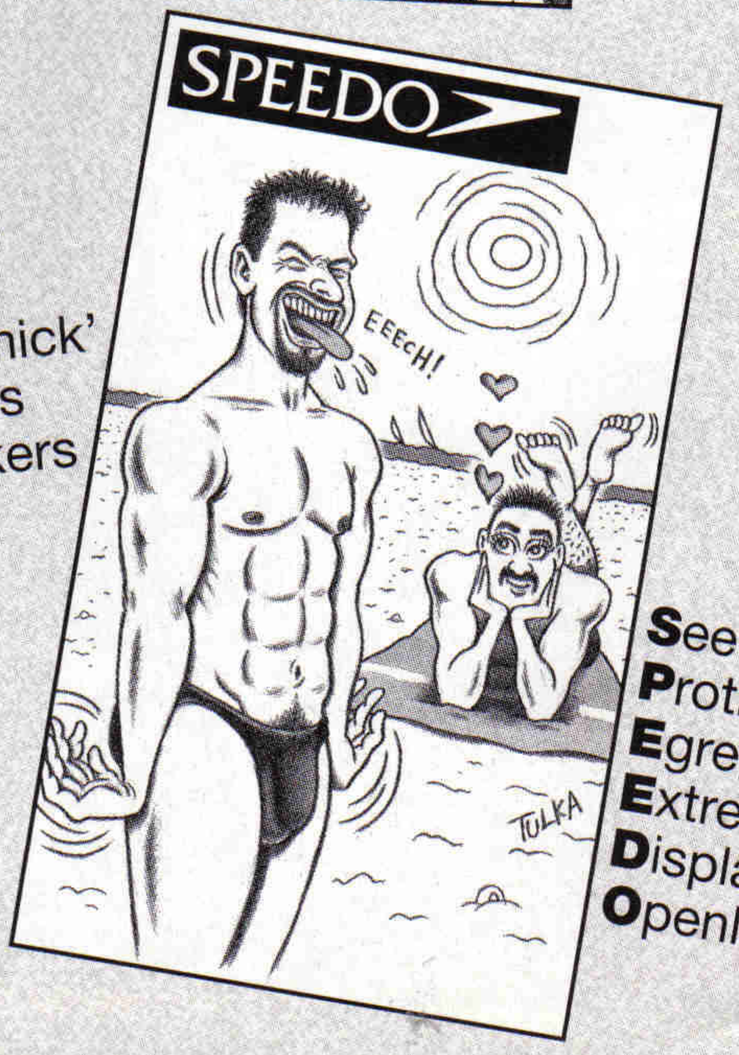
Apparel
Developed
In
Deplorable
Asian
Sweatshops



Duplicates
Of
Calvin
Kleins
Except
Really
Shoddy



Lame
'**E**gg
Gimmick'
Grabs
Suckers



See
Protruding
Egregious
Extremities
Displayed
Openly

CLOTHES MINDED DEPT.

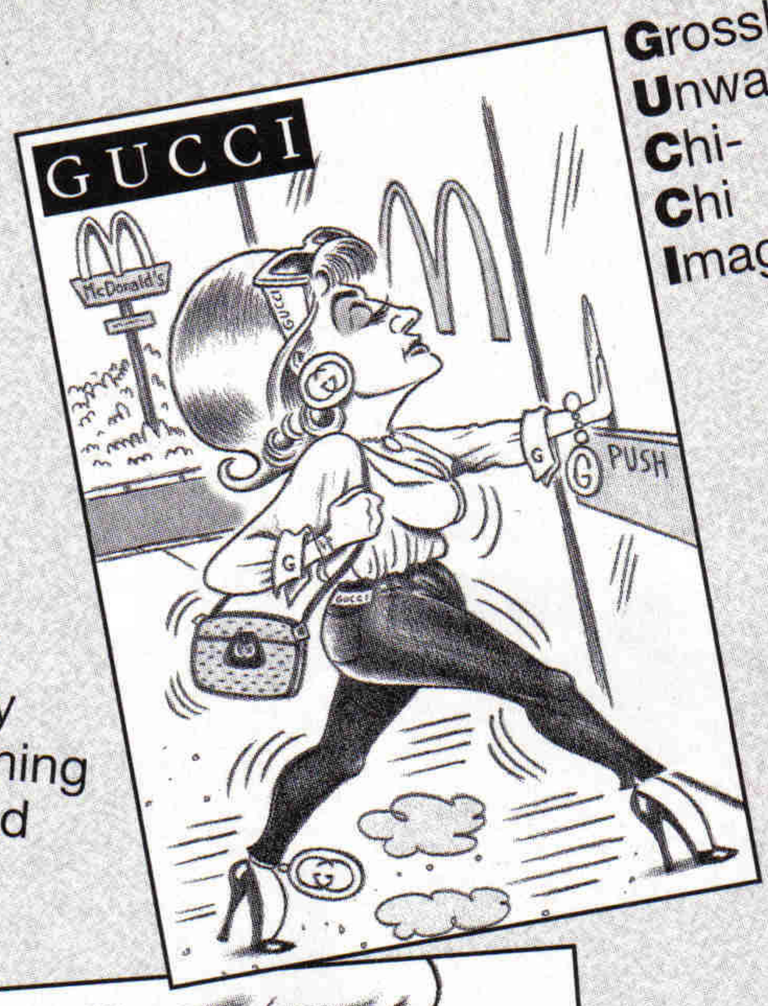
Anyone who's down with LL Cool J knows that his clothing line called **FUBU** is an acronym for "**F**or **U**s, **B**y **U**s." We here at MAD started poring over issues of *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *The Source* looking at other fashion names and discovered that LL isn't the only one on the acronym tip! So screw LL and get down with your MAD posse as we expose...

OTHER FASHION BRAND NAMES THAT ARE ACTUALLY ACRONYMS

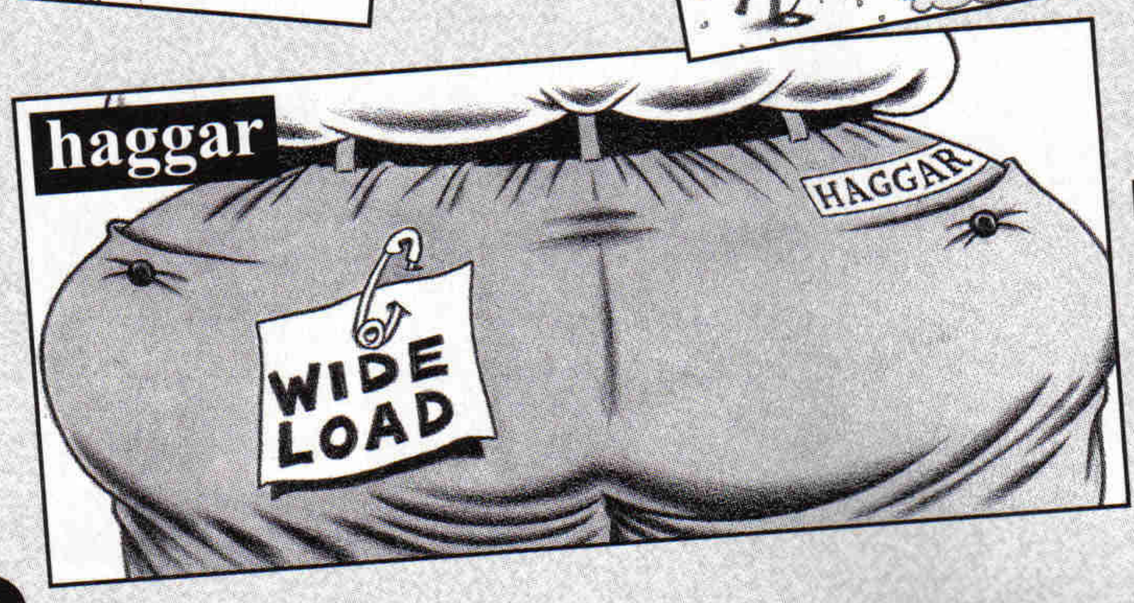
ARTIST: RICK TULKA WRITER: MIKE SNIDER



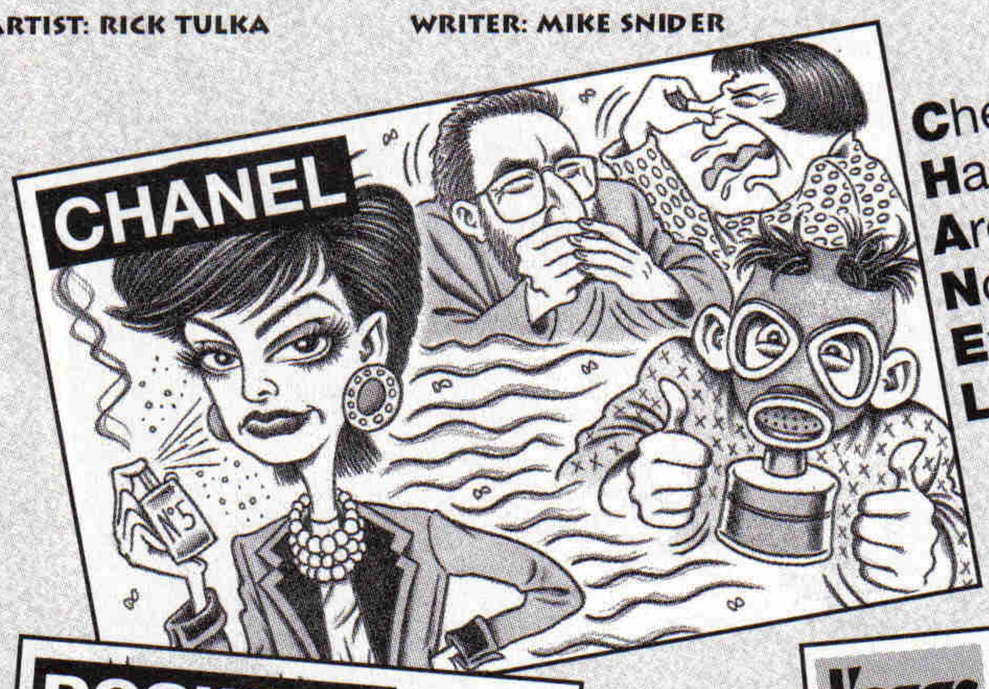
Foot
Injury
Looming
Ahead



Grossly
Unwarranted
Chi-
Chi
Image



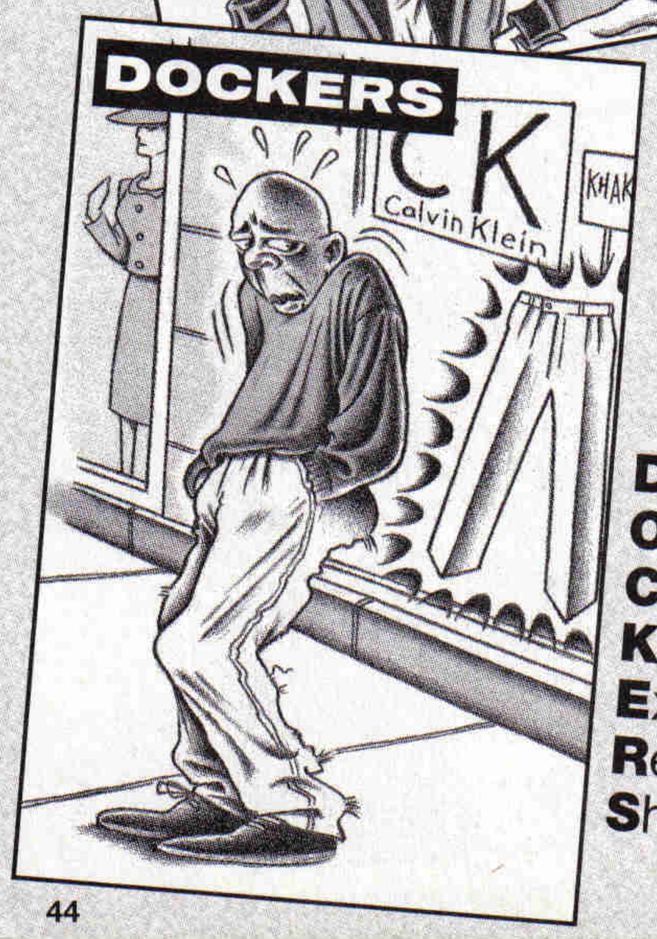
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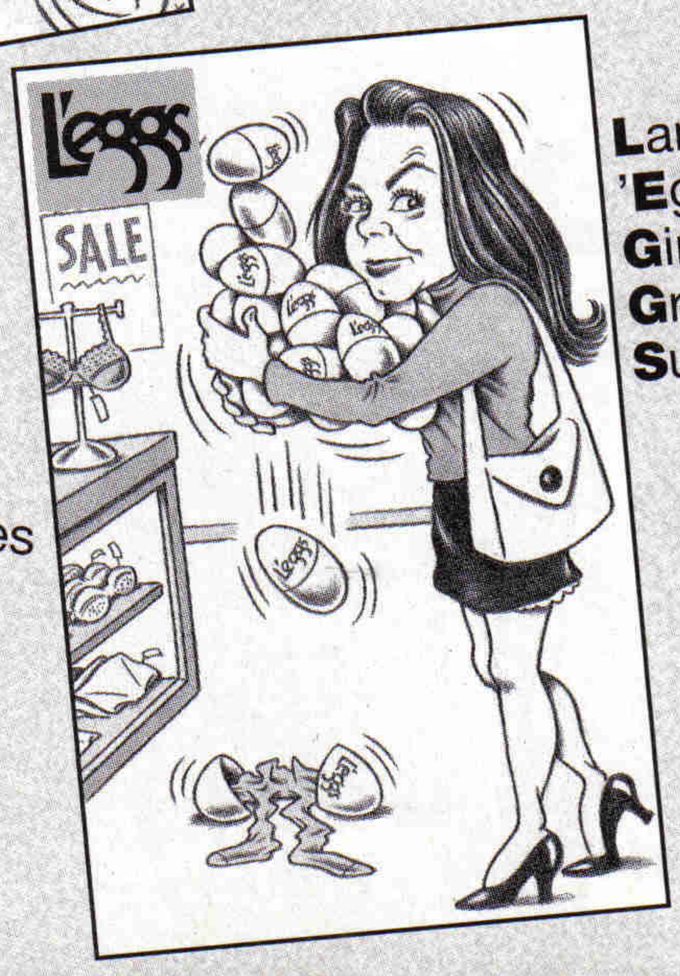
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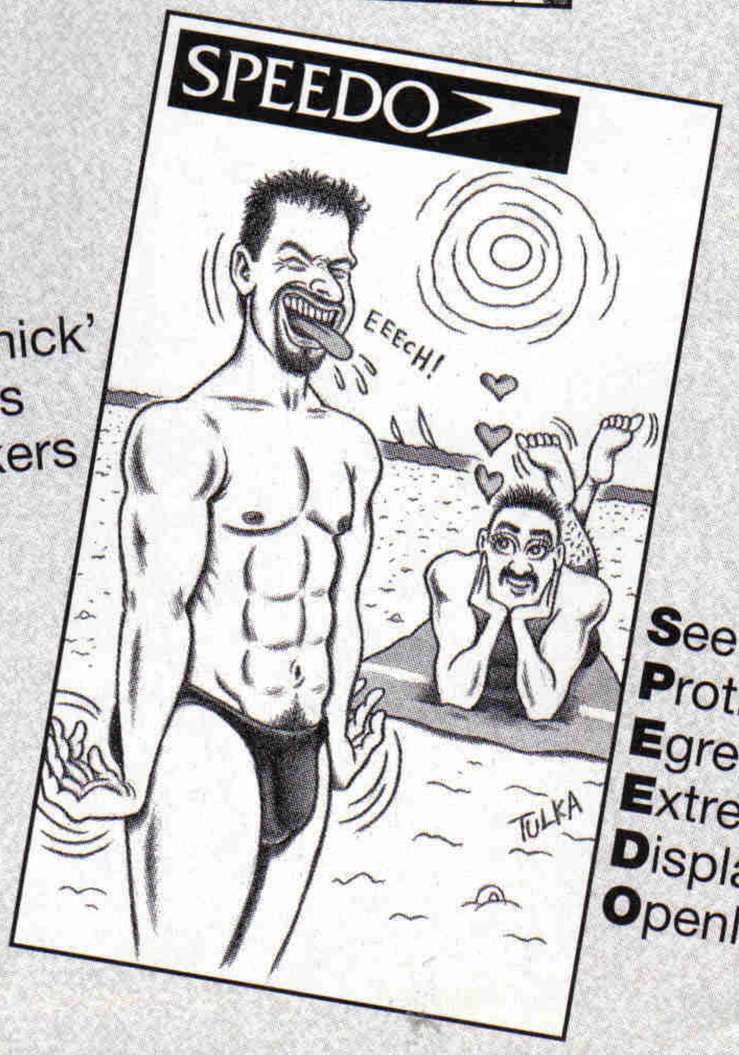
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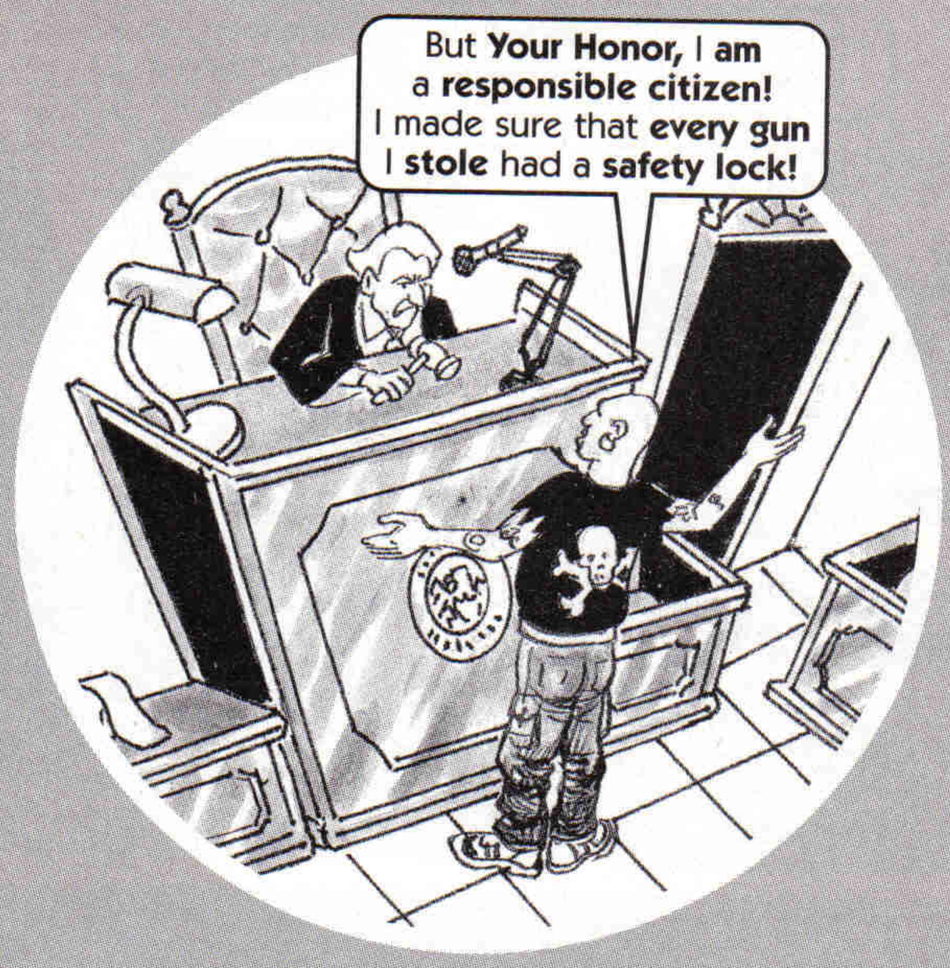
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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF...

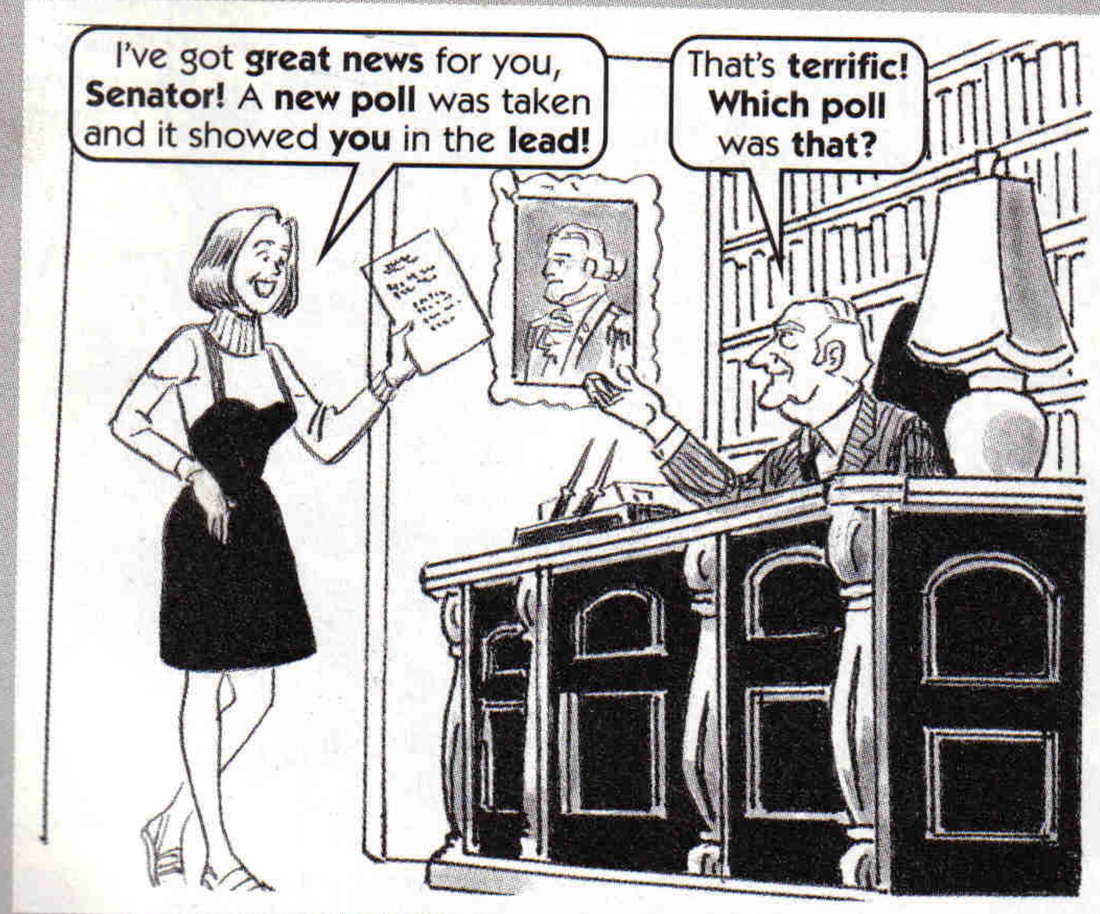


ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE BERG

JUSTICE



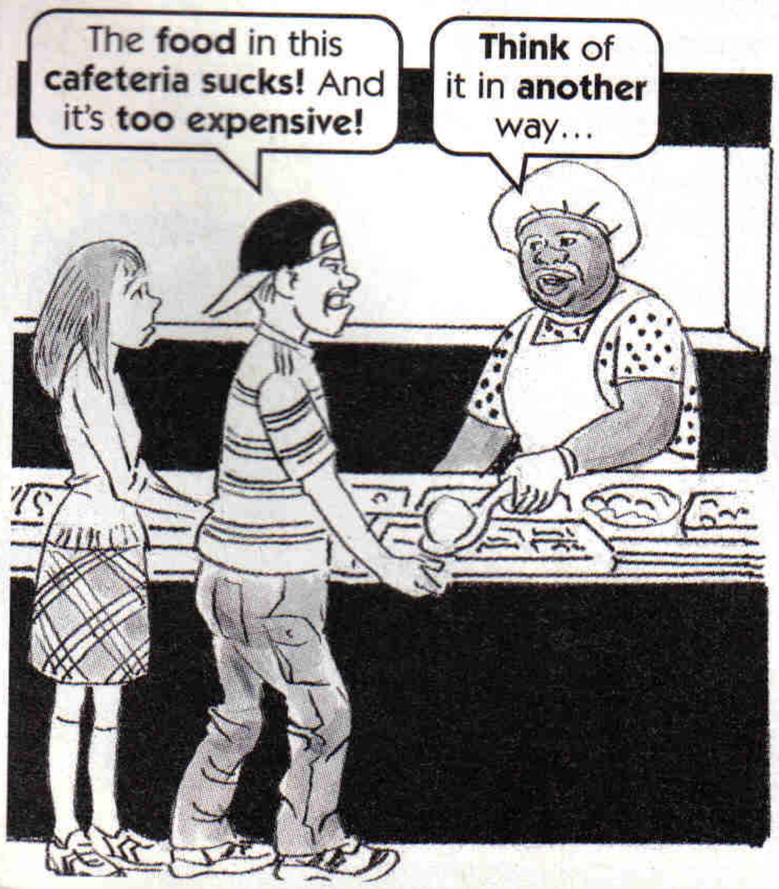
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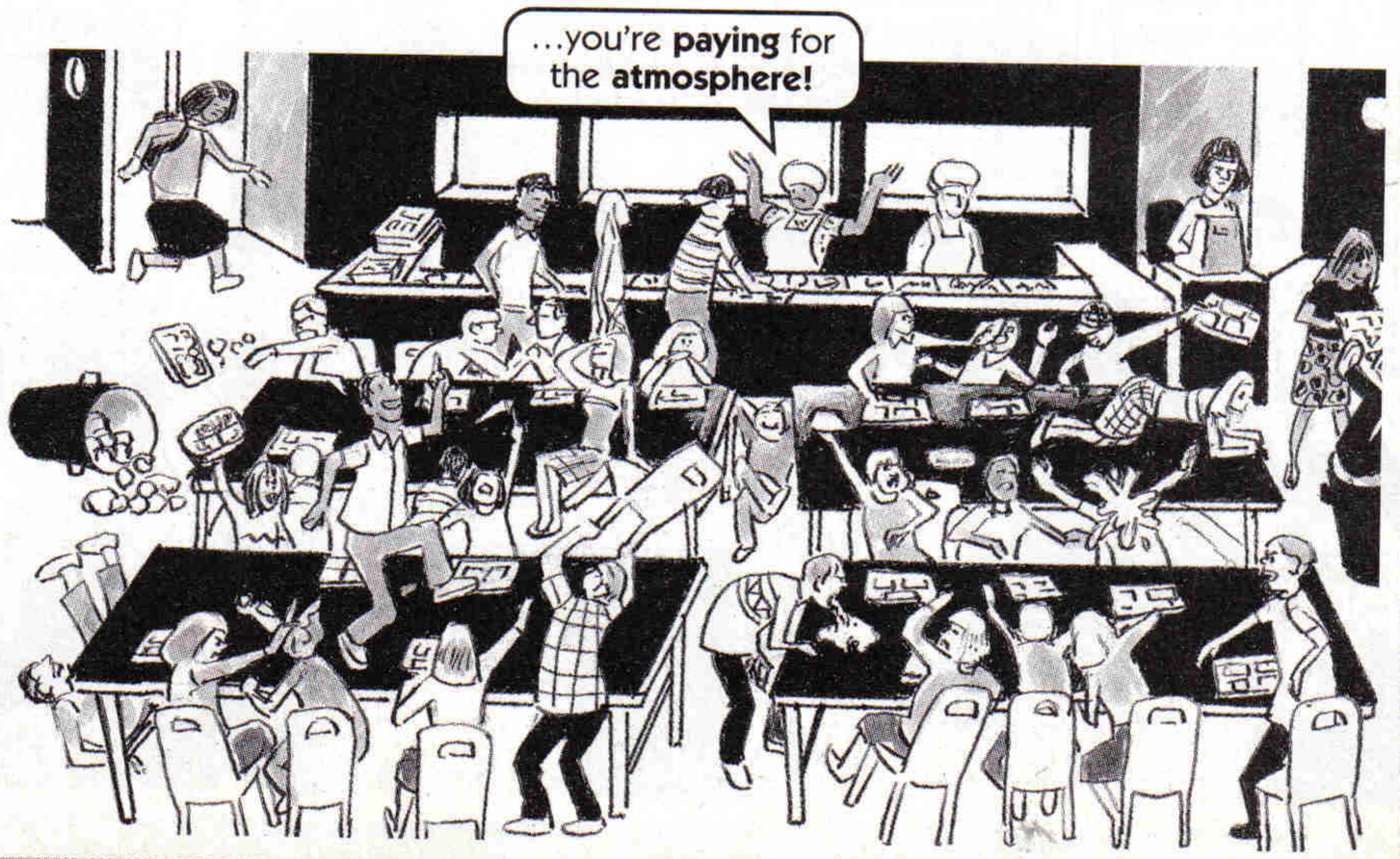




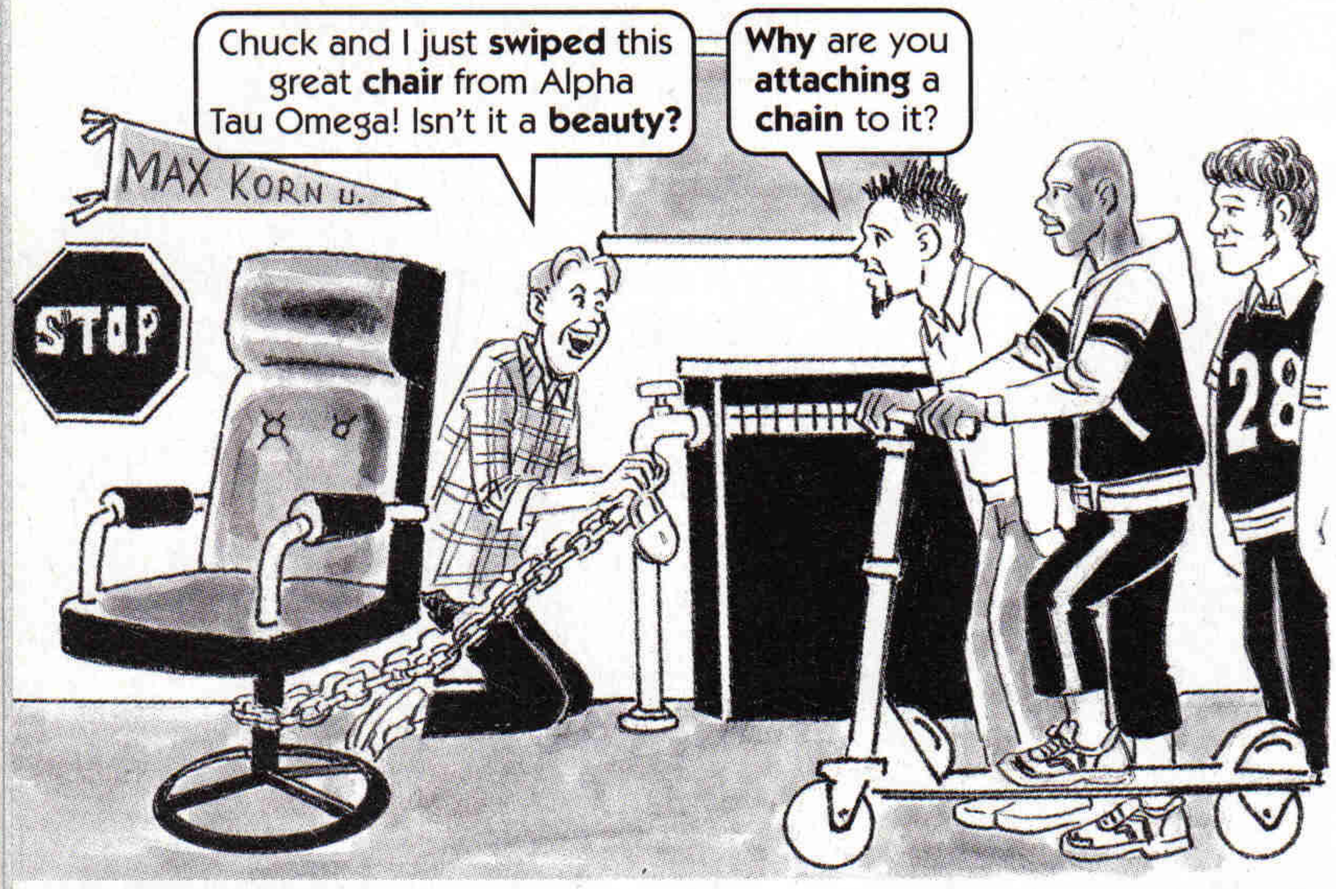


LUNCH



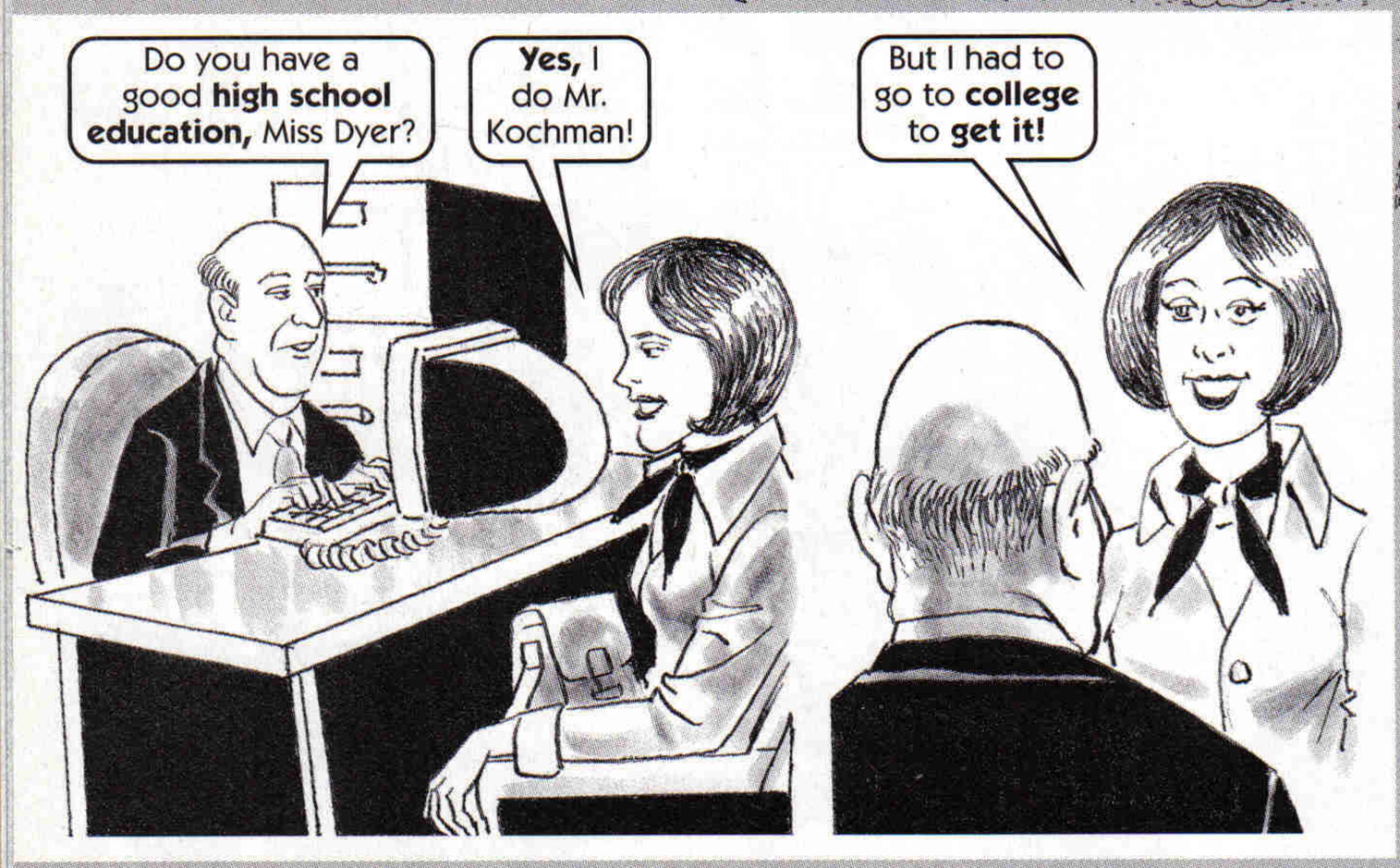


OFF CAMPUS LIVING





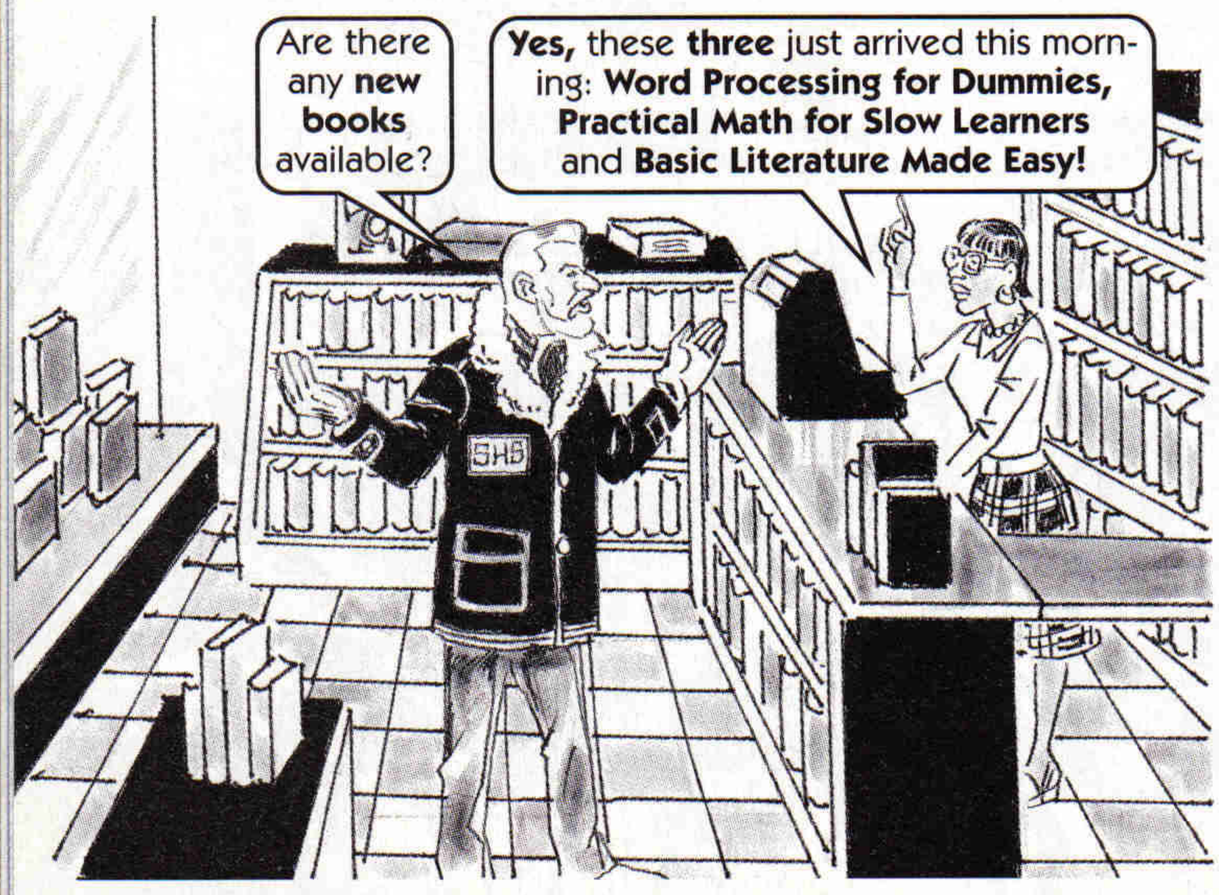
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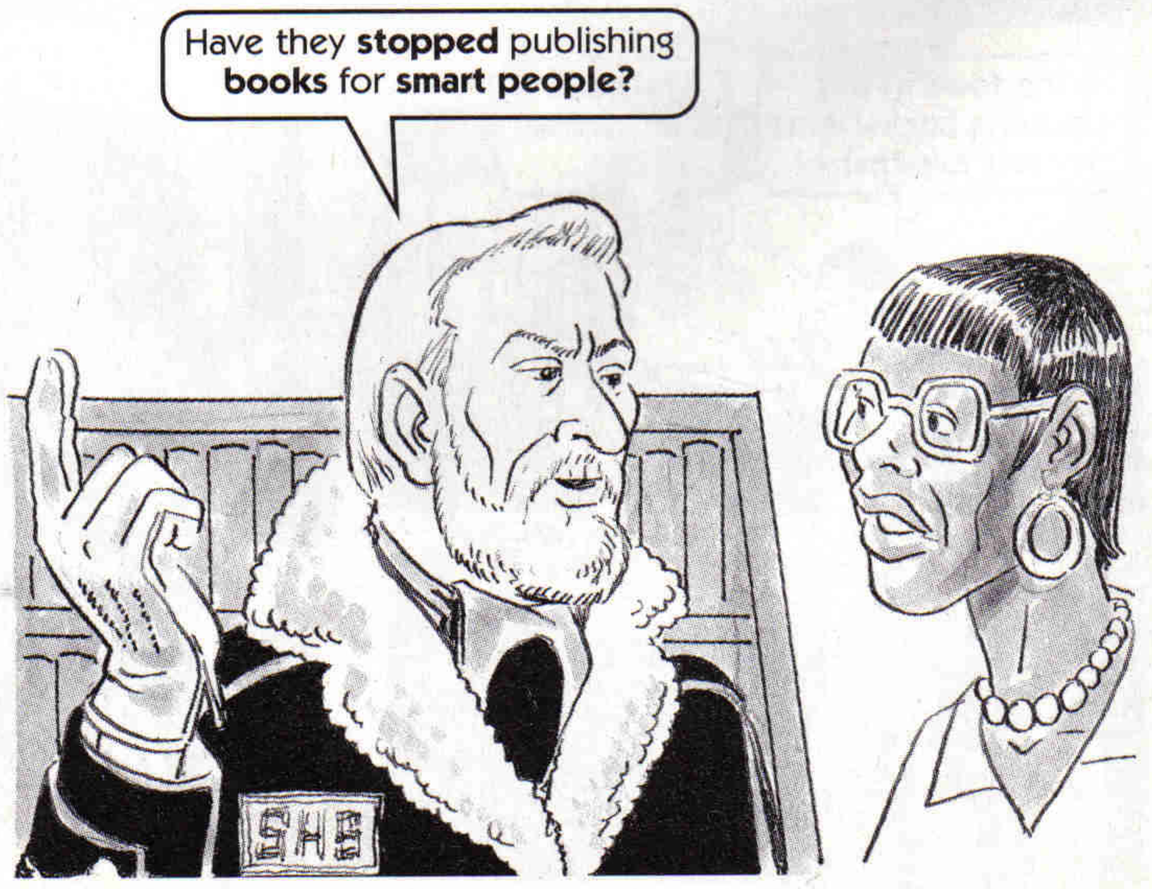


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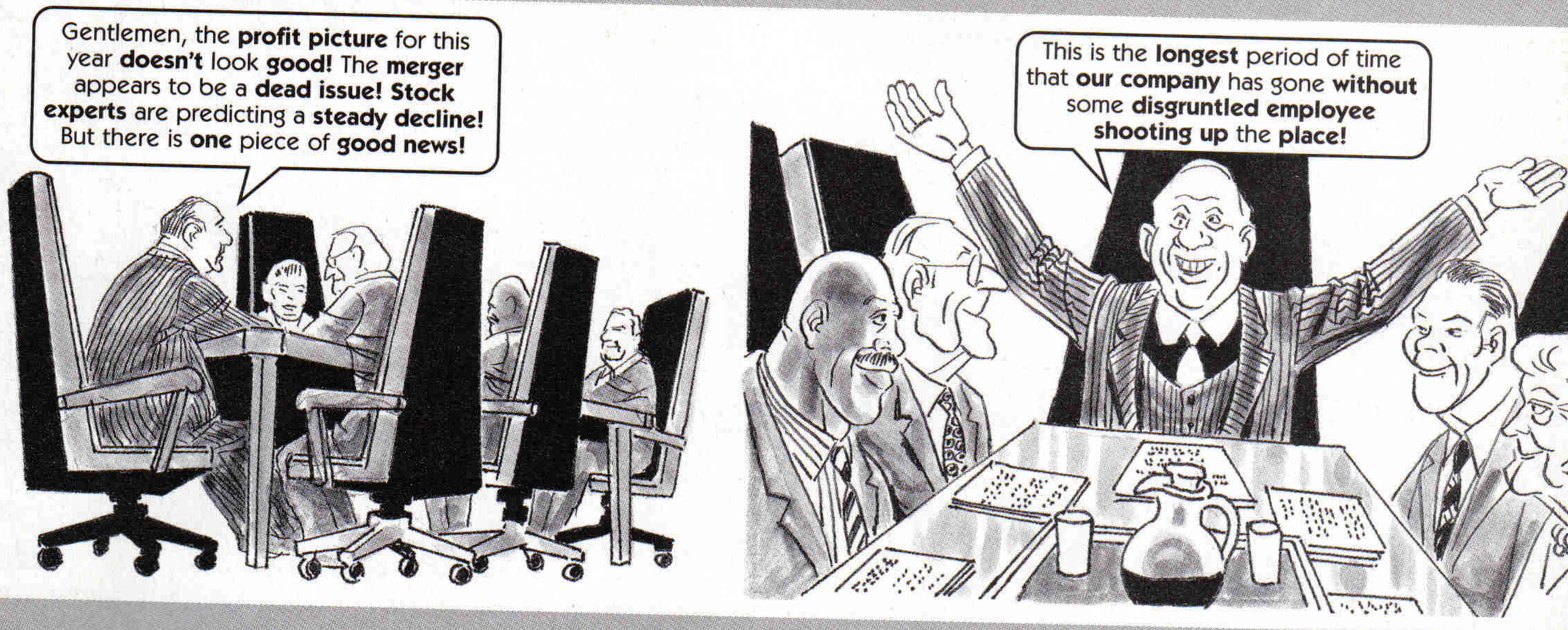


READING

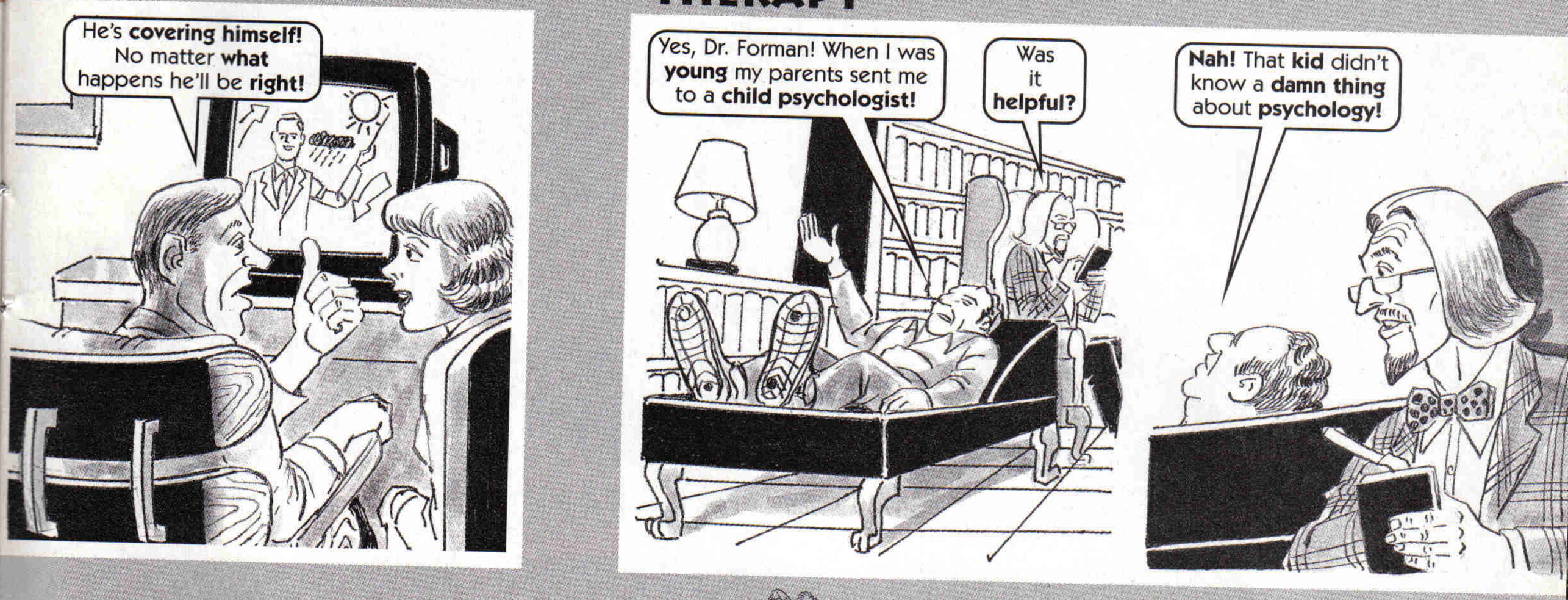




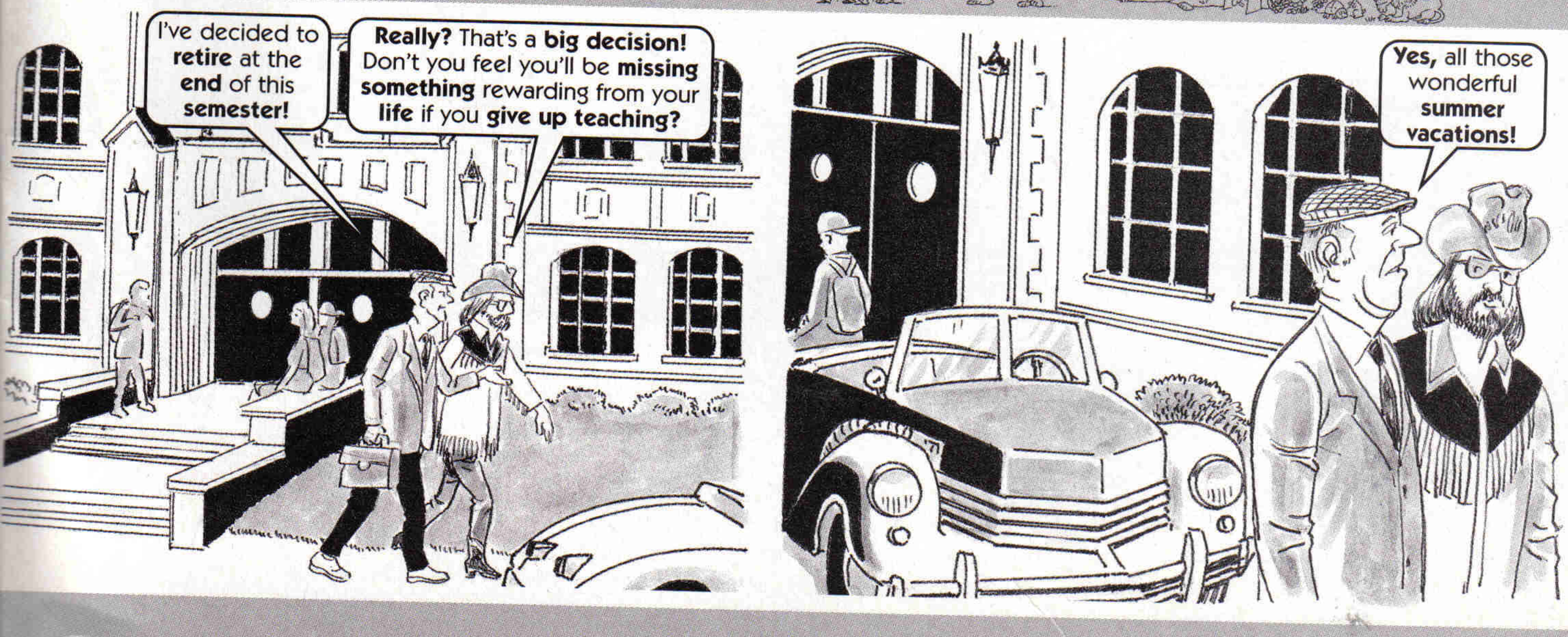
RELATIVITY



THERAPY



TEACHERS



THE OFFICE



PRAYERS



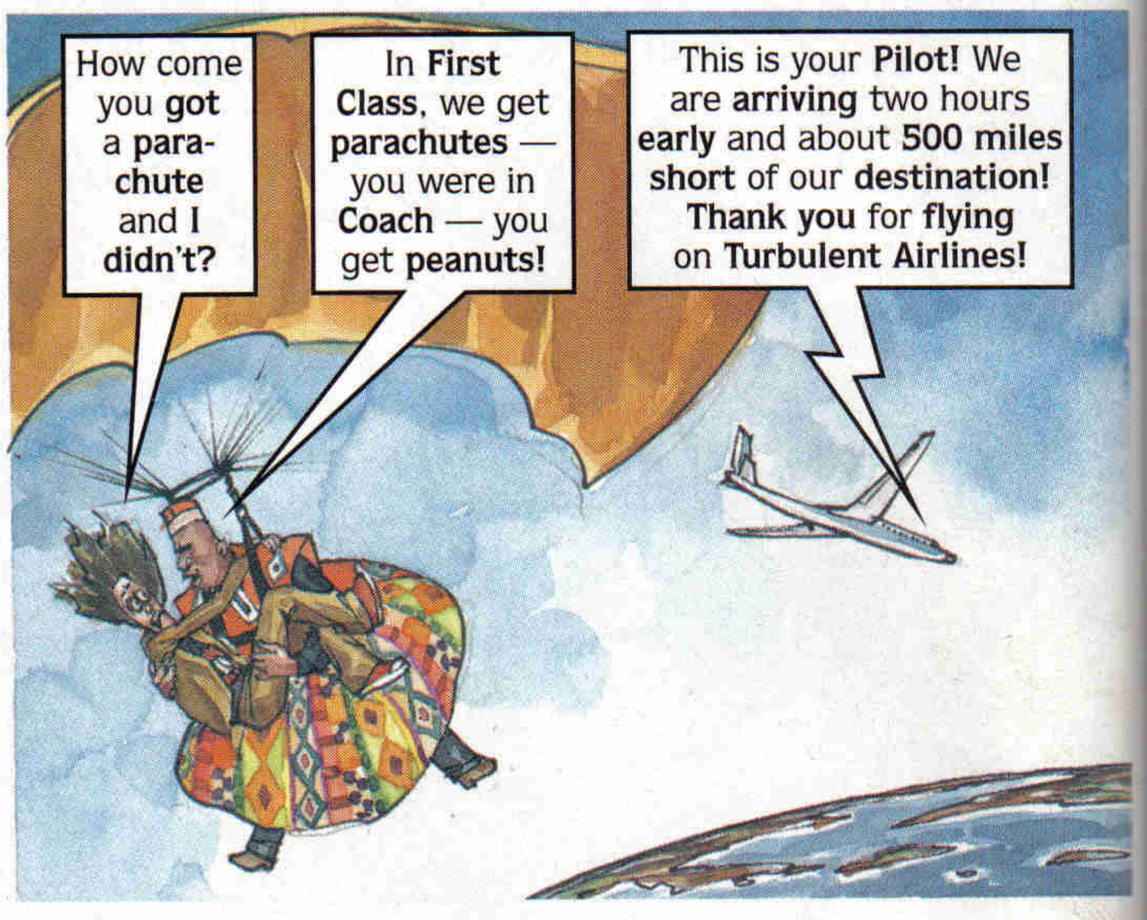


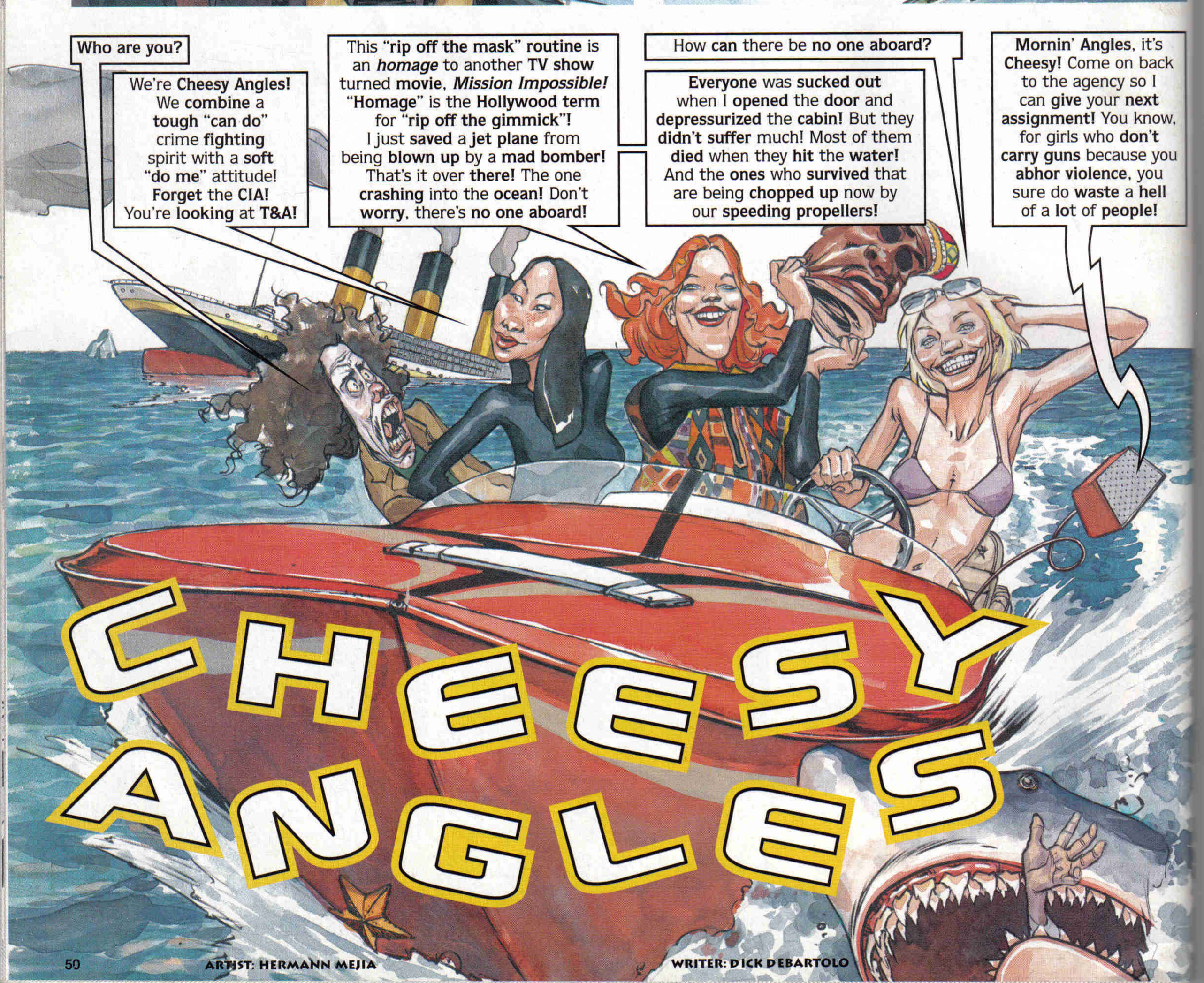
DOCTORS



Sick and tired of lame, dull TV shows being re-made into lame, dull films, which are then mocked in lame, dull movie parodies? Hoo-boy, you might want to close the magazine this very second...







CHEESY ANGLES

ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA

WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

Good morning again, **Angles! Cheesy** here! **Eric Knockoff** is a brilliant **computer whiz** and the **founder** of **Knockoff Technology!** He's worth **over $20 Billion!**

Actually, **Knockoff** was **worth** $20 Billion **yesterday!** This **morning** he **filed** for **bankruptcy!**

That's the way the **high tech industry** goes these days! Nonetheless, he was **kidnapped,** along with his **Voice Identification Software!** Both **must** be **recovered!**

Are there **any people,** like, **you know,** people that might **like, kinda** have **wanted** to **do** that **kinda thing?**

You're **asking,** "are **there any suspects?"**

"**Suspects,**" yeah, **that's** the **technical word!** You are **so smart!**

Roger Boreman, owner of **Red Scar Systems,** tried to **buy** Knockoff Technology, and, **oh hell,** let's **forget** the **explanations** and **cut** to the **sexy** and **comic possibilities!** Boreman gets a weekly **massage** at **Madam Woo's House** of **Fractured Ribs!** A **cheesy angle** would be for **one** of **you** to **pretend** to be the **masseuse** and see **what** you can **uncover!**

Do you **mean** like **clues...?**

No, like **a lot** of **thigh, cleavage** and **butt!**

Do you **feel** any **relief?**

Not really!

I've been **walking** on **you** for an **hour,** and you **don't feel** any **relief?**

My **wife's** been **walking** all **over me** for **15 years,** so an **hour** more **means nothing!**

Good work! You stole Boreman's Palm Pilot during that hokey massage scene, found out about his party, and crashed it!

It's bad enough when people bring cell-phones to parties, but a speaker phone?!

Do you like blowfish?

You mean as in "Hootie"?

No, as in poison! Are you afraid of a slow, horrible death?

Not really! I took this crappy role, didn't I?

Okay, we crashed the party, what do we do now?

I see a suspicious guy at ten o'clock!

Ten o'clock! Where do you look for ten o'clock? I've got a digital watch!

My God, that bad guy smokes like the bad guy chain smoker on the *X-Files*! It's another one of our "homages" to TV shows that became movies!

That guy's hard to follow in all this fog!

What fog? That's just his ciga-rette smoke!

Why did you sneak out the back door and leave the party?

Because I couldn't stand the dirty looks from those "holier than thou" non-smokers! But I *am* cutting back! I'm down to three cartons a day! I had to! My chest X-ray showed more holes than a Florida butterfly ballot!

You scum! If you hadn't led us outside, we could have been picking up hot guys at the party! Take this!

Here's one of my famous slow-motion leap kicks!

This is better than slow motion! I'm doing my special martial arts kick in print! I can hang in this MAD panel forever!

You girls should thank me! You were looking for Eric Knockoff and I led you right to him!

Oh yeah? Where is he?

He's right behind one of those three doors!

You call narrow-ing down the search from anywhere in the world to three doors "helpful"? Kick the scum-bag some more!

Now that you're safe, Mr. Knockoff, tell us what's so important about your software!

Every-one's voice has a unique signa-ture!

You can sign letters with your voice? Like, do you put the papers in your mouth to sign them, or what?

No, you idiot! Think of it as audio DNA! Imagine if you had someone's voice print, and a cell phone hooked to a GPS! Think of the danger!



MIRAGE

What danger?

Well, when you **used** your **cell phone**, the **person** you **called** could **discover** your **location!**

That's **not exactly** a "**crazed villain dominates** the **world**" **scenario!**

No, but if you were **sleeping** with your **best friend's boyfriend** and you **called** her from **his bedroom**, she would **know exactly where** you **were!**

My **God**, it ***is*** a "**crazed villain dominates** the **world**" **scenario!**

Distract the **chauffeur** of **Red Scar's President** and learn where the **stolen software** is **hidden!**

This car has the **easiest power steering** I've **ever** seen!

What **makes you** say **that?**

I can **turn** the **steering wheel** with my **tongue!**

Hot! Let me **show** you the **stick shift** and **see** how your **tongue works** on **that!**

The stolen **software** is in this **safe** at **Red Scar!** In order to enter, **two people** must have a **fingerprint check** and a **retinal scan** at the **exact same moment!**

A **retinal scan!** You **mean** of **my butt?**

Not "**rectal**"! **RETINAL scan!** The **eye!** But, maybe we can **arrange** the **other** for the **DVD director's cut version!**

Amazing, Angles! You **pretended** to be an unconvincing **German street band** to snap **pictures** and get **eye scans** to **fool** the **security system!** Then you became **belly dancers** so you could **get fingerprints!** Next time though, I'd keep **Bossy out** of the **belly dancer outfit!** He **doesn't** look **good** in ***men's*** **clothes**...in **woman's clothes**, it's **barf time!**

You're inside the **high security Red Scar vault!** The **bogus fingerprints** and **eye scan worked!**

We didn't **need 'em!** There's a **window** in the **vault** so I just **climbed in!** This **pressure-sensitive floor** would **sound** an **alarm** if it **detected footsteps**, but I **totally fooled it** by **walking** on my **hands!**

I'm **glad** you **came over** to **see** my **photo collection!**

How come **none** of the **people** in your **pictures** have **heads?**

It's a **silly little thing** I **do!** When people are **no longer** my **friends**, I **cut** their **heads off!**

If **Lorena Bobbitt** was **working** for you, she'd **teach** you a **frightening variation!**

Good job **recovering** the **software!** Now hand it over, or I'll **kill you!**

Oh, I **get it** — this is a **set-up!** You used us to **steal** the **software** for you!

Exactly! It's one of the **few plot points** in this movie that **kinda makes sense!**

And what would your **partner** say if she knew about your **semi-clever scam?**

I **think** she'd say, "This **bullet's** for **you!"**

Good thing she's shooting **slo-mo bullets!** I can make it **look** like they **hit** me as I **slo-mo dodge them!**

Look! A **nude girl** right at our **door!**

Damn! Why did it have to be **Dilly,** the **chubby one?** The other two are **so much hotter!**

Are you **kidding?!** All that **baby fat** makes her look more like she's **our age!**

I have a **confession:** I'm not a **bikini waxer** — I'm part of an **elite group** that **combats evil!**

Too bad! A **bikini waxer** is a wonderful **role model** for **young girls** who want to **do good** for all **mankind!**

I **know,** it was a **tough career choice!**

Do you **think** we're a little too **self-centered?**

What makes you **say that?**

Somebody was **shooting** at us, and we just **kept talking!** I think they were trying to **kill me!** Well, **whoever** they were, I'm going to get my **friend Ally McBeal** to **sue them!**

You do that — but I'm **outta here!** You're way **too dangerous** to be around! I'm going to hang out with my **friends** at **Central Perk!**

Oh no! Someone **wired** our **office** with a **bomb!**

Call me **suspicious,** but I think **someone** is out to **get us!**

We spend **so much time** in the air being **blown up** and firing off our **whirling kicks,** we should get **frequent flier mileage!**

What **luck!** Everything **blew up** in the **explosion** except the **speaker-phone!**

Angles! It's **Bossy!** I've been **kidnapped!** Come **find me!**

Any **idea** where you **are?**

Tweet, tweet! squawk, squawk! Chirp, chirp! BS, BS!

I **recognize** that bird! It's a **Far-Fetched Lamebrain Plotpoint Pecker!** It only **lives** in one **place** in all the **world!**

Is it **far away?**

Just **far enough** so we have to go by **water!** That way we can drag in **Dilly's dopey boy-friend!**



What a **lucky break!** I play a **jerky-acting nerd** on **MTV,** but now I can **stretch** by playing a **jerky nerd** on the **big screen!**

Slow down! I see the **tower** that Bossy's **trapped in!**

How do you **know** he's in that **tower?**

There's the **Cheesy Angle speaker-phone** on the **window sill!**

I'm saving **Bossy's life,** fighting off the **villainous VP** and talking to my new **bartender boy-friend** on my cell phone, all at the **same time!**

Good work! **Multi-tasking** is what it's **all about** these days!

I'd love to **see you again,** Naughty! Er, is the **signal breaking up?**

The signal's **fine,** you're hearing some **bones breaking up!** Let me just finish **ripping off** an **arm,** a **leg** and a **head,** and then we can talk **lovey-dovey** about our **next date!**

Angles! **Knockoff** used that **voice technology software** to **locate** my cabin! He's coming to **kill me!** He thinks I **killed** his **father,** or perhaps he just **hates speakerphones,** or people who **speak** on **speakerphones!**

Don't you worry, Cheesy! We're **on the case!**

On the case and **on his helicopter!** At least we're **hanging from it!**

Knockoff must be a **brain-dead pilot!** Three people are **hanging** from his **helicopter,** and with all that **additional weight** swinging wildly in the air, he **doesn't notice a thing!**

What's **that?**

Another **improbable mission** carried out by the **non-violent Angles!**

"Non-violent"!? They just **blew up** a **helicopter** which will probably **kill** another bunch of **people** when that **fireball** comes **back to earth!**

Good work, Angles! I'd like to be there to **congratulate** you **in person,** but I **prefer** to keep my **identity** a **secret!**

Cheesy, **why** do you keep your **identity** a **secret?** What possible **difference** could it make to **anyone** if we see **your face!**

In all the years ***Cheesy Angles*** was on the **air,** no one ever **asked that!** I don't have a **clue!**

What's going on? A ***Cheesy Angles*** **adventure** always ends **happy,** with all of us on the **beach!** What are you **Angles** doing here in **court?**

Suing to **protect** the **memory** of a beloved old **TV series** that was **wrecked** for the **big screen!**

It's **too late** to **stop** this **first one...**

...but we're here to **make sure** there are **no more!** Even if it takes a ton of **violence** to do it!

WHAT MAJOR CHALLENGE IS CONFRONTING MANY OF TODAY'S TEENS?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

Teenagers confront many overwhelming issues. Peer pressure forces them to prove that they are mature and ready to enter adulthood. To find out what major challenge many are confronted with, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A — FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT — B — FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

NO ONE'S BEEN ON HER SIDE HER ENTIRE LIFETIME.

HE'S WAY TOO SHORT.

HE CAN'T SEEM TO HOLD ON TO HIS DOUGH!

HE HAS NO SELF-ESTEEM.

SHE'S MENTALLY CHALLENGED

MAD

SHE'S HOPELESSLY ANOREXIC

HE HAS MANY HANGUPS

HE LOSES ON EVERY WAGER

WINNING BETS
BASEBALL NONE
FOOTBALL ZERO
BASKETBALL ZILCH
RACIN
NADA
HOC
NO
GUIL
NO WAY
LACHE
NT.

SHE'S TOTALLY SELF ABSORBED.

HE HAS AN EATING DISORDER

SNIVELING INSECURELY, MANY TEENS DREAM OF BREAKING INTO PLACES WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG. THEY'RE FOREVER TRYING TO BEHAVE AND ACT GROWNUP. RATIONAL THOUGHT IS BEYOND THEM. THEIR ILL-FATED MOVES INTO ADULT WORLDS ARE WORTHLESS ACTIVITIES

A — ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE — B