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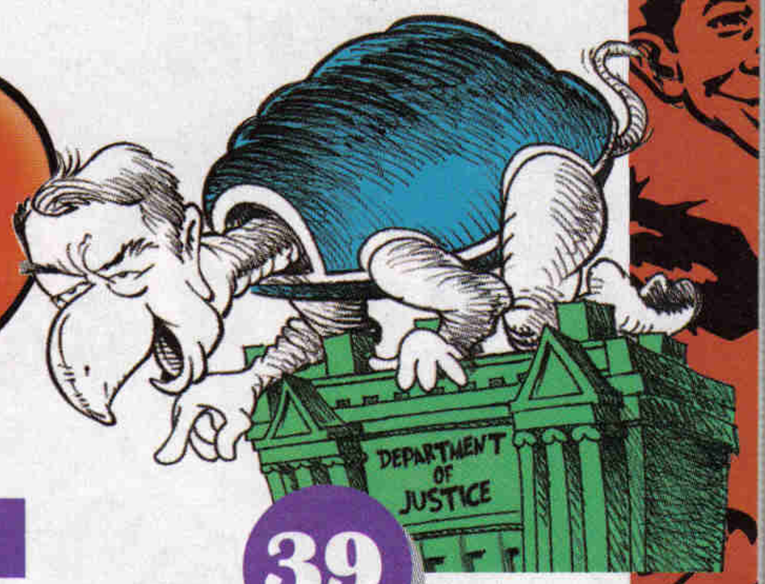
NOVEMBER 2004 NUMBER 447



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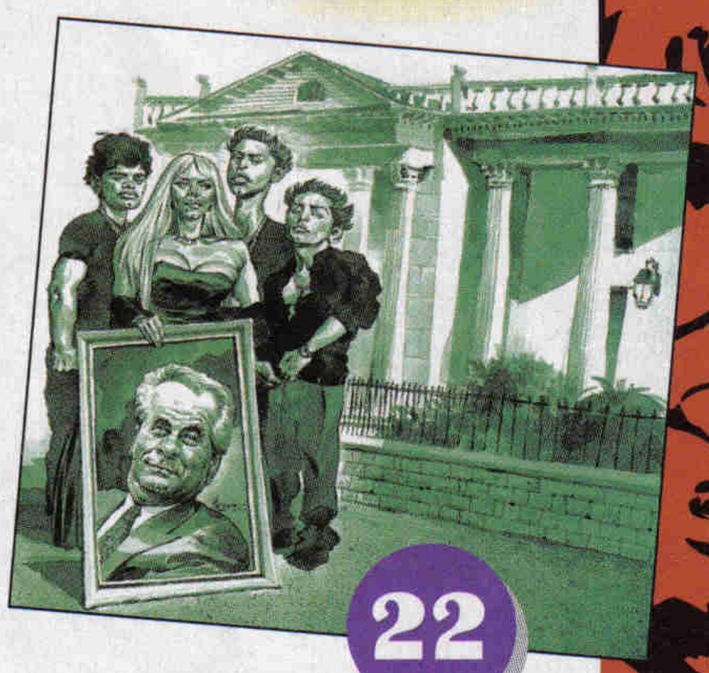
MORT DRUCKER



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ALFRED E. NEUMAN FOR PRESIDENT POSTER ARTIST:
MARK FREDRICKSON

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DEPARTMENT OF TOMATOES AND LETTERS

SHRINK CRAP

I started reading MAD at the same time I started therapy. Thanks, I learned to laugh.

Ruth Unterberg, New York, NY

Raise the Ruth — As long as you keep reading MAD until you are *done* with therapy, we'll have a life-long reader! —Ed.

THE WEAKEST LINKIN

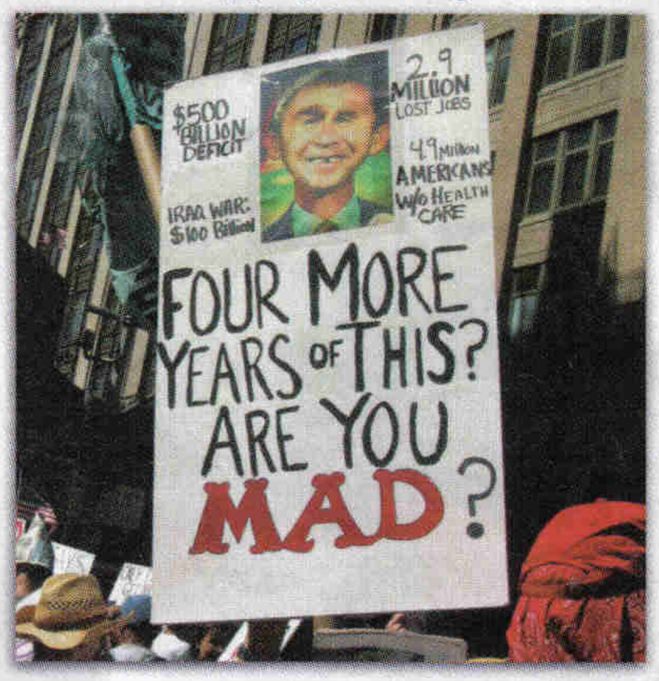
You know what's cool? Monroe likes Linkin Park. Yeah, that's cool — Linkin Park is one of my favorite bands. You know, you should try to mention Linkin Park in MAD more often!

Joshua Swenink, Spring Valley, CA

Josh Kidding — Well, it looks like you've done that for us! Now we can take the rest of the day off and go to the water park! We join you in giving a big shout out to Chad Kroeger and the boys! —Ed.

G.O. PEEVED

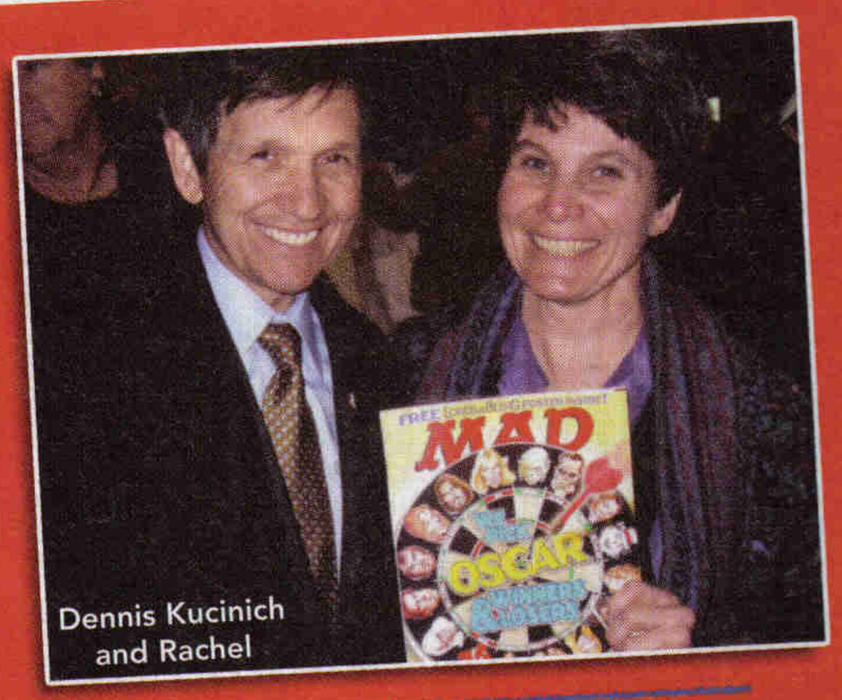
Torissa Tsai of New York, NY took this picture during a protest at the Republican National Convention in NYC. *We* protest the unauthorized use of our copyrighted logo!



Perhaps you could take lessons on creative thinking from Congressman Dennis Kucinich, one of the few politicians who thinks and acts outside the box!

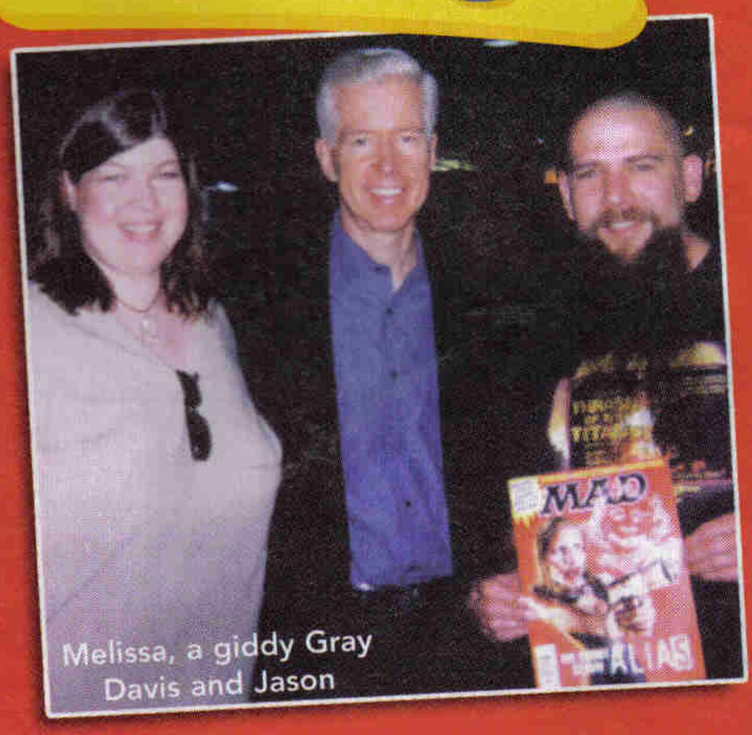
Rachel Combelic, Longmont, CO

Comb-Over — When we got your letter, our first reaction was "Dennis who?" Then we saw the picture and we realized you were talking about that creepy little guy who somehow managed to have less personality than John Kerry! While it's too late for him this time around, allow us to be the first to say "Vote Dennis Kitchensink 2008!" —Ed.

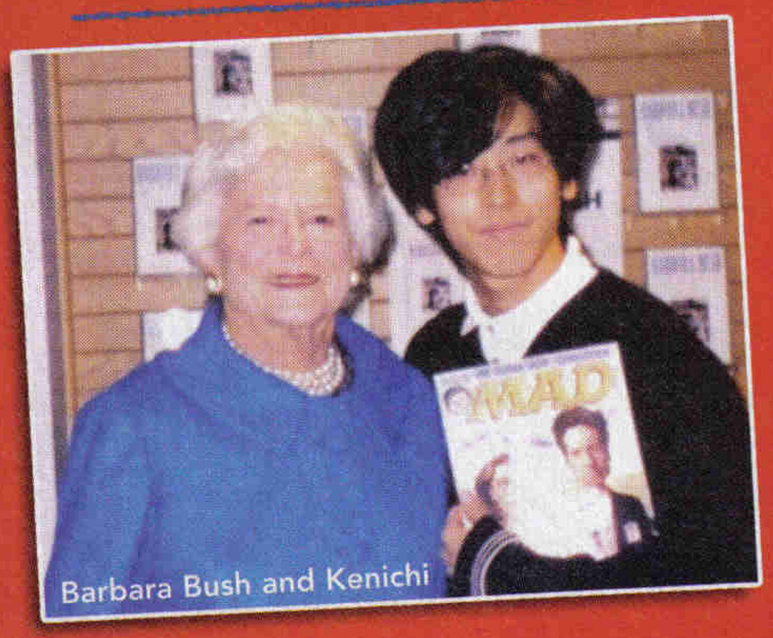


Dennis Kucinich and Rachel

MAD POLITICAL CELEBRITY SNAPS



Melissa, a giddy Gray Davis and Jason



Barbara Bush and Kenichi

Here's the photo I took with former First Lady and mother of the current President, Barbara Bush. I worked for many high-ranking Republican officials and Mrs. Bush was kind enough to take the photo with me and my MAD.

Kenichi Ota, Los Angeles, CA

Next of Ken — Hold the phone! We just realized that if you're Kenichi and she's Barbara, that makes the two of you Ken and Barbie! However, we just don't think you two have a Malibu dream house in your future! Congratulations on your one-year MAD subscription and in the immortal words of Styx, domo arigato, Mr. Ken Ota! —Ed.

Living in Israel, I don't get many chances to see celebrities, so when I heard that Arnold Schwarzenegger was coming to Israel, I planned to do whatever it took to get a Celebrity Snap with him. I had to fight my way through insane metal detectors, intrusive police dogs sniffing for bombs, macho Israeli soldiers, uptight American bodyguards (to whom I pretended I didn't speak English — it's a game we Israelis play with Americans) and worst of all — politicians! I went through all that, so when the governor saw that I had a MAD magazine that spoofed him in *Batman and Robin* he pushed it away!

Ira Kirschner, Maale Adumin, Israel

An obviously displeased Gov. Schwarzenegger and Ira

This is me and my girlfriend, Melissa, with Gray Davis at the Oakland airport. We were on our way to Hollywood, so I brought my MAD with me just in case we saw someone famous. We didn't see anyone in Hollywood, but Gray was nice enough to pose with us!

Jason Hajostek, Concord, CA

Dr. J and Captain Kirsch — From the stories you two just related, it seems that deposed California Governor Gray Davis is a friendly, down-to-earth man of the people. Current Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, on the other hand, is apparently a power-crazed, strong — armed thug. We hope you are happy with the choice you made, California! And Jason, we hope that after your skycap, Gray, helped with your luggage, you threw a couple of bucks his way! Congrats on your one-year subscription, Jason — and Ira, better luck next time! —Ed.

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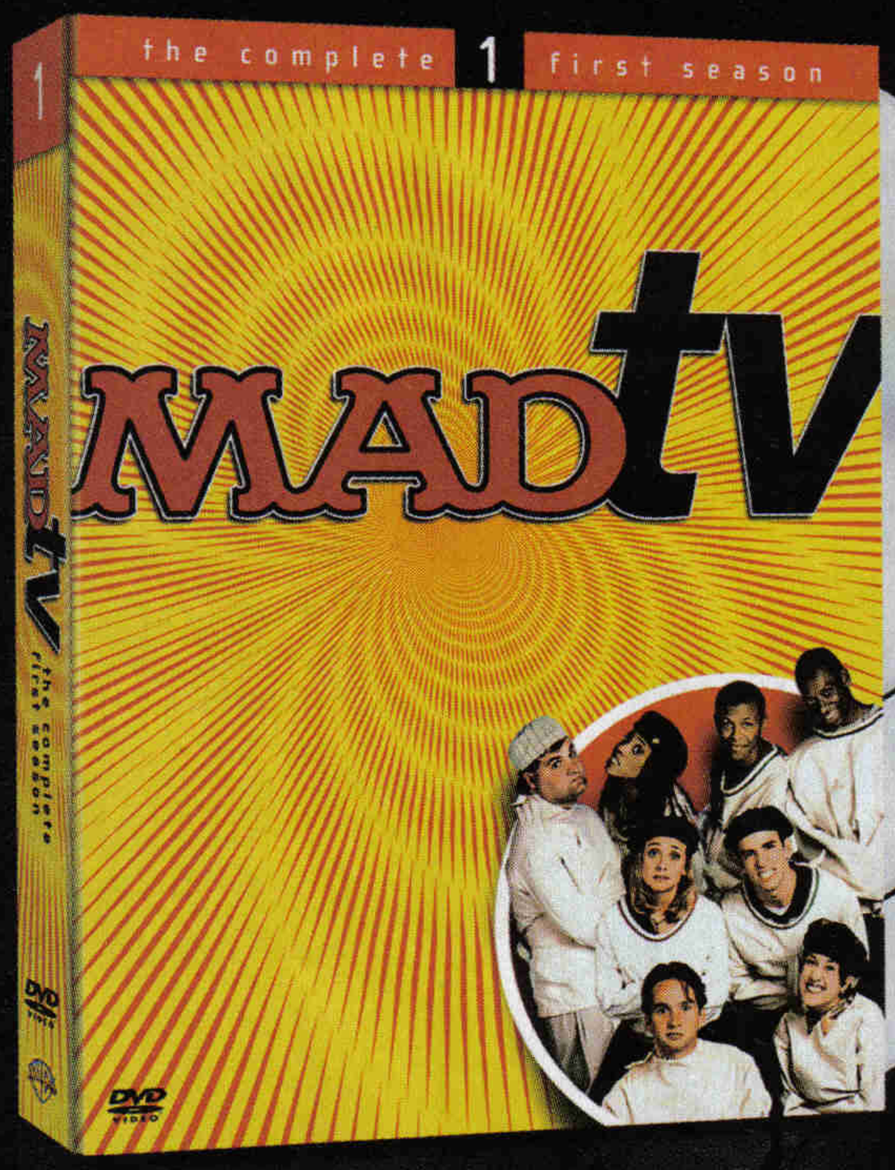

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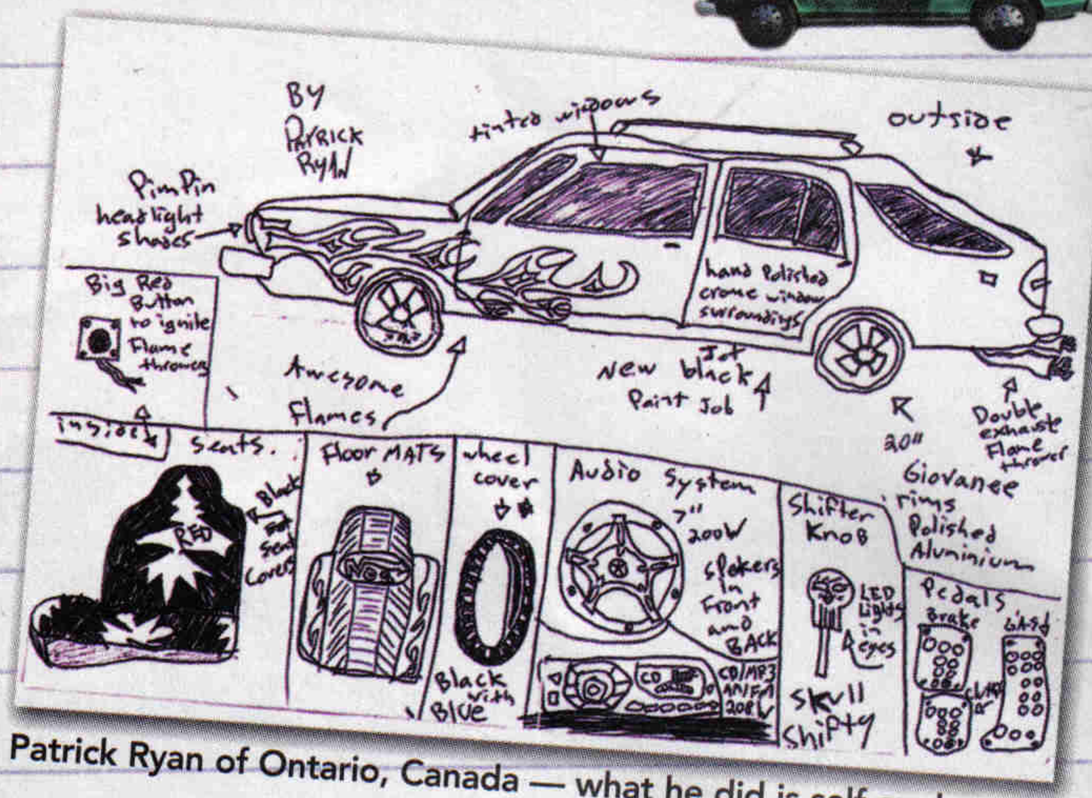
THE BIG PIMP OUT

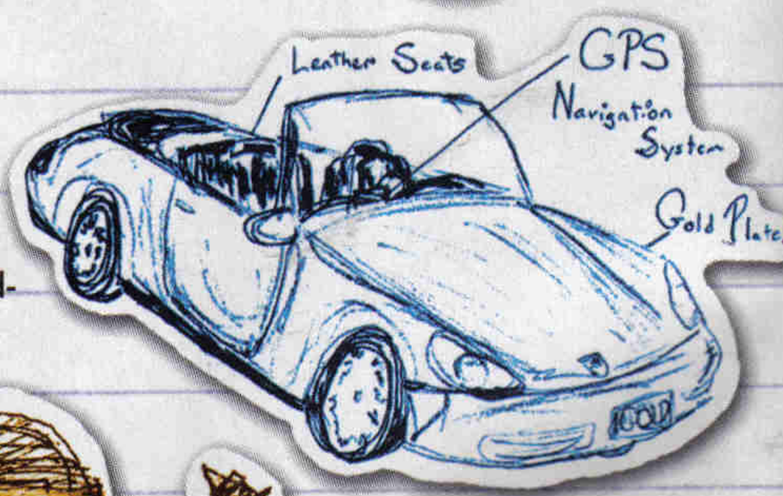
Back in MAD #444, we asked readers to "pimp out" B.J. Kuxhausen's 1976 Datsun 710 wagon — and pimp they did! So now we're forced to hold up our end of the bargain and print some of the "best" designs we received! Enjoy!



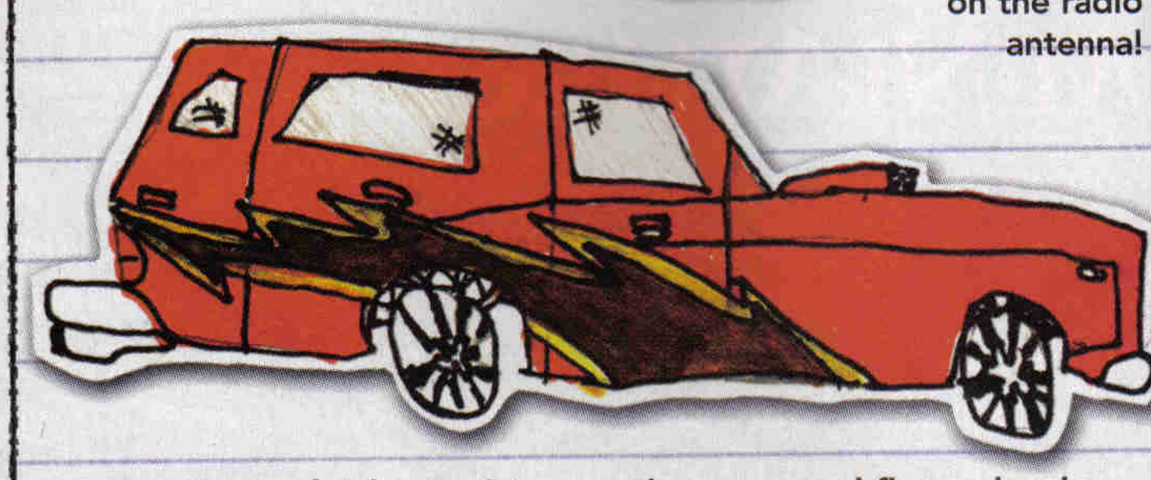
Patrick Ryan of Ontario, Canada — what he did is self-explanatory!

Hank Duden of Annapolis, MD added shiny, spinny rims, chrome fixtures and a flaming paint job!

Charlie Kidd of Lake Oswego, OR put in leather seats, a GPS navigation system and gold-plated rims!



Karen Lilly of Canyon Lake, CA installed a barbeque on top, and put a brand new Jack in the Box antenna on the radio antenna!



Ben Ross of Atlanta, GA gave the car a cool flame decal, Lamborghini doors, 26" Spinnerz rims, red paint, an engine vent, tinted windows and a huge exhaust pipe!

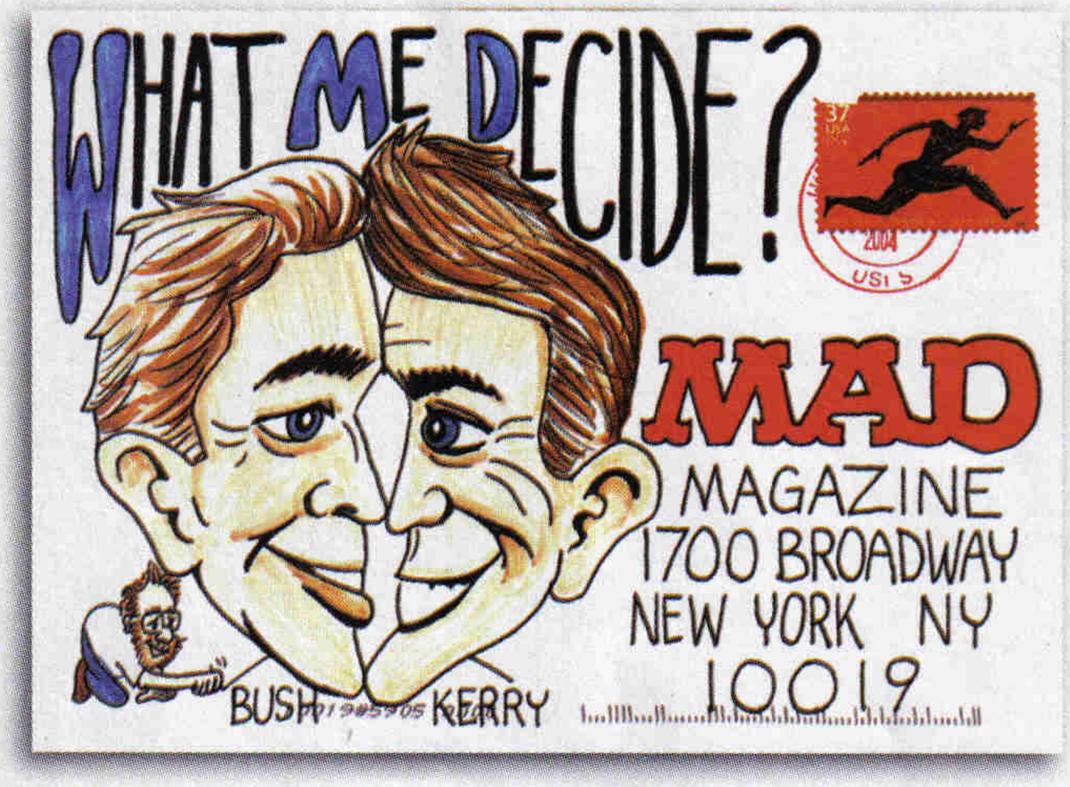
The Big Easel

Here's my little buddy holding a piece of scrimshaw done on woolly mammoth ivory! It's about the size of a pencil eraser! Since "Micro-Scrimshaw" is my profession, I couldn't waste time doing this any larger! In fact, since I'm self-employed, I fired myself for doing this on company time!

Bob Hergert, Port Orford, OR

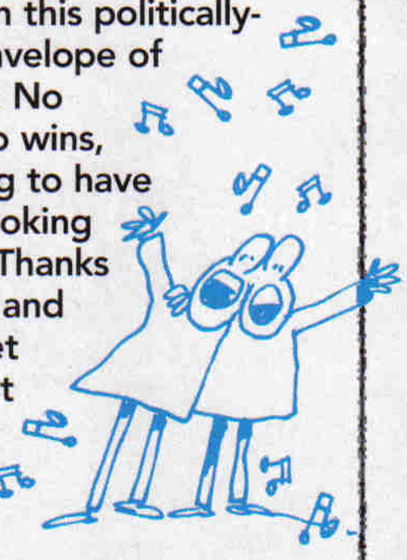
Hergie — Of the countless entries we get in the medium of woolly mammoth ivory, yours is by far the best we received. In fact, it was so good, we considered printing the entire magazine on woolly mammoth ivory. Much to our dismay, it would have cost upwards of $47,000 to print a single issue (and the fold-in would be remarkably hard to do). You can check out Bob's other work at www.scrimshander.com! —Ed.

P.S. We are always looking for pictures of your MAD creations using any materials from around your house. Send in your work to: Amy "The Big Easel" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019!



ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

Tom Anderson of Ukiah, CA sends in this politically-charged Envelope of the Month. No matter who wins, we're going to have a creepy looking President! Thanks for writing and don't forget to vote (not applicable if you're under 18)!



DO THE WRITE THING

I've been reading your magazine and books since I was 13 years old and I'm 32 now! I notice that while I write to you quite often, you never send me any mail back! You never write to me or send notes to me in MAD. So I'm writing to ask you if I should give up reading MAD?

Jem Densmore, Plano, TX

Aunt Jemima — To be honest, we don't care if you stop reading MAD, just so long as you don't stop *buying* MAD! —Ed.

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #448 ON SALE NOVEMBER 16!

15 MINUTES OF FAME: MAD'S LATEST BATCH OF HAS-BEENS!

MAD MUMBLINGS AT MADMAG.COM

Leprechauns do not like cake, trust me — greaserdude...Do dogs talk to bananas, or is it just me? — superstarlet...three rights make a left, two Wrights make an airplane — MoGeo... I like ninjas, of course, I can't finish a whole one by myself — Merrick Cohen...boycott shampoo...demand the real poo — PickerelPelee...If you stick a crayon up your nose, but no one else knows, do you still have to go to the hospital? — madmag90023... if life is a roller coaster, mine needs desperate repairs — personanonomus.

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Contributing Artists And Writers

the usual gang of idiots

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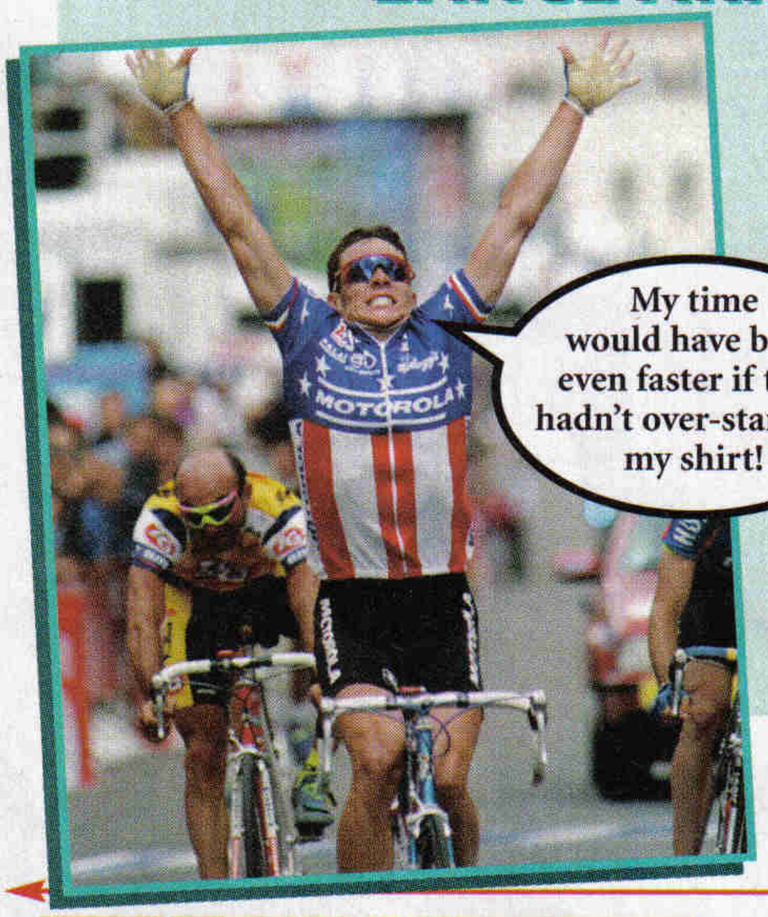
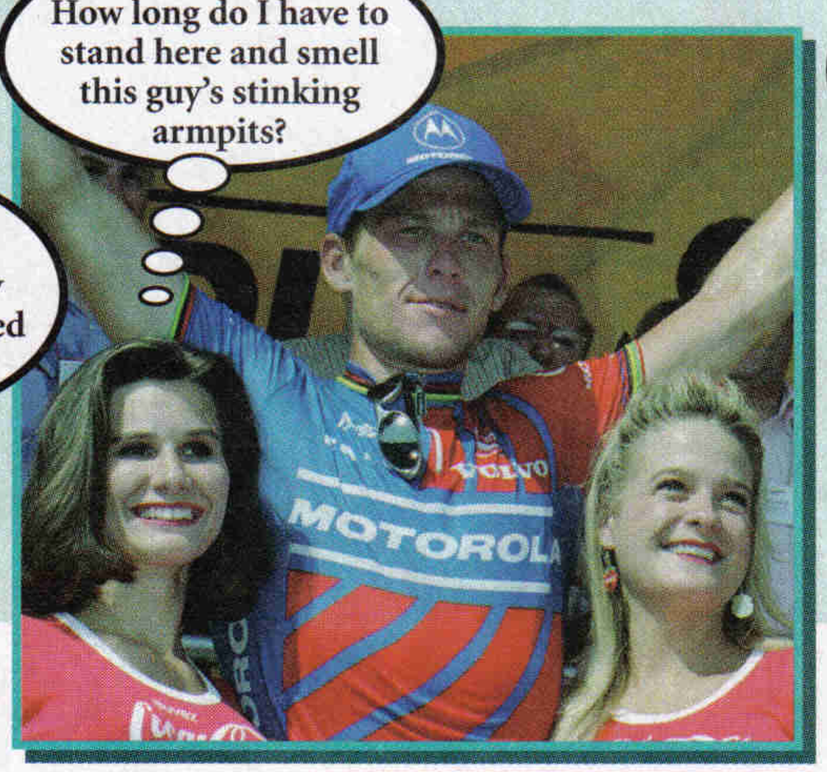
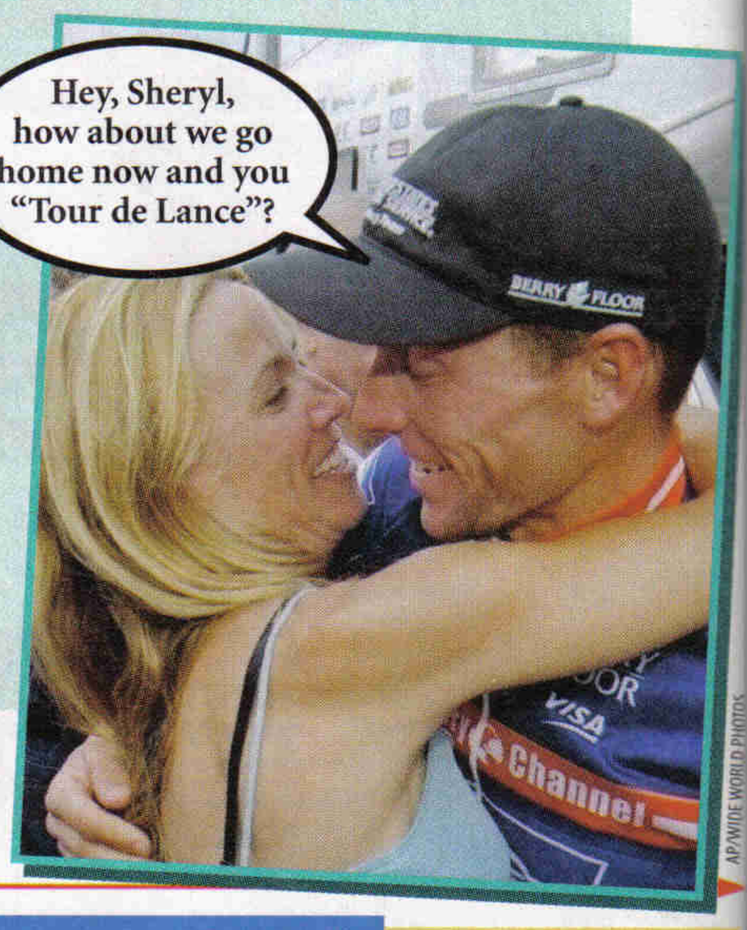
LANCE ARMSTRONG WINS 6TH TOUR DE FRANCE

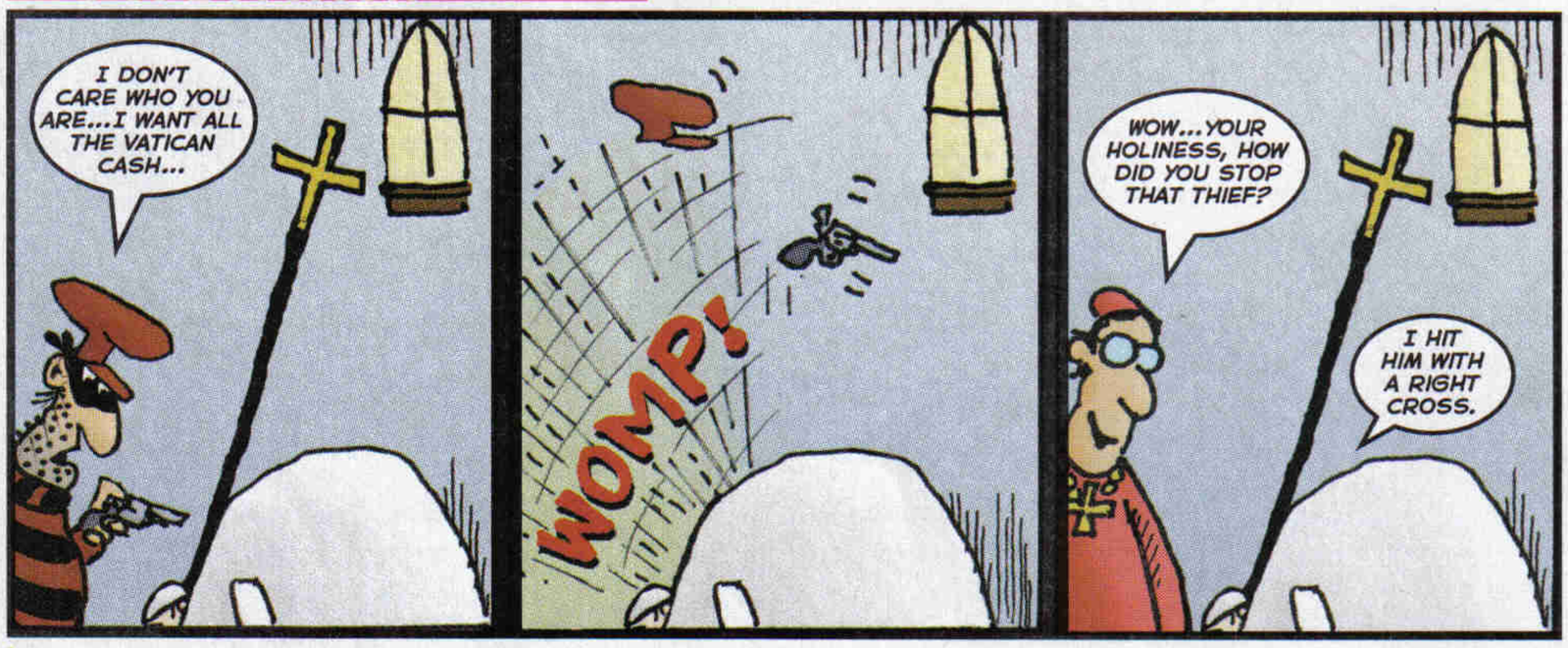






AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

POPE FICTION



CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS... WHEN IN FACT...

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS...	WHEN IN FACT...
Most Americans are either passionately conservative or rabidly liberal.	Most Americans haven't actually bothered to vote since the fifth episode of *American Idol*.
Most Americans think of Canada as a bland, uninteresting place.	Most Americans have never given Canada so much as a nano-second of thought.
Most Americans don't get enough exercise.	Most Americans will, without hesitation, chase an ice cream truck for six whole blocks for a Choco Taco.
Most Americans can't stand the idea of gay marriage.	Most Americans are equally skittish with the idea of heterosexual marriage.
Most Americans are proud to purchase items "Made in the USA."	Most Americans haven't seen anything like that in years.
Most Americans aren't very well informed because newspapers don't adequately cover world events	Most Americans don't read anything in newspapers except sports, *Cathy* and the Junior Jumble.

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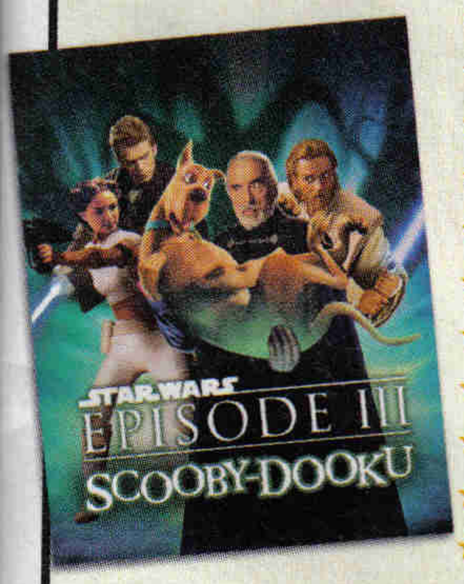
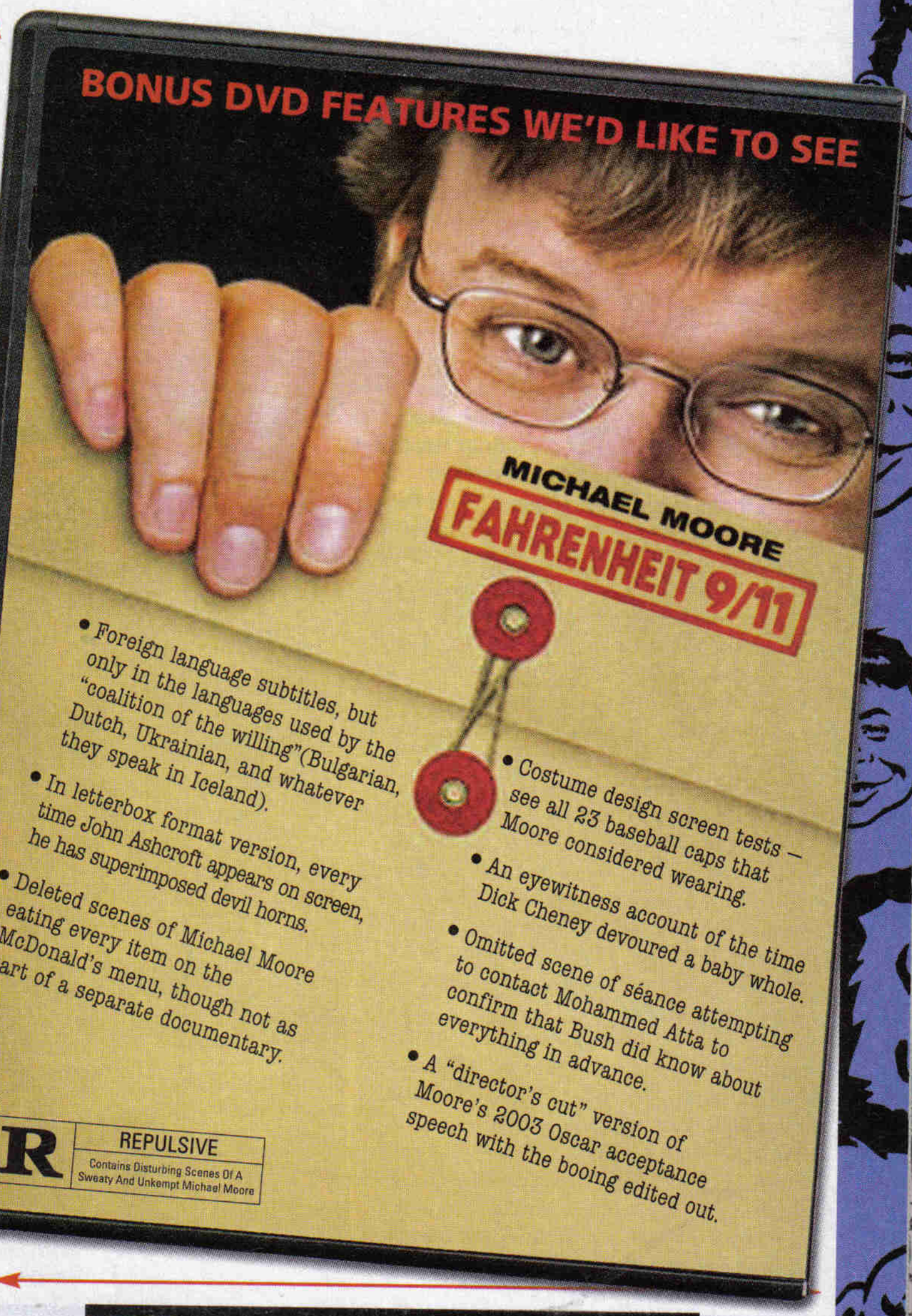
PAGES

THE KITCHEN SINK

TITLES GEORGE LUCAS CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT *STAR WARS* MOVIE

- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Yoda Has A Bake Sale*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Dancin' in the Darth*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *I See Dead Prequel*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — Sith Happens
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Harold and Jar-Jar Go To White Castle*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Tatooine Idol*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *How Yoda Got His Groove Back*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Crouching Jedi, Hidden Gungan*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Pimp My Millennium Falcon*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Revenge Of The Licensed Merchandise*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Dude, Where's My Death Star?*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *My Big Fat Sith Wedding*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *I'm Darth James, Bitch!*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Inherit the Windu*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Windus of War*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Gone With The Windu*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Sith Sense*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Droid Rage*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *I, Droid*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *A Space Odyssey*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Barbie and Kenobi*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Darth Maul of America*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Passion of the Wookiee*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Jedis of the Caribbean*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Force for Dummies*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Princess Amidala Diaries*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *In Search of Harrison Ford*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Mission Accomplished!*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Not Another Palpatine Movie*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Sand-People*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Men Are From Coruscant, Women Are From Alderaan*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Phantom Weapons of Mass Destruction*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Return of Mr. Billy Dee Williams*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Perfect Stormtrooper*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *Harry Potter and the Prisoners of Naboo*
- ★Star Wars: Episode III — *The Scent of a Wookiee*



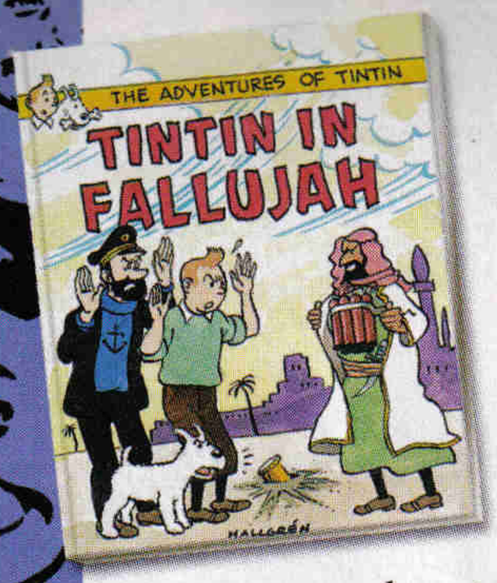


CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

This month: TINA FEY

OUR TEAM OF CRACK ODDSMAKERS GIVES YOU THE LATEST VEGAS LINE ON HOW ONE OF TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS WILL MEET HER DEMISE!

CAUSE OF DEATH	ODDS
Pummeled by real-life "Mean Girls" angered over her depiction of them in her film	2:1
Crushed when next out-of-control fat guy hired by *Saturday Night Live* falls on her after a drug overdose	7:1
Terminal "mousy-ness"	10:1
Executed in electric chair after murdering umpteenth *SNL* guest host who mistakes her for a secretary	13:1
Coldcocked by own grandmother for swiping her eyeglasses	17:1



GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEW

It all began with a boy and his dog. But implied bestiality is only a small part of the enduring appeal of Tintin. The intrepid reporter, or explorer, or whatever the hell job he's got, has been thrilling fans with his globetrotting adventures for 75 years now. That's 525 in Snowy years...isn't it about time that dog got put down?

Well, the world has changed. And there's no reason why a personality-free cipher like Tintin shouldn't change with it. In the first new Tintin book since 1976, the gang makes its way to wartorn Iraq, in search of stolen blueprints or some crap. The motivation is a bit hazy, as the book begins in typical Tintin mode, with all the characters falling down staircases in endlessly comic fashion. After 30 pages of this Belgian hilarity, the adventure proper begins.

Arriving at Baghdad Airport, Tintin receives his first setback when his taxi driver turns out to be a suicide bomber. Luckily, the gang escapes with just a few bumps and scrapes, not counting Snowy's massive injuries. The white pup's blindness and internal bleeding are played for big laughs later on.

Of course, it wouldn't be "Tintin" without the zany clash of cultures! When that lovable rogue Captain Haddock gets drunk in violation of Muslim law, the local authorities have no choice but to lop off his drinking hand. You can imagine the colorful language the good Captain would let loose on his punishers...if only they hadn't also seared his tongue with hot coals!

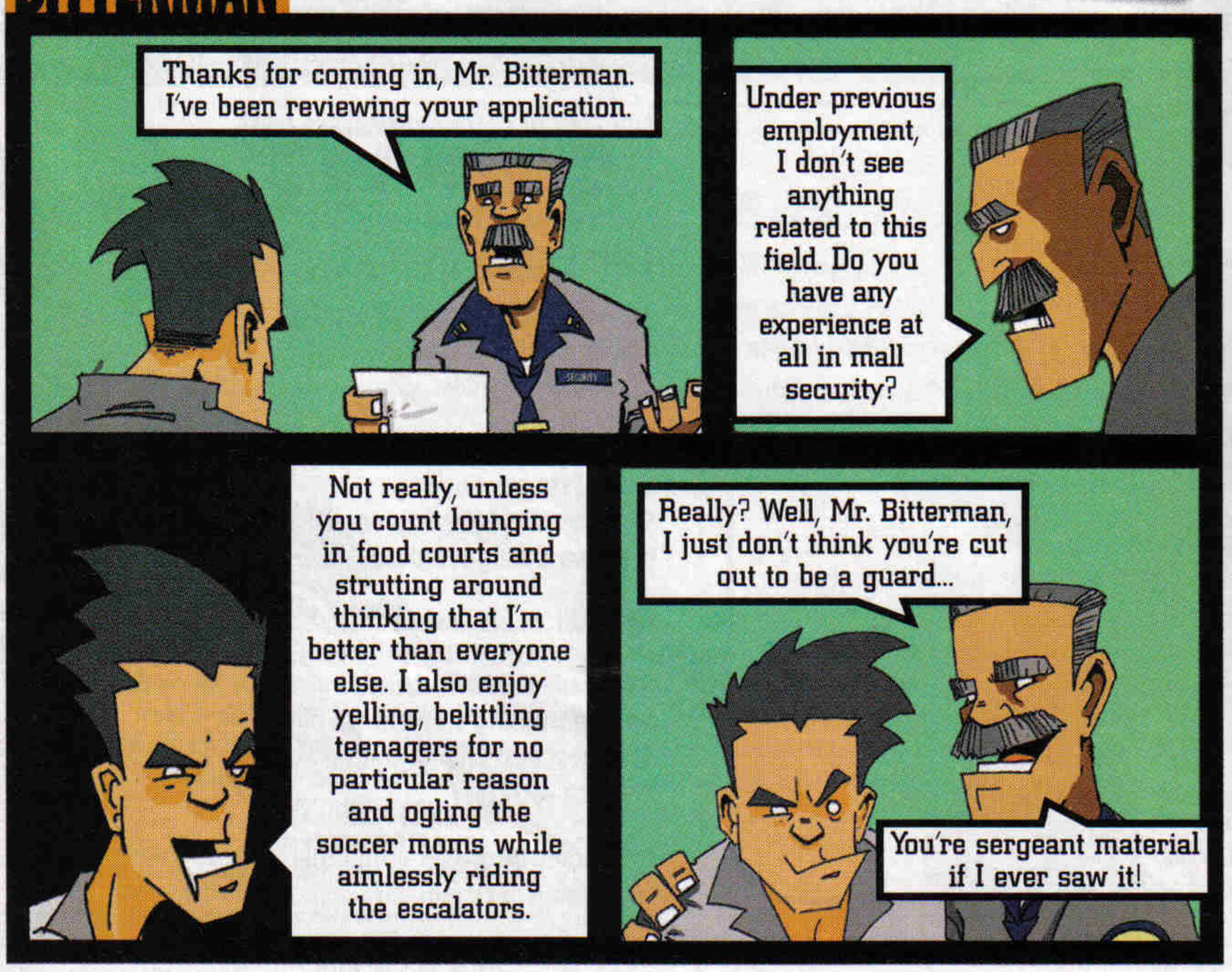
Another crazy mix-up occurs later in the story, when the bumbling Thompson twins are beheaded by their fundamentalist captors. Suffice to say that reuniting the correct heads with the original bodies is no easy task!

But since this is fiction, the story ends cheerfully, with all the characters leaving Iraq like they said they would.

Adding it up, Tintin in Fallujah is another winner! It wrings more laughs out of the ceaseless blood-saturated nightmare than you'd expect. So even if you worship that other, ridiculous god, you're sure to love it. Let it occupy your bookshelf for the next 30 years!

120 pgs. $16.98

BITTERMAN



FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Matthew A. Cohen

Dick DeBartolo

Desmond Devlin

Duck Edwing

Garth Gerhart

Gary Hallgren

Charlie Kadau

Jeff Kruse

Jacob Lambert

Patrick Merrell

Mike Snider

Jack Syracuse

Dennis Wunderlin

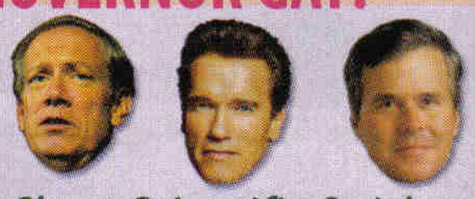
THE PUZZLE NOOK

Which of the 5 choices best completes this phrase?

_?_ RY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE

1. FLATTE__
2. JOHN KER__
3. BRAGGING YOU SERVED IN SADDAM'S MILITA__
4. CRUISING FOR CHICKS IN A TOYOTA CAM__
5. TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF TERRY BRADSHAW'S COMMENTA__

IS YOUR STATE'S GOVERNOR GAY?



A Short Scientific Quizlette

Is he actively campaigning to change your official state song to "It's Raining Men"?

? YES NO ?

Do his press conferences last for hours on end, due to his six costume changes and the dance numbers choreographed by Mr. Tommy Tune?

? YES NO ?

Has he stopped signing bills, opting instead to simply "seal them with a kiss"?

? YES NO ?

Does his entire state cabinet now consist of a Cowboy, a Sailor, a Cop, a Construction Worker, an Indian Chief and a Biker?

? YES NO ?

On the campaign trail, has he switched from kissing babies to trying to make out with their father

? YES NO ?

Does he insist that all state functions be planned around his viewing schedule of *Will & Grace* reruns

? YES NO ?

SCORING:

If you answered "Yes" to one or more of the above questions, it's a pretty good bet you live in New Jersey.

President George W. Bush once said we'll have to wait for history to judge his presidency.

HOW GEORGE W. BUSH "STACKS UP"

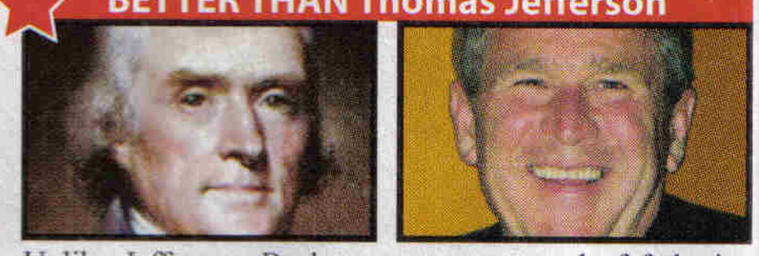
BETTER THAN George Washington

Instead of lame-ass "Father of our country," Bush is "Father of the two hottest, drinkin'-est party-babes ever to live in the White House"!

WORSE THAN John Adams

Adams was the first President to move into the White House...Bush is the first President to spend so much time on vacation and at fundraisers he's hardly ever *in* the White House!

BETTER THAN Thomas Jefferson



Unlike Jefferson, Bush was never accused of fathering an illegitimate child by one of his female slaves (at least he wasn't the last time we checked the daily anti-Bush press release from MoveOn.org)!

WORSE THAN Andrew Jackson

Jackson was a champion of the common man; Bush, of the common man in India, Taiwan, Mexico, China and any other country American jobs have been outsourced to!

BETTER THAN Martin Van Buren

We just never liked that balding douchebag Van Buren!

BETTER THAN William Henry Harrison

Unlike that inconsiderate boob of the 1840s, Bush had the decency to stay alive for more than 30 days into his term!

BETTER THAN Millard Fillmore

Because…well, because even a potted plant would be better than Fillmore, and even Bush's harshest critics will agree he's *at least* the equivalent of a potted plant!

WORSE THAN Franklin Pierce

Pierce approved the *Gadsden Purchase* from Mexico in 1853; Bush is still looking for the state of *Gadsden* on a U.S. map!

BETTER THAN James Buchanan

Only because Buchanan shares the same last name as that right wing nutjob Pat Buchanan, and *anybody's* better than him!

BETTER THAN Rutherford B. Hayes

If Hayes had had the foresight to get his brother elected Governor of Florida before 1876, he could've stolen the election without having to stuff the ballot boxes in Oregon, South Carolina and Louisiana, too!

WORSE THAN James Garfield

In order to prevent a repeat of Garfield's assassination by a disappointed office-seeker, Bush went ahead and hired every single unqualified nutcase who wanted to work in his administration!

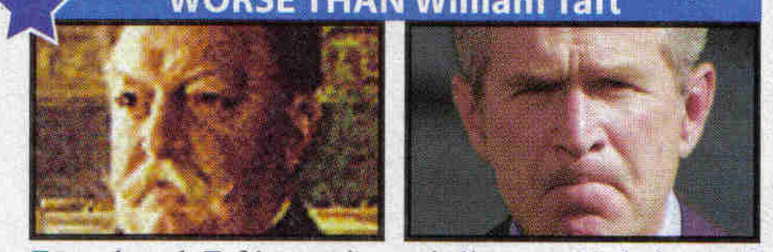
WORSE THAN Chester Arthur

Arthur — muttonchops; Bush — muttonhead!

WORSE THAN Theodore Roosevelt

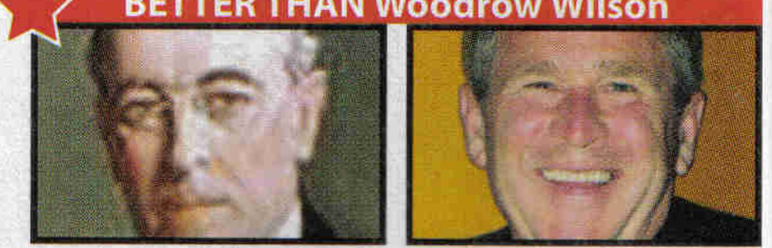
During the Spanish-American War, Teddy led his Army troops up San Juan Hill; during Vietnam, Bush led his Alabama National Guard buddies to the nearest bar every night!

WORSE THAN William Taft



Even though Taft's massive waistline provided plenty of "fat-joke" fodder, gag-writers and standup comedians of the 1910s would've given their right arm for a "walking punchline" of a President like Bush!

BETTER THAN Woodrow Wilson



In terms of sophomoric, dirty double-entendre-sounding names, "Bush" trumps "Woodrow" every time!

WORSE THAN Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR demonstrated how much the physically handicapped can do; Bush does so for the mentally handicapped!

WORSE THAN Harry Truman

Truman had a sign on his desk reading, "The buck stops here." Bush's sign reads, "Ask Rumsfeld or Cheney"!

BETTER THAN Dwight Eisenhower

Did you see that amazing tee shot of Bush's in the movie *Fahrenheit 9/11*? And Eisenhower had the nerve to call himself "The Golfing President"!

BETTER THAN Gerald Ford

If only by the sheer volume of laugh-out-loud raw material for their respective blooper reels!

WORSE THAN Jimmy Carter

Carter had a coarse, dim-witted brother, Billy; compared to Jeb and Neil, George W. *is* the coarse, dim-witted brother!

WORSE THAN Ronald Reagan

Whoever operated Reagan's mouth and strings did a WAY better job than the one working Bush's!

WRITER: MIKE SNIDER

BUSH PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

But why wait? MAD now proudly presents its totally fair and balanced look at...

AGAINST THE OTHER 42 U.S. PRESIDENTS

WORSE THAN James Madison

It never even *occurred* to Madison to brag about winning the War of 1812 by putting on an admiral's uniform, sailing to the largest Navy ship and then strut around in front of a huge "Mission Accomplished!" sign!

WORSE THAN James Monroe

Monroe ushered in the so-called "Era of Good Feeling" between the opposing political parties. Bush also ushered in an era of good feeling, but only among his millionaire fat-cat buddies with his massive tax cuts for the rich!

BETTER THAN John Quincy Adams

Adams went swimming, naked, in the Potomac River *every day*; Bush hasn't done that once since he quit drinking!

BETTER THAN John Tyler

Tyler fathered 15 children — *none* of whom could hold a candle to Jenna and Barbara Bush when it came to making fake I.D.s!

BETTER THAN James Polk

At least Bush has the decency to stage *his* unnecessary and unprovoked wars thousands of miles away, instead of right on our own borders with Mexico!

WORSE THAN Zachary Taylor

Former military-man Taylor knew virtually nothing about the political process before being elected President, but learned quickly, while Bush is *still* pretty clueless three and a half years into the job!

WORSE THAN Abraham Lincoln

While Lincoln held together the Union with everything in his power...Bush is dividing it just by being himself!

WORSE THAN Andrew Johnson

Andrew Johnson may have been impeached and escaped conviction by only one senate vote, but Bush "won" the Presidency by only one Supreme Court vote!

BETTER THAN Ulysses S. Grant

Grant was crooked, inept and alcoholic; Bush is a *recovering* alcoholic!

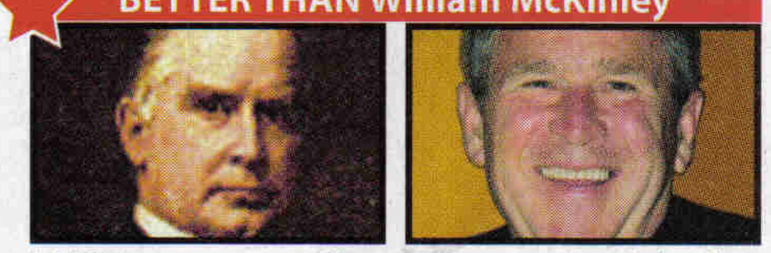
WORSE THAN Grover Cleveland

Cleveland was the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms (#22 and #24); Bush still has to look up "non-consecutive," then schedule some time to practice pronouncing it!

WORSE THAN Benjamin Harrison

Harrison was the first to spend over $1 billion on the federal budget; Bush spent that much on just one "no-bid" contract for a company run by his cronies!

BETTER THAN William McKinley



McKinley never would've gotten assassinated by that anarchist in 1901 if he had just thrown him and all his ilk into heavily-fenced-in "Free Speech Zones," like Bush!

BETTER THAN Warren Harding

Harding surrounded himself with crooked lackies who cut deals with shady characters from self-serving business interests; Bush cut out all the duplication and rolled all of those into a single position...the Vice Presidency!

WORSE THAN Calvin Coolidge

Coolidge had to "clean up" the Oval Office after Harding; Bush just had to clean up the Oval Office *carpet* after Clinton!

BETTER THAN Herbert Hoover

If Hoover had had Bush's talent for spin-doctoring, he would've called The Great Depression "The Great On-the-Verge-of-an-Improving-Economy"!

WORSE THAN John Kennedy

Even with *conclusive* spy-satellite photos showing Soviet nuclear weapons being moved into Cuba, Kennedy was able to resist plunging America into war!

BETTER THAN Lyndon Johnson

Unlike LBJ, Bush was never implicated in JFK assassination conspiracy theories — not even by Oliver Stone or Michael Moore!

WORSE THAN Richard Nixon

Both presided over hugely unpopular wars...both had administrations full of crooks. The tie-breaker? Nixon got his picture taken with ELVIS!!!

BETTER THAN George Herbert Walker Bush

George W. has NEVER vomited on another world leader like his Dad did — in spite of such irresistible "puke inducers" as Tony Blair's bad British teeth and the deadly "jalapeño breath" of Mexican President Vicente Fox!

WORSE THAN Bill Clinton

If Bush were as incredibly convincing as Clinton when telling a lie, the U.N. and all our European allies would have invaded Iraq along with us, and it'd be mostly THEIR quagmire now!

BETTER THAN Al Gore

Even though Gore won the election, Bush somehow wound up in the Oval Office — and it takes a real genius to do that!

FOR YOUR DISGUISE ONLY DEPT.

Halloween is fast approaching, and you know what that means (Besides carving a pumpkin using the all-new Spy Vs. Spy Jack-O-Lantern stencil FREE in MAD XL #30, on sale NOW!): choosing a costume. Frankenstein and Dracula are old school! Alien? Predator? Fugheddaboutit! And do you really want to go as Skeletor for the *third* year in a row? No, you want to pick one of the fresh, new, candy-collectingest styles from our Fall collection of...

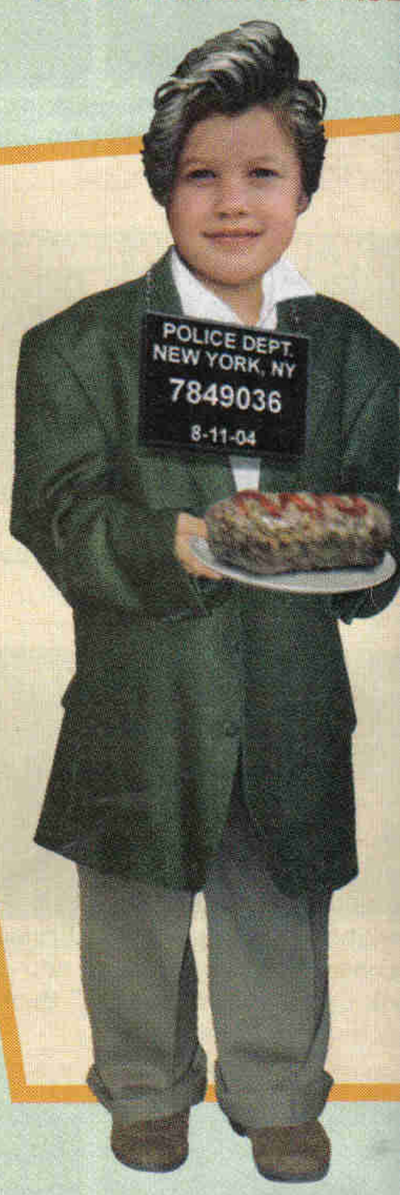
THIS YEAR'S HOTTEST HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

ONE OF BILLY "I'M IN A DRUNKEN STATE OF MIND" JOEL'S MANY CRASHED CARS

JANET JACKSON'S SUPER-EXPOSED SUPER BOWL SUPER BOOB

A CAN OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S BOY-SEDUCING, WINE-PACKED "JESUS JUICE"

MEATLOAF EATIN', COP-BAITIN' STREET TOUGH MIKE WALLACE



ENGORGED OLYMPIC ATHLETE'S STEROID-LADEN URINE SAMPLE

ABU GHRAIB PRISON HOSTESS, PFC FIRST CLASS LYNNDIE ENGLAND

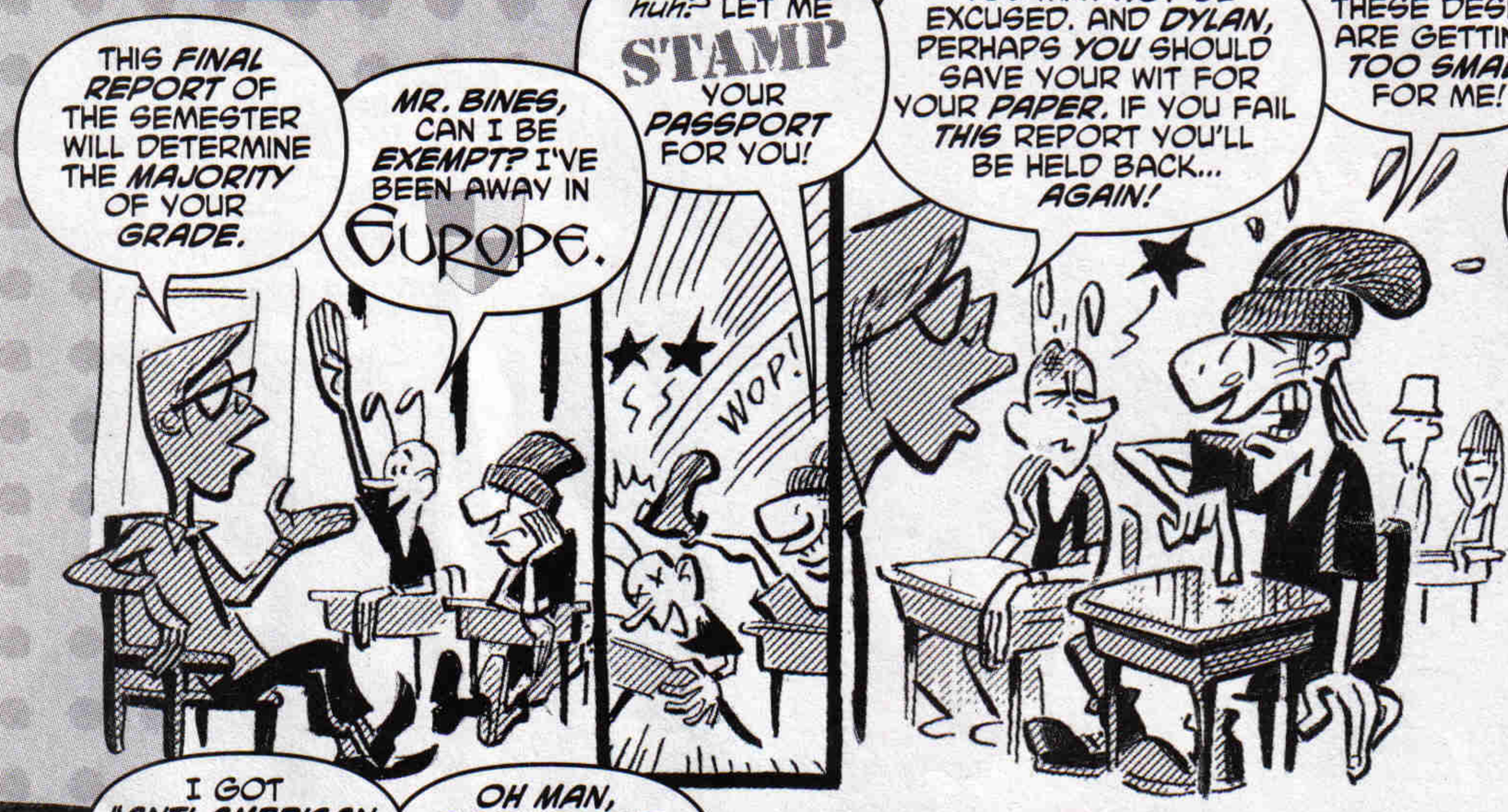
THE COCAINE-ADDLED GHOST OF RICK JAMES

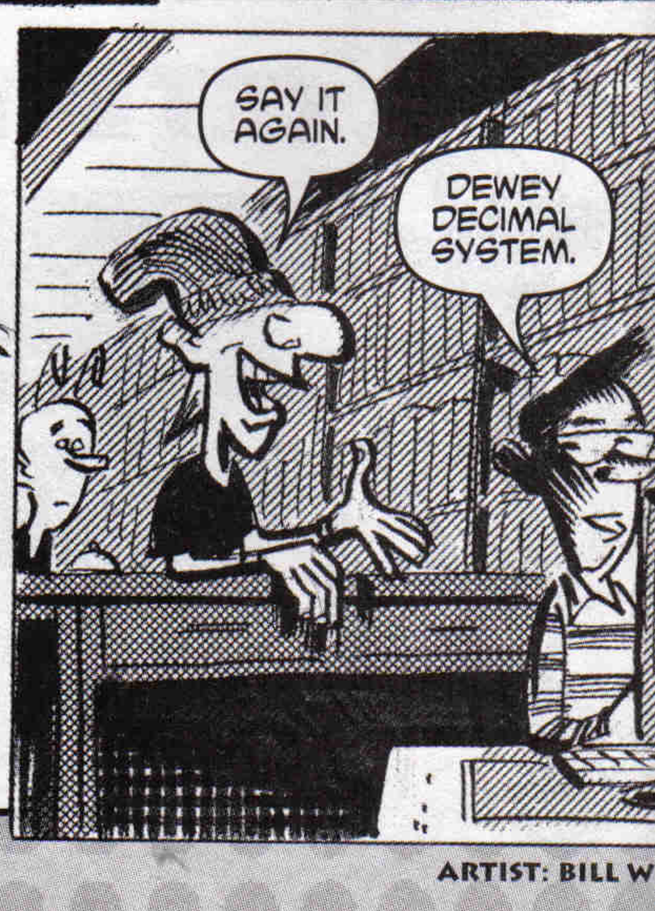
50 POUNDS OF FAT LOST BY TRIMSPA HEIFER ANNA NICOLE SMITH

ARTIST: SCOTT BRICH

Out of the frying pan and into the ire, it's...

MONROE and...





GLOBAL WARMING

DYLAN, *PLEASE.* YOU THINK THAT *INTIMIDATES* ME? I'M A *TEACHER.* I DRIVE A **1979 pacer.**

DAMN!

FACULTY

BUT SINCE *I* DON'T WANT YOU AROUND ANY MORE THAN *YOU* WANT TO BE HERE, HOW ABOUT I TEAM YOU UP WITH *MONROE* OUTSIDE OF CLASS?

SWEET.

WAKE UP, MONROE. *PLEASE,* GOD, LET ME *WAKE UP* NOW.

ALL RIGHT. THE THEME OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS **"PROBLEMS WITH THE WORLD."**

I CAN WRITE *THIS ONE* IN MY *SLEEP.*

EVERYONE REACH INTO THIS BAG AND PULL OUT YOUR SUBJECT.

TRADER JOE'S

DYLAN! OMIGOD! WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*

I'M HERE FOR OUR *STUDY SESSION!*

LOOK AT THIS PLACE. WHO *DECORATED?* BED, BATH AND BEYOND QUEER?

YEAH, *uh, GOOD ONE!* HA HA! HERE, TAKE A LOOK, I'M *DOWNLOADING* OUR PAPER. *SEE?* ALL DONE.

FORGET THAT! BINES FINDS OUT WE STOLE IT OFF THE *INTERNET* AND THAT **TOOL** WILL *FAIL ME.*

WOW, THAT'S PRETTY COOL I GUESS, DYLAN. YOU'RE TAKING *RESPONSIBILITY* AND ALL.

RIGHT. THAT'S WHY *YOU'RE* GONNA WRITE IT AND *I'LL* BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING MY NAME ON IT. *LATER.*

OH... OKAY. *EVEN BETTER.* NO PROBLEM! SEE YA!

HAHA HAHAHA. AGAIN.

DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM.

DOOO-Y! I *LOVE* IT! AGAIN.

DYLAN, I *DON'T* THINK THIS IS *HELPING US* GET OUR *REPORT* DONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S *BLOW* THIS PLACE.

BUT WE NEED TO LOOK AT THESE *BOOKS!* THEY TALK ABOUT *MELTING ICE CAPS* AND THE OCEAN GETTING *WARMER.*

RISING TIDE

THE OCEAN? BEACH.... CHICKS.... AWESOME IDEA!!

WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI

Monroe

HERE COME SOME *GIRLS.* *QUICK,* TAKE YOUR *SHIRT* OFF!

OH, OKAY! YOU THINK THIS WILL *TURN THEM ON?*

OH, *HELL NO,* BUT I'LL LOOK *GREAT* BY COMPARISON!

Um, DYLAN... *EXCUSE ME,* BUT WE SHOULD *REALLY* GET TO WORK ON THIS *GLOBAL WARMING THING.*

OMIGOD. I AM *TOTALLY* AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING AND STUFF. WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

WE'RE WRITING A *PAPER.*

WE'RE *SCIENTISTS*

I GOTTA *CRUISE* BY MY *HOUSE* — DON'T TRACK ANY DOG CRAP INSIDE.

Uh, I CAN JUST *WALK HOME* FROM HERE.

FORGET *THAT!* WE HAVE *HOMEWORK,* AND *I* HAVE AN *Idea.*

WHERE THE *HELL* YOU BEEN? *HERE,* WEAR THIS *THING* AND REMEMBER TO *MOVE* AROUND THE *HOUSE* EVERY NOW AND THEN.

WHAT DID YOU GREASE YOUR *HOUSE ARREST ANKLET* WITH *THIS* TIME? BUTTER?

BETTER *NOT* TO KNOW.

UGGH.

DON'T *WAIT UP!* BUT GET BAIL READY *JUST IN CASE.*

COME ON.

WHY ARE WE *MOVING* THIS?

WE'LL SET UP A NICE *SCREENING ROOM.*

SCREENING ROOM? THIS IS A *TOOL SHED!*

PERFECT PLACE FOR A **TOOL** LIKE *YOU.*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

MAKE YOURSELF *COMFORTABLE.* THIS IS MY BIG IDEA — IT'S A **SENSE-O-ROUND** *CINEMA EXPERIENCE.* THIS PLACE *REALLY* WARMS UP THIS TIME OF YEAR.

WE *ARE?* YES, OF *COURSE* WE ARE! WHY *NOT?*

WOW.

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO STOP BY MY *LAB* SOMETIME.

YEAH...UH... AND YOU CAN CHECK OUT MY PHOTON MICROSCOPE.

YEAH, YOU'LL *NEED* A MICROSCOPE WITH *THIS GUY.*

HA HA HAHA HA HAHA

DUDE, THAT *SUCKED.*

YOU SUCK.

POINT TAKEN.

WHAT ARE *YOU* LOOKING AT?

BELIEVE ME, DUDE, I CAN *RELATE.*

WHATEVER. THIS IS *MY ROOM.* I *DARE* YOU TO TOUCH *ANYTHING.*

I'M COOL. *Hmmm.* "HANG IN THERE."

HANG IN THERE

OH, *THAT'S* WHAT THAT SAYS? I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT *TORTURING KITTENS.*

SO WHAT'S THIS *"BIG IDEA"?* ARE THOSE *DVDS?*

YEAH. *NETFLIX* IS *SWEET.* ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO TO YOUR *MAILBOX.* OR SOMEONE'S MAILBOX WHO GETS *NETFLIX.*

TOSS!

HERE IT IS. THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW! THIS *WHOLE THING* IS ABOUT THAT *GLOBAL WARMING* STUFF!

THE NEXT DAY...

OH NO! WAIT A SECOND! MAKE IT STOP! *MAKE IT STOP!*

NOT JAKE GYLLENHAAL!

AND *HERE* IS THE SUBJECT'S FACE AFTER *SEVERAL HOURS* OF MY *GLOBAL WARMING SIMULATION. CONCLUSION:* AS THE WORLD WARMS UP, *MOVIES* AS WELL AS *MAN* WILL SUFFER.

ANYTHING *ELSE?*

YES, *THANK YOU* FOR PAIRING ME UP WITH *MONROE.* GLOBAL PROBLEMS, WHATEVER, AS LONG AS I HAVE *HIM* AROUND FOR STUFF LIKE *THIS,* EVERYTHING IS *RIGHT* WITH THE WORLD.

THAT'S *FINE.* MONROE — ANYTHING TO ADD?

YES, I CONCLUDE THAT IT CAN GET AS *WARM* AS IT WANTS, BUT THE WORLD IS *ALWAYS* GONNA BE A VERY COLD PLACE FOR *YOURS TRULY.*

TONY B. B. WRAY

ONE MORNING ON FIFTH AVENUE

ARTIST: PAUL COKER WRITER: DUCK EDWING

THE RACING WORLD IS GOING MAD!

This October during the NHRA race weekend at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Jeg and Troy Coughlin are adding a little sibling rivalry to the drag strip when they present dueling *Spy vs. Spy* Chevrolet pro stock drag cars courtesy of MAD Racing.

With two NHRA pro stock championships in 2000 and 2002, Jeg has a slight edge on his older brother Troy. However, with a little help from *Spy vs. Spy*, the Coughlin brothers are looking to smoke the field in Las Vegas.

The Jeg's Mail Order/*Spy vs. Spy* Chevrolet Cavalier pro stock cars are part of the MAD Racing program that extends to the NHRA, NASCAR® and World of Outlaws circuits.

MAD Racing also will share top billing with four of NASCAR's best-known drivers: Michael Waltrip, Kenny Wallace, Jeremy Mayfield and rookie sensation Kasey Kahne. This October during the NASCAR race weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Waltrip and Wallace will handle driving duties behind the wheel of the No. 99 and No. 00 Aaron's Dream Machines, respectively. Both Aaron's cars will showcase MAD icon *Alfred E. Neuman*.

Meanwhile, Mayfield and Kahne will field dueling *Spy vs. Spy* Dodge machines at Atlanta during the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race on Oct. 31, 2004.

All NASCAR and NHRA race cars also will share a specially designed MAD Racing "Unsafe at Any Speed!" logo featuring the two "Spy" characters from *Spy vs. Spy* and designed by Action Performance.

For more information about the complete lineup of MAD Racing drivers and die-cast collectible availability, contact your Action Racing Collectables distributor.

ACTION®
ACTION COLLECTABLES, THE CHOICE of CHAMPIONS

NASCAR

TO LOCATE YOUR LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR, CALL
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www.action-performance.com

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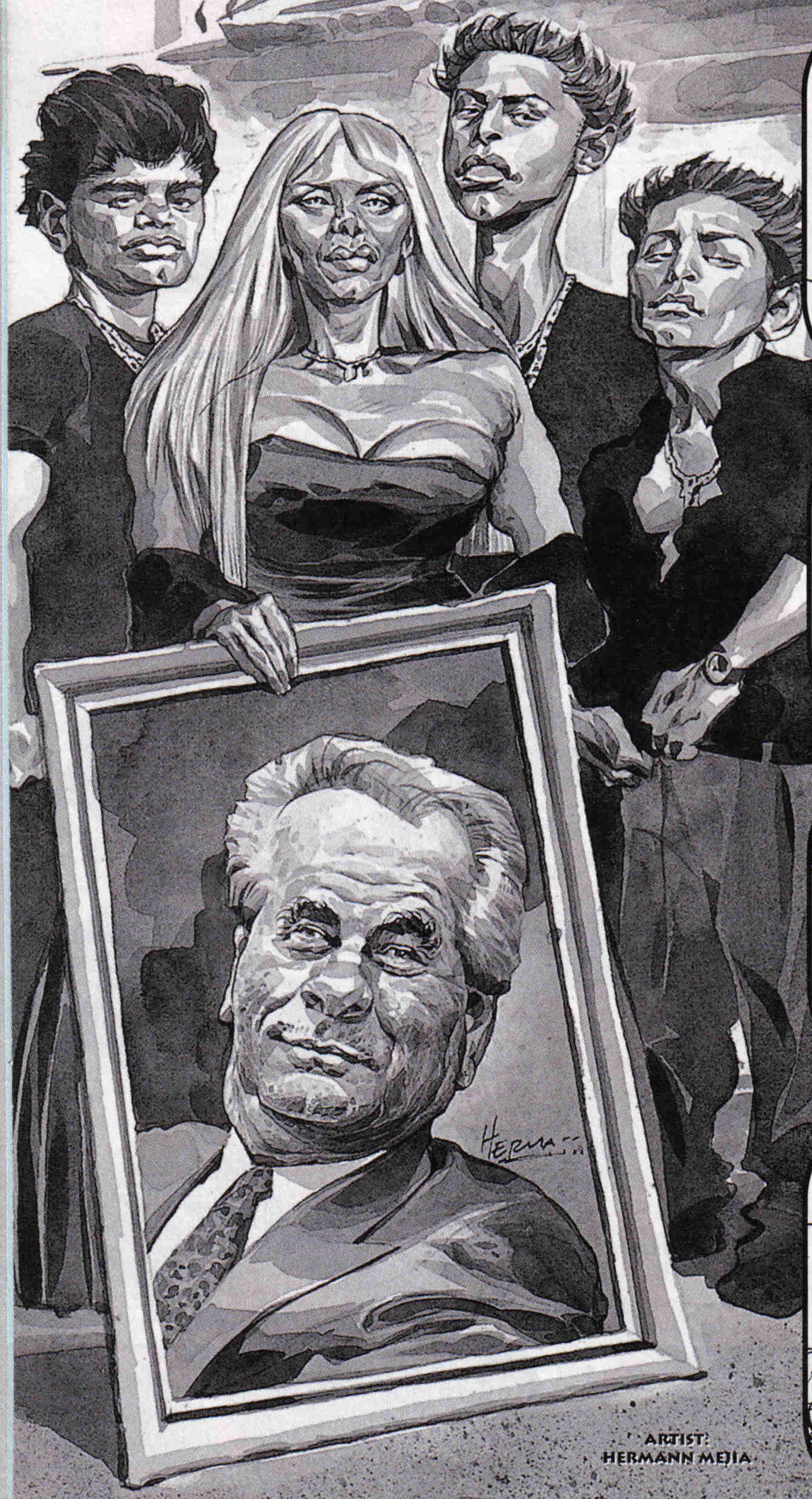
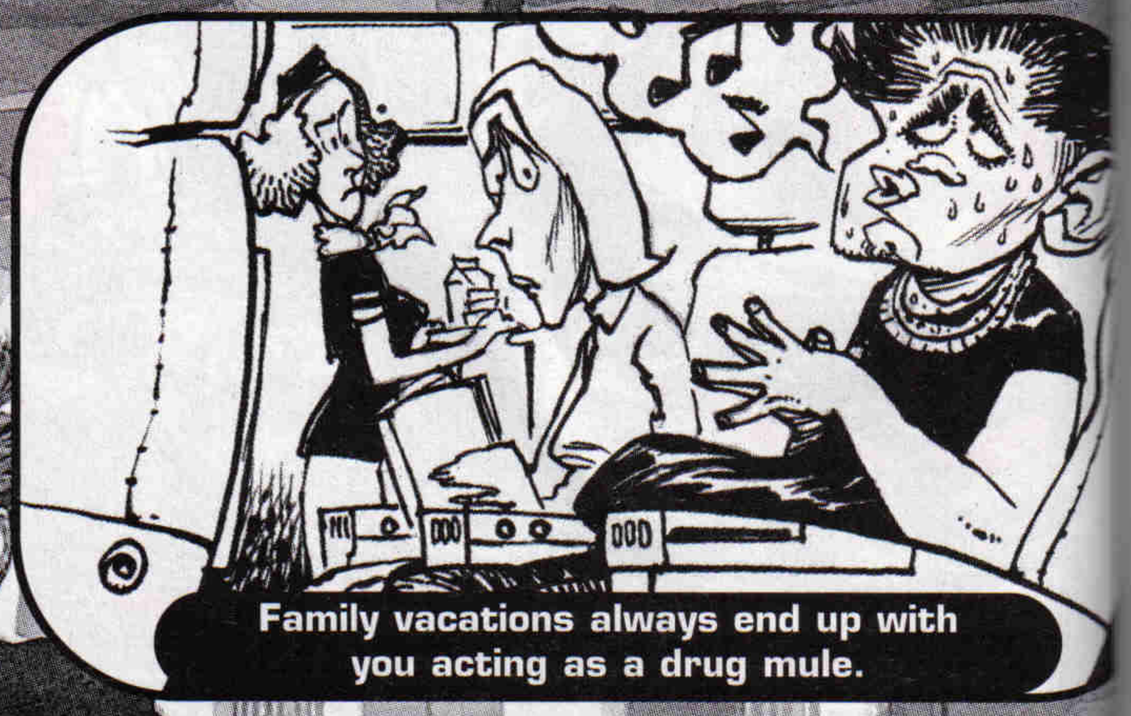
JOHN, FRAN AND CARMINE BIGGEST COMPLAINTS

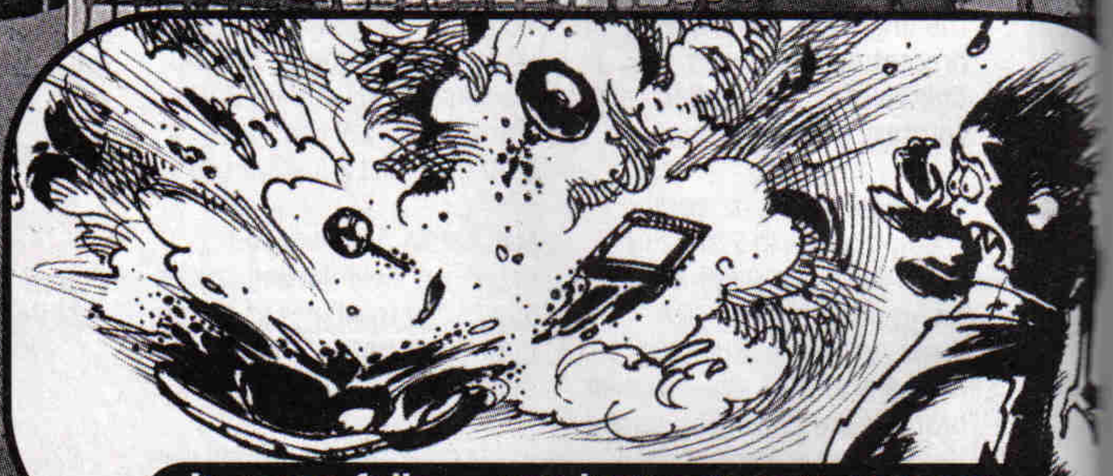
No matter who you are, growing up isn't easy — but when your grandfather is the late John Gotti, there's a bunch of other problems (many of them bordering on the illegal) that make life even more difficult. And while that *should* make for interesting television, the family's new show makes it seem like their biggest problems are over hair gel. So, in a brave attempt to reveal the truth, MAD dug deeper to expose...



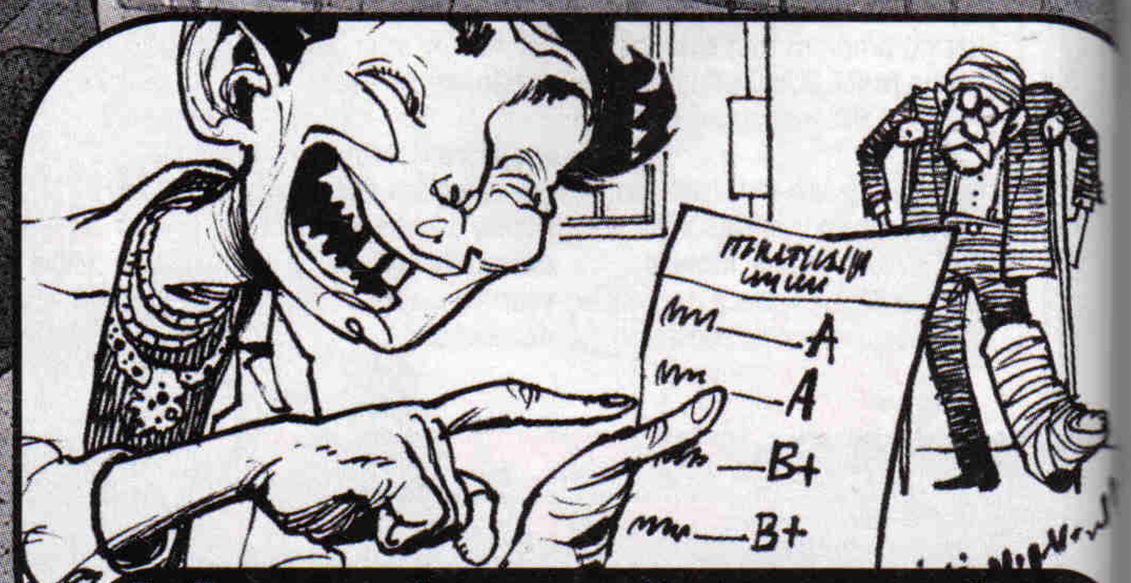


Family vacations always end up with you acting as a drug mule.

Every time you get to second base with a girl, you discover she's wearing a wire.



It never fails — you just got your new car detailed and BAM! it gets blown up.

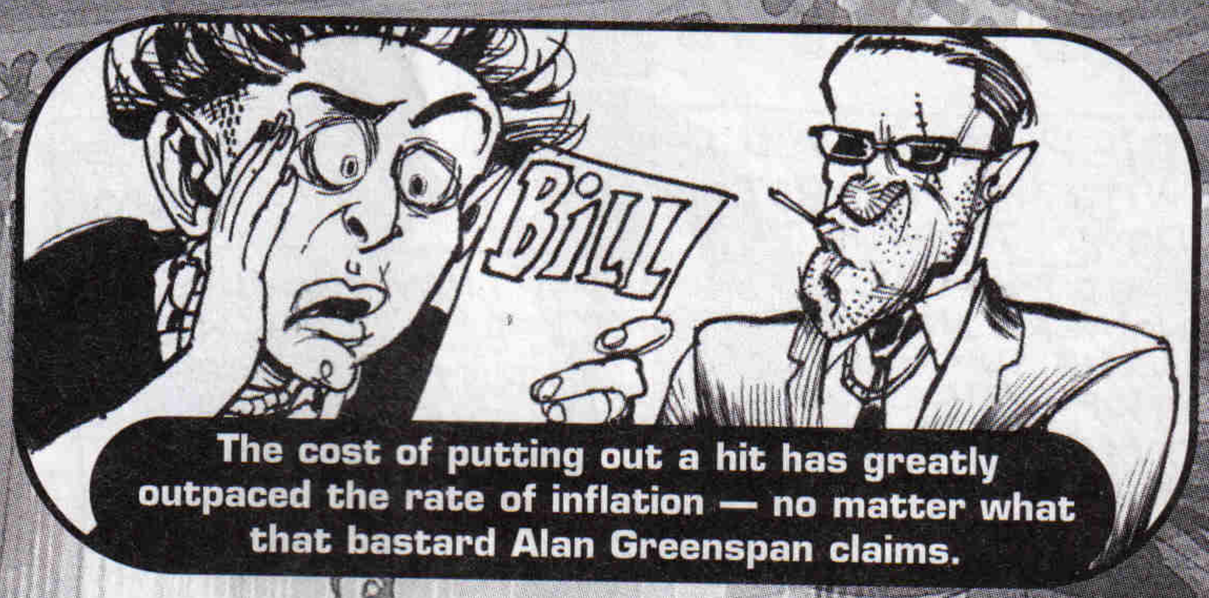


Feeling great about yourself when your grades go up, only to discover its because your parents "put the screws" to your teachers on open school night.

ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA

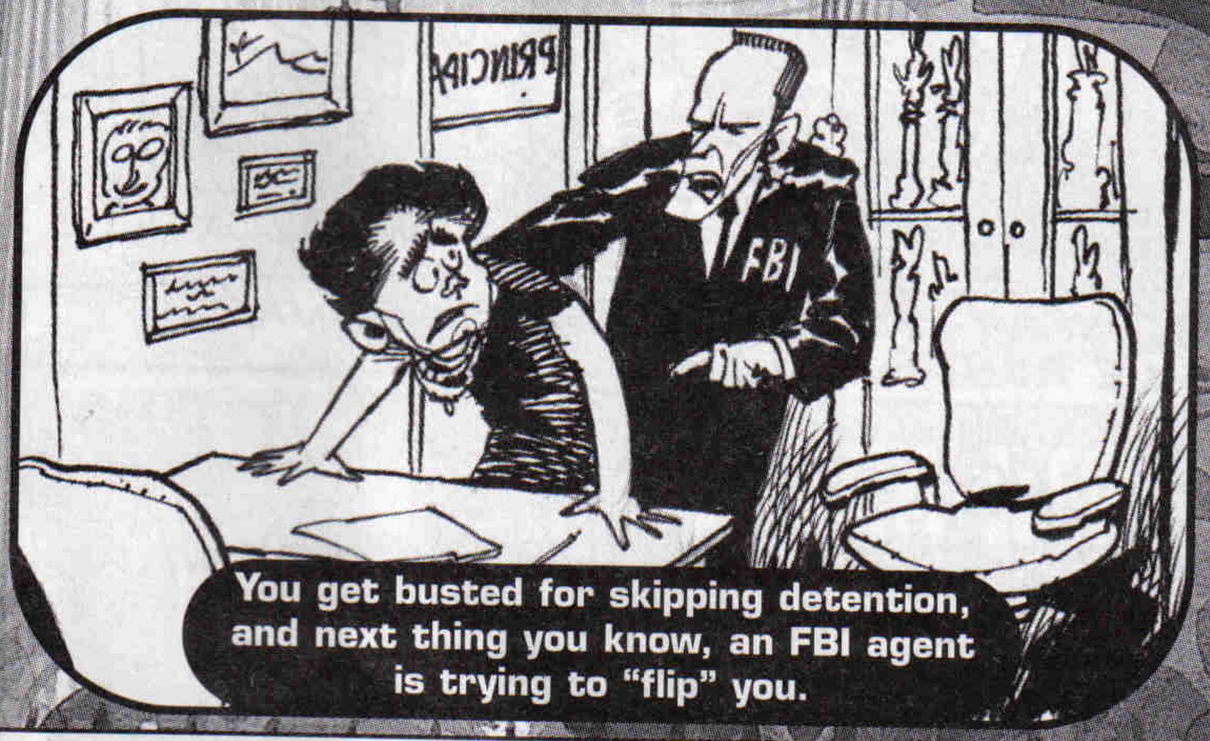
ABOUT GROWING UP

COTTI



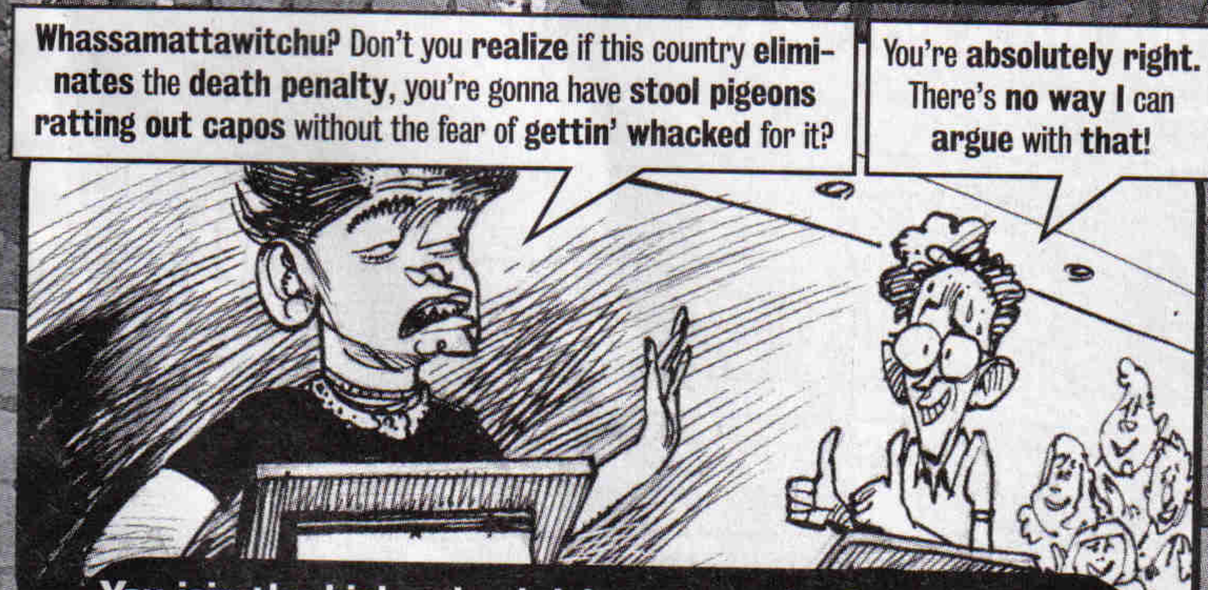
The cost of putting out a hit has greatly outpaced the rate of inflation — no matter what that bastard Alan Greenspan claims.

It's tough to have phone sex with your girlfriend when the Feds are always listening in.

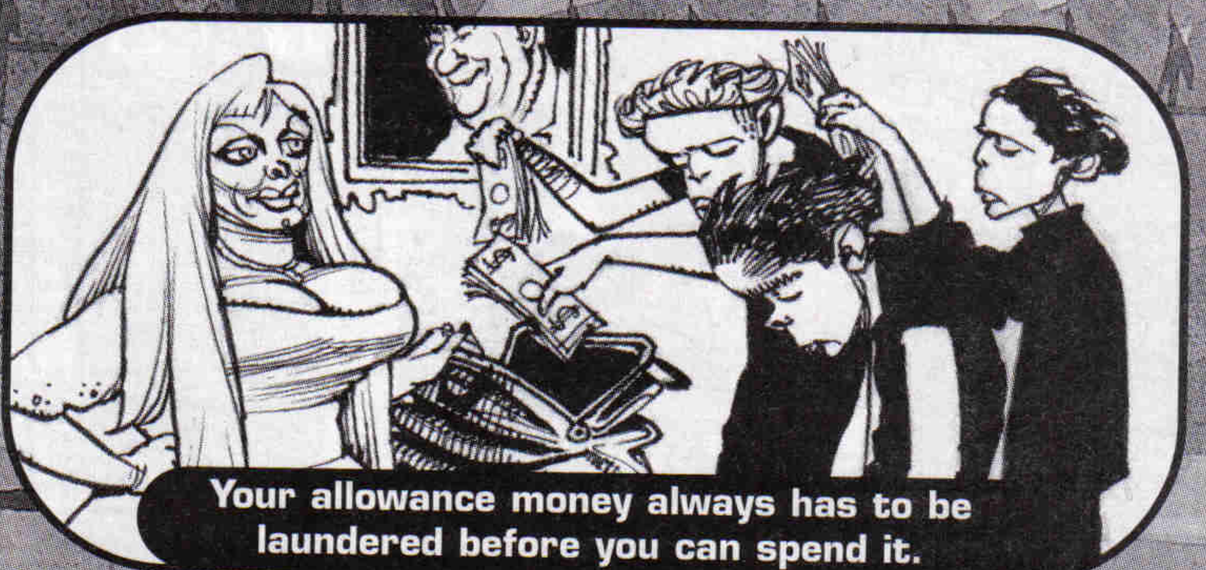


You get busted for skipping detention, and next thing you know, an FBI agent is trying to "flip" you.

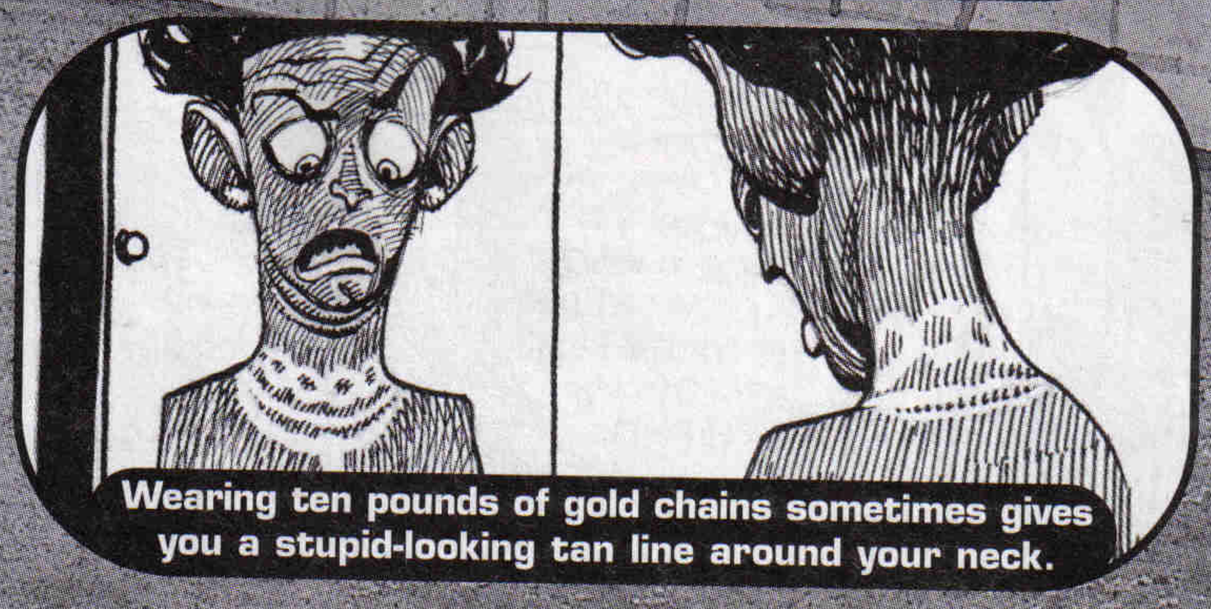
It takes days for your cheek to stop hurting after a visit from Uncle Sammy "The Bull."



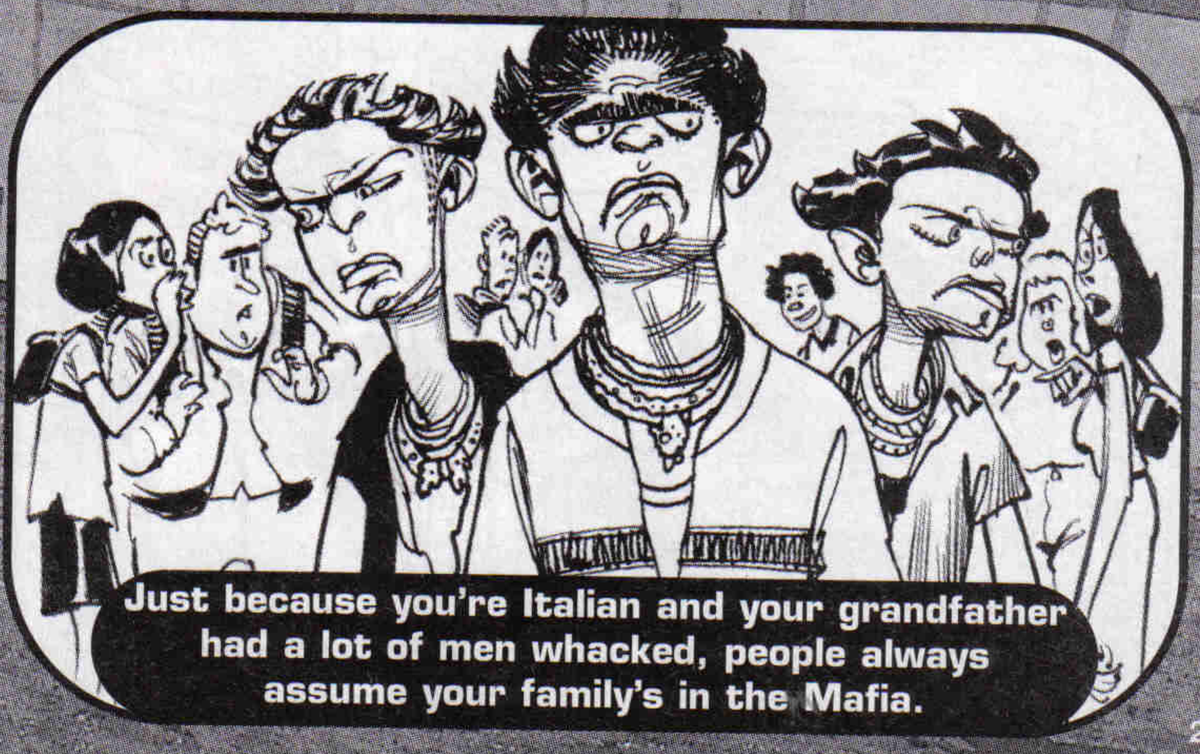
You join the high school debate team hoping to sharpen your communication skills, but your opponents always insist on politely agreeing with everything you say.



Your allowance money always has to be laundered before you can spend it.



Wearing ten pounds of gold chains sometimes gives you a stupid-looking tan line around your neck.



Just because you're Italian and your grandfather had a lot of men whacked, people always assume your family's in the Mafia.

Duke Bissell's TALES OF UNDISPUTED INTEREST

ONE DAY I NOTICED THAT MY TROPICAL FISH WEREN'T LOOKING TOO WELL.

HELLO, PET PSYCHIC HOT LINE...?

THE PSYCHIC SAID SHE COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE FISH, BUT ONLY IF I BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO HER OFFICE.

I PUT THEM IN THIS BAG AND INADVERTENTLY LEFT THEM IN THE SUN FOR A WEEK. I HOPE THAT'S OK.

THEY SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT, JUST DON'T LET THEM NEAR BREADING AND SEAFOOD SEASONING.

ON THE WAY HOME I HAPPENED TO PASS A PET STORE THAT WAS OFFERING FREE VETERINARIAN CONSULTATIONS THAT DAY.

PET STORE

THE DOC IS IN

DON'T BE DUPED BY THOSE PET PSYCHICS

I WONDER IF THAT PSYCHIC WILL KNOW IF I GET A SECOND OPINION?

BUT WHEN I GOT INSIDE, THE LINE WAS A MILE LONG.

HOW LONG IS THE WAIT?

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ME. MY DOG HAS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

MY CAT'S A HYPO-CHONDRIAC.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. MY BIRD THINKS HE'S DEAD!

BY THE TIME IT WAS MY TURN TO SEE THE VETERINARIAN, THE STORE HAD CLOSED FOR THE DAY.

SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT SO LONG FOR NOTHING. MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU'LL JUST STAY HOME.

HEY FRANK, WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THESE DEAD ANIMALS?

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY A FISH CHIROPRACTOR.

AS IT TURNED OUT, THE PSYCHIC WAS RIGHT AND THE FISH MADE A FULL RECOVERY.

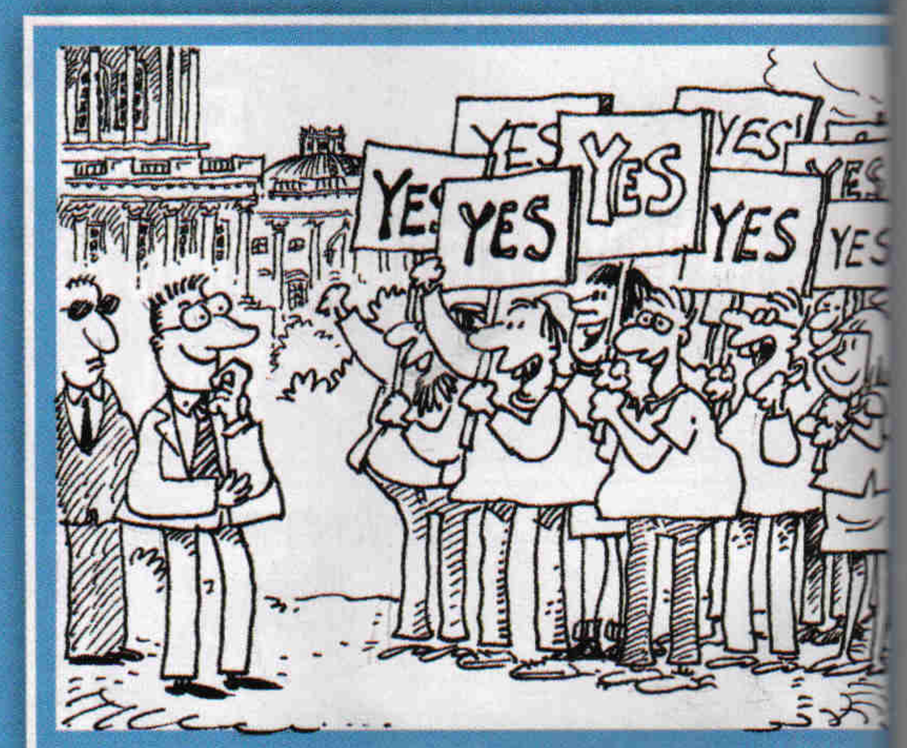
THEY LOOK HAPPIER THAN EVER. I SHOULD PUT THEM IN A BAG AND INADVERTENTLY HANG THEM IN THE SUN FOR A WEEK MORE OFTEN.

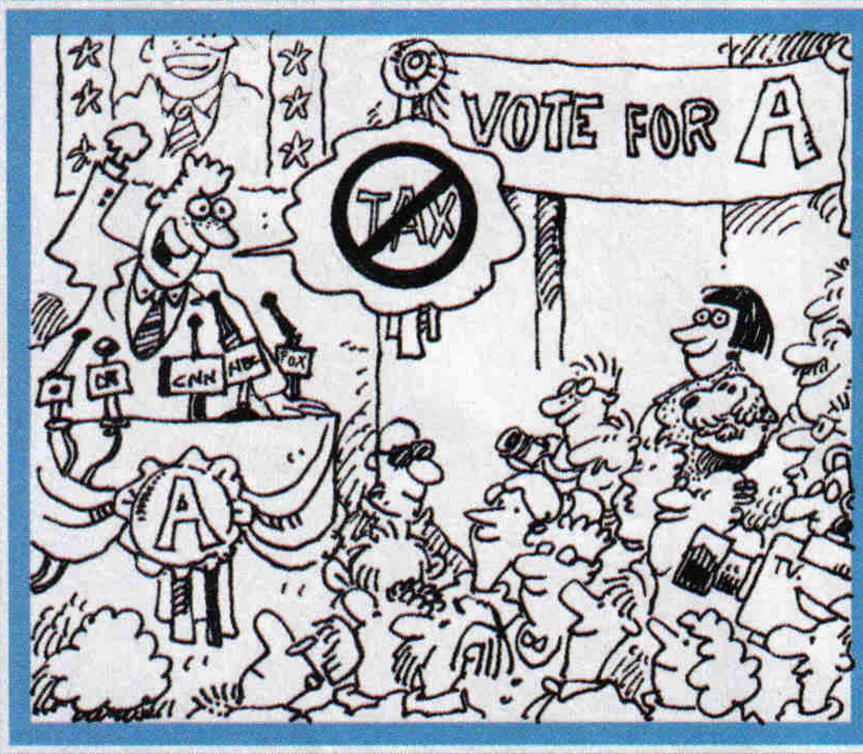
SO NOW WE KNOW IF WE EVER WANT TO GO ON VACATION WE JUST TRICK HIM INTO BELIEVING WE'RE DEAD.

I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD.

P.C. VEY

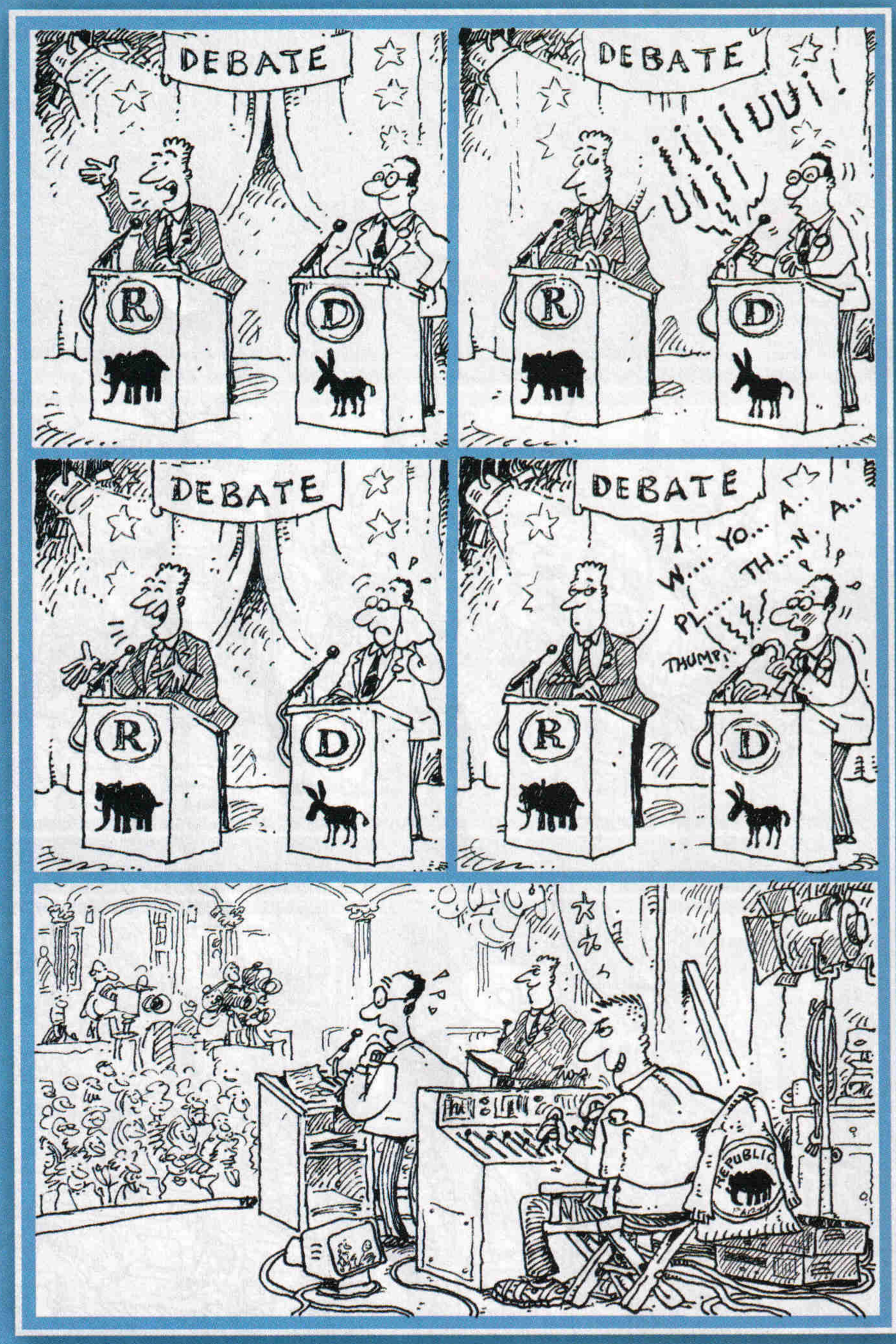
SERGIO ARAGONÉS presents A MAD LOOK A





POLITICIANS

VOTE
VOTE
VOTE


DEBATE
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DEBATE
YO...
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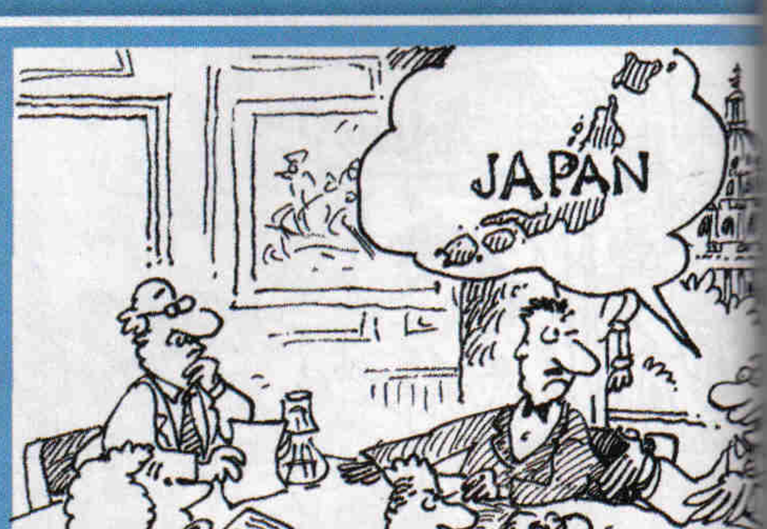
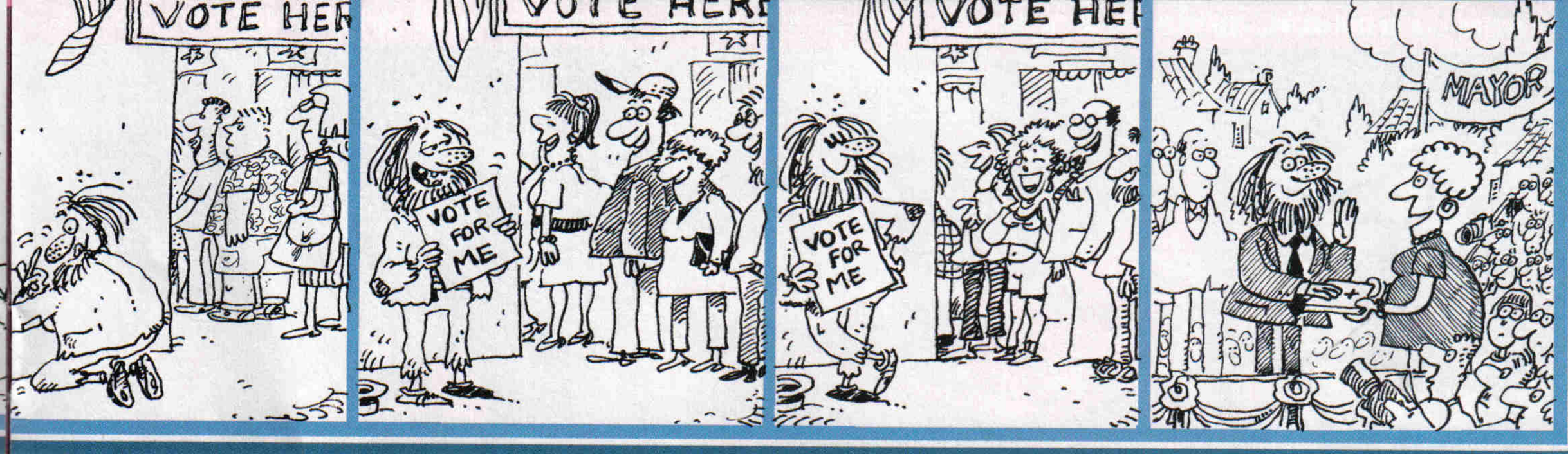
TH...
PL...
THUMP!
R
D
REPUBLIC

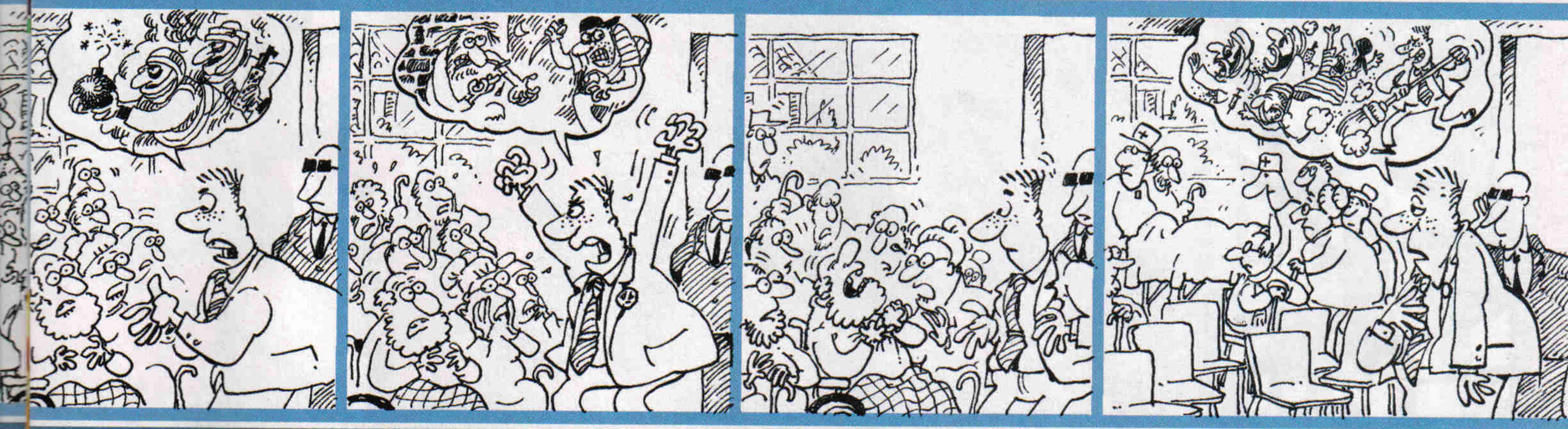
VOTE HERE
PLEASE
GIVE

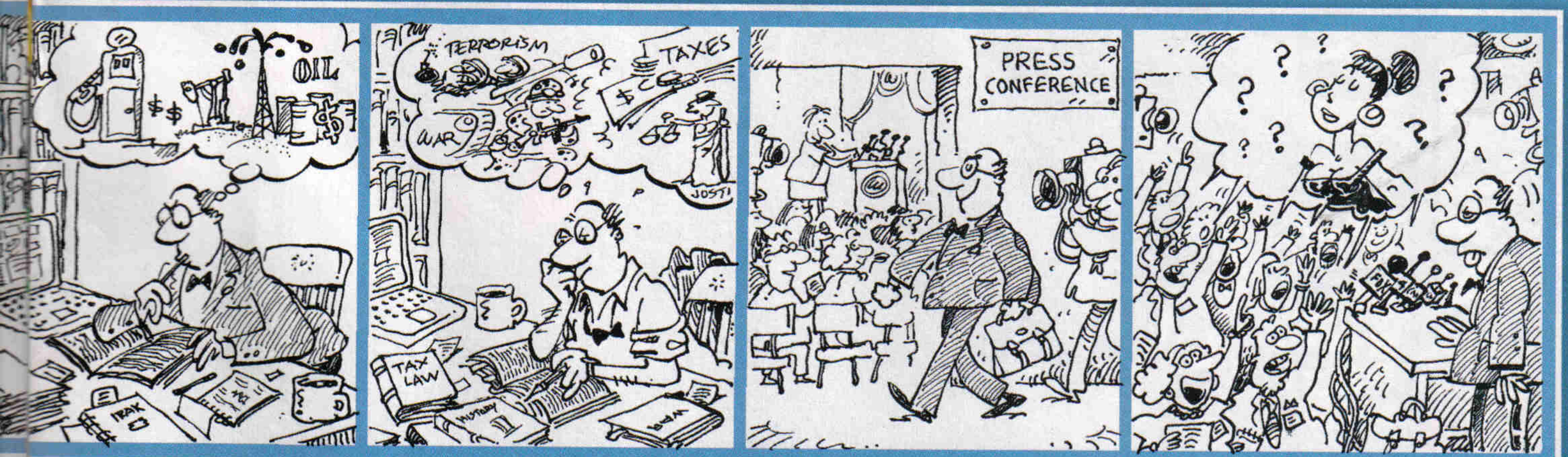
CHINA

MEXICO


JAPAN


VOTE HER
VOTE FOR ME
VOTE FOR ME
MAYOR




OIL
TERRORISM
TAXES
WAR
JOSTI
TAX LAW
PRESS CONFERENCE

VOTE
FOR ME

ITALY
PIZZA

Are you smarter now than you were 4 years ago? If not, vote Alfred E. Neuman!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman – *someone* has to!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman – if you don't, who will?...

PUT A NEW IDIOT IN THE WHITE HOUSE!

Alfred E. Neuman – a candidate you can trust...to screw things up!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman – a moron for ALL the people!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman

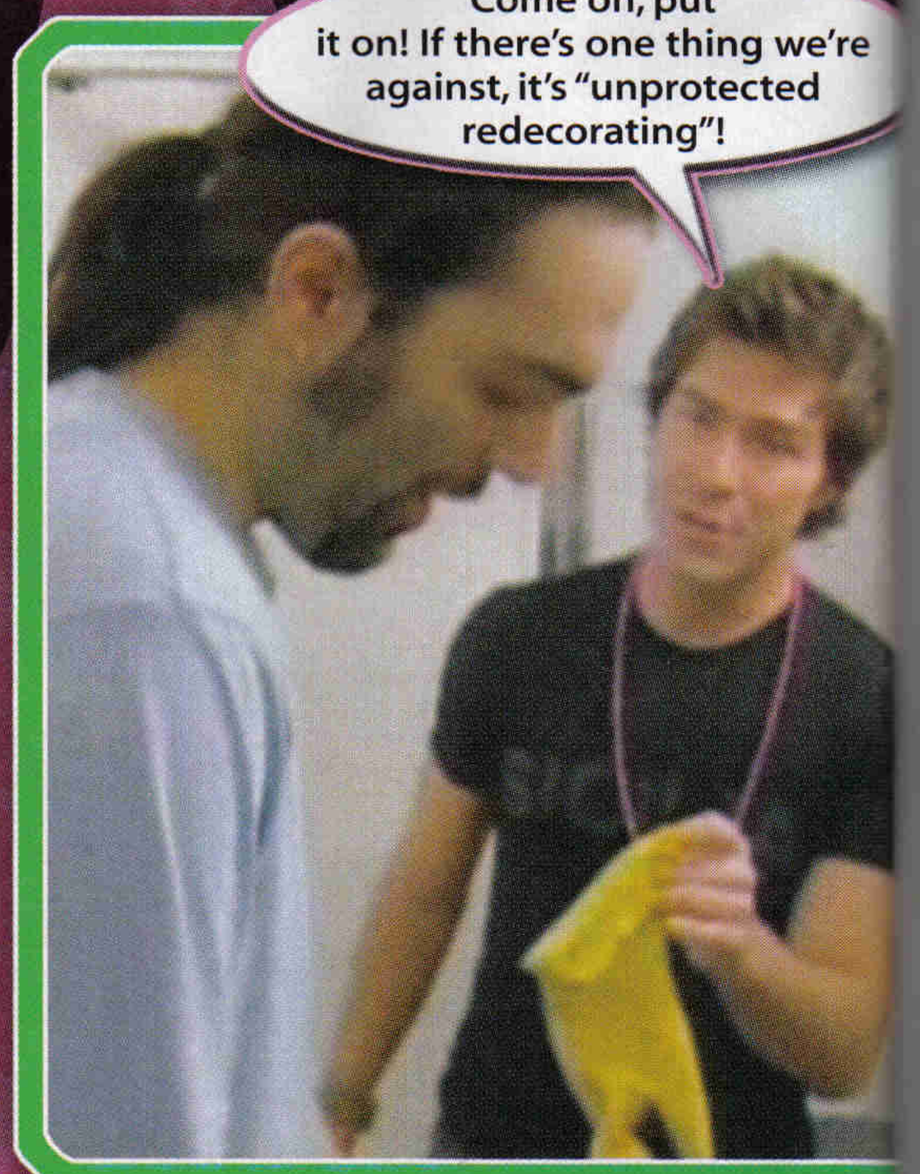
America is on the brink of ruin! Let him finish the job! Alfred E. Neuman for President!... America is on the brink of ruin because he promises nothing! Alfred E. Neuman for President!... America

ALFRED E. NEUMAN FOR PRESIDENT

A MAD POSTER

E. Neuman for President!... Sure he's dumb! But name something smart that the *others* have done! Alfred E. Neuman for President!... He'll keep all his promises – he'll make the next guy look *great* by comparison!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman – at least he's honest about his idiocy!... Vote Alfred E. Neuman – dumb

A MAD queer FOR THE STRAIGHT



POKE IN THE eye GUY

WRITER AND VIDEO CAPTURES: MIKE SNIDER

Heyyyy, wait a minute! If you two are gay…then who just pinched my ass?!?

This won't hurt a bit. We're just going to cryogenically freeze you until a time when hairstyling and grooming science CAN help a loser like you!

And, to top off the daily grooming ritual…now, follow after me…"I feel pret-ty...oh so pret-tyyyyy…"

It's a brand new desktop PC! AND we've already bookmarked all the gay porn websites for you!

All right, men! The TV cameras are gone! Turn on the Knicks game, call up Domino's, and bring on the babes! WOO!! WOO!! WOO!!

Wait! Wait! You can't drink those without the little paper umbrella! What are you, a barbarian?!?

GETTIN' DIGGY WIT' IT DEPT.

Martha Stewart made millions by teaching people how to improve their lives — and although prison has made that more difficult, it doesn't mean she can't still put her talents to use. In fact, improving an inmate's life is the easiest thing in the world! They don't give a hot buttered scone about decorative wreaths or hand-made napkin rings — all they want is to get out! Which is why we're sure she'll make millions with...

MARTHA STEWART'S ESCAPE PLAN

To hide all of the dirt you'll be unearthing, make a set of decorative planters for your cell. You can construct the planters out of toilet-paper maché. Plant fresh basil or other herbs that grow well in low-light conditions. As an added bonus, you can ground up the leaves and use them to spice up even the blandest prison grub.

To dig a tunnel you can be proud of when the guards find it after you've escaped, don't use a common spoon. Flatware is for eating, not for digging. Instead, use a melon-baller, which can be stolen from any well-stocked prison kitchen. When you're not tunneling, store the illicit utensil in a hollowed-out copy of *Martha Stewart Entertaining*, available wherever fine books are sold.

Since you'll be working exclusively under the cover of night, you'll need proper illumination or your tunnel walls will turn out rough and irregular. Why not light up your escape route with festive Japanese lanterns? To make them, first take some letters from home and, via origami, fold the pages into traditional Asian lantern shapes. Next, stand a cigarette upright in the bag. This will be your wick. Finally, fill the bag about one third of the way with kitchen lard, which will, unfortunately, have to be used instead of fresh beeswax.

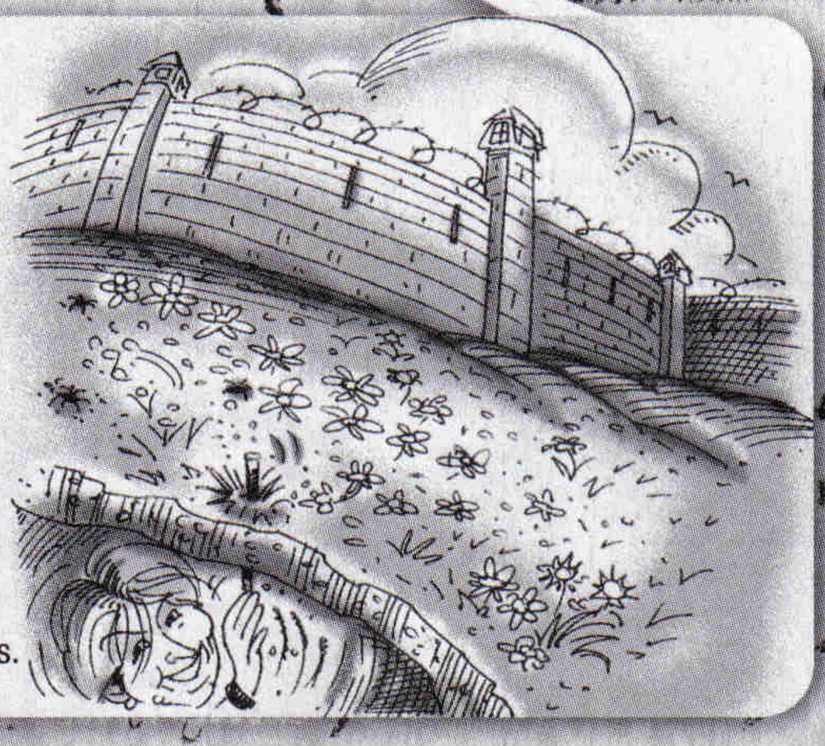
3

YARD

When you exit your tunnel, you'll be in the prison yard. To scale the perimeter wall, your best bet is to climb one of the guard towers. You can easily incapacitate a guard by sneaking up behind him and covering his mouth in a rag you've stored in a leftover turkey carcass. The tryptophane from the turkey will cause the guard to pass out faster than my Uncle Walter after a traditional Thanksgiving feast of roast turkey with pomegranate-cranberry glaze, braised fennel with chestnuts and shallots, autumn vegetable succotash and ginger pumpkin pudding cakes.

4

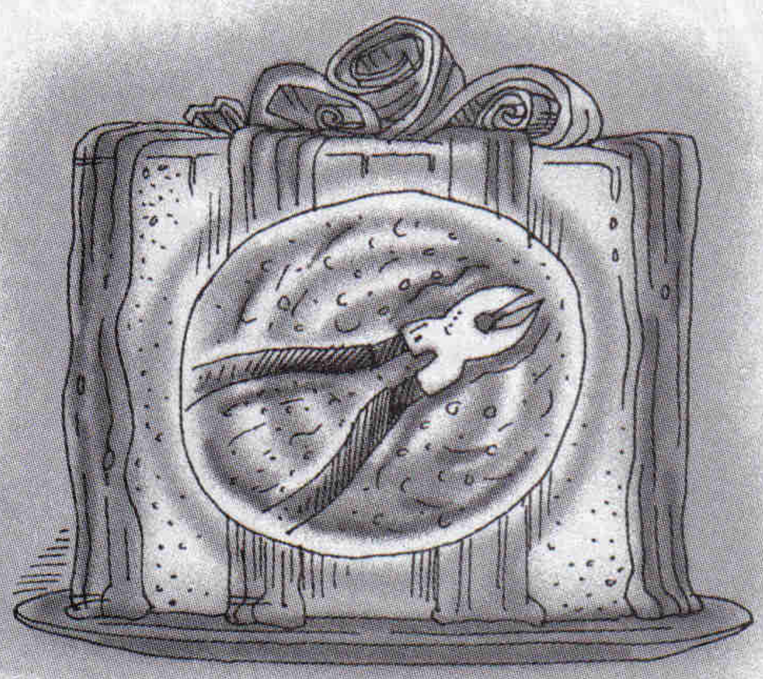
While you're digging to the prison yard, be sure to poke small holes about the width of a drinking straw into the tunnel ceiling at regular intervals. This will not only provide necessary ventilation, but will aerate the soil above, ensuring that the grass in your prison exercise yard will be the envy of inmates at other federal penitentiaries.



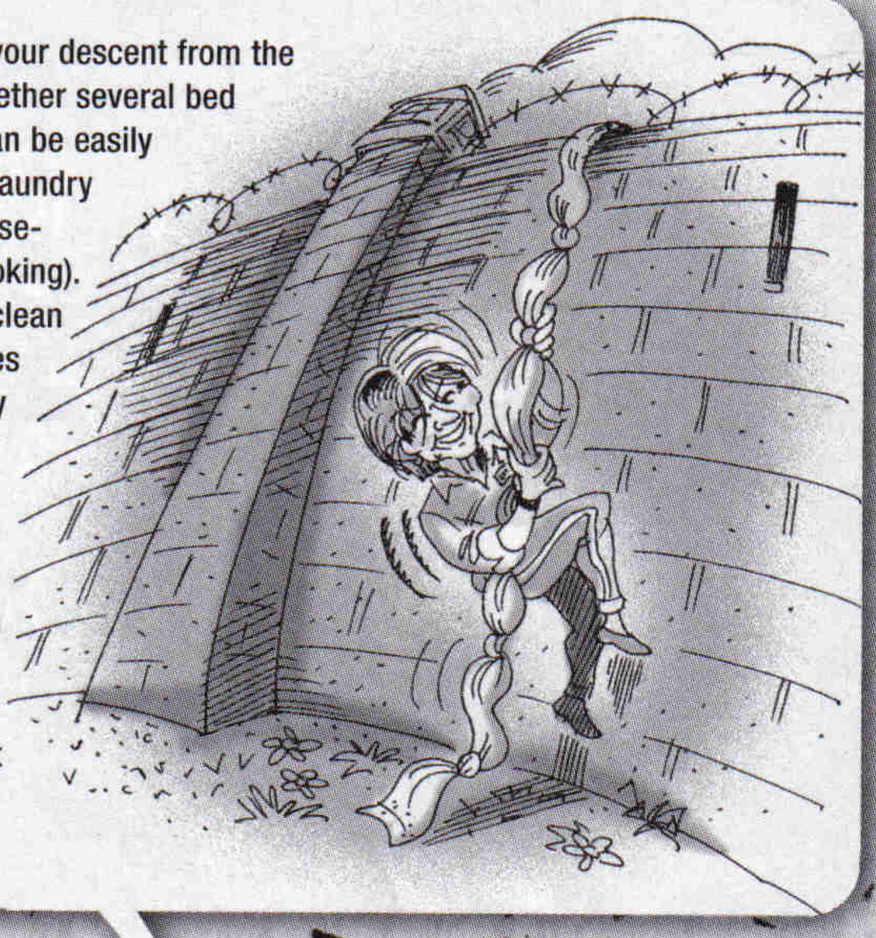
ARTIST: CHARLES AKINS
WRITERS: MATTHEW A. COHEN AND JASON SCHNEIDER

CELLS

The easiest way to procure a pair of the wire cutters mentioned earlier is to have your mother bake you a carrot ginger layer cake with orange cream cheese frosting, but instead of the 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon called for in the recipe, substitute 1 pair of wire cutters.



To facilitate your descent from the wall, tie together several bed sheets (which can be easily stolen from the laundry room while "housekeeping" isn't looking). Be sure to take clean ones (no one likes escaping on dirty linens) and if possible, make sure that they are made from decadently plush Egyptian cotton with at least a 350 thread count to avoid chafing. It's a good thing!



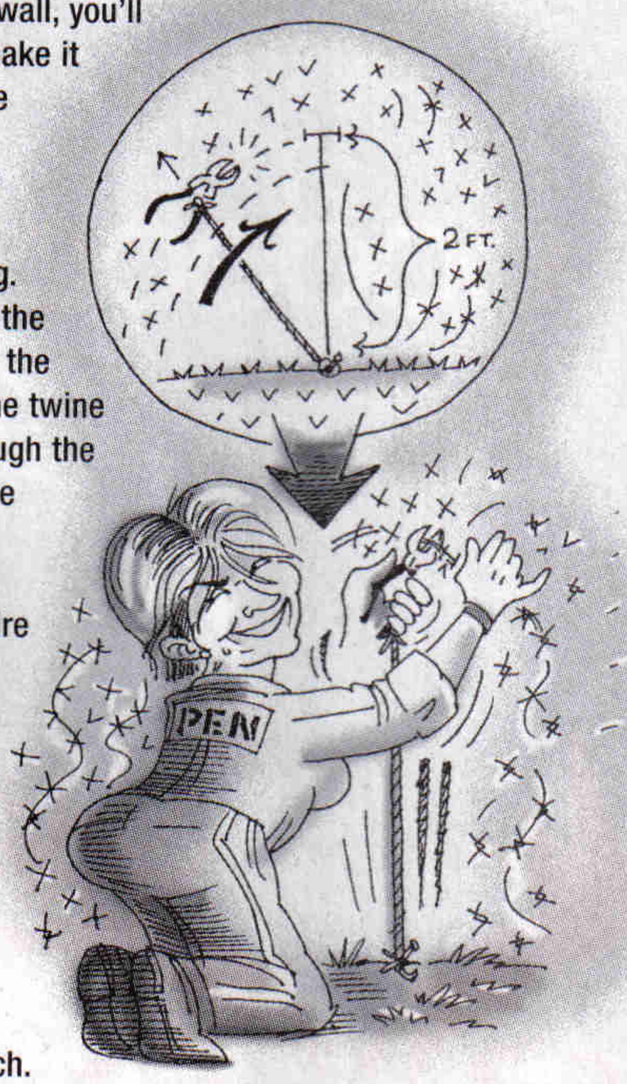
7

8

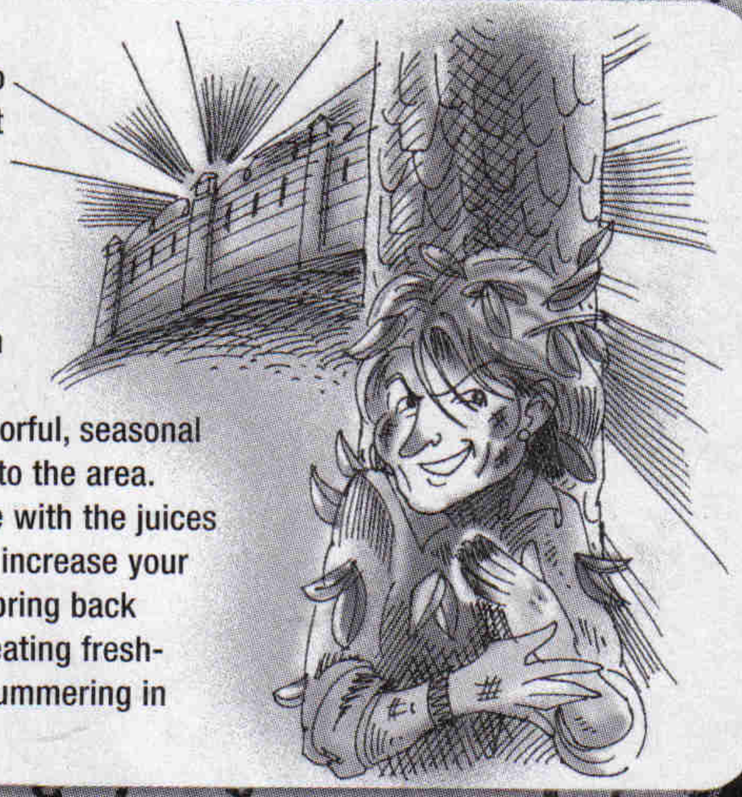
VISITING AREA

WALL

At the top of the wall, you'll still need to make it past the barbed wire fence. Tie your wire cutters to a piece of sisal twine that's exactly two feet long. Tie the other end of the twine to the base of the fence. By keeping the twine taut as you cut through the wire, you'll cut a hole that's a perfect half circle. Save the cut section of barbed wire you removed to use later. For example, you can use it to string up plants in a way that clearly tells any passing rabbits to stay away from your California and summer squash patch.

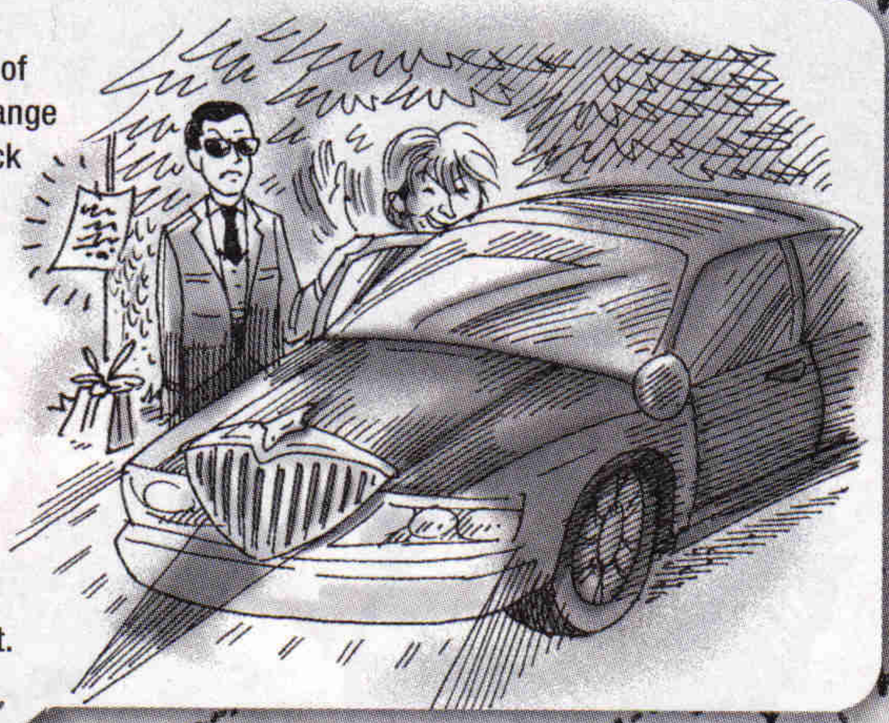


You may be into the woods, but you're not "out of the woods" yet! To make sure you don't get caught in the spotlight, adorn your jumpsuit with a cornucopia of colorful, seasonal foliage indigenous to the area. Smearing your face with the juices of wild berries will increase your indetectibility *and* bring back fond memories of eating fresh-baked pies while summering in Nantucket. Hmm!



9

Once you've made it out of the woods, you can change your identity and blend back into society, or travel to a foreign land that does not extradite felons to the United States. But do neither before you take time to write the warden a thank you note for his hospitality and send a small potpourri sachet or other token of gratitude currently available at Kmart.



6

10

TOWER

WALL

ROAD

As you listen to President George W. Bush and his administration, you may notice a sort of bizarre logic emerge, a magical, childlike reality in which the only rules are the ones they make up themselves. If this fanciful way of looking at the world seems familiar, it should! Theodore Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) perfected it decades ago. The big difference, of course, is that Geisel did it for fun in a delightful series of children's books. Dubya and his cronies do it to settle old debts, gain access to oil and curry favor with their ultra-right wing base. Anyway, sit back and enjoy...

THE STRANGE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE Bush Administration AND THE World of Dr. Seuss

"You are giving our senior citizens **prescription drug coverage** under Medicare...You have **doubled the child tax credit** from $500 to $1,000, **reduced the marriage penalty**, begun to **phase out the death tax, reduced taxes** on capital gains and stock dividends, **cut taxes** on small businesses, and you have **lowered taxes** for every American who pays income taxes... Younger workers should have the opportunity to **build a nest egg** by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account...I will send you a budget that **funds the war, protects the homeland**, and **meets important domestic needs**, while **limiting the growth** in discretionary spending to less than 4 percent. By doing so, we can **cut the deficit in half** over the next five years."

President George W. Bush, State of the Union, January 20, 2004

"Look at me! Look at me! Look at me NOW!
It is fun to have fun but you have to know how.
I can hold up the cup and the milk and the cake!
I can hold up these books! And the fish on a rake!
I can hold the toy ship and a little toy man!
And look! With my tail, I can hold a red fan!
I can fan with the fan as I hop on the ball!
But that is not all. Oh, no. That is not all..."

THE CAT IN THE HAT

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN
ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

"Your tactics only **aid terrorists**, for they **erode** our **national unity** and **diminish our resolve.** They give **ammunition** to America's **enemies**, and **pause** to America's **friends."**

Attorney General John Ashcroft, December 6, 2001

"SILENCE!" The King of the Turtles barked back.
"I'm king, and you're only a turtle named Mack.
You stay in your place while I sit here and rule."

YERTLE THE TURTLE

"I'm **not going to change**, see? I'm **not trying** to **accommodate.** I **won't change** my **philosophy** or my **point of view."**

President George W. Bush, February 7, 2004

"Never budge! That's my rule. Never budge in the least!
Not an inch to the west! Not an inch to the east!
I'll stay here, not budging! I can and I will
If it makes you and me and the whole world stand still!"

THE ZAX

"I'm sure **something** will **pop** into my **head** here in the midst of this press conference, with all the **pressure** of trying to come up with answer, **but it hadn't yet**...I don't want to sound like **I have made no mistakes.** I'm confident I have. I just haven't — you just **put me under the spot here**, and maybe **I'm not as quick on my feet** as I should be in coming up with one."

President George W. Bush, April 14, 2004

"Please, sir. I don't like this trick, sir.
My tongue isn't quick or slick, sir."

FOX IN SOCKS

"I really do **believe** that we will be **greeted** as **liberators.** I've talked with a lot of Iraqis in the last several months myself, had them to the White House...The **read we get** on the **people of Iraq** is there is **no question** but what they want to get **rid** of **Saddam Hussein**, and they will **welcome** as **liberators** the United States when we come to do that."

Vice President Dick Cheney, March 16, 2003

"There is **no question** but that they would be **welcomed.** Go back to Afghanistan, the people were in the streets **playing music**, **cheering**, **flying kites**, and doing all the things that the Taliban and the al-Qaeda **would not let them do.**"

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, February 20, 2003

"Most Iraqis **welcomed** us as **liberators**, and **we glowed** with **pleasure** at that welcome...the **trend** is in **our favor.**"

U.S. Administrator in Baghdad L. Paul Bremer, September 24, 2003

"At sunrise, we'll drive into Solla Sollew
And you'll have no more troubles. I promise. I do.
But, when dawn finally came and the darkness got light,
That wonderful city was nowhere in sight.
Instead of the city, we ran into trouble.
Our camel was sick and he started to bubble."

I HAD TROUBLE IN GETTING TO SOLLA SOLLEW

"You **can't distinguish** between **al-Qaeda** and **Saddam** when you talk about the **war on terror.** And so it's a comparison that is — I can't make because I **can't distinguish** between the two, because they're **both equally** as **bad.**"

President George W. Bush, September 25, 2002

"Whether this one was that one...or that one was this one
Or which one was what one...or what one was who."

THE SNEETCHES

"It is necessary in the **public interest** to use **other than competitive procedures** in the procurements for the **prime contracts.**"

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, December 5, 2003

"I called all my brothers and uncles and aunts and I said, 'Listen here! Here's a wonderful chance for the whole Once-ler Family to get mighty rich! Get over here fast! Take the road to North Nitch.'"

THE LORAX

"People in Iraq must understand that **I** view those **practices** as **abhorrent**... they also must understand that what took place in that prison **does not represent** the **America** that I know."

President George W. Bush, May 18, 2004

"It was **inconsistent** with the **values** of our **nation.** It was **inconsistent** with the **teachings** of the **military**...And it was certainly **fundamentally un-American."**

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, May 7, 2004

"Any implication that this behavior was **driven by direction in the chain of command** or by any **pressure** to get **interrogation results** from Washington, D.C., is absolutely **just not right.** I mean, that is **not how it works** at all... This is a **failure of individuals**...I frankly think that **we'll work our way through** this just fine."

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers, May 7, 2004

"But neither Bartholomew Cubbins, nor King Derwin himself, nor anyone else in the Kingdom of Didd could ever explain how the strange thing happened. They only could say it just 'happened to happen,' and was not very likely to happen again."

THE 500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS

"My fellow Americans: **Major combat operations** in Iraq have **ended."**

President George W. Bush, May 1, 2003

"The rabbit felt mighty important that day
On top of the hill in the sun where he lay.
He felt SO important up there on that hill
That he started in bragging, as animals will."

THE BIG BRAG

With successful shows like *The Sopranos* replacing our ideas about typical American family values, it should come as no surprise when your Uncle Bob decides to become a loan shark or Cousin Tyler starts smuggling cigarettes across state lines. Crime is hot – hot, hot, hot! But, before you start auditioning getaway drivers or studying police tactics on *COPS*, make sure you've got the smarts to follow this career path. How? By simply examining...

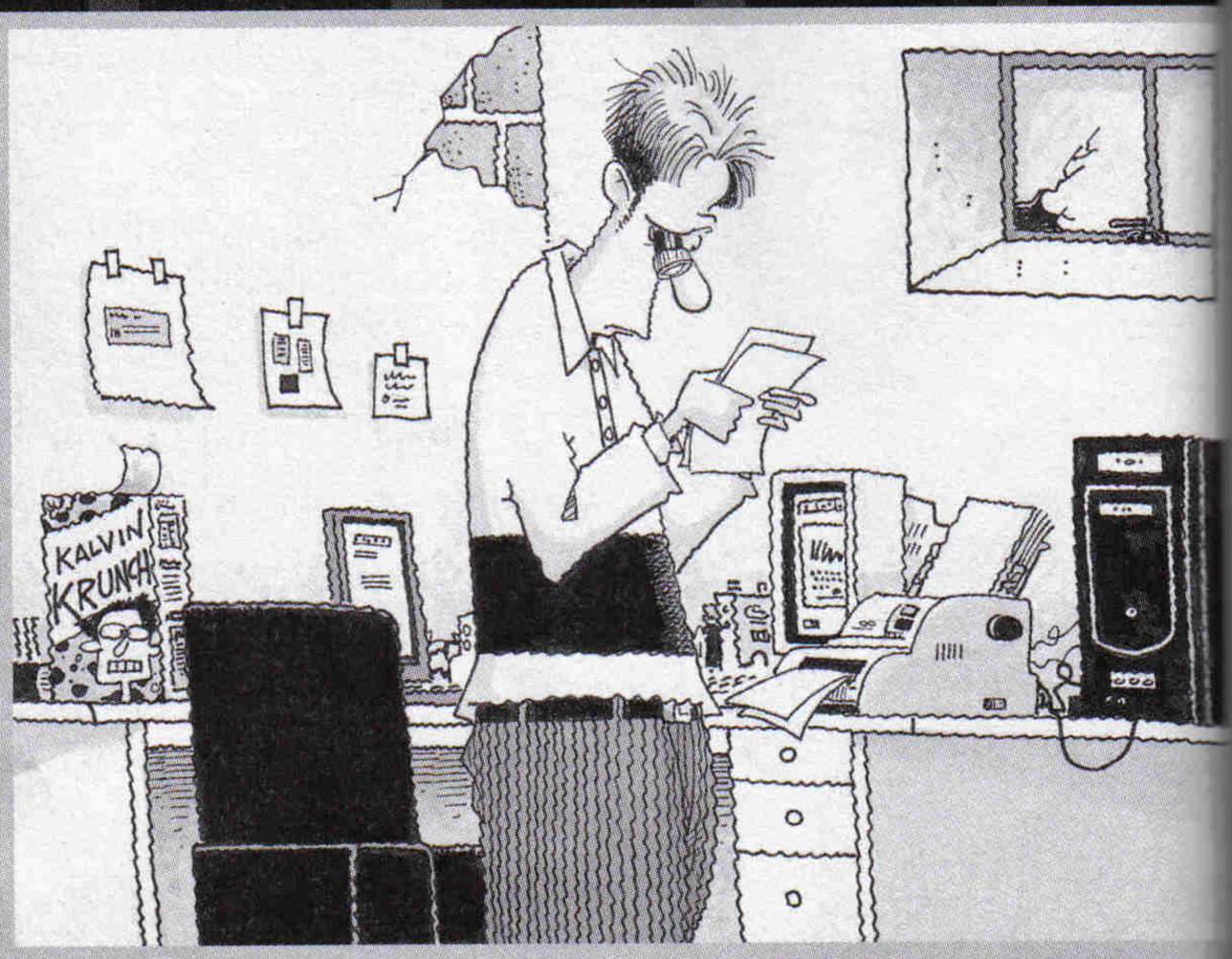
JOHN CALDWELL'S

INDISPUTABLE TIP-OFFS YOU WEREN'T CUT OUT FOR A LIFE OF CRIME

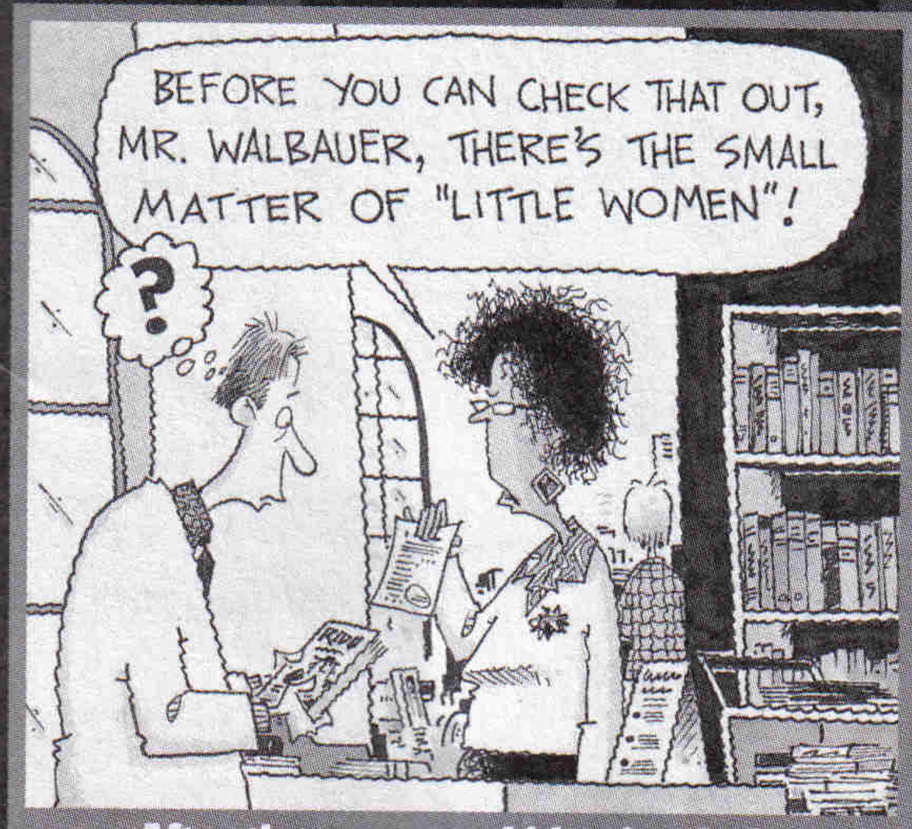
Your bank heist is always the same: $5,000 in small coins.

You get bummed when you don't get picked in lineups.

Because of your aversion to handguns, the only people you ever mug are street mimes.



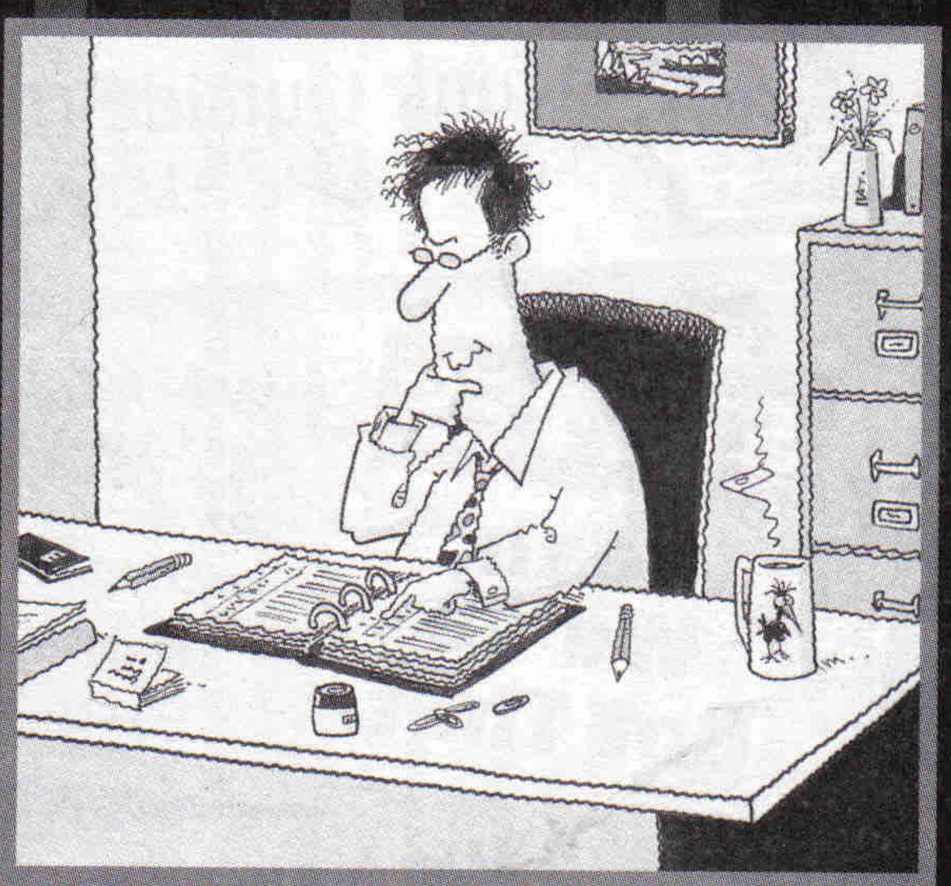
You spend your days tying up high-end digital imaging equipment to counterfeit proofs-of-purchase for breakfast cereal prizes.



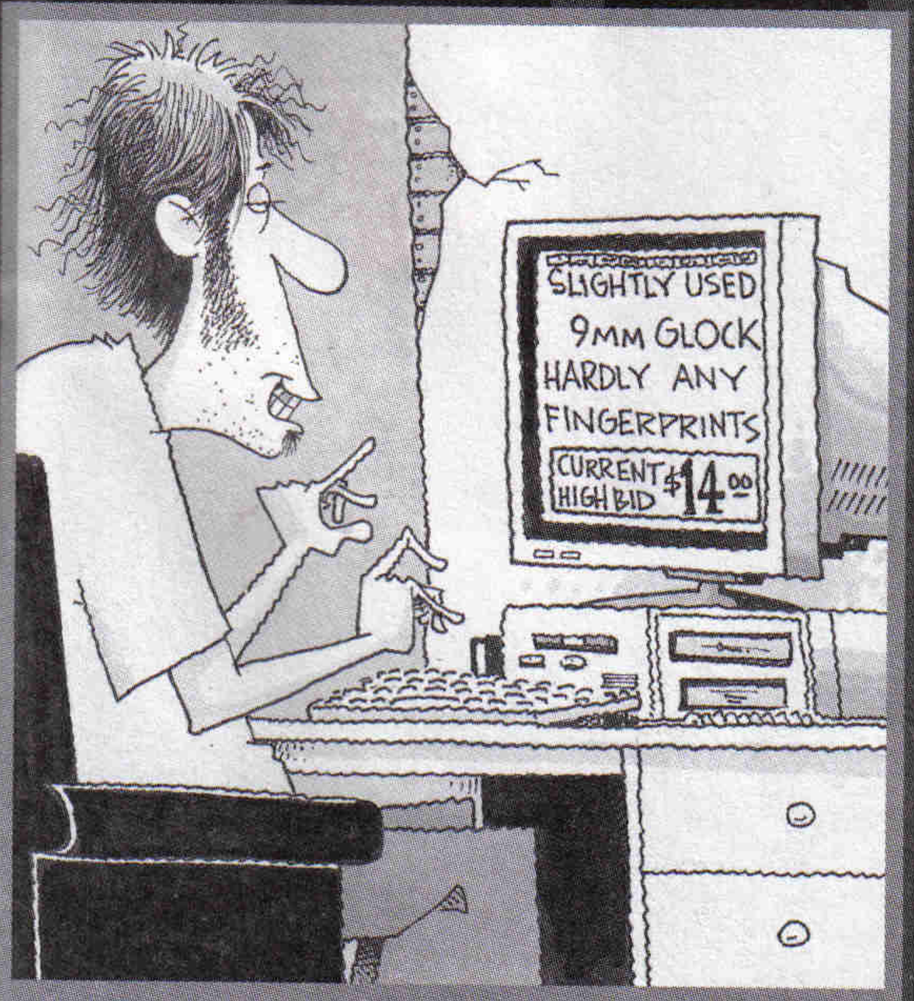
After three years of identity theft, you've cost your victims the sum total of $39.78 in library fines.

Locking your keys in the getaway car is becoming a fairly common occurrence.

You accept ransom payments in the form of deposit cans and bottles.

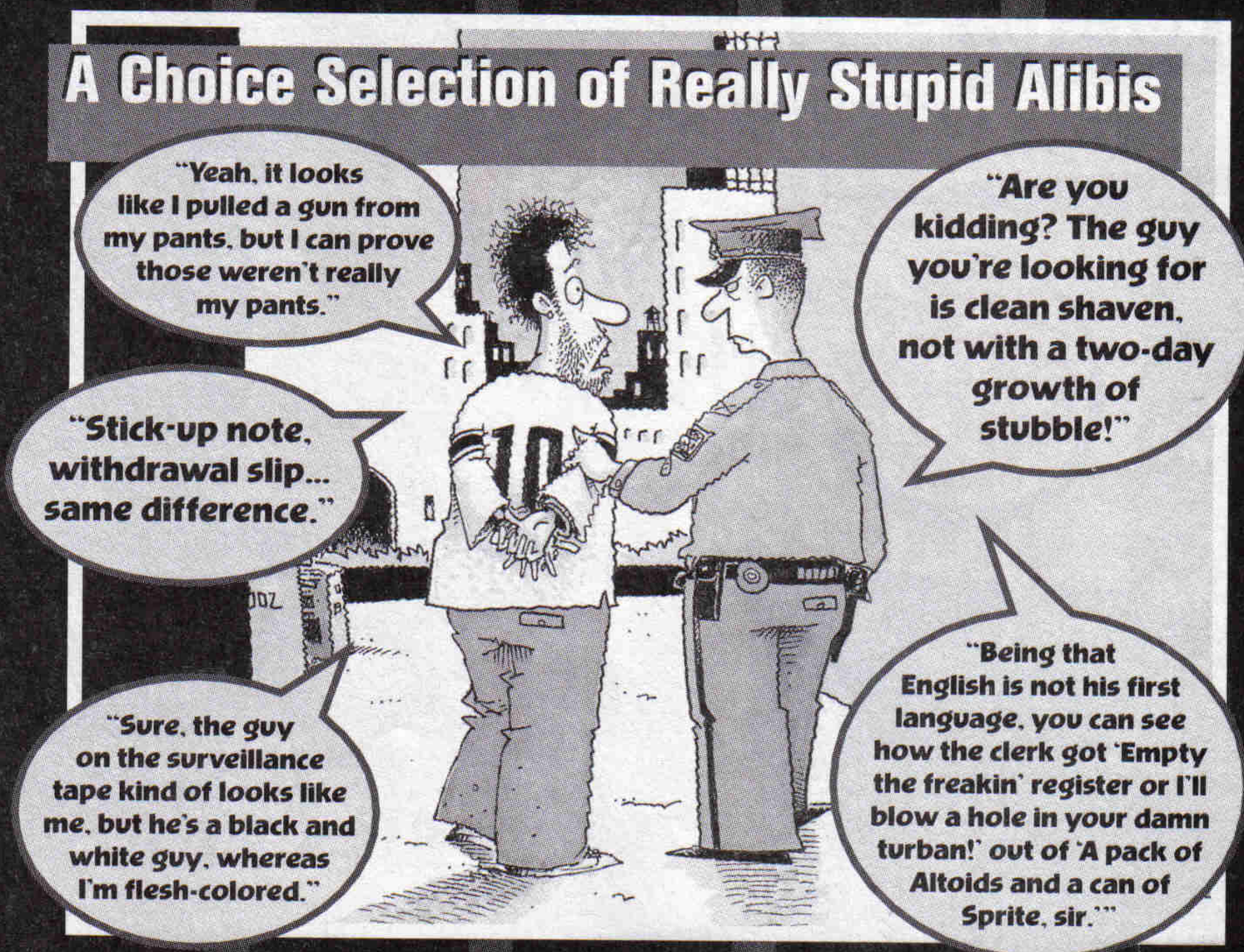


The key to your embezzlement system is keeping two sets of pencils.



Your chosen method of disposing of evidence involves posting it on eBay.

A Choice Selection of Really Stupid Alibis



Truth in advertising is about as easy to find these days as clear skin at a Slipknot show! Still, much has changed since the days of physician-endorsed cigarettes, not the least of which is the length and potency of companies' slogans. With a nation of consumers with the collective attention span of a hyperactive gnat, slogans must be constantly pared down to near nothing by the poor saps who write them. It's no wonder we never get to see their original, more truthful...

UNABRIDGED CORPORATE SLOGANS

Olive Garden

When You're Here, You're Family!

—but when you leave, you're just another queasy schmuck with heartburn and garlic breath!

Army Reserve

It's Not Your Everyday Job.

—unless militant Iraqi insurgents keep trying to kill you back at the office!

TACO BELL

Think Outside the Bun!

Puke inside the restroom!

STAPLES

Yeah, We've Got That.

—but good luck getting any of our sullen teenage staff to help you find it!

MOTEL 6

We'll Leave the Light on for You!

—but there's not a whole lot we can do about the smell!

verizon

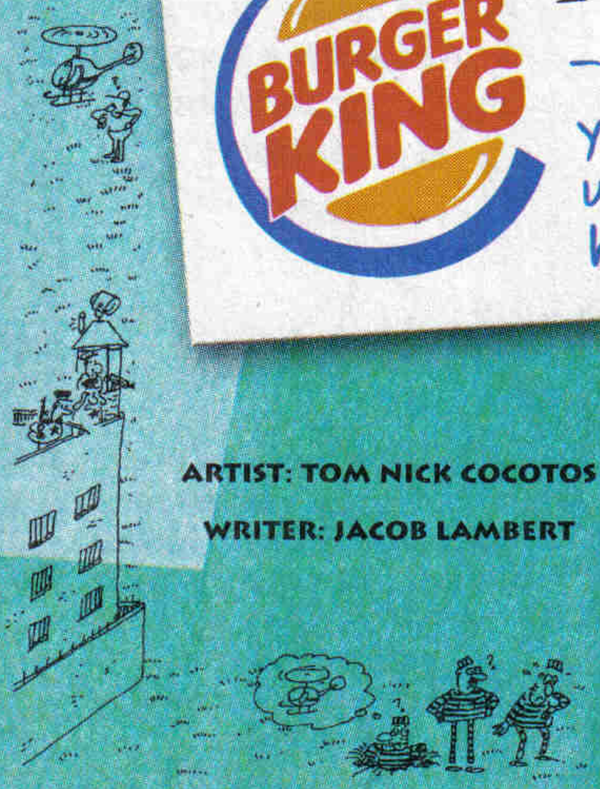
We Never Stop Working for You

—but that doesn't mean we actually know what we're doing!

BURGER KING

The Fire's Ready

—but we'll just leave your soggy Whopper under these fluorescent heat lamps, okay?



ARTIST: TOM NICK COCOTOS

WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT

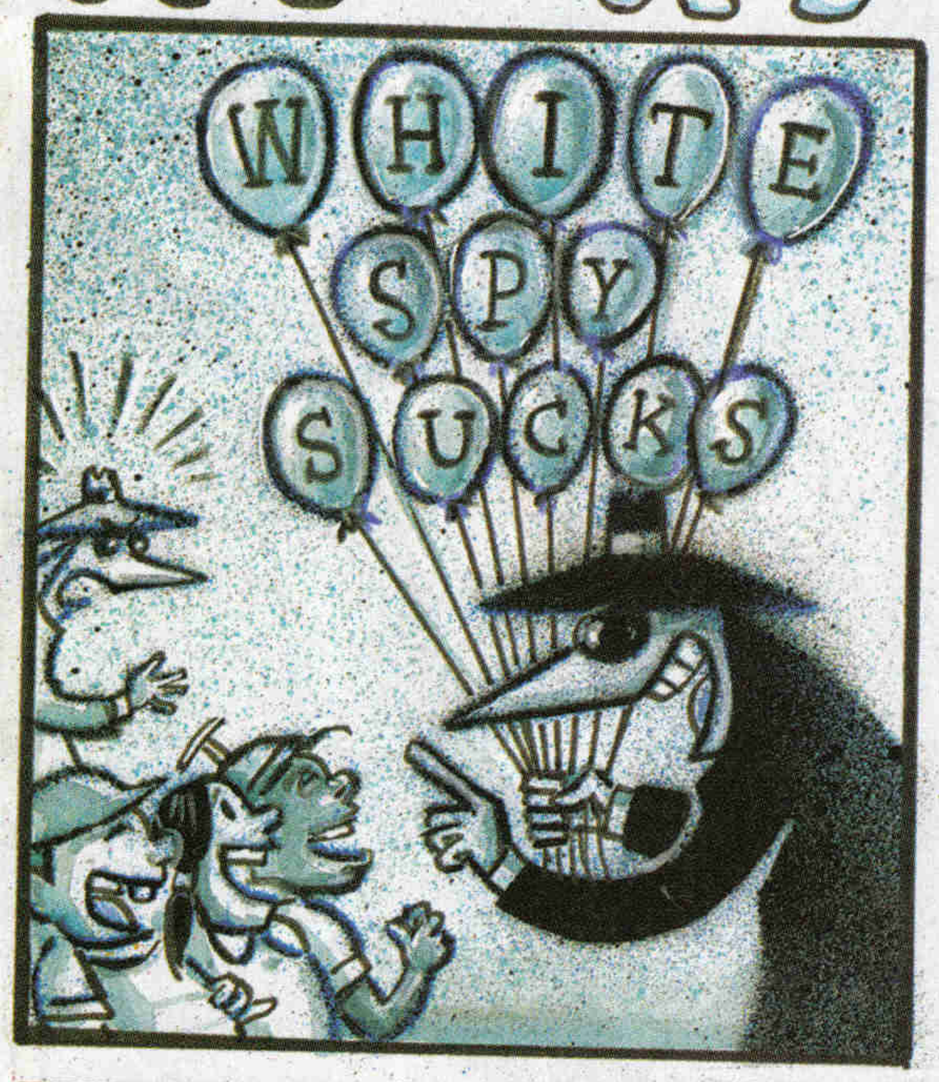
HISTORY CHANNEL

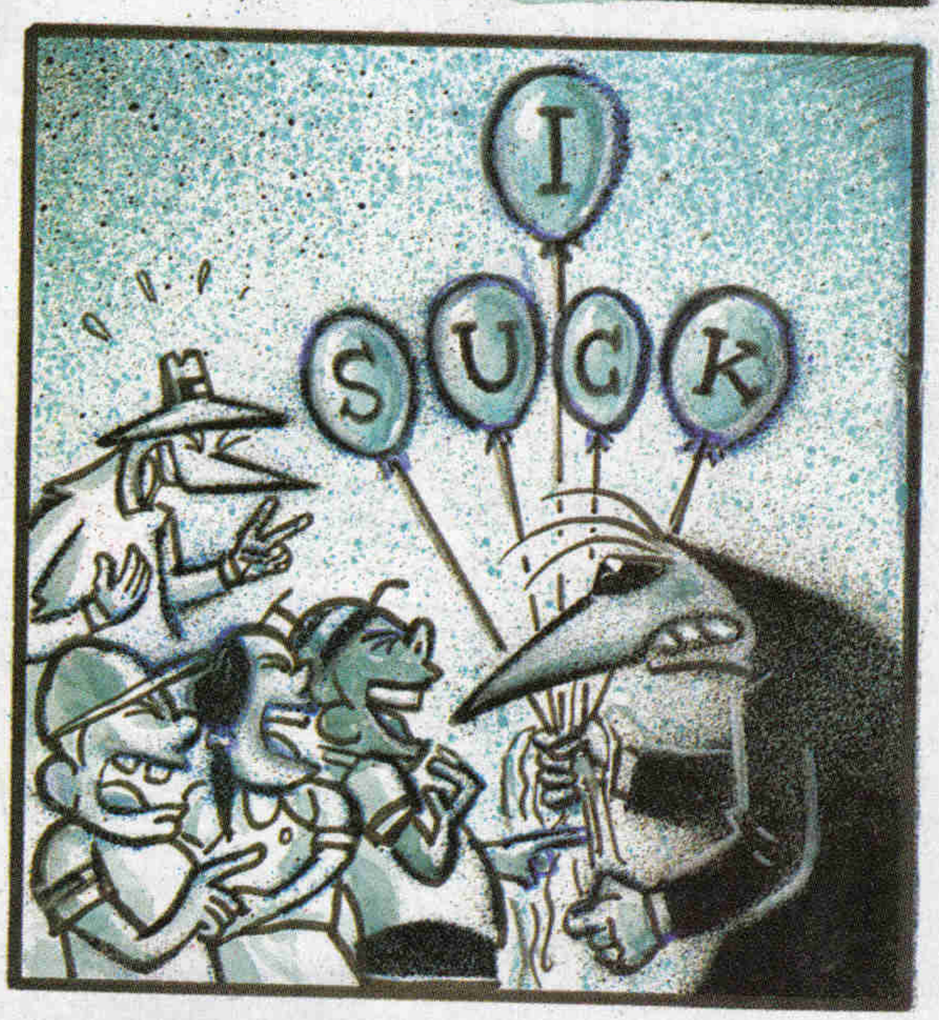
Where History Comes Alive

—and you go to sleep!

SPY VS SPY

SPY VS SPY

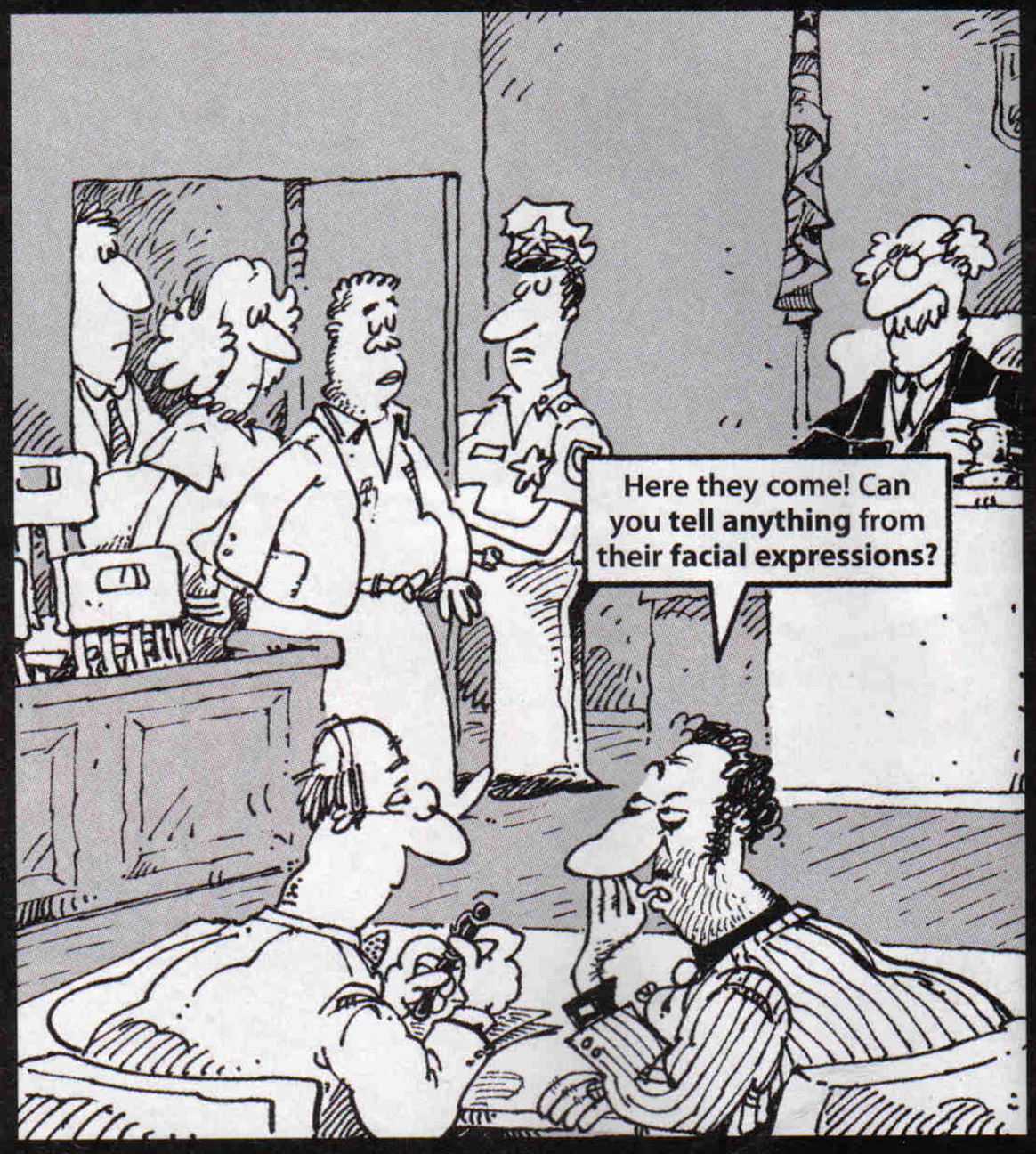


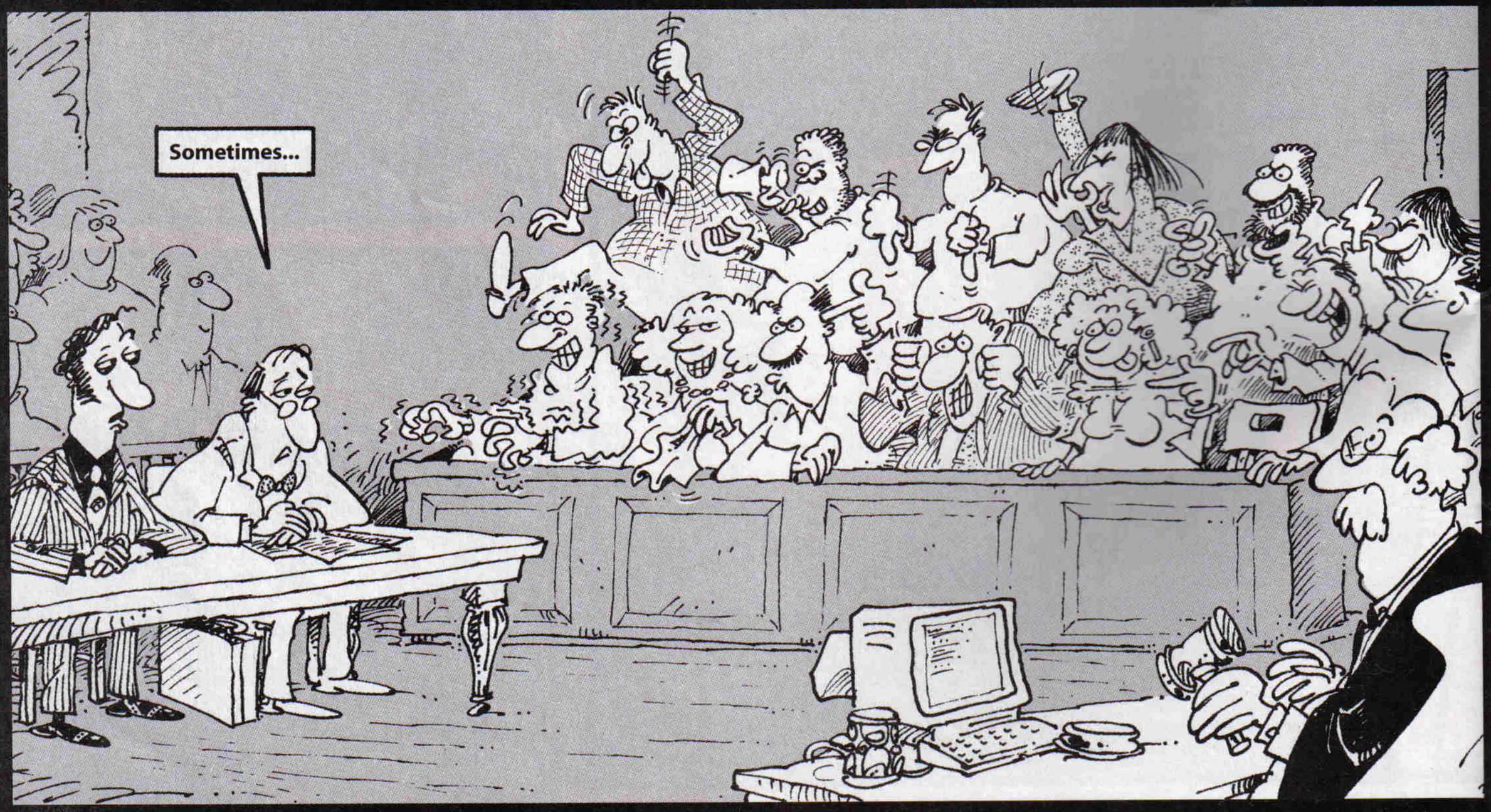


ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

KUPER

THE VERDICT





ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES WRITER: MICHAEL GALLAGHER

FIELD OF SCHEMES DEPT.

WHAT TO SPANKING

When the Baltimore Orioles unveiled Camden Yards in 1992, the stadium received the kind of nauseatingly over-the-top praise usually reserved for Cal Ripken, Jr. Camden was hailed as a one-of-a-kind marvel and quickly inspired even *more* obscenely expensive imitations. Now it seems a gimmick-laden new park opens every year, featuring such monstrosities as swimming pools, rock-climbing walls and, in the case of the Padres' Petco Park, David Wells! Here's...

The inevitable corporate title — because nothing says "old-fashioned baseball fun" like "Unicorp.net Field."

A wide array of restaurants, shops and activities — anything to help you forget that you're wasting an evening watching the lowly Rockies play the pathetic Expos.

Natural grass fields — because artificial turf has no place in a game filled with doped-up sluggers crushing juiced balls over shortened fences.

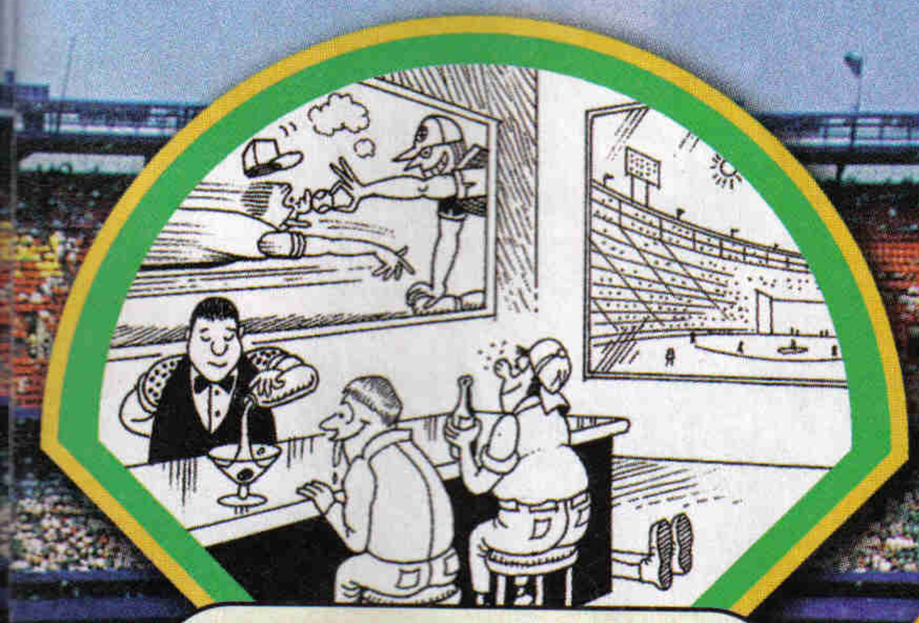
Unique features, like a neon liberty bell or racing sausages, that emphasize a team's special relationship with its city — even though the club would've bolted said city in a second if they didn't get a new park.

Dozens of luxury boxes that serve all the American ballpark classics: Beaujolais, escargot and sashimi.

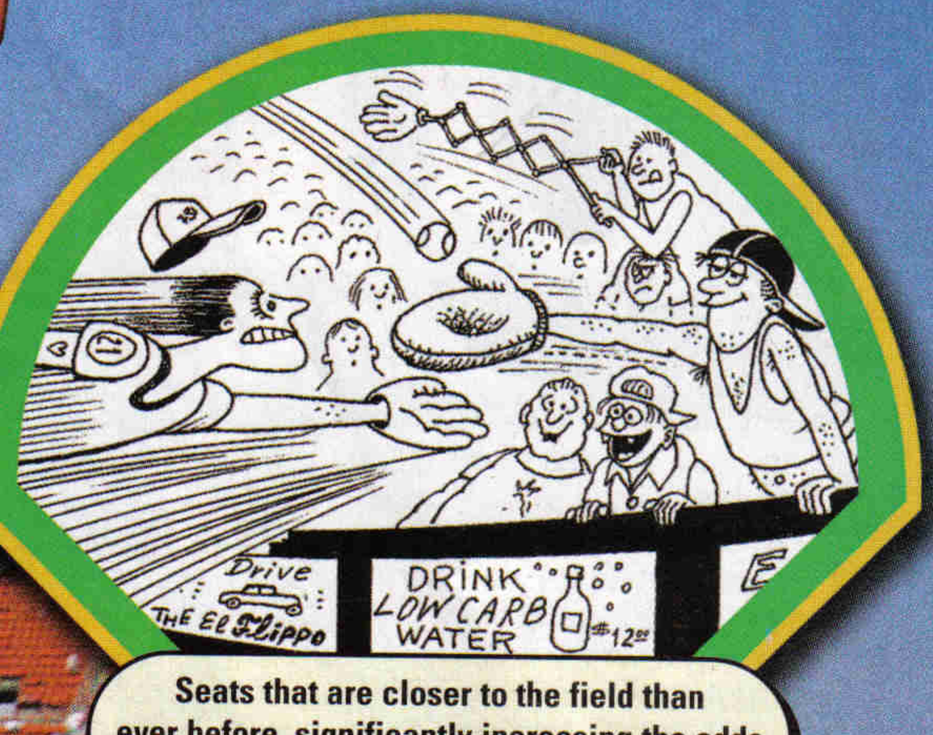
A quaint ballpark atmosphere that transports you back to the 1930s, and ticket prices that rocket you into the 2030s.

A retractable roof which everyone prays won't malfunction again during the 4th of July fireworks display.

EXPECT AT YOUR TEAM'S NEW $450 MILLION BALLPARK



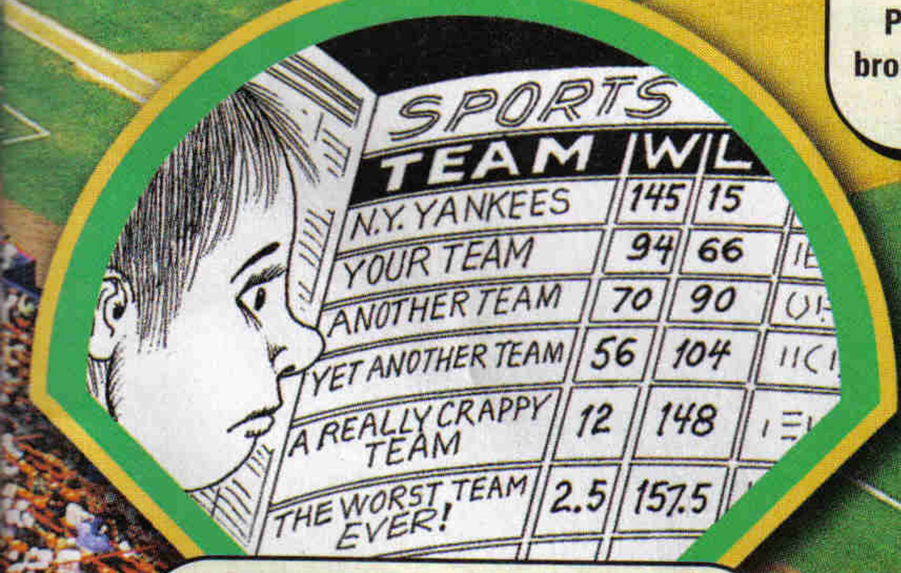
A state-of-the-art sports bar with a giant, wide-screen TV, so you can relax and follow all of the action as if you weren't even at the stadium.



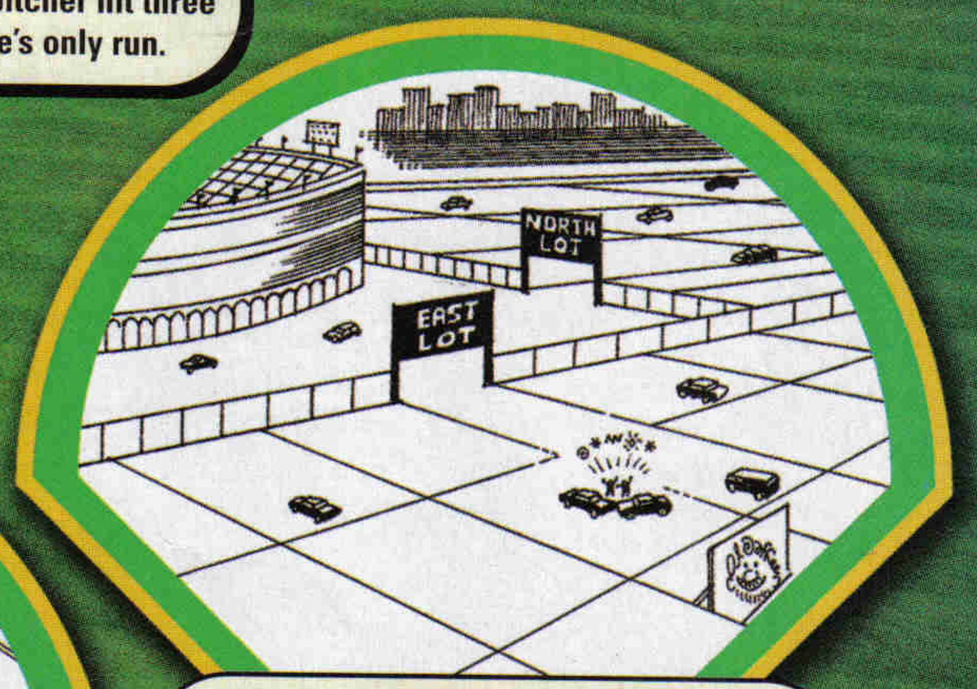
Seats that are closer to the field than ever before, significantly increasing the odds that some misguided pinhead will ruin your team's pennant chances by interfering with a play in a crucial late-season game.

Informative exhibits that highlight the proudest moments in the home team's history, like the Indians' 1954 pennant run, the Pirates' World Series win in 1960, and that time the Devil Rays broke a 14-game losing streak when the opposing pitcher hit three consecutive batters and then balked-in the game's only run.

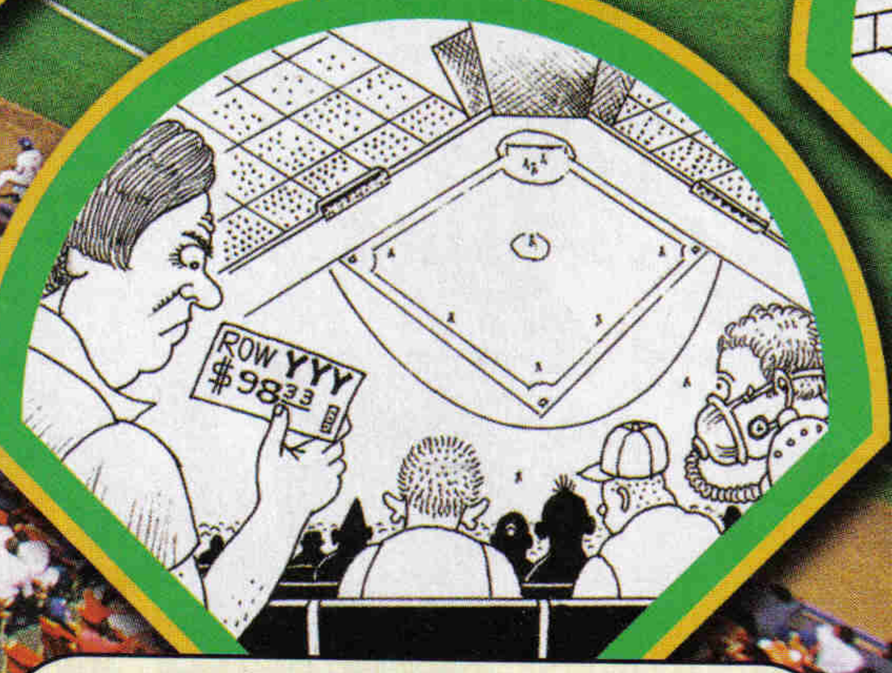
ARTIST: AL JAFFEE
WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT
PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



A solid home team that, thanks to the new ballpark revenue, can finally be competitive enough to take one out of every seven from the Yankees.



Ample parking to handle crowds of 40,000 or, more accurately, the 14,000 who will actually show up once the stadium's novelty inevitably wears off.



For the team's blue-collar fan base, upper-deck "cheap seats" that are more expensive than those in the old park's behind-the-plate VIP section.

BIG MAC ATTACK DEPT.

He's loud, he's ornery and he's got anger management issues that make Mike Tyson look like a social worker! Just the guy you want looking after your kids, right? And certainly the guy you want to watch during family hour! Yeesh! Leave it to the idiots at FOX (the same idiots who bring you *MADtv*) to come up with...

The Burning Mad Show

What's up, America! Let me tell you **my story** — I live with a **smokin' hot woman**, I have **piles of money** and I own **all** the **gadgets** and **toys** a **brother** could **possibly want!** I'm living **every man's dream**...at least, I **WAS**, until my **sister** got sent to **rehab** and stuck **me** with raising her **three bratty kids!** Feel **sorry** for her? No, feel **sorry** for **ME!** I'd give every **dime** I made from ***Charlie's Angels 2*** to be **locked up** with a bunch of **strung-out crackheads** instead of listening to my **15-year-old niece** whine about her **training bra!**

Those **kids** drive me **crazy**, so I hide out in **here** for **peace and quiet!** I suppose **most men** my age **escape** their **families** by heading to the **bathroom**, but **this** is a **family show!** You wanna see a **fella** with his **drawers** around his **ankles**, you're gonna have to **flip on over** to ***Queer as Folk!***

Anyway, from **time** to **time**, we might take a **little break** in the **action** so I can **address** you **directly**, America! Sure, having me **improvise jokes** may be a **cheap gimmick** the **writers** use to keep from having to come up with **good stories**, but trust me, after **five minutes** of our **paper-thin plots**, you'll be **BEGGING** for another one of these **bits!**

"from all-time classic, The Cosby Show"

"from TV Land staple, Sanford and Son"

"from that crappy ABC show, My Wife's Kids or My Kids and Wife or whatever it's called!"

BIG ASS STEREO

BIG @SS BLING

FOX

Is this one of those **sit-coms** that **isn't taped** before a **live audience?**

But I don't hear anyone **laugh-ing!**

No, there's a **live audience!**

And they're **attentive**, too!

This show reaches across all **demo-graphic groups!**

Yeah, it appeals to both **blacks** *and* **whites** who find ***According to Jim*** overly **complex!**

Burning is in the tradition of **African-American TV dads** like **Fred Sanford, Cliff Huxtable** and **Mike Ryan!**

Actually, the way he **treats** his **kids**, he's more in the tradition of **Archie Bunker, Al Bundy** and **Tony Soprano!**

C'mon, I'll **introduce** you to the **family!** But **first**, a little **something** we stole from ***Frasier*** — the **Bad Pun Title Card!**

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DAVID SHAYNE

"Family Few"

No, that didn't make any sense, but these are harder to come up with than you think...

This is **Wandabra!** She's a **sexy, smart, upwardly mobile executive!** You gotta **wonder** why someone as **great** as **her** would **stay** with a **loser** like **me**, especially after those **kids** showed up!

That's **easy!!** Between **your laziness**, and **their lying** and **backstabbing**, I'm getting the **perfect training** for **surviving** the **corporate world!**

This is **Jawin!** This kid's like a **cross** between **Steve Urkel** and **Bart Simpson** — part **nerd**, part **scheming troublemaker!**

Like my **latest plan!** I'm **re-wiring** the **toaster** so the **toast** comes out **cold!** No more **hot toast** for **me** or **anyone else!** Heh, heh, heh...

Correction. This kid's like a **cross** between **Paris Hilton** and **Jessica Simpson** — part **idiot**, part **BIGGER idiot!**

JAWIN'S ROOM

KEEP OUT

NITRO

How we **doing** today, **Vamessa?**

Terrible! I'm having **typical teen girl problems!**

Maybe I can **help** — tell your **Uncle Burning!**

My **boyfriend broke up** with me, I'm **flunking pre-calc** and I can't find a **sweater** to go with these **pants!**

So you **ain't pregnant**, you **ain't** on **drugs** and you **don't** have an **eating disorder!** Call me when you've got **something TYPICAL!**

MATH

BLING BLING

This is **Breeyawna**, the **Baby Girl!** She's my **favorite** 'cause she **never** gives me **no trouble!**

I just **threw up** on my **bed!**

Wandabra, Breeyawna needs you!

Uncle Burning! Uncle Burning! My **ant farm** got **loose** in your **shoes!**

Uncle Burning! Uncle Burning! The **big dance** is **coming up**, and I need a **new dress!**

Uncle Burning! Uncle Burning! I just **threw up** all over the **floor!**

Listen to all that **com-plaining** about a **bunch** of **nothing!**

I've got **news** for you — around here **"a bunch of noth-ing"** is **another way** of **saying "tonight's storylines"!**

Aw hell! If that's **all** we **got**, you folks might as well **switch over** to ***Wife Swap*** right **now!** In fact, seeing how **FOX** moves our **time slot** every **week** trying to **scrape up** some **viewers**, it looks like **most** of you **already have!**

METEOROLOGIC STATION

Okay, **Vamessa**, I'll drop you off at the **mall** to get a **dress**! But **whatever** you do, you're **not allowed** to **buy** a **new sweater**! You **hear** me? **No new sweater**! Do **not purchase** a **sweater**!

Why do you keep **repeating** yourself? I'm **not stupid**!

No, but our **audience** is! That's how we get away with **re-hashing** these **plots** from ***Full House*** every week! **Girl**, you wanna lay **odds** they **STILL** haven't **figured out** you're gonna **disobey me**?

NEED BEER

Aw, **what** the **hell**!? **Jawin's ants** are in my **shoes**!

"Jawin's ants — as if Burning didn't just say that"

How did your **ants** get in **my shoes**?

Not "**aunts**"! **ANTS**! Little **bugs**!

Well, at **least** I have **proof** now!

That my **sister** was **hitting** the **pipe** when she was **pregnant** with **you**!

Aunt Wandabra's in your **shoes**?

Aunt Wandabra's a **bug**?

Proof of **what**?

MY HERO

"the shoes with the ants — in case you missed it"

"aren't these arrows helpful?"

You know what **your problem** is? You don't **listen** to **me**!

Huh? **What'd** you **say**?

That's an **old joke**, Jawin!

No, **seriously**, I **couldn't hear you**! You've **smacked** me **upside** the **head** so **often**, I have **permanent inner ear damage**!

GESUNDHEIT!

You see what I have to **deal with** day after **day**, **America**? The **boy** is an **idiot**! He's so **dumb**, he thinks **reality shows** are **real**, **Bush** is **smart** and ***MADtv*** is **funny**! Then again, **YOU** think this little "**talking to the camera**" **bit** we **ripped off** from **Ferris Bueller** is **clever** and **original**!

Jawin! You were **mouthing off** in **class** again! **Come up here** so I can **hit you** in the **mouth** with this **ruler**!

Okay!

Now why are you **smiling**?

Compared to **home**, **Catholic school** is like a day at **Chuck E. Cheese's**!

Your **Uncle Burning** is **that bad**?

He got **turned down** as a **guard** at **Abu Ghraib** — apparently he showed **less compassion** than the **guards already there**!

GOD IS WATCHING

"Sweater You Than Me"

"Mall's Well That Ends Well"?

Sorry, that was bad... how about "For Sweater or Worse"?

"Red Sweater Day"?

You know what? I QUIT!

Uncle Burning, do you ever **regret** taking us on?

No, actually, I'm **glad** to have you **around!**

Really?

I'm **banking** on you **wild-ass kids** keeping me so **busy** I won't have **time** to **sign on** for more **garbage** like ***Head of State***!

How come you **drive** such a **humogous**, **gas-guzzling SUV?**

I **grew up** in the **projects**, so my **Escalade** is a **sign** that I've **risen up**. That I've **overcome hardships** and **made it!** Besides, it's the **only thing** on the **road** with enough **headroom** to **accommodate** my **Epcot Center-sized 'fro!**

I BRAKE FOR NO ONE!!

FORD BEHEMOTH

BM

MALL

Hmmm...I don't know **why**, but **I'm** always the **kid** who has to go through a **moral dilemma!** Like this **sweater** — on the **one hand**, **Uncle Burning** said **don't buy one!** On the **other hand**, it's **soooo cute!** So I'm faced with a **major conflict**: **pink** or **blue?**

Vamessa! What'd I **say** about **buying** a **new sweater!?**

Don't you **know** that **stealing** is **wrong!?**

And you know what's **worse** than **stealing?**

Technically, I **didn't** buy it! You **didn't** say **anything** about ***shoplifting*** a **new sweater!**

Even if ***you're*** stealing **Bill Cosby's** "Put-Upon **Black Father Figure**" schtick?

What?

Mouthing off to your **elders!**

SALE

America, I have **problems!** I've got a **niece** who **steals**, there's **ants** running **through** my **house**, **Jawin** keeps getting in **trouble** at **school** and **Wandabra's** so **mad** at me she won't give me **no lovin'**! Does it **get** any **worse?**

Uncle Burning, I just **threw up** in your **sock drawer!**

That's it! I gotta **do** what I **always** do when I get into **trouble**...

...**celebrity cameos!** Like **you**, **Ray Romano** — how do you keep the ***Everybody Loves Raymond*** **kids** from driving you **nuts?**

Simple. They only appear **twice** a **season!** Otherwise, they're up in their **rooms** or at **school**, or stuck in a **well** — **anywhere** but **on-camera!** We're a "**family**" **show** that's about **anything *but* family!**

Bill Cosby! The **legend!** Any **thoughts you'd** like to **share?**

Today's black comedians don't speak English well!

This from the **guy** who invented **Mushmouth** and **ends** every **scene** by going, "**Woobit**, **wabbit** with the **bzzrp** and the **zerbet!**"

Sometimes I **purse** my **lips** and go "**Whoo Jack!**"

NUDIST BEACH

NUDIST BEACH

Uncle Burning, I'm sorry I stole! I took the sweater back!

And I'm sorry about spilling all those ants! I cleaned them up!

And I'm sorry about throwing up all over the house! I'll stop eating seven McGriddles for breakfast!

Can you believe it, America? Those kids listened to me! They finally listened to me! Can you believe it...?

...of course you can! Because this happens exactly 27 minutes into every episode! They don't listen, I complain they don't listen, then they listen, then I come back here and say, "They listened!" This show is so by-the-numbers predictable, the Naval Observatory sets the atomic clock to it!

BURNING MAD
PLOT TIMELINE
00:06 - EPISODE THEME ESTABLISHED
01:18 JAWIN DOES SOMETH RUDE AND OBNOXIO
02:45 WANDABRA SIGHTIN 15 SEC. OF DIALO
3:15 VAMESSA MENTION HOW MUCH SHE HATE LIVING HERE.
BABY GIRL DOES SOMETHING CUTE
6:20 BURNING AND ONE OR MORE KIDS GET INTO A BATTLE OF WILLS

Well, we've wrapped up another episode! I'll just get the door and —

Hello, my brother!

I don't believe it! Kids, come quickly! Your mother's out of rehab! Again!

Hi, Mama!

Thank heavens you're here, Mama! Uncle Burning treats us so badly!

We can't wait to come home and live with you, Mama!

First, you do not address me as "Mama"! You address me as "Miss Whitney Houston"! Secondly, I am here to take you home with me. Oh, the fun we'll have when I sing you my "Aiiiiieeeeeeeee-IIIIIIIII, will always looooooove yooooooouu!" song as a lullaby every...single...night!

Uh-oh...

Hoo-boy...

"Houston, we have a (drug) problem"

Um, Uncle Burning? I think now's a good time to tell you how hansome and great you are!

Aw, you kids are just saying that so you won't have to go with her!

No we aren't! And by the way, we LOVED you in *Bad Santa*!

And no more Uncle Burning! Say hello to your Uncle Bobby Brown! Now one of you be a doll and call me a cab — Miss Whitney Houston crashed our car into the kitchen!

Yeesh! Talk about out of the frying pan and into the fire! Or in this case, out of the frying pan and into the white-hot flames of a thousand suns!

Well, I think these kids have learned an important lesson: be careful what you wish for, 'cause your sorry ass just might get it! And I've learned the same thing! This is the last time I EVER tell my agent I want to do a sitcom!

WHAT OBNOXIOUS BORE IS NOTORIOUS FOR ASKING QUESTIONS NO ONE ELSE DOES?

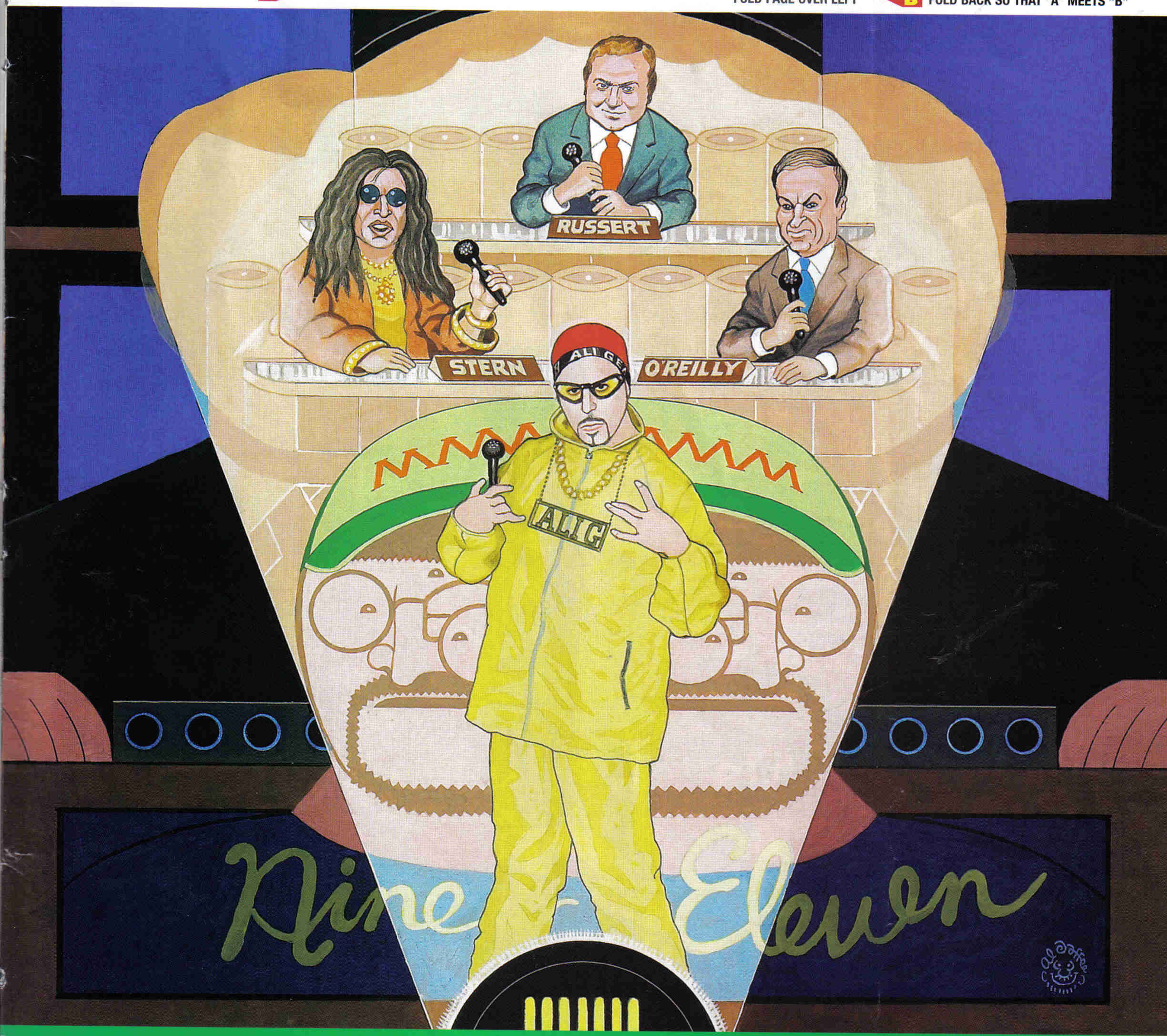
HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

Seems like everywhere we look, some self-important know-it-all is boring us to tears with an endless stream of pointless inquiries. To find out who the worst offender is, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

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



JERKS ABOUND IN SHOWBIZ. BUT ONE WHO OPERATES TODAY IS TRULY AWFUL. FOOLHARDY GUESTS APPEARING ALONGSIDE HIM MUST SEEK HELP FOR FRAZZLED NERVES AS HE KEEPS HAMMERING AWAY AT THEM. HE CAN DESTROY REPUTATIONS AND MAKE JELLY OUT OF PEOPLE'S MENTAL UNDERPINNINGS

A ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE B