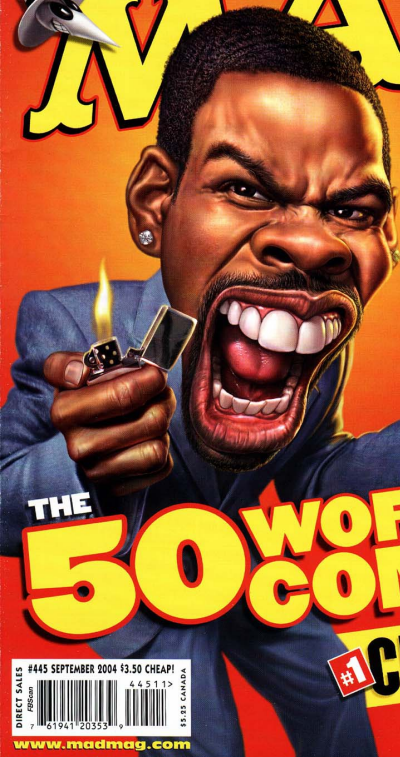


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THE 50 WORST THINGS ABOUT COMEDY

#1 CHRIS ROCK

...IS HOLDING IT IN HIS HAND!
(AND SO ARE YOU!)

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ALFRED E. NEWMAN



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MAD

SEPTEMBER 2004

NUMBER 445

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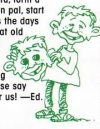


YOU'VE GOT JAIL

I am incarcerated in a youth prison in Michigan. When I was in the juvenile home, my parents brought me MAD to keep me entertained. When I came here, my bunkie received MAD and let me read them. I've become really addicted to them and just received the first copy of my subscription. Thank you for something to do.

Mike Kelly,
Michigan Youth Correctional Facility
Baldwin, MI

Saved by the Kell — Are you saying you're looking for things to do in prison? Jail is a *hotbed* of fun-filled activities! Off the top of our heads, we can think of plenty of ways to pass the time! Why, you can craft a shiv, earn the trust of a guard, form a softball team, get a pen pal, start digging a tunnel, cross the days off your calendar or that old classic: push-ups (and plenty of them)! So Mike, don't complain that there isn't anything for you to do, and please say hello to Warden Elo for us! —Ed.

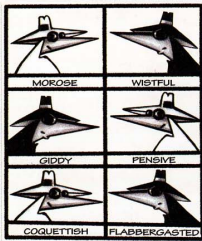


THE DRAWING BORED

Could you possibly have a page in an upcoming issue that shows how to draw the Spy Vs. Spy characters and their expressions? My friend is obsessed with Spy Vs. Spy and is always trying to "perfect" the comics he draws. If you do this I am hoping he will shut up.

Michael Ambriz, San Diego, CA

MIKEY LIKES IT — No problem! We spoke with current Spy Vs. Spy artist Peter Kuper and he was more than happy to provide the following mini style guide to help your "friend" master the highly expressive faces of either the Black or White Spyl! —Ed.



The Big Easel

I enjoy MAD magazine, so I decided to do a "Big Easel." I only used toy cars, K'nex and other stuff in my room. I never used anything that I found outside of my room. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoy reading MAD.

Kirk Meyers, Saskatchewan, Canada

Kirk du Soleil — Clearly you are displaying the early signs of cabin fever. This is not uncommon during the cold and depressing nine-month Saskatchewan winters. Now, if you wanted to get the most out of those K'nex, you'd use them to build a tunnel to escape your icy, soul-crushing Canadian prison! If you get stopped at the border, just inform the Mounties that you're a close personal friend of Courtney "Uncle Sam" Brooks! —Ed.



KIRK (R.) AND HIS TOY-RIFIC ALFRED

THE SCHIZ ARE ALRIGHT

I say Desmond Devlin is the biggest idiot in your Usual Gang of Idiots for misusing the term "schizo" three times in the *Lord of the Rings* parody (MAD #439). Schizophrenia is a brain disorder that has nothing to do with multiple personalities. Ask any doctor, idiot.

Lila Ewing, Encinitas, CA

Mountain Ew — First off, we'd like to apologize on behalf of Desmond. You are correct in pointing out his misuse of the word schizo. To show that we have taken your reprimand to heart, we would like to run something by you. Are we using the word "crap-sack" correctly when describing your letters? Please write back and let us know. In fact, let's open it up to you, our dear readers. Please send us your best original, profanity-free insults to describe Ms. Ewing's missive! Mail to Amy "The Big Insult" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019. We will print the best ones in an upcoming issue! —Ed.



MAD FAN OF THE MONTH

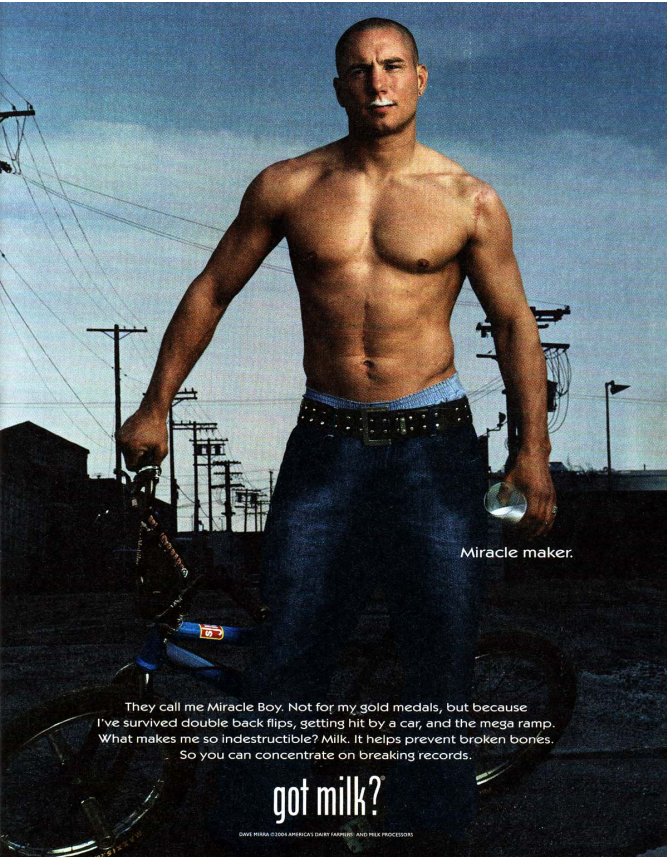
This past 4th of July, I decided to go past setting off fireworks, and possibly losing fingers, to be patriotic. When I got into my Uncle Sam costume, I figured: What more appropriate way to represent my country than holding up two classic MAD magazines? After all, MAD represents and symbolizes what the United States is all about (being able to publish large amounts of foolish nonsense courtesy of the First Amendment!)

Courtney Brooks, Indianapolis, IN

People's Courtney — After looking at your "patriotic" picture, we've decided that the French may have actually had a point about how retarded Americans are! Vive le snug plastic pants! —Ed.



COURTNEY "UNCLE SAM" BROOKS:
WHO WANTS YOU??



Miracle maker.

They call me Miracle Boy. Not for my gold medals, but because I've survived double back flips, getting hit by a car, and the mega ramp. What makes me so indestructible? Milk. It helps prevent broken bones. So you can concentrate on breaking records.

got milk?

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DON'T DO THE CRIME IF YOU CAN'T DO THE RHYME



BREAKING A MING PHRASE

In MAD #442's "Yao Ming's Chinese-English Phrasebook" you have his alleged comments in Chinese symbols followed by supposed translations into English. I regret to inform you that the symbols do not mean what you said they mean. For example, in the first line, 非 = mountain, 气 = water, 息 = exhaust. In the second line 烟 = level, 风 = waves, 平 = quiet. I won't translate all of the symbols, because the point is made.

Garrett Belcher, Charleston, WV

Gar She Blows! — Once again we fall victim to that bumbling Godfrey. He swore to us that he was fluent in Chinese. After double-checking the article, we found that 腾云驾雾 doesn't translate into "Does Allen Iverson know that his Chinese tattoo says 'I desire young boys'?" — but actually into, "Garrett Belcher, get a freakin' life!" This makes us wonder if Godfrey really is a licensed massage therapist, either! —Ed.

CALDWELL'S THAT ENDS WELL

I am writing this to tell you that you guys are wicked pissal! I especially wanted to tell you guys that I loooove John Caldwell. He is my favorite cartoonist in the world! His articles are always the ones I like best. I've been reading MAD since I was 14 (I'm 21 now) and I just want to say I worship all that is MAD! I may come to NYC and visit you guys and give John a big hug for rocking hardcore!

Melissa Gavazzi, Boston, MA

Missy — Thank you for your fan letter to long-time MAD writer/artist John Caldwell. We took the liberty of passing it on to him and to his lovely bride, Roxy. We couldn't understand her whole message to you, but we did manage to make out the phrases "stop sniffing around my man" and "Gas up the truck, we're haulin' ass to Beantown!" Best of luck to you, Melissa, you homewrecker! —Ed.

Simply MAD throughout the years,
Alfred E. Newman has no fears.
The Spy plots on against the Spy
As we muse about The Lighter Side.
MAD Fold-In rack our brains,
While Monroe treads on through many pains.
Bitterman touts pessimistic views
And MAD parodies the national news.
Melvin is socially correct
But Jenkins is socially inept.
MAD mocks movies and TV
With satire fans can't wait to read.
So, my message is all but brief,
But, thank you, for the comic relief!



Tracy Rodgers, South Glastonbury, CT

T-Rod — Your beautiful letter has inspired us to pick up our quills and try our hand once again at the fine art of poetry. We are certain that ours is every bit as amazing as yours! See you at the next Def Poetry Jam!! Enjoy! —Ed.

Thank you for your endless poem,
Now do us a favor and leave us alone!

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS SPECIAL SURVIVOR EDITION!!

Peter Gordon of Great Neck, NY sent in this page of Celebrity Snaps from the recent *Survivor: All Stars* wrap party in New York City! Understandably, he neglected to include the one where security is forcibly escorting him out of the bash (That hussy Jerri wouldn't be far behind!) Regardless, congrats, Pete on your three-year subscription and special props for your **THE ED'S NINETY FIFTY** pic of Rupert Boneham!



RUPERT AND PETER GORDON



SHII ANN



KATHY AND JANE GORDON



LEX



BURTON



JENNA M. AND ETHAN



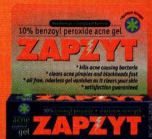
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ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

This month's Envelope of the Month comes from Matt Handfield of Northampton, MA. In his letter, Matt did a fair amount of smack-talking about Letters Page mainstay Jim Hutchings. So far, Jim has been quiet in facing his challengers. Are you going to take this, Jim? After all that you have "worked" for? For God's sake man, fight disturbing fire with disturbing fire, send in your next "masterpiece" and put these upstarts in their place! —Ed.



JIM HUTCHINGS' CHALLENGER MATT HANDFIELD'S ENVELOPE

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**Contributing Artists
And Writers**
the usual gang of idiots

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CENSOR AND SENSIBILITY

Why is your magazine so R-rated?
I am an average nine-year-old boy who
thinks your magazine is funny, but in an
R-rated way. I'm a new subscriber and
when I got the May issue, I was rather
upset that it had nudity in it. If you
could make your magazine G-rated,
that would be great.

Max Russo, Pleasantville, NY

Max and Cheese — You strike us as the type
of kid who reminds his teachers that they
haven't assigned any homework for the
weekend! However, we are glad that you enjoy
the magazine, and we hope it offers you an
occasional smile as you recover in ICU from
one of the many schoolyard beatings that are
bound to be a staple of your childhood! —Ed.

FOR BETTER OR FOR CURSE

I was at my grandma's on vacation
when I got my first issue of MAD. I was
reading it voraciously, making sure I
got every single detail, when my bratty
cousins and MAD-addicted uncle walked
in. My youngest cousin, Robin, grabbed
the MAD out of my hand and started
reading it out loud. My grandma thought
it was cute until Robin came across the
word "damn." Then my grandma said
to me that MAD might be a little too
inappropriate for me. But then my
MAD-addicted uncle said that kids are
getting more inappropriate these days.
Is this true? Is MAD affecting the ways
of the next generation?

Adrian Appleman, Brewster, NY

Apple Cobbler — As far
as whether or not MAD is
responsible for influencing the
next generation, well, we really
don't give a damn! Thanks for
writing! —Ed.



**NEXT MONTH IN
MAD #446 ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 14!**

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FALL T.V. PREVIEW AND THE
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THAN TRACY?**

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IN THE JULY AND
AUGUST ISSUES OF
PREVIEWS!

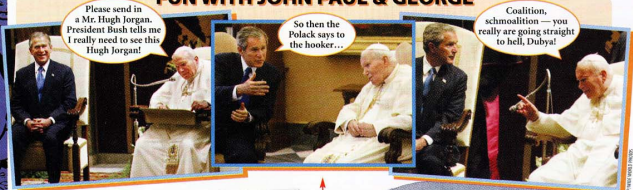
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FUN WITH JOHN PAUL & GEORGE



GEORGE TENET'S RESIGNATION LETTER



To: Vice President Dick Cheney
From: George Tenet

With deep regret, I hereby tender my resignation as Central Intelligence Agency Director.

It's been an exciting 7 years, and the CIA has had its ups, its downs, its downs, and its downs. Not seeing Osama bin Laden coming? Not knowing where the hell Osama is now? The imaginary African uranium sale? Russian double agents parking their \$100,000 cars in the CIA parking lot? My "slam dunk" evidence proving Weapons of Mass Destruction? What can I say except: my bad, dawg.

But I am proud to note that we have also had major, major successes during the same time. The CIA knew that the Spice Girls were going to break up almost a week before it was announced. We're also hearing a lot of elevated chatter about the plot of the upcoming *Tu-Gi-Oh!* movie.

Yes, I'm hightailing it out of town right before the Senate Intelligence report and the 9/11 Commission report both come out and scorch the short hairs off my ass. But that's just a coincidence. And besides, what good does it do, picking up a severed hand at Ground Zero, and using it to point fingers? I've fully accepted my share of the blame. Why dwell on consequences?

Coverly Yours,

GT

P.S. When you get a chance, tell George Bush I've quit my job.

VEY TO GO!



"THE MORGUE, AND STEP ON IT."

BONUS DVD FEATURES WE'D LIKE TO SEE



MEL GIBSON'S THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

- Three-hour commentary track by Mel Gibson's father, Hutton, ranting about how the Jews own Hollywood
- Multiple soundtracks in Esperanto, Kyrgyz, Olde English, and other languages even more obscure than Aramaic
- The previously deleted shark attack scene
- Audition reels of actors who didn't get the lead role, including P. Diddy, Adam Sandler and Vin Diesel
- The alternate "Happy Hollywood Ending" where Jesus uses his superpowers in the last ten minutes of the film to save himself
- Hilarious blooper outtakes of the crew laughing when the actors portraying Roman crucifiers accidentally hit their thumbs with the hammers
- The omitted Paris Hilton "Last Supper" cameo
- Mini-documentary about a real-life "Jesus" who screams on street corners

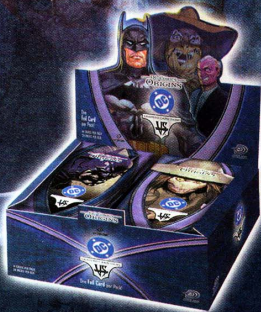
MAGAZINE CORRECTIONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



In our March, 2004 issue, we inadvertently advised those readers born under the sign of Taurus that "you will be pleasantly surprised by a visit from an old friend." In fact, you will die a painful and tragic death. We regret the error and any inconveniences this may have caused.

THE STREETS BELONG TO THE BATMAN

\$1
MILLION
PRO CIRCUIT



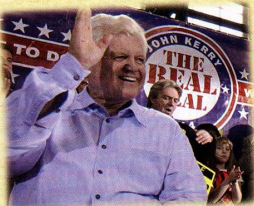
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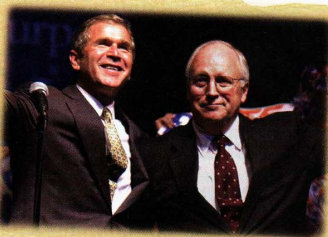
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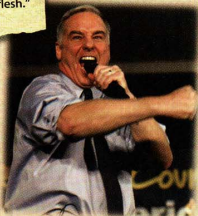
"...this horseback-breaker, this huge hill of flesh."
Henry IV, Part One — Act II, Scene IV



"His will is not his own." Hamlet — Act I, Scene III



"Not yet old enough for a man
nor young enough for a boy."
Twelfth Night — Act I, Scene V



"It is a tale told by an idiot, full of
sound and fury, signifying nothing."
Macbeth — Act V, Scene V



"They have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths."
Much Ado About Nothing — Act V, Scene I



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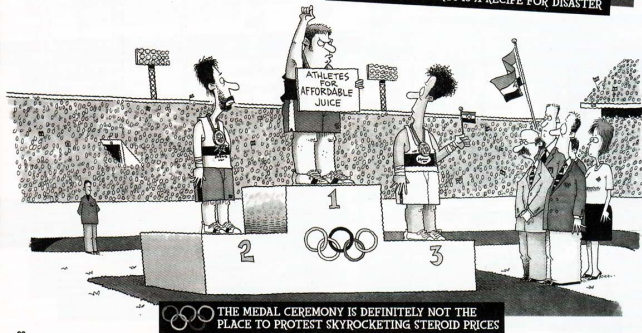
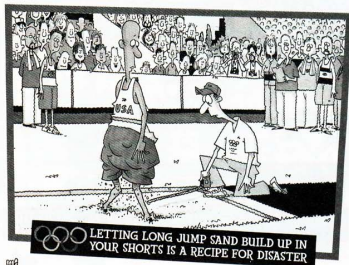
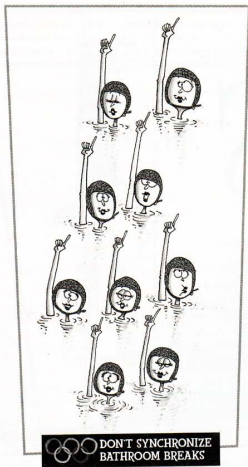
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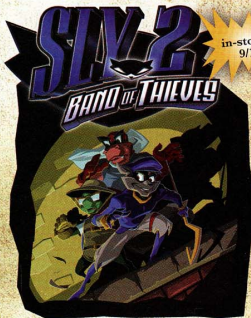
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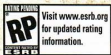
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A 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art! Prize includes a correspondence course and a school tour. Plus, receive a tour of the New York offices of DC Comics!

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No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Contest open to legal residents of the U.S., who are 13 years of age or older as of 7/12/04. Contest ends and entries must be postmarked by 8/14/04. Visit <http://promo.dccomics.com/slycontest>, details on how to enter and more!



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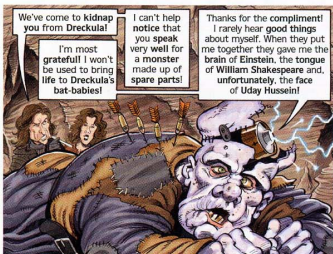
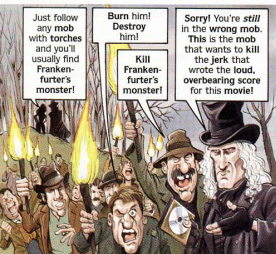
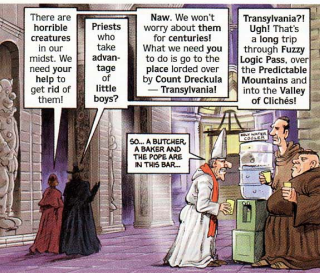
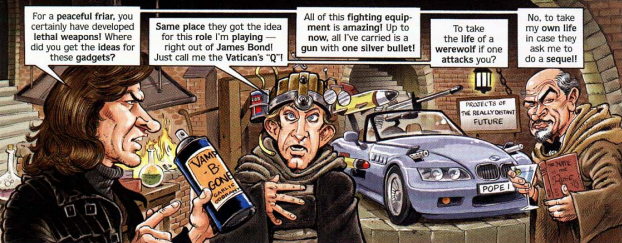
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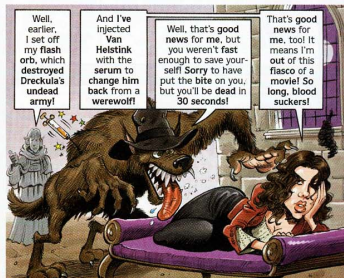
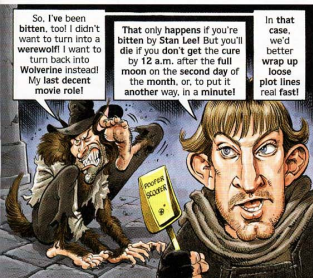
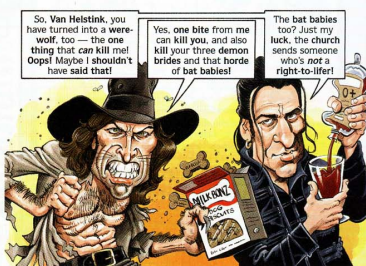
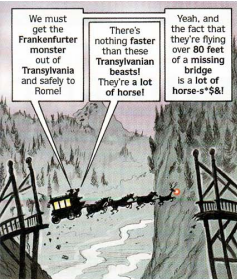


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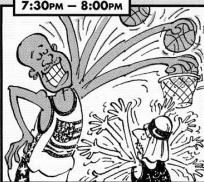
24 HOURS OF NBC'S ENDLESS OLYMPIC COVERAGE

6:00PM — 7:30PM



The equestrian snoozefest, which NBC uses as an opportunity to subtly plug the new series *Joey* by bringing in Matt LeBlanc as a celebrity commentator, even though he couldn't even spell "equestrian" let alone provide any kind of remotely meaningful insight into the sport.

7:30PM — 8:00PM



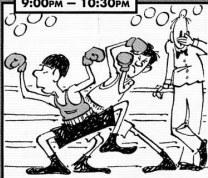
Recap of the day's events so far, with more than half the broadcast devoted to slow motion close-ups of the USA Basketball team slam-dunking the ball in the faces of their Yemenite opponents.

8:00PM — 9:00PM

Women's Volleyball match between Sweden and Norway, which will have no bearing at all on the medal rounds, but gives NBC an excuse to show extreme close-ups of the beaded sweat on the bosoms of young, nubile, swimsuit-clad blonde women frolicking around on a beach during prime time.



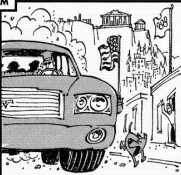
9:00PM — 10:30PM



Frightfully dull bantamweight-boxing match in which the frenetic fighter from Indonesia keeps on dancing around in circles while the disinterested fighter from Sri Lanka seems to be blocking punches that aren't being thrown.

10:30PM — 11:00PM

Contrived sappy story about the camaraderie between the athletes living in the Olympic Village, which fails to point out that the NBA players are actually living on luxury cruise ships and the closest they'll get to one of the regular athletes' cubicles is when their stretch limo passes it on the way to Athens' most exclusive "gentlemen's club."



11:00PM — 12:00AM



Boy, the way Uri Yalnovic smashed that ball reminds me of one of the most amazing homers I've ever witnessed. The year was 1961, I was a boy of 9, sitting with my dad at the big ball orchard in the South Bronx. I remember Moose Skowron was on first, Yogi was on second and, if memory serves, the batboy was none other than...

Full color commentary of the Table Tennis competition, in which Bob Costas somehow manages to segue into yet another self-indulgent, nostalgic story about how his dad would take him to Yankee Stadium in the 1960s and he would sit on his lap eating Cracker Jacks and cheering on the Mick.

You could win a trip to attend the
WORLD PREMIERE with the **cast** and **filmmakers!**
Or one of twenty official movie posters signed
by either **Jude Law** or **Gwyneth Paltrow!**

SKY CAPTAIN *and the* WORLD *of* TOMORROW

For official rules and a chance to win, go to

WWW.SKYCAPTAIN.COM/SWEEPS

No purchase necessary. Open to legal residents of the U.S., excluding Puerto Rico, who are 13 years of age or older, as of 8/2/04. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes ends 8/27/04.

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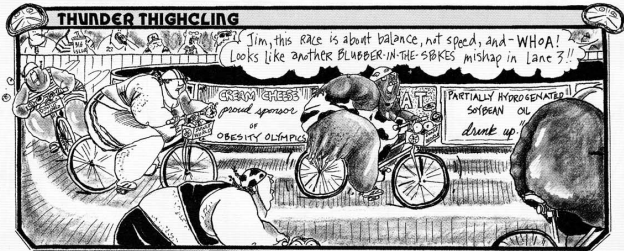
LET THE GAMES BE THIN DEPT.

Let's face it — we're a big, fat nation! But that's not necessarily a bad thing! After all, we're a country that prides itself on being the biggest *and* the best! So it's only a matter of time before we customize the Olympics to show the world that we're also the best at *being* the biggest!

THE OBESITY OLYMPICS



ARTIST AND
WRITER:
TERESA BURNS
PARKHURST

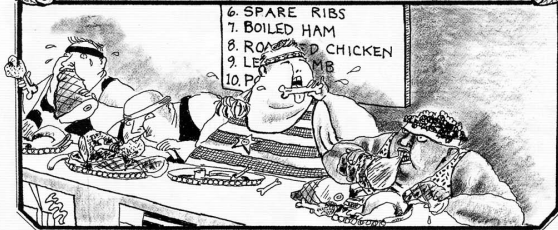


PUMMELLED HORSE



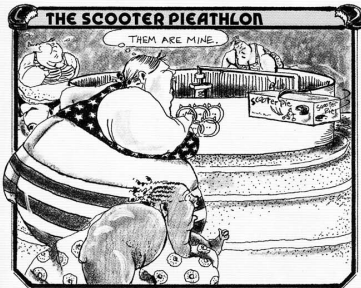
THE 10-MEATER DISH

6. SPARE RIBS
7. BOILED HAM
8. ROASTED CHICKEN
9. LEG OF LAMB
10. PORK



THE SCOOTER PIETHLON

THEM ARE MINE.



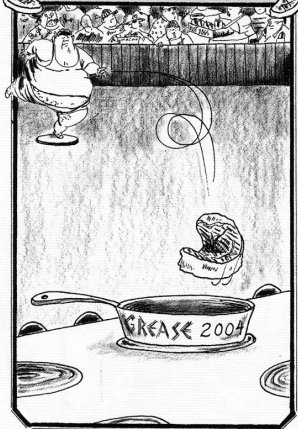
WAITER LIFTING

You call THIS extra cheese?

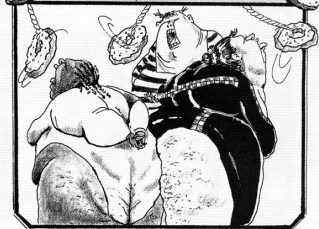




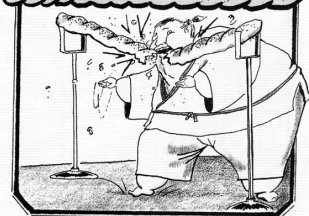
CHOP-PUT



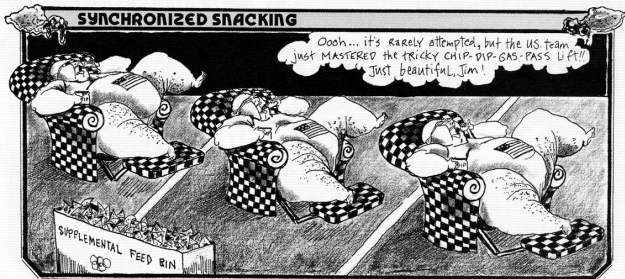
COFFEE RINGS



CHEWDOUGH

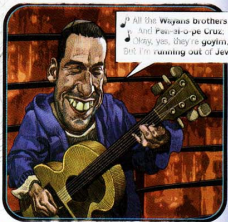


SYNCHRONIZED SNACKING



MAD's
50 WORST THINGS
ABOUT... COMEDY

A caricature of a man with a large head, wearing glasses and a suit, holding a book titled 'CIVIL' and a mouse. The book features a caricature of a man's face. The word 'COM' is visible in large red letters in the background.



ARTIST : HERMANN MEJIA

WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO

I mean, we're living in a country where the President can't pronounce "nuclear."

Yeah, but I mean the Bush twins are hot. Doesn't that count for something?

Nnnmmumble brzzx Bush grrnn mumble or nnnmmumble foreign policy?

Is it just me or does John Kerry look like Fred Gwynne from *The Munsters*? I mean, does anyone else see that?

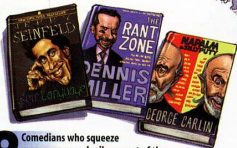


Honey, I'm going to add fabric softener to this load of laundry — BITCH!

4 Dave Chappelle, who every week tests the limit of how many mediocre skits can be saved by bursting in and screaming some phrase that ends in the word "BITCH!"

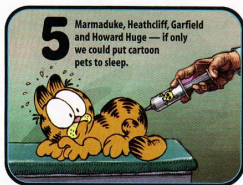
3 Comedy Central's mistaken assumption that the more uninformed D-list comedians you throw together, the funnier the ensuing news commentary show will be.

6 Comedy clubs' two drink minimum — that's nowhere near enough liquor to get you as drunk as you need to be to find their "comic all-stars" even remotely amusing.



8 Comedians who squeeze more money and mileage out of the same tired standup routines they've been performing for decades by printing them in an overpriced book, minus the attitude and timing, thereby rendering them even less funny.

9 Movies or TV programs that show blooper reels over the credits, hoping you'll forget how awful the actual scripted production was and instead remember how hilarious it was when, say, Jim Belushi kept mispronouncing the word "mellifluous."



5 Marmaduke, Heathcliff, Garfield and Howard Huge — if only we could put cartoon pets to sleep.

7 Seven years of *South Park*, times approximately sixty million teenagers equals... let's see... roughly 42,000,000 bad Cartman impressions.



I've been lickin' this carpet for three whole hours!

I'm not fat. I'm big-boned!

Kenny's family's on welfare!

Yeesh!

I want Cheesy Poofs!

Make me some pie!

Kyle, you're being a Negative Nancy!

10

Hollywood Squares: they ply us with badly-delivered scripted "ad libs" that make Paul Lynde turn over in his grave, when the *real* comedy would be to see footage of Dom DeLuise being forklifted up to the second tier.

11

The foolish stereotype that all the best comedy writers are old Jewish guys. Facacta people who believe that are all meshugga goyim who should get tsuris.

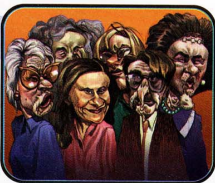
12

Shakespearean comedies that haven't been funny in 400 years that you feel compelled to laugh at anyway, in an effort to appear sophisticated like everyone else stuck there not enjoying it.



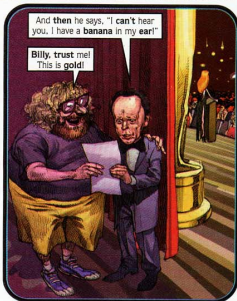
14

Any of Tracey Ullman's stable of makeup-heavy characters, all of whom sound the same and look like their faces are melting off.



13

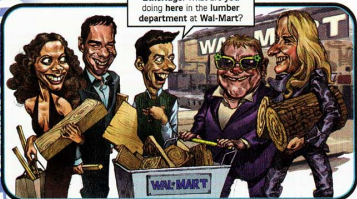
Awards show banter that you'd swear Bruce Vilanch is cribbing from old Bazooka Joe comics.



15

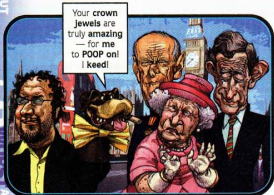
Spencer Gifts — suppliers of "hilarious" props for class clowns and smart-asses everywhere, like an "I'm With Stupid" t-shirt, aerosol fart spray or a comical plastic man who blows bubbles out of his ass.

Wow, Elton John and Melissa Etheridge! What are you doing here in the lumber department at Wal-Mart?



16 *Will & Grace*: Pity the poor bastards who have to forego writing funny scripts and instead are forced to fashion convoluted plots that explain how the characters end up meeting this week's gay or gay-friendly celebrity.

19 Numbnuts who waste your time trying in vain to explain an “unbelievably hilarious” situation before ultimately realizing that “you had to be there.”



20

The surprising mileage a man wearing a latex dog puppet on his hand gets by threatening to defecate on people.

22

Wacky comedy club names. Wow, we're laughing before we even get inside.

17 Anything in your email inbox with a subject line that reads "Fwd: FWD: FWD: Fwd: Fwd: FWD: Re: Fwd: FWD: FWD: FWD: re: Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: THIS IS FUNNY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

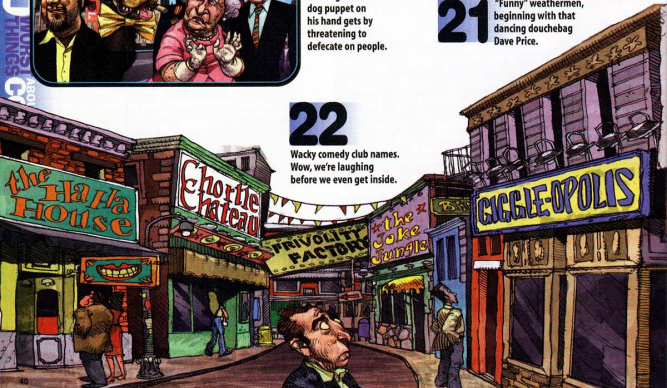
18

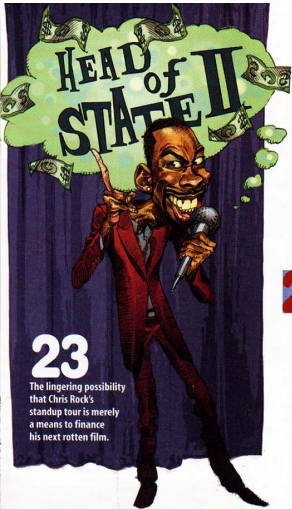
The unsettling realization that every day, someone, somewhere, is so tickled by a *Family Circus* panel that they clip it out of the newspaper and post it on their fridge.



21

"Funny" weathermen,
beginning with that
dancing douchebag
Dave Price.





23

The lingering possibility that Chris Rock's standup tour is merely a means to finance his next rotten film.

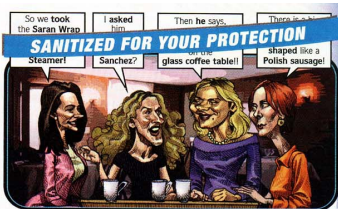


27

The creepy troika of comedy that makes even the bravest of the brave cower in fear: clowns, ventriloquist dummies and carrot top.

28

The Learning Annex catalog's ridiculous claim that you can "Learn to Do Stand-Up" in "one intense session" by following the remedial instruction of a self-proclaimed funnyman whose only steady gig is presiding over twenty clueless hopefuls the second Tuesday of every other month from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in a windowless, un-air-conditioned room rented from a local elementary school.



24

The edited episodes of *Sex and the City* on TBS — without the nudity and profanity they might as well call the show *The View II*.

25

Woody Allen's unique ability to bring together interesting and often brilliant actors of wildly divergent talents — yet end up making nothing but wildly divergent, forgettably mediocre movies.

26

Being singled out for all of Don Rickles' ruthless barbs when there's a perfectly good fat, black, Puerto Rican Jew in a funny hat and loud shirt sitting in the front row.



29

That large mushroom growing on top of Bernie Mac's head. Oh, wait, that's his 'fro.



n a small
tied for him and
a month from the
by one vote. Last Janu
The hit is expected to cost well over
to write the script, which earned four
lack of management, which earned four
Statistics have become hallmarks of the
White House. In the past three years, the
Bush Administration has had the Bushes

it was the first re-
nical economic re-
crition history. Within
Commerce Department
the gross national product
and region, while other
and analyzing the economy
new developing ways of tracking
over decades as much solid ob-
erment provide as much information and analy-
a mouth as it used to in a decade.
This study flow of data is easy to
able for grants for things, study, are as
history as a soft-focus expert: your main-
the economy depends on another and
they make business another and
they make business another and
about half as long as recessions before
This is why, ever since the days of
Karl Marx, the government's basic economic
has been the most information, the

30

New Yorker
cat cartoons: every
single last one of
them.



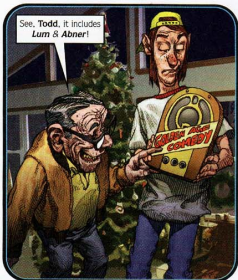
"Your Kate Spade is fine.
Muffy only does poop in Prada."

32

Book compilations of lines written
by White House speechwriters and
L.A. gagmen being passed off as
a collection of the "wit and wisdom"
of any President, not one of whom
has had a good sense of humor
since William Henry Harrison.

31

Al Franken, who has managed to match
Rush Limbaugh's level of smugness and
childlike name calling without having
to pop thousands of pain pills.



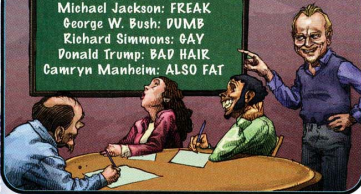
33

The "Golden Age of Radio Comedies" on
cassette, packed in a box shaped like an
old Philco radio, that you received as a
Christmas gift from some hopelessly out-
of-touch relative, which you'll never listen
to and will re-gift the first chance you get.

34

The rule book for all late-night talk show writers that insists jokes
about celebrities must always be about the ONE real or imagined trait
that was agreed upon by some unimaginative secret comedy cabal.

Pavarotti: **FAT**
Calista Flockhart: **SKINNY**
Christina Aguilera: **SLUT**
Michael Jackson: **FREAK**
George W. Bush: **DUMB**
Richard Simmons: **GAY**
Donald Trump: **BAD HAIR**
Camryn Manheim: **ALSO FAT**

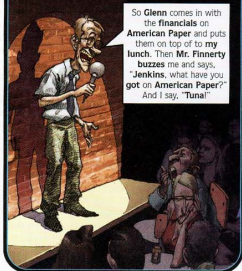


35

The inexplicable need comedic actors have "to tackle a serious
role for a change," which invariably results in a soppy, slow-paced
snorefest. How long before Jim Carrey, Bill Murray and Dan
Aykroyd team up in an all-male remake of *Steel Magnolias*?

36

Ordinary working stiffs who are
convinced their jobs are soooooo
funny that they feel compelled to take
the stage on open mike night and
share their "wacky" office stories.



WORST ABOUT 50 THINGS COMEDY

37

"Cedric the Entertainer."
Kinda reminds us of
"Shatner the Singer."

And then the other guy says,
"No, the giant watermelons are
for the black," uh, never mind!

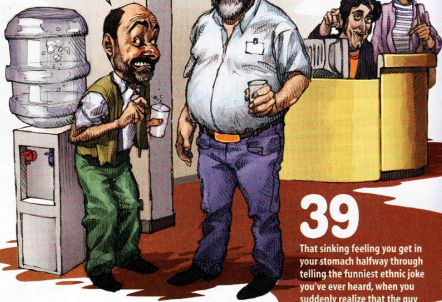


38

The over-hyped, nauseatingly sentimental final season of any long-running sitcom, which you know, 20 years hence, will result in an over-hyped, nauseatingly sentimental "reunion show." (Note: see #46.)

40

Randy Jackson, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul — who make as many appearances in comedy skit shows, sitcoms and awards shows tiredly spoofing themselves as they do performing their actual judging duties on *American Idol*.



39

That sinking feeling you get in your stomach halfway through telling the funniest ethnic joke you've ever heard, when you suddenly realize that the guy you're telling it to is married to someone of that ethnic group.

41

We don't want to get off on a rant here, but isn't it sad that Dennis Miller's done a gear-stripping 180-degree turn from "How deliciously obscure and outrageous can I make this reference?" to "The hell with smarmy wit — how blatantly can I kiss President Bush's ass?"

Perfectly dreadful. I've seen better moves from a sock puppet going through the spin cycle at a laundromat!



42

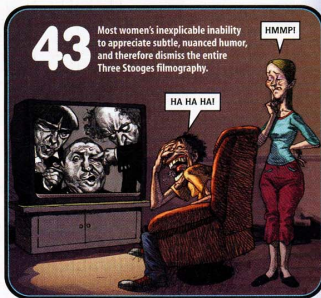
Tony n' Tina's Wedding: "Interactive" theater at which you'll be so offended by the broad ethnic stereotypes, you won't be sure what you're choking on: the lame jokes or the undercooked stuffed chicken breast.

43

Most women's inexplicable inability to appreciate subtle, nuanced humor, and therefore dismiss the entire Three Stooges filmography.

HMMPI!

HA HA HA!



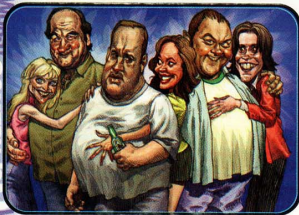


44

Don Imus on MSNBC. Now, not only do we have to hear him, we have to look at him, too.

45

The vanity that dictates a much more attractive, totally hot actress must be cast opposite the fat-ass schlub sitcom star playing some overweight blue-collar loser despite the fact that the only way his character could ever get someone like that in real life is by making the kind of money, say, a successful sitcom star makes.



48

Knock-knock . . . jokes — we just don't like them.

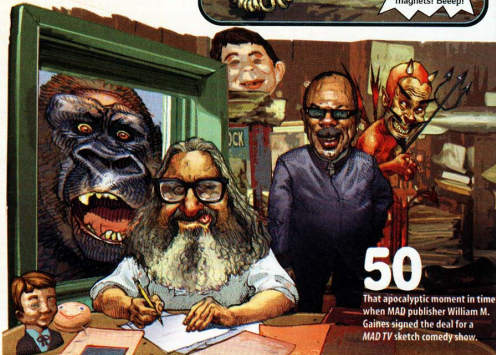
Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Some schmuck telling a lame joke.

49

Ben Stiller's insistence on making a minimum of seven movies a year — a shooting schedule usually reserved only for porn stars. (Not that we're encouraging him in that direction!)



50

That apocalyptic moment in time when MAD publisher William M. Gaines signed the deal for a MAD TV sketch comedy show.



46

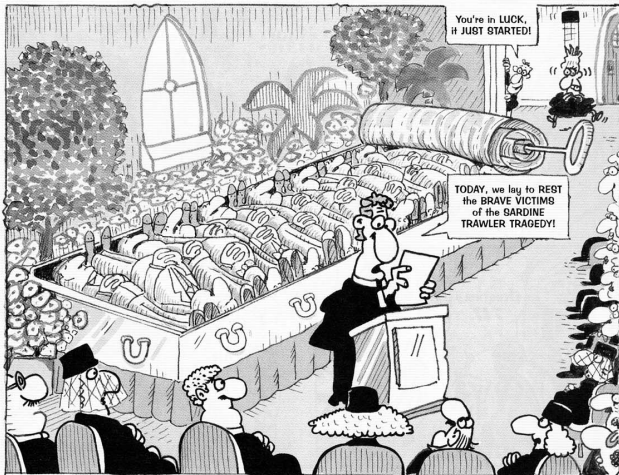
TV reunion shows: The lucky cast members are dead before the taping starts, the rest die on-camera.

47

"Wacky" canned outgoing phone machine messages. We thought they went out of style in the early 1980s.



THE DYING GAME



Melon,
leave your
husband.
King
Mentalcase!
Run away
with me
to Troy-Vey!

I am
tempted!
My husband
is aging and
lacks virility!
I want
a family!

If you flee
with me,
I promise
you'll hear the
patter of feet!

You mean
children?

I mean
soldiers! 40,000
angry Greek
warriors will
soon be
invading our
shore!

Oh?
And
what
is
that?

Russell
Crowe!



This is a
truly
spectacular
scene!
1,000 ships!
What is
this place
called?

It is
called
the Harbor
of
Computer-
Generated
vessels!

Yes, the movie
has **everything**—
except what
it needs to give
it "heart" and
make it a true
film classic!



I don't believe it! It's not
Aceless! I killed, it's his
idiot cousin! How could
I have possibly known?

Easy! The guy didn't fight
as well as Aceless, but
he sure in hell was
a much better actor!

GOOD
GRIEF!



Who are those warriors
cleaning up the mess?
Is it Eudoris and
Scamandrius?

No, sir! It's
Ajax and
Windex!

Then their names, too,
shall live on in history!
Unfortunately, it will be
on the grocery shelves!



I am Braless,
Hector's
virgin cousin!

Aceless, if
we ever get
through this pesky
war we could
get married!

Not really.
I'm in love
with
someone
much
prettier
than you!

Who's
that?

Not any-
more,
you
aren't!

Me!



It looks like you have
finally met your equal!

Not yet! You have good
battle skills, but I will
put a blade through
you before you can try
your tricky move!

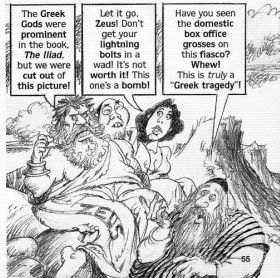
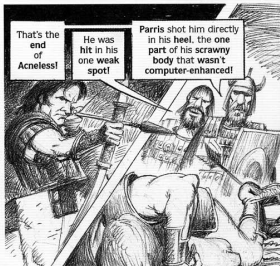
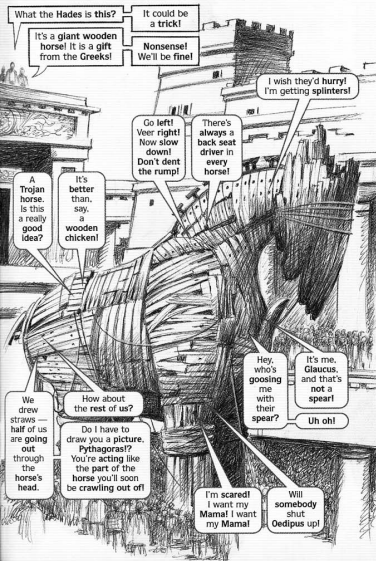
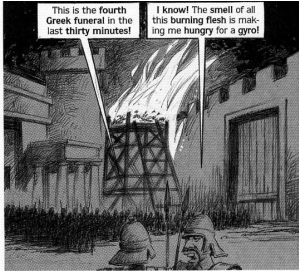
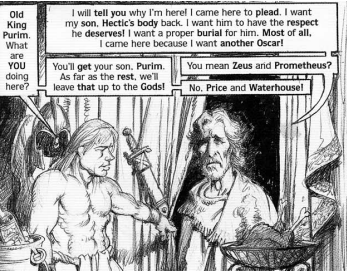
Which move?

The one
where you get
angry and
turn into a
hulking green
monster!

Make one
lousy
movie
and they
never
let you
forget it!

Oh yeah?
I made
**Meet
Joe
Black**
and
I'm still
working!







MAD Magazine's Official Portrait of
WILLIAM J. CLINTON

WHERE DO ALL
AMERICANS HOPE
THE VICIOUS
ATTACKS
WILL END SOON?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

Every time we turn on the TV, we are bombarded with new and disturbing images of ugly battles. These cruel assaults are launched on a daily basis and show no sign of letting up. To find out the one area where the American public is most sickened by these savage conflicts, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT



FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



IN THESE DANGEROUS TIMES, LEADERS
PRESIDE OVER TERRIFIED POPULATIONS. SUBSTANTIAL
CATASTROPHES CAN FOLLOW AS CROWDS RAMP-
AGE EVERYWHERE. THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN
COMING AS IT DOES IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE. MER-
CIFULLY, IT WILL END, SO SAY OUR OFFICIALS



ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE

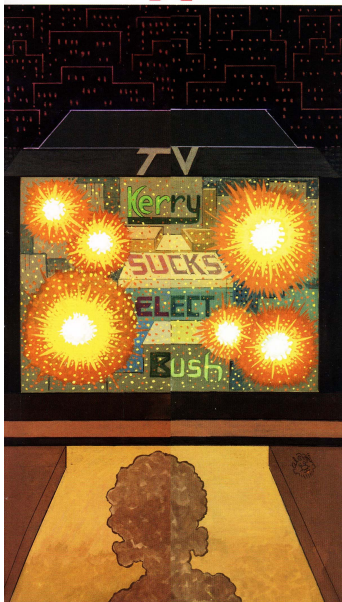


WHERE DO ALL
AMERICANS HOPE
THE VICIOUS
ATTACKS
WILL END SOON?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A **B** FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



IN
PRESIDENTIAL
CAMP-
AIGN
COMMER-
CIALS

A **B**

DRAGON BALL Z

BOJACK™ UNBOUND

THE MOVIE



"The DBZ movies always amp up the stakes, the animation quality and the adrenaline, and 'Bojack' is no exception."

-- Anime Insider

BOJACK IS UNBOUND... THE UNIVERSE IS AT RISK
AVAILABLE AUGUST 17TH

VIEW THE TRAILER AT: www.dragonballz.com

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FUNimation
Productions, Ltd.



TOEI ANIMATION

When the first Olympic games were held in Greece in 776 B.C., the world was thought to be ruled over by such gods as Zeus, Athena, Hermes and Poseidon. Now, as the Summer Olympics return to Athens, the athletic world is definitely ruled over by them.

GREEK GODS OF THE



THE WINNERS OF OUR DISCONTENT DEPT.

To time, dear reader, to turn away from the tale with its beauty and O'Rourke and hear to the words of the immortal Bard, as MAD presents...



William Shakespeare

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR



"His promises were, as he them was, mighty, but his performance, as he is now, nothing."
Henry VIII — Act IV, Scene II



"Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it."
Macbeth — Act I, Scene V



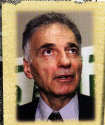
"Prosperity's the very bond of love."
Hamlet — Act II, Scene II



"She speaks, yet says nothing."
Romeo and Juliet — Act II, Scene II



"Such a man...so spiritless, so dull, so dead in look, so unregarded."
Henry IV, Part 2 — Act I, Scene I



"He is...ill-fac'd, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere...a living dead man."
The Comedy of Errors — Act I, Scene I



"I cannot tell what the dickens his name is."
The Merry Wives of Windsor — Act III, Scene II



"Wherefore are those things hid?"
Twelfth Night — Act I, Scene III



"What a sweep of vanity comes this way."
Twelfth Night — Act I, Scene II

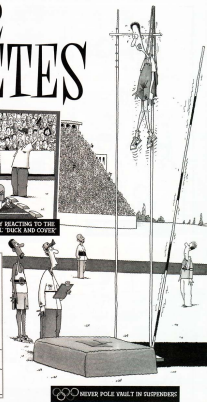
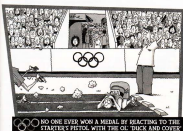
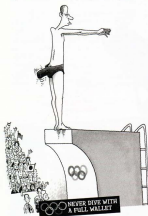


"These tedious old fools!"
Hamlet — Act II, Scene II

ARTIST: ALI PERKIN
WRITER: FRANK LACROIX
PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

You've worked and trained your whole life and finally earned your place on the big stage — a spot on your country's Olympic team. But before you start clearing (or pushing) silver off your medal for gold medals, consider that the true challenge won't be shielding your eyes from the Russian grip in Speedo, but, rather, mastering...

JOHN CALDWELL'S UNWRITTEN RULES FOR OLYMPIC ATHLETES



ARTIST AND WRITER: JOHN CALDWELL

This year, NBC and its affiliates will be taking the unprecedented step of covering the summer Olympics 4 to 6 hours at a clip, boy, are YOU in for a snooze-fest! How will they manage to fill up all the time

every second of every day. So if you thought the programming was dull when they were covering only during this godforsaken event? We'll show you exactly what kind of mindless blather to expect during...

24 HOURS OF NBC'S ENDLESS OLYMPIC COVERAGE



12:00am - 3:00am
The running of the Marathon, showing lots of pre-taped footage of how the USA's top runner trained every day in the mountains of Colorado, which ultimately proves to be meaningless, since he ends up in 14th place, a full 17 minutes behind the slowest guy from Kenya.



3:00am - 4:30am



Totally nonsensical, incomprehensible and otherwise fairly segment entitled "The Big List Great Olympics" hosted by New Women, which is meant to be funny and cute but is actually blatantly offensive to Greeks everywhere — and anyone with an IQ above 75.



5:00am - 6:00am



Detailed breakdown of the Men's Handball event. Frank, which makes viewers wonder why basketball, soccer and not never never made it on Olympic sports.



7:00am - 10:00am



Special version of the Today Show broadcast live from the Parthenon, in which Al Baker gives his monthly report while wearing sandals and a toga. Willard Scott congratulates a shepherd and his sheep on their 75th wedding anniversary, and Katie Couric broadcasts the mayor of Athens into getting a colonoscopy. Then shows it on a satellite during the opening ceremony.



10:00am - 11:00am

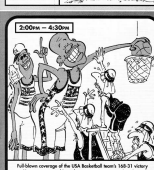


PG-13 like tongue-twister about the history and architecture of the Acropolis that has nothing whatsoever to do with sports, but appears NBC's contract with the Greek Chamber of Commerce.



11:30am - 2:00pm

Coverage of the Sailing qualifying trials, featuring the underappreciated, glibly insights of the men who coached the Australian team to a bronze medal over 30 years ago and has been telling the same over since.



2:00pm - 4:30pm

Forbidden coverage of the USA Basketball team's 148-21 victory over Yemen, announced in such a way as to reassure Americans that they are superior in every way to the people of the Middle East.



4:30pm - 5:00pm



Oligarchical coverage of Canadiana Oshababala, the Greek wrestler who has the best shot of winning a medal for the best country, but will actually score in 74th place after capturing his groin twelve seconds into his match because of an illegal maneuver by some drizzling intellects from Uganda.

5:00pm - 6:00pm

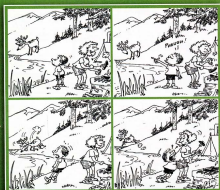
The seven de model ceremony, featuring infamously extreme closeups of the men running down the gold medalists in their which the announcers attribute to national pride, but is more likely the result of the fact that his country's national anthem is being repeatedly destroyed by the high school boys band attempting to play it.

SENCE IN GENERAL DEPT.

SENCE IN GENERAL DEPT. presents A **MAD** LOOK AT NATIONAL PARKS



ARTIST NAME: [illegible] © 2000 [illegible]

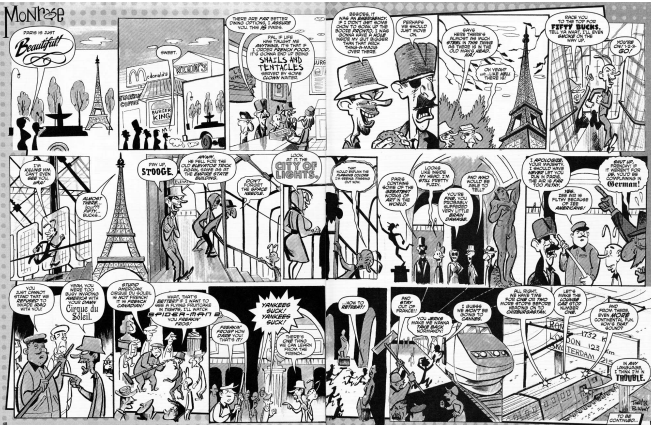




Time for a
revibe
across
the
pond.
It's...

MONTRÉ and... EUROPE PART TWO







SPY vs SPY



ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER BORDO

KUPER

If you're studying *The Iliad* and thinking of making a crib sheet based on this movie, don't. You'll fail! Just like this movie did. The original epic was written by Homer. This version could have been written by Homer Simpson! Welcome to a big, fat Greek stinker! Here is...

TROY-VEY!



I am Achilles, the greatest warrior in history! I may look like a sullen dude, but I am a killing machine! I am ripped, I am buff, I am beautiful! Last month my abbs were declared a national treasure in Crete!

Agamemnon is fearless, but he is also overconfident, arrogant and smug!

Ancient philosophers say it will cause their souls to be thrown into the "hell" of Hades!

What ancient philosopher says it will cause their souls to be thrown into the "hell" of Hades!

The year is 2,000 B.C. The year is 2,000 B.C. The year is 2,000 B.C.

Agamemnon has to make some tough personal decisions in the next few weeks.

Whether to fight for his country or to fight for fame and immortality?

They, we KNOW the dude is going to fight for fame!

Agamemnon is the best warrior in the world! But they say he may lose his title!

It's not the way to live! The way to live is to be a hero!

Agamemnon is the best warrior in the world! But they say he may lose his title!

Have no fear, King Menelaos! Agamemnon is the best warrior in the world! But they say he may lose his title!

You must be a hero! I mean, he's got to be a hero!

Maybe we can save the world without anyone noticing it!

I doubt that this more modest than your ship!

In this movie, the Trojan War takes two weeks, a lifetime, this Trojan War lasted nearly 10 years!

At the end of the movie, the Trojan War takes two weeks, a lifetime, this Trojan War lasted nearly 10 years!

I am Hector, a prince of Troy! This is my brother, Paris. He is a killing machine! He is a killing machine! He is a killing machine!

Yeah, under their breaths at pharmacy counters!

Is that Helen? She is why the Greeks want to war! She's the face that launched a thousand ships!

She's okay if you like that "scent model" look! But she's certainly not that hot!

Oh, so you'd say she has a face that could launch a thousand ships?

I guess Agamemnon is a hero!

We will ride across the desert, conquer Asia and defeat the Huns!

King Priam, are you ready? That's your last chance to surrender!

Please, allow an old man's pleasant memories of a movie that was really an epic!

Look at all the things I've seen! I've seen the Trojan War! I've seen the Trojan War! I've seen the Trojan War!

It's not all bad, I understand it! I've seen the Trojan War! I've seen the Trojan War! I've seen the Trojan War!

San Francisco, New York's Greenwich Village and West Hollywood

**ANDY ADAMS DRAWS
WRITER: ARVID KOLAN**

Q. DRAFTER