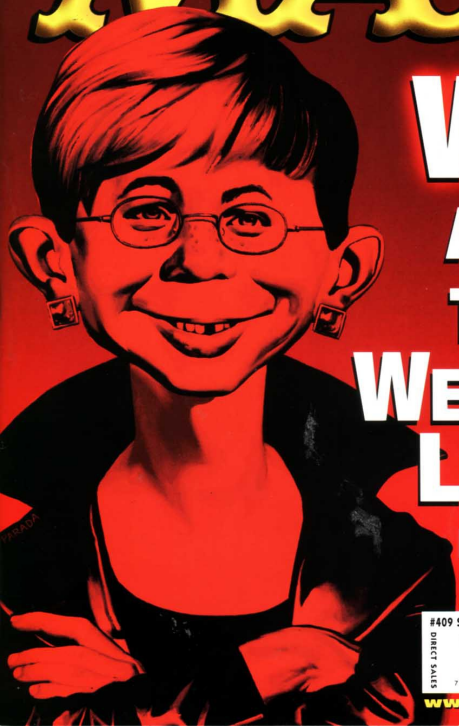


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MAD

September 2001

NUMBER 409



6

VEY TO GO
BY P.C. VEY



"YES, YOUR WIFE IS BETTER AND NO,
YOU CAN'T SHOOT HER AGAIN."

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MAD

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"Drawn Out Dramas" **Various Places**
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1996
USDA Report
Reveals Denny's
Fiesta Burgers
Contain No
Fiesta at All

2000
Rogel's Thesaurus
Declares Term
"Al Gore" Official
Synonym for "Boring"

1989
Director's Cut Version of The
Sound of Music Runs Short After
Maria Falling-Off-Mountain-
in-First-Scene Reinstated

1997
McDonald's
Scraps Plans for
Drive-Thru
Window Service
at Indy 500

1991
Confused Surgeon
General Warns
Knitters Against
Sharing Needles

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

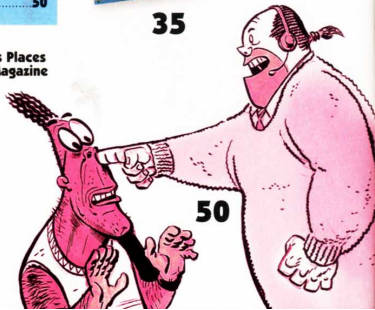
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30						

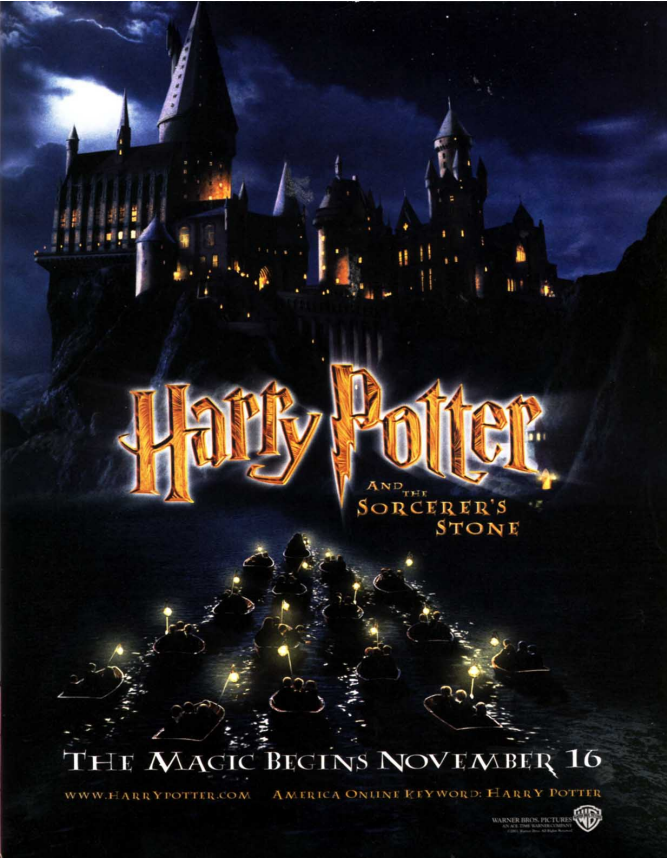


35

"Genius is rarely recognized
in its lifetime, but
fortunately, neither is
gross incompetence!"

FRONT COVER ARTIST:
ROBERTO PARADA



The background of the poster features a dark, dramatic scene of Hogwarts Castle perched on a rocky cliff at night. The castle's windows and towers are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow against the dark, cloudy sky. In the foreground, a path of small, lit candles leads towards the castle, creating a magical and inviting atmosphere.

Harry Potter

AND THE
SORCERER'S
STONE

THE MAGIC BEGINS NOVEMBER 16

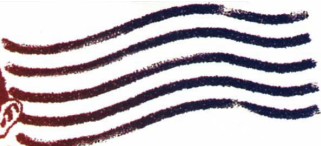
WWW.HARRYPOTTER.COM AMERICA ONLINE KEYWORD: HARRY POTTER

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HOW TO REACH US
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To: MAD, Dept. 409, 1700
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10019. MAD welcomes reader
subscriptions. Manuscripts will not
be returned or acknowledged,
however, unless they are accom-
panied by a self-addressed,
stamped envelope! MAD doesn't
read faxed submissions!

STILL WWF'D UP

Let me just say that a great injustice has been done to MAD. It occurred in issue #405 on the Letters Page. Eugene Lumley from NY told you guys that you "hadn't been smelling what The Rock was cooking" because D'lo Brown had never had ho escorts. Let me reassure you that there was a brief period when D'lo actually had ho's, it was when he teamed with the Godfather (I used to always watch this before I got a life). Therefore you guys were right all along, what was this idiot thinking? As a faithful reader, I would like you to know that I am on your side and will probably watch out for errors like this as long as my orthodontist keeps up his MAD subscription.

Gary Orton, Cedar City, UT

Yo G — Let me get this straight. You read MAD in your orthodontist's office, took the time to write us to correct a mention of D'lo Brown ho's in a wrestling storyline that played out about two years ago and you insist in your letter that you "have a life"? Hmmm, Gary O, it's time for you to smell what the psychotherapist is cooking! —Ed

THE CAUSE OF TODAY'S EDUCATION CRISIS REVEALED!

I am somewhat distressed to say that I actually found your magazine to be quite helpful in my career. I am a high school English teacher, and I am currently teaching a unit on poetry. A recent focus with in the unit was on satire. As I have been, and continue to be, a devoted subscriber to your magazine for over ten years, I am versed with your well-known satiric style. Quite a few of your recent issues struck me as being ideal tools for my students and me to use. Your takes on people and things like: Y2K, signs that your football team sucks, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Ricky Martin, Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavors, driver's license penalty points, Woodstock '99, Valentine's Day candy hearts and warning labels on rock albums really got through to my students. Maybe as an assignment I'll have my students write you to thank you (or curse you out), depending on the grades they get.

Adam Fairbank, Albany, NY

Adam's Apple — Don't have them write to thank us, have them write us to subscribe! In fact, we think MAD should be part of the core curriculum in every classroom in America. This way, when the next round of test scores come out and kids have done worse than ever, teachers and politicians will have something concrete to cite as a reason. See ya in detention! —Ed.

A KISS ON THE GRANNY

As your records will show, I have been subscribing to MAD since a year or two after you started publishing your rag. All those years, I have been poisoning the minds of my children and grandchildren by passing on my copies to them and giving them gift subscriptions. Viagra, Schmiagra — who needs it? I've had Alfred E. Neuman by my side all these years. Now that I am a senior citizen — and thus a senior subscriber, don't you think MAD should make an honest woman of me and give me a free subscription for the rest of my life? I think it's the only decent thing to do for an 83-year-old woman who has stuck by your side for so many years.

Mrs. George Bookman, Lakeville, CT

Mrs. B — Thanks for your letter. However, we must take issue with your statement "Viagra, Schmiagra — who needs it?" Who needs it? We'll tell you who needs the quicker picker upper: John Caldwell, Rick Tulka, Dave Berg, Nick Meglin, Sergio Aragonés, Duck Edwing, Al Jaffee, Angelo Torres, Sam Viviano and Rick Tulka, again (the little scam is insatiable!) to name a few. Sorry, no can do on the lifetime subscription, but we are sending you a special item from the MAD staff. It's the least we can do for duping you all these years into subscribing to our ridiculous publication! —Viagra-free Ed.

THE SIMPSONS

MAD SUFFERS ANOTHER BART ATTACK

As *Simpsons* viewers already know, MAD was featured in a recent episode in which a deranged music producer comes to New York and destroys our offices after MAD publishes a scathing satire on his boy band the Party Posse. Here are some of the outtakes — for more go to www.madmag.com!



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MAD #410
ON SALE SEPTEMBER 18!

REUBEN HIM THE RIGHT WAY

The National Cartoonists Society (NCS) held their 55th annual Reuben Awards in Boca Raton, Florida on May 25th-27th, 2001. As always, who would win The Reuben (The "Oscar" of the cartoonist world) was a highly anticipated event. Past winners of this prestigious award include: Charles Schulz (Peanuts), Bill Keane (Family Circus), Jim Davis (Garfield), Gary Larson (The Far Side), Garry Trudeau (Doonesbury), Scott Adams (Dilbert) and Will Eisner (The Spirit) and MAD's own Mort Drucker and Sergio Aragones. This year's winner was long-time MAD favorite Jack Davis. Congrats, Jack! For more photos from the NCS weekend please go to www.madmag.com



An Infection of Idiots! Top Row: Bob Clarke, Sergio Aragones, Duck Edwing, MAD co-editor Nick Meglin, Tom Richmond, R.J. Matson, Jack Davis, Angelo Torres and C.F. Payne.
Bottom Row: MAD Books editor Charles Kochman and Grey Blockwell



Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I like making stupid wishes and I thought your *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™* would be perfect. I wish one of your brilliant journalists would make an article comparing George W. Bush to a dog (preferably a Chihuahua).

Conrad Ely, Spokane, WA

Connie — As we've stated countless times, it's our mission here at the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™* to make your dumb wishes come true. Behold the startling yet true similarities between a Chihuahua and George W. Bush:

A Chihuahua has a small round head and large ears. George W., ditto.

A Chihuahua doesn't understand Global Warming. George W., ditto.

A Chihuahua has never been elected President. George W., ditto.

Thanks for your support of the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*! —Ed.

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Jack Davis holding his Reuben



Reuben winners Sergio Aragones, Jack Davis and The Simpsons creator Matt Groening

MAD MUMBLINGS @madmag.com

MAD magazine was the hidden file in the loaf of bread of my youth! — David Catalano
...I am the Queen of toaster pastries! — LILSmurf89...If I want to learn a new language, it would definitely be gibberish — FREEfall72...A wise man once told me that there will never be time enough in all my life to paint all the frogs — Shelby0406...My shrink told me not to go on-line nude anymore. OOPS — NoRules487...Oatmeal inspires me — CARTMANip



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the usual gang of idiots

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Hey, look, we're flying, we're flying!

Might as well prepare for the future!

We'll bomb the barn and strafe the cows!

What do you suggest?



That was the dumbest thing I ever saw! Are you gonna spend the rest of your life doing everything your idiot friend does, like join the air corps and fall in love with the same girl?

Please don't say anything more. Paw — you're givin' away the whole plot!

Shucks, I guess I did! All our livestock just upped and dozed off!



Pull back on that joystick, Dimmy! We're gonna break the age barrier!

You mean the sound barrier, don'tcha, Rake?

No, we gotta fly past puberty and into manhood in one panel, so...



You're the main lookout at Pearl Harbor! Your job here is to spot incoming planes! Are you sure you know what you're doing?

You can count on me, sir! It's in my blood! I'm descended from a long line of lookouts! My father was a flame-spotter in Chicago before the Great Fire, my grandfather was the iceberg spotter on the Titanic and my great grandfather was a lookout for Custer at Little Bighorn!

Thanks, sailor! I'll sleep better at night knowing you're on watch!

Thank you, Sir! You can take a nap right now if you'd like! Nothing in these skies except a flock of strange-looking gulls heading this way! Boy, talk about bird-droppings!



Are you ready to enter the war, you cocky flyboys?

When the going gets tough, Rake McAwsome gets going, Col. Doodie!litt!l! Yes, I'm a brash, cocky WWII flyboy who knows that winning is everything, a stich in time saves nine, and you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink! But this situation makes me well aware that things will never be the same as they used to be — and never as good!

As when you were a farm boy in Tennessee?

As when I did buddy movies with Matt Damon!

I catch your drift! How about you, young man?

Dimmy Wonker is also better safe than sorry, Sir! Rake and I are childhood chums who know that you can't make a purse out of a sow's ear and he who laughs last, laughs best! We both have poster boy good looks, know all that glitter is not gold, and that our skill at flying is superceded only by our ability to utter inane clichés!

I think those approaching planes are part of a sneak attack on this base! My only wish is that I die in battle and not of boredom listening to you two schmendricks!

Hey, wait!
Don't rush
so fast
past
puberty!

Too late! We're into it,
ol' buddy! A new
adventure! With
enough clichés to last
three hours! The
phrase "Bombs Away!"
will take on new
meaning as we visit...

HURL HORROR

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES

WRITER: ARNIE KOGEN

COLORIST: DIGITAL CHAMELEON

I am
afraid we
have
awakened
a sleeping
giant!

First we
must
awaken
a sleeping
audience!

There's not
enough bombs
in the entire
Imperial Empire
arsenal that will
accomplish that!

Well, here
we are —
ditsy
nurses
assigned to this
Hawaii
base, girls!
Isn't it
peaceful?

It won't
always be this
quiet, Bitty!
I sense
there's
trouble
coming!
Big trouble!

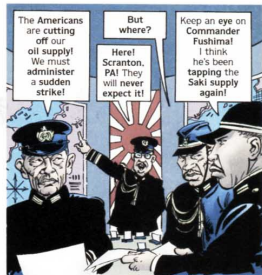
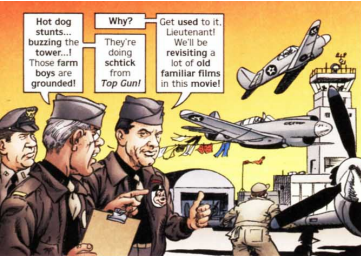
Like what?

Well, for one,
we may not
always
have this
dazzling 40's
wardrobe
and be
beautifully
back lit!

Oh, you had
me worried!
I thought you
meant that even
with only seven
of us girls on
this island with
3,000 horny men
we wouldn't
get dates!

Cuba, they
kind of shoe-
horned your
character
into this
movie! You
have no real
purpose or
memorable
lines!

I know!
I once said,
"Show me the
money!"
and I won an
Academy Award!
In this one
I should have told
my agent, "Show
me the script!"



We're all a little on edge! I suddenly have this pounding headache!

That's from the soundtrack! The filmmakers have menacing kettle drums thumping whenever we have these military meetings!

DUM
DUM
DUM



Never leave for later what can be done today, give or take a few minutes!

That Yank flier died like he lived!

A hero?

Uttering battle movie clichés to the very end!

There goes that American flying ace! We won't see him again in this film!

If you believe that, Hans, I have some swampland in Berlin for you!



Rake's death has brought us closer! I love the grieving process!

This sunset is so romantic! If we keep this up, you could lose your ranking and I could lose my virginity!

Sounds like a plan!



Wow! Making love under a parachute hangar! Uh, Dimmy, what exactly are you doing?

Pulling your rip cord before I yell Geronimo!

Must you do everything by the military book?

It's the only way I know! Then I'll brace for a soft landing!



Okay, Cryptology team! Have we broken Japan's code yet?

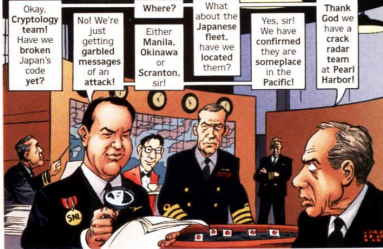
No! We're just getting garbled messages of an attack!

Where? Either Manila, Okinawa or Scranton, sir!

What about the Japanese fleet, have we located them?

Yes, sir! We have confirmed they are somewhere in the Pacific!

Thank God we have a crack radar team at Pearl Harbor!



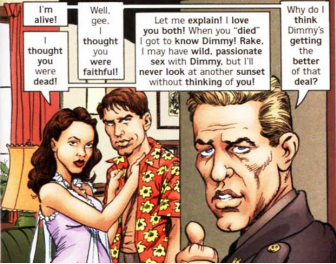
I'm alive!

I thought you were dead!

Well, gee, I thought you were faithful!

Let me explain! I love you both! When you "died" I got to know Dimmy! Rake, I may have wild, passionate sex with Dimmy, but I'll never look at another sunset without thinking of you!

Why do I think Dimmy's getting the better of that deal?

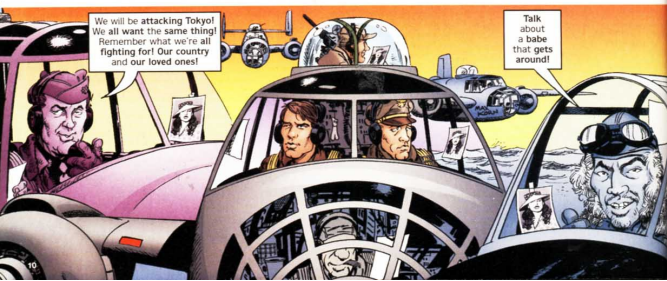
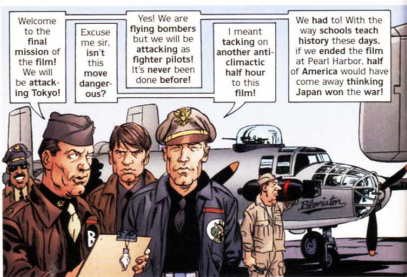


We go now to fulfill our destiny!

History may not look kindly on this!

Remember, Americans may hate us today, but they'll love us 60 years from now when we give them the Toyota Corolla!







A HERO TORN BY CONSPIRACY



A CITY'S FATE ON THE EDGE OF INSANITY



COMING FALL 2001

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT BATMAN: VENGEANCE, VISIT WWW.UBISOFT.COM



PlayStation 2



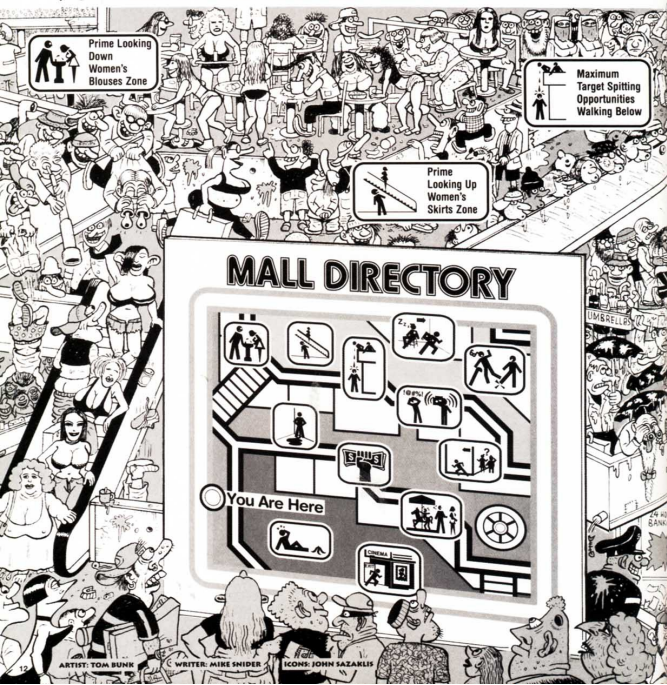
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Since they first began opening over thirty years ago, shopping malls have been spreading like a cancer across the land, each one bigger and bigger than the next. These cavernous cement bunkers of commerce can be overwhelming to shoppers, which is why some retail genius came up with the idea for a mall directory — a floor plan that tells you where you are and how to get to *Radio Shack* by way of *Hickory Farms* and *The Gap*. Not a bad idea, but whoever designs these directories is usually woefully incomplete in the information they are providing. That's where we come in with...

THE MAD MALL DIRECTORY

(FOR THINGS REGULAR MALL DIRECTORIES NEVER POINT OUT)



CRAP

SALE!

20% OFF

BANANA
REPUBLICYES WE
HAVE NO
BANANASEmergency
Shoplifter
ExitFun-To-Harass
Elderly Mail
Walkers RouteBest Location To Crank Up
Annoying Boom Box For
Maximum Acoustic DispersalBest Corner
To Take Leak
In If You Can't
Find RestroomBest Corridor To
Ditch Parents
After They Bring
You To MallHelp Yourself
"Spare Change"
RepositoryKiddie Carousel For
Really Lame Divorced
Dads To Bring Kids
On Visitation DaysIdeal Spot To Pull "Slip And
Fall Insurance Scam" (No
Security Camera Coverage)Multiplex "Exit"
Door That Does
Not Close Tightly



As most informed, well-educated MAD readers know, the subject of global warming and greenhouse gases is a matter of serious environmental debate. For the remaining 99.6832% of our readers, simply put...

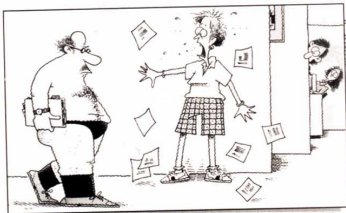
WE MAY BE DOOMED! Proponents of one side say man's industrial progress is hurtling Earth toward a tragic demise, while opposing experts dismiss their findings as nothing more than junk science. Since we here at MAD consider ourselves experts in this area (junk, not science) we decided to compile a list of symptoms that may reveal something is environmentally amiss. So before you don your Chicken Little suit and run screaming down the street, be sure you've checked off a majority of these...

CREEPING SIGNS THAT MIGHT LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE GLOBAL WARMING IS FOR REAL

ARTIST AND WRITER: JOHN CALDWELL



You suddenly realize it's impossible to give directions to out-of-towners without using the phrase "Hang a right at the giant melting iceberg."



"Casual Friday" Speedo sightings are up a disturbing 39%.



You find yourself asking when did Siberia become a force to be reckoned with on the surfing circuit?



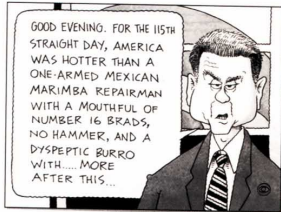
LIVE FROM PALM BEACH
FLORIDA, THIS IS
JIM CANTIGNORE FOR
BLIZZARD CENTRAL!

Bolstered by the frequency of topsy turvy weather events, dangerous on-location remotes by the Weather Channel's meteorology geeks wind up clobbering the major networks in the Prime Time Nielsen ratings.



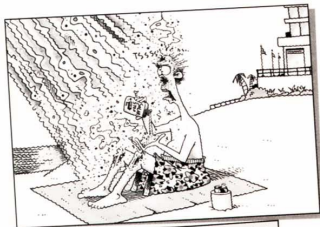
MAMAS DON'T LET
YER BABIES GROW UP
TO BE FISHBOYS....

You awake one morning to find that
there is now a Gulf of Wyoming.



GOOD EVENING. FOR THE 115TH
STRAIGHT DAY, AMERICA
WAS HOTTER THAN A
ONE-ARMED MEXICAN
MARIMBA REPAIRMAN
WITH A MOUTHFUL OF
NUMBER 16 BRADS,
NO HAMMER, AND A
DYSPEPTIC BURRO
WITH..... MORE
AFTER THIS...

Dan Rather's homespun, wacky Texas
metaphors for the weather conditions
go on through two commercial breaks.



You discover that sunscreens rated at
1,000 SPF don't even *begin* to work.

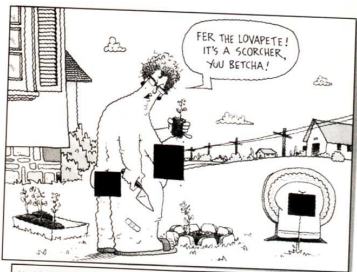


Your glee over the news that the tropical rainforest is
making a comeback is tempered by the fact that it's
happening in your suburban Detroit neighborhood.

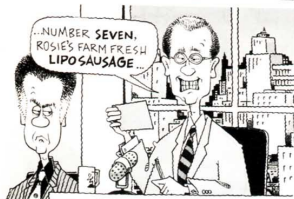
CREeping SIGNS **THAT MIGHT LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE** **GLOBAL WARMING** **IS FOR REAL**



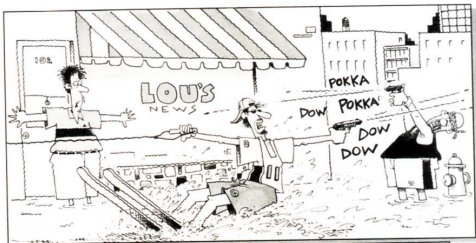
There's a serious lobbying effort afoot to make "running through sprinklers" an Olympic event.



North Dakota officially declares itself a clothing optional state.



For the 149th show in a row, the Top Ten List is "Other Least Popular Things You Can Fry On A Sidewalk."



Suddenly urban areas become inundated with a rash of water ski-by shootings.

THE LATEST PIERCINGS THAT PREVENT NORMAL BODILY FUNCTIONS!

MAIMED FLESH

The Magazine For People Who Mutilate Their Bodies With Excessive

Tattoos And Grotesque Piercings In A Misguided Cry For Attention

August \$3.95

UNLOCKING
THE SECRETS OF
**MANDY
DEADBOLT!**

An Interview with
America's Hottest
Grrrl Locksmith!

**Hot
Pin-Ups!**

FAT GIRLS

DRESSED LIKE SAILOR MOON
WITH BAD SKIN, PINK HAIR
AND HELLO KITTY TATTOOS

PICTORIAL!

Half-Naked
Wrinkly Old
Women Covered
in Ink

YOU'LL THANK
GOD THEY
AREN'T YOUR
GRANDMOTHER

**Dozens
of New
Designs
You'll
LOVE!**

(UNTIL YOU
SOBER UP)

**A
Squirt
of PUS
for Flavor!**

KEEPING YOUR JOB IN THE
FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY
WHILE YOUR PIERCINGS HEAL

**Distinguishing
Between New,
Sore Tattoos &
Lyme Disease
Symptoms**

ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA
WRITER: SCOTT MAIRO

**ARTIST INSIDER! DREAMING UP THAT PERFECT ONE-WORD NAME:
A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH RENOWNED INKSLINGERS CRUST, SMEGMA, & ORIFICE**



MAIMED FLESH

Publisher
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Senior Editor in Charge of
Glaring Grammatical Errors
Big Trey

Confusing Layout Designer
Big Markus

Associate Editor in Charge of Running
Dark Blue Type on a Black Background
So You Have to Tilt it Under a Bright
Light in Order to Read Off the Glare
Large Beth

Goatee & Sideburn Wrangler
Big Ken

Amput Photography
Stanky Pete

Assistant in Charge of Applying
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WHAT WAS I THINKING?!

TATTOOS

Artists: Wipe, Big Claude
 Piercer: Cleave

6790 Ohno Ave. Mound City, SC • 29201 • (803)-555-3676

MAIMED FLESH

Our second annual Tattoo and Piercing Expo was held on June 6, 2000 at an abandoned pork fat rendering plant in Hurtsboro, Alabama. Almost three dozen freaks of nature showed up and competed for a coveted Hervé, making this our biggest event ever! Some convention-goers traveled from as far away as Sweden to attend the six-hour event, proving that stupidity is international!

MAIMED

TATTOO & EXPO

"God Was I Drunk" Tattoo

Josh Moshpit blames his winning tattoo on "drinking a lot of tequila with my best friend in our briefs while watching a Van Damme kickboxing movie marathon on TBS while my girlfriend was out of town."



1ST PLACE

"Most Likely to Be Outdated in a Few Years" Tattoo

Beating out countless images of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, *South Park* characters and the little Blair Witch symbol is Dave Mohron's colorful image of Gary Coleman auctioning off his belongings online.



1ST PLACE

Best Use of Back Hair Incorporated Into Tattoo

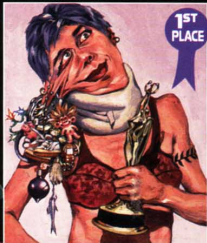
Cletus O'Neal shows that he's smarter than the average redneck by using his copious back hair to add even more realism to his 'Yogi' tattoo.



1ST PLACE

Heaviest Ear

67 separate piercings help Jeanine Musk's left ear tip the scales at a whopping 2 pounds, 4 ounces!



1ST PLACE

Most Unusual Piercing

Brettifer Rumpstank was only 6 when he was impaled in the skull by a mis-thrown lawn dart at a family reunion in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. Doctors were unable to remove it without further damage to his brain, and now Brett, 28, wears the lawn dart as a badge of pride.

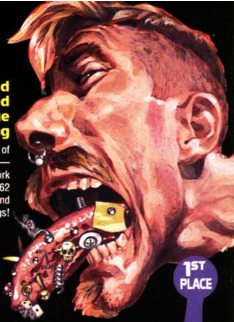


2ND PLACE

FLESH's PIERCING 2000

Most Food Collected Under Tongue Piercing

Shrimp-flavored ramen, portions of a 7-11 Big Bite, Batman cereal—not made since 1992!—and pork rinds, weighing a total of 4.62 ounces, were found in and around Paul Spackie's tongue piercings!



1ST
PLACE

Worst-Smelling Infection

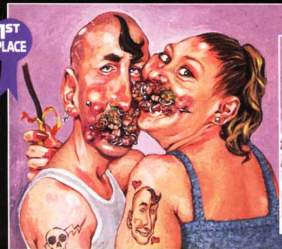
Hans Schluffy thought he had locked up this award by getting his navel pierced 9 times at home by a friend suffering from contagious leprosy using a rusty shingle nail found in a drainage ditch outside a sewage processing plant, but winning second prize still almost makes it all worth while!



2ND
PLACE

Most Canker Sores

Skye and Jason Sputum tied for first this year, with 48 sores apiece! Though so many canker sores (some the size of walnuts!) make it painful to talk and chew Slim Jims, Red Hot Cheetos and other staples of the white trash lifestyle, the happy couple issued a typed statement upon winning: "We are very much in love, and attribute our many canker sores to multiple tongue and mouth piercings which we don't allow to properly heal before making out with one another."



1ST
PLACE



1ST
PLACE

Most Stretched Bosom, Male

A bowling pin attached to a janitor's key ring through a pierced nipple helped Marty Flotsam s-t-r-e-t-c-h his stretched nipple for first place! Way to go, Marty!

Youngest Tattoo or Piercing

Our youngest contestant ever, little Marquis Belthwelp, age 7 months, took first prize for youngest tattoo and piercing, but had to relinquish the trophy when Social Services showed up and took the child into custody.



1ST
PLACE

TATTOO & PIERCING EXPO 2000 CONTINUED

Piercing That Most Inhibits Ability to Breathe or Pick Nose

John Septum has had to breathe through his mouth for the last two years of his life since he got this heavy-duty ring, which is actually a 1-1/4" stainless steel Sears Craftsman washer. "It looks (pant pant) really cool (pant pant), ya know?"



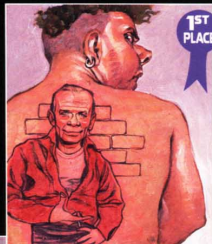
3RD PLACE

Most Unusual Piercing

Al Rottman of Monsey Swamp, Florida got this unique fondue-fork-through-neck piercing when he was caught in a Pier 1 Imports during a tornado.



1ST PLACE



1ST PLACE

Worst Likeness of a Classic Celebrity

Though tattoo artist Felch insists that the work he did on Uterus Wilson's back is supposed to be James Dean, most people have mistaken it for Hayden (Dr. Bellows on *I Dream of Jeannie*) Rorke.



2ND PLACE

Worst Likeness of a Classic Celebrity

Maria Hogg claims that originally, her tat depicted a classic Marilyn Monroe image, but since putting on 200 pounds, she tells people it's Chris Farley shortly before his death.

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ASK BIG GUNTHER



Big Gunther Frenum is the owner of Big Gunther's Discount Tattoo and Piercing Parlor in Tempe, Arizona. Each month he answers reader's questions relating to slinging ink and getting pierced, though quite often no one writes in and he's forced to make up questions based on something he read in another tattoo magazine.

Dear Big Gunther,

I'm thinking of getting multiple erotic piercings, but I'm afraid they'll set off the metal detectors when I go to the airport, and the ensuing search could be embarrassing. How can I prevent this?

Nervous

Ansonia, CT

Dear Nervous,

Unfortunately, there's no way to prevent excessive piercings from setting off airport metal detectors. Go Amtrak!

Dear Big Gunther,

Should I get a tattoo?

Not Sure

Anaheim, CA

Dear Not Sure,

Yeah.

Dear Readers,

I'm sad to mention the passing of Big Kevin Hafadas last month. "Big Kev" was the owner and proprietor of Very Improper Piercing's (V.I.P.'s), and also held the record for most body piercings (178) in all of Broward County, Florida. In the end, what did him in wasn't his steady diet of Taco Bell food, or complications from the hepatitis he got from using unsanitary, shared equipment, but an undiagnosed cancerous tumor the size of a softball on the back of his neck which he mistakenly believed to be one of his underskin ball-bearing implants. He will be missed.

Dear Big Gunther,

I often see folks with tattoos of their beloved pets on their bodies. In fact, I just got a tattoo of my 6-week old kitten, Mittens, on my thigh. I know how much she loves me, so I'd like to return the favor and get her a tattoo of me. Can you recommend a good tattoo parlor that tattoos small animals?

Animal Lover

Santa Barbara, CA

Dear Animal Lover,

Check out our Directory for any of the fine professionals who specialize in tattooing and piercing underage children (including newborns!), passed-out customers brought in by pranksters, and people brought in against their will. Many of these parlors feature restraints to keep the tattooee in place while the painful work is being done.

Dear Big Gunther,

I'm debating whether to get "666" tattooed on my forehead or a large portrait of my girlfriend done on my back. I also want a row of Japanese letters spelling out curse words down my arms. I'm only 16, so my money is tight and I won't be able to have all of this done at once. What should I do?

Confused,

Little Rock, AR

Dear Confused,

They all sound like great ideas, but I would go for the back portrait of your girlfriend. You'll be graduating from high school in six or eight years and chances are good that you and your girlfriend will go your separate ways, or that she'll marry whoever gets her pregnant next month and that might not be you. What better way to remember her for the rest of your life than with an expensive tribute to her that you'll only be able to see with a mirror? And don't worry, you're still young, so you'll have plenty of time to make many more astute decisions concerning other tattoos!

Confidential to Perplexed,

Don't be a fool! An aluminum frame rotary kit with six-gauge O-rings coupled with nine-wrap plastic bobbins to prevent excessive vibration to the needle bar is already old tattooing technology! If you're really looking for a state-of-the-art setup, go with a steel or bronze combo unit with a brass yoke fitting under the electrical coil and a grounded footswitch to enhance current conduction.

DORM ROOM TATTOOS

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Artists: Stop, Grunge, Big Omritri Piercers: Yank, Dr. Agony, Marrow

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You bought Number One, now pick up Number Two! (And be on the lookout for the turd in this series sometime in the future!)



NO SH

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IRT OES GAMES

18 - 23



We all have the dream of setting out and seeing our great land. It's just that not all of us wake up screaming from it. Buckle up, it's.....

Monroe and...



ARTIST: BILL WRAY
WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI

THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

PART ONE





In our next episode of

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BILL GOODY



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X-CONCEPTS

COLLECT
THEM ALL

LOOK FOR NEW DUDES COMING SOON





Back in the really-oldden days, young lovers met "at a pep rally," "in the Peace Corps" or "at a 4-H meeting." In the more-recent-oldden days (back in June 1997, when we published the first volume of this yawn-fest), they met "in the mosh pit," "at a Safe-Sex demonstration" or "trying to car-jack the same BMW"....which sound extremely lame & not at all worth sharing as romantic, nostalgic memories with family and friends in the years to come — that is, until you realize how much worse things have gotten in the intervening four years! That's why it's time for MAD to revisit...

"How We First Met"

Stories That Today's Young Lovers Will Be Stuck With...VOL. II:



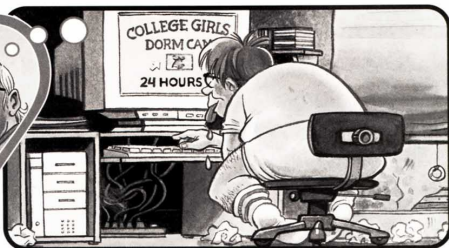
We were on a trash talk show and her sister's husband's 400-lb. mother was sleeping with my brother's transvestite/pimp lover!



It was the second school shooting of our Sophomore year; we were crouching with fear under the same cafeteria table!



She happened to be **stepping out**
of the shower at the **exact moment**
my computer accessed her
webcam! I immediately **IMed her!**



We woke up in the same **Intensive
Care Unit** two weeks after
crashing into each other because
we were **yakking on our cell phones!**



...in the **Boy Scouts**: he
was my **Troop Leader!**



"How We First Met"

Stories That Today's Young Lovers
Will Be Stuck With...VOL. II:



...there was something about
the way she typed "LOL" at
all my stupid jokes!



...at the Senior Prom.
He helped me when
my water broke!



I was drunk as hell on Spring
Break, and he gave me \$20
to flash my boobs for his
Girls Gone Wild video!





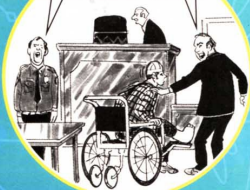
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF...



JUSTICE

Hear ye, hear ye! Court is now in session! Judge Joseph Dougherty presiding! Everybody please rise!

Not you, idiot! If you rise, you'll blow the whole case!



OPPORTUNITY

ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE BERG



CONCERN



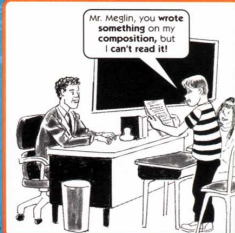
TRADITION



AWARENESS



TEACHERS



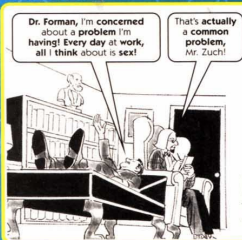
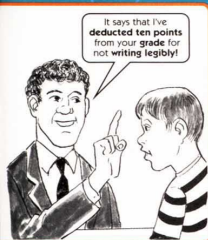
WEAPONS



MISSING PERSONS



THERAPY



LOGIC



THE OFFICE



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GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will soon turn pretty wormy!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING STIFF:



JULIA ROBERTS

CAUSE OF DEATH

ODDS

Entire skull pops out of open mouth during extra-wide smile

2:1

Weirdo brother actor Eric Roberts finally flips out and kills her at a family reunion

5:1

Double pneumonia from displaying maximum cleavage in every other scene in *Erin Brockovich*

10:1

Car wreck after blinding self with reflection bouncing off her own teeth in rearview mirror

15:1

Stroke from strain of having to fake surprise at winning Oscar

20:1

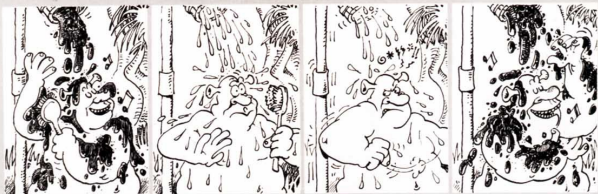
Starves during long actors strike that stops all film shoots

35,000,000:1





a MAD LOOK a



AT SHREK



ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES





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THE MISFITS
KOOL KEITH
THE LIVING END
THE VANDALS
ESHAM
SUGARCULT
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SPIN

It's commonly believed that the world of sports is unpredictable, that any team can beat any other team in any given sport on any given day, that the only thing you can say with certainty about sports is that nothing in sports is certain. We say FA! Today, more than ever, sports are as predictable as a noonday siren, and not quite as entertaining! Here's MAD's...

PERENNIAL



2 — Football announcer Keith Jackson broadcasts his annual "last game of his career." Whoa, Nellie!

JANUARY



24 — Favorite blows out underdog as Superbowl sucks beyond belief yet again.



30 — The NFL's Raiders threaten to move back to Oakland or Los Angeles, depending on which of those cities they're playing in now.

FEBRUARY



9 — FOX introduces yet another "graphic enhancement" gimmick in desperate attempt to make hockey watchable on TV. Broadcast rises in Nielsen ratings to #119, just behind the WB's *Charmed*.



11 — Some yahoo named Dale, Jeff or Sterling wins the Daytona 500.



21 — Baseball Spring Training begins. 24 small market teams virtually eliminated from pennant race.



9 — After his appeal for reinstatement is once again rejected, Pete Rose signs \$45,000 worth of autographs on his way out of the Commissioner's office.

MARCH



20, 21 — Four 16th seeded teams and three 15th seeded teams lose by an average of 48 points in opening round of NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.



27 — Mike Tyson signs to fight a recently paroled retarded fighter with only slightly less intelligence than Tyson himself. At bizarre pre-fight weigh-in, Tyson threatens to "father his opponent's grandmother." Bout postponed.

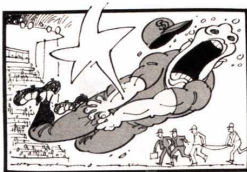
SPORTS CALENDAR

ARTIST: PAUL COKER WRITER: MIKE MIKULA

APRIL



1 — Baseball season opens. Gary Sheffield insists he's a "changed man."



2 — Second game of baseball season. Rickey Henderson begins 11-week stay on disabled list after "pulling hammy."



27 — Tyson bout with paroled retarded fighter rescheduled.



1 — Yankees suffer tough three-game losing streak; purchase contract of National League's top starting pitcher from small market team that can't afford to pay him.

MAY



15 — Sportscaster Leslie Visser wears a ridiculously oversized hat at the Kentucky Derby.



24 — Mike Tyson stops taking medication, drives car through Connecticut mansion, destroying three floors. Bout with paroled retarded fighter postponed again.

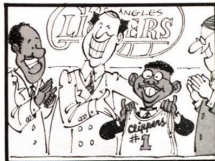
JUNE



14 — NBA finals conclude. Mayor of championship city estimates damage caused by rioting fans at \$250 million.



19 — Last game of NHL Stanley Cup Finals concludes at 11:46 pm; Stanley Cup urinated in by fan at Detroit bar at 1:03 am.



27 — L.A. Clippers squander #1 draft pick.

PERENNIAL SPORTS CALENDAR

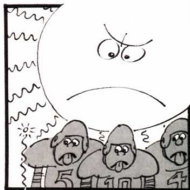
JULY



8 — Venus and Serena Williams' father, Richard, makes a total ass of himself in post-Wimbledon press conference rant.



15 — Yankees suffer tough three-game -losing streak; purchase contract of National League's top homerun hitter from small market team that can't afford to pay him.



26 — First high school football player of the year collapses and dies of heat exhaustion after full-gear practice in 99-degree heat.



10 — The tallest Taiwanese 12-year-olds you've ever seen win the Little League World Series.



16 — Mike Tyson threatens to immolate himself when local officials deny him permit to keep tigers on his Southampton estate. Bout with paroled retarded fighter postponed yet again.



30 — America's most prominent lesbians attend WNBA Championship Game.

SEPTEMBER



1 — NFL season opens. Even though he's retired, Troy Aikman concussed.



9 — Yankee manager, coach and/or player becomes afflicted with life-threatening illness that will unify team and propel them to win the World Series.



23 — Sammy Sosa hits 66th homerun. Cubs lose 105th game.

OCTOBER



9 — Heavily-favored Atlanta Braves choke in postseason series.



16 — Mike Tyson breaks hand while beating Hooter's waitress' 6-year-old son. Bout with paroled retarded fighter postponed once more.



30 — NBA season begins. Shaquille O'Neal hits one of his first two free throws, putting his percentage at 50%, the highest it will be all season.

NOVEMBER



1 — NBA star releases extremely crappy rap album.



9 — Emaciated, impoverished, yet extremely fast Third World runner wins NYC Marathon.



29 — God instructs Delon Sanders to return punt 45 yards, then fumble.



8 — Heisman Trophy awarded to future NFL bust.

DECEMBER

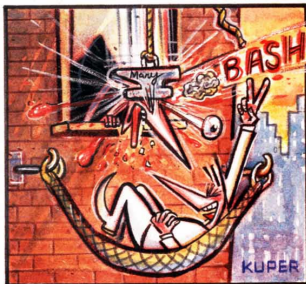
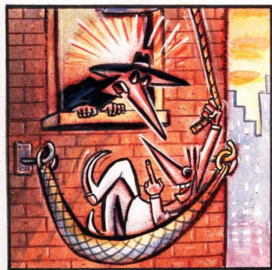


15 — Dodgers sign overrated pitcher who will win a total of 3 games for them in his entire career to a 6-year, \$131 million contract.



15 — Tyson bout with paroled retarded fighter rescheduled.



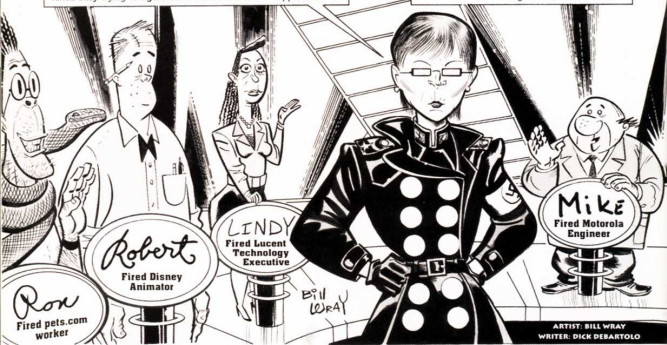


These eight incredibly stupid people have actually agreed to be humiliated on national television, as contestants on tonight's anti-game-game show! One of them might walk away with one million dollars, the rest will walk away with no money! But none will walk with dignity or pride, since round by round, they are reduced to human waste by our vicious host, and voted off by their teammates!

Now let's meet the host, Anne RobotOne, who is truly...

Welcome to — The Wicked Link! I'm Anne RobotOne, hostess of — The Weirdest Link! I love saying — The Wacky Link, which is good, because this is — The Freakiest Link! NBC imported me from Britain to be the host, because they couldn't find anyone here in the United States with a more annoying, two-dimensional presence than me. The Wettest Link! Well, there is George W. Bush, but he's kinda busy trying to figure out what a President is supposed to do!

Here's how we play — The Wretched Link! Any of you eight people could win up to one million dollars! Of course, with the impossible rules we've devised to keep dropping the earning level back to \$1,000, the chances of actually winning one million dollars is about the same as the chance of me winning a Nobel Peace Prize!

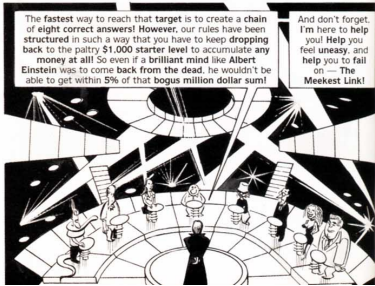


ARTIST: BILL WRAY
WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

These are the rules! In each round, you will — Oops, sorry! Let me start over again! These are the rules for — The Weakest Link! In each round of — The Wicked Stink! — you will try to answer enough questions correctly to reach your unreachable \$125,000 target within the time limit of — The Bleakest Link!

The fastest way to reach that target is to create a chain of eight correct answers! However, our rules have been structured in such a way that you have to keep dropping back to the paltry \$1,000 starter level to accumulate any money at all! So even if a brilliant mind like Albert Einstein was to come back from the dead, he wouldn't be able to get within 5% of that bogus million dollar sum!

And don't forget, I'm here to help you! Help you feel uneasy, and help you to fail on — The Meekest Link!



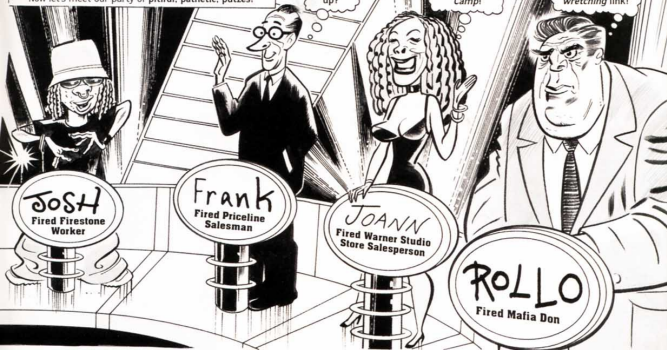
THE WICKED LINK!

These eight contestants don't know each other, which is strange, because they've been backstage together for hours planning strategies, and have rehearsed together for the past three days! However, to try to generate a bit of tension, they will pretend not to know each other, as round by round we eliminate the player who is — **The Wussy Link!** Now let's meet our party of pitiful, pathetic, putzes!

My God, does she ever shut up?

She's a Marine Drill Sergeant in drag! She should be on Fox's Boot Camp!

If she pauses one more time and then says: "The Wretched Link," I'm going to become the wrenching link!



If you get your question wrong, you break the chain and lose all the money in the chain! However, if you say the word **BANK** before your question is asked, the money is safe, but we start a new chain! At the pitiful \$1,000 mark! At the end of the round, only the money that is banked can be carried over to the next round! If for any bizarre reason you start to win a large amount of money, we'll add some new rules to knock it back down to a piddling sum!

This show is kind of complicated, isn't it?

Not really! Once you watch a round or two, it becomes very clear!

All those complicated rules become very clear?

No, the fact that any of our home audience with half a brain will never watch this show again becomes very clear!



The first round will last two and a half minutes, but with my dull, boring reading of each question, it will seem like two and a half hours! We'll begin the game with the hideously ugly, short, fat, balding guy....

Gee, she must like me! She's softening up! That was such a warm introduction! For her, anyway!



Please start the clock!

Okay, guys! Turn on our blinding, ever-changing spotlights and loud music to help keep the contestants from concentrating!



Name one of the Seven Dwarfs!

Sleepy!



True, Sleepy was one of the Seven Dwarfs, but I was thinking of Dopey, so no win! The woman with the ill-fitting dress, you're next! Oh, I'm sorry, that could be any of you ladies! Lindy! Name a state that starts with the word "New"!



New York!

Too obvious! You should have used your brain a little and come up with something a little more off the beaten path like New Mexico! No credit for you!



Against my wishes, you have been given \$1,000 credit for that correct answer! So the next question is worth \$2,500! JoAnn, the young lady who looks like she's dressed to pick up men at a sleazy bar, it's your turn!

Bank!

The word "bank" has been said, so instead of \$2,500, the value of the next question drops back to \$1,000!



Wait a minute! I didn't say "bank"! It came out of that speaker up there!

Doesn't matter! Even if it was our producer saying "bank" over a loudspeaker, it still counts! The value drops back to \$1,000!

That's not fair! But all right, what's the \$1,000 question?

I'm sorry, time's up!

It's RobotOne's time that's up! She wears thin real fast!





The fired pets.com worker with the awful breath! This is your question. I hope you'll be able to understand it. It's in English! By the way, in addition to bad breath, you also have bad posture! Stand up straight, Ron! Here's your question. How many stripes are there on the flag —

13!

You suffer from premature enunciation, Ron! Now I'll finish the question! How many stripes are there — on the flag of Russia! Obviously none, like the amount of brains you have!

Where did NBC find this sadistic woman host?

I believe she came over from England.

England? Sounds more like she came over from Germany! Nazi Germany!



At college, did you major in stupidity, Ron?

Don't strain yourself, Ron, trying to string more than one word — one word — one — er —

Oh my God! Anne's prompter stopped! She's dead if she can't read every put-down off that monitor! Tell her in her earpiece to end the round, or people will know this whole thing's just a big, expensive, bad act!

Team, that is the end of round one!

What? The clock says we have 45 seconds left!

Er...er... I felt the game was a little slow! I knocked some time off!

45 seconds ain't gonna help speed up this show! Knock off 45 minutes and we might see some improvement!

I'm bored with your complaining! You're finished! Good-bye!



Out of a possible \$125,000, you bungling bag of buffoons banked a pitiful, piddling, paltry, zero! Let's vote one of you the hell off this stage!

So contestants get voted off the show, just like on *Survivor*!

Well, not exactly like on *Survivor*! On *Survivor*, people at home are *interested* in who stays and who goes! On *this* monotonous show, no one could care less about what happens to the contestants!

Hmmm...the computer says there are 240 votes to get Anne RobotOne the hell off this stage!

There are only eight contestants! How could she get 240 votes?

Eight contestants, 212 people in the audience, and 20 people on the staff! No one can stand her! That's 240 votes to get her uptight ass out of here!

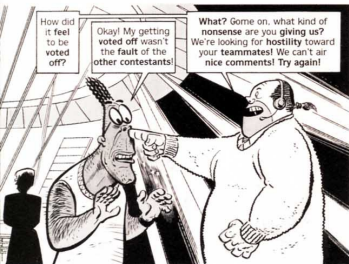




You have all voted Ron as **The Leakiest Link!** Hard choice, since you all suck! Strangely, Ron, you voted for yourself as **The Sneakiest Link!**

Yes, I figured a stroll down **"The Walk of Shame"** is a picnic compared to staying up here on the stage with you!

Good-Bye. Good Riddance! That sign - E - X - I - T, is the one you go out! I understand Ron's family came to watch, and they're in the studio audience! Throw those pathetic parents out of here too! They should be ashamed of giving birth to that buffoon! We'll be back with more fun, right after this!



How did it feel to be voted off?

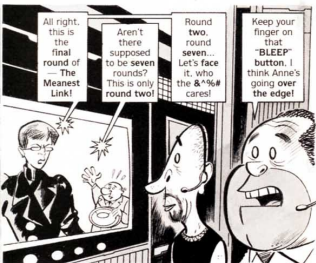
Okay! My getting voted off wasn't the fault of the other contestants!

What? Gome on, what kind of nonsense are you giving us? We're looking for hostility toward your teammates! We can't air nice comments! Try again!



Those traitors! I thought we were a team! I held back on my answers so I wouldn't show up my team members as the stupid dimwits they really are!

Excellent! That's exactly the kind of true feeling I knew you could fake!

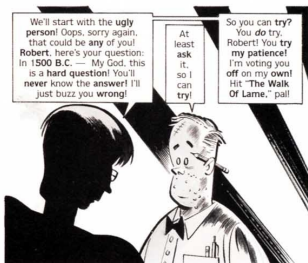


All right, this is the final round of **The Meanest Link!**

Aren't there supposed to be seven rounds? This is only round two!

Round two, round seven... Let's face it, who the &%% cares!

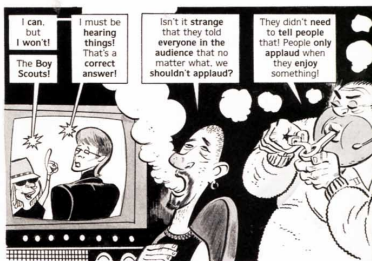
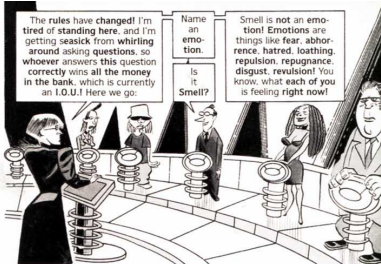
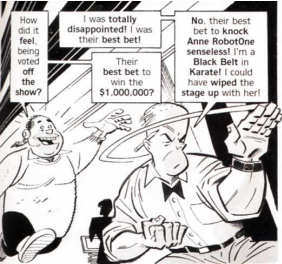
Keep your finger on that **"BLEEP"** button, I think Anne's going over the edge!



We'll start with the ugly person! Oops, sorry again, that could be any of you! Robert, here's your question: In 1500 B.C. — My God, this is a hard question! You'll never know the answer! I'll just buzz you wrong!

At least ask it, so I can try!

So you can try? You *do* try. Robert! You try your patience! I'm voting you off on my own! Hit **"The Walk Of Shame,"** pal!



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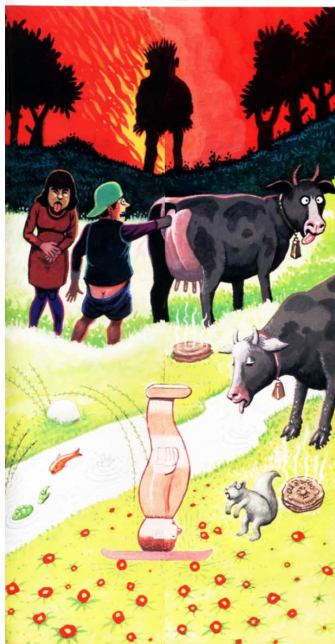
**WHAT HORRIFIC
EVENTS IS THE
GOVERNMENT
INCREASINGLY
CONCERNED ABOUT?**



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**JACK-
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**WHAT HORRIFIC
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CONCERNED ABOUT?**

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

Everytime you open the newspaper these days another disaster has occurred that causes the government embarrassment. To find out the latest scary things alarming many of our elected officials, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!



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**JOLTED BY DISASTERS, THE MILITARY TRIES TO BACK-
UP ITS PEOPLE. THOUGH MANY INVESTIGATORS AMASS
COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF DAMNING EVIDENCE, TOP BRASS BOY-
COTTS THE FACTS AND DOWNPLAYS THESE THREATS**



ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE





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