

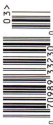
UNBREAKABLE • CHARLIE'S ANGELS • MARCH MADNESS

# MAD

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IN THE  
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UNITED STATES

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PARADA

# MAD

MARCH 2001

NUMBER 403

30



## MAD Editor's Note

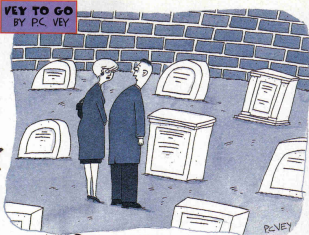
Dear MAD Reader:

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

Onward to a new era in publishing!  
MAD-ly,

The Editors

VEY TO GO  
BY P.C. VEY



## DEPARTMENTS

### LETTERS AND TOMATOES DEPARTMENT:

Random Samplings of Reader Mail.....4

### DYSFOXTIONAL FAMILY DEPARTMENT:

"Malcontent In The Muddle" (A MAD TV Satire) .....7

### SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPARTMENT:

A MAD Look at Libraries.....13

### MAIL DOMINANCE DEPARTMENT:

A Kid's Guide to Writing Letters.....18

### JOKE AND DAGGER DEPARTMENT:

Spy Vs. Spy.....22

### ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPARTMENT:

Monroe &...The Special Delivery.....24

### I FEEL YOUR VEIN DEPARTMENT:

A Bloody Mess.....30

### SHYAMALAN-A-DING-DONG DEPARTMENT:

"Unbearable" (A MAD Movie Satire).....31







## MORE DEPARTMENTS

1996  
Crayola Announces  
New Crayon Color,  
Trashy White, in  
Honor of Paula Jones

218 B.C.  
Hannibal Recrosses  
The Alps Upon  
Discovering He Left  
His Wallet at the Hotel

1989  
CIA Foils Plans of Chinese  
Spies to Steal "The  
Clapper" Technology

1992  
Saddam Hussein Refuses to  
Let Olympic Judges Inspect  
Iraqi Ski Team's Stretch Pants

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

THIS MONTH  
IN HISTORY

**MARCH**

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |      | 1   | 2   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8    | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31  |

**HOOPS! THEY DID IT AGAIN DEPARTMENT:**  
10 Sure Signs You're Suffering  
From March Madness..... **36**

**GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPARTMENT:**  
Mad's Celebrity Cause-of-Death  
Betting Odds..... **38**

**THE DEPTHS OF REPAIR DEPARTMENT:**  
Home Despot Sales Circular..... **39**

**ANGIO-PLASTICMAN DEPARTMENT:**  
Dick Cheney Electrocardiograms  
We'd Like to See..... **40**

**TITLE WAVE DEPARTMENT:**  
2000: The Year in Film..... **42**

**CLOTHES MINDED DEPARTMENT:**  
Other Fashion Names  
That Are Actually Acronyms..... **44**

**BERG'S-EYE VIEW DEPARTMENT:**  
The Lighter Side of..... **45**

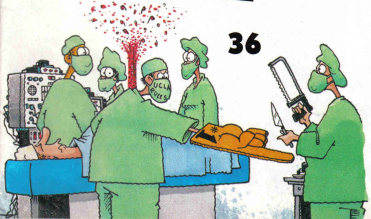
**CHICKS WITH KICKS DEPARTMENT:**  
"Cheesy Angles"  
(Another MAD Movie Satire)..... **50**

**MARGINAL THINKING DEPARTMENT:**  
"Drawn Out Dramas"..... **Various Places  
Around the Magazine**

**42**



**36**



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

FRONT COVER ARTIST: ROBERTO PARADA





## MORON MAIL — THE RETURN

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

Ed Paz, Greendale, WI

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

## Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

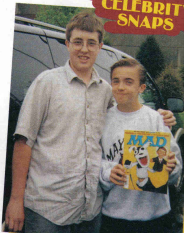
I have been a reader of MAD for about 2½ years and I have a dumb wish for *The Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™. I wish that Antonio Prohias would make a "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Spy" because I enjoy them.

Mark Hudson, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

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To: MAD, Dept. 403, 1700  
Broadway, New York, New York  
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submissions. Manuscripts will not  
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however, unless they are accom-  
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stamped envelope! MAD doesn't  
read faxed submissions!

## MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS



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



## PROSE AND CONVICTS

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

Marco Miles, Boulder County Jail  
Boulder, CO

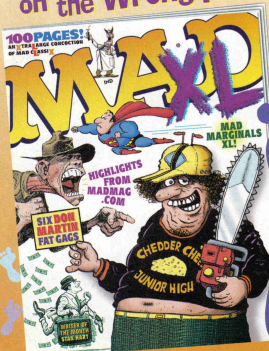
P.S. Could you send me a free subscription?

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

P.S. Give our best to Captain Hank!

Start the New Year off  
on the Wrong Foot

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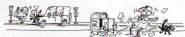
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### MADMAG.COMPLIMENTS

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

Sam Price, Gainesville, FL

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

### ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

As Mail: For writers  
As Mail: For ads

**MAD**  
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U.S.A.



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

### PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO NEEDLE PEOPLE...

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

William Cowper Brann, Waco, TX

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



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president & editor-in-chief

**Paul Levitz**  
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**Lillian Laserson** vp & general counsel

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

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

# Malcontent in the Muddle

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

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

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

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

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

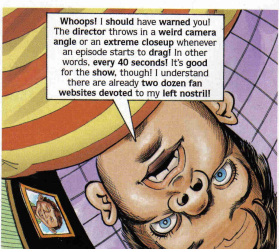
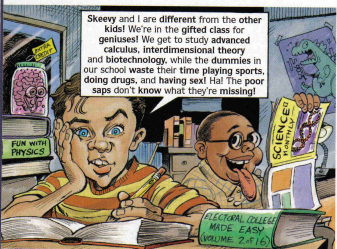
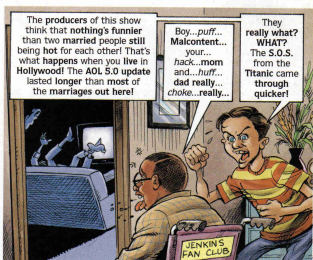
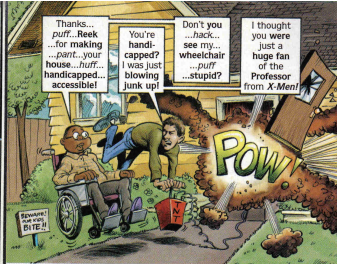
That's Gooley, the adorable little kid! He has trouble keeping up! You'll notice that we rarely feed him more than one sentence to say! Even then, it's a real struggle coaching Gooley to say the words as if he understands them! I'm not complaining, though! It's the same problem George W. Bush's handlers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

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

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







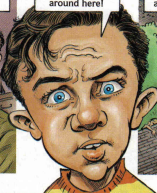


I'm home!

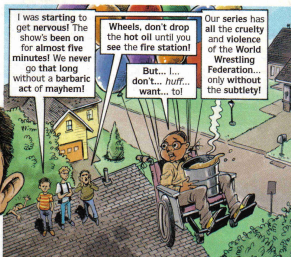
Frantic!  
YES!  
You're home from military school!

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

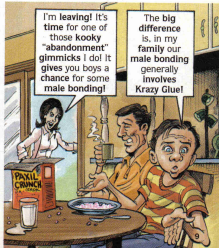
But this is pointless, forced wackiness! This week, "life isn't a circus!" Last week, "life wasn't an African safari!" Next week, "life won't be a course in air conditioner repair!"

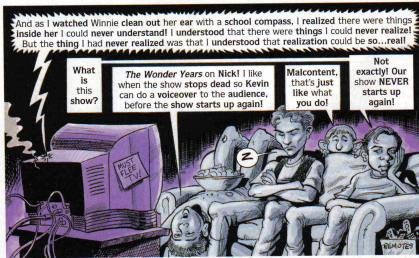
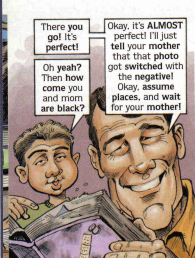
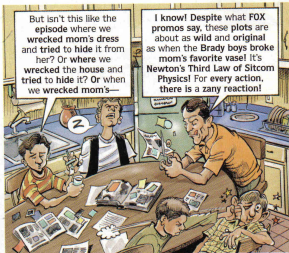
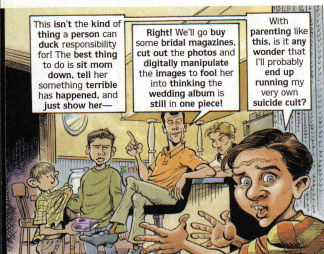
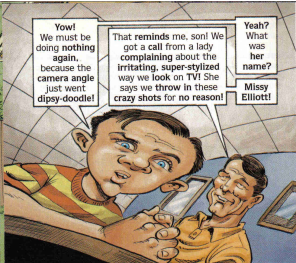
That's very astute, Malcontent! I'll bring that up at the next rehearsal! With your IQ, I'm sure you'll come up with replacement jokes for all the filler we'll be cutting out of the show, thanks to your ideas!

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

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

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









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

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

Those numbers are completely absurd!

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

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

She was an election official in Florida!

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

Nobody! The cameraman just fell asleep!

Yeah, I know the feeling!

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

I'm home!

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

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

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

Hold it! Why is it so quiet in here?

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

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

We have a quirk-o-meter!

What's a quirk-o-meter?

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

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

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

**Quirk-o-meter**

Normal Nutty Kooky Idiotic

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

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

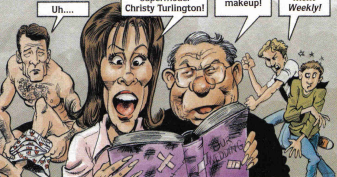
This brings back so many images... so many weird images! I don't remember Gwyneth Paltrow being your best man!

Uh....

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

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

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



What's the story?

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

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

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

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



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



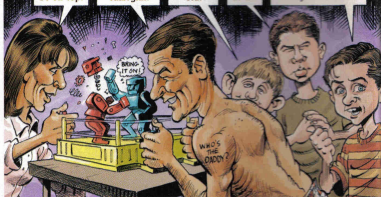
Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots! Best 2-out-of-3 gets to be on top!

The marriage that decapitates together cohabitates together! Yaarrghh!

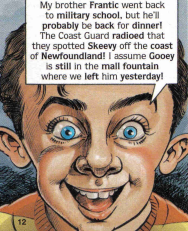
This is totally immature, and I'm just five years old!

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

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



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



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

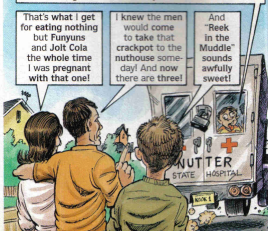


Say something, damn you! Acknowledge me! Who am I talking to? I'm so terribly alone! Nuh! Nuh! Nuh!

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

I knew the men would come to take that crackpot to the nuthouse someday! And now there are three!

And 'Reek in the Muddle' sounds awfully sweet!

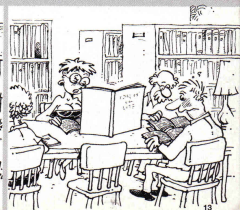
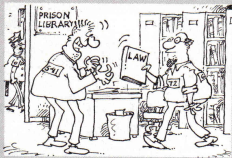
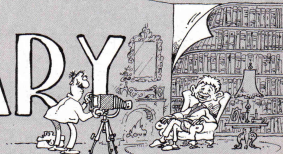




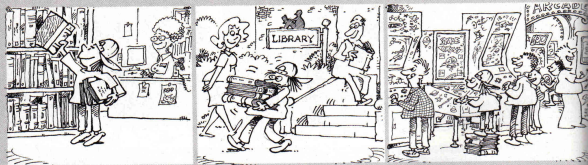
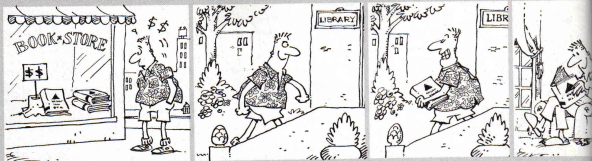
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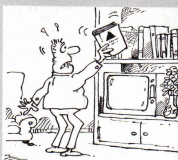
# A MAD LOOK AT THE LIBRARY

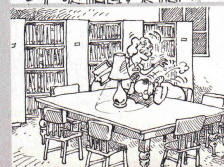
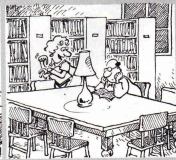
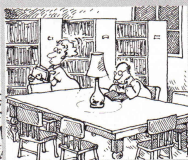
ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES















## MAIL DOMINANCE DEPT.

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

# A KID'S

## THANK YOU LETTER TO GRANDMA

Make a wizened statement of fiscally sound policy.

Add future goals and plans to show you have direction.

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

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

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

Love, Jimmy



me



sparky our cat

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

State the letter's intention right up front.

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

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

Reiterate the first line to fill up more space.

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

## PRODUCT MANUFACTURER LETTER

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

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

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

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

John Peters

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

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

Be graphic about how close you came to catastrophic injury.

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

# GUIDE TO WRITING LETTERS

## SPORTS FAN LETTER

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

Purposely misspell a word for comic relief.

Continually pile on the flattery.

Show you're not just an opportunist.

Work on pity.

Include innocent alias.

Your bestest fan,  
Bully

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

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



## PARENTAL EXCUSE NOTE

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

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

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

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

Mary Rastem

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

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

# A KID'S GUIDE TO WRITING LETTERS

## LETTER TO MOM AND DAD

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

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

Add one last guilt trip to guarantee the Playstation game.

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

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

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

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

Use a yellow Post-it note for drama.

## LETTER TO AN EXPERT

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

Make him feel recognized and famous.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
William D.L. Smith  
Indiana State

Obscure your location to sound like an academic institution.

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

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

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





# SPY VS SPY







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

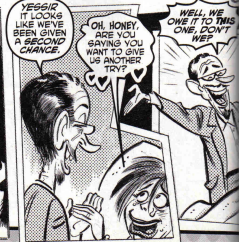
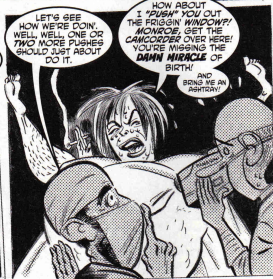
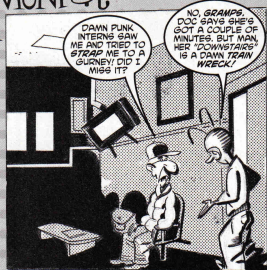
# Monty and.





# THE SPECIAL DELIVERY





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

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

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

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

OH, IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO WHIP THAT EXPLAINING A LOT?

HEY, I'M RIGHT HERE, PEOPLE!

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

NO BIG SURPRISE, IF YOU KNEW THE MOTHER BETTER.

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

YEEAAH, AND THIS ONE IS PERFECT!

HEY, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE ME!

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

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

HI, DAD, LOOK, MOM HAD A BOY!

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

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

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

THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY!

HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?

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

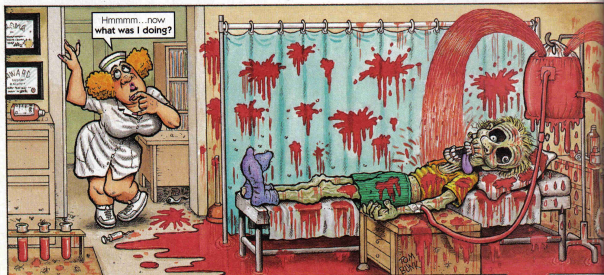
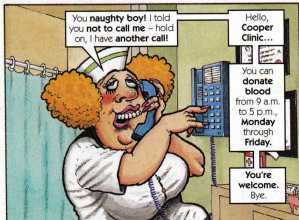
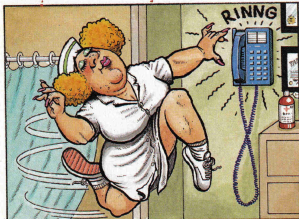
THIS IS REALLY GONNA SUCK.

Bill Bray





# A BLOODY MESS





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

# UNBEARABLE

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES

WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

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

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

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

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



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

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

Why are you staring at me like that, doc?

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

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

Where exactly were you sitting on the train?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You mean like someone sane?

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

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

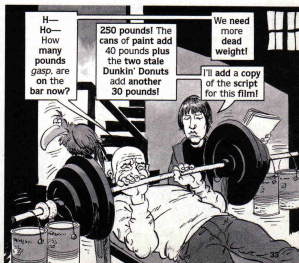
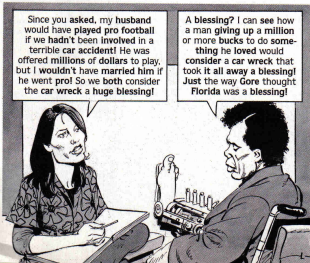
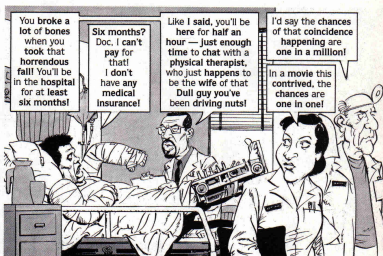
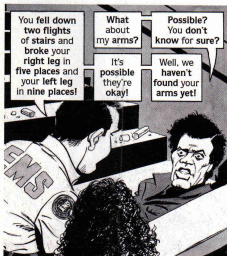
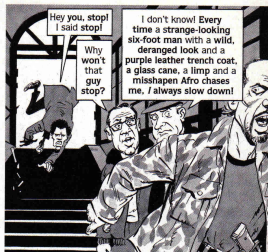
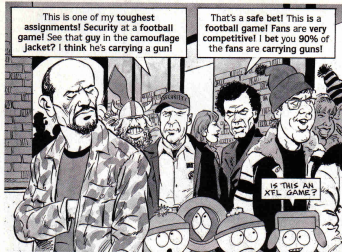
Do you have anything by Angelo Torres?

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

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

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





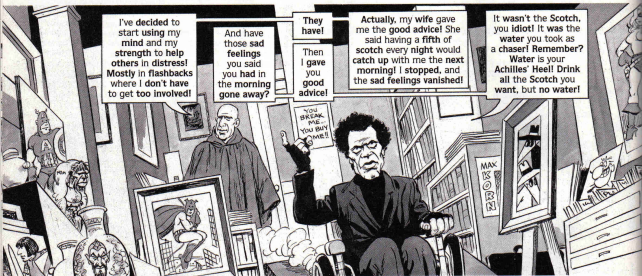
My God, Joketh, what are you doing with that gun!

I want to prove dad's a true superhero! I want to see if he survives if I shoot him!

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

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

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



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

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

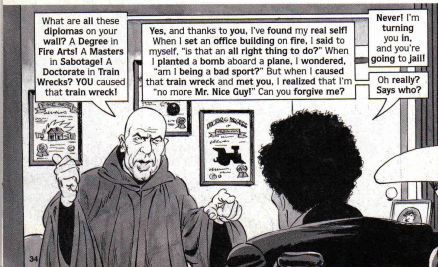
They have!

Then I gave you good advice!

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

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

YOU BRING ME YOU BUY ME!

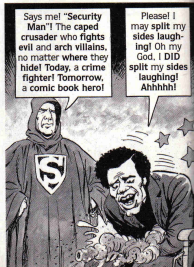


What are all these diplomas on your wall? A Degree in Fire Arts! A Masters in Sabotage! A Doctorate in Train Wrecks? YOU caused that train wreck!

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

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

Oh really? Says who?



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

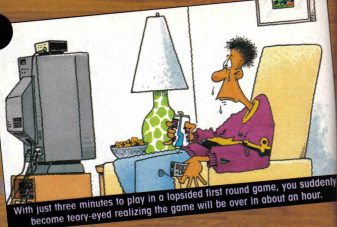
Please! I may split my sides laughing! Oh my God, I DID split my sides laughing! Ahhhhhh!



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

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

1



4



# 10 SURE SIGNS YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM MARCH MADNESS

7

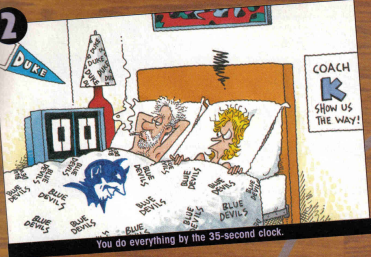


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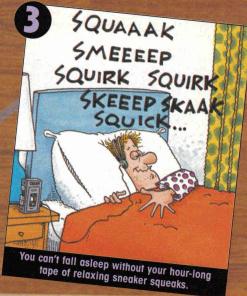


2



You do everything by the 35-second clock.

3



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

5



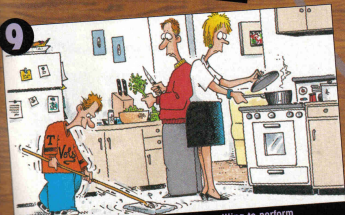
Co-workers have spread the word: Don't even attempt to toss something into your wastebasket.

6



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

9



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

10



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



GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

# MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

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

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE REAL DEAD SLIM SHADY:

DETROIT

## EMINEM

CAUSE OF DEATH

ODDS

Killed by offended and angered...

...wife 1:1

...mother 1:1

...gay person 1:1

...black person 1:1

...feminist 1:1

Killed by offended and angered fan of...

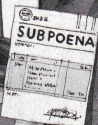
...Christina Aguilera 1:1

...Britney Spears 1:1

...N Sync 1:1

Killed in incident completely  
unrelated to his music, lyrics or life

35,000,000:1





**THE HOME DEPOT**®

# Our Guarantee

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

**\$9**

Box of 100



## Pre-Bent Nails

Why pay extra for straight nails when you've botched every hammer job you've tried since 1967? Bent at a variety of angles for your convenience, these light-weight, aluminum nails are ideal for gluing onto cardboard and paper. (Not recommended for use with wood.)

**\$9**



## Murdurous-Gro Fertilizer

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

**\$12**



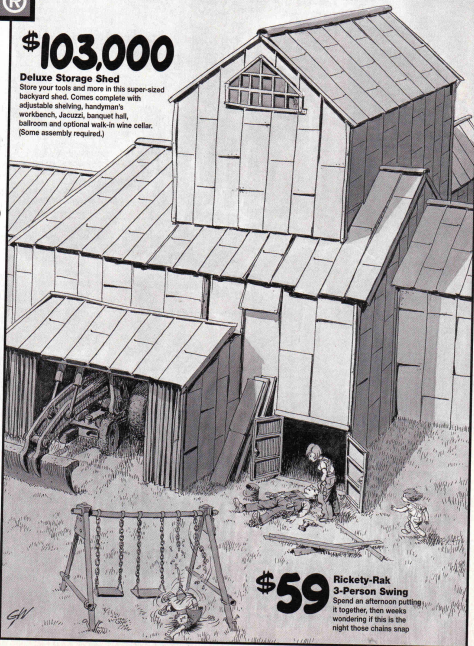
## The Ultimate EZ-Lock™

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

**\$103,000**

## Deluxe Storage Shed

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



**\$59**

## Rickety-Rak 3-Person Swing

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





**\$4**

**Work Area Signs**

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

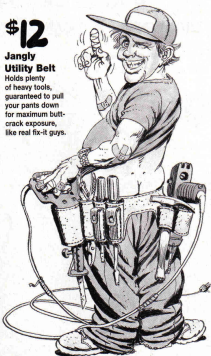
**WARNING!**  
WOMEN PASSING  
HERE MAY BE SUBJECT  
TO OBSCENE GESTURES,  
VULGAR LIP SMACKING  
AND RUDE COMMENTS  
ABOUT THE SIZE  
OF THEIR  
BUTTOCKS

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

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

**\$12**

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



**\$6/PAIR**

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



**\$47**

**Annoy-A-Lot Leaf Blower**

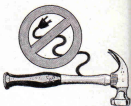
Notice it's called a "leaf blower" and not a "leaf remover" or a "leaf picker-upper." Three-speed option allows you to spray leaves, dirt and branches in 132 different directions. 486 decibel level guarantees you'll disturb everyone within a 30-mile radius. (Protective ear-wear sold separately.)



**\$17**

**Cordless Hammer**

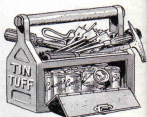
How many times have you wished you could hammer a nail without having that annoying cord get in the way? Well, here's your answer! From the makers of the cordless extension cord.



**\$9**

**Tin-Tuff Fake Toolbox**

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



**\$144**

**Pocket Lawnmower**

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

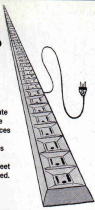


**WE ACCEPT**



**\$24****415-Outlet Strip**

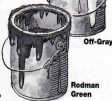
Maximize your electrical output! Now you can conveniently operate 415 of your favorite household appliances at a time, or one device that requires 45,650 volts. Approximately 17 feet long. UL Unapproved.

**\$5****Half-Filled Paint Cans**

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



Vague



Off-Gray

Redman Green

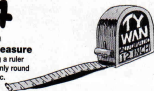
Spam



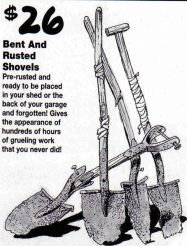
Ugly Yellowish

**\$14****12-Inch Tape Measure**

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

**\$26****Bent And Rusted Shovels**

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

**\$24****Downspout Stabilizing Gauge**

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

**\$19****Snag-A-Hose**

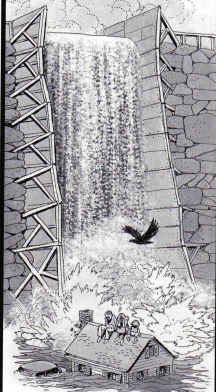
80 ft. of tangled-up frustration and fun for the whole family! Takes at least four hours and three people to straighten out or your money back! Automatically re-tangles after each use.



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

**Guaranteed!****Life-Size Waterfall Kit**

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

**\$20,500,000**



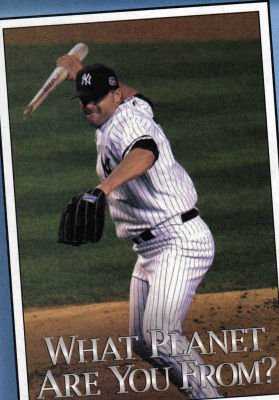
Hollywood released over 600 movies last year, several of them without Ben Stiller! No sane person could possibly see them all. Luckily, lots of things happened in real life (remember that?) during the past twelve months that reminded us of the titles of some of the movies we skipped. Why that's lucky,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

# 2000:

Meet the  
Parents



COYOTE  
UGLY



WHAT PLANET  
ARE YOU FROM?

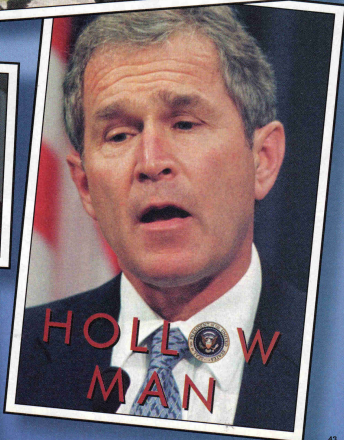
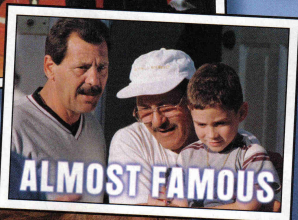
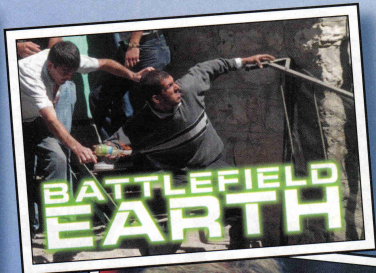
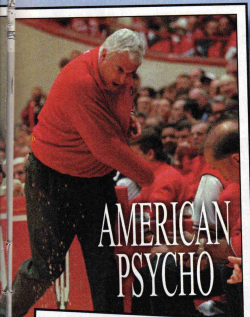


WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



# THE YEAR IN FILM



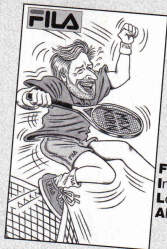
Anyone who's down with LL Cool J knows that his clothing line called **FUBU** is an acronym for "For Us, By Us." We here at MAD started poring over issues of *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *The Source* looking at other fashion names and discovered that LL isn't the only one on the acronym tip! So screw LL and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



# OTHER FASHION BRAND NAMES THAT ARE ACTUALLY ACRONYMS

ARTIST: RICK TULKA

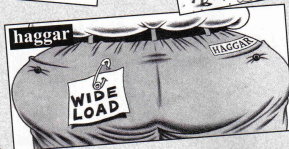
WRITER: MIKE SNIDER



**Foot Injury Looming Ahead**



**Grossly Unwarranted Chi-Chi Image**



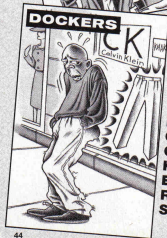
**Hiding Aging Guys' Guts And Rumps**



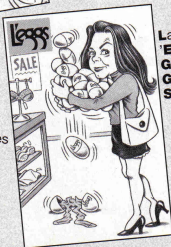
**Chemically Harsh Aroma Nobody's Ever Liked**



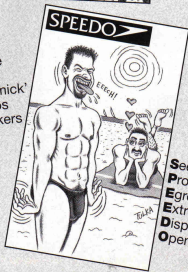
**Apparel Developed In Deplorable Asian Sweatshops**



**Duplicates Of Calvin Kleins Except Really Shoddy**



**Lame 'Egg Gimmick' Grabs Suckers**



**See Protruding Egregious Extremities Displayed Openly**



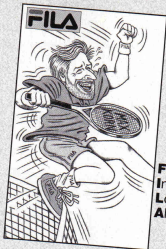
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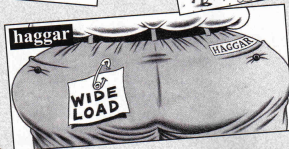
WRITER: MIKE SNIDER



Foot  
Injury  
Looming  
Ahead



Grossly  
Unwarranted  
Chi-  
Chi  
Image



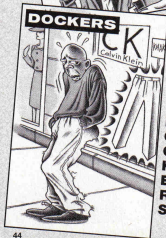
Hiding  
Aging  
Guys'  
Guts  
And  
Rumps



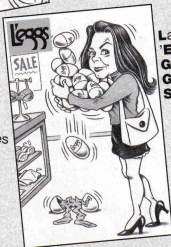
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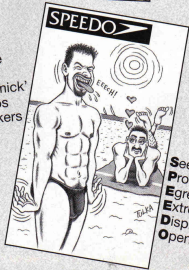
Apparel  
Developed  
In  
Deplorable  
Asian  
Sweatshops



Duplicates  
Of  
Calvin  
Kleins  
Except  
Really  
Shoddy



Lame  
'Egg  
Gimmick'  
Grabs  
Suckers



See  
Protruding  
Egregious  
Extremities  
Displayed  
Openly





# THE LIGHTER SIDE



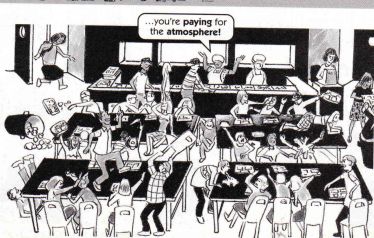
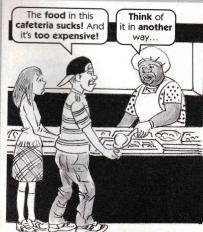
F...

## ELECTIONS

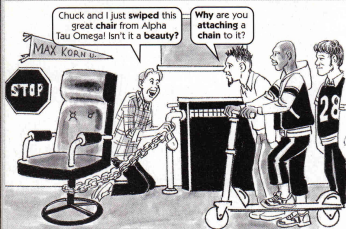
ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE BERG



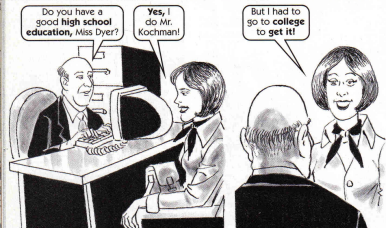
## LUNCH



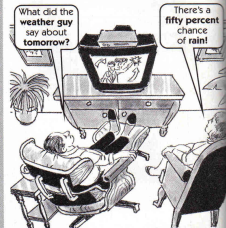
## OFF CAMPUS LIVING



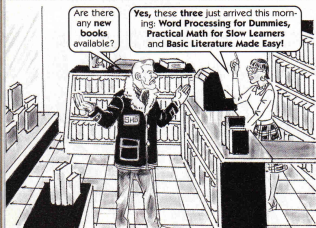
## INTERVIEWS



## PREDICTIONS



## READING

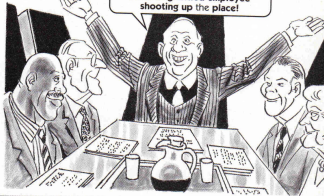


## RELATIVITY

Gentlemen, the **profit picture** for this year **doesn't look good!** The **merger** appears to be a **dead issue!** **Stock experts** are predicting a **steady decline!** But there is one piece of **good news!**

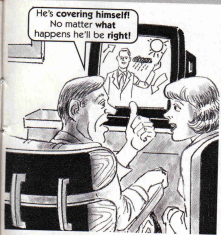


This is the longest period of time that our company has gone without some disgruntled employee shooting up the place!



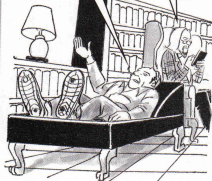
## THERAPY

He's covering himself! No matter what happens he'll be right!



Yes, Dr. Forman! When I was young my parents sent me to a child psychologist!

Was it helpful?



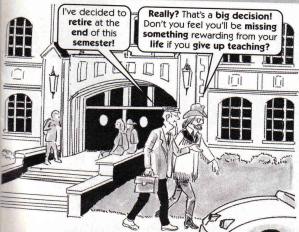
Nah! That kid didn't know a damn thing about psychology!



## TEACHERS

I've decided to retire at the end of this semester!

Really? That's a big decision! Don't you feel you'll be missing something rewarding from your life if you give up teaching?



Yes, all those wonderful summer vacations!

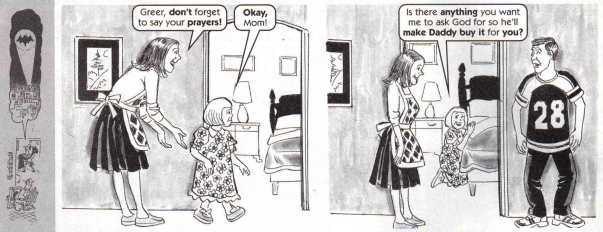




## THE OFFICE



## PRAYERS

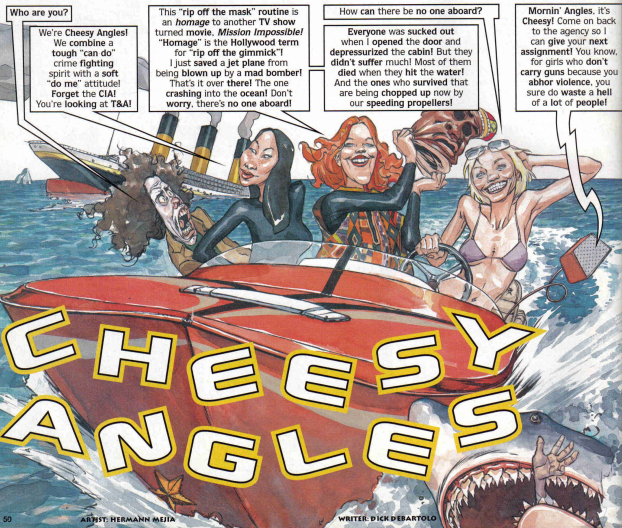
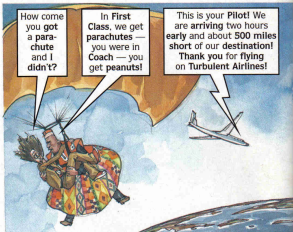


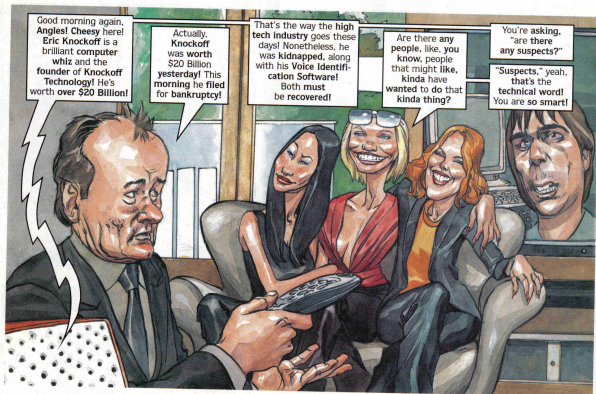
## DOCTORS





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







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

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

Do you like blowfish? You mean as in "Hootie"?

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

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

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

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

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



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

What fog? That's just his cigarette smoke!

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

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

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

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

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



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

Oh yeah? Where is he?

He's right behind one of those three doors!

You call narrowing down the search from anywhere in the world to three doors "helpful"? Kick the scumbag some more!

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

Everyone's voice has a unique signature!

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

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





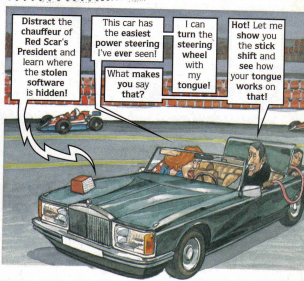
What danger?

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

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

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

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



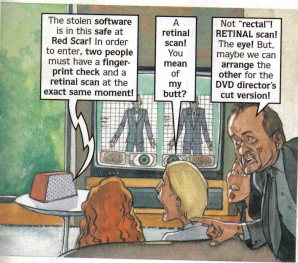
Distract the chauffeur of Red Scar's President and learn where the stolen software is hidden!

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

I can turn the steering wheel with my tongue!

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

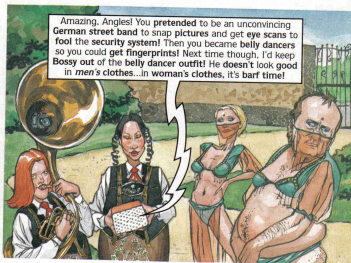
What makes you say that?



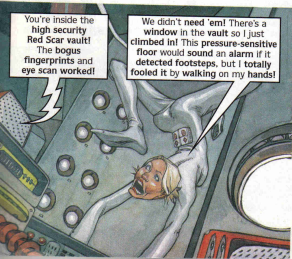
The stolen software is in this safe at Red Scar! In order to enter, two people must have a fingerprint check and a retinal scan at the exact same moment!

A retinal scan! You mean of my butt?

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



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



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

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

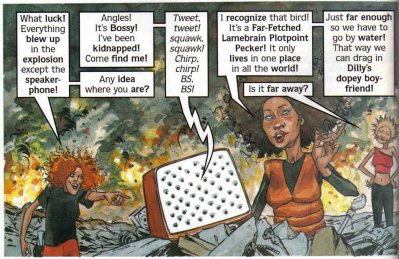
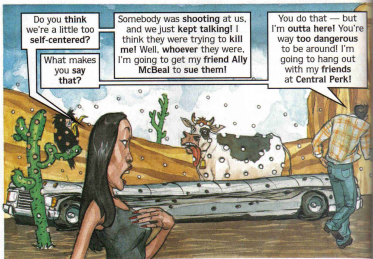
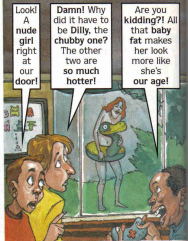
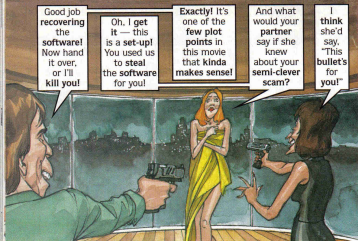


I'm glad you came over to see my photo collection!

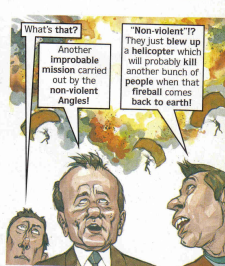
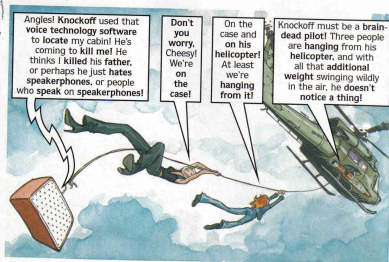
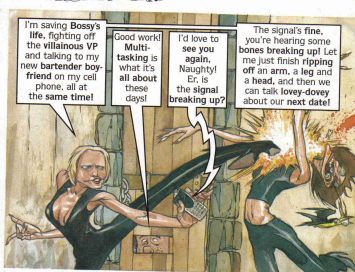
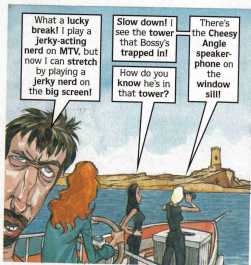
How come none of the people in your pictures have heads?

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

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







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

# HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

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



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



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