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Roger Clemens
Barry Bonds
& Other Cheaters!



UNITED STATES

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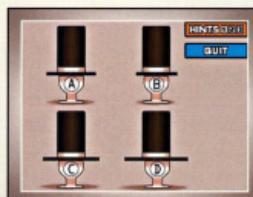
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These four top hats are all the same height, but the length of the brim is different. In other words, the hats are equally tall but vary in width.

One of these four hats has a brim and height that are the same length. Which hat is it?



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and the
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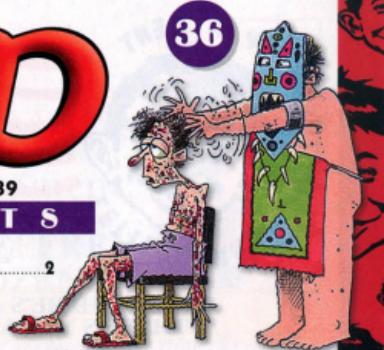
MAD

MAY 2008

NUMBER 489

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COVER ARTIST:
MARK FREDRICKSON

When it comes to the lack of cleanliness at public urinals, it's amazing what some guys will stand for!



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WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S NOT A WAY

I would like to tell you that for years I've been a faithful reader of MAD (I'm 56-years-old) and all that I've had to put up with over the years, because of your magazine. I have a subscription and I also have one for my youngest son Scott, who is 35. When I'm done with my MAD, I have to sneak it over to my oldest son Robert's house (who's 37) and give it to my grandson, Ryan. But when his mother Theresa finds your magazine, she calls me up and gives me hell because she doesn't want her son to read all of the so-called sick sections of MAD! Can you please explain to my daughter-in-law how cool it is to read MAD and not to get upset with his grandpa — otherwise there'll be nothing when I pass away!

Ralph Marston, Abington, MA

Ralph Ralph — Your letter left us with more questions than answers. The only thing that will be left when you pass away will be your MAD subscriptions? Perhaps that's what your daughter-in-law is really pissed about! That's not much of an inheritance, Ralph! Maybe stop forcing Sergio Aragones down their throats and buy them some sovng bonds! But all in all, we appreciate you corrupting three generations of your family — see ya in family court! —Ed.

BOOK, LINE AND SINKER

I am so angry at the library right now. You see, my subscription to MAD ended a few months ago, so lately I've been going to my public library to borrow MAD. But now they have a dumb rule that you can't take out the latest issue, so I was really hoping I could get my letter in MAD and get a free subscription. Please, please, please and finally please.

Chris Behen, Danvers, MA

Big Behen — Oh don't get us started on stupid library rules! Our local library has a bunch of them! You can't take out any reference books! You can't take your shirt off while making copies! You can't eat nachos while reading the encyclopedia! And, apparently, following the librarian home just to make sure she gets there safe, though technically not a library rule, is still strongly discouraged by local authorities! Sorry, you don't get a free subscription just for having your letter printed. But if you send us a photo of yourself and the head librarian holding an issue of MAD, we'll put it in the magazine and you'll get your free subscription! —Ed.

P.S. Below is a handy clip-and-save chart explaining exactly what you get for writing in to MAD.

HANDY CLIP-AND-SAVE CHART EXPLAINING EXACTLY WHAT YOU GET FOR WRITING IN TO MAD

CELEBRITY SNAP
WITH A CELEBRITY
HOLDING THE ISSUE
Three-year subscription!

CELEBRITY SNAP
WITH A CELEBRITY
NOT HOLDING
THE ISSUE
One-year subscription!

CELEBRITY SNAP
Three-year subscription
plus a magazine signed
by the staff (preferably
MAD, but we're open
to suggestions — sorry,
no porn or Everyday
With Rachael Ray —
for obvious reasons!)

ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH
or
ALFRED LOOK-A-LIKE
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or
MAD FAN OF THE MONTH
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WE PRINT
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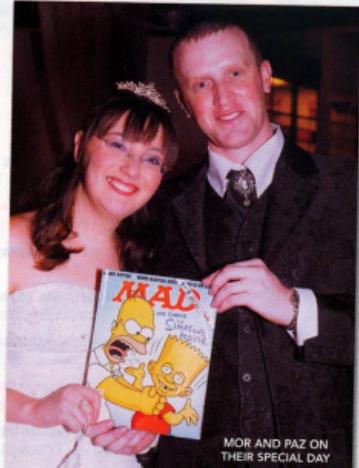


BETTER OFF WED

Bock in MAD #478, Mor Lurie wrote in to the MAKE A DUMB WISH FOUNDATION™ asking us to print a photo of her and her fiancé to present as a surprise wedding gift. Being suckers for romance (and cheap subscribers) we did print the photo, and then asked them to send us a photograph from their wedding day. Well, lo and behold, we opened up our e-mail and up popped the following:

As promised, here is our wedding picture with the guest of honor, MAD Magazine. As you can see, a good make-up artist and a smart photographer can make even freaky MAD-fans like us look normal (hee hee).

Mor and Paz Weinberger, Aviv, Israel



MOR AND PAZ ON
THEIR SPECIAL DAY

READER ALERT I

Whether you're a fan of Spy Vs. Spy, a fan of museums or a fan of museums that feature Spy Vs. Spy, be sure to check out the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.! The museum has exclusive Spy Vs. Spy apparel for sale in the gift shop as well as online! Check it out at [www.spymuseum.org!](http://www.spymuseum.org)



An important message from MAD's Director of Business & Development,

JEFFREY LOZENGE



Spring. The time of year when bees are busy pollinating the flowers, making honey and fluttering about their hives. The good hives — not the kind you get when you eat the wrong raspberries, and you break out in a painful rash and get all itchy and have to put that white ointment on your skin — you know, the stuff that sticks to the sheets. Boy, that's uncomfortable.

Which brings me to MAD. Yes, MAD — the magazine whose time is and was and continues to be — doesn't stick to skin, sheets or anything else. Which isn't to say it's not sticky. It's stuck around a long time.

And yet MAD is no ointment or cream, nor does it come in a tube. MAD is like the good hive of the fluttering bees, and requires no topical treatment whatsoever. It's a warm, safe cocoon in this world of hideous skin eruptions.

So be like me. Be a bee.

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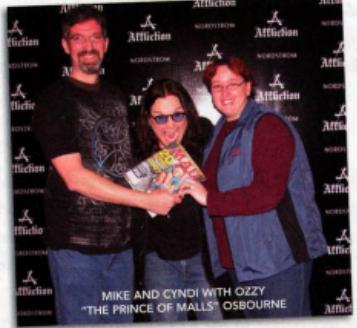


MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

So the other night at Nordstrom at Tysons Corner Center, we had a chance to meet the Prince of Darkness (Ozzy Osbourne) himself! Just like bats, he decided to take a bite out of MAD. While he likes the taste, we like the content.

Mike and Cyndi Parker, Reston, VA

Meet the Parkers — Is it really accurate to still call Ozzy the "Prince of Darkness"? I mean, really, the guy is hanging out at a mall in suburban Virginia? Was he summoning the Dark Lord while waiting in line of Cinnabon? Maybe he was consulting with Mephistopheles while trying on performance fleeces of Old Navy? Or maybe he felt his spirit while enjoying the massage chair at Brookstone? Thanks for the snap anyway, you can look forward to receiving your one-year subscription to MAD! —Ed.



FATS ALL, FOLKS!

I have been reading MAD magazine since I was a kid. It was only a couple of years ago when I finally decided to subscribe to home delivery, but your February issue (#486) has made me reconsider my subscription. I was appalled by John Caldwell's piece entitled "When the Morbidly Obese Go Bad" (labeled "When Fatties Go Bad" on your cover). It was not only extraordinarily offensive, but put down an entire 30% of the population of the United States. Come on, guys. I appreciate a good fat joke once in awhile, but printing an entire two pages of aggressively abhorrent (and rather dumb) fat jokes is not okay. Stick to what you're good at, MAD...making fun of popular culture, celebrities, politics and people's names. Now that I've had my say, I'm going to do what I've never done before...throw away one of my issues of MAD.

Andi Person, Gaithersburg, MD

Randi Andi — It was never our intention to offend 30% of America. We apologize and promise in the future to try harder to offend a much larger percentage! Remember, the obese may only make up 30% of the population, but they take up at least 60% of the land! —Ed.



HEART OF CLASS

I am a relatively recent subscriber to MAD and I couldn't contain my enthusiasm any longer (or that this is an assignment I need published for an English class). I'm a freshman in high school, weigh 85 pounds and am short with a handsome face, in an Alfred E. Neuman sort of way. Since reading your magazine I have become um... well... only the most popular guy in school (and no, I'm not home schooled!) The reason for this sudden popularity is that I study, memorize and stay up late hours reading MAD cover to cover in the privacy of my own home. This may go on days, weeks or even months. Then when everyone is least expecting it, I take your sophisticated jokes and your absurd sense of humor and portray them as my own (I already have the look). All of a sudden I am getting all sorts of looks from girls (I won't say what kind of looks). Even the upper classmen have become my buddies affectionately tossing me through the air to the nearest dumpster. I have never had this much attention! I am desperately watching the mail box for my new MAD material and my report card with an A in English. I hope there won't be a glitch in getting me published. What, me worry? Derek Parks, Wichita, KS

Parks! Who Goes There? — There's good news and bad news. The good news is that your letter is being published, so you'll get that A in English. The bad news is, now that you've outed yourself and admitted that you have all the cleverness of a bag of hammers, look to spend additional time in the dumpster as even more students turn on you! —Ed.

TO TEACH HIS OWN

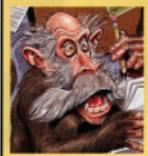
I've been reading MAD since I was a kid and still subscribe. Not only does every issue continue to be just as good as the one before it, MAD helps us older guys be smarter dads. My friend George told his 14-year-old daughter she could get a tattoo only if, in 40 years from now, it looks like a MAD Fold-in because she's going to have the additional flab to deal with. Also, I teach magazine production at the International Academy of Design & Technology and always use MAD as an example of a publication that honestly and truly understands its readers and never disappoints. Here's a photo of my class cramming for a final. Bad news is, the Academy just announced it's closing down its Toronto campus so next term will be our last. We're all sad but something just occurred to me. Do you think there might be a link between the school closing and the fact that we use MAD instead of textbooks?

Peter Carter, Ontario, Canada

Welcome Back Carter — Using MADs instead of textbooks? Yeah, that's definitely part of the problem. Or it could just be the lousy teaching at the Institute! Good luck with unemployment! —Ed.



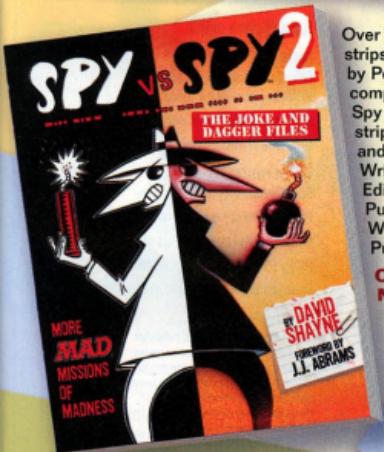
PETER'S CLASS



CORRECTION!

Due to gross incompetence, Dick "Stompy Ding Dong" DeBartolo's credit was omitted from the Friends of Monkey-Lini listing in last month's Monkey issue. As a result, editors T. Worthington Snoots, Goopy III and Baron von Whoopsie have all been severely reprimanded and had their tire swing privileges revoked indefinitely!

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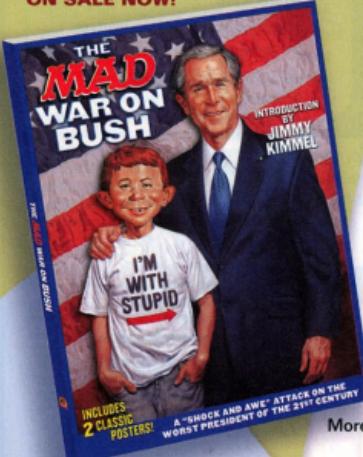
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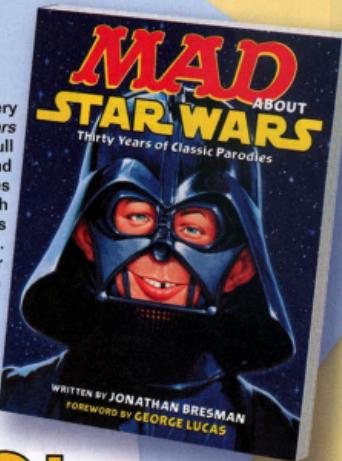
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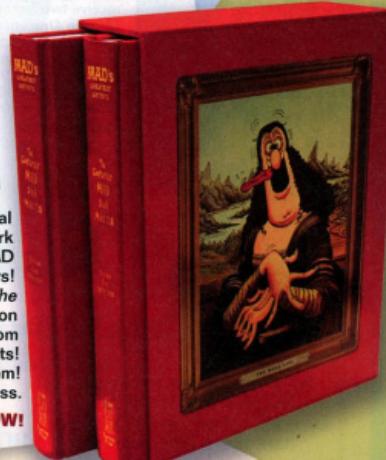
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ON SALE NOW!



WRITTEN BY JONATHAN BRESMAN
FOREWORD BY GEORGE LUCAS

MAD's GREATEST ARTISTS





THE BIG EASEL

I was reading all of my past MADs when a completely random idea popped into my mind. Why not make a giant Alfred E. Neuman out of poker chips? I even went into the trouble of adding 'What, Me Worry' in playing cards!

Nick Acquadro, Ridgefield, CT

Acquaman — Thanks for sending us your entry for The Big Easel. We're printing it, but we're going out on a limb here and guess that you're the type of guy who plays an awful lot of solitaire — catch our drift, Maverick? — Ed.



MAD BLURBS

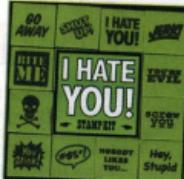
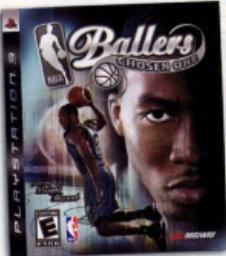
In a recent issue of Entertainment Weekly, director Mike Nichols revealed this little gem about MAD and his film *The Graduate*.

"My unconscious was making this movie," he says. "It took me years before I got what I had been doing all along — that I had been turning Benjamin into a Jew. I didn't get it until I saw this hilarious issue of MAD magazine after the movie came out, in which the caricature of Dustin says to the caricature of Elizabeth Wilson, 'Morn, how come I'm Jewish and you and Dad aren't?' And I asked myself the same question, and the answer was fairly embarrassing and fairly obvious."



READER ALERT II

For those of you who were lucky enough to have their letters printed in this month's Letters Page, you will receive two fantastic prizes! First up, the NBA Ballers: Chosen One videogame for your PS3s courtesy of our friends at Midway — the game is on April 21. For more information go to www.nbaballers.com. Next up is the "I Hate You" Stamp Kit courtesy of our friends at Chronicle Books. For those who didn't make it in, don't worry — you can get the stuff in stores!



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WE DIG UP SOME STUFF ON
INDIANA JONES!
AND OUR SATIRE OF DEXTER
(FOR REAL THIS TIME!)

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OUR EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
IRON MAN'S
ROBERT DOWNEY, JR.!

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the usual gang of idiots

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HOW TO TELL A TERRORIST FROM A REGULAR SCHMOE



If he's got a huge beard and gushes about bin Laden's bravery...HE'S A TERRORIST.
If he's got a huge beard and gushes about Phish's profundity...HE'S A REGULAR SCHMOE.

If he thinks Jose Padilla was an intrepid soldier in a just war...HE'S A TERRORIST.
If he thinks Jose Padilla is a shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates...HE'S A REGULAR SCHMOE.

If he dreams of driving all Americans out of the Mideast...
HE'S A TERRORIST.

If he dreams of driving all Mexicans out of the Midwest...
HE'S A REGULAR SCHMOE.

If he fears his scheme will be outed by the Patriot Act...HE'S A TERRORIST.

If he fears his team will be routed by the Patriots...HE'S A REGULAR SCHMOE.

If he uses the internet to find dirty bomb materials...HE'S A TERRORIST.

If he uses the internet to find dirty material...HE'S A REGULAR SCHMOE.



BITTERMAN



PITCHES MADE IN HOLLYWOOD NOW THAT THE WRITERS' STRIKE IS OVER

TV special:
Raccoon autopsy —
performed live!

Sweeping Civil War
miniseries. Working title:
They Saved Lincoln's Brain.

Movie: A genie grants the
wish of a 90-year-old who
wishes he were 85 again.

Inspirational movie about a painter
who creates beautiful pictures
with his teeth, even though there's
nothing wrong with his hands.

XXX-rated remake of
The Elephant Man. Catchy
title: *The Elephanitis Man*.
Possibly in daymat.

PHONE

THEY SAVED
LINCOLN'S
BRAIN



SUNDAY, APRIL 20 9 PM
H THE HISTORY CHANNEL

Nick, you think I don't know what hormone-driven teenagers do in their rooms? You're both at an age where you're testing your boundaries and hoping some adult will slip up and give you 'permission' to go wild. I'm disappointed in you!



FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Peter Bagge Tom Bunk Desmond Devlin Garth Gerhart Jeff Kruse
Jacob Lambert Glen LeLievre Hermann Mejia Kevin Pope



OBSERVATION DRECK DEPT.

WHAT THE HECK IS THE DIFFERENCE?
Can you find the 9 idiomatic

Can you find the 9 idiotic changes we've made to this magazine cover?

SPECIAL "ECONOMIC RECOVERY" ISSUE

No. 326
March/
April
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MAD

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Price
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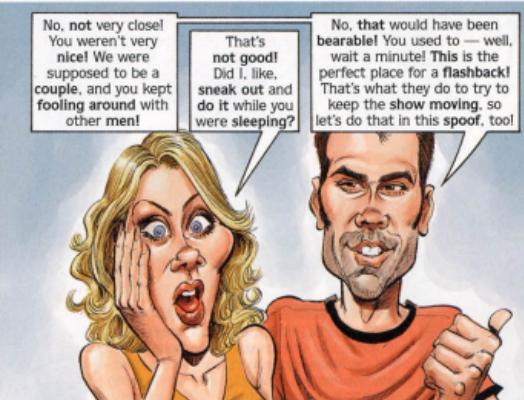
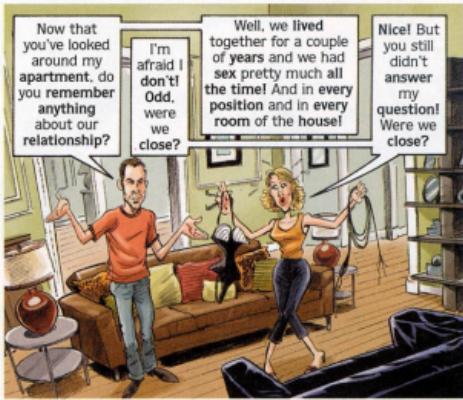
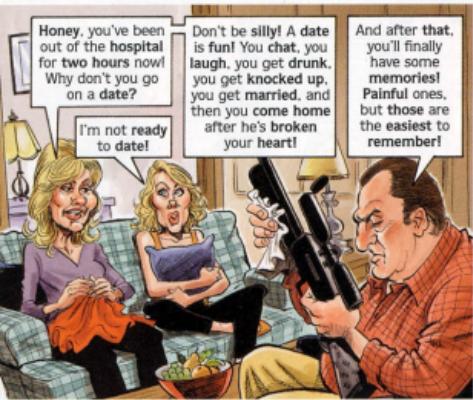
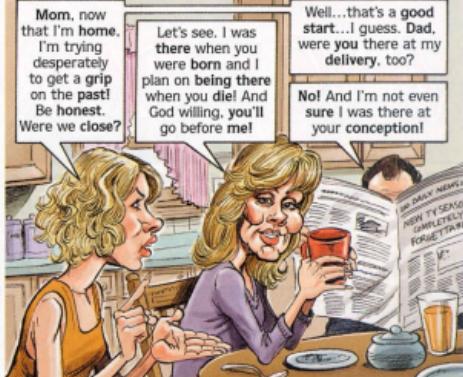
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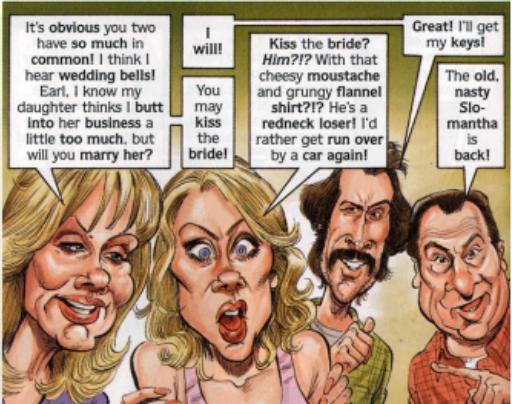
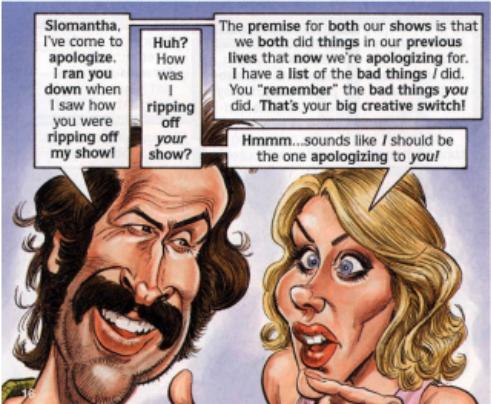
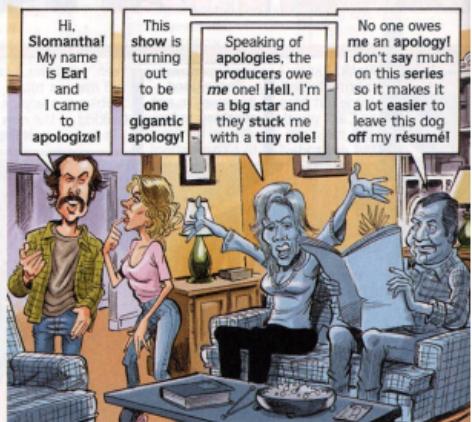
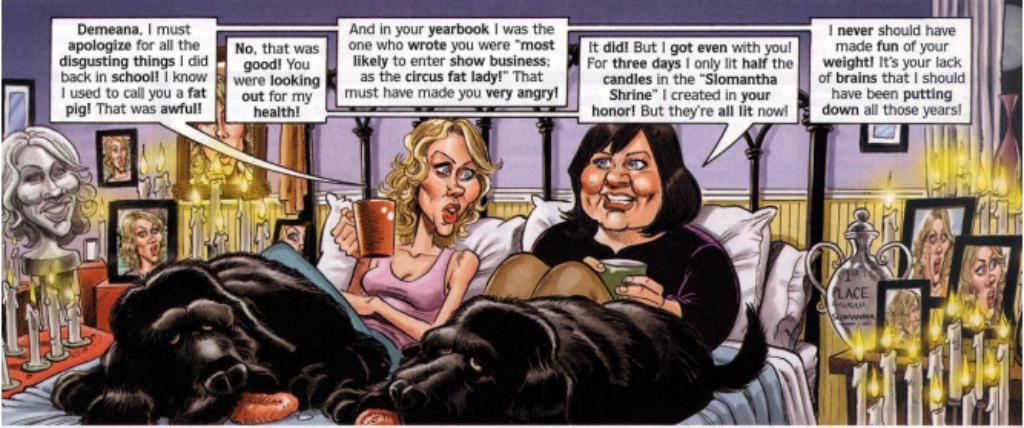


DISPLAY UNTIL APRIL 1

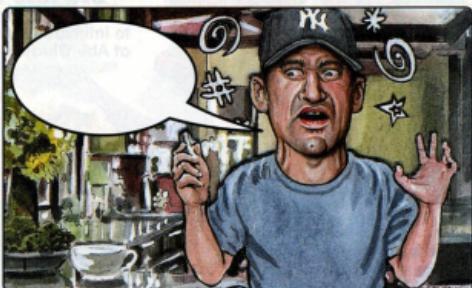
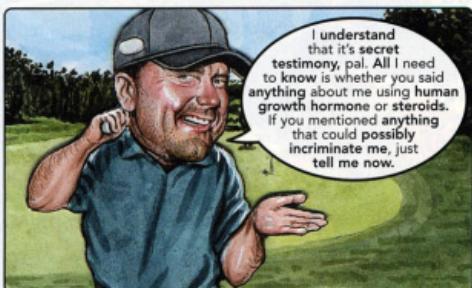
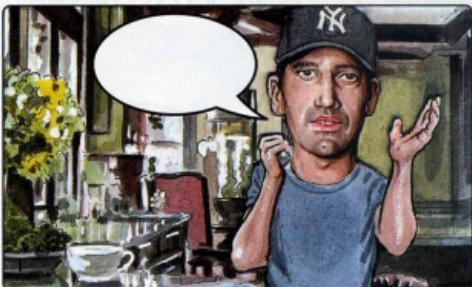
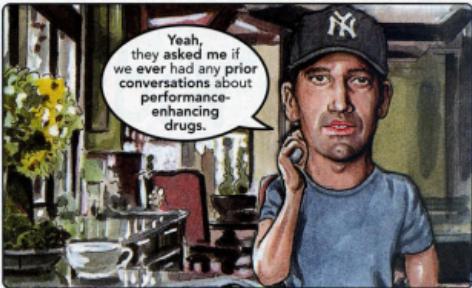
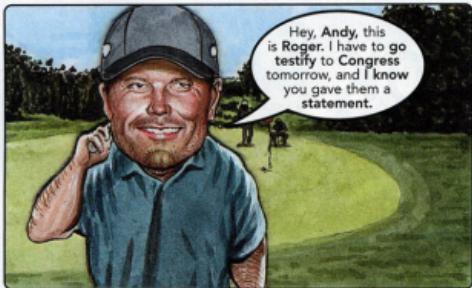
ANSWERS: 1) The lesser number has changed 2) On the left "A" is now the hole has been filled in. 3) In the upper right.







An AT&T Commercial We'd Like To See

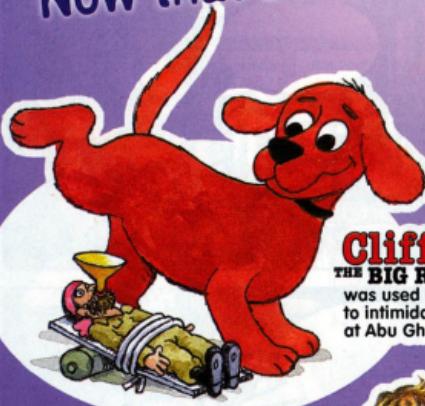


Author J.K. Rowling shocked fans of Harry Potter recently when she blurted out that beloved Hogwarts Headmaster Albus Dumbledore... how should we put this delicately...enjoys gazing into crystal balls...and other kinds as well. But Rowling's announcement had an unintended consequence. Authors of other children's books seized on the opportunity to come clean with some hitherto unknown information about their protagonists.

Prepare to be shocked as you read...

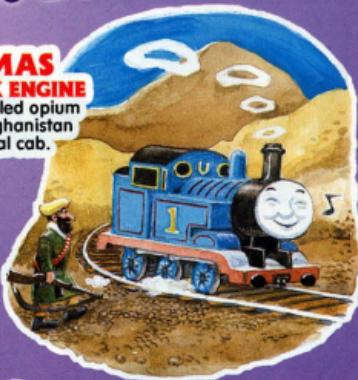
Other Kids Book Secrets Revealed

Now that Dumbledore has Been Outed

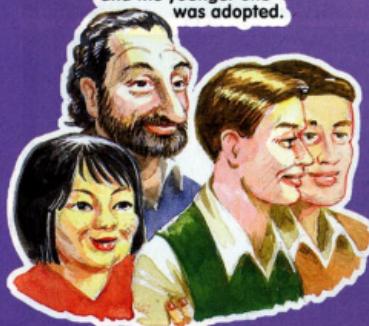


Clifford
THE BIG RED DOG
was used by the Army
to intimidate prisoners
at Abu Ghraib.

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
once smuggled opium
through Afghanistan
in his coal cab.



The older
HARDY BOY
was born out of wedlock,
and the younger one
was adopted.



HEATHER'S
TWO MOMMIES
aren't lesbian. They live
together to share
expenses because the
cost of living is too high.

Encyclopedia
Brown planted
evidence
in many of the cases
he "solved."

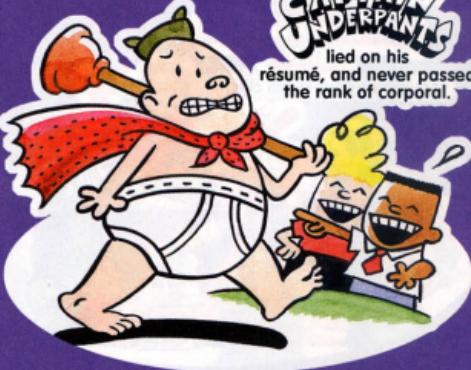


WALDO

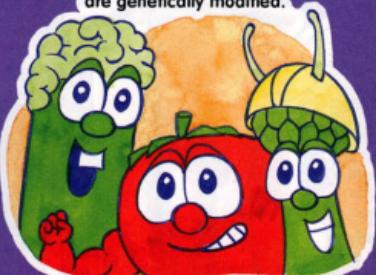
is currently holed up in a Montana militia compound.



CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS
lied on his résumé, and never passed the rank of corporal.



Since space is a vacuum,
there is no way the
MOON
can hear a child say
GOODNIGHT.

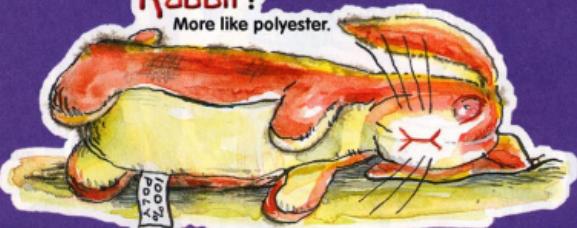


Many of the
characters in
VeggieTales
are genetically modified.

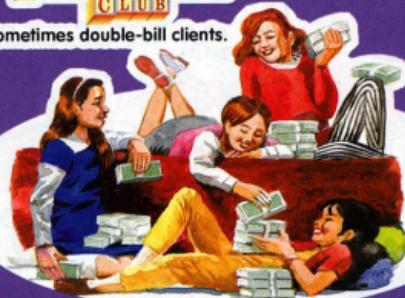
WILLY WONKA
was sued in a
class-action child obesity case.

**The Velveteen
Rabbit?**

More like polyester.



The members
of the
**THE
BABY-SITTERS
CLUB**
sometimes double-bill clients.



God never did get
back to **Margaret**
because He was
engrossed in
a football game.



The Little Prince

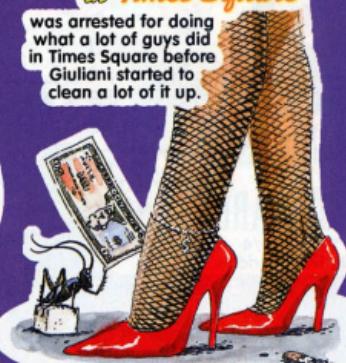
originally
took power
in a bloody
palace coup.



The Berenstain Bears
parents stopped loving
each other years ago,
and are only staying
together for the cubs.

**The Cricket
in Times Square**

was arrested for doing
what a lot of guys did
in Times Square before
Giuliani started to
clean a lot of it up.

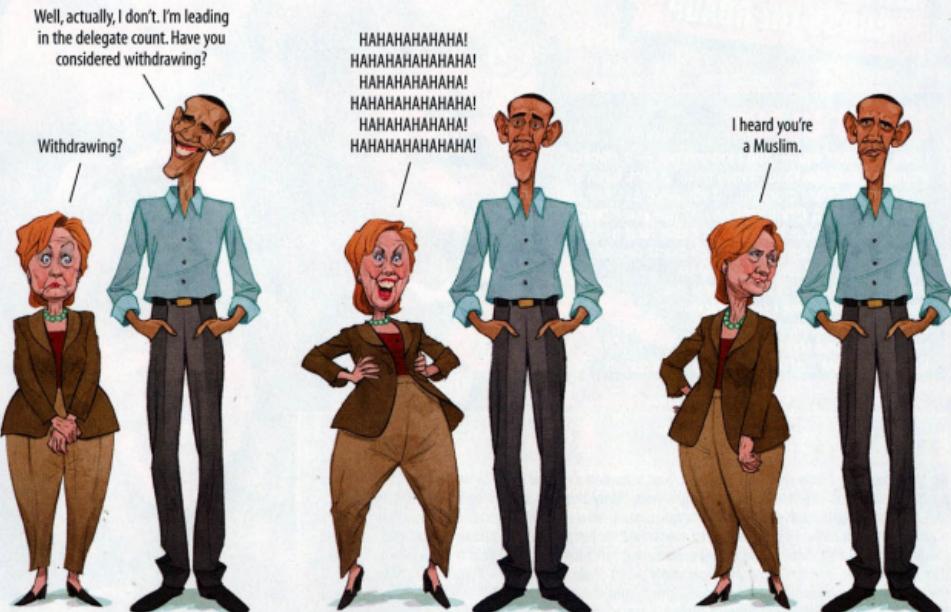
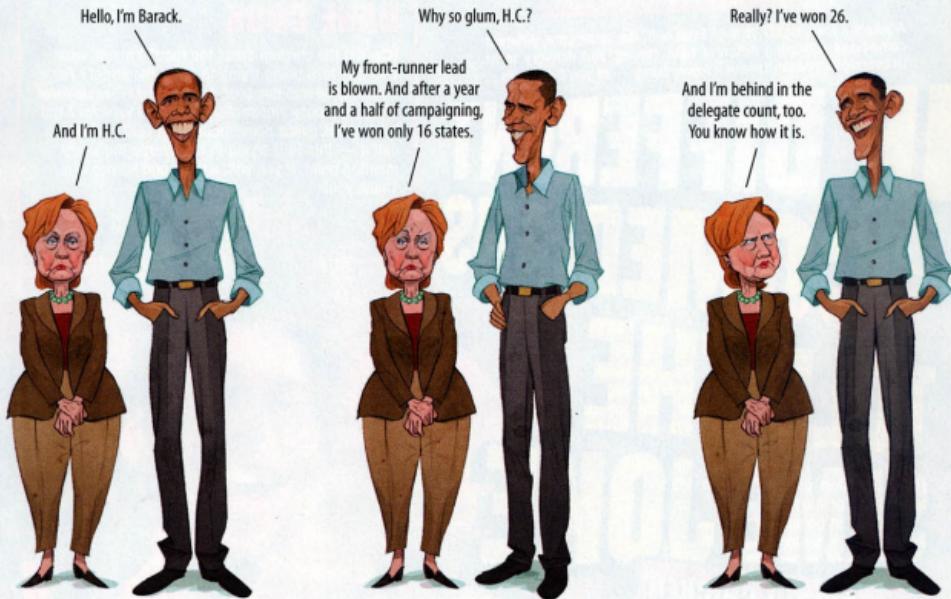


**The Very
Hungry
Caterpillar**
eventually was
cured after a
gastric bypass.



Let's just say
that, unlike
Dumbledore,
the **Lion**
isn't ready to
come out of the
Wardrobe
quite yet.

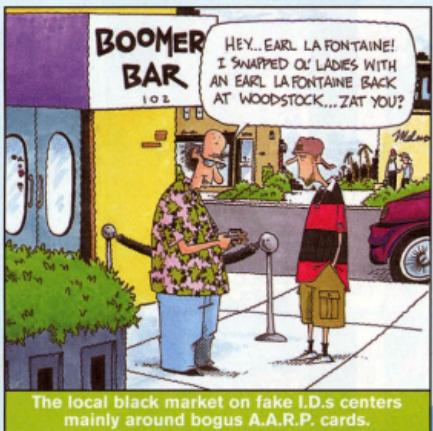






MISTAKE A VACATION DEPT.

Spring Break is a time to cut loose, get wild and have the time of your life. Unfortunately, every Spring Break also includes some bad decisions. But what if the first bad decision you make is in picking your vacation spot? Oh no, Chester, you're in for worse than just a sunburn if you notice...

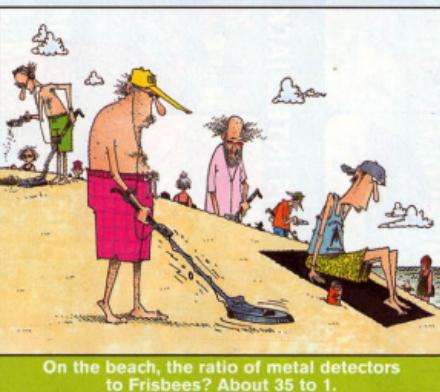


The local black market on fake I.D.s centers mainly around bogus A.A.R.P. cards.

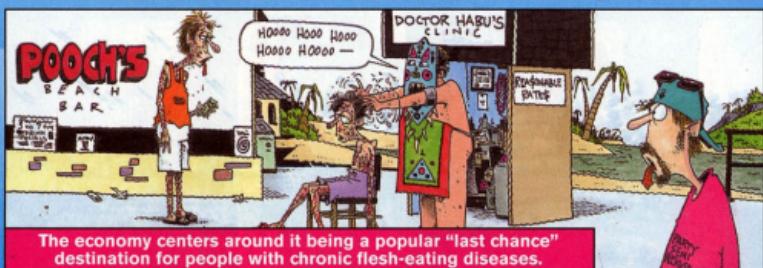


By a show of hands, you discover you're the only one in the bar not violating his parole.

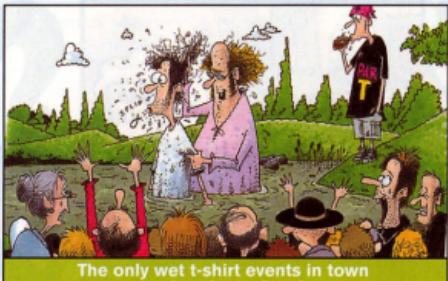
JOHN CALDWELL'S Signs you've chosen the Wrong Spring Break destination



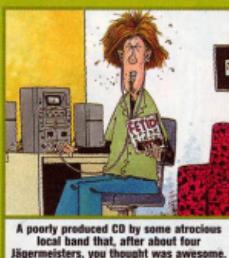
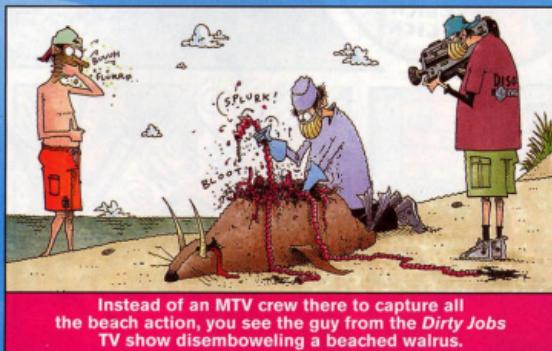
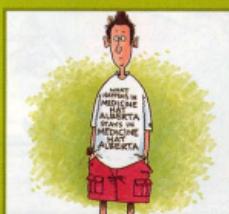
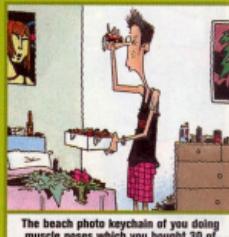
On the beach, the ratio of metal detectors to Frisbees? About 35 to 1.



The economy centers around it being a popular "last chance" destination for people with chronic flesh-eating diseases.



The Dumbest, Lamest, Most Idiotic Spring Break Mementos Ever!

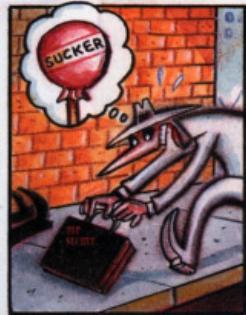




SPY



SPY



KUPER



ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPT.

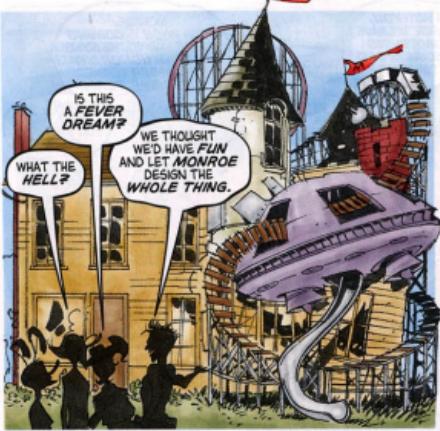
Get ready for
a complete
teardown, it's...

MONROE

and...

Extreme Makeover







Ignoring the primary voter doesn't sound very democratic. If you get the most votes, you should win.

In Presidential elections,
the candidate with
the most votes loses.
Ask Al Gore.



THE POTTY STARTS HERE!



Shinchan

SEASON
ONE

PART 1



OWN THE DVD MAY 13TH

As seen on **ADULT SWIM™**

tv asahi FUNIMATION
ENTERTAINMENT

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shinchanshow.com funimation.com

WHERE DOES
EVERYONE AGREE
THE LEVEL OF
PATIENT CARE IS
DEPLORABLE?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

Across the world there are people in desperate need of help. You see it on television all the time — distraught, downtrodden individuals reaching out, begging for assistance and only receiving shoddy, woefully inadequate care. But there is one place in particular where serious problems are unaddressed and mismanaged. To find out where it is, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

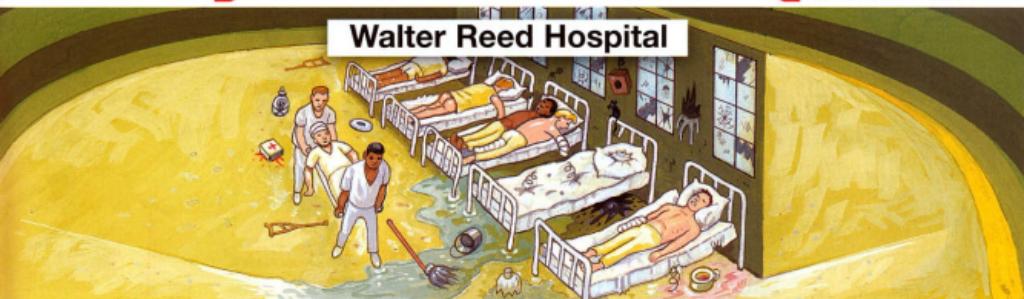
A

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

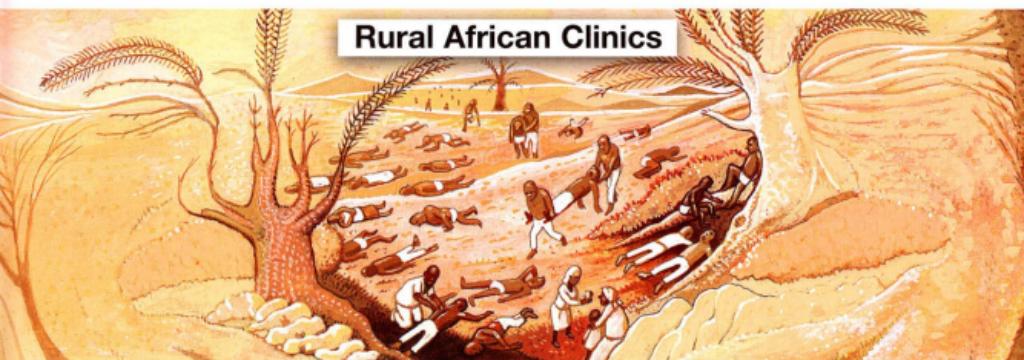
B

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

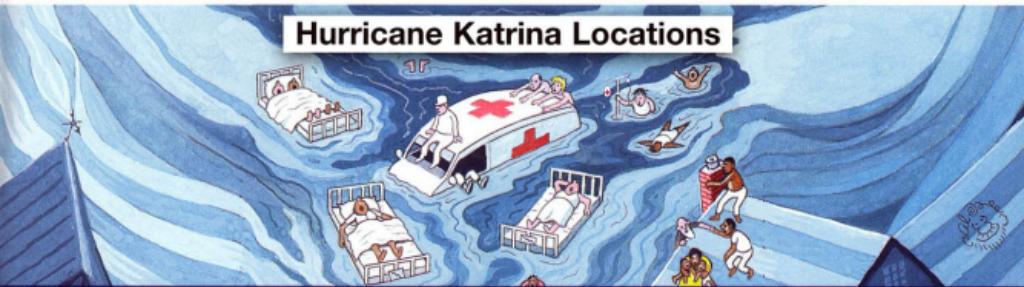
Walter Reed Hospital



Rural African Clinics



Hurricane Katrina Locations



ONE THING PATIENTS CAN COUNT ON IS THE DOCUMENTED RECORD OF LOUSY CARE. EVERY SECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICE IS AFFECTED. EVEN PHILANTHROPISTS' MONEY CAN'T HELP. EVERYBODY'S SURVIVAL IS AT RISK. THIS MUST CHANGE SOMEHOW

A

B

WHERE DOES
EVERYONE AGREE
THE LEVEL OF
PATIENT CARE IS
DEPLORABLE?

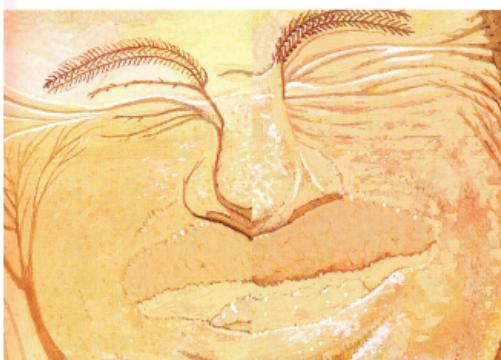


FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A

B

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



ON
DOCTOR

PHIL'S
SHOW

A

B

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WILL BE CROSSED BY ONE.

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rating information.

TECMO

Microsoft

Team NINJA

XBOX 360® LIVE

Jump in.

IF DIFFERENT COMEDIANS TOLD THE SAME JOKE

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

LEWIS BLACK

I saw the other day — and I lied you not — a chicken trying to cross the road. He was, in fact, been a great time for road crossing. If you were a ^{little} chicken, but a chicken? A ^{tiny} chicken? Are you ^{tiny} kidding me? What is this chicken doing near a road? How did this happen? When did chickens decide to travel by road? Shouldn't they be travelling — oh, I don't know... near the days? The next time I see a chicken trying to cross the road, I'm going to take a spear and shove it in my eye! Because at least that would actually make sense!

ELLEN DEGENERES

So the other day I saw this chick, just standing in the middle of nowhere. Which was a little weird. And the first thing I thought was, "Why is there a chick?" Because here's this chick, but it could have been a turkey or a chick or a Canada goose or something, but it's a chick and it looks like it's about to cross. And as I'm thinking, "What's this, this bird is standing right next to a road and it's probably going to cross" — and in it a car! — whatever it is, it's here. And I'm thinking, "I'm going to honk my horn and get it to move." When old people do that, it's called "hitting the horn." That's what I did. And the chick just stood there, not only in my little neighbor's birthday party not going well, but he probably wasn't paying the deposit down on that getting my wife to fly her. Heh.

DANE COOK

Why did the chicken cross the road? I mean, what was this fowl doing trying to cross the street? For what reason was this soon-to-be-in-a-WC-value-car crossing a busy intersection filled with vehicles? You have *galus gallus domesticus* — or 660, as I like to call it — this 660 trying to transverse the street meeting point, if you will, and no one knows why. Thank you!

JAY LENO

Hey, this is a good one. I don't know if you guys heard, but the other day a chicken was spotted crossing the road. The cop, after capturing the stray chicken, said that the chicken was set loose in an act of fowl play. Thank you, thank you, but the real trouble began when the chicken couldn't sit still, because his nest egg had already been Aquabanded. Kevin knows what I'm talking about!!

WINTER 1993/94 63/64

ARMST. DACHWIELE

LARRY THE CABLE GUY

to escape one day and I catch him trying to get a ride from some strangers. Fortunately, I had just eaten chicken fingers the other day so he didn't have nothing to hitchhike with! (and I apologize for that - that's not right...but I told is always trying to cross the road, so I just opened a KFC across the street - scared him right back into the coast! GUT-THERE!

BILL MAHER

ONE WATCH
We will, from now on, if shirkers want to cross the road, at least make it challenging. My brave feathered friends, I dare you to try to cross a road in Iraq. If you can find a way to get around all of the civilian casualties, destroyed infrastructure, and dead American soldiers, then the Republicans may just have a job for you.

CARLOS MENCIA

There was this beater chicken, *Isa*, who was always trying to cross the road. Course, if this chicken was a full Mexican, *Isa* have the crossed the road in *soar* filled with 30 other Mexican chickens! But this beater chicken couldn't cross the road because this farmer, *one*, he put a huge of fence blocking his way. What a *DEE-eee-dee* I mean, everyone knows that climbing a big fence is easy for Mexicans — even the chickens!

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PRODUCTIONS IN COOPERATION WITH THE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

A NEW FILM BY BUD SELIG

BAD NEWS

Bare-Asses

"I loved it, no ifs, ands or butts!"

—George Mitchell

"I told you so!"

—Jose Canseco's Ghostwriter

"My attorney has advised me to remain silent."

—Rafael Palmeiro

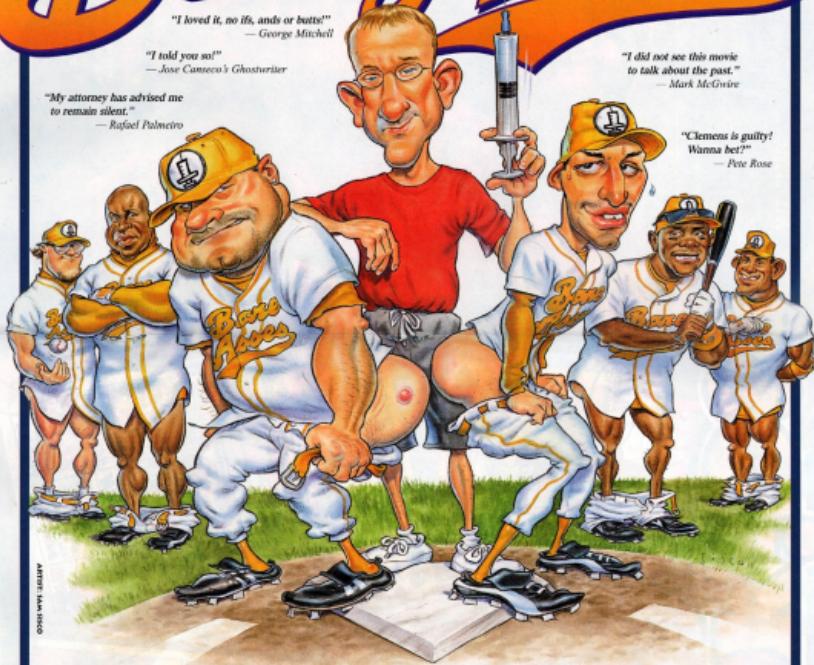
"I did not see this movie to talk about the past."

—Mark McGwire

"Clemens is guilty!

Wanna bet?"

—Pete Rose



CHARLES FULTON

Baseball has rules. Not that these a-holes care.

**ROGER CLEMENS ANDY PETTITTE
BRIAN McNAMEE**

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PRODUCTIONS IN COOPERATION WITH THE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS A BUD SELIG FILM

ROGER CLEMENS ANDY PETTITTE BRIAN McNAMEE "BAD NEWS BARE-ASSES"

ERIC GAGNE SAMMY SOSA MIGUEL TEJADA AS "THE TAINTED MVP" AND BARRY BONDS AS "THE INCREDIBLE HULK"

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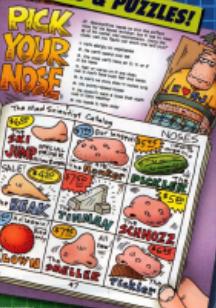
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Planet TAD!!!!



[About Me]
 [Name]Tad
 [Age in Binary]11101
 [Favorite band made of animals]Arctic Monkeys

[4 April] 03:21pm

[mood] annoyed

After English class today, Miss Engel asked me to stay behind. She's in charge of the school play, and she said she thought I'd be perfect for it. I told her I wasn't really interested, and then she told me that only three boys have signed up for the play this year, and she needs at least four more. And then she pointed out that my grades this quarter have been pretty lousy, because I kind of skipped reading *The Scarlet Letter* and then tried to make up for it by watching the movie, but I accidentally rented *The Scarlet Pimpernel* instead, and there's a big difference between the two.



And then she said how much she'd hate to see me have to do summer school, and that my being in the play might make her feel like "accidentally" increasing my grade a little.

So I said yes.

I think I got blackmail'd by a teacher. I didn't even know they were allowed to do that.

[8 April] 06:17pm

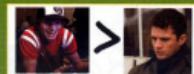
[mood] anxious

So, today, I had my audition for the play. It's called *Our Town*, and we all did a scene as the main character, **George**. The play's about how George falls in love with a girl named **Emily**, and she dies. Spoiler alert. Sorry.

To get a small part, I tried to act as bad as I could, so I pretended I was **Wash Katcher**. But three of the other guys also didn't want to be there, so they did even worse. Ben Irvin pretended he didn't understand how scripts work, so he kept reading his character name at the beginning of his lines, saying things like "George hello" and "George thank you." Mike Fine pretended he had a stutter for his whole audition. And Noah Simon whispered all his lines, which drove Miss Engel nuts.

The cast list goes up tomorrow. I really want to just be, like, "Townsperson Number Two," but really, just so long as I'm not George, I'll be happy.

[9 April] 03:03pm

Well, the list is up, and I'm **George**.Crap. I knew I should've acted like **Ryan Phillippe**.

Meanwhile, one of the three guys who actually wanted to be in the play was so angry that I got the part that he quit. Miss Engel said that was OK — she'll just recast his part with a girl, so the townsperson named **Sam** is now called **Samantha**.

[11 April] 04:27pm

[mood] scared

Today, Jay Shepard, who's a huge senior and the captain of the lacrosse team, bumped into me in the hallway, twice. I couldn't figure it out, then I remembered that Jay's girlfriend, Abigail Wallace, is playing **Emily**. Who I kiss during the play.

So I guess Jay is jealous. The funny part is, I don't even like Abigail. She always smells like onions, and she's got a lazy eye. When you talk to her, it's like she's looking at someone who's behind her and a little to the left of you. It's creepy.



[14 April] 04:12pm

[mood] scareder

Today we had the first read-through of the play. Jay Shepard sat in the audience staring at me the whole time and swinging his lacrosse stick, which kind of made it hard to concentrate on the lines. It was really weird. It can't be the first time we're supposed to kiss, but I guess Abigail didn't want to kiss me, either, because instead of doing it, she just said, "Mwah."

Meanwhile, Mike Fine slipped on the ice and broke his collarbone. Miss Engel gave his part to another one of the girls, so the character of Joe is now **Josephine**.

[17 April] 08:55pm

The good news is, I figured out that if you just focus on Abigail's right eye, it's almost as if she's looking right at you.

The bad news is, Noah Simon and Fred Carter are both out of the play — Noah's family moved, and Fred got suspended for cheating. But Miss Engel says it's OK. She promoted two more girls, and the parts of Simon and Howie are now **Simone** and **Holly**.

[21 April] 05:39pm

[mood] nervous

OK, we're four days away from opening, and the play's getting a little weird now. Ben Irvin, who played George's father, can't be in it because he has to go to his Grandma's funeral. And Eddie Lee, who played Emily's father, fell off the stage and broke his leg. So Miss Engel decided that both George and Emily's fathers are now dead, and assigned all their lines to their mothers. The girls who played their mothers tried to complain, but Miss Engel looked really frantic, so they kept their mouths shut. I'm the last boy left in the play. Miss Engel told me to be very, very careful for the next few days. I didn't tell her that there's a 50/50 chance I'll be impaled on a lacrosse stick before opening night.

[23 April] 03:14pm

Whoa hoo! It's a miracle! Jay Shepard wasn't at rehearsal today! I don't know where he was, but I kissed Abigail, and it all went *boom!* (Except that she smelled like onions, which was gross.)



[27 April] 11:53am

[mood] puking

Sorry I haven't written in a few days. I've been sick with stomach flu. I guess that's why Jay Shepard wasn't at rehearsal the other day — he was sick. Abigail didn't come down with it, but she managed to pass it on to me when we kissed. I spent the last few days doing nothing but puking. Miss Engel tried to make me come in and appear in the play — she said they'd put buckets at both sides of the stage for me — but my parents told her no.

Chuck went to the play, and he said it was a little weird. Miss Engel came out at the beginning and announced, "This play is set in a town where all the men have been abducted by aliens," and Abigail read all my lines, preceded by, "If George were here, I bet he'd say this right now." Chuck said it actually made the whole thing a little more interesting, actually.

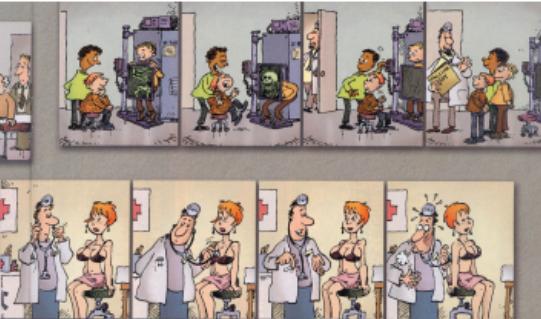
SECRET IN GENERAL DEPT

SECRET AGENTS

PRESENTS A MAD LOOK AT DOCTORS



MASTER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARACOLO



One of the great tragedies (or benefits, depending on your point of view) of the recent Hollywood writers strike was the cancellation of the 2008 season of the violent, action-packed series 24. Millions of 24 addicts were left without their Jack Bauer fix. Or were they? Who needs Hollywood writers when we provide you with everything you need to plot your own ridiculous 24 saga...update your protocols! Here's...

MAD'S DO-IT-YOURSELF 24 SEASON 7 PLOTLINE

WRITER: DAVID JOHNSON
COLORIST: WILDFORM FR

ON THE NEXT TESTOSTERONE-SOAKED SEASON OF 24,
A ROGUE TERRORIST CELL THREATENS LOS ANGELES WITH



AND DEMANDS



SO, CTU'S JACK BAUER EMPLOYS COVERT OPS TO



AND TORTURES AN ENEMY OPERATIVE, FORCING HIM TO REVEAL



BASED ON THIS INTEL, JACK ASKS CHLOE



AND USES HIS PDA TO



WITH



JACK MANAGES TO SAVE







MAD's WASHED-UP LOST OUTTAKES



A PORN IN THE LIFE DEPT.

THINGS WE'LL PROBABLY OVERHEAR AT

recognize that he's disgracing baseball!! Whatever camp you fall into though, keep your ears peeled for these...

THE UPCOMING BARRY BONDS TRIAL...

