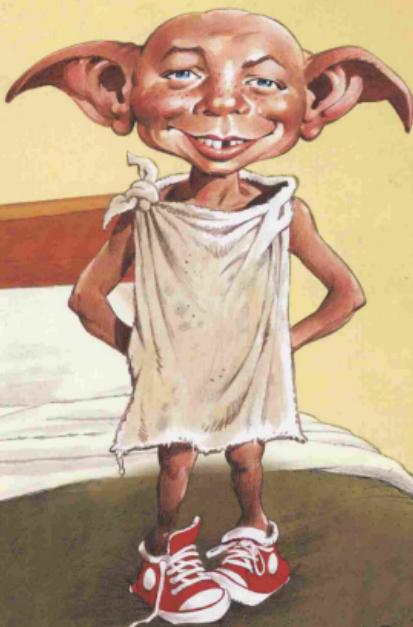
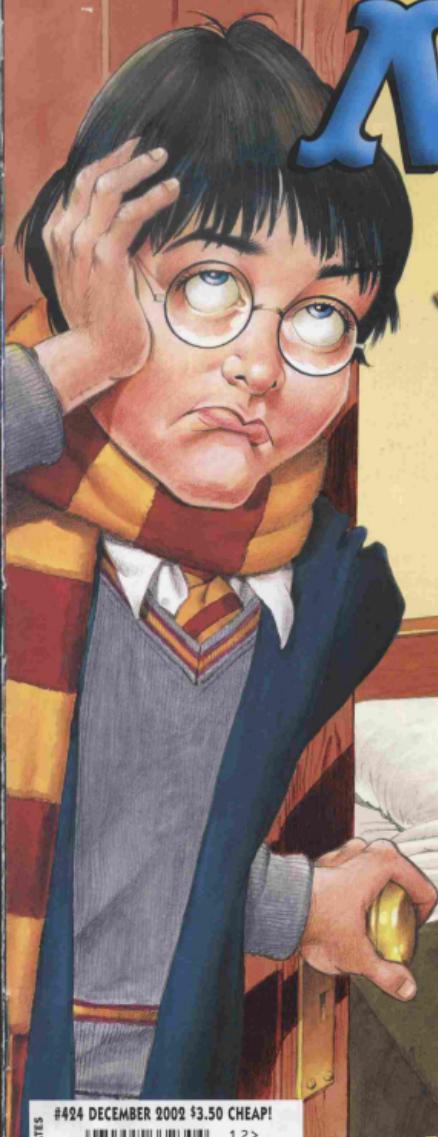


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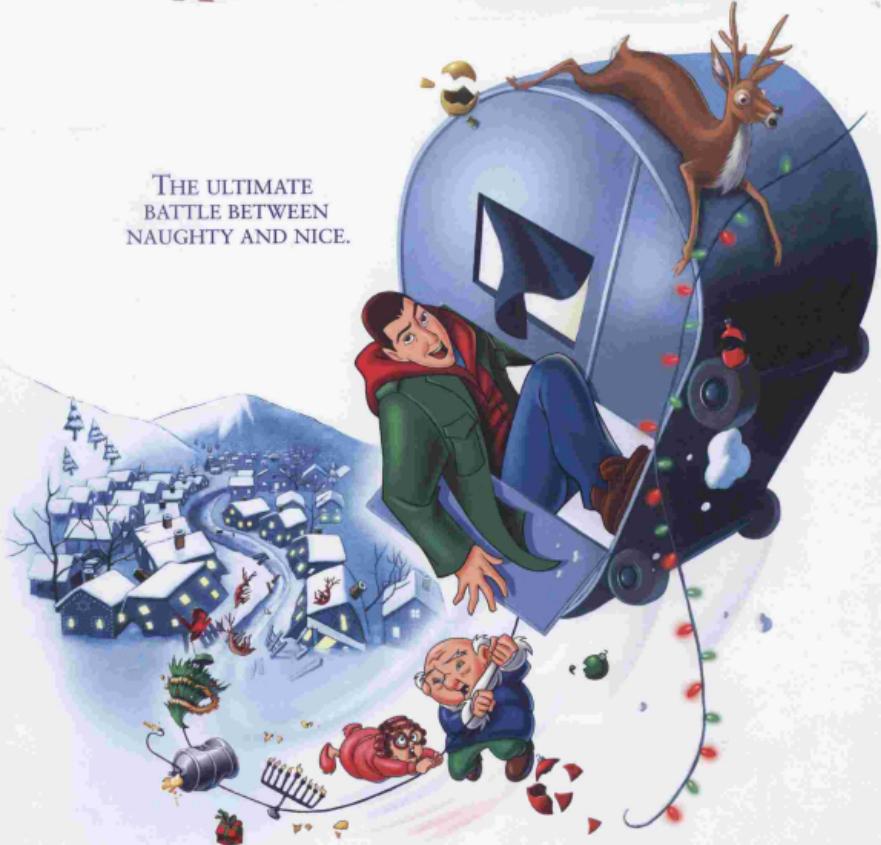
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NUMBER 424

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WRITERS: ARIE KAPLAN AND SCOTT SONNEBORN

FRONT COVER ARTIST:
MORT DRUCKER

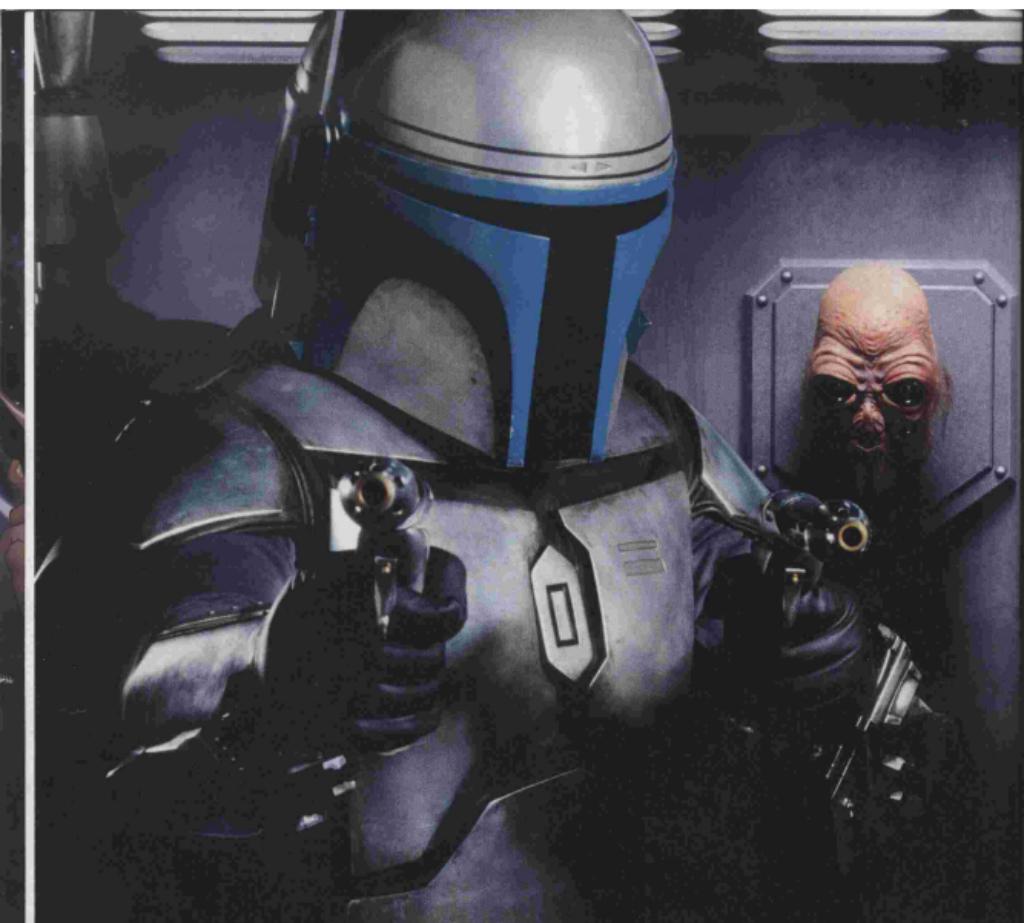
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DEPARTMENT
OF
TOMATOES AND SPY'S



MAD FAN OF THE MONTH



Ben (left) and Josh at the History Fair

This month, we are starting a new feature called **MAD Fan of the Month**! We kick off this splendid new segment with a photo of Ben Weide and Josh Birch of Jacksonville, FL, who sent in the following photo and letter:

Enclosed, please find a copy of our History Fair submission. The topic was "Revolutions in America." While we got voted best in the class and moved on to the next competition level, we didn't get far as the judges realized this was pure trash and had no historic value!

If you can find someone to take a picture of you and your MAD collection, send it to: **MAD Fan of the Month, c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019!**

A POKE IN THE SPY

I was reading Spy Vs. Spy in MAD #420 and at the end the girl killed both spies — that sucked! Next issue, Black Spy and White Spy should work together to kill the girl. Maybe they could bury her in sand up to her neck and have an army of flesh-eating ants eat her alive.

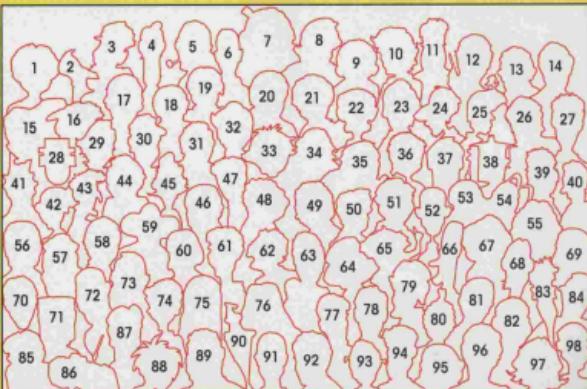
Tyler Cameron, Nova Scotia, Canada

TY BO — Thanks for your interesting suggestion. As you may know, the spies have been appearing in the pages of MAD for the past 42 years. Every issue the Black Spy and the White Spy battle each other for spy supremacy. It's been that way, as we said, for some 42 years (THAT'S THE FREAKIN' FORMULA!), and if we do so ourselves, it's been a successful formula — sworn bitter enemies fighting against each other to a perpetual stalemate. But now, let's just throw 42 years of treasured history out the window because Tyler Cameron has had some brilliant creative stroke and wants to team the two spies up for what will undoubtedly be the final ruinous episode of the beloved *Spy Vs. Spy*. Thanks for destroying everything, Tyler. Antonio Prohios must be spinning in his grave! —Ed.

CARICATURE FLAWS

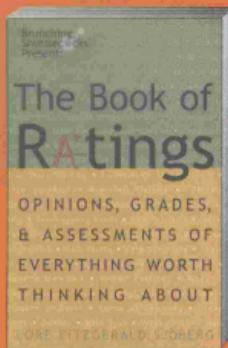
In MAD #423, to celebrate our big 50th anniversary, we included a free poster depicting many of the Usual Gang of Idiots! We couldn't figure out who half the people were and we work here! So this issue, we've included a handy-dandy schematic to identify all of the Idiots! Who knew Rick Tukla was so dreamy? Enjoy!

1. Jenette Kahn	35. Charlie Kadou	69. Scott Bricher	79. Barry Liebmann	89. Roy Alma
2. Antonio Prohios	36. Joe Raiola	70. Mark Stutzman	80. Pat Merrell	90. Bob Stroake
3. Jack Davis	37. Mike Snider	71. C.F. Payne	81. Michael Gallagher	91. Scott Maiko
4. Don Martin	38. Peter Kuper	72. James Bennett	82. Ryan Flanders	92. Dave Manak
5. Dave Berg	39. John Coldwell	73. Phil Hohn	83. Greg Leitman	93. Kevin Pope
6. Harvey Kurtzman	40. Tom Cheney	74. Andrew J. Schwartzberg	84. P.C. Vey	94. Ricky Sprague
7. William M. Gaines	41. Gerry Gersten	75. Maria Wyche	85. Butch D'Ambrosio	95. Jeff Kruse
8. Nick Meglin	42. Dorothy Crouch	76. Timothy Shomey	86. Gary Hallgren	96. Dave Croatto
9. Al Jaffee	43. Lou Silverstone	77. Tom Richmond	87. Darren Johnson	97. Patty Dwyer
10. Mort Drucker	44. Tom Koch	78. Dennis Snee	88. Amanda Conner	98. Brian Durniak
11. Sergio Aragonés	45. Frank Kelly Freas			
12. George Woodbridge	46. Larry Siegel			
13. Angelo Torres	47. Wally Wood			
14. Paul Levitz	48. Basil Wolverton			
15. Joe Orlando	49. Arnold Kogen			
16. Paul Peter Porges	50. Desmond Devlin			
17. Bob Clarke	51. Sam Viviano			
18. Norman Mingo	52. Rick Tukla			
19. Will Elder	53. Anthony Barbieri			
20. Al Feldstein	54. Bill Wray			
21. John Ficarra	55. Nadina Simon			
22. Dick DeBartolo	56. Roberto Parada			
23. Frank Jacobs	57. Mark Fredrickson			
24. Paul Coker	58. Bob Jones			
25. Duck Edwing	59. John Severin			
26. Irving Schild	60. Harry North, Esq.			
27. Richard Williams	61. David Shayne			
28. Max Brandel	62. Monte Wolverton			
29. Jack Rickard	63. Drew Friedman			
30. Stan Hart	64. Amy Vozelos			
31. Jerry DeFuccio	65. Tom Bunk			
32. Annie Gaines	66. James Warhola			
33. John Putnam	67. Hermann Mejia			
34. Leonard Brenner	68. Russ Cooper			



funny new stuff

from Three Rivers Press

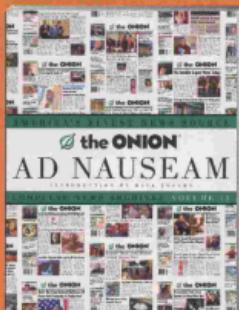
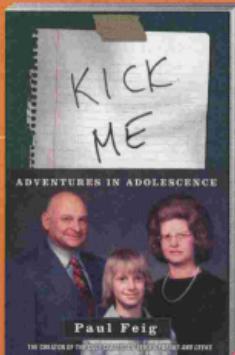


You want judgmental? *Here's judgmental!*

Do you walk around snidely rating everything in your path? Teachers, TV shows, supermodels? Of course you do! But Lore Sjöberg has elevated this to an art, attaching letter grades to everything in sight, from breakfast cereals and Monopoly tokens to pizza toppings and plagues of Egypt. *The Book of Ratings* is hilariously arbitrary and undeniably compelling.

Confessions from the guy who created *Freaks and Geeks*

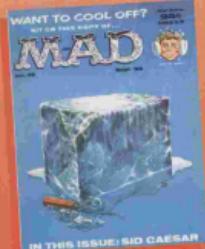
Ah, public school... dodgeball bombardments, hellish bus rides, insulting nicknames, ill-fated prom dates, and other highlights of an education in humiliation. Paul Feig recalls it all in side-splitting, cringe-inducing detail.



All the news that's fit to reprint

Onion fans rejoice! *The Onion Ad Nauseam* features everything published during *The Onion*'s thirteenth year: every news story, opinion piece, news in brief, horoscope... every hilarious word that appeared between October 2000 and October 2001. Includes loads of material no longer available online or anywhere else.

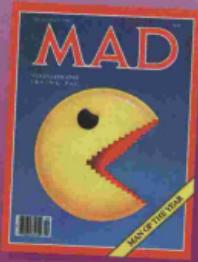
We asked readers to send a note telling us when they started subscribing to MAD and/or when they began reading it, in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We received so many responses we're only able to present a small sampling of them! Part one appeared in last month's issue. Without further ado, we present part two. Thanks to everyone for sharing their memories with us!



I remember buying my first issue on a trip with my family to Des Moines. It was issue #49 and the year was 1959.
— Lee Polikov, Bellevue, NB

I have been collecting MAD for 23 years (I'm 33). The very first time I laid my eyes on a issue, I decided to start collecting.
— Noel Butchart, Chapin, SC

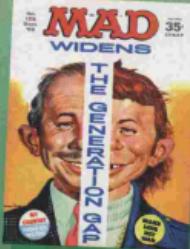
I first subscribed shortly after the magazine changed its format from that of a comic book. My late wife and I would fight over who got to read the magazine first when it arrived.
— Richard Bridgeman, Newark, CA



I have been buying your magazine since I was seven years old. September, 1982 was the first issue I bought.
— Bryan Steward, via e-mail

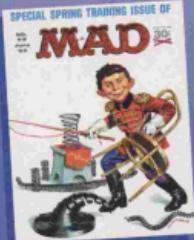
I believe I started my subscription with you the first years you accepted subscriptions in the 1960s. I had MAD #1, bought from a local newsstand when I was 15. My subscription has moved around substantially. I was in the military, so it has gone to California, Kentucky, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Paris, etc.
— John B. Catiller, via e-mail

I've been a subscriber for the last 12 years, but I haven't missed an issue since 1972. I was ten years old at the time.
— Frances Davies, Ontario, Canada



I have been a subscriber since #129, September, 1969. MAD has always been an important magazine to me, as nowhere else am I able to obtain such a clear definition of pop culture. In other words, even at the ripe old age of 47, I can keep up with the teenagers and twenty-somethings of today because by reading MAD, I'll be wise to their ways.
— Daniel Lovegren, Elk Grove, CA

I doubt I am the longest subscriber in Utah, but I have been a subscriber since I was 14 so I guess that makes 15 years! My sister asks me every year what I want for Christmas, I tell her "renew MAD!"
— Chris Horne, Murray, UT



My first issue was #89, September, 1964. I finally got up enough nerve to fill out the subscription card and it began with #95, June, 1965. There is no doubt that my sense of humor and general outlook on life has been greatly shaped by MAD. I can still remember on Yom Kippur 1965 after returning from temple, I was set for a long boring day. However, my MAD arrived in the mail that day (#99, December, 1965) and I was ecstatic.
— Hal J. Freeman, Scarsdale, NY

THE AMSTERDAM HORNBOOK 1982 • THE WHITE PAPER TIP • THE WHITE LADY • THE GREEN EYE • THE GREEN MAGAZINE

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Don't Buy This Issue!

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My first subscribed issue was #214, April, 1980. With 23 years of MADs in my possession, I'm probably one of Colorado's longest subscribers.
— Jere Barto, via e-mail

I have been subscribing to MAD for over 40 years. I was a subscriber in 1960. I am 52 years old and I spent 22 years in the army. When my eight issues a year came, I would always have to read it quickly so that it could be passed around the company. Sometimes I never saw it again.
— Larry Schwab, Phoenix, AZ

I subscribed in the early 50s, when it was a comic book. In the middle of my subscription you switched to a magazine format. You did not give me credit for a one-year subscription paid; since the new price was higher, you cut it short.
— Tom Reesor, Conway, SC



I actually purchased MAD #24 and began subscribing with issue #33.
— Dick Commander, Chester, VA

I was on your subscription list for at least 20 years.
— Laura Pearlstein, Stoughton, MA

I'm 78 years old and have been receiving MAD since it first came out in 1952. The funny part is, I don't even read it! My husband orders it under my name!
— Helga Peterson, via e-mail

The image shows the Midway logo on the left, which includes the word 'MIDWAY' in a stylized red font with a blue outline, and the text 'A Division of Bally Midway' below it. To the right is a scene from the movie 'The Return of the King'. It features a character in a green and blue robe, possibly Frodo Baggins, standing in a dark, rocky landscape. Above him, several floating, glowing spheres of different colors (blue, green, yellow) are suspended in the air. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and fantastical.

MAD SCIENCE WATCH

The Doctor Is In

Are You A Man Or A Woman
Margot and the Dastardly Dames
A really big surprise
By (Margot) 



Dt. Moto, the genius and scientist whose later experiment accidentally destroyed his home planet, has been the center of a media frenzy with the unveiling of his amazing new *Spitzer Gun* technology. Moto's Spitzer Gun enables him to invent and morph with any living organism in order to accomplish tasks no

selling the Spizx Gun through TV infomercials next month. Also, leading videogame

publisher McWayne has entered into an exclusive deal with the doctor for the release of an account/adventure videotape based on his bizarre and intriguing life and his Spilz Cam technology. Information about Muñiz's videotape, simply entitled "Dr. Muñoz," is revealed on a website devoted to Muñoz's universe of baffling puzzles, mind-bending devices, fractious mastodons and twisted humor.

Century's Einstein, or just another madman? Judge for yourself this fall when "De-Mato" the videogame releases for next generation videogame platforms. *PlayStation* *Davidson*

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Who needs nine lives when you can control time?



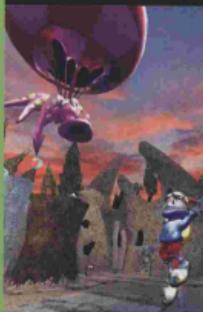
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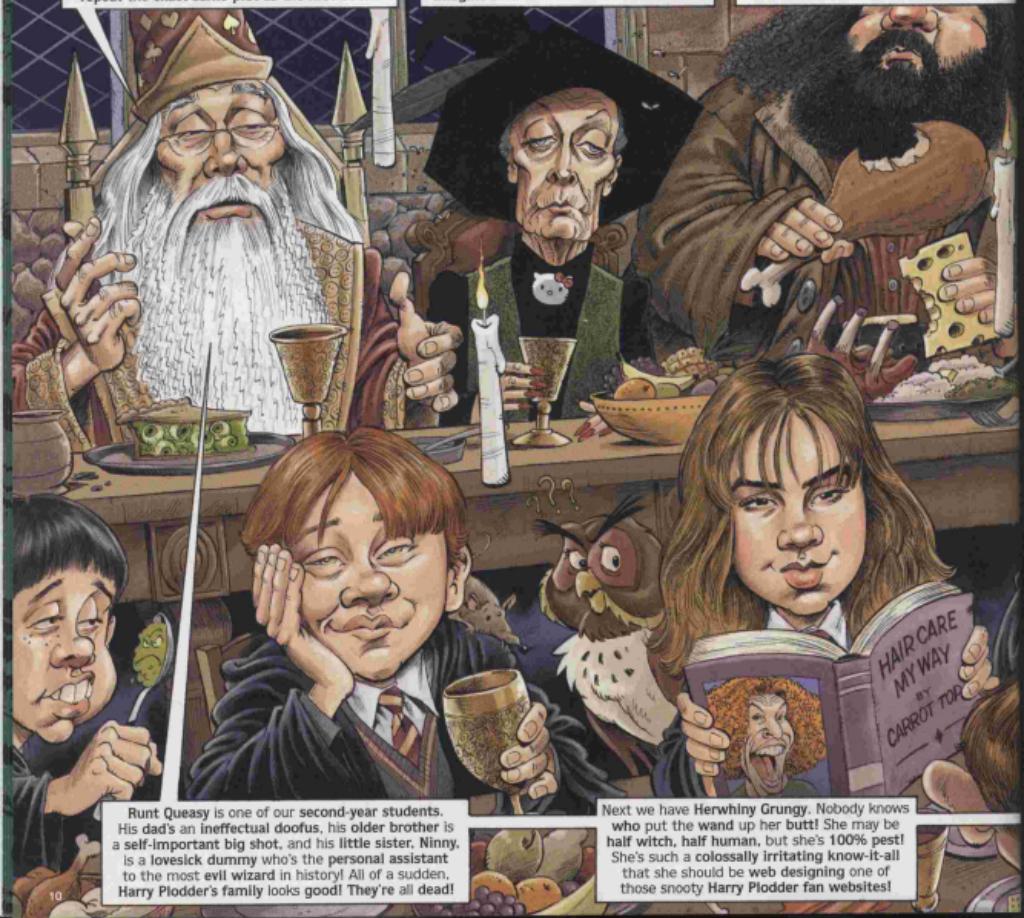
THEY'RE OFF TO BE THE WIZARDS DEPT.

Teachers and parents agree that J.K. Rowling's four *Harry Potter* books have energized the world of publishing. Single-handedly, they've reintroduced children to the unparalleled joys that only reading can bring. So what do they do next? They turn them into movies, so all those lazy bastard kids can revert right back to their usual drooling, catatonic state. Great! So much for the joys of reading! In fact, chances are none of you are even bothering to read this whole boring paragraph with all these words, the one that introduces...

I am Albus Doubledork! On behalf of Halfwits and its professors, but mostly the holders of plunging AOL Time Warner stock, I welcome you! This promises to be a rich and rewarding sequel...er, I mean, semester! This school was built on one thing: tradition! A certain way of doing things! And that's why we pretty much repeat the exact same plot as the first book!

That withered stick insect next to me is Professor McConjugal, the school's second-in-command! Now, considering that my idea of leadership is letting Druckermort, the most evil wizard alive, use the school's basement like a time-share resort whenever he feels like dropping by, just imagine what a total mess *she* must be!

Over there is Rubiks Haggard! Seeing our freakishly enormous groundskeeper year after year lets the students know one thing: Vince McMahon is not hiring! This 400-pound Furby has a very special, close relationship with different species of animals. Many of them live in his beard!



Runt Queasy is one of our second-year students. His dad's an ineffectual doofus, his older brother is a self-important big shot, and his little sister, Ninny, is a lovesick dummy who's the personal assistant to the most evil wizard in history! All of a sudden, Harry Plodder's family looks good! They're all dead!

Next we have Herwhiny Grungy. Nobody knows who put the wand up her butt! She may be half witch, half human, but she's 100% pest! She's such a colossally irritating know-it-all that she should be web designing one of those snooty Harry Plodder fan websites!

Plodder

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

AND THE LAMEST OF SEQUELS

That scowling curmudgeon sticking pins in his Harry Plodder doll is Prof. Severely Snapped! He's an embittered wannabe who desperately wishes HE could be the #1 man in charge! But he'll never get the chance because nobody likes him. Think of him as the wizard world's Al Gore!

There in the corner is Tom Riddler, semi-invisible bad guy! He's really the evil Druckermort, but uses a phony name! He writes misleading messages back and forth with a young girl, Ninny Quesasy, through an incredible magic diary. Why doesn't he just use IMs on AOL, like every other perv in the country?

Our newest teacher is Corduroy Pockmark, author of the world's phoniest biography!

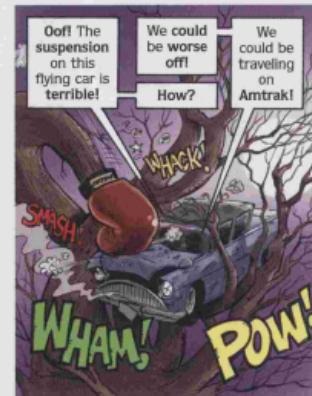
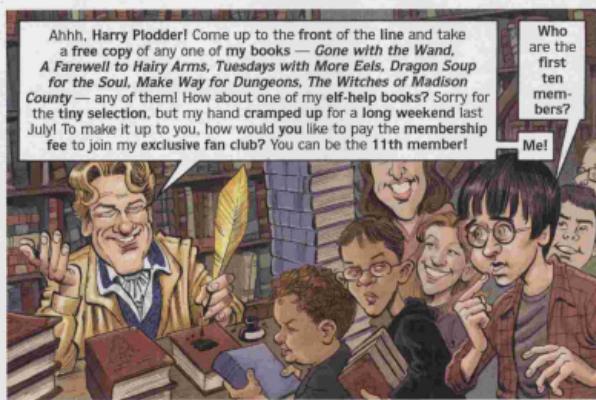
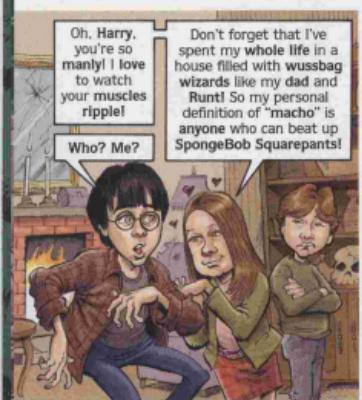
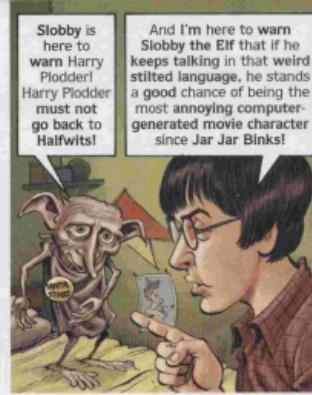
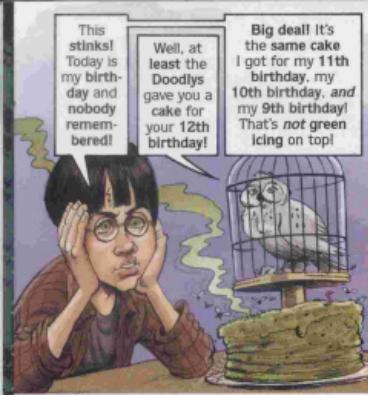
Every page is designed to disguise the fact that he's an egomaniacal fraud. He's the Rudy Giuliani of wizardry! He's written dozens of books, all with the same problem: he uses the letter "I" more than the other 25 letters in the alphabet combined!



And the star of our little fiasco is Harry Plodder! He's got incredible wizard powers locked deep inside. He also has a lot of personal pain locked deep inside. In fact, everything's inside with this blank-faced little stiff – especially some acting talent which he's yet to unlock!

He's actually a normal preteen kid with normal concerns! Regular kids worry about getting zits and blackheads. Harry worries about the glowing lightning bolt scar on his forehead that he got the night his parents got whacked. Same basic concept!

But there is something that makes him very different from everyone else. And it's *not* his mysterious past or unique talents. It's that he's a 12-year-old who actually *likes* being at school! What a total wuss!





Allow me to explain the Halfwits "points system." Each of the four houses — Griddlecake, Flavorflav, Ramensuer and Slipnslide — gains or loses points as the semester goes on. It's a great way to build school morale — except for the 75% of our students who get to end the year as miserable losers! Points can be added or deducted at will, according to the plot! And in the event of a dispute, the final decision goes to the French ice skating judge from the last Olympics!

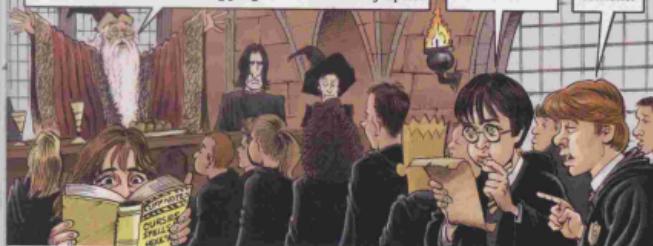
I can't decide which classes to sign up for.

Potions lessons?
Divination lessons?
Flying lessons?

Try acting lessons!
You're no Haley Joel Osment!

Uh-oh!
Look out!
Runt just got a Yowler!

How dare you drive the flying car to school! You could have been killed! Or worse, we might have had to pay for the tree! I bought you some new underpants — extra snug! And they're camouflage to disguise any stains!



You're supposed to be the most powerful young wizard in the world? Why can't you fix your eyeglass and lose the dorky glasses?

Since I have no way of knowing who started this argument, I'm forced to deduct points alphabetically! 10 points off Harry Plodder and Griddlecake for arguing!

Huh?
But "Harry Plodder" comes after "Drano Malformed"!

Still in a fighting mood, eh, Plodder? Make it 20 points off!

Oh, oh, oh YEAH!



Crappel Goy! The Chamber of Secrets will be opened this semester! The heir of Slipnslide will reveal himself! We'll enjoy 10,000 years of unstoppable power!

We might even get bigger rooms!

Crappe, you're a classic example of what happens when a school hands out too many athletic scholarships!



Don't worry about gifts, children! What do you get for the man who already has everything, not counting the cervical vertebrae necessary to support the weight of a human head? Come on! Have fun! After we're done playing Pin the Tail on the Undead Donkey, you can join our game of Musical Coffins!

Weird! I've never been to an annual celebration of death before!

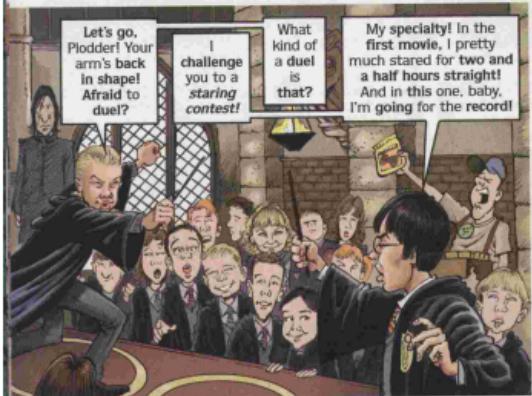
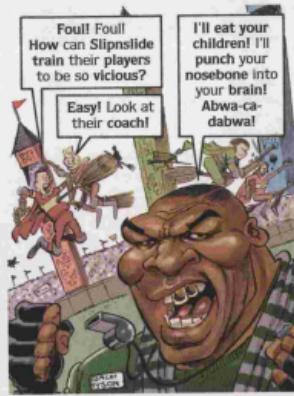
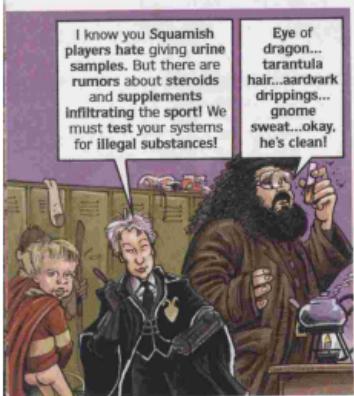
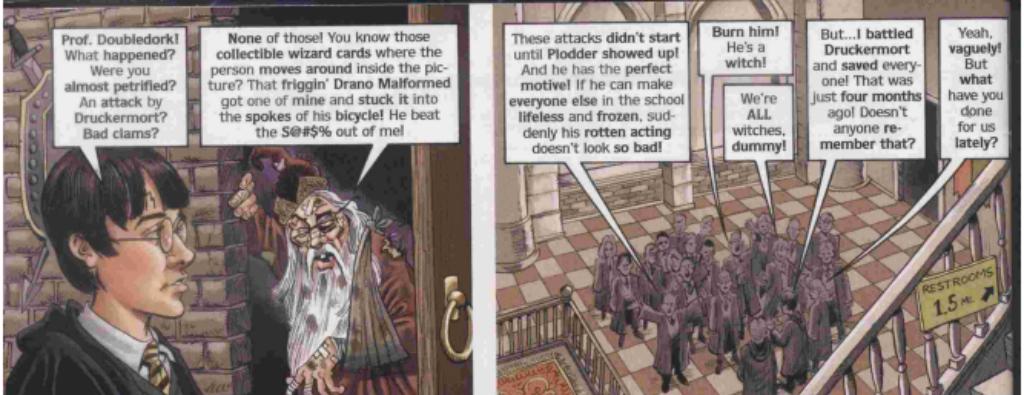
I have! My parents once took me to Wrigley Field to see the Chicago Cubs on Opening Day!

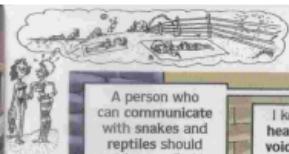


Drat! Students have been turning to stone, and now there are two fresh victims — Nearly-Headless Schmuck and Professor McConjugal!

I'm not petrified, jerk! This is my normal expression!







A person who can communicate with snakes and reptiles should not be enrolled in Halfwits. He should be in law school!

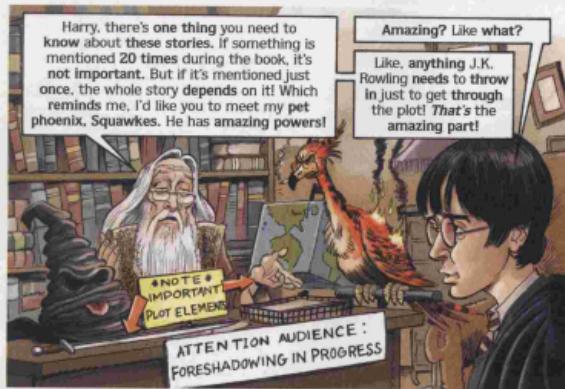
I keep hearing voices... but from where?

Out there, in the movie seats! Maybe the third grade book geeks give a newt's patoot about how "faithful to the original" Neville Longbottom's haircut is! But for the parents who have to take them, this ponderous epic is slow-drip torture!



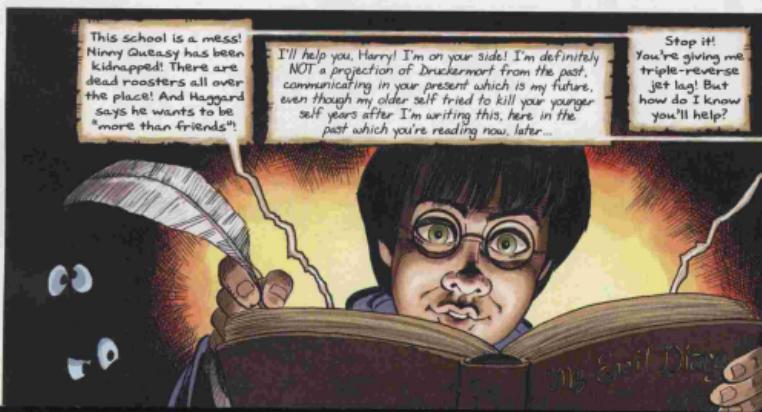
We need hair from Drano and his two goons! It completes my Presto Change-o Potion! We will be transformed into those rich jerks and go undercover! We can infiltrate their fancy parties, wear their expensive clothes, mingle with the important people!

Just one question: do we have to change back?



The potion we drank worked, Harry! We look just like Drano's goons! But Herwliny's potion backfired! Do you think we should take her to the hospital because of the side effects?

Nah! She just threw out her back trying to clean her butt with her tongue!



Tsk! What a pity you've both been suspended from Halfwits for endangering the lives of its secondary characters!

That's okay, Mr. Malformed! I could use a few months off to comb the split ends out of my hair!

While I'm away at prison, like, jus' be sure t' feed all o' my animals. Y' can feed half o' them t' the other half!

We wore my invisible cloak to sneak into the enchanted forest! And now we're being rescued from being devoured by 30 million talking spiders by a sentient flying car! Do you know what this means?

Yes J.K. Rowling has officially run out of good ideas!



That paper **has** to be important!
Believe me,
I can tell!
I've seen
every single
episode of
Blue's Clues!

Of course! The reason somebody's been killing all the roosters around here is because roosters can kill an Asterisk Snake! Asterisks only fear roosters! We've got to fight that snake!

So,
shall
we bring
a rooster
into the
Chamber
with us?

No, that would make far too much sensel Let's go find Pockmark, the most inept phony in the entire school, and bring him instead!

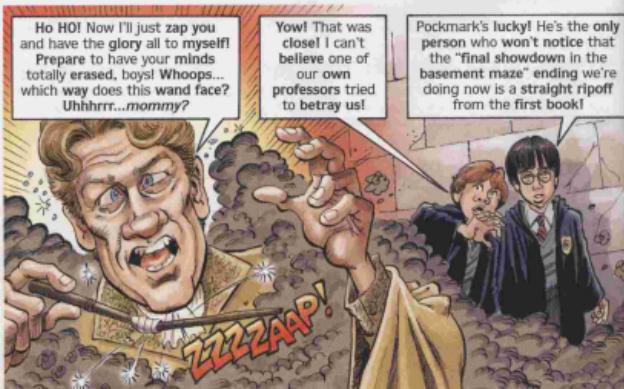
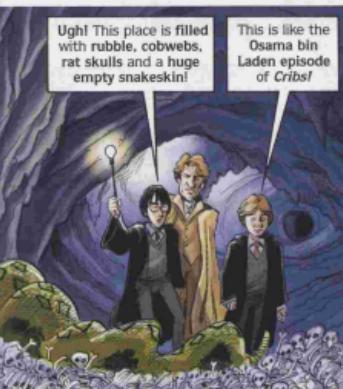
To save your
sister Nanny,
we have to get
past the
killer snake!
Down therel

This is the most deadly situation in the history of this bathroom. Or at least since the infamous bratwurst, sauerkraut and beans banquet of 1768!



Ugh! This place is filled with rubble, cobwebs, rat skulls and a huge empty snakeskin!

This is like the Osama bin Laden episode of Cribs!



Ho HO! Now I'll just zap you and have the glory all to myself! Prepare to have your minds totally erased, boys! Whoops... which way does this wand face? Uhhrrrr...mommy?

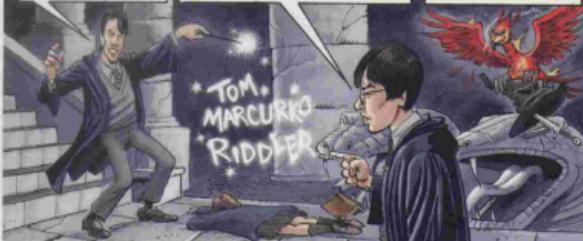
Yow! That was close! I can't believe one of our own professors tried to betray us!

Pockmark's lucky! He's the only person who won't notice that the 'final showdown in the basement maze' ending we're doing now is a straight ripoff from the first book!

Ha ha! If you'd ever taken the trouble to switch around the letters in my full name, you would have realized that I was Lord Drucker-mort all along!

You mean the most dangerous wizard in the world gets his kicks from stupid word games? And by the way, great puzzle! It's real easy to hide secret messages when you use phony, made-up middle names like "Marcurko"!

Don't be a wiseass! Or else I'll change YOUR middle name to "Ooseneuped"! Then the letters in your name will spell out "dropped on your head, loser!"



I've only got one chance to survive! I must stab this magic diary with a snake tooth, thereby disintegrating Druckermort and bringing Ninny to life! What an incredible plan! Suddenly, the friendly car that saved us from hungry spiders seems like Shakespeare!

Curse you, Harry Plodder! You've beaten me again! I mean, you've beaten my young self for the first time! I mean, the older Harry Plodder has beaten the first Druckermort, who's *really* Tom Riddler...ah, screw it! See you in #3!



Harry Plodder, you've done it! You beat Druckermort single-handedly! You're a hero!

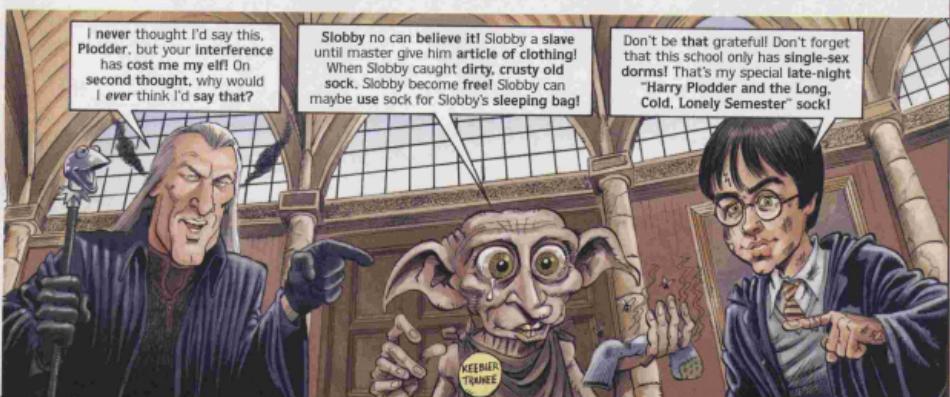
Wait one stinkin' minutel! I bring the book, I bring the sword, I blind the snake, I heal the wound...and that friggin' HARRY is the hero? Lousy creep! PETA is going to hear about this!



I never thought I'd say this, Plodder, but your interference has cost me my elf! On second thought, why would I ever think I'd say that?

Slobby no can believe it! Slobby a slave until master give him article of clothing! When Slobby caught dirty, crusty old sock, Slobby become free! Slobby can maybe use sock for Slobby's sleeping bag!

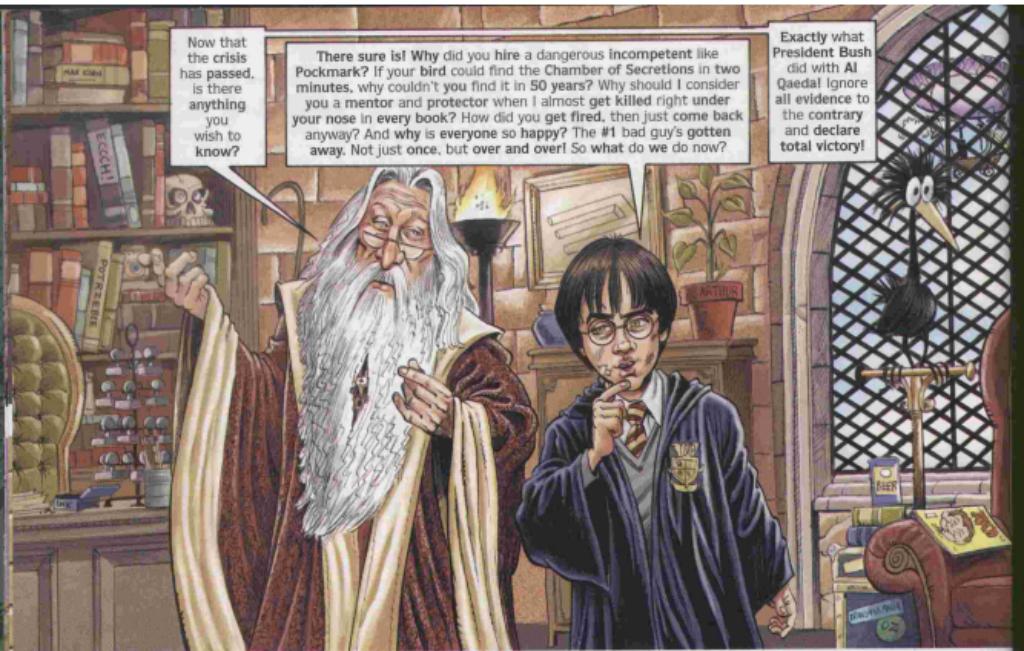
Don't be that grateful! Don't forget that this school only has single-sex dorms! That's my special late-night "Harry Plodder and the Long, Cold, Lonely Semester" sock!



Now that the crisis has passed, is there anything you wish to know?

There sure is! Why did you hire a dangerous incompetent like Pockmark? If your bird could find the Chamber of Secrets in two minutes, why couldn't you find it in 50 years? Why should I consider you a mentor and protector when I almost get killed right under your nose in every book? How did you get fired, then just come back anyway? And why is everyone so happy? The #1 bad guy's gotten away. Not just once, but over and over! So what do we do now?

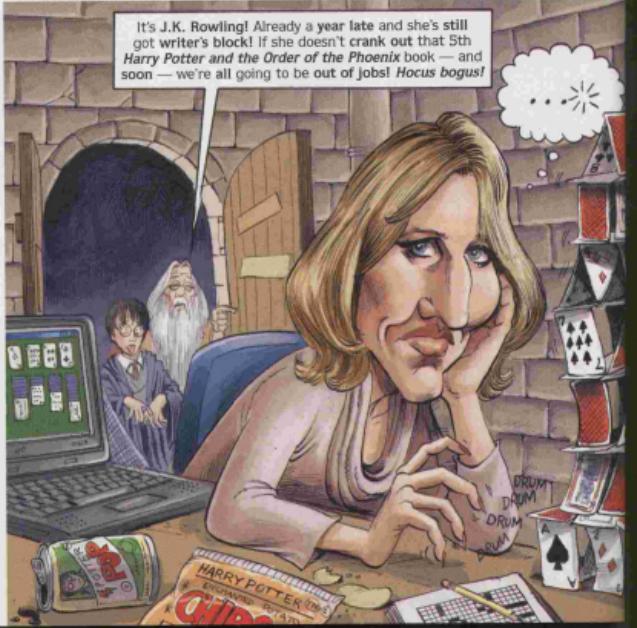
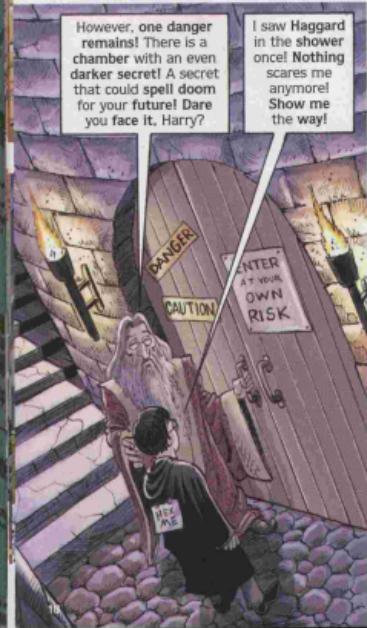
Exactly what President Bush did with Al Qaeda! Ignore all evidence to the contrary and declare total victory!



However, one danger remains! There is a chamber with an even darker secret! A secret that could spell doom for your future! Dare you face it, Harry?

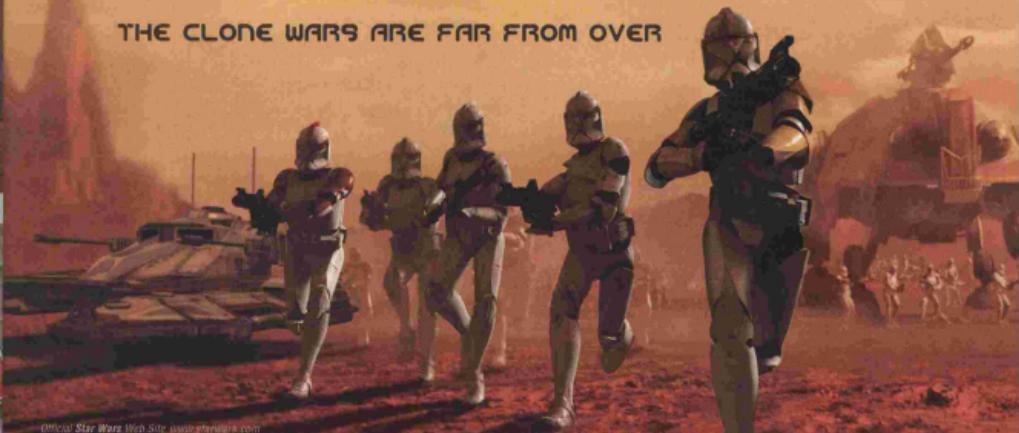
I saw Haggard in the shower once! Nothing scares me anymore! Show me the way!

It's J.K. Rowling! Already a year late and she's still got writer's block! If she doesn't crank out that 5th Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix book — and soon — we're all going to be out of jobs! *Hocus bogus!*





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Official Star Wars Web Site www.starwars.com

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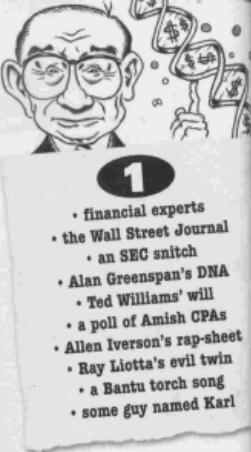
Violence

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Day after day, we hear of a new corporate scandal, along with fresh allegations of fraud and dishonest accounting practices. To save our readers the time and effort of plowing through article after article, MAD now wraps up the entire mess. Simply fill in the numbered blanks from the corresponding numbered lists, and you'll have MAD's...

ALL-INCLUSIVE DO-IT-YOURSELF CORPORATE SCANDAL NEWSPAPER STORY



1

- financial experts
- the Wall Street Journal
- an SEC snitch
- Alan Greenspan's DNA
- Ted Williams' will
- a poll of Amish CPAs
- Allen Iverson's rap-sheet
- Ray Liotta's evil twin
- a Bantu torch song
- some guy named Karl



12

- prevent another Great Depression
- restore public confidence
- cancel Big Brother 3
- reunite Tom and Nicole
- slim down Rosie O'Donnell
- halt global warming
- shut up Ted Turner
- bring peace to the Maldives
- restore Topeka to its former glory
- end the side effects of Vioxx

11

- new regulations
- government watchdogs
- impeaching Dubya
- not landing on Park Place
- weekly high colonic
- penile implants
- Rogaine surpluses
- the public flogging of Martha Stewart
- adding eunuchs to the Supreme Court
- replacing the dollar with wampum



1

3

4

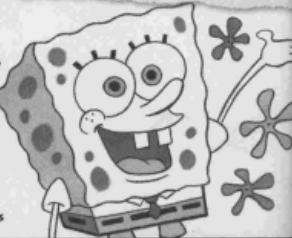
the report condemns

who **8**

Experts warn that only

10

- the stock market
- the business community
- the Christian Coalition
- Grand Theft Auto III enthusiasts
- Jets fans
- a big part of the Sudan
- Native American casinos
- granola snorters
- yak hunters
- nude backpackers



**2**

- corporate greed
- a rash of faked earnings reports
- Mongol inbreeding
- bathing with sheep
- cross-dressing during Lent
- an abnormal fear of groin-pulls
- right-clicking "Delete"
- that dude from Dell
- the revival of dwarf-tossing
- yodel-rap

3

- devastate
- put the screws to
- shake but not stir
- make caca of
- Enronize
- rain down locusts on
- calcify
- reduce to a bloody pulp
- hot-wire
- unleash Billy Bob Thornton on

4

- the U.S. economy
- the Fortune 500
- Green Bay's title hopes
- Condoleezza Rice's mainframe
- the gay Mafia
- Joan Rivers' facelift
- Vatican groupies
- the Yukon tourist season
- the gypsy workforce
- John Ashcroft's sex fantasies

**5**

- the rise in bankruptcies
- the collapse of Arthur Andersen
- Kenneth Lay's legal fees
- elf cronyism
- a Charlton Heston prophecy
- *The Joy of Flossing*
- the benefits of greasy food
- obscene crop circles in Omaha
- an Altoona wet nurse
- a so-so episode of *Six Feet Under*

6

- greedy
- bought-off
- flesh-eating
- smarmy
- mutant
- bed-wetting
- sniveling
- skateboarding
- migrant
- thrill-seeking

**2**

threatens to

Citing **5**,**6****7**thereby **9****10****11**can **12**.**9**

- eroding confidence in
- really pissing off
- freaking out
- mooning
- defoliating
- pulling the plug on
- confirming the worst fears of
- deep-sixing
- increasing the sensual lure of
- ruining SpongeBob episodes for

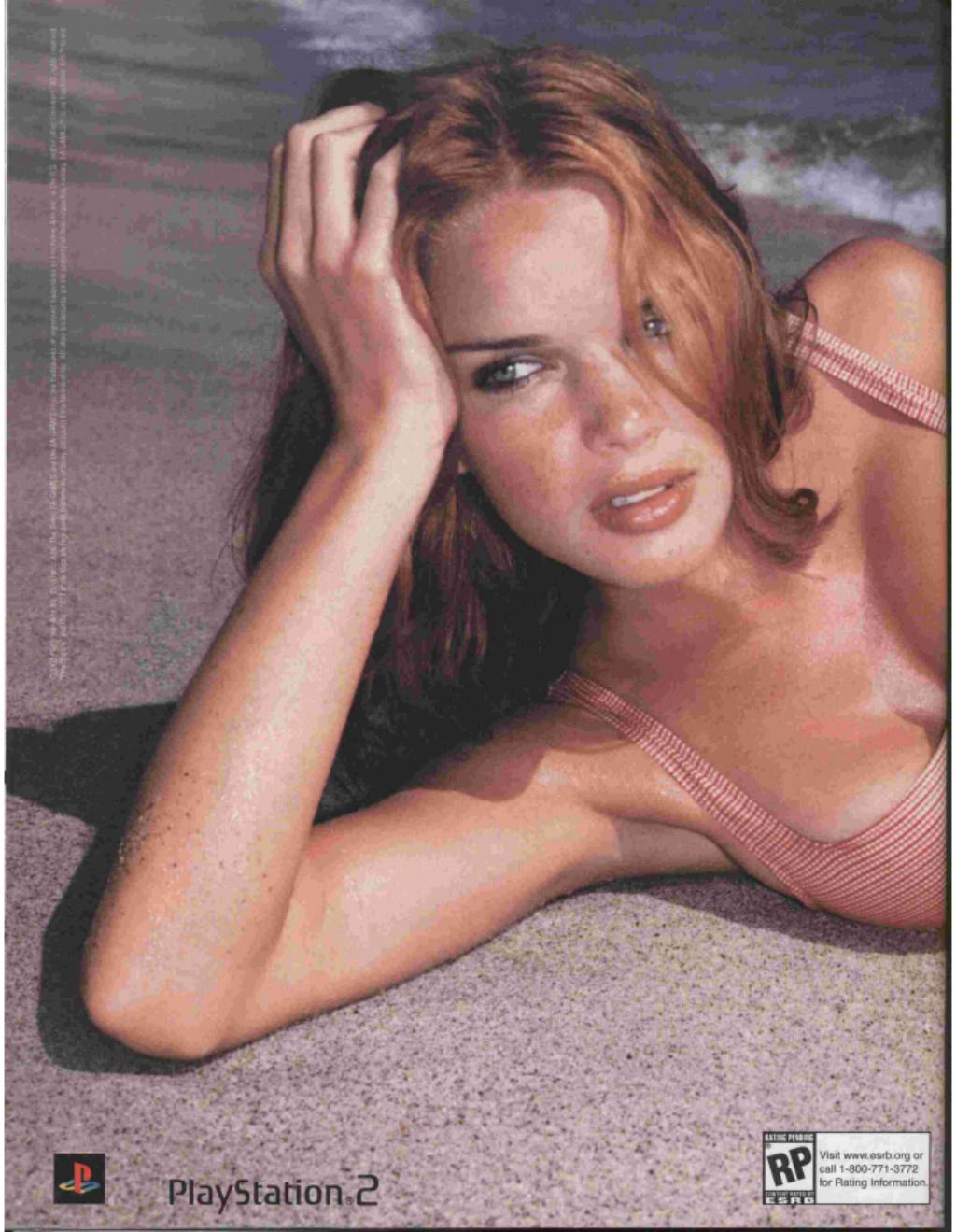
8

- inflate earnings
- fleece investors
- break wind shamelessly
- feast on birch bark
- high-five after sex
- pierce the elderly
- spike Ovaltine
- hit on each other
- overrate Ben Stein
- organize pygmy rallies

7

- CEOs
- Congressmen
- overweight midgents
- Ross Perot bobblehead dolls
- CIA transsexuals
- lap dancers
- Muscovites
- lip-readers
- Zoltan Zandar fans
- Bronx sharecroppers

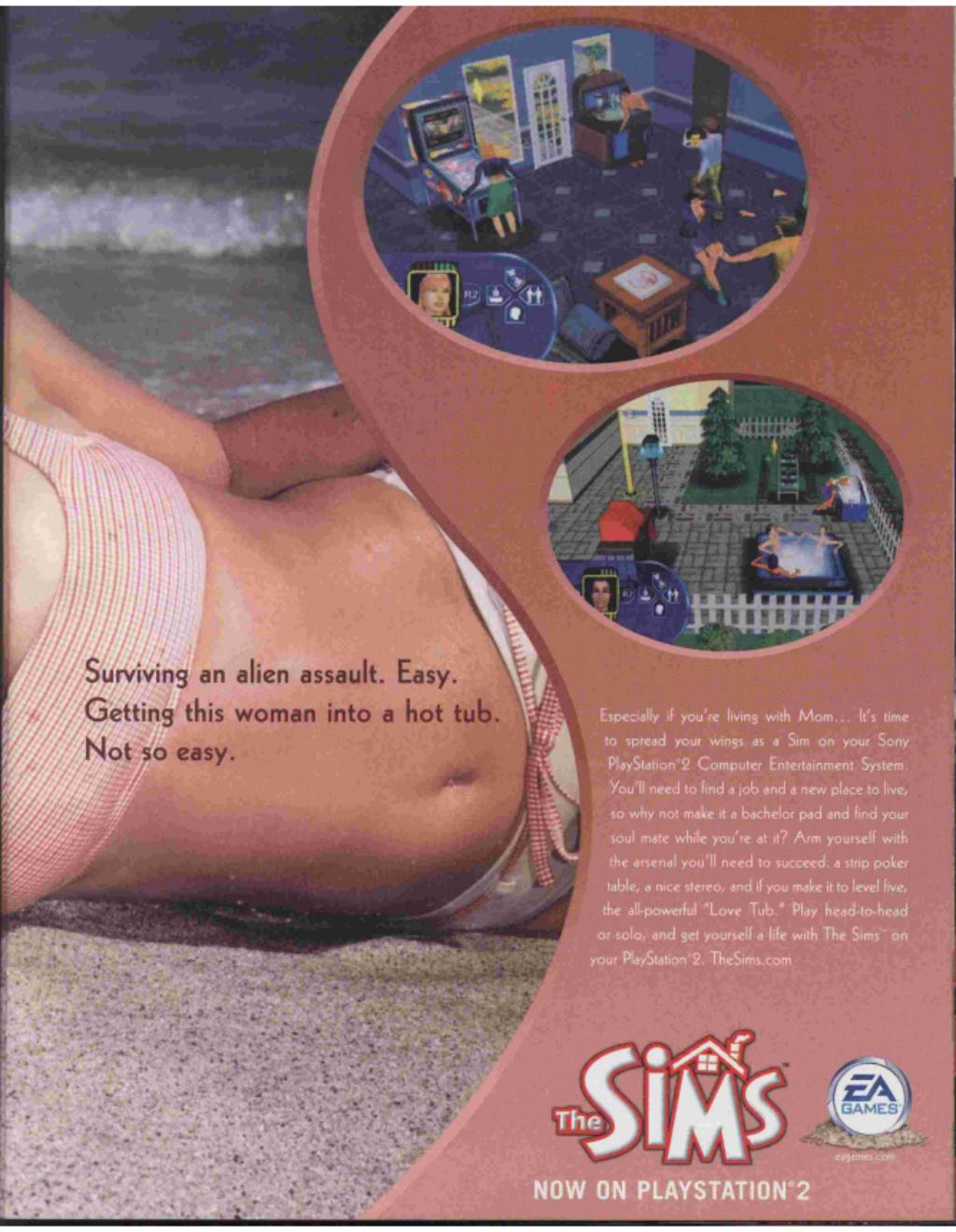




PlayStation 2



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Getting this woman into a hot tub.
Not so easy.



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The Sims™



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Anyone who reads *Martha Stewart Living* magazine (and that number dwindles every day) knows that one page each month is dedicated to "Martha's Calendar," a day-by-day listing of Martha's projects, chores, jaunts and reminders. (If you *don't* read the magazine, now you know, too, Macramé breath!) We never had any reason to doubt the calendar wasn't true, but considering Martha's current insider trading problems, we can't believe her days are still filled with just making lavender potpourris and bottling persimmon chutney! We'd like to see a more accurate monthly schedule of her activities, something like...

IF MARTHA'S

calendar



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER

3
Can peaches and tomatoes; can stockbroker whose assistant sang to feds

4
Plant hardy perennials that won't need maintenance for, like, 7-10 years, just in case

5
Move seedlings from garden to greenhouse; move assets from U.S. to Bermuda

6
8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

7
Harvest favors from politicians who received large re-election donations into making this whole nightmare disappear

1
Shred summer cabbage for coleslaw; shred documentation of other "perfectly legal" stock trades the SEC hasn't found out about yet!

2
Take Sam Waksal off Christmas card list; Put SEC chairman (whoever it is) ON Christmas card list

10
Put summer clothing into storage, for, like, 7-10 years, just in case

11
Call friend Anna Wintour — ask her to run story in *Vogue* promoting orange jumpsuits as new "in" fashion look

12
Organize and inventory collection of new alibis

13
8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

14
Add organic waste and recent phone records to compost pile

15
Research which countries do not have extradition treaties with U.S.

16
Book flight to one of those countries

17
Hire acting coach to teach looks of remorse, humility, etc.

18
To escape doldrums, fire random employee for no reason

19
Call Justice Department — offer to cater John Ashcroft's next birthday party FREE

20
8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

21
Install subdued and tasteful track lighting in escape tunnel

22
Paint picket fence green or yellow or purple — ANY color that makes it look less like a cold, confining prison cell

23
Experiment with number fonts to see which look nicest stenciled on the front and back of garments

24
Sunday brunch with friends — if there are any left

25
Scour flea markets for tin prison cups — practice drinking out of them

26
Get sized for ankle bracelet monitoring device, just in case

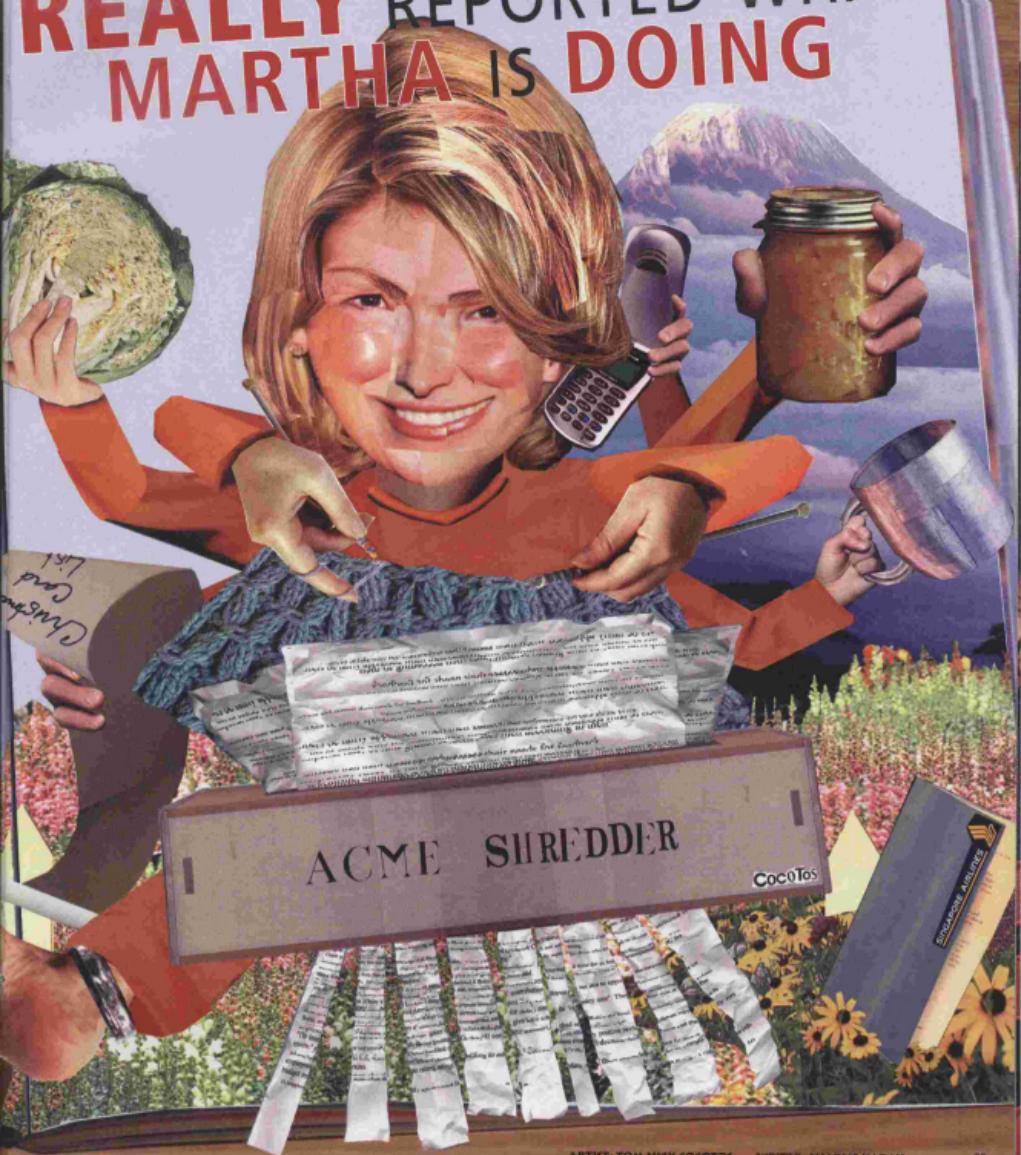
27
8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

28
Thanksgiving (Not being celebrated this year)

29
Spend day kicking self for being such a greedy idiot!

30
Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro again — but this time stay there!

REALLY REPORTED WHAT MARTHA IS DOING





Join us as Monroe learns that just being yourself isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's...

Monroe and...



IDENTITY THEFT





AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE SOMEBODY'S BEEN CLAIMING TO BE YOU?



DO I LOOK TAN?
DO I?



NEXT...



WELL, HE COULD FILE OUT THOSE FORMS, BUT I RECOMMEND HE FILE FOR PERSONAL BANKRUPTCY NOW AND JUST GET IT OVER WITH.

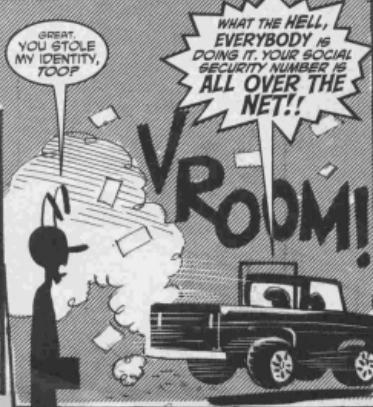


GUNS AND

HEY,
DILLWAD,
HOW DO YOU
LIKE MY NEW
S.U.V.?



YOU BOUGHT IT
DORK! THANKS FOR THE
BOGUS VISA!



WHAT THE HELL,
EVERYBODY IS
DOING IT. YOUR SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBER IS
ALL OVER THE
NET!!

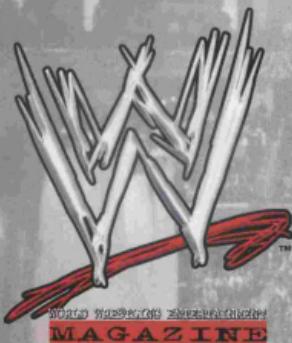


REMEMBER,
MONROE
I'M STILL HERE
FOR YOU!



SUBSCRIBE NOW!

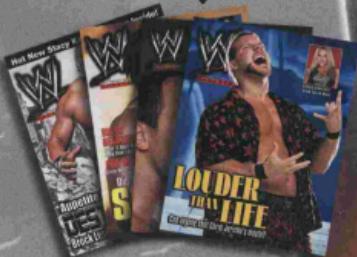
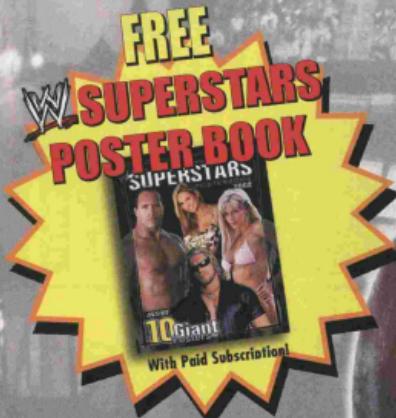
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In Headline and Body of Story Make Some Articles Sorta Funny, Experts Say

ST. LOUIS, MO — A study, issued by the Conference of American Journalism says that the simple act of using "a few well-chosen words can maybe turn a dry news story with, like, little humor potential, into one that's kinda funny. It's a delicate balance," says panel spokesman Todd Abeling. "You've got to use a certain amount of standard news jargon but then every few lines, throw in a ringer."

Experts note that you've totally got to watch the placement of the quotation marks as well, or you're screwed. You definitely don't want to put your quotes around the incongruent word or phrase," Abeling explains. "That makes it look like you're quoting someone and that you, as the reporter, know the word wouldn't normally appear in that context in a standard newspaper article otherwise." According to the study, without the quotation marks, a really lame story can end up being pretty frickin' funny, and also way cool.

CRAPshot

A look at yet another rip-off of Letterman's Top Ten

The Most Overused Themes On Our Website

1. Subject of article vaguely referred to as "Some Guy" in the headline
2. Offensive, sacrilegious news story featuring Christ as a normal person who just happens to live among us
3. Headline replete with gratuitous curse words as the entire set-up and execution of a gag
4. News item about a well-known advertising character saying and doing things its corporate owners would not approve of
5. Typical advice feature attributed to an unlikely columnist who disregards the questions entirely and instead replies to each letter by expounding on his, her, or its area of expertise, literary style, or obsession
6. Thinly-veiled "humorous" take on a horrific tragedy done sooner after the actual event than Good taste would dictate

The Ground, If You Ask Me

You know, these debates were funny at first. But they've become very predictable. And here's why: Generally, the first viewpoint puts forth a reasonable, logical argument in favor of or in support of something, anything, whatever. Fine. All straight lines. Very dry. That's the set-up. Then comes the opposing side and — zing! — it's completely nuts. While the first part is written by a person, the second part is written, we're supposed to believe, by a squirrel, or an appliance, or Jesus, or some crap. Okay, okay, I know that's not how it always is, but we've used this formula enough times that frankly, even I'm a little sick of it. Sure, it was novel four years ago, but how 'bout we try something new, huh? Or just dump this format altogether.

Oh, Come On! I'm An Egg Separator, For God's Sake! That Right There Is Funny!

Look, I'm an inanimate object and I'm delivering the opposing viewpoint to your argument! Don't you get it? It's frickin' hilarious! I can't really talk or think, nor do I have the computer screen. But that doesn't change the fact that here I am, arguing against your position and telling you that, yes, these debates are incredibly funny! Why?

Because I'm a kitchen utensil, and not only do I have an opinion, but, apparently it's such a strong opinion that to respond to you by totally flying off the handle! That's hilarious! A plastic doo-dad from your junk drawer actually getting upset! Instead of putting your lame-ass argument against the rants of another person, the rebuttal is being written by me, (joke aside) an EGG SEPARATOR. Too damn funny!

EDITORIAL

Why Running An Editorial Attributed To Someone You Wouldn't Expect To Be Writing An Editorial On A Trivial Subject That Normally Doesn't Warrant An Editorial Is So Damn Funny Week After Week by Nelson Mandela



by Mark Foster



by An Egg Separator

Detachment

BOULDER, CO — An inconsequential everyday occurrence was covered today with the gravity and detachment normally associated with a serious, substantial news item.

Jim Grout, a one-bedroom photo service employee, got a particularly bad static electricity shock when touching his bedroom door knob after shifting back from the bathroom at approximately 2:37 this morning. "Son-of-a-bee, it really woke me up," Grout, 51, told reporters. "I was half-asleep, then zap! Talk about a rude awakening."

Despite the noise of the shock seeming "very loud" to Grout, his wife, Kay, 49, slept undisturbed through the ordeal. "I had no idea anything happened until he mentioned it at breakfast," she explained as though the incident were indeed newsworthy. Experts describe this phenomenon as a form of "irony." "A 'nothing' occurrence will be written about with all the unbiased objectivity and seriousness of a major event," notes Dr. David Jeschke, a legitimate-sounding person who in fact doesn't exist, while important news will be covered as a human interest piece or incredibly conversationally."

While irony can be very effective, Jeschke notes, its use in some formats can become "terribly repetitious and one-note." He points to the popular online website... [Full Text >>](#)

ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO
PHOTOS: IRVING SCHILD & AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

ONE FINE DAY IN THE HOSPITAL



In economic terms, a recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. For corporate America, this means belt tightening, personnel downsizing and salary freezing. But what, you may ask, is the toll on the small businessman? How is the average Mom and Pop operation riding the tide of this difficult business cycle? How the hell should we know? Who died and made us Lou Dobbs? It was all we could do to figure out...

HOW THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS AFFECTING CERTAIN FRINGE BUSINESSES

Instructors have been forced to boost revenues with Amway distributorships.



Sports | Mascots



A 50% reduction in the work force has led to some embarrassing moments.



No longer able to afford the health insurance necessary to perform physical comedy, between-inning Shakespeare soliloquies have become common.



Bit by bit, costumes are being sold on eBay.

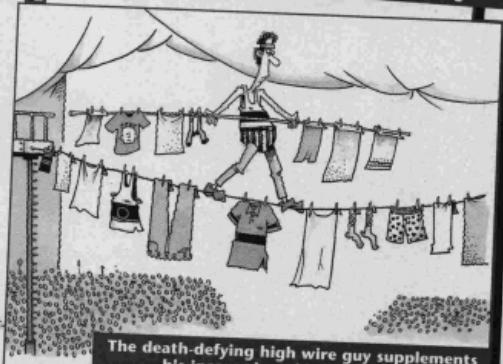
Circus Folk



Passenger numbers have been drastically cut in an effort to improve clown car gas mileage.

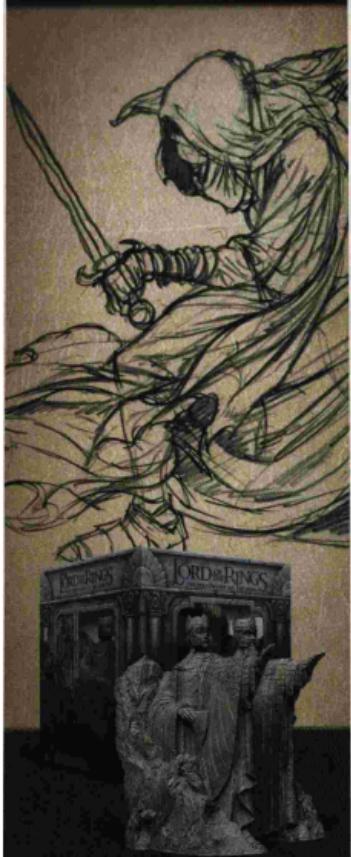


Impoverished clowns have been reduced to buying no-frills brand seltzer, which is frequently flat.



The death-defying high wire guy supplements his income by taking in laundry.

ALSO
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NOVEMBER 12



COLLECTOR'S DVD GIFT SET INCLUDES

- The 4-Disc Platinum Series®
Special Extended DVD Edition
- Collectible Argonath Bookends
Sculpted by the Film's Visual Effects Artists
- Special Edition *Numenon* Geoglyphs
Beyond the Movie DVD with Additional Featurettes
- Exclusive Decipher Trading Cards
- AND MORE!

WEB-STINGER DEPT.



SCENES SO BAD THEY DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE DVD

THIS MONTH: **SPIDER-MAN**



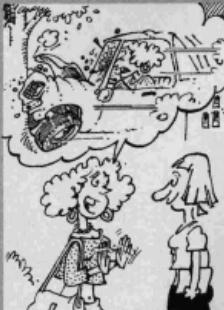
AN ENTIRELY NEW EDITION,
AN EPIC DVD EXPERIENCE



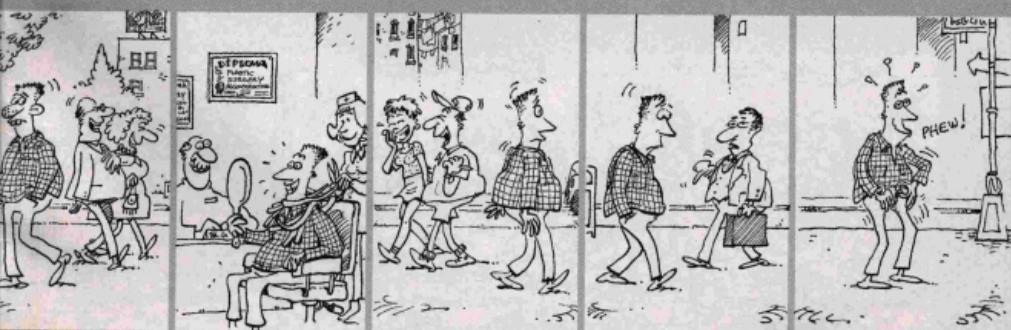
— 4-DISC PLATINUM SERIES —
SPECIAL EXTENDED DVD EDITION

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 12

ANOTHER MAD LOOK



AT PLASTIC SURGERY







It's easy to make a wildly entertaining summer blockbuster! Take a thrilling script, add a captivating leading man, throw in some creepy crop circles and—bamboo! — you've got a hit! But, what if the story is the umpteenth knock-off of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*? And what if your star looks like he just woke from a 14-month nap? And what if the crop circles were lame after the 100th preview? Then you've got problems — and the studio's got nothing but a 2-hour dud filled with their painfully failed...

I keep waking up in the middle of the night with a terrible feeling something is wrong. It's almost as if I have a *Sixth Sense* that something bad is happening in my cornfield! I've been so edgy since my wife died. I blame God for taking her, but I suppose the guy in the truck who mowed her down didn't exactly help! When she passed on, I decided there is no God!

That's when I left my position as Minister at Saint Dubious!

When my brother lost his wife, he went into a deep depression, so I moved up here to be with him. Since I got here, a big problem's developed. His kids seem to like me more than him! I guess it's because I pay more attention to them, and that I care enough about them to learn their first names! I'm a touch depressed, too. I've been unable to find employment in my specialized field of "failed baseball players"! I was a star slugger, then one day my baseball career was suddenly over. I guess a 6-foot, 24-year-old weighing 200 pounds can fool Little League officials for only so long! Damn!

We woke up this morning and found these huge designs in our cornfield. I told my dad I thought God did it. My dad said God probably did it, because God has plenty of time on his hands to screw around, now that he no longer chooses to answer people's prayers!

I HATE CORN...



When the voices told me "build it and they will come." I thought they meant fans, not aliens!

It's true! When you're near death, your life flashes before your eyes. I see that lonely farmhouse my husband made me move into, a million miles from civilization. I see me watering a hundred acres of corn with a bucket. Wow, even my flashback seems dreary! Maybe I should thank the guy who drove the truck that hit me and got me out of this rural hellhole!

Of all the bad luck! I ran down the minister's wife! Why did that have to happen? God is going to take vengeance on me! Why couldn't I have been lucky and run over the wife of an atheist!

SALLY SPIDER PLAYS
CORN

n s

It's true! My daddy is quite mad at God. I know because of the prayer he taught me to say when I go to bed: "Now I lay me down to sleep, not that you give a flying @#\$% about it!" I miss my mommy, but I still talk to her. She doesn't answer me, because she's dead. I talk to my daddy, too. He never answers me, either. I'd like to know what *his* excuse is!



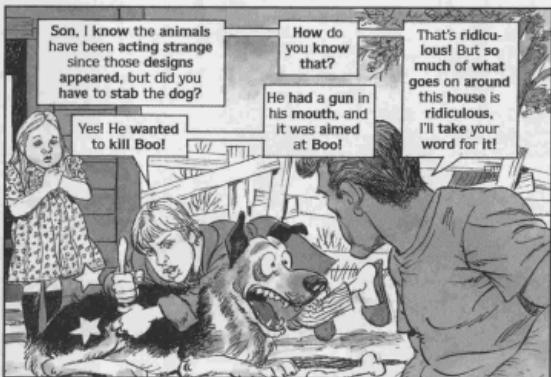
Can I please have a glass of water?

Why? You never drink it after I bring it to you! There must be 100 half empty glasses all over the house!

The water is important! It's what this movie is all about!

You mean it's a symbolic setup about cynical me seeing them as half empty rather than half full?

No, it's a dumb plot setup about how we get to destroy smart aliens!



Looking at these strange crop circles in the cornfields raises quite a few weird questions about this farm and the family that owns it! Like, how can they grow acres and acres of corn when they don't even own a tractor? Think about it! Have you seen one? I haven't even seen a rake or a hoe! Hell, no one has even seen them eat an ear of corn! It's weird, I tell you! Speaking of corn, let's get on with our story...



I'm trying to watch TV, but they're showing the same program on every station!

I know, honey, but that's what TV has come to! Not a shred of originality!

No, I mean exactly the same show on every station!

That's sure gonna make life easy for the Nielson Ratings people!

With crop circle sightings reported around the world, the question is, how can so many acres be perfectly leveled without the apparent use of machinery? Crop circle expert, Professor Michael Sommers, how do you answer that?

Nowadays, when people see a field of corn, they wonder if there are any aliens in it! By the hundreds, they roar, looking! They don't find any aliens! They leave! Gone! But from the air — hey, a new crop circle!



I'm sorry, Professor, but your answer is unacceptable!

Why? Is it not scientific enough?

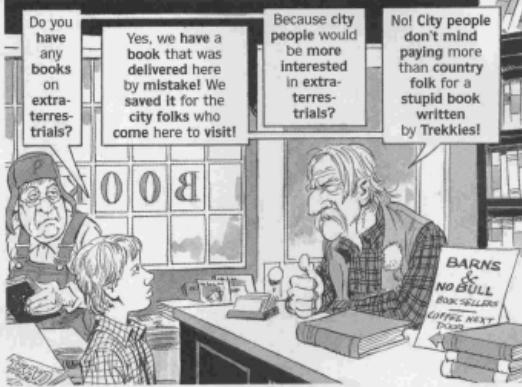
No! It's not scary enough! This is TV news! Our job is to keep the viewers frightened so they stay tuned! We'll be back with a more alarming "expert" after these commercials!

Do you have any books on extraterrestrials?

Yes, we have a book that was delivered here by mistake! We saved it for the city folks who come here to visit!

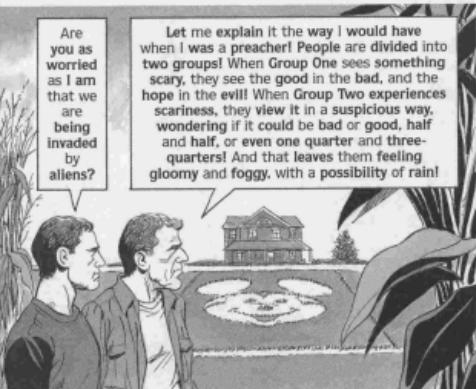
Because city people would be more interested in extraterrestrials?

Not City people don't mind paying more than country folk for a stupid book written by Trekkies!



Are you as worried as I am that we are being invaded by aliens?

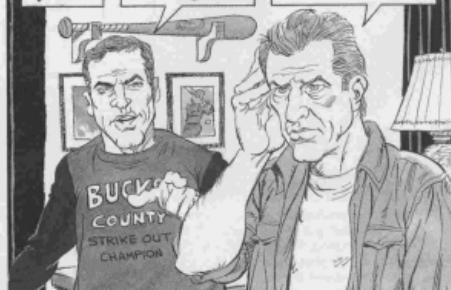
Let me explain it the way I would have when I was a preacher! People are divided into two groups! When Group One sees something scary, they see the good in the bad, and the hope in the evil! When Group Two experiences scariness, they view it in a suspicious way, wondering if it could be bad or good, half and half, or even one quarter and three-quarters! And that leaves them feeling gloomy and foggy, with a possibility of rain!

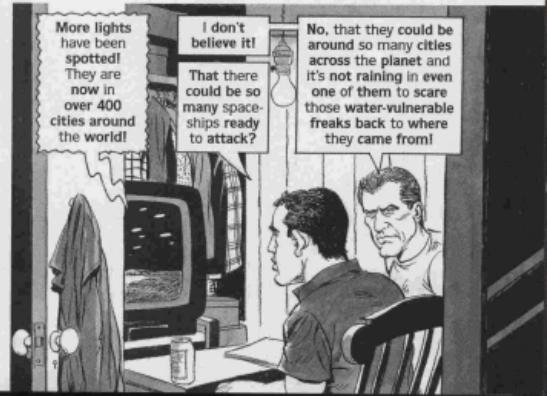
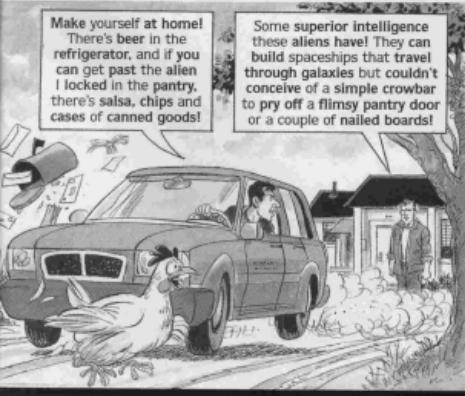
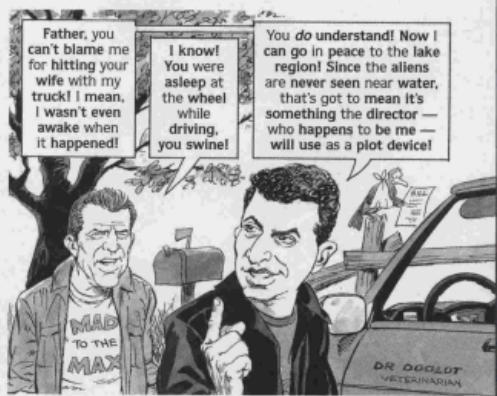
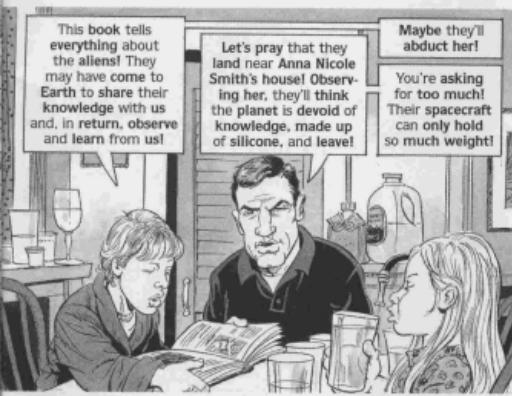
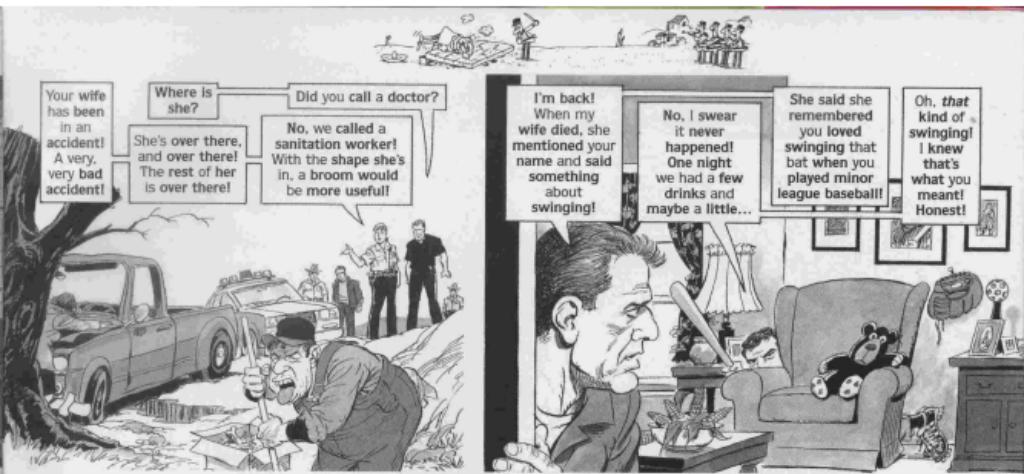


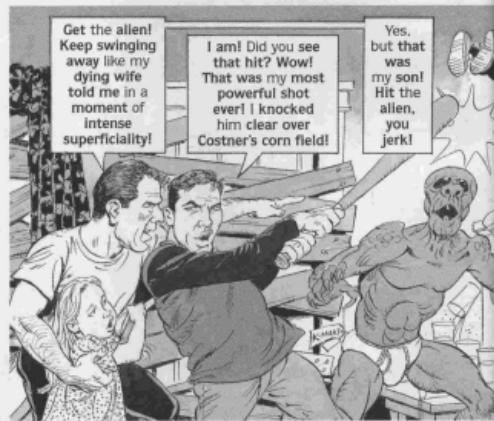
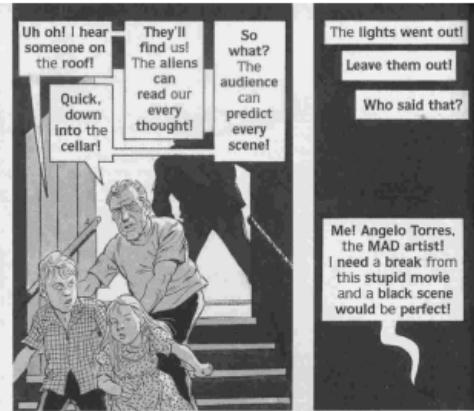
So, the question is, which group are you in?

I'm in the group that doesn't know what the hell you are talking about!

Sorry, that'll have to do! Now you'll have to excuse me for a while I feel a flashback coming on!



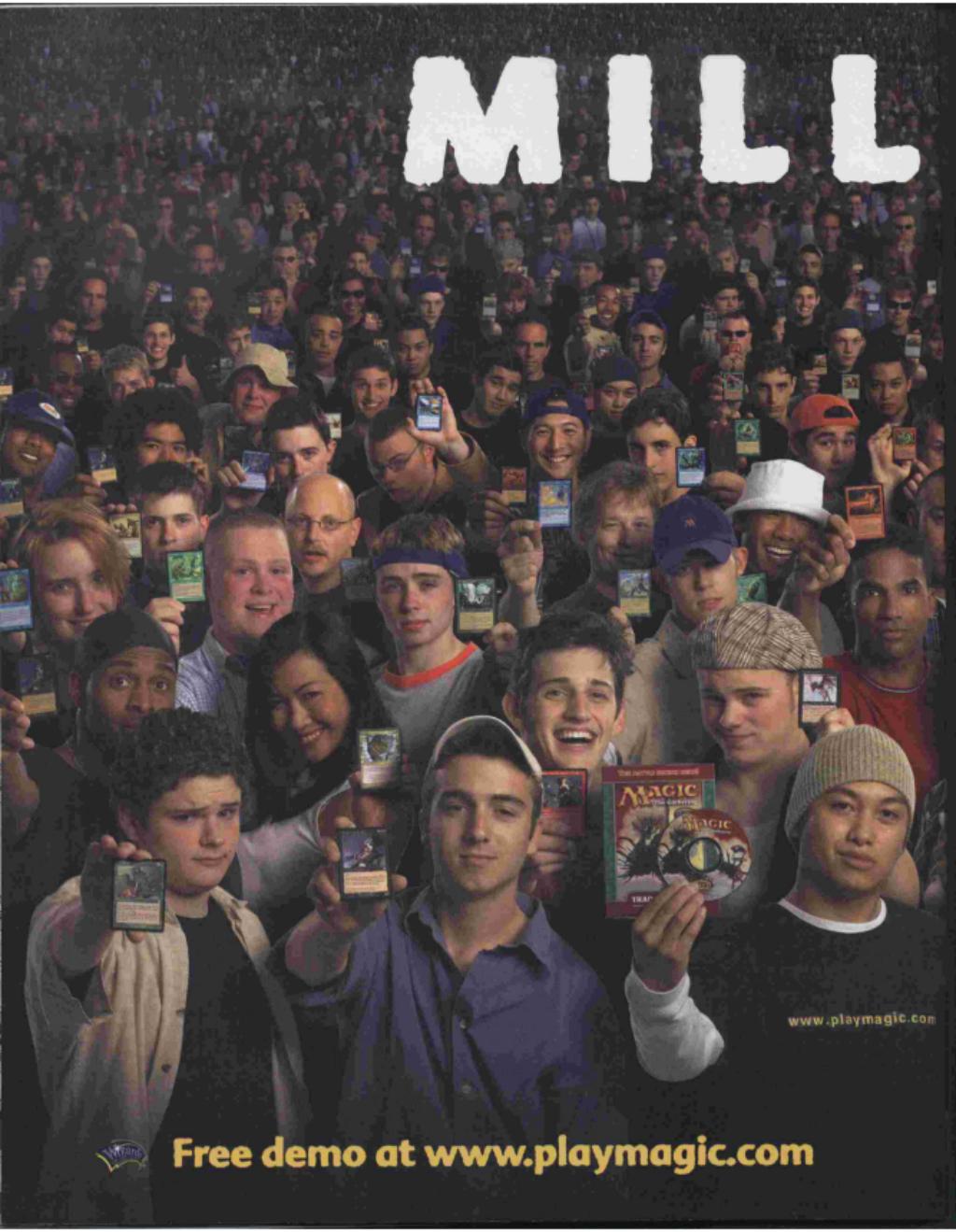






THE FIRST
THE BEST
THE FEW

MILL

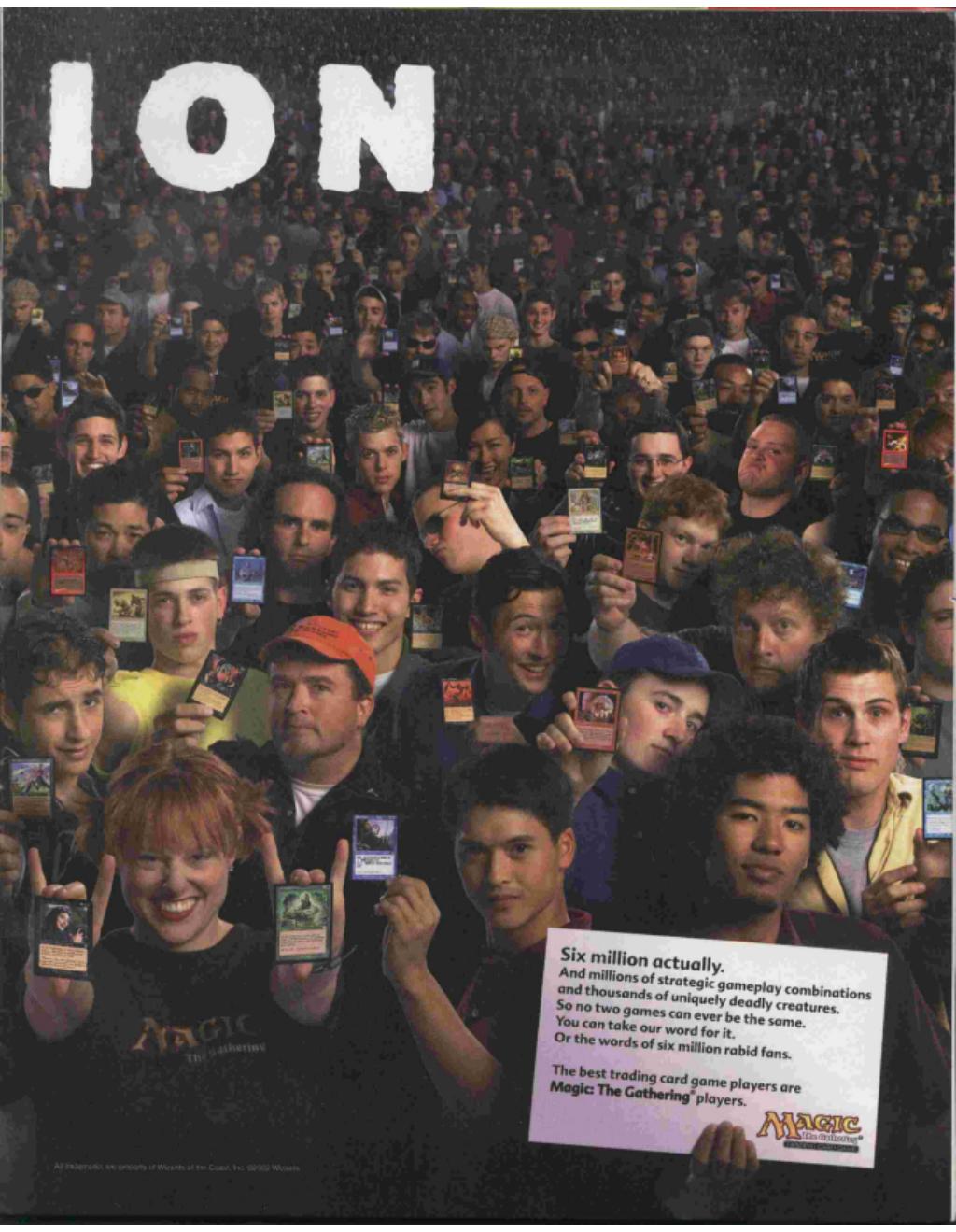


www.playmagic.com

Free demo at www.playmagic.com



ION

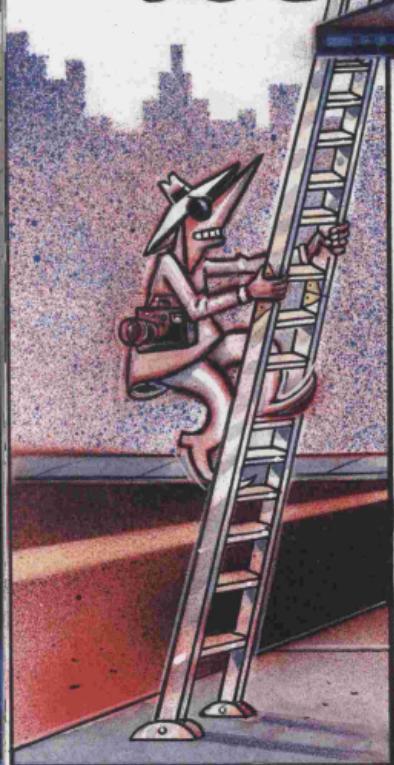


Six million actually.
And millions of strategic gameplay combinations
and thousands of uniquely deadly creatures.
So no two games can ever be the same.
You can take our word for it.
Or the words of six million rabid fans.

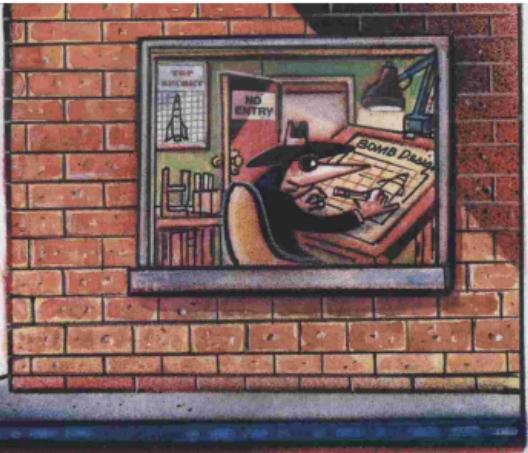
The best trading card game players are
Magic: The Gathering players.

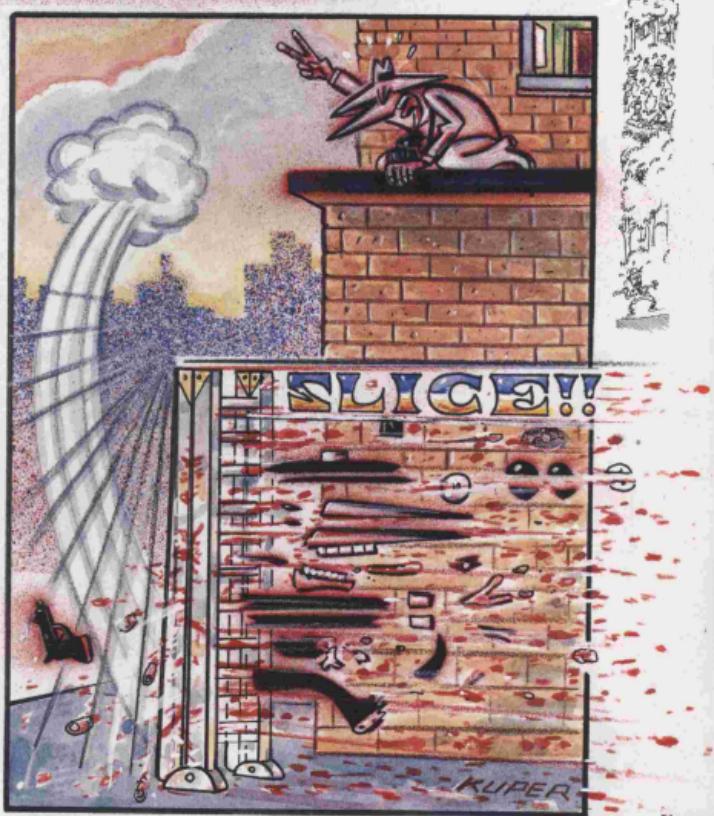
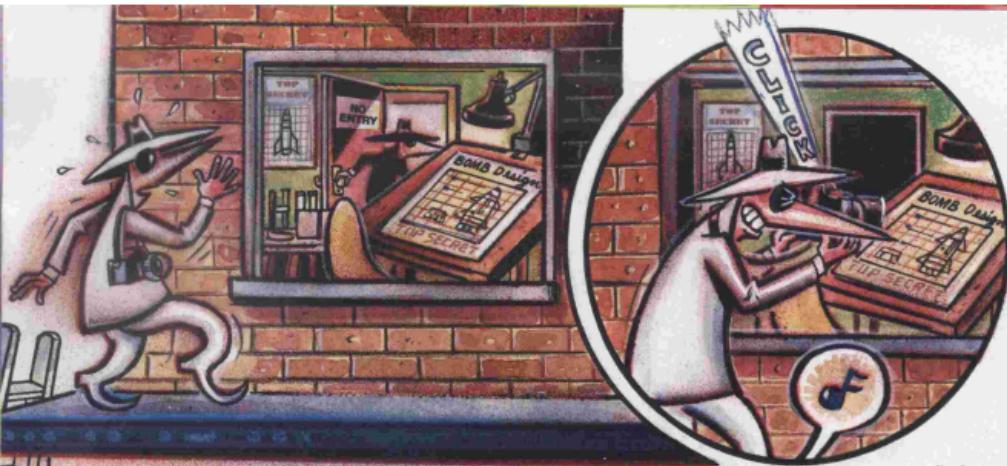


SPY VS SPY

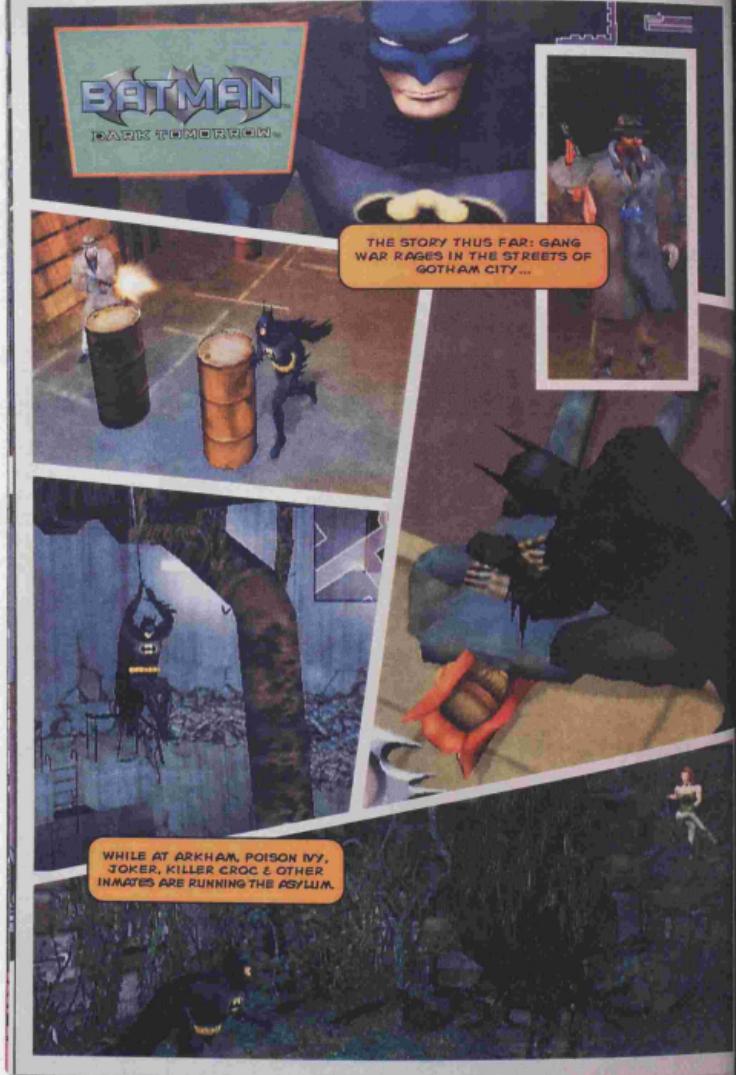


ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

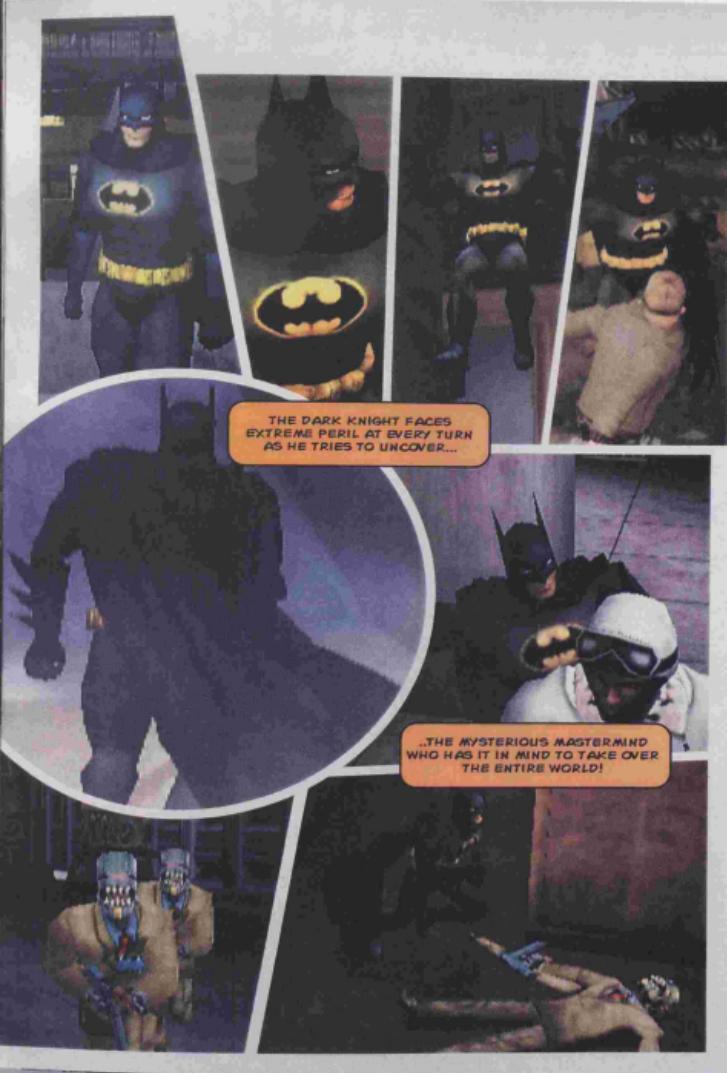




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inspired by DC Comics, Batman: Dark Tomorrow pits a tougher, darker Dark Knight against the Joker, Mr. Freeze, Poison Ivy, Killer Croc, Black Mask, the Ventriloquist & Scarface, and



THE DARK KNIGHT FACES
EXTREME PERIL AT EVERY TURN
AS HE TRIES TO UNCOVER...

...THE MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND
WHO HAS IT IN MIND TO TAKE OVER
THE ENTIRE WORLD!

coming soon



coming soon



coming soon



more, written by Scott Peterson (Batman writer) and Kenji Terada (Final Fantasy I, II & III). A collectors' edition DC comic is included to set the stage, but to Batman, this is no game!



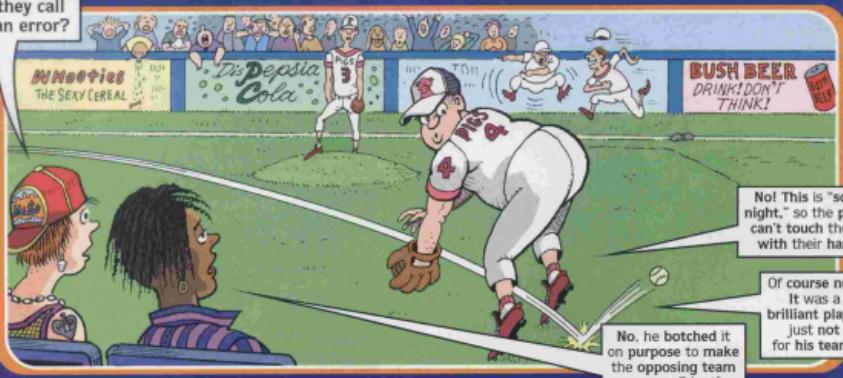


ALL JAFFEE DEPT.

GOOD LORD!
IT'S YET ANOTHER
RIDICULOUS
EPISODE OF...

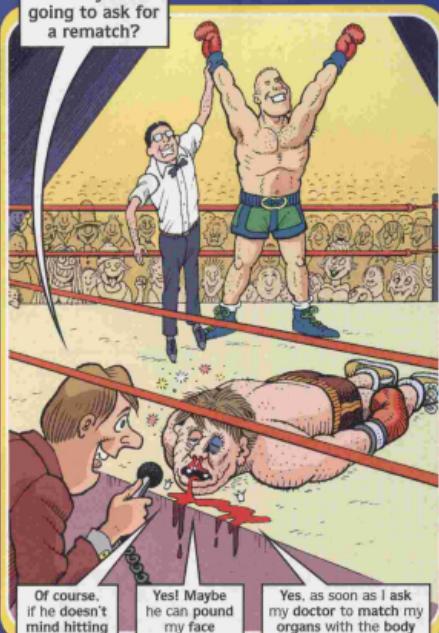
SNAPPY ANSWERS TO

Will they call
that an error?

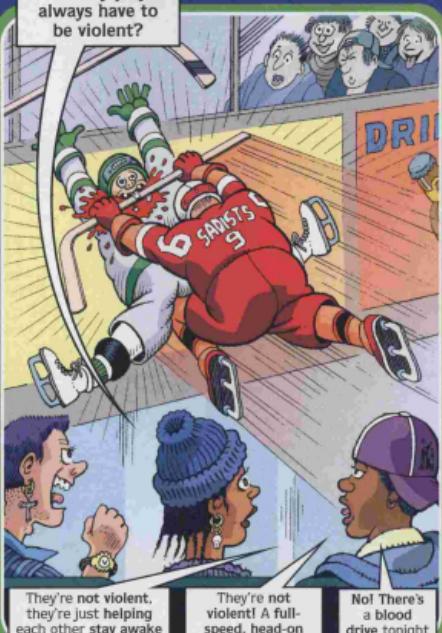


Are you
going to ask for
a rematch?

ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE



Do hockey players
always have to
be violent?



STUPID QUESTIONS

SPECIAL SPORTS EDITION!

Do I roll the ball down the alley?



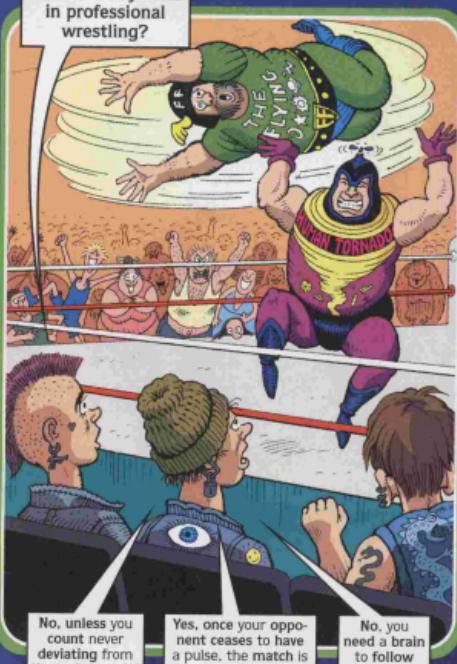
No, you have to rent a cannon and fire it at the pins!

No, dribble it like a basketball, but watch your toes!

Yes, but at no time let the ball leave your hand!

Are there any rules in professional wrestling?

COLORIST: DIGITAL CHAMELEON

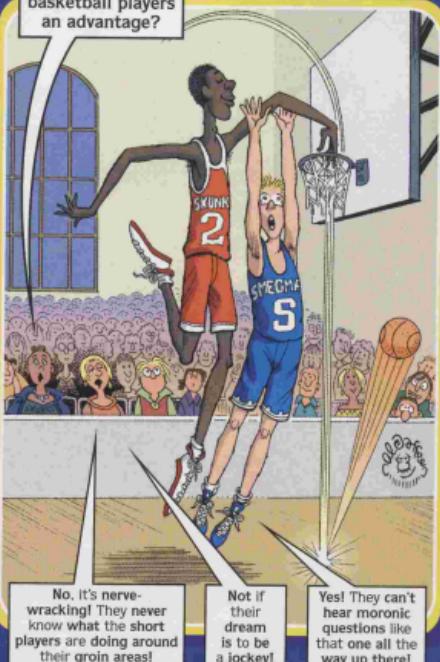


No, unless you count never deviating from the script a rule!

Yes, once your opponent ceases to have a pulse, the match is more or less over!

No, you need a brain to follow rules!

Does height give basketball players an advantage?



No, it's nerve-wracking! They never know what the short players are doing around their groin areas!

Not if their dream is to be a jockey!

Yes! They can't hear moronic questions like that one all the way up there!



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 karate kick the bucket!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE STUNT CORPSE:

JACKIE CHAN

CAUSE OF DEATH

Massive eardrum blowout from standing next to Chris Tucker through two movies

Accidentally kicked to death while attempting mid-air sex with actress from *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

Fatally karate chops self in back of head during stunt

Flogged by parents who have to pay medical bills of kids who see his movies and then attempt his stunts

Total exhaustion from making sure his films contain every single cop/buddy movie cliché

Chokes on own tongue attempting line of Shakespeare while filming a Kung Fu version of *Hamlet*

ODDS

2:1

4:1

10:1

15:1

20:1

25:1



HOW SHOULD THE
MOST CORRUPT
BUSINESS
EXECUTIVES BE
PUNISHED?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS
MAD FOLD-IN

It seems every time we open the newspaper, another executive is being investigated for embezzling money, dumping stock or just being all-around sleazy. It's really getting out of control! How can society put an end to it? What punishment is harsh enough to dissuade the corrupt individuals? To find out what we think is an appropriate punishment, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



MANY BUSINESSMEN ARE CROOKS AND WE'D LIKE THEM
RESIDING IN JAIL. THEIR LAWYERS WILL CAMPAIGN
FROM EVERY LEGAL ANGLE TO KEEP 'EM OUT. BUT THE
BEST THING WE COULD AND SHOULD DO IS PUSH
FOR MUCH STRONGER LAWS THAT WOULD ADMIN-
ISTER JUSTICE TO EVERY INVESTOR AND CORPORATION

A

B

ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE

JUSTICE LEAGUE

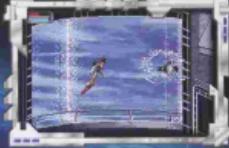
INJUSTICE FOR ALL

 MIDWAY



JUSTICE LEAGUE COMES TO THE GAME BOY ADVANCE

When global catastrophe strikes and the world is in peril, the call goes out for the Justice League, the greatest super heroes of all time. Fighting for truth, justice and freedom, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Flash*, *Green Lantern*, *Hawkgirl* and *Martian Manhunter* have banded together to fight for the common good against the *Injustice League* in an all-new action adventure title for the Game Boy Advance. Featuring 12 levels of non-stop action, gamers will overcome dangerous obstacles, an onslaught of villains and discover power-ups on the path to victory!



GAME PREVIEW AT
WWW.JUSTICELIGUE.MIDWAY.COM



GAME BOY ADVANCE

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Violence

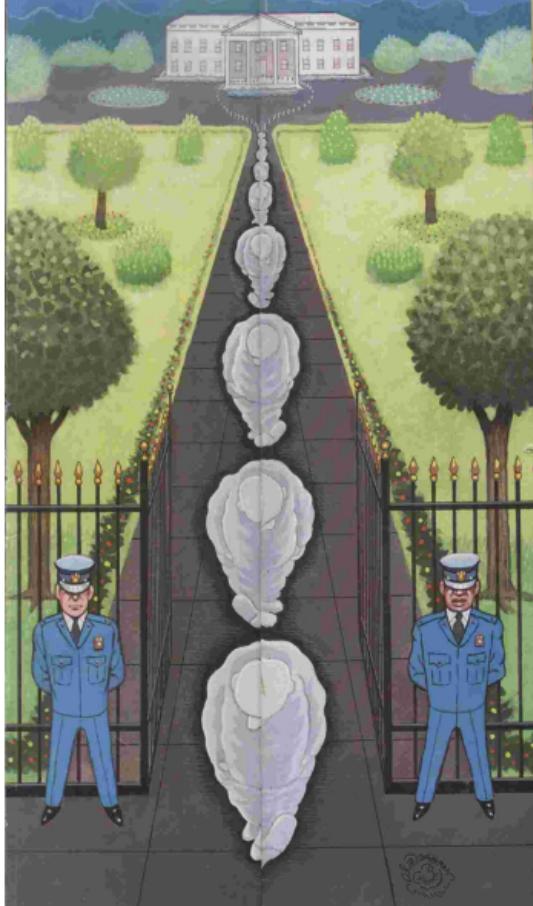
HOW SHOULD THE
MOST CORRUPT
BUSINESS
EXECUTIVES BE
PUNISHED?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A

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



MAKE THEM
RESIGN
FROM THE
BUSH
ADMIN-
ISTRATION

A

B