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TV'S HEROES

10 PULITZER-WINNING CARTOONISTS TAKE ON BUSH

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Lost Odyssey



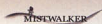
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31

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NUMBER 487

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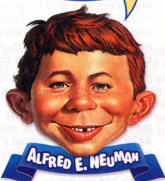
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Around the Magazine

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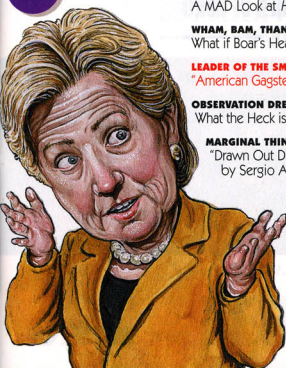
Getting homework after a full day of school is like being forced to take home a doggy bag from a lousy restaurant!



16



19



34

42





A SIGHT FOR BORED EYES

I've been a MAD reader for about two years now and I just noticed the "What the Heck is the Difference?" section and thought to myself no one has commented on it yet, so I am here to say thanks for adding that extra hour of purposeless searching to my day!

Andrew Barsky, Palm Harbor, FL

Belly Up To The Barsky — We started "What the Heck is the Difference" way back in MAD #479 and you "just" noticed it?!? We appreciate the compliment, but we're going to go out on a limb and say maybe "observation" isn't your strong suit! —Ed.



A SWITCH IN TIME

While I was reading issue #483 two months ago during an indoor recess my student volunteer named Chris Connor took it and started reading it. He gave it to me at the end of recess and I asked him why did you take it? He didn't say anything and just walked away. The next month I brought in issue #484 and this time not only did he take it, he took it during math class. I mean how bad does he want to read MAD? I just got issue #485, should I bring it or not?

Eric Ruskoff, Ontario, Canada

Rusky Business — We have the perfect solution! Next time, just bring in the front cover of the new issue — but first, stick a copy of *Playboy* inside of it. Then after Chris makes his move, report him to the principal! Sure it won't win you any friends, but you won't be losing any more MADs! Just remember, any problem you ever have in life can be easily solved with pornography! —Ed.

FROWN FOR THE COUNT

I just read the January 2008 issue and was pleased as always. As I was reading the MAD 20 Dumbest People, Events, and Things of 2007, I noticed there should have been 22! You forgot to mention all the Idiots who write MAD magazine and the ones who subscribe, like me!

Donald Goodlin, Sacramento, CA

Don Baby Don — We're going to tell you something we're sure people have been telling you your entire life — you don't count! Thanks for writing and Happy New Year! —Ed.

WHAT THE DUCK?

I have a quick question. After being a reader of MAD Magazine for many years, I need to know what exactly is a Duck Edwing?

Stephen Curtis, Chapin, SC

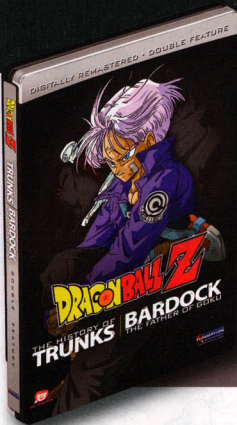
Don't Stop Be-Stephen — There are two answers to your question. The first is that Duck Edwing is a famous Chinese entrée in which you mix duck with snow peas, bok choy, hoisin sauce and Hamburger Helper. The other, less popular answer is that it is long-time MAD artist and writer Don "Duck" Edwing. Regardless, both cause severe nausea! —Ed.

DRAGON BALL Z

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(THE HISTORY OF TRUNKS AND BARDOCK: FATHER OF GOKU)
- ★ COLLECTIBLE METAL TIN
- ★ REVISED ENGLISH DIALOGUE WITH JAPANESE AUDIO IN STUNNING 5.1 SURROUND SOUND



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The Big Easel

I just thought that everyone at MAD would like to see my masterpiece. A six-foot-tall Alfred E. Neuman dancing robot made completely of free post office boxes and look what it's holding! Please print this in your magazine because after I managed to snap this picture, my brother tackled it, causing all the crappy boxes to crush. Now I have no more cool Alfred E. Neuman dancing robot and the only thing that would make me feel better would be to see it immortalized forever in your magazine.

Erik Scheffer, East Meadow, NY

Top Scheffer — That's the trouble with dancing robots — they're just no damn good in a fight! Now, if your brother had challenged him to a game of *Dance Dance Revolution*, the robot would have been victorious and you two could be slow dancing right now (don't pretend you built him for any reason other than that)! Instead, you're left picking up the corrugated corpse of your fallen comrade. Let this be a lesson to you and all other would-be inventors — unless you're making a *killing* robot, it's just not worth your time! —Ed.



A PAIN IN THE CLASS

I love your magazine and I own a bunch of your issues. I guess you could say I have issues! But in high school, my issues of MAD are being shunned by my English teacher! Every Wednesday, we read an editorial article from the newspaper and write about it. Afterwards, we have to read the rest of the paper until the bell rings. Lately I have been bringing my good ol' MAD magazines and reading them instead, which my English teacher hates. What for? The Fundalini Pages are informational. So I made an agreement with my teacher: if I get this letter in MAD, then I can read MAD every Wednesday for the rest of the year! Please get me in there for, well, me!

Bo Lotti, Belmont, CA

Bo Better Blues — When we got your letter, our first impulse was to hold it and print it in our July issue — that way no one would win! Then we thought better of it, and said what the fudge — why not make Bo's high school hell a little easier? Don't brag about this too much — your teacher still has the power to flunk you! —Ed.



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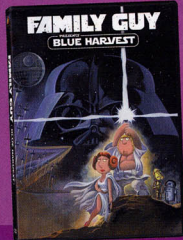
I'm getting on a bit in years now (I've just turned 14). It's time for me to settle down, and find myself a man. But would you believe it, there are practically no classified sections in British newspapers for teenagers! Then, a brilliant idea came to me: MAD should start its own dating service! You guys always seem to be matchmaking for people who can't go up to their crush, in person, and just friggin' ask them out already. You can now matchmake total strangers. Mull the idea over a while, and e-mail me!

Laura Gilbert, London, England

Natural Born Gilbert — If your search for Prince Charming starts by looking to MAD readers, you're in for a lot of disappointment. MAD readers tend to be posty, awkward and gawky — and if that's your type, it's hard to believe that you're having a hard time finding that in jolly of England! —Ed.

READER ALERT

Those lucky enough to have their missives printed on this month's Letters Page will receive *Family Guy: Blue Harvest* on DVD courtesy of our friends at Fox Home Video. For those not lucky enough, you don't have to go to a galaxy far, far away, it's on sale now!



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the usual gang of idiots

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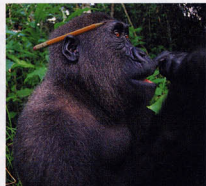


E. ROBOT

Not to be outdone by Erik Scheffer, Tommy Thelen of Sioux City, IA sent in his own dancing Alfred robot. We were absolutely amazed that in one month we received TWO dancing Alfred robot depictions! Will this be the hot new fad of 2008? The trendsetters and tastemakers all agree — no, it won't! However, we invite all readers to send in their own rendition of the dancing Alfred robot — we'll print the best ones in an upcoming issue! Send it via e-mail (letters@madmagazine.com) or via snail mail to: Amy "The Big Robot" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.



AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MAD READERS



FOR REASONS THAT ARE STILL NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR (BUT DEFINITELY UNWISE) THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF MAD #488 WILL BE WRITTEN AND EDITED BY A TROOP OF MONKEYS.

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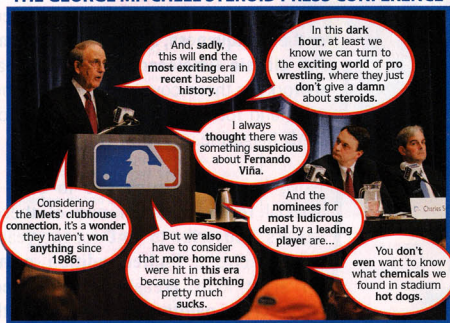
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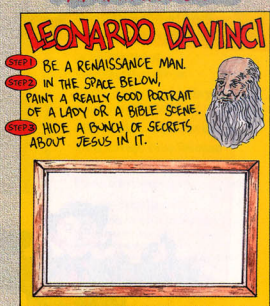
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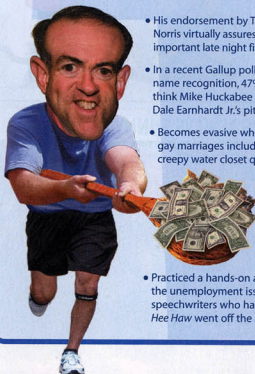


PAINT LIKE THE MASTERS FIFTH IN A SERIES



MEET THE '08 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

THIS MONTH: MIKE HUCKABEE



- His endorsement by TV tough guy Chuck Norris virtually assures that he'll lock up the all-important late night fitness infomercial vote.
- In a recent Gallup poll focusing on candidate name recognition, 47% of probable voters think Mike Huckabee is a key member of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s pit crew.
- Becomes evasive when asked if his ban on gay marriages includes fellow Republican and creepy water closet queen, Senator Larry Craig.
- As a Baptist minister, he has raised most of his campaign cash the old fashioned way...skimming the Sunday collections.
- Practiced a hands-on approach to addressing the unemployment issue by hiring a team of speechwriters who haven't worked since Hee How went off the air.

REJECTED CATCHPHRASES FROM RAMBO



CASTRO Comments:



LESSER-KNOWN STRIKES IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY...

WHO
The United Brotherhood of Adult Movie Dialogue Coaches
WHAT THEY DEMAND
A percentage of condom and lubricant sales



HOW IT WILL AFFECT THE PUBLIC
Without coherent dialogue, porn cinephiles will have to concentrate more on the sex scenes.

WHO
The Street Mimes Guild
WHAT THEY DEMAND
An end to the constant mockery



HOW IT WILL AFFECT THE PUBLIC
It won't.

WHO
The Public Access Hosts Union
WHAT THEY DEMAND
Money. Any money at all. Minimum wage. Bartering, even.



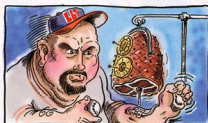
HOW IT WILL AFFECT THE PUBLIC
Would-be viewers will have to shoot their own unpaid, poorly-produced programming, which, since that's what public access is, technically makes them scabs.

WHO
The Gaffers Union
WHAT THEY DEMAND
A more descriptive title, so everyone will stop asking what, exactly, they do.



HOW IT WILL AFFECT THE PUBLIC
Ummm...they'll have to accept less gaffing, we guess.

SHOCKING REVELATIONS GEORGE MITCHELL LEFT OUT OF HIS REPORT ON STEROIDS IN BASEBALL

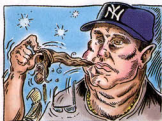


While David Wells never tested positive for steroids, he frequently had abnormally high levels of glazed ham in his system.

That flurry of taps and kisses Sammy Sosa would flash after every home run was actually his method of placing steroid orders with his dealer.

It may be nothing, but the San Diego Chicken started his career as the San Diego Cornish Game Hen.

The reason for Roger Clemens' corpulent appearance in recent years is that he would frequently eat key witnesses in the steroid case against him.



Don't be fooled by those midges that swarmed all over Yankee players during their playoff series with Cleveland this year — their bites were actually a clever and sophisticated method of steroid injection.

Mitchell actually recommends that people take drugs if they're planning to slog through Ken Burns' 18-hour *Baseball* documentary.



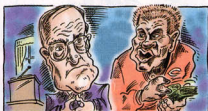
Oddly, Mr. Met's giant head is not due to excessive use of Human Growth Hormone. Go figure!

Remember that Cubs fan who interfered with a foul ball and cost his team a shot at the World Series? Even *he* was on steroids.

The Mets' historic collapse at the end of last season had nothing to do with steroids — the players just lost focus once *Gossip Girl* debuted on The CW.

Mark McGwire's 'nads shrank so much, they were invisible to the naked eye.

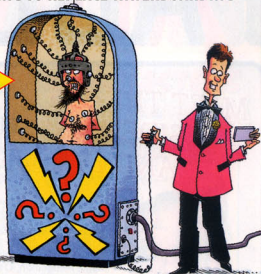
Pete Rose tried to bet Senator Mitchell on who would be named in the report.



THE FAST 5

FUN-SOUNDING INTERROGATING METHODS THE CIA IS CONSIDERING TO REPLACE WATERBOARDING

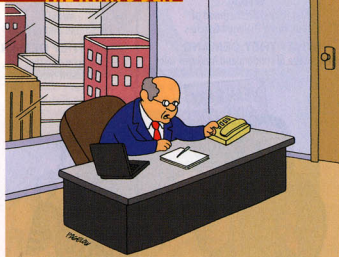
- 1 Taser Tag
- 2 The 64,000 Volt Question
- 3 Loin Darts
- 4 Liar, Liar, Vital Organs on Fire
- 5 Rock, Testicles, Scissors



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WOULDN'T IT BE FANTASTIC TO HAVE SUPERPOWERS? WOULDN'T YOU LOVE TO READ MINDS, OR SOAR THROUGH THE SKIES, OR TRAVEL THROUGH TIME? WOULDN'T YOU BE THE HAPPIEST PERSON EVER? OF COURSE! ANYONE WOULD! ANYONE, THAT IS, EXCEPT FOR THE DEPRESSIVE, TORTURED MOPES ON NBC'S HIT SHOW! ALL THEY DO IS BROOD AND GRIPE AND WORRY. WHAT AN UNGRATEFUL BUNCH OF...

Z E R O E S

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

Destiny divides itself into two paths. For some, fate dictates that they take action. And yet others are chosen to go on and on and on, babbling and blabbing, always trying to sound deep and philosophical while actually accomplishing nothing of substance and boring the pants off everyone around them. Guess which side of the coin landed "heads" for me?

I am Longwindy Smersh, and while contriving my father's research, I traveled to India to learn his secrets and acquire his database. Yes, even superheroes have been outsourced! My father spent his life tracking a bunch of confused, abnormal mutants and correlating them all into one master computer file. It was the original MySpace!

No one knows where these abilities come from. Some believe that they are a gift from God. Others think they're the cutting edge of evolution. For me, I think it's just a reaction to bad clams.

Neato Geekarama's power is incredible. He can take a single second of time and make it seem like 12 hours. It's a rare gift, shared only by the contestants on *Last Comic Standing!*

Nabob Porkbelly is an ambitious sleazebag who dumped his family. Then, he tried to exploit a ghastly attack in downtown Manhattan to reinvent his career and consolidate his political power. An unimaginably amoral scenario! But give him a ratty comb-over and an amiable third wife, and he could be Presidential timber!

Nabob's brother, Putter, isn't nearly as ruthless, but he's tough. He's plunged off a roof and died, gotten a fatal chunk of glass impaled in his skull, and was at the epicenter of a nuclear explosion. And all he got was a nasty headache. But when no one's bothering him, he mopes and sulks like a sensitive little bitch. That's what passes for character nuance around here!

Sicki and her husband B.S. had a mixed marriage. He walks through walls, and she talks to them! Periodically, Sicki lapses into a dual personality who shoots, stabs, strangles or destroys everything in her path. Kind of like Britney Spears.



Fatt Porkman is a mind-reader, but a lousy cop. The only part of police work that he's mastered are the donut runs! But he's overcome his many limitations! Perhaps his greatest achievement was making his cheating pregnant wife from Season One vanish without a trace in Season Two. Hey, not every subplot is a winner!

I'm always able to tell what someone is thinking. Except for the time I tried to get inside Paula Abdul's brain. I kept getting a "404 Error" message!

This is Stare Bennet, who has the power of spontaneous regeneration. Simply put, she can recover from any injury. So they can kick the ever-loving crap out of her, wait for her to heal, and then kick her ass some more. On the plus side, she's a conservative's dream girl. She can lose her virginity over and over again!

After adopting Stare, I deliberately hid my daughter's true past from her, fried my family's nervous systems to cover my tracks, and bailed on my original plan to turn her over to The Company for medical experimentation. I guess I should probably give this back!

Before, you were evil. But now you're good. Just like a pro wrestler, but not quite as emotionally rich! Now that we're working together, you've told me all the sneaky ways that The Company trails its own employees. No one can escape their sights. But the four of us will protect little Moppet here. Hmmm, I just had a thought. Do you think maybe I should rethink keeping The Company's #1 kidnapping target as a guest right here in my apartment? Or at the very least, get a second lock for the door?

You're not the only one who's a strategic wizard. Knowing that The Company would search the four corners of the world to find me, I hid from them. At my house in Haiti. Shrewd, huh?

This incredibly cheap plot device is the Haitian, who can enter people's memories and selectively erase them. Recently, he was near death. He almost killed himself trying to make 14 million viewers forget that crappy-ass Season One finale!

Our first adventure was about a mysterious stranger trying to kill all the heroes. Our second was about a mysterious stranger trying to kill all the heroes' parents. At this rate, next season we'll be gunning for the grandfolds! Now, Moppet is helping us search for a mysterious stranger known only as the Bad Guy!

What is it, Moppet? What do you see?

There are more like us out there, Reaper! *Chuck! Pushing Daisies and Journeyman!* When viewers get overloaded with Xeroxed copycat shows, we could ALL be dead meat!

My friend can travel through time! He can freeze the motion of the Earth! Most impressively, he has the power to make captions float in the air. Kind of like any TV ad for prescription medication!

Well, that would explain the constipated face!

医者を呼出してなさい!

I'd better call my doctor, I'm experiencing an erection lasting more than four centuries!

Is Mr. Mutto a good boy? Does him wuv his mommy? Yes, he does! Mr. Mutto is a little darling cupcake, that's what Mr. Mutto is!

Sometimes I think Mom loves that stupid dog more than her own family.

SOMETimes? Mr. Mutto is the only dog in America who doesn't have to lick himself!

Mom, Dad, I'm starting to suspect that something's not normal about this family.

Nonsense, dear. It's your imagination, running wild.

Now, take your allowance in gold kruggerands from our black ops budget, and treat yourself to a movie. Go alone, speak to no one!

The Bad Guy had better not mess with me. I can move things with my mind. I have super-strength. I can manipulate radiation. The only thing I can't do is fix these funky eyebrows!

I see the Bad Guy! But I can't use my power to track him. Not yet!

Why not?

Pretty much the same reason Neato Geekarama doesn't just freeze the bad guys and bonk them in the head. And the same reason it takes everyone time to "learn" how to control their powers. And the same reason why all the parents leave cryptic hints that almost get their kids killed, instead of just telling them what the hell's going on. We've got a 23-episode commitment to pad here, schmuck!

This picture is for you, Mommy!

Thank you, Mocha. It's beautiful! I love you so much!

Now, what about drawing something for ME, you selfish little brat?

Man, having a schizo mom sucks!

Damnit, mom! You were willing to murder four million people! You were willing to use your youngest child as a human bomb, just to get your claws into a fear-based Presidency! Do you know what that **MAKES** you?

In today's G.O.P.? A moderate!

My mind...a blank! My powers...a mystery! My love life...tangled! My family...strangers to me! Inertia...coursing through my veins! There's only one thing I know I can rely on. That I'll be just as confused next week! And the week after that! Forget telekinesis or super strength, my greatest power is clumsy exposition!



Shut your mouth and listen, you sassy broad. Are you gonna talk, or do I have to **MAKE** you talk? What? What's that? The Bad Guy? He's after me! Oh, no! You've got to help me find him! Save me!

He's the only one on the force who can do the "good cop/ bad cop" routine entirely by himself!



I'm so sad! I can't control my feelings! Everyone's out to get me! Black goo is running down my face! Angst, angst! If I had horn-rim glasses and kept a Live Journal diary in lowercase, I could front an emo band!

Boy, if I had her power, I wouldn't be unhappy. I'd be overjoyed! Then again, I also laughed my ass off all the way through *Mystic River*!



Here is all the equipment we need to track the genetic subjects. A detailed map of the world with everyone's location, a portable hard drive containing reams of biological research, a full medical lab containing a DNA extraction device and centrifugal blood separator, and a linked series of laptops and computer terminals to store all the data!

That's great. Now, how about you **BUY A FRIGGIN' LIGHTBULB?** This place is darker than the last 30 seconds of *The Sopranos*!



Where do you people keep the Hollandaise sauce around here? And is there any tarragon? I'm not a barbarian!

You sliced a little girl's head open like a cantaloupe! Bloody fiend! Monster!

Hey, I'm still gentler than the plastic surgeon who did Tara Reid's boobs. Have you **SEEN** that guy's work? Ugh! What a butcher!



Why do you think I'm a weirdo who doesn't fit in? Because I'm not one of the school sheep? Because I keep to myself?

Because you're sharpening your thumb!

What a woman! She could be the greatest wood shop instructor ever!



Okay, pretty boy. Get your hands off the cheerleader's pom-poms!

Your father is a secret agent for The Company! Nobody who works there has a conscience! It's all cruelty, torture and treachery!

And I was their Employee of the Month for 200 straight months!



Oops, sorry. When I screw around with time-space continuum, sometime not everything blinks all the way through. I just wanted adventure. I just wanted to be like one of my favorite comic book heroes. But I didn't know it would be Donald Duck! Let me concentrate and zap my pants back on!



It could never work out between us, Neato. I'm a cat person, you're a dog person. I'm the stay-at-home type, you like to travel.

Worst of all, I like younger women, and you died in 1693!



Take me with you through time!

Au contraire! It's his job security! You're the only character I KNOW they'll never kill!

I cannot! I am very dangerous!



I've found the Bad Guy! He's been under our noses all along!

Didn't you explode in mid-air, but your I.D. cards came back to Earth unscathed? NOW you're looking for logical plot points? Let's roll!

But that's implausible!



Proceed cautiously. All we know is that the Bad Guy is a quiet individual with personal connections to several of us!

Personal connections? No s#t, Sherlock. In case you haven't noticed, our little group has more suspicious links than an expired box of Jimmy Dean sausages! I just found out that the UPS guy is secretly my uncle, that my dry cleaner had his DNA spliced with my wife, and that the entire Boy Scout Troop 34 are clones of the guy I play *World of Warcraft* with!

Damn! Me too!



Gaspl! No WAY! The only one nobody suspected!

I can feel him, inside my mind!

How can you be sure?

Well, for one thing, I've got an irrepresible craving to drink out of the toilet!

You got it, freaks. I've been sitting here, watching you nudniks and biding my time. But now I'm the boss! I waited over 20 dog years, but it was worth it! And once I take control of your regenerative healing power and un-neuter myself, it's PARTY time!



MILLIONS OF TREES GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THESE BOOKS. DON'T LET THEIR DEATHS BE IN VAIN!



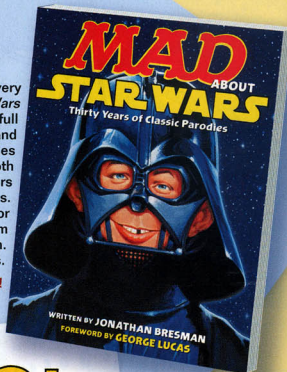
Over 200 Spy Vs. Spy strips, many in full color, by Peter Kuper! Plus a complete collection of rare Spy Vs. Spy newspaper strips, Spy Vs. Spy Jr., and much, much more! Written by former MAD Editor David Shayne.

Published by Watson-Guptill Publications.

ON SALE NOW!

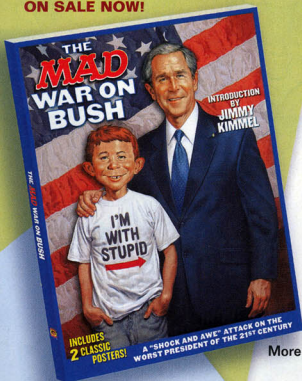
Virtually every MAD Star Wars article! Chock full of annotations and behind-the-scenes memories from both MAD artists and writers and Lucasfilm veterans. Written by MAD Senior Editor and former Lucasfilm lackey Jonathan Bresman. Published by Del Rey Books.

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Savor the final days of a failed presidency by reading this hard-hitting satiric collection of articles on George W. Bush — the worst President since...well...Clinton! A MAD Book.

ON SALE NOW!



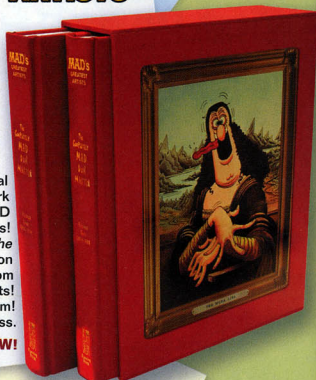
MAD's GREATEST ARTISTS

The Completely MAD DON MARTIN

A Deluxe 2-Volume Special Edition containing every work Don Martin created for MAD over the course of 30 years!

With a foreword by *The Far Side* creator Gary Larson and tributes to Martin from MAD's Usual Gang of Idiots! More than 1,000 pages — count 'em! Published by Running Press.

ON SALE NOW!



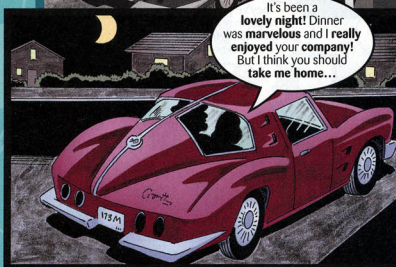
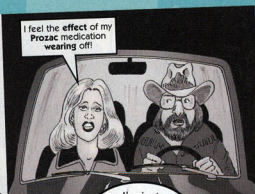


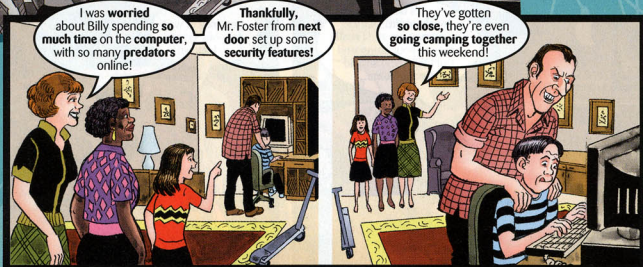
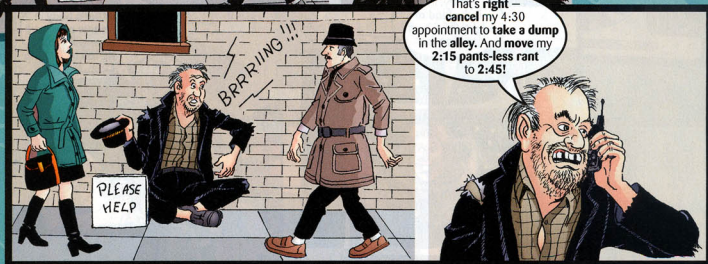
THE DARKER SIDE OF THE LIGHTER SIDE



We tamper with classic Dave Berg strips, even though nobody asked us to — especially not Dave!







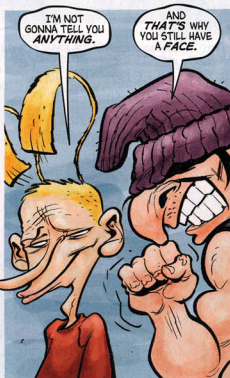
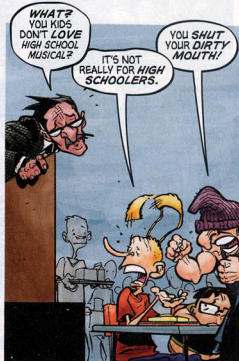


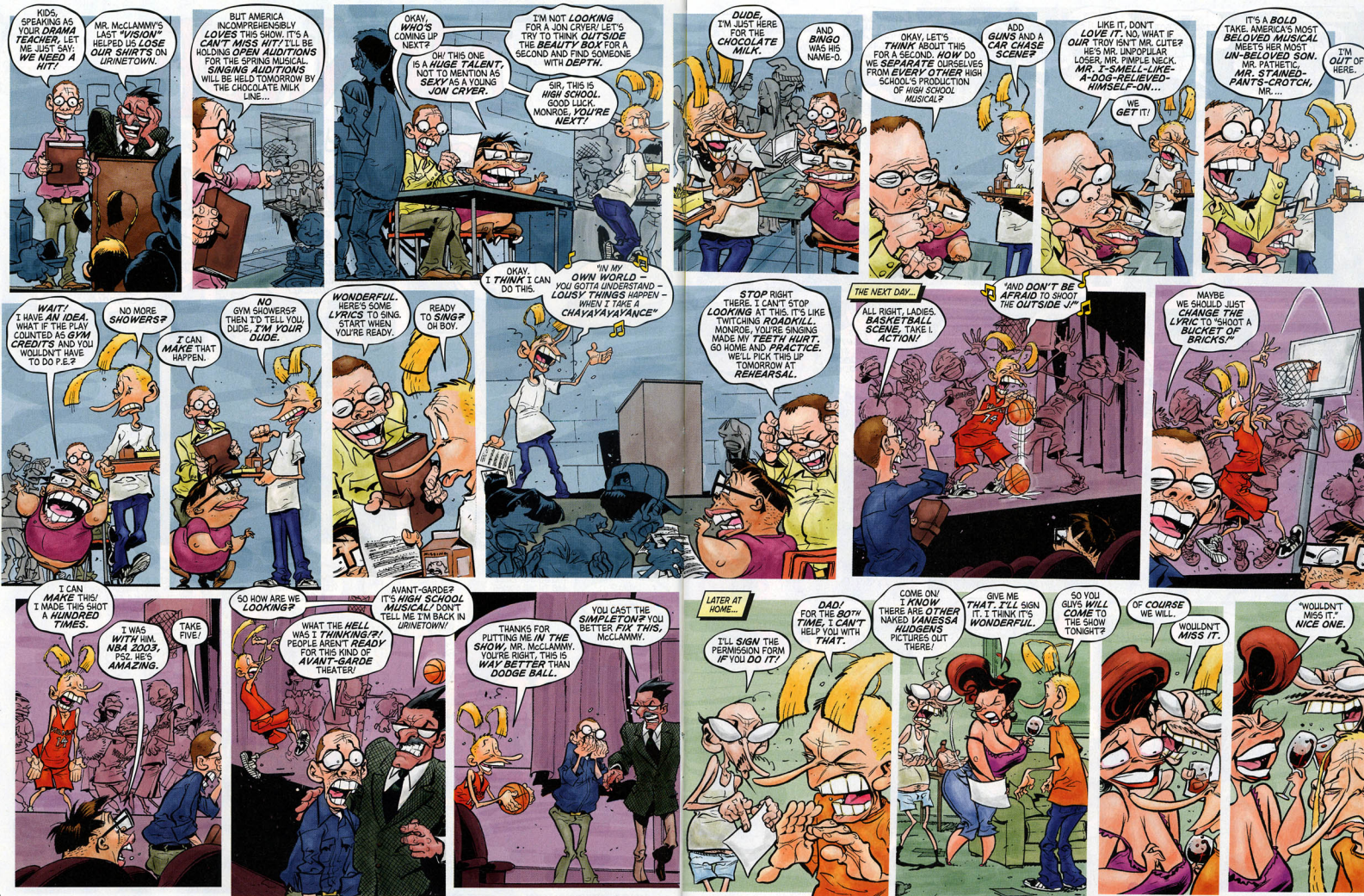
Sounds a little
off key, but...

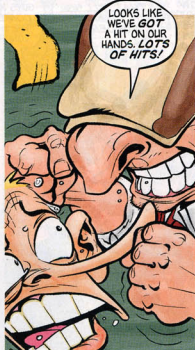
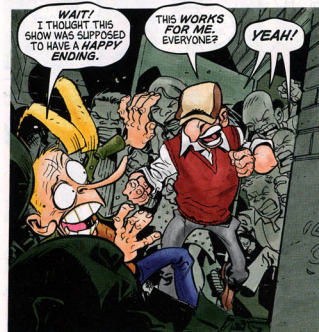
MONROE

and...

High School Musical



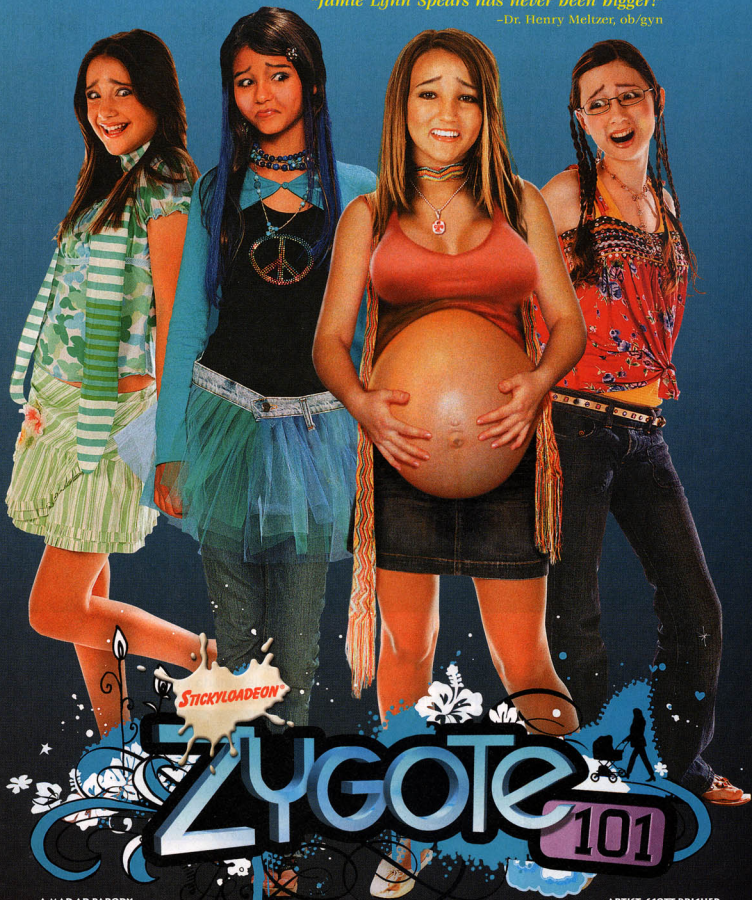




GOODBYE SEMESTERS, HELLO **TRIMESTERS!**

"Jamie Lynn Spears has never been bigger!"

-Dr. Henry Melizer, ob/gyn



ADVANCE WARS

DAYS OF RUIN



"FEATURES LIKE WI-FI PLAY WITH VOICE CHAT, AND MAP CREATION AND SHARING REMAKE THE TITLE WHILE KEEPING ITS ADDICTIVE STRATEGY GAMEPLAY."

- JOYSTIQ.COM

"ADVANCE WARS: DAYS OF RUIN LOOKS TO BE THE MOST EXCITING ENTRY IN THE SERIES SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION. ANY FANS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS SHOULD FIND AN INCREDIBLE NEW DEPTH WITH THE TITLE, AS WELL AS THE MATURITY THAT A GAME ABOUT WAR SHOULD HAVE."

- UGO.COM

"IT MAY BE A BIG CHANGE, BUT ADVANCE WARS: DAYS OF RUIN IS A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE SERIES AND ONE THAT SHOULD BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE GAME."

- KOTAKU.COM



The battle begins anew in *Advance Wars: Days of Ruin*. Set amid a world in chaos and featuring a grittier look, new characters, online Nintendo® Wi-Fi Connection battles and map trading, the latest installment in the *Advance Wars* series provides intense strategy battles anywhere you go. The days of ruin are upon us!

AdvanceWars.com

NINTENDO DS™

Compatible wireless router or Nintendo Wi-Fi USB Connector and broadband access required for online play. For more info, go to NintendoWIFI.com.

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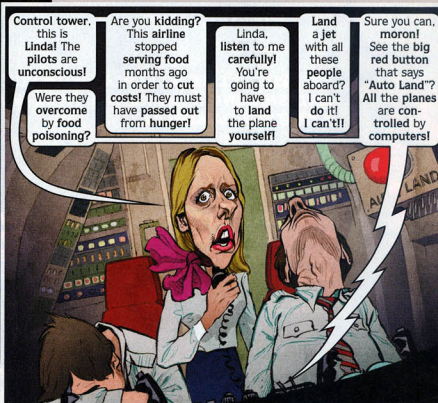


Modern technology has made everyone's lives easier — except Hollywood screenwriters! Tension-filled scenes that used to have moviegoers on the edge of their seats have been rendered meaningless by the introduction of any number of digital devices. Don't believe us? Just sit on the edge of your seat and see what it would be like...

If Classic Old Movie Scenes Were Filmed TODAY

The Unconscious Pilots Scene *Then*

The Unconscious Pilots Scene **TODAY**



The Trapped in the Meat Locker Scene *Then*

The Trapped in the Meat Locker Scene **TODAY**



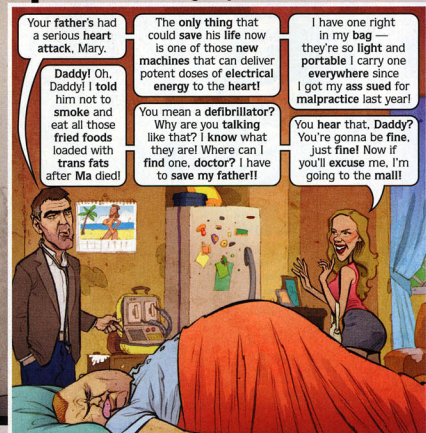
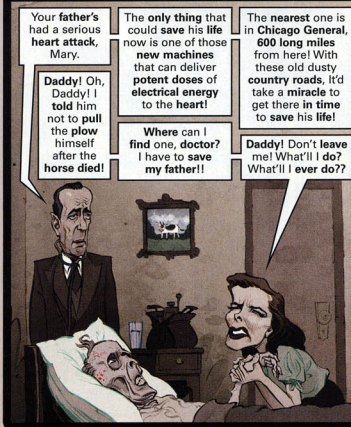
The Disaster At Sea Scene *Then*

The Disaster At Sea Scene **TODAY**



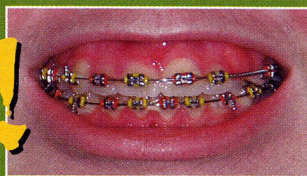
The Medical Emergency Scene *Then*

The Medical Emergency Scene **TODAY**





Planet TAD!!!!



[About Me]

[Name] Tad

[Age] Older than Hannah, younger than Montana

[Least Favorite Color:] [Gangrene]

[3 February|01:27pm]

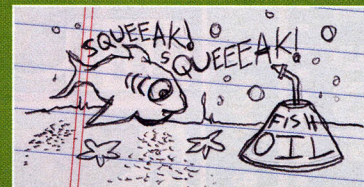
[mood] confused]

Last night, my little sister Sophie was watching *Lady and the Tramp*, and I watched a little of it with her. It got to the scene where the Tramp takes Lady to the restaurant, and the owner brings them the plate of spaghetti and meatballs, and sings a song on the *accordion* for them, and I started to wonder: What's the chef's story? How do you wind up running a restaurant that serves pasta to dogs? Is that his whole business? Or does he only do it as a sideline? Do the dogs pay him somehow? How does he stay in business? Is he mentally ill? And what about the other kitchen workers? Are they just humoring him? The dog stuff is nice — what with the nose-pushing of the meatball and everything — but it seems to me like there's a far more interesting movie going on behind them.



[3 February|08:44pm]

My dad's taking *fish oil* to lower his *cholesterol*. Whenever I see the bottle, it cracks me up, because I like to imagine it's supposed to be squirted into squeaky fish.

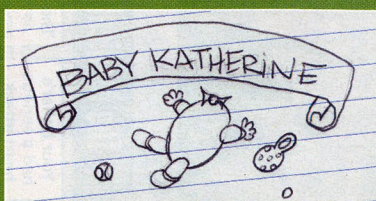


[4 February|04:30pm]

[mood] nervous]

Today in *health class*, Mrs. Lewis told us that we needed to learn about what it would be like to be a parent. So she paired us off and gave every pair an egg to take care of, like it's a baby and we're its parents. Until Friday, one of us has to keep it with us at all times, and if it breaks, we get an "F" for the project. I got paired with Laurie Watson, who's the yearbook editor and co-captain of the *field hockey* team. It could've been worse — Chuck got paired up with Sam Turner, the *defensive tackle* for our football team. When they asked why, Mrs. Lewis said, "Families come in all different kinds. Plus, we have more boys than girls in this class."

After we got our egg, Laurie asked me what we should name the baby. She said she was thinking of maybe naming it Katherine, "but we'll call her Kate or Katie for short." I just stared at her and said, "Laurie, it's an egg." And she said, "Oh, okay. Fine. Be like that. But I'm calling it Katherine." And then she ignored me for the rest of class. I feel like our egg baby is going to have a lot of trouble at home.



Meanwhile, Chuck was fighting with Sam over their egg. Chuck wanted to name it Chuck, Jr., while Sam wanted to name it Sam, Jr. If they'd asked me, I would've suggested compromising and calling their baby Suck.

It's probably a good thing they didn't ask me.

[5 February|03:57pm]

[mood] annoyed]

Man. Only a day in to parenting this egg, and already, Laurie and I have had our first big fight. I took the egg home last night, because Laurie had field hockey practice, and I realized pretty quickly that it was going to be hard to keep the egg from breaking. So I had what I thought was a pretty good idea: I boiled it. I was kind of proud of myself, but when I gave it back to Laurie before homeroom, she said, "Something doesn't feel right about Katie." So I told her what I'd done, and she said, "You boiled our baby?!" so loud that everyone in the hallway turned and stared. I pointed out that at least I didn't *poach* or *scramble* our baby, but that didn't seem to make things any better.

Later, Laurie came up to me at lunch and said that she was thinking of asking Mrs. Lewis to let her have sole custody of the egg, with me only allowed supervised visits, but then she realized that that really wouldn't be much of a punishment for me, and besides, she needed me to look after the egg during her violin lessons.

[5 February|09:06pm]

Is Jabba a common name throughout the *Star Wars* universe? And does each planet have only one of them? Because it seems odd to me that you'd need to be *Jabba the HUTT*. It makes me wonder if he had one too many phone calls that went like:

"Hey, it's me, Jabba."

"Jabba the *Ewok*?"

"No, the other one."

"Jabba the *Gungan*?"

"No."

"Jabba the *Bothan*?"

"No. C'mon, man. It's me, Jabba!

Jabba the Hutt!"

"Oh! Jabba the HUTT! Why didn't you say?"



[6 February|05:46pm]

[mood] anxious]

During health class today, Mrs. Lewis announced that, so far, four out of the 12 couples in our class have broken their egg babies. Then she said that any couple who kept their egg intact would get a bonus A for the semester, and Sam got so excited, he accidentally high-fived Chuck with his egg-holding hand and Sam, Jr. went everywhere. Chuck didn't seem too upset about it, though. He said that he and Sam had been fighting a lot about how to take care of the egg, and he was kind of glad to have that over with.

[8 February|03:41pm]

[mood] surprised]

Well, today was the final day for the egg-baby experiment, and I'm really glad, because I was sick of taking care of my stupid egg. In class, when it came time for us to give our eggs back to Mrs. Lewis, Laurie and I were one of only three couples who'd kept their eggs intact all week long, and she said she was very proud of us. Then she leaned on her desk a little, and our egg rolled off and fell on the floor. That's when Mrs. Lewis realized ours had been boiled. I thought we were totally busted, but Laurie turned to me and said, "You see? I told you the bath was a little too warm last night." Then she told Mrs. Lewis all about how we'd given our egg baths every single night, and read it stories before tucking it in, and Mrs. Lewis was so impressed, she gave both of us A-pluses.

Laurie's some sort of evil genius.



WRITER AND ARTIST: PETER KUPER

KUPER



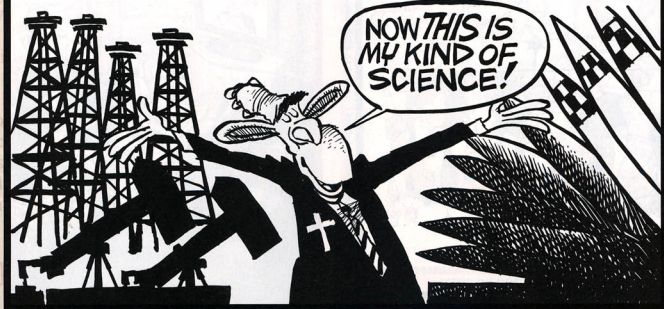
Over the years, MAD has been called moronic, immature, stupid and even moronic. And we're sick of it! Which is why, to improve our image and better our situation, we've hired ten Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonists to illustrate the following article. Will this teaming smarten up MAD's image and elevate the discourse — or simply ruin the careers of ten once-respected artists? What do you think?!!

WHY GEORGE W. BUSH IS IN FAVOR OF GLOBAL WARMING

A MAD EXPOSÉ

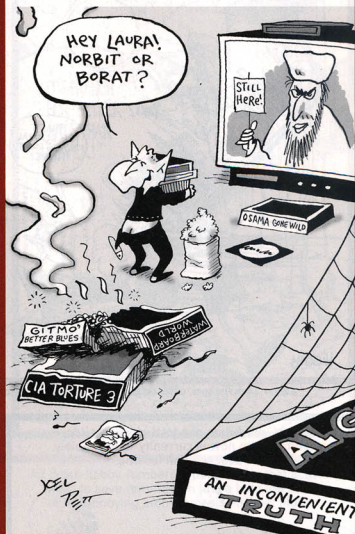
WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT

As a devout Christian, he's doubtful about science — except, of course, when it's in the name of oil exploration, bomb-making or using satellites to spy on Americans.



ARTIST: MIKE PETERS, DAYTON DAILY NEWS PULITZER PRIZE 1981

Netflix sent him *An Inconvenient Truth* a few months ago — but darn it if they haven't also kept sending other, more important movies.



ARTIST: JOEL PETT, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER PULITZER PRIZE 2000

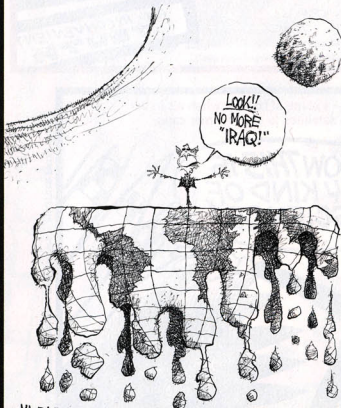
Karl Rove keeps telling him how much easier Republican wins in future elections will be without New York, Boston and San Francisco.



HIGGINS

ARTIST: JACK HIGGINS, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES PULITZER PRIZE 1989

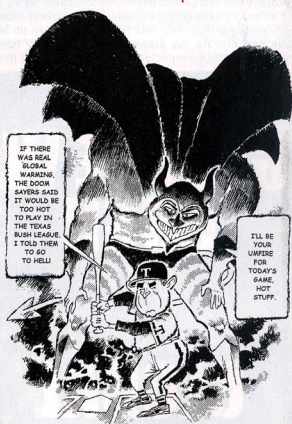
Scientists' prediction of a total global meltdown a century from now is currently, unfortunately, his best solution for Iraq.



MAT DAVIES © 98 BR NVO...

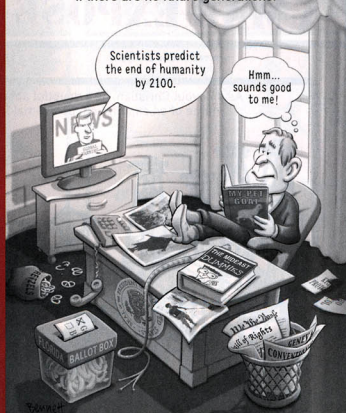
ARTIST: MATT DAVIES, JOURNAL NEWS PULITZER PRIZE 2004

When Texas eventually gets too hot for baseball, he can finally forget about the second-shoddiest leadership stint of his life.



ARTIST: DICK LOCHER, CHICAGO TRIBUNE PULITZER PRIZE 1993

His worries about how future generations will remember his presidency won't matter if there are no future generations.



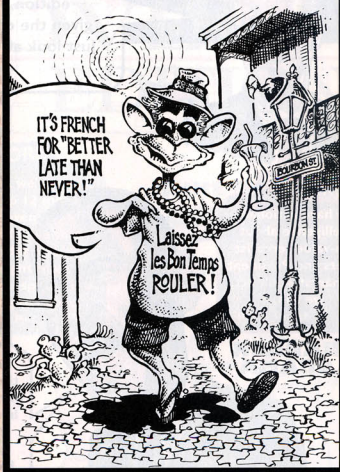
ARTIST: CLAY BENNETT, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR PULITZER PRIZE 2002

Just like that misleading, moronic, scam-filled Internet, he's always skeptical of stuff that Al Gore invented.



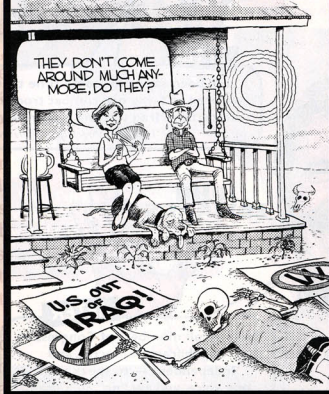
ARTIST: MICHAEL RAMIREZ, INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY PULITZER PRIZE 1994

To his feeble mind, decades of hot, baking sun are just the thing to finally dry out New Orleans.



ARTIST: BEN SARGENT, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN PULITZER PRIZE 1983

Those 130° Texas summers they're predicting should be just the thing to keep those annoying protestors off his back.



ARTIST: STEVE BREEN, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE PULITZER PRIZE 1996

All those flabby, lumbering polar bears that activists want to save remind him just a little too much of his annoying arch-nemesis Michael Moore.



ARTIST: JIM MORIN, MIAMI HERALD PULITZER PRIZE 1996



Hello, I'm Ty Pennington and welcome to a special edition of *Extreme Makeover* — where politicians are given the chance to completely remake their entire image! Just look at these amazing **REAL** quotes! Candidates ready? **MOVE! THAT! POSITION!** It's...

BEFORE

If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will.

August 1, 2007

BARACK OBAMA

BEFORE

One of the things we ought to be thinking about is some level of mandatory service to our country, so that everybody in America — not just the poor kids who get sent to war — are serving this country.

May, 2007

BEFORE

I don't think it's in the best interests of our troops or our country (to withdraw troops from Iraq).

2006 Take Back America Conference

AFTER

I did not say that we would immediately go in unilaterally. What I said was that we have to work with Musharraf.

August 7, 2007

HILLARY CLINTON

AFTER

I have been saying for some time that we need to bring our combat troops home from Iraq starting right now.

2007 Take Back America Conference

JOHN EDWARDS

AFTER

I call on all members of Congress — Republican, Democrat, and Independent — to speak with one voice, and say "no" to a draft.

August, 2007

Extremist MAKEOVER POLITICIAN EDITION

BEFORE

I believe that abortion should be safe and legal in this country.

1994 debate with Ted Kennedy

MITT ROMNEY

BEFORE

To think that we're going to go lock up 12 million people or even round them up and drive them to the border and let them go might make a great political speech but it's not going to happen.

Washington Post, May 2006

MIKE HUCKABEE

AFTER

You know, I do support the Republican platform, and I support that being part of the Republican platform and I'm pro-life.

Good Morning America, 2007

BEFORE

Well, I'm shocked that the President of the United States would pardon him. After all, he never paid a price.

on Mark Rich, 2001

AFTER

[I] Propose to provide all illegal immigrants a 120-day window to register with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and leave the country.

From his "Secure America Plan" December 2007

RUDOLPH GIULIANI

AFTER

After evaluating the facts, the President came to a reasonable decision, and I believe the decision was correct.


on Scooter Libby, 2007




You know, Commissioner, those bat-signals cost about \$10,000 a pop. Maybe, uh, just unplug it next time!




This is Dick Clark! Happy 2008!



Broken glass? No problem for the Bat-Roomba!



C'mon guys! This is the **first** reenactment of the "Thriller" video ever! Are you gonna let a bunch of Filipino convicts eat your lunch?




And that's a rabbit! Now, for my next shadow puppet — Abe Lincoln!




WAYNE, WAYNE GO AWAY DEPT.


MAD's *Bat-tastic* THE DARK KNIGHT OUTTAKES




@%\$&! I just filled up at \$4.89 a gallon!




This outfit? Oh, it's just a little something I had left over from *Driving Miss Daisy*!




Sure, this *looks* cool, but one freakin' pothole and the front tire belt-sands my face clean off!




Whatever! My mug shot will *still* look better than Nick Nolte's!



Oh yeaah! Oh, that's the stuff! I totally understand why dogs do this!



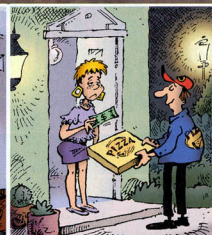
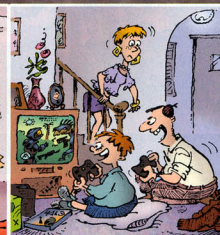
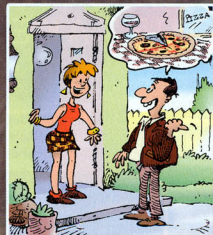
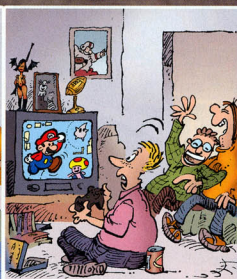
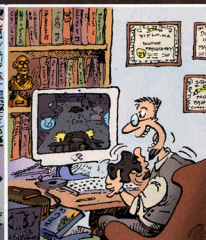
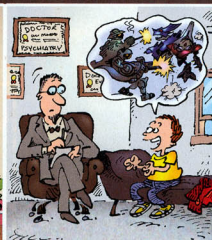
Sweet! That blonde in apartment 34G is taking her shower *right* on time!



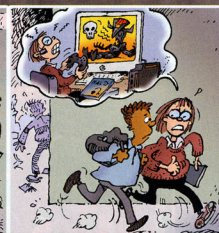
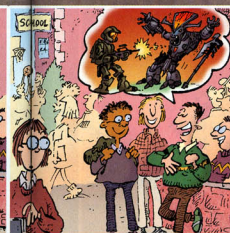
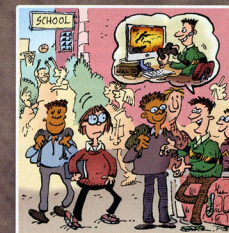
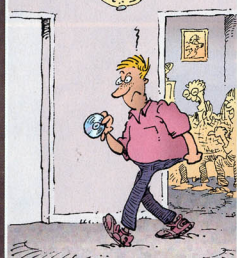
Jake Gyllenhaal? About ye big.

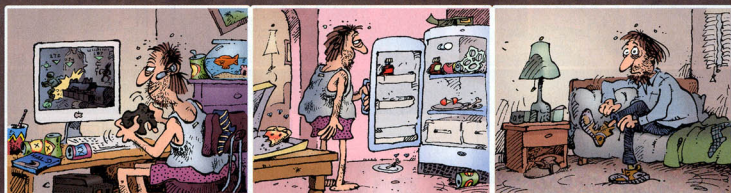
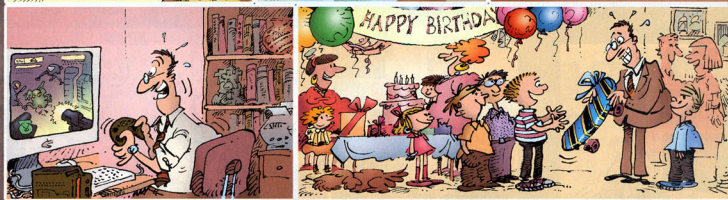
Sergio Aragones
Presents

A MAD LOOK AT HALO



WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES



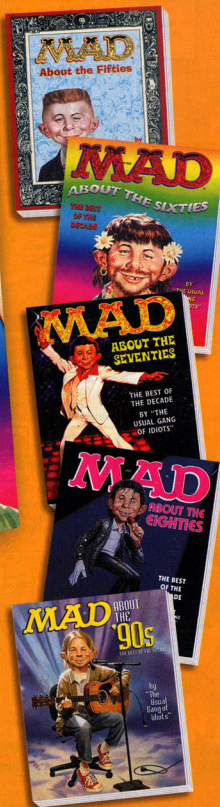
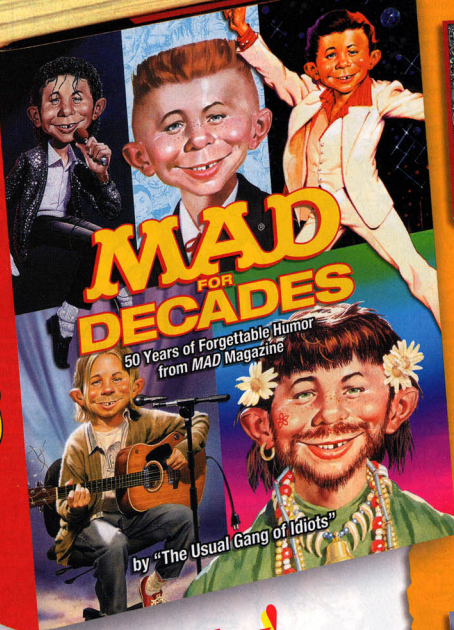


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Hollywood's formula for box office success: take two superstars you're familiar with and mix them with classic movie scenes and great movie moments you're familiar with and it looks like a brand new gangster movie. It's not. It's...

AMERICAN GAGSTER

I'm Crank Locust and I'm living the American dream! I'm devoted to my family, I have a beautiful wife, I go to church Sundays. And, oh yeah, I'm a mobster! I run drugs into Harlem! I try not to call attention to myself. Sometimes I slip up! Last Sunday morning at Church I accidentally put 12 kilos in the collection basket! Oops. My bad! I'm a charmer, a folk hero and a cold-blooded murderer! It all makes for a very unusual business card but hey, my man, that's me!

I'm Itchy Conners! I'm living the American nightmare! I'm an honest cop! I live in poverty! Other cops hate me, my family despises me, my dog tried to shoot me! I'm a shlob! To make matters worse, I live in New Joisy! Oh, and I have the worst accent in the over 100-year history of motion pictures!

Okay, Locust is a powerful mob boss and I'm a schmuck in a bad suit, but I'm gonna catch him if it takes a lifetime or the whole movie, which, incidentally, is the same thing! I'm bringing this mobster down! How? I've got a sword and I've got the Roman army behind me! Oh, wait. That was *Gladiator*! Oops, I'm in trouble!

I'm Ellswood "Burdy" Jackson! I was Crank Locust's mentor! He was my driver and my enforcer! The kid was brilliant! At both! He could pummel a store-keeper or break a deadbeat's knees better than anyone I ever saw! And man, could that kid parallel park!

I'm actor Cuba Gooding, Jr.! I play a rival drug lord! I have two pieces of advice: don't ever @#\$ with me and, if you see this movie, don't blink or you'll miss my performance! My part in this MAD spoof is longer than my part in the film! Incidentally, I just put out a hit order! Not on Crank Locust, but on my agent!

Finally...an *Italian* mobster! Remember us? Remember how we used to dominate gangster movies? WE were the bad guys! In this film it's not the Italians but the blacks who control the drug trade! It don't seem right! It's like going to Sunday Mass and having the service being led by a Rabbi! What the @\$\$ is going on?

Burdy's dying! Can we get some help here?

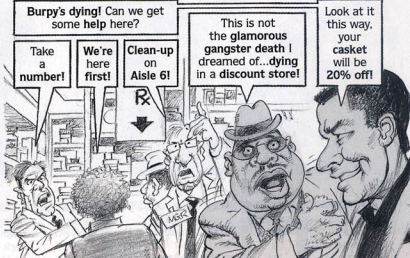
Take a number!

We're here first!

Clean-up on Aisle 6!

This is not the glamorous gangster death I dreamed of...dying in a discount store!

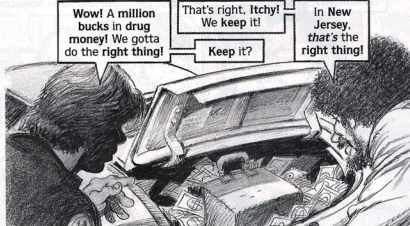
Look at it this way, your casket will be 20% off!



Wow! A million bucks in drug money! We gotta do the right thing!

That's right, Itchy! We keep it!

In New Jersey, that's the right thing!



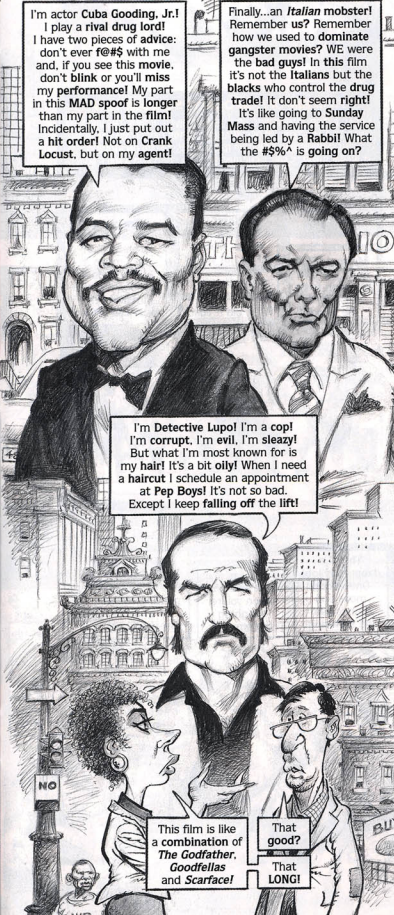
WRITER: ARNIE KOGEN

ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

I'm Mama Locust! They say my son is ruthless, but when it comes to his family he's got a heart of gold! He bought me a big mansion! It has 28 rooms, an incredible view and this huge backyard with a garden! It's a bit strange, though. Other folks 'round here have roses and geraniums. We seem to be growing poppy fields!

I was Miss Puerto Rico when I met Crank! I was immediately attracted to his looks, power and net worth, which was more than the entire Commonwealth of Puerto Rico! And Trinidad/Tobago! Incidentally, if for any reason I cannot fulfill my duties as his wife, Miss "runner-up Puerto Rico" will marry him and live the life of luxury!

I'm Detective Lupoi! I'm a cop! I'm corrupt, I'm evil, I'm sleazy! But what I'm most known for is my hair! It's a bit oily! When I need a haircut I schedule an appointment at Pep Boys! It's not so bad. Except I keep falling off the lift!

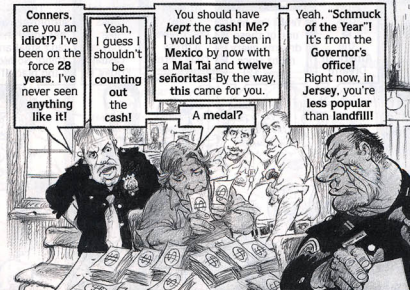


Conners, are you an idiot? I've been on the force 28 years. I've never seen anything like it!

Yeah, I guess I shouldn't be counting out the cash!

You should have kept the cash! Me? I would have been in Mexico by now with a Mai Tai and twelve señoritas! By the way, this came for you.

Yeah, "Schmuck of the Year" 1! It's from the Governor's office! Right now, in Jersey, you're less popular than landfill!



FILM RIP-OFF: SERPICO, 1973

HONEST COP TREATED AS AN OUTCAST BY HIS FELLOW CORRUPT COPS. BOTH ITCHY AND SERPICO (AL PACINO) WERE SHUNNED. NEW YORK CITIES TAUNTED SERPICO MORE THAN N.Y. CITY FANS TAUNT THE KICKS!

The legend is Itchy found almost a million in drug money in cash in the trunk of a car and refused to keep it!

He's disgrace to the force!

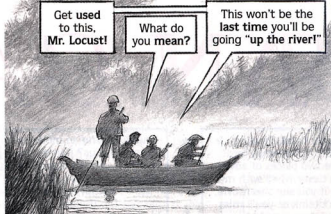
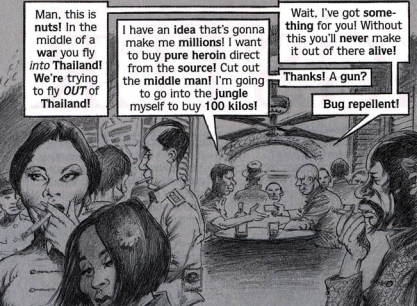
What a boy scout! He makes us all look bad!

The guy's an idiot! He should have pocketed it. I'd like to kill him!

Are you a cop?

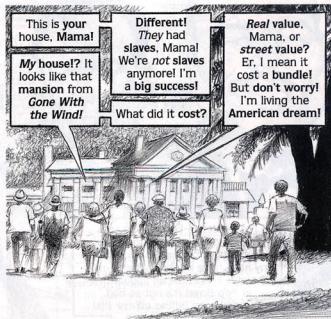
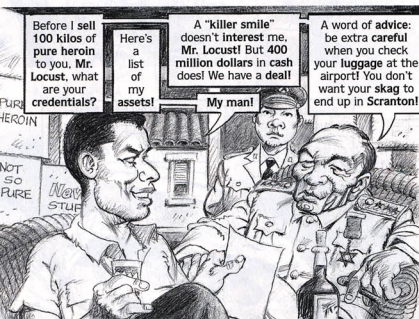
I'm his wife!

DRUCKER



FILM RIP-OFF: APOCALYPSE NOW, 1979

A LEAD ACTOR JOURNEYING UP A JUNGLE RIVER DURING THE VIETNAM WAR TO A MYSTERIOUS DESTINATION. IN THIS CASE IT WAS MARTIN SHEEN WHO WAS GOING UP RIVER TO VISIT MARLON BRANDO. IT WAS A SHEEN'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH "TWO AND A HALF MEN"!



Where's my money. Tempo?

What? You gonna shoot me in front of everybody? Don't make me laugh - arrgh - aarrgh - cough - gurgle...

Whew, that man is one badass dude!

He's like Shaft and Superfly!

I say it's amazing!

That he can be that bad? That no one called police? That he calmly shot a guy and got away with it?

That we're cutting away now to the duller "Itchy" story!

BLAM!

FILM RIP-OFF: THE GODFATHER, 1972

AN UP-AND-COMING MOBSTER NAMED MICHAEL CORLEONE (AL PACINO) PULLED OUT A GUN AND CALMLY SHOT A BAD GUY IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF WITNESSES. IT WAS AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN THE BRONX. THOSE CUSTOMERS THAT DIDN'T DIE OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS WENT DOWN WITH SCUNGILI POISONING!

I've been asked to crack down a mystery drug lord! And pick my own team! You're it!

Frankly, no other cops will come near me! You're the best I could scrape up!

From the looks of everyone, how about "The Slump Squad"!

Why us?

Shouldn't our group have a name?

There's a name that will instill fear in the mob!

FILM RIP-OFF: THE UNTOUCHABLES, 1993

AN HONEST COP, ELLIOT NESS (KEVIN COSTNER), ASSEMBLES A SMALL, HAND-PICKED TEAM OF HONEST, UNCORRUPTABLE COPS TO BRING DOWN A POWERFUL MOBSTER. THE MOBSTER WAS AL CAPONE. LIKE ITCHY'S GROUP, COSTNER'S GROUP DIDN'T TAKE BRIBES, THEY DIDN'T TAKE GRAFT. THE DIFFERENCE WAS COSTNER'S GROUP *DID* TAKE SHOWERS!

Hello there, handsome! I'm Miss Puerto Rico!

I don't know what that means, but I think I'm falling in love!

I'm Crank Locust! I own this club! And I own six other clubs! I have nine homes! I'm worth 200 million dollars! I have a smile that could melt the steel off the Chrysler building! If we get married, on the honeymoon night, I promise to cut out the middle man!

Uh, excuse me, corrupt cops! That 20 grand in shakedown money you're carrying — those are specially marked bills!

Well, looksee looksee...it's the idiot detective who gave back a million bucks!

What a weirdo sicko freako cop!

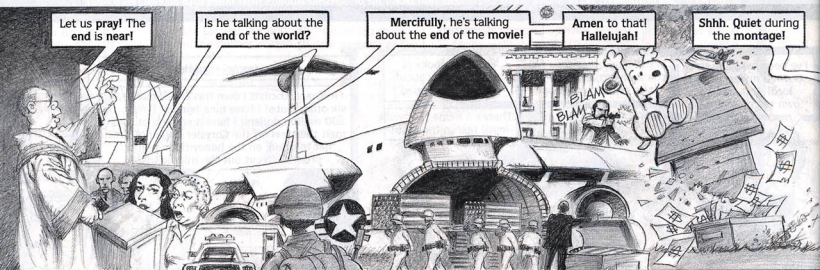
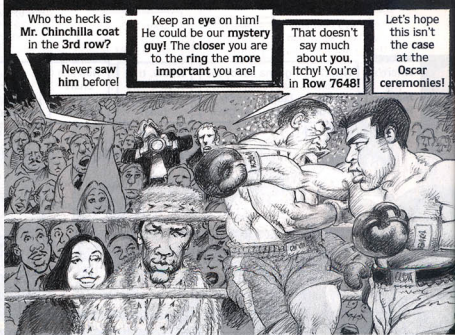
Tell me, choir boy, how do we know these bills are specially marked?

Two reasons: one, the serial numbers are consecutive and two, the face on the hundred dollar bill is Wayne Newton!

Crank, You've got the drug market cornered! But remember, I'm still the toughest mob boss on the east coast!

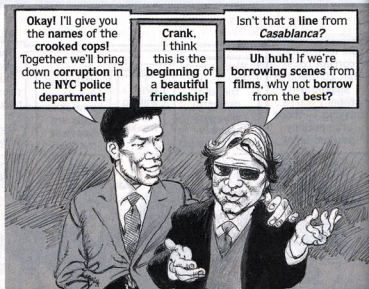
Just because you're skeet shooting clay targets?

Those aren't clay targets! Those are bookies who owe me!



FILM RIP-OFF: THE GODFATHER, 1972 (AGAIN!)

THE FINAL SCENES OF THE FILM HAD A RELIGION/RETRIBUTION MONTAGE SEQUENCE, WHILE MICHAEL CORLEONE WAS IN CHURCH WITH HIS FAMILY THERE WAS A MONTAGE OF KILLING AROUND HIM. WHILE CRANK LOCUST WAS IN CHURCH WITH FAMILY THERE WAS KILLING AROUND HIM. THE 11TH COMMANDMENT: "THOU SHALT NOT BORROW MONTAGE SEQUENCES!"



FILM RIP-OFF: CASABLANCA, 1942

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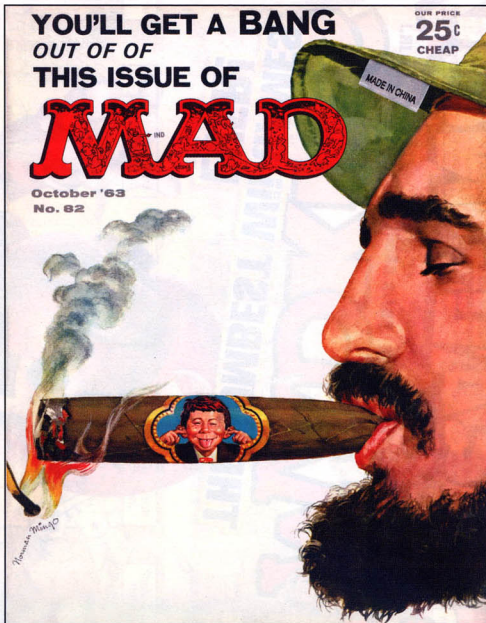
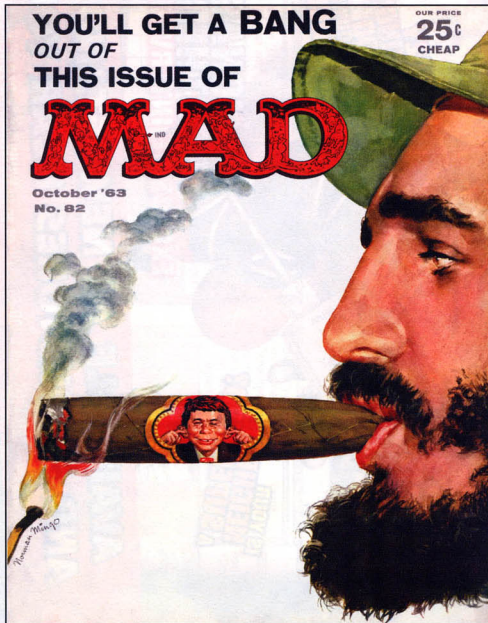
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WHAT THE HECK IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you find the 10 idiotic changes we've made to this magazine cover?



ANSWERS: 1) There's an extra "OF" in the headline. 2) The "M" in MAD is different. 3) A puff of smoke is missing. 4) There's a "Made in China" label on Castro's hat - the way ideal 5) Castro's eyes are closed. 6) The match is upside-down. 7) Alfred is sticking his tongue out. 8) The cigar band has changed from red to blue. 9) Castro's sideburns is gone.



WHAT MAJOR STAR HAS
RECENTLY ADMITTED
RECEIVING ILLEGAL
CAREER-DAMAGING
HUMAN GROWTH
INJECTIONS?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

There's been a lot of scrutiny of public figures and the drastic changes that their bodies have undergone in recent times. Some may lie and say it is an innocent "cream" that they're applying, but we know better! To find out which celebrity is fertile ground for suspicion, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT



FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

HIT HARD • SCORE BIG • PLAY TOUGH
SCHMOOZE • BOOZE • SHOOT POOL



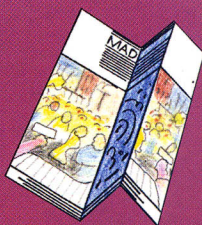
JAMS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER IS HOW CAREERS DIE
FOR CELEBRITIES, EVERY MISTAKE IS COMPLETE-
LY COVERED ON TV BY NBC, CBS, ABC AND DAILY CNN
SPECIALS. IT GUARANTEES THE DEMISE OF SUCH STARS



WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE



WHAT MAJOR STAR HAS
RECENTLY ADMITTED
RECEIVING ILLEGAL
CAREER-DAMAGING
HUMAN GROWTH
INJECTIONS?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

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



JAMIE

LYNN
SPEARS

A **B**

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