

"COMEDY BEFORE COUNTRY" ELECTION ISSUE

MAD

**JOHN
MCCAIN'S
CAREER**
A 200-YEAR LOOK BACK

**GLOSSARY
TO THE
WAR ON
TERROR**

**THE
DARK
KNIGHT**

**AL JAFFEE'S
FOLD-IN**

QUESTIONS WE'D ASK
**SARAH
PALIN
& JOE
BIDEN**

**SPY
VS.
SPY**

**KEITH
OLBERMANN**
LEFT WING BLOWHARD

**ALFRED E.
NEUMAN FOR
PRESIDENT
POSTER**



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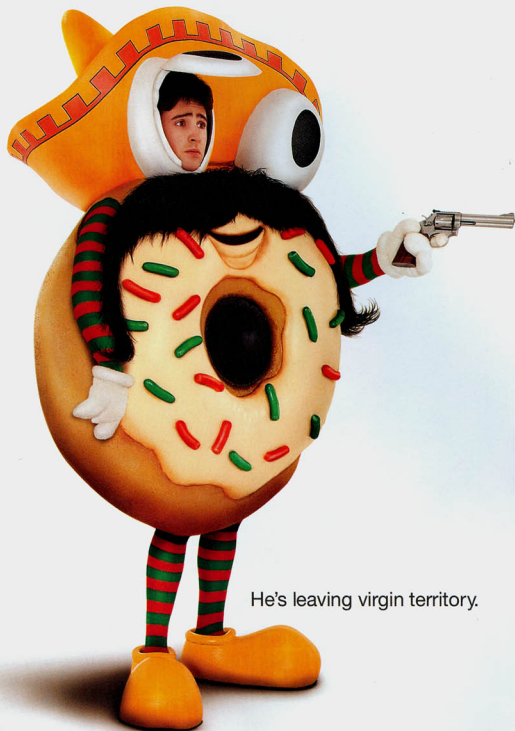
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AND JAMES
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He's leaving virgin territory.

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OCTOBER

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MAD

NOVEMBER 2008

NUMBER 495

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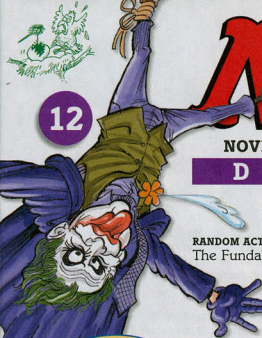
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out of it!



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IN THE NICKNAME OF TIME

Thank you so much for making "Calvin and Jobs." I used to love *Calvin and Hobbes* and I loved the parody you guys did. I also like how you did the same thing with *Cathy* and Amy Winehouse. Why wasn't *The Strip Club* in last month's issue? It's one of the best parts of the magazine. And where did Bitterman go? P.S. Don't make fun of my name with Gryffindor because that isn't that original.

Griffin Benzel, letters@madmagazine.com

Gryffindor — We never claimed we were original. Thanks for reading! —Ed.

MAKE A DUMB WISH FOUNDATION™

There is a long story behind this note card. My aunt gave them to me when she saw my Bar Mitzvah thank you notes. I tried not to choke from laughing and throwing up at the same time. So for my dumb wish, I would like you to publish the front of this note card, but somehow vandalized.

Andrew Rybczynski, Baltimore, MD



Rybe — At the MAKE A DUMB WISH FOUNDATION™, we're all about making readers wishes come true. But in your case, how can we possibly mess with perfection and vandalize such an impeccable work of art? We would be doing Red Farm Studios (the makers of this card) a disservice. Please thank your aunt for us, because the only thing that needs changing is your attitude! Congratulations on becoming a man! —Ed.

READER ALERT



Election Day is coming up, which means Alfred E. Neuman needs as much help as possible if he's going to lose in style. So we're asking you, dear readers, to take the poster in this very issue and hang it in a store window, on a telephone pole, even at the voting booths. Take a picture of your handiwork and we'll print the best ones in an upcoming issue. Remember, if we all work together, we can secure an Alfred victory and America can have its dumbest President yet! (Well, second dumbest!) Send pics to letters@madmagazine.com or via snail mail to Amy "The Big Poster" Vozeolas, c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019.

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

When I found out Bill Clinton would be stumping for Hillary at my old middle school (East Middle, Martinsville, IN), was my first thought to go and hear his take on all of Hillary's presidential ideas? No! My first thought was to go and get the former Commander-in-Chief of all Celebrity Snaps! Well, as our current Commander-in-Chief would say, "Mission Accomplished" (for real)!

Brenner Williams, Martinsville, IN

Brenner Off Dead — Great snap! But we have a question — was there an open bar at this event? Bubba is looking a little tipsy! Congrats on your three-year subscription! —Ed.



BUBBA AND BRENNER



TURNING DAUGHTER INTO WHINE

I just wanted to ask the powers that be if they have any insight into what has happened to my 11-year-old daughter? My daughter stayed three weeks during the summer with her cousin in hotter-than-hell Phoenix, Arizona. Anyway, when I arrived at the airport to pick her up, I did not recognize her right away because she had a short bob with bright purple streaks in her hair, she wore all black with black skinny jeans, black slip-ons, black nail polish, black bag and a MAD magazine under her arm (and an apathetic, sarcastic attitude to boot)! I wanted to blame her aunt and cousin at first, but upon further in-depth inspection of said magazine, I have come to the conclusion that they are not entirely responsible.

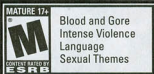
Christina Collins, Vista, CA

Collinoscopy — She's dressed all in black and reading MAD? Sounds like she's mourning the death of her good taste! —Ed.



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THE SOAK'S ON YOU

Earlier, when I was getting out of my bath, I almost spilled water on my new issue of MAD! It was so close that I now do not read my MAD in the tub anymore. I cannot take the risk of it getting wet.

Nikki Franda, Plano, TX

Franda Comes Alive — You've uncovered the reason why most MAD readers don't bathe! Enjoy the new-found freedom, Stinky! —Ed.



GESTURE AVERAGE READER

I am a sixth-grade student at Brentwood Elementary School in Spokane, WA. My teacher told us to write to our absolute favorite business. So, naturally I chose you. The first time I read one of your issues I thought I would die laughing. Please, if it is not an inconvenience, I would appreciate a small token from your incomparable organization to prove to my teacher and classmates that you are the best company on the face of the Earth. Please accept my apology for taking up your most valuable time and thank you in advance for anything you might send my way.

Evan Carpenter, Spokane, WA

Wall To Wall Carpenter — Here's a small token from us to you! —Ed.



THE BIG FLAG PART DEUX

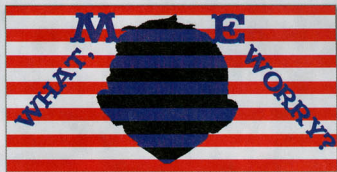
When we asked our readers to design their own MAD flags, we received so many that we couldn't fit them all in one issue! Below are the rest of the salute-worthy submissions! Thanks to all who sent flags in!



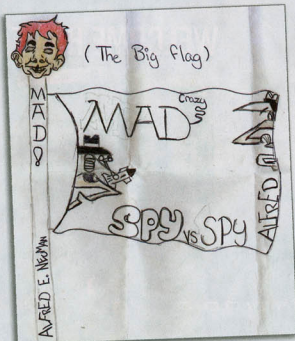
RYAN MURPHY, FRISCO, TX



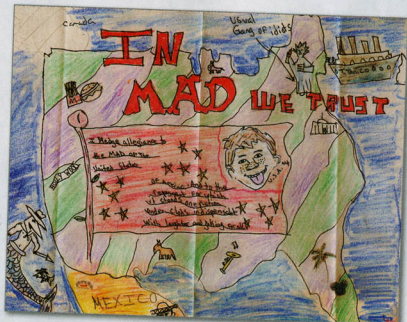
BRYCE WASLAK, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA



TOMMY LA VOY, CHEVERLY, MD



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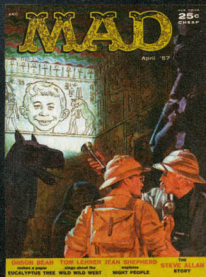
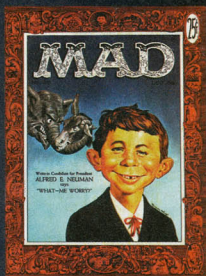
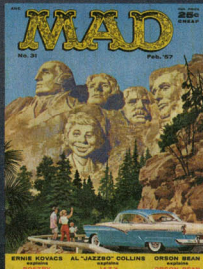
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MAD INTERNS



We'd like to take this opportunity to give a gracious shout out to our 2008 Summer interns: on the editorial side, Jacobus Dixon, Michael Grinspan, Matt Lassen and Jon Marquis; and on the art side, Erin Miller, Laurie Sanford and Aaron Sidorov. Thank you for all of your hard work — we hope you got it out of your system and will go out and get real jobs now!



JACOBUS DIXON



MICHAEL GRINSPAN



MATT LASSEN



JON MARQUIS



AARON SIDOROV



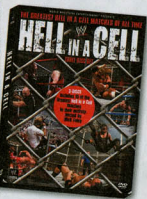
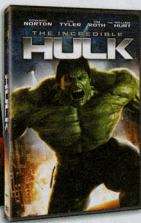
LAURIE SANFORD



ERIN MILLER

READER ALERT II

If your letter was printed in this month's Letters Page you'll be adding to your DVD collection! You'll get *The Incredible Hulk* on DVD courtesy of our friends at Universal Home Video, *Iron Man* on DVD courtesy of our friends at Paramount and the collector's set DVD of *Hell In A Cell* courtesy of our friends at the WWE. If your missive wasn't printed, don't put yourself in a full nelson, they are all on sale now!



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the usual gang of idiots

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

**JEFFREY
LOZENGE**

It was once said, "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes." It was also once said, "Don't shoot!" And it was also once said, "Please pass the chicken gravy."

*My point is that people say a lot of things. And I say a lot of things too, for example, everything I just said. Which brings me to **MAD** — yes, **MAD** — the magazine whose time is and was and continues to be — also says a lot of things. But the less said about that the better.*

Someone else who wasn't me once said, "Give me liberty or give me death." Whoa Nellie! (This is me talking again, not that other guy who wasn't me.) Who wouldn't choose liberty over death? That's a no-brainer!

*"Give me liberty or give me **MAD**!" That's a tougher one. But thanks to the brave soldiers of the American Revolution you don't have to decide!*

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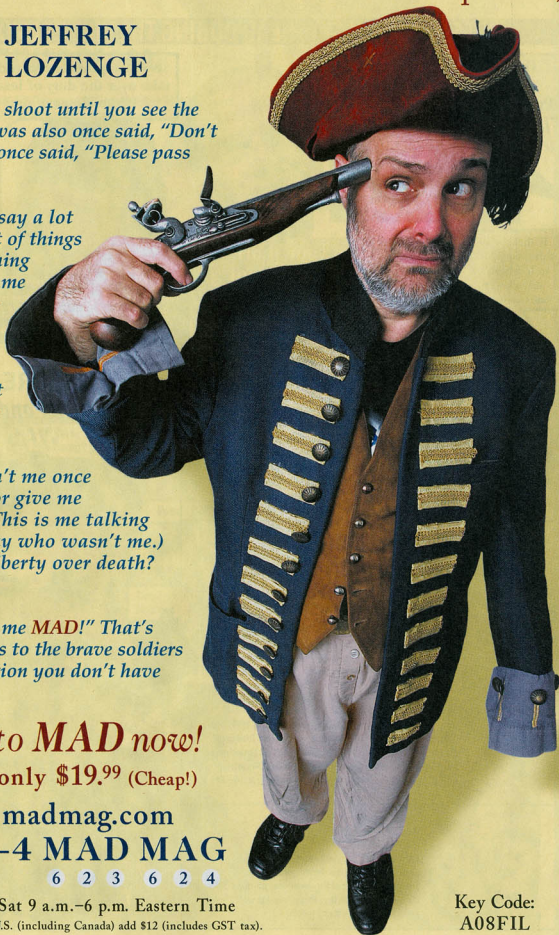
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THE FUNDALINI PAGES

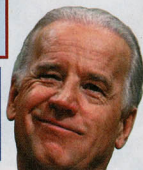
QUESTIONS YOU MAY HEAR DURING THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

If elected, you wouldn't actually root for the President to die, would you?

What kind of Vice President will you be: evil like Dick Cheney, bumbling like Dan Quayle, or boring like Al Gore?

If there's one thing you'd like to tell both of our viewers, what would it be?

Who's on your short list for Vice President when you run in 2016?



Is your spouse prepared to take over the duty of leading White House tours?



Tell me, Gov. Palin: McCain's just playing a prank, right?

Were you anxiously awaiting word of whether or not you were the pick, or were you like the rest of America?

What would you do in Iraq if....ah, forget it. It's not like you'll be in a position of power.

Gov. Palin, you were in a group that favored Alaskan secession. What are your views on kicking New Jersey out of the Union?

FUNDALINI VOTER GUIDE TO THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES



Jethro Gruntman
Age: 57
Party: Retrogressive
Family: A hand puppet named Koko
Occupation: Frontiersman
Previous Political Experience: Tried to overthrow the Governor of Montana.
Quoted Recently: "When I tell you I'm the best man for the job, I'm actually exaggerating a little."



Heinrich von Boffo
Age: 35
Party: Gin-Dependent
Family: None (still a virgin)
Occupation: Hibachi Demonstrator
Previous Political Experience: Elected to Student Council in Grade 5.
Major Campaign Issue: Plans to reduce drunk driving rates by quadrupling the legal blood-alcohol content level.

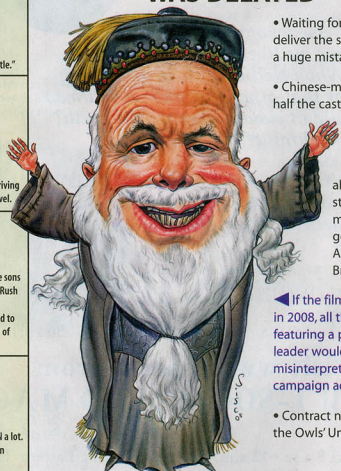


Dogstar Zamana
Age: 60
Party: Anti-Polygraph
Occupation: False Messiah
Family: Wife who died mysteriously in 1993; three sons
Previous Political Experience: Tried to call Rush Limbaugh a few times, but couldn't get through.
Possible Skeletons in Closet: Has attempted to prove he isn't racist by displaying his huge collection of Asian porn.



Claxton Baker
Age: 86
Party: Smoke & Mirrors
Occupation: Blackpink dealer
Family: His five other distinct personalities
Previous Political Experience: Watches C-SPAN a lot.
Campaign Liability: Always seems to work a Helen Keller joke into each stump speech.

THE "REAL" REASONS *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* WAS DELAYED



• Waiting for Axl Rose to deliver the soundtrack was a huge mistake.

• Chinese-made wands gave half the cast lead poisoning.

• They ran out of film, because in 2008, almost all available film stock was commandeered for getting shots of Angelina and Brad's twins.

◀ If the film had come out in 2008, all the commercials featuring a powerful, wrinkly leader would have been misinterpreted as McCain campaign ads.

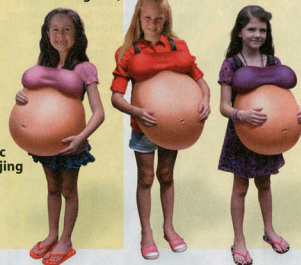
• Contract negotiations with the Owls' Union broke down.

LEAST POPULAR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES OF 2008



A U.S. Olympic Athlete in Beijing

The 17 Pregnant Gloucester High Teens (or Sarah Palin's daughter)



Kim Kardashian's Ass



John Edwards' Mistress' Pregnancy Test

BITTERMAN



THE FUNDALINI PAGES

PULL MY CHENEY!



"Economy shmonomy – you know damn well why business is bad, Fred."

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF HIGH DEF TV

ADVANTAGE

When watching Blake Lively on *Gossip Girl* you can tell when they're keeping the show's set just a little too cold — if you know what we mean.

DISADVANTAGE

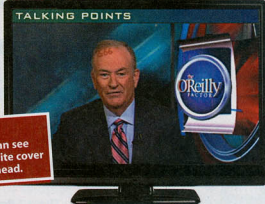
When watching Bill O'Reilly you can see that the pancake makeup doesn't quite cover the "666" birthmark on his forehead.

ADVANTAGE

Grey's Anatomy in high def is so detailed, people without medical insurance can learn how to perform their own surgery!

DISADVANTAGE

When watching *America's Next Top Model* you can see the thin line of dried-up vomit around the mouths of several models.



DISADVANTAGE

24 becomes REALLY unbelievable when you can clearly see that Jack Bauer doesn't have a single scar after 5 years of being shot, blown up, beat up and run over!

ADVANTAGE

When you watch *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* you won't feel bad about your own screwed-up home improvements — now that you can see the sloppy paint jobs, cracked ceilings, and crooked nails from Ty Pennington trying to rebuild an entire home in just 5 days.

OUTTAKES FROM JOHN EDWARD'S NIGHTLINE INTERVIEW

Since there are **two Americas**, I might as well have **two lovers**.

I wanted to prove that **Ann Coulter's "faggot"** comment was simply **not true**.

I guess I'm just a **sucker** for a woman with hair as beautiful as mine.

I did a lot of **soul-searching** about whether to speak at the **Democratic Convention**, and had to ask myself: How hot are the **women in Denver**?

I assumed the whole thing was **untrue** since it was in *The National Enquirer*.

Had I told **the truth** last year, maybe **Dennis Kucinich** would have won the **nomination**.

Can we move the **camera** a few feet over so it can get my **good side**?

Hey, if **cheating** on my **cancer-stricken wife** and lying about it is **wrong**, then I don't want to be **right**.

I really **hope** all of this will be **forgotten** by **2012** when I make my next **failed** bid for **President**.

I did **not** have sex with that woman.... **Miss Lewinsky**.

Technically, it doesn't count as **intercourse** if the baby isn't mine.

I blame **Ohio**. If they had voted for **Kerry and me**, I would have been too busy to **fool around**.

FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

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Movie-goers were a bit surprised by the latest movie adaptation from DC Comics. It wasn't just another summer superhero popcorn flick! It explored serious themes! It was an allegory for our times! In fact, an academic presentation entitled *The Doppelgänger Denied: Batman and the Duality of the Mythic Vigilante* got an award at this year's San Diego Comic-Con. It came in a strong second to *Scrappy-Doo: Vestigial or Essential?* No wonder criminals and fanboys alike call this guy...

THE DORK KNIGHT

I'm Battyman! Despite my costume, some have suggested that Bruce Whine is my real mask — that I hide behind black-tie champagne parties, 400-foot yachts, and unemotional group sex with runway models who'll never know the real me! How long can a person keep living a lie? Me, I'm giving the pretense just 30 more years. Maybe 35, if my knees hold up!

What drives me to do this? I could have used my hundreds of billions to fund youth centers, neighborhood watch programs, and enhanced urban security. Or I can dress up like a glant rodent and punch guys in the nose — my choice was clear!

I used to think it was bad driving Miss Daisy. But now I'm just the auto mechanic for Mister Crazy! In this story, there are actually two of us in charge of manipulating stiff mechanical props — myself, and Christian Bale's vocal coach!

I've invented, designed and hand-built an entire line of futuristic gadgetry and weapons: Batty-cars, Battycycles, Batty-costumes, Batty-computers, Batty-bombs, you name it! But no one must know about my work! So I'm forced to do everything by myself! That is, when I'm not busy running the company, doctoring the books, and jetting back and forth to Hong Kong! That workload may explain my physical appearance...I'm only 28 years old!

With Gotham City falling to pieces, it only makes sense that they'd choose a police commissioner who looks like Disney's Chicken Little! When I took over, corruption was rampant and the mob had its hooks in the department! But now, I run a clean, honest police force. Along with my trusted personal lieutenants, Officer Vinnie Two-Chins and Officer Carmine the Octopus! They've assured me that it's just a streak of bad luck that 50 of our formerly mounted police have woken up to find their horse's severed head in their bed!

Hoo hoo hoo hee! Say hello to the most terrifying big screen vision of the year, not counting Pierce Brosnan singing ABBA songs! Mamma mia! At heart, I'm just a man who loves to laugh! But I laugh at senseless destruction! I laugh at chaos, and pain, and anguish! I can find the humor in anything! Except that Dane Cook guy. Just not a fan!

The scariest thing about me is my insane unpredictability! You never know what I might do next! Like when I bombed a hospital! Or when I bombed a city jail! Or when I bombed a judge's car, or bombed a warehouse, or tried to bomb two ferrisboats...okay, so maybe you have a tiny inkling of what I might do next!



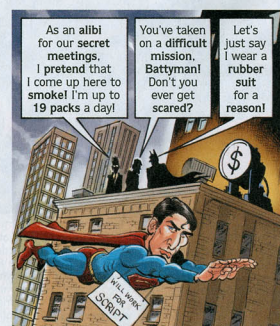
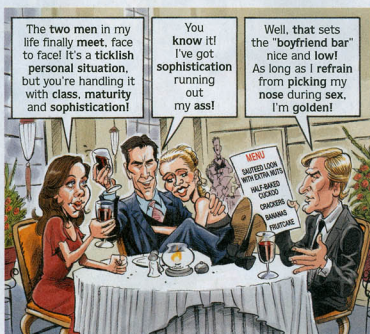
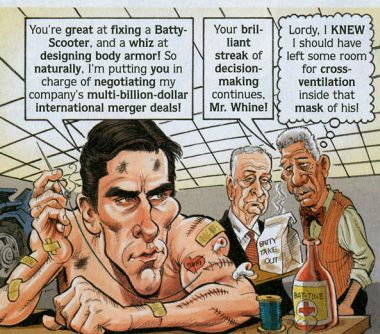
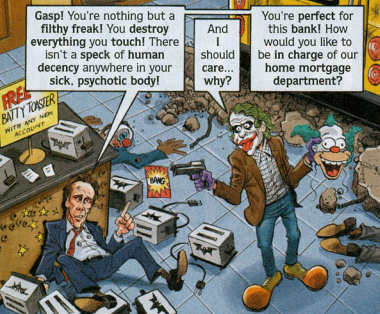
A good butler always uses his discretion for keeping secrets! Like Mr. Whine's secret identity! And his secret level! And apparently, his secret elevator that secretly leads to the secret basement that we're supposed to assume was secretly built smack in the middle of a preexisting skyscraper without anybody noticing! You know who else needs a secret identity? The screenwriter who came up with this impossible bushwah!

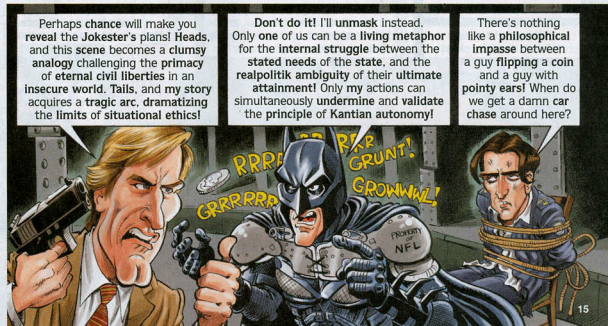
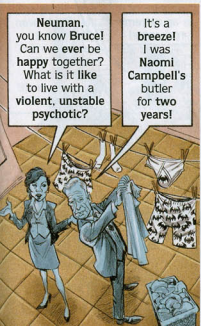
In the accursed, hellish nightmare that is Gotham City, there's only one solid and permanent thing for the citizens to rally around — my incredible hair! Last week, I was on the covers of the *Harvard Law Review* and *GQ*! These pretty boys looks didn't hurt in stealing away Bruce Whine's old girlfriend, Radiah Dawson, either. She's TOTALLY into me, and me alone! My only concern is that she can't get aroused unless we have sex on top of the Batty-signal!

I'm emotionally torn between Bruce Whine and Harvey Dink, two men who share the same goal of cleaning up this city! Everyone has a "type," and mine is schizophrenic, obsessive-compulsive do-gooders! Oh, well, at least I still pick 'em better than Jennifer Aniston does!

But I can never give myself fully to a man who's addicted to a rubber suit! Except for that one time in Cancun, but I was young and really drunk! I love Bruce, I do. But how can I live with a man who could get himself killed at any moment, and who has no heirs of any kind, leaving me as a 30-year-old widow with a 400 billion dollar inheritance? Er...on second thought, maybe the Jokerster isn't the craziest one in this movie!

Hold it! What about ME — Katie Holmes? I'm the only performer from the last movie to be replaced! Even the freskin Scarecrow got a return cameo! How bad an access do I have to be, to not be up to the thespic challenge of nailing dialogue like, "You came back. But the man I loved is still missing"? My luck might've been different if my husband, Tom Cruise, had been chosen to play the Jokerster! Unfortunately, after the producers saw him cackling and bouncing on Oprah's couch, they said he was way too over-the-top for the role!





The Jokerster's plot is diabolically simple! Somehow he guessed which two ferryboats to put two bombs on. Each boat has a detonator! But our detonator is connected to the *OTHER* ship's bomb, and vice versa! *Either* boat can save itself from being killed by exploding the *other* boat! However, *one* group of passengers must trigger its detonator by midnight, or else Jokerster will blow up *BOTH* boats! That is, unless the Jokerster deliberately provided false information about the detonators, the deadline, or the...

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! Push the button already! Getting blown to pieces will be a pleasure after all that nonsense!



The Jokerster must be located at any cost! It's illegal and unethical, but I secretly connected your advanced imaging technology to every one of the 20 million cell phones in Gotham City! Each of those phones is now feeding live visual information back into our database! What does it show?

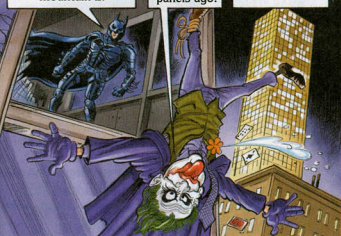
The insides of 20 million ears!



Finally, I've got you roped and tied, with your butt up in the air! I'll bet you're relieved that this is a mainstream action movie and not *Brokeback Mountain 2*!

Wake up, Battyman! We did the *Brokeback Mountain* joke 12 panels ago!

I know! But I'm stuck for a gag, and for jokes about OD-ing on illegal prescription drugs. It's still "too soon"!



Heads, your boy lives! Tails, he dies! A flip of my coin will decide!

What about my wife and daughter? Or Battyman? Or myself? Or you?

Okay, have it your way! Let's decide this with a game of Yahtzee!



The public must never learn what Harvey did! There's only one way to cover this up. Me! Blame his police killings on me!

But wouldn't it be even easier to blame the murders on Jokerster?

Maybe! But this is the best plan I can suggest right now! I just hope my thinking hasn't been too affected by the fact that I just fell four stories and probably have a grade-2 concussion!



Now that you're being hunted by the police, I've whipped up a snazzy cloaking device for your Batty-mobile! It'll help you escape detection as you drive on your nightly patrols!

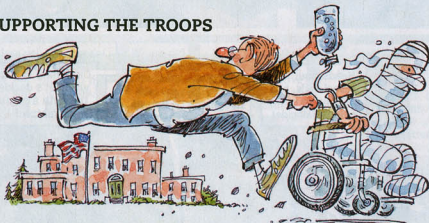
Forget it! I can't afford to keep running the Batty-mobiles anymore, plus the Batty-cycle, and a Batty-plane besides. With current gasoline prices, I'm bankrupt!



Back when the Iraq War started, we couldn't help but notice that the buzzwords and catch phrases emanating from the White House and Pentagon weren't exactly meshing with reality. With the mission already accomplished, we hurriedly assembled a collection of examples and rushed them into print in MAD #438. We wanted to make sure that our article made it to publication before the war ended, Iraq was quiet, and all the troops were already home. As it turned out, we could have taken our sweet time about it. So what's the situation on the ground four years later? The oil might be getting scarce, but the B.S. is flowing just as freely as ever! And so, we present the second of what we never thought would turn out to be a long, long series...

MAD'S UPDATED GLOSSARY TO THE WAR ON TERROR

SUPPORTING THE TROOPS



Keeping them far, far away from the decaying hellholes that are our Veterans' Hospitals.

SAFE HAVEN



Any of Bush's restricted, pre-screened, "no touchy questions" Town Hall meetings.

OIL REVENUE SHARING



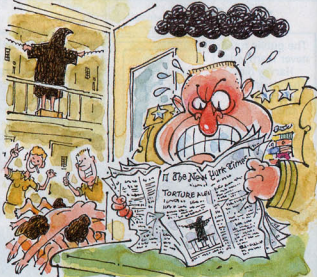
A fair and balanced set-up, dividing the profit equally between all relevant parties: ExxonMobil, Unocal, Chevron and Occidental Petroleum.

EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION



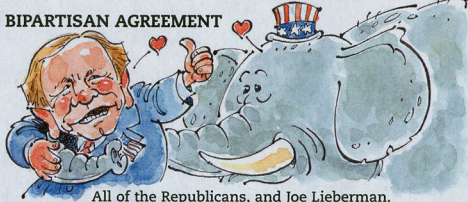
The "high C" note a prisoner makes when 25,000 volts get shot through his nutsack.

PRISON TORTURE SCANDAL



The horrible, scandalous fact that somebody blabbed about the prison torture.

BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT



All of the Republicans, and Joe Lieberman.

"STUBBORN POCKETS OF RESISTANCE"



The three-fourths of Americans who, according to the polls, don't think Bush is doing a darned good job.

"PROVIDING AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMY"



\$5.00 per gallon.

DETAINEE ABUSE



The fourth, fifth and sixth tours of duty for the "all-volunteer" army.

"ENTERING A DRAMATIC NEW PHASE"



Getting one's ass booted from the Bush inner circle, and then claiming you were secretly against the war all along.

"THE SURGE IS WORKING"



The last thing noticed by the dozen U.S. soldiers who've been electrocuted in the shower by the ungrounded wires installed by incompetent Halliburton profiteers.

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



Something Iraqis enjoy, during the 2 hours a day Baghdad has electricity.

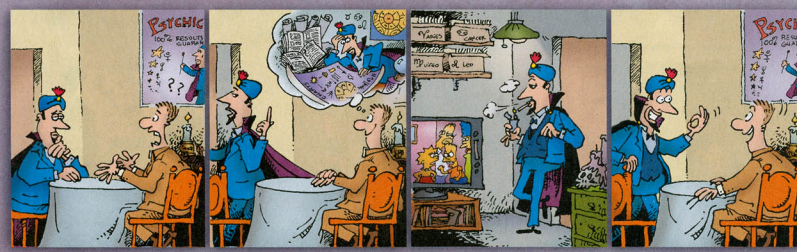
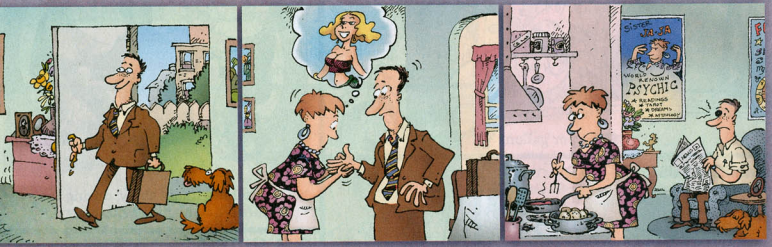
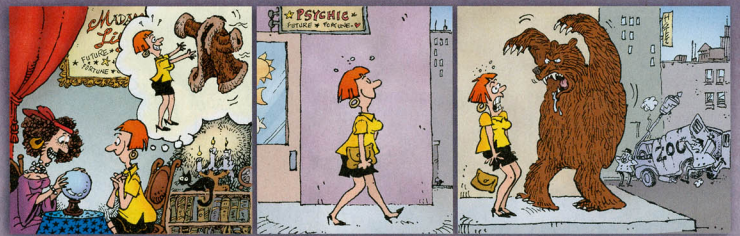
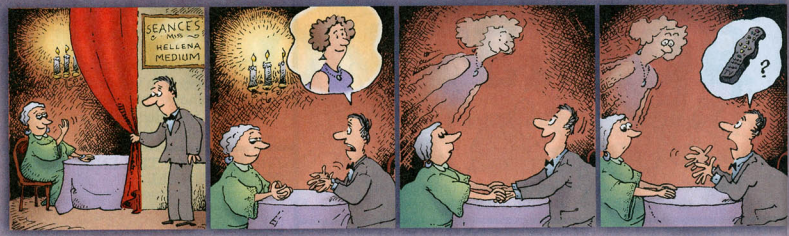
CUT AND RUN



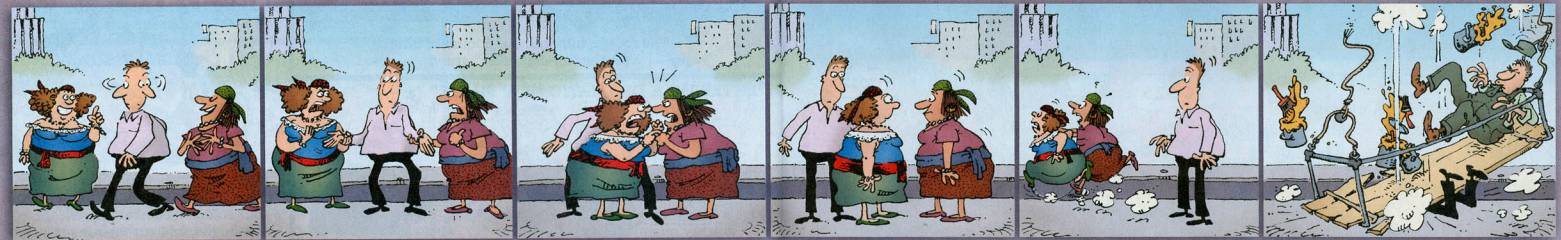
A phrase which, oddly, is most often used by the same politicians who cut our soldiers' combat pay, cut their furloughs, and cut their insurance and health benefits, and then run for reelection as gung-ho patriots.

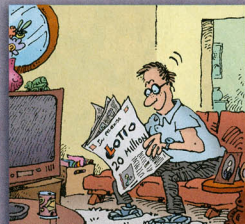
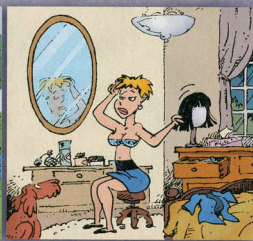
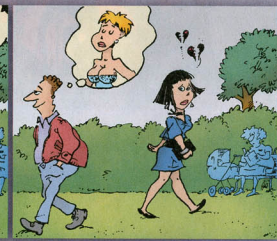
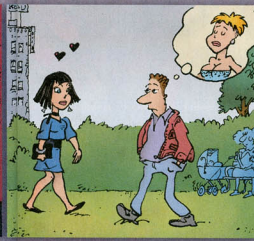
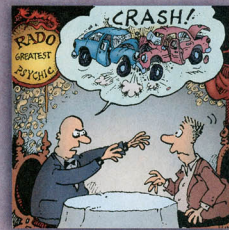
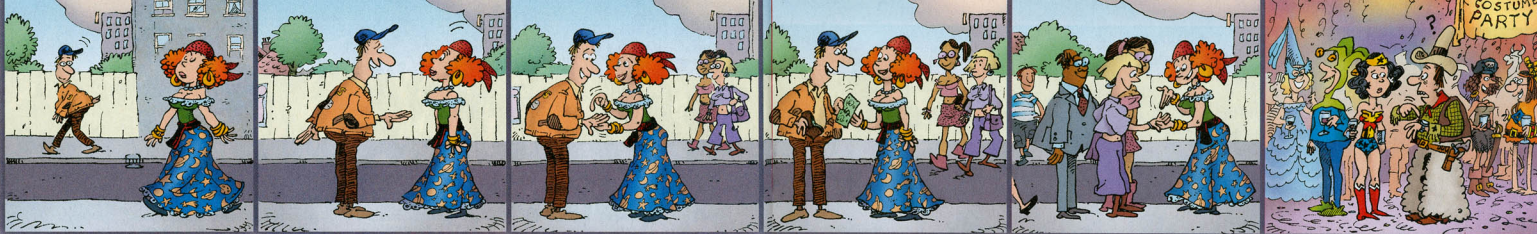
Sergio Aragones
PRESENTS

A MAD LOOK AT FORTUNE TELLERS



WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES







HOPELESS

To make a great news show, you need a likeable, knowledgeable host who has a calming, even-handed approach to the news. He should have keen, fresh insights into the events of the day and be able to express them clearly and concisely. But until we find that show...

MAD Deconstructs TV Talk Shows

THIS MONTH: COUNTDOWN
WITH KEITH OLBERMANN

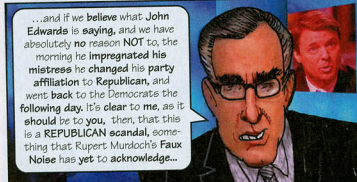
8:00

We hear the first words from Keith Olbermann: "Which of these stories will you be talking about tomorrow?" Chances are it'll be the same ones as yesterday. Because *Countdown* basically only DOES one story. Republicans suck — we get it!



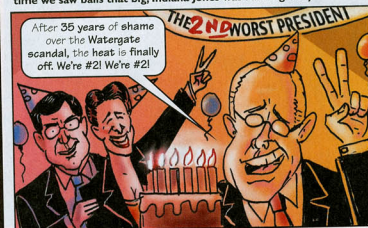
8:01

Time for the lead story. If there's one thing that Keith Olbermann will not stand for, it's a cheap and crooked allegation against a Democrat. *Countdown* schedules time for wronged officials to rebut the newest attacks and provides exhaustive fact-checking to expose the hypocrisy of the Right. Because at the end of the day, the one thing Keith WILL stand for is a cheap and crooked allegation against the G.O.P.



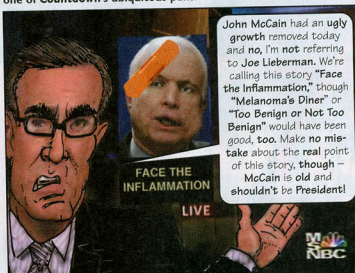
8:05

To break up the monotony of Olbermann bitchslapping Republicans all by himself, the first of *Countdown*'s grumbling heads gives his view about why the Republicans bite. And what a lineup! "a thinks-the-same-way" MSNBC host, a disgraced Nixon henchman, or a sleepwalking Newweek reporter. The last time we saw balls that big, Indiana Jones was running away from one.



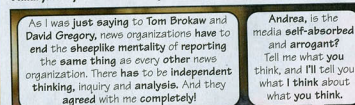
8:11

Olbermann moves on to Story #1, which isn't that different from Story #1. It's kind of like driving from Nebraska to Kansas, in that the landscape is so similar, you're not really sure you've gone anywhere until you spot a road sign. Here, the road sign is a clearly marked "title" to the news story, using one of *Countdown*'s ubiquitous puns.



8:16

Keith now lets members of the media give their detailed opinions about how the media gets the details wrong. These are the same talking heads that repeatedly screw up the polling data...they salvaged over the way Fred Thompson was going to "shake up" the GOP race...they wrung their hands waiting anxiously for the super-delegates to flip the nomination to Hillary...they even took Rudy Giuliani seriously, for God's sake!



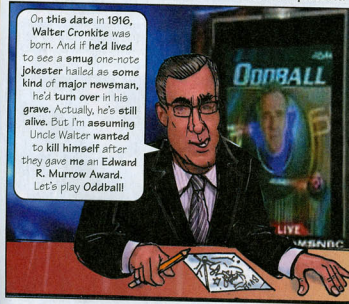
8:23

Next, Olbermann blasts George W. Bush for living outside viewpoints. He does this from a hermetically-sealed television studio in the presence of off-camera MSNBC staffers who chuckle heartily at the same quips they just copy-edited and typed into Keith's teleprompter.



8:29

Keith commemorates something truly noteworthy that happened that day — the birth of Gandhi, or the discovery of the Salk vaccine, or Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier. This 20-second mention is followed by two full minutes of time-wasting, inconsequential tripe. It's Olbermann's one tip of the hat to current network news practices.



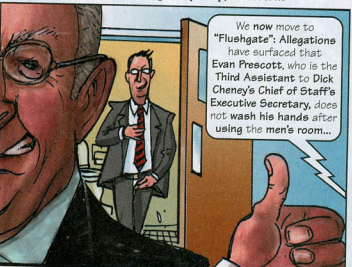
8:30

The world isn't really getting weirder, it's just being videotaped more. On the funky footage segment called "Oddball," a boa constrictor is good. A panda is better. A boa constrictor eating a panda is better still. A boa constrictor marrying a panda is a smidge better than that. Whereas a robot boa constrictor fighting a robot panda to the death on a Japanese game show is what we all live for. Because after a bland diet of campaign finance reform flopping and offshore drilling talking points, viewers need the cleansing sorbet of a shrilling dwarf getting stuck in a toll booth coin basket.



8:33

Next up is the "Bushed" segment, the nightly reveal of scandals plaguing W and company. Presenting a fresh trinity of disgraces every night does push the *Countdown* researchers to dig really deep, however...



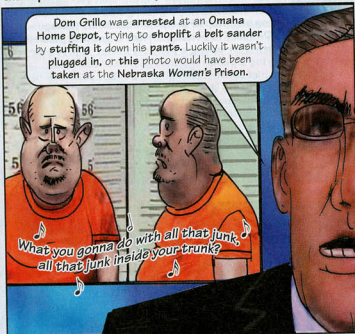
THIS MONTH: COUNTDOWN

WITH KEITH OLBERMANN



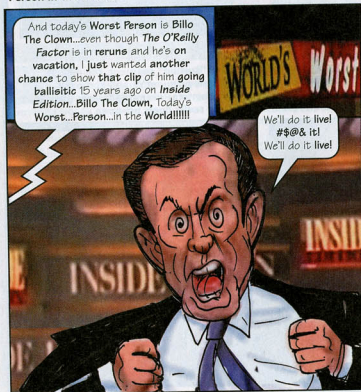
8:40

Olbermann lightens the mood with his "Best Persons in the World" segment, focusing on the mishaps of dumb criminals, drunk criminals, or dumb drunk criminals. (But not the ones who fly on Air Force One.) The final miscreant gets an extra-special reward: their very own ironically-chosen music snippet.



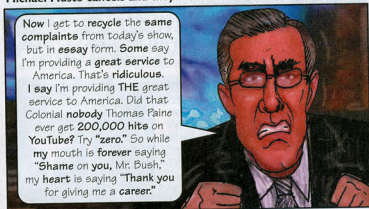
8:48

Rush Limbaugh mocks others. Sean Hannity insults them. Ann Coulter reduces them to simplistic cartoons. There's only one intelligent way to rise above this kind of stupid, hyperbolic Right-Wing rudeness: Call them "The Worst Person in the World!"



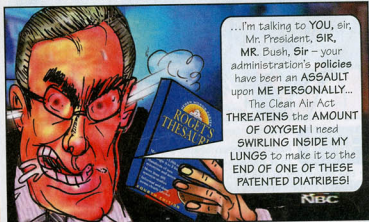
8:50

With scathing multisyllabic anger, Keith Olbermann launches into one of his "Special Comments." These extra-long opinion pieces only appear on the rare occasions when Olbermann is sufficiently moved by the maelstrom of political events to scrutinize the particulars for posterity. Or else when Michael Musto cancels and they have to fill time.



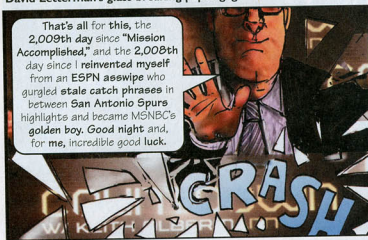
8:58

Eight minutes and six sentences later, the "Special Comment" nears its finish. It's the third densest chunk of words on television, after the "express written consent of major league baseball" disclaimer, and the list of disgusting side effects from boner pills.

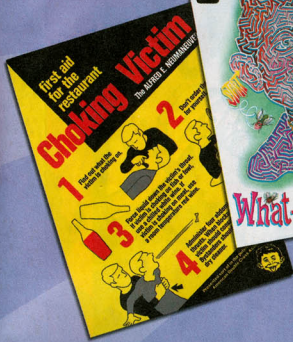


8:59

In one final explosion of egomaniacal klepto-indulgence, Olbermann steals Ted Koppel's "number of days since..." nightly update, Edward R. Murrow's signoff line AND David Letterman's glass-breaking paper gag.

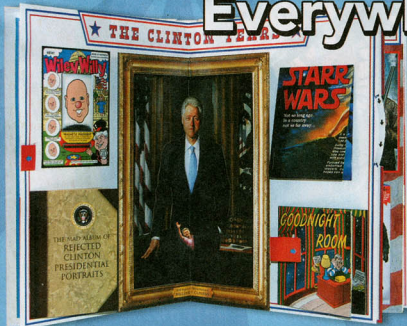


It's Wall-to-Wall Stupidity!



Available October 1st
start clearing some
hanging space now!

Idiocy is Popping Up Everywhere!

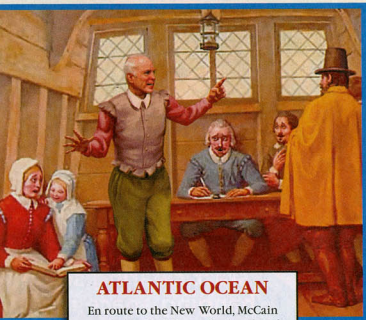


**Available
October 7th**
wherever pop-up
(and non-pop-up)
books are sold.

Recently Bill Clinton said, "You could argue that no one is ever ready to be president." And the former Commander-in-Chief may have a point. But experience couldn't hurt in preparing someone for the Oval Office — and that's where John "Ready to lead from day one" McCain really excels. In fact, no presidential candidate in our nation's history has even come close to sporting the GOP nominee's lifetime experiences. To give you all the information necessary before you step into that voting booth, MAD presents...

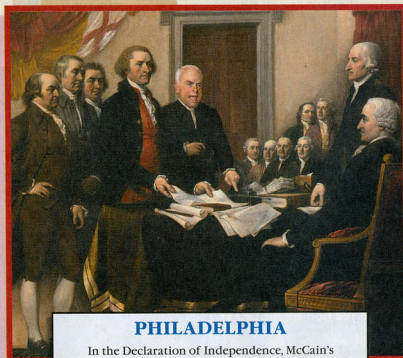
A Look Back AT THE HISTORICAL CAREER of JOHN MCCAIN

ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER



ATLANTIC OCEAN

En route to the New World, McCain agreed with his fellow pilgrims that the natives would greet them as liberators.



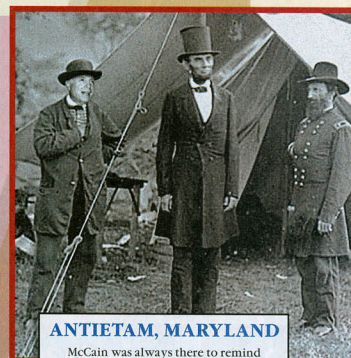
PHILADELPHIA

In the Declaration of Independence, McCain's grievances with England included the fact that King George III was "the biggest celebrity in the world."



LOUISIANA TERRITORY

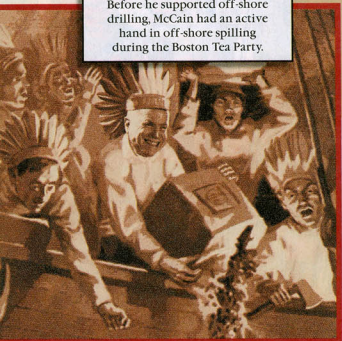
McCain's scouting skills were invaluable to the Lewis and Clark expedition.



ANTIETAM, MARYLAND

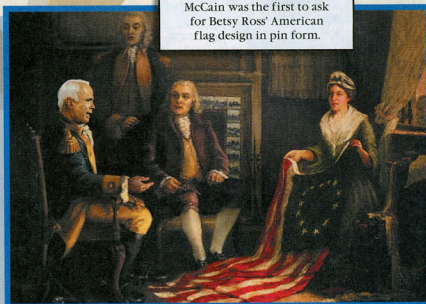
McCain was always there to remind President Lincoln of the harsh struggle on the Pennsylvania/Georgia border.

1620 • 1773 • 1776 • 1777 • 1805 • 1836 • 1862 • 1882 •



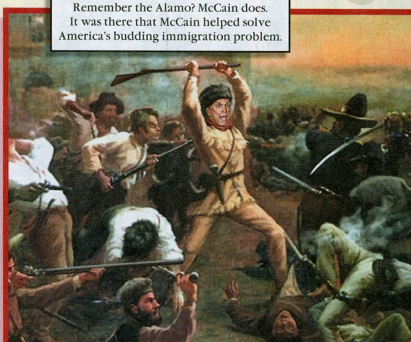
BOSTON HARBOR

Before he supported off-shore drilling, McCain had an active hand in off-shore spilling during the Boston Tea Party.



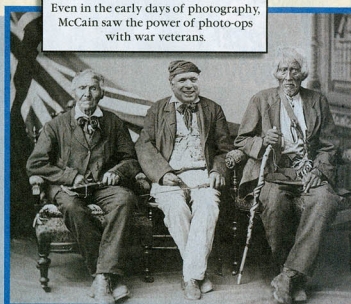
PHILADELPHIA

McCain was the first to ask for Betsy Ross' American flag design in pin form.



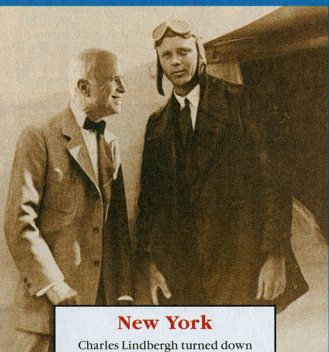
TEXAS

Remember the Alamo? McCain does. It was there that McCain helped solve America's budding immigration problem.



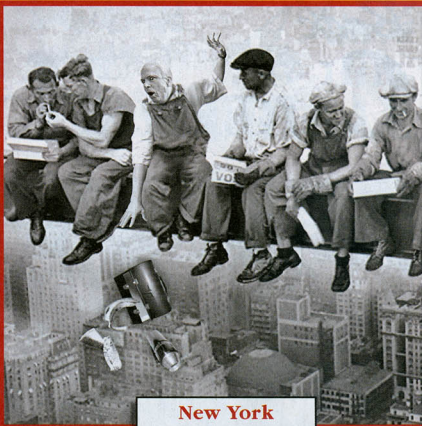
MAINE

Even in the early days of photography, McCain saw the power of photo-ops with war veterans.



New York

Charles Lindbergh turned down McCain's suggestion to name his plane "The Straight Talk of St. Louis."



New York

McCain has always been a friend of the working man.

1927

1930

1932

1945

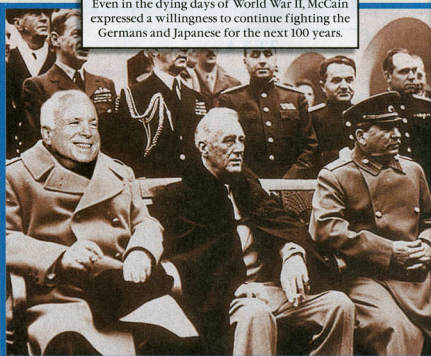
Washington, DC

During the Great Depression, McCain had a keen knowledge of the country's economic situation.



Yalta

Even in the dying days of World War II, McCain expressed a willingness to continue fighting the Germans and Japanese for the next 100 years.



Lower the
government's
National
Threat Level
to green! Its...

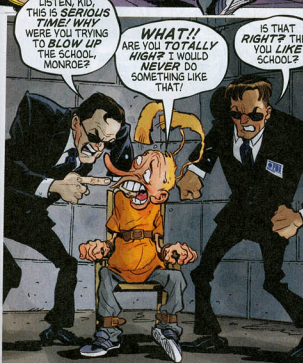
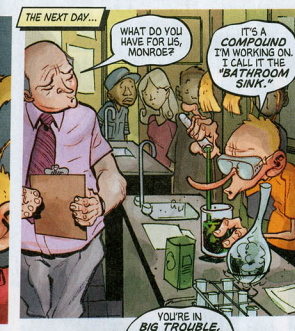
MONROE

and...

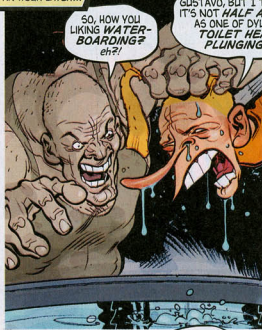


Domestic Terror





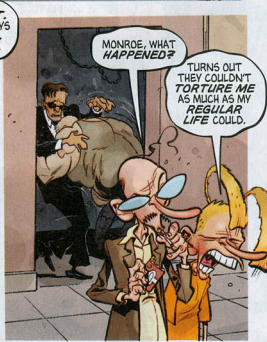
AN HOUR LATER...



36 HOURS LATER...

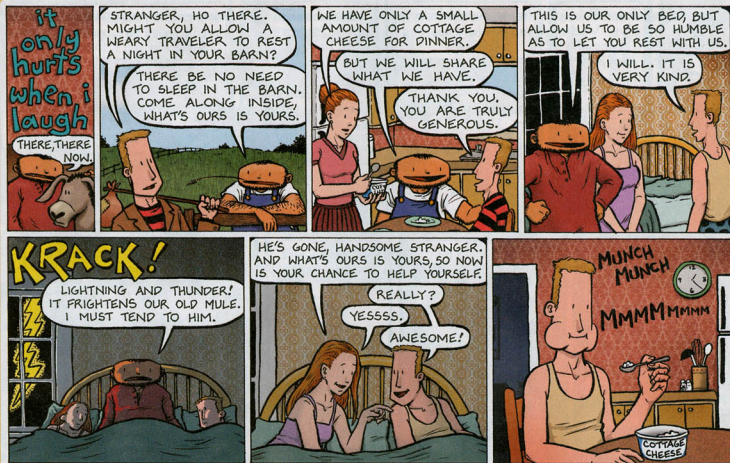


72 HOURS LATER...





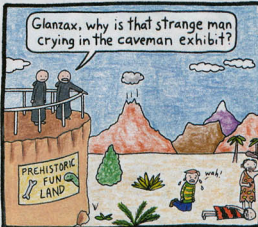
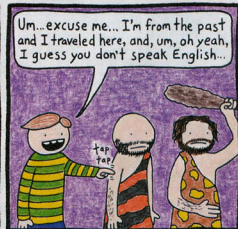
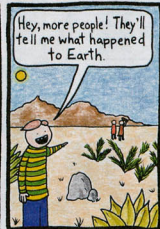
THE STRIP CLUB



HOW TO DUMP AN INVISIBLE MAN!



GLEN LELIÈVE



JOEY SAVERS

The Family Follies!



ROB HARRELL

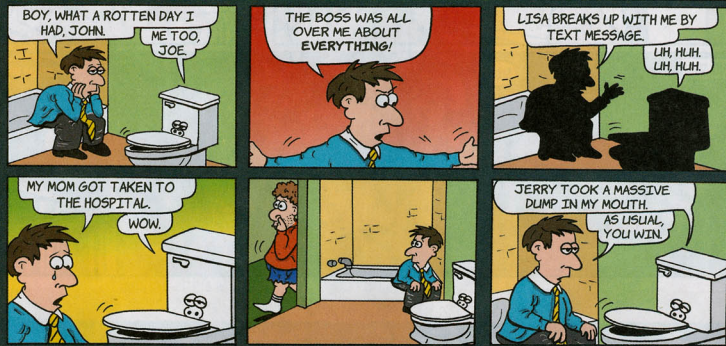
ME, MYSELF AND MY PUPPET

AT THE DINER



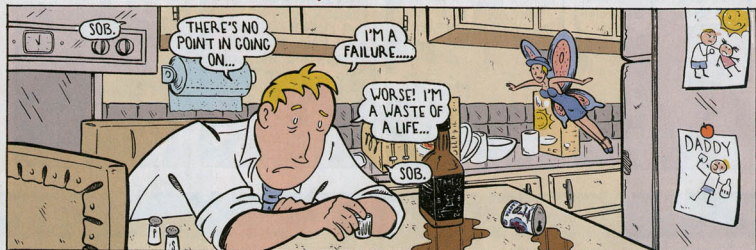
JOHN KOVALESKI

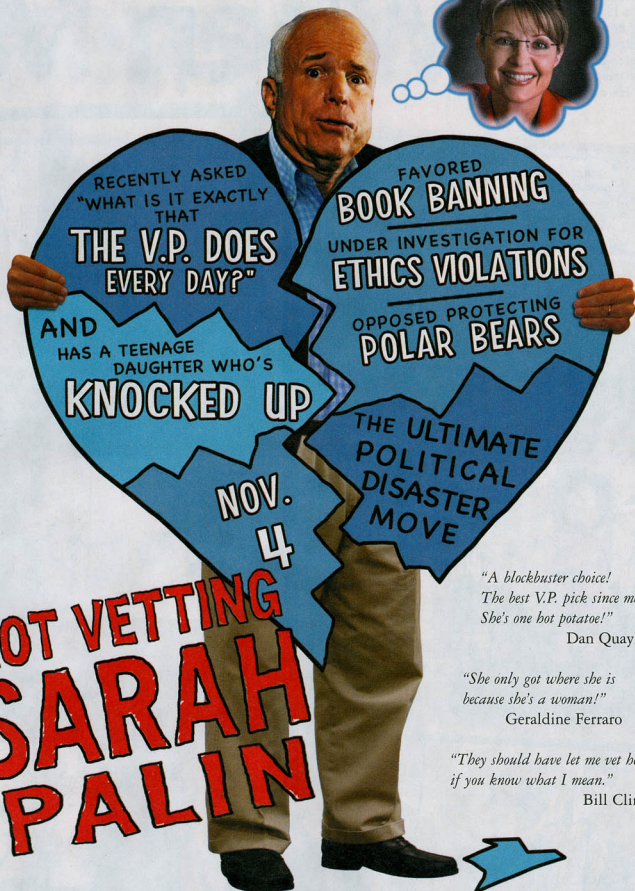
THE ROOMMATES: JOHN, JOE AND JERRY



TODD CLARK

JUST BELOW THE SURFACE





RECENTLY ASKED
"WHAT IS IT EXACTLY
THAT
**THE V.P. DOES
EVERY DAY?"**

AND
HAS A TEENAGE
DAUGHTER WHO'S
KNOCKED UP

**NOV.
4**

FAVORED
BOOK BANNING
UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR
ETHICS VIOLATIONS

OPPOSED PROTECTING
POLAR BEARS

THE ULTIMATE
POLITICAL
DISASTER
MOVE

NOT VETTING SARAH PALIN

*"A blockbuster choice!
The best V.P. pick since me!
She's one hot potatoe!"*

Dan Quayle

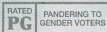
*"She only got where she is
because she's a woman!"*

Geraldine Ferraro

*"They should have let me vet her –
if you know what I mean."*

Bill Clinton

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESENTS A JOHN MCCAIN PRODUCTION "NOT VETTING SARAH PALIN"
STARRING JOHN MCCAIN AS THE "MAVERICK" INTIMIDATED BY THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT
SARAH PALIN AS THE VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE WHO JUST GOT HER PASSPORT THREE MONTHS AGO
FEATURING SENATOR JOE LIEBERMAN AS "TWO-FACE"

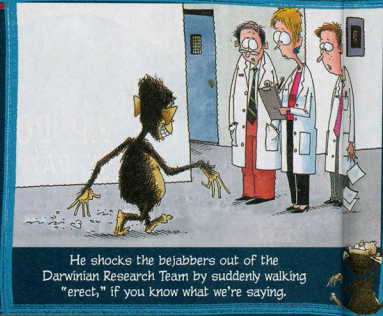


Maybe it's because of a bad upbringing, a history of drug abuse or traces of zebra dung in the water supply. Whatever the cause, it's not pretty to watch and has the potential to make entire species turn against each other. Here's what happens...

When Monkeys Go BAD



Uses the charming custom of grooming others as a diversionary tactic for his pickpocketing habit.



He shocks the bejabbers out of the Darwinian Research Team by suddenly walking "erect," if you know what we're saying.



Plays a cruel game of "keepaway" with his master.



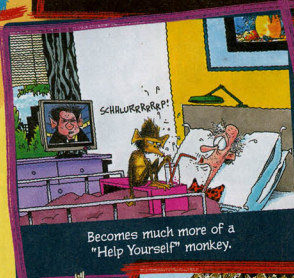
He pens a tell-all memoir that paints Tarzan in a really bad light.



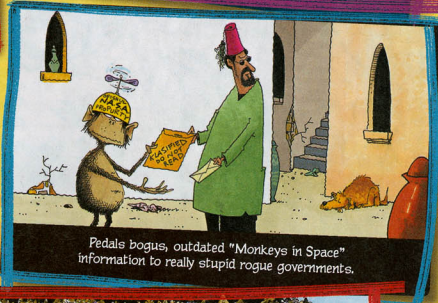
Practices inappropriate use of the prehensile tail.



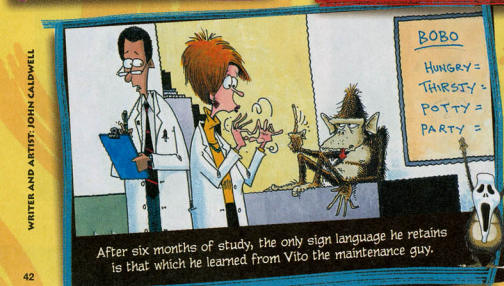
Incidents of banana peel-related "accidents" become much more commonplace.



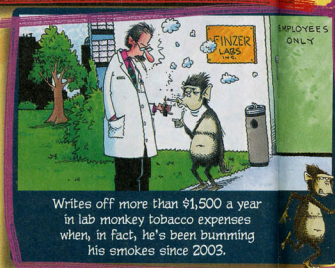
Becomes much more of a "Help Yourself" monkey.



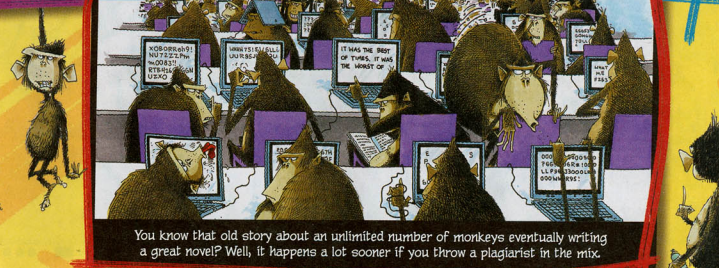
Pedals bogus, outdated "Monkeys in Space" information to really stupid rogue governments.



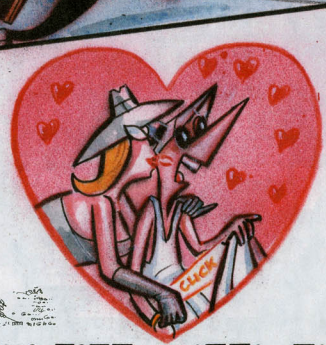
After six months of study, the only sign language he retains is that which he learned from Vito the maintenance guy.



Writes off more than \$1,500 a year in lab monkey tobacco expenses when, in fact, he's been bumming his smokes since 2003.



You know that old story about an unlimited number of monkeys eventually writing a great novel? Well, it happens a lot sooner if you throw a plagiarist in the mix.



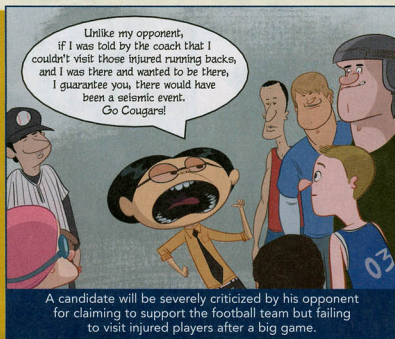
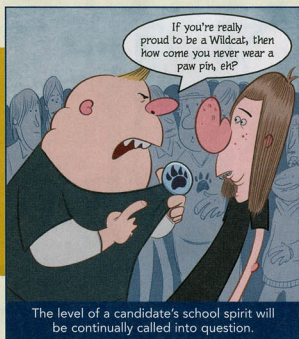
WRITER AND ARTIST: PETER KUPER

KUPER



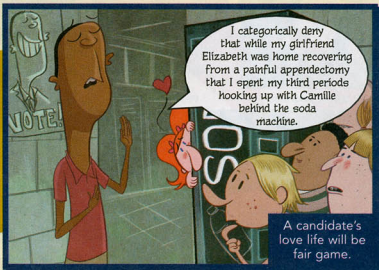
The road to the White House is paved with wild accusations and vicious name-calling. The halls of high school also house their share of rumors and taunts, but for some reason, class elections are relatively civil (except, of course, for an occasional pantsing). With all eyes on election coverage this year, the dirty and despicable tactics used in the presidential race are bound to inspire the political hopefuls running for student government. Here's what to expect...

WHEN HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIONS ARE RUN LIKE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

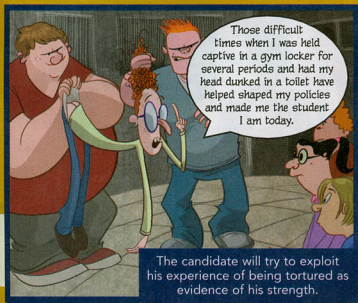




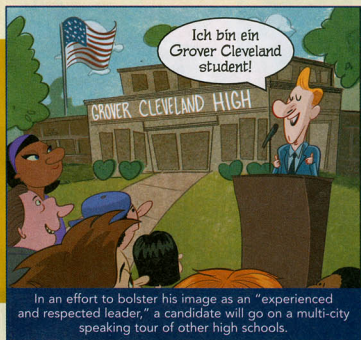
A candidate will point out his rival's ties to "special interest groups."



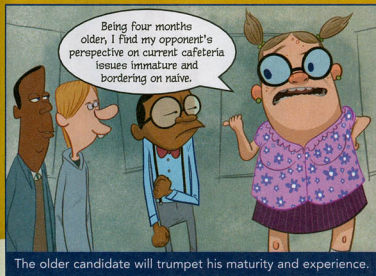
A candidate's love life will be fair game.



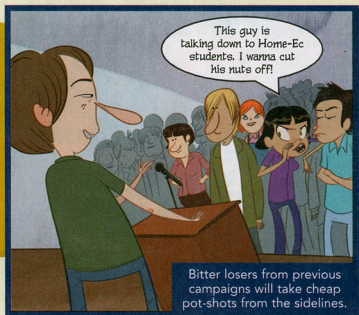
The candidate will try to exploit his experience of being tortured as evidence of his strength.



In an effort to bolster his image as an "experienced and respected leader," a candidate will go on a multi-city speaking tour of other high schools.

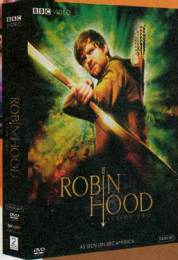
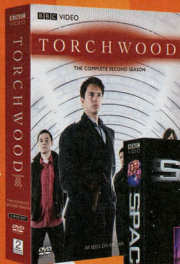


The older candidate will trumpet his maturity and experience.



Bitter losers from previous campaigns will take cheap pot-shots from the sidelines.

BBC VIDEO



The New British INVASION

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WHO'S MADE
A FORTUNE
COLLECTING
AND PACKAGING
GARBAGE?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

There are many entities getting rich by taking garbage and forcing it on the public. But there's one culprit in particular that's been very animated about it. To find out who is downright cartoonish in their exploitation of trash, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

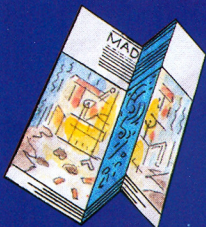
FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



SLEEK NEW GARBAGE RECYCLERS ARE ALMOST CRAZY
CELEBRATING THEIR NEWFOUND SUCCESS. BUT IT'S A PITY
GOOD IDEAS SO OFTEN GO BAD. IT'S DIFFICULT AS-
SESSING THEIR IMPACT. THE FORMULA IS TO SHIP
MORE GARBAGE IN WITHOUT RAISING PEOPLE'S ANGER

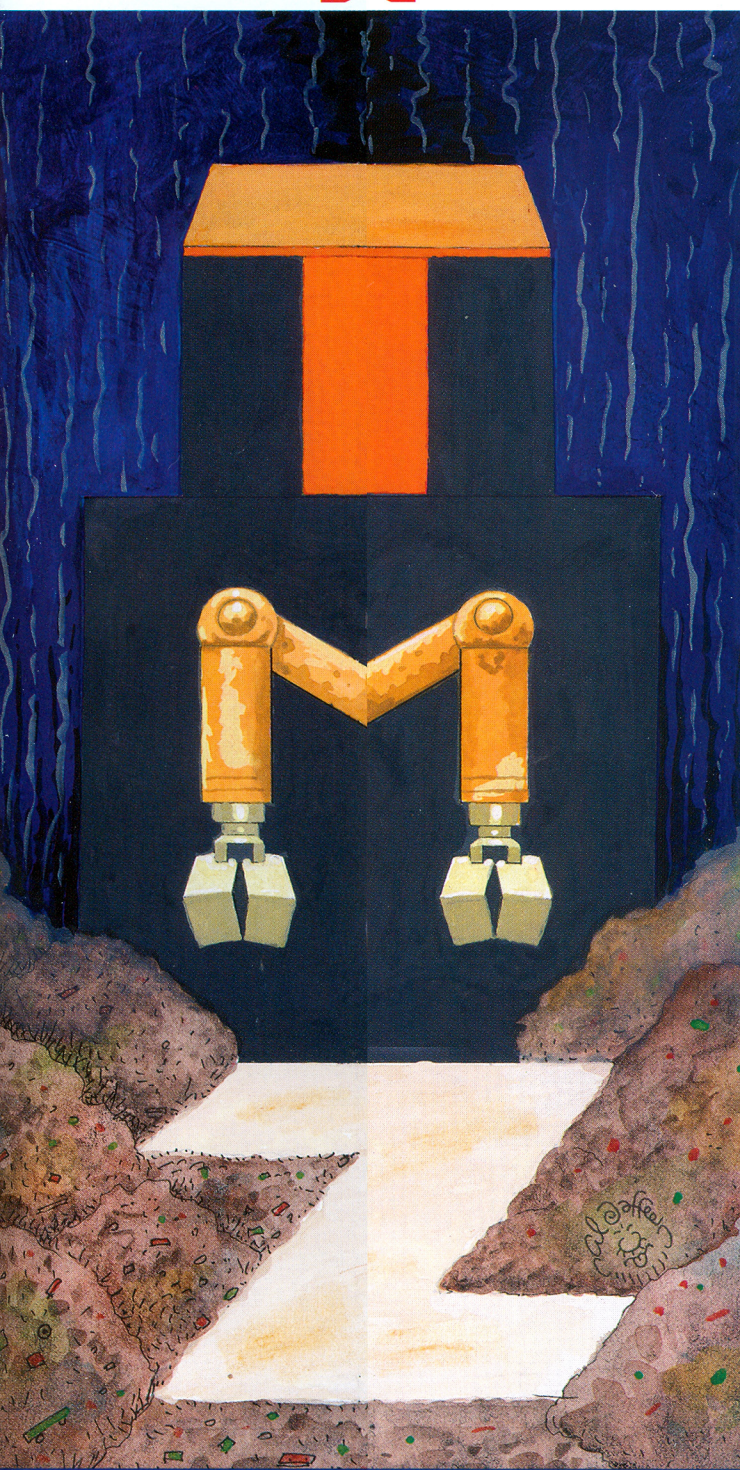
WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE

WHO'S MADE
A FORTUNE
COLLECTING
AND PACKAGING
GARBAGE?



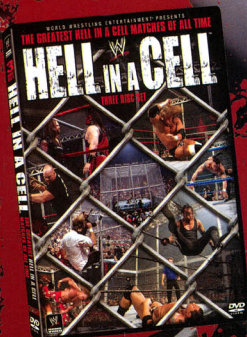
FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

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



SLEAZY
CELEBRITY
GOS-
SIP
MONGER

A **B**



In Hell's darkest chamber, Immortality waits.

3 DISC SET packed with more than
8 hours of the most barbaric matches
ever to occur in WWE's demonic structure.

A Collection To Be Feared
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collectible Kane or Undertaker mini-busts.

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