

offline

vol. 1 issue 2 papertizing the world wide web Free / O.B.O

WHO'S LAUGHING NOW? *

amateur GOOGLE VIDEO sketch comedy troupes face off in a heated rivalry that will shake the foundations of GOOGLE VIDEO amateur sketch comedy!

renegade productions



VS



because of boredom

* nobody

FEATURING

- ▷ Online Betting for the Rest of Us
- ▷ Floating Libertarian Utopias
- ▷ Wallpaper for Lonely Europeans
- ▷ Internet Classics: jump the shark

FREE CD INSIDE

CDtizing the music of the interweb

ARTIST: Mark Twain Indians

ALBUM: Gap Between the Rich and the Poor

ANALOG INTERNET

offline sifts through the world wide web to provide commentary on the sites, ideas, and trends we find informative and entertaining.

There's a bit of the ironic humor routine. But we're also perfectly serious at times. The goal is to reflect on a world engulfed by digital things and put those thoughts to recycled paper. That said, it's just a low-bud-

get entertainment magazine about the internet. But at least you won't need a computer to enjoy it. It's free, analog internet access for all.

If you're interested in writing an article for **offline**, or have a site you want featured, just head over to www.offlineonline.org and submit it.

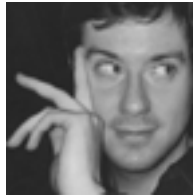
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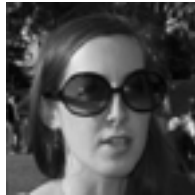
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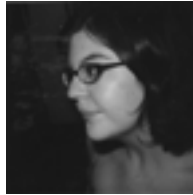
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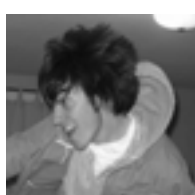
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Reverse Googling is Where it's At

author: Hannah Williams
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Is the internet just not "doing it" for you anymore? MySpace lost its luster with the whole Rupert Murdoch thing, you've probably seen everything on YouTube, and even Google doesn't seem to know what you're searching for. Well, friend, if you're anything like me, you're about ready to give up on this whole "internet" thing. I don't care for Friendster, and don't even get me started on Dogster! There just doesn't seem to be any internet-based entertainment that can hold my attention nowadays.

But wait! Can you talk a little louder? I can't quite hear you...Okay, that's better. Wait, you're too quiet again. You really have to learn to speak up. Oh, wait again. The volume on my hearing aid is turned down. Okay, now go. You say there's hope? You say there's a 100% free, legal, and drugless alternative that will still allow me to spend countless numbing hours clicking, scrolling, and "surfing" my life away? Tell me more!

It's Reverse Googling!

Basically, guys, Reverse Googling is the next big thing in "web"-ertainment, as I like to call it. It's gonna catch on, big time, and I'm about to let you in on this totally funky, totally fresh new craze.

Here's what you do: think of a word, any word. Got one? Is it "poop?" I thought so. Why don't you try a little harder. I'll give you some time...

Here's a fun picture to look at...



Okay, now. What's your word? Don't say it out loud; I don't need to hear it.

Step 1: Go to a computer. This computer must have the

internet.

Step 2: Get yourself on the internet.

Step 3: Reward yourself for all your hard work with some kind of snack. I suggest ants on a log, but you can definitely have something else. Deviled eggs? Oatmeal cookies? It's totally up to you.

Step 4: Try to remember what your word was. Type www.yourword.com, substituting your word for "yourword". Word?

Step 5: Hit "enter" and see if it's a website or not! This is totally awesome! Was it a website? Was it hilarious? If not, think of a new word and repeat steps 1 through 5 until you find something totally hilarious and/or bizarre.

Here are some examples of some of the wicked awesome websites I've reverse googled. I'm not going to tell you what they're like, because I want you to do it for yourself.

www.frump.com
www.messy.com
www.getwell.com
www.funkup.com - Visit this site ASAP
www.fro.com
www.boot.com

Here are some websites that I haven't even tried reverse googling, but you probably should, if you know what's good for you:

www.mybrotherisajerk.com
www.fancyfree.com
www.ploog.com
www.ladiesandgentlemen.com
www.underwearfancier.com
www.eyehole.com

...the list goes on and on. You are limited only by your imagination, and by how long you can keep typing until your fingers start hurting, or you need another snack. I still suggest ants on a log.

Now go! NOW! GO! I SAID GO! NOW! <>

Wallpaper People for the Desperately Lonely

Anyone who has ever had a roommate knows it can be no fun. Roommates are loud when you're trying to sleep, leave beard clippings all over the bathroom, enjoy feeding your cat beer when you're not around ... the list goes on and on. So you get a place of your own, and you adore it, but after a while you may find yourself missing having other people around. Well, now your worries are over, because German designers Susanne Schmidt and Andrea Baum have created single-tapete.de, an e-commerce site selling a series of innovative wallpaper designs featuring "original-sized individuals" that provide a roommate who won't "scatter bread crumbs all over the place, leave the kitchen in a big mess, or insist on watching boring TV programs."

Yep, wallpaper people for the home or office. And the best part: your fake companion is "always friendly, doesn't smoke, likes watching *Friends* with you for the 100th time without ever complaining, doesn't leave dirty socks lying around, never protests against your ideas, and always looks fresh and attractive!"

With a wide selection of life-sized "roommates" framed by colorful geometric designs, "no one ever needs to stare gloomily at empty walls again!" Whatever your interests, you might enjoy spending some time with one or more of the following...

Audiophile Adrian sits in a hip orange chair next to a hip white record player, because "listening to music alone is not fun! He would love to show you his personal record collection."

Gastronomist Adriano, slurping up spaghetti, proves that he will "try without hesitation every ever so exotic combination you cook. He always loves it!"

Couch-potato Paul, slumped in his German version of a La-Z-Boy, "loves watching TV with you: *Kojak*, sports and *Gone With The Wind* ... the full variety."

Party-queen Priscilla, all dolled up in a mini-dress and enjoying a glass on champagne, brings "glamour, radiance, and passion to every boring place [and] stands for high-potentials."

Bookworm Barbara, curled up on a white couch, is "indulged in a romantic love story, imagines her one-bedroom apartment to be a noble country house."

And, for the dog lover, puppy Terry and his mummy, who are "extremely suitable for singles allergic to dogs!"

Other areas of the site include a variety of different wallpapering ideas. The do-it-yourself section invites couples in long-distance relationships to have wallpaper created out of each other's photographs. A section of "still unrealized" designs (at least for the time being) offers thoughtful suggestions for businesses and schools, then randomly tosses in "erotic wallpaper" for "the humorous single." Clearly, all humorous German singles are either males or lesbians, because the only option is a naked woman who appears to be lying atop a bed and who "at an unexpected nightly visit, doesn't keep herself in the background."

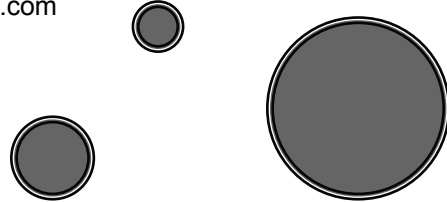
At \$230 a pop, these "roommates" may initially be a bit costly, but the time & energy you'll save will be well worth it. So go ahead ... stick on some excellent company! <>





the Limitless Potential of Computer Art

author: Liam Singer
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Trying to create a work of art in today's age of mechanical reproduction is so problematic, somebody ought to write an essay about it. Oh wait, somebody already did. It's called **The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction**, by Walter Benjamin. I've never read it, but I'll bet it says something about how a work of art tends to lose its "aura" when removed from the context in which it was created, leading to a whole lot of issues for artists in the modern age.

Still, today's superstar artists have found ways around such problems - whether it be by creating art that's naturally irreproducible, like Andy Goldsworthy, limiting reproduction through intricate craftsmanship and expense like Dale Chihuly, or creating a deep mythology as Matthew Barney has done around his Drawing Restraint series, allowing "branded" objects to carry the aura of the original. One thing's for sure: our social conception of the artist has irrevocably shifted from "craftsman" to one who claims ownership over a set of ideas. Thus, artists can even embrace the nature of mechanical reproduction as a part of their aesthetic world if they so choose, as Andy Warhol famously did, and Thomas Kinkade does in a different sense today.

New problems arise, however, when one talks about creating art in the age of digital reproduction. Much news has been made over the digital piracy of

music and movies, separating artists from the monetary benefits of their craft. What's been less talked about, however, is why there's such a lack of artists working solely within the digital world. Though many artists now use digital tools and the internet in the creation of music, movies, etc., the universe of computers itself has only a few conceptual and performance artists working from within it - people like performance artist/war protester Joseph DeLappe, who logs on to America's Army in order to type in the names of fallen Iraqi soldiers, or the creators of sites like the now defunct hell.com. Why aren't there more artists exploring this universe?

The problem is, computers and the internet are open-source. They're designed to transport ideas and information as far from their point of origin, and to as many other people, as possible. If "the artist's" identity is based on claiming ownership of ideas, such ownership becomes difficult in the digital world. That's probably why, despite the incredible artistic potential inherent in what is basically a new dimension of space and time, the artistic medium of the digital realm has not yet found its voice.

This state of affairs has not only led many conceptual artists to overlook the internet and home computer as a medium in which to work (rather than through which to work) it has caused

viewers like you and me to overlook any significant artistic occurrences that may be happening in front of us. After all, ever since Duchamp mounted a urinal on the wall, art has been more about the way you look at things than the things themselves. Is it possible that we're surrounded by art on computers and the internet, but don't know how to "view" it simply because it can't be attributed to any particular artist? Let's look at just a few examples of "possible art" that isn't perceived as such.

1. Kandinsky was a painter active in the early 20th century, who became interested in reflecting musical phenomena through abstract imagery. Many of his paintings are interpretations of pieces by composers he was fond of, like Schoenberg. "Color is the keyboard," Kandinsky once said, "the eyes are the harmonies, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul." Far out man. But really, his paintings are great.

Now imagine if you told Kandinsky you'd developed a system that analyzes the sound waves in each moment of a song, and by combining that data and random chance you were able to create an abstract moving picture reflecting the changing nature of the music through time. I'll bet he'd just go ape-nuts, right? Well, such a program

exists on your home computer right now. It's the "visualization" on itunes or windows media player, and if you think about it, it's pretty amazing. A seemingly cognizant entity creates a synesthetic dance of abstract shapes and colors generated by the music's changing rhythm and sound.

Why do we think of such a thing as nothing more than eye candy for stoners, when it fulfills so many of the promises theorized by early electronic composers? For years, musicians like Brian Eno have explored the intersection between image and sound. Now, through these visualization programs, we have the seeds of a totally integrated media, in which one sensory input can trigger a host of others. Might we more readily project such a display onto the wall of an art gallery if was directly attributed to a single artist, instead of a series of algorithms?

2. Much art and music of the last 50 years, especially that stemming from the "minimalist" schools, has examined the viewer's relationship with time. "Time Based Art" is both a festival that happens every year in Portland, and the name of a class offered at several universities. The phrase refers both to art that is based in the temporal realm, and to art that explores time as a theme.

I personally have experienced no greater approximation of time travel than exploring the Wayback Machine at www.archive.org. The Wayback Machine is an ongoing effort to catalog the entire internet at different points in time, and to save it for future generations. Just go there and type in any website; the Wayback Machine allows you to "Browse through 55 billion web pages archived from 1996 to a few months ago."

At first, it might just seem like a neat way to revisit some old sites. But the more you consider the Wayback Machine, the more you realize you're actually traversing a landscape of the past.

The internet is a collective realization of millions of minds. As those minds

evolve, so does the internet. And as the Wayback Machine grows more complete, and our lives become more and more intertwined the internet, what we're essentially left with is a map of the collective consciousness' evolution. Since the map is available in the present, the postmodern conceptions of the cultural pastiche and the meaninglessness of time will be literally realized. Now that's bananas!

3. A trend in the gallery scene over the past few decades has been it's embrace of "urban" art forms from the worlds of hip-hop and skating. Graffiti inspired art, or photographs of real graffiti, are commonplace sights in galleries, as are performances of old school breakdancing, crip-walking, or crumping. Other galleries, such as the Wexner center in Ohio, have actually built indoor bowls and invited skaters to display their form of physical expression.

The beauty of such forms, argue the scene's proponents, is that they're organically born out of the modern concrete jungles we've erected. Skate and hip-hop culture re-imagine the landscape of cities for their own purposes, making them authentic folk arts...even as others decry the modes of expression as nothing more than vandalism.

We can think of the coders that construct viruses and send them across the web as the internet's answer to "urban artists." While we might view the creation of such viruses as inherently violent, destructive, and without beauty, virus writers like Eternal Maverick have asserted (in rare interviews) that "virus-making is an art."

The scene is more diverse than some might think. While some coders are like teenage anarchists at a protest - just out to break things - others create viruses that do no harm. Your computer may very well have several viruses on it right now that will never make their existence known. What, then, are we to make of their creators' motivations? Are they parallel to those of graffiti artists who leave their tags in seemingly impossible places, or the skaters who

turn a hostile, inhuman landscape into a playground?

These virus writers traverse the landscape of code that forms the internet, and exploit it's alleyways, underpasses, and industrial wastelands toward their own creative ends. While the aesthetic nature of their accomplishments may be inaccessible to you or I, I have little doubt that someone with a deep understanding of code is sincere when they describe such viruses as "beautiful."

Despite the challenges, established artistic aims *are* being realized on the internet and the personal computer. But the potential is still great.

Look at some of the phenomenon that have been occurring on YouTube, like the trend of filming ones' self watching another video and then posting it online. How else can that medium and others be exploited by artists inside and outside of established scenes?

Here's my suggestion. The next time you visit the web, try doing so with a mindset you'd bring to a First or Last Thursday. The internet can be more than a mind-bending web of information. Maybe it's also the most complex art installation ever built, and we just haven't realized it yet. <>

too **OUTRAGEOUS** for youTUBE

The father of oversized prop comedy, Gallagher, was pretty damn amazing back in the day. Watermelon smashing with giant mallets, giant tricycle riding, sitting on giant couches...it was all pretty entertaining stuff. After years of coming up with "A" material, it must get hard to think of new jokes and routines. Which is probably why he filmed this ridiculous stunt. No punchlines, no jokes, just Gallagher lifting a car off the ground with a helicopter.

<http://www.gallaghersmash.com/videos/GallagherChopper.mov>



ONline Activities >>>

<http://www.bodog.com>

Finally...Online Gambling for the Rest of Us

author: Chris Leslie-Hynan
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It is difficult to know the truth about things these days. We are encouraged to take the actualities of politics and war as blindly as we took the actualities of child-bearing when we were four: babies are delivered by storks, who bear them gently through the sky in white linen slings. Now more than ever, the doggedness required to separate truth from propaganda is much, much higher than that required to put the silly newspaper down and spread cream cheese on a delicious bagel. So people will continue to spread, and ignore, and hope they have the full story.

Still, "the truth continues to go on, as it were, behind your back," as George Orwell puts it. It's a bit of a solace to consider that there is still one place where objective truth stands undiminished, where there is no science but hard science, and where the likelihood that a thing really did or will happen in an absolutely certain way is held to be sacred, upon a scale that is watched with the calm and undimmed eyes of utmost judiciousness: Las Vegas.

The Wide World of Wagers

I do not do much betting, but I love to read the lines. I don't read the football lines or the horse lines; I read the political and the business and occasionally the celebrity lines. At Bodog.com, where I recently created an account to place a small wager on the Los Angeles Clippers to win

the NBA Championship (they didn't and I lost!) the betting lines unfold like sections of a newspaper. But Bodog does not report what happened yesterday, it reports all the left-field things that will -- or at least have a very distant shot to -- happen tomorrow. In the cold, emotionless language of monetary probability, incredible prophecies are posited.

At this moment, I could bet \$50 that Suri Cruise does not actually exist. Her moneyline is +300. It's true that I can't bet that she *does* exist, but if it turned out she didn't, I'd win \$150. This suggests that there is an objective 3/1 chance that Tom Cruise has helped his lovely fiancé Katie Holmes beget a fabricated daughter. To put this in some perspective, Suri Cruise is twice as likely to not exist as the Boston Red Sox are to win the World Series (6/1). I wonder if Tom is aware of this proposition. If so, he is probably either reacting with sincere moral outrage or else sending emails to all his friends about how they can make a quick \$150 on his fake baby.

A few weeks ago you could have bet on whether or not the Senate was going to up the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 (and cut the estate tax in the same bill.) Bodog correctly made the passage of the bill a long shot: you would have had to put down \$180 to make \$100 on the bill's failing, which it did. Bodog similarly predicted former Press Secretary Scott McClellan's resignation last February, giving only

CELEBRITY BETTING, ODDS ON TOM CRUISE AND KATIE HOLMES, CELEBRITY BABIES

Single Bet Parlay Round Robin If Bet Reverse Teaser

Add To Picks Refresh Lines

Show: Open events All events Sun Aug. 20, 5:59:27p ET

These events are only available for wagering via the Internet

Competitor	Odds
Bet On: Will Janet Jackson and Jermaine Dupri publicly announce in 2006, that they are expecting a baby? <i>Any wagers placed after outcome becomes public knowledge will be graded as No Action. No refunds. No over limit wagers. It must be publicly announced by December 31st, 2006 that Janet Jackson and Jermain Dupri are expecting a baby for all Yes wagers to be graded a win. Max \$50.</i>	
Yes	+220
No	-350
Bet On: Will Andy Dick enter a drug or alcohol rehabilitation center by October 31st, 2006? <i>Any wagers placed after outcome becomes public knowledge will be graded as No Action. No refunds. No over limit wagers. It must be publicly announced by October 31st, 2006, that Andy Dick has entered a drug or alcohol rehabilitation center for all Yes wagers to be graded a Win. Max \$50.</i>	
Yes	+175
No	-260
Bet On: Will Mel Gibson break any of the conditions attached to his 3-year probation by December 31st, 2006? <i>Any wagers placed after outcome becomes public knowledge will be graded as No Action. No refunds. No over limit wagers. It must be publicly announced by December 31st, 2006, that Mel Gibson has broken one or more of the conditions attached to his 3-year probation for all Yes wagers to be graded a Win. Max \$50.</i>	

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES TO OFFLINE...

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"Please don't touch me when I'm like this"
 e-commerce mogul - Gary Fist

10/1 odds that he would last more than 18 months. He lasted two.

To translate other possibilities out of their betting jargon, Bodog says that Osama Bin Laden's corpse is considerably more likely to be found than Jimmy Hoffa's – but if you think otherwise they're amenable to a wager on that. Bodog also thinks that, despite rumors that he's already dead, it is likely that Fidel Castro will resume control of Cuba by October 31st. Furthermore, the odds that Jake Gyllenhaal will be publicly photographed kissing Lance Armstrong before Matthew McConaughey or Natalie Portman are 3/1. (Matthew is 2/1 and Natalie is 1/3. The fine print notes: If Jake Gyllenhaal is photographed kissing more than one of the listed options at the same time, all wagers will be graded as No Action. Kiss must be on the lips to be considered.)

The most bizarre betting prospect I ever encountered on Bodog was the opportunity to bet that it would be revealed by the end of the 2006 calendar year that Dick Cheney had not, in fact, shot Harry Whittington in

the face, neck, and upper torso with a shotgun while quail hunting, as you may have heard. The especially bizarre part of this is that there were six witnesses to the shooting, and nowhere on the Internet could I find any disbelieving undercurrent to the commonly accepted factual record. Nonetheless, you could make \$500 on a \$100 bet that said that the V.P. took the fall for some even more influential and nefarious shadow-figure, which given Cheney's sky-high Man of Nefarious Exploits Index would presumably have to be either the actual President or Mumm-Ra.

Given that propositions like Harry Whittington and Suri Cruise do not allow you to bet against highly unlikely things from happening, it is possible that such conspiracy and prophecy bets are merely a way for Bodog to make a little money and get a lot of publicity. Even so, Bodog remains invaluable, for now I know with unclouded certainty that Fidel Castro is only +155 dead or in really bad shape, and -220 doing fine. <>

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• **SUPPORT LOCAL WEBSITES:**

• **DARLINGKILLERS.COM**

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• **Category:** online literary mag

•

• **Headquarters:** portland

•

• **Content:** fiction, non-fiction, reviews, opinion pieces, and commentary

•

• **Quote:** "Baltimore-based Spank Rock's full length debut, YoYoYoYoYo, is a party album of the highest order: an evocation toward the nearest make-shift dance floor, liquor store, or grimy bathroom stall with that girl/guy that you've wanted to bone for the last twenty minutes." - John Denlinger

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Trash Taping: Teenage Google Video Sketch Comedy Eats Itself From Within

author: Devin Sandoz
devin@offlineonline.org

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In the kitchen of a spacious house in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a 15-year old boy pretending to be a priest attacks a 15-year-old boy pretending to be a slightly younger boy. Dressed in street clothes, he beats the boy mercilessly as they both laugh hysterically. They then play the entire episode over in slow motion.

500 miles away, another group of 15-year-old boys, resonating kind of a stoner/skater/meatalhead vibe, kick the shit out of a tricycle in a Pickering, Ontario parking lot. They also beat each other up and try to ride the tricycle, which is missing its back two wheels.

The first group is Renegade Productions, the second Because of Boredom (or as they're affectionately known among their fanbase, BoB). They are two of the premier teenage internet sketch comedy groups posting on Google Video. And though they have never met, they hate each other with an eternal, burning fury.

In many ways the two groups have developed in parallel. They are roughly the same age, they both started making comedy videos two years ago, and they both have lots of skits in which people beat each other up while laughing. In many ways you would think that the two troupes are ideal collaborators, but ask either group about the other and you'll get the same reply:

"Asscrap."
"Bag of squirrel turds."
"Retards."
"Renegay."

How did we get here? How did a little friendly competition swell to a rivalry of nearly Mad TV-SNL proportions? I interviewed both groups over email to plumb a little deeper into their comic sensibilities and the nature of the feud. To hear both sides tell it, the animosity was immediate and unrelenting.

Andrew Lerner, a founding member of BoB, described his discovery of their rivals: "Mike came up to me one day, and was all: 'Yo, check this gay shit'. And I did." Apparently BoB was motivated to strike back in the name of good taste; Renegade Productions says they were first alerted to BoB's existence in the summer of 2005 when "[BoB] started posting hateful comments on our guestbook bashing our videos."

At the time Renegade Productions was a relatively green group, still exploring the possibilities of the medium through shorts like "The Coffee Skit" (a priest beats up a young boy) "The Horror Skit" (a young boy beats up and kills two people before accidentally killing himself) and "The Mafia Skit" (members of the mafia beat up an Irishman). BoB's criticisms were incisive and cruel, and Renegade didn't take kindly. They decided to face their critics head-on: "Instead of continuing the trash talk, we decided to act using the medium we prefer - funny videos."

Said video struck back, and struck hard. "Because of Boredom: Episode 4" opens with the classic BoB credits

– hard rock music and a rapid-fire slideshow of the BoB dudes hanging out together. Suddenly a slide displaying "You Guys are Gay" flashes onscreen, closely followed by a second: "Really Gay." People, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The remaining two minutes relentlessly disrespect BoB, as Renegade imitates asian cast member Ryan Hamill speaking in a terrible Chinese accent and humping a stuntbike, the entire crew panicking when the lights go out, and Chris Smith talking about how much he likes the anime show "Sailor Moon."



Renegade did more than create parodic videos of BoB however. They also unleashed a blitzkrieg of hateful posts on the BoB guestbook, prompting BoB founding member Mike Corpuz to send an email asking that the group cease and desist:

Dan (if this is Dan),
I've got network supervisors checking out our website and all, so I can't start another one of these dumbass con-

flicts they might see. I'm going to have to delete your posts again soon. You can go ahead and call me pussy for it if you want, but do it through email, don't be an asshole. I don't want to screw up my chance at being aired on TV. I really don't care what you do with your guestbook. If you want to leave it, go ahead. Just stop posting on my guestbook, at least not anything negative. And if this is Alex, the same goes to you. You can make fun of us/argue with us all you want, just not on our guestbook. I don't want anyone from the network to see that shit.

It was probably just a case of two groups of hot-headed, boundlessly creative young men losing control of their emotions and slipping into juvenile behavior. Maybe it was the school year coming on full force, or maybe it was a result of the groups' maturation, but the rivalry actually appeared to subside for a few months.

While Because of Boredom didn't release anything during this time period, apart from a hilarious and entirely-improvised skit where two kids argue over whether you can have an all-bacon sandwich, Renegade Productions was as fertile as a cat in heat. On February 4, 2006 they uploaded a smorgasbord of comedy onto Google Video: "Stubs – the Mini-series" featuring a kid with no arms trying to play basketball and football (a clever nod to the Air Bud series?), shorts parodying Progressive and MasterCard commercials, and most famously "Kicked in the Nuts," what amounted to an exact recreation of the widely-viewed Mike and Patrick Henry short of the same name (http://www.channel101.com/shows/show.php?show_id=5), only with a smaller person wearing a Halloween mask instead of a bright orange wig doing the kicking.

I asked Renegade about the decision to film their own "Kicked in the Nuts."

"Kicked in the Nuts is funny because most people appreciate physical com-



edy. Especially when people get hit in the nuts when least expecting it. We were big fans of the original Kicked in the Nuts, and we made our own parody. It was only by accident that the video came out so similar to the original."

And as for their mode of operation during production:

"We didn't actually kick each other in the nuts, but we tried to come as close as possible, and at times way too close. It was absolutely worth it because it gave the full effect."

The video, while blatantly identical to the original, is undeniably hilarious. However, I personally don't see it as a parody due to their faithfulness to the original material. I'd describe it more as a remake, its relation to its forebearer probably most analogous to films such as Gus Van Sant's Psycho.

"Kicked in the Nuts" helped put Renegade Productions on the map, and they were getting a great reception, especially from people unfamiliar with the source material. Because of Boredom decided to set the record straight with a video of their own.

"Kicked in the Nuts – A Story of Plagiarism" compares clips from Mike and Patrick Henry's original to Renegade Productions' short. They point out similarities in dialogue ("You've been kicked in the nuts") and setting (a basketball court) as well as show-

ing the audience via a slow-motion clip that the Renegade actor wasn't actually kicked in the nuts. Plagiarism is a strong accusation, and Renegade Productions responded to the charge in our interview: "because Because of Boredom took most of our video out of context it made it seem as if we consciously plagiarized. Our fans knew it was a parody."

It was around the time of the plagiarism controversy that I contacted both groups about doing the email interviews for this article, and they were both happy to participate. However, I hadn't foreseen that by explicitly stating that the rivalry between the groups would be a focus of the article I would incite an onslaught of online video flaming that would obliterate the earlier rivalry in terms of its severity, its frequency, and its rampant homophobia.

Because of Boredom members and BoB fans began to post videos defaming Renegade. Videos like: "Matt's Maniacal Dance Profile" in which a silly dance skit Renegade had released was repositioned as a gay personals ad, "Renegade Productions Slideshow" which states "instead of releasing a new skit that everyone would hate, here's the slideshow that seems to be a lot funnier than us," and finally "Big Stinky 2 Intro: Cast of Queers," featuring an original rap that is sure to become immortal in the teenage internet flame-war community. An excerpt:

So I saw these videos on the Google site // And I thought for a second that I seen the light // And then I realized 'what the hell' with all of my might // I tried to be God, just to whack and smite you // Renegade Productions - what the fuck is that? // Wacker than the beat on this fuckin' track // You look like some American Idol // You saw BoB, I know it got y'all riled up

Because of Boredom fans (not the troupe itself, as states a disclaimer on the site) also put together a parody website of Renegade Productions' freewebs page that calls everyone gay a lot and talks about how unfunny

Renegade videos are.

Renegade Productions, in a show of maturity and startlingly sophisticated social strategy, have generally elected to take the high road in the recent spat. In answer to the recent BoB parody videos (all posted under the name Renegade Productions) Renegade filmed a fake newscast explaining that they were uninvolved with the BoB submissions:

“Pardon the interruption, but this is a Channel 7 ¾ exclusive. There are a few videos floating around the internet with Canadian-based sketch comedy group Because of Boredom posing as world-renowned sketch comedy group Renegade Productions. You may have seen such videos as ‘A Big Stinky 2: Introduction’ or a gay dating video featuring maniacal Matt. All these videos were put together by Because of Boredom, and are in no way, shape or form the work of Renegade Productions. Do not be fooled. They’ve also put together a website in which they changed around the words, and changed the pictures. Again, please do not be hoodwinked by such tomfoolery.”

However, a week prior to the posting of the above video they lost their composure and posted a video calling BoB cast member Wes Champion a “mentally challenged homosexual.” It’s gotten ugly and matters have only intensified on the freewebs guestbooks recently, with 7 vitriolic posts made by the two groups on Renegade’s message board just this past weekend. The vendetta is back, and it looks like it’s here to stay.

So, who’s right and who’s wrong in this mad charade? And more importantly, who’s funnier?

I can’t really answer those questions, for fear that the slighted group will launch an unflinching video smear campaign against me. And really, both groups have such bright futures ahead of them that I can’t wait to see what happens if they stop beating each other, and themselves, up, and start beating their audience up with their unique comic sensibilities.

Because of Boredom: http://www.freewebs.com/because_of_boredom/

Renegade Productions: <http://www.freewebs.com/bigstinky/>

Fake Renegade Productions Site: http://www.freewebs.com/big_stinky/

<>

HOLY SHIT !

www.wayofthemaster.com

Kirk Cameron is f-ing nuts. No joke, check out his extremist Christian website: wayofthemaster.com. He’s doing crazy stuff like speaking out against intellectual thought and discourse. He’s even got a video where he “disproves” evolution by having a fancy dinner with a monkey. It makes perfect sense...how could we evolve from a creature that’s so messy?

Also, Kirk thinks you and your whole family are going to hell. He even hits the streets with this Australian guy named Ray Comfort so he can tell strangers they’re damned. The (self-) righteous duo yells, gets really angry, and lays out some wonderfully idiotic arguments. (It’s all on the site by the way.)

You can’t help but wonder how the star of *Growing Pains* and the TV remake of *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* became such an extremist. Maybe it was all the women and drugs between takes.

The Way of the Master sums up its philosophy with the extremely clever slogan: “What Did Jesus Do?”

Maybe Kirk should be asking, “What Did Mike Seaver Do?” He made us laugh, feel good about life, and appreciate the unmatched warmth and support of family.



“To learn how to circumnavigate the intellect (the place of argument) and speak directly to the conscience (the place of the knowledge of right and wrong), please visit our website at www.WayOfTheMaster.com.”

-Mike Seaver

CDtizing the INTERNET

There's a lot of great, free, independent music on the internet. It's only natural that some of the better albums find their way into the real world via a classy CD insert. Enjoy this special release:

Band: **Mark Twain Indians**

Album: **Gap Between the Rich and the Poor**

Site: <http://www.marktwainindians.com>



*** let us know if you want your album to appear in a future issue

9/11 Revisionists Look to the Web for Truth

author: Jay Leary
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Maybe it's a stretch to say that the White House orchestrated the attacks of September 11th. That's certainly giving those incompetent hacks a lot of credit. It's true the official account of that day's events does lead to some difficult questions like: why didn't the government scramble military jets in New York and Washington D.C to prevent the catastrophic collisions? How could the heavily fortified Pentagon, the nerve center of the nation's defensive operations, have been hit when it was equipped specifically with anti-aircraft artillery? How could so many systems and processes have failed all at once? And it doesn't exactly help that the act of aggression was abused by the administration to rally public support for military action in the Middle East, as well as rocket the president to new heights of popularity and support.

Then, of course, there's the whole PNAC thing. For those that don't know, the influential neo-conservative group, Project for the New American Century, stated in 2000 that securing US economic and military interests in the Middle East would require a "new Pearl Harbor" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_for_the_New_American_Century). The neo-conservatives got that "Pearl Harbor" on 9/11 and proceeded to shamelessly exploit it for their own ends.

But this is all old news to anyone who's watched Free Speech TV, listened to Air America, or checked out a liberal blog or two.

So why then should we continue to talk and write about 9/11? It's pretty simple...we really don't know what happened on that day. Not only that, the story we have, the "official" story, comes straight from the mouths of documented liars like Dick Cheney, Condi Rice, Rumsfeld, Rove, and GW.

Remember Condi's "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center." That sentiment was repeated in one way or another over and over again after the attack. It's a shame no one took the time to watch the March 2001 pilot of the short-lived series, "The Lone Gunmen," because the episode was specifically about terrorists flying planes into the World Trade Center:

<http://www.thewebfairy.com/killtown/lonegunmen.html>

The coincidences and inconsistencies compel people to continue with the investigation of 9/11. The skeptics aren't without bias, but they do help to force a dialog, one that could eventually lead to some real understanding of the

tragedy.

There are a number of notable sites on the web that provide revisionist theories of the attacks. If you're looking for a place to start, check out:

www.question911.com

Question911.com is an aggregator of 9/11 revisionist videos, lectures, and mainstream news accounts. The site lets you download a number of full-length independent films that explore the disaster. The quality isn't great on some, but they're free and fast on broadband. I'd recommend starting with "Loose Change 2nd Edition." A college kid, Dylan Avery, made it...which helps to explain the phat beats in the soundtrack. He does a nice job netting out the inconsistencies in the White House's story. You can also view the video at: www.loosechange911.com.

If you're familiar with the standard criticisms and want to get deep into the events surrounding 9/11, check out Paul Thompson's "Complete 911 Timeline" at:

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org>

Paul provides a comprehensive timeline of events leading up to 9/11, a minute-by-minute record of the day, and detailed information about the aftermath. He's also written a book, "The Terror Timeline," which expands on the site content. And there's even a new movie based on the book. If interested, head over the site and check out the trailer.

Hell, buy the DVD and watch it with your friends.

<http://www.911pressfortruth.com>



The sad truth is: few of us, if any, fully understand the most pivotal event in recent US history. The needless deaths that 9/11 caused directly, and led to indirectly with the "wars" in Iraq and Afghanistan, warrant further investigation by the public. If our so-called leaders knew anything on September 10th, and didn't take action, or simply acted with unbelievable incompetence, then they should be held accountable.

If the public rolls over and stops asking questions, that accountability will never be realized. <>

Ask Grandma Anything...Seriously...Anything

author: Emily Mitchell-Marell
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Advice sites can be pretty amusing, especially when they're about awkward teenagers asking uncomfortable questions. Ask-Anything.com is one of the best...and here's why: instead of a stodgy doctor or therapist dishing out boring, educated advice, a sage grandmother counsels confused youth. Grandma, or GM as she likes to be called, uses her years of life-experience to give short and sweet answers to even the toughest questions. Here are some choice examples:

Q: If a guy shaves his chest hair, will it grow back, and if so, how long will it take?

A: Dear Cody, I guess it would take a few weeks to completely grow in; maybe longer. If you want your chest hair removed, consider having it waxed. Grandma

OR

Q: What are the chances a girl will get pregnant if she uses a vibrator (only AROUND her vagina) that a guy has ejaculated on about a week before.

A: Dear Carly, Since most sperm live 24 hours or so in a moist, warm atmosphere, I would say the chances of getting pregnant from a vibrator that had sperm on it a week ago, would be pretty slim. Grandma

That's what my Grandma used to say! GM's not afraid of anything. She covers drugs, sex, parents, body parts and relationships. She takes on problems with the determination and grit of someone that lived through the Great Depression.

People ask her about everything and anything...Jesus, breast milk, you name it. She's usually right on the money, but sometimes her answers are kind of confusing:

Q: Why do a lot of men scratch their privates in public like monkeys in a jungle? Why do most men pick their noses while they are driving, especially when they have to stop at red lights?

A: Dear Friend, I give up, why? Grandma

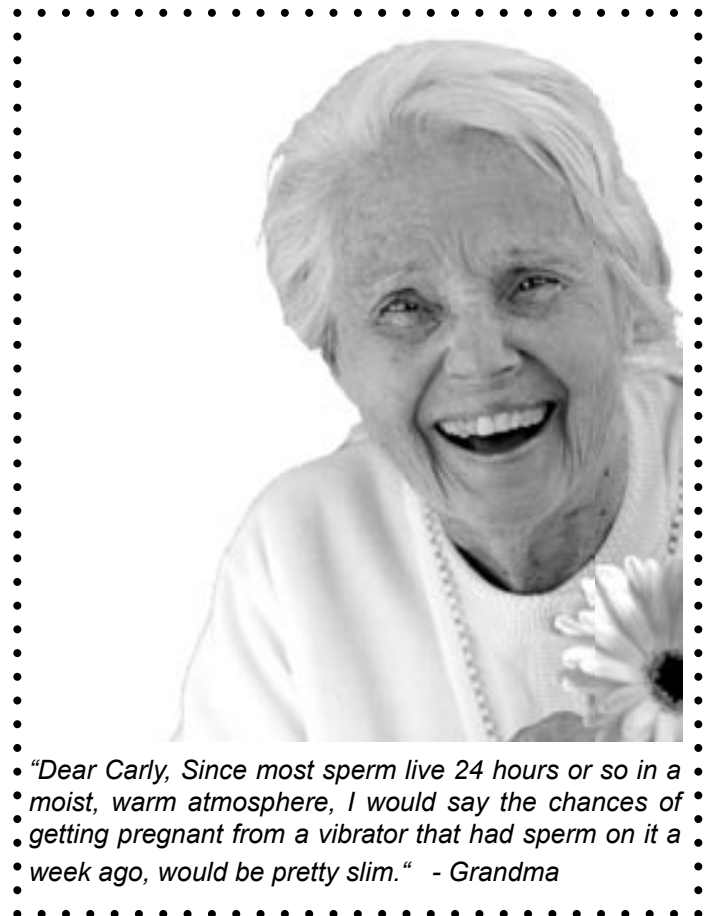
You might wonder if these kids have real grandmas they can ask these questions to. Yes, in fact some of them do:

Q: Grandma I just want to let you know that my mom is back from her business meeting. My Grandma said that I

did a great job when my mom was on her trip. I am very happy to have my mom home again, because she missed me a lot.

A: Dear Sarah Rose, Good for you! Even though it was a difficult time, you did it and you did a good job. Hurray for you! Love, Grandma

GM is really fucking wise and comforting. We should all have a grandma that's this kind and smart. With Ask-Anything.com, maybe we all do...<>



Jumping Sharks

author: Elissa Federoff
elissa@offlineonline.org

Over the years, we have watched many good shows go down the drain. Whether it's a confluence of events that precipitate the ultimate decline or just one big doozy that does it, we can all relate to that moment when our favorite prime-time hour "Jumped the Shark."

Jumptheshark.com documents the inevitable decline of many of our favorite cable and network programs. What the site's creators have done is brilliant. They offer a chart of all the different moments when a show could have really crapped out, and then they let users vote on when it actually happened. If the fatal episode or event isn't listed, you can even add it.

I chose to investigate *Beverly Hills 90210*. That show was full of potentially disastrous moments. Was it "Exit Stage Left...Brenda" or "David Raps" or "Nat Appears in the Opening Credits?" Definitely "David Raps."

The other really brilliant feature of the website is the cross-referencing capability. For example, you can look at all the shows that jumped because of factors like: "Same Character, New Actor" or "Singing." It turns out TV is pretty formulaic. Shows just keep jumping for the same damn reasons.

Just look at *Roseanne* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Both shows had a popular heyday when character swaps, in the opinion of many, caused them to "jump." When Becky and Vivian left, there was hardly any acknowledgement that the new sister and mom were different people. And that's enough to fully suspend our willful suspension of disbelief. For shame.

My favorite category is "They Did It." While I am the first to admit that I always wanted Angela and Tony to do it, *Who's the Boss* really took a turn for the worse when they did...it. And of course, there are the shows that ran out of plot lines so the writers just made everyone hook up with everyone else (i.e. *Melrose Place*). Did *Melrose* jump the shark when Amanda ran out of boy toys? Or was it when Michael and Kimberly had vaginal intercourse?

The beauty of jumptheshark.com is that you vote on your favorite shows' downfall. The schadenfreude is palpable. But you know what? The site also helps us think critically about TV, a really important activity when it's time to tune out. Perhaps TV execs will learn from the fans and stop creating Urkel-bots, European vacation episodes, and needless character deaths.<>

Vote
Search | A to Z
Shows | Blog
Chart | Help | About

Same Character, Different Actor
Birth | Death
Ted McLintock
Parker
Sinatra
West
LDR
Thea Sidd
The Movie
Moxie
Special Guest Star
A Year Special
New Kid in Town
Hair Cam
Exit Stage Left
Graduation
Color
Hansel & Gretel

Jump The Shark

It's a moment. A defining moment when you know that your favorite television program has reached its peak. That instant that you know from now on, it's all downhill. Some call it the climax. We call it jumping the shark.

SHARK SIGHTINGS

CURRENT SHOWS
C.S.I. | That 70's Show | Girlfriends |
Prison Break | Smallville

CLASSIC SHOWS
Combat | Upstairs, Downstairs | Card Sharks |
Lizzie McGuire | Dark Angel

SHARK BYTE

"I liked this show the first time...when it was called [John Doe]" - Logan on Krtv 33

BUY THE PAPERBACK!

jump the shark

The Latest Leaps
Rescue Me
The X-Files
Deadwood
Dateline
Celebrity Poker Showdown

Top 5 All-Time Shark Vote Getters
1. The Simpsons

**Oceania and The Atlantis Project:
The Floating City that would have Certainly been Destroyed
by a Moderately-Sized Wave**

author: Jay Leary
jay@offlineonline.org

The web's kind of like failure's archivist: a tomb for ideas and endeavors long since abandoned by their creators (like this magazine when we run out of money). You'll occasionally stumble over "dead" sites as you cruise the information superhighway. This is the story of one discarded idea that still floats around in the internet's sea of tomfoolery: The Atlantis Project.

The project began in 1993 as a sincere attempt to create a utopistic, floating city guided by the ideals of the Libertarian party. I know, you thought Libertarians were all about hoarding gold and dismantling the federal government. But as www.oceania.org shows us, they're also about hexagonal floating rings in open ocean with houses on them...rectangular houses.

In the words of the project's creator, Eric Klien: "The Atlantis Project, which proposed the creation of a floating sea city named Oceania, began in February '93, receiving nationwide publicity from The Art Bell Show, Details Magazine, The Miami Herald, Boating Magazine, and worldwide publicity in Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, England, and Belgium. The project ended due to lack of interest in April of 1994."

That's a lot of publicity for a project that only lasted a year and change. What could have brought it's demise? Was the project's fate sealed from the beginning, or did something go wrong? Klein gives his spin on the unsuccessful run:

"In retrospect, the biggest problem concerning The Atlantis Project was lack of interest. Lack of interest and

the fact that its precepts were based in Libertarian politics."

Right. The whole Libertarian thing.

You know, I feel kind of sorry for the Libertarians. Lord knows the two party system has its faults, and fringe parties shouldn't be left out of the process. But was Libertarian politics really Eric's biggest problem?

This deserves some further examination. Let's look at an artist's rendition of the proposed city on oceania.org and see if anything stands out.



Oh yes, of course. I see. The biggest problem wasn't that Oceania was based on Libertarian ideals, it's that all of it's citizens would have certainly died from waves. Those sea walls can't be more than fifteen feet tall. And a big swell would batter and roll the floats. You couldn't even keep your footing in "moderate" conditions.

God, and how terrifying would it have been in a storm? Sitting in your square apartment as the ocean's night-black hand shakes your block-long hexagon. Waiting for the storm to subside so presumably Libertarian supply ships can bring you food, medicine, and manufactured goods.

It's pretty obvious the things would have sank. But I'm sure it was a well-intentioned effort. Feel free to check out www.oceania.org to get the full story. If you're curious about what Eric's up to now, he's even got a link to the most current futuristic Libertarian

project: The Lifeboat Foundation. It's about colonizing space or something.

In the end it's probably fitting that the project was dubbed "Atlantis." Atlantis was, after all, a city that sank into the sea. A city that sank into the sea... <>

honest COPS - By Devin Sandoz


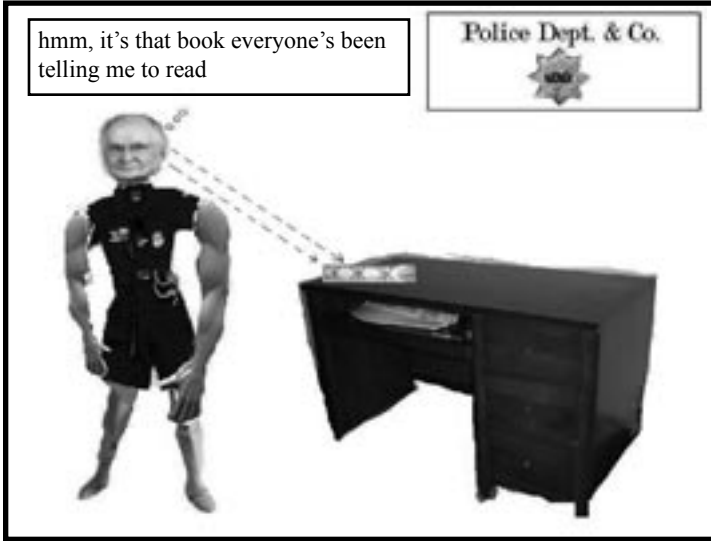
Episode: The Book

Internet Publication Date: 2004


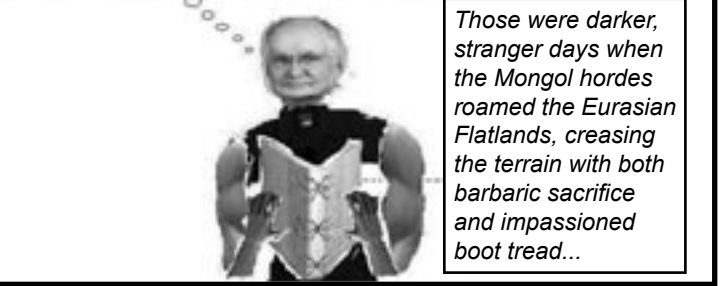
*Honest Cops? Men of the shield.
Men of strength. Amazing Lovers.*

hmm, it's that book everyone's been telling me to read


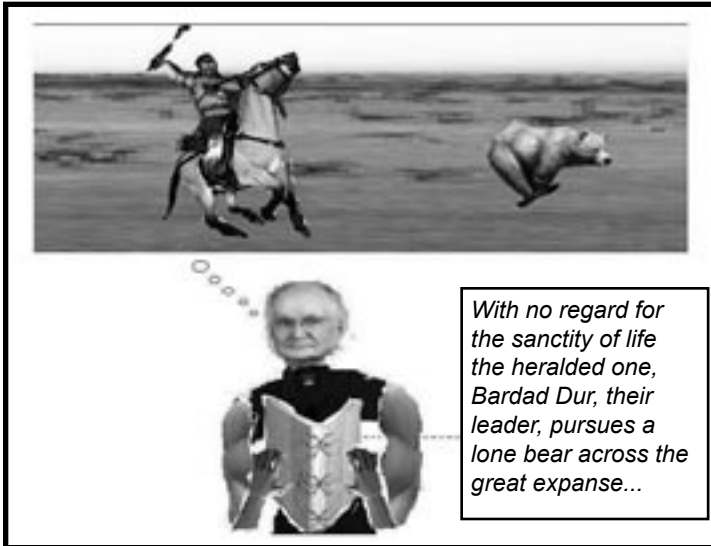
Police Dept. & Co.




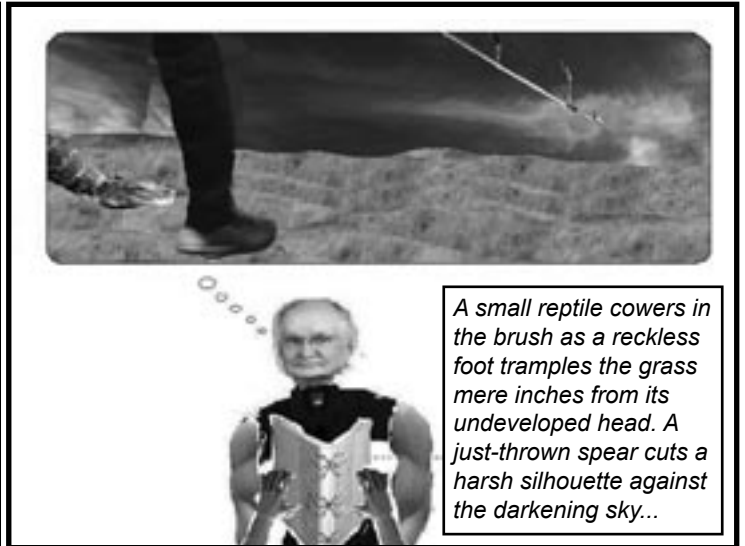
Those were darker, stranger days when the Mongol hordes roamed the Eurasian Flatlands, creating the terrain with both barbaric sacrifice and impassioned boot tread...




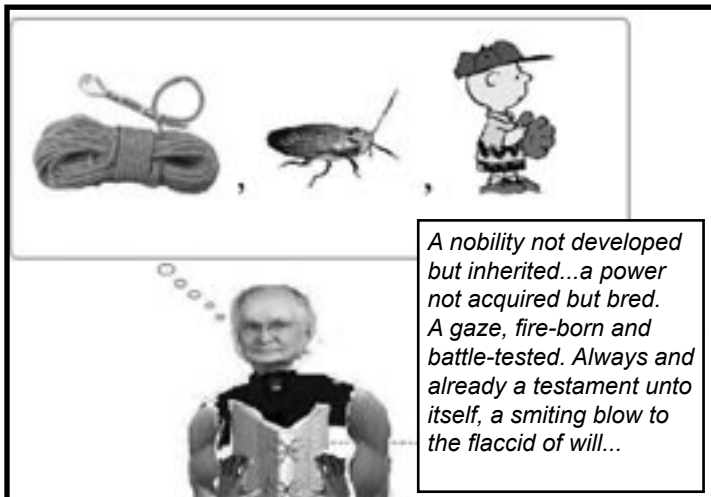
With no regard for the sanctity of life the heralded one, Bardad Dur, their leader, pursues a lone bear across the great expanse...



A small reptile cowers in the brush as a reckless foot tramples the grass mere inches from its undeveloped head. A just-thrown spear cuts a harsh silhouette against the darkening sky...

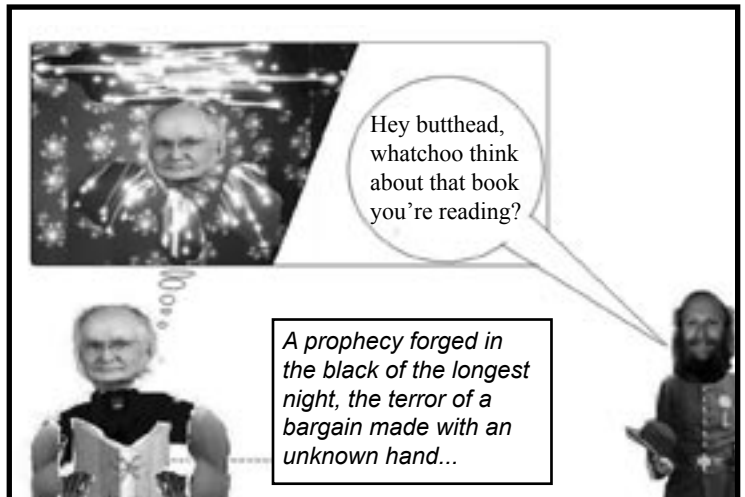


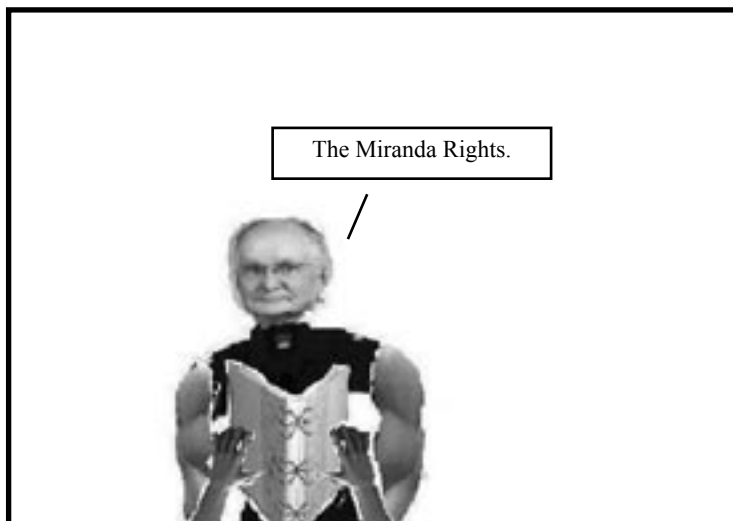
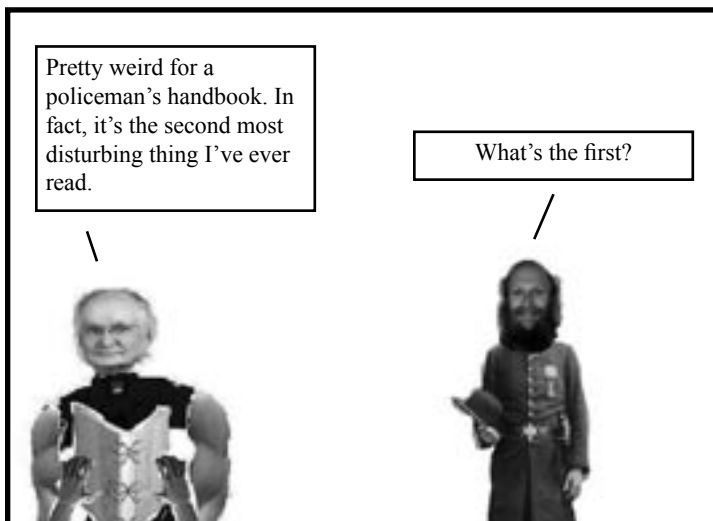
A nobility not developed but inherited... a power not acquired but bred. A gaze, fire-born and battle-tested. Always and already a testament unto itself, a smiting blow to the flaccid of will...



Hey butthead, whatchoo think about that book you're reading?

A prophecy forged in the black of the longest night, the terror of a bargain made with an unknown hand...





Is this Pornography? Results Issue 1 Winner: Ryan Crawford

In retrospect, it was kind of a loaded question...Of course the picture of the guy in the donkey suit is pornography. And you know what, Ryan Crawford did a nice job of netting it out with the following narrative about Hank and Deepdown Bobby. Thanks to all that participated in this potentially upsetting experiment.

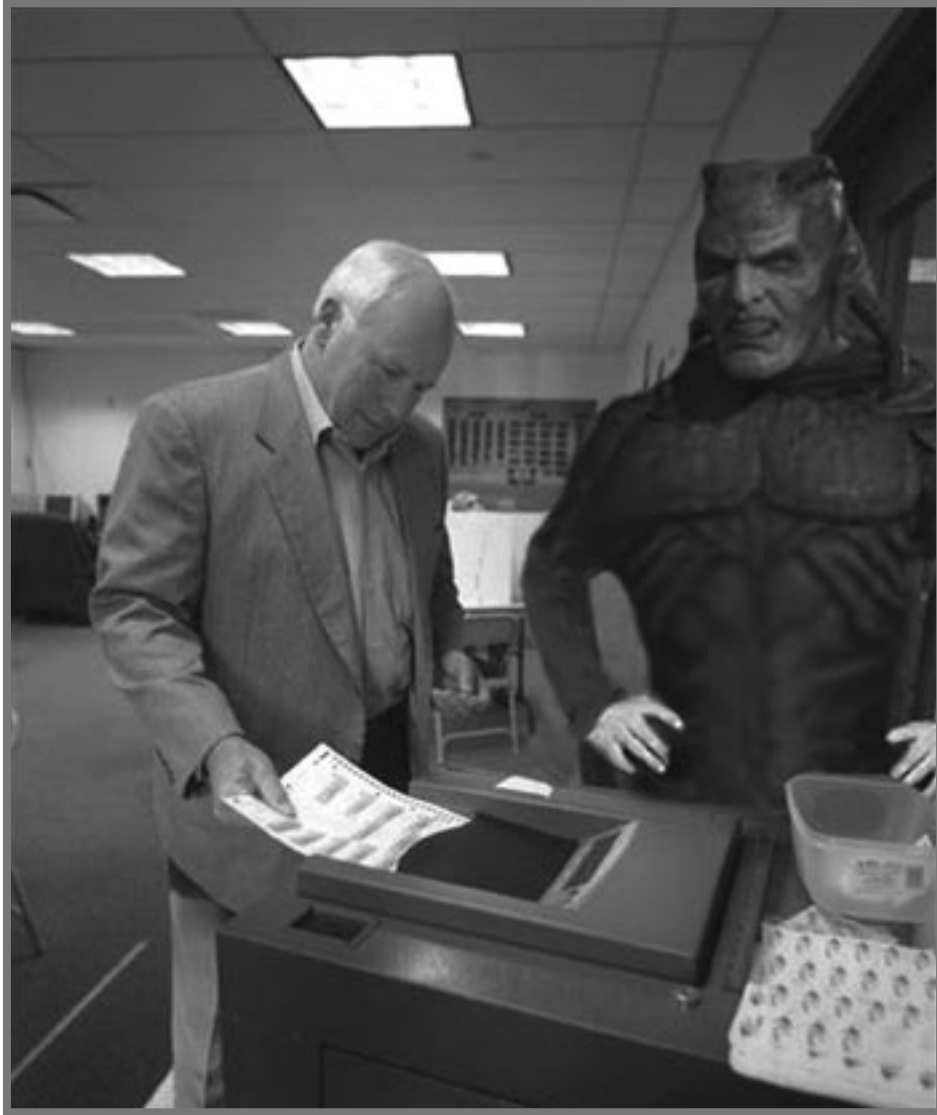


"Hank had corresponded with Deepdown Bobby for over three months. They had met in a chat room devoted to the love of everything plush. Deepdown worked in a corrugated box factory, and his love was an innocent one, never going beyond snuggling before bedtime with his kittens, owls, gators, and calves. Hank was lascivious; each plush in his collection had matted fibers that needed to be continuously clipped or scrubbed. He lived with his mother and wrote fantasy fiction involving a world of walking, breathing, fucking plush.

During their correspondence, Hank had mailed Deepdown the suit as a gift, then tried ineffectually to seduce Deepdown with his saccharine uncapitalized IMs to put it on and send a picture. Deepdown felt vulnerable and a bit shameful. There were varied responses to Hank's importunate pleas for satisfaction: "im just not ready," "youll lose respect 4 me," "how do i know im the 1st?" With each of these rejections, Hank's fury would amplify, his fists breaking through his mother's collection of porcelain angels and her prized blueglass unicorn. But he could never let Deepdown know, afraid the knowledge of this unbridled passion would drive him away along with the suit.

Then came the fateful Saturday. Hank's mother was out shopping for fragile new knick knacks. He sat down to his sticky computer after coming back from the bathroom with one of his many teddy bears, spooned chocolate milk and Fruity Pebbles into his mouth, and opened his inbox. There, sparkling in digital blue and white, was an attachment from Deepdown Bobby labeled simply, "donkeysuit." The screen bubbled as the picture downloaded, reflected through the tears welling in Hank's grateful eyes." - Ryan Crawford

MORE STARTLING IMAGES
FROM WHITEHOUSE.GOV >>>



The evil Djinn from from *Wishmaster*, *Wishmaster 2*, *Wishmaster 3*, and *Wishmaster 4: the Prophecy Fulfilled* patiently waits for Dick Cheney to make his third and final catastrophic wish (thus plunging the world into an abyss of despair and hellish turmoil). The Vice President, voting in his hometown of Wilson, Wyoming, is unaware of the Djinn's terrible curse, but hopes the longstanding partnership will bring years of success to the Republican party and the neo-conservative fascist movement.

To learn more about fascism and the neo-conservatives please visit...
<http://www.oldamericancentury.org/>

For important *Wishmaster* info, head to...
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wishmaster_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wishmaster_(film))