

THE not quite AMAZING but still fairly impressive OFFICE PRODUCTS MAN!

with
Special Guest Star
Chuck Smith

THIS MONTH'S EPISODE: WHO KILLED CHUCK SMITH?

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J. KIMBLE



CHECK YOUR HAT AND KOTEX by: The Rev. Sandra Hull

Appropriately enough, the Museum of Menstruation, or MUM as it is known in polite circles, is tucked discretely away in a tidy residential section of suburban Maryland. MUM is not an official museum, but rather is a museum-like collection housed in the basement of the home of founder and proprietor, Harry Finley and is open by appointment only evenings and weekends. I was somewhat alarmed by these facts but Finley sounded harmless enough when I called and my reporter's blood instinct was strong so I threw caution to the wind and scheduled an appointment.

I would have preferred to arrive spot on time, but wouldn't you know it, I was late. This was because Depravda Photo Stud Stephen Dudzik had refused to lend me his camera, apparently not wanting his telephoto lens tainted, so I was forced to stop at a CVS on the way and pick up a disposable camera with a hot flash attachment.

A sign at the front door of Finley's modest home directs MUM visitors to the side entrance. He explained that he had already started the tour for 2 other visitors but was in no way put out at the break in his rhythm.

On its web site MUM seems huge but in reality it is a cramped rumpus room filled with lady things. A blanket and a few cat toys sit on the inside of the window, the property of Finley's cat and MUM Board member, Mack C. Padd. Learning the cat's name should have sent up a warning flag: Get OUT! Get out NOW! But whether due to Finley's low-key, easygoing demeanor or the fact that there were two other women there, I stayed put, as if firmly attached by adhesive strips.

The "tour" consists mainly of Finley leading you to the various tables and tableaux and explaining the function and origin of each item. This would nominally take about 15 minutes, but each item seemed to foster a discussion of morals, culture or just reminiscences among the four of us so the tour lasted well over an hour. I found myself sharing details with these strangers that I would hesitate to tell my groinocolgist. MUM does that to you. [editor's note: see Mr. Finley's column next month]

Among the display items are various belts, "garments", and a collection of print ads dating to early this century. Like the Claritin ads of today, the early ads for feminine products give no inkling as to what they were actually for. But as the decades progressed built-up inhibitions were shed, culminating in the infamous Cathy Rigby "I'm proud to be the first" celebrity endorsements.

Amazing facts Finley shared with us:

- The record visit to MUM was by a "black woman from DC", who spent 8 hours there and told Finley that blacks tend to "burst out" their periods in a matter of 2 or 3 days. (I told you: you feel like you can tell this man anything.)
- Some female artists paint with their mensrual blood (gives new meaning to the term "medium flow", doesn't it?) Finley would like to display some such works, but there are hygienic concerns to overcome.
- Not surprisingly, 95% of the visitors to the museum are women. Finley describes most visitors as "intelligent and liberal". Most of the men who visit are there as "bodyguards" yet usually opt to wait outside.
- Women on the West Coast, most notably in Washington State, are more likely to use non-applicator tampons and menstrual cups than are women on the East Coast.
- Finley was contacted by a producer of Michael Moore's TV Nation who wanted to do a piece on the museum, but the interview was cancelled after Fox objected, citing violation of its "book of standards".

Speaking of the media, I was honored and just a little bit humbled to learn that as a Depravda reporter I joined a long line of journalists who have covered MUM. In addition to Playboy, the Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, Washington City Paper, Prince George's Journal and (of course) the Washington Post Style section, MUM has been profiled on 5 television networks, ranging from the BBC to Comedy Central, where MUM was featured on the Daily Show, following a story on "technicians" who masturbate pigs to facilitate artificial insemination. [see related story: *Looserpalooza '98 Planning Begins*]

Of course all this is fascinating, but the question remains: why does a man run this museum? It turns out that Finley, a graphic artist, illustrator and (yo, Chuck) cartoonist working on an Army publication, made a study of print ads in general while honing his craft. He became intrigued by the marketing aspect of early feminine hygiene product ads and acquired quite a collection of them over the course of several years. He eventually offered the collection to several women's magazines and to Kotex and Tampax, but each of these institutions was horrified at the prospect. Finding no existing museum devoted to menstruation or women's health in general, Finley launched MUM in July of 1994 (hey! same as NRARS), using his own funds and employing his considerable graphic arts talent to make a pleasing, informative yet decidedly offbeat display, the highlight of which is a Halloween costume made from tampons and maxi pads, complete with tampon-festooned shoes. Finley jokes that he considered using the name "Helms-Gingrich-Dole Menstruation Museum". Finley is torn between wanting to maintain control over MUM by keeping it as a one-man show and expanding it to incorporate more material on history and other cultures, but this latter would involve turning it into a non-profit corporation and thus running the risk of his being disposed of like a used... being dismissed for lack of qualifications. His neighbors are aware of MUM but largely don't seem to mind.

At the conclusion of my tour, I visited the "gift shop", a cardboard carton filled with t-shirts with the slogan "MUM's the word in Washington DC. Period." I purchased one with a view to donating it to the Czar as a prize. Feeling somewhat cranky and overcome by a sudden craving for chocolate, I said my good-byes to Harry Finley and headed for the Losers' Christmas Party, where I was inexplicably drawn to the crock of mulled red wine.

Visit MUM on-line at <http://www.mum.org>

THE (MOSTLY) RELIABLE SCOURGE

Wow! The Gossipmonger has been seriously slacking lately in the gossip column, for which we profusely apologize. We know that everyone has been saying Depravda hasn't quite been the same in our absence; whether that's good or bad we don't really want to ask. But as we trust you've all been good little boys and girls, here's some holiday scuttlebutt for you!

It seems that as the Style Invitational grows larger and larger, other media seem to become STEAL invitationalists more and more. Nothing less than Readers' Digest (yes, THE Digest!) printed excerpts from not one but TWO recent contests, and a morning radio show out of Charlotte discussed the results of the "In MY day..." contest. And you can add two more entries into the ranks of contests making the rounds via e-mail. John Kammer reported receiving an e-mail of travel hints for people visiting our Nation's Capital. No word if he convinced the sender that they were, in fact, legit hints or not. And Web Dominatrix Sandra Bullock... er, Hull, sent along an e-mail of the contest to come up with excuses for missing work.

In other humor contests, Chuck Smith has been tearing up the base-paths in the Top Five contest. Chuck recently picked up his ninth and tenth number ones in the contest, and even more importantly, earned entrance into the Top Five Hall of Fame after being nominated by Kevin Cuddihy, among others. In the New York magazine contest, Helene Haduch and Sandra Hull scored single entries, with the Queen of the Contest, Jean Sorensen, and Chuck Smith (he's like Elvis -- he's everywhere!) taking two entries apiece.

Losers have also invaded across the border, with Paul Kocak taking multiple entries in the Toronto Mail and Globe Humour Contest, most notably for suggesting "Come on, baby, lose my tires, try to get the rocks unmired" as a song to commemorate the recent Mars landing. Lastly, Robin Grove took home an "In the Loop" t-shirt for suggesting a computer cursor and a mouse as Halloween costumes for the Veep and Second Lady. Many Losers have also been making inroads into the so-called "respectable" journalistic areas. Kevin Cuddihy received the coveted center spread in the Arlington Catholic Herald for his article about those Work Camp thingies he goes on each year, and Joe Zarrow's short play, "The Staircase", was read as part of the Kennedy Center's Young Playwrights competition and performed on as part of the Washington Theatre Festival's "10-Minute Play Competition" at the Source Theatre. Joe's father Dave, apparently not as talented as the younger Zarrow, had to make do with two letters to the editor in the Post criticizing the use of the same pun twice in one issue of the paper. Really, Dave, can't you let Joe have the limelight to himself just ONCE?

While not quite up to writing entire articles, other Losers have been prominently featured or mentioned in the Post. Jennifer Hart reported on the meanderings of the Rohrabachers to the Reliable Source. We trust Mrs. Hart MEANT to send it to the SCOURGE, but got mixed up. Department of Energy Pin-Up Joe Romm was quoted in a recent front-page article of the Post, regarding how new technology can cut pollution without raising cost. Hmmm... maybe Depravda should watch out for this Romm guy?

On a happier note, Sue Lin Chong lamented her lack of a good man in an article about Hilary Clinton turning 50. Ms. Chong worries about becoming "old and grumpy"... nah, I like living, I won't comment. And Loser child Cameron Phillips was featured in an article about MENSA. They should have seen him rattling off the answers at the Loser outing to Jeopardy! And the Elvis of the SI again, Chuck Smith, had a starring role in a recent Ernie comic strip, asking off-strip which comic strip

Continues on P6.

PAUL KONDIS PRESENTS...

Rotisserie League '97,

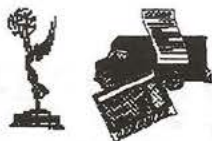
Good God, Y'all, What is it GOOD FOR??? --

The Loser Rotisserie League and Spinach Dip games originally scheduled for the week of December 2 were postponed due to the big election in the District of Columbia, and due to there weren't any scheduled to begin with, so those attending went home disappointed that the bars were closed. They seemed to believe the rumor I started. I hate crowds. So with no sports on TV at that hour, I was forced to watch the media blitz that was Election '98. In an election eerily similar to those 110 percent turnouts in Chicago, nearly 8 out of every 100 registered voters turned out, enabling the pollsters to buttonhole every one, and thus come amazingly close to predicting the final tally several hours after it was all over, missing only by a decimal place - I believe they said 40.3 percent when it really came in at 4.03. Being a sportswriter and not a political analyst, I may have skewed the presentation somewhat, but it seems obvious that the population has spoken, and spoken loudly, making my head throb just a bit so that I missed getting a direct quote, or even the gist of what they were saying.

At the Losers celebration several weeks later in New Carrollton, amid loud, badly played music, subtly flavored vodka, and the occasional fist-fight in the driveway over who gets the Cranberry Lambic, not a word was mentioned about the election, the winner failing to show, let alone the loser. So we are still not quite certain who it could have been. This certainly corroborated our earlier notion that this was, above all, a political town, and not one in which you could go to a party with your wife and leave several hours later with some song-writing floozy cradling that bottle of pepper vodka and an ice scraper and then hit the Toys R Us before heading for the YMCA. That would never happen here.

The postponed games have been tentatively scheduled for December 25, provided there are no other conflicts.

Next Month's Featured Team: The Losers



Hatemail to the Editor



Dear Depravda Subscribers,

In lieu of writing, addressing, stamping and mailing countless cards to all my dear NRARS friends, I have chosen Depravda as my official Christmas mail organ. I would like to wish you, (YOUR FULL NAME HERE), a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Your friendship means so much to me (YOUR FIRST NAME HERE) but, alas, my time is precious and every spare moment is needed to compose Style entries. I think you'll agree that Internet cards are the wave of the future. Don't you wish you had thought of this? Yours in Style,

-- Steve "Mr. eb" Dudzik

Dear Editor Eddy,

Who or what was in that photograph with Ms. Chong in October's "In The Lamelight"? Is it Depravda policy to digitally enhance, alter or delete photos according to the whims of the publisher? This smacks of Communism. Was that face so hideous that it needed to be expunged? Where are your scruples?

-- Regards, Joe Doe

Dear Joe,

That would have been Joe Romm. Yes, that is our policy. Yes it was hideous. What scruples? -- Ed.

Dear Freditor,

I expected the Spice Girls to break down my door and ravish me after that letter I read in Depravda but all I found in my apartment were a few homicidal British au pairs next to my bed. I don't even have children! Luckily I was able to lure them out with kippers and bangers. May I sue you?

-- Staff Paparazzi

Dear Pap,

Please send any and all legal documents to our legal counsel Sue Lin Chong. On a side note I'd like the chance to point out that since I've been running Depravda we've been able to keep our legal counsel fully employed and busy. The previous publisher/editors were simply wasting their money on legal counsels. That's just one example of how we've increased the efficiency of this operation. -- Ed.

Dear Editor,

Could you please publish the formulas and manufacturing techniques for chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction? You see, I have some really obstinate er, weeds, that I need to remove from my yard. By the way, if a Loser who is ahead of you in the standings suddenly dies, can the person behind him or her claim the Loser points?

-- By O. Hazard So, sorry, out of space. Maybe next month -Ed.

Dear Editor,

For tax considerations, what is the fair market value of a Loser t-shirt, bumper sticker and Loser pen?

-- H. Block \$45.00 +/-

Dear Editor,

In the Post today (Monday, 11/24/97), there is a letter to the edi-

tor about the Marines, apparently in response to something published in the Parade section (!) on November 9. You are probably wondering why I am bringing this to your attention. I have recently discovered, using advanced spectral analysis, that this is, in fact, a Loser letter! The letter is signed by Jerome T. Paull, which turns into Jonathan Paul simply by squinting and moving the newspaper back and forth rapidly in front of your eyes. In the body of the letter itself, "assistant secretary of the Army Sara E. Lister" becomes "humungous genius Sarah Worcester", and "What We Can Learn From Them" by Thomas E. Ricks' becomes "We Thank Today's Ear for Tom Witte", but by now we've brought out the fluoroscope, and started smearing the ink.

"Extremism can be a virtue or a vice" obviously relates to the Ask Backwards contests, "rebels with a cause" refers to "bite me", and "undermining its combat effectiveness" refers to the recent hostile takeover of the Style section. The entire third paragraph, a massive black blob at this point of our analysis, is a clever turn on "The Rorschach of the Crowd", and reminds us somewhat of a rotund congressman hunting giraffes with a colostomy bag.

-- Paul Kondis

Dear Editor,

I have to go to the bathroom. I'll be back in about 5 minutes. Don't write anything.

-- Sincerely, Albert Reader

P.S. How did I get this damn job?

Dear Mr. Ed.:

Depravda spiritual advisor Sandra Hull has gone too far. In the last issue, she urged you to alter one of my articles to make me look foolish. Fortunately, I know you would never do that to ****A BIG GOOBER LIKE**** me. Whom do I have to sleep with to get my name on the masthead around here, anyway?

-- Just Curious, DGensarl@awol.com

Dear Editor,

I heard that Greg Arnold has someone named Arthur scoping out his thighs, and it sounds like this could be a first time for him....the Losers all seem to be concerned about the resulting pain that this would cause for him....ok, whatever.

Well, I would like to urge Arthur to be gentle with Greg. Also, just remember, with Polariods he will have memories that he, and all of us, can cherish for a long time...

-- Mary Olson

To das editor,

Re: the November 1997 "In The Lamelight" which featured Mr. Cuddihy and his claim that he can carry pi out to 7 decimal places. Big frippin' deal! I can spout it out to 10 by memory! see: 3.141592654. Why not do a feature on me if that's all it takes to get in your rag! Lookit! the natural log e to 10 places-- 2.718281828. I take requests too...

-- Stephen Hawking-it-up

THE ^{Not quite} AMAZING ^{but still fairly impressive} OFFICE PRODUCTS MAN

The sudden and more or less unexpected death of Chuck Smith has the NRARS membership abuzz

HEAR YOU SCREAM!

Yeah! He's been dead twice before that I know of... And he's always come back before

Wait a second, how do we know he's really dead?

Alright, who killed the Chuckster? Fess up!

That's on TV you fool! It's different in a comic strip!

Hey, Gold fillings!

Let's beat on him with sticks and see if he flinches!

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Look guys, I don't care if this is a comic strip. Let's show some respect. There has got to be a better way to determine whether he's really dead.

Yeah, Elden's right!

Next Issue: The Rise and Fall of NRARS

Office Products Man™ action figures are available in stores for your holiday shopping convenience. Buy more and save!

ANY SIMILARITY TO PERSONS EITHER LIVING OR DECEASED IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

Bits and Pieces

F2 FODDER compliments of Stephen Dudzik

HELPING LOSERS GET POINTS SINCE 1995

NAMES IN THE NEWS YOU CAN USE TO IMPROVE YOUR ENTRIES

AUTUMN JACKSON -- TRIED TO EXTORT \$40 MILLION FROM BILL COSBY

LATRELL SPREWELL -- GOLDEN STATE WARRIOR WHO HAD A "DISAGREEMENT" WITH HIS COACH

BOBBI AND KENNY McCAUGHEY -- CARLISLE IOWA PARENTS OF THE FAMOUS SEPTUPLETS

SEYMOUR HERSH -- AUTHOR OF THE TELL-ALL KENNEDY BOOK, "THE DARK SIDE OF CAMELOT"

Drs. Style *Continued from Page 8*

off clothes, and shout "The force is with me!"

7. Melatonin, melatonin, melatonin.

6. Give color-blind people poison ivy, tell them it's poinsettia.

5. Come up with really bad Style Invitational entries and submit under Jennifer Hart's name.

4. Decorate the National Christmas Tree with F2 bumper stickers.

3. Reveal your world-famous recipe for Vegetarian Fruitcake.

2. Baste holiday garlands regularly; rinse, lather, repeat.

1. Turn in final Doctors Style Column for 1997.

Another joke by Anonymous

A little town in Poland had only one cow and it stopped giving milk. The townspeople did a little research and discovered they could get a cow from Moscow for 2000 rubles but they could get a cow from Minsk for only 1000 rubles. So they got the cow from Minsk.

It was a great cow, gave lots of milk and lots of cream and everybody loved this cow. The people decided they would mate the cow and get more cows and then they would never have to worry about their milk supply again. So they got a bull and led the cow and the bull into the pasture. When the bull came in from the right to mount the cow, the cow moved to the left. When the bull moved in to mount the cow from the left, the cow moved to the right. This went on all day.

Finally, in desperation, the people decided to go ask the Rabbi what to do. After all he was very wise. They told him the story. "Rabbi, we've tried all day to mate our cow. When the bull moves in from the right the cow moves left and when the bull moves in from the left the cow moves to the right. What do we do?"

The Rabbi thought a moment and said, "Ok, why did you buy this cow from Minsk?"

"Rabbi," they said, "you are so wise. We never said we bought the cow from Minsk. How did you know that?"

The Rabbi said, "My wife is from Minsk."

Gossipmonger - con't from page 3

Mrs. Clinton liked best -- at a breakfast of comic strip writers. Lastly, for further proof that "If you don't get it, you don't get it," the Style Invitational took it on the chin recently, with a letter to the editor complaining about the Czar's mocking of the heartfelt elegy to Princess Diana that started a contest. Surprisingly the author, Brendan Short, did NOT have the last name of Twenhafel -- but we suspect he MUST be a relative somehow.

Well, that's it for another Gossipmonger article. Keep that gossip coming, especially in this holiday season! Toodles!

Visit the All-Nude Losers' Home Page

<http://members.tripod.com/~mmexandra/>

Did you hear about the Cockney pedophile shepherd?

E was kind to ewes, but 'ell in lamb.

There was a great loss this year in the entertainment world. The man who wrote the song "Hokey Pokey" died. What was really horrible is that they had trouble keeping the body in the casket. They'd put his left leg in.....well, you know the rest.

An explorer in the deepest Amazon suddenly finds himself surrounded by a bloodthirsty group of natives. Upon surveying the situation, he says quietly to himself "Oh God, I'm screwed."

There is a ray of light from heaven and a voice booms out: "No, you are NOT screwed. Pick up that stone at your feet and bash in the head of the chief standing in front of you."

So the explorer picks up the stone and proceeds to bash the living shit out of the chief. He stands above the lifeless body, breathing heavily and surrounded by 100 natives with a look of shock on their faces.

God's voice booms out again: "Okay..... NOW you're screwed."

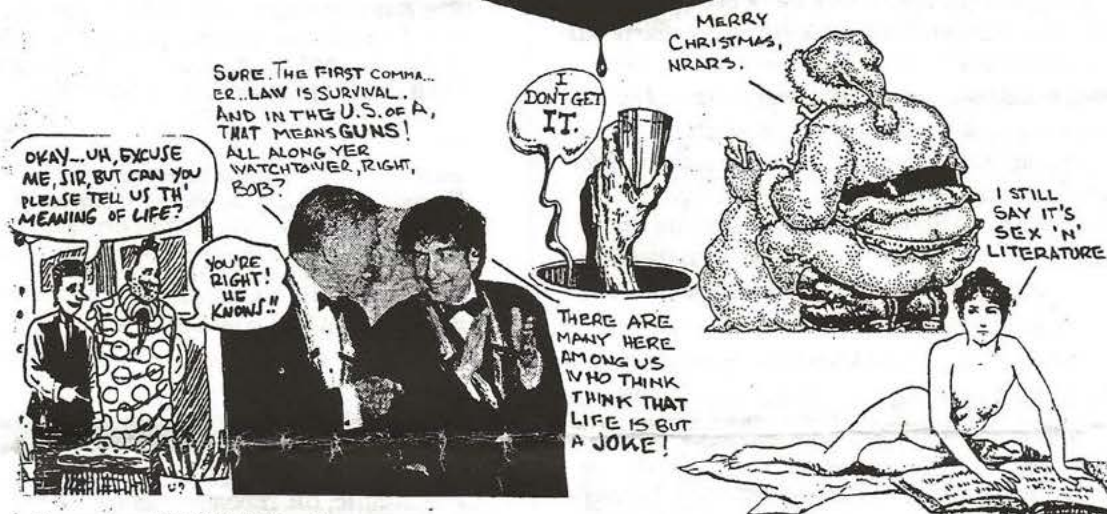
Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and it was shortly before Christmas when the FAA examiner arrived.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload.

Finally, they were ready for the ride. Santa got in and fastened his seat belt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "Well I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."



December TOP TEN Results Top Ten Loser Screen Saver Captions

10. This *IS* the airbrushed version. - *Dave Genser*
9. Also available in the Buck Naked version. - *Stephen Dudzik*
8. Goddammit, Where's Peyton?! Where in the Hell is Peyton? - *Peyton Coyner*
7. ...to be considered armed and dangerous. - *J. Kammer*
6. It's sure beats my last by-line photo. - *Greg Arnold*
5. None of us are wearing any pants.
4. Your donation helps keep these people off the streets.
3. A mind is a terrible thing to lose.
2. Where's Weirido?
1. Shots and wormed. - *Mary Olson*

JANUARY TOP TEN CONTEST

Top Ten Loser Personal Ads
Send your entries by Jan 12th to:

Top Ten List

or via e-mail to:

LOSER HAPPY HOURS: A NEW TRADITION

HH3: Thursday, January 15

WHEN: 5:00 pm till?

WHERE: Capital City Brewing Company

RSVP: To Genser or just show up.

Address: 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.

Ph: (202) 842-BEER.

Metro -> Union Station/Red line.

Parking: In Union Station or, with luck, on street -
(...Parking on street! Get it?!?! Hahahahahahaha!)

Time: Begins 5pm.

Info to appear in Depravda (see this issue, this article, for details)

After much soul searching, the Loser Happy Hour Site Selection Committee has chosen a spot for LHH#3. Bars in Grenoble, Nagano, and Herndon were rejected as too remote. So, LHH3 will be on Thursday, January 15, at Capital City Brewing Company near Union Station. The tepid brunch response to a Velocity Grill/MCI Center idea suggested we should do this another time.

Address: 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E. Ph: (202) 842-BEER (really). Metro: Union Station/Red line. Parking: In Union Station or, with luck, on street. Time: Begins 5pm. Twister games start at 7pm. Reservations under Brad Pitt.

Drs. Style

Dear Doc Style:

First of all, is that a medical doctor of a Ph.D., or is it perhaps short for Door? I'm sure you've had your share of doors slammed in your face, Dr. Style. Regardless, now that fen-phen has been taken [sic] off the shelf by the FDA aren't you worried that melatonin will be next? If melatonin is outlawed, only outlaws will have melatonin and you'll lose most of your advice column.

Signed, Anne Sullivan

Dear Anne Sullivan:

(What do you take us for? Blind, deaf, and dumb?) Don't worry about melatonin being taken off the market soon. Greetings! We've just returned from Chicago where we've been named the new CEOs of the American Medical Association. Of course this is on the condition that the AMA endorse our new Doctors Style-formulated melatonin and that it be test marketed in Ft. Belvoir, and include our line of herbal-melatonin cigarettes, herbal-melatonin patches (multi-purpose), and Melatonin-7 for yeast infections. Our deal breaker with the AMA was that our newly-patented Clapper Defibrillator be included with each new prescription. (Warning! Do not use at live theater events.) PS - Frankly, your husband Ed got all the charisma.

Dear Duckter Style:

In the October Depravda you listed Monsieur Styrene's nickname as "H₂SO₄" which according to my rudimentary high school science knowledge is actually SULFURIC ACID! Are you implying our beloved Paul/Ted is an acid head? Even a cursory search of the Internet will yield the correct info: Polystyrene (PS) consists of a long carbon chain, with an aromatic hydrocarbon linked to every second carbon atom. So the chemical structure is quite simple. Do you stand corrected you ignorant man?

Signed, Dow Jones

Dear Dow Jones:

You share two of the qualities of the other Dow Jones: you are average and you are bull. Congratulations! You have just qualified as a proctor for the Chemistry AP SAT exam, although the qualifying standards are not as stringent as those for Proctology. So to give you a test drive on the road to inorganic chemistry, we've devised a sample question:

6.02 x 10²³ is:

- a) Avogadro's number
- b) Guacamole's number
- c) Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy, Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln
- d) All of the above, except during months with an "r"

PS - In your narrow male-centric world, what makes you think I'm an ignorant man and not an ignorant woman?

As a final Baha'i-Jain-Jewish-Christian end-of-year gift to our readers, Doctors Style close with our Top Ten Ways to Beat the Holiday Blues:

- 10. Move out of Ft. Belvoir
- 9. Replace windshield wiper fluid with egg nog
- 8. Go to Air and Space Museum, visit "Star Wars" exhibit, strip

Wit Happens



WEEK 231: GIVING QUARTER
Massachusetts: JFK slept around here.
(Howard Walderman)

WEEK 243: VERSE THAN EVER
Clyde Tombaugh:

When we gaze upon Pluto's distant light,
(Well, really we can't, but suppose that we might
Use a giant telescope in our moments of leisure)
We pay silent tribute to a young stargazer.
The faraway planet which fills us with awe
Was found by the amateur pioneer Clyde Tombaugh
Threescore and seven years past his discovering view
On his passing the world with one tongue replies, "WHO?"
(Charlie Steinhice)

Isaiah Berlin, the political philosopher, has gone to his reward.
He was born in Riga, Latvia, but he died in Oxford.
Though Life is often short and far from grand,
Isaiah's span was more like that of the noble tortoise.
It is good he came to England.
For had he died in his birthplace,
the Post would have made a pun about Riga mortis.
(Jonathan Paul)

Edith Fore has gone to Jesus
Ne'er to hear our joyous praise
For speaking, amid huffs and wheezes,
Her simple, oft-repeated phrase.
To Edith do we raise our glass
Or failing that, at least a cup,
For saying, from her injured ass,
"I've fallen, and I can't get up."
(Ben Lea)

WEEK 244: HYPHEN THE TERRIBLE
chum-dog: A puppy in a burlap bag dropped into the Potomac. (Stephen Dudzik)

Keep-Stu-In-School: n. The protest movement wherein parents and students demanded the return of the popular beef, broth and vegetable dish to their school cafeteria. Unfortunately the same enthusiasm could not be generated for the Keep-Spelling-In-School rally. (Kammer)

WEEK 245: LIKE FUN
Panty hose is like the cosmos because its demise can best be explained by string theory. (Joseph Romm)

Panty hose is like the cosmos because Uranus is in both of them. (Dave Ferry)

Truth is like a mouse because both can be found in a bottle of wine. (Sandra Hull)

Politics is like the birth of septuplets because both require a lot of pull and head counting. (Chuck Smith)

Politics is like the birth of septuplets because one involves Hatfields, and the other involves McCaugheys. (Grace Fuller)

E2 TROOP

New and Imporved Stats Page, as of the Report from Week 245

The left chart below lists all contestants ranked in the Top 50 for Year 5. Career stats are added, for newer Losers who do not yet appear on the Career list, at right. Right chart lists the Top 50 scorers over all Years.

LID: Loser ID—the order in which the various Losers made their first print appearance.

Dbu: Debut—Week in which you made your first appearance.

Rk: Rank. Year-5 rank is position among 298 Losers so far this Year; Career rank is position among 1869 Losers appearing since Week 1.

Ws: Wins. **Ps:** Pens awarded for 1st Runner-Up. **Shs:** Shirts awarded for other Runner-Ups.

Stks: Bumperstickers awarded for Honorable Mentions. **Es:** Ears No One Reads.

+/-: Change in rank since November issue. "New" indicates first appearance on chart.

Pts: Points—print appearances, Year 5 or overall.

Cons: Consistency—average points per Week since your Debut (no Week 64), Year 5 or overall.

Pace: Number of Year-5 Points you will have at the end of Year 5, if this keeps up.

As always, each Loser's enlightened self-interest is our best quality check, and we are proud to receive your complaints at carns@erols.com.

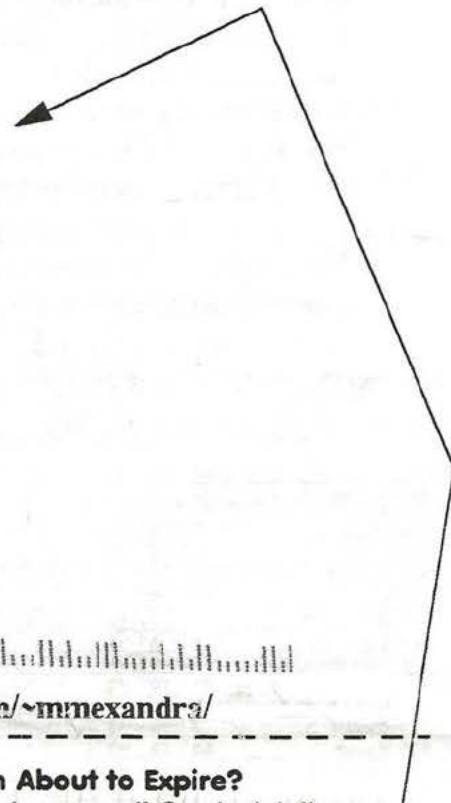
														Year 5				Career			
LID	Name	Dbu	Rk	+/-	Ws	Ps	Shs	Stks	Es	Pts	Cons	Pace	Pts	Cons	Rk						
1400	Genser, D.	157	1		1	2	4	47	11	67	1.763	92	123	1.382	8						
777	Beland, R.	73	2		1	1	9	33	8	53	1.395	73	184	1.064	5						
110	Witte, T.	7	2	+3	1	1	11	37	2	53	1.395	73	210	0.882	3						
152	Hart, J.	11	4		3	1	8	38	1	52	1.368	71	200	0.855	4						
1297	Paul, J.	136	5	-2	1	3	5	33	5	48	1.263	66	111	1.009	9						
273	Carnahan, E.	22	6				3	23	3	34	0.895	47	218	0.978	2						
1673	Blyveis, B.	202	7	+2	2	3	2	23	30	0.789	41	32	0.727	30							
83	Smith, C.	6	8	-1	1	1	1	24	28	0.737	38	324	1.356	1							
788	Sorensen, J.	75	8	-1			3	24	28	0.737	38	96	0.561	10							
1431	Hull, S.	161	10	+2	1	1	6	17	27	0.711	37	57	0.671	17							
1055	Grinath, A.	106	11	-1	1		2	21	24	0.632	33	72	0.514	13							
98	Dudzik, S.	7	12	-2			4	15	2	23	0.605	31	128	0.538	7						
655	Romm, J.	58	13	+1		1	4	15	22	0.579	30	147	0.786	6							
1712	Dalton, B.	211	14	+1	1			19	20	0.571	27	20	0.571	49							
752	Kammer, J.	71	15	-2		1	2	12	4	19	0.500	26	86	0.491	12						
367	Zarrow, D.	30	16			2	2	13	17	0.447	23	72	0.335	14							
417	Chong, S.	35	17		1	1		11	13	0.342	18	49	0.233	23							
1070	Connaghan, M.	108	18	-1		1	2	7	11	0.289	15	32	0.232	31							
1340	Reese, S.	145	18	-1		1		10	11	0.289	15	34	0.337	28							
175	Cuddihy, K.	13	20				2	7	10	0.263	14	60	0.259	16							
243	Ferry, D.	18	20	+3	2	2	2	4	10	0.263	14	27	0.119	35							
536	Worcester, S.	46	20			2	1	7	10	0.263	14	87	0.437	11							
1772	Cortina, J.	225	23	-1		1	2	6	9	0.429	12	9	0.429	75							
65	Hammer, M.	5	24				2	7	9	0.237	12	26	0.108	38							
781	Mathews, J.	74	24	+7		1	1	6	9	0.237	12	49	0.285	22							
1301	Steinhice, C.	136	24	+7	2		1	6	9	0.237	12	21	0.191	44							
1742	Genz, M.	219	27	-3			2	6	8	0.296	11	8	0.296	84							
203	Delduke, P.	14	28	-4			1	7	8	0.211	11	22	0.095	42							
783	Martin, J.	74	28	-4				8	8	0.211	11	20	0.116	50							
878	Pannullo, J.	84	28	-4	1	2	1	4	8	0.211	11	40	0.247	24							
760	Arnold, G.	72	31	+7	1	1	1	4	7	0.184	10	30	0.172	33							
174	Fox Roe, M.	13	31	-3			1	5	7	0.184	10	21	0.091	48							
85	Grove, R.	6	31		2	1		4	7	0.184	10	50	0.209	21							
1701	Hoven, N.	208	31					7	7	0.184	10	7	0.184	98							
1065	Kocak, P.	108	31					7	7	0.184	10	19	0.138	52							
1240	Litz, T.	125	31	-3	1			6	7	0.184	10	56	0.463	18							
1481	Kleinbard, D.	169	37	+7	1		2	3	6	0.158	8	8	0.104	86							
1707	Laporte, P.	209	38	-2				5	5	0.135	7	5	0.135	123							
1708	Mayer, L.	209	38	-2				5	5	0.135	7	5	0.135	123							
1037	Fahey, S.	104	40	-2		2		3	5	0.132	7	7	0.049	101							
1066	Knanishu, J.	108	40	-2			1	4	5	0.132	7	24	0.174	40							
547	Meyerson, N.	46	40	+22			1	4	5	0.132	7	7	0.035	104							
1283	Stromberg, R.	134	40	new				5	5	0.132	7	6	0.054	109							
1806	Knoblauch, D.	231	44	-3				4	4	0.267	5	4	0.267	148							
1765	Kaplan, D.	224	45	-3	2		1	1	4	0.182	5	4	0.182	149							
1759	Kaufman, B.	222	46	-3		1		3	4	0.167	5	4	0.167	150							
496	Alter, P.	41	47	+167				4	4	0.105	5	21	0.103	46							
1453	Aragon, R.	165	47	-3		1	1	2	4	0.105	5	5	0.062	126							
1178	Ashley, R.	120	47	-3				3	1	4	0.105	5	8	0.063	88						
1454	Coe, C.	165	47	-3		1	1	2	4	0.105	5	5	0.062	126							
1471	Horner, R.	167	47	-3			1	3	4	0.105	5	5	0.063	125							
1002	Mickolus, E.	100	47	+15			1	3	4	0.105	5	7	0.048	102							
1388	Myers, C.	155	47	+15		1	2	1	4	0.105	5	7	0.077	99							
233	Styrene, P.	17	47	-3			1	3	4	0.105	5	54	0.237	19							
1	Wallace, H.	1	47	-3	1			2	4	0.105	5	8	0.033	97							
301	Weinstein, J.	24	47	-3	1	1		1	4	0.105	5	14	0.063	62							

CAREER STATS ONLY					
Rk	+/-	LID	Name	Dbu	Pts
1		83	Smith, C.	6	324
2		273	Carnahan, E.	22	218
3		110	Witte, T.	7	210
4		152	Hart, J.	11	200
5		777	Beland, R.	73	184
6		655	Romm, J.	58	147
7		98	Dudzik, S.	7	128
8		1400	Genser, D.	157	123
9		1297	Paul, J.	136	111
10		788	Sorensen, J.	75	96
11		536	Worcester, S.	46	87
12		752	Kammer, J.	71	86
13		1055	Grinath, A.	106	72
14		367	Zarrow, D.	30	72
15		204	Kondis, P.	14	62
16		175	Cuddihy, K.	13	60
17	+3	1431	Hull, S.	161	57
18	-1	1240	Litz, T.	125	56
19	-1	233	Stylene, P.	17	54
20	-1	841	Krattenmaker, K.	80	52
21		85	Grove, R.	6	50
22	+1	781	Mathews, J.	74	49
23	-1	417	Chong, S.	35	49
24		878	Pannullo, J.	84	40
25		287	Thring, M.	23	39
26		139	Mellema, K.	10	39
27		241	Malcolm, L.	18	35
28		1340	Reese, S.	145	34
29		184	Sullivan, M.	14	34
30	+7	1673	Blyveis, B.	202	32
31	-1	1070	Connaghan, M.	108	32
32	-1	676	Smith, J.	60	31
33	-1	760	Arnold, G.	72	30
34	+1	321	Patishnock, G.	26	27
35	+1	243	Ferry, D.	18	27
36	-3	226	Gearty, T.	16	27
37	-3	327	Coyner, P.	26	26
38	-1	65	Hammer, M.	5	26
39	-1	222	King, S.	16	25
40		1066	Knanishu, J.	108	24
41		148	Caron, C.	11	23
42		203	Delduke, P.	14	22
43		35	Segal, S.	4	22
44	+9	1301	Steinhice, C.	136	21
45	-1	548	Dawson, F.	47	21
46	+9	496	Alter, P.	41	21
47	-2	215	Rooney, C.	16	21
48	-2	174	Fox Roe, M.	13	21
49	+11	1712	Dalton, B.	211	20
50	-3	783	Martin, J.	74	20

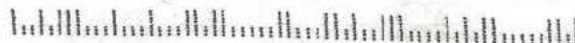
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Sunday January 4th

We're going back to our roots in January....
We have reservations at E.J.'s Landing, in the Best Western in College Park (8601 Baltimore Blvd., College Park) for 9:00 AM on January 4, 1998. Reservations are under "Worcester." Price for breakfast is \$5.95 per person.

This will be an eye-opener for those who thought that the Hotel Washington had the worst breakfast buffet in the DC Metro area.

Brunch with the NRARS tentatively on

Sunday February 1st
in Washington DC.

Details for the February
brunch, including the recipe
for groundhog omelets will be
published in the January
Depravda.

Reservations under Duidzik

- Subject: DEPRAVDA

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