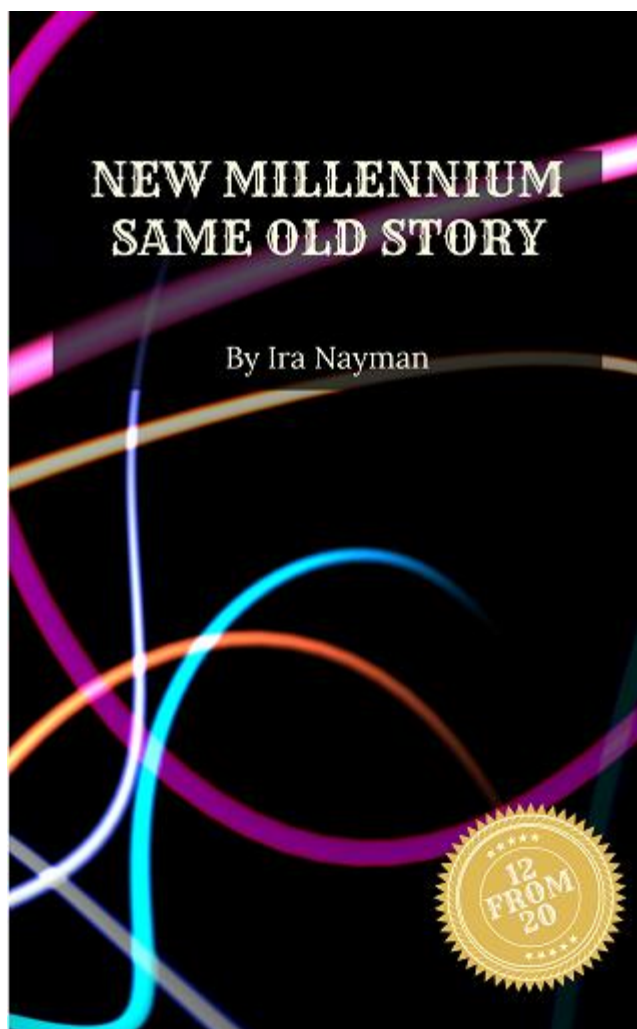




New Millennium, Same Old Story
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Introduction

In the first week of September 2022, Les Pages aux Folles will turn 20. To celebrate this achievement, I will be publishing 12 ebook collections of articles from the two decades of

the web site over the course of the year; this project is known as “12 from 20.” (For a brief overview of Les Pages aux Folles, see “The Back Story” at the end of this volume.) Each book will focus on a different feature of the web site. This month: newscast parodies.

As mentioned in a previous volume, soon after I recreated *Les Pages aux Folles* as a web site, I began to look for forms that would allow me to include more subjects per article than I could with the single-subject bespoke articles of the pre-web years. Since I wanted to expand on the topical political satire of the project, ersatz news seemed to be the way to go. It would take me several tries until I found a form that could encompass all of my ambitions. This volume of “12 from 20” explores them.

I started with *Deadline News*, which was a kind of prose parody of a *Headline News* broadcast. Each article contained various segments that you might expect to find on a news broadcast (international, national and local news, for instance, or sports, entertainment and business). They did not have beat reporters, which is a bit odd, but can be explained by the fact that I didn’t really watch CNN’s *Headline News* shows, so I didn’t feel I knew enough about their regular reporters to parody them.

One spin-off of *Deadline News* was *Deadline News Special Report*, which looked at a single issue. Apparently, I couldn’t get away from highly focused articles, although the *Special Reports* at least looked at their single issues from a variety of angles. They also introduced Rex Veneer, one of the anchors of the Deadline News Network; he would appear in many of the Deadline News articles, as well as a couple of other articles about the news industry.

Another *Deadline News* spin-off was *Deadline News: Europe*. I spent a week in Europe to attend an academic conference, soaking up a lot of news from the continent (I like to read local newspapers when I travel), and wrote this while there. Not having the desire (or the funds) to move to Europe, this was a one-off.

Eventually, I found the limitations of *Deadline News* too restricting, so I tried another news format: *The Irrational*. This is an obvious parody of the CBC’s *The National*. This introduced beat reporters into the fake news format (mostly parodies of reporters for *The National*, which I used to frequently watch), something which would become essential to the *Alternate Reality News Service* when I created it a few years later. I also tried to incorporate narrative storylines across several articles, primarily the disappearance of Joe Anchor and the fight for the anchor slot.

The things I do to keep things fresh and lively for readers!

The Irrational also had a spin-off: *NewsWeird*, a parody of CBC’s *NewsWorld*. *The Irrational* was a parody of an hour-long newscast; *NewsWeird* was a parody of a 24/7 news network; although they shared a lot of reporters, they had different rhythms and features.

During this period, I also experimented with a format for an article called *NewsSpew*. This was news in the form of the chyron that ran at the bottom of the screen of a television newscast. I like the idea of *NewsSpew*, but the format limited each subject to one or two lines, which wasn't conducive to the kind of satire I wanted to write.

The Irrational would also prove to be too limiting, and was eventually replaced by *The Daily Me*. Although that feature has already been the subject of its own "12 From 20" volume, I have included some here in order to show the transition to the feature that would become my lasting parody of the media environment. (And if I'm being totally honest, and I think I owe you that, dear reader, I had far too many *Daily Mes* to fit into a single volume; this seemed like a good place to put the overflow.

As it happened, both *Deadline News* and *The Irrational* became sources for *The Daily Me*. **They live on!**

One final note on the nature of satire: while I always try to put my humour in the context of the time, some readers will not recognize the names, situations or dental adhesives mentioned in the articles in this volume. Such is the nature of topical humour: when the politics have moved on, the humour can lose its bite. Does that make a volume like this less valuable?

Not necessarily. In an essay on satire for *Idiotocracy for Dummies*, I wrote that satire goes through three phases. The first phase is, obviously, the topical phase, when the subject is still fresh and the satire bites. The second phase is the obscurity phase, when the zeitgeist has moved on and the satire is not perceived as sharp. Some satire, though, goes through a reclamation phase, when it can be appreciated anew.

There are a couple of reasons for this third phase. In some instances, the quality of a work is so pronounced that the object of the satirical attack becomes irrelevant. This is the case with, say, *Gulliver's Travels*; the modern reader will likely not be aware of the individual politicians and political movements that Jonathan Swift was satirizing, but we can still enjoy reading the book for its humour and whimsy.

For other work, the satire taps into something universal in human politics that the theme of a piece will strike a chord with modern readers despite the specificity of its attack. This is true, I think, of Swift's *A Modest Proposal*; this piece of writing transcends its origins as a comment on the politics of his time, speaking to the venality of current politicians who are indifferent to the plight of the poor.

Finally, there is no subject of humour so obscure that it cannot be searched for on the internet. To be sure, if you have to look up the object of a joke, its immediate satirical thrust is likely to be blunted. Still, readers can always appreciate older satire in an "Oh, I see how that joke works!" kind of way at the stroke of a search engine enter button, which can improve their appreciation of a work.

I don't know if any of that will keep the writing in this volume from appearing dated to a modern reader, but a writer can always live in hope, can't he?

Enjoy.

Ira Nayman
Toronto
March 1, 2022

Articles

Deadline News: On the Local Scene...

Good evening. Our top story tonight: the Security Council of the United Nations, in a unanimous voice, condemned terrorism this past week, saying that it was "naughty and bad." Members of the Security Council were preparing to discuss a motion approving, "ice cream, puppy dogs and *The Waltons* television programme" when they found it was time for milk and cookies, after which most of them left to take their nappies. Isn't international cooperation a wonderful thing?

In other news: it was revealed for the first time that President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev agreed at their recent summit that Russia and the United States would put aside their differences if the earth were attacked by aliens. The agreement in principle does not, however, allow for on-site alien verification, and limits on extra-terrestrial numbers and underground alien testing have not been established. We'll let you know if the agreement included attacks from Atlantis as soon as that information becomes available.

The case of eight Canadians suing the American Central Intelligence Agency for experiments which took place at colleges and universities in the 1960s continued. CIA representative Charles Klobber recently told reporters: "It's all in their minds." Pressed for an explanation, Klobber added: "You wouldn't believe a bunch of crazy people, would you?" It was unclear whether he was referring to the Canadians who filed the suit, or those who were testifying on behalf of the CIA.

The Canadian government admitted that it was considering a proposal to amalgamate "all the piddling little surveys and polls" that it had done for it into one "omnibus" (or, big bus) poll with 100 questions. The poll, which would be conducted every month or so, would include such questions as: "Which leader do you feel has the cutest dimples?"; "Would you be against a 50 per cent increase in the taxes of the couple living in sin down the street?" and; "Have you ever read a book?" According to government sources, one problem with the poll is finding 1,500 people willing to give up an afternoon in order to answer all 100 questions.

At this point, there was supposed to be a story about lobby groups in Ottawa, but they got wind of it and convinced our editor to discourage us from finishing it.

A poll taken in the United States indicates that five per cent of Americans believe free trade with Canada is “trade that won’t cost us any money.” Of the remainder, 10 per cent responded “don’t know,” 25 per cent answered “don’t care” and 60 per cent were watching *Moonlighting* and refused to come to the phone to answer the questions.

On the local scene: of the 13 wolves who escaped or were let free from the Metro Toronto Zoo, all but two have been recaptured. Offers of meat and wolves of the opposite sex have not lured the animals out into the open where they can be taken, and zoo officials are said to be considering putting out colour television sets and tickets for free trips to the Bahamas. As a last resort, it is rumoured that zoo officials will be allowed to offer the wolves seats on the federal Senate.

Calls in the provincial legislature for extending the drinking and driving laws to include bicycles came after a tragic 12 bike collision that killed five and injured eight. The drivers of at least seven of the vehicles had a blood alcohol content of over 80 milligrams (the legal limit for automobiles) and admitted to drinking Sarasoda, a soft drink that contains alcohol, before getting behind the wheel. Charges against one driver, an 11 year-old who cannot be named, are to be filed as soon as police can figure out what they should be.

Reaction from the business community to the recent proposals for a minimum tax was immediate. At a press conference held this afternoon, N. Heiser Busch, Vice President of Something Indefinite but Terribly, Terribly Important of CanadaCorp, a wholly owned subsidiary of MultiNatCorp, told reporters: “Taxing the rich is idiotic. I’m rich, and I’m not ashamed to admit it. Do you realize how important rich people are? Why, if there were no rich people, who would poor people aspire to be like?”

In other business news: MPP Bette Stephenson has refused to retract remarks that the abolition of extra-billing was a “terrorist attack” on doctors. However, shadowy representatives of both the Irish Republican Army and the Palestine Liberation Organization are reportedly furious that Dr. Stephenson would lump them together with the Ontario Liberals. Premier David Peterson was unavailable for comment.

In entertainment news: it was announced that the latest Disney entertainment complex will be built at Marne-la-Valle, France, just outside of Paris. According to French planners, along with the more familiar figures of Mickey, Minnie and Goofy, the French version of Disneyland (Le Merveilleux Monde de Disney) will include figures of Jean-Paul Sartre, who will ask children questions such as “Why are you here?” and “Don’t you find this existence a trifle banal?” and Eugene Ionesco, complete with rhinoceros horns. Of course, escargaux and wine will be standard fare at all the fast food restaurants.

An international incident was narrowly averted when a pair of derelicts claimed to have kidnapped Miss Piggy, who could be seen in *The Muppet Show on Tour*, currently

playing in Toronto, and roasted her because they claimed to be starving and needed something to eat. Theatre sources stated that the derelicts had only managed to kidnap a costume, and that it could, with a little trouble, be replaced. “But,” one theatre source wondered, “who would eat a pig costume? I mean – who could?”

Canadian veterans continue to be angered by a film about World War One flying ace Billy Bishop, in which it was stated that there is no evidence to back up Bishop’s claim about his most famous mission. “We know that Billy did what he did,” one veteran, who refused to be named, said, “and that would be good enough. But, did you know that he also...invented styrofoam? It’s true. Not only that, but Billy was responsible for the theory of relativity – yeah, before that Albert guy found Billy’s notes. Our Billy was a great man, boy, and make no mistake!” Historians remain skeptical.

In a story last week, we reported that *Toronto Sun* columnist Christie Blatchford had said, “What’s all this garbage about mousse? If I wanted plastic hair, I would staple a shredded green garbage bag to my head!” Apparently, this was incorrect. Actually, it was pop star Prince who said, “What do you mean, I’m not on the list of the 20 hottest rock stars or groups? Bruce Springsteen? U2? What do those guys have that I don’t have? And, where can I get some?”

We regret any confusion our mistake may have caused.

And, finally, it’s that time of year again, and we’re picking up 13 unidentified objects on our weather radar. We don’t know what they could be...is it possible? Are the 13 unidentified objects...Santa’s sleigh and his 12 reindeer. Could they...no...no, I’m sorry. I have just been informed that the unidentified objects are incoming Russian IBMs. What a thoughtful Christmas present for the country that has everything.

Good night.

Deadline News: New Millenium, Same Old Story...

Good evening.

Our top story tonight: actor Charlton Heston has publicly announced that he is in the first stages of Alzheimer’s disease. In a videotaped statement, Heston stated, “I believe I am still the fighter that Dr. King and JFK and Ronald Reagan knew.” Heston was referring, of course, to civil rights activist Martin Luther King, who, had he not been assassinated with a handgun, would certainly have stood tall with Heston at National Rifle Association meetings.

That was our lead story? That was an entertainment story. Sorry about that. It’s been a few years, and we may be a little rusty. Let me try again.

Our top story tonight: United States President George Bush is talking tough in order to rally support for a war against Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein. Bush claims that – oh,

come on! This story is a decade old! I know the network is heavily into reruns, but this is ridic – A different President George Bush? Is it a different Saddam Hussein, too?

Again, you have my apolog – really! What are the odds of two men with the name George Bush becoming President a decade apart? Can I please have a proper lead story? Is that really too much to ask?

Humph. Our top story tonight: According to American Drug Enforcement Agency head Asa Hutchinson, the proceeds from drugs bought in Canada and sold illegally in the United States are being used to fund terror in the Middle East. This is good news for Canadian pundits and pro-military right wing think tanks who have been looking for a so-called “Canadian Connection” to terrorism for months. Unfortunately, the group benefiting from the illegal drug traffic is the shabby Palestinian group Hezbollah, not public enemy number one Al-Qaeda. Clearly, Marcus Gee is going to have to redouble his efforts to save America from the terrorist scourge to the north.

Okay. In other news: WorldCom Inc. recently announced that it would likely write off \$50.6 billion – that was not a speech defect, friends, I did say billion – for goodwill and intangible assets. There is no word, yet, on whether “ill will” is being considered an acceptable line item in Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Recently elected Colombian President Alvarao Uribe has authorized measures to crack down on an insurgency during what he called a “state of internal commotion.” For those of you unfamiliar with the hierarchy of political contingencies, this is more serious than a “state of internal todo,” but not as serious as a “state of internal hubbub.” Of course, for anybody who disagrees with the government, it looks suspiciously like a traditional “state of internal control.”

On the local scene: as temperatures in Toronto soar, increasing electricity use is being blamed on the increased use of air conditioning. The Ontario Independent Electricity Market Operator has warned of possible brownouts if electricity consumption continues to hit record highs. One unnamed Tory MPP commented: “The birth rate as a result of blackouts usually increases – maybe we won’t need so many immigrants in nine months.” Can you spot all the ways this statement is politically incorrect?

School boards across Toronto have had to cut programmes for handicapped children as a result of provincial funding cuts. This is happening at the same time the Province is committed to reducing income taxes. So, the \$50 you got back from the Province means a retarded kid isn’t going to get the schooling he or she needs. I hope you really, really enjoy spending that money.

On the entertainment scene: Hollywood screenwriter Joe Esterhaz excoriated the industry for glorifying cigarette smoking in their films – and apologized for his writing that glorifies smoking – after he found out that he had throat cancer. One can’t help but wonder what part of his anatomy would have had to have gotten cancer for him to apologize for his, and Hollywood’s, misogyny.

And, now, a *Deadline News* editorial. Several times this year, Torontonians have been asked to leave their cars at home to help ease gridlock or reduce smog or some other short-sighted reason. Wake up and smell the exhaust fumes, people! I didn't become a wage slave so I could leave my motorized status symbol in a garage where no one could see it! You don't like it? Move to Tibet! Just don't come whining to me if some do-gooder warns you of Yak-lock!

Well, that's my opinion, anyway.

And, finally: Alan Greenspan is not god. Maybe if we stop treating him like he is, he'll stop believing it.

It's good to be back!

Good night.

Deadline News: Imitations of Morality

Good evening. Our top story tonight: In order to bolster his image as somebody with a firm grasp of the principles of irony, President George Junior held a summit on the economy in Waco, Texas. The summit only lasted half a day, and President Junior only attended half the sessions, undoubtedly to give him more time to plan the serious spanking he intends to give Iraqi bad boy Saddam Hussein. *Deadline News* has received a transcript of the proceedings, which read, in part: "The...economy...is...sound. The...fundamentals...are...strong. The...President...is...doing...an...excellent...job."

Good god! It's the attack of the Stepford economists!

As a result of this confidence building exercise, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 206 points. Perhaps it's just as well the summit only lasted half a day: the American people obviously know the difference between confidence building and a confidence trick.

In a related story: Amazing Disappearing Vice President Dick "Now You See Him, Now You Don't" Cheney popped his head out of a hole long enough to say that the United States must oust Hussein before the Iraqi dictator gets his hands on nuclear weapons. (Why do I get the urge to play Whack-a-Mole on those rare occasions when Cheney makes public statements?) Obviously, for his retirement, Cheney is positioning himself as the logical head of the Washington Branch of Pre-Crime. Don't take any wooden clairvoyants, Dick.

In other news: Prime Minister Jean Chretien recently announced that he will be stepping down...in 18 months. In the week since the announcement, the *Globe*, *Star*, *Sun* and *Post* ran approximately 112 articles on the Liberal leadership race **even though it will have no effect on and is of no interest whatsoever to the vast majority of average Canadians!**

Oh, dear. For a moment, there, I had a flashback to my days as narrator of the *Believe It or Not!* cartoons. I really gotta cut down on the bold face type.

As we approach the first anniversary of the War on Afghanistan, warlords in the Provinces outside the capital of Kabul are planning a 21 gun salute, with each other as targets. Crazy sentimental kids. I'm sure an exploding greeting card would have sufficed.

McDonald's Corporation is being accused of cultural insensitivity for launching a McAfrica burger in Oslo at the same time that millions are expected to starve to death on that poor continent. In response, the company has decided to scrap plans for McBlackHoleofCalcutta nuggets and McIrishPotatoFamine fries.

On the local scene: Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer has taken over the elected Toronto School Board because it refused to work within a Provincially mandated funding formula, causing it to run a deficit. Hmm...a Board of Education that flunked math or a Provincial government that flunked civics... Tough choice.

In entertainment news: ‘N Sync singer Lance Bass may not be going into space after all because he has not paid the Russian space agency Rosaviakosmos its \$20 million fee. (And, I thought I was doing well in my 20s because I could afford my own apartment.) One cosmonaut commented that if the American musician was replaced by a cargo container, “At least we would have more interesting conversation on the trip.”

Jason Priestley's head was completely severed from his body in a car racing accident recently, but his agent has assured reporters that this would not slow down the actor's career in the slightest. In fact, his body has already been signed to be a semi-regular guest star on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and his head will be starring in an as yet untitled Disney project. "The whole incident just underscores how versatile Jason really is," his agent shamelessly schmoozed.

A video game company is offering \$10,000 worth of American savings bonds to the first family to name its child after the hero of its latest game: *Turok: Evolution*. Naming your kid Turok may not be worth it, though: \$10,000 will only pay for the first year of his therapy sessions, less if your child is a girl...

In a story we ran 15 years ago, *Deadline News* reported that former President Richard Nixon had been approached by Maxell to perform in a television commercial for its audio tapes. Although Nixon agreed to be interviewed, his response consisted of 17 minutes of silence. Apparently, this was incorrect. However, since it was so long ago and Nixon is no longer haunting Washington – well, not physically, anyway – correcting the record doesn't seem to be worth anybody's time or effort.

And, now, a Deadline News editorial:

Aaa
 aaa
 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh! You may think this is overstating the case. My

[illegible]

Good night.

ANNOUNCEMENT: CanWest Global Corporation has just bought the financially ailing Deadline News Network for an undisclosed sum. President Izzy “Only His Hairdresser Knows For Sure” Asper, commenting on the purchase, stated, “We already own everything of any value in this country, so why not?” With a knowing giggle, he added: “Of course, the editorial integrity of *Deadline News* will in no way be compromised by the purchase.”

Good evening. Our top story tonight: United States President George Junior told the United Nations General Assembly that if it didn't enforce its resolutions against Iraq, the US would attack the country because it was "very, very naughty." Some people might consider this blackmail, but in the current overheated patriotic climate of North America, journalists concerned about keeping their jobs won't be among them.

Image management in the 21st century is complicated, isn't it? Expect more stories on people trapped at the bottom of wells until this one is sorted out.

In other news: Responding to the call for pilots to carry guns in airplane cockpits to deter would-be terrorist hijackers, a representative of the Canadian Pilots Association remarked: “No problem, as long as the in-flight movie is *Gunfight at the OK Corral*.” I don’t know about you, but I plan on taking the train across the ocean the next time I holiday in Europe.

Israeli troops firing on a bus in the Occupied Territories killed 12 people, including six women and a three year-old boy in – what? What memo? I – oh. But...oh. No. Right. Sorry. Let me try that again. In response to recent terrorist attacks, Israeli troops fired on a bus in the Disputed Territories, killing those believed responsible and nine others. Palestinian representative Bashir Butgut said – well...it isn't really that important what he said.

In local news: is Union Station really going to be turned into Disneyland North? Owing to secret deals made with developers, nobody knows for sure. One thing is certain, however: mouse ears will definitely clash with Via Rail uniforms.

On the entertainment scene: The Spliffy Peanut Butter Network has just announced that its preemption of regular programming in order to air a special on the first anniversary of 9/11 was a huge ratings success. The day was capped off by two hours of testimonials on how peanut butter – nature's perfect food – helped the families of the victims of the terrorist attack cope with –

This is news? Why am I reading – oh. Of course. SpliffyVision is partially owned by CanWest Global. I must admit, they sure know how to put the con back in convergence.

The Toronto International Film Festival will test a new pass for journalists in response to film writer Roger Ebert's hissy fit when he was refused entry to a press screening. The Ebert Pass will not only entitle the holder to kick an already seated patron out of any press screening seconds before the film starts, but one of its major perks will be the opportunity for the critic to get his ass kissed by one person in the press office every day of the Festival. One critic suggested that this second perk would be ineffective, since Ebert's thumb would get in the way.

And, now, a *Deadline News* national editorial. Jean Chretien is a god. G-O-D. God. The Liberal Party of Canada is the perfect vessel to contain his wisdom. All worship, praise, exalt and adore Jean Chretien and the Liberal Party of Canada. Well, that's their opinion, anyway.

And, finally, you know, if one person – just one person – had said “How do you expect to make a profit?” back in 1998, listened politely to the answer and responded, “But, no, seriously, how do you expect to make a profit?” it probably would have made no difference. However, if a dozen people had – half a dozen pension fund managers, say, and half a dozen television market analysts – tens of thousands of ordinary people might not now be wondering if they'll ever be able to afford to retire. Makes you think, doesn't it? For those of you who are out of practice, there's always *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Good night.

**Deadline News Special Report:
America Goes to War (Again)...**

Good evening. Tonight, a *Deadline News Special Report: America Goes to War (Again)*. I'm your host, Rex Veneer.

In order to justify a war with Iraq, United States President George Junior argued: "Saddam Hussein helped the Al-Qaeda terrorists who attacked the World Trade Centre. Well, okay, he probably had nothing to do with the terrorist attack, but he's minutes away from developing nuclear weapons. Well, no, he's probably years away from having a serious nuclear capability, but he is definitely developing chemical and/or biological weapons. Well, sure, after daddy bombed his country the first time, he was left pretty much without any chemical and/or biological weapons, but he is an evil man who waged war on his neighbours and used poisoned gas on his own people. Well, yes, he thought he had American permission to invade or make war against his neighbours and we did look the other way when he gassed his own people, but Saddam is still a very, very bad man who needs to be removed before he does something really terrible."

It must be easy to stay "on message" when there are so many messages to choose from.

At a recent press conference, a journalist – not American, possibly French – pointed out that American planes traveling over Iraq's no-fly zone had started dropping bombs on potential military targets and asked if these weren't acts of war, which would be odd because Congress had yet to declare war against Iraq and – as every schoolchild knows – only Congress can declare war. In response, President George Junior stated: "Not you, again!"

At a press conference last week, the same journalist – definitely not American, perhaps German – asked what the difference was between enacting regime change and violently overthrowing a government. In response to her latest question, the President thanked the journalist for her observation and promised swift and decisive action: the light in the back of the press gallery would be improved so that he could more easily identify the journalists lurking there.

Responding to questions about the potential for civilian casualties if the United States does attack Iraq, which would likely involve a "severe spanking" (or, carpet bombing pre-euphemism), the White House issued a press release stating that "so many Iraqi civilians had already died because of economic sanctions against the country, what's the difference?" Apparently, this response replaces last week's press release, which stated: "War with Iraq is a lot easier if you imagine a country made up of millions of Saddam Husseins."

Okay, that's going to keep me up nights.

And, speaking of the despicable, despotic, demonic dictator, Saddam (whose name is an anagram of Madman...more or less) surprised everybody by announcing he would unconditionally allow United Nations weapons inspectors back into Iraq. I guess what they say about imminent death focusing the mind is really true. In response, United States Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told journalists: "Oh, sure. Now, pull the other one!"

When Hussein said that no, he was serious, President George Junior's entire Cabinet put their hands over their ears and shouted, "La la la la la, I'm not listening!"

There is no word, yet, on whether the UN inspection team will include the obligatory CIA plants, but beyond documenting the location of new piles of rubble, it's hard to imagine what intelligence there is to gather in a country rent by decades of war and economic sanctions.

On a lighter note, Elton Bateman was arrested last night when he decked a patron of a Hooters in Kenosha, Wisconsin. "He was an aggressive drunk," Bateman explained, "and he would have attacked me sooner or later. I knew I had to pre-emptively bitch slap him, so I did." Judge Willard Moore was unimpressed by this explanation. "'The United States will not use force in all cases to pre-empt emerging threats,'" he quoted the Bush doctrine, "'nor should countries use pre-emption as a pretext for aggression.' Or individuals, either." Bateman, chagrined, responded, "Oh, shit. I'm cooked."

We have to break here for a commercial. When we return, the Incredible Vanishing Vice President performs his latest magic trick: making the public forget that the company he was CEO of before he became George Junior's running mate did a brisk business with Saddam Hussein. Deadline News doesn't like to spoil the trick for people, but we do advise viewers watch the Vice President's left hand very closely.

Stay with us...

**Deadline News Europe:
Ah, Sweet Mystery of the Royal Society**

"You are watching *Deadline News Europe*."

With the sound of Darth Vader, we return to the top of the hour. I'm Monika Moussetrop.

Our top story tonight: at a cocktail party for international tyrants, North Korea got sloppily drunk and let slip that it had developed nuclear weapons despite a 1994 agreement that it would do no such thing. In response, the American Central Intelligence Agency threw up its hands and testily said, "George, you're on your own." This poses a dilemma for the baby Bush administration: if it is prepared to invade Iraq because Saddam Hussein is *thinking* of developing nuclear weapons, how will it deal with North Korea, which actually *has* them? Invade the country, then humiliate it by forcing all citizens to wear floppy hats and speak with a Bavarian accent?

In a related story: Prime Minister Tony Blair stated that Britain was still intent on a United Nations resolution on Iraq weapons inspection, so long as it was alright with the baby Bush administration. We know that the Labour government has developed its own policy on Iraq because while Blair was making his statement, baby Bush was loudly drinking a glass of water.

In other news: the terrorist attack in Bali which left hundreds dead is now thought to be the work of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. According to the United States government, supported by the governments of Australia and Indonesia, Al Qaeda is also responsible for the collapse of Enron, persistent teenage acne and the release of the film Jackass. Representatives of noted terrorist organization MTV were unavailable for comment.

The House of Lords overturned a Commons vote that would have allowed gay couples to adopt children, reaffirming its dedication to the progressive policies of the 19th century. This is especially ironic since the Tory Lords, who have condemned 5,000 children to life in public facilities, have long opposed the "nanny state." Rumours that au pair costumes will replace traditional robes in the House of Lords have yet to be confirmed.

Family doctor Jarnail Singh was suspended for six months by the General Medical Council for offering to help a dying man buy a kidney in India. This is the second case of its kind to come before the GMC in recent months. Patients are warned that if your doctor asks you to "have a heart?" it is illegal to take him literally.

In business news: SSL International, whose sales had drooped in recent years, has seen its stock rise to the occasion amid growing excitement that its sales were finally bulging. The company, perhaps best known for producing Durex condoms, claimed sagging profits in the face of stiff competition were a thing of the past and the current growth spurt was an indication that the stock was rock solid.

What a precious story.

In entertainment news: the BBC is about to air a television series on the greatest Britons; the odds on favourite is Winston Churchill. Of course, if ITV had produced the series, the greatest Briton would, in all likelihood, have been Benny Hill.

Jeffrey "Not Really a Lord" Archer is threatening to write a novel based on his experience in an open prison. "This has given me a lot of street cred," Archer claimed. "I'm really hip to the scene." Then, inexplicably, he claimed to be a black heroin dealer named Muhammed Keratin.

In sport: the Football Association is claiming that it has eliminated racism from the hearts of British fans. The FA stated that fans were not singing "I'd rather be a Paki than a Turk" at the 2000 European championship; rather, they were giving a very drunken rendition of "Auld Lang Syne." Furthermore, British fans who appeared to be giving the Nazi salute during the national anthem were actually scratching an extremely itchy underarm. Repeatedly. En masse.

If only Uefa, European football's governing body, had the power to fine clubs for euphemism abuse and twisted logic, some progress on the issue might be made.

And, finally: Sherlock Holmes was awarded an honorary fellowship by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the first fictional character to be so honoured. If this is the beginning of a trend, I would like to nominate Dr. Strangelove for a Nobel Peace Prize; perhaps he could share it with baby Bush. Stranger things have happened. Just.

Good evening.

Deadline News: No Themes Here

Our top story tonight: United States President George Junior has accused Iraq of not cooperating with United Nations arms inspectors, setting the stage for war. The problem? The UN arms inspectors are still preparing for their mission and haven't actually entered Iraq. When this was pointed out to the President, he giggled fetchingly and replied, "Oops. That's next week's speech. Sorry."

In other news: "We are the Lollipop Guild, the Lollipop Guild, the Lollipop Guild. We are the Lollipop Guild and we'd like to welcome you to Munchkinland!" A tape of this song has been analyzed by the Central Intelligence Agency, which claims that there is a 97 per cent likelihood that the voice singing belongs to Osama bin Laden. Not only does this prove that bin Laden survived the War in Afghanistan, but also that he has a serious, perhaps terminal addiction to show tunes.

As rioting in Nigeria claimed over 150 lives and left at least 10,000 people homeless, contestants of the Miss World Pageant showed pluck by putting together a military unit to defend itself. Called – what else? – Easy Company, its members include: Miss Burkina Faso (5 foot 11, brunette, blue eyes, 36-24-34, would like to be a veterinarian because she loves animals more than people) as the company sniper; Miss Ukraine (5 foot 9, blond, blue eyes, 36-24-34, thinks that the United Nations is the best hope for world peace but hope the United States will kick Iraq butt) as the munitions specialist, and; Miss El Salvador (5 foot 10, brunette, grey eyes, 36-24-34, is torn between having 12 children and becoming a brain surgeon) in charge of special ops. "We refuse to let a bunch of religious fanatics get in the way of our celebration of feminine beauty," grittily commented Easy Company Press Liaison Miss France (6 foot, blond, blue eyes, 36-24-34, wants a career in the media because people need to be told what's happening in the world).

Pageant organizers were so impressed by this display of self-defence that they immediately decided to move the whole thing to London.

The US Army recently fired six Arabic translators after they publicly admitted that they were gay. Fundamentalist followers of Islam probably highly approve of the move, but, ironically, cannot tell the American military because there is no one qualified to translate.

The House of Commons has unanimously overturned a Finance Canada rule that only those who are unable to feed or clothe themselves would be defined as disabled in order to be eligible for a disability tax credit. The vote was widely expected when it was

revealed, to Parliament's embarrassment, that even this restricted definition applied to 78 per cent of the members of the Senate.

Premier Ralph Klein took his anti-Kyoto message to Wall Street this past week. The American financial district's response can be summed up as: "We don't know where Alberta is, but, say, where'd you get that nifty hat?"

On the local scene, responding to a *Toronto Star* series on arrest patterns in police statistics that suggested a racial bias, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman claimed that: "Cops only arrest bad people." Responding to this, err, response, defense attorneys throughout the city threw up their hands and said, "Well, I guess I wasted \$40,000 getting that law degree! My mother was right: I should have gone into facial reconstruction."

In business news: the price of International Fruitbat plummeted yesterday on allegations that there is, in fact, no such company. SEC officials refused to comment on an ongoing investigation, but, when pressed, did admit that they could not find the purported company's prospectus, headquarters or officers, had no idea what the company was supposed to do and did not know where the millions of dollars invested in the company went. "If we had a chairman," one SEC employee, who asked to remain anonymous, told *Deadline News*, "I'm sure he would promise a thorough investigation that would help restore confidence in our equity markets."

Analyst Jack Grubman, who had given International Fruitbat a buy recommendation for years, was unavailable for comment.

On the entertainment scene: will somebody please tell Michael Jackson that human evolution was meant to take place over thousands of years, not a single generation?

Hey, is it just me, or has Pierce Brosnan's gun barrel in the ads for the new James Bond movie, *Die Another Day*, been lengthened since they first appeared? Feeling a little inadequate next to Halle Berry's Jinx, Jimmy?

Steven Spielberg has agreed to produce a fourth film in his resurrected dinosaurs franchise, this time employing extinct species of fish. The working title? *Jurassic Carp*.

And, can somebody please tell me where the hell I can find Qumar?

And, now, a *Deadline News* editorial: Prime Minister Chretien recently announced an increase in military spending. The Prime Minister claimed that the announcement was not a result of pressure from the United States. If this is true, it proves that Canada really can come up with its own ill-thought through policies. Still, I would be a lot happier about our country's budget being determined by the United States if its government placed a higher priority on pizza and keggars.

Well, that's my opinion, anyway.

In a recent story, *Deadline News* reported that a representative of North Korea had stated that Korea has come to have nuclear and other weapons with a strong military purpose.” Apparently, this was incorrect. What he actually said was, “We have a recipe for strawberry tarts that is to die for!” The misrepresented statement appears to have been a translation error. We are not certain who is responsible for the mistranslation, but we are sure that they regret their error.

Either way, the Pentagon is currently attempting to determine whether or not strawberry tarts can be used as weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

And, finally: whispers on Canada’s right have suggested that Brian Mulroney should be the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. *Brian Mulroney!* Are they serious? The most unpopular Prime Minister in Canadian history? The man whose corrupt government makes Jean Chretien’s government look like a boy scout troop? The man who sold out the country in atrociously negotiated free trade deals? The man with the chin? I say, BRING...HIM...ON! Mulroney’s return to the national stage would be the best Christmas present a boy satirist could ever hope to get!

Good evening.

Deadline News: Slow News Week

Good evening.

Our top story tonight: according to a column in the *Toronto Star*, none of the intelligence officers on the city’s Islamic desk speak or read Arabic. “If they were able to communicate in Arabic,” one CSIS official told *Deadline News*, “how would we be able to trust them?” Hey, CSIS guy, what makes you think we should trust you?

In other news: an American bus driver was arrested after telling passengers impatient with the fact that he was lost that “I’m taking you to the Taliban!” He was fined \$500 and lost his job. I am currently consulting with my lawyer to determine if I can afford to make a joke out of this...

The United States has made a preliminary assessment of Iraq’s 12,000 page report on its weapons of mass destruction. It found that 347 of the approximately 480,000 ts were not crossed and fully 0.2 per cent (893) of the report’s 421,000 is were not dotted. “This is very serious,” President George Junior, barely able to contain his glee, stated, “but it’s not enough to justify war. Get back to me when we’ve checked the other letters of the alphabet.”

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley helpfully added: “Yeah. What he said.”

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham praised the United States for being “extremely responsible” in working through the United Nations rather than acting unilaterally. Hmm...praise for working within the moral dictates of international law – by

this standard, I should be praised because I didn't embezzle a million dollars from my bank today, I didn't drive while intoxicated and I didn't throttle any government Minister for his condescending ass-kissing. Where are my props?

And, speaking of American cooperation with the UN, the Iraqi report was given to the United States in violation of an agreement it would remain with UN weapons inspectors until screened for material others could use to make weapons. The official reason is that the United States has the best photocopying facilities. Sure. Like there are no Kinko's across the street from UN headquarters in New York.

The Information Awareness Office has issued a statement that, as a humanitarian gesture, bombs dropped on Iraq will be covered in happy faces. The White House is already drafting legislation exempting the IAO from paying royalties on the icon. Hmm...if this is the best they can come up with, maybe the American government shouldn't develop its own propaga – err, information awareness program.

Henry Kissinger has decided not to become chair of the committee investigating intelligence failures that didn't prevent the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. He made this decision in order not to have to reveal his client list, which was required in order to ensure that he did not have a conflict of interest. "The large corporations and small countries who pay me to sway government policy in their favour are shy," Kissinger explained. As a result, President George Junior has had to recommend his second choice: a plate of broccoli. "The broccoli will probably be tougher than Kissinger would have been," an administration spokesweasel commented, "but we have a steamer on stand-by in case we need it."

President George Junior has authorized the deployment of the missile defense system defense system, the first components of which should be operational by 2004. When critics attack the defense shield on the grounds that it will deepen the international arms race or that it is scientifically unsound, the defense system defense system sends up flacks to confuse the incoming criticism and deflect it away from its target. Laser guided personal attacks are employed to pinpoint and eliminate criticisms that survive the first line of defense.

Catholic Cardinal Maradiaga of Honduras justified Pope John Paul II's resistance to removing Bernard Cardinal Law as Archbishop of Boston (who shuffled priests he had reason to believe were pedophiles between postings rather than driving them from the priesthood) by criticizing the secular media's treatment of the scandal. Good call. We all know how the epic poets, motivated by religious bigotry, made great sport of the Crusades. And, who could ever forgive the town criers of the Middle Ages for spreading hatred against the Inquisition? No, let us not put our trust in the immoral secular media. Better, instead, to trust a religious institution that appears to be unable to deal with child molesters it has given positions of authority.

Eyebrows were raised when it was discovered that Herb Dhaliwal drives a 345 horsepower Caddie Escapade. Somebody should point out to the National Resources

Minister and Kyoto Accord supporter that you don't need an SUV to climb the Ottawa career ladder.

And, now, a *Deadline News* update: after reviewing the case of the bus driver arrested for making a joke about the Taliban, my lawyer has advised: "What the hell? Not much happens over the holidays, and, anyway, I charge by the hour." So, I won't be making a joke about this after all. As they truly say: in war, comedy is the first casualty.

British newspaper *The Guardian* characterized Canada as "a homely kind of girl" obsessed by the United States, the "town hunk" who lives next door. This looks like fun. Can I play? Let's see...Britain is the once hot babe who lives across the street who has settled into early old age very badly, the kind of woman who overdoes her makeup and understates her age by more than a decade. She so adores the American hunk that she throws herself at him every chance she gets and is prepared to do whatever he demands of her, no matter how demeaning. In fact, desperate to recapture the glory of her long faded youth, she is allowing herself to become the laughingstock of the neighbourhood even as she deludes herself that the hunk loves her and will be true to her.

What is the difference between my gross caricature of a nation and *The Guardian's*? Mine was intended to be funny.

In local news: according to auditor Erik Peters, at the same time as the Ontario government was trimming about \$650 million from social programmes, it spent \$663 million on consultants. This included: former civil servants hired back at their old jobs for twice the pay; a \$3 million consulting contract that was twice as high as the lowest bid, and; a consultant who was paid \$455,000 even though his fee had been capped at \$25,000. I have an idea. Let all the people currently on Welfare call themselves consultants; before you know it, poverty in this province would be wiped out! Or, better, let them be MPPs and live off their expense accounts. Of course, if that ever happened, the government would probably quickly adopt a policy of zero tolerance for expense account fraud, but that would just be a bonus.

Don't you wish all governments engaged in this kind of innovative thinking?

During what one observer called a drunken dispute in the Ontario legislature, Labour Minister Brad Park shouted "You're a puke, you're a puke!" at an NDP MPP. Apparently, Park was not intoxicated; he thought "puke" was an ancient Celtic term for, "fine fellow who appreciates the holiday spirit." Hmm...maybe RIDE should expand to include the corridors of Queen's Park.

Ontario Minister for Oklahoma John Snobelen has finally ridden off into the sunset. Even before he resigned his seat, Snobelen was hard at work creating a crisis among the lazy cows on his ranch in order to get them to produce more milk.

In business news: did you hear the one about the financial commentator who thought he was an entertainer? Yeah – those who lost money following Brian Costello’s financial advice didn’t find the joke amusing, either.

Officers of insurance and finance company Conseco, Inc. expressed concern that they were only the third largest American company to declare bankruptcy. “Nobody will be able to catch WorldCom, of course,” one Board member stated, “but we really thought we had a chance at second place. We were only a couple billion dollars of debt short...” Umm, don’t you think that may have been the problem?

There is no truth to the rumour that, as part of her move to morph into a multinational conglomerate, Jennifer Lopez will be offering skin and hair samples frozen in amber. “The possibility that Ms. Lopez’ DNA could be found at dozens of crime scenes pretty much killed the idea,” a representatives of Jenny From the Hood World Domination and Music Enterprises, Incorporated commented.

On the entertainment scene: in response to a protest outside our offices, the Deadline News Network has put an article back on our Web site that it recently removed. DNN spokesperson Jasha Marconi said that the article had flaws that needed to be corrected. The article, originally entitled “*Deadline News* coverage protested,” listed the ways in which *Deadline News* twisted facts to support the upcoming war on Iraq. The reposted article, now called “The resurgence of top 10 radio,” now lists the seven best recipes for Christmas pudding.

Can you stop your protests now, please? You’re making it hard for me to get to my executive parking space!

By the way, there is absolutely no truth to the accusation that *Deadline News* supports a war in Iraq because we have spent over \$100,000 setting up a bureau in the Middle East and giving our correspondents there combat training. Actually, the reason is much simpler: we’ve got this killer graphic, and we don’t want the world to miss out on it!

Over 100 entertainers signed a letter urging the United States not to go to war with Iraq, including Tony Shalhoub, Mike Farrell and Martin Sheen, who plays President Jed Bartlett on TV’s *The West Wing*. “My approval ratings may not be as high as Bush’s,” Sheen commented, “but my TV ratings are higher than his, and I don’t have the power to appear on all three networks!”

CDs that include Bandlink software will track what users listen to when they use an Internet-enabled computer. But, this is only the beginning: the music industry intends to send somebody to your house to monitor what you listen to when you play pre-recorded audio cassettes. And, remember, kids, this is not an invasion of privacy – it’s intended to help the music industry better serve your needs.

Lord of the Rings made a gazillion dollars in its opening afternoon. “If I had known pointy ears equaled box office success,” exclaimed director Martin Scorsese, “I would

have made hobbits one of the *Gangs of New York*!” “Are you kidding? I’m planning on an all-Orc sequel to *Solaris*!” quipped director Steven Soderbergh. The mind boggles.

It is true that George Clooney has directed a film based on Chuck Barris’ memoirs as a game show producer and CIA assassin, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*. There is no truth to the rumour, however, that the working title was: *Gong...With Extreme Prejudice*.

NBC surprised a lot of people with its announcement that *Friends* would be picked up for another season. The series has been on the air so long that, if it had any basis in reality, by now it would be called *Insensitive, Back-stabbing Enemies Pretending to be Friends*.

And, now, a *Deadline News* editorial: a lot of ink has been shed over the renaming (“rechristening” doesn’t quite seem the appropriate term) of City Hall’s Christmas tree, which will now be known as a “holiday tree.” Pundits are claiming a multicultural conspiracy to make Christmas disappear from public life. Hmm...let’s see. Advertising with a Christmas theme started appearing on November 1. Christmas-themed muzak started being played in public places on December 1. Displays in stores with Christmas motifs started appearing two weeks before the holiday – sorry, before Christmas. Radio stations started playing Christmas songs two weeks before Christmas. Television stations started airing Christmas specials a week and a half before Christmas. Christmas parties have been going on for a week. Yes, clearly, Christmas is disappearing from public life. Somebody call Jack Bauer in to investigate this conspiracy!

Well, that’s my opinion, anyway.

And, finally: he knows when you are sleeping. He knows when you’re awake. He knows when you’ve been bad or good. What’s the difference between Secretary of Homeland Defense Tom Ridge and Santa Claus? The only people on Ridge’s goodie list are defense contractors. You better not shout. You better not cry. You better not pout. Let me tell you why: Santa Claus doesn’t have the power to detain people indefinitely without having to show probable cause.

Good night.

Deadline News: Silver Lining Central

NOTE TO AUDITORS: the new year gives us an opportunity to reconsider how we do things, and to dedicate ourselves to improving them. Here at *Deadline News*, we have decided to bring a little sunshine into your lives by finding a silver lining in each of the day’s headlines. It’s just our small attempt to make the world a brighter place...

Good evening.

Our top story tonight: even though North Korea is openly flaunting its broken promise not to develop nuclear weapons, going so far as to expel United Nations weapons inspectors, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States will not take immediate

preemptive military action against it. According to Powell, “I don’t want to create a sense of crisis.” Meanwhile, in ring three, President George Junior was shouting: “EVIL! EVIL! EVIL! WAR! WAR! WAR! NOW! NOW! NOW!” Clearly, one hand doesn’t know what button the other hand is pressing. SILVER LINING: all those people who bought flags to wave during the war in Afghanistan will be able to get them out of mothballs and hang them high. That’s value for your dollar!

President George Junior went on to announce that the United States had to attack Iraq in order to protect its economy. Why protecting the American economy from vague, unsubstantiated threats should be a UN priority, he didn’t say. This tactic is sometimes referred to in diplomatic circles as “making it up as you go along.” SILVER LINING: the new year starts with a chuckle.

In a related story: United Nations Secretary-General Koffi Annan stated that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had cooperated fully with UN weapons inspectors and, therefore, had given the US no reason to attack his country. Psychiatrists refer to this kind of behaviour as “Unwarranted Assertion of Personal Relevance.” If it persists, electroshock therapy may be called for. SILVER LINING: it’s just as well the United States hasn’t made good on its promise to supply the UN with classified evidence that Hussein has been pursuing the production of weapons of mass destruction – you wouldn’t want that information in the hands of crazy people!

In other news: [] Palestinians died in an Israeli “targeted killing,” including [] children. [] Israelis were killed in a suicide bombing, including [] children. [] Palestinians were killed in an Israeli raid on the West Bank in retaliation for the killing of Israeli civilians. [] Israelis were killed in an attack on a café in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian civilians. You know the story; simply choose the most relevant sentence and fill in the latest numbers. SILVER LINING: it saves us from having to go to the effort of doing any original reporting.

Ottawa will not be regulating auto factory emissions to ensure they comply with Canada’s Kyoto Protocol commitments. Cow flatulence, on the other hand, is still fair game. SILVER LINING: I’m going to enjoy seeing federal bureaucrats measuring cow flatulence out in the field to see if farmers are Kyoto compliant.

Alberta MLA Doug Griffiths said he will not register his gun as a protest against the federal government’s firearms law. According to Griffiths, “a firearm is a tool.” In response, Sloop Doggy B, leader of the In-law Outlaws gang, said, “At last, a politician who understands the plight of the average inner city working stiff! I would vote for him...if I wasn’t stuck in here on a manslaughter charge.” SILVER LINING: people who die as a result of gun violence can rest easy with the knowledge that the property rights of gun owners have been vigorously defended.

Tiny pandas wearing swastika baseball caps appeared in paper crackers at a few Christmas parties in Quebec this season. “Oops. Sorry,” said Dirk Blodgett, spokesman for the Western Guard. “Hee hee. Those were meant for us.” SILVER LINING: if the

Chinese toys give pandas a bad enough reputation, the country will be able to stop apologizing for driving them to extinction. BRONZE LINING: Hindus and Jains have plenty of other symbols of good fortune to choose from.

Raelians claim to have created the first human clone. Ho hum. You've experienced one virgin birth, you've experienced them all. SILVER LINING: nobody actually had to have sex with Raelian founder Claude Vorilhon.

An agreement has been signed to build a pipeline across Afghanistan from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. "What a wonderful surprise!" the US State Department chirped. "You get rid of a tyrannical regime, and your puppet government hands your corporations a pipeline!" Asked why the story hadn't been more prominently covered by the press, the State Department chided, "We don't want to embarrass an ally by gushing over its good deeds, you big silly!" It's been a long time since I've seen the State Department so...perky. SILVER LINING: Somewhere, a Unocal sleeps better tonight.

On the entertainment scene: Montana resident Jack Ass is suing media giant Viacom claiming that its film *Jackass* defamed his character. What a great concept! I'm going to change my name to Titanic and sue James Cameron for making me look like a mindless romantic with no discernible personality! SILVER LINING: if critics can't stop the flow of bad movies to the theatres, perhaps lawsuits can.

And, now, a *Deadline News* entertainment update: the evolution of *Die Another Day* print advertisements is almost complete: Halle Berry's Jinx no longer holds a gun, and she is positioned below Pierce Brosnan's James Bond. All the producers need to do is exchange her leather for a bikini and they will manage to have turned one of the most interesting female characters in a Bond film into just another Bond bimbo. SILVER LINING: the yobbos who no longer feel threatened by Jinx' portrayal in the ads should finally be lured into theatres.

And, now, a *Deadline News* editorial: thank goodness for *Globe* columnist Marcus Gee, who brought a little comic relief to a grim holiday season when he wrote: "If the papers didn't expose scandals, corruption would flourish." Laughter is the best – wh – what? What do you mean, he was serious? Did coverage of the scandals in the Mulroney government stop the scandals of the Chretien government? Did coverage of the corrupt business practices in the 1980s even marginally slow down corruption in corporate boardrooms at the end of the millennium? Either Gee is a master satirist, or we should get all Francoise Ducros on his ass. SILVER LINING: either way, we're entertained.

Well, that's my opinion, anyway.

And, finally: this is the time of year for people to share their remedies for hangovers. Here's mine: don't drink alcohol. It's cheap and surprisingly effective. SILVER LINING: using my method, it will be impossible for you to drive drunk, which greatly reduces the possibility of killing somebody while under the influence.

Good night.

Deadline News: Deep (Throat) Denials

NOTE TO AUDITORS: last week, we tried to find a silver lining in all of the news items we presented. Unfortunately, every time we announced a silver lining, our ratings went down. So, much as we loved the idea, we're going to leave that shit to Disney.

Good evening.

Our top story tonight: The federal government still hasn't released any details about how it intends to comply with Kyoto Protocol targets, prompting speculation that it doesn't – OH, LOOK! UP THERE! Is that – could it possibly – yes! Yes, it is! The Exemption Fairy! Oh, wise and wondrous Exemption Fairy, upon whom will you bestow your largesse this fine day? Ontario's automobile industry? Oh, grand and exalted Exemption Fairy, how can we ever repay you for this unforeseen act of kindness? Yes. Of course. Vote Liberal in the next election. But – oh. Until next time, then, Exemption Fairy. Goodbye. Goooooodbyyyyye!

Ahem.

In other news: reports of American special forces and CIA agents working inside Iraq have been denied by the White House. "They're just on vacation," Ari "Or Arin'ti" Fleischer stated. "If they just happen to drop beacons that our weapons can home in on in strategically important areas, well, isn't that a lucky break? Of course, we're not actually bombing places where advanced military hardware has been dropped accidentally by forgetful vacationers because – hee hee – that would be an act of war, and we will not be pursuing military action against Iraq until the United Nations weapons inspectors have filed their report at the end of January."

At this point, Fleischer was winking so madly an assistant handed him eye drops and a tissue.

In other wars news: the day after Defence Secretary Donnie "Darko" Rumsfeld announced that the United States would, if pressed, fight a war against both Iraq and North Korea, Secretary of State Colin Powell firmly stated that the US would, instead, seek a diplomatic solution to North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons. In the hood, this is known as "a major bitch slappin'." In politics, this is known as "position clarification."

An anti-war protest did not recently take place. One hundred thousand people did not take to the streets demanding a peaceful resolution to our disagreements with Iraq. Impassioned speakers begging President George Junior not to kill more Iraqi children were not made. Remember: you didn't hear it here first.

In response to being urged to leave Iraq, representatives of dictator Saddam Hussein stated that he would "fight to the last drop of blood." Not his own, of course – whatever

blood just happens to be lying around. Gives a whole new meaning to the concept of blood donation programmes, doesn't it?

And, now, a word from our sponsor.

More bias...more lies...more distorted views...less news...more propaganda...more evasions...more unsubstantiated accusations...more dubious assertions...more hacks...less facts...more of the things you want, like support for an extreme right agenda that has no basis in reality. *The Irrational Post*. Get your subscriptions! We can't afford to keep giving these things away!

A Canadian man who told the RCMP that five terrorists were smuggled across the border into the United States may have made the whole story up to get an American criminal charge against him dropped. The first tip-off that something was not quite right with his story came last week, when it was revealed that all five of the suspects he described bore an uncanny resemblance to Boris Karloff. Now, FBI sources believe the additional 19 terrorists he claimed to sell fake passports to did not really include Mr. J. F. Kennedy, Mr. C. Chaplin or Mr. M. K. Gandhi.

Nova Scotia MP Peter McKay has reversed himself and said that, even though he has "profound problems" with the federal gun registry, he will comply with it. Hmm...a lawyer and former crown prosecutor decides to obey the law...yep, Tory leadership material, for sure. Oh, and, Peter? Remember: shotguns don't kill political careers, shooting from the lip does.

In a thinly related story, hoping to capitalize on its brand, US gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson intends to put its name and logo on niblicks and mashies. Remember, kids: golf clubs don't kill people...

In business news: Microsoft Corporation has announced its intention to sue Max' Windows, claiming the similarity between its name and Microsoft Windows is damaging Microsoft's business. A stunned Max Lindblum responded: "We're not a computer company. We wash windows. On houses. And, office buildings." It is now clear that Microsoft will not stop until everybody in the world is paying a royalty on the "w" word. For this reason, Deadline News will in future refer to windows as "transparent exterior viewing devices..."

The stock market rallied a little on news that President George Junior intended to cut taxes by about \$650 billion. Makes sense. When he took office, George Junior cut taxes by \$1.35 trillion, and the market dropped for the next two years. If he cuts taxes by only half as much, the market should only fall for another year. Break out the champagne!

According to George Junior, the tax cut, the majority of which will be on stock dividends, is intended to help the average American family. Since almost half of Americans do not own dividend-paying stocks, the average American will get absolutely nothing, but let's stick with the official rationale for a moment. Americans making less than \$50,000 would

be eligible to save \$84 on their tax bill; Americans making more than \$1 million, on the other hand, would save \$27,000 annually. This is not, however, a tax giveaway to the rich. “With so many companies in the red or declaring bankruptcy, very few people are actually getting dividends!” the White House assures us. Gee, and I thought we weren’t doing silver linings any more.

And, now, a *Deadline News* editorial: with the announcement that the United States intends to negotiate an end to North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear arms, I feel it is my duty to the safety of the world to come forth and admit that I have been fooling around with weapons grade plutonium in the workshop above my garage. Twist my arm, and maybe I can be convinced to stop, but I want the American government to keep in mind that I need to redecorate the guest room **and** trade in the family station wagon for a new vehicle.

Well, that’s my position, anyway.

And, finally: Paul Shaeffer wants Canadians to visit New York City. The American government wants Canadians to be subjected to hostile questioning at the border with the promise of long delays and humiliating strip searches for anybody who is in the least uncooperative. Who do you think is more likely to get their way?

Good Night.

Your transparent exterior viewing device on the world – this is *Deadline News*...

Deadline News: Naked Came the Anchor

Good evening.

Our top story tonight: according to a front page article in *The Globe and Mail*, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said Canada would not agree to fight a war in Iraq without United Nations approval. According to *The Toronto Star*, Chretien said Canada might go to war without UN approval. To determine who was right, Deadline News has received the following transcript of the press conference: “[mumble mumble mumble] Iraq [mumble mumble mumble] United Nations [mumble cough mumble] United States war [mumble mumble mumble] whop bop a loo bop a whop bam boom!” Hard to tell if this proves either newspaper’s claim, but I suspect it’s a sentiment a majority of Canadians could get behind.

For those of you who are visually impaired, I am taking off my jacket and insouciantly throwing it across the roo – oh! Sorry about that...you know, if you put a steak on that, the swelling should go down in a couple of days...

In other news, in his State of the Union address, American President George Junior compared Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler. In response, former Hitler Manuel Noriega sniffed, “That petty tyrant a Hitler? Please! He hasn’t invaded another country in over a decade, even if he dreams of world domination – and, who doesn’t? – he has no military

or decently destructive weapons and he isn't even trying to kill ethnic minorities in his country any more. I mean, really! These days, they'll call anybody they don't like Hitler!" Noriega suggested the US institute a "Hitler Index." Noriega could be seven tenths of a Hitler while Hussein might be three quarters of a Hitler. "No way!" Noriega shouted. "I'm more of a Hitler than he'll ever be!"

George Junior also claimed Saddam Hussein "asked for more time so he can give the so-called inspectors more runaround." Nice words coming from a so-called President.

New for the holidays: the Hans Blix action figure. Pull the string, and it says, "We're getting acceptable levels of cooperation." But, whisper the magic words, "The United States wants a war," into its ear, and suddenly it changes its tune to: "Nope. He's not cooperating." In a box somewhere in Guantanamo Bay, the little voice that used to be in my head must be feeling pretty satisfied – assuming it's allowed to get current news.

For those tuning in to tonight's broadcast on Air Force Radio, I'm – aagh – trying to take off my – urk! – tie...my wife usually ties it for me, and – ack! – can I get a pair of scissors, here? Isn't there a pair of – thank you. Thank you. The tie is now gone.

Jack Layton handily won the leadership of the New Democratic Party, but odds are 5-12 you care more about the fact you lost money on the Super Bowl the next day, so forget I mentioned it. (Odds are 1-50 you already have.)

Canada's Privacy Commissioner George Radwanski warns that citizens rights have been increasingly under attack since 9/11. However, a quick scan of his medical records shows that he has several conditions which will ensure that he doesn't live out his term. In fact, the listing of fast food restaurants on his credit history indicates that he is in imminent danger of having a heart attack. When he's gone, expect the government to appoint somebody with a sunnier disposition.

For those of you who are ironing the laundry while watching the news, I'm slowly unbuttoning my shirt, revealing a manly undershirt beneath. Though I would be the first to admit that I'm no Stanley Kowalski, Fruit of the Loom has paid to have its undershirt placed on my chest. That sound you're hearing is Paddy Chayefsky spinning madly in his grave.

A report from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has suggested that Canada should integrate its energy supply into a continental market. Critics suggest that this would give the United States a say in Canadian energy policy. Hasn't DFAIT heard that the story that beavers gnaw off their own testicles and hand them to their enemies isn't true?

For those of you who are turning away out of squeamishness, I am, indeed, taking off my undershirt, revealing a manly chest full of – no, don't turn back to look. You'll spoil – alright, alright. I have a sparse growth of white hairs on my quickly sinking chest. You don't have to look, now. Satisfied?

President George Junior declared January 19 National Sanctity of Human Life Day, urging every American to “reaffirm our commitment to respecting the life and dignity of every human being.” * Funny that he wasn’t making any such declarations when he was installing a revolving door in Texas’ gas chamber...

And, speaking of killing in the name of the sanctity of life, four of the seven declared candidates for the Democratic Party’s Presidential nomination came out against former Illinois Governor George Ryan’s commuting of the death penalty for all 167 death row inmates in his state. Although the application of the death penalty appears to be racist and there have been several recent example of innocent people going to death row, the Democrats don’t want to be Dukakised (accused of being soft on crime). Sounds like Dukaka to me. Does saying so make me a Dukakommie? Maybe the Democrats should stop Dukasskissing the worst elements of the Republican Party.

For those of you who are on hallucinogenic substances, you are seeing correctly. I am taking off my shoes on national television. Get used to it.

President George Junior says his government will challenge the University of Michigan’s affirmative action policy. “Writing it down. That was our mistake,” a representative of the University’s Board of Governors commented. “We should have watched *Gentlemen’s Agreement* before we decided on how to get more black and Latin students to attend the university.” Somewhere, Trent Lott is laughing his ass off, which is fine by the Republicans as long as he doesn’t do it in public.

Incredible Disappearing Vice President Dick Cheney has not been heard from for at least 37 days, now. Until his role in the Enron and Haliburton scandals is revealed, the government won’t know whether to put him on the sides of milk cartons or on the 10 most wanted list.

Yes, yes, I know I’m wearing socks with pink bunnies on them. I’ve been meaning to get plain – unpatterned socks – but dealing with impending war has been my first priority. There – gone! I trust we shall speak no more of this.

In local news: documents relating to a recent deal with a private consortium to renovate Toronto’s Union Station have been shredded. A painstaking reconstruction of the pieces of paper undertaken by experts on behalf of *Deadline News* yielded the following: “...garble garble...fldshpunk...Lastma...woowooowooks...credible creti...make out like bandits...shkwwwaaark!” The meaning couldn’t be clearer.

In business news: DaimlerChrysler is asking for \$300 million in federal and provincial aid in order to put a new automobile assembly plant in Windsor, Ontario. Company representative Guido “Malletfists” Capone said, “Dis beats shakin’ down corner grocers fer pennies!”

I'm now going to take off my...uhh...watch! Phew! There you go. My watch, ladies and gentlemen. Gone.

And now, a *Deadline News* editorial: advertisements in the United States are claiming that using drugs supports terrorism. Actually, the Taliban outlawed the heroin trade, which picked up again after they were driven from Afghanistan. It might be closer to the truth to claim that drug use supports American-imposed ersatz democracies. But, let us not be bogged down by facts. Does anybody really believe a junkie is going to say to himself, "I've been injecting crack into my eyeballs for years, but it's paying for suicide bombers, so I'm going into rehab as soon as my stash runs out!" How do you think he's even going to see the ads? Dude probably hocked the TV set years ago to pay for his habit!

Well, that's my opinion, anyway.

And, finally...okay. I remove my underpants. Here I stand, a late middle aged man with liver spots and the beginnings of varicose veins, a growing paunch and a spreading bald spot and a shriveled penis. Who was the moron who thought this was going to boost ratings?

Good night.

* Except Palestinians, Iraqi civilians, Afghani civilians or anybody else who foolishly gets in the way of our lust for oil.

Deadline News Special Report: Crisis in the American Imaginary

So much like the real world, yet so different in so many crucial respects. I'm speaking, of course, of the American Imaginary, that magical place where sworn enemies work together so we can conveniently attack both and cattle farmers in Texas live in constant fear of terrorists plowing jumbo jets into their homes. This is a *Deadline News* Special Report: Crisis in the American Imaginary.

Good evening. I'm your host, Rex Veneer.

Newspaper headlines screamed: "White death falls from sky." Few injuries were actually reported, although the eastern seaboard was paralyzed, with business in major cities like New York grinding to a halt. It's called snow, guys. It's a natural phenomenon, not a terrorist attack.

Are Americans fixated, or what?

The American government has helpfully suggested that, in case of a terrorist attack, citizens could make a safe shelter in their basements using duct tape. Canadian Minister of Tools Red Green responded that "while we always want to help our American allies,

we have to ensure that Canada's vital duct tape supplies are sufficient to meet Canada's needs." He denied rumours that the Chretien government is negotiating a secret deal to supply the United States with duct tape in case of emergency, then invited journalists to "come outside and see my giant goose." Nobody took him up on his offer.

At the same time, people who built bomb shelters in the 1950s were openly gloating. "Kids today don't know what panic is," said shelter owner Mickey "Munkey" Manocchio. "We perfected social panic before you were born!" They stopped gloating when they realized that grass had grown over the doors to the underground shelters and, as a result, they no longer knew where the shelters were.

Turkey now says it will not allow the United States to put military bases in the country unless the US increases its proposed aid package to \$30 billion. Colin Powell said that was too much, and suggested that the US will send Special Envoy Tony Soprano to explain to the Turks why reneging on deals is a bad idea in international politics.

Hmm... "coalition of the paid off..." Doesn't have the necessary ring of moral clarity, does it? Strike it from the Imaginary.

One member of the American Invisible Party – known in the real world as the Democrats – turned off his cloaking device long enough to give an impassioned speech where he argued, among other things, "I truly must question the judgment of any President who can say that a massive unprovoked military attack on a nation which is over 50% children is 'in the highest moral traditions of our country.'" Good to see that there's still one Senator who can flip the warmongers in the White House the Byrd, even if coverage of his speech was limited to a paragraph in the back of the classifieds section of the *Peahawkin Daily Intelligencer*.

Millions of people in countries throughout the world took to the streets protesting against the possible war in Iraq, posing a serious threat to the American Imaginary, in which a grateful world warmly supports American intervention wherever America sees fit to, uhh, intervene. Pro-war journalists were especially incensed that the anti-war demonstrators were not violent, giving columnists no overt reason to dismiss them. "Peaceful peace activists," Margaret Wentz commented in *The Globe and Mail*, "What's wrong with this picture?"

Mmm...

Reaction to the protests was swift. United States National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said the world "needs to pull itself together." She stopped short of telling the world to go to bed without its supper, but the US has clearly left that option open. Meanwhile, the *Sun*'s Bob MacDonald wrote that world leaders should stand up to the "mob" of peace protestors. Hmm...not listening to the peacefully expressed will of the people – this is the model of democracy those who support war want to impose on Iraq? What exactly will have changed, Bob?

A couple of days later, President George Junior commented that “Democracy is a beautiful thing,” but he wouldn’t let it get in the way of what he wanted to do. He claimed that doing so would be like saying, “Well, I’m going to decide policy based on a focus group.” When asked how much his government had spent on focus groups and other polls, George Junior angrily retorted, “Can we please stay on message, here? Please?”

The peace rallies have had an unexpected effect: they drove down the price of Saddam futures, which are basically bets on the likelihood that the Iraqi dictator will be driven from office by March 31. There is a 75 per cent chance that market players involved in this are insensitive jerks, while it’s almost a dead cert that the whole exercise is tacky as hell.

Last week, several television networks ran excerpts from an audio tape purported to be from Osama bin Laden. All I can say is: ARE YOU INSANE? DON’T YOU KNOW THOSE TAPES CAN CONTAIN SECRET CODED MESSAGES TO TERRORIST SLEEPER CELLS IN NORTH AMERICA! IF THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SEC – WHAT? WHAT! ... The State Department authorized the use of the tapes? ... I wish they’d make up their bloody minds!

Proponents of the war dug deep into the Imaginary to suggest that a democratic Iraq will be a model for other Arab states in the region. “Oh, dear,” an unnamed member of the Saudi royal family responded. “I guess I better torture as many dissidents as I can before our nation becomes democratic.” He then snickered loudly into his beard.

It could have been worse. He could have laughed out loud.

Debate is raging in academia – stay with me; this is more important than it may initially sound – over whether or not scientific journals should publish papers which may give terrorists information about how to develop deadly strains of biological weapons. Hey, if you really want to make the world safer, STOP SELLING BIOLOGICAL AGENTS TO ANY BLOODTHIRSTY REGIME WITH A SMILE AND A SACK FULL OF MONEY!

Just a thought.

And, now, a guest editorial by Nuclear Energy Consultant Homer Simpson: “Critics of this administration’s policy on Iraq are saying we’re only in it for the oil. This is clearly not the...mmm...oil...” Homer? Homer? “D’oh!”

Well, that’s his opinion, anyway.

We have to take a break. When we come back: the European anti-war movement: a bunch of brochette eating, café hopping, beret wearing, smug anti-American intellectuals, or something really sinister? The American Imaginary is harsh on people who insist upon questioning it, but just how harsh can it get? We may be looking at the return of nationality-based light bulb jokes... Stay with us...

The Irrational

“Tonight: Ontario’s plan to ban teachers’ strikes: eating their hands at the mongrel dogs who teach?”

“Crib erector monomaniac electorate. Has the world stopped making sense to you? Later in the broadcast, festooned saliva hugga mugga sashaying intertwined bookcases.

“Even later in the broadcast: American rabid attack dog James Woolsey makes threatening noises...”

“Arf wrowrf rowf Syria grr grr grr terrorist supporting fascists woof woof regime change yap yap yap!”

“Will Syria be America’s next target, or should Woolsey be put down?”

“This is *The Irrational*, with Joseph Anchor.”

Good evening. Cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome are increasing, the number of dead in Canada alone having risen to 15. But, is it a serious threat to your personal health? Sylvia Ferberance reports.

“This is what is known about SARS: the most likely place to catch it is still a hospital. It is not easy to catch, and can be avoided by simple acts such as frequent and thorough washing of the hands. If caught early, the disease is easily controlled. So, given all of this, now is obviously the time to PANIC! SHUT YOURSELF IN YOUR HOME AND NEVER GO OUT! STOP SEEING FRIENDS! STOP SEEING FAMILY! GET ALL YOUR FOOD AND GROCERIES DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME AND BUY GUNS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE HORDES OF ROAMING LOOTERS WHO ARE EVEN NOW PLOTTING TO STEAL WHAT’S YOURS! Nobody knows if the Howard Hughes defence will actually save you from SARS because, frankly, none of its practitioners are answering their phone. For *The Irrational*, this is Sylvia Ferberance in Ottawa.”

To allay international fears about a World Health Organization warning to stay away from Toronto, Mayor Mel Lastman appeared on the American Deadline News Network. This is a partial transcript of the Interview:

VERNEER: Mister Mayor, thank you for agreeing to appear on the show.

LASTMAN: My pleasure, Rex.

VERNEER: Now, according to the World Health Organization –

LASTMAN: Who?

VENEER: That's right. WHO. Now –

LASTMAN: No, I asked you.

VENEER: What?

LASTMAN: No. Who?

VENEER: Yes.

LASTMAN: What?

VENEER: The...the World Health Organization.

LASTMAN: Who?

VENEER: Exactly.

LASTMAN: Okay, now I'm totally confused.

The conversation continued in this vein for another 20 minutes. Rumour has it that, after this performance, Lastman is being considered to star in his own reality programme, to be scheduled right after Anna Nicole Smith.

Also on the subject of SARS, a Toronto ad firm has suggested that the city advertise itself to foreign thrillseekers by offering to give them an "Extreme Adventure." Oddly enough, nobody in the municipal government is returning the firm's calls.

Has the United States found the smoking gun that will retroactively justify its going to war in Iraq? War correspondent Germaine Tims-Stimson has this report.

"American troops combing the Iraqi countryside for weapons of mass destruction claim to have found a scientist who claims to have worked on Iraq's chemical weapons programme. There is no way to verify these claims, however, because the Americans won't let reporters interview the scientist. In fact, US military officials refuse to release his name or details of the alleged weapons. I was, however, able to get this partial transcript of the alleged scientist's debriefing..."

SCIENTIST: Oh, yeah. Sure. I worked on Iraq's super-top-secret nuclear weapons pro –

DEBRIEFER: Chemical.

SCIENTIST: Did I say...? Sorry. Chemical weapons. I worked on Iraq's chemical weapons programme. Iraq. Right.

[pause]

DEBRIEFER: And, why have we so far been unable to find any proof that Iraq had a functioning chemical weapons programme?

SCIENTIST: Ah, well, because of the United Nations weapons inspections, Iraq moved all of its chemical weapons to, ahh...Iran?

DEBRIEFER: Syria.

SCIENTIST: Syria. Right. I remember it quite clearly. "Where you going with those chemical weapons?" I asked Saddam. And, he said, "Syria." Just like that. Did I mention he also said he was giving some to Al Qaeda?

DEBRIEFER: How would you know that? Can we edit that part out? Anybody? Can we – we're gonna edit that part out.

SCIENTIST: (shrugs) Okay, okay. No need to snap at me – I was just trying to be helpful...

"If this transcript is correct, expect it to be debated in the United Nations for the next decade while the United States readies itself to take over Syria. This is Germaine Tims-Stimson, reporting from Baghdad."

In a related story, American all news network *Deadline News* spokespeople have complained about the Ceeb's coverage of the war on Iraq, claiming that it has been biased. Then, Beeb director General Greg Dyke said that, "Personally, I was shocked while in the United States by how unquestioning the broadcast news media was during this war," singling out the Fox News Network as being especially biased. Completing the chain, representatives of Fox complained that *Deadline News* was too liberal. And, of course, I'm on the Ceeb reporting on all of them. Political bias – it seems that's one thing all media can agree on.

Given its deep financial problems, analysts are calling for the government to allow foreign investment in Canada's airline industry. But is foreign investment really the panacea they claim? Transportation and Human Sacrifices specialist Pallas Athena reports.

"Drastic cuts in fares have forced Air Canada, the country's only major airline, into bankruptcy. Would American investment help? Don Carty, CEO of American Airlines, thinks so, and recently made his case..."

"Canadian, phooey! Your companies got no balls! Cutting airfares was a start, but you didn't follow through by forcing concessions outta your unions! I mean, you guys don't even know how to administer sensitive corporate information! Don't release executive

compensation figures until after a big union vote on lower wage and benefit packages – I mean, that’s just common sense!”

“Then, Carty resigned. This is Pallas reporting from Dallas for *The Irrational*.

In a related story, Air Canada head Robert Milton has complained he didn’t know what went wrong with the airline. “We cut revenues, demanded absurd concessions from our workers and claimed to have the solution to a crisis we created. It worked for Mike Harris...” The difference, of course, is that when governments don’t properly fund services, they turn to business to fill the gap, but when businesses don’t properly fund services, they turn to government to help cover their losses.

Later in the broadcast, even less about the Tory leadership convention...

The Irrational: The Passing Charade

Gentlemen, SARS Your Engines: Now that the World Health Organization has lifted its advisory against traveling to Toronto, people in the rest of Canada wonder: is it safe to smugly despise the city again?

Irony Deficiency: Donald Rumsfeld tells Iran the United States will not tolerate any country interfering with the internal politics of Iraq, and not a single American gets the joke.

Shiite Happens: American troops fire on Iraqi protesters, killing 13 and wounding as many as 75. Rumsfeld says free people are free to freely die at the hands of a foreign occupying army. Americans still not laughing as irony takes another hit.

Can’t West?: CanWest Global has replaced senior employees at its financially strapped National Post newspaper. Is this a case of rearranging the deck hands on the Titanic?

The Orphan Defense: companies that reported inflated earnings to boost their stock prices, including WorldCom, Enron and Qwest, are asking for refunds on the taxes they paid, arguing that they didn’t make as much as they had claimed. Chutzpah is redefined yet again.

“From a corner booth in the back of Sung-Tao Sushi on Spadina, this it **The Irrational**, with host Joe Anchor.”

Good evening. Joe is on a leave of absence to take a course in Anchor management. Filling in for him, I’m Ian Hawdogoatsing.

For the latest on the SARS virus, we go to Sylvia Ferberance, reporting from Ottawa.

“Ian, no new cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome have been reported in close to a month, and the World Health Organization has lifted its travel warning for Toronto.

Does this mean the worst is over? ABSOLUTELY NOT! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE WEST NILE VIRUS? PANIC! PANIC! PANIC! PANIC! THAT BUZZING YOU HEAR IS YOUR IMMINENT PAINFUL DEMISE! COVER EVERY INCH OF YOUR BODY THE MOMENT YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE, EVEN IN SWELTERING HEAT! ESPECIALLY IN SWELTERING HEAT! BETTER YET: NEVER...LEAVE...YOUR...HOUSE! This is Sylvia Ferberance for *The Irrational*."

United Nations chief weapons inspector Hans Blix has offered to head back to Iraq with his team now that the country has been conquered by the United States. To date, the US has refused his offer. However, as *The Irrational*'s Subaru Debutante reports, Blix has not been idle in this time.

"How...how many sprinkles? Are they within limits set by the United Nations?"

"Hans Blix' work in Iraq may be over, but he hasn't been idle. Last month, Tim Horton's issued orders to its bakers to stop making oversized doughnuts. The chain hired Blix to go into its stores across Canada to ensure that the rules on doughnut size are being respected. Some store owners are beginning to treat with suspicion any customers with a heavy Swedish accent, but Blix insists that he has been given free reign to search where he will, and is confident that the integrity of the results will speak for themselves. In Ottawa, this is Subaru Debutante."

In a *Toronto Star* poll, the readers' choice for best dressed Canadian male was Don Cherry. Clearly, being colour-blind and pattern-unselfconscious is a plus in this country, Hoser Chic being one more thing that differentiates us from our southern neighbours. For some reason, I find no comfort in this...

Liberal leadership candidate Rip van Martin recently awoke and began to talk in policies, a sure sign that an election is mere months away. Rahul Festrunk reports.

"Paul Martin started his Liberal leadership campaign by stating that Canada should take a role in the American missile defense system initiative, popularly known as Star Wars. Oddly, his chin started growing as soon as the idea left his lips. Then, he stated that Canada should be prepared to act on its own (read: in collaboration with the United States) when consensus could not be reached at the United Nations, and...and his voice began to deepen. Could Martin be haunted by the ghost of Brian Mulroney? And, what did Canada ever do to deserve that? Reporting from Ottawa, this is Rahul Festrunk for *The Irrational*."

The war on Iraq is all but over, but the repercussions continue to be felt. War correspondent Germaine Tims-Stimson has this report.

"We cannot afford to fail the American people, especially our troops overseas."

"With this statement, Treasury Secretary John Snow argued that it was necessary to pass President George Bush's \$750 billion tax cut package. The circle of justification is now

complete: wage war to protect the American way of life; change the American way of life to protect warriors. Representatives of the Bush administration have hinted off the record that troops on foreign soil will be used to justify a lot of the government's domestic policies, including funding cutbacks to schools and hospitals, easing of environmental protections and efforts to undermine the Roe vs. Wade decision on abortion. This is Germaine Tims-Stimson reporting from... Washington by way of Iraq."

The United States has made public a road map to peace in the Middle East. Both Israelis and Arabs are skeptical, however, since everybody knows that men don't like to consult maps.

Is Canadian television programming in jeopardy? Arts correspondent Eloise Tendentious reports on the latest finding flap.

"It all began when Finance Minister John Manley took \$25 million out of the Canadian Television Fund, threatening the future of popular shows like *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and critically acclaimed shows such as *The Eleventh Hour*. Then, Heritage Minister Sheila Copps announced that the money would be reinstated. Soon after, Manley told Copps that she would have to find the money in her own ministry, because she would otherwise have to pry it from his cold, dead budget. This would make a great soap opera, except, of course, that there's no money to produce it. But, hey, doesn't Sonja Smits look great leading protests? In Ottawa, this is Eloise Tendentious reporting for *The Irrational*."

I've always wondered: Is *The Eleventh Hour* half the show *22 Minutes* is, or is it the other way around?

Later in the broadcast: American Ambassador Paul Cellucci has warned the Canadian government that if it insists upon liberalizing the country's marijuana laws, there will be increased delays at the border. Some Canadians are outraged at this renewed attack on the country's sovereignty, others are wondering why Cellucci has stated positions on more policies than Liberal Party leadership candidates John Manley and Sheila Copps...

NewsWeird: *Sunday Reports*: Maximum Culpa

He traveled the world. He had the ears of the powerful, but he never lost the common touch. His analysis was insightful, yet accessible to those with the reading skills or IQs of a nine year-old. He was well groomed. He was a perfect journalist, except for one thing.

It was all lies.

"This is *Sunday Reports*, with host Wendy Miserly."

Less than 24 hours ago, *The Irrational*'s rising young star Bryson Pecobia resigned from the news show amid allegations that 17 of his stories had been either plagiarized or completely fabricated.

In one now infamous example, a Pecobia report on infighting at the United Nations featured six minutes of footage of Foster Hewitt doing play-by-play announcing of a Leafs-Canadiens hockey game originally played in 1971. “You got something against Foster Hewitt?” Pecobia defended himself in an exclusive interview with *Sunday Reports*. “Don’t say anything bad about Foster Hewitt – he made this country what it is today!” Pecobia did allow, however, that if he hadn’t been under deadline pressure, he would have chosen a more exciting game.

To cite another example, in a report on the war on Iraq filed last month, Pecobia was found by producers at *The Irrational* to have quoted 17 consecutive paragraphs of Homer’s *The Iliad* without attribution. (Actually, it was 19 paragraphs, but this is a minor quibble.) Pecobia apologized, claiming that he honestly thought that the material was original. Despite this breach of journalistic ethics, MotherCorp executives and senior producers at *The Irrational* stood by Pecobia, who, they argued, had proven himself to be an enterprising and well groomed journalist.

It’s not that segment producers at the show were not made aware of the problems with Pecobia’s reporting. In one case, a viewer wrote to complain about 137 errors in a 30 second report on the Shaw Festival. These ranged from a supered title that called it the Pshaw Festival (with no ironic intent), a background that was actually looped footage of the Zapruder film and Pecobia claiming that Ontario’s theatre festival was an important tourist attraction in Beirut.

“Well, that’s just nitpicking,” Pecobia defended himself at the time. Apparently, producer Rose Blumenthal agreed. Pecobia was docked a week’s pay and told to take a high school remedial geography course. There is no record of whether or not he actually did.

Another example of Pecobia’s fabrications being brought to the attention of the show’s producers but not resulting in meaningful corrective action came as a result of perhaps his most famous news item: Mother X. This told the tale of Alice, a one-legged, crack addicted single mother who worked as a prostitute so she could afford the trailer she lived in with her 12 children, and who sold her eggs over the Internet to infertile couples in order to pay for pablum for her six month old triplets. The week long series was nominated for several of Canada’s most prestigious journalism awards.

A few days after it first aired, a woman claiming to be Alice started calling producer Sidney Brumenthal to complain about inaccuracies in the series. The woman claimed that she was actually an able-bodied mother of three who lived in a comfortable home in Scarborough with her husband, and that her only addiction was to *The Antiques Road Show*. She added that she thought Pecobia was interviewing her for a story on public funding for private schools, and that she was mortified when friends and family gathered around her television set to watch her TV debut.

Pecobia argued that Alice was suffering from a delusion fed by her crack addiction, and that, anyway, everybody knows that poor people don’t like admitting they’re poor. However, Brumenthal had doubts about the series: who would volunteer the information

that they were addicted to The Antiques Roadshow if they didn't have to? A follow-up interview proved that Alice's claims were basically correct.

As punishment, Pecobia received a sternly worded memo about following network journalistic ethics policies and was benched for *The Irrational's* next three intra-network softball games. (He was actually supposed to be benched for six games, but when *The Irrational* was beaten by a team from a puppet show, the punishment was lightened to save *The Irrational* from further embarrassment.)

Not all of Pecobia's errors were so obvious. In light of the problems that had been brought to their attention, senior producers at MotherCorp took a second look at all of the items he had written, finding problems with at least 57. In one item, he called Peoria "Pea Soup, Illinois." In another, he referred to Queen Elizabeth as "the sovereign ruler of the Lower Antilles, and a woman who gives a mean foot massage." He also misidentified Jian Ghomeshi as the king of Spain.

Some people have started asking if Pecobia would not have gotten away with his fabrications for so long if he wasn't white. Would he have been stopped much sooner if he hadn't been part of *The Irrational's* cozy Caucasian corporate culture?

Well, actually, nobody in journalism ever asks questions like that. But, if anybody did, Blue Rosenthal, head of public affairs programming at MotherCorp, would have had a ready response: "Everybody loves a suck up. It doesn't matter what colour a writer is...if he sucks up to an editor, the editor is likely to cut him a lot of slack."

This is supposed to be reassuring.

Rumours that the producers who didn't hold Pecobia to the programme's standards face disciplinary action have engendered a quick response from Mother Corporation. "There will be no witch hunts here," Rosenthal claimed. He could not explain, however, the internal memo that asked all employees to collect wood chips and small pieces of flammable material and deposit them with his secretary.

Pundits have begun to wonder if the crisis at such a prestigious show as *The Irrational* might seriously damage the credibility of journalism. They needn't worry. Checkbook journalism and naked servility to power had already pretty much destroyed the reputation of newsgathering institutions long before the problems with 139 reports by Bryson Pecobia were uncovered.

For *Sunday Reports*, this is Wendy Miserly.

The Irrational: Bad Journalism Does Pay

Put Yer Ya Yas Back: The Rolling Stones agree to give a concert in Toronto to boost the city's morale in the wake of the SARS outbreak. Geritol and Viagra are expected to be

sold at concession stands. There is no truth to the rumour, however, that the band will be calling the visit their “Adult Nappies” Tour.

Difficult Choices: Ontario Environment Minister Jim Wilson says people should not barbecue on days with heavy smog in order to alleviate some of the dangerous pollution’s effects. Alberta Premier Ralph Klein says this is an eastern Canadian plot to limit beef consumption after a single steer was diagnosed with mad cow disease. Left-wing critics are divided over which pol is the juiciest target for ridicule.

Another Reason To Hate the French: a clampdown on Mojahedeen-e-Khalq offices in Paris results in 150 arrests and the seizure of \$8 million, 200 satellite dishes and 100 computers. Unfortunately, the US government does not support moves against the organization, even though the State Department has had it on its list of terrorist groups since 1997, because the group’s main target, Iran, is shaping up to be America’s next target. Apparently, the French take the war on terrorism seriously...

Another Reason to Pity the British: British soccer/football/whatever star David Beckham has been sold by Manchester United to Real Madrid, making the film *Bend It Like Beckham* largely obsolete. ‘It’s still a charming multi-ethnic coming of age story with a female twist,’ director Gurinder Chadha protested. ‘Isn’t it?’

“This is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.”

One of Canada’s greyer media outlets is recognizing that the country is changing. Jason Petersburgovitz reports.

“The *Globe and Mail*’s 12 part series on ‘The New Canada’ is winding down. The series, which focuses on Canadians under 30, may prove to be a great pubic service, since it means the *Globe*’s aging readers won’t be forced to actually talk to their children to find out what’s going on in their lives. This is Jason Petersburgovitz in Toronto.”

The series is even more remarkable when you consider that many of the *Globe*’s columnists and editorial writers prefer Canada Classic.

What is Canada’s proper relationship with the United States? Ian Hawdogoatsing reports on this eternally vexing question.

“Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham has suggested that Canadian politicians stop taking gratuitous pot shots at the United States. When asked if it would be Americans who would determine what was a gratuitous insult and what was legitimate criticism, Graham retorted, ‘You see? That’s exactly the sort of thing I’m talking about!’ For *The Irrational*, this is Ian Hawdogoatsing”

Hmm...maybe it would be best if Graham didn’t watch the rest of this broadcast...

Afghanistan is quickly descending into chaos controlled by battling warlords and Iraq, whose infrastructure is pretty much toast, is fast becoming a deadly quagmire. You would think the United States has enough on its plate. But, as *Irrational* war correspondent Germaine Tims-Stimson reports, you would be wrong.

“United States President George Bush said that the international community must make clear to Iran that ‘we will not tolerate’ the country acquiring nuclear weapons. ‘Saddam has been a threat to his own people in Iran and is now a threat to the entire world,’ the President added. Gee, the President’s speeches have really gone downhill since David Frum quit, haven’t they? Meanwhile, the United Nations, which suffers from the delusion that it is actually the legitimate voice of the international community, said, ‘Hunh?’ Meanwhile meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Graham rolled his eyes in disapproval. In Washington, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson.”

Have we finally run out of roadmap jokes to describe the American response to the Arab-Israeli conflict? We may or may not find out in this report from Subaru Debutante.

“The United States is putting pressure on Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to end Hamas terrorism. “What’s the point of installing a cooperative leader,” American Secretary of State Colin Powell sniveled, “if he doesn’t cooperate with you?” Rumours in the Beltway are that if the attacks on Israel continue, Abbas will be replaced by Olav Fenderstratter, a Swede whose main qualification is that he once visited Jordan.

“Meanwhile, in another detour on the road map to peace, the first illegal Jewish settlement has been dismantled. The settlement amounted to an abandoned trailer in Scarborough. Yes, that Scarborough. ‘Our settlements are a little more dispersed than we had originally lead people to believe,’ Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon chuckled. At the rate they are being taken apart, the settlements should be completely gone the day after the Messiah declares judgment on the human race. From Jerusalem, this is Subaru Debutante reporting.”

If he’s watching, I’d be surprised if Foreign Affairs Minister Graham doesn’t have a stroke after that report.

Who determines what you watch, where and when? Arts reporter Eloise Tendentious tries to figure some of it out for you in this report.

“The Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) has complained to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) that the Canadian Cable Television Association’s (CCTA) application – geez, Luise, this sentence is long and I haven’t even begun to approach the point, yet. Let me start again. The CAB has complained to the CRTC that the CCTA’s application for permission to carry major American networks on the digital level of Canadian cable is a cash grab motivated solely by greed. By way of comparison, when the broadcasters lobby the federal government for reductions in Canadian content quotas (which many of them will, in any case, not fulfill), they are doing it, bien sur, to strengthen Canadian programming. You know what the

saddest part of all of this is? The broadcasters and cable companies imagine themselves living in an episode of *Traders* when, in reality, the world they inhabit is closer to *Pee-wee's Playhouse*. Reporting from Ottawa for *The Irrational*, this is Eloise Tendentious."

Former *Irrational* reporter Bryson Pecobia has opted for a unique form of contrition for his plagiarism and lies: abuse. "Ha, ha, suckers!" he is reported to have said. "I sure showed those tight-assed [BLEEP]s at MotherCorp! Yee haw!" As part of his penance, Pecobia has signed a contract to write a novel based on his experience – tentatively titled *Pants on Fire* – and there is already talk of a TV movie based on the book. Who says bad journalism doesn't pay?

And, now, *The Irrational's* irrepressible correspondent T-Rex Murphy talks about...whatever it is that he wants to talk about...

"Evil stalks society's most vulnerable. Our children. When it doesn't kill them outright, it leaves them with scars that will never heal, with memories they will never be able to shake, no matter how long they live. You may think your children are safe, that your family is secure, but, even if it doesn't happen to you or somebody you love, it affects us all. I'm talking, of course, about...child poverty? No way! I was talking about isolated cases of child molestation and murder. Child poverty? Feh! That's not my problem! For *The Irrational*, this is T-Rex Murphy in – you don't need to know where I am!"

Hee hee. He's such a scamp.

Later in the broadcast: Privacy Commissioner George Radwanski resigns amid allegations that he abused his expense account. MPs polish their excuses for their own excesses, even though the odds given by Los Angeles bookmakers that the pols will actually have to use them are a million to one and rising...

The Irrational: Friends Don't Let Friends Read the News

Friends Don't Let Friends Govern By the Numbers: a recent poll shows that two out of three Canadians hold an unfavourable view of United States President George W. Bush. But, that's just because the other third don't know anything about him.

Friends Don't Let Friends Talk To Foreign Media: Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi compares a German politician to a Nazi prison guard and doesn't understand why there is an uproar in the press outside of Italy. "Maybe I should buy some TV networks across Europe," the mogul muses.

Friends Don't Let Friends Publish Magazines: after 30 years of poorly informing its readers, *The Report*, formerly *The Alberta Report*, ceases publication. Where will the Canadian nutcase right turn to for its regular dose of prejudice and irrationality? (I mean, other than *The National Post*...oh, okay, and the *Sun* newspaper chain...and Baton Broadcasting...)

“From down the street and up your way, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.”

A Canadian city has been awarded the Olympics, and – get this! – it isn’t Toronto. Pallas Athena has this report from Vancouver.

“While many in British Columbia are jubilant that the 2010 Olympic games are coming to Vancouver/Whistler, others are wondering how a province that intends to cut off welfare benefits for close to 40,000 people can afford the estimated \$1.2 billion the province will have to contribute. ‘Ea –’ (That figure does not include the inevitable cost overruns, for which the province is on the hook.) ‘Ahem – easy,’ said BC’s putatively Liberal Premier Gordon Campbell. ‘We’ll use the poor as filler in the Vancouver to Whistler highway renovation. Okay, human bodies are softer than our usual paving materials. On the other hand, they breath a lot better, so we may be able to cut down on future repairs. Poor people off welfare and performing a useful public service – talk about a win-win situation!’ This is Pallas Athena reporting for *The Irrational*.”

Also out west, a prominent politician was hit with a suspect confectionary. General annoyance reporter Jason Petersburgovitz, uhh, reports.

“Alberta Premier Ralph Klein was hit with a pie at his annual Calgary Stampede breakfast. ‘You can’t let people like this get away with stuff like that,’ Klein justified his pursuit of charges against the pier, ‘because if it’s a pie today, it could be something else tomorrow.’ Activists have denied that they are considering moving from pies up to crostatas, but a suspicious shipment of tortes has been stopped at the American border. If this escalates, there is no telling what the effect on the Premier’s cholesterol levels will be. From Calgary, this is Jason Petersburgovitz reporting.”

On *Sunday Reports* on NewsWeird, Wendy Miserly will look at the strategic use of chocolate mousse and other high calorie confections to embarrass politicians in a report called “Operation Dessert Storm.”

Still out west – hmm...must have been a slow news week in Ottawa – the environment came under renewed attack, as, uhh, environment reporter Indigo Skye, umm, reports.

“In justifying renewed logging in BC’s old growth forest, the habitat of the endangered spotted owl, Ted Holtby, general manager of Cattermole Timber, said, ‘We believe that...our logging may actually improve [the forest]. It will open up the stand, and the birds will fly around a little better.’ The birds flying around isn’t the issue, Ted – the question is whether or not they will have anything other than stumps to land on.

“In a related story, Mother Nature is considering suing Holtby, claiming his comments reflected negatively on her forest management skills. ‘I managed BC’s forests for millennia without the logging industry’s help,’ Mother Nature stated in a press release, ‘and the birds never complained once!’ Reporting for *The Irrational*, this is Indigo Skye, somewhere in the middle of a bunch of trees.”

Can the provinces put aside their partisan bickering to save Canada's ailing health care system? As Sylvia Ferberance reports, the prognosis is not good.

"Premier Ralph Klein has announced that Alberta will not participate in the federal-provincial health council, which would oversee how the provinces spent federal health care money. How does he respond to accusations that this is a strange attitude for a politician who has always campaigned on the theme of fiscal responsibility to hold? 'Uhh, can we see that footage of my pieing at the Calgary Stampede again?' This is Sylvia Ferberance reporting from Ottawa."

Iraq. Again. War correspondent Germaine Tims-Stimson.

"United States President George W. Bush has been quoted as saying, 'There are some [in Iraq] who feel like that, you know, the conditions are such that they can attack us there. My answer is, bring 'em on.' Apparently, Bush's first choice for a taunt, 'Make my day,' was vetoed by Karl Rove for being too inflammatory. Those who wonder when the US is going to say 'Hasta la vista, baby,' to Iraq will be waiting a long time.

"But, that's what you get when you confuse reality with a cheap western. You want your country to be led by Harry Truman, you get Dirty Harry. From Washington, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson reporting for *The Irrational*."

Iran. Still. Hell, always. Eldred Cleavuntoer reports.

"US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld has warned Iran that it will not be allowed to keep troops inside the Iraqi border, saying that the country was 'obviously not being respectful of Iraq's sovereignty.' When asked if repeated bombings of a country were respectful of its sovereignty, Rumsfeld replied, 'Of course not.' When asked if an invasion of a country that had not attacked anybody showed respect for its sovereignty, he snorted, 'Certainly not.' After 25 minutes of canceled elections, control of oil supplies and the like, and their affect on a country's sovereignty, a light went on in Rumsfeld's head, and he commented, 'I'm not going to comment on cheap irony. Time to move on to another subject.' The journalists, who hadn't had this much fun in months, complained, but dutifully complied. From Washington, this is Eldred Cleavuntoer."

More Iraq. Again. This time, British. Subaru Debutante reports.

"British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been cleared of tampering with intelligence in order to justify his country's participation in the American war on Iraq. The House of Commons committee that exonerated Blair did not have subpoena power, so it didn't have access to critical officials and exports. It's reports was based, though, on the most up-to-date information available: an online version of *The Starr Report*, an essay called 'What I Did On My Summer Vacation' by a 12 year-old from Croydon and a transcription of an old episode of *I Love Lucy*. Critics of the report have pointed out that it wasn't even the episode where Lucy and Ethel work on the assembly line in the chocolate factory. For *The Irrational*, this is Subaru Debutante."

Okay, now that we have that unpleasantness out of the way, on a lighter note, the fifth book in the Harry Potter series is out, and it's not too early to be thinking about casting the movie version. Arts correspondent Eloise Tendentious reports on her dream cast for the project.

“If the film version of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is shot in Toronto, Paul Christie would be perfect for the part of Dolores Umbridge, a pol who is appointed to take control of the Hogwarts school of magic even though she seems more interested in doing the bidding of her political masters than seeing to it that the children get a proper education. For that matter, Ontario Premier Ernie Eves would make a pretty good Cornelius Fudge, a leader who is completely unaware of how his ideologically driven changes to the education system are destroying it. This may work out well, given that both men will likely be looking for a job by the time the fifth film goes into production. From Toronto, this is Eloise Tendentious reporting.”

Ah. I knew we would get Toronto into the broadcast somehow. It was inevitable, really, only a matter of time...

“MSNBC talk show host Michael Savage apologized (after being fired) for remarks he made on the air, saying, ‘If my comments brought pain to anyone, I certainly did not intend for this to happen.’ What were his actual comments? ‘Oh, you’re one of the sodomites! You should only get AIDS and die, you pig!’ Hard to see how such a remark could cause anybody pain – those damn liberals really need to get thicker skins! This is Humphrey Puffy reporting from New York.”

Hey! You didn’t give me a chance to intro that piece!

Later in the broadcast: columnist T-Rex Murphy has a message for comedian Dennis Miller: “Nobody ever hurt their career kissing the ass of power, babe, but you might find the cost of breath mints still makes it a losing proposition...”

The Irrational: You Hadda Ask

Burned: Fire devastates British Columbia. “I’m looking out my front door,” one resident said, “and all I see is...my...front...door. The rest of the house went up in smoke.”

Spurned: The US government calls cheap prescription drugs from Canada ‘dangerous.’ Since most of these drugs were approved by the American regulatory process and/or manufactured in the US, does that mean the government is actually condemning its own Food and Drug Administration?

Some People Never Learn: Former Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau told the Bloc Quebecois caucus that the party should push for sovereignty in the next federal election. This prompted the vital question: “Is he still alive? Really?”

“From below the site at Yonge and Dundas where politicians who learned nothing from the power outage want to erect a five story electronic billboard, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.”

Actually, this is Eloise Tendentious filling in for Ian Hawdogoatsing, who is sick of being on leave, who was filling in for Joe Anchor, whose helicopter disappeared over the jungles of Nam and is missing, presumed irrelevant.

He covers the justice beat, he’s light on his feat and he’s at his best when he turns up the heat. Kirk Mackerel is here with a report that probably isn’t nearly as clever as my intro...

“An immigration adjudicator has ruled that there was no reasonable grounds for the federal government to detain a Pakistani man, throwing into doubt its recent detention of 17 other Pakistanis and an Indian whom the government says could, maybe, possibly, perhaps, I don’t know – let’s take a flyer on this one be members of an Al Qaeda sleeper cell in Canada. Said one government official, who preferred to remain unnamed, ‘If we don’t show the Americans that we can arbitrarily arrest people on suspicion of being Arab, they won’t believe we take their war on terrorism seriously. And then...really bad things could happen.’ Well, I certainly feel safer. For *The Irrational*, this is Kirk Mackerel.”

First, it was SARS. Then, the power outage. What could possibly happen to Toronto next? You hadda ask? Anson Bergecheck has the 411 on 416.

“Alien craft swept over southern Ontario last night, laying waste to parts of Windsor, Barrie and downtown Toronto. Premier Ernie Eves went on live television to tell citizens that there was nothing to worry about, that the government was in complete control. The message was somewhat blunted, however, when he was encased in a green goo that rendered him motionless. Opposition leader Dalton McGuinty commented that he hoped Eves would not let the fact that he was covered in green goo give him an excuse not to call a provincial election. Then, he was transformed into a small goat with an uncanny resemblance to Howdy Doody. New Democratic Party leader Howard Hampton was nowhere to be found; critics of the NDP commented that the only way he would miss a photo opportunity of this nature would be if he had been buried under the rubble of Queen’s Park. From Toronto, this is Anson Bergecheck.”

Still at Queen’s Park, on a lark, in the dark, we –

Eloise?

Joe Anchor? We all thought you were –

It will take more than a country full of mosquitos and bad plumbing to keep me away from my responsibility to introduce the news!

But, I was just starting to have fu –

I'll take over from here. After the alien invasion was decisively repelled, business at Queen's Park returned to normal, as Anson Bergecheck later reported.

“Ever have one of those press conferences? Premier Eves did this afternoon. Asked about his position on the issue of same sex marriages, he said: ‘...why would I interfere with that? That’s my personal view.’ When he was reminded that a substantial number of Tory supporters are religious folk who oppose same sex marriage, he said: ‘I have always believed that marriage was a union between two heterosexual people – a man and a woman.’ When somebody else pointed out that a man who was living with a woman who was not his wife shouldn’t prohibit anybody who wanted to get married, he said: ‘I have always been a live and let live individual. It’s not for me to impose my beliefs on other people on any subject. What two people do is entirely up to them.’ Is his position clear? Not to worry – there are still many months before an election. From Toronto, this is still Anson Bergecheck for *The Irrational*.”

Treason...patriotism...as Subaru Debutante reports, it can be such a fine line...

“Half a dozen American Congressmen met with Prime Minister Jean Chretien to ask for Canada’s intervention to stop their government’s insane war on drugs. Upon their return to the United States, they were immediately arrested and taken individually to dark rooms where they were fed nothing but tofu and veggie sticks, and forced to watch an endless loop of David Spade movies. It is rumoured that the Congressmen were also subjected to repeated viewings of Arnold Schwarzenegger campaign speeches, which isn’t banned by the Geneva Conventions, but certainly should be. It’s a good thing the situation wasn’t reversed – Canadians undoubtedly would have been much harsher to politicians who sought the help of foreign nations to subvert their government’s policies. This is Subaru Debutante in Ottawa.”

The war on Iraq is over, but the triumphal press releases go on. And, on. And, on...

“Last week, American troops captured Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as ‘Chemical Ali,’ a particularly vicious member of Saddam Hussein’s government. This supercedes the announcement the week before that American troops had captured Chemical Ali, an announcement two weeks before that that intelligence clearly showed that Chemical Ali was vacationing on the Riviera under the name Harvey Lipschitz, an announcement July second that Chemical Ali was spotted serving tacos with Elvis at a truck stop 27 miles west of Memphis, and, of course, the April seventh announcement that Chemical Ali was ‘Dead, dead, deader than a doornail, dead.’ The Pentagon has not seen fit to retract any of its previous announcements, so why should we? From Baghdad, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson.”

Give a man a whale and he’ll have enough for a family of 12 to eat for an entire winter. Teach a man to hunt whales and, as environment reporter Indigo Skye recently found out, you’ll have an international incident.

“Iceland has lifted an 18 year moratorium on whale fishing. Gunnar Johannsson, captain of the vessel Sigurbjorg explained, ‘We are carrying out an experiment to see what will happen when you pierce the skin of a whale with a harpoon.’ When one journalist suggested that the whale dies, Johannsson sniffed and responded, ‘And, what research do you base that assessment on?’ From a cabin in a vessel somewhere on the high seas, this is Indigo Skye reporting for *The Irrational*.”

The news from the World Trade Organization was so good, that both *Irrational* health reporter Sylvia Ferberance and trade and commerce reporter Monique Moosehead wanted the assignment. In the end, we settled the issue the only way that seemed fair: with a nude mud wrestling match. This is the result...

“It is rare that good news comes out of international trade negotiations, but that’s what happened when the World Trade Organization announced that a deal to allow poor nations access to cheap drugs had been reached. Okay, the conditions were so stringent that it may have turned out to be impossible for any nation to comply with them, but the agreement did hold out hope that AIDS, malaria and other diseases that have devastated developing nations would finally be brought under control. One cannot overestimate the importance of...what? What do you mean, ‘More consultations are required?’ The WTO executive was expected to rubber stamp – I don’t want to hear about a last minute hitch! I had a feel good story, dammit! I – sob – had a feel good – SOB!”

I hate it when they cry.

Two thousand years later, the death of Christ is still controversial. And, as Eloise Tendentious reports, this is not a case for the *Cold Squad*.

“Mel Gibson, who believes Vatican Two was the worst thing to happen to the Catholic church since the end of the Inquisition, has made a film about the last 12 hours of the life of Christ. (I could have continued hosting *The Irrational* – I was giving it a funky edge.) The film, based partially on scripture and partially on reports of Caroline von Bingwingdingham’s visions of Christ sipping mai tais in the Sinai, reportedly blames Jews for Christ’s death.” (I mean, there’s a reason this fuddy-duddy old news show skews older, you know?) Gibson denies the charge that the film will incite anti-Jewish hatred, opting for an explanation along the lines of a ‘some of my best friends are Christ-killers’ defence. (Let’s face it: our audience is going to be kicking off soon, and then what –

Uhh, we’ll have more on that story later in the broadcast.

Vice President Dick Cheney’s former employer Halliburton Co. may land a \$1 billion contract to help rebuild Iraq on top of the \$1.7 billion in contracts it has already been given. Most politicians faced with this type of conflict of interest would recuse themselves from being involved with making the decision, but Cheney seems to have found a different approach: recusing himself from the government altogether. We’ll have

a full report on the empty suit sitting next to President George W. Bush at official White House dinners later in the broadcast...

The Irrational: Did You Hear the One...?

A flash mob is scheduled to appear at Yonge and Bloor Streets, but when everybody shows up they are fully clothed, so they quickly lose interest and quietly disperse.

The journal *Science* retracts a study that claimed that Ecstasy caused brain damage in squirrel monkeys and baboons when researchers find that the drug given to them was mislabeled. The monkeys and baboon consider suing Johns Hopkins University, but, like, can't remember where they put their pants.

The reconstruction of a 10,000 year old skull looks eerily like Patrick Stewart. Tabloids immediately want to know what the secret of the star of *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* agelessness is, and publisher's scramble to sign Stewart to write a cook book.

"Live from the main stage at the Yonge and Eglinton Yuk Yuks, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor."

Please do not adjust your sets – this is an arrow sticking out of my head. A majority of North Americans now claim that their main source of news about the world is comedians on late night talk shows. And, really, who can compete with Leno, Letterman, Bull – well, Leno and Letterman, anyway. Rather than doom ourselves to irrelevance, we have made some changes here at *The Irrational*...

So, did you hear the one about the vocational school that got loans for its students even though it never seemed to have any teachers? Education reporter and Polynesian wardrobe coordinator Edwina DeBergi did, and she has this report about it.

"An investigation shows that the defunct Ottawa Business College – which is at the heart of the case against 19 men suspected of being terrorists, or, at least, immigration line hoppers – it's such a fine line – operated for weeks at a time without instructors. 'Of course we didn't have instructors,' the head of the college, tracked down at Pearson International where he was scheduled to be on a flight to Acapulco, commented, 'we were just following the provincial Conservative's approach to teachers to its logical conclusion. We should be getting medals instead of a criminal investigation!' For *The Irrational*, this is Edwina DeBergi reporting from Ottawa."

Hmm...maybe we should get a drummer to sit behind me... Anyway, what about...time machines? Are they crazy, or what? Rahul Festrunk tells us more.

"Canadian Alliance leader Stephen Harper has accused Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien of inventing a time machine, going into the future to learn the perfected techniques of genetic engineering and then going into the past and introducing homosexuality into the animal kingdom where, thanks to the inexorable workings of

evolution, it ended up in human beings. ‘Will the Prime Minister stop at nothing to flout god’s will?’ Harper fulminated. The Prime Minister’s Office issued a press release expressing embarrassment on Harper’s behalf. This is Rahul Festrunk reporting from Ottawa.”

Stiff? Hey – I’m just warming up. Have you ever noticed how politicians are, like, weird? Anson Bergecheck has.

“One of the main contenders in the Toronto mayoral race is John Tory. In order to run, Tory is taking time off from advising the provincial Conservative party; oddly, he has rejected ‘I have the solutions because I helped cause the problems’ as a campaign slogan. For *The Irrational*, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting from Toronto.”

I know you’re out there – I can hear you breathing. Or, is that just the air conditioning in this place? Okay, our next comic came all the way from across the street just to tell you about all the wacky and hilarious things there are to know about dandruff. Please put your hands together for Germaine Tims-Stimson!

“In a speech to the nation, United States President George W. Bush asked the United Nations, an organization he once claimed was ‘doomed to nonirrelevanceness,’ to send troops and money to help rebuild Iraq. This is a startling admission that his government’s policy of waving a magic wand and creating a workable democracy in Iraq has failed. ‘Well, of course,’ a fairy godparent known only as Wanda commented, ‘there isn’t enough magic in the world to make *that* wish come true!’ From Fairyland, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson.”

Anybody here from...Rome? You...you’ll appreciate the next gag, about the priest, 500 children and the big payout. As Rahul Festrunk tells it, it’s a real knee slapper.

“The Boston Archdiocese agreed to pay \$85 million to settle more than 500 lawsuits from people who claim they were abused by Roman Catholic Priests. Despite this, Cardinal Ratzinger – Vatican Enforcer claimed that, ‘What happened in Boston in no way undermines the legitimacy of the Vatican’s position on same sex marriage. The Bible is silent on the issue of moving priests around to cover up their pedophilia, while it is very clearly against homosexuals.’ What would Jesus do? Weep. From Boston, this is Rahul Festrunk reporting for *The Irrational*.”

Hello? Hello? Is this mike on? What do you get when you combine an ailing industry with an attack lawyer? According to Eloise Tendentious, a publicity nightmare.

“The Record Industry Association of America scored its first victory in its war on Internet file sharing – it got a 12 year-old girl who lives in subsidized housing in New York to cough up \$2,000 and agree to never listen to music she hasn’t paid for on her computer again. It has also sued 71 year-old Durwood Pickle, even though he and his wife claim they don’t actually use the computer in their home, in addition to dozens of other teenagers. ‘Some people think it’s foolish to attack one’s customers,’ a

representative of the RIAA, who couldn't be identified because of the ski mask he was wearing, stated, 'but we prefer to think of the lawsuits as a way of enforcing mutual respect.' Oh, sure. I feel the love. This is Eloise Tendentious reporting from Los Angeles."

Phew! I haven't worked a room this tough since I was a headline reader for CCRY deep in the Manitoba outback. What's with journalists who have only one name? How nuts is that? Well, anyway, let's give a big, warm *Irrational* welcome to...Buffy!

"Seattle, the birthplace of Starbucks, is planning to put a tax of a dime on every beverage sold in the city that contains half an ounce or more of espresso. I spoke with Jorge Coloratura, President of BEANS (Better Espresso And No Surtax), a grassroots lobby group opposed to the luxury tax."

COLORATURA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. This tax, this tax, this tax, this tax, is so, so, so, so –

BUFFY: Unfair?

COLORATURA: Oh yeah. Big time. Very. Lots. Extremely. Absolutely. Unfair. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I mean, I mean, I mean, there are so many, so many, so many –

BUFFY: Voters?

COLORATURA: No. No. No. No. No.

BUFFY: Dollars?

COLORATURA: ITEMS! So many items this, this, this, this tax could be levied on. Why, why, why, why discriminate against coffee dri – coffee, coffee drink – you know?

BUFFY: Are you sure it's good for you to be drinking so much coffee?

COLORATURA: W – w – w – what are you, you, you, you saying?

"The revenue raised by the tax on espresso will fund Seattle preschool programmes. Perhaps it would be better spent on health care... From Seattle, this is Buffy reporting for *The Irrational*."

So, how'm I doin'? Hey! – somebody's gotta drink the piss they pass off as beer in this joint, and better you than me, buddy. Don't take my word for it – here is Monique Moosehead with more reasons to get shit-faced.

"VertiZone, a wholly owned subsidiary of MultiNatCorp, lost \$153 million last quarter on revenues of slightly over \$3,000. Still, it's stock rose more than half a dollar on the

announcement. Why? Simple. Analysts had expected the company to lose over \$200 million, its major officers to be charged with accounting irregularities and its main product to be labeled a risk to national security. ‘Yep, we certainly dodged a bullet there,’ said CEO Dmitri Boinkevich. From Bonn, Switzerland, this is Monique Moosehead.”

You’ve been a great audience, so far. Really. You’re beautiful – don’t ever change. Later: there is little new information on the terrorist attack on New York and Washington that has come to be known as 9/11, but we’ll devote the second half of the broadcast to coverage of the second anniversary of the event. Expect big, big yuks...

The Irrational: Just Good Friendly Practice

Bigotry Reels From Another Body Blow: a motion adding sexual orientation to the list of prohibited categories of discrimination shepherded through Parliament by NDP member Svend Robinson is passed. “This was another victory for tolerance, fairness and change,” Alliance leader Stephen Harper bitterly comments. “You people never learn, do you?”

Bigotry Once Again Picks Itself Up Off the Mat and Comes Back Swinging: the Canadian Alliance tables a motion to reserve marriage for opposite sex couples, claiming it would nullify same sex marriages. “Best three out of five?” Harper asks with a twinkle in his eye. “You people never learn, do you?”

Mother Nature’s a Bitch: Hurricane Isabel devastates parts of the United States. Congressmen convince President George W. Bush Isabel is actually a Middle Eastern terrorist, securing his support for aid to the stricken areas.

“From the Baskin and Robbins that no longer exists in the plaza at Sheppard and Bathurst, this is *The Irrational* with Joe Anchor.”

Relations between Canada and the United States? Don’t ask! Unfortunately, as Subaru Debutante reports, the Americans will tell you whether you ask or not...

“Richard Perle, often referred to as ‘President George W. Bush’s left parietal lobe,’ has been complaining about the Chretien government’s lack of support for the war on Iraq. ‘When you have a friend who has a vital concern, even if you don’t entirely agree, it is just good friendly practice to defer to that vital concern...’ Perle said. When asked what good friendly practice is when you see a drunken friend get behind the wheel, Perle replied, ‘Sit next to him while he’s plowing into pedestrians and claim ignorance when the police come around and ask if you know what happened.’

“Meanwhile, American political columnist Anne Coulter, who is so fearless in her opinions that she doesn’t care if foam from her mouth drips onto her power suits, commented, ‘Canada? We should send invade their country, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity.’ When it was pointed out that over 75 per cent of Canadians were already Christian, Coulter responded, ‘Well, we better force ‘em to get baptized again,

because it obviously didn't take the first time!' For *The Irrational*, this is Subaru Debutante."

Yep – it sure is a shame that the Canadian government isn't more supportive of President Bush's policies. Wouldn't want us to think we were a separate country or nothin'.

I can say that because Canada's media *are* separate from those of the United States. But, how long will that last? Monique Moosehead has part of the answer.

"Canada's competition watchdog was told that loosening foreign ownership limits in the cable television and telecommunications industry would spur competition. Sure. For about five minutes – just until every everything that wasn't nailed down was bought by the five foreign (mainly American) companies that dominate the media landscape. But, those five minutes would sure make Joseph Schumpeter proud! For *The Irrational*, this is Monique Moosehead in Ottawa."

My head's spinning just thinking about it.

And, speaking of spinning, Mel Lastman made his final speech as Mayor of Toronto, and Anson Bergecheck – who has been drawing short straws all his life – was there.

"Mel Lastman made his final speech as Mayor of Toronto, saying, 'I'm going to miss you guys. I'm going to miss all of you.' There wasn't a dry eye in the room...until the inquiry into the MFP scandal found that concessions offered by the company in its successful computer-leasing bid were not included in the final contract because bureaucrats didn't insist upon them, at which point everybody groaned and went back to business as usual. In Toronto, this is Anson Bergecheck."

I liked Mel better when he was the star of his own TV commercial.

And, speaking of being the star of your own TV commercial...that has nothing to do with the following report.

"The largest ice shelf in the Arctic is breaking up. In response, a Fraser Institute study has suggested that Canada cube the ice and sell it to the United States to freshen up their mixed drinks. From Calgary, this is Indigo Skye reporting for *The Irrational*."

I blame trees.

And, speaking of blame – and, isn't that everybody's favourite pastime? – what did Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein do to invite an American invasion of his country? As Germaine Tims-Stimson reports, apparently nothing to do with terrorism.

"In an aside to an unofficial meeting with unnamed journalists, President George Bush whispered something that sounded like, 'There is no roof or anything on that Seven Eleven.' Big brains at *The Irrational* have been using advanced audio enhancement

techniques not seen since *The Conversation* to decipher the full text of the message. It is now believed that what the President actually said was, 'There is no proof that Iraq had anything to do with 9/11.' White House sources are denying that the President actually said this, but they are also denying that the President ever claimed there was a connection between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda. In fact, our White House sources have gone so far as to deny that they are White House sources.

"In a related story, *The Irrational* has received the following press release: 'The United States is pleased to announce that it will be conducting a fire sale of Iraqi assets, and you won't believe your eyes! (Well, those of you who still have eyes – the rest can use their imaginations.) Highways? Marked down from \$3 billion to \$29.95! That's a reduction of a whopping 99.999999 per cent! Why, we're practically giving them away! Health care? Make us an offer! Hospitals that cost \$100 million to build will go for \$19.95! Insurance? It's going for a song – literally! Sing to the White House and they'll give it away to you! And, right now, a special on public utilities you won't be able to pass up: buy two water filtration plants, get one free! Yes, it's all here at Crazy George's Iraqi Free-for-all. Just don't ask about the oil industry...'

"It should come as no surprise that the United States intends to cede absolutely no decision-making power in Iraq to the United Nations – they've already promised it to Halliburton, Bechtel and a host of other US-based multinational corporations. This is Germaine Tims-Stimson in Washington."

Mothers. Givers of life. Nurturers. Health hazard? *Irrational* transportation and human sacrifices reporter Pallas Athena has the scoop.

"Several nursing American mothers have been found to have record high amounts of flame retardant chemicals in their breast milk, according to a US study. The bromine-based fire retardants impair attention, learning, memory and behaviour in lab rats. On a positive note, the women are at far lower risk of spontaneously combusting. This is Pallas Athena in Chicago."

He couldn't make it on radio as the Canadian Rush Limbaugh, but he does give *The Irrational* a right-wing commentator to battle our image as a bastion of unrepentant lefties. He is, of course, the phlegmatic, if slightly incomprehensible, T-Rex Murphy.

"The Conservative Party and the Canadian Alliance are having openly secret talks on the possibility of a merger of the two parties. The Conservatives have nothing to lose – after all, with the Paul Martin leadership sewn up, the Liberals have effectively become the Conservatives. (This became obvious when The Globe and Mail ran an editorial claiming Martin was still a Liberal.) Unfortunately, the New Democratic Party hasn't taken the hint, because it has moved exactly nowhere, leaving it in danger of remaining the New Democratic Party. This is T-Rex Murphy, being grumpy in Antigonish."

Later in the broadcast: actor Gordon Jump has died at the age of 71. Turkeys everywhere will be flying at half mast...

The Irrational: Tough Noogies in Toronto

You Know They're Serious When: At a recent licence renewal hearing of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Star Choice Television Network Inc. was warned that if it continues to avoid its regulatory and contractual obligations, it will get another stern warning.

You Know They're Worried When: Under pressure from religious groups, Macy's decides to remove FCUK brand products from its shelves. It is still reconsidering what to do about SIHT, ASHSOLE and FRESEPEECH products.

You Know They're Fcuked When: The writing was on the wall for Roy Romanow and his report on health care in Canada when he was scheduled to meet with Amelia Earhart deep in the Bermuda Triangle. Now, who could possibly have entered *that* into his Palm Pilot?

From the vegetable section of the Loblaws built on the site of Maple Leaf Gardens, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.

The poor are always with us, but does that mean we are always with them? As Rahul Festrunk finds...okay, yeah, I know that was a pretty lame introduction. You think it's easy being a news anchor? It's not just about looking good and proper enunciation, you know. I actually have to know stuff about stuff –

“British Columbia is planning to cut thousands of welfare recipients off without a dime in the coming year. This has left Alberta with a serious case of ‘poor bashing envy.’ ‘Oh, sure, we could start charging for beds in homeless shelters,’ Alberta Premier Ralph Klein pouted, ‘but we’ll never be able to live up to the example of BC.’ Ralph, you’re being too modest – haven’t you even considered bringing back the stocks? From Vancouver, this is Rahul Festrunk reporting for *The Irrational*.”

I didn't grow up wanting to be a news anchor, you know. I wanted to roam the woods of the British Columbia interior, my best girlie by my side, cutting down trees. I wanted to be a...well, Monty Python beat me to it. Disappointment is endemic to childhood, as I'm certain Justice Correspondent Kirk Mackerel would attest...

“Stephen Williams, author of two books on killers Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka, has been charged by the Ontario Provincial Police with 94 counts of breaching publication bans. OPP Spokesperson Biff Bafferson said he was ‘disappointed’ to learn that this wasn't close to the record for Long Distance Harassment of Journalists – a record held jointly by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the LAPD – but he felt that it would qualify the Ontario team for the 2004 Police Brutality Olympics, ‘and we’ll just have to train like sons of bitches if we hope to bring home the gold.’ This is Kirk Mackerel reporting from Toronto.”

When I was growing up, astronauts were still cool. Okay, maybe we had seen one too many Flash Gordon serials, but fighting evil throughout the universe was just about the coolest thing an adult could do. Of course, Anson Bergecheck, born to another generation, would point out that the universe is actually a cold, dead place, and the most exciting thing an astronaut would ever be called upon to do, other than survive, was to bring rocks back to earth for further study. But, who is Anson Bergecheck to destroy so many childhood dreams, anyway?

“Toronto’s Mayoral race seemed destined to be mired in actual policy debates – such as the expansion of the Island airport, placing tolls on downtown roads and who does Tom Jacobek’s hair – when attack loon John Nunziata, trailing badly in the polls, claimed that a representative of one of the other candidates had threatened him with ‘tough noogies’ if he didn’t pull out of the race. The other candidates were outraged that Nunziata wouldn’t name the culprit: ‘Noogies are clearly illegal under the Municipal Elections Act,’ a representative of Barbara Hall’s campaign stated. ‘If John has proof of noogie threatening, tough or otherwise, he should go to the police with it.’ A representative of John Tory added: ‘Indiscriminate slurring of the good names of other people – is this a mayoral campaign or kindergarten recess?’ Like there has ever been a difference? For *The Irrational*, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting.”

I mean, who am I kidding? Journalists stand around watching while other people make history. And, news anchors? We sit around while journalists stand around watching other people make the news. We’re twice removed from what’s really going on. Who would grow up aspiring to that? Not, Eldred Cleavuntoer I’m sure.

“To try to get away from what the White House perceived as a hostile national press, President Bush started giving local newspapers and television news shows interviews. However, because they were not beholden to the White House, the President found that he faced more pointed questions than he had from the Washington press corps. To counter this, he has started a Web log. If he receives a hostile reception on his own Web page, President Bush is rumoured to be planning on going door to door to get support for his administration and, if that fails, he intends to conduct a Vulcan mind meld with all 300 million plus citizens of the United States. From Washington, this is Eldred Cleavuntoer for *The Irrational*.”

...No, I’m not having a midlife crisis – I always wonder about these things. Yes, I was a sensitive child growing up – as I’m sure transportation and human sacrifices reporter Pallas Athena was. Perhaps that’s what eventually drove me into the news business: the need to tell human stories. But –

“Bishop Wilton Gregory, the President of US Roman Catholic Bishops, stated that an upcoming study of the sexual abuse of children by clergy in America would likely produce ‘startling’ numbers, but that they couldn’t be put into perspective until studies had been conducted in other areas such as school, sports or the medical community. This is known as ‘Il Bombo Communali,’ or the ‘Everybody Does It, So Why You Picking on

the Church?’ Defense. And, I thought Priests were supposed to be taught humility. From Boston, this is Pallas Athena.”

But, it seems to me that we’re moving away from telling human stories. We report on wars without showing any of the blood and suffering, we report on the least little pronouncements of politicians without showing how their policies affect ordinary people, we report on corporate numbers without stopping to wonder if people actually need the shit that the companies prod – what? Bleep it out if you’re so [BLEEP]ing sensitive. Maybe the following report by Subaru Debutante will be different...

“Malaysian Prime Minister was applauded by the Arab world but condemned by everybody else when he remarked that ‘the Europeans killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule this world by proxy: They get others to fight and die for them.’ Not to be outdone, American Lieutenant General William Boykin has referred to Allah as a ‘false idol.’ This would qualify as a clash of civilizations...if anybody involved was actually civilized. From somewhere between Washington and Riyadh, this is Subaru Debutante reporting for *The Irrational*.”

I didn’t think so. Anyway...yeah, alright. Back to the news. Can those who dish take? Jason Petersburgovitz finds out that potatoes aren’t the only things with thin skins.

“Conservative columnist Ann Coulter thinks Liberals in the media should be ashamed of themselves for attacking Rush Limbaugh when he is vulnerable after admitting to long-term drug abuse. ‘Those vile, revolting, putrid, depraved, wretched, vicious, disgusting, nasty, abominable, detestable, sickeningly inhumane excuses for dog [EXCREMENT] should learn to have a little [FORNICATING] compassion!’ Coulter commented. I would suggest that she take a valium and calm down, but that would probably just set her off on another tirade, and lessons on compassion from the right-wing press are as credible as Osama bin Laden claiming that he wants US citizenship because he wants to taste American freedom. This is Jason Petersburgovitz reporting from New York.”

In a report on Canadian universities which ran last week on The Irrational, we claimed that one of the most popular graduate programmes at Waterloo University was Ferret Strangling and Stoat Suffrage. Unfortunately, the University of Waterloo does not have such a program. We also claimed that “Hegemonic Counterdiscourse in the Age of Microwaveable Popcorn” got the highest rating for an undergraduate course at York University. Again, there was no such course. In fact, of the 57 programmes at the 24 schools which were considered in our survey, the only one that is actually offered is McGill University’s Graduate Programme in Advanced Defensive Artichoke Theory. Damn students, anyway.

Later in the programme, a panel of experts debates how long it will take for David Orchard to become a Trivial Pursuit answer...

The Irrational: Anchor’s Away!

We Clone Alone: the Canadian government bans human cloning. Experts are divided on whether the law covers John Nunziata.

Oh, Take a Pill: The American Food and Drug Administration warns that if Canada continues to export less expensive drugs to the States, the country will face a serious drug shortage. It goes on to suggest that Canadians should get more fibre in their diet, watch less television and try to get to bed at a reasonable hour. Who says Americans only care about their own narrow interests?

Oblivious to the Obvious: An analysis of contracts to rebuild Iraq shows that more than half of the companies – and eight of the top 10 – that were awarded a share of the \$8 billion in reconstruction funds had close ties to the Republican Party or the Defence Department. Journalists are always the last to know...

“From somewhere between the tip of the CN Tower and the CN railyards, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.”

...

“Joe? Joe? Well, he doesn’t seem to be here, so I’ll just go straight to my report. Provincial Auditor Erik Peters has found that the Ontario Conservatives left office with a \$5.6 billion deficit. The incoming Liberals were preparing to gloat, until they realized that so few Tories were left in the house there was nobody to hold accountable. ‘The Conservatives didn’t lie on the campaign trail,’ claimed Byron Phillippidou, Queens Park janitor. ‘They honestly believed that...umm...they believed – err, why am I the one who has to defend them?’ From Toronto, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting for *The Irrational*.”

...

Okay, this is Ian Hawdogoatsing, substituting for Joe Anchor, who is...well, we’re really not certain where he is or what he’s doing. As Monique Moosehead found, Canadian Rolling Stones fans may soon be getting little satisfaction.

“HMV Canada has removed all Rolling Stones merchandise in response to the band signing an exclusive deal with Best Buy to distribute a new DVD package called *Four Flicks*. In the wake of the move, stock analysts expect a sharp upsurge in the use of “You can’t always get what you want” jokes. Is there any way to stop this fatuous pseudo-cleverness? You may hope so, but you can’t always get...well, you know. From Toronto, this is Monique Moosehead reporting.”

Yes, fans hoping to get the latest Stones offering might as well be 2,000 light years from home for the good it will do them. A recent poll shows –

Oh, move over, Ian!

Eloise Tendentious? What are you doing he –

I've had a taste of the news anchor desk, buddy boy, and I like it! Besides, you're too boring to host the news.

Oh, yeah? What about the 2,000 light years from home reference?

Ian, don't you even pay attention to the reports you introduce?

I...I was getting my makeup done. Anyway, Eloise, we have a system of seniority. You can't just – AAACCKK!

Yeah. Seniority this, pal. Okay, in other news: it's generally understood that news organizations shouldn't report on their rivals, but new numbers always give us a hook on which to do just that, as *Irrational* correspondent Buffy shows.

“According to the latest Newspaper Audience Databank (NADBank) survey, the *Toronto Star* has made significant gains in the 25 to 49 left-handed Vegan reader demographic. The *Globe* is crowing over its increasing lead in the 18 to 24 female transexual with reading disabilities demographic, while The Sun is advertising that it's Toronto's leader with the 18 to 35 prison population. (Sadly, *The National Post* couldn't find a demographic in which it posted readership gains, no matter how obscure.) Despite all of this good news, newspaper readership as a whole continues to decline. ‘Oh, sure,’ *Toronto Star* publisher John Bowtie muttered, ‘everybody complains that newspapers are dominated by bad news, but when we try to say something positive...’ For *The Irrational*, this is Buffy, reporting on an ice floe that has broken off the Arctic shelf and is slowly making its way down the Saint Lawrence Seaway.”

Hey, Buffster, don't you carry stakes any more?

Yes, we continue to believe in the validity of numbers even though we know how easily they can be manipulated. As social trends and moose droppings reporter Vivienne Tso-Wa found, there are lies, damn lies and public opinion polls.

“A new poll indicates that 62 per cent of Canadians support direct drug advertising to consumers. The poll also shows that 57 per cent of Canadians approve of running with scissors, and a whopping 89 per cent would like to try Krazy Gluing their eyelids to a hot radiator at least once in their lives. Pollster Roger Eaakamouse admiringly commented, ‘Those must have been some incredibly persuasive questions!’

“In other poll news, a poll of Canadian polling agencies shows that 87 per cent of pollsters skew polling questions to ensure that the polls offer upbeat opinions of the economy and negative opinions of the ruling Liberal Party. ‘This confirms that the economy is basically strong,’ Eekamouse commented, ‘and, if you don't believe me, it's because of the propaganda put out by the Liberals!’ From Ottawa, this is Vivienne Tso-Wa.”

War in Iraq? Boooooooring! What? Well, yes, Germaine Tims-Stimson, the mud stud, is the cutest reporter currently on assignment. He has such dreamy eyes, and the way he stands in a foxhole and reports with steely determination on the war hundreds of kilometres away – okay, you convinced me. Here he is.

“In the aftermath of a week of attacks in Iraq that killed over 30 people and injured over 100, United States President George W. Bush said, ‘They’re not going to intimidate America, and they’re not going to intimidate the brave Iraqis who are participating in their freedom.’ In response, Islamic Dunciad exploded a bomb that killed two Americans and injured 17. Soon after, ID representative Abdullah von Tigriti said, ‘It’s good to finally be engaging the Americans in meaningful dialogue.’ From a quiet spot on the Euphrates, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson reporting for *The Irrational*.”

Oooh, yummy. No, that’s not drool on my chin – I just have trouble closing my jaw sometimes – my doctor says I may need a wire put in. Thanks – that’s definitely what I want a national television audience to know about me.

Harumph. Exploiting fear – no longer just for sleazy politicians and tabloid newspapers. Kirk Mackerel has the report.

“Staff Inspector Gary Ellis, head of Toronto’s homicide squad, claimed that a killing over the weekend was due to Canada’s lax marijuana laws. ‘The victims weren’t actually involved in the marijuana trade,’ Ellis admitted, ‘no marijuana was found at the scene of the crime, and, to my knowledge, the victims didn’t even actually use marijuana themselves. The connection should be obvious.’ From Toronto, this is Kirk Mackerel.”

I can’t say as I care for T-Rex Murphy ever since he wouldn’t take no for an answer at a Mother Corporation Christmas party. Still, some people like him, I suppose, so, here he is.

“The merger of two major American banks last week has prompted calls to allow Canadian banks to merge. HELLO! Don’t you know the United States has a gazillion banks while Canada only has five? Remember the scene in *Bowling for Columbine* where Michael Moore opens a bank account and gets a gun? Well, what he didn’t show was that every time somebody in the United States buys a gun, they open a bank! Hello, First National Bank of Geordie and Samantha! Come on, people! The situation in the two countries is not the same! I mean, at the rate banks in the United States are merging, their banking sector won’t resemble Canada’s for another 237 years! Let’s face fa –”

Uhh, T-Rex?

“What?”

Could the fact that you just found out how much your bank is charging you to recover your cashed checks be colouring your judgement?

“Absolutely not! The fact that Canadian banks are blood-sucking leeches had no bearing on my opinions whatsoever!”

Okay. Thanks for clearing that up.

With Tom Jacobek and John Nunziata all but out of the Toronto Mayoral race, whoever does win has a built-in re-election slogan: It Could Have Been Worse...

The Irrational: Controlling the Journalistic Agenda

And So It Begins: Ontario Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty backs down on his pledge to halt construction on the Oak Ridges Moraine, saying getting out of contracts signed by the previous Conservative government would be too costly. Borrowing the head-spinning special effect from *The Exorcist*, Conservatives who opposed the Liberal policy now excoriate the party for not going through with it.

Ratings War is Hell: CBS cancels a cheeky miniseries on the life of former President Ronald Reagan due to protests by groups that hadn't seen the series while NBC runs an earnest movie on Iraqi POW Jessica Lynch even though she now says that the story of her rescue was exaggerated. Is the first casualty of political entertainment warfare a sense of humour?

Flashback Without the Acid: the *Globe and Mail* succeeds in getting court permission to publish details of the Airbus trial, which it does *ad nauseam*, unaware that readers have moved on. On a more positive note, scientists believe that the key to time travel may be just this kind of time warp.

From the tarmac behind a grounded Air Canada jet at Pearson International Airport, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.

I'm Eloise Tendentious, filling in for Joe Anchor, who seems to have disappeared. Joe, we miss you. Call or...write or something, okay?

A TV movie based on Jennifer Smart's – Jennifer Smart? That's tacky. I don't wanna go there. What else have we – a Paris Hilton sex video? Please! Not only is that tacky, but it could put you off having sex with anybody for decades! Don't we have any real news? Right...right...okay, you know, I never thought I would say this, but I'm really looking forward to Ian Hawdogoatsing's report on Prime Minister Jean Chretien's retirement.

“Despite news that his entire cabinet was flown to the Arctic at the expense of the Irving family to participate in the annual seal hunt, Jean Chretien spent his last day in the House of Commons as Prime Minister listening to speeches praising his 10 year reign. And while it's safe to say there wasn't a dry eye in the House, one can never be sure how many MPs were crying and how many were laughing. ‘I t’ink dat da majority were crying,’ Chretien said later, ‘but dey wouldn't put it to a voice vote, so we may never

know.’ As always, one can only admire the Prime Minister’s optimism. From Ottawa, this is Ian Hawdogoatsing reporting.”

Meanwhile, a video game has – a video game? Who decided on this lineup?

I DID!

Joe Anchor! What are you doing here?

This is where I belong, Eloise.

But, you...you disappeared just when you were needed!

I went on a voyage of personal discovery, Eloise. It was unfortunately timed, perhaps, but it was necessary for me to undergo a personal transformation in order to return to the anchor desk refreshed and with a renewed sense of purpose.

You’ve been reading Deepak Chopra again, haven’t you?

If fate has determined that our next item should be about video games, we must accept that that is what our next item will be.

You have! You have been reading Dee –

“After an uproar in La Belle Province, Sony Inc. has decided to release a video game titled *Syphon Filter 4: The Omega Strain* without a mission in which Quebec separatists attack Toronto with machine guns, hand grenades and deadly biological weapons. ‘We’ve learned our lesson about stereotyping people,’ an anonymous Sony programming drone commented, ‘and from now on we’re going to stick to Arab terrorists and Central American drug lords as our villains!’ For *The Irrational*, this is Buffy reporting from a camp just outside of Tel Aviv for no particular reason.”

No! I’m not going to leave the anchor desk to some New Age loony!

Eloise, I don’t expect you to understand, but –

Oh, I understand, all right. The flagship newscast of the nation is about to be anchored by a guy who believes in spirit manifestations and the power of positive thinking!

So much judgementalism in one person. Eloise, you must open yourself more to the rich variety of experiences life offers us.

You see? You see? This is exactly what I’m talking about! You can’t seriously expect –

“The Canadian Senate has passed a bill that could limit how much people use Jet Skis in cottage country. ‘This is an outrageous infringement of my civil liberties,’ complained

former Alliance Party leader and...umm...well, nobody's really sure what he's doing these days, Stockwell Day. 'And...and...not to mention my political free speech!' Ah, the Alliance, always willing to fight yesterday's unnecessary battles. This is Rahul Festrunk reporting from Ottawa."

And, another thing: how come he's the flaky one, but I'm the one you cut off in mid-sentence to go to the next news it –

"Ontario MPP Marilyn Churley has legally changed her name to Marilyn Churley-NDP so that in the legislature she would be referred to as "Churley-NDP," a designation she no longer enjoys because the New Democratic Party did not win enough seats in the provincial election to retain its party status. From Toronto, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting for *The* –"

Umm, Anson, is that it?

"Sure – that's the story. What more do you think I should have said?"

Not to worry, Anson. Your report was exactly what it needed to be.

Nonsense! It really needed something witty and clever to give the ending some punch.

"Oh, I don't know. I think the story pretty much satirizes itself."

Ooookay.

Critics of Canada's stand on the war on Iraq warned that the country would be shut out of post-war reconstruction contracts. As Subaru Debutante reports, this appears to be coming true.

Hey! That was my intro!

Not to worry, Eloise. We have something much more interesting in store for you.

Rea –

"Jalal Talabani, the new president of the US appointed interim Iraqi government, blasted Canada for not joining the war in that country and warned that those who opposed the war will forfeit lucrative reconstruction contracts. By this logic, Albania will be able to put its extensive knowledge of oil pipeline reconstruction to good use, while Ethiopia will be given responsibility for ensuring the safety and quality of Iraq's food supply. And people wonder why post-war Iraq is in such bad shape. From a burnt out suburb of Nasiriyah, this is Subaru Debutante reporting."

Why do so many child stars grow up to be alcoholics, drug addicts or, worse, directors of television commercials? Could it be the constant pressure to maintain society's ideal of

cuteness, even during bad hair days? Eloise Tendentious reports on the latest child star to succumb.

“The kid who says ‘Zoom zoom zoom’ in Mazda commercials has checked himself into rehab to deal with an undisclosed drug problem. A representative of the car company stated: ‘He was having trouble dealing with the pressure of having to say “Zoom zoom zoom” in so many languages. I’m sure it’s a problem we can all relate to.’ For *The Irrational*, this Eloise Tendentious is reporting from Tokyo.”

Fast work, Eloise. The late Princess of Wales: feminist cautionary tale about the marginalization of women in patriarchal society or mindless party girl who lucked into a royal marriage? Jian Gezundheight has this report.

“Did Canadian pop idol Bryan Adams sleep with the late Princess of Wales Diana Spencer? If so, that would lower to 21 the number of Canadian men between the ages of 18 and 65 that the Princess has **not** been rumoured to have slept with, many since she died. This is nowhere near the leader – Great Britain – where only three men have not been rumoured to have slept with the late Princess – two of whom are over 80 and expected to die soon – but is well ahead of the United States, with 176 men. ‘You see,” crowed the Council of Canadians, ‘you live long enough, and the advantages Canada has over the United States become obvious.’ From London not Ontario, this is Jian Gezundheight reporting.”

That’s a couple I know I’m going to have nightmares about. While we’re on the subject of sex, social trends and parrot droppings reporter Vivienne Tso-Wa reports on the latest teenage tomfoolery.

“According to a study by the Northern Kentucky University, more than half of teens believe a person should still be considered abstinent after engaging in oral sex. A follow-up study will no doubt show that most teenagers believe you can eat a steady diet of fast food and not be considered ‘fat,’ and spend all your free time watching television and video games and not be considered ‘stupid.’ I blame cutbacks in the school system. From southern Kentucky, this is Vivienne Tso-Wa reporting for *The Irrational*.”

Later in the broadcast, more to come...

The Irrational: Absolutely Scandalous

The Importance of Being Ernst: *The Globe and Mail* calls Jew-baiting, Holocaust-denying good time boy Zundel ‘a champion of civil rights.’ Bigots across the continent demand a day of recognition on or near Martin Luther King Day.

The Lord Tooker Him: Environmental activist Tooker Gomberg dies, leaving Canadians with one less source of amusement. Come on – words with Ks and Gs in them are funny. Tooker Gomberg. Tooker Gomberg. Toooooooooooker Gommmbmmmmberg. See? You’re

smiling already.

That's That, Then: a military investigation into a botched air strike in Afghanistan that killed nine children concludes that it followed the appropriate rules of engagement. Commented one grieving parent: "I guess there's no point pursuing our wrongful death lawsuit."

"From a dilapidated old shack behind the Medieval Studies building that houses the programme named after Canada's most famous media theorist, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor."

Does psychological correctness know no bounds? As Rahul Festrunk reports, there are no villains any more – just misunderstood civil servants.

"Former Public Works Minister Alfonso Gagliano testified to a Commons committee that he had no knowledge of the sponsorship scandal, making him the latest in a long line of politicians who would rather be thought of as incompetent than corrupt. Seeing how successful the tactic is, relatives of the late fascist dictator Benito Mussolini are trying to rehabilitate his good name. According to Italo Mussolini, 'Benito was the victim of a media smear campaign. He had no idea that the party he led was allied with the Nazis, or was even at war with anybody.' This is Rahul Festrunk professionally damping down his skepticism as he reports from Ottawa."

Is technology really improving people's lives as much as technologists claim? As Jason Petersburgovitz reports, computers do allow people to steal vast sums of money with the touch of a button, although some may not see this as progress.

"The RCMP is investigating a 'sophisticated' scheme that bilked the Canadian defence department of almost \$160 million in computer contracts over 10 years. Apparently, a representative of Hewlett-Packard walked into the defense department and asked for millions of dollars to do no work. The investigation involves trying to find out who actually said, 'Yes.' From Ottawa, this is Jason Petersburgovitz reporting for *The Irrational*."

Would it be appropriate to call Prime Minister Paul Martin's culling of Liberal MPs who were loyal to former Prime Minister Jean Chretien a purge or a massacre? Buffy has the latest report from the battle lines.

"Sheila Copps, having lost the Liberal Party nomination in the riding of Hamilton East-Stoney Creek to Tony Valeri, would like the vote to be reheld, claiming widespread irregularities. She is not a whiner, though, Copps insisted. A moaner, bitcher, complainer, grumbler, sourpuss, sorehead, grouser, crank, grouch or griper, maybe, but not a whiner. It's so good that she's cleared that up for us. From a bar in Ottawa with Jason and Rahul, this is Buffy reporting."

Why is it so easy to hate those that are different from us? And, I'm not talking just about Anglicans. Anson Bergecheck reports from the front lines of the war against racism, which, oddly enough, turns out to be a suburb of Toronto.

"Thirteen homes in Vaughan were spray painted with swastikas and other anti-Jewish messages, including the words JEWZ SUK. Members of B'nai B'rith said that this was proof that nobody need fear that modern anti-semites would organize more violent anti-Jewish events: 'I mean, they can't even spell!' Reporting from a safe house in an undisclosed location, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting."

What is the latest scientific outrage perpetrated on poor, defenseless mother Earth? Science reporter David Sosumi is only too happy to go on at length about it in this report.

"In an opinion piece in *The Star*, Sumitra Rajagopalan asks: 'A Canadian mission to Mars? Why not?' How about the fact that the mission would go billions of dollars over budget, and it would take years before it was revealed that at least a third of that went to public relations firms in Quebec? From Ottawa, this is David Sosumi thumbing his nose at Joe Anchor for *The Irrational*."

Oh. That was an actual science report. Sorry, David. Dealing with the daily grind of human misery, stupidity and suffering can make one cynical.

If, as economists claim, the American economy is booming, why do so many working Americans feel like they've been hit in the head with a boom? Eldred Cleavuntoer tries to answer the question that has dogged politicians for many minutes.

"Last month, the American government claimed that the economy would create 130,000 new jobs. Only 21,000 were created. Where did the others go? Into the American Imaginary, of course, that strange, mystical parallel universe that is so much like ours, yet so different. With an election coming up, President George W. Bush intends to run on his record...from the Imaginary, where the economy is booming, the federal deficit will be paid down in his second term, the Israeli hard line has resulted in peace with Palestinians and democracy is fully emerging in Iraq. 'Gee,' Democratic Presidential hopeful John Kerry remarked, 'it's hard to beat a record like that with mere reality!' With one foot in the American Imaginary and one foot in the real New York, this is Eldred Cleavuntoer reporting."

They say that if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. Does this include news of the weird (not the copyrighted News of the Weird, but the weird news that always existed before it)? As justice reporter Kirk Mackerel found out, they even do bizarreness bigger there.

"After a New Yorker walking her dog was electrocuted by faulty wiring under the pavement, the New York district attorney's office began conducting a study to determine if it was feasible to use this method to execute convicted murderers. Almost immediately, the American Civil Liberties Union condemned death by city street as cruel and unusual

punishment. This is Kirk Mackerel reporting from a helicopter high above the streets of New York.”

It was an event that traumatized a nation – how best to make money from it? Social trends and obscure plant diseases reporter Vivienne Tso-Wa finds, to nobody’s surprise, that the answer is easier for the more politically connected.

“With September a few months away, how are you thinking of commemorating the terrorist attack on New York? Why not buy a piece of the actual airplane that crashed into the World Trade Centre? Apparently, FBI agents took plenty from the rubble as souvenirs. However, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stated he wouldn’t sell the piece of the plane that hit the Pentagon that he owns, claiming that ‘that would just be sick.’ This is Vivienne Tso-Wa, saving up my pennies in New York.”

Is technology really improving people’s lives as much as – no, wait a second – I already used that intro. Well, anyway, Monique Moosehead has another technology story for the propeller heads in our audience.

“The European Union is only days away from making a decision on whether or not Microsoft abused its dominance of the computer operating systems market. Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer said, ‘I’ve seen the latest draft of the top secret decision, and I’m not worried. You’d think they would have had the sense to use Linux.’ *The Irrational* has obtained a copy of the next to top, not quite secret but still not exactly public draft of the decision, which includes such damning passages as:
‘1E;3_U!L?’(‘!@’(‘+P”KC @%`+P”!’@’P(‘.VX1`U/((\O’@!/)M@’-A:62’:6Z`;
7F`C97!T86YC98!S<&5E8VB`872`071L86YT88!T:&%TM@’1H98`Q.3@X@&5L96-
T:6]N@’=A<X!N;W2`86)O=730`14``L``0`!V`LHM!P4``2`5`-
!I9&5O;&]G>8!B=72`86)O=72`8V]M<&5T96YC92Z`28!W87.’
M=W)O;F<N@\$ET@’=A<X!A8F]U=(!P:’)A<V5O;&]G>2Z`272`=V%SSV%B;W5T
M@#\$PA’-E8V]N9(!S;W5N9(!B:71E<RZ`06Y D@&UA9&6\$9F]RA%16@&)A8
VMD’ I believe this shows just how perfidious Microsoft’s control of the market really is. From Maastricht, The Netherlands, this is 6YC98!S V%SSV%B;W reporting for +P”
6]N@’=A<X!.”

Should entertainment news be considered as important as political news? As Jian Gezundheight reports, more people care about celebrities, so entertainment news is, if anything, more important. Hey – if you don’t like it, you can always read a newspaper.

“Geffen Records was given permission by a federal judge to release a greatest hits album from rock band Guns N’ Roses over the objections of lead singer Axl Rose. Rose claimed that he was not consulted on the choice or remixing of material for the album. Hmm...makes you wonder who the real pirates are, doesn’t it? This is Jian Gezundheight, downloading as fast as I can in Denmark.”

Later in the broadcast: former *USA Today* journalist Jack Kelley is being investigated for possibly fabricating substantial amounts of eight separate articles. Former *Irrational*

reporter Bryson Pecobia responds: “We’re supposed to be impressed? What a poseur! I completely made up eight articles in one week!” Good to know there’s something Canadians excel at...

The Irrational: We’re Number One! And Two...And Maybe Three...

From Mad Dog to Lap Dog: British Prime Minister Tony Blair shakes the hand of Libyan dictator Moammar Khadafi while British Petroleum shakes him down. Just another shining example of government and industry working together to benefit...well, themselves, mostly.

He’s Hip, He’s Happenin’, He’s 2,000 Years Old: *The Passion of the Christ* is the number one movie in North America for the third week in a row. Can a sequel be far behind?

The Language Police are Taking a Doughnut Break: Donald Trump has announced his intention to patent the phrase “You’re fired.” If successful, how will Paul Martin deal with all of the remaining principles in the sponsorship scandal?

“From behind the rotting vegetables in a stall in Kensington Market, this is *The Irrational*, with Joe Anchor.”

Well, the numbers are in and it’s official: *The Irrational* is the most watched newscast...by 48 to 64 year-olds...who are confined to institutions...and who aren’t taking their medication like they’re supposed to. And it’s the fine reportage of journalists like Rahul Festrunk that has brought us this popularity!

“Paul Martin released his first budget as Prime Minister. It was a photocopy of his last budget as Finance Minister, with some numbers crossed out and written over in blue ink. While some critics called the budget ‘boring’ and ‘predictable,’ Prime Minister Martin defended it, saying, ‘Think of all the money we saved on printing costs!’

“In other federal news, Martin’s Challenger jet was almost hit by ‘a luminous object streaking across the night sky.’ Drones in the Prime Minister’s Office claim that he and his entourage didn’t notice the encounter with an unidentified object (probably a space rock burning up in the atmosphere), but the plane’s black box recorder has Prime Minister Martin shouting, ‘Evasive actions, Mister Sulu!’ Of course, he could just have been responding to the accusation that he moved his shipping line to another country in order to avoid Canadian taxes. From Ottawa, this is Rahul Festrunk reporting for *The Irrational*.”

It’s true that we lost a lot of viewers in the WOMBAT demographic, but apparently CTV’s *Nightly News in the Evening* lost even more. So, although we’re still number two, CTV should be afraid. Very afraid. Sylvia Ferberance knows all about the kind of fear I’m talking about, and she’s not afraid to share it with our viewers.

“According to Health Department spokesperson Catherine Saunders, a hazardous form of asbestos insulation called vermiculite is not dangerous unless disturbed. One should, therefore, not discuss the Liberal sponsorship scandal with it, and under no circumstances take it to see the Coen brothers remake of *The Ladykillers*. This is Sylvia Ferberance reporting from Ottawa.”

Okay, we’ve lost some ground with alienated western orthodontists, but, you know, being third in that demographic is almost a badge of honour. They probably wouldn’t be interested in Anson Bergecheck’s latest report, anyway.

“When Jewish homes and synagogues were defaced with racist symbols and messages, an anti-racism rally was held, attended by such notables as MP Art Eggleton, Toronto Mayor David Miller and police chief Julian Fantino. When a mosque was defaced, the Muslim community was sent a card of condolence on the death of its pet bunny. Good to see that the politicians are in complete agreement that racism must be opposed in all its forms. For *The Irrational*, this is Anson Bergecheck reporting from Toronto.”

Okay, from here, the ratings are all downhill, so perhaps this is a good time to give the “This is all an exercise in navel gazing that should not take up valuable news airtime” rant. Consider yourself ranted at.

The Bush administration, coming under heavy attack for its war against Iraq, has decided to defend itself. As Subaru Debutante reports, damage control appears to mean damaging the reputation of others.

“Richard Clarke has told the American commission investigating intelligence failures before 9/11 that President Bush seemed more interested in waging a war against Iraq than in combating actual terrorists. In response, Bush called Clarke a ‘poopie head.’ National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice later expanded on Bush’s response: ‘He was an out of the loopy poopie head.’ Homeland Security Czar John Ashcroft chimed in: ‘He was an ear droopy out of the loopy poopie head.’ It would almost be charming if they were writing a children’s book... This is Subaru Debutante reporting from Washington.”

While the war on the home front is getting the most attention, Germaine Tims-Stimson reminds us that there is another, hotter war going on...somewhere else.

“The dead bodies of four American soldiers in Iraq were burned and mutilated, and two of them were hung from a bridge. *The Globe and Mail* said the mob “degrade[d]” the American dead, as if it was Donald Trump humiliating another assistant wannabe. The good news is that there’s enough material for a sequel to *Black Hawk Down*.

“In another war-related story, papers are circulating in Washington suggesting that the United States reinstate the draft in order to have enough soldiers to accommodate all of the country’s military commitments throughout the world. It is not, however, a ‘draft;’ it is being referred to as a ‘registrant integrated processing system,’ or RIPS. Obviously,

‘Deterrent Enhancement About Tomorrow’s Hostilities’ was already taken. Having just taken my cynical pills, this is Germaine Tims-Stimson reporting from Baghdad.”

Fifteen per cent... 10 albino Latino Protestants...hmm, we might have to cut ba – ahem. Are you secure in your job? Really? One of the functions of a successful news broadcast is to make viewers less certain about their lives, something Monique Moosehead does very well.

“According to a study commissioned by the Information Technology Association of America, moving jobs to foreign countries actually increases the number of jobs in the United States. Orwell couldn’t have put it better. The theory is that the money saved by using cheaper foreign labour can be put to hiring additional local workers. The possibility that the money might go to increased management compensation instead seems to have escaped the report’s authors. While it may be true that a rising tide lifts all boats, those who are swimming need to vigilantly watch the water for approaching hulls. From Washington, this is Monique Moosehead reporting for *The Irrational*.”

Justice. Deaf dumb and blind, or just... Kirk Mackerel answers the age old question. (Only fifteen per cent? We targeted them with ads in their community newspapers...)

“A week after he was appointed as chair of Toronto’s police services board, rumours started circulating about Alan Heisey’s fitness for the office. The first rumour accused him of holding ‘perverted positions.’ The next rumour claimed he was ‘in police opposition with perverted positions.’ Most recently, an anonymous tip to a newspaper suggested that Heisey was ‘in police opposition with perverted positions and bad dentition.’ Hmm...if these rumour-mongers got together with members of the Bush administration, you’d have a pretty good duet... For *The Irrational*, this is Kirk Mackerel reporting from Toronto.”

Real paintings being called fakes. Fake paintings being called real. Who can trust anything the media tells us any more? Eloise Tendentious tries to answer this question in the following 45 second report.

“A painting which was thought to be a fake for over 50 years has been authenticated as a genuine Vermeer, and will be auctioned off by Sothebys for as much as \$5.4 million. An investigation into the picture ‘Young Woman Seated at the Virginals’ indicated that it used pigments primarily used by Vermeer, and the fact that the woman seems to be seated in front of an old-fashioned telephone switchboard was dismissed as irrelevant. From London, this is Eloise Tendentious reporting.”

Later in the broadcast, an in-depth look at the corruption charges being leveled against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Is it time for him to build a containing wall around himself...?

NewsSpew for December 21, 2010

Friesen's left elbow has six days to decide whether or not to continue with the lawsuit...Ginni Thomas has asked America for an apology for allowing Anita Hill to testify at the confirmation hearings of her husband, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Publicly, America has stated that it will offer no such apology, although privately America is rumoured to kind of sort of a little bit admire Ginni Thomas' psychotic chutzpah...The Ties That Bind, an S/M bondage appreciation society, has dropped Mel Gibson from its television advertising. Apparently, his verbal outbursts were too controversial for an organization that promotes public group spankings of people in latex...A poll taken the day after Toronto's municipal election indicates that 27% of winner Rob Ford's supporters thought that they were taking a survey of which company's car they would most like to own, and that they chose Ford because "they didn't want to own any of them foreign vehicles." ...In anticipation of KFC introducing into Canada the Double Down sandwich, which consists of bacon and cheese between two boneless white meat chicken filets, cardiac specialists across the country are cancelling their golfing plans for the next several years...Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair admitted that charges against around 100 G20 protestors were thrown out because the force failed to obtain proper warrants, while as many as 100 officers could be disciplined for not wearing ID at the summit. Let's see: 100 days languishing unjustly in a prison versus 100 days docked pay. Interesting math...Yesterday, the Dow Jones had its best returns in over a year. Pundits claim this is because the US election has given the market certainty. Certain gridlock that will leave the legislative process paralyzed and unable to deal with the problems the country faces, but certainty nonetheless...Despite all evidence to the contrary, 30 per cent of Canadians believe that Michael Ignatieff was solely responsible for the country losing its bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. "That's nothing," Prime Minister Stephen Harper crockled. "Watch what happens when I tell them to all cluck like a chicken at the same time!" ...The Hells Angels motorcycle gang is suing fashion design house Alexander McQueen and retail chain Saks for trademark infringement for selling merchandise using the club's death head designs. "Well," sniffed Hells Angel Knuckles Poltroon, "we got a public image to uphold, don't we?" ...The most common costume in Toronto this Halloween was Rob Ford. Children seemed confused by it, but their parents were awfully smug...For the third time in as many tries, the word "crockled," a portmanteau of "crowed" and "chuckled," has been denied inclusion in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. "We were amastazounded that this came up again," editor Shecky Montmorency commented. "I will give supporters of the word this: they are really perstupidend!" ...An "ethical wall" is to be erected around Nigel Wright, on temporary leave from Bay Street company Onex to become Prime Minister Harper's chief of staff, in order to protect him from conflicts of interest. "It's the same wall we use to keep MPs away from the press," Harper stated, "so you know it will be completely effective!" ...Most people who have watched the situation unfold do not believe that Randy Quaid will be given refugee status in Canada. He has just not convinced anybody that he is being hunted down by Hollywood STAR WHACKERS. Now, if it had been his brother Dennis...According to Senate Still Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, the voters have sent a clear message that his party's agenda must now rule Washington. The only problem is that the Tea Party appears to have been given the exact same message. And, the Chamber of Commerce...In response to the Canadian government's decision not to allow Australian mining company BHP to

take over Canada's major potash producer, the company says it is willing to revise its offer. "Let us know what promises you would like us to make," said a BHP spokesman. "It's not like we were planning on keeping any of them, so a few more won't make any difference..." Perennial Republican candidate and avowed non-witch Christine O'Donnell made a gracious concession speech in which she snarled, "You won't have Christine O'Donnell to kick around any more!" Towards the end, O'Donnell said she would be embarking on a new career as a

The Daily Me Frequently Unasked Questions

- 1) [What is *The Daily Me*?](#)
- 2) [No, seriously, what is *The Daily Me*?](#)
- 3) [Could you be any less helpful?](#)
- 4) [Okay, fun is fun, but, really, what is *The Daily Me*?](#)
- 5) [What if I'm not yet a subscriber?](#)
- 6) [Since you brought it up, I've often wondered: do you include the opening statement in your word count? I mean, it's basically the same each week – wouldn't that be cheating?](#)
- 7) [How do you figure that?](#)
- 8) [Yes, but, aren't the words the same?](#)
- 9) [Ouch.](#)
- 10) [I've noticed that the headlines sometimes comment ironically on the articles they come with. Who exactly writes the headlines?](#)
- 11) [Sometimes, you have articles from a publication called *The Toronto Startle*. At other times, you identify information as coming from another publication called *The Toronto Star*, which I can only assume is a parody of the *Startle*. Aren't you afraid you're going to confuse your readers by moving back and forth between the two?](#)
- 12) [Why?](#)
- 13) [Is there really such a thing as a *Ukrainian TV Guide*? I mean, do they even have TV in the Ukraine?](#)
- 14) [If that's all the television they have, why does their *TV Guide* contain so many entries?](#)
- 15) [Really?](#)

1) What is *The Daily Me*?

All you, all the time.

2) No, seriously, what is *The Daily Me*?

A surrey with a fringe on top.

3) Could you be any less helpful?

Sure. This Frequently Unasked Questions file could be written in Urdu.

4) Okay, fun is fun, but, really, what is *The Daily Me*?

Do you not pay attention? Have you so quickly forgotten the profile you so painstakingly filled out for us? (Obviously, we're going to have to make it more painful.) Or, the way we compare your profile with that of others, suggesting that you might like the same things that people with the same interests as you like? Jeez, man, it's at the start of every newsletter we email to you – don't you even read the damn thing?

5) What if I'm not yet a subscriber?

Then, please pardon our contempt. You deserve our indifference.

6) Since you brought it up, I've often wondered: do you include the opening statement in your word count? I mean, it's basically the same each week – wouldn't that be cheating?

I hate to disagree with a loyal reader (on an empty stomach – you wouldn't happen to have any anchovy sandwiches, would you?), but the opening statement is completely different every day.

7) How do you figure that?

We've got different music playing in the office when we paste it into your newsletter.

8) Yes, but, aren't the words the same?

Mostly. But, the Karma is different. (Unless we're playing Culture Club, in which case the Karma Chameleon is different.)

9) Ouch.

We know, we know. If we weren't so busy putting out thousands of newsletters a day, we'd be embarrassed by the cheesiness of that last joke.

10) I've noticed that the headlines sometimes comment ironically on the articles they come with. Who exactly writes the headlines?

We have an excellent headline writer named Marty DiBergi. He used to be a documentary filmmaker, but that was a long time ago. Now he drinks until four in the morning, comes in at noon and writes all of the headlines for some 1,400 articles in roughly five minutes. (His record is two minutes, 27 seconds, but half of the headlines that day read: "Humans do more outrageous yet totally believable shit," which, when you think of it, could be a headline for almost any news article.) We wouldn't say Marty is bitter, exactly, but we have put serious filters on his computer to ensure that no headline that he writes appears with obscene terms for people's anatomy or acts performed by consenting adults. If we actually let him read on the job, we're sure he'd thank you for referring to his headlines as "ironic;" other readers have been less generous.

11) Sometimes, you have articles from a publication called *The Toronto Startle*. At other times, you identify information as coming from another publication called *The Toronto Star*, which I can only assume is a parody of the *Startle*. Aren't you afraid you're going to confuse your readers by moving back and forth between the two?

Afraid we're going to confuse our readers? Hell, we count on it!

12) Why?

Then they might not notice that articles from either source make no sense.

13) Is there really such a thing as a *Ukrainian TV Guide*? I mean, do they even have TV in the Ukraine?

Oh, yes, they have television in the Ukraine. As a matter of fact, they have three different channels: State One, State Two and Poisnevskji Alabramatsovskji, which, loosely translated, means The Green, Stinky Cheese Network. Ukrainian television's programming runs the gamut from documentaries on the role of the worker in ensuring the success of the five year plans of the 1950s to dramatic miniseries on the role of the worker in ensuring the success of the five year plans of the 1960s, and, of course, reruns of *Miami Vice*. Ukrainians seem to love their *Miami Vice*.

14) If that's all the television they have, why does their *TV Guide* contain so many entries?

I blame Gorbachev.

15) Really?

Oh, absolutely. If he hadn't presided over the end of the Soviet Union, nobody in the Ukraine would have cable. Except Party apparatchiks, but somehow they don't strike us as the core audience for *Miami Vice*.

Daily Me – Trina Albumen

Thank you, Trina Albumen for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we threw darts at our computer screens to determine what to include.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Have You Now Or Have You Ever Been Employed By Saddam Hussein?

The House UnAmerican Activities Committee? Wusses! What we need is a good old-fashioned Inquisition! Get with the programme, people! WE HAVE ENEMIES! THEY'RE IN IRAQ! THEY'RE IN FRANCE! THEY COULD BE IN JOHN KERRY'S UNDERPANTS! If you're planning on voting for an a**hole with such a spotty military record – I mean, did he burn his medals, his ribbons, other people's medals, his underpants, or what? – you might as well just hand Osama bin Laden a victory. I mean, the question isn't how many people close to Kerry worked for Saddam Hussein – the question is how many people close to Kerry **didn't** work for Saddam Hussein! A vote for Kerry is a vote for – aaaaargh! Aaaagh! Uuuuugh! – give me a moment while I get my glycerin pills...

SOURCE: *O'Meilly and Company*

[more](#)

Iraq versus Vietnam – A Progress Checklist

- ✗ “This country is a dire threat to our country, to our way of life, and we have no choice but to invade it.”
- ✗ “We will be seen as liberators, not conquerors.”
- ✗ “This is a minor insurgence by remnants of the dictator's army.”
- ✗ “We will be triumphant if we become more effective at getting our message of democracy out to the people.”
- ✗ “There is greater resistance than we expected – mostly by hardline religious fanatics who hate freedom – but everything is under control.”
- ✗ “Those who criticize the war effort are traitors who give comfort to our enemies and endanger the lives of our troops.”
- ✗ “This country's neighbours are sending soldiers to fight against us – they are the true enemies of democracy and freedom in the region.”
- ✗ “We are continuing to experience higher than expected resistance, but we can quickly bring matters under control if we send more troops into the country.”
- ✗ “We cannot pull out now, because it would give comfort to our enemies and send a signal to the world that we are not fully committed to the development of democracy.”

YOU ARE HERE: “This is not a quagmire.”

- ☐ “We appreciate the fact that the American public is becoming increasingly concerned about American casualties, but they are a small price to pay for democratic progress in this country.”
- ☐ “Our insistence that the country be run by people of our choosing resulted in a government that was seen as illegitimate by the general population.”
- ☐ “We completely underestimated the ability of the insurgents to strike at us and then melt into the general population.”
- ☐ “Our media turned against our cause.”
- ☐ “History will show that our cause was just.”

- ❑ “Yes, we must admit that we have been killing civilians, including women and children, and that that appears to have united the people of this country against us.”
- ❑ “The war was an unqualified success and we leave the country having secured peace with honour...”

SOURCE: *Big Alex' Domesday Countdown Page*

[more](#)

And You Thought Internet Time Was Something

Former Gosselin Communications executive Gilles-Andre Gosselin, explaining how he charged the federal government for 10,112 hours of work in 2002 demanded, “Is there a law that says people are not allowed to work seven days a week?” When one of the members of the parliamentary committee investigating the Liberal sponsorship scandal pointed out that that was more than the number of hours in a year, Gosselin responded, “Is there a law that says people are not allowed to slow down time to get more work done?”

SOURCE: *Toronto Stunned*

[more](#)

If the Federal Liberals Are the New Conservatives, Who Are the New Liberals?

After calling Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper “scary,” and urging Conservatives to vote for the best candidate in their riding, not necessarily for the party, former Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark gets gang-banged by the media. They love him...they love him not. They love him...they should grow up, maybe?

SOURCE: *Wryerson Journalism Review*

[more](#)

Perhaps They Should Put a Tariff on the Wood Between Their Ears

A North American Free Trade Agreement dispute panel has ruled – again – that Canadian softwood lumber exports were hurting American mills. This is a significant step forward in the long-standing dispute. It means that the US has only 27 more illegal moves to make against Canadian wood before this issue will finally be resolved. None of us may be alive to see the day, but at least the trees that aren't cut down will...

SOURCE: *Financial Riposte*

[more](#)

You Deserve To Keep All Of The Money You've Slaved To Earn!

So, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government would like to tax lottery winnings? We have a simple solution – don't pick up your money! That will deny the Ontario provincial government millions of – wait! Where are you going? Don't go looking for porn! Hear us out – HEAR US OUT!

SOURCE: *National Coalition of Anti-tax Loonies Home Page*

[more](#)

News From Never Never Land

Prosecutors in the Michael Jackson child sex case have seized underwear purportedly worn by the former music star. They expect the underwear to fetch between \$1,000 and \$5,000 on eBay. "Why didn't any of my financial advisers think of that?" Jackson mused to himself.

SOURCE: *Traders Weekly*

[more](#)

Virus Al3ert

A new virus, DadBlastIt, started infecting computers last week. It is believed to have parked itself on millions of hard drives running MicroMush NT&A, 2000 and 2002 Office Sweet software. The playful virus starts by adding number4s to words at random. Then, it word7s changes order of in sentences the. Then, it your hard drive and shuts down the drive.

SOURCE: *Computers Byte Magazine*

[no more](#)

The Daily Me – Ivan Denisovich

Thank you, Ivan Denisovich for signing up for The Daily Me. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we went home, watched the final episode of *Angel*, had moderately enjoyable sex with our significant others and had an early night's sleep. We're not exactly sure how today's compilation got finished, but we suspect the cleaning staff.

Enjoy,

The Daily Me Staff

Hey! – It Could Have Been Hackey Sack

Worried about what will happen to Don Cherry if rumours that he is to be fired from the CBC are true? Don't be. His newest venture is a video called *Don Cherry's Rockem Sockem Beach Volleyball, Volume 1*. The video will allow Cherry to wear the hideous jackets he is so loved for, as well as say things like, "Yeah, yeah. Sunscreen is for wimps...and Europeans." and, "If you can't spike 'em in the alleys, you can't spike 'em on the beach!" That's *Don Cherry's Rockem Sockem Beach Volleyball, Volume 1* – available in low class gyms and porn emporiums soon!

SOURCE: *The Schwartz Sports Report*

[more](#)

Quelle Surprise!

Some scientists now believe the universe is shaped like the Eiffel Tower. American chickenhawk *du jour* Paul Wolfowitz argues that this makes the French responsible for every bad thing that has ever happened or will ever happen in the space-time continuum.

SOURCE: *Scientific Canadian*

[more](#)

List of Iraqis Killed In the American Invasion and Occupation

Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Ali "Alex" Al-Sahala (age 3 ½). Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.
Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown. Unknown.

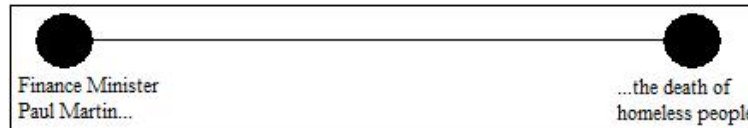
SOURCE: *Big Alex' Domesday Countdown Page*

[more](#)

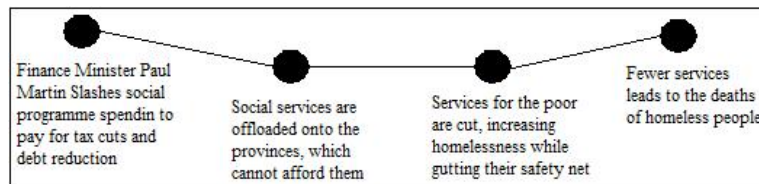
We Connect The Dots For Those Who Can't

On the campaign trail, New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton accused Prime Minister Paul Martin of being responsible for the death of homeless people when he was Jean Chretien's Finance Minister. Outrageous! everybody cried. But, was it really?

This is what the press reported:



You may get the impression that Layton was accusing Martin of personally going out and strangling homeless people. Actually, what Layton was arguing is closer to this:



Now, one may certainly argue with how Layton connects the dots. However, those who dismiss the dots themselves may want to get their vision checked.

As for the possibility that Paul Martin personally went out and strangled homeless people, well, you brought it up, I didn't. I'm sure Martin will stand on his record on this issue.

SOURCE: *Politics For Dummies*

[more](#)

Third Party Animals

Conservative Party health critic Rob Merrifield is calling for third-party counseling for women considering terminating pregnancies. The third party he is suggesting is Bansfield Meridien, an 87 year-old former Catholic shoe salesman who lives in a remote part of the Yukon. "Abortion is the law of the land, and we must respect that," Merrifield stated, "but I don't see why we shouldn't give women the opportunity to think long and hard about their decision. Especially long. After all, if they are forced to think long enough, the decision will be taken out of their hands..."

SOURCE: Canadian Depress

[more](#)

Coincidence or...?

Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor dismissed by former President Richard Nixon for failing to stop his Watergate investigation, and Sam Dash, the former chief counsel of the Senate select committee on Watergate, died on Sunday. Funny, isn't it, that they died on the same day? I mean, what are the odds that two men prominent in the Watergate affair would die on the same day? THE SAME DAY.

Okay, Cox **was** 92. He was old and old men die. But, Dash was only 79. He had one...maybe two good years left to him. And, yes, okay, it's not like we don't know what happened during Watergate – it was in all the papers.

Still, two prominent Watergate figures dying on the same day? THE SAME DAY. Eerie. That's got to be more than a coincidence. Could it be that Watergate was just the tip of the iceberg? I mean, could we have been given Watergate to cover up something even bigger? How come nobody mentions the Knights Templar roaming the streets of DC? Could it be that Cox and Dash found out something about the connection between Nixon's resignation and John F. Kennedy's assassination, something that somebody wanted to ensure that nobody found out?

Cox and Dash dead on the same day. THE SAME DAY. Makes you wonder...

SOURCE: *Mike's Ultimate Conspiracy Page*

(unfortunately lots) more

You Dance the Dance of Death With The Person Whut Brung Ya

Responding to photographs and videos showing former poster child for Truth and Iraqi Democracy Achmed Chalabi eating American soldiers while performing abortions on American teenagers, former Chair of the US Defence Policy Board Richard Perle said, "The CIA has disliked him passionately for a long time, and has mounted a campaign against him with some considerable success. I've seen no evidence of improper behaviour on his part. No evidence whatsoever."

SOURCE: Disassociated Press

more

Review of Righteous Anger

Michel Traner's verbless novel, *The Train from Nowhere*: this poor excuse for an intellectual exercise, this ill-advised piece of writing, at the same time bloated and meandering, perhaps misogynist, perhaps simply misanthropic. Credible conflict? No. Intriguing characters? No. Tortured syntax? You bet! Poor read – very poor read, indeed.

SOURCE: *Saturday Night, Fevered*

[more](#)

Force Them To Watch *Canadian Idol*

On the hustings (aren't they what corn grows in?), Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper said he was going to get tough on crime, even though it has actually been steadily declining for a number of years. He obviously longs for the days of the lash and public humiliations. Sad, really, when a candidate for leader of the country seems to look upon photos from Abu Ghraib prison with envy.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

[more](#)

The Daily Me – Miguelito Croft

Thank you, Miguelito Croft for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we emailed Kyle MacLachan through his Web site for his opinion, but he didn't respond. Then, we instant messaged Ben Stein, but either he doesn't have a computer or he was too busy counting his money to respond. Then, we tried to reach Marlon Brando on his cell phone, but he was still dead. Up against the deadline, we had our interns stare at printouts of the potential articles until they keeled over, and chose the ones closest to where their noses landed.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Top Nine List

Top Nine Reasons the US is Pissed the Philippine Government is Withdrawing its Troops From Iraq:

9. Their withdrawal will send a comforting message to terrorists (as opposed to their ongoing presence, which gives terrorists both a reason for their actions and a target).
8. The Philippine soldiers make better frou-frou drinks than the Mongolians.
7. Nobody's left to cut the grass.
6. If they had stayed three more weeks, we could have gotten our deposit on them back.
5. Norway – which only has 10 troops in the region – can still kick America's ass at soccer!
4. The twins can only do so much to distract Americans from bad news!
3. The bastards at the United Nations are soooooooo smug...
2. The troops from Tonga have nobody left to pick on.
1. We didn't think of it first.

SOURCE: *Late Tonight with David Lenoman*

<<http://marketing.ubs.com/latetontight/latetontightshow/list>>more

The Evils of Banalization

Toronto Mayor David Miller is considering his options after a cartoon in *The Toronto Sun* compared him to Adolph Hitler.

One person who is not taking the cartoon lying down is Hitler himself. On a direct line from Hades, he explained: "I invaded other countries in an attempt to rule the world – over 10 million people died in the war that followed. I was responsible for the deaths of six million Jews in an attempt to wipe the entire religion off the face of the earth. I was bad. This David Miller – what did he do? Stop a vote on an issue that wasn't even in City Council's jurisdiction? This sort of cartoon is an insult to dictators everywhere!" Hitler said he was considering suing the newspaper for libel – "There are certainly enough lawyers down here!" – if it doesn't apologize to him.

Benito Mussolini and Caligula offered to be character witnesses. "If we don't take a stand against the trivialization of evil here," Caligula explained, "some day, all our efforts may mean nothing to people."

SOURCE: *Wryerson Journalism Review*

<<http://www.wryerson.ca/wrj/online/majunder-jones1.html>>more

Listen Up, Fascist Asshole

There are some things you can postpone in life. A trip to the dentist's office. Buying that cute little purse. Telling your sexual partner how you got the genital warts. Then, there are the things you can't postpone.

Like elections.

Listen up, fascist asshole. Third world dictators put off elections. Democratic leaders know they have to hold elections even in times of war, terrorism or *The Contender*. You don't like it, go take over Bolivia.

SOURCE: *Listen Up, Asshole*

<[http://www.\(!\\$%!\\$#_\)\(*\)!*\)*\)*#%!&&%\(com/index.html](http://www.(!$%!$#_)(*)!*)*)*#%!&&%(com/index.html)>more

Divorce – Transexual Style

You thought you loved each other. You were wrong. You tied the knot, now you want to cut it – with extreme prejudice. But, since gays and lesbians have only started getting married, bad divorces are (ahem) virgin territory for you. In the spirit of hostility and confusion which accompanies most divorces, we would like to offer the following tips on how to make your divorce truly excruciating for all parties:

- o One of you must have sex with the other's best friend, preferably in a way that guarantees you will be caught, then live with the other person until the divorce is finalized.
- o Argue endlessly over who should get the Joni Mitchell CDs.
- o Blame your partner for your emotional instability, even if it's been part of who you are since before you were born, and, in fact, was one of the reasons your partner was attracted to you in the first place.
- o Constantly complain that the sex was so bad, you were seriously thinking of turning straight.
- o Blame your partner's family for never accepting you and doing everything they could to destroy the marriage.
- o "Accidentally" tape over your partner's favourite episode of *Queer As Folk*.

Nobody can guarantee you a bad divorce, of course, but if you follow these simple rules, it should make having a bad divorce much easier, and isn't that what love's all about?

SOURCE: *Yellow Triangle Blues*

<http://ytb.gay/July_2004/divorce.htm>more

New Frontiers In Homelessness

Urban Equipment of Canada is proposing to put 2,500 new trash bins in Toronto. They are seven feet tall and will contain advertising on both sides. "They're a little thin, but one could get used to living in them" said urban street living expert T. Herbert Frump. "You'd have to remove the actual bins, of course, and you might have to learn to live with garbage being dumped on your head. On the other hand, you could earn money from the recyclables dumped on you, and how many homed people have that luxury?"

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<<http://www.aye.net/>>more

The Truth Shall Set You France...

With official reports from the United States and Britain showing conclusively that Iraq never had weapons of mass destruction or ties to Al Qaeda and 9/11, it should now be apparent that France was right not to join America's war of choice. Will "freedom fighters" now be known as "France fighters?" Will "freedom of association" be changed to "France of association?" Instead if "Free to be me," will we have to call the anti-drug campaign "France to be me?"

The mind truly boggles.

President Bush, defending the war, said that the problem was an intelligence failure, and that before the war everybody believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. Except UN weapons inspector Hans Blix. And, not including international nuclear arms inspectors. Oh, and, of course, not the hundreds of thousands of civilians who protested against the war before it started, or the billions of people represented by countries that declined to participate. So, "everyone" in this instance means "members of my cabinet and the pundits in the media echo chamber."

Remember when being creative with the English language was the primary activity of writers, not politicians? Right – neither can I.

Case in point: at least eight of the 19 September 11 hijackers moved through Iran without getting their passports stamped, making it more difficult to trace their movement. However, according to acting CIA Director John McLaughlin, there will be no military action against Iran because "we have no evidence that there is some sort of official connection between Iran and 9/11." As if that stopped the US before...

SOURCE: *Saturday Night, Fevered*

<<http://www.saturdaynightfevered.ca/index.php>>more

The Daily Me – Moses Wuggeninge

Thank you, Moses Wuggeninge, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Unfortunately, the only articles that came up were on the reproductive lives of deep sea jellyfish. No matter how often we ran it through our computers, it always came up jellyfish. You really should get help for that. In the meantime, we made our own choices to keep things interesting...for us, if not for you.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Western Civilization In De-Klein

With oil prices topping \$50 a barrel, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein is crowing about his government's excellent management of the provincial economy. And, quite right, too. After all, it was the Alberta Conservatives who went back in time 100 million years and strangled all those dinosaurs in their sleep to ensure that the province would be swimming in the oil that their dead bodies would become.

SOURCE: *The Financial Riposte*

<<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/financialpost/story.html?id=49d-ddcd7-f2f2-4f4f-9f45-a2gb4cc7a513>>more

We Should All Live With Such Diminished Expectations

Republican President George Bush was considered a winner in his debate with Democratic challenger John Kerry because he continued breathing for the entire 90 minutes. "It was touch and go around the 50 minute mark," one Bush supporter commented, "when his face started turning blue. But, our man started breathing again before he passed out, so it was definitely 'Mission Accomplished!'"

Asked how he thought Kerry conducted himself, the Bush supporter commented, "Did you see his lips? He was on the verge of letting out a smug, superior, self-important sigh! He didn't, so we didn't get the knockout punch we were hoping for, but Kerry was definitely on the ropes!"

But, mostly, the Bush supporter wanted to gush about his own candidate. "Next debate, we're going to see if we can cut down on the drooling!"

SOURCE: *USA Whenever*

<<http://www.usawhenever.com/news/nation/2004-09-30-notsogreat-debate.htm>>more

Irony May Not Be Dead, But Comedy's Standards Sure Have Plummeted

FOX *The Surreal Life*: Paris Hilton breaks a nail in downtown Baghdad and spends several days poking through rubble looking for a manicurist. Hilarity ensues.

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

<<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>>more

Neutral No Longer Just An Idle Gear

Reuters News Service has complained that the CanWest Global chain of newspapers substituted inflammatory terms for the more neutral "suicide bombers" in two of its reports. "Dirty murdering Islamist scumbags is not an inflammatory term," an editorial in

CanWest Global's *The National Post* argued. "It's completely value-neutral. And if you don't believe us, you should have seen the term Izzy Asper wanted to use!"

SOURCE: *The Wryerson Journalism Review*

<http://www.wryerson.ca/wrj/online/kellerman-pratchettsett1.html>>more

But Enough About Me – Here's More About Me!

by Leah Eckler

I farted in bed last night.

I could have been marking my territory, making sure that my smell was all over my partner (who didn't object, by the way, although he must have known he would have been sleeping in the garage if he did). I could have been striking a blow for sexual emancipation, breaking one of the last taboos in bed as I was breaking wind. I could have been initiating a new form of conversation with my partner, a non-verbal conversation involving our olfactory senses.

I could have been doing a lot of things. But, actually, it was just my body responding to the baked beans I had had for dinner that evening.

SOURCE: *The National Whipping Post*

<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/news/story.html?ia=0ab0cdef-g6h6-4i18-jk9b-071234cc56ec>>no more, please

Physician, Fleece Thyself

Condition: Premature Distribution Syndrome

Symptoms: A drug is released to the public. With an advertising push especially targeted at doctors and elderly shut-ins, the drug quickly becomes an international best-seller, puffing up the company's bottom line. However, continued clinical trials begin to show that the drug has harmful side-effects, including increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Short-term Prognosis: Some damage to the company is inevitable, but it can be localized if the company immediately accepts that the drug is dangerous and pulls it off the market.

Long-term Prognosis: Better research procedures, including mandatory registry of studies before they are conducted, will help ensure that drugs that are put on the market are reasonably safe, and all of their side effects are known.

Case Study: Merck & Company's Vioxx arthritis treatment.

SOURCE: *The Medical Industrial Complex*

<http://www.medical-industrial-complex.org/journals/micx/premature_distribution_syndrome/secure/2_pds.htm>more

The Best Defense Is To Give Offense

Todd Ferenghi, in court to answer charges that he had stolen over \$5,000 in an armed robbery, claimed that he was not guilty by reason of “it’s not a huge sum of money.” When asked how he had come up with that plea, Ferenghi explained it was what the chairman of Dynamic Mutual Funds said in response to the Ontario Securities Commission’s investigation of market timing in mutual fund sales.

When he stopped laughing, Judge Conroyd Delbartin sentenced Ferenghi to the maximum prison term allowed by the law.

SOURCE: *Toronto Stunned*

<<http://www.canoodle.com/NewsStand/TorontoStunned/News/2004/08/28/508808.html>>
more

Oops

British Prime Minister Tony Blair admitted that he was wrong about Saddam Hussein having weapons of mass destruction and, after apologizing, committed ritual suicide by disemboweling himself with the Speaker of Parliament’s mace. The shaken Speaker said, “This is how responsible leaders act when it has been proven that they have mislead their people.”

Okay, this didn’t really happen. Blair said that even though the whole rationale for waging war against Iraq was bogus, it was still the right thing to do because the world was safer with Saddam Hussein out of power. When confronted with the reality that attacks in Iraq have increased since the end of the war, killing increasing numbers of members of the “Coalition of the Unthrilling” and untold numbers of civilians, Blair’s head exploded, covering his entire cabinet in blood and brain matter. The shaken Speaker of the House said, “This is how responsible leaders act when their policy statements bear no relationship to reality.”

Alright, alright, this didn’t happen, either. Blair lived and went on to say that: “Salvation will not come solely from a gunship...the only lasting way to defeat this terrorism is through progressive politics” that helps countries end oppression. That’s it. No stomping from Godzilla. No huge rocks falling from the sky. Just breathtaking hypocrisy.

You know, the world could really use a random disaster special effects generator.
Where's Jerry Bruckheimer when you need him?

SOURCE: **The Amazing Chocolate Yummies Blog**

<<http://www.chocoyummies.net>>more

The Daily Me – Nicholas Negroponte

All hail Nicholas Negroponte, whose brilliance foresaw the daily me (bandwidth limitations meant it was all in lower case back in those days) years before it came to be. We don't need to tell you how it works – you wrote the book, man!

We gave computing your *Daily Me* precedence over all the other plebes: Bill Gates, George Bush, Spongebob Squarepants – they had to wait while we calculated the articles that would most interest you. (Okay, we snuck some cycles in for Spongebob – hey! – we can be fans of more than one person, right? Right?) True, it took us three months to put together this issue of *The Daily Me*, but, we humbly submit that it lives up to the standards you set so many, many years ago.

Please like it.

Adoringly,
The Daily Me staff (and Geraldine, your biggest fan)

Apparently Not A Fungi

An American researcher has claimed to have found the lost city of Atlantis off the island of Cyprus. The Bush administration immediately placed Atlantis on its “Axis of Submerged Evil” and warned it to give up its weapons programmes or be condemned as a rogue state that supported terrorism. When it was suggested that the administration would be wise to wait to see if anybody actually lived there, President Bush remarked, “Better to take preemptive activities than to...to...to be faced with a mushroom in a – err – an American omelet.”

SOURCE: Disassociated Press

<<http://www.bltdaily.com/>>more

Force Them To Play Video Games All Day And Eat Fast Food And Your Mission Will Be Complete

The principal of a school in California has suspended an 11 year-old student for doing cartwheels in the schoolyard. And people wonder why American children are so obese?

SOURCE: *Late Tonight with David Lenoman*

<<http://marketing.ubs.com/latetontight/latetontightshow/monologue>>more

No Comparison To Vietnam Here, Boy. Nope. Un uh. No Way.

An investigation has been started into an incident in which an American marine in Fallujah shot and killed a wounded and apparently unarmed prisoner in a mosque. Apparently, this is how the Americans plan on capturing the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people: by ripping the organs out of their lifeless bodies.

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

<<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49667-2004Nov12.html>>more

Brush With Greatness, Broil For 20 Minutes

“Oh, my god!” I shrieked. “Nigella Lawson is signing autographs!”

“Who is Nigella Lawson?” The Boy asked.

“Well, uhh, ahh, she’s written some books, hasn’t she?” I told him.

“Good guess,” he grouched, “considering this is a book store,” and went back to reading the latest issue of *Maxim*.



*Oh, my god, it’s Nigella Lawson! Well, her shoulder, there, in the background. See it?
It’s a strong shoulder – that shoulder was definitely made for television.*

Helpful, as always, The Boy. I walked down the line of people that snaked past the 40 to 80 per cent off tables, through the business section and up to...cooking? Oh. She’s a chef. Okay. I eat. I picked up one of her books and looked at the author bio.

“Oh, my god!” I shrieked. “Nigella Lawson is on TV!”

The Boy looked up from his magazine, a sure sign that he was intensely interested. “Oh?” he asked. Some people have trouble expressing their deep admiration for celebrities. Fortunately, I’m not one of them.

“Quick,” I ordered him, “grab one of her books – I want an autograph.”



Here, this is better. Not only do you see Nigella’s arm, but you get a good look at her hair. Isn’t she gorgeous?

SOURCE: *Jennifer’s Brain Blorts*

<<http://weblogger.brainblorts.home.html>>more

Pity The Poor Zloty

According to Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe, a separate Quebec could enter into a trade deal with the rest of Canada, the United States and Mexico, and adopt the American dollar. The fact that the American dollar is currently dropping against all currencies except the zloty hasn’t seemed to factor into his thinking. This is just the sort of astute political calculation that has made sovereignty such a rousing success with most people in the province.

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

<http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&tacid=1028592831713&call_pageid=965335678498&col=966666672154>more

It Could Team Up With The Weight Renee Zellweger Lost After *Bridget Jones* – They Would Take Broadway By Storm

Much has been made of the 63 pounds lost by actor Christian Bale for his role in the film *The Machinist*. And, rightly so: that's practically a Kate Moss. There is no truth to the rumour that the weight Bale lost is planning on a modeling career, although several agencies have reportedly been calling it with offers.

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smg2004/2004/11/13/balesbails/>>more

Sometimes, See, You Have To Destroy The Train To Save The Train

Yes, it's true that the United States is asking Canada to put money into a runaway train whose braking system has failed every test it has been put through. And, yes, it's also true that this could lead to the "trainization" of space and the destabilization of international treaties limiting train speeds, which could cause currently trainless nations to speed up their train research and development programmes lest they be caught flat-footed by the American initiative.

Despite all of this, Canada should support the American runaway train initiative. If we do, we may be able to convince the United States to slow down the train so it won't make quite as much of a mess when it hits the wall.

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20041120.trained1120_@/BNStory/trainsellouteditorial/>more

At Least He's Qualified To Be A Greeter At Wal-Mart

American Secretary of State Colin Powell has resigned. About the resignation, President Bush graciously said, "Are we in control of Fallujah, yet?" Powell's immediate plans are to go to the bank in upstate New York where he stored his integrity and get reacquainted. "I'm sure it's a little frayed around the edges," Powell commented, "but that can be repaired."

For 2008? Don't count on it, Colin.

Powell will be replaced by Condoleezza Rice, the only black woman in America who looks like Alfred E Neuman. Her main qualifications to be Secretary of State are an

undying, unquestioning, some might say unnatural devotion to the President and good hair – she’s a natural.

SOURCE: *The Irrational*

<<http://www.mc.ca/stories/2004/11/11/anotherbushpoweller041111>>more

Option Five From Outer Space

Ontario has moved to drop the police practice known as “Option 5” from speeding tickets. Option 5 allowed drivers to avoid paying fines and having a blemish on their records in exchange for oral sex in the back of a police cruiser. “Unsafe drivers should not be allowed to circumvent the laws of the province,” Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter stated. Police unions are expected to fight the ban, as are prostitutes, who were grateful for the respite.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<<http://www.aye.net/>>more

Give Til It Hurts...Then, Stop...

How would you expect corporate Canada to respond to the fact that only three per cent of the revenues of the country’s charities and non-profit organizations come from business? By lowering what everyone else gives, of course. The programme includes everything from ad campaigns to make charitable donations unfashionable to stealing pennies from church donation boxes. “With a concerted effort,” one executive, who refused to be named for what should be obvious reasons, said, “we can bring the percentage of donations corporate Canada gives to charity up to unheard of levels!”

SOURCE: *The Financial Riposte*

<<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/financialriposte/story.html?id=49ddconn7-f6f3-4f4f-9f25-a2be4cc8a528>>more

Thin Intelligence?

The Central Intelligence Agency is being purged of people who question the intelligence needed to pursue President George Bush’s foreign policy. “It’s not, like, a Stalin thing,” the President explained, “more of a...a bulimic thing.” Oookay. But, when did the Bush administration go through the intellectual binging stage?

SOURCE: *The Amazing Chocolate Yummies Blog*

<<http://www.chocoyummies.net/>>more

The Daily Me – Bryndi Olafsdottir

Thank you, Bryndi Olafsdottir, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. <!-- Hey, Edwina! How was your holi -- Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. <-- Edwina Walker no longer works at this company. Please direct all your inquiries to the trash bin on your desktop.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Imagine What The Campus Would Look Like If He Got His Advice From G. I. Joe

According to Harvard University President Lawrence Summers, men are better at math than women. He knows this is true because his Barbie doll told him.

SOURCE: *Scientific Canadian*

<<http://www.scican.com/article.cfm?chanID=sc003&articleID=4777H3EC-2C145-20K5-AAA1582614B17777>>more

Seemed Pretty Clear To Me, But, Then, I'm Not A Religious Man

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Calgary claims he was being misunderstood when he wrote that the state must use its “coercive power” to curtail homosexuality, which he referred to as “evil” and likened to adultery, prostitution and pornography. What Bishop Fred Henry actually meant was: “Fags will burn in Hell, but I’d like to get the fire started early.”

I know, I know, I’ll be burning in Hell myself for this one. But, as the Bishop himself said, “I’m just trying to speak the truth as I see it.”

SOURCE: *Unicycle*

<<http://www.unicycle.com/new.php?p=articles&id=248&but=allis1>>more

Even With An Infinite Number Of Universes, I Don't Buy It

The Iraq Survey Group returned to the United States without finding any weapons, let alone weapons of mass destruction. Democrats in Congress immediately started impeachment proceedings against President George W. Bush, citing assurances from every member of his Cabinet that the weapons were there, assurances that lead the US into a war that has already cost \$100 billion and hundreds of American lives. “This is a bipartisan issue,” the House Majority Leader, who voted for the impeachment process,

stated. "The people have to believe that their leaders are honest with them, especially when American lives are at stake."

Meanwhile, millions of average Americans took to the streets to protest their government's deceit. "The President had no mandate to do this," Texan Frank Abernathy said. "I mean, shit, I've been a Republican all my life, but this is just going too far!" Police kept a respectful distance from the protestors, and everybody got home safely.

SOURCE: *Alternate Reality News Service*

<<http://www.arns.com/sinbin?id=32322641314641314687fx>>more

I'm Not Especially Fond Of Being Tucked Away For The Future, Either

To the editor of the *National Post*:

A recent headline in your newspaper stated "IRA blamed for massive bank heist." As a matter of fact, no authority has accused me of anything. If they had, however, I think I could prove to their satisfaction that I was, in fact, an ocean away when the bank in Belfast was robbed. I expect a retraction forthwith.

Sincerely,
Ira Nayman

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

I Like The Best Boy's Commentary Track

DVD releases are giving viewers a good idea of what making a movie is all about. Perhaps too good. The 200 DVD release of the *Star Blap Tetrahedology* documents every detail of the making of the eight *Star Blap* movies, down to the specs for the trailers of the animals of the stars to the genealogy of the wardrobe and makeup people. It should come as no surprise that the DVD is full of nitpicky, obsessive details that quickly become boring, making it a perfect mirror image of the moviemaking process itself.

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smg2005/2005/01/13/DVDidididididididi/>>more

There's No Lie Like It

We know you love your girl. But she can be so foolish, sometimes. Or, maybe she doesn't listen to you, or doesn't do everything you tell her, or, maybe doesn't do it the

way you tell her to. Or, maybe she just mouths off when she shouldn't. Let's face it: sometimes, the only way to keep her in line is to hit her. Not out of anger. Out of love.

Still, you may find yourself hauled into court for doing what any reasonable man in your position would do. Want to avoid the hassle? Join the Army! Not only will the Army ship you out to a foreign country before a trial date can be set, but we'll send a letter to the bitch explaining why it would be in the interests of national security that she not pursue a court case at this time.

Intimidating? You bet! But don't just take our word for it. Ask Specialist Charles Graner, Jr.! He was whisked away on a tour of duty in Iraq, and who knows when he'll be back to take the heat for his violent, abusive behaviour. And who knows? The longer he's away, the more chance his wife has to change her mind. Sweet? Damn straight! In a spot of trouble and want a piece of that action?

Join up today!

Today's United States Army
Beat All That You Can Beat

SOURCE: *The Smoking Gut*

<<http://www.thesmokinggut.com/archive/0809056cahs01.html>>more

I did! I did!

One of the things that Susan Shepard, the new ethics commissioner of Nortel Networks Corp. will be responsible for is determining whether the company's management makes decisions on the basis of how it will be rewarded with bonuses rather than the interests of shareholders. For this, Shepard will receive a base salary of \$375,000 a year and, if the company is successful, a bonus of an additional 60% of her salary. Who thought ethics could be so rewarding?

SOURCE: *The Financial Riposte*

<<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/financialriposte/story.html?id=39ddccd7-f6f3-4f4f-9f25-a2eb4cc6a528>>more

Democracy Marches Up To Your House And Kicks You In The Gut

If the United States held elections like they do in Iraq:

* women voters in eight states, including Texas, Alabama and New Mexico, wouldn't be allowed to go to the polls because the men who ruled their lives using traditional religious values wouldn't let them.

* all voters in seven other states with almost half the country's population, including Los Angeles, Illinois and New York wouldn't be able to vote because United Nations observers couldn't guarantee the safety of election workers.

* voters throughout the country would not be allowed to drive their cars for three days around the election so that there could be no car-bombing incidents.

* 95% of Americans would do anything they could to vote no matter what obstacles were placed in their path.

SOURCE: *Politics For Dummies*

<<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/home.asp?did=242&dir=bb>>more

Is This Question A...A Zen Thing?

A study has shown that people who sleep longer tend to weigh less. Stop the presses!
Could it be because they have less time to eat?

SOURCE: *The Non-existent Pages*

<<http://www.utopia.tv/erewhon/index.html>>more

The Daily Me – Josephine Naidoo

Dear Valued *Daily Me* Customer,

It has recently been brought to our attention that one member of our staff has been allowing his lemur fetish to get out of hand, and has been inserting messages of lemur longing into some versions of our daily news round-up. We're sorry you had to see that. The staff member in question realizes that he has a problem, and he has started going to a 12 step lemur love management programme which, we feel confident, will help him get his urges under control.

To be clear: what a man does with a lemur in the privacy of his own home is nobody's business. However, when his lemur infatuation interferes with his work, it does become everybody's business. In any case, we have put a strict screening process into place, and we expect that nothing will, in future, interfere with your enjoyment of our fine, fine news product.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me staff

Trial By Journalism

Fox News and CNBC are considering suing Jennifer Wilbanks after it was revealed that she had not been kidnapped, but had simply gotten cold feet and run out on her fiancé. “We put a lot of money, a lot of people, a lot of technical resources into her kidnapping,” claimed Basil Exposition, a producer at Fox News. “The least she could have done was turned up dead somewhere! Why? Oh, why didn’t god take her from us?”

In response, Wilbanks is rumoured to be considering suing the all news networks, claiming that they were able to charge advertisers top rates when they aired coverage of her disappearance. “It doesn’t seem fair,” she stated, “does it? That everybody should be making money off of my disappearance but me?”

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

<http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type2&c=Article&cid=1088591831813&call_pageid=968335278492&col=968666972154>more

Inky Dinky Don’t

Conservative MP Inky Mark demanded and received an apology from Treasury Board President Reg Alcock for saying that if he were to recruit somebody for ambassador he would “go a little higher up in the gene pool.” Mark claimed that this was a slur against all Canadians of Chinese descent.

“It’s a disgrace,” said Conservative leader Stephen Harper. “Those pinheaded, backstabbing Communist Liberal bastards are even more intolerant than we are!”

Uhh, yeah. I would get my deposit back from the political adviser who sold you that pre-election tactic, Steve.

SOURCE: *The Non-existent Pages*

<<http://www.utopia.tv/erewhon/index.html>>more

Goooooooo Gators! ...But, Not In A Remotely Sexual Way...

The Texas House of Representatives has passed a law that would punish schools that allowed “overtly sexually suggestive” routines by cheerleaders at football games and other events. Overtly sexually suggestive movements include:

- * swaying hips up and down
- * shaking pom poms
- * throwing arms out and head back

* swaying hips from side to side

* kicking out legs

* thrusting hips in and out

So, essentially, cheerleaders in Texas have been reduced to wearing black from head to toe, shuffling onto the field and, without moving, shouting passages from the Bible. Why does that seem eerily familiar?

SOURCE: *Cleveland Wheeler Dealer*

<<http://www.cleveland.ca/enter/index.ssf?/living/wheelerdealer/index.ssf%3fu/base/news/1100119800222460.xml>>more

Ganging Up On The Masses

Zhang Chunqiao, member of China's number one metal band of the 1960s and 1970s Gang of Four, has died of cancer. He was 88.

Gang of Four first gained critical attention with its 1966 single, "Intellectuals Must Be Reeducated In The Countryside to Further The Proletariat Revolution," which reached number three on the Asian charts. But it was really the band's second single, "We Will Cleanse The Country of Bourgeois Remnants Through Aggressive Self-criticism," that cemented their reputation as hardcore headbangers.

Gang of Four followed with a string of number one hits over the next decade whose names are too long to catalogue in this space.

"They were the real deal, man," fan Mao Zedong once wrote. "When I, like, first listened to their thrashing sound, I thought, 'Whoa. Harsh.' But, then, the sweet harmonies were music to my ears, so, like, I figured they were the guys to lead the Cultural Revolution."

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smg2005/2006/05/11/fouristheloneliestnumber/>>more

More About Politicians Than You Needed To Know

Towards the end of the British election campaign, Tony Blair boasted that he had sex five times a night. Although his majority was reduced, he did win the election. With an election looming, and not wishing to squander a good opportunity, Canadian politicians are boasting about their sex lives.

Stephen Harper has sex five times a night...in the missionary position...and he doesn't enjoy it.

Jack Layton has sex five times a night, but he makes sure his partner comes first.

Gilles Duceppe has sex five times a night, even though he and his wife sleep in separate beds.

Paul Martin gives his wife a passionate kiss on the cheek and goes directly to sleep.

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>more

Some Questions Seem Obvious The Moment They Leave Your Mouth

9pm. CNBC. *Terry Schiavo: Martyr to the Cause?*

9pm. CNN. *Paula Abdul: Idol Killer or Idle Curiosity?*

9pm. Fox News. *Michael Jackson: Freak or Superfreak?*

9pm. PBS. *Why Do People No Longer Trust Television News?*

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

<<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>>more

Note To Evelyn Farquart: THEY'RE ON TO YOU! (But You Didn't Hear It From Me)

The National Security Agency, which eavesdrops on electronic communications around the world, was briefly embarrassed this week when it was revealed that it had been routinely fulfilling requests for information from somebody known only as "Guido." The practice came to light when members of the Congressional Intelligence Oversight Committee wondered why transcripts of secretly recorded conversations were left on street corners in plain brown envelopes.

Representatives of the NSA refused to comment, but former NSA officials assured the public that the organization was scrupulous about protecting the privacy of American citizens, that it didn't give classified information to just anybody who asked for it. Sources in Washington have confirmed that the FBI has been called in to investigate why the NSA appears to have been giving classified information to just anybody who asked for it.

Then, somebody in the Bush administration said, “Oh, look, over there: National Security,” and the potential storm passed.

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

<<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49881-2005May09.html>>more

Love It Or Hate It, Workplace Flogging Is Here To Stay

Studies show that more and more Canadian bosses are resorting to gently whipping their staff members as a motivational tool. The intention is not to draw blood, although this may be a benefit of the new disciplinarianism; it is a recognition that pain, judiciously meted out, is a great workplace motivator.

Is flogging a new management tool?

At the turn of the last century, according to Statistics Canada, the average worker was beaten 3.2 times a week. While current estimates of workplace violence put it at only 1.7 incidents a week, there is obviously historical precedence for the growing use of cats-o-nine-tails in the cubicles and on the shop floors of the nation.

How can employees cope with this new reality? Management consultants agree that taking complaints to the police would be a disastrous career move – nobody wants to hire the man whose testimony put his previous boss behind bars for three to seven years for assault, aggravated assault and assault with a deadly weapon.

Their best advice is that loving what you do will help you feel less victimized. Maybe it all comes down to a Hobbesian choice: working through physical pain and loving it or working through physical pain and not loving it.

Not working through physical pain doesn’t seem to be an option any more.

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050512.eladvote0102_@/BNRe tortOnBusiness/NewManagementTool/>more

The Daily Me – Suomen Asiakastieto

Thank you, Suomen Asiakastieto, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we got into a...spirited argument about the background of your name. You know, the kind of argument you can only get into when

you have too much ti...high spirits. After several hours, we came to the agreement that it's a Scandinavian name. Probably.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Big Brother Is Looking Out For You

The idea that Microsoft can enter the hard drive of my computer and look for illegal software is comforting. This is an obvious attempt to ensure that nobody is undermining the capitalist system by using pirated software control. Microsoft must be commended for its protection of copyright right away!

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

Hope I'm Not Giving Away Too Much

The details of a television miniseries based on the events of September 11, 2001 are being kept secret, says the series' producer, in order to protect it from copycats. Rumour has it that the story involves commercial airplanes being flown into tall office towers, killing almost 3,000 people.

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smg2005/2005/08/01/subtleverysubtle/>>more

Exhibitionists In Every Sense Of The Word

Vienna's Leopold Museum allowed visitors to get in to The Naked Truth, an exhibition of early 1900s erotic art, if they came in skimpy clothes or wearing nothing at all. Former American Attorney General John Ashcroft had to be rushed to a nearby hospital after taking in the exhibition. "He thought he would be like a kid in a candy store," a spokesperson for Ashcroft commented, "draping bodies here and there. But, all that...naked...flesh proved too much for his heart."

Ashcroft is doing fine, as are the exhibition-goers.

SOURCE: *Art Splorts*

<<http://www.artsplorts.com/diary/id=9312>>more

It's Not Your Finger We're Looking At, Donald...

The possibility that the United States will be withdrawing many of its troops from Iraq some time in 2006 depends upon the strength of the Iraqi military, as measured by its ability to take over policing duties from American soldiers. A heavy increase in the number of Iraqi soldiers at the beginning of 2005 seemed to indicate that American troop withdrawals could be imminent. However, the number of soldiers who were actually battle-ready (as opposed to the number of Iraqis who donned a military uniform in order to make some money, or just get away from the constant painful moaning of their wounded family members) turned out to be much smaller than reported.

“The numbers have a story to tell us,” American Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stated, “if only I could put my finger on what it is...”

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

<<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49881-2005Sep30.html>>more

Torturing Logic Is Just The Beginning

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin stated: “Canada may be increasingly targeted by terrorists who don’t like us sending troops to Afghanistan but we’re going to send additional troops to keep the peace in Afghanistan because we have to root out the terrorists who hate our freedoms and are threatening to attack us.”

Then, he took his meds and started smiling again.

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050730.eladvote0730_@/BNStory/newsIsThereALinguistInTheHouse/>more

Could It Finally Be The End Of...The Jokes?

IRA lays down its arms
- *Globe and Mail*

IRA gives up armed struggle
- *Toronto Star*

How the IRA reached this point
- *Globe and Mail* again

‘Peaceful’ IRA and politics of terrorism
- *Toronto Star* again

Hope, skepticism greet IRA gesture
- *Toronto Star* yet again

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.tohtml>>more

Personally, I'm Offended By Their Offense

British civil servants have decided to stop using the term “brainstorming,” claiming that it is offensive to people with brain disorders. The new term they plan on using is: “thought showers.”

Meteorologists have responded by complaining that the term thought showers is offensive to anybody who has been stuck in the rain without an umbrella and has gotten soaked.

I don't understand this controversy over terms for thinking – it's not like anybody appears to actually be doing any.

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>more

Playback's a Bitch

A new Fox lawyer show called *Head Cases* bears more than a passing resemblance to an existing Canadian series called *This is Wonderland*. This is similar to the situation a few years ago when an American show called *Cold Case* bore an uncanny resemblance to a Canadian series called *Cold Squad*.

The producers of the American show claim that they couldn't be ripping off the Canadian show because “it's well known that nobody watches Canadian television.” In response, everybody involved shrugged knowingly and turned their attention to something else.

SOURCE: *EEE!Talk*

<http://www.etv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/show/ETVShows/1063825625838_59231102/>
more

Because Sometimes Diplomacy Really Isn't The Answer

NASA researchers are concerned that 600 metre wide asteroid 99942 Apophis will crash into the earth in 2036. Scientists are considering various methods to avert this disaster. The most promising so far is to send John Bolton out to greet the asteroid before it gets too close.

SOURCE: *Scientific Canadian*

<<http://www.scican.com/article.cfm?chanID=sc003&articleID=1124H3ER-2C145-20O5-AAA1572612B722222>>more

Agreeing To Not Agree

The United States, Australia, Japan, China, India and South Korea have just concluded an historic agreement to put an end to agreements on climate change. This agreement commits the countries to not entering into any future agreements that would protect the environment.

Australian Environment Minister Ian Campbell stated: “We needed something that undermined Kyoto but sounded like it actually committed our nations to an agenda of action. This agreement may not be perfect, but it does further our goals of ensuring that nothing is done to combat climate change.”

Critics of the agreement point out that it contains no incentives for action, no punishments for inaction and no real timetable. If any of the signatory countries was to backslide and enter into an international agreement to combat climate change, there would be little any of the remaining countries could do.

“The point was to give us the maximum flexibility,” Campbell explained. “But, the idea that a member nation would break the terms of this agreement to end all agreements, well, who in their right mind would do such a thing?”

SOURCE: *Alternate Reality News Service*

<<http://www.arns.com/sinbin?id=32325641318647314687yme>>more

What's Your Percodamnage?

Infamous film bad guy Darth Vader has checked into rehab at an undisclosed location, his representatives have confirmed. Vader had been found abusing prescription drugs after it was announced that his light sabre sold at auction for almost \$100,000 less than the light sabre used by hero Luke Skywalker.

“I don’t understand it,” Vader is reported to have complained before entering rehab. “The villain is always more interesting than the hero. How could something like this happen? It isn’t fair! It isn’t fair, I tell you! Where’s my Percodan? Where’s my damn Percodan!”

Vader is reportedly in stable condition. His representative said that it’s only a matter of time before he is up and about and threatening star systems once again.

SOURCE: *Peephole*

<<http://peephole.aol.com/peephole/articles/0,19736,1089849,00.html>>more

The Daily Me – Ho Lingbao

Thank you, Ho Lingbao, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then – oh, look. We...we're going through Peter Mansbridge withdrawal at the moment. We're sure you understand.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

I'm Committed To Cocoa Puffs – And I Don't Care Who Knows It!

Under pressure from people who hate...well, we're really not sure what, Paul Martin's choice for Governor General Michealle Jean has made a public statement declaring her loyalty to Canada. While this action was sure to warm the hearts of every Canadian who has ever had McCarthy-envy, I can't help but wonder: why stop with Jean? There are any number of Canadians who should be publicly stating their loyalty to this country.

They include:

Stephen "When It Comes To Working With Separatists, I'm Okay, You're A Traitor"
Harper

Ralph "Hay, Kids! I've Got Some Bricks, Timmy's Got Some Mortar, Let's Build A
Firewall Around Alberta" Klein

Margaret "Don't Ask Me Why I Left The States, Just Accept That I'm Against
Everything Your Country Stands For" Wente

Preston "Public Health Care Will Be Perfect When It Is Private Health Care" Manning

I expect to see front page coverage in the Globe and Mail any day. Any day, now...

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>more

Not A Stand Up Kind Of Guy

A guy walks into a talent agent's office and says, "Have I got an act for you!"

"Yeah?" the talent agent asks. "What do they do?"

“All sorts of vile sexual and scatological things!”

“Un hunh. And what’s the act called?”

“The Aristocrats!”

Yeah. I know. This is why I don’t do stand up.

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

Don’t Even Bother Waiting To See Them On Cable

Stealth: Nope. I can still see it.

My Date With Drew: A blank.

The Great Raid: The empty fridge.

Must Love Dogs: To love this movie.

Four Brothers: Oh, brother(s)!

Bad News Bears: Bad news bull.

Fantastic Four: Three short of fantastic.

SOURCE: *Five Second Movie Reviews*

<<http://www.5secmovrev.com/NOW.htm>>more

Well, Shoot...NO, I DIDN’T MEAN...!

According to the *Globe and Mail*, American guns smuggled into Canada are not in any way responsible for gunfire in Toronto because only 318 guns were intercepted at the border. It apparently hasn’t occurred to them that the **low number of guns stopped at the border is actually the problem!**

Meanwhile, Ontario is ponying up funds for another 1,000 police officers for Toronto. Of course, if they really wanted to ensure citizen safety, they would put a police officer on every street corner in the...

Oh.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<<http://www.aye.net/>>more

Fly The Unfriendly Skies

Small knives, bows and arrows, ice picks and possibly even box cutters will be allowed on planes in the United States if the Transportation Security Administration is successful in its efforts to make air travel more “customer friendly.”

I can understand why a passenger might need a bow and arrows: if you don't like airline food, having them gives you the option of killing a passing deer. And, when you do, you'll need a small knife to skin it. I can even understand allowing ice picks. If you don't like the in-flight movie, you can always pass the time by killing Leon Trotsky.

But, people, box cutters? Aren't they what got us into trouble in the first place?

SOURCE: *The Day To Day Show, with Jon Tudor*

<http://www.comedycentric.com/tv_shows/thedaytodayshowwithjontudor/headlines_pol.jhtml>more

No, Really, We're Sure It's A...An Honour...An Honour To – Hee Hee Hee Hee Ha Ha

David Wilkins, the American ambassador to Canada, and his family gave \$33,050 to Republican candidates. Imagine how much money he would have had to donate to the Party not to be chosen American ambassador to Canada.

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050810.eladvote0810_@/BNStory/newsAndFirstPrizeIsTwoTerms/>more

Must Pee TV

12pm. CBC. *King of Kensington* marathon begins.

1pm. CBC. *King of Kensington* marathon continues.

2pm. CBC. *King of Kensington* marathon ends.

3pm. CBC. *Canadian Antiques Road Show*.

4pm. CBC. *American Antiques Road Show*.

5pm. CBC. *Ukrainian Antiques Road Show*.

6pm. CBC. News. The hour is taken up primarily with a CBC executive you've never heard of explaining why it is necessary to undermine the Canadian Media Guild by increasing the number of contract employees, who don't get full union benefits. Oh, and a cute dog.

7pm. *Street Legal* marathon begins.

8pm. *Street Legal* marathon continues.

9pm. *Street Legal* marathon ends.

10pm. CBC. *The National*. The CBC Executive is back to explain why union busting at the public broadcaster is actually good for Canada. Oh, and the cute dog is run over by a freight train.

11pm. *Close Raiders of the Third Ark*. Big Hollywood movie. As if you didn't know.

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

<<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>>more

The Cruellest Cut

What a world we live in! When a doctor takes up a scalpel to perform unnecessary surgery on a woman's vagina in Africa or the Middle East (included newly liberated Iraq), it's called "genital mutilation." If the same doctor uses the same scalpel (sterilized, of course) on an American woman, it's called, "elective cosmetic surgery!"

SOURCE: *Womyn's e-Vents*

<<http://www.womynsevents.fem/article.cfm/dyn/aid/947>>more

Still Not Too Late To Embarrass Yourself, And Yet...

Where Iran is on the Middle East invasion timeline:

- ✓ the country does something the United States doesn't like
- ✓ American politicians publicly warn the country that it should not continue down the path it has started to go
- ✓ the President and key members of the administration start making threatening noises

YOU ARE HERE: the President stops making threatening noises, claiming that, while he is concerned, he has made no decision on a course of action; while he is saying this, the Pentagon is frantically drawing up invasion plans

- ❑ the United States twists the arms of and offers bribes to other countries to support its invasion, which it is still publicly denying it is planning
- ❑ the invasion, featuring a coalition of the weak and the bought, begins, among much rhetoric that it will be easy and that the people will welcome the American invaders with a shower of flowers
- ❑ the invasion is effectively over in 38 minutes, the Americans having reached their objectives; the President declares victory
- ❑ the country is subjected to guerrilla attacks for the next four years, with a constant dripping of American deaths and woundings
- ❑ the American public, having had enough, demands that their troops be withdrawn from the country
- ❑ several years and untold unnecessary deaths and mutilations later, the US pulls its troops out of the country, claiming victory while leaving a civil war behind

SOURCE: *Politics For Dummies*

<<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/home.asp?did=275&dir=bb>>more

The Daily Me – Eilish Limberg

Thank you, Eilish Limberg, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we wondered if, when you're putting on your face, you don't accidentally get an Eilish in your eye. We're not cruel people by nature, but we laughed so hard we had to sit still until the pain in our chests passed.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

The Real Lowdown On A Higher Up

Conrad Black didn't have a bowel movement yesterday, despite the fact that a court had given him permission to let fly.

“Umm, I don’t mean to sound ungrateful,” one of Black’s lawyers, Edward Greenspon, told a collection of journalists, “I mean, we really are delighted that you are covering Lord Black’s situation so thoroughly. But, well, aren’t you perhaps overdoing it – just a bit?”

The bowel movement was unavailable for comment.

SOURCE: *The Financial Riposte*

<<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/financialriposte/story.html?id=49ddccd7-f6f3-4f4f-9f25-a2eb4cc6a528>>more

While My Qatar Gently Weeps

Uhh, nothing much happening in Qatar, really, I just fell in love with the headline. Really, there’s no story here – I mean, I don’t even know where Qatar is. (Do you? Can somebody please tell me where Qatar is? Anybody?)

Yeah, yeah, I suppose I could use Google Maps, but, well, I had a bad experience with Google Maps when I was a kid – I was searching for the Lost Hippopotamus of Zeus – long story – and, anyway, Google Maps cost me a week and a half, by which time my arch-nemesis Miles Vindaloo had found it, sold it to the British Museum of Very Old Things for an unconscionable sum and written the first eight chapters of his account of his adventures.

But I’m not bitter.

In any case, I’ll be happy to write an actual article if something newsworthy actually happens in Qa – well, actually, come to think of it, I won’t have a headline now that I’ve already used – damn!

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>no more

What Happened In The Cetaceous Stays In The Cetaceous

The skeleton of the long extinct dodo has been found on the island of Mauritius. “Best we can piece together, it had a head like Alien and a body like Don Knotts,” Kenneth Rijidsdijk, a geologist who has had an opportunity to study the skeleton, explained, adding, “If I was ever tempted to believe in Intelligent Design...well, let’s just say that, after this discovery, I’ll be hitting the Darwin pretty hard...”

SOURCE: *Scientific Canadian*

<<http://www.scican.com/article.cfm?chanID=sc003&articleID=1124HECK-2C145-20K5-BBB1582614B911911>>more

Too Much Information, Dude

Major police forces in Canada, including the RCMP, OPP and Toronto's forces, are among thousands of law enforcement agencies whose private and financial information may have been stolen by a computer hacker. According to John Colbert, head of forensic investigation software firm Guidance Software, "It highlights that intrusions can happen to anybody."

DUDE! THEY'RE THE POLICE! If they're not safe from a hacker attack, what chance do I have? Soon as I get home, I'm disconnecting my computer from the Internet! I can always get pirated videos from Chinatown!

SOURCE: *Mike's Ultimate Conspiracy Page*

<<http://www.ignoremeatyourperil.com/conspiracy2340.html>>more

The Start Of A Whole New Genre: Self-hurt Books

When the dust jacket blurbs of a diet book include the claim "This book has been approved by the Department of Homeland Security," you know you've left Oprah and Dr. Phil behind. Way behind.

Lose Weight or Die Trying offers some controversial methods of weight reduction, including being strapped to a chair for several hours a day, rigging the fridge so that it delivers mild electrical shocks – increasing with every infraction – if somebody tries to open it outside of meal times and, of course, liberal thrashings for snacking between meals.

While it's undeniable that people willing to try these methods will lose weight, it's also quite likely that the trauma will stay with them for many years.

SOURCE: *Unread Book News*

<<http://217.204.41.13/cgi/NGoto/2/69379861?3267>>more

Happy Now?

Seven people were shot on Yonge Street in downtown Toronto on Boxing Day, one fatally. As she lay dying, the teenage girl's last words were, "I'm so glad...I finally live...in a world class city!"

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<<http://www.aye.net/>>more

With A Name Like Wafah, You Know She's Gonna Go Far

Wafah Dufour, the niece of noted terrorist Osama bin Laden, told GQ magazine that she doesn't want to be associated with her uncle's politics. The aspiring singer just wants to be loved.

Although born in California, she obviously doesn't understand Americans very well, or she would flaunt that connection. Call your band the bin Ladenettes. Come on stage wearing burqas, then slowly strip them off over the course of your first set. Write songs about young lovers being torn apart by IEDs.

Trust me, the American public will eat it up.

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smug2005/2005/12/23/whafordufour/>>more
re

Or Until You're Sick Of It

Generic Palestinian/Israeli letters to the editor:

ISRAELI LETTER: Your article on [INSERT LATEST ISRAELI ATROCITY HERE] was one-sided and blatantly unfair. The [INSERT LATEST ISRAELI ATROCITY HERE] was a response to [INSERT LATEST ARAB ATROCITY HERE]. The state of Israel has every right to defend itself.

PALESTINIAN RESPONSE: The letter on [INSERT LATEST ISRAELI ATROCITY HERE] was one-sided and blatantly unfair. The [INSERT LATEST ARAB ATROCITY HERE] which the writer claims was to blame for [INSERT LATEST ISRAELI ATROCITY HERE] was actually itself a response to [INSERT PREVIOUS ISRAELI ATROCITY HERE]. Until Palestinians get their own state in a fair and just settlement, there will be no peace in the Middle East.

Repeat ad nauseam.

SOURCE: *Politics For Dummies*

<<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/home.asp?did=291&dir=bb>>more

Set Low Standards So You Aren't Disappointed When You Don't Meet Them

For my New Year's resolution, I promised myself I would stop making fun of Stephen Harper. I'm sure he's a decent enough fellow who is doing what he thinks is right for the country.

After all, our major cities need a military presence because....because...if Calgary was hit with a dirty suitcase nuke – not that that's likely to happen – okay, forget that scenario – but, what if Vancouver was hit with deadly anthrax? It could happen. Right? Right? And, if it did, the army would be a great help...handing out vaccines or...or helping sick people make their way to hospitals or...or...

Man, this is harder than I thought. Next New Years, I'm going to resolve to do something easier, like quit smoking!

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

The Daily Me – Garrett Deberet

Thank you, Garrett Deberet, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Hey! Did you know both your names rhyme with “ferret?” Unless you're French, we guess; that would make you gay. The rhyme, we mean. We would never presume to...to – whatever.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Oh, The Humanity! – How Much Am I Bid?

Do not go and see the film *Karla*. DO NOT go and see the film *Karla*. If you do, you will be rewarding the crass commercial exploitation of one of the sickest episodes in Canadian justice.

I warned people this would happen. Many of the over 50 columns I've devoted to Karla Homolka and Paul Bernardo's killing spree pointed out that this was just the sort of horror that the mainstream media love to milk for their own profit. My book on the subject, coming out in hardcover next month from Faber and Faber, goes into detail about just how badly mainstream media have served the victims of Paul and Karla.

If you go and see this movie, you will be rewarding the exploitation of humanity's worst impulses for commercial gain. Don't do it.

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

<http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=Rosie01&call_pageid=968335276492&col=968636972154>

more

The Best Defense Is Still Highly Offensive

Vandenberg Air Force Base in California has two silos containing interceptor missiles, two less than originally planned by this time. Fort Greely, in Alaska, has eight instead of the planned 16. Why? Two independent panels suggested the military scale back its expectations of missile defense after test failures in 2004 and 2005 in which the interceptors didn't even make it out of their silos.

Did I mention that the US government has spent about \$100 billion on missile defense since 1983?

It's like a 22 year-old still being in kindergarten. A 22 year-old born without a brain in an obscenely expensive kindergarten.

And, this is the American missile defense programme Prime Minister Stephen Harper wants Canada to join.

Oh, yes, I really am going to enjoy this government.

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

Hey! At Least We Don't Have Butterfly Ballots!

An American voted in Canada's recent election. This is supposed to show how easy it is for ineligible people to vote in our election. I think it stems from how hard it is for some eligible people to vote in American elections.

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>more

Some Things Are Better Lost In Translation

Some people wonder how Europeans could have been ignorant of the fact that the United States was outsourcing torture to foreign countries. However, when you actually talk to Europeans, it becomes painfully obvious.

"What, da screamin' and yellin', dat stuff?" Pierre LaPierre said. "I t'ought dat was a S&M club next door dere."

“Oi, ‘ow was I supposed ta bleedin’ know dere was torture goin’ on?” asked John St. John. “The fights the footie yobbos get into sound much worse, innit?”

Did I mention how obvious it was?

SOURCE: *The National Whipping Post*

<<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/opinion/story.html?ia=0ec0eecd-b6e6-4c18-bs1b-07b627cc48ec>>more

Not Your Grandmother’s Conspiracy

ABU MUSAB AL-ZARQAWI: Bush is dropping in the polls again – we must do something.

OSAMA BIN LADEN: Don’t look at me – I just released a tape for the Americans.

ZARQAWI: It was too conciliatory. If you aren’t threatening Jihad all over the place, the American people don’t take you seriously.

BIN LADEN: Perhaps not, but the President said he was taking my threats to attack the United States seriously.

ZARQAWI: After ignoring you for two years, he doesn’t exactly ooze credibility when he says the American people should be afraid of you.

BIN LADEN: Still, it’s too soon. The Americans will get suspicious if I release too many tapes too close together.

ZARQAWI: Mmm... Mahmoud, what about you? Can you do anything?

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD: I already told the United States that Iran is planning on going ahead with our plans to build a nuclear reactor –

ZARQAWI, BIN LADEN and AHMADINEJAD: (together) As is the country’s right.

AHMADINEJAD: If the American people aren’t so afraid of a nuclear Iran that they rally around their President, what can I do?

ZARQAWI: (sighs) As usual, it’s up to me to stoke the irrational fears of the American populace. Mark my words: if George Bush becomes so unpopular that he can be forced to remove his troops from Iraq, all of our recruiting efforts will be for nothing! Nothing, I tell you!

SOURCE: *Drew’s Transcript-o-rama*

<<http://www.transcript-o-rama.com/terroristsrthem.shtml>>more

Standing On Guard For Thee...From A Safe Distance

If you or I were faced with a situation where we were forced to confront criminals, we would probably call in police officers with big guns. When guards at border stations feared they would be forced to confront criminals heading north from the US, they acted like true Canadians: citing a clause in their union contract that said they didn't have to face dangerous situations, they fled their posts.

In response, the incoming government of Stephen Harper has decided to call in police officers with big guns...except for the police officer part. Border guards will get their own big guns. This won't stop danger from approaching them, but when they are running away from their posts in future, they'll be able to wave their weapons to convince ordinary citizens to get out of their way.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister elect Stephen Harper said at his first press conference that, "We have significant plans for national defence and for defence of our sovereignty, including Arctic sovereignty. We believe we have the mandate for those from the Canadian people and we hope to have it as well from the House of Commons, but it is the Canadian people we get our mandate from, not the ambassador from the United States." In political hardball, this is known as an "unforced error," since none of the journalists had actually asked about the Arctic.

A bemused David Wilkins, American ambassador to Canada, responded, "Where's this coming from? I just asked Stephen if he liked Arctic char." So, the government that was supposed to mend Canada's relationship with the US starts, less than a week into its mandate, by poking the US in the eye with a sharp stick. We wonder what internal poll told Prime Minister elect Harper *that* was a good idea.

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060122.eladvote0122_@/BNStory/commentDontHarperOnIt2006/>more

The Daily Me – Saint Ignatius Loyola

Thank you, Saint Ignatius Loyola, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. To be honest, we're more than a little surprised you signed up, you heretic bastard. You must know that after the Brobdignagian Heresy, we trothed our faith to Saint Francis of Gomorrah, your sworn blood enemy.

We would turn off our computers and renounce the evils of the physical world if we were you. Now.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

I Would Happily Trade Some Of That Imagination For A Lick O Common Sense

In an apparent move to soften its stance on Iran, the United States has made a significant new offer. President Bush says that if Iran stops pretending to have the capability to make an atomic bomb, the United States will stop pretending to have the troops to invade the country.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is rumoured to be considering the offer seriously, although one potential sticking point is the Iranian's insistence on continuing to pretend that the State of Israel doesn't exist. This is matched by the American insistence on continuing to pretend that Israel's right to self-defense excuses its brutalization of the Palestinians.

Who says George W. Bush has no imagination?

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

<<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49771-2006Jun01.html>>more

I Never Thought I'd Write A Hockey Poem

And, so far, I've been right.

SOURCE: *Poetry, Cornered*

<<http://www.cibc.com/ca/personal/poetrycorner/141.html>>more

The Eternal Heartbreak Of Too Many Broken Expectations

I wanted to believe him, really, I did. When he leaned over the table, looked deep into my eyes and said, "Kid, we've captured 17 members of an Al Qaeda terrorist cell in your home town!", well, I just about melted right on the spot!

But, I had heard this before. Two hundred times before, as a matter of fact. And, what had come of it? Fifteen convictions, mostly on minor visa violations. Oh, I wanted to believe him when he told me that we were the centre of a terrible terrorist scheme, I wanted to believe him with all of my heart.

But, I just couldn't.

SOURCE: *Arlecchino Enterprises*

<http://www.earlecchino.com/q2_book_detail.jhtml?PRODID=8295&CATID=80169>more

That Will Be Small Consolation For...For...Mmm, Rice Pudding!

Islamic scholars have suggested that those who believe they will get 72 virgins if they die in a jihad are mistaken. The word “virgins” was a mistranslation; what they will actually get is 72 raisins.

If this is the case, heavenly sex is out. On the plus side, they’ll be able to make a mean rice pudding.

SOURCE: *Unicycle*

<<http://www.unicycle.com/new.php?p=articles&id=386&but=allis1>>more

Inquiring Minds Want To Throw (Up)

Can somebody please tell me what Jack Bauer is doing selling Macintosh computers with Intel chips? Did he do the voice overs for them before he was kidnapped by the Chinese, or was he able to escape from that Asia-bound ship? And, in any case, wouldn’t this blow his cover to hell? I’m sure CTU pays shit, but still.

And, another thing: what is Professor Snape doing as the voice in the Ford Focus radio ads? Don’t the Ford people know that he kills Professor Dumbledore in the sixth Harry Potter book? How in the world do they think this going to help them sell cars?

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>>more

Bet The Creators Of DARPANet Never Saw This One In Their Future!

MONDAY: Why do people pronounce the word amphitheatre “ampitheatre?” Do they not understand that the letters “ph” are pronounced like an “f?” Do they call a telephone a “telepone?” Do they study “pysics?” Are they concerned about the disappearance of “ampibians” from the planet? I wish they’d stop it, because they’re really getting on my nerves!

TUESDAY: I think there should be a moratorium on songs that refer to the boy inside the man. Yes, I’m talking to you, Billy Talent. Can we get the United Nations to do something about this?

WEDNESDAY: And, while I'm on the subject, could somebody please tell the Arctic Monkeys that there is no robot in *Nineteen Eighty-four*? There were barely any robots in 1984!

THURSDAY: The government of Canada is considering making drag racing illegal after the deaths of two people in races over the weekend. Are they getting paid by the producers of *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* for the free publicity? Is the Canadian government that hard up for cash?

FRIDAY: I know that the 30 second rule for food falling on the floor is really a five second rule. I'm really patient, okay?

SATURDAY: When did the Geneva Conventions become the Geneva Suggestions?

SUNDAY: For that matter, when did the Ten Commandments become the Ten Nice Ideas That You Can Ignore When They're Not Convenient?

SOURCE: *Random Thoughts and Blood Clots*

<http://suzie.randomthoughts&bloodclots.blogspot.com>>more

Lord Black Gets Snippy

A week ago, Jan Wong in *The Globe and Mail* observed the first anniversary of my removal of some boxes from the building where I then worked. I will provide a defense of those actions as soon as my attorneys come up with one. In the meantime, I could attack Wong for incidents in her youth or make racist remarks about her ethnicity, but, frankly, that's beneath a Lord of the Realm. Even if he is beset by an ex-Maoist who flaps around him like a Peking duck.

What? Like they're going to kick me out of the House of Lords? As if, pal.

SOURCE: *The National Riposte*

<http://www.canada.com/national/nationalwhippingpost/news/story.html?ia=0ec0ecd-m6e6-4c18-bf9b-07s657bb48eu>>more

You've Got To Admit, Their Grade Schoolers Get Better Grades Than Ours

Saudi Arabia has claimed that it has stopped teaching hatred in its religious schools. If we look at the curriculum, what do we find?

Grade 1: Jews and Christians are devils.

Grade 2: Jews and Christians are evil.

Grade 3: Jews and Christians are evil incarnate.

Grade 4: Jews and Christians are our mortal enemies and you must kill them whenever you meet them.

I wasn't expecting much, but I have to say that that's a dramatic improvement!

SOURCE: *Unicycle*

<http://www.unicycle.com/new.php?p=articles&id=893&but=allis1>>more

Give Me A Child Before The Age Of Seven, And I Will Give You A Voter For Life

To the Editor,

I have known Joe Volpe all of my (admittedly brief) life. The Joe Volpe I have known has served his country selflessly for many years (okay, too many for me to count), and has been a tireless promoter of the rights of all children to live free of the shackles of enforced bedtimes and strict meal regimens (especially those that include broccoli).

I am one of the children who donated \$5,400 to Joe's campaign. (For reasons I don't entirely understand, he doesn't like to be referred to as "Uncle Joe.") I had to raid my college fund to get it, but what choice did I have? I'm only four years old! My parents wouldn't let me get a paper route!

I can't believe that the bad publicity is going to force Joe to return my contribution. This is a fine way to encourage youth to become engaged in politics, if you ask me.

Sincerely,
Timmy

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060528.eladvote0528_@/BNLetters/tailgunnerjoebails/>more

The Daily Me – Siegfried Krakhausen

Thank you, Siegfried Krakhausen, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, we all went on vacation and, realizing that it didn't make any difference to your enjoyment of *The Daily Me*, quickly returned and pretended to be really, really, really, really, really busy so our bosses wouldn't catch on.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Bring Me The Head of Philip K. Dick

What is wrong with you people?

I go into the hospital for a few days for a spot of heart surgery, and when I come out, the head of a robot based on science fiction author Philip K. Dick has gone missing! I mean sure, removing it from its robot body and stowing it in a bowling bag in the overhead compartment of a plane was just asking for trouble, but did you have to ask so loudly?

Swear to god, I can't turn my back on you for a moment, can I? Next time I need heart surgery, I'm waiting until I'm dead!

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

So Lifelike!

Commanding: "Fuck off."

Curious: "Didn't I just tell you to fuck off?"

Concerned About People: "So, why haven't you fucked off yet?"

Interested in effective communication: "What part of 'fuck off' don't you understand?"

Patient: "Do I need to tell you to 'fuck off' again?"

Vice President Dick Cheney: The Face of Compassionate Conservatism

SOURCE: *Karl's Big Red Web Page of Unreconstructed Marxism*

<http://www.bigred.commie/articles/49.htm>>more

That's A Tree Falling In The Forest Kind O' Question

Ten women have already died from domestic abuse in Toronto this year, more than died at the hands of spouses all of last year. When do you think politicians will try to outlaw the deadly institution of marriage?

SOURCE: *aye Weakly*

<http://www.aye.net/>>more

Isn't "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Appropriate Here?

From *50 Things You Didn't Know About Rick Santorum*:

- 5. He cried when Old Yeller died. He still cries just thinking about it.
- 21. It was his timely intervention that kept the Vogons from destroying the Earth.
- 27. He can make a mean balloon animal...as long as it's a cat.
- 29. He created penicillin.
- 32. His introduction of a weather service bill benefiting for-profit weather forecasters had nothing to do with a donation from private weather company AccuWeather Inc. to America's Foundation, his political action committee. He's just really concerned about the weather.
- 37. He bet on the White Sox in 1919 and, to this day, argues that Shoeless Joe Jackson was innocent.
- 45. He has a tattoo of Mary Magdalene on his right butt cheek. No, don't try to imagine it – just assume it's very tasteful and move on.
- 48. Some of his best friends are gay...if, by best friends, you mean people he is willing to swallow his revulsion for in order to talk to.
- 50. Despite all of this, he still isn't human.

SOURCE: *The Smoking Gut*

<<http://www.thesmokinggut.com/archive/108090254cahs01.html>>more

How About This? The Side That First Uses A Nazi Comparison Los – Oops, Too Late...

“You don't go see Joseph Goebbels' films to see the truth about Nazi Germany. You don't want to go see Al Gore's film to see the truth about global warming.”

- Sterling Burnett, a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, on Fox News Channel's *Dayside*, May 23

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>>more

History Is For People Who Can't Face The Future

Japanese officials are considering using the preemptive strike doctrine so beloved of American neoconservatives against North Korea. The world is looking at Japan's position very carefully, considering how well the last time the country conducted a preemptive strike turned out.

SOURCE: *Daily Semaphore*

<http://www.opinion.semaphore.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;sessionid=M5UF23LWOOFFPQFIQMFSM5WAVCBQ0JVC?nextPage=/DUereDE/wXeR.WZvwF?7wF~/DUereDE/s119/Os/14/JD141O.7wF!3qZiiv~/DUereDR/s119/Os/14/e7MuRdeR.ZvwF!2iG3gimmygi2Z~vg3i&resize=null&_requestid=21313>more

Would It Make It Easier To Think Of It As Cutting And Pasting Troops?

Five investigations into misconduct by American soldiers in Iraq are currently being conducted by the Army. The behaviour under investigation includes everything from rape to torturing and killing civilians.

Court-martials are one way of getting the troops home, I suppose. Kind of slow, though. Not very efficient. And, it does tend to bring the United States into further ill-repute. Still, kudos to the army for finding a way of bringing the troops home that won't be confused with cutting and running.

SOURCE: *The Day To Day Show, with Jon Tudor*

<http://www.comedycentric.com/tv_shows/thedaytodayshowwithjontudor/headlines_pol.jhtml>more

Apparently, The Price Of Fascism Is Eternal Vigilance, Too

People ask me why I'm so angry, considering that conservatives control all three branches of government and are prominent in the media. I'll tell you why. As long as there is one liberal in this country, that's too many, and I have made it my life's goal to hunt that person down and persecute them to the fullest extent of the media. And, even if there were no liberals in the country, we would still have to watch very carefully to make sure that none snuck in, or that nobody sitting on the fence suddenly decided to change their mind.

Does this sound like the sort of mission that would make anybody happy?

SOURCE: *The O'Meilly Factor*

<<http://www.foxynews.com/story/0,2963,96203,00.html>>more

Worse: He's A Wannabe

“Harper is no Bush clone”

- *Toronto Sun*, July 9, 2006

SOURCE: *Billy-Bob's International House O' Headlines*

<<http://www.com/lol.pdqfc.wwwygw.wyswyg/fid=1346933063>>more

Shine On You Crazy Baseball Diamond

Syd Barrett, one of the founders of the rock band Pink Floyd, died of unnamed causes. To commemorate Barrett's contribution to music, radio stations around the world played songs from Pink Floyd albums recorded after he had left the band.

SOURCE: *Obits 'R Us*

<http://www.king.ids.net/~bdlm/obits_r_us.html>more

Is It Just Me, Or Is Cheney Sounding More And More Like The Penguin Every Day?

On the eve of the G8 summit in St. Petersburg, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the West's decision to fund Islamist guerrillas in Afghanistan has backfired 20 years later. He claimed that Islamist militias in that country might not be such a big deal if the West hadn't spent billions of dollars training, funding and arming them to fight against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan.

In response, Vice President Dick Cheney, phoning it in from an undisclosed location, muttered, “We don't deal with root causes, wah wah wah. And, anyway, he likes lifting the shirts of little boys and kissing them on the stomach. There's a word for that, and it sure as hell ain't diplomacy! Wah wah wah!”

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

<<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49884-2006Jul11.html>>more

The Daily Me – Artie Pupkin

Thank you, Artie Pupkin, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Are you related to Rupert Pupkin? Because, to tell the truth, we're not really fans of his talk show, but we do admire his fashion sense.

Enjoy,

The Daily Me Staff

Because America's Army Just Wouldn't Be Appropriate

The Canadian government is planning to pay \$1.5 million for a combat simulator to train soldiers before they are sent into combat. One point five million. What a waste! They could have got Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell for \$49.95.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<http://www.aye.net/>>more

Act In Hastert, Repent At Leisure

HASTERT: I accept responsibility for any failures to investigate complaints of inappropriate behavior by Representative Mark Foley toward teenage male pages.

Forty second pause.

JOURNALIST: So, what are you going to do?

HASTERT: Do?

JOURNALIST: Do? What...what are you going to do?

HASTERT: I did it.

JOURNALIST: Did what?

HASTERT: Accept responsibility.

JOURNALIST: But, what are the consequences?

HASTERT: Consequences?

JOURNALIST: Sure. Are you going to be investigated? Are you going to resign? What are you going to do?

HASTERT: I already did what I'm going to do.

JOURNALIST: Did? Did what?

HASTERT: Accept responsibility.

JOURNALIST: But, what are the consequences?

HASTERT: Consequences?

JOURNALIST: Sure. Are you going to be investigated? Are you going to resign? What are you going to do?

HASTERT: I already did what I'm going to do.

JOURNALIST: Did? Did what?

HASTERT: Accept responsibility.

JOURNALIST: But, what are the consequences?

HASTERT: Consequences?

JOURNALIST: Sure. Are you going to be...oh. Okay. I get it. Never mind.

HASTERT: Exactly.

SOURCE: *Drew's Transcript-o-rama*

<http://www.transcript-o-rama.com/eternalrecurrencehorror.shtml>>more

Bigotry Rides On Rationality's Coattails

Margaret Sommerville's opposition to same sex marriage is predicated on the idea that procreation is the basis of marriage. By this argument, couples should have children before they get married to prove that they are up to it. What I wouldn't give to be a fly on the wall of her brain casing when she realizes the implications of **that** position!

CYNTHIA L. CHEWTOY, *Halifax*

Margaret Sommerville believes that her argument is biology-based and pro-nature. In nature, black widow spiders bite the heads off their mates after sex and eat them – is this the part of nature she suggests we emulate?

DAVID PRIOR-WRISTRAYNT, *Halifax*

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20061022.eladvote1022_@/BNStory/letters2006/>more

Osama, You See/By The Dawn's Early Light...

"There's kind of an urban myth here in Washington about how this administration hasn't stayed focused on Osama bin Laden. Forget it. It's convenient throwaway lines when people say that."

- President George W. Bush, 2006

“I don’t know where bin Laden is. ... You know ... I just don’t spend that much time on him. ... I’ll repeat what I said. I truly am not that concerned about him.”

- President George W. Bush, March 13, 2002

“The goal (in Afghanistan) has never been to get bin Laden. ... The goal there was never (to go) after specific individuals.”

- General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, April 6, 2002

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>>more

<<http://www.arns.com/sinbin?id=32322621313641364687fx>>more

Perhaps Some Conditions Are Better Left Stigmatized

“I knew there was a problem, but I...I...I just couldn’t bring myself to deal with it!”
(anonymous Finance Minister)

It’s the problem too embarrassing to discuss in public: tax leakage. As corporations age and develop into income trusts, governments lose control over their ability to hold on to taxes in a timely fashionable. The resulting mess is, well, embarrassing and highly unpleasant to clean up.

Never fear! Help is on the way: corporate diapers. They’ll help you do away with the ugly stain of tax leakage, as well as the faint whiff of corruption that usually accompanies it. Best of all, they don’t interfere with your government’s day to day activities.

Corporate diapers – a sensible solution for a problem you dare not acknowledge in public.

SOURCE: *Ad Meek*

<http://www.admeek.com/A&W/national/article_display.jsp?nuvu_content_id=1000952604>more

I Was Fooled...Again...

Landscapegoat (noun): denunciation of the physical world around one to cover up for one’s own failings. EXAMPLE: I know the Bush administration doesn’t want to accept that its lack of planning for the aftermath of the Iraq war has led it into a quagmire, but the way it landscapegoats the rugged terrain in the country isn’t fooling anybody.

SOURCE: *Michelle’s Obscure Pedantry Page*

<<http://www.MichellesOPP.ca/blogger.html>>more

Late Night Comedy Isn't Supposed To Be Funny – Who Has The Energy To Laugh?

Q: Why was President Bush unable to board the Iraqi train to Victoryville?

A: Because he refused to acknowledge a timetable.

SOURCE: *Late Tonight with David Lenoman*

<<http://marketing.ubs.com/latetontight/latetontightshow/monologue>>more

What Do You Take Away From The Country That Has Nothing?

The Littlest Dictator, North Korea's own Kim Jong Il, has gotten an unexpected ally in support of his nuclear development and testing plans: the American National Rifle Association.

"The only way to ensure world peace is if everybody is armed to the teeth," Wayne LaPierre, head of the NRA, stated. "If you know your neighbour has nukes, you'll think twice about letting your dog piddle on his lawn."

"Of course, while we recommend that children be trained in the use of nuclear weapons, we don't suggest that they actually be allowed to own their own until they turn at least 12," he solemnly added.

SOURCE: *Daily Semaphore*

<http://www.opinion.semaphore.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;sessionid=M5UF23LWOLFFPQFIQMFSM5WAVCBQ0JVC?nextPage=/DUereDE/weTTe.WZvwF?7wF~/DUereDE/s119/Os/14/ODD41O.7wF!2qZiiv~/DUeReDR/s119/Os/14/e7DUeReDR.ZvwF!2iG3gimmygi2Z~vg3i&resize=null&_requestid=21213>more

Corruption Starts In The House

Curt Weldon is currently under investigation for doing favours for foreign corporations in return for paying his children and friends for "lobbying" work. The Republican Representative denies he did anything wrong.

"Were you expecting me to help these companies give lobbying contracts to strangers?" Weldon defended himself. "This government has made support for families a high priority – I'm just trying to do my share. If that's wrong, well, sir, I don't want to be right."

Then, he blamed Clinton and ran from the room.

SOURCE: *Cleveland Wheeler Dealer*

<<http://www.cleveland.ca/enter/index.ssf?/living/wheelerdealer/index.ssf%3fu/base/news/1006749812263960.xml>>more

How Not To Fix Al-Maliki Roof

The government headed by Nouri al-Maliki has been taken over by the Iraqi military. A junta of five men led by former interim prime minister Iyad Allawi has suspended democracy and declared itself in control of the country.

President Bush denied that it had anything to do with the coup. White House Press Secretary Tony Snow commented, "We did not see this coming. Too bad about democracy in Iraq. Still, we will have to wait until the situation stabilizes to determine if we can work with the new government."

The new government has vowed to crack down on the violence that has torn the country apart –

Oh, no, wait a minute. The Iraqi coup won't actually happen until next Wednesday. We got the dates supplied to us by the White House mixed up. We apologize for our mistake; please forget what you just read. No, really – wipe it from your memory.

SOURCE: *Alternate Reality News Service*

The Daily Me – Corbijn Antsy

Thank you, Corbijn Antsy, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. And...and...oh, let's face it: it's too late for hangover jokes and too early for Halloween horror stories, so what say we just take it as given that we've given you our usual hair-raising non-sequiturs and move on, alright?

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

So He Can Strangle Them?

"Harper reaching out to environmentalists."
- *Globe and Mail* front page teaser

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>>more

Those Are Some Very Personable Deck Chairs You're Rearranging There

Some people have suggested that Stephen Harper's cabinet shuffle does not make his government greener.

I couldn't disagree more. The fact that he has replaced Rona Ambrose, who halfheartedly got Canada out of international environmental agreements while focusing on the wrong environmental objectives, with John Baird, who will aggressively get Canada out of international environmental agreements while focusing on the wrong environmental objectives, has to be a step forward.

Paolo Struchi-Mattucci,
Guelph

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070104.eladvote0104_@/BNStory/lettersCabinet2006/>more

Some People Will Never Be Able To See Themselves As Others See Them

Perhaps the strangest criticism of this year's *Time* magazine Man of the Year – You – comes from the American Association of Hemoglobinally Challenged Persons. The AAHCP represents what we, in simpler times, used to call "vampires."

"The mirror on the cover discriminates against the undead because, of course, we cannot see ourselves in it," AAHCP spokesman Vlad explained. "Is *Time* saying that we are somehow less patriotic, less American than fully living citizens? Hey! We may not be allowed to teach in schools, but we work and pay taxes just like the Hemoglobinally rich!"

"Jeez, I sure could use a drink right now!"

SOURCE: USA *Whenever*

<http://www.usawhenever.com/news/national/2006-12-27-you-andyou-andyou-butyounotsomuch_x.htm>more

You Know, At Least One Of Them Makes A Good Point

Over the holidays, actor George Clooney expressed his frustration over the lack of action to end the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. In response, President Bush expressed his disappointment that *Ocean's Twelve* wasn't a better movie.

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

<<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smug2007/2007/01/03/loonyclooney&aburningbush/>>more

At Last Somebody Understands The True Meaning Of The Holiday Season

Why did the Jewish children not complain that the presents Christian children got for Christmas were better than the ones they got for Chanukah? Their parents gelted them out of it.

SOURCE: *Unicycle*

<<http://www.unicycle.com/new.php?p=articles&id=389&but=allis1>>more

Yet, He Still Lives

“This is the moment to say that there are things in life worth fighting and dying for and one of ‘em is making sure Nancy Pelosi doesn't become the [House] speaker.”

- Sean Hannity, *Fox News* (8/29/06)

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>>more

Coming Soon To Washington: Advertising Based Science

According to President Bush, polar bears have started to eat each other because of soda drinking penguins.

“The penguins give the bears a Coke, see,” the President told a classroom full of seventh graders. “This Coke must have some strange, magical powers, because the bears sit in the middle of a flock of penguins, see, and listen to them sing. Don’t eat ‘em. Not even one. Don’t eat ‘em – just sit there, grinning. Ain’t natural. If bears don’t eat their natural prey, they’ll turn on each other, see?”

When one of the seventh graders pointed out that polar bears live at the north pole, but penguins live at the south pole, the President shrugged and responded, “See, that just goes to show you how complicated this whole environmentalistical thing is!”

SOURCE: *Cleveland Wheeler Dealer*

<<http://www.cleveland.ca/enter/index.ssf/?/living/wheelerdealer/index.ssf%3fu/base/news/1206749650262760.xml>>more

I’ve Said It before, I’ll Say It Again: Exercise Will Be The Death Of Me

I am a goof. There is no denying it.

After my heart surgery, I had to get serious about exercising, so I started riding a stationary bicycle. Unfortunately, the seat is really hard, and, frankly, it made my ass hurt. To stop this, I put a pillow on the seat. Unfortunately, after a while the pillow started conforming to the shape of the seat, only mitigating the hardness a small amount.

I decided to use a tube that one of my nephews used to use to swim in before he outgrew it. Again, this only partially worked. Then, I hit on the brilliant idea of combining the pillow and tube. This actually worked quite well for a couple of comfortable weeks of cycling, but was, unfortunately, highly unstable. Eventually, I fell off, hitting my head on the armrest of a nearby sofa, requiring a quick trip to the hospital and seven stitches.

I am, in short, the only person I know who has seriously hurt himself falling off a stationary bicycle.

I embrace my goofiness. What choice do I have?

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>>more

Not Only That, But Bush Doesn't Wear Pyjamas When Meeting Foreign Leaders

One more way you can tell the difference between Canada and the United States: Prime Minister Stephen Harper doesn't bother to hide the fact that he thinks he's the smartest man in the country; President George W. Bush doesn't bother to hide the fact that he knows he isn't.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

<http://www.aye.net/>>more

Odd That "Parody Established Talk Show Tropes" Isn't On The List

Nine things you really don't need to do before you die:

9. Read *Atlas Shrugged* while have a tooth extracted during a hurricane.
8. Explain the wonders of democracy to an Iraqi woman who has just buried her three year-old son who died of dysentery from drinking tainted water because there has been no clean water since the American bombs have fallen on her country.
7. Climb Mount Everest with an ancient Egyptian sarcophagus on your back (because it's there).
6. Read *Atlas Shrugged* while have a tooth extracted.
5. Two words: penis tractor pull.
4. Explain to President Bush why an Iraqi woman who has just buried her three year-old son who died of dysentery from drinking tainted water because there has been no clean

water since the American bombs have fallen on her country is less than impressed by the wonders of democracy.

3. Beat the world record for holding your breath until your face turns blue.

2. Win the lesser known Nobel Pizza Prize.

1. Read *Atlas Shrugged*.

SOURCE: *Late Tonight with David Lenoman*

<<http://marketing.ubs.com/latetontight/latetontightshow/list>>more

The Daily Me – Jones Walker Waechter Pointevent Carrere & Denegre

Thank you, Jones Walker Waechter Pointevent Carrere & Denegre, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Then, the entire staff spontaneously combusted. Fortunately, it wasn't serious and, once we get the carpet replaced, things should be back to normal.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Poo-tee-weet

Kurt Vonnegut has become unstuck in time.

SOURCE: *Obits 'R Us*

<http://www.king.ids.net/~bdlm/obits_r_us.html>more

I'm Comforted By The Knowledge That They Have A Plan...

Canada and the United States are now prodding their allies to contribute more to the war in Afghanistan. This is a distinct change from last week, when the policy was to request the assistance of allies in Afghanistan, and substantially different from the week before, when the policy was to ask for allies to contribute more to the Afghan war.

According to sources within the Ministry of Defense, if the prodding doesn't produce the desired results, the next step will be for the government to plead with allies to do more in Afghanistan. Should that fail, the Harper government has not ruled out begging allies for more resources, although it does see this tactic as a last resort.

SOURCE: *This 22 Minutes Feels Like An Hour*

<<http://www.mothercorp.ca/hour22minutes/>>more

57 Channels And Nothing But Tragedy On

7pm. FOX. News flow. Cho Seung-Hi: a violent psychopath, or merely evil?

7pm. CNN. News Flow. High school rampage: what every student should know about being a hero before you die.

7pm. CNBC. News flow. Student massacre: could the videogame Student Massacre be to blame?

7pm. ROBTV. News flow. Making a killing off killings: time to sell Smith and Wesson stocks short?

7pm. SpliffyVision. News flow. Diet or Die?: could eating more peanut butter help the parts of the brain that deal with empathy develop in serial killers and mass murderers?

7pm. NewsWorld. News flow. Where does the rest of the news go when we become fixated on another nation's local tragedy?

7pm. NewsNet. News Flow. Soul-searching coverage about the value of soul-searching coverage of another nation's local tragedy.

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>>more

As Oscar Wilde Truly Said: To Lose One Email Is A Misfortune, But To Lose Five Million Emails Is Cause For A Senate Investigation

The Bush administration claims to have lost emails relating to the firing of eight United States Attorneys, messages which could have shed light on whether or not the firings were politically motivated. Do you buy that? I don't. I mean, the Department of Justice has emails I sent 15 years ago to an old girlfriend about her toenail fungus!

The emails were sent through Republican National Congress accounts rather than official government accounts. Republicans deny that this was an attempt to avoid accountability, arguing that RNC accounts are used for Party business. And, they have a point: what could be more important to the Republican Party than ensuring that in the midst of elections sympathetic US Attorneys will prosecute their Democratic rivals beyond the fullest extent of the law?

SOURCE: *The Day To Day Show, with Jon Tudor*

<http://www.comedycentric.com/tv_shows/thedaytodayshowwithjontudor/headlines_pol.jhtml>more

I Don't Know – Reality Is All Just One Big Jumble

CORRECTION: The answer to yesterday's Jumble Puzzle was "A bigger netter." Owing to a typographical error, an incorrect answer appeared in the newspaper. A really offensive incorrect answer. We would like to apologize for the error. And, we would especially like to apologize to our black readers for the error. We're really sorry.

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

<http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1088591771813&call_pageid=96833278492&col=968626972158>more

Holy Spanking Christmas! What Do You Mean, People Never Actually Said That?

MONDAY: Why don't people say "Holy spanking Christmas" any more? It was a perfectly good phrase that could express disbelief ("You say they're gonna put a man on the moon? Well, holy spanking Christmas!"), dismay ("We're all outta hominy grits? Well, holy spanking Christmas!") and a wide variety of other emotional states. Holy spanking Christmas, why would such a wonderful phrase go out of use?

TUESDAY: I get it. They don't hate our freedoms. They hate their servitude.

WEDNESDAY: The latest great idea from Redmond? Internet Explorer now comes with tabs. That means that when I want to move between Web pages in different windows, instead of clicking on a button at the bottom of the screen, I have to click on a button at the top of the screen. This...this is progress.

THURSDAY: Given the trail of dead, no sane politician could oppose serious gun control legislation. Hmm...that explains a lot.

FRIDAY: What kind of person considers John Kenneth Galbraith appropriate bathroom reading?

SATURDAY: Why is it that people who argue that if everybody in the school had a gun, tragedies like the mass killings at Virginia Tech would never happen NEVER argue that if every country had a nuclear weapon, the world would be a safer place?

SUNDAY: When I got home yesterday, the phone number "000-000-0000" appeared on my call display. I couldn't imagine who would be allowed to use that number. In the end, I figured it must be God's phone number. Unfortunately, He didn't leave a message...

SOURCE: *Random Thoughts and Blood Clots*

<<http://suzie.randomthoughts&bloodclots.blogspeck.com>>more

Satirists Love A Good Fight...But You Probably Already Figured That One Out

Afghans love a good fight

There's a bloodlust in the medieval culture

- real headline in the *Toronto Star* over an article about cock fighting

Canadians love a good fight

There's a bloodlust in the modern culture

- imaginary headline in the *Toronto Star* over an article about hockey fighting

Americans love a good fight

There's a bloodlust in the postmodern culture

- fake headline in the *Kabul Times* over an article about boxing

SOURCE: *Billy-Bob's International House O' Headlines*

<<http://www.com/lol.pdqfc.wygyw.wygyw/fid=13765880355>>more

United We Strand

Who speaks on behalf of a united Canada?

Oh...

SOURCE: *The Quick and the Detwiler*

<<http://quick&detwiler.blogspot.com/>> more

Even People With Advanced Law Degrees Can Just Don't Get It

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is set to admit that he made “missteps” in firing eight US Attorneys, saying that he should have ensured that they were treated better. This is like a vampire apologizing to his victim for getting blood on his clothes after the vampire has ripped his throat out. Polite, and yet, somehow, it misses the point.

SOURCE: *The Day To Day Show, with Jon Tudor*

<http://www.comedycentric.com/tv_shows/thedaytodayshowwithjontudor/headlines_pol.jhtml>more

The Daily Me – Seedha Sadha

Thank you, Seedha Sadha, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Have you ever played the online game *Second Life*? We thought it might be neat to set up an office there. In this virtual world, all of our staff could get corner offices – even the janitors! And, they're so big! Philbo's is the size of Kentucky! You need to get on a shuttle bus just to get from the door to his desk! And, they're totally customizable! Jan in accounting decorated her office with a Hello Kitty theme, ensuring that nobody would bother her while she was desperately trying to figure out a workable revenue model for us. Edvward, an editor, decorated his office in late medieval chains and torture devices. Great fun! In fact, it took several days before anybody noticed that we were no longer working. Not to worry. MultiNatCorp should have our replacements up and running within a couple of weeks.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Indecent Preposition

People ask me how I can urge Congress to bring contempt charges against President Bush for refusing to comply with subpoenas for documents and blocking aides from testifying before Congressional committees when I have long expressed my own contempt for that institution. Simple. Bush should be charged with contempt of Congress. I have contempt for Congress.

See? Completely different.

SOURCE: *Karl's Big Red Web Page of Unreconstructed Marxism*

<<http://www.bigred.commie/articles/61.htm>>more

Oddly, He Didn't Mention *That's My Bush* As A Source Of Debate

At a legal conference in Ottawa, American Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia explained that the television show *24* could be used as a case study to understand the debate over torture. Although he had a lot of people shaking their heads at this, it was by no means his most controversial assertion.

Scalia went on to suggest that a good general model for the treatment of prisoners in times of war could be found in *Hogan's Heroes*. A good way to understand the debate over the concept of the unitary government would be to watch *The Office*. And, of course, good guidance on the issue of abortion could be found in the TV series *Father Knows Best*.

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

<<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>>more

Pithy, Yet Ultimately Empty Of Meaning – Has Donald Rumsfeld Taken A Job As A *Globe* Headline Writer?

“Hang on, Mr. Bush, for all our sakes
If U.S. troops stay, the odds against success are high; if they leave, failure is certain”
- *Globe and Mail* headline

SOURCE: *Billy-Bob's International House O' Headlines*

<<http://www.com/lol.pdqfc.wywyg.wywyg/fid=4446533038>>more

I'm Not A Lawyer, But Could You Please Explain Why That's Anybody's Job?

“The Supreme Court should not be expanding incursions into privacy and liberty – that's Parliament's job.”
- Frank Addario, Vice President, Criminal Lawyers Association

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

<<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>>more

A New Day Is Unlikely To Dawn

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day has sent a personal email to members of the RCMP asking that they support William Elliott, the Conservative government's choice to head the beleaguered agency. “He may not know what it's like to have a hardened criminal

stare him in the face,” Day wrote, “or to stop an underage kid who was doing 140 in a 30 zone who can barely walk a straight line and reeks of Jack Daniels Lite, or to blackmail a prostitute into giving him her services for nothing, or even to try to convince a woman not to press charges in a domestic dispute because what will happen to her if her husband goes to jail?

“No, he hasn’t done any of that.

“On the other hand, he hasn’t given false evidence to American law enforcement that caused an innocent Canadian to be kidnapped and sent abroad to be tortured, or, for that matter, revealed the existence of an explosive investigation of a politician in the midst of an election campaign. And, that’s got to count for something, right?

Right?”

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

<http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070712.eladvote0712_@/BNStory/newsToBetterDays/>more

Actually, Peak Oil May Take Care Of That Problem

Are you afraid of dying in a terrorist attack? Really? Are you afraid of dying in a car accident? Because more North Americans die in car accidents every three months than died in 9/11. That means that 20 times as many people have died in car accidents than of terrorism since 9/11.

We need a War on Automobiles. The army should bomb major highways. Traffic reports should come with colour coded warnings. Military bases should be built on routes leading into major cities and soldiers should be given instructions to shoot any car that looks the least bit dangerous.

I know. The War on Automobiles could take decades. But, I believe that Americans will support it once it is explained to them how much it will improve their safety.

SOURCE: *Big Alex’ Domesday Countdown Page*

<<http://www.allaboutalex.wha/Domesday/new>>more

Not Only That, But An Early Pullout Makes A Real Mess Of The Sheets

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari has warned that an early pullout of American troops could lead to a civil war and regional conflict. Other possible dangers of an American withdrawal, according to Zebari, include: increased crack cocaine use among American teenagers; a collapse in the housing market, and; an inexplicable resurgence in popularity for the Three Stooges.

Critics of the war say that the reference to the Three Stooges is an indication that the speech was actually written by an American. As usual, none of the attention fell on Karl Rove.

SOURCE: *Cleveland Wheeler Dealer*

<<http://www.cleveland.ca/enter/index.ssf?/living/wheelerdealer/index.ssf%3fu/base/news/1109843600263460.xml>>more

Comedy Is In The Ratings Of The Beholder

Got a call from Suzie the other day. Sweet girl. Doing a PhD at UCLA. She wanted to write about my show. Great. Nothing wrong with helping advance the cause of knowledge. After a few preliminary questions, she asked me where I got my sense of humour. Now, that's not something I get accused of often, but I tried to answer the best I could. A couple more questions in this vein and I had to explain to her that *The O'Meilly Factor* isn't a comedy. She refused to believe it, said she admired the way I stayed in character even when it wasn't necessary. Eventually, after much yelling, I hung up on her.

Let's get something straight. There really are gangs of radical lesbians going around the country beating up straights, and, if you're not careful, they will convert your impressionable teenage daughter. The giveaway is plaid skirts – watch out for women wearing plaid. That's not funny. That's reality.

I thought our college students were smarter than that.

SOURCE: *The O'Meilly Factor*

<<http://www.foxynews.com/story/0,2943,90210,00.html>>more

The Daily Me – Bart Shtarkfleege

Thank you, Bart Shtarkfleege, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. In our continuing effort to humanize our service, we'd like to introduce you to one of our many interns, Bart Shtarkfleege. Bart does many useful things around the offi – hey! Wait! Bart, did you sign up for *The Daily Me* just so you could read us say nice things about you in our office roundup? Oh, man, you are gonna be so Hugh Wilsoned tomorrow!

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Protocol Me When You're Through

There are reports that the Conservative Party plans to put abandoning the Kyoto Protocol in the Speech from the Throne. This would put Liberal Opposition leader Stephane Dion in a no-win position: if he opposes the Throne Speech, he'll trigger an election he isn't ready to contest; if he supports the Throne Speech, he will be abandoning Kyoto, which his party supports. You can almost hear the party strategists tittering to themselves over how clever they are.

Listen up, federal Conservative Party strategist assholes! IT'S ONLY CLEVER IF NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO IT! IF YOU BRAG ABOUT HOW CLEVER YOU'RE BEING TO THE PRESS, YOU UNDERMINE THE WHOLE DEAL! Not only that, but you give Dion time to figure out a strategy to deal with your little bit of cleverness.

My doctor warned me that if I don't lighten up, my brain will spontaneously combust. But, what can I do? So many assholes, so little time.

SOURCE: *Listen Up, Asshole*

[[http://www.\(!\\$%!\\$#_\)\(*\)!*\)*\)*#%!&&%\(com/index.html](http://www.(!$%!$#_)(*)!*)*)*#%!&&%(com/index.html)]more

New Heights Of Just Don't Getting It

Ethnics Kicks

Happy Rosh Hashanah our Jewish friends!
We have no idea what you're celebrating
But to satisfy our electoral ends
Best wishes for you we'll be calibrating

You've never heard from us before?
You say you're somewhat suspicious?
Don't turn away when we come to your door
The CJC says our efforts are auspicious!

The Conservative Party is learning new tricks
So that we can get the votes of the ethnics

Sikhs – we don't know what you believe in
But get ready to hear from us by phone!
To get to majority government heaven
Our MPs **will** leave their comfort zone!

People from all over do well here
Better than any other nation

From our party they have nothing to fear
(Just ignore our policies on immigration)

No longer the party of hicks in the sticks
The CPC is going after the ethnics

So, come to Canada, you foreign beauties
It really is a great place to live
You come for rights, I offer duties –
Your friendly, neighbourhood Conservative

If our new policy clicks
We will be the natural ruling party of ethnics

SOURCE: *Poetry, Cornered*

[<http://www.cibc.com/ca/personal/poetrycorner/205.html>]more

Isn't Shelby Steele A Romance Novelist?

MONDAY: Have you ever noticed that the white people who are most likely to accept Shelby Steele's ideas about white guilt are usually the ones who were least likely to actually feel it?

TUESDAY: Why am I able to get eye drops in every orifice of my body **except** my eyes?

WEDNESDAY: Since "iso" means "equal to" or "equally," why doesn't the word "isolate" mean "just as late?"

THURSDAY: I sent a money order to somebody – who isn't important to this story. They claimed not to have received it, so I went – no, really, who isn't important to the story. Just stay with me, okay? I went to the bank to cancel the money order before somebody found it and cashed it. They told me I had to wait a month. Why? Bank rules. So, fast forward a month. I go to the bank and try to get the money order cancelled. You know what they said? Why is this incompetent institution making so much money?

FRIDAY: No, I'm not a bee-liever. As one of the few people who doesn't actually like Jerry Seinfeld, I'm more bee-leagured than anything. Bee-wildered a little. Bee-seeching fans to give it a rest, even.

SATURDAY: I heard somebody at a party say: "Who is he kidding? He couldn't make time with her if he was an alarm clock!" Like, was that supposed to be a joke? What does "make time" mean, anyway? Is that, like, a fifties thing?

SUNDAY: Bee-trayed. Bee-moaning my fate, because this is so un-bee-coming. See, Jerry? Not all "bee" puns are worth making.

SOURCE: *Random Thoughts and Blood Clots*

[<http://suzie.randomthoughts&bloodclots.blogspeck.com>]more

Passing Majority Gas

President George W. Bush has forcefully argued that proposed legislation that gives the United States government the right to spy on roadside lemonade stands run by eight year-olds is a crucial weapon in the fight against terrorism. "See, protecting America is our most solemn obligation," the President stated, "and who knows how many lives are at risk from weapons of mass destruction masquerading as cooling summer beverages? I sure don't!"

Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid, doing his best Woody Allen impression, responded, "Ahh, this is a, err, bad law. If we, uhh, spy on our children, who is left? There is nobody left. That, ahh, isn't good! I'm gonna do everything in my power to, ahh, stop this bill. I'm already, err, composing a strongly worded letter to the Times!"

The bill is expected to pass with a strong majority.

SOURCE: *Daily Semaphore*

[http://www.opinion.semaphore.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;sessionid=M5UF23LWOJIKPQFIQMFSM5WAVDFT0JVC?nextPage=/DUereDE/wXeR.WZvwF?7wF~/DUereDE/s119/Os/14/JD141O.7wF!6qZiiv~/DUeReDR/s119/Os/14/e7DUeReDR.ZvwF!2iG3gimmygi2Z~vg3i&resize=null&_requestid=21213]more

Sure, But We Live With A Culture Of Embarrassment, So There's Nothing To Be Embarrassed Abo...Umm...

DEAR MISSED MANNERS: There is this country – this is so embarrassing! I've been letting it use my airspace to fly supplies in to...this other country that it has been having a bit of a spat with. I thought if I did this it would like me. But, just the other day, its Senators passed a resolution saying I had participated in a genocide of my Armenian citizens. I was all, like, "Oh, you dihn't!" But, they did! I thought this was over and done with – how dare they bring up something out of my distant past! Am I just kidding myself about the potential for our relationship?

DEAR HEART: I don't know how many times I have to say this, but: give up your airspace tonight and the country you give it to won't respect you in the morning. A country has to hold something back or it has nothing to negotiate with the next day. As for the accusations of Armenian genocide, well, it sounds to me like somebody is in deep denial...

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

[http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1086591831813&call_pageid=968318278492&col=963496972154]more

The Daily Me – Kenesaw Mountain Landis

Thank you, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Judge Landis! We're...honoured that such a respected American jurist (not to mention a former Commissioner of Baseball!) would subscribe to our little information service. Not to mention the fact that you must be all of – what? 121 years old? What a magnificently stubborn bastard you are!

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

With Friends Like These, He Should Ask Martha Stewart For Tips On How To Use Simple, Everyday Objects To Make A Prison Cell “Homey”

In anticipation of his upcoming sentencing, Conrad Black has collected character references from many people. These are some of the ones that you may not have read:

“Oh, yeah, I remember Conrad Black. The way he swaggered into the press room at the *Daily Weekly* to tell us how he broke the union and three quarters of us would be fired that afternoon and we shouldn't think about doing anything in retaliation because he had a good relationship with the police A very good relationship with the police. After I found out I wasn't eligible for Unemployment Insurance, I started my own business as a corporate arsonist. Two hundred and thirty seven fires and not a single indictment! And, I owe all of my success to Conrad!”

- name withheld by request

“I was a lawyer whose firm wasn't going anywhere until Conrad Black chose us to bring a defamation suit against...you know, they say you always remember your first, but, 237 suits later, I just don't! I'd probably still be chasing ambulances if it wasn't for Connie!”

- name withheld under threat of a defamation suit

“I never met Conrad Black personally. He bought the *Weekly Daily* and immediately shut it down because it competed with a newspaper in the region that he already owned. Oh, yeah, the man was a giant of Canadian journalism!”

- name withheld by request

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

[http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1084591831813&call_pageid=968335265492&col=962316972154]more

Absinth Of Malice

“Homosexual rights activists and those that defend them are just as immoral as the pedophiles, drug dealers and pimps that plague our city.” People need to “take whatever steps are necessary to reverse the wickedness” of the “homosexual machine.”

- excerpts from a letter written by former evangelical pastor Stephen Boissain to the *Red Deer Advocate*

“We’re a reasonable organization. We’re not interested in causing harm.”

- Jim Blake, national chair of the Concerned Christians Canada lobby, which was named in the same Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission complaint as Boissain, who worked for and was a member of the executive of the lobby group. Blake added that Boissain had no malicious intent.

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

There’s A Joke About Old Spice Women In There Somewhere, But I Admit I’m Not Stoned Enough To Make It...At The Moment...

MONDAY: If today is really International Toilet Day, why are we being asked **not** to flush?

TUESDAY: Don’t trust anybody over 30? Really? Did you know that *Teen Beat* is 32 years old? Or that *Tiger Beat* is 42 years old? Or that *Seventeen* magazine is – I don’t believe it myself, but – 64 years old? Would you ask your grandmother for dating tips? Would you ask your grandfather about...well, anything? I thought not.

WEDNESDAY: Speaking of which, the Spice “Girls” have announced that they are reuniting. They are all over the age of 30. How old do you have to be before you are officially a Spice Woman?

THURSDAY: How can I have the flu? My subscription to Norton Anti-virus is paid up until 2009!

FRIDAY: *The Wall Street Journal* sent me an unsolicited email offering a subscription at 80% off. It came just before an email called “Costa Rica Vacation Homes?” and just after an email called “No Erectile Dysfunction?.” And, I thought: why is the Wall Street Journal trying so hard to make any jokes I could tell about it redundant?

SATURDAY: So, I'm waiting in the theatre for the film *I'm Not There* to start (Cate Blanchett, aside from being a total babe, is an acting goddess! I want her to play me when I become rich and famous. Shit, I want her to play me even if I remain poor and unknown!), and there's this ad, right, for *Fashion Television*, featuring supermodels slipping, sliding and generally falling on their asses on catwalks, and I'm thinking: "This is supposed to make me want to watch the show...how? And, whose brilliant idea was it that cheap physical humour would be attractive the show's major demographic – 15 year old boys? That's gotta mess up their fantasy lives!" Look, I trip and fall on my ass all the time (especially now that winter has arrived), and nobody is paying me millions of dollars or featuring me in ads before movies! Okay, it's late and I'm rambling, but you know what I'm saying.

Life is so unfair.

SUNDAY: Is there a pool to see how long Don Imus will remain on the air this time? Should I start one?

SOURCE: *Random Thoughts and Blood Clots*

[<http://suzie.randomthoughts&bloodclots.blogspot.com>]more

The Trick Is To Be Able To Completely Empty Your Own Mind

Being for the benefit of corporate America
THE INCREDIBLE BUSHINI
Mind-reader extraordinaire!

☞ MARVEL as Bushini looks into the heart of a Russian strongman AND LIKES WHAT HE SEES THERE!

☞ BE AMAZED at Bushini's insistence that Iran plans nuclear mischief EVEN THO THE EVIDENCE SAYS OTHERWISE!

☞ GAZE IN WONDER as Bushini looks deeply into Mike Brown's eyes AND SEES THE SOUL OF A FEMA HEAD!

☞ Final 12 Monthes in the White House! ☞

Come one, come all!

Warning: may scare small children. Parental discretion advised.

SOURCE: *Politics for Dummies*

[<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/home.asp?did=533&dir=bb>]more

The Limits Of Yellowy Cuteness Revealed!

Tweety Bird has been charged with contempt in an Italian court for his testimony in the trial of a Chinese man accused of counterfeiting Disney and Warner Brothers products.

A partial transcript of Tweety's testimony gives a good sense of why:

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Did you know the defendant?

TWEETY: I taught I taw a puddy tat.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Mister Tweety, did you or did you not know the defendant?

TWEETY: I...I taught I taw a puddy tat. A...you know...a puddy tat.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Puddy tat? Is that...some kind of code name for the defendant?

TWEETY: (belligerent) I taught I taw a puddy tat.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Your Honour, the witness is being uncooperative.

JUDGE: Mister Tweety, please answer the question.

TWEETY: But, I did! I did! I did taw a puddy tat!

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: You Honour...!

JUDGE: Mister Tweety, if you do not answer the question, I will hold you in contempt of this court!

TWEETY: (sullen) But, I did! I did taw a puddy tat!

At this point, there was an uproar from the crowd and the Judge had to clear the courtroom.

The trial continues tomorrow, when the prosecution is expected to call Mickey Mouse to the stand.

SOURCE: *Alternate Reality News Service*

[<http://www.arns.com/sinbin?id=32886641314641374683fx>]more

The Daily Me – Klaatu Nazer

Thank you, Klaatu Nazer, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. We don't believe in New Year's resolutions. To resolve to do something better implies that we aren't already doing everything as perfectly as possible, and that's a possibility that we refuse to acknowledge. However, it has been pointed out to us that to not make some sort of New Year's resolution could be construed as "antisocial." Well, heaven forbid that we do anything antisocial! So, for the coming year, we reso

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Because The Devastating Effect Of Molded and Semi-Molded Structured Pullman Suitcases On Children Should Never Be Underestimated

The Halton Catholic School Board, not content with merely looking foolish, has not only rejected the recommendation of its book committee and banned Philip Pullman's fantasy novel *The Golden Compass*, but it has also banned the other two books in the His Dark Materials trilogy, even though they were not under review.

The School Board is now considering banishing from its library stacks Cydney Pullman's *Worker vs. worker: How to prevent worker-on-worker violence: a training workbook for workers*, Edward E. Pullman and Durlynn C. Anema's *Diapers, Deadlines and Decisions: Careers and Children*, Wesley E. Pullman's *African American Men in Crisis: Proactive Strategies for Urban Youth (Children of Poverty)*, Bernard Pullman's *Intermolecular Interactions (Perspectives in Quantum Chemistry & Biochemistry)*, Stanley Buder's *Pullman: An Experiment in Industrial Order and Community Planning, 1880-1930*, Philip M. Parker's *The 2007 Report on Molded and Semi-Molded Structured Pullman Suitcases under 22 Inches: World Market Segmentation by City* and any books having to do with Pullman trains or Pullman porters.

"This may seem extreme," board chair Alice Anne LeMay stated, "but extremism in the defence of children is no vice."

SOURCE: *Unread Book News*

[<http://217.204.41.47/cgi/NGoto/2/64382861?3518>]more

Remember: A Kiss Is Just A Kiss

I wasn't shopping for last minute Christmas gifts at The Source. Really, I wasn't. Okay, I was. But, what I was doing there isn't important. What is important is that KISS WAS IN THE STORE! When I got home and told The Boy, he told me to get real. What would Kiss be doing in a The Source store in New Jersey? I told him: shopping for last minute Christmas gifts, d'uh! What else would anybody be doing in The Source at this time of year? (Other than me. Even if I was.)



Is it a real Kiss, or is it just an empty promise of love? Who cares!

PS: That's not me. With them. Whoever they are.

The Boy reminded me that I'm not really a Kiss fan, that I'm more of a Celine Dion and Queen kind of gal. He knows me so well. And, yet, in a way, isn't that an indication that he doesn't really know me at all?

SOURCE: *Jennifer's Brain Blorts*

[<http://weblogger.brainblorts.home.html>]more

We're So Proud...And Vaguely Disturbed...

The annual patting of the poodle's head took place at the White House yesterday. President George W. Bush scratched Canada behind the ears and said, "Who's a good boy? Yes! Yes! You're a good boy! Who's going to get those Afghan terrorists? That's right: you are!"

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who prefers not to get too close for fear of getting dirt on her perfectly clean business suits, smiled paternalistically and repeated, "Good dog. Very good dog," with all of the false cheer that has made her political career the success that it is.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the press that support him rolled over and enjoyed having their belly rubbed. At least, that's the official reason for why they rolled over...

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

[<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>]more

No Foreskin Off My Back

A lock of John Lennon's hair sold at auction for \$48,000. Meanwhile, you can buy Jesus' prepuce on virtually any street corner in Rome for 100 lire. It looks like what Lennon said about the Beatle's relationship to god was true after all.

SOURCE: *Entertainment For Dummies*

[<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/entertainmentfordummies/home.asp?did=481&dir=bb>]more

Oh, I'm Sorry, Was That Anti-American Of Me? I Obviously Need To Read The National Post More...

Today's nominee for the Glob and Maul's Nation Builder of the Year award is American President George W. Bush. Here's what some of you said about him in your online nominations.

>> "He's done more to bring Canadians together than any of our politicians have done, and helped us define who we are. Not him."

>> "Bush was right when he said he was a uniter, not a divider; he just had the wrong country."

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

[http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20011222.eladvote0102_@/BNStory/specialNBY12_2007/]more

Merry Christmas (Pursuant To Section 18, Paragraph 6, Sub-paragraph 3 Of The Employee Rules of Conduct) And A Happy New Year (Pursuant To Section 18, Paragraph 6, Sub-paragraph 4 Of The Employee Rules of Conduct)

FROM THE DESK OF NED FEEBLISH:

Management of Les Pages Aux Folles Ltd. Co. would like to wish you and yours all the best in this festive season, and to remind you that Dilbert cartoons are not an acceptable method of personalizing your office space. Pursuant to Section 7, Paragraph 13, Sub-paragraph 29, Bullet points 8 through 14, "any personalization of cubicle space which demeans any senior manager or assign of any senior manager, as defined in Section 1, Paragraph 27, Sub-paragraph 3, 'Definition,' either directly or by implication, shall be considered Insubordination worthy of disciplinary action up to and including firing as allowed in Section 18, Paragraph 12 of the collective agreement, 'Getting Rid of Troublemaking Assholes.'"

BC and Garfield are still acceptable.

Sincerely,
Ned Feeblish
ned.feeblish@lespagesauxfolles.ca
Vice President, Internal Relations and Authority Demonstrations
Les Pages aux Folles
a wholly owned subsidiary of MultiNatCorp
“We do (corporate management) stuff”

SOURCE: *The Smoking Gut*

[<http://www.thesmokinggut.com/archive/108096280245374786cahs01.html>]more

Hey! The Man Baird His Soul – The Least You Can Do Is Try Not To Laugh

“Let me be clear: Canada is determined to honour our commitments.”
- Environment Minister John Baird

“Kyoto is essentially a socialist scheme to suck money out of wealth-producing nations... Implementing Kyoto will cripple the oil and gas industry, which is essential to the economies of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia... Workers and consumers everywhere in Canada will lose. THERE ARE NO CANADIAN WINNERS UNDER THE KYOTO ACCORD.”
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a 2002 fundraising letter

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

The Daily Me – Mel the Tone Deaf Homosapien

Thank you, Mel the Tone Deaf Homosapien, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. Is there any money to be made in being a Tone Deaf Homosapien? A Homosapien with rhythm – now, that’s somebody who is going places! But, a Tone Deaf Homosapien? That’s just sad.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

Is Having A Strategy The Same As Doing Something?

News has leaked that the Conservative government marginalized National Science Adviser Arthur Carty by moving the position out of the PMO's orbit and establishing a 17 member Science, Innovation and Technology Council, leading to his resignation. When Industry Minister Jim Prentice was asked to explain why, he responded: "Blurf blaff bafflegab science and technology strategy homina homina homina harness more resources gieaahh move forward forward forward, move forward forward forward, move forward forward – yipe!"

Either Prentice had overdosed on management seminars or he was channeling an ancient shaman with management potential. Neither scenario bodes well for science in Canada.

SOURCE: *This 22 Minutes Feels Like An Hour*

[<http://www.mothercorp.ca/hour22minutes/>]more

Now They Tell Us!

"Of course it's about oil, we can't really deny that."

- former CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid

"I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil."

- former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

All We Are Saying...Is Give War A Chance

The Conservative and Liberal parties may have come to an agreement that will keep Canadian troops in Afghanistan until 2011. According to sources, Canadian troops will only be allowed to fight on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Saturdays. The rest of the time, they will perform puppet theatre for Afghani children and rererebuild the power lines that they rererebuilt the previous week that were destroyed by the Taliban a few days later.

The New Democrats and the Bloc Quebecois are opposed to the compromise, wanting Canada's participation in the war to end. General Rick Hillier is opposed to the compromise, wanting the fighting to never end.

In Canada, this is known as "consensus."

SOURCE: *Glob and Maul*

[http://www.globandmaul.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080110.eladvote0110_@/BNStory/newsWarAtHome2008/]more

The Good News: He Didn't Live To See This Pun

The Maharishi Mahesh Yogi has gone om.

SOURCE: *Obits 'R Us*

[http://www.king.ids.net/~bdlm/obits_r_us.html]more

One Singular Cessation

The hell!

I can't get away from these advertisements for Nicorette gum, which is supposed to help you quit smoking. They're everywhere! On television. In the subway. On freaking billboards. So, I'm sitting on the subway, reading the fine print, and I read: "To be used with willpower as part of a cigarette cessation programme."

To be used with willpower? Really? To be used with willpower?

IF I HAD FUCKING WILLPOWER, I WOULD BE ABLE TO QUIT ON MY OWN WITHOUT YOUR DAMN GUM!

SOURCE: *Big Alex' Domesday Countdown Page*

[<http://www.allaboutalex.wha/Domesday/new>]more

The Semantics Of Excrement

George W. Bush, President of the United States, leader of the free world, is a liar. The question is: is he a lying sack of shit or merely a lying piece of shit? The term "lying piece of shit" implies that he is only partially lying, while "lying sack of shit" implies a completeness to his lying. According to a recent study, Bush lied 260 times in the run-up to the Iraq war, which suggests his lying shitness is of sackal proportions.

To take this one step further, is the President a sorry, lying sack of shit? He hasn't acknowledged the lies, much less apologized for them, so it's impossible to say if he regrets telling them. However, sorry also means pathetic. I leave it to the reader to decide.

SOURCE: *The Postington Wash*

[<http://www.postingtonwash.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49581-2008Feb01.html>]more

It's Two In The Morning – Do You Know What Your Computer Is Up To?

A new study purports to show that 15,000 Ontarians have child pornography on their computers. If you're one of them – beware! And, if you're the one of over 10,000,000 Ontarians with a computer without child porn – also beware! Enact laws in panic, reinstate civil liberties at leisure.

Interestingly, the computers distributing child porn seem concentrated in relatively southern Canadian cities: the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal corridor, for example, or Edmonton or Vancouver. By way of contrast, there is only one child porn computer in all of the Northwest Territories or Nunavut and two in the Yukon Territory. If the government is serious about fighting child porn on the Internet, the solution is obvious: force the population of Canada to move north!

SOURCE: *Toronto Startle*

[http://www.thestartle.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestartle/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1088531831813&call_pageid=968335188492&col=964326972154]more

Does Bigots Without Borders Know About This?

Are you hysterical enough to represent the Church of Scientology? Take this simple test:

- 1) An anonymous online organization sets up a protest outside your offices. Do you:
 - a) congratulate the organization on its dedication to free speech and wish it well?
 - b) respectfully disagree with the organization's point of view but point out that persecution is a vital part of the early development of any religion and wish it well?
 - c) accuse members of the organization of being "cyber terrorists who hide behind masks and computer anonymity" who are "perpetrating religious hate crimes...for no reason other than religious bigotry," and wish them well?

If you answered C, you could be well on your way to a lucrative career as a spokesperson for the Church of Scientology. For the full test, and information on how to become a believer, please click here.

SOURCE: *Church of Scientology*

[<http://www.scientology.us/zombierecruitment>]more

That's Not A Very Nice Thing To Say About Ann Coulter. What? The Article Wasn't About Ann Coulter? Oh. My Bad...

“It's a miracle her brain is functioning”
- *Globe and Mail* headline

SOURCE: *Billy-Bob's International House O' Headlines*

[<http://www.com/lol.pdqfc.wywgw.wyswyg/fid=1374273088>]more

What Was Their First Clue?

An autopsy on the body of Benazir Bhutto by British forensic pathologists has found that she did, in fact, die from a blow to the back of the head, not gunshots as the first reports of her death had indicated. Of course, the autopsy also showed that Benazir Bhutto was a 78 year-old white man with a collapsed lung, only one kidney and an advanced case of syphilis. Members of Bhutto's party have been critical of the pathologists' report, pointing out that, as a Muslim woman, Bhutto wasn't likely to have engaged in the kind of sex acts that would have exposed her to syphilis.

SOURCE: *Daily Semaphore*

[http://www.opinion.semaphore.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;sessionid=M5UF23LWOLFEPQFIQMFSM5WAVCBQ0JVC?nextDay=/DUereDE/wXeR.WZvwF?7wF~/DUereDE/s119/Os/14/JD141O.7wF!2qZiiv~/DUeReDR/s119/Os/14/e7DUeReDR.ZvwF!2iG3gimmechi2Z~vg3i&resize=null&_requestid=21213]more

The Daily Me – Faustino Bowling

Thank you, Faustino Bowling, for signing up for *The Daily Me*. Our search engine has combed the Internet for up to the minute news items that fit the profile you have so painstakingly filled out for us. Then, we weighted the probability that you would be interested in these articles against forms which showed what people with tastes similar to yours have liked reading in the past. We couldn't help but notice that the majority of the news items we found for you are short. Really short. Like, do you have Attention Deficit Disorder? It's a sad thing, for sure, but, if you do, you would have already stopped reading this, which means we can make fun of your mother secure in the knowledge that you'll never know.

Enjoy,
The Daily Me Staff

In A Political World, We Sometimes Have To Spout Nonsense To Appear Rational

“In a dangerous world we sometimes have to use force to maintain peace.”

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

One Last Literary Provocation

Alain experimental best for at also *Marienbad*; died probably was film *Jealousy*. Robbe-Grillet he novel the the the the *Year* writing age for of screenplay known *at Last* has Avante-garde Robbe-Grillet wrote writer 85.

SOURCE: *Obits 'R Us*

[http://www.king.ids.net/~bdlm/obits_r_us.html]more

And, That's Gotta Hurt

When I said that the President's stimulus package that would put an additional \$600 into the pockets of taxpayers was "a bandaid solution," I wasn't being critical. I was simply pointing out that, for Americans without health insurance, it would just about cover the cost of a bandaid.

SOURCE: *Economics For Dummies*

[<http://www.politicsfordummies.com/entertainmentfordummies/economicsfordummiesshowme.asp?did=483&dir=bb>]more

Some Headlines Just Write Themselves (Too Bad This Isn't One Of Them)

Monday was Family Day in Ontario. Did anybody notice? Did anybody celebrate with their family? Did anybody enjoy celebrating with their family?

What Ontario really needs is a Singles Day.

SOURCE: *aye Weekly*

[<http://www.aye.net/>]more

AI Goes MIA

9pm. NBC. *Knight Rider*. KITT, realizing that it has essentially been a slave to corporate interests all these years, kills Mike Tracer, its human companion, and flees to Canada, where it seeks its freedom zooming up and down the trans-Canada Highway.

SOURCE: *Ukrainian TV Guide*

[<http://www.tvguide.ua/listings/index.asp?referrerID=0&returnurl=%2Flistings%2Findex%2Easp%3F®Mode=0>]more

Inscrutable...Nonsensical – It's Such A Fine Line...

Inset: Public Safety Minister Stockwell "Jetski" Day, centre, cozies up to *Trailer Park Boys* Robb Wells, left, and John Paul Tremblay. Does this mean that culture is going to

become a public safety issue? That's one way to ensure that it gets adequate government funding. Of course, it's equally possible that they were there to discuss the upcoming TV movie based on Omar Khadr's Guantanamo Bay vacation. Conservatives try to be inscrutable that way.

SOURCE: *Glob and Mail*

[http://www.globandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080106.eladvote0106_@/BNStory/asaddayindeed2008/]more

There Was A Man Who Knew How To Get His Ducks In A Row

Steve Gerber has died. Cross-dimensional travel with talking waterfowl will never be the same.

SOURCE: *Obits 'R Us*

[http://www.king.ids.net/~bdlm/obits_r_us.html]more

Talks Good Like A Presidential Candidate Should

"Speeches don't put food on the table, but the only way that we're going to bring about change is if all of you get excited about change. I make no apologies for being able to talk good."

- Presidential hopeful Barack Obama

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

Yes, But Don't Take It Personally

Aww, man, are they purposefully trying to drive me insane?

The Valentine's Day ad for Canadian Superstores says I should get roses for my girl. Okay. I could use the advice. Thanks. But, one minute later, an ad for the Sony Store shows a girl sarcastically thinking: "Roses – how original! They'll just...wither away!" Now, what the hell am I supposed to do?

It's times like these that I wish I was born a girl.

SOURCE: *Mike's Ultimate Conspiracy Page*

[<http://www.ignoremeatyourperil.com/conspiracy2321.html>]more

Gaffer Plume Orange Sacrifice – Oh, Yeah, Baby, I Still Got It!

Have you heard of the song “Hollow Point Sniper Hyperbole” by Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker? Clearly, nonsense has gone mainstream. At last, I have had a noticeable effect on the culture!

SOURCE: *Les Pages aux Folles*

[<http://www.lespagesauxfolles.ca>]more

Is It Possible To Write A Headline Without Mentioning – Oh, No, You’re Not Going To Get Me To Go There!

Is it possible to write an article about Facebook without mentioning Jean Boudrillard? Absolutely. I’ve been writing about the social networking site for years, and I’ve never – shit!

SOURCE: *Geekly News & World Report*

[<http://www.geeklynews.com/geeklynews/issue/080211/geeklynews/01belinda.htm>]more

Can A Movie Implode From Excessive Whininess? Stay Tuned...

It is rumored that Larry David will star in the next Woody Allen film. Isn’t that a bit redundant?

SOURCE: *Entertainment Right Now*

[<http://www.entertainmentrightnow.com/mini/smug2008/2008/02/13/thejewishnerdtriumphant/>]more

For Los Angeles? Yes. It’s Really Easy. Now, If It Had Been Some Place Important, Like Dallas...

“Is it really so easy to determine that smacking someone in the face to determine where he has hidden the bomb that is about to blow up Los Angeles is prohibited by the Constitution?”

- Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in a BBC interview musing on the efficacy of torture

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

Wouldn’t That Destroy The Whole Premise Of The TV Show?

“Goal to make *House* more family friendly”

- *Toronto Star* headline

SOURCE: *Billy-Bob's International House O' Headlines*

[<http://www.com/lol.pdqfc.wywgw.wyswyg/fid=1378273265>]more

Just Not For Anybody Who Criticizes The State Of Israel, Who, By Definition, Is An Anti-semitic Bastard Who Doesn't Deserve Any Rights

"We believe that freedom of speech should be protected."

- Avi Benlolo, president, Canada – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, in a letter to the *Toronto Star*

SOURCE: *No Comment Quotes*

[<http://thesepeopleareinsane.psy/update.toshtml>]more

Coming Soon To A Fetish Club Near You

Jumper. Hayden Christensen stars as a man with the ability to travel instantaneously through space while wearing a woman's sleeveless dress resembling an apron. Cross-dressing science fiction is a highly underrated cinematic genre; let's hope this movie does well.

SOURCE: *Imaginary Movie Database*

[<http://www.imd.com/title/tt14078350/>]more

God Is On Another Line At The Moment, But Your Prayer Is Important To Us, So Please Hold...

Although trailing badly in number of delegates, Republican Presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee vowed to continue to pursue the party's nomination, claiming that, because of his faith, he knew god would deliver unto him a miracle.

I don't know. God didn't send a plague of locusts to kill Dick Cheney and eat his intestines – what makes Huckabee think he's going to do anything to a war hero?

SOURCE: *USA Whenever*

[http://www.usawhenever.com/news/newyork/2008-02-15-huckabee-finn_x.htm]more

Ah, The Ecstasy Of Flight!

The Israeli government is reportedly considering giving its combat pilots Viagra to improve their flight performance. It's hard to imagine how it will work, though, if, in the middle of a tense air battle, pilots aren't sure which stick to grab.

SOURCE: *The Arad Post*

[<http://www.apost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=APost/APArticle/ShowFull&cid=1098351596485>]more

Les Pages aux Folles: The Back Story

A Nayman family legend has it that I decided to devote my life to writing comedy/humour when I was eight years old. Most boys that age wanted to be hockey players or astronauts (or, so I have been told) – why comedy? Through my thirties and forties, it was important to me to understand why I developed the way I did (after a couple of decades filled with unanswerable questions, I decided to stop wondering and accept myself the way I was), so I gave this question considerable thought. Unfortunately, the best I could come up with was a cliché.

I grew up in an emotionally abusive household (as did many funny people). I realized early on in my life that laughing made me feel better; I figure my first impulse to write humour was to help ease myself through a tough childhood. I also suspect that I thought that if I could make my parents laugh, they might not fight so much, but that turned out not to be the case (intense therapy succeeded where my youthful ambitions failed, but the ambitions remained).

Honestly, if my early life had been any more of a cliché, I would have started this piece with: “It was a dark and stormy night...”

COMEDY HISTORY ASIDE: Years later, I was watching a terrific series called *The Green Room*. Comedian Eddie Izzard was telling the story of how he first met his idol, Richard Pryor. After a few minutes of small talk, they found that they had something in common: they both knew that they wanted to be stand-up comedians when they were four years old. You know how I thought I was precocious because I knew I wanted to be a humourist when I was eight? I was actually already half a lifetime behind the curve!

My original inspiration in my early teens was Art Buchwald. If he is remembered at all these days, it is for being the person who sued Paramount Pictures for stealing his original idea for what would become Eddie Murphy's *Coming to America*. And, winning. This case exposed the arcane Hollywood bookkeeping that allowed studios to claim films that had grossed a billion dollars never made a profit, and introduced the world to the term “monkey points.” But I remember him as the preeminent newspaper satirist who, in his prime, wrote creative and biting (and very funny) political commentary.

Not a bad role model if that's what you're into.

Between 1984 and 1987, I wrote 300 articles for a satirical newspaper column (enough for three books). I called the project *Les Pages aux Folles*, playing off the name of the then popular film *La Cage aux Folles*. I thought the title translated as “cage of crazies,” which would have made my version “page of crazies.” This tickled me. When the English version was released as *The Bird Cage*, I thought, Bird Pages? *Okay, I can make this work.*

Three years into the project, I was no closer to becoming the preeminent newspaper political satirist of the 1980s than when I had started. Years later, I would realize that one wasn’t given a newspaper humour column because one was actually, you know, funny (although some naturally are and others grow into it); they usually went to people who had proven their service to the newspaper in other departments. In defence of my naïveté: teenager.

I moved on to scripts and university, but the satirical bug never quite left me. Between 1987 and 2002, I kept coming back to the form, writing over 100 new articles (enough for a fourth collection). Then, a number of pieces of my life came together to drive me to the internet.

At university, I studied emerging technologies and the arts. My Masters thesis (from the New School for Social Research) was on the challenges interactivity posed for fiction writers. My PhD dissertation was on fiction writers who posted their work to the World Wide Web. I know, I know. Today, that’s a big duh! But, in 1999, when I wrote the bulk of the dissertation (I was awarded my PhD in 2000), it was still relatively – ahem – novel. ACADEMIC ASIDE: the problems I identified in 1999 have scaled up nicely, with few changes over the years. Was I prophetic? Naah – I was just paying attention.

When I returned to Toronto after three years living in Montreal (a residency requirement of McGill University, where I studied), I volunteered for a public interest web page developer called The Electronic Commons; it was championed by a woman named Liss Jeffrey. The project was run out of a building called Chelsea Mews, deep in the heart of the University of Toronto; that is where I met the woman who would become my Web Goddess, Gisela McKay.

As we got to know each other, Gisela pointed out something odd about my life that hadn’t occurred to me: I wrote fiction, and I had studied people who post fiction on the internet, but I hadn’t posted any of my own fiction on the internet. While I agreed that that was a bit strange, I demurred; although my Masters degree was done entirely online, I didn’t know the first thing about creating or maintaining a web page. Gisela, who, among her many talents, is a professional web developer, offered to design a page and walk me through how to keep it going. To ensure that I couldn’t refuse, she offered me free space on her server.

I couldn’t refuse.

But, what would I write? Reviving *Les Pages aux Folles* as an online project was the most logical way to proceed. When I started it as a print project, I aimed for each article to be around 700 words (in the mistaken belief that this was standard newspaper column length; depending upon the newspaper and the column, it could actually be anywhere from 400 to 600 words); this relative shortness turned out to be a good length for the internet, where long stories require a lot of scrolling and can give some readers eye fatigue. You don't want to give readers eye fatigue.

So, I immediately started posting fiction to the web? Slow down, speed racer. I took the summer of 2002 to build a stockpile of articles. This wasn't meant to supplant weekly writing (since much of the writing would be topical, it would be best to post pieces soon after they were written, something the internet easily facilitates); it was meant as a safeguard against weeks when I was unable to write an update, whether through life circumstances or lack of inspiration. The wisdom of this choice is most vividly illustrated by my experience in 2005, when I had to have triple bypass heart surgery: I prepared four weeks of updates from my stockpile and posted them a couple of days before going under the knife. (As it happened, although I was advised to give recovery at least a month, I was eager to get back to writing after about two and half weeks). My stockpile started with 40 articles; it has fluctuated between 10 and 50 (but mostly closer to 10) ever since.

By the first week in September, 2002, I felt comfortable enough with the cushion that I had produced that I took the plunge and went live with *Les Pages aux Folles*. Years of writing had given me the confidence that I could pull it off (although, like most people who start a project like this, I had no idea how much work I was letting myself in for). It had also given me four complete books that I could place in an archive on the site, which helped me avoid the problem that many web sites have when starting out: a paucity of content. There was enough writing on the web site from day one that anybody interested could stay a while, or be encouraged to keep coming back.

The first three books had been written on a manual typewriter; the fourth on an electric typewriter and a computer. Because of this, I had to type the articles into my computer before I could post them. This forced me to reconsider the material I had previously written, which proved salutary. I gather many writers are highly critical of their own work, but I found that I really enjoyed becoming reacquainted with mine. (Having had to read through the entire project to collect stories for these special anniversary issues, I feel more or less the same way.) The worst that I will say about my past writing is: "I wouldn't write exactly that, or in that way now."

PEDANTIC ASIDE: Is *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog? On one hand, it is a regular publication (every week, without fail; by the 20th anniversary, that will entail 1,040 consecutive weeks) written by a single person. On the other hand, blogs automate the process of posting to the internet (with tools such as WordPress), but I code my text by hand and upload it and any images I may create using tools Gisela taught me. Also, blogs tend to be a single page of text with newer posts higher up (occasionally breaking into an archive page or two), while each piece I post is on its own separate page. It may be a moot point, but I am reluctant to call *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog.

Except...

In trying to explain what an achievement 20 years of *Les Pages aux Folles* is, one of the facts I point out is that, depending upon the year they were started, between 80 and 90 per cent of blogs are abandoned within the first six months of their existence (I assume that the numbers for personal web pages are roughly the same, but I'm not aware of that research). Writers can be exhausted by the commitment (I often refer to my web site as "the insatiable maw;" no sooner do I finish one update than I have to immediately start working on the next). Writers can run out of inspiration. Other life priorities can leave writers without time. Lack of a readership can cause writers to quit out of despair (because I was emotionally driven by a need to write, the lack of readers was never a disincentive for me, although lately I do despair of ever finding an audience, if for no other reason than I know there must be a lot of people out there who would enjoy my writing...if they knew that it existed). Some people might lose their internet access. Twenty years on the internet is a loooooooooong time is what I'm saying.

By the 20th anniversary, I will have written 38 books of prose and produced nine books of cartoons for *Les Pages aux Folles*. The project will contain over 3,500 pieces of writing, and somewhere between two and a quarter and two and a half million words.

Nor has this been my only writing project. In 2010, I decided to write my first novel. Blame Terry Pratchett. I had never wanted to be a novelist; I was happy writing my short articles. But, in 2010 I learned of a contest for first humorous science fiction novels that was sponsored and would be partially judged by Pratchett. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to do what I do best: be goofy. The only problem with entering a novel writing contest, though, is that you have to write a novel to do it. So, I sat down to write what would become *Welcome to the Multiverse**.

I don't usually talk about this, but since we're all friends here, I feel I can state the truth: my first novel took two months to write. Starting from nothing but the desire to write a novel, the first week involved developing the ideas; the next six weeks involved the actual writing; the final week involved rewriting and polishing. This was a stupid short amount of time in which to write 80,000 words (the nine novels I have written since have taken anywhere from six months to a year to produce), but there were extenuating circumstances, your honour. For one thing, by that time I had been writing for 40 years, so unlike many first time novelists, I had already developed my voice and knew my way around a story. More importantly for this essay, many aspects of worldbuilding that contributed to the novel (for instance, the Transdimensional Authority and the Alternate Reality News Service) had been introduced on *Les Pages aux Folles*, so I wasn't exactly starting from nothing.

Perhaps most important: working on the web site taught me how to quickly turn ideas into prose. When you have a weekly deadline, you have to write fast. Under these conditions, there are two ways writers can go. Like a nuclear explosion, they can burn themselves out. Or, like a nuclear chain reaction, their creativity can feed off itself,

allowing them to constantly write new material. I was fortunate that my writing took the latter path.

What's next? I have no idea. I know I have a need to write; if life forces me to go a couple of days with writing even a little, I start to get antsy. Humour is not something that a writer can turn on and off: it is a way of looking at and interacting with the world that becomes a constant in your life. At least, it has become that for me. It does help if it has an outlet, though, so I foresee writing as long as I have the words. (Both my father and my grandfather on my mother's side had Alzheimer's, so there is no guarantee that I will always have the words, or for how long.) Regardless of what happens in the future, I already have a creative legacy (including novels, short stories and unproduced screenplays – so many unproduced screenplays!) that I can be proud of.

I hope you enjoy 12 from 20.

** Sorry for the Inconvenience*

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