

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

TOM BUNK FAQs (Fantastically Abusive Questions we asked Tom!)



Q: What is your favorite MAD article that you drew?

A: All the color back covers and "Other Medical 'Surveys' the Public Never Heard About," "Video Arcade Personalities," "One Fine Day at the Chiropractors' Convention," "The Flag Burning Amendment That Won't Die," "Specialized State Death Penalties" and many other cheerful delights.

Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: Basil Wolverton, Will Elder, [Saul] Steinberg, [Albert] Dubout, [Benito] Jacovitti, [Hieronymus] Bosch, [James] Ensor, R. Crumb, Otto Dix, G. Grosz, James Nutt, Philip Guston, H.C. Westermann, Alfred Jarry, Grandville — but mostly the weather.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Though I studied stage design and fine arts at the esteemed Academy Of Arts in Hamburg, it was Wolverton's spaghetti-and-meatball-school of design where I learned to appreciate the beautiful varieties of the human anatomy.

Q: What is your favorite medium to work in?

A: Schmutz on paper.

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: Bruegel the Elder.

Q: If you could have dinner with three living or dead people, who would they be?

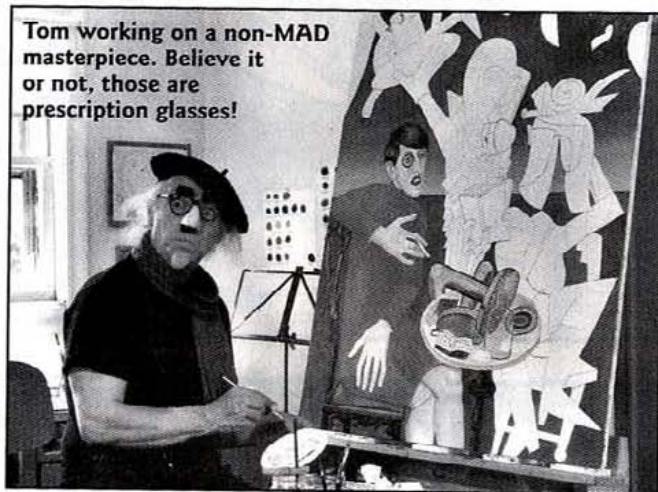
A: I wouldn't mind having dinner with God, but I am afraid he is dead.

Q: Pick a MAD contributor and describe them in one word.

A: Al Jaffee: phat! Chicken phat that is.

Q: Name some other magazines and advertisers you've drawn for.

A: For the last 13 years I have been contributing illustrations to *Quantum*, a bimonthly physics magazine, that probably nobody has heard of. Though it paid minimal, I loved it because I had absolute freedom to develop my own ideas and visuals. Unfortunately, it ceased to appear. As for advertisers, I have preferred so far to hang around on the subversive, critical and least restrictive corner of the job market.



Q: If you weren't an artist, what would you be?

A: Chopped liver.

Q: The biggest misconception about you is...

A: ...that I'm an idiot since I work for MAD. The truth is, I must have been an idiot before, otherwise I wouldn't have ended up here.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: My sketchbook.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: Of all the MAD trips my favorite one was my first one to Monte Carlo. Unfortunately, it was also the last one...

Q: Any stories from the MAD trips you'd like to share?

A: It was a crazy trip. I was in this south of France area just a couple of months before, with my wife and children, so during the whole trip I had this strange surreal je-ne-sais-quois-deja-vu-double-reality crazy kind of experience. And it didn't help that I was surrounded by a gang of idiots. But still it was lovely.

Q: Who's the most famous person you ever met?

A: Harvey Kurtzman. A dream come true was that I had the privilege to work on one of his stories in his book, *Harvey Kurtzman's Strange Adventures*. At one of his annual July 14 parties I also met Will Elder. These are the two main characters who were responsible for messing up my beautiful mind forever.

Q: Who's hotter? Momma Gilmore or Daughter Gilmore?

A: I haven't measured their temperature, but if you can arrange it, I wouldn't mind to check it out.

Q: Pimple, boil or wart — which is more fun to draw?

A: Each one of them requires a subtle execution and each one receives an equal amount of my loving attention. While sometimes pimples seem to promise more artistic satisfaction, because there is more drama in their dynamic potential, I do enjoy rendering warts with their more modest and somewhat slightly sexy appearance. As for boils, I have no idea what these disgusting things even look like. Yecch!



BEFORE

AFTER

Q: During what time of the day do you normally work?

A: When I work for MAD I don't work normally. At least not my mind.

Q: What makes you queasy?

A: Three things: Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld.

Q: When you play Monopoly — what piece do you like to be?

A: In my opinion, Monopoly is a subversive tool of the ruling toy industry to indoctrinate materialistic values of selfish enrichment and brainless consumerism into the working class mind, causing global warming and the enlargement of my prostate.



Tom with MAD artist/legend Jack Davis in Monte Carlo — blissfully unaware he has become yet another victim of Jack's devastating "bunny treatment."

Q: Hmm...so you're not a "top hat" man?

A: Naturally!

Q: Favorite lovely lady from *The View*?

A: Is this an intelligence test?

Q: When dealing with a bunk bed, do you prefer top or bottom?

A: Depends on whose top and whose bottom it is.

Q: What are some of the non-MAD projects you've worked on?

A: Comic books, children's books, high school textbooks, posters, murals, serigraphies, etchings, placemats, trading cards projects like Wacky Packages, Bathroom Buddies, Trash Can Trolls, Gruesome Greeting Cards, Toxic High, Garbage Pail Kids, and the very recent and cool Silly CDs cards, and as for higher art I love executing oil paintings. Please visit my website: Spalato.net

Q: Could you tell us about the work you did on Garbage Pail Kids?

A: In the early 80s, Art Spiegelman introduced me to Topps. I worked on the GPKs from the start, producing art first for the backs, but then also for the fronts of the cards. The main artist was John Pound, and later on James Warhola joined in. The cards were more popular than I even realized, thanks to teachers, parents and self-appointed moral authorities who made a big fuss to protect the innocent, and we were under enormous stress to produce constantly. I did about 200 of them, plus a lot of art for the backs. Unfortunately, we creators didn't get even a tiny fraction of the millions Topps made (and they are still making money by selling our art).

Q: Did you have a favorite card?

A: I like Jack Splat. He really illustrates in a very subtle way what fine art is all about. Real creation comes from the guts.

Q: Is there anything that you consistently include in the crowd scenes you draw?

A: I like to include a healthy variety of appetizing elements, like eyeballs, loose brains, salami, false teeth, a number of unidentifiable organs, occasionally a plunger and some hairy body parts that even I don't know from what part of my brain they come from.

Q: What's your favorite museum?

A: The Natural Bunk Museum, officially known as the Natural History Museum.

Q: What countries have you lived in?

A: My life was conceived in Egypt, but I really started living in Split, Croatia, moved later to Germany and then I lived alternatively in France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Andorra, England, Morocco and Iceland. In some countries I lived for years, in others for months, weeks or days and in some I just changed planes.

Q: Are you torn while watching Miss Universe competitions?

A: Not my mind, but probably my underwear.

THE STATS:

First MAD Article: "2 Hour School of Dentistry" (MAD #296, July 1990)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 87

Number of MAD articles in this spotlight section: 7

SALUD, TOM!



ILLUSTRATION
OF
TOM BUNK
BY
TOM BUNK