

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

WILL ELDER FAQs (Fetid, Abhorrent Questions we asked Will!)



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

A: "Gasoline Valley." (MAD #15)

Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: English political cartoonist (Leslie Illingworth!)

Q: What is your favorite medium to work in?

A: Blood, sweat and tears — and once in a while, "chicken fat"!

Q: What is "chicken fat" and what does it mean to your work?

A: Chicken fat is the part of chicken soup that is really bad for you, but gives it its great taste! The more chicken fat the better. (editor's note: It's also the nickname for Will's gag-packed style of drawing.)

Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: Michael Jackson's plastic surgeon.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: High School of Music and Art — then, Hard Knocks High.

Q: Did you have any notable classmates?

A: Shirley Twitchel — I noticed her immediately!

Q: Al Jaffee tells us that you and he have a long-running rivalry over who is the better cartoonist. Would you care to end the debate and "settle his hash" once and for all?

A: It was a tie — but I tied him first!

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

A: *Pageant*, *Grey Advertising*, *Playboy*, *Trump*, *Humbug*, *Panic* and movie posters.

Q: Could you tell us about your relationship with Harvey Kurtzman?

A: It was a collaboration, not an engagement!

Q: You worked for years on "Little Annie Fannie" for *Playboy* — have you ever been to the mansion?

A: I tried the harem and was rejected every time.

Q: Are the rumors of dry rot true?

A: Who said it was dry?!

Q: At the movies, is it okay to talk through the previews?

A: I always talk in my sleep!

Q: We understand you've dabbled in the mandolin. Who's the greater musician: Bobby Osborne or Andy Statman?

A: I was a great dabbler!

Q: Do you say anything when a stranger sneezes?

A: "That was a new suit you ruined!"

Q: What's the best prank you ever pulled?

A: Exposing my family photos when I flash my coat!

Q: What's the appropriate amount to tip a waiter?

A: Show him the fake fly in your soup!

Q: We hear you have an encyclopedic knowledge of songs — can you give us the first couple of lines to "Yes, We Have No Bananas"?

A: "We have no bananas today."

Q: When getting dressed, do you put on both socks and then your shoes, or do you do it sock-shoe, sock-shoe?

A: Sock, truss, cup, jock, then I start on the other foot.

Will, hard at work, circa 1969.



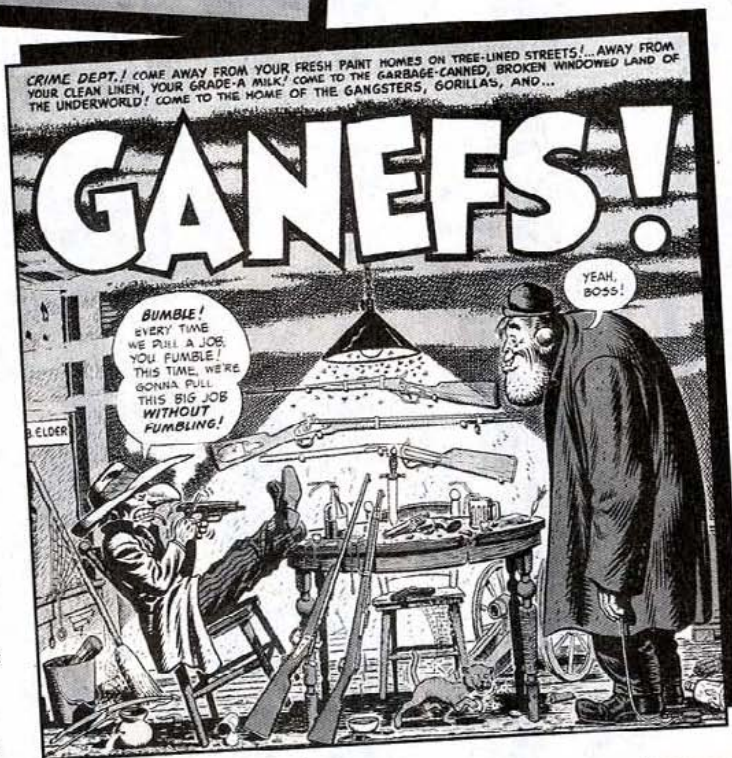
Little Willie Elder



Will, all dolled up and ready for a full day of frolicking.

Will's self-portrait — and easily one of the most disturbing images we've ever run.

The opening panel from Will's debut in MAD #1.



- Q:** If you weren't an artist, what would you be?
- A:** I would be a janitor in Neverland.
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- Q:** Which do you prefer — Schwarzenegger: actor or Schwarzenegger: governor?
- A:** What's the difference?
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- Q:** When eating French fries, do you use a fork?
- A:** A Frenchman!
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- Q:** What are some of the awards and honors you've received?
- A:** A grand award for saving my platoon — I killed the cook!
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Q: Who's the most famous person you've ever met?

A: The man in the mirror!

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Q: If you were conducting this interview, what question would you have asked yourself?

A: Is it over yet?

THE STATS:

First MAD article: "Ganefs!" (MAD #1, October-November 1952)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 44

Number of MAD articles in this spotlight section: 7

SALUD, WILL!