

# MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

## PETER KUPER FAQs (Facetious, Awe-Inspiring Questions we asked Peter!)



**Q:** Who do you consider your influences?

**A:** Charlie Chaplin, Harvey Kurtzman, Alfred Hitchcock, Will Eisner, Antonio Prohias, Jack Kirby, Robert Crumb and Johnny Walker Black.

**Q:** Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

**A:** Vincent Van Gogh...though come to think of it he may have been a mad artist.

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

**A:** Sergio Aragones: Marginal.

**Q:** Where did you go to school?

**A:** Hard Knocks, but I lost my Pell grant and never graduated.



Another perfectly lovely photo at the Sears Portrait Studio, ruined by an overzealous fan.

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

**A:** Madonna, but Jesus wouldn't let me talk to her.

**Q:** Free refills on soda — a blessing or a curse?

**A:** Venti or Grande?

**Q:** What was the last movie you viewed or rented?

**A:** *Debbie Does Dallas*, er *Bambi...Bambi Does Dallas*.

**Q:** Who would you not want to be stranded on a desert island with?

**A:** Myself.

**Q:** When was the last time you flossed?

**A:** My lawyer advises me not to answer that question.

**Q:** What are some of the awards and honors you've received?

**A:** Gee, nothing can hold a candle to being named MAD artist of the issue.

**Q:** We understand you do paintings on old window panes — do you live in constant fear of baseballs?

**A:** I'm much more scared of hairball questions.

**Q:** Tell us about some of the exhibits you've had?

**A:** I had several in Central Park and one on the subway, but fortunately the women all dropped the charges.

**Q:** What is your favorite medium to work in?

**A:** Blood and guts.

**Q:** What is your favorite book?

**A:** *The Hungry Caterpillar*, but George W. Bush stole my copy.

**Q:** Favorite *Star Wars* movie?

**A:** The one without Ronald Reagan.

**Q:** Favorite Stallone movie excluding the *Rocky* and *Rambo* series?

**A:** *Antz*.

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

**A:** A sad, sad little man.

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

**A:** Living: my wife, my daughter and our hamster. Dead: the current editors of MAD.

**Q:** Who do you think would spring for the appetizer?

**A:** I'd have to go with the hamster.

**Q:** What's your favorite Spy Vs. Spy that you wrote and illustrated?

**A:** I'm partial to the ones I wrote and drew between 1997-2005.

**Q:** Let's settle this once and for all — which is your favorite spy?

**A:** The winner.

**Q:** Have you heard about the exciting and entertaining new Spy Vs. Spy videogame by Take 2 Interactive, available wherever video games are sold?

**A:** No, but I have heard of crass commercial pitches pretending to be interview questions.

**Q:** Who would win in a fight between the Spies and the Spy Kids?

**A:** Sylvester Stallone.



A visibly disappointed Peter places second in an Abe Lincoln look-alike contest.

**Q:** After the Spy Vs. Spy Mountain Dew ads started, did you feel compelled to stop drinking Mello Yellow?

**A:** Oops, I thought the ad was hawking Mello Yellow...Now what will I do with all those cases of a clearly inferior brand??

**Q:** Tell us about some of your graphic novel work.

**A:** Since you are pressuring me (they are holding a gun to my head as I write this)

2004 *The Jungle*, comics adaptation of Upton Sinclair's novel

2004 *Sticks and Stones*, a novel in pictures of the rise and fall of an empire

2003 *The Metamorphosis*, an adaptation of Franz Kafka's short story

2001 *SPEECHLESS*, a retrospective collection

2000 *Mind's Eye*, a collection of syndicated strips, hardcover

1997 *The System*, (collected as a single book) softbound

1996 *Eye of the Beholder*, a collection of syndicated strips

1995 *Give It Up!*, comics adaptation of Franz Kafka short stories

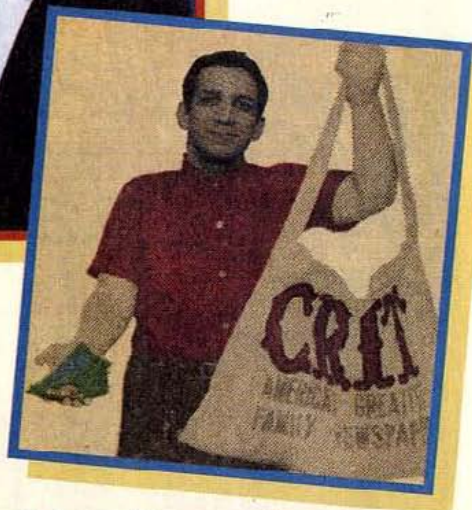
1995 *Stripped*, An Unauthorized Autobiography

1992 *ComicsTrips*, travel-related comics by the author

...to name a few

**Q:** Washcloth, loufa or neither?

**A:** Depends on who's doing the washing.



Before working as an artist and writer for MAD, young Peter was a heavily-Photoshopped newsboy.

**Q:** What's up with the Gray Spy?

**A:** Ask Gloria Steinem

**Q:** Did you ever want to debut a new color Spy? Green? Purple?

**A:** Exactly how much money is involved?

**Q:** When taking a pulse — do you go for the wrist or the neck?

**A:** A third place, but the last time I tried my wife punched me.

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

**A:** Don't you have anything better to do??



ter and an unnamed young lady, hounded by paparazzi always looking for t Spy Vs. Spy gossip.

**Q:** Favorite midnight snack?

**A:** Graham crackers dipped in Johnny Walker Black.

**Q:** Any relation to MAD writer Russ Cooper?

**A:** I never touched his sister — I swear.

#### THE STATS:

First MAD article: "Spy Vs. Spy" — Black Spy Wins! (MAD #356, April 1997)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 98

Number of articles in this spotlight section: 14

SALUD, PETER!