

*Confessions
of a
Consistent
Liar 75*



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Sorry I didn't do a real zine last mailing. Things have been a bit complicated in the last month and a half. I lost my job and have been doing freelance work (my last two copy-editing projects have been a Mafia novel and a book from the other big Italian multinational—prayers by John Paul II) and seeking employment. Three of our pets died: both rabbits and our good rat Bilbo.

On a more cheerful note, we all plan to be at Worldcon and hope to see/have seen many of you there.

Ned Brooks ct me: I don't know how long coyotes can survive without meat.

ct Dengrove: I haven't been completely clean-shaven since 1964. I had a mustache but no beard at the 1981 Minicon. (I shaved off the beard to see if I still had a chin and found I had two, so I grew the beard back.)

ct Brown: I yielded to the temptation of e-mailing Eva Whitley when I heard about Nathaniel Brazill. I guess he will shorten his name to escape the notoriety of his early years.

B.H.L. J.J.J. Great symbolic cover! Best wishes to you and Rose.

ct me: Minicon has always had a warm spot in my heart, and not just because it's the first place I had group sex.

Entrapment (except the crudest sort) is no longer a defense in sex or drug cases because our culture considers those far too important to think clearly about.

Humboldt was the Delmore Schwartz surrogate in *Humboldt's Gift*. Charlie Citrine was the Bellow surrogate.

ct Ned: As the Post Office becomes more and more the last resort for those who can't transmit electronically, its rates become even more appalling.

ct Dengrove: John Brunner was at least somewhat ahead of the curve on the Net in 1975 with *The Shockwave Rider*.

ct Janice: Barry Bonds is still ahead of McGwire, and just passed his godfather for the team record.

ct Gary B: I am in complete agreement about Zero Tolerance, which makes about as much sense as proudly proclaiming Zero Open-Mindedness.

Finlay Khadro ct Newport: The Taliban is a faith-based organization. With things like the destruction of the Buddha statues, I try to maintain the equilibrium George Orwell suggested. When one of his friends was imprisoned by a People's Republic for possession of ideas with intent to distribute, he said, "There's no point in getting angry, but there is a stupid malignity to these things that does try one's patience." I'm a bit less sanguine about their treatment of women, who essentially are not permitted to get medical care, and I would even support a bit of cultural imperialism to make them stop. But of course, the Afghan government is

our friends, and they're getting American money because of their contribution to the War on Some Drugs. We are assured, though, that none of the money will go to the Taliban. I believe both Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny say so.

ct Spiritus: I like Robert Anton Wilson's theory that Reagan died on the table after he was shot, but they secretly replaced him with a trained impersonator à la *Double Star*. So until 1989, we were actually governed by some dumb actor.

ct Twyg: I always thought *Romeo and Juliet* was a situation tragedy: much better written than the TV shows, but not much more plausible.

Joe Mayhew died of Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, which is like mad cow but is not known to be transferred by eating infected meat.

ct me: Even sports shows can die if dumb enough. As E.E. Cummings might have put it, there is some s. the American people will not eat.

Janice Bell It was a pleasant surprise to see you at Readercon.

ct Rich: There's a Reagan Airport? It forgets what planes have landed?

ct Guy: Maybe *Blondie*, *Beetle Bailey*, and *Hagar the Horrible* are comfort comics: People read them for sheer familiarity and might be disturbed if they were original, or funny, or something.

Great cartoons, as always.



Gary Brown Quite all right about leaving me out of the stats. I figured that since I have by far the lowest page count of anyone who hasn't given birth to twins in the course of the year, you were maintaining a decent silence.

ct-Tom: I loved it when the NFL played their full schedule the weekend JFK was shot. I'd been sick of mourning for over a day. In fact, by the evening of 22 November I was already back to the desperate pursuit of Getting Laid.

Eve Akerman Are there any religions besides Orthodox Judaism and the Latter Day Saints where the men wear kinky underwear?

Next time you come to NY you are encouraged to give us a call.

Steve Hughes ct me: I'm sure I overdid the rant about advertising. Of course, some of it works, but nobody is sure how, except that the more of it you do, the more people remember your product's name. I think the new plan is for the viewers to spend as much time fast-forwarding through the commercials as they used to spend watching them in real time. These days advertising is like an arms buildup: Nobody likes it, but God forbid you have less than the other guy.

Don Markstein ct me: I'm with Robert Anton Wilson: The Right says vicious things about the government, and the Left says vicious things about capitalism, and both are essentially correct.

See my ct Steve immediately above. I don't know how much the

advertisers were specifically sold on the idea of advertising Viagra, and how much it was plain, unthinking Business As Usual. Some people think prescription-drug advertising is a good thing because it gets people more involved in their own treatment. Yeah, right. Don't give me that medical mumbo-jumbo, Doc. I want that stuff that puts you on the beach with the big-boob bimbos.

But of course the medical companies also advertise to the doctors. I used to copy-edit *Diversion*, an entertainment magazine aimed specifically at doctors, and it had many full-color drug ads on extra-thick glossy paper. For some reason, prescription drugs cost a lot of money.

Jeff Copeland I liked *Shrek*, though I could have lived without lines like "Eat me." I thought *Cats & Dogs* was more fun.

Here's something we disagree about: novellas. I thought that "Oracle" was good despite Egan's all-too-usual heavy-handed preaching of the ungospel of materialism, and "72 Letters" was brilliant.

ct me: It occurs to me that the beginning of putting people in movies about themselves was *All the President's Men*, with Frank Wills playing Frank Wills.

You are of course correct about sampling. But I'm sure my vote counts for *something*...well, anyway, I know I voted against son of a Bush.

A while back, Vonnegut said that we always elect the same people we elected in high school, so I shouldn't be surprised that Georgie, who knows all the rich guys and

jocks, beat out that dweeb Al. But of course the Student Council is *supposed* to be a puppet government.

I guess I was being overly cute about adult sitcoms. *The Flintstones* and *The Honeymooners* were both aimed at adults. Dumb adults.

ct David: Many fans have imprinted (in the psychological, not the publishing, sense) on Twiltone. It may not be warm, but it's fuzzy.

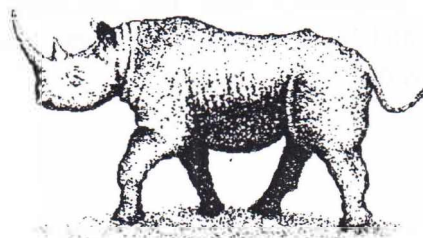
ct Dengrove: When I pubbed my very first ish, I wondered if the copy center might look at it and refuse to print the offensive parts. Then I noticed the guy on line ahead of me was copying highly explicit ads for all-male XXX movies.

When Walter Carlos became Wendy, my first thought was, "What do you expect of a guy with a synthesized organ?"

The PO still sells lickem & stickem stamps.

Toni Weiskoff Surely Harry Warner jr. does not mean by "69" what I would, unless he has finally, after all these years, undergone puberty.

Liz Copeland ct Lillian: I wish the schools could figure out a way to do ability grouping without stigmatizing. I suppose some of those who were put in the Genius-Level Accelerated Advanced Placement course in fast-food preparation might suspect something.



NFL

The new NFL season begins tomorrow, under the threat of a lockout of the zebras. Officiating will be done by replacements, who might be so bad they'd give a player a game-winning touchdown when the ball didn't cross the goal line, but his head did—wait a minute: The regular refs did that. Let's say it would happen more often.

One might note that the teams that signed their draft choices last were the incompetently managed ones that usually lose: Chargers, Cardinals, Browns, Redskins, Patriots, and of course the Bengals, who signed Justin Smith today. The player drafted below Smith signed for more than the Bengals are offering him, but they stood pat. The Bengals' management is beyond incompetence. Their efforts to milk the franchise for as much money as possible while feigning an effort to compete have gotten them into civil court, and I would not be surprised if they wound up in the criminal courts as well.

The New England Patriots could be even worse this year. I'm willing to grant that they probably had to get rid of Terry Glenn, but with him and Tony Simmons gone, they have no deep receiving threat. They also don't have a running back better than Antowain Smith, and their barely mobile quarterback will try to survive behind a porous line. That's not the bad part; they still have Bill Belichick attempting to coach. I see that one opening day game is between the Bungles and the Patsies. I confidently predict that there will not be two winless teams this season.

This may be a sign that I'm getting soft-hearted in my old age, but I like what Jerry Jones is doing. Faced with major rebuilding and the final collapse of the team's cap structure, he has decided to flush this year and get ready for the future. He's doing with Quincy Carter what he did with Troy Aikman: throwing him right into the fray with a wretched team around him, and hoping he'll survive. They'll stink this year, but if Jones is right (and I wouldn't be surprised), next year he'll have a good, force-grown quarterback, one of the top five draft choices, and a lot of cap room.

So who's good? It says in my magic 8-ball that the Broncos meet the Bucs in the Super Bowl. Denver actually has depth almost everywhere, and this should be the year Brian Griese reaches stardom. The Ravens, having won it all without a passing game, will try to repeat without a running game. Could happen. The Titans are strong; the Colts may have enough firepower to win a playoff game with Jim Mora coaching. Outside chances: Seahawks, Jets, and Dolphins.

The Bucs may have finally stopped believing that the forward pass is the last resort of a scoundrel. If Brad Johnson stays healthy all year throwing the ball, Keyshawn will frequently catch it, and the defense will occasionally be able to let the other team score in double figures. Their opposites, the Vikings, could give them a battle if they win enough 80-point games. And the Eagles and Rams have awesome quarterbacks with strong supporting casts. Outside chances: 49ers, Saints, Lions (if Charlie Batch avoids injury and Matt Millen is no worse than I think he is). The Giants won't fall as far as the Falcons did.