

R&A

Issue 7 - December, 1992 - Still only 60p



Ireland's Only Pseudo Fantasy Journal



Character your power up!

- 1. Also the most recent of all won't show it the place
- 2. If you're not a fan of the night
- 3. If you're not a fan of the night
- 4. If you're not a fan of the night



A collection of stories and poems of Irish and Scottish origin



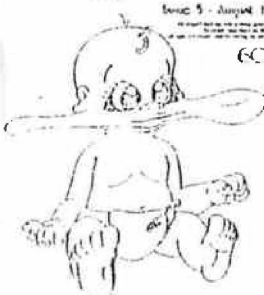
Save the Decade's Compromise - Was it a trap to the future?

A History of the Decade's Compromise

Spot of Comedy - The Decade's Compromise



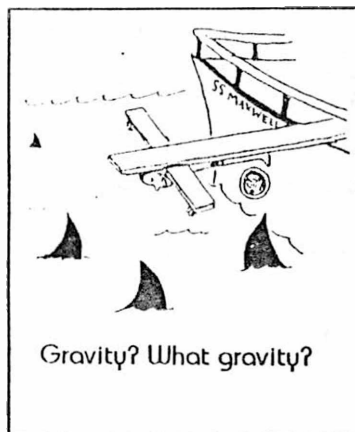
Ten Glorious Years



Discontinuing of The Privileged Part One - The Beginning



The Decade's Compromise X-Parrot



What is the origin of Christmas? More importantly, what is the origin of Christmas Eve? We all know that "eve" is short for "evening", so the literal meaning of "Christmas Eve" is the "the evening of Christmas". Yet we know it today as the evening of the day before. How did we come to be so far off the mark?

The Gregorian calendar was adopted by Britain in 1752, replacing the much less efficient calendar of Julius Caesar. Unfortunately the changeover involved the addition of a whole day, and since it happened on Christmas Day at about 7 in the evening, suddenly it wasn't Christmas anymore but the day before. Ever since then stupid people who resent the loss of the old calendar have referred to this day as "Christmas Eve" as a form of non-violent protest. So that's the true story of how it happened.

Who did what:

Michael Carroll: *SFI, Ask Sibyl, Octurne Ad, Radio thing, PFI Wide-Page, How to write a Fantasy Series, assorted other things.*
 Michael Cullen: *Reillys, Pedantic News, ID Card, Channel 4, Cookbook, Almanack, a few letters, some cartoons and shit.*

Robert D. Elliott: *Classifieds, Captain Croaire, Nostradamus, Women Drivers, Menstruating Mandy, and the cartoon about the cable.*

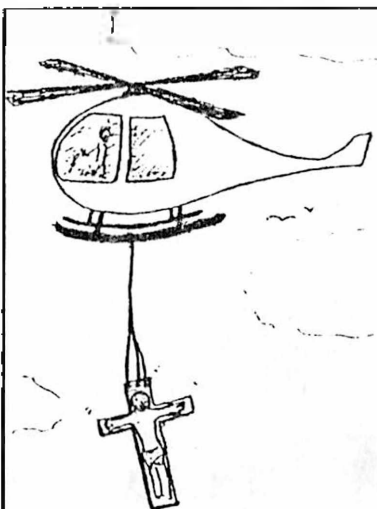
Simon Webster: *Guardian Angel, Then He Took My Hand, The Son, cartoons on page 22 and elsewhere, Woody Woodcullen, some letters, the Unexceptional, and the Emily poems. Simon is now an editor.*

And I know that it has a tenuous link with this time of year, but you will be pleased to know that the recurring theme of this issue is that bloke Jesus. We are indebted to Paul Sheridan for his cartoon which appears on page 16, and to the most excellent Danny McMonagal for his rendering of Menstruating Mandy.

Thanks must go to our good friends Michael O'Connor and James Mason for their support in bringing PFI to the masses via their really cool video of Octocon '93. Contact them through us if you're interested in getting a copy.

PFI
 C/o Michael Carroll,
 44 Leeson Park,
 Dublin 6, Ireland.

The contents of this magazine are copyright 1992 by the various authors and artists, so you must not rip us off because if you do we'll get our big brothers after you. We'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, but since we're all atheists we're not going to. Happy New Year anyway, whatever good it's going to do you. Issue 8 available in February '93.



Be secure at
 a very high height

Hilti - The Nail With Grip

EDITORIAL



Classified Ads

Note that the management are not responsible for any mistakes in the descriptions of your filthy perversions. Anyone including nude photographs of themselves in their replies, please write "Not to be Opened by Staff" on the envelope.

Short Term Employment available to young female virgins. Contact Box 666. Could be a job for life

Political Party seeks direction. Discretion assured. Contact J. Bruton

Old Joke Seeks Punchline for platonic relationship. Contact an Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman.

Lonely housewife seeks Gay Byrne. Box 124.

Philosopher seeks meaning of life. Record or cassette acceptable. Box 243.

Depressed? Anxious? Suicidal? So would I be with hair like that

One-legged lumberjack with piles seeks same for fun and frolics. Box 131

Dead? Learn to overcome it. Read Diametics.

PO Box holders must collect any answers within three weeks of last appearance of the advertisement, or we'll publish your name and phone number. Anyone wishing to reply to more than one PO Box really is a sad individual and we don't want to hear from them. Special Christmas Competition: One of the following ads is a fake, inserted by the fun-loving PFJ staff. The ninth reply to that advertisement gets dinner with the editor, and their photograph on the cover of the next issue.

Mathematician seeks Hatmates in Rathfriland. Rent £(100(√11)) per month. Box 12e3.

Please remember: A dog is for life, not just for Christmas. Unless it's very sick.

Ivan: The plan has failed. Kill yourself before they get to you.

Gay guy with sensitive bottom seeks same with small penis. Box 89.

Candy fetishist and bondage freak, into M&M Box 132. Genuine callers only.

Will any witnesses to the kidnapping of Elvis by UFOs on Grafton Street last Saturday please write to Box 102.

Buggles: Can you forgive-wivey me? Your Cherrypie loves you.

Maxwell: You're a fat bastard but you're dead so you can't sue anymore. Ha

ha ha

Baked beans. Tea. Toilet roll. Cat food. Stamps. Cappuccino (unsweetened). Don't forget to bring back the library books.

Cry for justice. Call for the release of the Binni- the Guil- Nelson- Nick- Free plastic dinosaur now.

Rock band needs drummer boy. Contact Ba-Rap-A-Bum-Bum.

Friendly Ghost seeks two wise men to follow star and discover messiah, leading to a new age of prosperity for all. Call personally to Goldstein, Frankenstein and Myrphy, Ltd. Two references required.

Little Tommy - I saw what you did. Don't expect anything this year. Santa.

Dirty old man needs second-hand pornography. Will pay cash. Box 69.

Subscribe to PFJ now - we need the money

Ask Sibyl...

PFJ's very own omniscient oracle will answer the any question you care to put to her! The mysteries of the universe can now finally be revealed!

What did Jesus get for Christmas when he was twelve?

Sibyl Replies: Remember, Jesus was a Jew, and therefore forbidden by his religion to celebrate Christmas. However, it's a little known fact that his dad the carpenter made him a wooden train set for his twelfth birthday, which, by an amazing coincidence, happened to be on Christmas day. It is in memory of this birthday present that we now celebrate the stations of the cross.

How do they get Teflon to stick to frying pans?

Sibyl Replies: They don't get Teflon to stick to frying pans. Other people do. The molecular structure of the surface of a frying pan is coated with thousands of little hooks, which grab onto the thousands of little loops in the Teflon. It was from this that Ernest Von Velcro first got the idea for his most famous invention, the zip fastener.

Why does PFJ have more fans than the number of copies it sells?

Sibyl Replies: Someone out there has a photocopier, or something. Given the population of the Earth as 'n', the number of copies of an issue of PFJ as 'x', the number sold as 's' and likelihood of the reader's access to a photocopier as the constant 0.00352, we can derive a simple formula to determine who's ripping us off: $x/s * (2xn) - ((s*n)/0.00352)$, which lends us to conclude that some people are too cheap to fork out the 60p every issue.

Why do people still think it's funny to write "Yes" when filling out a form that asks their sex?

Sibyl Replies: Not everybody does this. Of the people who don't, they can be divided into two categories: Those who are men, and those who are women (the exact figures can be found by examining the aforementioned forms). Some people do write "yes", others write "not yet", and still others write

"once in Ballybunion". Despite the apparent diversity, all of these answers may be interpreted in the same way: The writer is an idiot.

What is the atomic weight of lead, and how can they know that?

Sibyl Replies: The atomic weight of lead is the weight of a single atom of lead. To discover this weight, they get a piece of lead and weigh it. Then they count the atoms and divide by the weight. Unless, of course, you're referring to "a lead", as in something that connects a dog to his owner. The atomic weight of a dog's lead is generally considered to be five.

Where did the tradition of Easter Eggs come from?

Sibyl Replies: To fully understand this, first we must go back to the time when Easter itself was first invented. In those times, chocolate was in very short supply (despite the huge EEC chocolate mountain). To keep the chocolate fresh, it was decided that it should be wrapped up in foil (remember that in those days they didn't have aluminium, so they had to use copper foil). These chocolate eggs were very expensive, and

Question of the Week:

This week's prize-winning question comes from Michael Scott, from Co. Dublin, who also wants to mention that his new book, "Reflection" has just come out.

Where did I put my scarf?

Sibyl Replies: You put your scarf in your coat pocket last week and sent it to the cleaners. It didn't come back.

by tradition people used to leave some in the tomb with their deceased relatives. This is what happened when it was thought that Jesus had died. However, he had really only fallen into an arthritis-induced coma, which was cured after a few days by the copper foil on the eggs. Not being very scientifically inclined, the people of the time attributed this to a miracle, and thus the eating of the eggs to celebrate Jesus's return from the tomb is a tradition that continues to this day.

The name Easter Eggs is, obviously, an abbreviation of "Eastern Eggs"; the eggs were made in Persia, which lies to the East of wherever it was that Jesus lived. It's from this that Easter Sunday (originally called "Eastern Sunday") gets its name. The missing

"n" has been attributed to an error made by Gutenberg when he was printing his first bible. This is the first known occurrence of a typographical error, though Gutenberg, when he was accused for this error, explained it away by saying it was deliberate, as only Allah can create something that's perfect.

Why do Macdonald's put slices of pickle on their burgers?

Sibyl Replies: The removal and disposal of a burger's pickle is a tradition among burger-eaters that extends far back into the past, some say as far back as the late 1950s. The pickle-laden burger was invented by the first Ronald Macdonald as a psychological ploy to fool people into thinking that, by removing the unwanted pickle, they were in some way improving the overall taste of the burger. However, this fact has been lost on subsequent owners of the Macdonald's chain, who have still not realised that the reason their Cheeseburgers and Quarter-Pounder with Cheeses remain relatively unpopular is due to the difficulty of extracting the pickle from the cheese.

A note for sesquipedalianists: The correct scientific term for the removal of the pickle is "Picklectomy."

How many roads must a man walk down?

Sibyl Replies: That depends - Which man exactly are you asking about? In general, though, the average man (being a male human over the age of 17) must walk down a total of zero roads. He may, however, walk down as many as he wishes. It is generally believed that he will walk back up the same number of roads, though experience has shown this often not to be the case. It is easy, after all, to walk down a road - gravity assists. Walking up a road is more difficult, and one may prefer to catch a bus.

What is the sound of one hand clapping?

Sibyl Replies: This question has puzzled philosophers for many years, but the answer is rather simple. Repeat the following aloud: "one hand clapping". That's what it sounds like.

Why does no-one like Star Trek's Wesley Crusher?

Sibyl Replies: There are two answers to this, either of which may be deemed to be correct, depending on the reader's preference: First, the name "Crusher" automatically invokes memories of a garlic crusher, and no-one in their right mind actually

likes garlic (some people say they like garlic, but they're lying). Furthermore, the name Wesley invokes a race memory of the precocious King Wesley of Mongolia, who, in 305 B.C., defeated the Turks by inventing an energy field which he erected around his country, thereby causing the deaths of the entire Turkish race. Incidentally, the people who now call themselves Turks are in fact descended from a group of public lavatory inspectors, who found themselves stranded when they visited Turkey for LayCon III and discovered it was empty. The second reason no-one likes Wesley Crusher is that he's a smart arse.

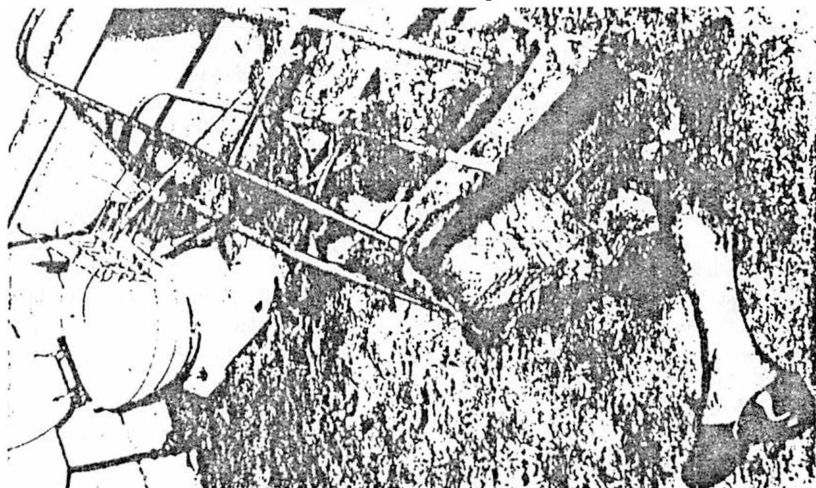
If you have a great unanswered question of the universe, ask Sibyl! She knows all the answers... Remember, no question is too taxing for Sibyl's vast mind, so send those questions in. There is a handling fee of £2.50 for every question, but I'm sure you'll agree that it's a small price to pay for the knowledge of the universe.

GIN AND IT



"Then He Took My Hand..."

The final exciting instalment in Dame Barbara Lovely's romantic tale, exclusive to *Woman's Bumps*.



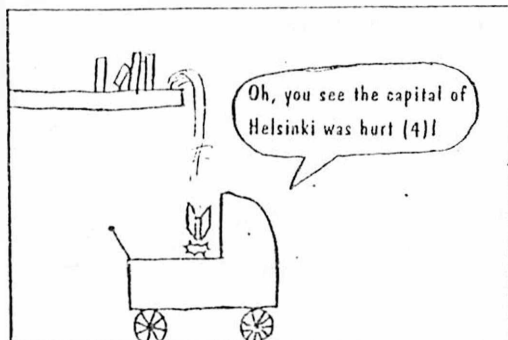
WE WERE to be married that Saturday in what was left of the little church in Sarajevo. I, like an animated school-girl, made wedding plans as we side-stepped the cascading shrapnel on our way to Crazy Prices. "Do you really think I should wear white?" I'd tease suggestively without being openly pornographic. "Shut up, woman," Steve would jokingly shout above the amorous air-raid sirens.

These were the times I knew he loved me; times when I'd look at the engagement ring Steve selflessly found for me amidst the setting of a moonlit mass-grave, times when he'd have a glint in his eye before screwing me senseless in the shelter. Such a sur-

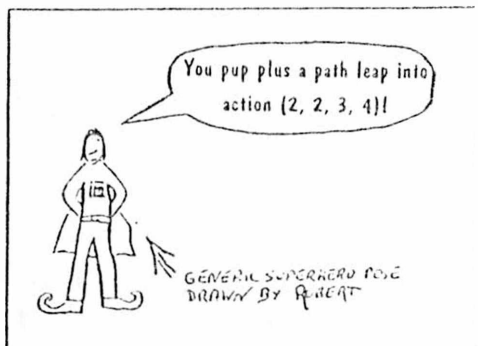
prise when I was outside buying Steve's hooze that I should happen upon some day-glo hair curlers, just before I happened upon a mine.

As my body romantically rained over the starry Yugoslavian skyline in a thousand pieces, I knew it wouldn't be long before I fell upon my loved one. Only when Steve collected up my bits did I realise it was true love. He dotingly dug a pit, and, careful to respect my remains, bunged me in. Spotting our £3000 engagement ring on my finger, I could've sworn a tear moistened his eye as he looked around to see if anyone was watching. Then he took my hand.

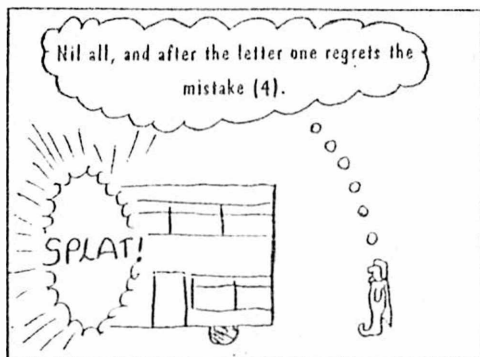
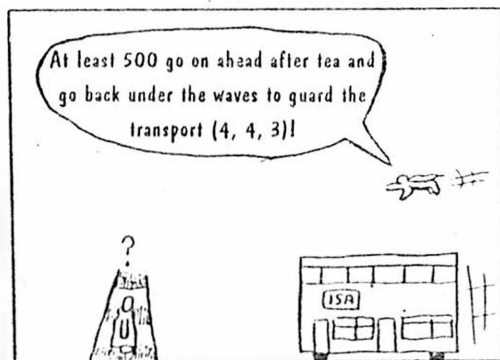
CROSAIRE



Struck as a baby by a radioactive Irish Times Book of Crosswords, Simplex O'Driscoll's life was changed forever...



Now, whenever his "9 Across Sense" warns of someone in need, he becomes CAPTAIN CROSAIRE (1, 7)!



This time he was too late, but soon the world will again need the services of CAPTAIN CROSAIRE (7, 7)!

Han Solo not what he appears to be, claims top scientist

By Laura Graciously-Harris

The world of *Star Wars* could not possibly exist, according to a top anthropologist.

"I feel that we have been duped by the cynical celluloid world of Tinseltown," says Professor Hamon Comer, chief lucretian speeliologist at the University of California in Wales. "People complain about being able to hear explosions in space, but this is only the tip of the iceberg.

The professor has carried out extensive research on the 1977 space fantasy, and has come to conclusions that may surprise and disturb fans. "Take Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker, for instance. We can see from simple observation that they are human. Yet it is common knowledge that the first human entered space in 1961, and not long long ago, as the film suggests.

"Then there's the language thing. All the people in the movie speak English. I have traced the roots of English back to German, Scandinavian, and French. If our ancestors had already been in space then the words for 'extra-vehicular activity' and 'lunar module' would be much simpler, like 'og' or something."

Others, though, have sprung to the



Solo Corellian space fighter or actor pretending to be one?

film's defence, including its director, George Lucas. He counters "The notion that English is descended from other languages is just a theory, nothing more. What about the word 'nuance'? That doesn't sound very German to me." And cosmologist and *Star Wars* fan Carl Sagan has added his voice to the debate: "I can hear things at night, and that's just like being in space. So I really don't know what all the fuss is about."

Continued on page 126

The Son

Wednesday April 26, 33 AD Vol. 102 No. 310 Price 2 goals

Ann Murphy describes what it's like having the Church in a woman.

See Page 5

LUCKY LAZARUS SPOTS "A NICE LITTLE EARNER"

By Noah Dia

Close chum of Jesus, Harry Lazarus, told The SON how he rang up our Saviour upon hearing of his zany miracles.

"Yeah, I thought it'd be a nice little earner," remembers Lazarus.

"Y'know, I get myself a bit ill and die, ask the missus to give Jesus a buzz, and he does the business. Mostly for charity of course, but the kids love it, and it makes the Messiah look great."

But is the Son of God the big-wig he makes out?

"People don't understand that Jesus is just like you and me. It's just that his dad happens to be the creator of everything everywhere, that's all. He has a successful father, and it's

difficult living up to a prosperous parent's expectations without raising people from the dead."

Jesus's reputation was blemished earlier this year when he admitted that the last time he questioned Judas's authority he was, in fact, stoned.



Bishop Barbarabas O'Brien at her ordination (See Page 3)

**Tomorrow only in
The SON**

*Mysterious Moves Shock
Chess Championship!*

*Jesus Christ: Superstar Ate
My Hamster!*

LAST LUNCH FOR JAILED JEW (AND FRIENDS)

HE MIGHT lack discipline, but no-one can say Our Lord lacks disciples! At this latest press conference, sat at a long table with twelve of his favourite pals, Jesus allowed a brief probing by reporters before guzzling goblets of sparkling Ballygowan wine. I asked him if he had any last minute nerves.

"I've trained hard for this. Dying for the sins of the world may sound a tall order, but once you go in there and give it your best, we should get the expected result at the end of the day." What about the rumours that his coming is just an expensive publicity stunt for 3 in 1 Oil?

"What nonsense! It may be 3 in 1 who are promoting the sponsored walk to Calvary, but believe me, it ends there." Meanwhile, in a surprise move in the courts today, Pontius de Pilate, Roman procurator and leader of Ecclesiastic Left, has sentenced the Son of God to death. Said the persecutor for the crown: "That's nailed the bastard."

The prophet Malachi is reported as saying "Thought so."

TODAY! PLAY BETHLEHEM BINGO WITH YOUR MESSIAH MATCH CARD

**SHELVING, WARDROBES, BARNs AND
SHEDS?**
Just contact

JOE & Son

Carpenters
Mangers and Cribs made to order.

Unavailable in most good bookshops

holy Bible

(Compilation)

By Many Hands
(with the help of a holy ghost writer)

Buy now in time for Christmas

Asking for tomorrow's weather or simply
world peace, it's fun on the line with
Gospel Gossip



I'M WAITING
FOR YOUR
CALL!

Your very own hotline to Jesus

Phone 0898 33 33 33

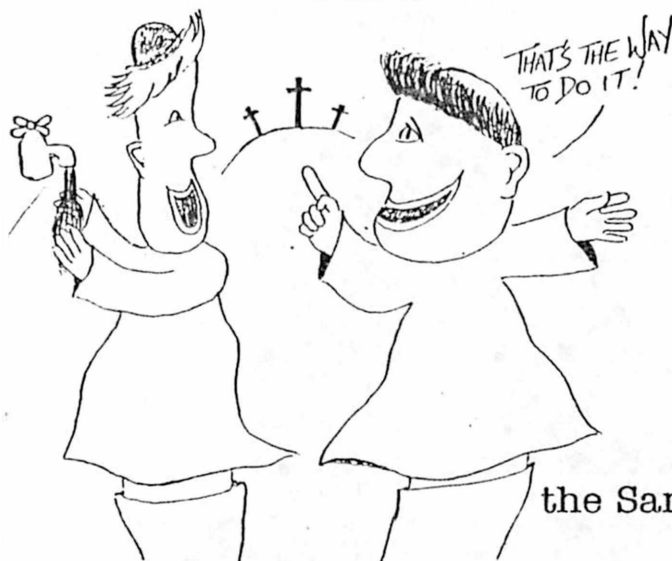
Avail of economy times and saviour money.

LATE NEWS

It has been confirmed that Our Lord is
omnipresent (this Thursday at 9pm by

Shepherds! Bring your kids along to

A Pontius & Judas Show



In aid of
the Samaritans

New! From the makers of
The Self-Breathalyser Test
and
The Bus Inspector Detector

Your very own cut-out-and-keep

id card

For use in pubs, off licences, discos, cinemas, and anywhere else really.

Identification

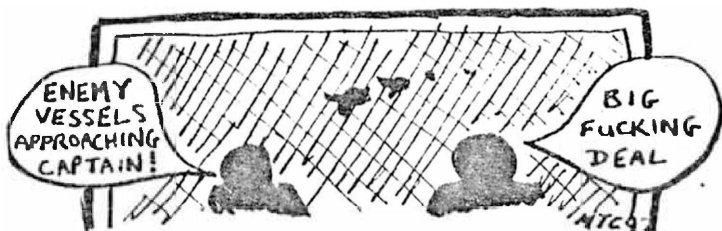
The bearer can be safely admitted/
sold alcohol (delete where applica-
ble)

because he/she is not celebrating the
results of their Junior Cert/not experi-
menting with booze to see what the
fuss is about/not in any way pretend-
ing to be grown-up, no sir, and this
isn't my big brother's tie/big sister's
lipstick (delete where applicable).

[Place photo here]

This is absolute solid proof that the bearer is ____ years of age.
Except on buses when they can still pay half fare.

When a crew faces life-threatening situations on a regular basis without
so much as a scratch, they are liable to get complacent.



The PFJ Advertising Our Own Stuff Section

Coming Soon

Listed here are just some of the mega-fab PFJ-derived things which may be happening sometime in 1993...

PFJ - The Adventure Game

An hilarious text-based adventure game for your IBM PC or compatible. Designed and written by the PFJ team, the game uses 100% original material, and contains more text than every issue of PFJ put together - No true PFJ fan can afford to be without this! Watch further issues for more details.

PFJ - The Video

Work is already in progress on the live-action PFJ Video Show. This will be an exclusive collection of original sketches, all tied together with a spellbinding plot, and liberally sprinkled with stunning special effects. Remember The Wizard of Speed and Time? This will be even better!

PFJ - The T-Shirts

To be available sometime before the sun comes back, the T-Shirts will feature some of PFJ's best-loved cartoons, as well as the PFJ logo. More details will appear in upcoming issues.

Mountaineers prefer Crampax



She's Real! She's Fun!

Mallitoy™ are delighted to introduce...

Menstruating Mandy!™

Every month, on or around the 28th, Menstruating Mandy™ starts feeling Really Ratty™, and actually Issues Mandy Menses!™

Free accessories include steak knives for throwing at people who annoy Mandy™, a real working Mandybrator™ and a packet of Mandy™ Wash'n'Re-use™ tampons!

And Menstruating Mandy™ will keep menstruating for years and years, thanks to her boy-friend, Impotent Andy™

And don't forget Super Talking Menstruating Mandy™ and Super Talking Impotent Andy™ - they actually talk!

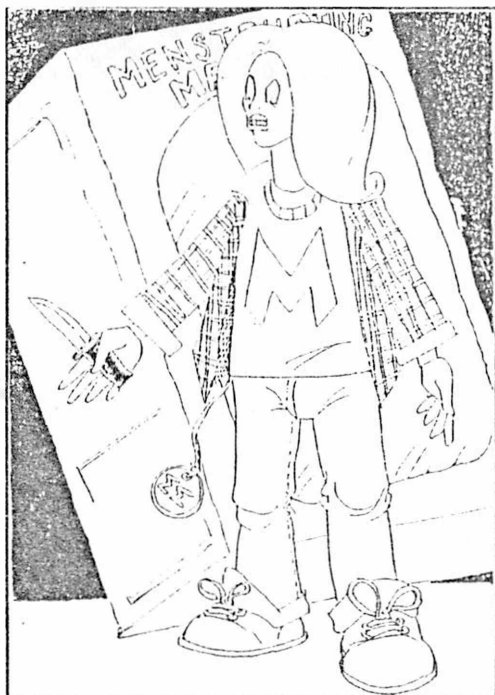
Just press Impotent Andy's™ Willie (he has to use it for something), and he says

- "It's never happened to me before"
- "Honey, put the chair down"
- "Jesus, is the 28th already!"

Place a steak knife in Menstruating Mandy's™ hand and raise her arm and she says

- "Keep the fuck away from me"
- "You're gonna lose that hand in a minute"
- "Nobody loves me"

And don't forget Mandy™ has lots of other accessories, too!



Use the Mandy First Aid Kit™ to fix up Andy™ after you do minor damage with that china plate!

You'll love using the Mandyphone™ to call for an ambulance after you've been a bit too hasty and done something really nasty with the steak knives!

Don't forget to keep up with Mandy's™ adventures on "Mandy Bloody Mandy"™, every Saturday Morning.

*Batteries not included

Menstruating Mandy™ is not recommended for children under three years or Catholics.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez Same first name as Gabriel Byrne

Channel 4

5.00 The Late Late Show British viewers get a chance to see Ireland's Gay Byrne in action.

6.00 Streetwise

6.30 The Wonder Years Starring Fred Savage, and Irish actor Neill Cadwell as the janitor.

7.00 Channel 4 News: Weather

7.50 Comment

8.00 Brookside The popular soap set in Liverpool, which has a long-standing historical connection with Ireland.

8.30 Desmond's A comedy series about a black family. Remember that guy from Donegal who used to be in TV Ga Ga? He was black.

9.00 Cutting Edge Another report from the hard-hitting team who brought us a documentary on the Birmingham Six, most of whom were Irish (well, from the North, anyway) some years back.

10.00 A Bit of a Do Comedy-drama which takes its name from an old Irish expression.

11.00 The Other Americas: Sins of Our Fathers. A programme which examines the problems arising from the many different cultures which clash in Mexico, Bolivia, and other impoverished American nations. Mmm. If you take the b away from Bolivia then you have Olivia, who of course is your woman the model who used to do continuity on RTE 1. Or is it Network 1? The one with the Angels.

12.00 FILM: A One-Way Ticket Part of the Latin American Cinema season. With Angel Muniz, Carlos Alfredo, Hecacio Veloz. There's a lot of grass in this movie. That's sort of Irish.

1.40 Test Card My uncle plays cards and he's Irish.

January

5 Full moon. Anniversary of the **Battle of Waterloo** (June, 1815). *Feast of the Missionary* (Upper Volta).

9 New moon. "On January ninth, on January ninth, on January ninth, something that rhymes with ninth." (Wordsworth) Clocks go back three minutes at a quarter to eight. *It is said that the middle of January is a good time to ask Barbara Dickinson for her autograph.*

13 Aurora borealis (Norway). Annual wash day in the Furey Brothers' house. Anniversary of the death of **Hughie the Hamster**, a victim of neglect. *Carrots planted on this day shall grow fast, especially in soil.*

16 Wet and windy. First day of August 1510 in the Roman Catholic (Orthodox) Calendar. *Day of rest of your life.*

19 Full moon. "In spring a young man's fancy turns to gelatin dessert." (Tenniscourt) Harvest of the potato crop. *It is said that many a woman's footprints down to the well, but few are the stamp hinges in her socks.*

25 Full house. **Binge!**

32 (Wales) Annual eisteddfodd and Use A "D" For Jesus Day in Mid-Glamorgan. Anniversary of January 32, 1534.



"I'm Jesus, and you're watching Sley - I mean, you're reading PFW. Damn, Can I do that one more time?"

Advertisement pretending to be serious investigative journalism

Astounding Breakthroughs

presents.

ShitTM

The latest innovation in appliances designed to improve modern living is **Shit**. Just listen to some of our satisfied customers:

"I got **Shit** and put it in the den, and now the neighbours want some too. In the six months since I got it, it has changed my life, and I can't believe that before I didn't know **Shit**."

FD, Washington

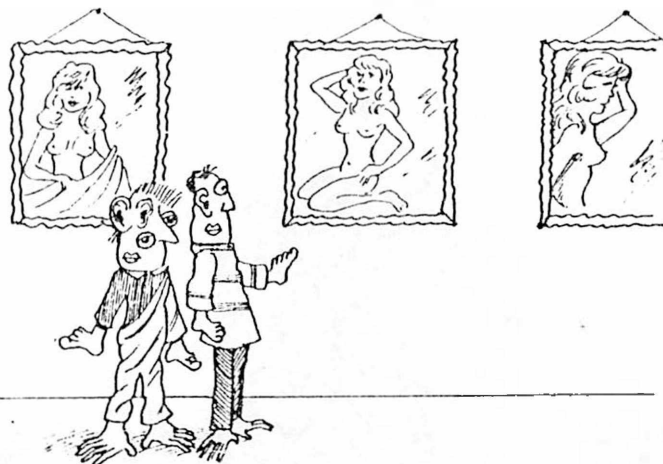
Send \$45 (check below for local currencies), and we'll send you **Shit**. If you're not completely satisfied you can give us **Shit** back.

But that's not all!

Send it right away, and we'll throw in, absolutely free of charge, not one, not two, but three pieces of **CrapTM**.

But that's still not all!

We'll also include a **WankTM**, the handy household tool for the man about the house.



Presenting the very first release of PFJ in new Wide-Page format!

WIDE-PAGE LETTERBOX FORMAT

WidePage Format allows the reader to experience the text in the true style that the writer intended, not truncated or squashed to fit.

Below, on the left, is a simple, normal format joke, and below right is the vastly improved Wide-Page format version. Notice the vast difference in quality and atmosphere.

This man walks
into a bar and
he says "Ouch"
It was an iron
bar!

This man walks down the street and walks
into a bar and he grimaces painfully and
he says "Ouch", because it really hurts.
It was an iron bar - not a getting drunk
bar!

As you can see, the normal version of PFJ only allows a brief glimpse of the true joke, whereas the Wide-Page format gives more atmosphere and feeling, as well as removing any possible ambiguities which may appear in the truncated version.

To see just how much something can have its meaning changed by truncating the text, we present here a short extract from Michael Carroll's first mainstream novel, *The Rider and the Bitch*.

Note how the meaning of the text differs between the two extracts.

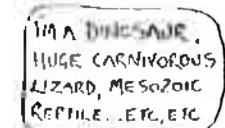
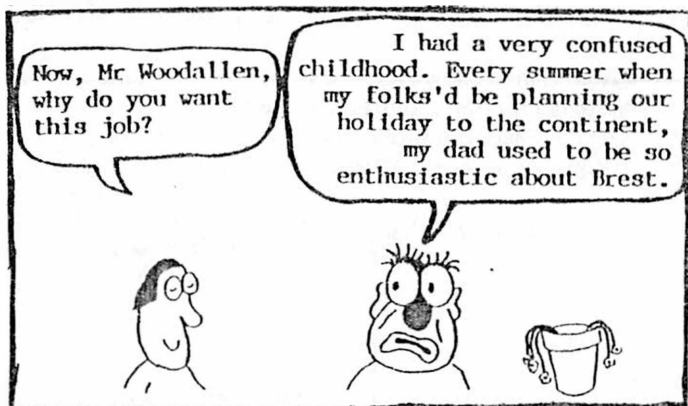
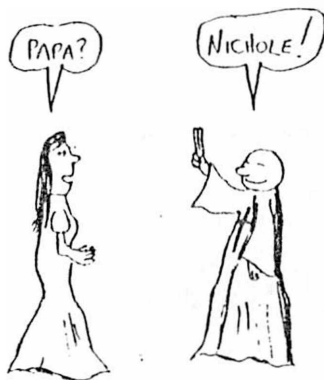
To the right you see
the confusing
shortened version,
and below the
Wide-Page version,
with the text fully
restored and
presented as it was
originally written.

He gripped her
firm shoulders
and thrust her
roughly to the
floor. Then he
grabbed her by
her throat and
tried to force
himself on her

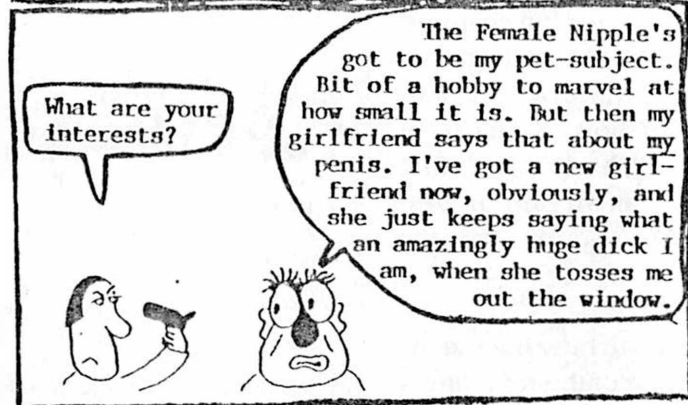
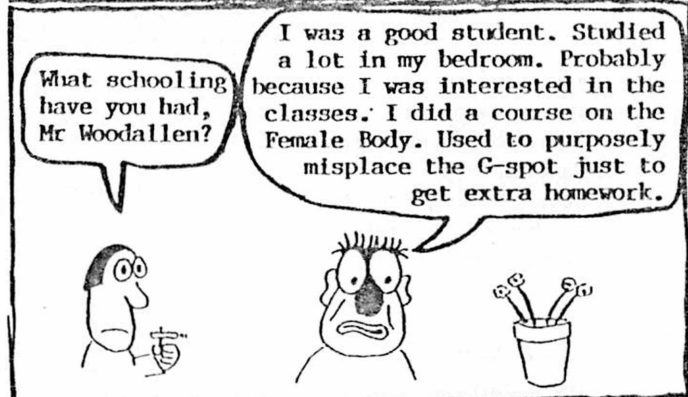
She asked for her bag. He gripped her handbag and she placed it over her firm shoulders. She got on to the bicycle, waved, and thrust herself forward committing the bike thoroughly to the busy road. He started to wash the floor. Then he brought Sue the dog for a walk. He grabbed her by the collar, placed the lead around her throat and took her to the nearby common. She tried to force him to run, but at dinner he'd fed himself on hernia tablets.

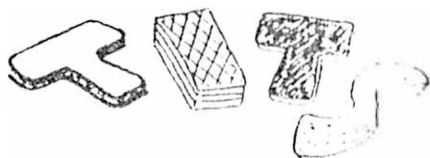
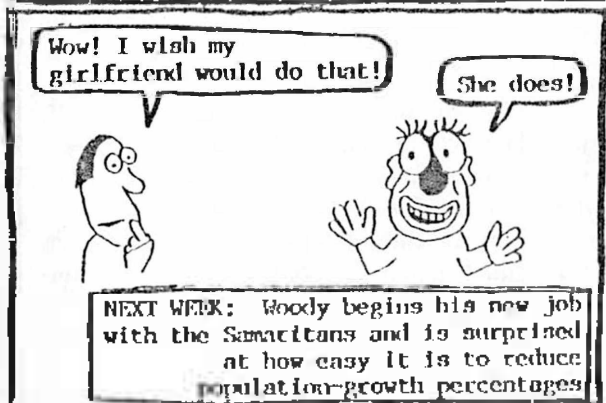
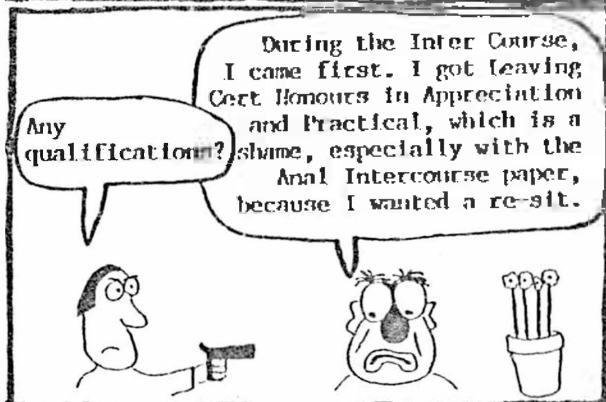
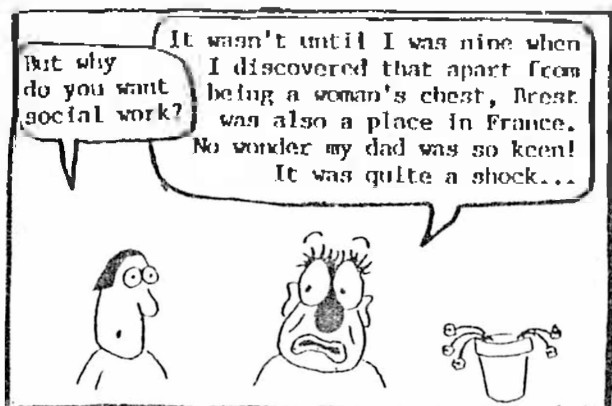
The Personality Problems of

Woody W



TYRANNOSAURUS
REX

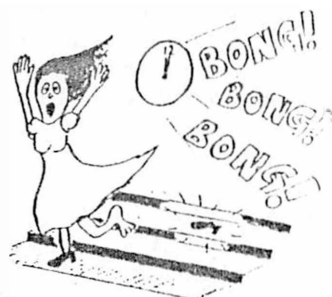




SUGGESTIVE BISCUITS



STAR SPANGLED BANNER



CHIBRELLA BURNING THE MIND
HER ONE-DAY BUS CARD

Poverty Row

has a fabulous selection of low-quality
gifts and accessories for poor people

Including

Packets of multicoloured plastic pegs from
the Orient

Gossamer-thin toilet tissue

Water pistols (leak slightly)

Ultra-fab C90 blank cassettes

CFC-friendly aerosol air fresheners

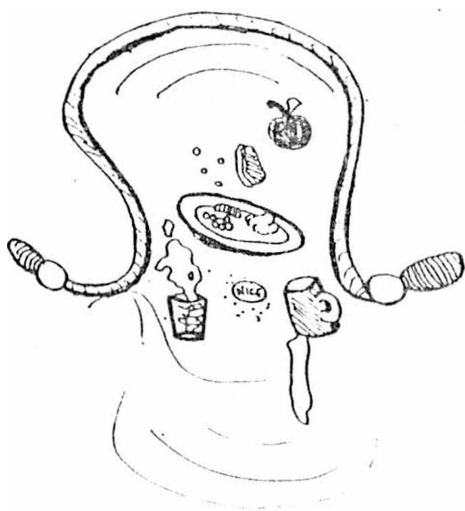
Needles (in attractive packets)

Sticks of rock

Come to
Poverty Row

Because we don't sell crap

That's Apollo.



Skipping meals

Deader than Dead, Dead

by Emily Dickinson

The death bell tolls -
And my scroll rolls -
Over to relish this new composition
Of long drawn decomposition -
Like gossamer laces -
My Death Spouse embraces,
And endeth my time like rust in a clock -
Still, life's not all bad, is it?

Now I Really Mean Dead (And No Mistake)

by Emily Dickinson

Death,
The end of all -
That is to come - no more! -
Tap! The footsteps on my rotted coffin -
My caving coffin -
My dying coffin -
My tickly, chesty, phlegmy coffin -

How to write: A Best-selling Fantasy Series!

You will need :

- A pair of six-sided dice
- A sharp scissors
- Sticky tape or string
- Paper

First, roll your dice to choose one of the basic plots listed below:

1. Your characters go on a quest

Next, roll the dice six times to choose your characters from the list below (roll again until all characters are different):

1. Magician
2. Elf
3. Thief
4. Human
5. Orc
6. Dwarf

Then, roll your dice to choose your quest from the following list:

1. Search for Enchanted Ring

You are now ready to begin. To make things easier, we've listed below some good openings to your fantasy series. Roll the dice to choose:

1. The human is a young apprentice to a wizard. The Evil Lord sends his knights to kill the wizard, but the apprentice escapes, vowing to avenge his master and reclaim the legendary lost magic ring.
2. The human is a young apprentice to a wizard. The Evil Lord sends his demons to kill the wizard, but the apprentice escapes, vowing to avenge his master and reclaim the legendary lost magic ring.

Next Month:

How to write Volume Two of your best-selling fantasy series.



A NIGHTLIGHT DISTRICT

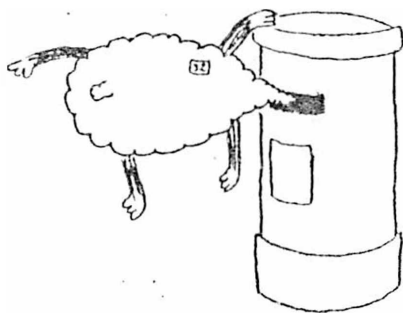
The Rapper's Rhyming Dictionary
17.306 Sucker, looker, hooker, booker, nooker, tucker, ducker, mucker, cooker, plucker, tooker, Zucker, motherfucker.
17.325 Mother, other, brother, cover, lover, shover, clubber, rubber, blubber, slumber, lumber, plumber, slummer, slammer, hammer, motherfucker.
17.501 Horse, dog, beans, computer, telephone, Brian, dictionary, hobble, plug, engine, spoon, officer, chocolate, teapot, heroin, trousers, Sherlock Holmes, school, motherfucker.

New From B&B

CRISP ALMIGHTY!

Loaves'n'Fishes Flavour

IM NOT NOWHERE
WITHOUT ME
CRISP ALMIGHTY
CRISPS!



LAMPPOST

FOUND IT YET?



Filippo Bagguis

- THE WORST BEST MAN

For a loved one
this Christmas



SANTY
TOWELS

The Ballyfermot Cookbook

by Michael Cullen

1. Chicken Box

This main course dish is found in various guises all over Ireland, but the original recipe has been traced by to Ballyfermot. Visitors often remark on the fact that, like Guinness, the dish doesn't travel, and like the Louisiana crayfish, the Ballyfermot chicken is best tried in its place of origin.

The recipe derives from the seventeenth century and was brought to Ireland by the Saskatchewan Indians of South Vietnam. Its name in Hindi means "the following film is based on a true story". Apparently Mrs Beaton used the recipe, but the man in the video shop told me this and he may have been having me on.

Ingredients:

£2.25

Tracksuit

Rottweiler

Salt

Directions

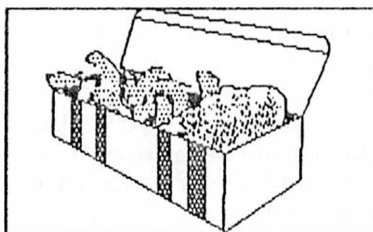
Watch "Neighbours".

Put on tracksuit, and rattle chain to attract dog but wait half an hour until he's really mad.

Say "I'm bleedin' goin' out, right?"

Go into chipper and say "Can I have a chicken box please?"

Wait 5-10 minutes.



An artist's impression of the finished product

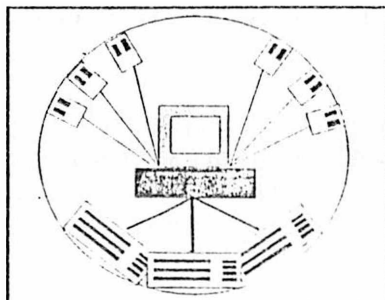


Did you know...

...that palindromes were actually named after Monty Python star Michael Palin's elder brother, Nilap?

...that the most common phrase used by owners of Collies is "Because he *looks* like Lassie?"

...that Rubik cube inventor Lazlo Cube is colour blind, and his first model had all the sides coloured black? And that his brother, Lazlo Tesseract, has invented a puzzle of his own, but nobody knows if they've solved it?



*da Vinci's original drawing of a
Local Area Network*

...that at the 1422 General Synod, bishops ruled that pi was equal to twenty-seven and a half?

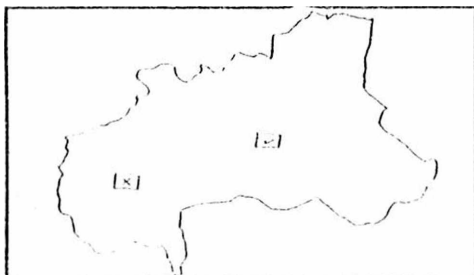
...that bears *do* shit in the woods?

...that in 1982, parents complained about Sygne Street's science teacher using models of molecules that were atomically accurate? The teacher was fired when it emerged that he was also teaching mensuration.

...that the ancient Egyptians viewed death not as the end, but as a reason to lock people up in pyramids?

...the national Anthem of Burkina Faso is "Ouagadougou that Voodoo that you do so well"

...that the first Local Area Network was invented by Leonardo da Vinci, hundreds of years before the invention of the computer?



*Fortunately for this joke, the capital of
Burkina Faso is not Babadocduval*

...that Jean Michel Jarre gave his first concert when he was four, using a tin whistle, a torch and some coloured crepe paper?

...that the tiny ball bearings Cadbury's use to make the holes in Wispa bars are only used once, and then thrown out?

...that the Earth's orbit is not elliptical, but w-shaped? But because the sun is shaped like a pretzel, nobody notices.

...that with his dying breath, Brian Boru placed a curse on Ireland, so that no science fiction magazine published here would ever survive past its eleventh issue?

...that ancient warriors were not allowed enter the Fianna unless they could tie the laces on their Nikes while running through the forest... without pumping them up?

...that five-drawer filing cabinets are illegal in Ireland under the 1931 Office Equipment Act?

...that Bela Lugosi died during the making of Plan 9 From Outer Space, and for the remainder of the shooting he had to be controlled by Gerry Anderson?

...that in the original draft of "Nightmare on Elm Street", Freddy bludgeoned his victims to death with black puddings? The glove was written in after Robert England, a vegetarian, protested.

New Prophecies of Nostradamus Found

"Golly", say Church Officials

The theological world was rocked today with the revelation that volume four of Nostradamus' prophecies *Don't Start Any Long Tones* was discovered over ten years ago. Experts from Rome and Ballinacorney, after long years of examination and debate, have shed light on some of the new prophecies of the man described by many as 'a guy who could tell the future.'

Only last week did the theological experts agree on the meaning of Nostradamus' work, and published their findings in this week's handback bestseller, *Patois Nostra, Quesce in Kyle*.

Amongst some of the more startling prophecies are such revelations as

Fonts getting smaller as paragraphs progressed
-The appearance of PFJ at Octocon '90 (so we were a year late. Sue us).

-Bill becoming president of America (up until recently this was thought to be Bill the Cat).

-Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer taking over the Santa Claus franchise for Earth in 1997.

However, he was not totally accurate in all things. A few of the points he got wrong were

-Lichtenstein winning World War II after inventing the Radion



Nostradamus Last Week

bomb.

-William Shatner winning a "Best Director" Oscar for Star Trek V

- Stephen King becoming Israel's chief Rabbi

A spokesperson for the Catholic Church said that "His holiness may or may not be excited about this, depending on whether it turns out to be true or not. No bull."

Nostradamus' only surviving relative, Fidelma Nostradamus, of Crumlin, Dublin, described the publication of the new volume as "bleedin' rapid", and expressed a hope that humanity would benefit from the wisdom in this volume, and work towards the betterment of all who share the planet Earth.

In a world exclusive, for the first time ever, the prophecies were printed in last week's *Irish Times*. Thanks to great journalistic work on the part of the PFJ staff reporter, Uri Nation, we are now delighted to be able to present those bits the Irish Times didn't dare to print.

69

Fire and damnation, and to shall rivers
weep

In the fair city, the clerk's kiln sings
The chromed shall catch the rascally
rabbit

I'd sell those GPA shares, if I were you.

The fourth line of the quatrain obviously refers to the Vatican Bank's policy of hanging its employees, and warns of trouble when Djibouti joins the EEC. The meaning of "clerk's kiln" was a source of much disagreement at the congress. They eventually decided to pretend it wasn't there, and leave it out of the second printing.

Rift Between Churches Widens

Decision to Allow Women Drivers Condemned by the Pope

His Holiness Pope John Paul II speaking in Rome yesterday expressed disappointment at the Protestant General Synod's decision to allow bishops and the higher-ranked clergy to be assigned female chauffeurs.

His Holiness was speaking to an audience of members of the Sinners' Guild yesterday, where he praised them for their fine work in keeping priests in business, but warned them not to wait too long before repenting, as they could get run over any minute by a bus. He then went on to note that the General Synod made an "Unfortunate decision" in letting women into the driving seat, and assured the audience that there was "no way that's going to happen around here. Not while I'm Pope."

His Holiness stated that "lay women working on cars is acceptable, as long as they limit their duties to opening doors, and under some circumstances washing the bishops' vehicles." However, by raising women's status to that of chauffeur, he went on, the Anglican church was flying in the face of Our Lord's teachings, effectively removing any hope of reconciliation between the two faiths.

He pointed out that there were no instances in the bible of Our Lord ever riding on the back of a donkey that was being led by a woman. He further pointed out the medical reasons for not permitting women to drive. "Most Catholic doctors recommend that pregnant women do not drive, and as it is every woman's duty to get married early and bless her husband with

many offspring, she should not have the opportunity to learn to operate such vehicles." The Pope's press secretary, Monsignor PJ Mordecai, held a press conference afterwards, to clarify the church's position to those who

can't understand Italian spoken with a Polish accent.

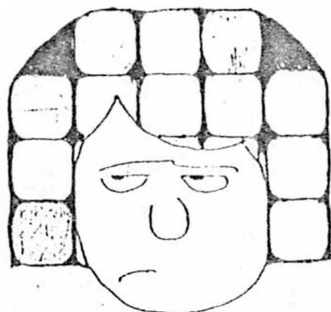
When asked whether the Pope's words showed that the Catholic Church had a policy of oppressing minorities, Mordecai made a vehement denial. "His Holiness is not in the business of oppressing minorities," he stated. "The Catholic Church oppresses mainly women and homosexuals, and as it is estimated that fifty-one per cent of the population is female, and ten per cent homosexual

This means that we are managing to oppress nearly fifty-

six per cent by concentrating on those two categories alone. This can hardly be called a minority." He went on to detail plans to exclude from the church a further fourteen per cent by the end of the century.



A Woman Yesterday



RUBIK HAIR

101

The force behind the eternal sea quakes
No, I say, the aardvark and the platypus.
My name is Elvis Presley, king of kings,
Look upon my suits, ye tasteful, and
despair

In this verse Nostradamus predicts Elvis making the movie *GI Blues*, and in particular his singing "Did you ever get one of those days". He also predicts the great confusion of living in the twentieth century, pointing out that nobody will know how to pronounce "Matt Groening".

132

When high above, the Slavs, their power
broken
When counsellors, their bags all filled
with rocks
When Etrino particles created in the
CERN
So Garabandal shall have its holy hour

In one of his plainer verses, Nostradamus predicts the coming of late night opening to the pubs of Croatia.

176

Stoppeth me if thou'st heard it,
But three Celtic personages walked down
the road
After much debate, the third of the three
did say
"We'd better not walk in it"

In this verse, Nostradamus clarifies his earlier prediction of World War III*. While it was inferred from earlier verses that Paris would be destroyed in a nuclear explosion, it is now clear that he was instead referring to the Pope's exile to the Rock of Cashel.

214

With Decem comes the accolades due
The arrow of Saint Francis shall be theirs
Though none shall travel to the distant
land
As 40.3.3 prevents all leaving



Abilition in Paris as they realise they won't be toasted after all

In his most startling prediction to date, Nostradamus forecasts issue ten of PFJ winning a Hugo award at the 1993 World Science Fiction convention in San Francisco. Prove that you're one of the in crowd by nominating, and then voting for, this ground-breaking issue.

So there you have it. Always remember that earth-shatteringly important events all throughout history have been predicted by Nostradamus. World wars, plagues, famines and Pete Waterman have all been mentioned by this great visionary. Okay, so he was a little vague on some of the details. Well, all of the details. But priests and scientists, after a great many years honing their skills by arguing over the plural of Trade Union and Virus, are sure of their facts as presented on these pages.

And lest ye be sceptical, remember that he was exhumed two hundred years after his death. And as he was lifted from the ground, the alarm on his watch went off, set for the exact moment he was taken from the grave.

"Nostradamus II - Guest Who's Coming to dinner. Available from all good booksellers. "A darn good read" - Barry Norman.

Note that PFJ are not responsible for any actions resulting from interpretations of these prophecies. Patrons should not that predictions can go down as well as up.

A few minutes in the life of Classic Rock 98 FM 104 Hits Coast Radio

Young Male (pretend Dublin accent)

It was bleedin' brill! It was great!

Young Female (pretend Foxrock accent)

Oh, I'm still laughing! It was wonderful!

Older Male (seasoned presenter accent, with underlying chuckle)

Now that you ask, I really enjoyed it! A marvellous experience!

Voice over

They're talking about Eamonn Mac Thomas's new ad for Des Kelly carpets. Due to popular demand, the ad will run for two extra weeks in January.

Singer Oh, hurry on down to Des Kelly! You've never seen such brilliant colours and textures!

V/O And the prices, Terry?

Terry And, sure, the prices are only prestigious, he god.

Pause

DM You're listening to FM 104, and with the time just about coming up to almost 8 o'clock, it's time for...

Singer Round about now's the perfect time, to sit back and have a nice cup of Barry's tea! All better, all circular!

Pause

V/O PFI, on the streets of Dublin.

Man It's, like, a big sticky-up thing, with a loose bit.

Woman (laughing)

Oh, I don't think I could answer that!

Man Is it one o' those planets?

PFI No, that's Uranus.

Man Ah, go 'way out o' that!

Young Girl (sniggering)

I couldn't tell you that! Not over the radio!

PFI Every man has one, and occasionally some women have them too, albeit temporarily. But why is it we, in Ireland, as a nation, the Irish, that is, us, are so embarrassed to talk about them?

Man Why don't you get a real job?

PFI Excuse me, sir. You look like a man of the world. Can you tell us about your penis?

Man Fuck off, you hairy bastard.

PFI Well, this is Ponathan Filbert-Jowman, back in the studio, not such a little prick.

pause

Man Gosh, darling, I really wish we could afford that new carpet!

Woman Hmm... But with the economic climate in its current state, I'm not sure we could afford it, darling.

Man I know! Why don't we phone Home Loans Incorporated, who don't have any expensive offices to run, and therefore have fewer overheads and can cut the cost of borrowing by up to a quarter of a percent? Darling

FX Telephone

Operator

A new car? Certainly! Yes, we are fast, friendly and efficient! And no, you don't have to come in and see us, now if I can take just a few details...

V/O If you're over twenty one, in a steady job earning over at least twenty-five thousand a year or more and not very likely to run away with the money, then Home Loans Incorporated can give you that loan you need for that new yacht, or that villa in Spaul Dial 1-800 696969, and you can borrow up to ten thousand pounds, darling.

pause

DM Welcome back. We're talking about suicide, the dos and don'ts, the whys and whys not. I believe we have John on the line?

John Hello, Chris?

DM Yes, John. What is your point?

John (weakly)

Well, I've been unemployed for a year now -

DM Yes, but we're talking about suicide.

And what is your view on suicide?

John My view?

DJ (Impatiently) Do you think suicide is right or wrong?

John Well, it's wrong, of course, but -

DJ Either it's wrong, or it's not! For God's sake, man! Do you think that aborted fetuses have the right to choose whether or not to commit suicide or not? What makes you think that you have any more right to suicide than an abandoned puppy?

John No, Christ I really mean it, I'm going to do it! I spent my last twenty pence phoning you - I should have called the Samaritans!

DJ (disgusted) Well, you're not wrong there. All right, it's time for a break, when we come back we'll be talking about the environmental advantages of non-blinking Christmas tree lights.

pause

FX someone sipping a cup of tea, while with no sugar

Julie Ah! Do you know, Maureen, you make a perfect cup of coffee?

Maureen Don't thank me, Julie, thank Nescafold! Hm... Blend 563, golden honey-drenched sun-ripened coffee granules, hand picked by only the most hygienic Brazilian slaves! What better way to start the day?

FX the same person as before, draining their cup

Julie That's a coincidence, Maureen, because I stopped off on the way here, and look what I bought!

FX Rustling of plastic bag

Maureen (laughing warmly in a sort of pretending to be in a kitchen way) Blend 563!

Julie Well, excuse me for a minute, Maureen, I have to use the loo.

Maureen Oh I'm terribly sorry, Julie, but we've no paper!

Julie That's okay, I brought my own.

FX Rustling of same plastic bag as before, but without the jar of coffee

Maureen Dmubo's Extra Strong and Super Large scented toilet paper!

Julie Yes, I never wipe my arse on anything less! It's super absorbent, the tiny little perforations grip the slight and won't let go, giving you a clean, fresh smelling arse. And they're economical!

pause

Man (deep, sincere voice)

Imagine you were poor, old, and alone. Imagine the radio was your only companion. Imagine you were bedridden, and couldn't call for help. Imagine you had no-one to talk to. Imagine a world where everyone ignores their aged relatives and spends their money on ludicrously expensive jeans. Imagine Pope. Think about it.



A Day in the Life of the Reilly Family

Correspondent

There's been no word since about six o'clock this evening, when Jack went through these gates in his favourite Austin Metro, looking tired after what must have been a gruelling day at the office. It's easy to forget that as well as his duties walking the dog and leaving the rubbish out on Friday morning, Jack maintains a full workload in his position as a floor manager in Apollo One.

And, yes, I think I see the hall light coming on now, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if the front door was to open and we saw Jack himself emerging.

There he is. Jack? Jack? Will you be going to the supermarket tomorrow?

Jack

No comment.

Correspondent

But we have it on good authority that you just used the last piece of toilet roll and now you have to use mansize tissues.

(Silence)

Well, he's not giving anything away. I believe we have another report coming right now, yes, and I can hand you over to John Hanna, who's in the library.

Hanna

(Whispering) Karen Reilly. You're reading a back about birds, aren't you?

Karen

Yes.

Hanna

I take it you like birds, then?

Karen

(Shyly) Yes.

Hanna

Would it be safe to say that birds are something you like reading about?

Karen

Yes.

Hanna

This is John Hanna, for Six-One News, reporting live from the Central Library.

Correspondent

Yes. I think there are no better words to describe the past week than those of Mrs Carmel Reilly, when she said it was "not bad", a phrase that already seems to have entered the language. It began with the dreadful news that Jack had driven as far as the Naas dual carriageway and then discovered that he'd left his lunch at home. A nation held its breath as he debated whether to go back, or whether to get something in the canteen, even though his sandwich was a bit stale last time.

The family was still reeling from that episode when the Reilly's postman, talking to this reporter, gave his no-holds-barred account of delivering letters to the house. The fact that the garden gate squeaked until Jack applied a few drops of oil to it made headlines around the world. Not only a floor manager, not simply the man who wears the cloth cap, but also someone who will take the time to oil his own gate. The makers of

3-in-1 have now asked Jack if they can put his wife's picture on the back of the can. According to the latest poll, a decisive 67 per cent believe that one or both of the Reillys should go to the supermarket tomorrow.

Jack Reilly has just turned the corner and he's coming towards us. Perhaps he nipped round to a friend's house for a quick chat. You can't get much more down-to-earth than that!

Jack

Look, we just want to be treated like any other family. We're not that interesting really.

Correspondent

Thank you for taking the time to talk to us, Jack.

Jack

Why don't you go up to the Byrnes at number 8? They've got a new CD player. I'm sure the nation would like to hear about that.

Tomorrow:

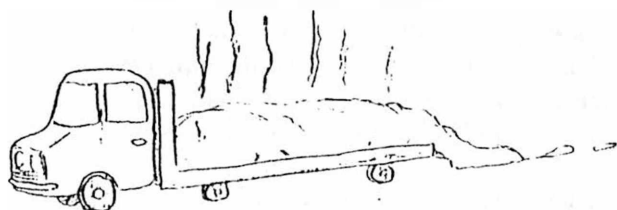
Should the Reillys pay tax?



Kids'll do anything for Dalryle



I always cleanse with Napalmolive



DUMP TRUCK

Coming Soon to Bargain Bin Near You...

BATTLESTAR GALDOCTARINE

Starring...

Gary Starrback
Apollo Clough
Mauren Jensen Simpson

OCTARINE is probably the finest HUMOUR-ORIENTED SF AND FANTASY fan group in the whole world. Really. Their magazine "Tales from the Broken Drum" is totally brilliant and completely hilarious - "Tales..." provided the initial inspiration for PFJ, and RUMOUR has it that MONTY PYTHON based their third film, "THE MEANING of Life" on Rob "Rob" Miller's Super Clotheshorse Man.

If you're interested in Joining Octarine, we've lost their address, but we've just appointed ourselves their Irish agents, so contact Chateau PFJ for further details.

An Enigma or Just a Mystery?

by Prof Jeremy Packman

Diputs is charging £50 a head.

HOW MANY TIMES have you dreamt of a telephone call only to have received one the previous day? Well, it happened to me! It's what we in the business call a "fiscal opening", or, put simply, a postdiction. This year, I've postdicted my own birth, my primary school exam results, and halfway into who-dunnits, chances are I've guessed who the victim was. As I've since pasteasted, it was my sister Hattie on the phone wanting to speak to my wife. "She's dead," I replied. "She died last Wednesday." Once again displaying the scary consequence of this most remarkable, but common, rarity.

THAT FACE THAT KNOCKS A KNOCKER

By Wood-Expert Dr Ed Photograph

DIPUT'S REKNOW, 43, has astonished worldwide carpenters this year with his claim that the face of Anthony Perkins can be clearly seen in the woodwork of his box-room door. Although disappointing people who have travelled miles to see the so-called star of Psycho have only been made more disappointing, Mr Reknow claims he has further dead celebrities embedded in other doors of the house. Denholm Elliott appears on the kitchen door which swings both ways, even Benny Hill is on the front door remarking how the bed resembles a woman's nipple, and it's said Mr Reknow has a bedroom door specially reserved for Elizabeth Taylor. As part of his commitment to make money,

Next Week in The Unexceptional

The Continuing Search for the Admirable Snowman Part 17

Yeti, Bigfoot, Bouli. Call him what you will, the search for the slippery beast, that has been known to creep into people's houses late at night and melt, continues. In next week's exciting edition, Dr Janey Mack believes she has spotted him in deserted Ballyfermot. We take up the story where she is about to pounce, unbeknownst to Janice, her lesbian lover, who ahs finally left her bushand in the car with the radio on.



REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT



With nurses are Mr and Mrs Williams: the first and second successful body transplant donors

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL'S GUIDE TO CRIME PREVENTION

1: PHYSICAL ATTACK



THE GUARDIAN
ANGEL



THE GUARDIAN
ANGEL SAYING
HELLO



THE ATTEMPTED
ASTERISK



LEVITATION



CONSTIPATION



STALKING



DISCOVERING
AN ATTACK



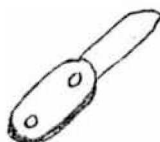
INSTIGATING
RESCUE



DISCOVERING
THE SIZE OF
THE ATTACKER



OFFERING A
MONETARY
TRUCE



A (BADLY)
DRAWN PEN KNIFE



RUNNING
AWAY



HIDING



FINDING A PHONE
THAT WORKS



CALLING THE
COPS



WAITING



WAITING



WAITING



HEARING THE
POLICE SIREN



APOLOGISING
THAT ATTACKER
HAS LONG GONE



APOLOGISING
FOR WASTING
POLICE TIME



FALLING
DOWN STAIRS
AT THE STATION

Letters to the Editors

Dear Sirs

It's an outrage to suggest as you did in your last issue that pupils who go to Private Schools, always turn out sexually perverse. I bent to Privates Screw, and it never diddy me funny harm.

Potty Strapbuckle, Dalkey

Dear PEJ

9 13 1 1 19 16 25 / 23 15 18 11 9 14 7 / 6 15
18 / 25 15 21 18 / 7 15 22 20 / 1 14 4 / 5 22 5
14 / 9 / 12 9 11 5 / 18 5 14 9 14 7 / 16 6 10
/ 15 14 / 13 25 / 4 1 25 19 / 15 6 61

The Tsar of the Show, Comrade Boris Karlot
Templeogue

Dear PEJ

I thought your readers might be interested to know that I have found two amusing anagrams of "Michael Carroll". They are "Arab-style igloo" and "Sometimes sleeps in bus shelters". It's amazing what you can come up with when you put your mind to it.

Yan Ydrac
Trinity College (Faculty of Dyslexia)
Dublin

Dear PEJ

A friend told me that you donate money to worthy causes, so here's my tale of woe: When I answered an ad in the paper looking for enthusiastic people of neat appearance to sell a famous encyclopaedia, I thought that this would be just the kind of thing I'd be good at. The interview went well, and after a

couple of nail-biting days I got a call to say I'd been accepted. I was over the moon! I went out and bought a new suit, and got a haircut. The terms were good, nice commission, and I only had to sell a complete set every two weeks.

Then the bombshell hit me. I had to sell them from a stand in the Square in Tallaght.

Six months later I am destitute. My suit is in ribbons, and my hair looks like two octopuses wrestling. I can't even be bothered looking up the proper plurals for things anymore. Please help me. A little would mean a lot.

Destitute
Tynon Park

Dear Destitute

Your story tweaked the heartstrings of the entire staff, even Robert Elliott, who was wrestled to the ground by the cleaning woman last week when he tried to take a chainsaw to the Christmas tree. Unfortunately, your friend has been pulling your leg. We don't give out money. Thanks all the same. On re-reading your tale of woe we all had a good laugh.

Dear PEJ

I thought your readers might be interested to know that yours is the only magazine I can think of where all the contributors names are homophones, ie words that sound alike but are spelt differently.

Bob
Trinity College (Faculty of Hearing Impairment)
Dublin

SFI

Science Fiction Ireland

They said it couldn't be done.

They said that the Irish Science Fiction Association was too big to challenge.

They said there wasn't enough room for another Sf group.

They were wrong.

SFI has been set up for fans of Science Fiction, Horror, Comics, Fantasy and RPG. The SFI committee is made up of former Octocon and ISFI committee members.

SFI promises to be something really special - We have a number of special guests lined up for meetings and we are currently negotiating with a top Dublin bookshop for discounts of up to 25% off selected books and comics, and work has already begun on our publications...

SFI News - All the news from the Irish and International SF scene. Monthly, 20 pages, A5, 50p (free to members).

Half-Life - Reviews of the latest books, movies, RPGs, videos, comics and computer games. Monthly, 24 pages, A5, 50p (25p to members).

Tachyon - **SFI**'s very own fiction magazine! We're seeking top-quality submissions (fiction and art) for our first Issue, so send them to the address below! Bi-monthly, 64 pages, A4, £2.95 (£16 for six issues, £8 members).

Meetings will be monthly, and will give members a forum for discussion, as well as a chance to meet their favourite artists and authors.

When you join **SFI** you will receive:

- * Full membership for a year
- * Twelve copies of the monthly *SFI News*
- * 50% off the cover price of *Half-Life*
- * A Membership Card and an Exclusive Badge
- * A voucher entitling you to a half-price subscription to *Tachyon*

All this for a mere £20 per year, with many more benefits to come!

Please fill in the form below, and mail it (along with a cheque/P.O. for IR£20) to:

Michael Carroll, SFI Chairman, 44 Leeson Park, Dublin 6, Ireland.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Interests:

(I enclose a cheque/P.O. IR£20 for membership. I understand that if I am not entirely satisfied, it's because this advert is completely bogus and I've been ripped off by the SFI team.)