

Tough Pigs Yearbook 2005



"Strange Lives"

Danny

Today I read the 2003 yearbook again, which I haven't done for a little while, and it feels to me like 2004 was way, way funnier than 2003. Like funnier by a factor of ten. I think we've improved tremendously.

I wonder what 2005 will be like. At this rate, we'll become the happiest place on earth, and then Disneyland will have to be something else.

[Cathy]

MP3 Share

Jan 3 • 6390.521-523

Peter When I dream about falling in love, it goes something like this...

Random Female: Is that a diet Coke?

Me: If it were, the lights would flash and the bell would ring.

Random Female: *gasp of recognition*

You wouldn't believe how often I try this at parties.

Or maybe you would.

Scott I should try that.

Does it mean I have to start going to parties?

Peter I'd try it out at the supermarket first and work your way up.

John

The yearbook is AWSUM!! It really cheered the hell out of me. Cheered up the hell out of me. Wait... cheered up – the hell out of – me. Something like that.

How many other forums can brag that every participating member has at least two laugh-till-you-pee moments? Not "Psychic Treehouse," that's for damn sure. What a bunch of hams we are. Thank God.

Daniel

Great work Danny.

I hereby nominate it for next year's yearbook.

Also, I'm not wearing pants.

Good work people.

Jess

I think we must be picturing Scooter's take on this role in two completely different ways. I might as well try to picture Lew Zealand as the Ghost of Christmas Past. ("You threw your chance for happiness away – and it did not come back to you!")

[Anthony]

Palisades: The end of the line

Jan 4 • 6777.22-26

Yancey I didn't even know there was an EB in the Mall of America. I guess I should go there more often.

Joe The EB is across from the Jurassic Park, two stores down from the lobster museum.

If you've hit the place where they build the spare parts for the robot Michael Eisner, you've gone too far.

[Ryan R]

Isha I have no application with which to open this file on my bran spankingly wiped hard drive.

Emmy Dude. That sucks.

Lemme review it for you:

2004 started. Some people said some funny things. There were running jokes. Scott was there. Miles was mentioned. Muppets may or may not have been mentioned. And then 2004 died a slow and horrible death because that punk kid 2005 took over.

Or maybe the whole thing was about taxes.

[Jess]

Muppet Show 25th Anniversary CD

Jan 5 • 6783.3-7

Danny It's not optimal, obviously. What we really want is each of the movie soundtracks on CD, and then some Muppet Show CDs, and then who knows what.

Rob A huge anthology 4-disc boxed set with all the music from all three films and tons of Muppet Show songs and a collectible booklet wouldn't be a bad idea, like the Sesame Street set.

Danny Right, exactly. Plus a backrub.

Muppet Show 25th Anniversary CD

Jan 5 • 6783.4

Scotty J The remastering done for the CD makes it worthwhile to my ears. For example, during Sam's intro to Trees, I felt like I was sonically wading in Frank's tongue saliva as I was listening.

Muppet Movie DVD rumor

Jan 7 • 6791.6-7

Danny By the way, what part of "Ryan, STOP READING MUPPET CENTRAL" did you not understand?

Cathy This is just a guess here, but I'd say it's the "STOP" part.

UK DVDs

Jan 14 • 6841.3

Kynan

Dog City is amazing. Buy it!

Buy two, and wear one as a hat.

Shawn's Belated Birthday Thread

Jan 15 • 6782.30

Mark

This is my very belated post to the belated thread.

Happy birthday, young man. Your thirty-first year is going to be a memorable and important one for several reasons.

First, you will start losing your baby teeth. When your permanent teeth grow in, it's a great feeling. (Don't forget that you have to take better care of them, though!)

Second, I will increase your allowance to three dollars and seventy-five cents a week, if you keep your room clean and walk the ocelot every day.

Third, you're going to graduate from 25th grade this year. Remember, a 25th grade certificate is the equivalent of a 20th grade certificate in my generation, so you still have a lot more schooling to go. But we're all proud of you, no matter what.

Fourth, but by no means least: You're only five years away from being eligible to be president. So don't forget to run for the Senate this year.

Ryan R I think I'm most interested in the running gag potential of The Orson Welles Show. I don't think it's been explored to its fullest.

Ryan D We'd discuss it more, but we're just too afraid to even think about it.
I'll take Scary Shit for \$500, Alex.

Martha \$500? Dude, Orson Welles is in the Daily Double.

Ryan D :: rim shot ::
I set 'em up, you knock 'em down.

Martha * reconsiders *
Actually, the man was big enough to be the Daily Triple.

Ryan D Oh SNAP!

Martha I'm hereby directing you to listen to "This Year" by Chantal Kreviazuk. It's on the Serendipity soundtrack. It was my anthem for 2002, which was my "Mean Sister Lucy" year.

Michal How does one go about having a Mean Sister Lucy year?

Martha It is a year in which one feels ready to kick some serious butt... in a good way. A feeling of invincibility, that THIS is MY year!

At least, that's how it was for me.

Michal Actually, I've got this sense of foreboding about this year. Doesn't help my chances for the Mean Sister Lucy business.

John Well, don't feel bad. You're not alone.

I think I'm having a Stupid Ol' Snoopy year already. Or maybe a BUMP!!
Linus year. Definitely not a Mean Sister Lucy.



[Anthony]

Backstage: Some Assembly Required

Jan 18 • 6191.28-31

Mark Because I'm a moron, I didn't save a copy of this page. And now it seems to have disappeared. Anyone have advice?

Peter 1) Put the side wall on before the back wall.
2) Have a knife handy to whittle down the pegs.
3) Pray.
4) Push real hard.

Yancey I did step 4, then step 3. Frog was on my side. It worked.

Unique Auction

Jan 18 • 6793.8-15

(Auction description: "If you like cats, quilts or doing unusual jigsaw puzzles, this is the one for you.")

Tom Talk about covering your bases.

"If you like baseball bats, Abraham Lincoln, or Belgian waffles, this one's for you!"

Carolyn Actually, I think cats, quilts and jigsaw puzzles kind of fit together. I know I've owned and enjoyed all three.

Michal Of course, when the jigsaw puzzle doesn't fit together, you've done something wrong.

Carolyn The cat probably ate a piece.

Isha Did you check under the quilt?

Carolyn No, Abraham Lincoln took it.

[Ryan R & Tom]

Queer Eye for the Straight Girl

Jan 19 • 6912.1

Cathy

I'm watching this right now. It's terrible. I keep waiting for it to get better, and it just doesn't. It's not funny. It's not clever. It's not anything but on the TV.

So bad.

So very, very bad.

Anyone else see it?

Shawn: RRRRRGGGGHHHH

Jan 20 • 6899.17

Danny

By the way, "forgetting tasks" is the least bad thing you can do in a relationship. Not writing down phone messages is way worse than that.

I think the list goes like this, from smallest to biggest: Forgetting to turn on the dishwasher, forgetting to do the laundry, not taking phone messages, hitting, killing and dumping in a river, forgetting to set the VCR for *Desperate Housewives*.

[Ryan R]

Quinn's DC Comics Customs

Jan 21 • 6882.24-25

Dave T You are a kind, generous and compassionate soul.

Quinn Go to hell.

Dan's Wonderful Morning

Jan 21 • 6927.1-5

Dan I've had such an interesting morning. First my car was hit by an MTBA bus, then I was attacked by a drunk on the T. Could today get any better?

Patrick The feds are hunting down terrorists in Boston. Maybe you'll become embroiled in a zany adventure regarding that.

Dan The way my day is going it wouldn't surprise me. My only question is, why was there a man drunk on the train at 8:30 in the morning?

Scott Because his bus hit a car earlier?

[Emmy]

Quinnsomnia

Jan 23 • 6944.4

Joe

I recommend narcolepsy. That's what I usually

Petsmobility

Jan 24 • 6931.11-12

Isha I like the idea of a "call owner" button if my dog is lost and then found... but I'm not too sure how well that would stand up to the elements.

John If I happened to see a dog running around loose in my neighborhood with a Petsmobility thing on his collar, I would assume his owners are upwardly mobile folks with disposable income who were just murdered by their drug dealers.

Numb3rs

Jan 26 • 6955.15

Danny

Who3v3r cam3 up with using th3 numb3r thr33 inst3ad of th3 l3tt3r E is on my 3n3mi3s list for lif3.

Asshol3.

[Martha & Cathy]

The News Is Bad For Your Health

Jan 27 • 6973.3

Danny

Mandatory TV is the curse of the modern age.

Toy Story 3

Jan 30 • 6983.11

Danny

I think they should release it without a director, a cast, or characters. It'll just be a title sequence and credits, and then everyone can sit there and eat their popcorn in peace.

Popbitch: Piggy and drugs

Jan 31 • 6998.3-10

Danny The nice thing about stories like that is that they're impossible to verify. Even if somebody says no, that's just a story, then people will just think they're denying it.

Ryan D Wait, didn't a Creature Shop employee get arrested for it in the mid nineties when they actually found the pot in Piggy?

I guess you could call her a pot bellied pig. Ha! Ha ha ha! Oh, shit, I'm hilarious.

[Ryan R]

Monkey difference

Jan 31 • 6999.1-23

Thijs Is there any difference, except for the name and voice, between Davey and Joey Monkey? I'm wondering, cause I can't see it.

Peter Davey likes Julia Roberts movies.

Joey just wants to fuck the shit out of your sister.

Kynan Bwah! You just made milk come out of my nose, and I'm not even drinking milk.

Danny Holy frijoles! You just made Kynan's milk come out of my nose too.

[Scott]

Michal I don't say this often, but... Giggity-giggity.

Watching Buffy

Feb 4 • 6800.29-34

Anthony I got season two from the library today, and will watch at least 8 episodes this weekend. More to follow.

Scott Once you've Mastered this season, you'll see a Spike in your appreciation. Enjoy, and have Faith, for now is the Dawn of your Glory.

Wait – I've gone too far.

Ryan R Scott, if you don't stop offering vague spoilers, I Mayor may not rip out your Adam's apple.

Scott When you're right, you're right. Somehow I'll make Amends for my failings with a Trio of apologies. I'll Hush.

Quinn Uh... Rejoyce with Band Candy in Doppelgangerland with pasty Willows.

Hell. I'm no good at this.

[Scott]

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Feb 4 • 7008.25-30

Cathy Read this. Now.

Anthony I'll read it after I finish reading some stuff I'm reading now.

Cathy Good lad.

Danny I like it when we boss Anthony around.

I Don't Like Ma Gorg

Feb 7 • 7058.1

John

I don't like her. Not her voice, not her nose, not her face. Mostly I dislike her face. It's very stiff and never seems to be in sync with the rest of her body. Pa Gorg's face is quite expressive, as is Junior's. Who dropped the ball on Ma? She seems altogether Krofftlike.

Sorry if this post sounds a little grouchy, but I couldn't hold it in for another twenty years.

Scott: Debt consolidation

Feb 7 • 7061.4

Joe ToughPigs.com: Where Muppet fans get all the answers for debt consolidation.

Muppet Central ain't got shit on us.

Meeting the Fraggles

Feb 15 • 7107.29

Peter

As for Live By the Rule of the Rock, there's been talk of what episodes will be included, but I wouldn't count on them having anything to do with the DVD title.

Volume 2, after all, had a lot less to do with Dancing Your Cares Away than How to Almost Kill Your Friends Without Really Trying.

New HIT DVDs

Feb 17 • 7142.11-22

Danny

I will be satisfied with plain old box sets. I hereby make a vow that if HIT releases plain old Fraggles Rock box sets, with all the episodes in order, and a theme song and credits on each episode, then I will never ask them for anything ever again.

No bonus features, no commentaries, no trivia quizzes, no interactive menus, nothin'. They could be in a plain brown wrapper for all I care. I just want the episodes.

Peter

HIT Rep: Well, we can't offer you opening *and* closing credits, but we do have this lovely episode of Pingu.

Kynan

<Tell us, what *does* a Vice-President, Business and Legal Affairs do? And sing it as a verse of "People In Your Neighborhood.">

Don't be ridiculous -- you can't sum up a complex job description in one silly verse. It's gonna take me at least four.

When your business makes a corporate deal,
Be it share buyout or Happy Meal,
Then you'll have to meet with suited squares
Like the VP, Biz and Legal Affairs

While your average corporate legal guy
Deals with contract law (traditionally dry)
A Henson Company lawyer's job is two-fold
Because the place is being constantly sold

Oh, he'll help you with your paperwork
Find legal snafus wherever they lurk
So when you're signing puppeteer Dave Goelz
You can rest assured there's no loopholes

While it's true your primary company goal
Might not revolve around his legal role;
If you end up someday getting sued,
Without him there, then buddy, you are screwed

Oh, the VP BLA's a person in your neighborhood
In your neighborhood, in your neighborhood
Yes, the VP BLA's a person in your neighborhood
A person that you meet when you're walking down the street
He's a person that you meet
Each day!

[Tom, Isha, Martha & Mark]

Commercials I hate

March 3 • 7176.41

Anthony I spent that year being conceived, growing as a young fetus, and, on the penultimate day of the year, being born.

1984. I don't know where I'd be without it.

[Ryan R]

Forum stats – Feb 05

March 3 • 7225.27

Ryan R

And once again Scott astounds. 554?! I don't think there was anything I did 554 times in February.

History-Related Movies?

March 10 • 7256.8

Quinn

They have the attention span of... I can't think of anything with the attention span of a 7th Grader. They have the attention span of Danny.

New HIT DVDs

March 10 • 7142.25-29

Warrick Okay, here we go... Japanese DVDs...

[Five volumes of Mother Goose DVD contents]

So, how many more are there to the set?

Carolyn *blinks* You mean there's more?

Warrick Yeah, there are a ton of these!

Joe Holy crap. What a waste of money and time. I mean, honestly. Wow.

Warrick What is?

Palisades Super Grover report...

March 19 • 7295.8

David S

I submit for your consideration: the wrong color blue.

Jim rumors

March 22 • 7072.21-34

Kevin I heard rumors. We all already know the ones surrounding his death. But I'd heard that he was a womanizer and that was sort of surprising.

Danny Dude, nobody could score like Jim could score. He was the master!

Jim Henson could walk into any bar in any city in the world, walk up to the most beautiful woman there, and take her back to his hotel room, where he'd make mad passionate love to her until the early morning hours.

Jim Henson could do your mom. He could do your sister. He made love to the most beautiful women alive, and make them cry and beg for more. In 1978, at least four percent of all the sex that was had in the world was had by Jim Henson.

There is no stronger aphrodisiac in the world than to walk up to a woman, look her straight in the eyes, and say, "I'm Jim Henson."

The ladies? They loved to love Jim Henson.

Smig I bet he was great with his hands.

[Ryan R & Scott]

Danny

I watched this movie, and yes, it's everything I hoped it would be. Sun, sand, lots of red food coloring in the water. At the beginning, a friend of the main characters is acting really sleazy at a club, and you say, that guy looks like shark bait to me. And sure enough, a couple scenes later, he's the first one to go.

The main character is the serious girl, whose dad wants her to be a business major, even though she wants to, like, major in anthropology, because she's always been taught that there's only one way to live, and she wants to know how other people live.

She has a serious love interest and a party-boy love interest. The serious love interest can't afford to go to college; he's there because his mom owns a fishing boat at that beach. You can tell that he's more grounded because he wears a plaid cutoff shirt.

He and the serious girl have their first big flirtatious scene in the bookstore next door to the loud club where the sleazy shark-bait guy is cheating on his girlfriend. The bookstore doesn't have any shelves, just big random piles of books on tables and odd pieces of furniture. (It's apparently called Heaps o' Books.) As they flirt, they reach out and pick up a random book from the nearest pile, flip through it without looking at it, and then put it back on the pile. They both do this. The guy does it three times.

The big climax on party beach is filmed on a cloudy day. A huge crowd of drunk partying kids is out on a floating party raft about a hundred feet from shore, and the sharks attack en masse. (PS: The serious girl's brother, like, wrote his dissertation on tiger sharks, and he says, that's weird, sharks don't usually feed in packs. By "don't usually" he means never.) The party-boy is on the raft, lying down on his stomach so he can flirt with a girl who's in the water. He tells her not to think: "Sharks can hear you think." Then suddenly she's jerked away, and pulled underwater, and from there on it's about five minutes of carnage and red food coloring.

Oh, this is a good time. Good, good movie. If there's ever a chance that you can see this, you should. When they called this Spring Break Shark Attack, they were essentially laying claim to the whole concept. There can never be another movie about sharks attacking kids on spring break. They've done it now; civilization can put a big check mark next to that, and move on to the next item on the list.

Atlantic City Blues

March 23 • 7348.2

John

I can no longer diss Garfield after winning big on his slot machine over at Trump Plaza. Thanks, little Garfield, you lasagna-slurping whore! You made daddy very happy, especially when those three bonus rounds came up and pushed my winnings up past \$100. Jim Davis is a genius!

John Would somebody please brain me with a frying pan for watching this? It's so unbelievably stoopid.

I guess because it's TVLand it has to be somewhat tame, but I'm a bit surprised at how bad the acting is. It's obviously scripted within an inch of its life, and no one outside of Farrah's payroll is given any camera time. It's very strange. Also, fans keep running up to Hot Fawcett and offering to build her buildings and give her diamonds. Is it still 1978?

If anyone knows of a way I can dislodge this show from my mental Tivo, please reply quickly.

Shawn Do that frying pan thing, that oughta work.

Danny PaWANNNNNGNNNNNGNNNNG

Scott Did you just get a boner?

Danny No, but good guess. That was the sound of John getting hit on the head with a frying pan. The sound of me getting a boner is very different.

Scott Does the sound of John getting hit on the head with a frying pan give you a boner?

Danny I can neither confirm nor deny that.

[Martha & Ryan D]

Quinn

His package is enormous.

And my name is on Grover's package.

And I took Grover's package to my mother-in-laws this morning, where we admired his package over biscuits and gravy.

And I think I'll take Grover's package to show my 7th Graders tomorrow.

British TV "series"?

April 4 • 7437.9

Carolyn Basically it's like this: Americans work too hard. I mean, not me personally, but the rest of the country.

[Michal]

Muppet Show music education

April 5 • 7345.70-71

Scott I only pretend to know something about classical music. I don't even know who Beethoven is.

Peter *Schroeder dies*

Powerpuff Girls

April 5 • 7440.17

Shawn It's Japan. It doesn't have to make sense.

Loonatics Petition

April 6 • 7450.5

Ryan R

Wow, that kid is motivated. Soldiers in Iraq signed it? So if Warner Bros. goes through with this, they hate America.

Danny

I'm starting this thread to support those of us who hate HIT.

We admit that we are powerless over HIT, and that our lives have become unmanageable.

We have made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to hating HIT as we understand it.

We have made a searching and fearless moral inventory of HIT's DVD release plans, and found intolerable shortcomings and defects of character.

We have had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps. We have tried to carry this message to other people who hate HIT, and we practice these principles in all our affairs.

In short: HIT sucks. Giving the DVD rights to HIT is yet another dumbass Henson decision that disrespects the work and shortchanges the fans. I curse HIT now, and forever. No more will I hope for good things from HIT. Licensees come and licensees go, but HIT will be with us always, a blight upon us and upon Jim Henson's work.

Only by recognizing this can we truly begin to heal.

John

You know, I hated HIT, not from the day I heard they were just stringing us along with Fraggle Rock single-disc sets with no intention of releasing full season packages, but from the day they proved it to be true. And that day was... well, the other day, when they announced disc four, "Those Meshuggener Doozers" or whatever they've titled it. What an obvious set-up they've crafted. I wasted daytime minutes calling those deceivers with my naive season-sets requests. Well I feel like a damned fool now.

Ryan R

HIT? More like sHIT!

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha! Ha!

No, but seriously, that sucks. What were they thinking? I'm actually not sure who I mean when I say "they." Quickly-- somebody give me a "they."

Carolyn I'm not even sure how I feel about buying the single discs anymore. I think I will buy them, but feel cheated and angry about it.

John I feel the same way about the single discs. I'm so tempted to just boycott.

Danny You can boycott if you like, but there's a non-zero chance that it'll be the only Fraggie DVDs we see.

To read the rest of this message, answer the following 12 trivia questions!

Peter Why should I hate HIT? HIT is going to give me season sets of Fraggie DVDs. They promised. They promised me that they would give me season sets. They lied, didn't they? Those fucking bastards lied to me! Why is life so unfair? Why does corporate America have such a stranglehold on my ability to enjoy life? You know what, though? Maybe we can start a letter writing campaign and put little chocolates in the envelopes. That way the folks at HIT will have chocolate and be happy and make season sets. Right? I mean, chocolate is better than a petition signed by 34,847 people. Oh, God. Thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and forty-seven signatures. It isn't enough. It will never be enough. Never.

I hate HIT!

Nick *Stands up from his chair* Hi, I'm Nick....

And I hate HIT for telling me they'd put out Fraggie season sets when I called them, and then changing their minds.

Danny Plus Animal Jam! Don't forget Animal Jam.

Ryan R

I'll agree that Eric's Fozzie is better than Frank's later Fozzie. That's a no-brainer. But I can't agree that Eric's Piggy is as good as Frank's later Piggy. Even when he wasn't given much to work with, Frank always delivered with the pig.

I still say Eric's Grover is better than Frank's later Grover, and I do think it's all about the energy.

Meanwhile, I think Steve's Rizzo is much better than Louise Gold's Rizzo, Bob McGrath's is better than Carroll's Bob, and Quinn's Walter Matthau is exactly as good as Martha's Pillsbury Doughboy.

[Ryan R]

Oz teaser ads

April 11 • 7465.24

Ryan D Oh, Scott. I love you like a fat kid loves cake.

Doug I'm a nerd. Complaining is what I do. You wouldn't believe how much I complained when I went to Toys R Us and they didn't have any of those free Yodas. Boy, I wouldn't shut up.

Daniel You gotta stand in the automatic doors and shake your fist.

Toys R Us hates that.

Muppets in the wild!

April 11 • 7491.4

Shawn

Why is Photoshop so often used for evil instead of good?

Random post

April 16 • 7525.4-19

Jog I GOTTA find a way to use the sentence "AHHHH! It's A NOSE." in everyday life.

Ryan R Suggestion: Use it when you see a nose.

Tom I think everyone's missing the point here.

What we need to do now, as Internet geeks, is constantly compare the new Pope to the old Pope. Does he sound like the old Pope? Does he have the right movement and mannerisms? Are his scripts as good as they used to be?

The litmus test will come when we hear the new Pope sing his version of "Bein' Green" with Ashanti.

Playing with Sababa Doozer PVCs...

April 20 • 7555.1-2

Jog ... why does the worker Doozer PVC with the yellow helmet have a fork in his toolbelt?

Isha In case he gets hungry.

Muppet Oz party planning

April 21 • 7085.61-62

Danny Why are the people in the Danny's Muppet Oz party thread pretending that there isn't going to be a Danny's Muppet Oz party?

Cause there is. As per the thread title.

Alaina I'm so psyched. I never knew that thread titles were legally binding.

Oz: Tribeca premiere

April 22 • 7564.8-10

Peter The April 27th premiere has been classified an invitation-only event.

A \$25 invitation-only event.

Joe Psshhhh, lame. So, are we in for the Saturday showing (since Michal can't attend Friday night's)?

Peter It is unbelievably insensitive of you to suggest that we attend a showing that you very well know I can't attend. Some friend you are.

You know what, though? Go ahead; take Michal. Get popcorn. Make babies for all I care!

Danny

Danny: "So what should I tell them?"

Shawn: "We made it! We're here."

Danny: "We're here, and we're in my house."

Shawn: "Let's give them a brief rundown of the day's activity."

Danny: "All right. I set out in my superhot Ford Freestar minivan, which is now named the New Roc City Non-Stop Party Machine -- and that's ROC because it stands for New Rochelle. And I drove it up to New Hampshire and straight into Shawn's loving arms."

Shawn: "Where my dad was present, to complain about his back and knees."

Danny: "Right. Good detail. That's the secret of good storytelling."

Shawn: "He did, however, help me load his bike into his back seat. Which could sound bad."

Danny: "This is not the story! You're not telling the story. We packed you up!"

Shawn: "Lightning quick! Quick like little bunnies."

Danny: "Ninja bunnies! So we packed up, what? Books and Transformers --"

Shawn: "And art supplies, and CD's and video games and clothes."

Danny: "And the drawing table."

Shawn: "Which fit in the van very nicely, thank you. Then we spent the night at a pal's. I wasn't getting any sleep, because I was alternating between excitement and guilt."

Danny: "And I got plenty, because I'm on good medication. And we woke up in the morning and headed out --"

Shawn: "To Store 24! Which I guess isn't around here, cause all there is is Wawa."

Danny: "Again, you're picking up on the crucial detail, rather than the main story, which is that we got away clean as a freakin' whistle."

Shawn: "Unscathed! She didn't know what hit her."

Danny: "And neither do we, cause it all happened offstage. We were gone before she knowed it. So we got the hell out of Shawn's nasty old town and headed out on the highway, screaming NEW ROC CITY!!!!!! at any conceivable opportunity. And then we went to a dinosaur museum!"

Shawn: "Which had quite a number of dinosaur tracks. And postcards."

Danny: "Which is exactly what you would imagine that Shawn and I would do upon entering into a road trip. It was that kind of trip. We saw a sign on the Connecticut highway for Dinosaur State Park, and naturally we couldn't resist that kind of candy."

Shawn: "Who could?"

Danny: "And it turned out to be AWEXOME -- "

Shawn: "As I said in their guest book."

Danny: "Cause it was a real actual fossilized dinosaur track area with a big dome built over it and museum exhibits. And basically the story is that Shawn and I had been together for, what, maybe fifteen hours at that point, and already we were at a dinosaur museum."

Shawn: "Then lunch at Friendly's, where much drawing with crayons occurred."

Danny: "And then more Connecticut. And more."

Shawn: "Because there's always gotta be more Connecticut."

Danny: "And I made a wrong turn and ended up driving through Manhattan for a little while."

Shawn: "Singing songs about driving through the Lincoln Tunnel, as fish, monsters, and little girls."

Danny: "And chickens. And then we were in New Jersey, as naturally we would be --"

Shawn: "And then I had to take a nap."

Danny: "And then before we knowed it, we were in Pennsylvania, and pulling up to my lovely little house. Do you like my house?"

Shawn: "Yes. It is lovely. And jammed to the rafters with Muppet stuff, as you'd expect."

Danny: "And you met Ed. Who is....."

Shawn: "Excellent. He wins many awards for achievements in excellence."

Danny: "And the kitties."

Shawn: "Oh, yeah, they're cuddly."

Danny: "And monkeys."

Shawn: "And they're insane."

Punkimonkey: "What? What are you saying about us?"

Shawn: "I'm sorry, nothing."

Danny: "And we had Chinese food and ice cream, and we played Disney Princess Uno with Ed --"

Shawn: "I would call it rousing."

Danny: "It was rousing. It was a rousing game of Disney Princess Uno, of which I am currently the house champeen. And now we're telling you all about it."

Shawn: "Yeah. That works."

Danny: "So, let's bottom-line it."

Shawn: "We're alive."

Danny: "You escaped! It worked."

(Crash from the other room as Ed drops a bunch of things.)

Danny: "Are you all right?"

Ed: "Yeah."

type-a type-a type-a

Danny: "So Amber is out of your life."

Shawn: "Which is for the better, because's she insane. Like, really, really insane."

Danny: "Word."

Shawn: "And now it's nothin' but a summer of fun on roller coasters."

Danny: "With monkeys."

Shawn: "Of course."

Danny: "So we're all good. Shawn's staying here for a little bit while he gets his own pad, and we're just gonna have wacky boystown clubhouse fun for a while, and we love you, and thanks for your good wishes, and everything worked out great so far."

Shawn: "Ding! That was a thumbs-up."

Danny: "Anything you want to say to the people?"

Shawn: "Uhhhhh... I'm tired."

Danny: "Me too. We're gonna go play video games. Hasta, my peeps. Peace out."

Danny

P.S.

NEW ROC CITY!!!!!!!!!!

WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

John

Well now you've done it, you've made me jealous. Come rescue me next!

Shawn

Do you have proof of an abusive girlfriend who practices one or more of the following:

Verbal Abuse
Physical Violence
Sleep Deprivation Tactics
Financial Abuse

If not, could you provide us with proof in the next 30 days?

John

Fortunately, I don't have a girlfriend practicing any of that kind of abuse on me. However, I am currently dealing with the following abusive, potentially fatal, situations:

* Co-workers who say "ain't".

I'll think of more later.

Tom

If the next Muppet production was directed by Frank, written by Jerry Juhl, with characters performed by Eric, I would explode and Disney executives would have to peel pieces of me off of the walls so that I could go buy all the associated merchandise.

[Carolyn & Scott]

Bo Bice!

May 4 • 7641.8

Cathy

Hmmm. Curious. Let's explore.

Jesus and Constantine, the similarities:

- * both sport the long hair look
- * both had many adoring female fans
- * both look to the greats as inspiration for their own careers
- * both spawned a public outcry when they were given the old heave-ho before their time was due

Jesus and Constantine, the differences:

- * Jesus doesn't suck

[Peter]

Danny

The problem with Harry Potter movies is that Harry Potter books are boring, and boring movies are even more annoying than boring books.

There, I've said it. Bring on your lightning bolts!

Overrated Henson Clips

May 10 • 7687.2

Scott

Kermit and the Little Girl counting to Cookie Monster? I must have seen it a million times, and I love it just a little more each time. And I tear up at the end because I'm a little sissy girl.

Mean toys

May 12 • 7709.1-2

Tiga

... And then this reminded me of a movie I saw when I was like really little up my Grum's on like a Christmas special or something and it was about toys and it was Christmas and like this little girl would get a toy on Christmas and that toy would be like all happy and whatnot but then the next year she would get a new toy and would totally forget like her old toy. I think the toy she had before was a doll and then she got like a stuffed dog or lion or something and it was about him and he didn't know what would happen and then like he was replaced by like a weird scary evil Barbie-ish hard plastic doll who was like evil. I remember after seeing this movie I started the whole apologizing to all my toys thing. I can't remember what it was called but I think it might have been Jim Henson for some reason. Or like puppetry anyway. Does anyone have a clue of what I am talking about?

John

Christ, no. Is someone spiking the TP water fountain again?

Kynan

This seems like a good thread to tell a Cute Baby Story from my Own True Life.

My 2-year-old Baby Friend Aidan loves talking on the phone. He answers the phone when it rings in our house, and will talk to pretty much anyone for a couple minutes before he says, "Get going now! Okay, bye."

Lately he's taken to asking if he can call people. Doesn't really matter who. "Call Aunty Steph? Call Lucy? Call Grandma?" If someone's busy, he'll just pick someone else. "Call Uncle Bruce?"

So I was out of town last weekend, and I got a call from my housemate Jess, Aidan's mommy. She said, "Hello, it's Jess speaking. Aidan was wondering if he could talk to Big Bird, please." It seems that after Aunty Steph's and neighbor Lucy's lines were both busy, Aidan's next choice was "Big Bird."

(It's worth pointing out here that we have the Gund Sesame puppets at home and Aidan is accustomed to having conversations with Bert, Ernie, Grover, Big Bird and Cookie Monster, but he's never spoken to any of them on the phone. It's also worth pointing out that I really don't do a Big Bird voice. Why Big Bird was his #3 choice to call last Sunday after his nap is anyone's guess.)

Anyway, Jess handed Aidan the phone and I gamely claimed to be Big Bird, an impersonation I pulled off chiefly by saying "la la la" a fair bit. We talked for a good five minutes, then he put his baby doll on the phone and told the doll to talk to the Bird. That didn't work out so well, so Aidan got back on and requested a duet of Jingle Bells, and Big Bird was more than happy to oblige.

Jess later told me she was watching Aidan the whole time and she's never seen him grinning so wide. Who knows what he really thought. Jess asked him about the call later in the day and Aidan said, "Aidan Big Bird tulla-phone. Baby doll tulla-phone. And Kynan!" Which either means the little genius was in on it from the start, or he just doesn't know what the hell he's talking about.

The moral of the story? Iunno, the power of imagination or some crap like that. I just dug talkin' like Big Bird for a bit.

Danny You're the best not-quite-dad in the world.

Kynan La la laaaaa.

John That story is even more adorable when one realizes the characters all have Australian accents. You've raised the bar.

Kynan

I got a million of 'em.

Palpatine knows Padme is pregnant. Why doesn't he know she has twins?

Okay, so he doesn't know it's twins. If he has the power to be the baddest dude in the universe right under the Jedi Council's nose, surely he can conjure up the power to, I don't know, CHECK that Padme's one baby didn't survive?

Padme loses her will to live when Anakin turns to the Dark Side, then lives long enough to see her babies, and still has no will to live. She's always been a strong-willed, independent woman. Even if Anakin's turn makes her want to die, how does it make sense that her maternal instincts don't override that despair? Does she have no sense of loyalty to her people anymore? If it isn't a character contradiction, at the very least it's lousy parenting.

A war between clones and robots is the most pointless subject to hang two entire movies on, ever. No casualties, no tragedy, no winners, no losers, no war. Not really a nitpick, just an observation. Pointless action is dull, I don't care how many 'splosions there are.

Speaking of which -- if the Clone Wars are so terrible, why does life go on as usual for everybody in the galaxy? There's no sense, anywhere, in any of the six films, that the ongoing battle between Good and Evil affects ANYBODY other than those directly involved in it. Every city we see, a steady stream of spaceship traffic indicates life going on as usual. Luke hates the Empire -- why? His stupid desert life would be just as excruciatingly dull under anybody else.

All the soldiers and senators who defect to the Emperor -- are they embracing the Dark Side, too? Wouldn't that have some fairly major trickle-down effects? There's bound to be paperwork involved with converting from one Side of the Force to the other.

Seriously, who the hell builds a planet on a volcano?

Isha

Obviously they were mining something. But that's all I got.

Ryan R Yeah, they had those little droids flying around harvesting lava. I'm not really sure why. Maybe they drink it.

Kynan Next nitpick: Yoda says he and Obi-Wan will reemerge "when the time is right" -- yet they wait for Luke to come to them, and then bitch and moan about him being too old to train. Stupid little Jedi.

Ryan R Kynan, you've brought up a lot of good questions, but let me ask you this: Did you go into the film looking for as many little details to nitpick about as you could find?

Danny I think Kynan and I have the same nitpicking type brain. I go into a movie wanting to be entertained, naturally, as everybody does, and I'm totally willing to suspend my disbelief and enjoy myself.

But I also tend to think ahead a bit. So if a character is in their house and someone is threatening them, I think, well, they should just go to the kitchen and grab a big knife.

In a good movie, at that moment, the character goes into the kitchen and grabs a big knife. Or at least they try to, or they somehow acknowledge that they're thinking the same thing. If they just stand there and look scared, then that character is stupid, and the movie is stupid, and they think that I'm stupid, and it makes me very very cranky. And then I can't enjoy the movie anymore.

So I don't go into the movie looking for things to nitpick at. I want them to go get the knife. It's not my fault if they don't.

Scott I think you and Kynan's imagination is broken.

Danny My imagination works fine when it's being used for the right purpose; it just breaks down when it's being used to fill in the gaps for a lazy script.

If I'm supposed to watch a bad movie and imagine that I'm watching a good movie, then I might as well stay home, where I can imagine just as well, and I have the bathrooms to myself.

Kelly?

May 22 • 7769.8-13

Danny

So I guess the scene went like this:

Dorothy: "Kelly?"

...

Dorothy: "KELLY?"

...

Dorothy: "Kelly! My god! Are you all right? Answer me!"

...

Dorothy: "Holy crap. Somebody call 911!"

Joe

Dorothy: "Kelly?"

Kelly: "I can't believe they cut my line."

Peter

Dorothy: "Kelly?"

Kelly: "Can you hear me? I'm on the other side of the fourth wall."

[Ryan R]

Danny

I thought Rickey's Scooter was good, and when I watched it again, I thought it was even better. As with all recasts, I think you have to hear it a few times so you can wrap your brain around the fact that it's not Richard. Once you do that, Rickey sounds great.

Especially compared to Brian's Scooter in VMX, which was really pretty bad. The only thing worse than Brian's Scooter was Brian's Janice, and the only thing worse than Brian's Janice was Brian selling the company to EM.TV.

[Carolyn]

Danny

"Well i have watched the whole movie and im in love with the whole thing. Ashnta is kind of cute, and im not really into black Girls but i thought she was really cute. Know i dont want all the black people to get mad after that but im white and i grew up thinking black people where mean and now im learnig diffreent."

"I don't think I caught too many other risque scenes, except perhaps when Beaker and Bunsen looked pretty chummy with the arms on each other's backs during Dorothy's song for the Wizard. But I'm not going to say anything about that because good friends can do that and there doesn't have to be anything wrong with it."

"A lot of folks seem dissappointed by this movie, but honstley, what did you expect? You cant possibly think that they're latest movies will be as good as the originals. I mean, that's why they're CALLED originals."

"Jim Henson Courpes is doing backflips!!!! THAT WAS DEGRATING!!!!!! IT FUTURE MUPPET PROJECT DEPEND ON THAT WE ARE SCREWED!!!!!!"

"Now that almost every TV series/cartoon has been trashed by the film industry, it does not surprise me that greedy Disney Corporation (a.k.a., slave owners, ask their employees) would TRASH The Wizard of Oz. They cast a girl who clearly comes from a garbage heap herself. The opening sequence was nothing but a promotion for her CD (WHO would buy that garbage??) The writing was awful, full of urban trash jokes, and of course, they always have to throw in a burp. WHY is that funny? It is disgusting. People who burp are disgusting. I will try to organize as many people as I can to RIOT ABC."

"I was offended right away by Ashanti's comments about 'getting out of Kansas to become someone'. I am from the midwest, and I'm really sick of the entertainment industry treating us as a bunch of red neck losers who never leave their state because they have no ambition."

"I am SO glad that finally someone else spoke out about how DISGUSTING burping jokes are in films. WHO are these writers anyway? Do they come from hillbilly upbringings or something? Every time I see a movie that has a burp joke -- I don't watch it. Unfortunately, I didn't see that coming in this film."

"This is without a shadow of a doubt the most embarrassing, horrific, and grotesque excuse for a Muppet production ever. It was literally like watching a car accident replayed over and over... I hope no non Muppet fan tuned in...as seeing this 2 hour holocaust is enough to convince anyone the Muppets are long dead... As far as I'm concerned, this is the Abu Ghirabe prison photos of the Muppet legacy."

Cathy Wow, 2 hour holocaust. Harsh. Where'd these come from?

Jess IMDb message board?

Danny Nope, guess again.

Martha Gotta be Muppet Central.

John I'm glad there's an MC, so none of that crap has to happen here.

Danny I kind of love it now. I think I've gone through hating Muppet Central and come out the other side. I can appreciate the lunatic beauty of it now. I actually went there on purpose this time, just to see what I could see, and I mined these gorgeous little nuggets.

I can't wait to see what Muppet Central becomes after, say, two years, when there's a lot of Disney-released stuff and the ranks start to swell. Who knows what might happen. It could become something achingly beautiful. The best days of Muppet Central are still ahead, and by best I mean nuttiest.

John Well I hope that doesn't mean you'll be opening the floodgates here for every Tom, Dick, and Punknpuppets to just waltz right in.

Danny Oh, no, definitely not. I like it from a distance. It's thrilling to watch acrobats, but you wouldn't want them living in your house, suspending themselves from your light fixtures. No.

Most gratuitous Oz joke?

May 24 • 7797.6-11

John I don't think anyone would be complaining about the one-liners if they were a little more inspired. That said, I disagree that they'll date the movie in a bad way. I think those references will be more hilarious in years to come, after we've forgotten they've already been the punchlines in a thousand UPN sitcoms.

Danny Yeah, "that joke isn't funny" is a point that I can respect, even if I happen to disagree with it, cause that's a matter of taste.

I just don't like it when people are saying "that joke is dated, and people won't understand it in 15 years," on account of who cares, or when they're saying "that joke is offensive," on account of how offensive is a Girls Gone Wild reference.

I mean, if those are just stand-ins for "it didn't make me laugh," then fine.

The one joke that I didn't care for on the "dated" grounds is actually "what happens in the Emerald City stays in the Emerald City" -- just because it's overused right now. Like you say, the robot assassins of 2194 will probably think that line is hilarious.

Scott Are these individuals who assassinate robots, or are they robots who are assassins?

Danny First one, then the other.

You know how those scenarios tend to go.

[Kynan]

Shawn

The other thing is I've just started reading the Sandman graphic novels. I always put them off because of their popularity. Of course, I'm completely screwing it up and reading the series in reverse order, but so what. I also don't care when people tell me how movies end. I got bigger fish to fry.

TP Meet in NYC – Pictures!

May 31 • 7832.6-13

Isha I wanna see the pic of me between Michal's legs.

Michal Where was I when this picture was taken?

Isha I believe you were saying, "Isha is between my legs. Ryan, take a picture."

[Ryan R]

Quinn's New Customs...

June 1 • 7698.43-44

Cathy By god man, is there anything you CAN'T do?

Quinn *thinks*

No.

Oz: Liking everything

June 2 • 7794.9-10

Kynan

ENTHUSIASM!

BOUNCING!

EXCLAMATION MARKS!

TAMBOR, TAMBOR, TAMBOR!

Martha

Kynan seems to have turned into a Tamborine.

Creature Shop closing?

June 2 • 7858.4-6

Tom Okay, if JHC sold off the Muppets, what sense does it make to sell off the Creature Shop? That's all they have left at this point.

Ryan R And now here's Danny to say something disparaging about Brian.

Danny Brian smells like cabbage.

[Ryan R & Isha]

Snuffy the cloud

June 2 • 7850.13-14

Daniel I'm surprised Hooper's is even open anymore. They can't be bringing in much money.

Jess The store stays open the same way that Bert and Ernie pay rent. It's made possible by grants from the Carnegie Corporation, the power of imagination, and viewers like you.

[Ryan R]

Sesame figures

June 3 • 7498.51

Shawn

And I'm glad there won't be backdrops, as it makes the figures less expensive and less... take-up-space-y.

Fraggle Rock Book Club Commercial

June 6 • 7882.2-18

- David H** What an interesting way to... er... dance when saying, "I loooooove Fraggle Rock."
- Danny** Do you see what I'm saying about Muppet fans being gay? Do you see it now?
- Stephane** I totally remember that commercial! Also, if my television randomly vomited books at me, I'd wink salaciously too. Or run screaming in terror.
- Peter** If anything could make me Gay Fraggle Dance, it would be a television that free books come out of.
- Aw, what the hell.
- *Gay Fraggle Dances anyway*
- Danny** By the way: If he loves Fraggles so much, why does he turn it off right after the opening theme ends?
- Ryan D** Isn't it obvious? It's impossible to watch TV and do the gay Fraggle dance at the same time. Gay Fraggle dancing is more important. Duh.

[Ryan R]

Favorite TMS episode

June 7 • 7874.22

Anthony Jog, you're the only person I know of who can't chop his list of favorite Muppet Show episodes any smaller than 34.

Good work.

Oz: Twenty minutes

June 7 • 7891.1-7

Danny Disney has said that on the DVD, the *Muppets' Wizard of Oz* movie will be 20 minutes together. What do you think happens in that twenty minutes?

Joe A 12-minute rendition of "Gotta Get Out of Kansas".

3 minutes of Rizzo's "Girls Gone Wild" fantasy.

2 minutes of Bean Bunny falling off of things.

4 minutes, 58 seconds of Jeffrey Tambor's toupee.

2 seconds of, "Kelly?"

[Ryan R]

Loonatics Strike Again

June 7 • 7899.10-12

Tom Hey, Danny, what happened to post #6? Delphi sent me the notification, but you deleted it.

Danny It was a non-funny joke. That's what a deleted message always means, that somebody posted something and then ten seconds later decided that it sounded dumb.

Peter I'm supposed to delete that stuff?

Danny

Does he concede if you get past 20 questions?

He got Death Star in 17, which only makes sense. The last question before he guessed it was, "Do you use it on a farm?" Which I guess means that there's something in the world that's just like a Death Star, except you use it on a farm. A Farm Star, maybe. So if you've narrowed it down to those two choices, then you just ask do you use it on a farm, and then you know whether it's the Death Star or the Farm Star.

Mother Goose DVDs cancelled

June 15 • 7944.2

Kynan

This makes me worry about HIT's ongoing commitment to releasing crappy products.

Danny

Yeah, I personally need to go find Kynan and smack him in the back of the head for telling me to see Batman Begins. When I told Ed that we should go see it, I said that everybody on the forum liked it. He said: "Everybody? Did Kynan like it?" And I said, yeah, Kynan said it was great, that's why I want to go. And he said, okay, if Kynan likes it.

That's a true fucking story. So now Kynan owes me and Ed and Shawn two and a half hours of our lives, plus \$9.50 each.

I know, some people here like it, but it wasn't for me. The movie had absolutely no sense of humor, which for me is the strongest possible criticism. When we walked out, Ed actually said to me, "Are you sure Kynan liked it?" And I said, I think so. Ed asked if it was possible that Kynan was kidding.

Dear Kynan: Dude, how could you like this depressing, boring car accident of a movie? It just doesn't make sense. The one thing I liked in the whole movie was when he blew the monastery up, and that's only because I'd been spending the previous forty-five minutes wishing I could blow it up myself.

And now here's Dorothy Parker to explain my problem with Batman Begins. Take it away, Dorothy:

"Now, I know that the term 'sense of humor' is dangerous, and that humor is snooted upon, in a dignified manner, by the lofty-minded. Thus, Professor Elmer More raises a thin and querulous pipe in his essay on Longfellow -- I think it is -- to say that there were those who claimed that Longfellow had no humor -- of whom I am the first ten. All right, suppose he hadn't, he says, in effect; humor may be all very well for those that like it, but there's no good making a fetish of it.

"I wouldn't for the world go around making fetishes; yet I am unable to feel that a writer can be complete without humor. And I don't mean by that, and you know it perfectly well, the creation or appreciation of things comic. I mean that the possession of a sense of humor entails the sense of selection, the civilized fear of going too far.

"A little humor leavens the lump, surely, but it does more than that. It keeps you, from your respect for the humor of others, from making a dull jackass of yourself. Humor, imagination and manners are pretty fairly interchangeably interwoven."

Kynan

Geez, now I got you AND Dorothy Parker on my case?

Here's what I think. A friend summed it up thusly: "Forget superheroes, this is just a good FILM." Someone in this thread might have pointed out, this is like what Ang Lee was trying to do with Hulk, only Ang Lee accidentally failed on every possible level.

If you want a "superhero" movie, watch Spider-Man, X-Men, Fantastic Four and Bryan Singer's Superman. With the coolness and the cars being thrown around and the ohmigosh he's flying right at me. Which has always been the case with Spider-Man, X-Men, Fantastic Four and Superman, on film and in the books. They're big, splashy comics. (I'm generalizing -- Spidey and the X-Men are usually pretty introspective too, but you get the point.)

Batman, he's a detective and a dude with issues and he happens to wear a cape. And Nolan's Batman Begins, for me, really nailed that. To me, the best Batman books are about the psychology of the characters. The best Batman villains are the ones who mess with Batman's head. And so it follows that the best Batman film would be one which takes the man inside the suit seriously. Nearly -- but not quite -- as seriously as he takes himself.

I really enjoyed Batman Begins as a film, which is why I came out saying 'best superhero movie ever' -- it's the first superhero movie I've seen that -- in my humble, disappointing-Ed-horribly-opinion -- works as a film first, and as a popcorn blockbuster second. Which I can't say about Spider-Man and the X-Men films -- I loved those, they were fantastic entertainment, but I still came out asking questions about dumb plot stuff.

So I would guess that anyone going in expecting fireworks and swinging from buildings and other superhero stuff might come out disappointed. There isn't really a big A-HAAAAH! applause-worthy moment, like there is the first time Chris Reeve rips open his shirt. But that's kind of the point. I think Nolan wants audiences to believe in the film, and get lost in it, rather than spend the whole time going, wow, this is a cool film.

And as for you, Dorothy: There are like four or five really funny lines in the film, which you would have realized if you weren't so busy scribbling arch comments in your leather-bound notebook that you could 'spontaneously' ad lib later. Take THAT, dead writer lady!

Danny

But that's the thing, that this isn't a good film.

[Note to people who don't like conflict: Kynan and I are gonna have a little Batman Begins ninja throwdown for a second. I'm not saying that people can't like the movie, and if you do, that's great. I'm just saying that Kynan can't like this movie, and I can prove it.]

I don't want four or five funny lines, that's not the point. The point is that the movie itself didn't have a sense of humor -- and therefore, as Dorothy P suggests, it didn't have a sense of perspective.

Bruce isn't just a dude with issues. He's a dude with issues that goes and does nonsensical things. When his parents get shot right in front of him, he just grows up and goes to Princeton -- a basically normal if somewhat emotionally stunted person. He brings a gun to the guy's parole hearing -- which is foolish and tragic, but understandable. Then the guy gets shot anyway, and Bruce gets slapped by Katie Holmes, and then laughed at by a mean mob boss.

And then what does Bruce go and do? Why, he gets on a ship headed for China and becomes a member of the criminal underworld for seven years. Which you have to do in China for some reason, even though Gotham City is apparently the crime capital of the universe. Then he gets trained in ninja skills. Then he comes home and tells Alfred what he's been up to, and that he's planning to set up shop in a cave, dress up in a rubber suit and fight crime.

At this point, any reasonable facsimile of a human being would say, but dude, that's crazy. You're out of your mind, that's not what people ever do. It's like me losing my job and then deciding to dress up like a chicken for the rest of my life. But instead of recommending a good therapist to help the dude work through his issues, Alfred just kind of crinkles up his nose and tells him that his father would be proud. People keep telling Bruce that his father would be proud of him, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

And then everybody does stuff like that through the whole movie. When the Fu Manchu guy tells Bruce that he's going to wipe out crime by destroying all of Gotham City, Bruce takes him seriously, rather than laughing and telling him that that's idiotic. Everybody takes everybody completely seriously, no matter how ridiculous and pretentious they might be.

A functional sense of humor would help the characters to get some perspective on what they're doing, to have some appreciation for how weird this all is. They don't have to make jokes about it; there just has to be a recognizable glimmer in their eyes that says that there's a person inside.

You didn't like Spiderman 2 -- partly because of the plot holes, but mostly because of the flaws in the characterization. But Batman Begins doesn't have any likeable people, and those people act entirely contrary to human nature.

PS. Also, Katie Holmes doesn't get any older in seven years, or even change her hairstyle, and Rutger Hauer looks like somebody's grandma.

Danny

PPS. The one really funny moment in the movie is when Gary Oldman brags to Bruce about how amazingly stealthy ninjas are, and then a ninja falls down from the ceiling right behind him. And without turning around, Gary says, You see? There's one now.

That scene could be in any Naked Gun movie with no questions asked.

Scott

That's the point of a superhero. He or she doesn't do what he or she does because he or she can, but because he or she knows that it's the right thing to do. And that's heroics.

I get that you didn't like it, but you're not making a good argument for it by pointing out plot holes that don't exist. The script was incredibly tight leaving very little open to question as to why something happened.

Peter

It should be pointed out that any thermomicro-nucleowave machine that can vaporize water through steel pipes hundreds of feet away but can't penetrate human skin to vaporize the water molecules that comprise 70% of our bodies is a pretty lousy thermomicro-nucleowave machine.

Scott The scientists who would make thermomiconucleowave machines are smarter than you and I. If they can conceive of a thermomiconucleowave machine that could be calibrated to evaporate concentrated water laced with a drug with specific properties and not be harmful to the water contained in animal cells, I still wouldn't understand it how it works. I shouldn't have to in order to get the simple plot device delivered in Batman Begins. They can save explanations for the Illustrated Technical Guide for Warp Drives, the Tardis and Thermomiconucleowave Machines.

Danny I would generally agree with you, as it relates to warp drives and the TARDIS. You can use technobabble to cover up fake science all you want, and that's fine with me. You can even have a thermonuclear reactor that blows up because somebody spills water on the console and I'll be okay with it, as long as the people involved are attractive and the monster looks cool.

What you can't do is say that a person who gets hit by this ray evolves into a lizard, like they did in that Star Trek episode, because that means that you don't know what evolution is. If you're going to invent science of the future, then you ought to have a decent handle on the science of the present.

Kynan I agree with Scott, and also Peter, but not Danny. I will make some more time soon to disagree with Danny in specific detail, but for now:

Nyah nyah, nyah, I'm right and you're wrong. Plus, I had fun in the movie and you didn't. Who's smarter NOW?

Danny But then I just feel betrayed and sad.

Kynan Oh, that's no good, sweetcakes!

In that case, have this picture of Bear on a trampoline.



Anthony I really liked it. I liked that Gordon wasn't a pissed-off buffoon, I liked many other things that people have already brought up. Yeah, I'm a fanboy, but I'm a happy one.

Danny Gordon was good, I'm happy to concede Gordon. He was the one thing I liked about the movie that I'm not being sarcastic about. His best moment was talking to the commissioner on the walkie-talkie, and they tell him that there's nobody to send, and he says, so I'm alone out here? And then the Batmobile jumps across.

There's a similar moment in Attack of the Clones for me, the big gladiator sequence when they fight all those monsters. When I saw Clones, I thought, man, if the whole movie was like this, I'd be enjoying myself. Gordon on the walkie-talkie was the gladiator sequence of Batman Begins.

Kynan I watched it again last night with my friend Jellyfish, and I loved every single second of it all over again, while she was bored senseless for the first 45 minutes. But she was right back with me by the end. I honestly, I don't know what to say.

I just love love love this movie. I give it five gold ninja stars out of five. It gives me hope for the future of Gotham. It makes me feel proud to be a costumed crimefighter. It makes me want to rent Insomnia and Memento and watch them simultaneously while I dance Batman action figures around in front of the screens.

Danny

You realize that you sound hypnotized, right? Maybe if I snap my fingers, you'll wake up.

Shawn Anybody hear about this Buddy Tappett guy? Apparently he's making strides in the field of renewable food sources.

Danny Dude, are you drunk? Why are you posting about our edible starfish thing at 3:55am?

Translation: On Sunday, Shawn and I started working on a spontaneous comic book. We turned on the TV, and whatever we saw, we came up with a comic book idea. It happened to be a guy on the Science Channel talking about starfish research, so our comic book is about Buddy Tappett, who's doing research on how to make edible starfish. It's brilliant, we have the whole plot worked out now.

Secondary translation: Shawn is drunk.

Shawn Argh! You so ruined it. This was supposed to be a great viral marketing campaign.

Danny Oh, darn it. You should give me a heads-up before getting drunk and starting viral marketing campaigns.

[Isha]

Stella

June 24 • 7982.14

Nick

I think you're teasing me, but I'm not bright enough to be sure. So, I'll just assume you're being genuine.

[Scott]

John I was wondering when we here at TP were going to start charting the progress of Tom's lunacy. It's certainly making for an interesting summer! I never would have thought Lauer would have the balls to confront such a big star. I bet he's got celebrity softball pitcher Diane Sawyer eating her heart out.

Cathy, I love that open letter. You really clear my thetans, girl!

Danny The Superficial linked to an interesting article at Fox News, which says that Katie Holmes was missing for 16 days in April.

She flew to LA to meet with Tom about a role on Mission Impossible 3, and they had their meeting on April 11th. The next time anybody saw her was April 27th, when all of a sudden she was the love of Tom's life, she'd fired her long-time manager and agent, and she had a new best friend whose father is a prominent Scientology supporter.

I'd say that girl's been hypmotized.

John Here's a terribly interesting article/ interview with Katie Holmes. And by "terribly interesting," I mean to say "oh my goodness, they drilled out her brain and replaced it with a Mallomar."

Kynan The way this guy describes Katie's mantra-like responses is EXACTLY the experience we saw when Rove interviewed Katie via satellite a month or so back.

Rove was deliberately not asking questions about Tom, but he did at one point use the word "relationship" (in a question about what it was like to grow up in the media spotlight) and you could SEE her change gears. She absolutely glazed over. "I'm just so happy right now, and I love my life, and I'm in a really great place," she said, and she didn't answer any of his questions after that, she just kept reading from this bizarre script in her head. "I mean, I'm just really happy and really lucky and I'm so happy that I'm so lucky and it's so great." I'm paraphrasing, but it doesn't matter.

Oh, and: Two weeks after that, Rove interviewed Tom, also via satellite. When Rove joked about Tom's jumping on the chair during the Oprah appearance, Tom jumped up on the chair. Rove said, "Just don't punch the floor." So Tom punched the floor.

Crazy. As. A. Smurf.

Danny I'm looking forward to the headline Tom Cruise Attempts Suicide By Jumping From Chair.

Cathy The ultimate karma would be for him to get a wicked case of postpartum depression that would require the use of antidepressants. But that probably won't happen. Would it still be karma if she got postpartum?

(And no, I'm not wishing it on her, because it is an awful thing for any woman to go through. But it would be ironic.)

Quinn We don't want Katie to get it. We want Katie to get help. What if Tom just harvests the baby and then ditches her?

Danny Between Kal-EI Cage, Zahara Jolie and the TomKitten, the next generation of celebrity spawn is gonna be a sight to behold. Look out, Beverly Hills High!

Muppet Merchandise sale

June 24 • 8003.4

John

If it's any consolation, I want all of that stuff. All of it! Even the Muppet Babies plushes.

But I promised I wouldn't go overboard on collecting plushes until I'm officially old, lonely and insane. Contact me in about five years.

Danny

Yeah, the nephews went from being dangerous delinquents in the comic strips, to lazy layabouts in the early Barks stories, and then became upstanding, brilliant Junior Woodchucks about halfway through Barks' run. For the most part, they take care of Unca Donald, rather than the other way around, which makes the early strips and stories really odd in retrospect.

And yeah, Dumbella. The comic strip storyline was loosely based on that cartoon, even though the strips debuted before the cartoon came out. I think the strip writer changed Dumbella to Della because the original name sounded, well, dumb.

Luckily for people who obsess about this stuff, that means the nephews' mother is Della, because who cares about the cartoons.

Scott

So what's the geek answer accounting for Phooey? Dimensional warp?



Danny

Strangely enough, there isn't one. Disney fans have enough geek in them to know about Phooey, but not enough geek to try to explain him. Phooey just is, intermittently.

The actual reason why Phooey exists -- and maybe this is geek enough, that I know this -- is that it's common for Disney artists to draw four nephews in a panel in different poses, so they can erase the bad-looking one and just ink in the three good looking poses. So Phooey exists when the artist forgets to erase the fourth one, and nobody catches it.

I love Phooey. He's mysterious and exciting.

Ryan R

I sort of remember the first episode of DuckTales, when Donald joined the Navy and sent the nephews to be with Scrooge because they needed a place to live. And I thought, why can't they just go live with their mother?

Stupid, deadbeat Dumbella... probably living in Canada somewhere with her boyfriend.

[Kynan]

Roger Ebert gets Hollywood star

July 1 • 8020.16

Ryan R

I've always gotten the impression that it would be pretty easy to punch Leonard Maltin and take away his lunch money.

[Kynan]

Quinn: Melissa update...

July 2 • 7727.35

Quinn

As of right now, Melissa's doing pretty well. Her handwriting is probably 90% of normal, and she has good strength and control in her right arm again. She tends to drop things when she's tired, but she also tends to run into walls, so I don't know that that's MS related. It could just be my wife.

Miles also runs into walls.

And Carter does too.

I've got a dumb family.

Smurfs or Snorks?

July 2 • 8033.58

Quinn

They've gotta still be making em in Europe...Smurfs are still huge over there.
Or very small.

Jonathan: I hate Middle School

July 2 • 8046.8-10

Shawn ...and if all else fails, it's Flamethrower Time.

...I mean, it's NOT Flamethrower Time. No sir. Definitely not.

See how I didn't encourage impressionable youths, just then?

Ryan D Encouraged me.

Shawn Two words:

Nunchuck lessons. Totally.

Three. Three words.

[Kynan]

TMS Gonzo puzzle

July 3 • 8055.5-6

Danny

Isn't it wonderful to think that there was a moment in our history when it was totally acceptable for Milton Bradley to make puzzles based on random, weird looking shots like that? The Muppets were so popular, they could basically do anything.

Shawn

If Tough Pigs had been around then, we'd all have been complaining about what a horrible shot they used.

Of course, it would have been in a fan newsletter, and come out six months after the puzzle had been released.

Creature Shop closing?

July 4 • 7858.39

Danny

Yup, "freelance" equals temps. I would've put this on my news page, but then I got this overwhelming sense of not caring.

BTL Plush

July 5 • 8068.1-11

Scott How come there are no Between the Lions plush?

Scott Check eBay Scott. You can find some stuff there. But I can't find any vendors selling them new on Google or Froogle.

Quinn No wonder you have all these freaking posts--you've been talking to yourself this whole time!

Tom I think it's strange when posters talk to themselves.

Tom So do I.

Quinn Dork.

Tom Hey, you mess with him, you mess with both of us.

Quinn Dorks.

[Cathy]

March of the Penguins

July 5 • 8049.10

Scott

Gillian got bored during the sex scene, but it was over quick. Much like her own conception.

[Kynan]

Anthony #8 all-time! I feel like I'm the captain of the B squad!

Or, assuming sports references aren't allowed, I feel like I'm the highest rated show on the WB.

Danny Nice save.

Danny

Oh, what a great episode. If a Big Brother season is only as good as the people are stupid, then this is going to be a very good season indeed.

Rachel's search for the secret room was like an episode of Law & Order: Special Olympics Unit. First up, the camerapeople basically had to show her where to look for the first clue, because she'd been in the HoH room for three days and she didn't think to open the books. There aren't any books allowed in the Big Brother house; they can't have books or paper. So Rachel finds four books in her bedroom, and it doesn't occur to her to look at them. Nice.

She finds the first clue, and then she goes downstairs and sits in the kitchen and makes Thinking Faces. James asks if she's okay, cause he's never seen anybody over the age of six make Thinking Faces. Most of the time, grown-ups do their thinking on the inside of their heads, so that their faces are free to do other things.

Her solution is to just look around at stuff. She finds the second clue under the compass, which gives her very clear instructions on exactly how to find the secret room -- with directions and number of paces and everything. Now, if somebody told you to go to this part of the house and then walk south-south-west, you would maybe think that this would be a good time to have a compass with you. And it sure would make life easier *if you actually had a compass in your hands at that exact moment*. So what does Rachel do? She puts the compass back down, walks into the room, and just starts banging around on the walls until she hears something snap.

And then the other people are, like, wow, Rachel is a force to be reckoned with in this house.

So that was good. What else was funny? Well, Eric is apparently a complete emotional wreck, for one thing. There was that scene where he was talking about being a fireman, and he got all choked up and started to cry, and apparently we were supposed to be impressed by his passion and commitment. But that didn't really work, cause it looked to me like somebody said to him, "Hey, Eric, what's it like being a fireman? I bet it's really intense." And then he just worked himself right up into that state all by himself. Which makes you wonder if maybe he gets that way every time he thinks about being a fireman, which you would imagine would be all the time, since he is one.

But the great thing about Big Brother is that as soon as you say that Eric is emotionally damaged, then along comes somebody who's even more emotionally damaged, namely Kaysar. My favorite Kaysar scene was when he asked Beau what he could do to make people like him more, and Beau was, like, maybe you could smile more? Or maybe show interest in people when they talked? And then Kaysar just looked away and grimaced.

But he really turned it around at the end of the episode, and he said, you know, I'm going to do everything I can to make friends with these people. I'm going to get close to people as much as I can, and try to form some emotional bonds that'll make people want to keep me in the house.

No, of course he didn't. What he actually said was: I'm gonna fight to stay in this house. I'm gonna come back at them twice as hard; they won't know what hit them. Which is so much better than the other thing would have been.

Ryan R Bozark blows?!

Though I completely support your dislike for the drivel that is Animal Jam, I must disagree with your dissin' on Bozark.

Bozark is the hippest, hottest, rockin'-est dancing elephant around. Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, MC Hammer... Great dancers all, but they can't hold a candle to the big blue elephant who never fails to rock the house.

If big, blue, dancing elephants were eligible to run for president, Bozark would win the election in a landslide. A big, blue, dancing landslide.

Bozark rules. Word.

[Kynan]

Danny

Somehow, I've slipped into the parallel dimension where people like Batman Begins and hate Fantastic Four. Because from where I'm sitting, Batman Begins was incredibly boring, and Fantastic Four was INCREDIBLY AWESOME.

I loved it! It was fun and exciting, and soapy, and ridiculous. And because it was nothin' but a crazy fun superhero movie, all the weird plot holes and goofy parts just made me giggle, and love it all the more.

My favorite parts:

#1. The five of them clearly DIE in space. They fly up to the satellite thingy, just the five of them, cause naturally that's what you would do, and then the big cloud of space magic comes flying at them, and it's coming even faster than we thought it would come, for some reason that we don't understand cause we don't even know what it is! And then there's a big exciting scene where Michael Chiklis tries to jump through space faster than the ever-accelerating cloud of space magic! And then we see them DIE! I don't know what the hell we actually see, but something happens to all of them, and they kind of get ripped apart, and then, as far as I can figure, they die.

#2. And then they're on Earth! And not dead or anything! And it's never explained at all how they could possibly have survived. Who was conscious? Who piloted the shuttle back to Earth? Was anything actually damaged? Didn't they die? In lieu of an explanation, there's a funny scene with Johnny and Ben, and then they just move on and forget all about it.

#3. Johnny fills the same role that Keanu Reeves did in the Matrix -- to sum up everything that the audience is supposed to think is cool. In his very first scene, he's riding on a motorcycle! And kissing on a lady! Who's driving a convertible! And then he winks and just driiiives away. Then he pilots a spaceship! And then he checks himself out of the hospital and goes snowboarding with the hot nurse! And then he crashes into the snow and makes his own personal hot tub! And he invites the hot nurse to join him! And then she does! It's awesome. I love Johnny.

#4. And then, just when you think he's done every boy fantasy possible, he leaves the Baxter Building... and goes to the X-Games!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I laughed and laughed.

#5. My favorite character in the movie is the lady on the bridge who screamed, NO, HE'S A HERO! when the police were trying to arrest Ben. She's the spiritual descendant of the Save My Baby lady. I only wish that I could hire that woman to follow me around, and whenever anybody gave me any static, she could shout, NO, HE'S A HERO! And then everything would be okay.

#6. Also, in the bridge sequence: The fire truck is aimed at the edge of the bridge, and it's about to go over. We see the driver shield his eyes... and then the dalmatian next to him shields his eyes with his paw! Genius.

#7. I loved absolutely everything about the machine that was supposed to turn them back into normal people. When Reed showed the blueprint for it, Ed laughed so hard that he doubled over in his seat. It's the perfect movie blueprint. Insert person in here, and then the cosmic space magic will move from HERE to THERE. It's two easy steps!

#8. The movie takes place in post-9/11 New York. But every time huge crazy shit goes down on a public street, there doesn't seem to be any real response from the police or Homeland Security. They do the big climactic fight with Victor right in the middle of an intersection, and the New Yorkers just stand around and watch. (Since it's New York, it's too bad they didn't show people rolling their eyes as they walked around the fight on their way to a Starbucks.) Victor picks up Ben and smashes him down on the ground with a shattering crunch, and all the old ladies around the side say, oooh, and they back up about a step.

It was just a wonderful movie, pure reckless joy up there on the screen. I loved every minute of it. Anybody who didn't like it is just a big grumpypuss.

Yes, Johnny was arrogant and ridiculous, yes, Victor didn't have a motive, yes, they all died in space. But the jokes were jokey, and the fights were fighty, and the sex was sexy. And at the end, Reed pulls something out of his pocket and says to Sue, "I found a broken gasket from space." And where else are you gonna hear that kind of thing?

Danny

Well, as a little Jewish boy who was on his way to atheism, the Muppet and Sesame Street characters helped me fall in love with Christmas. I had no interest in the religious stuff -- and I actually got all the way to second grade without even knowing who Joseph and Mary were, thanks to my progressive hippie pre-school. But I loved the presents, and the tree, and the songs, and the reindeers and whatnot.

I wasn't turned off by that stuff just because I was Jewish. On the contrary, that made it even more thrilling and attractive. It showed me a whole other world of folklore and fun that was just outside my reach, and I wanted to know more about it.

When I was little, my grandfather used to take us out to the book store or the record store and buy us something that we wanted. I remember once around Christmas, I asked him to buy me the Sesame Street Christmas record, and he did, without really paying attention to what it was. When my mom saw it, she insisted that we return it to the store.

I was so crushed -- here was a Muppet thing in my hands that I was absolutely forbidden to own -- and I knew in that moment that I would always love Christmas.

Ryan R Last night I saw the Cookie Monster grape applesauce (which was purple!) and the Big Bird sour apple applesauce (which was green!).

Purple and green applesauce? In my day, our applesauce was applesauce-colored, and we were happy with it.

Joe Whatever you do, don't look behind you. At the ketchup aisle.

Ryan R I've had the green ketchup. It tasted like ketchup, but it had a very strange consistency. Sort of pulpy. Almost fuzzy.

Oh no...

You don't suppose... GREEN KETCHUP IS MADE OF GROUCHES?!

[Kynan]

Happy Feet – Who IS the Frog Chorus?

August 8 • 8238.16

Joe

So it's settled! It's five Abe Vigodas. And a Bea Arthur.

[Ryan R]

Ryan R The current Shamu is actually the latest in a long line of highly motivated, goal-oriented whales to hold that position.

Every time a Shamu retires, all the whales, dolphins, belugas, sea lions and walruseses form a committee to appoint a new one. The otters are not involved in this process, but some of them are protesting to change this, though they're not protesting very loudly, because they're otters and thus have small vocal cords.

Killer whales from all over the world apply for the job. It's traditional to dress conservatively for the interview; a simple black and white ensemble will do.

The animals narrow the field down to two final contenders, and bring them both into the Willy Memorial Conference Room. The whale chosen for the job has buckets of herring thrown down his gullet, while the loser is told not to let the door hit him on the dorsal fin on his way out.

And that's where new Shamus come from!

[Michal]

The Muppets on Monday Night Football

August 14 • 8256.9-10

Scott Is Monday Night Football on every Monday night?

I wonder if they'll bother with a second appearance.

Quinn Yes, Scott, Monday Night Football is on every Monday night.

[Isha]

Which S1 Sketch Sucked Most?

August 23 • 8344.19-24

John Oh come on, Florence's butterfly sketch is HOT.

Peter Rita Moreno's "Fever" is HOT.

Florence Henderson's "Butterfly Song" is NOT.

John Okay, Rita's "Fever" is definitely some Emmy-winning hotness. Florence seems a little demure in comparison. But you have to admit that Sandy Duncan's "Nice Girl Like Me" is so hot it hurts.

By the way, its proper title is "Elusive Butterfly", written by Bob Lind, and I think it perfectly illustrates the elusiveness of the love Florence has always been searching for.

Quinn And although I have nothing but love for Carol Brady, and wish her flipped-up hair and orange leisure suit would show up on Melissa now and then, I can't say the same for that butterfly song. The proper name for which is "That Fucking Butterfly Song".

[Ryan R]

Peter The most important rule in girls' soccer is that whenever someone scores a goal, she has to fall to her knees and rip off her jersey, whooping and hollering in her sports bra.

Jess (Peter is the Creepy Middle School Soccer Coach)

Peter Middle School? I didn't know it was Middle School.

In that case, the most important rule in girls' soccer is that whenever someone scores a goal, her mom has to fall to her knees and rip off her jersey, whooping and hollering in her sports bra.

John I didn't know those kinds of things were mandatory. It doesn't seem right. How can they force you to coach if you know nothing about the game? And those poor kids, having their enthusiasm compromised by school board bureaucracy. It's just not right.

Danny Well, the life expectancy of a girls' soccer coach is about three years, so they have to keep up with the relentless demand. Somebody has to do it.

I just asked my co-worker Brianne for advice for you -- she's a rugby player, so she knows things. Here's what she says.

Phrases to use: "Good job! Good effort!"

More phrases: "Nice hustle!" is for the fat girl who doesn't get to the ball. "Way to get there!" is for the skinny girl who gets there and then has no idea what to do. "Way to be aggressive!" is for the angry future lesbian who goes for the shins.

"Above all else: Invest in a high-quality whistle. Several high-quality whistles, because you'll lose them. It doesn't matter what you say, as long as you whistle before you say it."

"Any dad of any player who you suspect knows more about the game than you do, insinuate to the ref that he has an anger problem and might have a weapon, and get him ejected."

"Virtually any drill can be put under the category of 'fitness.' If they ask why, tell them fitness. Better yet, for older girls: agility. Anything can be agility. Tie your fucking shoe. It's the perfect word, because nobody knows what it means. Running around the track? Agility. Jumping back and forth? Agility."

"Unacceptable drills: Go somewhere else and be quiet for a minute. Let's play wash the car. Let's play jog to the liquor store and get me a six-pack."

"A good team cheer can cover up for a lot. You'd be surprised how much can be forgiven for a good cheer."

So there you go; I hope that's helpful.

Peter

"Nice hustle."

Yeah, I used to get that a lot.

Fraggle Rock Season One review

Sept 5 • 8395.15-20

Ebay auction for Fraggle Rock DVD set has a little silver pig in the picture.

Jake I wonder why the seller would put on a little silver pig?

Joe For size comparison? I for one am glad to know that the Fraggle Rock DVD box is 400 times as large as a little silver pig.

Danny Maybe the seller is a tiny silver pig, and she poses in all of her auction photos.

On the internet, nobody knows that you're a tiny silver pig.

Jess The Internet is for Pork.

[Ryan R]

John

Oh, Tom. We've all been there. The old "message forum huff-n-leave." It's as old as the interweb itself! Pay it no more mind, for it's given you experience. Even someone as together and with-it as yours truly has made the same mistake, embarrassing myself with dramatic exits from mailing lists due to arguments and situations that didn't even deserve the energy it took to frown.

Zoe Poll

September 15 • 8449.20

Ryan R

I've never liked the tutu.

In the old days, I could just walk around outside naked and tell people I was doing my Zoe impression. Now I have to wear a tutu, and that's just ridiculous.

Danny

I've learned many things from reality TV. One of them is that pretty men with huge muscles are basically show ponies and are unable to care for themselves when they're away from their personal trainers. That's why the huge guys on Big Brother wanted beer more than meat or vegetables, and it's why the huge guys on Survivor always fall apart within ten days.

Last year, muscle boy Jeff was just walking along, twisted his ankle on a passing coconut, and got hurt so badly that he had to get voted out. The lesson is that you shouldn't worry about it if some huge muscle guy gets mad at you, cause you could just throw a coconut shell on the ground and walk away briskly.

Quinn

That's why I always carry these coconut shells around with me.

Plus, they're rather fetching as a bra.

Danny

Oh, la, m'sieur! These ees zee very nice day to be zee celeb'ate, non? C'est mervielleux! Eet weel be zee bon time s'rough zee day, wis zee dancing, and zee laughing, and zee oops! wis zee skirts... Oh, la!

Quoi? These ees not zee Talk Like Zee French Maid Day? Mon dieu!

[Ryan R.]

Bones

September 26 • 8465.5-8

Erik They digitally inserted Washington landmarks into a couple of shots. The final shot had the Lincoln Memorial in the background. But based on the location of the monument relative to where the characters were standing, they should have been in the middle of the Potomac River.

Ryan R You mean to say the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial don't follow you around wherever you go?

Erik Lincoln's eyes do, but not the entire monument.

Ryan R Yikes. I just got four score and seven chills.

[Kynan]

Arrested Development

September 29 • 6881.220-225

Quinn

Quinn Doesn't Dance.

But Miles and Carter and Melissa all do. Carter has really gotten into it lately.

Danny

There are all these rules about what Quinn doesn't do! It's very sad. I think we should hold a Free Quinn fundraiser or something.

Quinn

I'll be in Philadelphia the week before the week I thought it would be. So it's Saturday, November 5th that I'll be looking for good Pig-related times. So...I guess that's the update.

I've told the teachers I'm with not to expect me around Saturday afternoon-evening-night, so I'm pretty much yours. Take me. Bear in mind the following Quinn Restrictions:

- No Dancing
- No Drinking
- No Nipple Exposure
- No Smiling Before 9:00 PM
- No Smiling After 9:05 PM
- No Sing-Alongs
- No Soccer Coaching
- No Orange Cheeses
- No "Boobah"
- No Swimming or Wading in Ice-Filled Rivers
- No Crustaceans, With or Without Black Turtlenecks

Other than that, I'm excited.

And I'm more excited to ditch my teaching compadres. Crap, that's gonna be a long conference.

No Conferences.

Quinn

So we lost another game last Monday...

Of all the Girls Soccer Teams in the world, we're the Charlie Browniest.

Augh.

Quinn This isn't much of a story, but this morning Miles tripped and fell down the stairs in a sort of backwards somersault, and landed right on the back of his neck. Everything is still intact, but he's got a really stiff neck now, and has been lying down most of the day, and holding his Kiki (blanket), watching Fantasia, and asking for gummi bears.

Again, not much of a story, but for a kid who gets probably 20 new bumps and scrapes every day, this one has just knocked him flat. Surprised it hasn't happened before now, melon like that.

Cathy Poor little fella. Perhaps you should think about leashing him?

Ryan R He likes Fantasia? Weird kid.

Scott Gillian likes Fantasia, too. Both of them. And yes, she's a weird kid. She came from weird stock.

Cathy In my version of the future, Gillian and Miles grow up and fall in love and get married.

Quinn They'd make very beautiful children. Who would then inherit TP, which is at that point operating in some sort of holo-plasma cerebro chip, and the entire world would live in happiness and peace.

Except for Nevada. Because who needs it.

Scott In my version of the future, Gillian doesn't meet any boys until she's 30.

Quinn That'd make Miles 27--that's how old I was when I got married.

Good enough.

Cathy

I know I always joke about wanting your kids because they're just so darn cute, but after seeing those pictures, I think I just want to adopt your whole adorable family.

Quinn

We're mostly loveable. But Miles and Melissa aren't morning people. And Quinn and Carter aren't night people. So depending on what you are, you can take your pick. But only half of the family is pleasant at any given time.

Ryan R

What if we were to catch you in the afternoon?

And when I say "catch you," I just mean "meet you," and not, like, catching you in a giant Rollins-strength butterfly net. Though there may be some here who would try that.

Trouble finding Emmet Otter DVD?

October 7 • 8617.3-9

Zach Hi Ryan, yes I saw it at Media Play, I haven't boughten it yet, I got Count Duckula season one on DVD instead that day.

Kynan If I can't use this thread to complain about Kermit being edited out, can I use it to ask why anyone would buy Count Duckula over Emmet Otter?

Scott Because Kermit's scenes are intact on Count Duckula?

[Ryan R]

Egyptian Ernie statue sketch

Oct 11 • 8619.37

Scott

I'm positive that three of those are mine. It's always fun to see my screenshots/scans show up elsewhere. It's just like spreading my seed.

Michal

Do gorillas enjoy Tootsie Roll pops?
Almost certainly. Good thing they don't have insurance.
- in Students of Dentistry, Unite!

Ryan R

Is your ferret a Communist?
Don't send a Mustelidae to do a haberdasher's job!
- in Bubblegum Castration

Mr. Owl ate my metal worm!
Lisa Boney ate no Basil
- in A Man, a Plan, a Canal, Panama

Has anyone seen my keys?
You left them on top of the TV!
- in Honestly, You'd Lose Your Head If It Wasn't Screwed On

Danny

I thought it would be more of a sport if I built a promo by clicking the refresh button and taking one word from each promo that comes up.

Dark Work with Soft Romance
Your recommendations join my government, look out!
In Imaginary Friends

Bird Personalities Cause Worst Abortions
See what we believe? Some wonderful skin designs. Why?
In Understanding New Clear Resistance

Pancake Artists!
Come lead wars for alcohol.
In Medical Time

Hey World's Kids
Toxic fans learn about chronic punch holidays
In Reality Dissidents

I know, it's my own game, but I think they have a strange untamed beauty.

Ryan R I tried taking two promos and smashing them together in ways that amuse me, and came up with these:

Is Menopause REALLY Halloween?

Is this our discussion?

In Sabbath Memory

Do you know Karl?

Bush's brain can actually kill your cat!

In Ink for Women

Seeking Cheese Cake?

Just in time for difficult Relationships!

In *~*Partners

Send Ronnie Milsap to College

WOW!

In Pioneers of Medical Care

I like this thread. I could play this game all day, and I just might.

John I know these promos are made up, but I'm genuinely interested in sending Ronnie Milsap to college.

Martha Who Loves Louis Farrakhan, Toxic Goddess?
If you're leading the march in OKC, you should read this!
In the Toxic Booger Barn

Jake Welcome to the Kindness Chat!
A place to brag about Canadians & our friends
In Kindness & Friends

Ryan R Are you a Multi Vitamin?
Do they help the battle of souls?
In Lords of Complexion

I tell ya, I could play this game until way after everyone else gets bored with it.

Danny

Help! You Might Be a Socially Unacceptable Child
People think that my cell phone has reactive attachment disorder! Arg!
In Bronte's Disorder Con Carne

Lauren

Are you still on Stargate's Col. Mitchell at midnight?
Love him or hate him longer than you should!
In Our Stargate Team Q & A

Have you ever seen a duck?
Take our poll and see if you are cute.
In the Literature and Exotic Lace Emporium

Who's Your Special Gay Friend?
Why do some viciously tell us about Jesus?
In General Christianity Korner

Another Beauty Celebrating Christmas
Why do you have a problem with Isabel the penguin?
In Enchanted Crime

This is almost the most fun I've ever had in my life.

[Ryan R]

Danny

I just tried that... It told me to click the program that I want to use to open the file. I told it that that was the computer's job, not mine. It wasn't amused. Apparently computers hate it when you say that kind of thing.

It said that if I wasn't satisfied with its performance, maybe it should help me out more while I'm writing my Word documents, or it could create some more folders in My Documents, like My Letters, My Shopping Lists, My Secret Porn Stash and My My Aren't Users Lame. The only way I could shut it up was by opening a new window and browsing in the Apple store.

It backed down, and now it's muttering that at least it has the Control key on the bottom left instead of that stupid curlicue function thing.

Danny Captain Carlos is in every Breakfast with Bear episode, and every episode is exactly the same. He needs to do something that requires energy, and he has a choice between a healthy food and some junk food. He chooses the healthy food, eats it up, and then runs out to do whatever the task is. They said "beans" in the same lurid tone that they used when they said "oatmeal" yesterday and "an apple" tomorrow.

It's clearly a priority for them to have racial diversity in the cartoons -- there's also a cartoon with a black sister/brother, and another with a white sister/brother. The cartoons themselves are as boring as paint, so really the only thing they have going for them is the racial diversity.

Mexicans eat beans sometimes. I wouldn't get too upset about it. In fact, the other day, I ate a Mexican. Things happen.

Guillermo I have beans and rice every day for breakfast. Really.

Kynan G, you are such a stereotypical Mexican.

Guillermo Chu got some nerve, ése. Chu know that?

Kynan Hah. You just got yourself a yearbook nomination.

You and your sombrero-wearing burro.

[Kynan]

Michal

I think that when it comes to David Bowie's likeness, a good number of fans will take interest mostly in the packaging.

[Ryan R]

Muppet photos on ebay

October 21 • 8686.6

Ryan R

Is the left testicle still stronger than the US dollar? I can never keep track of exchange rates.

[Kynan]

Danny

I didn't say that I didn't like it. It's just not the kind of game that I would play.

The games that I like are the drunk girl at the bar who's about to get up and dance on the table; Shadow of the Colossus is the grad student at the coffee shop sipping a latte and writing poetry in her journal. They're both great people, I just have a preference for who I want to party with.

Tastes Like Chicken

November 2 • 8734.10

Kynan

America's Next Muppet made the TV news *and* the newspapers over here. Disney is very, very good at making things seem newsworthy.

Litmus test movies

November 5 • 8749.14

Kynan

I met someone recently whose all-time favorite movie was Joe Dirt. I had basically the same deep-seated emotional reaction I would have if she told me she liked to drown the odd puppy on weekends.

rimshot means...

November 8 • 8765.23

Isha

rimshot means...

That joke was funny!
13 votes (50%)

That joke was lame.
13 votes (50%)

peers at poll results

And what did we learn from this endeavor? Nothing!

[Ryan R]

"Sesame Beginnings"

November 9 • 8730.46

Cathy

What freaks me out is that Grandma Cookie Monster can speak perfectly well and yet adult Cookie Monster can't manage to speak in complete sentences. What the hell did Grandma do to him?

Fuck You Grandma!

Anthony He does look younger. Younger than Tom Welling.

Oh wait. He really is younger than Tom Welling.

Scott And not nearly as good looking or well built as Tom Welling.

Patrick (Tee hee hee, Scott thinks Tom Welling is well built and good looking...)

Scott Dude. Tom Welling is a whole lotta man.

Daniel One thing that I like about Routh is that he isn't as good looking as Welling. While I like Welling, sometimes I think his Clark is almost too handsome. And yes, I find him handsome.

Quinn Tom Welling is soooooo friggin hot. And built. And hot.

Patrick I'm enjoying this Scott-Daniel-Quinn covetousness lusting of Tom Welling more than I should...

No wait, I should enjoy this. Keep it coming.

You boys are killing me!!!

Quinn Sounds like Quinnfest lost opportunity. Because... yeah. Tom Welling. Drooling.

Patrick Well, I'll be "Suped" up and ready for ya, come Quinnfest II, buddy!

dashes to nearest plastic surgeon's office with plethora of Tom Welling reference photos

Shawn

Ten Things I Would Rather Not Discuss, For Fear Of Angering The Blood:
A List by Burstrum Codswallop III, c. 1928

- 1- Prohibition
- 2- The rising Cost of certain Dry-Goods
- 3- The Eskimos
- 4- Any and all forms of Broad-casts pertaining to base-ball (national pastime, my Great Aunt Josephine!)
- 5- The Free-Masons
- 6- The Archbishop's slow, inexorable succumbing to Dementia
- 7- Doc Wagfinger's All-Purpose Curative Tonic
- 8- The Savages of the Veldt
- 9- Certain types of stew (I'm confident you know the stews to which I refer)
- 10- That scoundrel the Easter-Bunny - he knows why!

After some consternation on the part of certain authorities, I have been advised to rethink some of my entries. My original thoughts still hold water, but for the sake of those in possession of a weaker constitution who may be reading this missive, I shall capitulate. Would that this list were longer, I'm certain I would have seen fit to include the Irish-men. Filthy drunks!

Daniel: Gots the grins

November 15 • 8813.9-12

Patrick Ya see! I told you a week ago, love was in the air.

Why doesn't anybody ever listen to me?

Quinn Last time I listened to you, I ended up in bed with Tom Welling.

Patrick And Welling is the better for it!

Necrotizing Fasciitis

November 17 • 8818.10-11

Cathy What the hell is wrong with you people?

Danny We have necrotizing fasciitis. Why?

Aquaman TV Series

November 17 • 8829.15-16

Kynan Aquaman's super power is that he can talk to fish. Plus, sometimes, he has a hook for a hand.

But still.

He's a Fish Whisperer.

Quinn Aaaaand? That's AWESOME!

"Rent" movie?

November 17 • 8832.19

John

Maybe they should have retitled the film "Mortgage". These people are clearly past renting.

[Tom & Martha]

Aquaman TV Series

November 18 • 8829.29-31

Peter Can you give yourself your own rimshot?

Peter Only if you're flexible!

Daniel *RIMSHOT!!!*

Are Ernie and Bert related?

November 18 • 8836.3

Ryan R

Also, they're characters on a kids' show. They act like adults when the script requires them to act like adults, like when they buy their own groceries. And they act like children when the script calls for that, like when they play for toys. Then there are the occasions when they act like cavemen, like when they invented orange juice.

Giant radish in Intensive Care!

November 18 • 8837.8-9

Mike Marjorie the Trash Heap is being held for questioning...

Lauren Her press secretaries have released a statement: "No comment. Nyahhh!"

[Ryan R]

Quinn Someday, when I'm coronated Emperor of the Universe, I'm going to have your very own palace built just for you. And Philip Glass will live there and just compose music at your whim. And your harem will be a large one, filled with sturdy, lovely women who are both emotionally accessible and who are all the hell over you. And your fleet of pimp rides will burn hydrogen as clean as your sleeping bag isn't. And there will be many other rewards for all you do for people around these parts. Because you should rule in deed as much as you, in fact, rule.

</scottlove>

Scott I wish you had girl parts.

Quinn Right back at ya, daddy.

Erik Then you'd both have to be lesbians.

[Martha & Ryan R]

Quinnfest 2005

November 20 • 8320.415-417

Quinn I'm glad I'm missing out on Dance Dance Revolution.

Quinn = No Moves.

Peter Quinn used to = No Hugs, though.

Oh, the things that Quinn can = now!

"Rent" movie?

November 22 • 8832.34

Peter

I probably feel more conflicted about this movie than any movie I've never seen.

Holiday Movie

November 22 • 8843.48-58

Quinn Mr. Busiek is the coolest. He loves me.

Peter Somebody ought to tell him he doesn't need to sign his posts, though. I'd hate to think we treat celebrities differently. Especially celebrities I don't know.

Erik But the signed ones will be worth more someday.

[Ryan R]

Kermit in Target ads

November 25 • 8857.26-42

Scott So what did he say?

Cathy Pretty standard stuff. Get up and go shopping at Target. Something about him knowing how it is to be green. Same ol.

Scott Yeah, I totally get phone calls from Kermit every day.

Tom By the time Kermit got around to me, he was a little more tired and irate.

He said that if I didn't get out of bed that minute, he was sending replacement puppeteers to my house to come and beat the living snot out of me.

[Kynan]

Ryan R

The worst part was when Stockard Channing runs up to Leslie Nielsen and screams, "HERE'S YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY, CRACKER!" and smashes a pie in his face, and then Robert Downey, Jr. somersaults in wearing his Supergirl costume and they all eat the mice. Yecch.

[Martha]

Why aren't you married yet?

November 28 • 8886.1-13

Tom The holidays are coming up, and I know I will get asked this question more than I care to think about. I already was asked by my brother-in-law's mom at Thanksgiving.

Hypothetically, one may as well just ask, "So how's that inoperable tumor coming along?"

Carolyn Because I think it's a silly, outdated institution. And I need my space, man.

Ryan R Well, there's your answer right there. You should marry a spaceman! He can give you a wedding ring made of moon rock!

Danny Yeah, that sucks, to have people step up to you like that about something that you're already worried about. I think it's a sad possibility that the answer is looking for is, "Cause I'm gay," which is mostly just about her own desire for family gossip.

Anyway, I have the perfect answer to the question, the thing that will make her wish she'd never asked.

Three simple words.

"My girlfriend died."

And then just walk away.

[Scott]

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree

November 29 • 8882.14-17

Danny Awww, rereading that makes me nostalgic for the days when Kynan was actually sitting in my house watching Muppet specials with me. Sigh. Oh, I miss that more than anything.

Shawn I'm not an Australian comedy writer, but I do like to make fun of things. Maybe we can try that this year!

Peter I protest. One Kynan, One Voice.

Kynan You guys are nuts. I'm more than happy for Shawn to do minor reviews and shopping mall appearances. It frees me up for the big stuff.

[Cathy]

Danny

Judge Everything is a new game that I made up a couple weekends ago when Ed and I were driving for a while, and we'd already talked about everything we wanted to talk about, and there was nothing on NPR but Prairie Home Companion.

The idea is to rate anything you can think of, on a scale of 1 to 10. Players take turns, and play proceeds until you're not amused by it anymore.

The rules are:

1. The rating has to be between 1 and 10.
2. The rating has to be sincere. No ironic ratings.
3. The thing should be judged on the basis of its category -- if it's a crappy horror movie, then it should be judged against other crappy horror movies. The question is: Is this thing a good example of what it is, or a bad example?
4. You can explain your rating or not, as you feel the need. It's okay just to give a number and walk away clean.
5. All ratings are final. They can't be argued with or re-rated. Once something's been rated, that's it.

So if anybody feels like playing a round, I'm here to play.

As the first turn, I'm going to pre-emptively rate Judge Everything a 7.

Who's next?

Ryan R

I rate your 7 rating of Judge Everything a 9.

I rate these socks I'm wearing an 8. They're pretty good socks, but to rate them any higher than 8 seems like hyperbole.

I rate Fritos a 7. I wish they weren't bad for me, but they're addictively delicious.

I rate my having left my jacket at my parents house, a two-hour+ drive away, a 2.

I rate flugelhorns an 8. I don't think I need to explain myself.

I rate Skee-Ball a 6. It's a good game that's stood the test of time, but I'm still lousy at it.

Alaina I'm gonna give this a whirl.

Extra Ginger Ginger Ale : 9

To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar : 5

Feet : 2

Anthony John Lithgow: 3. He just sucks.

Alaina But... but... Footloose!

hangs head in shame You're right, he does suck.

Kellie Band-Aid Advanced Healing finger bandages: 9

Kynan Oooh, do such things really exist? Way to dabble in the black arts, Kellie.

Scott McDonald's french fries: 3

An hour and a half left at work: 6

Joe The Mountain Goats (the band): 10

Mountain goats (the goats): 6

My jeans are wet: 1

Michal Procrastinating: 7

Repercussions: 3

Ryan R Bathrobes: 6

Sneezing: 7

Don Knotts: 8

Michal Singing an aria in the shower: 8

Knowing that everyone in the two buildings on the airshaft can hear: 9

Ryan R The fact that most of Danny's Judge Everything rules have been broken, including the one I'm breaking right now: 6

Isha No unread messages: 1

MT&R Event in Review

December 8 • 8923.31

Anthony Muppet fans lead strange lives.

[Ryan R]

A Question of Scott...

December 20 • 8963.3-6

Warrick There was a proposition in the email. Let me know what you think!

Cathy Warrick's propositioning Scott via email.

Dirty.

Anthony I thought he said "preposition".

Michal And if he ended his sentence in either of the two, he's likely to get spanked.

[Ryan R]

Favorite Eyeless Dave Goelz Character

December 22 • 8972.4-7

Scott See, I always felt that Bunsen's glasses were supposed to make his eyes so tiny that you just couldn't see them.

Anthony Yeah, but he sometimes takes his glasses off, and he still doesn't have any eyes.

The Peter Ustinov episode, for example. Or Muppets From Space.

Scott I can see that.

But, most of Dave's characters can't. They have NO EYES!!

[Kynan]

Kynan

This is just really lazy puppetry. It's like watching eight year olds playing at being the Muppets. Dave and Steve must be rolling in their graves.

This is the biggest "Screw you" we've seen from Disney yet.

Merry Christmas. And somebody Save the Muppets.

Smig

If Dave and Steve are rolling in their graves -- and they're still alive -- can you imagine what Jim and Richard must be doing???

Lara

Other projects apparently.

[Isha]

Isha Bandwidth limit exceeded... I'll never know!!

Scott Yeah, fuckers shut me down, yo.

Quinn Nobody puts Baby in a corner.

 And nobody shuts Scott down.

Another ePic war

December 28 • 8830.82-87

Carolyn You can buy Fran Drescher's book "Enter Whining" on Amazon for a penny.

Jake A penny? I should buy a hundred of them for no reason.

Isha Ooh ohh! Buy a hundred and then go into an empty subway car and leave one on every seat.

Joe Please, the subways are dirty enough as it is.

[Tom]

Merry Christmas

December 30 • 8984.23-32

Isha I still haven't gotten the book, but there is yet Three Kings Day.

Carolyn Ah, los Reyes Magos. But they might bring you something less useful. Like gold.

Isha Ya know, I've never gotten gold from them.... I once got a pound puppy, and one time I got an easel, and once I got Little Mermaid bed sheets.... but never gold.

Carolyn Well, they never gave me a damn thing.

Isha The camels won't go near your house if there's no grass in a shoebox.

Carolyn Ah, so that's where I've been going wrong. I've been leaving my grass in a styrofoam cup.

[Scott]

Shawn

Here's a long-ass, sappy-ass post! This was my first real TP fest, and I have to post about it. Read it and weep, SUCKAZ!

I just got back from day two, where Danny, Daniel, Ryan and I just hung out all afternoon/evening being so incredibly moronic that I can't even think straight. Alls I have to say is Lumpy and his internet friends made several amazing repeat appearances, along with Arthur Pendleton and Mooch. And Daniel's Kwazy Klown made me laugh so hard I had a coughing fit. If you're ever able to, have him do it for you. Daniel is so friggin' funny, you just don't even know. And he came all the way out here! You reeeeeeally don't know fun until you wander around a Target with the D'Boyz and Ryan making funny voices. (IT WASN'T RAPE! IT WAS CONSENSUAL!!!!!!)

Wow. Speaking of which. Everyone was just amazing. I was so glad to meet so many of you. Quinn is a faux-tough-guy who's just big ol' sweetcake once you hang out with him for a while. Scott is really cool, funny, and together. Isha is sweet and adorable and just plain aaawwwww, with an amazing set of hugs. Seriously, you hug really well. Peter and Leah (Leiah? Leeeeroo?) are cute as pie and funny as hell. Peter is a Sky Kid SHARK! and Liella made herself at home so fast it was really kind of scary. Cathy and Jay - incredibly nice and fun and I'm glad I was able to make you laugh as much as I did. Jay, I give you extra props for being the only person in recent memory to successfully tackle me. Michal - such a cute little sweetheart, and so witty and entertaining. (Especially when you piled on top of Quinn and I, but that's another story!) I loved your hugs too, and expect more soon. Just everything about everyone was all I could ever want in a set of friends. Several people said it felt like 'home', and I had to agree. It's strange, but hanging out with the TPs really felt like being in my own little Muppet movie, with Danny the Frog to serve as a very capable ringmaster. Thanks again, to both you and Ed, for hosting us.

I'm tired, and I'm sure there's people I'm forgetting right now, but that was too crazy. The most fun weekend I've had for a very VERY long time. It really makes me sad that people live so far away. I could see Daniel coming over with Ryan and Patrick for puppet fun much more often, and hanging out with everyone a lot more in general. For reals, I'm already missing you all a big whole lot. And you know it's bad, because I'm getting all mushy and junk. I feel like several weeks of summer camp were crammed into two days of, very literally, non-stop fun. Did we actually have a moment that WASN'T really, incredibly entertaining? Even when we were bored, it was a blast

(Peter and Danny, my Gauntlet dawgs). Coloring has seriously never provided me with the hours of fun it did last night. I'm still waiting for Danny to reinstate my coloring book privileges.

Really, I don't know of another group of people I could hang out with and have more fun, more instant in-jokes (Exciting News!) and just general full-on dorkitude. Every last one of you is so incredibly smart, funny, personable, approachable and, well, not to put too fine a point on it, attractive. And that's not just the ladies - I'm lookin' at you, too, Quinn... although a handshake will have to suffice, I know just how much you love me. You *told* me enough times.

It's really too bad you all couldn't have stayed longer. But I'm so grateful you all came so far and were such wonderful people. And we need to do this again as soon as possible, because I need more fun like that in my life. I need more Tough Pigs.

In conclusion: FUCK YOU, GRANDMA!!!!!!!!!!

Danny

Hey ever'body, now I'm back from Quinnfest too. More or less. I'm supposed to be preparing for a training I'm doing in, oh, about three hours. But fuck it.

One thing that made me super super happy this weekend was how free everybody was with the word love. It was like a cult love-bombing. Every time I got a hug, everybody kept saying how much they loved each other. I haven't had a group of friends like that since high school, where it was just totally okay to talk about how much we love each other. And this group is so much cooler than my high school group.

It make-a me happy.

Scott

I am pooped! (no thanks to the poop bike) (Wow!)

I just got in at 1am thanks to sitting in 3 hours of George Washington Bridge traffic. My body barely works right now. I don't think I ever really woke up this morning. Despite Cathy's best efforts.

I agree with everything everyone has said so far. Especially Shawn.

I've got lots of commentary, but it will have to wait until tomorrow. I need to get some actual sleep. The kind that doesn't involve giggling at shadows on the ceiling.

Tank you!

Quinn

Mooch! I miss him! I miss da Mooch!

I'm welling up with tears right now.

So much to say.

Which I'll say later.

I'm assuming during 3rd Period-ish, which will be...later.

Danny

Oh, Mooch missa you too, Unkie de Quinn Rollin! He hope dat you be havin de okay times dere.

Mooch had de super awesome times dis weekend, and he give de big shout-out to alla his Unkies and his Tias.

Word to your monkeys.

Quinn

Okay, here's yet another love-filled post, but this is for you guys, and not about Troy. Basically, go read Shawn's post again, and that's probably a more sensical way of saying what I'll be saying.

So...yeah. First a special shout-out to my wife, because when I first found out I was going to be going to this conference, I was considering whether or not to tell y'all about it. I was thinking maybe it would be weird for me to meet you all and know you're actual human beings. Melissa said I'd regret it forever if I didn't at least try to make something happen, and that if I didn't let you know I was coming to Philly, she would. Good for her.

I'll probably miss some people too, but that's probably because I'm writing this at school, not because I hate your guts and want to strip out a tendon from your leg and strangle you or anything. Because who would say something like that? What a wacko.

Do you know how long it's been since I've hugged anyone other than Melissa, Miles, and Carter? A long time. And I love their hugs more than anything, but thanks for breaking me. I frequently tell my classes and other people that I don't have a heart, but you all found it, and I'm still in that gushy-mushy mood. So I've gotta get it all out before it becomes permanent.

Here goes. Daniel: first TP I met in Philly, and beyond being "tall," you're friggin funny. And have good taste in peoples. And I can't believe you came so far to hang out with people. You rule very much. Alaina: I love making you laugh, but I love it even more when you don't. And I'll always treasure our precious (if brief) moment on the couch that most people didn't see at all. Ryan: I had to keep telling myself you're just a pup, because you've already got it goin' on. Smart, funny, on top of things...I like to think I was like that when I was 17, but I sure wasn't. Scott: everything I expected, and a few things I didn't--I still want you to be my hetero life partner forever, because words can't describe how much I'm in awe of you. Also, your sleeping bag.

Patrick: the bringer of the puppets. I didn't put my hand in a puppet the entire time, because I don't think I'm that sort of person. But I admire the hell out of the people who are, and you're seriously a delight. De. Light. And your giggles and wheezes are infectious. Shawn: you're scary like a little speckled bunny rabbit who snuggles and eats cartoony carrots. Meaning, not at all. I was so hoping for some sort of hulky rage in Toys R Us or something, where you pick up a Honda and throw it at some kindergartners, but it didn't happen. And Lumpy made me laugh heartily. And I'd best not start on the two-fisted crayoning. Cathy: why the hell would you even think of inviting these people to your wedding? I mean...seriously. You're an amazing woman, and from gift bags for everyone to your well-placed barbs, you're radiant. Love. Peter: whatever you're using to hypnotize Leah into your arms, make sure you have a long-lasting supply. I mean, you're great by yourself--funny, brilliant, all that...but with her around, you're awesomeness incarnate. Kellie: the drive with you and Isha from the city to Danny's is one of my favorite "quieter" parts of the trip...I was so glad I got to know you more then, and even though you might "accidentally" back over other TPer's with your car, I know you didn't really mean it. Isha: wonderful in so many more ways than just your hair. But your hair in person IS even better than in pictures. I've already used the word radiant for Cathy, but you're also radiant. Like beaming. And I've heard so much about how you USED to be such a nice girl, but you're sweet as the dickens now. Sweet. Michal: a literate woman who brings cookies AND a baby Rubber Duckie for me? How can I not love that? When I showed Melissa the new addition to the family, we both got all teary-eyed. Granted, I had only had like ten hours of sleep in the previous 96

hours, but still. Thank you. And for the extra hugs. Whoa. Who thought I'd be saying that?

Special thanks (this is like movie credits) to Ed, Jay, and Leah for tolerating and supporting and loving your peoples. Ed, I'm sorry I didn't talk to you more, but I drooled all over many of your books. And I think, at one point, your boyfriend. Jay--you're cool enough for Cathy. If you don't invite any of these other freaks to the wedding, you should still invite me. And Bob Vila. Leah, you know, where I'm from, it's okay for you to marry me. I'm not proposing or anything, but well...yeah.

More special thanks to Guillermo, Anthony, Martha, and Ryan Roe, all of whom called at one point or another, and were definitely there in spirit. Actually, I think all TPerS everywhere on the planet were there in spirit somehow. But thanks for calling. I'm almost as horribly unapproachable on the phone as I am in person, so I apologize for that. But thanks for calling. Love.

And really, most of all, thanks to Danny. My life seriously feels fuller because of this place, and this group of people. So thanks to Danny for having the ability to hold this place together, thanks for letting me come play at his place, and thanks for being so frigging adorable. I've never said that about another man before, but a-dor-able. Seriously. No wonder you get all the boys.

I'm glad I went. You all are just like you are on Tough Pigs, which just goes to show what a wonderful place it is, and what a great group of people you are. I don't know that I was fully out of my shell before I left, but like so many other people have said, "it feels like home" when we're all together like that. Love you guys. I was sad to leave. Can't wait to be with you all again.

Alaina

Oh, just to let you know. When I finally pulled into my driveway Sunday night, I yelled:

"I'M A MILL-IONAIRE!"

and did the arm motions. You would have been proud.

Patrick

I'd also like to add that meeting Mr. Smoothee was a dream! You're sillier, tallier and even sexier than I imagined. You give great hugs. If there was a way to mass-market you, I'd buy one for every room in my house!

Kellie Hmm, from what the Friday people are saying it sounds like you made some attempt at being Dark Quinn at first. Ha. This group mellows a guy out quickly. By Saturday you were exactly as wonderful as I thought you'd be.

Danny I don't know if he was trying to be Dark Quinn or anything. I mean, one of the first things he said when he got in the car was that he's been having recurring dreams lately about strangling Carter. And he told us that he wanted to rip Troy's tendon out with his teeth, and keep pulling to see if his scrotum unraveled.

Whether you think that's Dark Quinn depends, I suppose, on your definition of Dark Quinn.

Peter Ever since I got home from Quinnfest, I've been thinking a lot about my first 'fest at BAM almost a year ago. I'll have plenty of stuff to say about Quinnfest, too, but I'm going to be a little philosophical right now.

Because it's all well and good to say how awesome everyone is and how wonderful it is to be "old friends who've just met," but nobody really talks about how absolutely terrifying it can be to finally see each other face to face.

It took me a really long time to finally admit to people that I had become involved on an Internet forum and an even longer time before I told people that I was planning on meeting you in real life.

But there I was in Grand Central, picking up Martha in her fabulous Big Bird scarf and thinking about how I was going to have absolutely nothing to say, especially nothing witty or clever. Forget about funny. Funny was right out.

And then there was meeting Danny. In the year since I've met Danny, I've learned that there's no reason to be afraid of him, except of course that he has to the power to absolutely destroy your life. But on that first day, talking to him on the steps of BAM, I could feel his eyes piercing through me. I'd say I was imagining things, but the other thing I've learned about Danny is that if loving people is his favoritest thing in the world, judging them right up there, too.

Anyway, I obviously had nothing to worry about, because everyone was wonderful, and I couldn't wait to see everyone again. I'm lucky enough to live someplace where I can do that, too. Where I can have kosher Pizza with

Michal and Joe or drinks with Cathy or see Yossi walking past a diner while I eat Disco Fries or see David Beukema walking across the street in Union Square on my way home or visit Danny in Philadelphia or have him visit me. I'm very, very lucky.

My point, if I have one, is that when I walked into Danny's house on Saturday and saw Quinn sitting there, I could see in him a little bit of the anxiety that plagued me at my first TPFest. It's hard enough to meet people, let alone people you've met on the Internet, let alone a whole bunch of them at once, let alone that they've come all this way just to see YOU. But just as I'm glad that I did it, I'm really glad everyone else did, too.

Last week, when I told people that I was going to Philadelphia for the weekend, a bunch said, "Oh, for homecoming?" "No," I told them. "I'm staying at my friend, Danny's." Not my crazy Internet Muppet friend, Danny's, which I may have been guilty of saying in the past. But my friend, Danny's. More specifically, I went to my friend, Danny's, to see my friends.

To paraphrase Stephen Sondheim from Sunday in the Park with George, "I am not hiding behind the Internet - I am living in it." And it feels good.

Jay Thank you to everybody for making me (a foolish outsider with like...2 posts) feel so welcome at the fest. It was great meeting you all & I really (really!) had a lot of fun. A nicer bunch of witty, smart & creative coloring book artists you won't soon find.

Danny Yay! It was so great to meet you. Whatever Cathy may have said to you, this weekend was a test. If you didn't have a good time, then Cathy wasn't going to marry you.

I assume that you passed the test, cause here you are. I think if you'd failed, then right now you'd be sitting on the curb at some turnpike rest stop. You'd come out of the bathroom and Cathy would be spinning donuts in the parking lot, and then she'd just driiiiive away.

So since you made it all the way home together, then I guess you must have liked us. Awesome. Wedding, here we come.

By the way, it also occurred to us that you are a very, very brave man. I mean, having Cathy in your life like that, 24/7... You and Ed should have a support group.

Shawn

Lumpy wanted to post a message, but apparently he doesn't get the internet on the broken Speak & Spell he found, so he asked me to post this:

"I don't know what you all are so excited about. *I* had a TERRIBLE time. I think I hurt my neck in several places. And please, PLEASE, stop making fun of my goiters behind my back."

Danny

Hey, if we're doing random in-jokes, then here's some:

The legend of Orange Ninja and Pink Ninja: Their names are Betty and Veronica, but nobody knows which is which -- not even them. All they remember is their ninja training. Also, they taste like Starburst... but only to each other. Orange Ninja and Pink Ninja fight and fight and fight, and they fight so much that they don't realize how much they have in common.

What comes before Part B? Part A! WOOOOOOOOO!

Explaining wild cards to the Special Lympics kids in the first Disney Princess Uno championship, and then Daniel wins the game after a brutal four-deck round: Oh, tweet irony!

The documentary was narrated by Fred Flintstone -- not the cartoon, but the real guy that the cartoon was based on.

Alaina ruins a young girl's life by turning to her at Baja Fresh and saying "Training bra."

And the worst of all: Estelle Getty's meat curtain. (Which, it now occurs to me, has the acronym MC. Oh, tweet irony.)

Daniel

I'll begin with this. As a testament to the affect this weekend had me, one of our housekeepers, Sandra, who is the cutest little broken English latino that you will ever meet, came in and asked me how my trip was. I said "Really great." Then she said the part that stood out to me the most and filled me up with warmth. She said, "You look different." I kind of laughed and said "How so?" She said, "You look relaxed. Happy." All I could do was pause, grin and give a lumpy throated "Yeah, I am." I never realized how evident my lack of ease was here.

Like so many here, by Sunday, I was struck not only with a huge amount of affection, but also tired delirium. After Quinn gave his goodbye to us at

Danny's and people tried to get me to speak, the reason that I avoided doing so is that I would have turned into a blathering mess. I was already getting near tears and I'm actually getting shakey thinking about it. I'm not very good at giving genuine words of affection unless I make it jokey, like saying I love you in a stupid voice or something. When I try I usually end up getting really fucking nervous and rambling nonsensically and then usually crying in that "But I...it's just...bluuhoohooo" sort of way. But I didn't want that to be how I said things. Not jokey and not blathery. You're all just so fucking great and I new I couldn't express that at that moment, hell I still can't.

Secretly, like Peter, I was not completely honest with people I knew about why exactly I was coming and who I was meeting up with. I had even sent Quinn an email stating that I was really nervous and a little freaked about meeting all of you guys. Partially because so many of you knew each other already, and partially because of the whole internet fansite stigma. I knew he was in the same boat, so I figured I had at least one guy who shared in my anxiety. It was fitting that he was my first Toughpig. I have much love for that fact, which is why I rode to the Marriott with Scott and Danny, as well as being the three people who I have connected to the most often outside the boards, even if sporadically. Likewise with Ryan. They were the first group I had when I came and I wanted to be there when we dropped him off as well. My boys. When we got tearily back in the car Scott summed it up after a pause by sadly saying, "Let's not do that again." Only we had to, another thirteen times. By the time Alaina and Patrick left on Sunday, I was well hidden mess inside, hence the extra hugs and squeezes.

I wish I could have had more time to talk to everyone. When I'm in large groups of new people, I have a tendency to gravitate towards the people I am the most comfortable with, so if you ever found me lingering around you with nothing in particular to say other than just to sit next to you or just kind of standing by you, it means that you were a security blanket during a moment of anxiousness. What changed is that by Sunday, I was gravitating towards everyone. I try to think of who my favorites are but keep coming back to "Who am I kidding, I love everyone." Obviously, there are people who I spent more time with, so that is the only thing that might give some folks a one-up.

I can't really express how good this weekend has been for me, or how much this has lifted my spirit except to say that I genuinely love the fact that you aren't my Muppet friends or my internet friends anymore, but my friends, my good good friends. Thanks guys.

Shawn Aw, Daniel, you were awesome too. I'm still giggling over your clown voice. You gotta get out here.

One of the big things I've been telling people post-Fest is that everyone was just as good or better than I thought they'd be. I love that nobody was a stick in the mud, and that everybody got along with everyone else, which is totally unexpected for something with this many people.

Quinn Now I'm all teary-eyed and have to go have a Teacher Meeting.

I'll blame it on... uh... my students. That's good.

We all need to stop posting in this thread.

Later.

Daniel Ed: I love Ed. Anyone who can allow that is a Saint. There was a time when I was like, this guy is so quiet how does it work. Then he came downstairs and stole a little kiss from his man. Seeing them together, I got it. We had a moment when he and Danny were teaching me about Pandora.com where I absolutely got it. Ed rules.

Kellie: Long ago I blatantly hit on you on the boards saying who cute you were in specs. It's confirmed. Crushin. You are so sweet and gentle in your demeanor as well as just be gloriously creative, it's hard not to do. I will be sending you some links to other stuffed creatures and hope to start showing up at some other boards you told me about. You were a big source of inspiration this weekend.

Leah: If dynamite was a lady, it'd probably be you. Seriously, you are one of the funniest females that I've met in a long time. I had a blast coloring by you on Sunday. Good times. Also, pigtails. Oh sweet god, pigtails. Back me up Quinn.

Ryan: Holy God. From Friday to Sunday, you just kept getting better. I echo everyone else by saying that you are beyond your years. You are as instantly likable as you have been on AIM. You are also just funny as hell. You also join Patrick and Shawn in being two guys who really made me inspired to push myself more with my endeavors. Just a shitload fun. I can't wait to come back to Philly. Hell, I've even commented to people here that I could easily see myself ending up heading in that direction.

Scott: Like saying by to Quinn in the wee hours, seeing you walk out the door on Sunday was really damn hard. I actually had to wipe my face. Like you said, part of it was leaving people, part delirium. Mainly it was that you turned out to be just as much the intelligent, funny, and cool to talk to as you are in the boards and emails. Like I said in my last post, you're my boys. I couldn't have asked for a more perfect group of people to start the trip with. That first car load and that first night just felt right. It really set the stage. You are an amazing guy and you have a very lucky little girl at home.

Isha Also, I feel the need to mention the Lady who stopped us at toys R us to ask Quinn "Are you guys a college group? What's going on?"

Quinn I finally got around to giving Miles and Carter their souvenirs and Cathy-gifts, and they're very excited. They've been playing with their Kermit-balls (sounds dirty, but isn't) and they're having so much fun that hopefully Miles will forget he's too big for Sesame Street. I told him when he went to bed tonight that he still needs to watch Sesame Street sometimes so he'll be able to read and go to school like a big boy. And because if he doesn't keep watching Sesame Street, Daddy's gonna friggin lose it.

Scott Well, today's the first day I've felt rested since last Saturday. I had Gillian last night and we took it easy watching Pluto cartoons. Man, I missed her so much.

Anyway, here are a few things that keep popping into my head and giving me joy...

humping Shawn's back in the Toys R Us parking lot

fireplace shadows dancing on the ceiling

WWII sirens

Kellie and I making necklaces for Tom and Gillian

the Coloring is Zen room

Alaina's tongue

someone using a key word that caused Quinn and I to look at each other because it was either geeky or dirty (I forget exactly now)

ranking Disney Princesses by least to most fuckable

Toho

FUCK YOU GRANDMA!

Devil's got your nose

giving out presents

getting to talk about Gillian a little bit

Shawn Wow! I'm flattered my back was so high up on your list! But what about the part where you were thrown violently out of my shopping cart? That I, um, urged you to get into. Heh.

Scott Yeah, that was great. What a jackass am I. I probably wouldn't have flown so far out if I had actually been inside the cart.

Jumping on your back just seemed natural and not at all imposing from my stick-figure-like build.

People have asked me where I got the boo-boo on my hand, and I just said "horsin' around." I'm only so secure in my juvenility in certain circles.

Danny I asked you like four times how you got that cut on your hand, and I didn't realize that, duh, it was from the shopping cart. Obviously.

Scott You did? I must have been drunk off my ass.

Danny I asked you constantly. It was a regular obsession with me. You ignored the question every time.

Quinn I don't think I ever asked him directly, but I did see Danny and Isha asking, and Scott just sort of glazing over... maybe he was in shock. He could have DIED! Good thing we had the sleeping bag -- with that material, we could have cloned a New Scott.

Kellie I love that everybody asked Scott about his hand. We all *saw* him go flying off of a shopping cart onto asphalt. Stupid friends...

Cathy Heh. We're dumb.

Danny I guess we're not used to hanging out with the cast of Jackass.

Danny By the way, I want this weekend on DVD, preferably in a Special Edition box set with commentaries and featurettes. When's that coming out?

Peter That all depends on who releases it.

If it's HIT, the DVD will be released to test markets featuring the first three episodes of Quinnfest.

If it's Sesame Workshop, new footage of Danny and Mooch must first be recorded to tie together a half-hour highlight reel.

If it's Disney, the Quinnfest DVD will be released as a four-disc collection only upon establishing the success of the TPFest and BAMfest DVDs. The set will feature a variety of bonus features, but any references to Disney Princess Uno will be deleted due to expensive copyright fees. The roles of Danny and Shawn will be played by Drew Massey and Victor Yerrid.

Would you like to have a monkey make... November 7 • 8753.12-15

Quinn I've been anti-monkey for more than 20 years.

And now I've taken all of that anti-monkey energy and somehow refracted it, and now it's like this piercing, incredibly focused ray of love for Mooch. I know everyone who's met him loves him, but that little monkey could bring world peace to the... world.

Alaina I'm channeling Mooch right now, and he has only one thing to say.

TANK you.

bows

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