

Tough Pigs Yearbook 2006



Poetry, Randomness, and Indiana Jones

Compiled by Ryan Roe, with special thanks to Danny Horn and everyone who nominated posts, and super special thanks to Martha Crannell for editorial assistance

Editor's note: We are pleased to announce that this year, for the first time, the yearbook will be presented in **SMELL-O-RAMA!** Each time you come to a new entry, simply lean toward your monitor and inhale, and your nostrils will be tickled with an aroma appropriate to that particular thread. With such scents as milkshakes, gummi bears, and peanut butter & chocolate fluffernutters included herein, we're certain you'll enjoy this exciting new innovation!

EDITOR'S NOTE IN REGARDS TO THE EDITOR'S NOTE: After close inspection of the yearbook, and the discovery of posts about construction workers, gorillas, and poop, we regret to announce that we have cancelled the **SMELL-O-RAMA** feature of this yearbook. Please attempt to enjoy it anyway.

The Pampered Prisoner

Jan 5 • 9029.3-5

Quinn I wish *I* was in prison.

Danny I wish you were too. The love prison.

Danny

I was super disappointed with last year's because that was supposed to be the 35th anniversary calendar. They celebrated 35 years of Sesame by showing us the same set of faux-vintage drawings that were on every other piece of merchandise all year. How about actually opening up the file drawers and finding a cool old Christmas scene?

I think the calendars are suffering from the same tired defeatism that everything is in the Muppet/Sesame world. This is the thought process: "Oh, sure, back in the 70's and 80's, we put a lot of work into the Sesame calendars, but that was when we were selling 2 million calendars a year. But there's much more competition now, and nobody really cares about Sesame Street anymore. We don't make enough money to justify spending any time or money on it. So we just provide some stock photos to a licensee, and they slap something together, and it sells okay. I don't know if we're even going to bother doing a calendar next year at all. Maybe I should just lie down under my desk and take a nap."

I think the franchise is just old and tired now. In the 70's, the calendars and records and books were made by the people who made the show. We've been adding a lot of Sesame books and records to the wiki lately, and I've been struck by how often the same names keep coming up in the credits for *everything*.

In 1974, they made 130 episodes of the show every year -- five times more than they do now. They also put out eleven records that year, and most of those records had extra songs and dialogue that wasn't even from the show. They also put out the Sesame Street ABC Storybook, which had 26 hilarious illustrated stories, all in different styles, and all of it original material. And y'know who's credited as the writers of that storybook? Jeff Moss, Norman Stiles and Daniel Wilcox - - who were on the writing staff of the show, and who are also credited on all of those eleven records. Oh, and also they wrote "Rubber Duckie" and invented Grover.

They worked their asses off on that show. Everything was important to them -- the records and the books had to be just as good as the show; it was all part of the same thing. They were young and hungry, and they had something to prove, and most importantly, the creative people were running things.

I can't imagine how many hours Jeff Moss and Joe Mathieu and Frank Oz put into Sesame Street in 1974. You don't work that hard unless you absolutely *love* what you do, and for a creative person to love their job that much, they must have felt like they were part of a huge creative team where everybody's smart and passionate and excited about what they're doing. Nobody slept that year. They were working too hard and having too much fun, and it shows, because the stuff that they produced is hilarious and amazing.

They didn't worry about having to pay the photographer extra to take new pictures for the album covers. They didn't say, hey, this drawing is just for a lunchbox, why don't we just use the one from last year's calendar? The people who were making those decisions were the same people who were writing the songs and performing the puppets. Creative people can't sit by and watch their team produce crap, so they wouldn't allow it.

But that was thirty years ago, and the creative people don't run the company anymore. Now it's run by business types, who cut corners and worry about the cashflow. They approve a 35th anniversary "branding plan" that involves putting the same six pictures on everything, and they think that sounds like a good idea, and then they go home at 5 and forget about it.

And hey, guess what? When you stop putting time and money into making good creative stuff, then the audience drifts away, and you have fewer people buying your calendars and videos. So then the business folks have even less interest in investing time and energy in making good stuff, and it's just a downward spiral from there. Then you end up making bonehead decisions like approving a "branding plan" that involves making Sesame UNO sets and Magic 8-Balls, instead of taking the funniest stuff that you have in your library and putting it on a DVD.

Meanwhile, three of the guys who made all that stuff in the 70's -- Norman Stiles, Mike Frith and Christopher Cerf -- they got frustrated waiting around for the business folks to make bad decisions. So they left in 1996, and they started their own company, and they made Between the Lions. They could've used that energy to make great Sesame stuff. The company doesn't want that energy anymore, so they had to go somewhere else.

It might be possible to turn that ship around, but it means putting the creative people in charge again. In general, the history of the last fifteen years is that the geniuses left the building. Some of them died, some of them retired, and some of them got bored and moved on to other projects. There are still great puppeteers there, bless 'em, but the ones who are still there don't have the authority to make the big decisions.

What they need is a new management team that's young and hungry and creative, and willing to spend some money and take some risks. They need people who know that it's not enough just to sit around and whine about the fact that they've lost market share -- if they want to win people back, they need to make better stuff. I don't know if that'll happen. If it doesn't, then the calendars are just another symptom of the sad, inevitable decline.

Damn. I didn't know I was going to write all that. See what happens when I don't post for a month? I must have been storing all that up.

[Tom]

Jesus vs. Italy

Jan 6 • 9028.7

[Cathy posts an article about an Italian court case regarding the existence of Jesus.]

JessG

It would please me greatly if towards the end of the trial the door busts open and 100 postal workers dump out huge sacks filled with letters addressed to Jesus on top of the bench as evidence.

[Danny]

Watching Buffy

Jan 6 • 6800.611-620

Scott Oh! You missed a misspelling.

Michal Where? I was blind to everything but the apostrophe.

Scott Best you hand over that ruler.

Michal All right.

Quietly opens a drawer full of identical rulers.

Quinn Do they all say ROLLINS on them in green marker, with a sort of Superman "S" at the end? Because if so, those are mine, lady. Been LOOKING for those!

Michal No, mine all say "Free Tibet" on them for some reason.

Scott I've been looking for those. Thief.

[Tom]

New Futurama episodes

Jan 6 • 9021.13

Peter No one cheapens Seth MacFarlane's accomplishments like Seth MacFarlane.

[Tom]

Flocked Kermit figure at Disney World

Jan 9 • 9040.6-13

Danny Unfortunately, as you can see in that picture, flocked things have a tendency to get flocked up really easily. You get those little scratches just by looking at it sideways.

Scott Yeah, but then you get to rub Kermit all over to groom him.

Quinn I could use a grooming myself.

Cathy *imagines Scott rubbing Quinn all over*

Martha !!!!!

Quinn I've been rubbed by worse.

There's a reason I became touchphobic, you know.

[Danny]

Childhood Muppet Rememberies

Jan 10 • 9052.1-30

Nicole When I was little I didnt really like the muppets that much, actually I barely even knew they existed. I saw Muppet Treasure Island when I was like 6, but I hated it, and the pirates scared me. I do remember that on Nickelodean they had muppet Music videos of "Kokomo" and "She Drives Me Crazy", and whenever I went to somewhere with a jukebox I would play Kokomo, which is still my favorite song, only now I have the cd.

So then I didn't become a muppet fan till I was 13 (which was actually only 2 years ago) when I found My moms Muppet Hits cd which I can't figure out if she bought for her, or if she thought I would enjoy it at like 2, but anyway I loved the songs so I went and bought some muppet movies and now here I am.

Kellie Yeah, a lot of us here grew up in a happier Muppet time than you did, so it's more to your credit that you ended up finding them on your own.

When I was little there were new episodes of the Muppet show on every week, The Muppet Movie and The Great Muppet Caper were on the big screen, and there was no such thing as Elmo. Ah, youth...

Beth I grew up on Muppet Babies, real Muppet stuff was hard to get, but my family taped whatever they could for me. One of my most vivid memories is my mom putting on the video of the Great Muppet Caper to distract me while she dug a splinter out of my hand with a needle.

Shawn For my 9th birthday party, we rented a VCR and The Muppets Take Manhattan. Remember when people used to rent VCRs?

Yeah, Nicole, you missed out on the Golden Age of Muppets. When I was a kid, you couldn't go to anyone's house without using a Great Muppet Caper glass, and Fisher-Price Muppet toys were holy items. Okay, so among a certain group of people those are still true, but you know what I mean.

One thing I remember was the excitement when my mom would bring home each new volume of the Sesame Street Library from the grocery store. And my oft-told tale of getting a new Talking Big Bird doll each Christmas between the ages of 2-6, because I would wear the previous ones out completely. Those pullstrings could really only take so much abuse. I remember at one point I had three in active service at once, with the absolutely gorgeous Snuffleupagus doll that was available.

Oh, I have to go lie down now.

Lauren Ooh, look! A bandwagon!

My earliest Muppet memory is watching The Muppet Movie and developing a dislike of Piggy that has stayed with up until recently. (I mean, she just LEFT him there!) I was raised on Sesame Street, and

Bert and Ernie were and still are my favorites. I still have my little plushies, along with a matching Big Bird. Fraggle Rock scared me, but I'm really into it now. I was also a huge fan of Muppet Babies, where I heavily identified with Baby Gonzo and Baby Scooter. It's probably what kept me into the Muppets until I was able to actually watch The Muppet Show for the first time. My mom insists that I absolutely loved it, but I have no recollection of the show whatsoever. This makes the DVD sets that much more exciting for me. Muppet Treasure Island still sticks as one of my favorite movie-going memories. I slipped in and out of Muppet fanishness until about a year ago. I've been unbearable ever since.

Tom

I can't ever remember a time when there wasn't Muppets. When I was growing up, it would have been pointless to say "I'm a Muppet fan" because everyone was a Muppet fan. It would be like someone now saying, "I love Pixar movies." Sure, who doesn't?

I watched Sesame Street and The Muppet Show everyday when I was growing up. I remember the first time I saw anything on video - it was The Muppet Movie. And I have vivid memories of my aunt taking my sister and I to see Great Muppet Caper and Muppets Take Manhattan in the theater. (Someone probably took us to see TMM in the theater too, but I was too young to remember.)

One of my favorite books was The Bert & Ernie Book. I read that many times aloud, doing all the voices throughout.

I remember getting the Fisher-Price Sesame Street playset, and how excited I was as my dad helped me get the figures out of their case.

I was practically inseparable from a small stuffed Big Bird when I was little.

Gosh, those were good times. I guess part of the appeal of Internet forums is getting a little of that feeling back. :)

Ryan R

My first TV memory is watching "Honk Around the Clock" on Sesame Street. It just grew from there.

Kynan

My mom, the quietest, normalest, non-show-offiest, wouldn't-make-a-speech-at-her-own-fiftieth-birthday-party mom in the world, used to read me The Monster At The End of This Book...in Grover's voice.

I don't think there's a language on earth capable of saying "thank-you" for something like that.

Paul

Muppets rulez they would say in my town

Joe

After seeing that episode of The Jim Henson Hour with Bobby McFerrin this weekend, I remembered watching it with my dad and asking him how the puppeteers couldn't be seen against the graffiti background. And my dad said "Umm, the cameraman just.. doesn't look at the puppeteers." And it made total sense.

Grant

Fraggle Rock was one of the first TV shows I ever watched, during its original run on CBC. It was the first show I'd ever seen on commercial television, and I used to yell at the TV when the show SUDDENLY STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY AND STARTED SHOWING THINGS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH FRAGGLE ROCK.

I used to jump off the couch onto the floor shouting "Whoopee!" and pretending to be Red jumping into the Fraggles Pond.

My cousin from England came to visit when I was six and he was four, and we made a Fraggles audio tape featuring me as Wembley and him as a Doozer named Bolt. It was seriously the most fun ever. Listening to it now, my favourite parts are when we got my Mom to play Junior Gorg. She really got into it, talking about Fwaggles who would steal all her wadishes.

We didn't actually have radishes, but we had apples, and we cut them into sticks before we ate them.

The first puppets I made were also Fraggles. I made them out of computer punch cards -- if I taped two of them together at the top and edges, it was the right size for my little-kid hand, and folding the cards created a joint that was the mouth. Now that I think of it, that's how I learned to lip-sync. I wish we'd been able to save a couple of those puppets, but being made of computer cards coloured with crayon and held together with Scotch tape, they disintegrated after a couple of years. (My parents maintain that they were actually made out of tape, held together with computer cards. Ha ha.)

Of course I also watched Sesame Street and The Muppet Show, but Fraggles was the one that was really an influence on my life. I was also a child during the Jim Henson Hour, so there were parts of that show that I didn't understand at all (Living with Dinosaurs), parts I barely remember (Song of the Cloud Forest), and parts that scared the hell out of me (The Food Chain Song).

I did have "Secrets of the Muppets" taped off the TV, and for all of first grade I watched it more or less every day after school. Yes, at the tender age of six, I was saying things like "matte" and "arm wires." Weird kid.

There's probably more, but that's all that comes to mind right now and this post is far too long already.

Isha

When I was a girl I believed everything was real. I knew that the Fraggles were puppets (my parents also showed me all the making-of movies bits they could find so I wouldn't be so frightened) but I believed that the Fraggles were real just like my stuffed animals were.

I loved my animals so I could hear their voices and knew their personalities. I figured the muppeteers loved the fraggles and could hear their voices and bring them to life. I guess it wasn't that far off.

Jim Henson was my hero because he could bring stuffed animals to life. Because he was a grownup who could hear their voices. Because he was a kind and gentle man who made a safe place for me in the world. When I grew up I learned he also scared the crap out of me with the Labrynth and the Dark Crystal, but as a child he was all fraggles and bunny picnics.

[Grant]

New Futurama episodes

Jan 10 • 9021.18

Scott Writers on those shows come and go like bacon on Easter Sunday.
There's no shortage of good writers looking for work.

[Danny]

Kynan: I'm drunk

Jan 14 • 9063.7-8

Grant Me orange give eat orange me eat orange give eat orange give me you?

Kynan Nice orange give me eat happy orange Grant smile.

Grant orange love. Delicious.

[Danny]

Muppet Zipper Pulls

Jan 14 • 9065.1-12

Rob I have four muppet character zipper pulls and am looking for duplicates or others...these are 3D characters and NOT key chains...I have Fozzie, Beaker, Gonzo and Bunsen Honeydew...they are quite cool and would like to have more...any thoughts on how to procure them???? Thanks.

Isha Welcome to the forum, I wish to commend you on your use of the word 'procure' which isn't used enough.

Please read the forum start page to find out how to set your first name (Rob?) as your nickname so we know who you are!

Joe Isha is our Welcome Wagon.

David And I am the Village Bicycle.

Alaina Heh.

Banana seat.

Rob Isha,
Imagine how disturbing it is to find on your quest for Muppet zipper pulls that members are using this post to say hi to each other or to talk about anything other than zipper pulls...very, I say...it was a simple request and now it has turned into a small picnic...so, again, the quest continues for the Zipper Pulls...got any ideas??? or perhaps other readers of this post will??????????

Cathy How dare they! The pure gall. Bad members!

If I were you, I would try posting your request here:

<http://forum.muppetcentral.com/>

They're much more accommodating to your needs over there. And I'm sure they'll welcome you with open arms.

Kellie But then how will we ever find out the resolution to the zipper pull mystery? How, I ask you? How?????????

[Danny]

Sesame Street Live PVC Playset

Jan 14 • 9039.14

Kynan

It feels mean to complain about cool merchandise, but I don't see why this stuff has to be branded Sesame Street Live. Why not just Sesame Street?

The "Live" in the show makes sense. It makes it feel immediate, real, up-close and cool. The same "Live" on the toys is just pointless, isn't it? They're not Muppets anymore, they're toys, based on the stage show, based on the TV show.

Even more so the "Sesame Street Live" action set -- it's like, instead of playing with your Muppet pals on Sesame Street, now you can re-enact the Sesame Street Live show, complete with a replica of the stage set that recreates the TV set...

The toys and the playset are cool. It just makes my brain hurt is all.

[Danny]

Kynan: I'm drunk

Jan 16 • 9063.20-21

Ryan R

Wow. I had no idea there were so many never-drunks here. If we ever decide to form a real club and have a party to celebrate our first meeting, there won't be any shortage of designated drivers.

Martha

On the contrary, we're going to have to specifically invite someone who will need a ride home.

I have a couple of people in mind.

Sesame DVD flood

Jan 17 • 7421.62-65

Scott Young Kynan Hubbard
 went to the cupboard
 alone for just one tasty treat.
 Instead of some grits
 he found "Monster Hits"
 so he decided to just beat his meat.

Kynan You're dissin' me in verse now?

 There was a brash poet named Scott
 Who shot off his mouth quite a lot
 He incurred Kynan's rancor
 By calling him "wanker"
 Though manners taught Scott he ought not.

Scott No one can ever call us liars.

 Mwah.

Kynan Hmph. I don't need your strawberry kisses as long as I have ready
 access to the ol' Hubbard meat.

I don't even know what we're talking about any more.

[Danny]

2006 Calendars

Jan 19 • 9017.51-52

Scott Turns out there is another Sesame calendar this year, but sadly it's not the anime one that Cathy didn't get.

Cathy Oh, I almost didn't not get my hopes up.

[Danny]

TP Fest NYC Jan 06

Jan 24 • 8999.81

Joe

By the way, I finally gave in and shaved off my beard-thing. I promised myself that I'd only shave it off for a job or for a woman, but I ended up just shaving it because it was itchy. And itchy is neither job nor woman. Although jobs and women CAN be itchy...

Now I've got pointy mutton chop thingies. Like my sideburns are trying to touch my mouth.

So, y'know, I don't look like those pictures anymore. That was the point. I'll go now.

[Danny]

Disney in talks to buy Pixar

Jan 25 • 9083.30

Shawn

I like how you don't read the entirety of people's posts before you respond. It's cute.

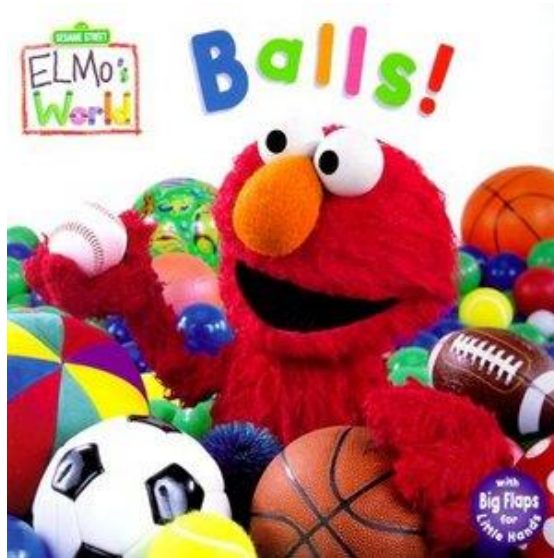
[Danny]

Sesame DVD flood

Jan 25 • 7421.71-74

Michal < *By the way, could this possibly be the gayest DVD cover yet?* >

No.



http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product/?item_no=05746&p=1013824

So sue me; it's not a DVD. But everyone who comes into my room loves that picture.

Grant I'm ashamed to say that makes me laugh uproariously every time I see it.

Michal Sell it through a religious website, and everybody wins.

Scott There's a segment of Elmo's World called "Balls" also.

Sadly, it wasn't featured on the "Elmo Has Two" disc.

[Danny]

Tom's new blog

Jan 25 • 9096.5

John

I enjoyed your movie list. I hope there's some of your usual brand of hornet-nest-stirring-with-a-smile to come. ha ha. But the name of the blog, well... it's just not catchy. You need something with razzle and/or dazzle. ****Tomblog!**** works for me.

[Danny]

2006 Movies

Jan 25 • 9064.33-37

Joe I dunno, I don't think [*Nanny McPhee*] looks very good. But I tend to skip movies that have dancing donkeys in them.

Kellie Wow, that must really limit your choices.

Tom Really?

(checks Entertainment Weekly)

It's gonna be a bad year for you, my friend. X3, Superman Returns, even Martin Scorsese's new project...every single one of them has a dancing donkey in it.

Danny That's a terrible thing to say about Anna Paquin.

David It's true, though.

runs to the Judge Everything thread

[Danny]

The New Muppet Odd Couple

Jan 27 • 9112.1-8

David So, last night, I had a dream that was fairly standard, except every once in a while, Beaker and a Blue Yip-Yip martian would wander by in the background, having a conversation. It happened at least twice throughout the dream. Not much attention was paid to them, but there they were, best of friends.

And when I woke up, I wished that would happen in real life. A lot.

I smell a buddy movie.

Michal It sounds more like a series of shorts to me.

Film shorts. Or boxers, I suppose. If either gets made, I'll take it.

David How about a mini-series? Or an operetta? Or how do you feel about educational film strips?

Michal It does? Where? When?

And how much?

David It took me a good few seconds to figure that all out. Brava. Eat one of your own damn Chewy Bars.

Fraggle Rock: Season 2 DVDs

Jan 28 • 9107.27-28

Joe Hmm, apparently domestic abuse is entertaining and deserving of a good Fragglesong.

If that's not a conversation killer, I don't know what is.

Michal I've always been partial to "Have you ever seen a horse vomit?"

Forum stats – December 2005

Jan 31 • 9015.53-55

Beth I'm semi-disappearing again in February. I will be visiting people in Braunschweig, known to English speakers as Brunswick, which is east of Hannover.

Anthony Well, you certainly are a busy young world traveler.

I'll just be here in North Dakota the whole time.

sigh

No Sesame Street action figures?

Feb 1 • 9125.2

Quinn

If we ever see Sesame Street figures from Palisades, I'll eat my hat.

It's made of licorice. But still.

No Sesame Street action figures?

Feb 1 • 9125.14-15

Kellie Awww... My poor lonely Super Grover.

Michal Well, this looks like a job for someone.

[Danny]

Dog Sees God

Feb 7 • 9104.78-79

Cathy I trust your judgement, so I'm crossing it off my things to see list. Not that I have a things to see list. But if I did have one, I'd be crossing it off right now. You know what? Maybe I'll make a things to see list so I can specifically cross this show off of it.

I'll put that on the things to do list.

Joe *crosses "make Cathy's head asplode" off list*

Andrew's visit to Parque Sesamo Plazo

Feb 7 • 9146.7-10

Quinn Twiddlebug seizures are the cutest.

Kynan You know they're all recorded in extra-slow time, and then speeded up in post, for that really special super-jittery feel. Shake, Twiddlebugs, shake!

Happy Birthday, Lauren!

Feb 14 • 9161.22-26

Lara Why is it everytime G (or Scott) sends you stuff you never say what it is?!

Is it porn?!

Are they sending you porn?!

Are you guys sending her porn?!

Lauren Okay, I give. It was mounds and mounds of porn. There was also a powdery white substance in the package. But at least the ticking noise stopped about an hour after I got it home. That was getting on my nerves.

Michal Nuts. I was hoping it was a pony.

Sleeping Muppets

Feb 16 • 9194.1-2

Ryan I just want to say, I like when Muppets sleep and they turn their heads away from the camera so we can't see their eyes.

That's all.

Cathy I always turn my head away from the camera when I sleep too.

Who Is This?

Feb 16 • 91871.10

Jog

For crying out LOUD, am I in charge of ALL your grandmas around here?!

Rowlf quotes

Feb 19 • 9199.4-10

- Tom** Also, anyone: help my tired brain. What's that glass reflector thingy called, anyway?
- Jog** No idea what that mirror thing is called. Possibly a "reflector", though people with more experience with that side of the medical business should know better than me; my doctors would wear anything but that.
- Nate** I believe it's correct medical term is "doohickie"
- Tom** I vote for calling it a "gribazig."
(I can't call it a "gribaziggy" because that, as you know, is a *female* gribazig.)
- Scott** So, what's a male gribazig?
- Tom** The male version of "gribazig" is just plain "gribazig."

Guillermo meets...

Feb 2 • 9215.6

Isha

Very Well said Daniel.
I want to zerbert your chest.

Smurfs

Mar 2 • 9248.7-8

Jog

I still need to complete my 2005 series of Smurfs. Why didn't I buy those yesterday? (Why did I have to spend my money sensibly on cool new shirts for Springtime?)

Anthony

That's a good question Jog. Don't you know that spring is the time to take your shirt off?

Watching Buffy

Mar 3 • 6800.674-77

Ryan R I was going to make a very specific joke/reference, but then I remembered not everyone reading this thread has seen Angel season five.

So make the joke yourself.

Scott *laughs at the joke Ryan didn't make*

Quinn *smiles quietly at the joke Ryan didn't make*

Erik I don't get it.

Longest Entry Name

Mar 5 • 9252.16

Andrew L Muppet nudity does not withstand close scrutiny.

Kellie: Tough Piglet on the way

Mar 16 • 9307

Names suggested for Kellie's new baby:

- Deuteronomy
- Goshposh
- Pigerella
- Danny Kaye
- Chuckie Sue
- Mr. Pants
- Captain
- Doctor
- Flufinella
- Tootsie
- Major Major Major
- Yossarian
- Glumboclutch
- Mike

Fluffernutters

Mar 20 • 9327.21

Isha

ya know, every time we talk about fluffer nutters here, I swear we've talked about it before, but no one ever remembers like me. It's like some kind of sticky sweet time loop.

Happy Birthday, Nate!

Mar 20 • 9329.5

Michal

Mama Nate! In honor of your birthday, I've had kittens. Take your pick of the litter.

Season 37

Mar 20 • 9324.13-16

Peter Is it me or does Carroll look younger in that picture than he did when I met him at BAM? Are those pics really from the past year?

Kynan Carroll's in remarkably good health. Either that or he's got a sweet deal where Matt Vogel ages for him.

Grant The Picture of Dorian Bird.

Fluffernutters

Mar 21 • 9327.35-36

Shawn "Ooh. Fluff AND peanut butter AND chocolate spread. Somebody's got to try it"

I did. I dood it.

Oh, my.
Oh, dear!
Oh, my word.

Michal (I'll have what he's having.)

The Chipmunk Adventure

Mar 22 • 9312.30-39

Michal I never know if people are getting my jokes anymore.

Joe HA! Good one!

...right?

Michal You know, now I'm not so sure myself.

Carolyn That's okay, I've never understood your jokes.

Which Muppet are you?

Mar 22 • 9340.11

Cathy

We believe in one Creator, Jim Henson, the Almighty

Maker of Muppets for man, Muppeteers sometimes seen, mostly unseen

We believe in one Frog, Kermit the

First well known Muppet, eternally recognized by all

Peoples is peoples, Muppets is Muppets, Kermit is Kermit

Made, not begotten, one in Being with the hand beneath him

Through him all things were made funny

For us peoples and for our amusement, he came down from Sam & Friends

By the power of Jim Henson, he was born of a green coat and became Frog

To our sadness he was silenced by the death of the Creator; we wondered whether he was dead and buried

In the following years, he rose again in fulfillment of the movie scripts

He ascended into greatness being performed by the right hand of Whitmire

His popularity has come again in glory but we judge the foolish business decisions

We hope the Muppets will have no end

We believe in the Muppeteers, for the Muppets, the givers of life

Who proceed to make all things humorous

Because of their humor, they are worshipped and irreplaceable

The Muppets speak only through them

We wanted to believe that Disney would shelter and love the Muppets

We acknowledge we were wrong and wait for Disney to ask forgiveness of their sins

We look for the wrongs to be made right

And pray for the Muppets to come.

Amen.

Through one Muppet, through all Muppets, in the unity of all the Muppets within us, our love and our thanks are yours almighty Jim, forever and ever.

[Scott]

YOUR chance to join the Justice League!

Mar 24 • 9344.12

Quinn

Elongated Man is one of the few JLU action figures I don't have yet, but every time I do a search on eBay I get distracted by all of the other things for sale under that name...

Rare eBay finds

Mar 28 • 8496.282-284

Sarah Who are you kidding. I bet you can feel them watching you now saying, 'please, please play with me'!!

Freaking you out yet!?! :-)

Danny Are the toys freaking me out? No.
Are you? Poskibly.

Sarah My job here is done.
MWAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

Custom Muppet Watches

Mar 30 • 9376.2-35

Cathy >>*If you are including Walt Disney World or Disneyland, (i.e. The Smith Family at Disneyland), the Theme Park names must be fully spelled out and must be preceded by "at" or "in." If your request contains unacceptable verbiage, you will be notified via email and your order will be canceled.*<<

Shouldn't the Theme Park names be preceded by "at" or "in"?
Because the way they phrase it there, the correct acceptable Disney approved verbiage would be "Disneyland at The Smith Family."

Stupid Disney website editors.

Danny So I guess my "Let's Fuck Disneyland" watch won't make the cut.

Darn it. I was hoping to wear that to job interviews.

Ryan R You would just have to get one that says, "Let's Fuck at Disneyland."

Lauren Can't we get "The Smiths" back in there somehow?

Jimmy "The Smiths Fuck at Disneyland"

How is that?

Peter Let's Fuck the Smiths at Disneyland!

Joe Disneyland fucks the Smiths!

Peter That's not allowed.

Please try "At Disneyland fucks the Smiths!" or "In Disneyland fucks the Smiths!"

Custom Muppet Watches

Apr 5 • 9376.17-27

Quinn Melissa got me a watch the first year we were together, and it just died a grizzly death. So now I'm trying to find a replacement, and nothing's good.

And my cell is too embarrassing (and large) to get out of my pants every time I want to know what time it is.

Replace "cell" with whatever you want--it works.

Ryan R I just tried replacing it with "grandmother." It was pretty weird.

Michal "Ceiling fan" was no good either.

Quinn Ceiling Fan is FANTASTIC. I didn't even see that coming. So much for my pants.

throws away pants

Missing link fish

Apr 6 • 9402.61

Shawn

I keep wondering when people are going to get over this whole 'God' business once and for all. I feel like it's dragged on for much longer than is funny. Not that I think all religion is wrong, per se. You could just be doing more useful things with your time, like pursuing an RC car hobby. Or eating gummi bears.

[Danny]

Forum stats – March 2006

Apr 6 • 9384.33

Martha Fuck you, Grammar!

[Cathy]

Spelling enthusiasts

Apr 7 • 9404.63

Shawn

I just kind of automatically assume every single person writing on the internet has substandard intelligence, and they have to individually prove I'm wrong. Presumed guilty.

Also, a big YEA to 'official' print material containing errors. One particularly big set of offenders is anything related to video games. I was reading a game magazine today and the phrase 'wreck havoc' was used, and it wasn't the first time I've seen that particular goof. I know a lot of people writing about video games are young, but don't you have to have some kind of journalism degree to write professionally for a magazine? And also to edit one?

If anyone should make a big spelling or GRAMMER (I'm lookin' at you, Isha) mistake in this thread, said person should be penalized ten points.

Y'know... from the points. That we have.

[Danny]

Spelling enthusiasts

Apr 7 • 9404.73

John "Plzkbye" and "kthxbye" have never been used in my presence. Their existence makes me wonder how much we humans really do hate each other.

[Danny]

Muppet Acrostic Poems

Apr 7 • 9411.2-67

Quinn Killing flies and bugs with his tongue
Educating children since 1961
Relaxing naked on a lily pad
Miss Piggy's favorite little lad
I love him, my hero, he's Kermit
The Frog

Quinn Disclaimer--I only said Kermit's been educating children since 1961
because it rhymed. My students don't know any better. Don't get on
my case, chief.

Quinn My love
Is
Surprisingly strong,
Surprisingly saucy.

Princess of Pork, honey-baked ham
If she
Gets her way, her
Gorgeous blue eyes will always say
Yes to me.

Andrew L Likely to sell what you don't want to buy,
Ernie's a popular mark for this guy...
From his long trenchcoat
To his "Riiiiight" and his glare...
You'd best be careful 'fore buying his wares.

Ryan R Mammoth-like, he's definitely
Real, and not a figment

Shaggy is his fur, with its
Nice, dark brown pigment
Usually he hangs out with his
Friend, a yellow bird
Frequently they say, "Let's count things!" or
Let's make words!"
Everyone's impressed by his
Undulating snuffle
Prehensile and large, it
Always sways as he shuffles
Goes home at night to sleep
Untroubled in his cave, that's
Snuffy

(Yeesh. That was harder than I thought it would be.)

Grant Not good enough to be the host,
Instead relegated to a
Gig as the conductor.
Electric Mayhem thinks he's square,

Lovelady or Henson, he doesn't care.

Anthony Fed up with playing this square gig, he'd
Love to tell the frog to flip
Only stays sane by ragging on the pig
You know he's tragically hip
Dig?

Andrew L Pottering around by the stage door is he
Old coot whose hearing ain't what it used to be
Packs it up to England to run a hotel
Since then, an action figure! Ain't that swell?

Scott Running his fingers
Over eighty-eight keys
We can't help but
Love a
Furry dog with no knees

Jog Great musician, young explorer
Orange skin and dark brown hat
Bravely following the footsteps
Of his Uncle Travelling Matt

Jog Just two dancing Slinkies
Al Hirt, he plays the brass
Very loud explosion:
A Muppet act with class

Joe Too tall for the backstage door
He only wants a hug
Only "Santa Switch" survivor
Good thing he's not a hired thug

Grant Great is his full title.
Once a mere cigar box resident,
Now a chicken-loving masochist.
Zoologists can't classify him.
Only he can be an alien AND Charles Dickens.

Grant Bottle caps and paperclips are
Enough to make him smile.
Record patience:
Thirty-seven years with Ernie!

Ryan R Can eat a set of bagpipes
And be a big mean bunny
Really a one-joke character, but we
Laugh because it's funny

Jog Louis Armstrong's voice sounds groovy
It's a voice that Steve can do
Problem is, 't might be offending...

Sorry Lips; no lines for you

Isha She brings us stories from the wall
Hear her tales from every place.
Always there to dance and sing
Darling thing with warmth and grace
Only one small problem:
Why, girl ain't got no face!

Danny Muppets are
Unruly
Puppets. Can't keep up? It's
Pretty clear that
Everybody loves
The Muppets,
Specially the folks round here.

M Catherine Bumbling and
Earnest, but
Always a dear,
Usually works in the theater, but back in the
Rear.
Everyone sees that he's not very bright, but with
Goelz puppeteering, you know it's all right.
Asking wherefore those
Red-handed thieves scurried
Driving with him would make me rather worried.

M Catherine Global explorer and
Really great friend, teaching
Over, Under, and Through 'til the end.
Valiant and super,
Even with one small fault: Take his
Restaurant service with a big grain of salt.

M Catherine Jelly-belly giggling is
A frequent occupation for this girl who thinks that
Nudist beaches aren't just for vacation. She's
Infinitely groovy when she's rollin' and she's rockin', but her
California charm is in her
Easy, laid-back talkin'.

David Sure,
We know he's big. And sometimes,
Even scary looking.
Egad! What imposing jaws!
Though he's tall and
Unnerving, look close and you just
Might see a sweet little frog
Sitting in his hulking paws.

[Grant]

Tom Cruise

Apr 13 • 9405.14-17

Ryan R

Oh, and meanwhile, did you see the two of them on the cover of Us Weekly? She's smiling happily, but he's just staring out at the camera... I was gazing at it in the checkout line for several minutes before I realized that Tom Cruise was trying to hypnotize me through the magazine cover and turn me into One of Them.

Danny

Did it work?

Ryan R

Yes. I'm currently giving silent birth.

Danny

Nice. I can't hear a thing.

Superman's hair?

Apr 13 • 9416.37-52

Ryan R I totally dig the crazy Silver Age comics from during Schwartz's heyday. I don't think he would have been at DC for so long, or spoken of so fondly today, if he had been anything less than at least a 3/4-wit. As I understand it, much of what made the DC Universe what it is happened under his reign...

And talking gorillas are cool. (I'd love to own one, if anyone wants to be thinking about a present for my next birthday.)

Danny Hey, if y'all think that stories about Superman building a statue of himself and then bringing it to life so that it can marry a robot mermaid are something to be proud of, then...

um...

I have no idea how to finish that sentence. It just don't seem possible.

Andrew L That one? No.

The one where a "This is Your Life" type event is organized in Superman's honor, which Lana Lang and Lois try to use as a chance to prove that Clark is Superman, and Supes solves the problem with a proxy Superman who is actually John F. Kennedy, returning the favor for the many times Superman saved the country? Heck yes!

Shawn But everything about that sentence is wonderful! The only thing it's missing is pirates.

The thing people don't always keep in mind about those old comics is that back then they were still seen as children's entertainment. Stories to entertain 9-year-old boys don't exactly have to make sense or be good. Superhero comics as sophisticated adult entertainment is a relatively new concept, and a lot of people still don't think it's possible.

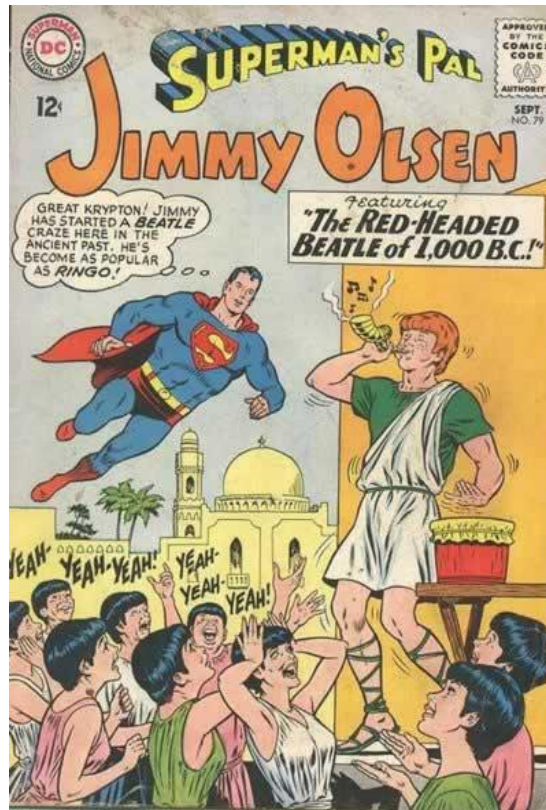
Ryan R Stories to entertain 9-year-old boys don't exactly have to make sense or be good.

I don't think being nonsensical dictates that they're not good. Of course, they're not all good. But as improbably as they are, there's a sincerity to those old comics that you don't always find these days, what with superhero comics no longer being written with kids in mind.

Which is not to say today's comics are bad either, of course. They're good for today... but as much as I like them, I like my "Greatest Superman Stories Ever Told" book of older stuff just as much.

Danny See, "it's for kids" doesn't work for me as an excuse for "it's badly written". Kids are way smarter than people give them credit for. If a story is stupid and badly told, then it doesn't matter whether your intended audience is third graders or college graduates.

Stupid is stupid. To prove it, I'm going to take some core samples from Superdickery. I'd bet you anything that the kids buying them thought they were stupid. Defend them if you dare.



Andrew L I'm not really defending the notion that things for kids can be badly written so much as I am trying to address the statement that "Julius Schwartz was a half-wit" just because many of the comics produced during his reign were incredibly goofy. By the way, the Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane stuff was all Mort Weissinger, so if Schwartz is to be deemed a half wit, he's not alone.

I'm not saying any of the stories inside are necessarily classics (many are documented in full at the Oddball Comics site), so much as I'm trying to say that truly insane and mind bogglingly bizarre concepts aren't necessarily the same as bad writing. They sometimes go hand in hand, but not always. Bad writing can still occur with the most straight faced "Superman is bleeding!" angst fest.

Shawn I think you misunderstood me. I don't think 'it's for kids' is a valid excuse for something being bad either. But I do think it's a reason a lot of things for kids ARE bad - the people making them don't (or didn't) give kids enough credit and that any old stupid thing would suffice.

Plus, it was in the 50's. People really did think kids were stupid.

Danny

But that was the same time that Carl Barks was creating well-written, intelligent, funny Uncle Scrooge stories. Uncle Scrooge and Walt Disney's Comics and Stories were the best selling comics for a long time, and for the most part, they were really smart. That's mostly due to Barks, who did research for his stories, especially in National Geographic, to get the locations and the history right.

I think it's interesting to compare those smart Uncle Scrooge stories to the incredibly stupid Batman and Superman stories of the same period, since the superhero comics were supposedly aimed at a higher age group.

Ryan R

Clearly, you're just not a superhero comics person. But that's okay.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to travel back in time on a magic exercise bike so I can go find Paul Bunyan and bring him into space with with me so we can fight a radioactive talking orangutan who wants to turn all of Earth's food into bananas.

Anthony

Maybe this discussion is over, but I love 60s DC comics precisely because they're so crazy. The writers were cranking out stories like mad, and most of them don't make any sense, but they were always entertaining.

Custom M&M's

Apr 13 • 9433.1-7

Ryan R TP's own Michal recently alerted me to the fact that you can order custom M&M's on the official website. You can have your own short phrases printed on the front and back of each candy in a bag:

They don't allow obscenities, they say... but it's fun to see what naughty words it does and doesn't know. Although it won't allow "Fuck you, Grandma!" there are some more obscure slang words, and giggle-inducing clinical phrases, that seem to pass its standards.

John In the interest of research, I tested the following dirty words and they are totally do-able:

bukakke
cock
boobz
sixtynin
msmousey
turdz

PS I have no interest in exploring the part of my psyche that encouraged me to search this list of words. Carry on.

Nate They do accept this though:

f.u.c.k.

So there you go. Buck the system!

Tom Cruise

Apr 14 • 9405.23-25

Danny

Man, Diane Sawyer is like the captain of the softball team. She pitches 'em slow and across the plate.

Diane: So, what about the rumors that the baby isn't yours?

Tom: Ha ha ha. Oh, now. I mean. That's just -- I've been hearing these rumors, really, my whole life. I moved around from school to school a lot.

Diane: Okay. Some people say that Katie's parents object to her being a Scientologist.

Tom: Oh, gosh. No, no. Ha ha. No, they're fine. Her mom was here, then she left. She'll be back when the baby's born.

Diane: Well, that's nice to hear. I also heard that you and Katie killed a pizza delivery man and that he's hanging on a hook in your mud room. I have photos and DNA lab evidence right here.

Tom: Oh, wow. Ha ha ha. No, Diane, you see, the thing is, I don't know where people get this stuff. I don't even pay attention to it. I'm making my movies. I have a family. I don't have time to worry about what people are saying about me.

Diane: Hey, I heard you run really fast in Mission Impossible 3.

David

Totally
Out of his
Mind

Crazy doesn't
Really start to describe the
Unhinged quality
In those
Scary, beady
Eyes.

Peter Wow! Not to sideswipe the thread into oncoming sentimentality or anything, but the following happened to me in May of last year:

Peter: What song?

Leah: Oh, just some color song off some Disney record. My sister and I used to sing along all the time. You wouldn't know it.

Peter: Red yellow green red blue blue blue...

Leah: *gasp of recognition*

Leah: *stands up in the middle of the restaurant*

Leah: *walks around table*

Leah: *kisses Peter square on the mouth in middle of said restaurant*

I just thought it bore mentioning how close my dreams of falling in love (see 6390.521) came to the real thing.

Michal You know, that scenario is even better than it would have been if someone in the restaurant had been trying to defend their family against a gorilla attack. Much more romantic.

Beth's incredible TP journey

Apr 18 • 9403.80-83

Isha Oh, hey, if you run across the post where Anthony offers to make babies with me, let me know.

I want to hold him to it.

Martha You want to what, now?

Tech Help: Video Capture

Apr 19 • 9445.4-6

Erik To capture video, you just need a trap. A leg-hold trap works well, though if you're on a budget you can just dig a pit and cover it with leaves.

Martha *snort*

No, silly. That's how you capture monkeys.

Dan It's also how I caught my husband.

[Erik]

Sesame calendar pictures

Apr 19 • 9442.15

Anthony I wish Oscar would hold my boxers on a fishing pole.

Why I Hate Johnny Knoxville

Apr 20 • 9453.1-9

Nate Poor British Journalism, and stupid Johnny. This was on the news wires today.

JACKASS star JOHNNY KNOXVILLE was an unusual child - he hated The Muppets. Badboy Knoxville was a fan of rival children's programme Sesame Street, favouring THE COUNT and MR SUNFFALUFFAGUS to Kermit and the rest of the clan. Knoxville tells British film magazine Empire, "I didn't really like the f**kin' Muppets. "F**k the Muppets! F**k the motherf**kin' Muppets. "KERMIT THE FROG sits on d**ks!"

Cathy And you staple yours to random household objects, just because. Who's the winner here Johnny? Who?

Anthony What a strange thing.

Lauren I must have missed the big Sesame Street/Muppet Show rivalry. Was this pre-1985?

Isha The great Muppet Show/Sesame war began in 1975 when the Muppets pulled what they thought would be a harmless prank by stealing the original clip of "Fur." Unfortunately, through a mishap involving exploding fish, the clip was accidentally destroyed. The fallout from this was severe. Some have never recovered.

[Martha]

Sesame calendar pictures

Apr 21 • 9442.25-27

Kyle Why is Marice or that other monster in the July one wearing a dress? Isn't that spoused to be that one guy monster character? What in the world happend to him? Did he finally figure out something.

Danny Well, monsters are wild. They do all kinds of things. They're monsters.

Kyle You conviced me.

[Danny]

Andrew L I don't know if anyone has seen this yet, but at the end of March, the Modesto Bee briefly mentioned Muppet Wiki at the tale end of a piece on internet searches, which looks like it might be a regular column, not sure:

"You've probably heard of Wikipedia, the user-written online encyclopedia, and the controversy over its accuracy and writing quality. But what of Muppet Wiki (muppet.wikicities.com)? The new "Muppet database that anyone can edit" recently reached its 6,000th article. The site seeks to collect every bit of information about Jim Henson's puppet creations, such as Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, and their related spinoffs, and dedicated fans are pitching in to make it happen. The resulting entries are typically dry and often brief, but the site recently was selected as a "new and notable" site by the Yahoo! directory. As one Muppet Wiki contributor put it, 'This place is my new crack, and since I've got a lot of down time right now at work, I'm hopelessly hooked.' "

Interesting if somewhat ambiguous stance towards us, but hey, publicity is publicity. Of course, since then, we've reached over 8,600 articles. 9,000 is just around the corner, chaps! And as for it being too dry, they obviously missed "Characters Whose Names Sound a Bit Rude," or Sprocket's Impersonations, or Characters Who Have Been to the Moon!

Ryan R Whose quote was that?

Andrew L Nate said it back in February, thus perpetuating the assumption that Muppets are a gateway to narcotics. Or possibly suggesting that rehab centers should run marathons of "Fraggle Rock" and lectures on Anything Muppet pattern types if they really want junkies to come clean. It works both ways, I guess.

[Danny]

Sesame calendar pictures

Apr 22 • 9442.28-34

Tom Sorry, 1990 really happened. I had my first-ever girlfriend that year, so that one can't go away.

1990 was real. So says my imaginary friend, Dave.

Feel free to take 2003 out of existence, though, if you like.

Martha Nope, 2003 definitely happened. I have a ring on my finger and photos of me in a white dress to prove it. I'd support a movement to get rid of 1998, though.

Tom Hmm. I graduated from college and got my first adult job in '98. So that was kinda important.

Any takers for 2004?

Martha No way, José. 2004 was TPFest-NYC.

Cathy I for one would nix the year 2000. Nothing but bad.

Emmy We can't get rid of 2000. Because if there's no 2000 then I don't become a Muppet fan. Which would suck.

What about 1996 and/or 1997?

Joe Anyone got a problem with 1583? Because that was the year I got the clap.

[Danny, Michal]

Joe

This is why you have to read every. Single. Thread. Ever. And then store them in a special place in your memory. And if it comes to it, you can push out all that algebra stuff, you'll never use it again anyways.

[Danny]

Tom Cruise

Apr 24 • 9405.70

John

Brad and Angelina's baby may one day do a Google search and find this caring message from me:

Dear Namibian-named Pitt-Jolie baby: Your bloodline pretty much begins and ends in the American midwest. According to the IMDB, your maternal grandmother is, like, a quarter 'Haudenosaunee', but I highly doubt she was harvesting maize or suffering abuse a la the protagonist of Cher's 'Half Breed.' Your paternal grandparents are Bill and Joyce, a truck driver and a homemaker, respectively. I'm sorry to break this to you so impersonally, but someone needed to tell you that you are whiter than Wonderbread.

[Cathy]

Rob Mills

Apr 25 • 8690.20

Lara

Just watching "Down at Fraggles Rock" again... I'm noticing Rob just doing a lot of standing around and watching other people.

Did he have any extra jobs on FR?

Ryan R

It was his job to make the cast ice cream floats at their weekly episode wrap party.

Okay, I made that up. He really made them milkshakes.

Lara

Oh good. I was starting to think he was a figment of my imagination. No, wait. That's Dave Goetz now.

Rob's milkshakes bring all the Fraggles to the rock.

So Rob Mills: Puppeteer/Milkshake specialist/Assistant Standing Over Your Shoulder To Make You Nervous Guy

(Head Standing Over Your Shoulder To Make You Nervous Guy was Richard Hunt. You never know when he'd just yell nonsense into your ear to make you screw up. Rob didn't yell, only tapped people on the shoulder and make them turn the wrong way. Thus, assistant.)

[Lara]

Star Wars Transformers?

Apr 25 • 9464.23-24

Ryan R I want a Gloria Swanson toy with a crazy-eye action mechanism.

Cathy One that tranforms into a old timey horseless carriage.

[Tom]

Books Right Now

Apr 25 • 7818.236

Cathy

I tried reading the book and couldn't get past the first chapter. Bored me silly. Also, I really didn't like the musical either. Usually when I tell people that, it elicits the response "You didn't like Wicked?" And I say, "no, I didn't like Wicked. And the music from the show blows too." And they usually act all outraged and offended, as if it was their favorite Aunt Gertrude that wrote and scored the show and I've just sullied the family name. Then they proceed to try to convince me why I should like the show. And then I punch them in the face.

Happens every time.

[John]

Do you exist?

Apr 27 • 9478.1-10

Scott So far, my name is really Tabitha, Ryan is an elderly man who sends pictures of a young man's head on a stick to appearances, and some people still don't think Tom is real.

Anyone else?

Quinn I exist. I exist like a mofo.

Peter Your mom exists.

Tom Hmm. As established, the first link you sent of pictures of me doesn't exist anymore.

The second photo is all of people who don't hang around this group anymore to verify my existence.

In the third photo, I'm standing next to you, but you look nothing like that anymore.

In fact, we both have blondish-brown hair, and we alternately are clean-shaven or have goatees.

So far, the evidence is stacking up rather heavily against me. I think I may just be a psychological projection of you, Tabitha.

I wouldn't be surprised if I exist on the same plane as '87 Martha's hair, considering my obsession with it. In that case, the '75 clip of "Fur" is probably here too.

And I have no idea how Tomn fits in to all of this.

[Beth]

Jog

One of my favorite creative projects was inventing the character of Jog. I love Jog. I've been writing for him for over seven years, which is about the longest time I ever spent developing a character. He's been around for so long that I'm always comfortable performing him. He is also one of my most elaborate characters. I'm very proud of that.

When I first started performing Jog - I think it was 1998 or so that we introduced him on Muppet Central - he was only a rough sketch of the Jog we know today. My first idea of this character was that he had to be bilingual and funny. That was mostly his personality in those days. He was not a fully three dimensional character yet.

After a while, I realised that Jog's strength lied in interacting with other characters. The thing that motivates Jog is that he seems to be looking for companionship. That was an important turning point in my interpretation of Jog, and I think I would have stopped performing him if it weren't for that motivation.

We took him to Tough Pigs after a few years, because we felt he would fit in perfectly with the upbeat humor and the new characters. We've done some pretty amazing things with him since then. He had his own blog for a while. He recorded some musical numbers - I think that was the first time we let him step out of his fictional life by giving him a voice - and he's had some amazing character moments in chatrooms. I've gotten the most wonderful notes from people who like Jog, and I'm still not sure why. I'm still trying to figure out what makes him work.

At one point we decided to give Jog's life a new dimension by letting him appear in the real world as well, alongside some of the Tough Pigs. I got to play the part of Jog, which was a lot of fun to do. I always thought of Jog as a fictional character. I never stopped and wondered what he'd be like as an actual human being. I made him this hyperactive kind of guy, and that seemed to work pretty well in those days. Looking back, I think I would have given him more depth and a bit more of a serious side if I were to do it again.

Due to financial reasons, it was impossible for me to fly over to America and play Jog on a regular basis. He's gone back to being a fictional character now. Nevertheless, there are many things I'd love to do with Jog in the real world, and I think there might be a chance I'll get to realise those ideas in the far away future.

I seem to be putting some of my personal growth into Jog's development. When I started doing him, Jog was a young playful teenager, just like me. He's become a bit more serious and grown-up lately. I'm currently experimenting with giving Jog some gloomier personality traits, because I think that makes him a richer character.

Jog and I are not the same people. Jog can say or do things that I wouldn't dare to come up with. He is a fun outlet for my dreams, and

my frustrations as well. He is what I would like to be. But sometimes I have to remind myself that he and I are two individuals. I'm quite concerned about not letting our two worlds merge too much. It's better for both of us.

Scott

So... who the fuck are you?

Quinn

It's been a while since I've posted a Miles prayer, but now that he's 4, he's decided he can say his prayers all by himself, and they crack us up every time.

Some recent examples:

"and please bless us that we will always hold someone's hand crossing the street so we won't get SMOOSHED by a car or SQUISHED by a truck or our HEAD WILL CRACK OPEN LIKE AN EGG..."

"and please bless the crocodile that it won't eat all the fishies..."

"and please bless my trains that they'll sleep all night long..."

...and stuff like that. It's very sweet. Carter doesn't even get a footnote.

Rugby Tiger

Apr 29 • 9463.8-9

Tom

I'd snatch up a Rugby Tiger doll in an instant.

Was Christmas Toy/Secret Life of Toys part of the Disney sale? If so, maybe those characters can get incorporated into Toy Story 3 (if that ever gets made).

Isha

I'd scream and die and pee. but not in that order. or.. maybe in that order.

[Emmy]

naughty TP dreams (poll)

Apr 29 • 9485.1-17

Do you have naughty dreams of TP members?

Yes: 15 votes (60%)

No: 9 votes (36%)

Not sure / maybe / I don't think so: 1 votes (4%)

Cathy The better question is, who doesn't?

Shawn Okay. So that's how you wanna play, huh?

Because of this thread, I can now post ANYthing I want to here and no one can comment on being upset, offended, or otherwise disturbed.

I EAT BABIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Indiana Jones and...

May 2 • 9501.1-617

The Indiana Jones thread was massive and ridiculous and a whole lot of fun, and nearly everyone on the forum contributed to the wackiness. It's not possible to reproduce the entire 617-post thread here, but these were some of the highlights:

- Indiana Jones and Too Much Vacation
- Indiana Jones and the Quest for Camelot
- Indiana Jones and the Great Twiddlebug Mystery
- Indiana Jones II: Electric Boogaloo.
- Indiana Jones Went Down to Georgia
- Indiana Jones Saves Christmas
- Indiana Jones and Ernie Singalong
- Indiana Jones Tames a Pony
- Indiana Jones and the FASTEST GROWING THREAD EVER!
- Indiana Jones and the monster at the end of this book
- Indiana Jones and the case of the missing mother
- Indiana Jones Hears a Who
- Indiana Jones Nominates This Thread For The Yearbook
- Indiana Jones Can't Jump
- Indiana Jones and the River of Stew
- Indiana Jones & Carol & Ted & Alice
- I Know What Indiana Jones Did Last Summer 2
- Indiana Jones is a Bug
- Are You There God? It's Me, Indiana Jones.
- A Mean Sister Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones Mistakes his Wife for a Hat
- Indiana Jones and the Everything in the Whole Wide World Museum
- Along Came Indiana Jones, Smooth Talkin' Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones Beeps Michal's Nose



- Indiana Jones While George Burns
- Me and Mrs. Indiana Jones
- A Streetcar Named Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones and Harry and the Hendersons
- Indiana Jones' Jugband Christmas
- Indiana Jones and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad day
- Indiana Jones and Man, 148 posts in 12 hours. Nutty.
- A Day No Indiana Jones Would Die
- Now That's What I Call Indiana Jones Vol. 8
- Indiana Jones and Shawn's Unheard Pleas

- Indiana Jones and Shawn's Herd of Fleas
- Indiana Jones and the Orange Juice SNARF
- Indiana Jones and the Big Bird Scarf
- Come Back to the Five and Dime, Indiana Jones, Indiana Jones.
- Eight Simple Rules For Dating Indiana Jones
- The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Indiana Jones
- Hey, You're As Funny As Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones on Wheels
- Indiana Jones, Plain and Tall
- Indiana Jones' Badassssss Song
- Indiana Jones XXXVVVIII: So Very, Very Tired
- Indiana Jones With Crunchberries
- Don't Tell Mom Indiana Jones Is Dead
- Mother, May I Sleep with Indiana Jones?
- Butterflies are Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones Sets It and Forgets It
- Indiana Jones II: Episode I
- East of the Sun and West of Indiana Jones
- Indiana Jones and the Goey Kabloie
- Oh Dad, poor Dad, Indiana Jones' hung you in the closet and I'm feelin' so sad
- Indiana Jones and the Quest for the Quesadilla Maker
- Indiana Jones and the last post in this thread
- Indiana Jones needs a barf bag
- Indiana Jones and I Thought This Thread Was Over Last Month
- Indiana Jones Doesn't Feel Like Making Dinner

The Random Thread of Randomness

May 3 • 9511.12

Ryan R The DaVinci Code: Up, up, down, down, left, right, left, right, Mary
Magdelene, Mary Magdelene, select, start

[Tom]

Forum stats – April 2006

May 3 • 9513.11

Isha Anthony met his firts TPeePs this month! I say he's excused.

And someone needs to tranquilize Ryan cuz I can feel him breathing down my neck like a thief.

Cathy Thieves aren't breathing down your neck.

[Kynan]

Hoggle: Restored

May 4 • 9517.8-13

Joe It always baffled me that the Henson folks never bothered to reclaim Hoggle. It's like they said, "Oh well, we just misplaced a \$700,000 puppet. We'll get let finders be keepers!"

John Tragically, the little person who acted inside the Hoggle costume was also never claimed.

[Cathy]

Do you exist?

May 8 • 9478.69-75

Michal This morning, as I was trying valiantly to finish a take-home final, my land line rang (as it rarely does).

Telemarketer: Is Michael there?

Michal: This is Michal.

Telemarketer: Is Michael there?

Michal: My name is Michal. You might have misread my name as "Michael".

Telemarketer: Oh. [Pause.] Is Michael there?

Michal: No, there's no Michael here.

Telemarketer: Goodbye.

I wonder what pressing business they so urgently needed Michael for, for which Michal simply wouldn't suffice.

Joe That was me. Why didn't you give Michael the phone?

Michal Why didn't you want to talk to me?

Joe Michael and I are planning your surprise party.

Can you please tell him to call me when he gets a chance?

[John]

Miles & Carter stories

May 7 • 7711.302-304

Alaina

[W]hy do photographers always put children on ladders? I've never seen the two together anywhere else that didn't end in disaster.

The Random Thread of Randomness

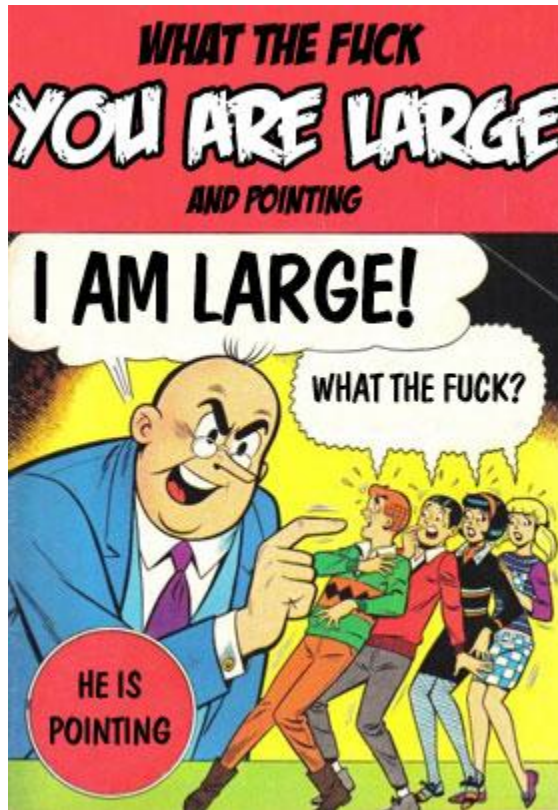
May 7 • 9511.51

Quinn My toe jam, in reality, smells like dog's ears.

YOU ARE LARGE

May 11 • 9549.1-8

Shawn This.



Anthony Ha! He certainly is.

Shawn And pointing!

Michal Wow. I really can't explain why that made me laugh so hard. But it certainly did the trick.

Ryan R How did Mr. Weatherby get so big?

Shawn Because WHAT THE FUCK?!

Joe Ow, my side.

Fraggle socks at Kohl's

May 12 • 9545.17-23

Cathy *raises hand*

By the way, I was in Kohl's yesterday and completely forgot to look for Fraggle socks. I did get a nifty wok though.

Lauren She's got a new way to wok (wok wok)

She's got a new way to wok (wok wok)

She's got a new way to wok

And her new wok suits her fiine!

Ryan R Dude, that woks.

Wok-a wok-a wok-a.

Smig Fraggle Wok?

Henson Production Rumors

May 13 • 9533.5

Tom Labyrinth 2: The Quest to Rescue Hoggle from the Unclaimed Luggage Museum.

It's a good time to be a fanboy

May 18 • 9185.202-203

Scott Yeah, but... real people liked Lois and Clark. Only nerds like cartoons.

Shawn No, BIG FAT LADIES liked Lois and Clark. What'd it last, like two seasons? How long has some form of Timmverse Superman been around? Anyway, what would YOU rather look at? The lumpy, unsettling form of Dean Cain, or the sleek Italian lines of a Timmverse Supes?

[Scott]

Krofft "Televisionaries" Event in NYC

May 19 • 9576.1

John

By the way, do you think there's a Krofft equivalent of Tough Pigs? A ragtag bunch of overgrown kids who talk for hours about who voiced Freddy the Flute in which episode, what material was used to make Sigmund's tentacles, or whether Charles Nelson-Reilly's retirement will put a damper on any future projects? God, I bet their "Rainbow Connection" is Mama Cass' "Different" from the Pufnstuf movie. I already freaking love these people.

RIP Clarabelle the Clown

May 20 • 9573.9

Lara

I was watching some "Greatest moments in TV history" or something like that....

They showed a clip from the last Howdy Doody where Clarabell finally spoke. He said goodbye to the kids...

SCAREEST FREAKING MOMENT IN TV HISTORY!!!

Love for GMC

May 22 • 9580.20-22

Alaina Are you inviting me over?

Quinn If you're in the area, come on by. But when Melissa's around, ixnay on the ouchcay story from Danny's house.

Alaina otay

Muppets for your garden – UK

May 22 • 9750.12

Lauren Muppet fans helping Muppet fans. It's a beautiful thing.

The Random Thread of Randomness

May 22 • 9511.178

Scott If I were talking to John Tesh on the phone, I'd kick him in the balls.

LEGO Batman

May 23 • 9515.28-32

Joe Sounds awesome, Poozer.

Quinn When I was in high school I used "poozer" as an ersatz swear word.

Joe In that case, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to insult you.

Quinn It's a swearsy term of endearment. Like c***** m*****.

Joe Oh Quinn, you're the c***** m*****-est.

Martha Colin Mochrie?

Sesame Street controversy

May 26 • 9395.16-22

Carolyn So, people were complaining about Sesame Beginnings, because, whatever. But now DirectTV is previewing this channel:

[Link to website for BabyTV, a new network for babies.]

I watched for a few minutes last night. Highlights included a computer generate mobile and paint in water.

Cathy I don't know about you, but I think *Bouncy Balls* looks quite captivating.

Michal

I watched GMC last night with Yossi, his fiancé Jamie, and his roommate Adam. It's been years since I last watched it, and I had basically forgotten everything but the premise. So most aspects of the movie were a surprise.

First of all, Charles Grodin is the coolest thing since the hula hoop. It's not just that he falls head over heels for Piggy; it's that he does it with such convincing gusto. I can't remember another human ever falling that hard for a Muppet. "Don't put a door between us, Miss Piggy." Fabulous.

Secondly, the musical numbers. They made me so happy on so many levels. I'm a sucker for that sort of thing - and what with the tap-dancing, the bicycle scene, the Esther Williams number, and the constant playing up of Miss Piggy as a sort of Follies-esque demi-goddess, I was very entertained.

The meta stuff was wonderful. Breaking the frame every time Kermit needed to remind someone that they needed to play along so that the movie could continue, or to argue over Miss Piggy's acting chops (heh) worked so well with the tone of the movie.

Which leads me to the punch lines. They just kept coming, and they were so consistently groovy - and my favorites were the ones that shamelessly referred to how silly ("No, that's a frog. Bears wear hats.") and Hollywood ("You can't even sing! Your voice was DUBBED!") and even contrived ("It's plot exposition; it has to go somewhere.") the movie was shaping up to be.

Also, near the beginning of the movie, Adam said, "I want a Murphy bed." Huzzah.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jun 7 • 9511.247-249

Michal You just knew Mary Catherine would have to be a poster girl for something.

M Catherine Why, 'cause I'm so darn cute and convincing?

bats eyelashes and twirls around the room

Michal Watch out for that--

Oog.

Miles & Carter stories

Jun 8 • 7711.329

Quinn

So Miles was having bathroom problems of some kind, where it was taking very long to Make. So I was in the public restroom with him, waiting...and after about ten minutes (which is a VERY long time) he says,

"Sometimes, poop is like a chrysalis. And corn is the butterfly."

What the HELL? I blame Reading Rainbow. Because he sure didn't learn THAT on Elmo's World.

A Sesame Street Christmas Carol

Jun 8 • 9640.2-3

Ryan R It says it was made in the year 0. This could very well be the first Christmas special ever made.

Tom Those Sesame Street people didn't waste any time, did they? they were right at the manger with a webcam, and Eric as Global Grover.

Miles & Carter stories

Jun 8 • 7711.336

Quinn

It is truly scary the kind of thing your kids pick up on at this age. Like the word "scrotum." And then they repeat it over and over and over again at the worst possible times.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jun 9 • 9511.272

Michal I've been working my school's alumni reunion, and I just walked into the Alumni Center office to find the President of the College surrounded by graduates from the 1930s, leading them all in a heartwarming rendition of "Seems Like Old Times".

And President Shapiro has more stage presence than Diane Keaton does. The whole scene made me very happy.

Shawn Are you sure you live in this decade?

Jokes I Hate:

Jun 10 • 9649.1-31

Isha Don't call me Shirley.

Ryan R That's a Joke I Love.

Isha *glowers*

Joe When I was a kid, this one would drive me crazy:

Little Joe: Dad, I'm hungry
Dad: Hi Hungry, I'm Bruce!

Martha I do that to my poor students.

Whining Student: "But, Mrs. Crannell, I'm bored/tired/hungry/whatever!"
Me: "Well, hello, Bored/Tired/Hungry/Whatever, it's a pleasure to meet you!"

And because they are 15, they mutter and glower.

Quinn Instead of saying, "I don't know, CAN you?" to my students, I tell them they can, and then I say, "but I won't LET you." Or I tell them there will be Consequences. I'm a bastardly teacher.

Ryan R What about the "____er? I hardly know 'er!" joke, used so often around here? I wouldn't say I *hate* that one, but I no longer find it funny. Much like Robin Williams.

Michal All this means is that you've graduated to more mature forms of that joke.

Designer lingerie? Wouldn't she find that a little forward?

Peter As for me, I hate the joke about the kid who wouldn't stop making duck noises in class.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jun 11 • 9511.280

Joe

Just after I woke up, but before I got out of bed, I had a really funny thought.

It was of the Kool-Aid guy bursting through the bathroom wall. Then he starts to pour himself into the toilet and he says "Oooooohhhh yyyeeeahhhh".

A Question about Oatmeal

Jun 12 • 9654.1-9

Cathy Honestly, I have a question about oatmeal. What's the texture of oatmeal supposed to be?

Shawn Disgusting-textured. Like puke.

Cathy Is it supposed to be...I don't know... slimy, I guess?

Shawn Yes. If you're sensitive to food texture, oatmeal isn't a pleasant food to eat. For proper oatmeal, imagine slimier, gluier mashed potatoes.

Some people like it thinner, so it's more like a kind of flaky, chunky stew, enhancing the vomit-like nature.

Cathy Huh. I thought maybe I did something wrong.

How disappointing.

Martha Personally, I like nice, thick oatmeal. Also, you have to add a little salt to the water, otherwise it's all blechhh.

I heart a good bowl of oatmeal. Ask Andrea sometime about the five-minute explanation I gave her on the differences between Irish (steel-cut) oats, old-fashioned oats, quick oats, and instant. I finally stopped, paused a moment, and said, "Oh my God. I'm Bert."

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jun 12 • 9511.288

Michal

And on this great day, the twelfth of June in the calendar year of 2006, I have gone and rented a mighty U-Haul Van with which to move my worldly possessions into an itty-bitty living space.

And Lo, I have gone and PARALLEL PARKED the aforementioned Mighty Van, amid much public awe and honking fanfare, on the unfriendly streets of New York.

Behold! I am the Shiznit!

Also, I have to finish packing.

HPV Vaccine Jun 29 • 9703.3-5

Ryan R Hot Peppered Vegetables?

Hippos Playing Volleyball?

Happy, Pretty Vikings?

Carolyn I have long needed protection against Happy, Pretty Vikings.

Grant That's my favourite REM song.

MP3 thread

Jul 6 • 7938.679-682

Scott I've been watching Bev Sills today and thought I'd share Pigoletto...

[link]

It's best with visuals of course, but if you don't have them...

<http://muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Pigoletto>

Kyle Uh Scott. You do know this a mp3 thread not a video one. I'm just warning you. Alot of people get mad. I'm just letting you know. Talk to you later.

Scott Okay Kyle, thanks. Talk to you later.

Cathy How did I manage to miss this exchange? How?

MP3 thread

Jul 6 • 7938.675-78

Kyle Does anyone have the Sesame Street record "iSesame Mucho!" on mp3. I have the new CD that came out long back but I would love to have these songs too from the record version. If anyone has it please post it. I'll try and do something in return.

Scotty J I'm in the process of doing a needle drop on it. I might be able to help out.

Kyle Thank you so much Scotty. Do you know when you will get it done? Just wondering.

Scott Yeah, can you speed it up any? I've got things to do.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jul 10 • 9511.462

Quinn And now, a frequent Quinn's Class Moment:

QUINN: And do a good job on this project--don't just turn in a half-

QUINN'S INTERNAL EDITOR: don't say half-assed, you'll get in trouble!

QUINN: durrr-half-

QUINN'S INTERNAL EDITOR: how's about half-baked? You can say half-baked, right? But...isn't that a drug term now because of that stupid movie?

ASSORTED STUDENTS: Did Mr. Rollins have a stroke? Can we text message now? Can we take his toys?

QUINN: You cannot take my toys. Uh...what was I saying?

STUDENT: You were telling us about that time you were stalking that amputee girl.

QUINN: Ah, yes. The year was 1996. I was a young hot student at the University of Utah, and happened to come across...

~ END SCENE ~

I Love the 70s Volume II

Jul 12 • 9738.6-13

- Kyle** I love all the I love the 70's, 80's and 90's series. I'll be watching every bit of it. Hope to see more of the series down the road.
- Ryan R** Just wait ten years, and you can be a commentator on the inevitable "I Love I Love the 80s" show.
- Kyle** Now that would be awesome! I would be there in a heart beat. Would you join me? I would love to have a partner. You could be my partner.
- Ryan R** Could I wear a fake mustache? If so, I'm in.
- Kyle** All we have to do is find those Burt Reynold's mustache and there you go. Just wear it away. I might have to get one myself.
- Ryan R** If Burt Reynolds's mustache is available, I'm takin' it for myself. You can have Tom Selleck's.
- Kyle** Fine by me. I'll do that.

Less Disney films

Jul 19 • 9747.3-8

- Tom** That's ironic. Like you said, hope they don't cut back on Muppets projects. But since they've got nothing in production, I suppose one can't cut back from zero. :-/
- Scott** Sure they can. Muppet productions will go into the negatives. They'll start pretending that, like Song of the South, certain things don't exist.
- Joe** Or maybe they'll go door-to-door, taking away our Emmet Otter DVDs.
- Martha** Over my dead body.
Opens closet and hands Emmet DVD to John Cusack
- Ryan R** Is anyone else imagining the sound of John Cusack singing "Barbecue" wafting through the door of Martha's closet?

The Random Thread of Randomness

Jul 19 • 9511.573

Carolyn There's this guy in my place of work who laughs like "Hnyuh, hnyuh, hnyuh!"

It is annoying.

News stories

Jul 26 • 9750.19-20

Martha

I'm innocent, I swear!

I don't stalk [John Cusack].

I just keep him in this here closet.

Scott

I see. So, you don't stalk him; you stock him.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Aug 2 • 9511.671-673

Joe Some 16-year old girl sent me a MySpace message yesterday asking me if I was the Verizon guy. So I responded with "Yeah I am, but don't ask me to say that line. I don't even use their phones, I'm a Sprint user."

She totally bought it.

Cathy Okay, number one, nice response.

Number two, you really do kind of look like the verizon guy, who is adorable, but not as adorable as you.

And number three, why are you consorting with underage girls on myspace?

Joe Number 1, thank you.

Number 2, thank you again. I think.

Number 3, she consorted first! And I have no intention of continuing the conversation.

Number 4, I'm a liar. I really do use Verizon.

LiveJournal becoming the new MC?

Aug 4 • 9822.8-14

Martha Of course, people here occasionally decide to change their names to something different. Right, Toss?

Carolyn MC is also the abbreviation for Master Card. I write "MC" a lot. But not as much as "VS."

Ryan R Man, I hate the VS forum.

Martha I had no idea there was a Victoria's Secret forum.

Ryan R That's because it's a secret. Duh.

[Tom]

Quinn I want this character to be successful, I want there to be more girls on Sesame Street...but I'm always suspicious and doubtful about characters who are manufactured to fill a perceived gap.

Especially when Zoe, Prairie, and Rosita are such rich characters, all of whom are still popular with girls (and boys) who are watching the show. Miles has a major crush on Prairie Dawn, and loves Zoe and Rosita as much as he loves Grover and Cookie Monster. So...I'm not sure where they're going with this.

And I agree on the character design--it's much less Muppety, and much more Disney Channel of some kind. Which may be the direction they want to go. Doesn't mean I'll love her.

And it doesn't mean I'll turn my back on the Street. It may just be another 5-season experiment I'll get to endure.

M Catherine I don't get it either. I understand that they feel they've been neglecting girls, but I'm a girl, and I've never cared that there weren't more main female Muppets, on Sesame Street or The Muppet Show. The boys were funny enough for both genders. So either preschool girls are suddenly very concerned about gender equality, or some adults seem to be overreacting.

And also, the part about Zoe's "old-womanish tones" made me sad for Fran Brill. Because that insinuates that's she an old woman, to which I say "Poo!"

Daniel I think the thing that struck me about the article, is how blatant they were about the idea of Abby as a marketable character. That to me says that what in the battle of ideas, the idea of money is coming before the idea of a well developed and thoughtout character. I also don't like that a big factor in her design is whether she will look good standing next to Elmo. That screams of "Ensemble shmensemble."

Personally, I thought that Prairie was the strong but feminine girly girl. At least she used to be. I think that Zoe's tutu was also an attempt at making the girl more girly. Maybe Fran's age affects the gentleness of her voice.

I frankly hate the fairy aspect. It just seems pointless. She looks like a monster, so just make her another girl monster. I think that the addition is going to detract from Zoe, unless they teach about jealousy or something. It also seems that her gag will be very "ala peanut butter sandwiches." She's what happens when Zoe and Prairie has a baby, who then has a baby with Mumford.

No sir, I don't like it. Also, I really don't like those eyes.

Cathy I don't see why everyone is getting so upset before they even see the personality of the character. I think it's great that they're trying to

come up with more female characters for the little girls out there. When I was a little girl, I definitely noticed the absence of girl puppets on the Street. And for the producers to try to bring that element more into the show's forefront, to me, is fantastic.

And Daniel, every character has to be thought of in terms of marketability. Marketability = interest = profit = successful show that will stay on for many years to come. And that's especially important nowadays with all the other children's shows out there that Sesame has to compete with.

And I don't see how the fact that they wanted Abby to be a marketable character means that she's not a well developed and thought out character. From that article, it sounds like they know exactly why they want a character like Abby and that they know exactly what gap they feel is missing right now in the show that she'll help to fill.

I say let's give her a fair shake before completely dismissing her as a failure.

Alaina

"Are you a mountain?"

Oh, I'm hooked. Then, she fluttered her wings and I melted.

News stories

Aug 6 • 9750.27

Joe

Damn you, Peter, and your witty vegetable jokes.

September Disney Cruise

Aug 14 • 9856.5

M Catherine <muffin> September Disney would have been a good name for Baby Suri. </muffin>

[Kynan]

TMX Elmo doll

Aug 17 • 9859.1-37

Danny

Have we seen this yet?

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000ETRE0Q/>

"Red Alert! It's our red, furry friend Elmo like never before — Elmo TMX. Coming soon to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his smash-hit predecessor Tickle Me Elmo. Details are top secret and won't be revealed until Elmo TMX hits the market on September 19, 2006."

That's nuts. I love it.

Daniel

I see a potentially lengthy idea thread coming on.

What will he do? What the fuck will he do!?!?

My guesses.

1. He'll tickle me.
2. He'll do my taxes.
3. He'll hem my pants.

Martha

He'll hold your parts.

Joe

He'll hunt down and kill all previous Elmo dolls in a quest to become the most powerful Elmo in the world.

Shawn

4: FIRE ANTS!!!!!!

Ryan R

-He does the Macarena

-He transforms into a car

-He eats all your Doritos

-He tells you about global warming

-He grows a goatee

-He throws up

Scott

He maxes out your credit cards.

He flushes your weed down the toilet.

He sings Luck Be a Jedi Tonight.

Joe

He is actually a Cookie Monster doll.

Beth

He will take the dog for a walk.

He will cook dinner.

He will speak Japanese.

He will replace Condoleeza Rice.

Ryan R

He blows bubbles.

He rides a mechanical bull.

He knits you a sweater.

He sheds.

He overstays his welcome.

Anthony

He goes downtown in the rain.

He flies an aeroplane.

He'll be your best friend.

Joe

He rolls down stairs.

Alone or in pairs.

Rolls over your neighbor's dog.

Danny

He takes over your TV show.

David Rudman/Cookie Monster interviews

Aug 24 • 9863.20

Ryan R

If I ran a newspaper, Cookie Monster would be in it every day. On the front page, in the business section, and he would write Dr. Joyce Brothers's column. "Me think you have serious trust issues in relationship. Me suggest you see counselor. Then you EAT COOKIE!"

News stories

Aug 25-26 • 9750.47-60

Ryan R I feel sorry for Pluto. It must have low self-esteem now.

What are we going to say now when we need a mnemonic device? "My very educated mother just served us NOTHING"? That's so sad.

Quinn Pluto will always be a planet in my heart.

Ryan R You might want to see a doctor about that.

Pluto Aug 28 • 9880.14-15

Shawn What's the big fuss over? Are any of you going to GO to Pluto? Are you gonna have it over for dinner, and not knowing whether to call it a planet will create an awkward point in conversation?

I guess what I'm saying is: What's Pluto done for ME lately?

Amy I'm just wondering, if Pluto's not a planet, what planet are we going to get all our plutonium from?

And I need to know by, like, Saturday.

[Cathy]

Poll: Favorite Sesame Street human

Aug 31 • 9896.3-40

Maria: 13 votes (30%)

Bob: 8 votes (19%)

David: 5 votes (12%)

Gordon: 5 votes (12%)

Other (please specify): 5 votes (12%) [Including Olivia, Molly, Savion, and Lex from *Sesamstraat*.]

Susan: 3 votes (7%)

Luis: 1 votes (2%)

Alan: 1 votes (2%)

Gina: 1 votes (2%)

Mr. Hooper: 1 votes (2%)

Anthony Gotta be Maria. She was either my ideal mom, my first love, or a creepy mixture of the two.

Beth I voted for Maria, because I love Maria.

But my real favorite is Linda. I love Linda, more than I can say, because she's deaf like me. And she is about the only other hearing impaired person I "know." And she has a normal life, and friends and everything. This means more to me than words can say.

Michal I had gone with Bob even before I read your post. I wish I had Bob's unflappable confidence in being so consistently, so indefatigably, square.

While I admit that I've found Bob's un-hip qualities especially endearing of late, he's no flavor of the month. He's Bob.

Peter You know, it only struck me that Maria has more sexual tension with Oscar than she does with her own husband. Which is appropriate, I suppose.

Quinn I would join your griping if I didn't live with two very vocal kids in SW's target demographic....and if they see Cookie Monster, hey, it's Cookie Monster! If they see Grover, wow, it's Grover! Ernie, yay, Ernie! But if they see Elmo...everything else stops. Time dilates, the very fabric of the universe warps and folds into a tunnel between them and Elmo, and they are verily Drawn Into His Presence, where wonders unknown to us adults await their young hearts and minds. I'm sure Elmo is siphoning off the souls of untold generations to reap this reward, but the little red guy has it. I don't fully get it, but...kids do.

Otherwise, yeah. Get him the hell off the cover. Where's Abby Kadabby when I need her?

Kyle Once again that red guy has just stold another soul of Sesame Street characters. I wished that Oscar would be so rude to him that he would scare him off that cover. Don't get me wrong. I do like Elmo but when he's on every sticken cover of Sesame Street stuff they sell. None of the other character get reconised.

Carolyn I hate it when they get sticken on my DVD covers, too.

Andrew L True, I love Grover, and he was my favorite growing up. But while I liked him and Ernie and the rest as friends, they seldom came right out with it. After all, Elmo's catch phrase is "Elmo loves you!" It may seem crude, but it's effective. Who doesn't want to feel loved?

It's sort of a simplified version of Fred Rogers' "I like you just the way you are, there's no one else quite like you" message, and as vulnerable as many kids can be, they respond to that, and I daresay even need it. Grover is cute and loveable and I'm sure we'd have a ball together, but he was never quite as direct (Big Bird might have been at some point). Folks can complain that "Sesame Street" is too loud and not "subtle" enough, but sometimes kids need that direct reassurance. And Elmo's way is a lot less cloying than, say, Barney, and always seems far more genuine. I may feel lost and insecure and wondering why I'm still alive, but gosh darn it, Elmo loves me!!

Ryan R That explains why I love Billy Joel so much. He likes me just the way I am.

Anthony One time I went changing, just to please him.

It didn't work.

Favorite Sesame Street human?

Sep 1 • 9896.40-41

Joe Ladies love the bad boys.

Alaina Hell yeah! Mmmmm, Hitler.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Sep 7 • 9511.813-814

Cathy Sometimes, I can't tell which is worse. Being hit on by a construction worker, or not being hit on by a construction worker.

Joe Trust me, being hit BY a construction worker is the worst.

Miles & Carter stories

Sep 8 • 7711.391-394

Quinn

And Miles getting on a ride--this little train probably meant for kids even younger than him that just went around a loop. He got in the caboose, and as the scary carny guy was buckling the safety strap, this was their conversation:

MILES: My name is Miles!

CARNY: Hi, Miles!

MILES: I'm a Boy Who Likes Trains!

CARNY: You do, huh?

MILES: Yes. Like Thomas!

CARNY: Okay, well...hold on tight...

MILES: Okay. (seeing me through the caboose window) BYE, DAD! I'M GOING ON THE TRAIN NOW!!! BYE! SEE YOU LATER!!!

Anyway. Maybe you just had to be there.

Danny

Well, if your parents are fool enough to take you to the Utah State Fair, then you have to make your own fun. He was clearly being sarcastic.

Ryan R

My name is Miles! I'm a Boy Who's Ironic!

Kermit's New Book

Sep 13 • 9923.3

Andrew L Just be sure to save money for Boppity's bio, I WAS A FRACKLE FOR THE FBI.

[Scott]

Who Dubbed Charles Grodin?

Sep 14 • 9927.2

Andrew L Well, with the many discoveries I've made lately, I'd like to say that the voice was none other than Ferdinand "Mehito" Castenades, a Portugese singer who began singing Coca-Cola jingles in his native country, but following a failed Brazilian tour of a musical version of "War and Peace," came to the US and became a popular voice doubler, invested in the then booming asparagus market, lost hist shirt, and later died.

I'd like to be able to say all that, but I don't know.

[Danny]

The Random Thread of Randomness

Sep 19 • 9511.834

M Catherine It's raining here, but still rather warm. I had to lug a giant package back to my dorm room in the rain; a package which, ironically, contained rainboots.

[Beth]

Happy Talk Like a Pirate Day!

Sep 20 • 9937.26-27

Joe I can't wait for Talk Like a Robot Day.

Shawn 10110000101000101010010 1011110100100010010100100101
101010110001010010101 001010010010110010001010111010
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TMX Elmo doll

Sep 25 • 9859.79-80

[Martha posts a link to the "Barbie Loves TMX Elmo" doll.]



Cathy I want her Elmo socks!

Beth You must have very small feet.

[Scott]

The Corrupt Wish Game

Sep 26 • 9960.1-31

- Shawn** There's a common forum game, "The Corrupt Wish Game," in which one player makes a wish, and then the next player finds the most horrible possible way to make it so, then makes their own wish.
- ONE: I wish I had a puppy.
TWO: It's a rabid rottweiler and it mauls you. I wish I was a doctor.
THREE: You accidentally amputate the wrong limb on a patient and are sued for malpractice. I wish I had a million dollars.
-and so on.
- I wish I had a million dollars.
- Joe** I wish this game wasn't so depressing.
- Shawn** You play for a few rounds and realize it's fun, but then your monitor explodes.
- I wish you weren't such a girl.
- Peter** Joe's testicles grow to such a size that, from behind, he is mistaken for a bull, and his scrotum is cut off and sold as a handbag.
- I wish I wasn't allergic to stone fruit.
- Ryan R** Overjoyed that you can now eat stone fruit, you gorge yourself on it, but you eat so much of it that your head becomes a giant peach pit, and everyone laughs at you and mocks you mercilessly.
- I wish I never had to shave again.
- Anthony** You wake up one day to find that all of your body hair has migrated to your eyebrows, which then proceed to eat you from the outside in.
- I wish I could lose 4 more pounds.
- Joe** You go to London and bet on a three-legged horse at the racetrack.
- I wish for more wishes.
- Peter** You can't count that high.
- I wish that, given an inch, I could take a mile.
- Shawn** You finally, after much swindling and backroom dealing, manage to get that mile. But then it turns out you're not zoned properly for it and go to prison anyway.
- I wish I was a platinum-record rock star.
- Anthony** You are Celine Dion.

Shawn



Flame Week

Oct 3 • 9969.1-17

Shawn So some other forums on the Intorwibbs are having this thing called Flame Week, where you just go nuts and have fun flaming your fellow members in good jest.

It's a little late, but I'm making this thread for that purpose. Go ahead and be bad in this little room.

Of course, I fully expect this thread to be ignored, because I don't believe anyone else has the actual balls to throw down.

Joe Shawn likes to start depressing threads. So you know what they say, fight fire with marshmallows.

I love Shawn! I love his hair and his teeth! Here Shawn, have a bag of Chanukka gelt!

throws flowers

Danny I love Shawn too. He's a big super sweetie. He just starts threads like this because he put up Halloween wallpaper in his room that has spooky trees. So now he feels like he lives in a dark forest, and he's all alone and nobody loves him.

Next time I see him, I'll give him some gummy worms. He deserves it.

Shawn That's so not true. All the bats and spiders and skellingtons are my friends.

Danny, you're a big Jew.

Kynan Yay! Let's hear it for the Jew!

Cathy YOUR MOM's a big jew!

Or maybe a little one. Or she might not be Jewish at all. She could be Catholic. Or perhaps a Baptist. It's really hard to tell in a situation like this.

Joe Aw, there's so much love in this thread. I love being a Muppet Fan.

Quinn My mom reminds me of the Pillsbury Doughboy.

Is that how this thread is supposed to work?

Ryan R We're not very good at this, are we?

[Martha]

Last time you watched something Muppety

Oct 6 • 9470.65

Beth There are never too many Beths. Unless they are all me.

[Scott]

Good-bye

Oct 7 • 9986.1-5

BethMW67 I don't think this forum is one I will be too active in, so it's best, so take me off your list. You WILL find me in the Soap or Survey Says forums if you still want to discuss other subjects.

Beth It really scared me for a minute to see a Beth saying good-bye to this forum. I was afraid it was me.

Anthony

Awww. Poor little Alfie. He's already sad because some people have never heard the story of the son of God. You don't need to pour salt in his wound.

What Muppet is this?

Oct 13 • 10000.4

Anthony Hey! This is thread 10,000! Awesome!

Boobs

Oct 23 • 9828.30-33

Martha

looks down

Boobs!

(Did you REALLY expect grown-up talk?)

Daniel

looks down

Boobs?!

Something has seemingly gone wrong...yet oh so right.

Cathy

looks down

Le sigh.

Hold your package

Nov 19 • 10087.1-7

Scott I was flipping through Annie Leibovitz -- A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005 in B&N the other day, and I came across a two-page spread of Jamie Foxx where he's clothed in a 1920s style suit, sitting on a divan with legs stretched out (one up on the cushion and the other on the floor), whilst holding his penis. He may be holding his balls too, I can't be sure.

Why is this done? It's not something that can be looked up on Wikipedia, but I'm interested in the history of this phenomena.

Is it that men who do this feel some type of security or power in holding their package? Are they masturbating? Do they have to pee?

Please discuss.

Cathy Wait. I thought all men knew the answer to this. I just assumed that it was some sort of boyhood rite of passage. Like in elementary school, girls see the film about menstruation and boys learn the secrets of package holding.

I'm disillusioned.

Peter Personally, I like to remind myself every once in a while that it's still there.

Michal I thought this was going to be a thread about mail.

Wii Nov 20 • 10085.15-21

Peter I'm glad the Wii is cool, but I still can't get used to the name.

I mean, is it supposed to be Wii I'm happy or Wii I'm going to the bathroom or Wii I'm happy I'm going to the bathroom?

Or maybe it's just Wii why?

Ryan R It sounds like "Whee!" It sounds like "we," as in "WE love to play video games!" And by making up a word, they can use the same name all over the world and it never needs to be translated or abbreviated.

But it still sounds funny. In my first post in this thread, I couldn't bring myself to type, "Yossi let me play with his Wii."

Michal Being a non-gamer myself, I do feel pretty cool telling people that I played with the Wii on the day it came out.

Martha I am twelve (and doped up on cold meds), so that statement made me laugh. A lot. Until the coughing began.

Michael Richards loses his mind

Nov 22 • 10091.13

Tom

I have to run all current events through the Sinbad-Opinion-O-Meter.

Disney's Muppet "Art"

Nov 26 • 10100.5-7

Beth I have a minor in art history but I don't know what giclee means. Maybe it's French for "ugly." Or "fake."

Scott Art history wouldn't inform you on Giclée, as it's a new, digital process.

<http://www.ligiclee.com/services/faq.htm>

Ryan R So you'd have to take a class... in ART FUTURE!

[Joe]

Julia Roberts

Nov 28 • 10106.2

Michal

The only explanation I could ever come up with for Julia Roberts' popularity was her uncanny ability to turn sideways and disappear. Even before it was cool.

Mediagates?

Nov 30 • 10108.3

Kynan

I could be wrong on this, but I think MediaGate actually refers to the media's attempts to convey an air of legitimacy and/or hysteria upon a story by clumsily grafting the suffix "-Gate" to a keyword, such as Monicagate, or Hilarygate.

Of course, the term originates from the Watergate scandal, which history tells us was the first and to date only genuinely shocking scandal in American politics, and the repercussions of which included the resignation in disgrace of an actual sitting President.

The thing about Watergate is it represents a low point in American democracy, but an absolute triumph of the American press. (Or more specifically, those parts of the press portrayed by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, whose triumph was aided by a very exciting super-secret informant, who was very excitingly code-named Deep Throat in honor of a really famous sex film. The super-secret informant has recently revealed to be a very old and very boring man -- and it is surely no coincidence that all the sex films made since Watergate have been fairly dull too.)

Like "Woodstock" before it, "Watergate" became a symbol, a universal reference to a particular moment in time. But unlike Woodstock, which signified everything that was good about the peace movement (and also signified, to a somewhat lesser extent, a little yellow bird which talked exclusively in punctuation marks), Watergate signalled a turning point. Watergate was a permanent scar on society, a society whose JFK-era innocence had been not just stolen, but tied up, tortured and killed, then carved up, wrapped in plastic and found months later in multiple New Jersey dumpsters.

That's the beauty and power of the English language, and the astonishing gift of the mass media -- that the name of a single hotel could instantaneously evoke such a complex tapestry of information, emotion and context in the mind of an entire nation.

And then some dickchunk at some news desk somewhere decides that if you whack a GATE onto the end of almost anything, you can make it seem important.

The Watergate scandal was so named because it involved a break-in at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, DC. Witness:

"Watergate Break-In Attempt Revealed."

"Watergate Investigation Continues."

"Were Democrats Targeted By Watergate Burglary?"

"Dashing, Handsome President Implicated In Watergate Affair."

"Journalistic Shorthand Employed In Fifth Watergate Headline."

However, subsequent scandals have had the "-Gate" appended for no discernible reason. Surely "Water-" would have been just as

meaningless and stupid. As in, "Waterhilary." See? Catchy, brief, and perfectly vapid. But whatever.

Unjustifiable grammatical contrivance aside, what really gets me about MediaGate is the obvious and gigantic irony involved whenever the Media tries to link Random Pissy, Irrelevant Scandal of the Day with Pretty Much The Pinnacle of Investigative Journalism. Because self-aggrandizement only works if the comparison is both (a) justified and (b) flattering.

Let's take, for example, Nipplegate (a scandal which not only featured no gates, no water and no criminal activity authorized by the executive branch of the government, but was also notable for its complete absence of nipple.)

Story: Brief Clothing Mishap Reveals Existence Of Human Female Breast.

Basic Principles of Media Mathematics: Surprise = Shock, Breast = Sex, Sex = Bad.

Media Mathematics In Action: Surprise Breast = Bad Shock!

MediaGate Principle In Action: "Hey, Fuckhat Subeditor #2. You know what OTHER story involved a shocking and bad revelation? That one story about how Nixon illegally plotted to screw his rivals right royally while sitting inside the actual Oval Office!"

"Great Caesar's Ghost, that's right, Fuckhat Subeditor #1! THAT story had similar implications in constitutional law to this story, inasmuch as this story will allow us to print many, many pictures of Janet Jackson's bazoomas!"

"Good point, Fuckhat Subeditor #2. Oh, and you know how THAT story was revealed through the courage and persistence of the free press? Well, THIS story was revealed through our courage and persistence TOO, inasmuch as we courageously persisted in watching the event as it was covered live on national television!"

"Excellent thought, Fuckhat Subeditor #1. OH! You know what we should do? We should totally draw attention to these parallels, so as to emphasize the importance of this story and at the same time underline our own important journalistic contribution! Perhaps by making some subtle link in the headline, like, oh, I don't know, 'Absence of Nipple In Television Broadcast Exactly Like Unbelievably Evil President Crapping All Over Democratic Process, Hero Journalists Display Bazooma Pics Pages 3 Through 7.'"

"Jumpin' Jehosaphat, that is some seriously brave fourth estate thinking, Fuckhat Subeditor #1!"

"Wait, aren't YOU Fuckhat Subeditor #1?"

"Well, either way, it's a good result for Team Fuckhat! Of course, the headline needs some punching up, but we can delegate that to the girl in the typing pool with the fantastic rack. Now, let's go authorize Jayson Blair's suspiciously inflated expense account while we're still drunk."

It amuses me to think that if the Watergate break-in was revealed for the first time now, in our post-Watergate world, it would necessarily be referred to as "Watergategate."

...At least, that's what I thought MediaGate meant.

[Tom]

Muppets on TV

Dec 8 • 9954.49

Mike C

My new christmas cliché will be "It smells like raw eggs." Nobody will know what i'm talking about.

Miles & Carter stories

Dec 12 • 7711.449-452

Quinn A few Christmas nuggets before I forget them...

All you have to do is mention Santa, and Miles will start talking a mile a minute about the guy. The best thing yesterday was this as Miles was lying in bed:

"Sometimes...Santa comes into little boys' rooms at night. And he looks at the little boys to see if they're ALIVE. And if they're ALIVE, he leaves them a candy cane. Because the candy cane will be warm in bed. And then I wake up, and there's a CANDY CANE!"

And the other thing yesterday was that we were at my parents house, and they gave Miles some cookies, and he wanted one extra one, "to save for Baby Jesus."

It was just friggin cute.

And Carter just "made" a cup of hot chocolate with about 24 ounces of Swiss Miss powder and his 8 ounce cup of water. Alllll over the kitchen.

Friggin cute.

Joe How come my candy canes are always cold? Is it because Santa knows I'm Jewish?

Cathy Joe, I don't know how to break this to you, but, um, you're dead.

Kermit on Yahoo

Dec 13 • 10124.18-24

Shawn Hey, Daniel! Go smoke some rope, ya hippie!

Daniel What's that? I couldn't hear anything over your wras'lin' or your carryin' on in yer big ol' black shirts and cloppy black boots.
"NOOOOBody loves me 'cep this piiiile o' toy skulls."

Shawn Yes, but the skulls love is UNCONDITIONAL.

If they know what's good for em'.

Also: I like the emphasis on 'piiiiile'.

Daniel *bows*

Thanks man. I've enjoyed this. :)

Jim Hill likes "When Love Is Gone"

Dec 13 • 10129.10

Ryan R

I've often discussed my theory that every musical has a Boring Song, the song that causes anyone in the audience under 12 -- and a good half of those over 12 -- to shift and squirm in their seats and wonder what's on Cartoon Network right now. Usually these songs are about love. Apparently love is really boring.

"When Love Is Gone" is one of the all-time most boring Boring Songs. Love Led Us Here, on its own, would be a good example of a Boring Song, except that Kermit and Piggy sing it while hanging upside down, about to plummet to their deaths, and that makes it funny.

So to sum up: Love = boring. Deathplummet = funny.

Delphi forum promos

Dec 20 • 3907.2184-2186

Michal Fire!
goldfish or wayne newton? what would you save?
- In has anyone seen flick?

Joe Wait, Dorothy has a question. What's that Dorothy? Let Wayne Newton
burn?

[Cathy]

Ho Ho Ho

Nov 10-Dec 10 • 10101.1-28

Santa

Roses are red
poinsettias are too
Santa is back
and here to see you

Come on over here
and sit on my knee
Have you been real good
or have you been naughtee

I'm so glad to be back and looking forward to chatting with you all again this year.

Love, Santa

Erik

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I'd love to join in
But I'm no good with rhyme or meter

Cathy

Santa!
It's so great to see you again
It's been a fab year,
My jolly old friend.

The Tough Pigs have had
Quite the busy year here
Many reasons to celebrate
And bring Christmas cheer

A husband for me
And a baby for Kellie
And if that's not enough
To put a shake in your belly:

There were new jobs and new homes
Sweethearts reunited
Beth's incredible journey
Kept us all delighted

Some new friends have come
And some old friends have gone
Though we wish them all well
The Tough Pigs march on

So to each of my friends
On the interweb here
I wish you much peace and love
For the coming new year.

(And that includes you, Santa!)

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