

Mid-term energy shortage hits Hall's Jack the Wonder Toad

By LOU HARNED

Staff Writer
Jack is not nimble; he is not even quick because Jack is a toad-shaped candlestick.

Jack the Wonder Toad usually jumps through a perilous "ring of death," but lately he has become despondent. Upon taking numerous orders and an amphibious amphetamine, the wonder toad remains mysteriously silent and still.

Perhaps the stunt appears too intimidating. Jack's trainer, Rich Hall, has become quite distraught about Jack's lack of energy, whatever the reason for the passive performance.

The fearful "ring of death" at first appears to be a tricycle wheel with protruding nails. However, it is indeed a treacherous challenge to Jack's veritable toadhood, and he must attempt his perilous jump every leap year — no simple task.

Hall describes Jack's condition after the toad's unsuccessful journey through the pronged ring: "He was not only irritable but unable to hold large amounts of water."

"Oh well, stick around and I'll rub some Compound-W on him and we can watch him freak out," an embarrassed Hall says when Jack refuses to perform.

Then for 30 minutes, Hall extricates minds from academic chaos by telling jokes and stories and performing impersonations to cover up Jack's lack of toadhood.

Despite the toad's poor performances, Hall has kept Jack in his traveling street show for about a year. The 23-year-old comedian worked for clubs this summer in New York and Philadelphia. The Alexandria, Va., native resides in Philadelphia when he and Jack are not on the road.

Hall has performed in towns and on campuses in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona and California. Sometimes universities offer housing and Hall occasionally stays with friends.

Hall says he likes performing for Southern crowds better than for New York crowds because New Yorkers tend to clap fists in hand.



Richard Hall entertains UNC students in the Pit with his lazy friend, Jack the Wonder Toad. If the frog proves immobile, Hall gladly fills in the gaps with his comical stories. Staff photo by Mike Sneed.

During the performances, Hall disguises himself as Buddy R. Pindergraph, a hick with inch-thick glasses and a Midwestern accent.

Pindergraph tells a peculiar story: "I was puttin' around in my cucumber patch

when strange cigar-shaped objects with out-of-state license tags fell right in my radishes over yonder...and I hollered to my wife, 'Thelma! Company!'

"They were shaped just like magic markers. In fact, it was hard to tell them apart. But these things had arms...I caught me one before they got away...The only way to kill them is to snap their heads off. That way they dry up in about an hour."

Hall says his practice of setting up his street show without permission has resulted in quick rejection in some areas. At a craft fair in New York, a police officer stopped the performance after five minutes and told Hall to leave.

"I found it's best to do it without permission because most people find soliciting rules," Hall says. "I'm watching out of the corner of my eye for police."

Hall graduated from high school in Charlotte and majored in creative writing at Western Washington State College.

He says he hopes to appear on television in two years. Eventually, Hall would like to produce a comedy movie.

And Jack? Well, his situation looks hopeless.

Amnesty International wins Nobel Peace Prize

From UPI Wire Reports

Tax cuts on the way

OSLO, Norway — Amnesty International, the worldwide organization which fights man's inhumanity to man, Monday won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize, and the delayed 1976 prize was given to Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan, leaders of the Northern Ireland Peace Movement.

In its citation, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said, "Amnesty International has given practical humanitarian and impartial support to people who have been imprisoned because of their race, religion or political views."

The two Belfast women were cited for the peace movement they formed in an effort to end the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Dayan — no PLO

UNITED NATIONS — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan Monday restated Israel's opposition to letting the "terrorist" Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) take part in Middle East peace talks, but minutes later left the door ajar for diplomatic maneuvering that might admit the PLO.

Dayan told reporters, and repeated to the full U.N. General Assembly six hours later, that Israel has no intention of agreeing to an independent state of Palestine — a "PLO minislate" that "would be a base for attempts to destroy Israel."

That position again appeared to put him in a position directly opposite his Syrian and Egyptian counterparts, who insist on PLO participation in Geneva.

But Dayan left open what appeared to be room for maneuvering. Asked whether credentials of Palestinians at peace talks would be closely for PLO membership, he replied, "I don't think so."

Syria — not without PLO

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syria said Monday it will boycott Middle East peace talks if the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is not represented, rejecting a U.S.-Israeli proposal for a new Geneva conference.

"Syria absolutely refuses to attend the Geneva peace conference if the PLO is excluded from it," Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam said in an interview with the Catani newspaper *Al Arab*.

WASHINGTON — President Carter, who spent the weekend studying tax reform, returned to Washington Monday and indicated that legislation proposing \$22 billion in cuts will be ready soon.

The President has said his proposals will mean substantial reductions for taxpayers. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal said Friday chances of a tax cut next year are more possible now than they were a few months ago.

news briefs

AMA refuses to testify

WASHINGTON — The American Medical Association (AMA), on advice of its legal counsel, refused to appear Monday at Sen. Edward Kennedy's scheduled hearings on competition in the health care industry.

Neither Kennedy nor the AMA, sometimes antagonists over national health care issues, were saying much about the latest clash.

Kennedy, D-Mass., scheduled joint hearings, beginning Monday, of Senate subcommittees on health, antitrust and monopoly, and invited the AMA to appear on the opening day. Kennedy is chairperson of both panels.

"It seems clear that the health care industry is not like those other industries where an open and competitive market serves the best interests of the consumer," Kennedy told AMA's Dr. James Sammons in a Sept. 19 letter.

Correction

The *Daily Tar Heel* incorrectly reported Monday that the fifth-leading vote-getter in the Carrboro alderman's race will assume Robert Drakeford's seat on the board if he is successful in his mayoral campaign against John Boone. Drakeford's seat will be filled by board appointment if necessary.

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STRIKE THREE!
CHON, ERIC, ADMIT IT... YOU REALLY LIKE WENDY, DON'T YOU?
YEA... I GUESS I REALLY DO.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR CHANCES ARE?
I SUPPOSE THEY'RE SYMBOLIZED BY THE WAY SHE'S SHORTENED MOM'S NICKNAME FOR ME.
TO WHAT? "POOPSIE"?
NO.
"POOP."

HOW TO CREATE A FAIRLY INNOCUOUS COMIC STRIP
G. DOUGLAS GOWUS III
HEY... DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO SEE WHO WAS INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG!
HILL WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S OUTING CLUB MEETING! WE HAVE A BUNCH OF REALLY NEAT TRIPS GOING OUT THIS WEEKEND, AND... I WANTED TO SEE WHO WAS INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG!
OKAY! AND WE'VE GOT A TRIP GOING TO AN ACTIVE VOLCANO IN THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS! WHO WANTS TO GO?
ME! ME!
Wanna go!
OKAY! AND WE'VE GOT ROOM FOR ONE PERSON IN A BARREL GOING OVER NIAGARA FALLS!
ME!
NO ME!
OKAY... AND... WE ALSO HAVE A FIELD TRIP TO HINTON JAMES DORM!
NOT ME!
TOO FAR!
UNH-UNH!
NO WAY!

I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU
I'VE DECIDED YOU SHOULD BECOME A VEGETARIAN!
I WAS ONLY KIDDING... HERE'S YOUR REAL SUPPER...
WHAT A ROTTEN JOKE! MY HEART IS STILL POUNDING!

TRUE OR FALSE? WELL, MA'AM, LET ME THINK...
I'LL SAY "TRUE!"
I WAS RIGHT? HOW ABOUT THAT!
WHEN YOU'RE HOT YOU'RE HOT!

MR. TREVOR, WHEN JACKIE KENNEDY MARRIED ARI ONAGESIS IN 1960, YOU NEGOTIATED A \$3 MILLION INHERITANCE FOR HER! WHY DID YOU LATER DECIDE TO RAISE THE STAKES TO \$26 MILLION?
WELL, FIRST OF ALL, GIVEN A WIDOW OF MRS. ONAGESIS'S STATURE, THE ORIGINAL WILL WAS CLEARLY BOTH INADEQUATE AND INAPPROPRIATE!
MOREOVER, MRS. ONAGESIS IS BURDENED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RAISING AND SCHOOLING TWO CHILDREN ON HER OWN! OUR REQUEST WAS CALCULATED STRICTLY ON A BASIS OF NEED!
SO IT WASN'T ANYTHING AS UNINTERESTING AS GREED...
ABSOLUTELY NOT! IN FACT, THEY WANTED TO GIVE US \$30 MILLION, BUT I PUT MY FOOT DOWN!

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"Charlie and I first met when he made a pass at my Bass."
There I was sitting in the library cramming for my mid-term in Psych 101. At about 11:30 I hear this guy across the table whisper: "I dig your squiggles."
Now I've heard lines, but that one took the cake. "Till I realized he was talking about my Bass shoes."
"What kind of shoes are they?" he asked.
Figured I'd play along. "They're my Bass Squeejuns. Those squiggles are natural, genuine rubber soles. They give me the bouncy kind of walk I like."
Then he wants to know how long me and my Bass have been together, and I tell him I switched my major three times but I'm still wearing the same pair of Bass.
I thought he must have some kind of thing for feet. So I tell him I really like the way Bass Squeejuns go with my whole wardrobe. And how they give me lots of support, and how comfortable they are and stuff.
To make the long story short, I aced my mid-term and Charlie and I have been going out for a year now. Would you believe it? I'm still wearing my same pair of Bass Squeejuns.
Bass
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