

SAY WHAT?

Erik & Tom take a stand on the literacy thing

"Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet in hendrerit."
 — Julius Caesar

It's as true today as it was when Caesar said it 3,000 years ago. Just ask any 7th-grader. He'll tell you what it means. Or he would if he weren't culturally illiterate.

It's an epidemic of frightening proportions.

Kids just don't know anything anymore. Kids used to take stuff like Latin and Greek and What Quantum Mechanics Means to Me. Now they take crap like Woodshop, Typing and The History of Rock'n'Roll. Real pansy courses, if you ask us. (For those who were wondering, nobody did.)

If it doesn't have Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in it and it isn't sugar-coated, they just aren't interested. And if our so-called "Education President" doesn't get busy, we'll soon be seeing a big sign on the Statue of Liberty: "Welcome to the U.S., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yamaguchi/Wunderhafen Heavy Industries."

Barbara has the right idea with this wacky literacy kick.

"Now, Bar, about this literacy

FLIPPO & PARKS

3 Martini Guys

thing," we can hear George mumbling from across the family table while he munches down his broccoli-free breakfast. "Now, you know

"Vision, Bar. Vision," says George. "Prudent. One step at a time. Stay the course. Reading is fun — a fundamental. Seems somebody said that once. Popular saying. Good for the polls. Seventy-two percent approval rating, Bar. High. Highest ever."

"I know, dear," Bar says, a sly smile on her lips. "But I think you need to start taking a stand on this issue."

"Now, Bar. Stands have been taken. Look at the broccoli thing. Don't like broccoli, Bar. Said so. Told everybody. Approval still high. Feels good. Farmers loved it. Simple. Honest. Not afraid. Tough, Bar. Tough but prudent."

Bar is concerned. "I know what we need, George," she says. "We need more money for the American education system."

George is not convinced. He knows what we need:

"Turtles, Bar. Not so old. Mutated. Changed. Not the same. Like pizza, Bar. Martial arts. The whole shebang. Big with the kids. Kids love 'em. High approval rating."

"George, you remember what Caesar said about the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? He said ..."

"... Lorem ipsum, Bar. Lorem ipsum. True then. True today. Or was it 'Et tu, Donnatello?'"

Speaking of small amphibians your mother wouldn't let you date, Lewis Grizzard, the sleazoid columnist who takes cheap shots at redneck women, is fleeing the innocent public to

the tune of 15 bucks a pop tonight to listen to him ramble and prattle on about his Southern eccentricities and personality disorders.

The oft-divorced Grizzard had no comment on his latest scam (probably 'cause we didn't bother to talk to the man). Figures he'd play Cameron, though. All those Dookies probably camped in line overnight for the chance to hand this charlatan 15 bucks of their parents hard-inherited money. Serves 'em right.

Before you read the next paragraph, which is wholly unrelated to the preceding paragraph, we would like to take this opportunity to assure you, our viewing public, that your capable pilots, the 3 Martini Guys, shall deftly tie all these loose ends into one neat little Freudian knot by the end of this column or your money will be cheerfully refunded, no questions asked. But wait! There's more ...

Education could learn a lot from USA Today.

What we're talking about, of course, are infographics. If educators would just learn how to display information with the stunning clarity

of a USA Snapshot, our illiteracy problem would be licked.

Take the one on the left, for example, explaining the current situation in the Baltics.

Or the one below, explaining just why drugs are bad for you.

What we're trying to say here is that kids today aren't simply culturally illiterate.

They're visually illiterate. And why are they visually illiterate?

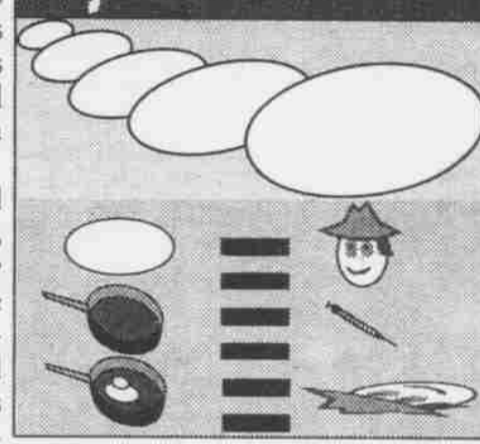
Because they don't watch enough television. Millions of American children go to bed each night without watching a single minute — not one single minute — of prime-time television.

The 3-M Guys have heard the cries in the wilderness. We have responded, and we have a solution!

To ensure that our generation will not be the last, we must start now to ingrain within ourselves the good habit of watching at least six solid hours of TV each and every night, so we will be able to teach our children. If we don't do it, how can we expect our children to?

It's not too late. TV listings start on page 12, boys and girls. Let's get crackin'!

Any Questions?



Latvian Independence and You

The Beltway

Bowling Alley

5th Avenue

Proposed Civic Center

Arctic Ocean

Wake

Atlanta

YEMEN

Minniehaha

Ulan Bator

HUGO

Winds: NW 112 mph
 Position: 40° 32' 44.5" W
 128° 18' 6.44" N

The Chronology

1. Deaver leaves White House
2. Meese leaves Justice Department
3. Deaver enters General Dynamics, receives locked attaché case from Chinese dignitary
4. Meese arrives Howard Johnson @ Maryland Pkwy.
5. Deaver enters Space Shuttle Atlantis
6. Bush meets Bar for BroccoliFest luncheon; delivers key-note address
7. North sells arms to Iran

3-M Guys Graphic

I'm a little short on the Vision Thing. Help me out there."

"Let me try to put this into terms you'll understand, dear," says Bar. "Literacy — good. Illiteracy — bad."

Pop quiz! Hope you're awake

It's Easter already and I haven't seen one of those damn Cadbury chicken-bunny commercials yet.

What's the television industry coming to?

I tell you what I have seen, though. I've seen a commercial about toilet paper with baby lotion on it and real people gushing about it and rubbing it all over themselves.

This is disgusting. The whole idea of using greasy toilet paper is disgusting. I don't want to delve any further into this because I'll probably wind up getting myself into deep s—.

As I watched this commercial, I thought to myself, "Where did they find these people?" Then I realized how stupid it is to think to yourself in quotation marks like that so I stopped.

Seriously, though, do they go door-to-door and ask? How could you ask a total stranger a question like that?

"Excuse me, ma'am, but I'm from the Charmin company, and we want to know what kind of toilet paper you use and if you find it comfortable or not?"

JOHN BLAND Less Filling

Could you answer that kind of question? With a straight face? Could you — **HEY! ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION? BECAUSE THERE COULD BE A QUIZ!** — honestly look the questioner in the face and say, "You know, I've never really given it much thought..."

Of course you haven't given it much thought! It's a disgusting thing to think about! You should be ashamed of yourself if you've even thought about thinking about it!

It's bad enough having to answer that question to a total stranger at your door, but imagine answering it in front of fourteen million people who are busy watching America's Funniest Home Videos.

It's sick; it's disgusting; it's perverted; it's American; it's beautiful. I'd do it for a dollar.

And now, for those of you who

were not paying attention, we're going to have a little quiz to help refresh your memories! Books off your desks, hands at your sides, pencils ready. Begin.

1. What do you say when someone asks you, "What kind of toilet paper do you use and why?"
 - a. "None of your damn business."
 - b. "Charmin, because it's soft, fluffy and makes me feel all squooshy."
 - c. "Sandpaper, because I'm into pain."
 - d. Hack her to death with a kitchen knife.
2. Who won the presidential election of 1934?
 - a. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - b. Amy Grant
 - c. Nobody. There was no election in 1934, idiots!
 - d. Hack her to death with a kitchen knife.
3. Why is this stupid column running this week?
 - a. It's Pulitzer-prize winning material.
 - b. It's Pulitzer-prize winning material.
 - c. It's Pulitzer-prize winning material.
 - d. It's Pulitzer-prize winning hacking her to death with a kitchen knife.

The answer to all questions is, of course, "e. Belgium", so everybody have a nice vacation and I'll see you next week.

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