

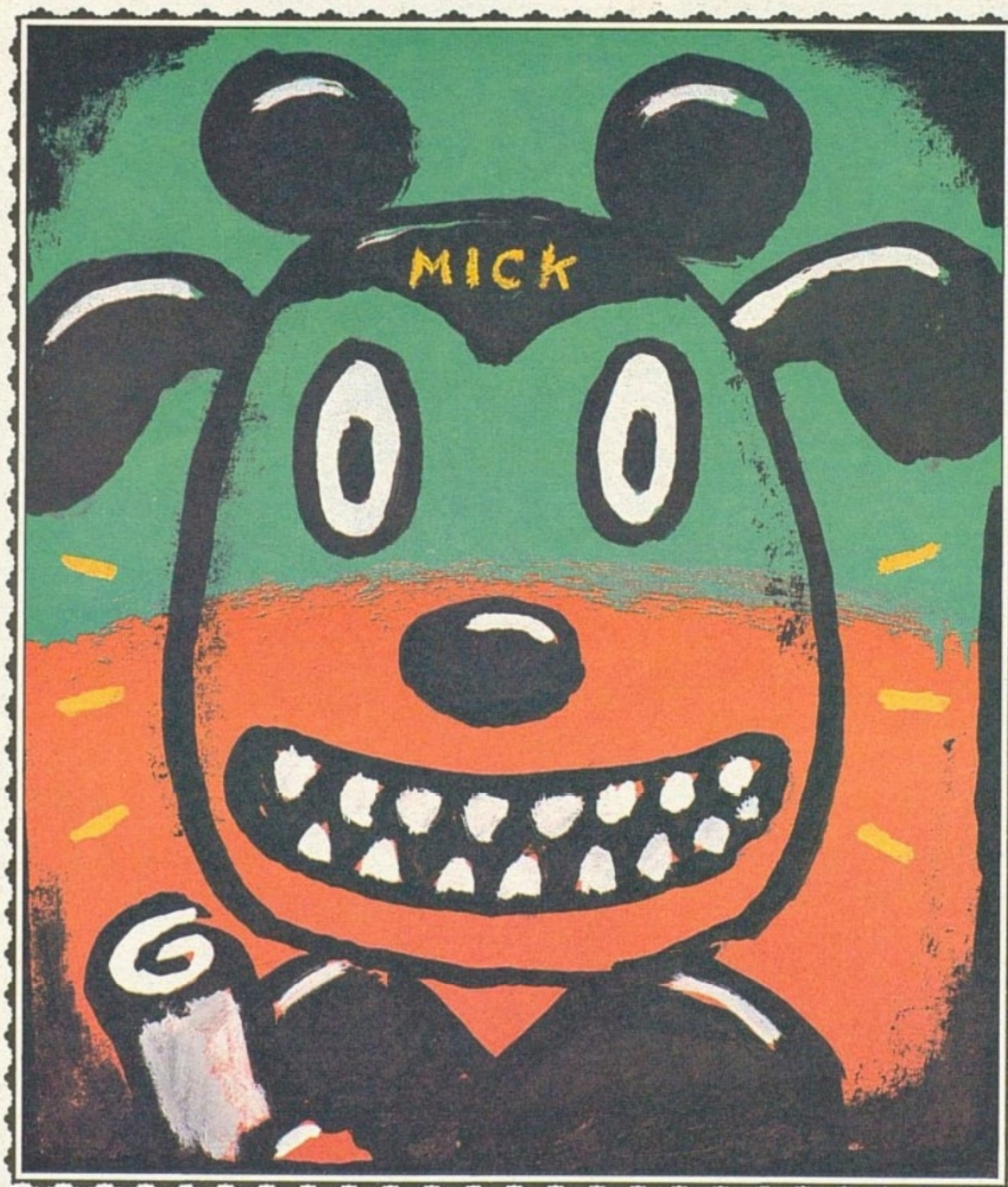
EVEN YOUR DOG  
+ COULD PASS +

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE WITHOUT REALLY TRYING? IT TAKES GUTS.

By Dan Zevin

**R**ocks for Jocks, Physics for Poets, Underwater Basket Weaving: For undergrads faced with distribution requirements in fields of study whose mere mention elicits acute academic anxiety, these courses are no less than the building blocks of higher education. Known alternatively as guts, tits, blowoffs, micks, snaps, slides and hacks, they're the treasured favorites passed down each year from seniors in the know to freshmen in the dark. Classes so

easy your dog could pass. ★ But as many a wet-behind-the-ears sophomore has found out the hard way, you can't judge a gut by its title. Disneyland, at Cornell, is one of the most difficult courses on campus. Wines and Wine Chemistry, at the University of California,



Santa Cruz, leaves most students wishing they had signed up for something simple, like Organic. It is with the student's best interest in mind, therefore, that we present our first Guide to the Guts, a unique curriculum culled from colleges across the country. For this list, we consulted the experts: fraternity brothers and sorority sisters, college athletes and creative-writing majors. These are real, credit-earning courses, but the descriptions below are

based not on course catalogs but on students' impressions. That's not to say that these are worthless offerings. In fact, some have become the most popular courses on campus, not only because they're easy but because they're interesting. It's just that you don't have to be

Illustrations by Gary Baseman



an astrophysicist to pass. And then run, don't walk, to your nearest registrar. This could be the year you finally graduate.

#### 001. THE MIND IN SLEEP

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN; Dept. of Psychology; a.k.a. The Mind Asleep

**S**TUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SLEEP through class. During all-night "sleep labs," we will monitor one another snoozing while hooked up to EEG machines. Ample time to rent movies, order pizza and play with sensory-deprivation equipment before sleepers nod off. "Dream influence" lessons include abruptly waking sleepers after dripping water near their beds to determine if they dreamed about water. Sleeper required to keep dream journals and reveal sordid details to class. **Lasting knowledge:** "Celery is a phallic symbol when it appears in a dream" – Jill Zellmer, junior. **Prerequisites:** Insomnia or narcolepsy recommended; access to prescription sleeping aids/stimulants helpful.

#### 002. GERMAN FOLK SONGS

University of Connecticut, Storrs; Dept. of German Language; a.k.a. Beer Hall

**E**ARN GERMAN THE AUTHENTIC way, by belting out such classics as "Bruder Jakob" (sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques") and "Eins, Zwei, Saufe!" (translation: "One, two, down the hatch!") with more than 100 boisterous comrades. Students sing several German songs per class, each from required songbook (cost: \$1.25). Highlights include "ladies only" number, in which female students – who are required to sit in the front rows all semester – sing of a young German *Fräulein's* struggle to find a boyfriend. Football players sit in back sneaking swigs of Budweiser, adding to an atmosphere reminiscent of a German beer hall. Independent study entails practicing after class at campus pub. Final exam/grand finale consists of singing top twenty favorites while eating pretzels and drinking cider provided by instructor. **Lasting knowledge:** "I'll never forget the words to 'Bruder Jakob'" – Mark Sheehan, class of '91. **Prerequisites:** Strong voice, bladder.

#### 003. THE FLOWERING PLANT

Colorado College, Colorado Springs; Dept. of Biology; a.k.a. The Flowering Blowjob

**H**AVE MOSS AND OTHER NONFLOWERING VEGETATION perplexed you long enough? Leave them for the scientists to figure out and join a class of hockey players who learn a few simple flower-related vocabulary words each day. A typical class involves discussing words such as *sepal* ("the green stuff underneath flower petals") on Monday, reading the definition of *sepal* Monday night and coming in Tuesday to find *SEPAL*.

DAN ZEVIN, a Boston-based freelance journalist, wrote about the 'Harvard Lampoon' in RS 600.

scrawled on a blackboard, signaling a review session. Lab sections include "fruit lab," in which we observe and eat the following: a peach, a banana, a date, a coconut, a pineapple, an orange and a walnut. **Lasting knowledge:** "Walnuts are a fruit" – Justin Herman, junior. **Prerequisite:** Permission from physician suggested for students prone to hay fever, fruit allergies.

#### 004. PSYCHOLOGY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Tulane University, New Orleans; Dept. of Psychology; a.k.a. Crackpots and Snapshots

**A**N INEXPLICABLE MERGER OF TWO UNRELATED disciplines, this course introduces students to a wide selection of cameras. The instructor, known on campus for his ukulele rendition of "Going Down the Road Feeling Bad," by the Grateful Dead, allows stu-



dents to touch and examine several of his antique cameras. Field trips include a visit to an actual darkroom, where instructor quietly develops film. Required oral report on well-known photographer entails taking coffee-table book out of library and reading aloud from the foreword. Final project requires using camera to take photographs. Recent examples: zoo animals, bikini-clad women lifting weights. **Lasting knowledge:** "Fast Foto develops film cheaply" – Maui Quirch, senior. **Prerequisite:** Eyesight.

#### 005. SUPERVISED READING

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Dept. of History; a.k.a. Remedial Reading

**A** REFRESHER COURSE FOR IVY LEAGUERS WHO need to brush up on read-aloud skills. Once a week, for approximately thirty minutes, students sit in a circle on the floor of instructor's office, where they

take turns reading sentences from fables, Bible stories, plays and poems. Final lecture features instructor's personal philosophies, ranging from "Be true to yourself" to "Stand up straight." Especially recommended for students whose parents took this class in the 1950s. **Lasting knowledge:** "Let me see if I can remember this story about a chicken..." – Rachel Laikind, senior. **Prerequisite:** Ability to sound out words, phrases.

#### 006. INTRODUCTORY SYMBOLIC LOGIC

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Dept. of Philosophy; a.k.a. P and Q

**T**HIS CLASS, WHICH ALSO FULFILLS A MATH requirement, teaches students to utilize deductive reasoning to arrive at conclusions. For example, "If it is raining, then the grass is wet." To glean such higher knowledge, students must memorize approximately eight "truth tables" regarding the letters P and Q (example: "If P, then Q"). Optional homework assignments consist of true-false questions based on truth tables (example: "If P, then Q. True or false?"). At the conclusion of the course, pupils will be prepared to arrive at important real-life solutions, but "it hasn't helped my sex life," notes senior Mike Dickey, "or even in choosing a career." **Lasting knowledge:** "If P, then Q; PQ" – Dickey. **Prerequisite:** Some familiarity with the alphabet.

#### 007. A HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Dept. of History; a.k.a. School Daze

**T**AKING ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE university's catalog, beneath Survey of British History From 1688 and Modern China, this class showcases the school's equally prominent role in world history. Instructors take turns showing slides of campus buildings, followed by riveting accounts of their significance. Term paper required on any subject remotely connected to the university, including but not limited to reviews of *The Big Chill*, which features fictional alumni. Preparation for exam includes wandering around campus with photo album, identifying university buildings. **Lasting knowledge:** "Ann Arbor got its name because the founders both had wives named Ann. Plus, there's lots of trees, which is the Arbor part" – Tim Pope, class of '91. **Prerequisite:** School sweat shirt, which has answer to first midterm question, "What year was university founded?"

#### 008. LOCAL FLORA

Yale University, New Haven, CT; Dept. of Forestry and Environmental Studies; a.k.a. Lo-Flo

**E**ACH CLASS ENTAILS PILING INTO A VAN AND driving to a forest in less depressed areas than New Haven. Instructor pulls branches from trees, identifies and occasionally tastes them and scurries



along trail while students hack away at ancient forestry for mandatory "twig collections." Class members write one page pertaining to trees each week – limericks and drawings acceptable, though instructor "generally likes some words on the page," notes sophomore Heidi Ellis. Final projects have ranged from videos of students singing about various trees as they stand under certain examples to a research paper on "tree climbability." Exam requires group to follow a string through the woods, identifying trees professor has marked. **Lasting knowledge:** "American elm bark looks like a ham-and-cheese sandwich when you cut it open" – Ellis. **Prerequisite:** Background in pruning, weeding helpful, not essential.

#### 009. FEMALE PHYSIOLOGY AND GYNECOLOGY

University of California, Santa Cruz; Dept.  
of Biology; a.k.a. Gin Fizz

**R**UNNY, YELLOW, PUS-FILLED SORES. GENITAL warts. Crabs. These are among the colorful conditions captured on slides for 400 students who moan, groan and giggle through lectures on STDs. Optional, hands-on lab sections include rubberized vagina models and plastic penises complete with removable heads for a rare glimpse inside. Condoms, dental dams distributed free of charge – no extra credit for usage. Ample opportunities for single UCSC males to meet coeds. **Lasting knowledge:** "If you're going to slip it in, slip it on" – Aaron Meadows-Hill, senior. **Prerequisite:** Knowledge of female, male privates.

#### 010. INTRODUCTION TO NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

University of Arizona, Tucson; Dept. of  
Communication; a.k.a. Charades

**D**ID YOU KNOW THAT MEN MAY NOD THEIR HEADS instead of saying hello? That people often pinch their noses instead of saying, "Something stinks"? In this class we assign complex terms to basic human gestures, referring to "emblems" instead of hand gestures and to "kinesics" instead of body movements. Classes include charades – er, "pictographs" – in which individuals communicate detailed phrases such as "No" to the class without speaking. Outdoor observation entails spying on passersby and inventing stories about them based on their kinesics. **Lasting knowledge:** "If a guy gives you a head toss instead of a head nod, he means business" – Shannon Croft, sophomore. **Prerequisites:** Ability to be seen and not heard; mime experience helpful.

#### 011. ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Dept. of  
American Studies; a.k.a. Eat and Run

**P**REVIOUSLY TAUGHT AT COLORADO COLLEGE AND offered here for the first time next winter, this course requires students to consume large quantities of food. Past week-long field trips included visits to Santa Fe, where students were required to dine at Mexican restaurants between shopping sprees. Discussions include "family dinner-table politics," in which classmates exchange stories of grossing out younger siblings by displaying chewed food on tongue. Other highlights include screening *Babette's Feast* while eating unusual snacks such as pork heart, raw squid and Ninja Turtle Pies. Required

readings from cookbooks. **Lasting knowledge:** "Ninja Pies are surprisingly filling" – Sandra Gonzales, junior. **Prerequisites:** Good digestion, high metabolic rate.

#### 012. CIRCUS

New York University, NYC; Dept. of Drama;  
a.k.a. Clowning for Credit

**L**EARN JUGGLING, STILT WALKING, TRAPEZE ACROBATICS and other practical skills essential to real life. Each class begins with warm-up session in which students count off in foreign languages, including Roman ("I! I, I! I, I, I! I, V!"), followed by bunny hops. Preliminary lessons include progressive pool-cue balancing on palm, shin, top of foot and forehead. Intensive study of Rolla-Bolla technique requires class to stand on wooden board attached to moving cylinder. Optional Saturday workshops include independent unicycling. **Lasting knowledge:** "In one week, you can easily increase your stilt walking by twenty steps" – Kate Briggs, junior. **Prerequisite:** Prior experience as sideshow freak helpful.



#### 013. DESCRIPTIVE INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS

University of California, Berkeley; Dept.  
of Physics; a.k.a. Physics for Poets

**H**ELD IN THE LARGEST CLASSROOM ON CAMPUS – complete with giant-screen TV, so students can see the teacher – class consists of instructor reading aloud from the textbooks he has written to about 800 clueless English majors who sign up to fulfill a science requirement. Workload consists of drawing sine waves and filling in the blanks to ten Mad Lib-type sentences at the end of each chapter (answers gladly provided by teaching assistants). Majority takes class P/NP, known alternatively as pass/not pass or pressure/no pressure. Recommended for mathematically impaired. **Lasting knowledge:** "Physics textbooks hold their value better than English books. You get almost all you paid when you sell them back" – Matthew Middlebrook, senior. **Prerequisite:** A pulse.

#### 014. THE AFRICAN STORYTELLER

University of Wisconsin, Madison; Dept. of African  
Languages and Literature; a.k.a. Jive Talking

**I**NTRODUCTION TO OVERACTING AND REMARKABLE flying hair of instructor, who bounces off the walls while performing traditional African stories. Using a

microphone to yell over several hundred jocks and P.C. types who compete for floor space in the enormous lecture hall, the strikingly Caucasian instructor spins many graphic tales of African puberty rites, with emphasis on embarrassing details. Mandatory student participation, as class members are asked to growl and frighten African monster when it appears in one of the staged stories. Frequent slide shows. **Lasting knowledge:** "If you come in late through the back doors, he gives you a hard time. If you come in late through the front doors, he never notices" – Alexis Bruhn, class of '91. **Prerequisites:** Ability to be entertained easily; safari hat optional.

#### 015. EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT; Dept. of  
Geology; a.k.a. Shake and Bake

**R**EMINISCENT OF DRIVER'S-EDUCATION COURSES designed to scare innocent students with bloody car-crash photos, this course takes a close-up look at the world's most popular natural disasters. Slides, photos, films and all other known visual aids are utilized to present the destruction of homes, buildings, sidewalks, barns and more. Exceptional eruption footage of Mount St. Helens. Students must use crayons, colored pencils to color in "plate tectonics" diagrams. **Lasting knowledge:** "Never build anything on a fault" – Justin Keyes, senior. **Prerequisites:** Ability to color within the lines; California, Hawaii residency recommended, not required.

#### 016. CHOOSING A LIFE

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; Dept. of  
Sociology; a.k.a. Getting a Clue

**E**SSENTIALLY A SUPPORT GROUP FOR BEWILDERED freshmen, this course poses the frightening question "What are you doing with your life?" Students are encouraged to share their life stories with the class so that others may impose appropriate personal and professional goals. Written assignments such as "Why I Plan Not to Go to Graduate School" and "How I Picture Myself in Ten Years" require little outside research. Excellent preparation for subsequent group therapy. **Lasting knowledge:** "I now know absolutely everything about this one group of kids who never shut up. I can tell you their parents' marital status and the names of their fathers' ex-wives' sisters" – Evan Praeger, junior. **Prerequisites:** Lack of direction, self-indulgence.

#### 017. HISTORY OF ROCK MUSIC

University of Texas at Austin; Dept. of  
Music; a.k.a. Tunes for Goons

**C**APTURING THE AMBIENCE OF A LIVE STADIUM show, this course crams more than 300 glassy-eyed students into an auditorium to rock out to tracks by Bob Dylan, Led Zep and Rush, whose music the professor-DJ astutely identifies as "art rock." Folk, blues and surf music are also sampled on "a big ol' stereo system you can hear clear across campus," notes senior David Allen. Visual aids include MTV clips, often followed by lectures on lip syncing. Week-long sections on *Sgt. Pepper* and mind-altering chemicals. No textbook. **Lasting knowledge:** "Rock came from the blues, from what I could understand, but I'm not exactly sure" – Allen. **Prerequisite:** Knowledge [Cont. on 140]



# Guts

[Cont. from 98] of chair-dancing (bopping in place) technique.

## 018. FAIRY TALES AND EVER AFTER

Washington University, St. Louis, MO;  
Dept. of Comparative Literature;  
a.k.a. Bedtime Stories

A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF such challenging literature as "The Crow and the Cheese." Students analyze the Brothers Grimm collection and other toddler-level stories, including one in which a little girl's brothers are turned into birds until she knits several sweaters. Homework entails assigning letters to plot devices (e.g., A = something bad that happens to character; K = resolution). Final project requires students to invent fairy tale with A and K elements. **Lasting knowledge:** "The Straw, the Coal and the Bean" has an unhappy K" — Allyn Teti, class of '91. **Prerequisites:** Permission from Mommy or Daddy.

## 019. AMERICAN HUMOR IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Boston University, Boston, MA; Dept. of History; a.k.a. Jokes for Jocks

BY VIEWING HISTORICAL FILMS such as *9 to 5* and *Blazing Saddles*, hundreds of students are provided with an alternative to renting movies from Blockbuster Video. Lectures include amusing anecdotes about professor's friends and family. Frequent Charlie Chaplin film festivals. Two papers required on humor topics such as "Sitcoms Through the Ages." **Lasting knowledge:** "There is a back door most people don't know about that you can sneak out of as soon as he shuts off the lights" — Jennifer Cowan, junior. **Prerequisite:** Memorization of *Monty Python*, *Saturday Night Live* skits.

## 020. SURFING

Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA;  
Dept. of Physical Education;  
a.k.a. Tasty Waves

OPEN TO DUDES AND BETTYS stoked to fill PE requirement with minimal physical exertion, this course requires two beach visits per week to determine surfability. After mastering wet-suit use, students are introduced to proper surfing technique through independent trial and error. Helpful advice from instructor (such as "Go, go, go!") contributes to technical proficiency. **Lasting knowledge:** "Dude, man, it's not like football. You just gotta be one with the ocean" — Philip McElhinney, class of '91. **Prerequisite:** Rolla-Bolla Seminar (see course listing 012).

# Pee-wee

[Cont. from 42] her twenty-year high-school reunion was in full swing. Verizzo is now Corporal Verizzo, the ranking woman in the Sarasota Sheriff's Department. Yes, she'd given Paul two \$20 bills. Sure, department regulations prohibit deputies from helping anybody but immediate family make bail. Verizzo said she considered Paul family. "Joan Verizzo has been a part of our family for over twenty years," Judy Rubinfeld wrote Sheriff Monge in explanation. "My daughter went through school with her, and my sons call on her often. If she had not responded to Paul, it would have been a family crisis."

The letter didn't help. Joan Verizzo received a one-day suspension. "I made a small loan to him out of loyalty to someone I consider to be family," she says. "They chose to suspend me anyway. I like working for the Sheriff's Department, so I'm not planning to fight it."

Things were sad all around. "I didn't know it was a crime," one of the three other men arrested on July 26th said. "I didn't think I was bothering anyone."

"Yeah, I was playing with myself," said another. "I'm sorry." They all made bail and went home to await arraignment a few days hence, alongside other men who were charged with writing bad checks and fishing off the wrong Sarasota bridge. Reading the headlines and seeing Paul's arrest on local and national television, a local lawyer shook his head and hinted of entrapment, at least of an emotional variety: "It was like the vice squad going into an alcohol-rehabilitation center with a pitcher of martinis and saying, 'Who wants a drink?'"

Talking about what happened in Sarasota, people kept coming back to the mug shots. The face was so foreign. And it was supposed to be. "He never wanted to be photographed like that," a friend says, "because then that cover would be blown." It was Paul's way of preserving his life. But in the court of public opinion, it might have been easier if Paul had been arrested in the theater wearing his Pee-wee suit.

After the arrest, Paul, always something of a recluse, slipped further underground. "He's still incredibly upset," says Allee Willis. "It affected him in an extremely devastating way that hasn't seemed to diminish much over time. He's very stunned by the unfair reaction — the completely disproportionate reaction. But what he's most concerned about is kids' reaction, in terms of why their favorite TV show was pulled off the air, why the video was pulled out of the Disney-MGM tour. People are treating him like he's a child molester."

"None of us really knows where he is," Willis says. "We wait for him to call

us. As the days go by, we talk more often. The first few days it was horrible. But he's definitely sounding like Paul now. . . . Some of the humor is there."

Rumors started that Pee-wee might reappear, in late-night syndication, which Paul had hoped for, to keep him in money. The lewdness arrest reached no resolution. An early attempt at a plea bargain failed. The defense team drafted Richard Gerstein, a former Florida State Attorney whose office began the investigation that tied the Nixon White House to the Watergate burglars. Seventies kids would love it. A Watergate white hat defending Pee-wee!

Phil Hartman spoke to Paul before the bust. He was planning an around-the-world trip. "He was going to go through Asia and sweep west and end up in Barcelona for the Olympics," Hartman says. "He was kind of a solitary guy, but he has friends in a lot of places, and he likes to touch down here and there."

Paul had even considered leaving show business altogether. "He had a lot of bad experiences, what he would term bitter experiences," Hartman says. "There were lawsuits; he fired managers; he had relationships torn asunder throughout these last several years."

"I heard he actually is starting to think about future gigs," continues Hartman. "The one thing all of us who have known Paul since the Groundlings know is that he's capable of any number of fully realized characters. He's a professional actor, and he has thought of himself as an actor since he was a child. He is no one-trick pony."

"Paul will be okay," Joan Verizzo says. "He's a survivor."

It was heartening to picture Paul staring with wonder at the towers of Florence, walking past the cages of calling birds along Las Ramblas in Barcelona and among the terraced gardens of Bali. Back from the big world, he would return to his garden, flip on the TV and find only cartoons. At 11:30 on Saturday mornings, instead of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, *The Adventures of Raggedy Ann and Andy* would be playing.

But what about Pee-wee? Other men who are role models for kids have been allowed their failures of the flesh. New York Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden did a stint at the Smithers Center for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and went on to reclaim his career. Chris Mullin of the Golden State Warriors is now back after a serious bout with booze. Wrestlers like Rowdy Roddy Piper have admitted to using illegal steroids. Dozens of rock stars, who have ingested every substance known to the DEA, have cleaned up — and then preached about it. Los Angeles Laker James Worthy survived a soliciting-for-prostitution arrest. But is redemption of this sort possible for a Saturday-morning-children's-show host?

"I wish Paul's arrest could be part of

an epic moment in American life, when we finally face sexuality in adulthood and childhood," says Gary Panter. "But that won't happen. The country is still based on titillation and denial." A country where police arrest women for wearing provocative bathing suits and men for masturbating and where unspoken rules understood by corporate men in New York and Hollywood have the most ruinous power of all.

Who sent Paul Reubens on the run?  
Who killed Pee-wee Herman?  
The secret word is *us*.

# Mark

[Cont. from 53] graphs seem like self-portraits.

It is Mary Ellen Mark's triumph to combine successfully two different approaches to photography. Like Cartier-Bresson and the best photojournalists, she knows how to find the exact angle, the exact fraction of a second that will tell the whole story in one shot. On the other hand, her choice of subjects, her taste for the singular, her visual imagination, make one think of Diane Arbus and other poet-photographers. But what makes Mary Ellen unique is her compassion. She never puts down the people she photographs. She is moved by them; she shares their suffering, their difficulties, their contradictions. Even when she portrays a Klansman at an Aryan Nations Congress, she does not ridicule him or pass judgment. The setting, the composition, emphasize the pathetic isolation of people who are parochial remnants of the past, left behind by history on this country road, guerrillas of a war long over.

What amazes me is Mary Ellen's tremendous energy, her commitment to her work. In recent years she has disappeared several times for months in order to follow small circuses through India. And she plans to go there again to photograph these people, who have become her friends. Never satisfied, she is on an endless quest for the universal beyond the particular. In my field they say you're as good as your last film. I always answer that I am as good as my next film. I feel close to Mary Ellen because she only looks forward. Her work is always in progress.

LOUIS MALLE is the director of *'Au Revoir les Enfants'*, *'Atlantic City'* and *'My Dinner With Andre.'*

ROLLING STONE (ISSN 0035-791X) is published biweekly — except in July and at year's end, when two issues are combined and published as double issues — by Straight Arrow Publishers Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104. The entire contents of ROLLING STONE are copyright © 1991 by Straight Arrow Publishers Inc. and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or in part, without written permission from the publisher. All rights are reserved. The publisher does not assume responsibility for any unsolicited materials and will return only those accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Canadian Goods and Service Tax Registration no. R125041855. The subscription price is \$25.95 for one year and \$38.95 for two years. The Canadian subscription price is \$41.00 for one year, including GST. Second-class postage paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. In Canada, entered at Windsor, Ontario. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROLLING STONE, P.O. Box 55329, Boulder, CO 80322-5329.