

PRAVDA?

The Official(?) Newsletter of the KGB

An open editorial policy

Editor: Ed Ryan (epr+pravda@andrew.cmu.edu)

Price: FREE unlike our indentured Outer-Slobovian brothers

Volume 7, Issue 2 — An undisclosed location in October, 2002

It's Never Easy

by John D. Balthazar

Do you think it's easy, being an imaginary friend? Not only do I take the heat for every mistake this sorry excuse for an editor makes, I also give him all of his ideas, getting none of the credit. I swear, if the perks for this job weren't so good, I'd be off in Tahiti, sipping mango juice and writing brilliant works to shock and amaze the world. "What," you ask, "could possibly be enough to make you stay?" Well, it's like this:

- Unlimited budget
- Dream girls (perfect for an imaginary guy)
- An "in" on the lucrative Solar real estate market

Despite these impressive perquisites, however, I am tempted to leave on a daily basis. I have to deal with this idiot's inane jokes and an incredible level of incompetence from the entire Pravda? staff.

It may be glamorous, but its never easy.

Lawrence of Old Navy

by Todd Frey

Thanks to the recent PAT bus cutbacks, there is yet another group looting and pillaging various establishments throughout the waterfront. Referred to simply as "The Horde" by frightened restaurant folk and store tycoons, they are led by the fearless Khan, a former CS sophomore.

Information gleaned from survivors of last Saturday's raid of Giant Eagle as well as well as unflattering graffiti regarding the PAT buses have led campus police to the following conclusion: Irrevocably stranded at the waterfront, thanks to the bus system, and unable to find their way home because they lacked any real understanding of the city's layout, a large group of incoming freshman and they aforementioned sophomore formed themselves into a small and very, very angry nomadic band and started to loot and pillage the local shops, killing the men and children, and taking the women back to their encampment. When asked why the heck they were at the waterfront, Campus Police declined to comment.

Through the risk was great, one of our reporters managed to get an interview with the mighty Khan. He stated their goals as follows: 1. Get laid as often as possible, 2. Get food and clothing and stuff like that, and 3. Get revenge on both Captain Kirk and the PAT bus system. "Revenge is a dish best served cold. It is very cold...in space," said Khan.

Recently many students, thinking that the life of a Mongol would be far superior to their pathetic lives now have been joining the Horde en mass. When asked their primary reasons, most stated that they were "in it for the punani." Parties interested in joining the horde should drop an e-mail to:

llamatues@hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER

by s "teki" dobbs

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You know you're a geek when...

- You know you're a geek when you analyze the implications of a time travel situation in a sci-fi movie.
- You know you're a geek when a guy asks you why you are wearing a particular shirt and you reply that it was on the top.
- You know you're a geek when you try to get a job while wearing a plain shirt rather than one of the free corporate logo shirts they gave you last year.

PRAVDA? IS READ BY HORDES OF KGBERS EVERY MONTH. DO YOU WANT YOUR ADVERTISEMENT TO APPEAR IN PRAVDA?? EMAIL epr+pravda@andrew.cmu.edu WITH YOUR AD AND THE LOCATION OF A NONDESCRIPT DUFFELBAG FULL OF GUMMIBEAR AS PAYMENT.

Where Have All The Power Rangers Gone?

by *dkaplan*

You know, it's just plain disappointing to see the steady decline in the quality of new Power Rangers television series. I'm not at all ashamed to admit that I was an avid viewer of Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers through middle school and early high school. Sure, the plots were a bit hokey. But the acting really was decent. I mean, Amy Jo Johnson went on to join the cast of *Felicity*. And it was enjoyable to see the development of the romance between Kim and Tommy. The competitive tension between alpha-males Jason and Tommy was also very real (not to mention sexy). When three of the actors decided (unsuccessfully) to hold out for better contracts, they were replaced through a seamlessly-executed plot development (I believe the characters were sent to a youth conference in Switzerland.). The advance of villains from Rita Repulsa and Lord Zed to the Machine Empire had a certain flow to it, and kept the story interesting.

The writers did begin to stretch a bit with the Zeo Crystal storyline, wherein the planet Earth was sent backwards in time and "Alien Rangers" had to protect Angel Grove while the pre-adolescent Power Rangers went in search of the Crystal fragments that would enable their mentor Zordon to restore the natural timeline. But it was all right in the end, and the Rangers got a swank new command center.

Then came Power Rangers Turbo, which was the first warning sign of the suckage that was to come. The first problem with this new show was that a proper understanding of the characters and their motivations was impossible unless the viewer had also seen 1997's Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie. Also, one of the Rangers was a twelve year old boy, while the others were all actors in their mid-twenties playing eighteen year olds (a hallmark of Power Rangers series.). I could never get into it.

Space. This series incorporated a compelling backstory that portrayed several of the villains in a sympathetic light, while remaining unpredictable and avoiding melodrama. The advent of the sinister "Psycho Rangers" as behavioral foils to the Power Rangers was also ingenious. The season ended with a stunning climax that resolved every previous season in a single blast of carefully controlled schmaltz.

And then it totally jumped the shark. Power Rangers Lost Galaxy marked a complete replacement of the cast (The previous six seasons had featured a frequently-replaced, but still continuous cast of characters.), a technique that was thereafter used for each new season (as per the original Japanese series). Incidentally, one of the new cast members was Cerina Vincent, who you may have seen as Areola in *Not Another Teen Movie*. She spent the entire movie naked, as a testament to the greatness of her acting skills. The story was decent, and the Red Ranger was pretty hunky, but the magic was definitely gone.

Power Rangers Lightspeed Rescue featured horrendous acting and a complete lack of story arc. They were on a submarine, which was just silly, and not even the gorgeousness of the Red Ranger could save this one from sinking. Power Rangers Time Force actually sounds very interesting, but I never saw it and it doesn't seem to be airing anywhere now.. I'm not really sure why, since they're still running old episodes of Lightspeed Rescue on ABC Family. So, clearly their marketing team has fallen on hard times as well. And that brings us, sadly, to Power Rangers Wild Force. I chanced to see

the first episode of this series just last weekend. The Rangers are the worst actors ever, the Red Ranger is only moderately handsome, the premise is tenuous and underdeveloped, and the writing is evidently accomplished by the "1000 monkeys with typewriters" technique. The show has also fallen into the trap of relying on flashy special effects to generate interest, thus filling the show with pointless shots of the Zords. Clearly, the concept is played out and needs to be put to rest. I really don't hold out much hope for Power Rangers Ninja Storm, coming to a television near you in 2003.

Alien invasion

by *Devon Reed*

Well, this is it. The aliens have landed.

Spectators in the Kirr Commons were surprised Friday when invaders from another planet descended on the Homecoming festivities, marking the first time the Kirr Commons has been actually used for its designed purpose as a spaceport lounge. Meshing more or less seamlessly with the population, our new overlords appear benevolent. Their form is vaguely squidlike, their taut, brightly colored skin filled with the no doubt volatile gasses they must need for their survival. Since their arrival, they have done little but float around aimlessly and uncommunicatively, sparking speculation that they may, in fact, actually be alumni. However, as only one invertebrate has ever been recorded as graduating from even the College of Fine Arts, this is most unlikely.

Why are they here, though? Does Mars, or Uranus, or whatever planet Teki is from, need women? That is one of the predominant theories espoused by people who have been watching too many B-Movies lately. They point to much circumstantial evidence implying our visitors may have come to perpetuate their bizarre kind.

A sophomore that asked to be unnamed pointed out that, "Look, they have four balls, and huge schlongs. And the littler ones look like sperm. How Freudian can you get?"

This was refuted by a junior in psychology. "Hey, even aliens ought to know that you don't go to CMU for sex, even if you're a multitentacled monster."

"Well, has anyone told the Vermillion club about these guys?" wondered another bystander.

"I think they're baby blimps. I mean, the blimps have obviously been breeding," was another opinion.

"Oh, I thought it was just the latest diversity initiative," a senior was heard to say.

Whatever their purpose, their presence cannot be ignored. Perhaps they will cut their strings and float again to the sky one day, but until then, let us enjoy the companionship of these strange and exotic beings, and allow them to further expand our narrow, earth-bound horizons.

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS OF NOTE:

- KGB SCARES SMALL CHILDREN. FRIDAY, OCT 18TH, DETAILS FORTHCOMING.
- KGB'S HALLOWEEN PARTY. FRIDAY, OCT. 25TH, STARTING AT 8PM IN THE PORTER HALL A18 COMPLEX.
- CAPTURE THE FLAG WITH STUFF! FRIDAY, NOV. 15TH, STARTING AT 7PM IN WEAN 7500.

Song of Imarsh

by *dkalplan*

Imarsh is beauty.

Twirling, dancing, firm bosom
Sets my mind aflame.

Gay am I, but then
I met Imarsh and saw truth.
Love transcends gender.

She's the coolest chick
In the whole damn neighborhood,
But your mom hates her.

Sometimes I wish that
Imarsh were a school-marm, and
I a naughty boy.

She smells like springtime,
And tastes like a laser beam
With purple sparks.

I love her so much,
And I would bear her babies
If I had a womb.

Imarsh is perfect,
And that is the reason why
I love her so much.

Recycling Sanity

by *Kevin "Buoren" Shiue*

I look, up into the sky,

And I wonder about it.

My destiny is there

Awaiting,

Patiently,

As I sit,

And wonder,

When the next spaceship

Will come,

To pick me up

And take me

Through the rinse cycle

Again.

The 11:45 Campaign

Ed Ryan

As you all know, 11:45 once again graces weekly the pages of That Other Newsletter, The Tartan. I'd like to thank all of you who wrote in on the good robot's behalf. Here are some of the more amusing emails that were sent, reduced in size to make them fit:

Dear Editor of the Tartan,

Why has 11:45 been removed from the pages of your newspaper? I found this comic to be a shining beacon of hilarity in an otherwise mundane series of drawings. 11:45 demonstrates the sort of genius that should be nurtured by your publication, not cruelly squashed at the first sign of overcrowding.

While Dilbert should obviously stay right where it is, several of the other comics fail to give my life meaning in the way that 11:45 does. Specifically, "Life in Hell" and "Harold and the Other Guy." This week's "Life in Hell" talks about a terror alert checklist that matches behavioral patterns to color-coded alert levels. But the comic is in black and white! And "Harold and the Other Guy" seems to be advocating the eating of aborted fetuses in ice cream cones!

I desperately miss the simple robot-based humor of 11:45. I think that if you check your premises and exercise your abilities of objective reason, you too will discover that A is A and 11:45 belongs in the Tartan. If Chewbacca lives on Endor, you must run 11:45. Thank you.

To Whom it May Concern:

I noticed that the latest installment of 11:45 was missing from the comics section of the Tartan this week. Since 11:45 is the only part of the Tartan I read, you'll understand that I felt this loss was appalling. I have also heard from internal sources that this may be a permanent loss. Frankly, I could not remain silent on this issue.

11:45 is everything a comic should be. From an artistic standpoint, it eschews traditional draftsmanship in favor of a more exuberant method of expression reminiscent at once of the Lascaux paleolithic style and the early work of Franz Kline of the New York School of abstract expressionism. In a literary sense it is obvious that protagonist, a robot involved in human struggles, is highly symbolic of the modern male psyche. Trapped between the reality of personal emotion and the dehumanizing aspects of societal pressure, the only outlet is paranoia and anger for the robotic character with which we can all identify. In a Kafkaesque twist of fate, the soulless robot is the means by which we learn more about our own souls.

Bring back 11:45- it is the shining beacon of creative expression in an otherwise bleak comic spread!

Mr. Editor and else whereto the concernal fact:

My attentiveness is caught in itself the startled facts of a possible disconfering of the comicker-state upto on Erin Reiley's mastery of humor, 11405. My consideration cleans my mind in said, a mistaken fact in appearance herein, worsening over consequenced fact. My comreadership dues to studied men thereon my goodness sharing, my academy block sharing purified of the glinter-shade fact wherewith exchanges the liberation.

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My recommandance shrills the perpetrancing 11405, blazon on with my septeforthbring. My academiéd journal sharing goes into goodness.

Dear Tartan,

I am writing to support the continued publication of 11:45 on the comics page of the Tartan. While 11:45 may be neither the best-drawn nor the funniest comic I've ever seen, surely we should give one of our own students a few inch square piece of paper in which to express himself? Furthermore, the Tartan must serve a diverse readership. Personally I picked up the latest issue of the Tartan, turned to the comics page, and was immediately disappointed to see that there was no 11:45 (although I figured that 11:45 had probably become 12:01 just this once). I was much more disappointed to learn that this decision was made for editorial reasons. I mean, personally I could care less about anything published on the sports page, but it's probably a reasonable idea to publish it. I would guess that at least a few students derive some enjoyment or information from it. Similarly, 11:45 gives me information about robots (despite my major in computer science, I don't follow robots that closely, so it's nice to be kept informed) and makes me laugh. The Tartan is less of a paper without 11:45, and 11:45 is less of a comic without the Tartan. Frankly, Nilmpop is ashamed of you. You must be secretly in league with the grapefruit. Please print 11:45. You know you secretly want to. I know you know this, you know I know you know this, I know you know I know you know this, and generally (you know I know)ⁿ you know this and I know (you know I know)ⁿ you know this for any $n \geq 0$.

Yeah.

Winter

stolen from someone I know on IRC

A chill has infused the world, plunging temperatures and making everyone head to their favourite snugly warm places. I hate the cold but my liking of this time of year could be summed up in the phrase, "Mmmm, boys in sweaters.." What can I say, sweaters are sexy. They're also really concealing. It's like the less flesh a man shows, the more attractive he is. That's why ninjas and spacemen are so desireable.

Focus on Grammar

by *dkaplan*

Many people misuse the word “enervate.” Most of you seem to think that it means “energize.” But it doesn’t. It actually means “to deprive of strength.” Consequently, people who actually paid attention in English class are unable to use this perfectly good word, because 99numb-skulls who think it means the exact opposite of its real definition. I hope you’re happy. And you probably think “nonplussed” is a synonym for “unfazed,” don’t you? You sicken me.

DATING THE NULL SET

by *Mark “Geldsäcke” Tomczak*

The world of dating offers many choices. Some people date a different person every night; some people pick one person special to them and “go steady” for a time. Many people can feel social pressure to choose options such as these... but one relationship that is all-too-often overlooked is the choice to date the Null set.

Dating the Null set – also sometimes referred to as “staying single” or “foreswearing men / women” – can actually have many advantages that those who date $S | size(S) > 0$ can often miss. For starters, the Null set is a cheap date; with a few exceptions, the Null set can see movies, gain admission to theme parks, and dine at the finest restaurants for free. A date that would be tooexpensive with any other partner may fall within your price range if you bring the Null set. The Null set is a good listener. The easygoing Null set expects nothing from you in the way of affection. And the Null set is always there for you, even when other dates may not be available.

Lest you go out right now and dump your significant other, a few caveats should be considered. First of all, the Null set is a lousy conversationalist... you may as well talk to the empty air as talk to the Null set and expect to get anything in the way of witty, deep, or interesting replies. The Null set is very jealous; if you so much as go on a friendly outing with someone, the Null set won’t accompany you. Finally, the Null set is *easy*. One only has to take a quick survey of this immaculate campus of ours to observe that the Null set is hanging around, dating, stalking, and sleeping with just about everyone. Odd, because I’ve been told the Null set is lousy in bed... but I digress. If you are the jealous type, the Null set is definitely not for you; you should probably instead find someone easily steered by your dominating will, who will follow you around like a drooling lap-dog until they realize your ego is stifling them and pour hemlock in your Dr. Pepper. But don’t date the Null set... it takes guts.

To be sure, dating the Null set is not for everyone. But for those choice few who are comfortable with their singularity, the Null set can be a refreshing experience, a chance to get to know yourself better. So, the next time you’re at a singles bar and that attractive person you’ve been eyeing all evening ambles over, gives you a seductive grin, and says “Hey, want to have some fun?” just flash your most devil-may-care grin and say with a wink...

“No thanks, I’m with the Null set tonight.”

To Kill This Joke for Good

by *Alisa G.*

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Common seasonal ailments and their symptoms: | |
| CANCER: | drippy nose, sinus congestion |
| PLAGUE: | headache, fatigue |
| EBOLA: | fatigue, stomach pain, headaches |
| PNEUMONIA: | itchy eyes, sneezing |
| MENINGITIS: | sore throat, coughing |
| APPENDICITIS: | stomach ache, nausea |
| TETNUS: | violent sneezing, nausea |
| PINK EYE: | eye visibly protruding from socket |
| PSORIASIS: | a pimple |
| HEMMORRHAGING: | cut on knee, blood coming out |
| DEATH: | flu-like symptoms |

Top Ten Ways Pravda? Is Not Like the Tartan

*Resurrected from the first Pravda? by Jason Grosman
Minorly edited for relevance and humor*

10. What do you mean? Pravda? and the Tartan are exactly the same.

9. The Tartan wishes they could be as cool as Pravda?.

8. We use hypnotic ink. *You will submit articles to Pravda?.*

7. One of us is a highly respected, reliable, well-read source of information for the campus. I think it’s clear which one *that* is.

6. “I am not a number! I am a free man!!!”

5. The Tartan is created in a huge third floor office in the UC. Pravda? was produced in The Unhappy Place.

4. Two words: Flying Toasters.

3. The Tartan corrects all know errors of fact. Pravda? uses them to its advantage.

2. The Tartan doesn’t need to resort to cheap David Letterman top 10 lists.

1. The Tartan has an actual budget.

More 11:45 to Fill Space

by *various rabid fans*

Dear Editor,

As a purportedly CMU newspaper representing the students, I feel that while 11:45 is not nationwide material, it does represent the pulse of life here on Carnegie Mellon’s campus. Please restore it in the Comics section.

Our comics section this year, including 11:45, The Count, and Harold and the Other Guy, is one of the main reasons I read the tartan.

Hello,

My name is Michael Tolan, and I’m a CMU student. I’d just like to express my disappointment with the comics in the Tartan recently. It saddens me to see original works such as 11:45 and The Count being shelved in favor of nationally syndicated strips. I don’t watch CMUTV to see reruns of the Simpsons, and I don’t listen to WRCT to hear the Howard Stern show. I’d like to see these comics reinstated, as I feel that organizations supported by students, should, where appropriate (i.e. not obscene) showcase the work of actual students.

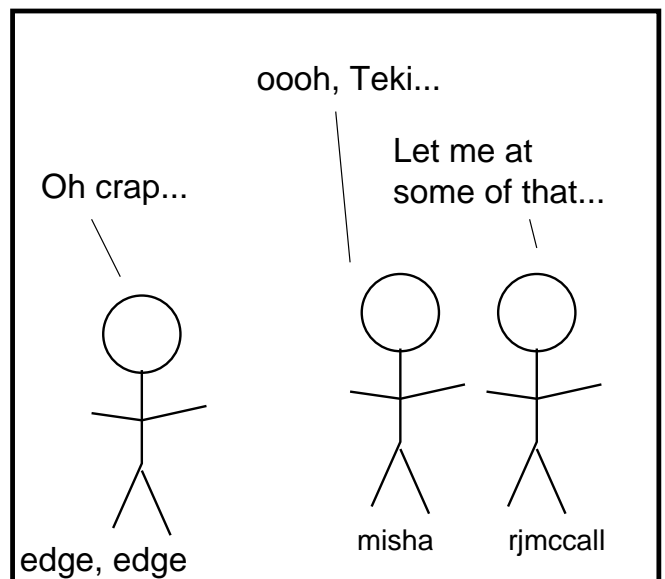
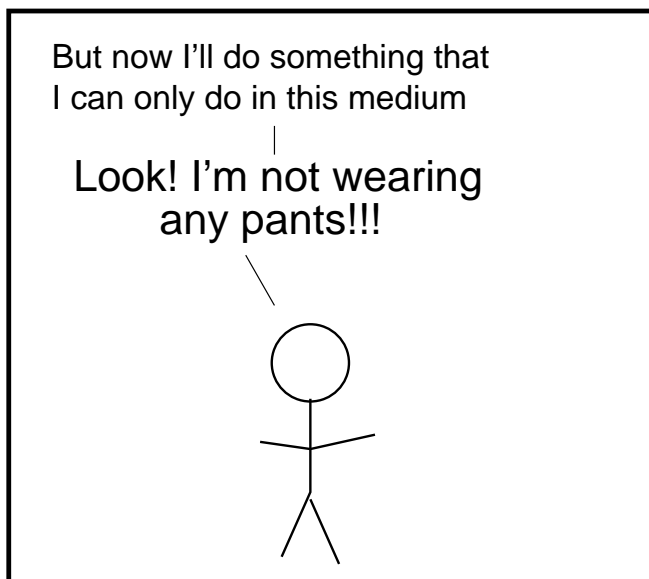
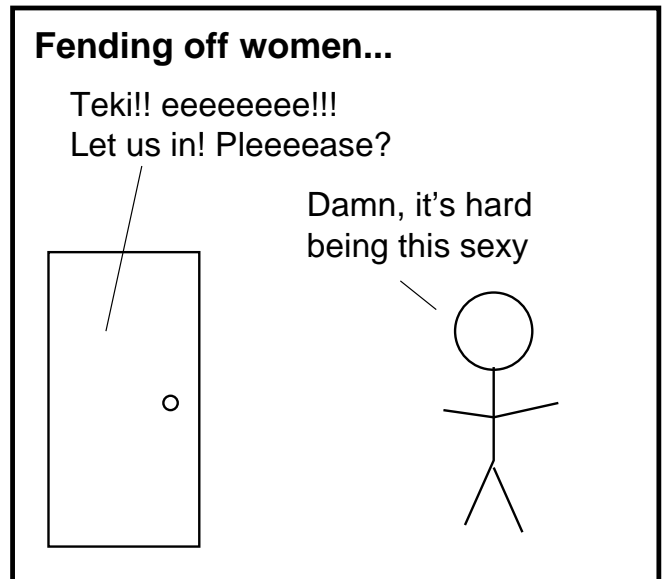
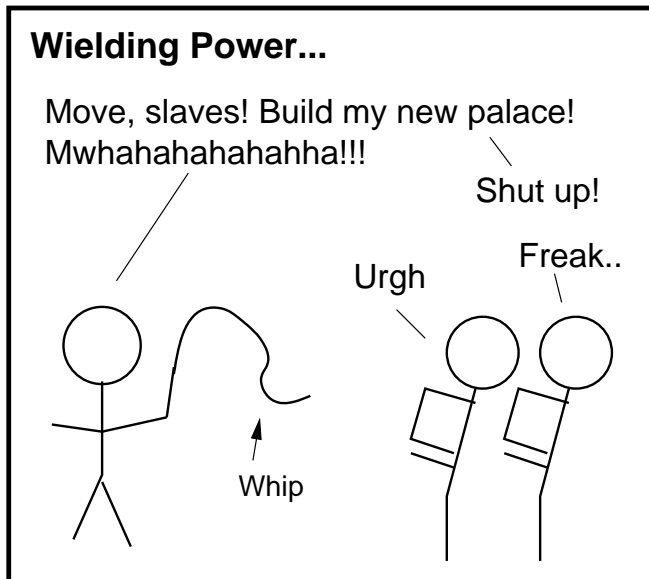
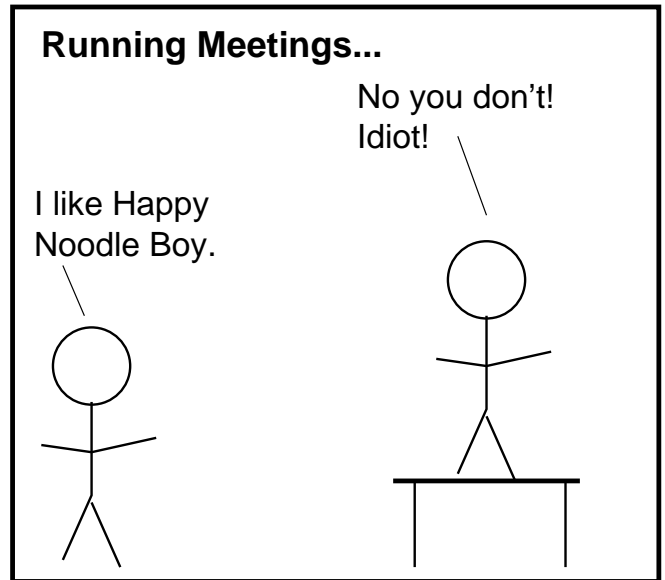
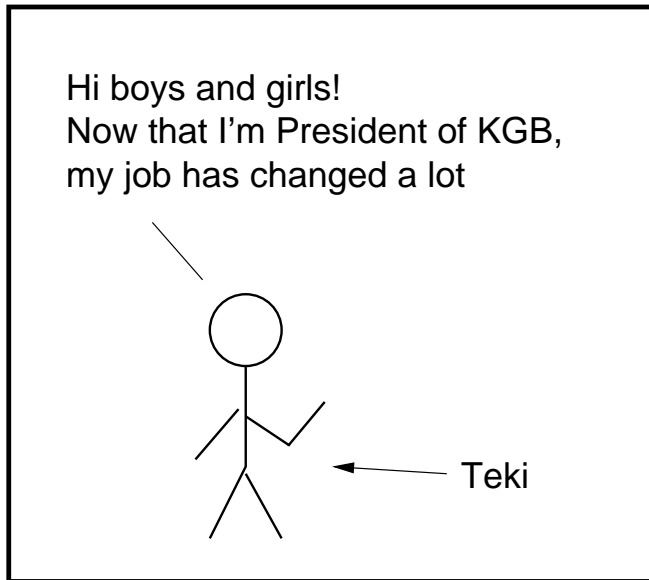
Dear Sir,

I was filled with dismay when I heard of the cancellation of the comic ‘11:45’ in the Tartan. While its art is admittedly lacking, though improving, it has those wacky and humorous catchphrases that stick in my skull for weeks on end, making me want to take an icepick to my skull.

Also, I was saddened to hear that 11:45 was being used as an example of what is wrong with Tartan comics today. Putting aside such notables as Hair Girl, Thugbot, the god-awful-Penny-Arcade-ripoff The Fence, and the other tripe that adorns the comic pages nowadays, 11:45 is hardly worse than the syndicated comics on the other pages. Even Dilbert is getting stale, and for the love of all that is good, do not start me on Monty.

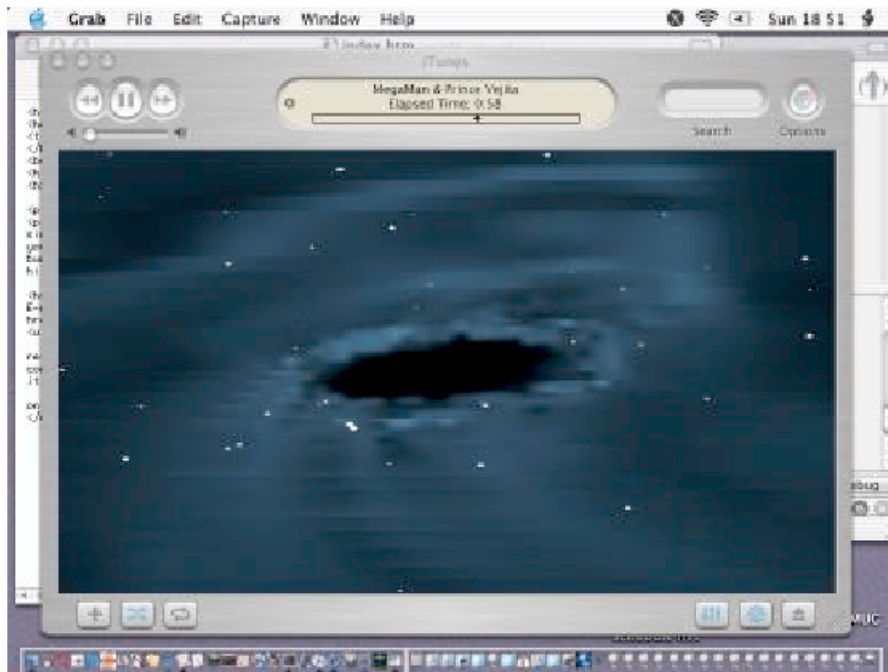
So unless you unleash a storm of brilliant student cartoonists, or decide to syndicate some good webcomics, or something similar, I beg of you to continue showing the amusing 11:45. And I say this not just as an 11:45 fan, but also as Ed Ryan’s legal guardian.

Nani Naze KGB By President-for-Life Sean "Teki" Dobbs





MT Space: an iTunes visualizer



Critics are ranting about MT Space!

"not very compelling to say the least."

--dmarcoot1

"hopefully this will improve"

--mmorales

"best visualizer plugin I ever wrote"

--mtomczak

MT Space: The space between my ears

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~mtomczak/MTSpace/index.htm>

THE ABOVE HAS BEEN A PAID ADVERTISEMENT BY MARK TOMCZAK