



And now, half price for a limited time, here's something...

# COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Volume: Hedgehog Issue #1 September 14, 2003 Working today for a sillier tomorrow

## YO HO HO AND A BOTTLE OF RUM

Avast, me hearties! This Friday, September 19th, be **Talk Like a Pirate Day** (<http://www.talklikeapirate.com/>). In the unlikely event that any of ye scurvy bilge rats be headin' down ta San Francisco for the weekend, ye may wish ta peruse the wares at one 826 Valencia Street (<http://www.826valencia.org/store/>), the city's only independent pirate supply store, described by sea shanty-singin' David Byrne of the Talkin' Heads as "definitely one of the top five pirate stores I've been to recently." Arr! All proceeds from the store be helpin' ta support the 826 Valencia Writing Center, run by Captain Dave Eggers and his nefarious pirate crew. Items for sale include eye patches, message bottles, spy glasses, pirate dice, and the ever-popular vanilla-scented skull soap. Although, if ye actually be washin' with the soap, ye not be much of a pirate in me book.

Anyway. Once upon a time, your faithful editor (me) wrote a sketch about naked pirates. It wasn't really *about* the pirates, but they're good for a laugh, and the Monty Python Society has performed the sketch live a number of times, including last spring. Like a lot of the other things I've written, I put the sketch online, and, shiver me timbers, the next thing I knew I was number one on Google's results for "naked pirates". Yes, I know, my parents are very proud. Requests for pirate porn now outnumber pretty much everything else in my website's referrer logs, including the increasingly disturbing requests for pictures of Steve Guttenberg naked. (And no, I don't have any. And no, I definitely do *not* want any. Even if he *is* wearing a peg leg.)

But all of that, really, is besides the point. The question really – and it's a question that's baffled mankind throughout the ages – is: "How do I *know* when I'm a pirate?" For those readers who may be wondering precisely that, I offer these handy hints on **How to Know When You're a Pirate**:

- You punctuate every other sentence with a rousing "Arr!" or another swig of grog;
- Those new pantaloons you've been sporting lately sometimes chafe around the top of your peg leg;
- Having run out of naughty words, you've switched to teaching sea shanties to the parrot perched atop your shoulder;
- You can say the phrases "pirate's booty", "shiver me timbers", or "avast, ye mateys" with a straight face;
- You tried paying your taxes last year entirely in Spanish doubloons;
- You're starting to worry that maybe you've walked one too many planks or buckled one too many swashes; and
- You think you're actually learning to *like* having scurvy.



## And You Can Quote Me On That...

Search for the words "Monty Python" long enough – and heaven knows we have here at *Completely Different* – and you'll come across some rather odd stories, as well as some fairly stupid quotes. Most often, these stories are written by people who don't understand, and have probably never seen, Monty Python and are just using it as shorthand for other silly things they don't understand or have never seen. Sometimes, they're amusing for precisely that reason. Usually, they're just dumb.

Case in point: in the September 3rd issue of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, columnist Phil Sheridan writes, "Really, you have to go back to Monty Python's 'Upper Class Twit of the Year' skit to find a race as poorly run as this National League wild-card thing. You remember. The Pythons tripped over tiny hurdles, ran themselves over with cars, and wrestled with mannequins in their haste to finish first. This year's contenders for that fourth NL playoff berth have looked even more inept than that."

## Weekly Horoscopes

**Aries:** (March 21–April 19)

Try not to get too caught up in wondering what might have been. Your interdimensional time machine is broken, and you're just going to have to learn to live with that.

**Taurus:** (April. 20–May 20)

Just because you may not always have the right answers is no reason to start listening to the evil family of gnomes living in the janitor's closet.

**Gemini:** (May 21–June 21)

Your playful nature emerges when dealing with a loved one this week. But, eventually, he or she is going to want that pretty ball of yarn back.

**Cancer:** (June 22–July 22)

Try not to overindulge too much this week. The dining commons are starting to get suspicious about all that Jello you've been buying lately.

**Leo:** (July 23–Aug. 22)

Although it's wonderful you've finally discovered something about which you can feel passionately and which can give your life meaning, most everyone wishes it was something other than Pauly Shore movies.

**Virgo:** (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

Friends and colleagues may suggest you address the issues closest to home this week. Which would be good advice if they weren't just trying to get you to leave.

**Libra:** (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)

Conversations will be less animated this week. Which will be relief to friends and neighbors but something of a disappointment to Scooby-Doo and the rest of the gang.

**Scorpio:** (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)

You see things that others often miss. Of course, a good psychiatrist might be tempted to call those things hallucinations brought on by sniffing too much glue.

**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

You might be tempted to sit and wait out the current storm, but as it's only one of the *many* pre-apocalyptic events you're likely to face this coming week (including that pesky plague of locusts), you might want to formulate a new plan.

**Capricorn:** (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

Sure, being an evil zombie monkey's love slave doesn't sound great *on paper*, but c'mon – just think of the tourist trade.

**Aquarius:** (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)

When life hands you lemons, maybe it's just life's little way of saying you're suffering from scurvy.

**Pisces:** (Feb. 19–March 20)

A short drive could help clear your mind and refresh your thinking. Which is what you should tell the people who are keeping you locked in the trunk of their car if you ever get the chance.

Blank space. Move on.

## Readers Poll: What should the Monty Python Society do this semester?



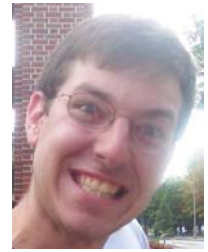
"Rape, pillage, lather, rinse, and repeat."  
-- Olaf Svenson (soph. Ag.)



"Ya can't go wrong with squirrel fishin'. 'less of course ya get a squirrelhook in yer eye."  
-- Granddaddy "Fuzzy" McCoy



"Hurty flurty schnipp schnipp!"  
-- The Swedish Chef



"Whatever you do: Do. Not. Make. Me. Angry."  
-- The All-Consuming Floating Head of Matt

## Found God? Apparently He's in Gloucester

On May 11, 2003, an article about the depiction of God in both American and British cinema appeared in *The New York Times*. "God is not dead in Hollywood," wrote author Tim Appelo, "but he's been feeling awfully funny." Appelo went on to note that "[t]he Monty Python crew—Michael Palin, John Cleese and the others—inserted God into all their films. At first, Terry Gilliam, who did the animations, sketched Him as a hipster, wearing dark glasses. But then he settled on the more resonant image of Dr. William Gilbert (Leviathan) Grace, the obese turn-of-the-century Gloucestershire cricketer, whose photograph is dominated by a beard you could lose wickets in. The Pythons' cartoon God, Mr. Palin said, 'saved us a little money. Very expensive, real God.'"

It is perhaps interesting to note that the *other* Terry Gilliam God mentioned in the article, actor Ralph Richardson of *Time Bandits*, was also from the county of Gloucestershire. You'd think they'd have seen a sharp rise in spiritual pilgrimages over there because of it, but you would of course be wrong. (Most of their recent tourism comes from fans of Harry Potter, since author J.K. Rowling was born there, and a number of locations were used in the first two films.)

However, Gloucestershire *has* apparently seen other connections to Monty Python recently. On June 11, 2003, BBC News reported that in Gloucester, the principle town of the county, "A graffiti vandal...defaced the statue of a Roman emperor using grammatically correct Latin made famous in an episode of Monty Python." (That it was actually a *movie* and not an episode is really incidental.)

Schoolteacher Michael Sergeant, who spotted the graffiti—"Romani ite domum" or "Romans go home"—told BBC News Online, "Whoever did it was either very clever—as the Latin was correct—or had just seen Monty Python's *The Life of Brian*."

(W.B. Grace, incidentally, also appears briefly as a music box in "Historical Impersonations", from Episode 13 of Monty Python. He remains, to this very day, very much dead.)

## The News in Briefs

- The Penn State **Homecoming Parade** is Friday, October 3, from 5:30 to 8 PM. This year's theme is "One Pride Upholding Tradition", whatever that means, so start thinking of costume ideas and get ready to once again make a mockery of this time-honored and cherished University event. More details will presumably follow.
- Currently out on DVD is a 2-disc Special Edition of Monty Python's *The Meaning Of Life*, featuring audio commentaries from the cast, deleted scenes, and many other extras. "Surprisingly," says John Cleese of the original film, "it seems a lot more relevant than most of the old rubbish we keep recycling."
- Also out on DVD is *Lost in La Mancha*, which is a terrific film, if only because it's likely the only "unmaking of" documentary in existence -- but also because it shows a fascinating process and provides a glimpse of what might have been if Terry Gilliam's film of *Don Quixote* had been successful. What little he captured really does give the sense of a potentially wonderful film cut tragically short. (The DVD is recommended especially over VHS for the many extras on the bonus disc.)
- And, finally: arriving this Tuesday, September 16, on DVD is a **Collector's Edition of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail***. Although not significantly (if at all) different than the 2-disc Special Edition released in 2001, the new set will feature a collectible DVD case, limited edition artwork from the film, and a copy of the screenplay "with a unique cover." Between now and December 31, 2003, you can also enter online to win a number of prizes from Sony Pictures, who are releasing the DVDs, including a reproduction of the Black Knight's helmet and surcoat (valued at \$320) and the ever-popular plush killer rabbit (valued at slightly less). For more information, see <http://www.sonypictures.com/sweepstakes/holygrail/>.



Do you enjoy visiting exotic locales? Meeting new people? Killing them? Then maybe you should consider a rewarding and exciting career as official **Monty Python Society Executioner**. Help maintain order and discipline at Society meetings. Intimidate our enemies. Splatter blood in zany patterns on the wall. Must provide own weaponry and black hood. Experience preferred. Good typing skills a must. Send resume and list of references to:

The Penn State Monty Python Society  
3rd washroom along behind the hot water pipes  
In a brown paper bag  
HUB Robeson Center  
University Park, PA 16802

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*Completely Different* is the mostly weekly newsletter of the Penn State Monty Python Society. It once shot a man in Reno just to watch him die. Back issues available at [www.clubs.psu.edu/Python](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/Python). Submissions always welcome. For more information, write to [different@unreality.net](mailto:different@unreality.net)