



And now, once more with feeling, here's something...

# Completely Different

Volume Albatross Issue #13 May 4, 2003 Working today for a sillier tomorrow

## What I've Learned With the Monty Python Society this Year

BY FRED COPPERSMITH



**1. The *Daily Collegian* can't take a joke.** Despite the persistent (and sometimes painfully desperate) efforts of campaign workers, the Society's candidates for USG, Chef and Helga, received only one pitifully brief mention in the campus newspaper. "Because Chef is not on the ballot," Campus editor Sarah Rothman wrote in an e-mail to me, "we thought this limited coverage was appropriate." However, as I wrote in my second letter to the editor before election day, "I have long suspected that the *Daily Collegian* had no sense of humor, but to be proven right so repeatedly is nevertheless disappointing."

**2. You can't give away good money in this town.** At the beginning of Fall 2002, *Completely Different* offered the sizeable sum of \$3.75 to the first reader to legally change his or her name to Biggles for one semester. Shockingly, no one took us up on the offer, and the money eventually went towards the purchase of a can of Spam. It could be argued that this is the natural order of things, that in the end *all* things are Spam, but that would just be silly.

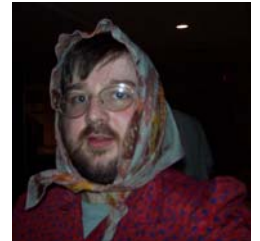
**3. When you get right down to it, the universe is big.** That, at least, was the consensus we reached one evening when left to our own devices. And I was worried that one astronomy class wouldn't pay off! I wasn't able to convince the *Daily Collegian* that this was worth reporting, unfortunately. Apparently, they had their hands full with students not wearing winter coats and rampant ranch dressing use across campus.

**4. Life just isn't the same without FROH.** Sometime this past summer, the University decided that "Ode to Capa" (more affectionately known as the Fighting Red Onion Head, or FROH) needed to be cleaned, and so they removed it from the HUB lawn. We talked a lot last semester about petitioning OPP to return it, or starting some sort of FROH-worshipping cult, but nothing ever came of it. And now the HUB lawn is little more than a shadow of its former self.



**5. Squirrel fishing is woefully under-regulated in this town.** The *Daily Collegian* may have thought we were crazy, passersby might have dismissed us as loons, and humor columnist Dave Barry might have thought America on the whole was doomed because of us, but those squirrels learned just who was boss. (Apparently they are.)

**6. I am not an attractive woman.** And, really, I'm okay with that. Becoming another character—even if it *is* just by talking in a high-pitched British accent and throwing on a dress—can be hugely liberating. You don't have to worry about embarrassing yourself when you're somebody else. And, like Terry Gilliam says, "You can't be silly if you have self-doubt." That's what I've always loved about playing a Pepperpot. They're fascinating characters. You can say *unbelievably* stupid and awful things (like, oh, that Mother Teresa was a big fan of poor semen) that you wouldn't dream of saying out of character. You can say things with great conviction and authority that are, in essence, absolute bullshit. You can reference art, literature, philosophy, et cetera, but it becomes pretty clear pretty quick that the character you're playing is an idiot. And one should never underestimate the benefit of being an idiot.



**7. There is a movie where Godzilla fights a giant rose bush.** I think I'm *still* trying to wrap my brain around that one.

## The Adventures of Chef & Spanier

Ooh! Mr. Hurty flurty schnipp schnipp!  
Preseident Spuneer! Chef hes joke-a  
fur you! Knock knock!

Ha ha. Who's there, Chef?



Neettuny Lion. Bork bork bork!

Nittany Lion, who?



Neettuny Lion oon yuur  
doorstep, open up!

Ha ha. Chef, you so crazy!



## Readers' Poll: What have you learned from the Monty Python Society this year?



"Naughty words, mostly."  
- Brian Cohen  
(soph., Latin)



"I learned that the great opponent of Cartesian dualism Henri Bergson resisted the reduction of psychological phenomena to physical states. Oh, and naughty words, of course."  
- Sue S. Canal  
(grad., Interp. Dance)



"We can all make the world a better and happier place by smashing two bricks together."  
- K. Kong  
(fresh., Golf Management)



"Uh *hello*? All-knowing already? All-powerful supreme being? Uh, yeah, that's me."  
- God  
(soph., Business)

### How to Write Sketch Comedy

People often ask members of the Monty Python Society, "Where do you get your ideas?" Well, actually, no one has asked us that yet—their questions are usually more along the lines of "Why do you get your ideas?"—but it's a valid question nonetheless. After all, anybody can be funny, but it takes a special brand of madness to think you're funny enough to make other people read your jokes aloud in front of an audience. For those readers who might like to take that leap and try their hand at sketch comedy, we present this tried-and-true formula for comedic success:

1. Gather together to brainstorm on ideas.
2. Procrastinate. Possibly by getting drunk.
3. Consult the Big Book of Sexual Perversions (patent pending).
4. Add dick and fart jokes. (The kids *love* dick and fart jokes.)
5. Print, copy, and rejoice.

### And You Can Quote Me On That

"For some reason or another, Python seems to be rediscovered by each generation that comes along. They all seem to make this discovery on their own, and it seems like Holy Grail is really the entry point for all of them.... Python certainly has a nerdy following, but I don't think it's just restricted to just the nerds. Honestly, I think it tends to be the brighter kids who respond more, the kids who stand out of the crowd a little bit."

— Kim "Howard" Johnson, author of *The First 280 Years of Monty Python* and John Cleese's personal assistant (in conversation with Matt Soergel of the *Florida Times-Union*, April 23, 2003)

### Weekly Horoscopes

#### **Aries:** (March 21—April 19)

Your desire to expand your horizons and meet new people is commendable—but sadly undermined by that restraining order and your tendency to bite when cornered.

#### **Taurus:** (April. 20—May 20)

A difficult decision may require your two cents. Your release from police custody on bail following that decision, however, will require a considerably larger sum.

#### **Gemini:** (May 21—June 21)

A new door will unexpectedly open in your life this week. That it leads to an unspeakable hell dimension is unfortunate, but, let's face it, not altogether surprising at this point.

#### **Cancer:** (June 22—July 22)

Remember, you don't always have to yield to peer pressure to be a part of the group. The zombie horde will like you whether you feast on human flesh with them or not.

#### **Leo:** (July 23—Aug. 22)

You are the architect of your own dreams. But do so many of your design plans have to include nudity and Jello?

#### **Virgo:** (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

This could be the time to experiment with new ideas. Experimenting with those DNA fragments, however, is probably just going to get you arrested for crimes against humanity all over again.

#### **Libra:** (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

Your talents will be recognized and suitably rewarded this week. Which is fortunate, since you were beginning to think nobody took thumb-wrestling serious as a future Olympic sport after all.

#### **Scorpio:** (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

Your quest for spiritual enlightenment may have to take a back seat this week to your quest for an ointment to stop that persistent itchy swelling.

#### **Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

An aura of glamour and mystery surrounds you this week. Which just means that maybe it's time to lay off those *Columbo* reruns for a change and finally get off the couch.

#### **Capricorn:** (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

You have a kind heart and a loving personality, which is precisely why that intergalactic alien armada on course for Earth has marked you and your kind for termination. C'est la vie.

#### **Aquarius:** (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

It's not that you put so much of your faith in the stars that worries people. It's that you put your faith in the stars of *Saved By the Bell: The New Class*.

#### **Pisces:** (Feb. 19—March 20)

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. And may the door not hit your ass on the way out.

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**Completely Different** is the mostly weekly newsletter of the Penn State Monty Python Society. Here endeth the lesson. Back issues available at [www.clubs.psu.edu/Python](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/Python). For more information on how you can submit, write to [different@unreality.net](mailto:different@unreality.net).