

Bart's creator features other bizzare characters

"Copyright infringement is the sincerest form of flattery."

By Joseph Wheeler
Staff Reporter

What features a twitching rabbit with a personality disorder, a pair of rotund little men described as "brothers, or lovers, or both," and a one-eared rabbit named Bongo whose emotional state is summed up as "squelched?"

Matt Groening's "Life In Hell," which appears in The Yellin' Rebel.

Groening has drawn the bizarre characters featured in "Life in Hell" since 1980 when his cartoon made its debut in the L.A. Reader, an alternative newspaper.

The satirical, off the wall cartoon has been successful and now appears in over 200 markets, many of them college newspapers, but Groening is best known for his Fox Television show, "The



Simpsons."

Groening, 36, has been amused by recent bootleg T shirts that feature a black Bart Simpson slam dunking a basketball Ala Michael Jordan. "Air Bart" may be illegal, but, according to Groening, "Copyright infringement is the sincerest form of flattery."

Bart is everywhere. The spike haired youth has been featured on posters, commercials for candy-

bars, has been mentioned in rap lyrics, and featured on T shirts across the country, both legitimate and otherwise. Even Drug Czar William Bennett is aware of Bart Simpson.

Bennett, while touring a drug rehabilitation clinic last year, said, "Hey, you guys aren't watching 'The Simpsons', are you? That's not going to help you any." The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy was forced to put the war on drugs on hold while he explained his feelings about Bart. At one point Bennett offered to "Sit down with the little spike head" to "straighten things out."

He was ridiculed, of course, for attempting to hold a dialog with a fictional character. But Bennett is not alone in battling the Bart Simpson. A Fremont, Ohio, elementary school principal tried

to ban Bart T-shirts that proclaimed "Underachiever and Proud of It."

The result of all the publicity has been more viewers for "The Simpsons" and a greater readership of Groening's strange mixture of "love, sex, work, death, and rabbits" that make up "Life In Hell."

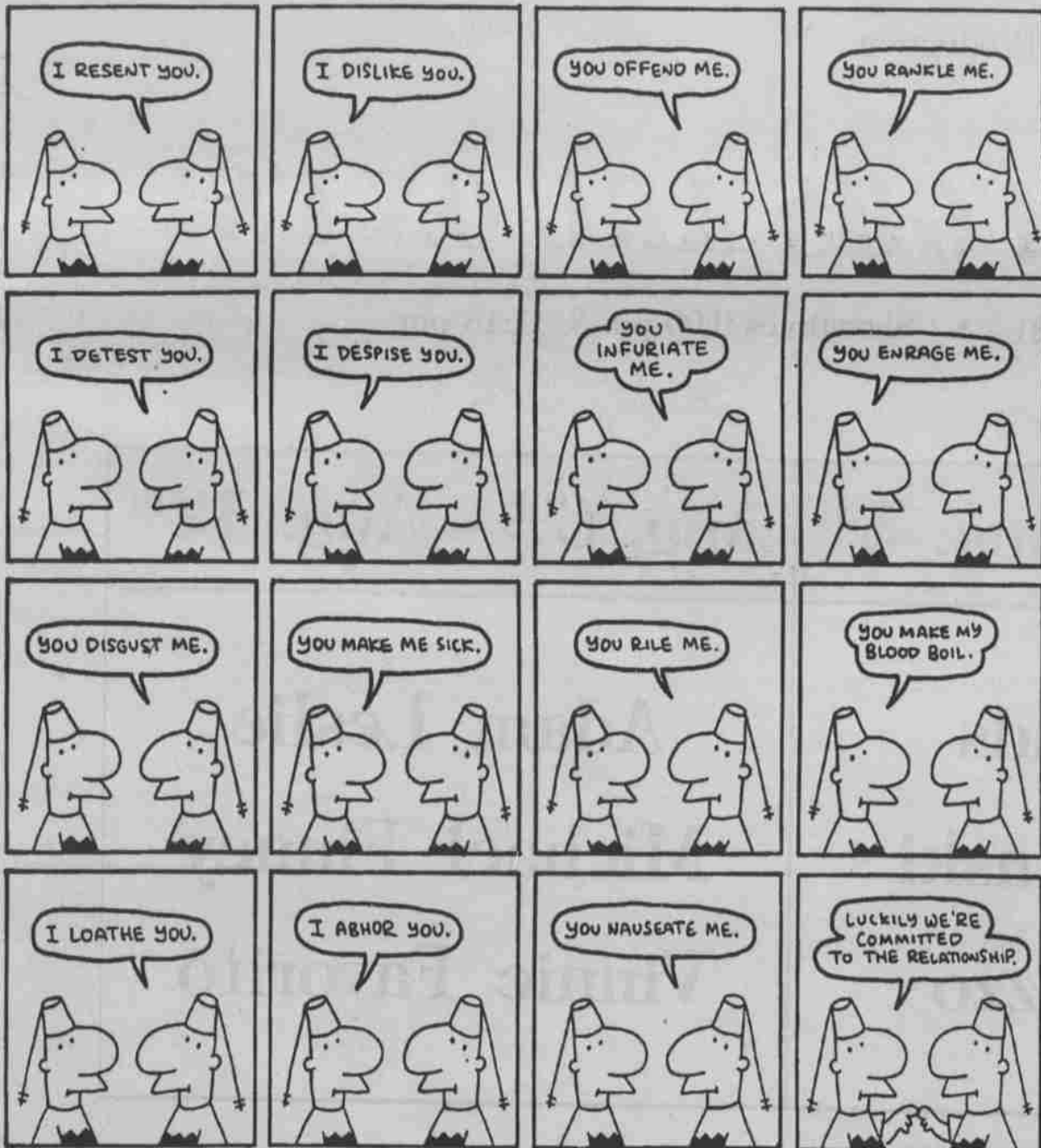
The cartoon appears twice weekly in The Yellin' Rebel.



MATT GROENING

LIFE IN HELL

©1990 BY MATT GROENING



Rubes

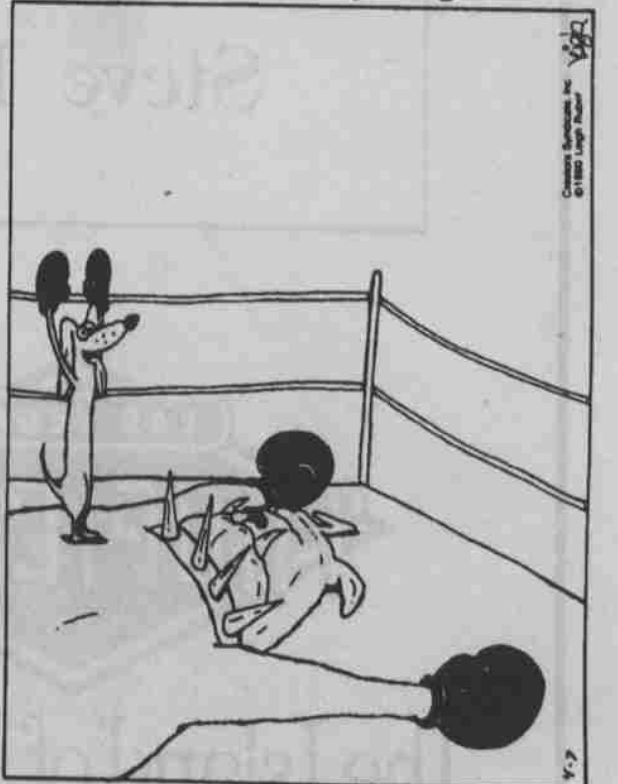
By Leigh Rubin



How the Wright brothers really did it.

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin



A watchdog committee was called in to determine whether the fight or the fighter had been fixed.

NO EXIT

ADVICE TO FRESHMEN #14
THINGS I DID LEARN IN COLLEGE!

HOW TO PHASE OUT AN INSTRUCTOR FOR UP TO THREE HOURS!
THE HALF-LIFE OF THE MATRIX PREDICTION IS 100 YEARS AND IT'S STILL IN THE CURRICULUM!
I'M NOT A MATHS PERSON!
I'M NOT A MATHS PERSON!
I'M NOT A MATHS PERSON!

NEVER URINATE AGAINST AN ELECTRIC FENCE!
NEVER URINATE AGAINST AN ELECTRIC FENCE!
NEVER URINATE AGAINST AN ELECTRIC FENCE!

HOW TO MEMORIZE 16 WEEKS WORTH OF MATERIAL IN 13 MINUTES!
FLIP FLIP FLIP
FLIP FLIP FLIP
FLIP FLIP FLIP

NEVER CONFUSE SPERMICIDAL LUBRICANT WITH EPOXY!
UH OH...

BEWARE OF ROOMMATES WHO SELL YOUR TEXTBOOKS A DAY BEFORE FINALS!
WHERE'S MY PHYSICS TEXT?...HEY! WHERE'D THIS C.R. PLUMER COME FROM?