



CLEAR HEAD

*The Return of
Dennis the Menace
by Chris Hodenfield*



DENNIS HOPPER ONCE SAT in a circle of exploding dynamite. He admits this. It was all part of a retrospective of his life's work, called, fittingly enough, "Art on the Edge." He did it about four years ago, shortly before he had himself committed. The retrospective was held at Rice University in Houston. Culture lovers expected to see Hopper make an appearance, but those filing into the auditorium that day found instead a barrage of images being flashed on the screen and sound booming from the seats and walls. A closed-circuit hookup beamed the image of Hopper, speaking from elsewhere on campus. The only way they could see him in person, he told them, was to get on the bus for a racetrack outside of town called the Big H Speedway. There, surrounded by a race-night crowd, they would see the actor blow himself up in the Russian Suicide Death Chair.

**PHOTOGRAPH BY
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