

LIFE AND ART

CARTOONIST

Simpsons Mania

Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie gained national attention for Matt Groening, a former underground cartoonist who "fell into" television success.

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RECREATIONAL ART

Lemon Aid

James Madison U. freshman Karen Latinik rushes to the rescue of her favorite color of crayon, battling corporate America on the way.

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Take a Bow, Man!

Cartoonist Succeeds With Animation Antics

By John Louie
• The Stanford Daily
Stanford U.

Eight years ago, for Matt Groening, life was hell. After serving as student body president of his high school and spending four years at the no-grade, no-required-course Evergreen State College, Groening (pronounced GRAY-ning) left the serenity of the Pacific Northwest for Los Angeles . . . and hated it.

Sure, the product of his frustrations, a comic strip called "Life In Hell" quickly became a cult classic in the pages of the *Los Angeles Reader*. But for Groening, "Life" was black and white, two-dimensional and teeming with cynical rabbits.

It wasn't until 1987 that Groening's other project, "The Simpsons," was created, catapulting the underground cartoonist's work into the living rooms of audiences across the country.

By the time the feuding family came to prime time in January 1990, "The Simpsons" was not just a show — it was a phenomenon.

Now in its second season on the Fox Broadcasting Network, "The Simpsons" garners competitive, top-10 ratings despite being aired in only half as many cities as its rival "The Cosby Show."

It unites a loyal following of Simpsons maniacs, including a large number from the college crowd, at numerous television sets every Thursday night, Groening said. And though its characters are confined to the two dimensions of animation, it's hard to find a more "human" family than "The Simpsons."

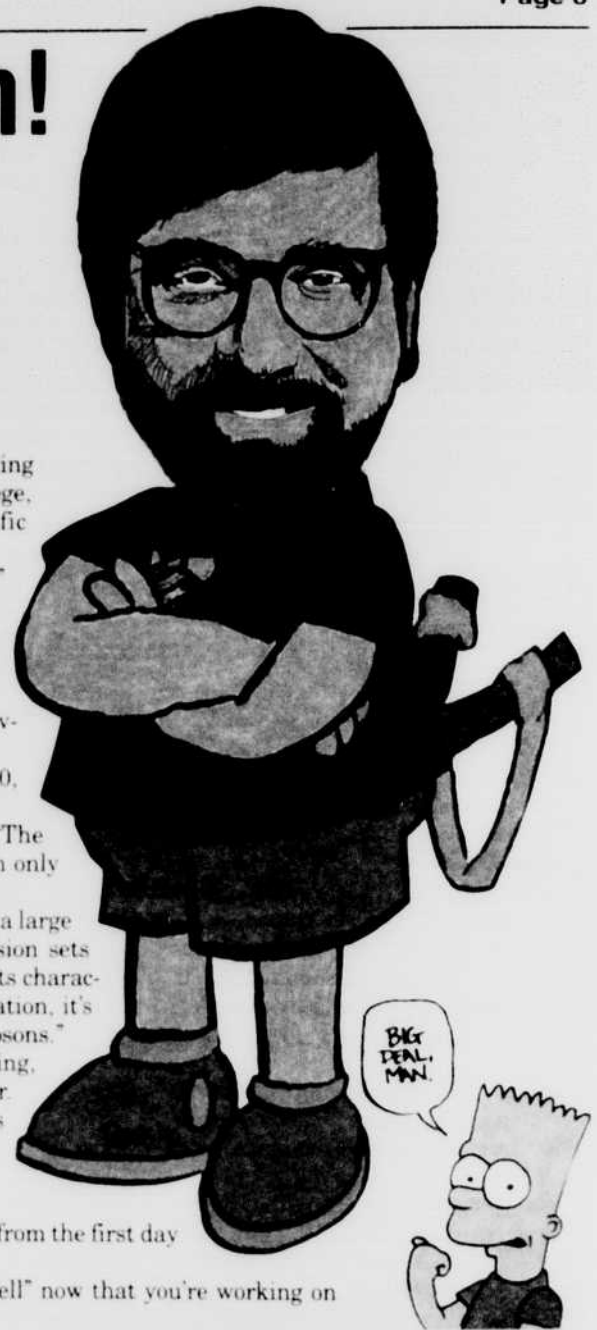
Life may not be strictly "Hell" anymore for Groening, now married and father to his 1-year-old son, Homer. But as the surrogate father of Bart Simpson, life is still pretty hellish.

John Louie: How long have you been cartooning?

Matt Groening: I've been cartooning all my life, from the first day of first grade.

JL: Is it getting harder for you to do "Life in Hell" now that you're working on "The Simpsons?"

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MATT GROENING BY DOUG DAVIS, THE STANFORD DAILY, STANFORD U.

COLUMN

A Joy Ride Gone Awry

By David Egelman
• The News-Tribune
Palo Alto

The other morning I saw a red '67 Chevy drive past me with a dragging, smoking rear end, and I was reminded of my high school days.



My friend Mark and I were taking turns driving in his '67 Chevy. While Mark drove, I was blithely watching my speedometer bounce half way to the red line. Suddenly, I noticed a large, dark, rectangular shadow in the rear view mirror. I turned around and saw the rear ends of three police cars and four police motorcycles.

(The following is in slow motion.) Mark, coming from a conservative and law-abiding background, had never had reason or opportunity to flee from the police and was completely inert at such an action. He hit the brakes with both feet.

"Well," he thought, "my parents are gonna kill me if I get arrested, and David's parents are not gonna appreciate a photograph of his brother sitting on the front page."

With the precision of a large rifle, he reached his foot to the accelerator pedal.

"What am I thinking?" he ruminated. "There are 16 of them. I'll never make it." Brakes. "I'll never get a job in this city again." Gas. Brakes again. Gas again. And at some point during this series of velocities, he lost control of the wheel. Allow me to backtrack here to the year 1967, when American automobile manufacturing was booming but not celebrated for its sturdy deer locks.

So here goes David, well-known for his high school scholarship, sturdy moral fiber and strong community awareness, flying through the air with his Levi's 501 jeans packaged neatly around his ankles.

The chance of me landing directly in front of that gaggle of cops was one in 57,532. Mark had just continued along his merry way, with one less passenger and a dragging, sparking seat belt.

I forgave him because, after all, I should have worn the seat belt.



Crayola Critic Sour About Loss of Lemon Yellow

By Laurel Wissinger
• The Breeze
James Madison U.

Color her unhappy. You can't scribble anything lemon yellow anymore — and that has Karen Latinik crying over her coloring books.

When Crayola announced last June the retirement of eight hues the company considered outdated, the James Madison U. sophomore took the decision personally.

Coloring — an art abandoned by most people along with Snoopy lunch boxes and hide-and-seek games — remains one of Latinik's favorite pastimes. "It's very relaxing," she said, pulling a Garfield coloring book from between some textbooks on her desk.

And lemon yellow holds a special place among

her palette.

"It's always been my favorite color; it's much brighter and happier than regular yellow," Latinik said. "I thought it was a joke at first when they said they weren't going to make it anymore. It was unthinkable."

So what do you do when you're blue over the demise of lemon yellow?

Jump on your soapbox, or crayon box

as the case may be, and make yourself heard. Latinik formed the National Campaign to Save Lemon Yellow, declared herself president and battled corporate America.

Crayola introduced eight new, flashier colors to its line-up: cerulean, dandelion, fuchsia, jungle green, royal purple, teal blue, vivid tangerine and wild strawberry. And while she thinks the new colors are pretty, Latinik is confused about why the company couldn't change its 64-color box to include 72.

"It just doesn't seem fair," she said.

"For so many years they've been adding colors, and this is the first time they've ever gotten rid of some. Plus, what 7-year-old is ever going to know what cerulean is? When I heard that was a new color, I had to look it up in a dictionary to find out it was a



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