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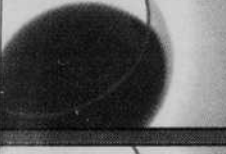
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Internet comics review

There's only one place to turn for clever comics: the Internet

'Red Meat,' 'Toothpaste for Dinner' and David Reese's 'Unstoppable' comics provide hours of online fun

BY RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

I long ago became sick and tired of the funny pages in the local newspaper. Sure it was fun when I was a kid, but unfortunately the intellectual level of the humor failed to grow with my own development and every time I open up to the comics page I get the nagging feeling I'm reading something written for 5-year-olds.

Of course the Sunday comics page has never been the place to turn to for exciting new work; even the most mildly interesting strips often get ghettoized to the classifieds page and are never heard from again. So if you are looking for interesting strips that push a few boundaries, don't insult your intelligence and are actually (gasp) funny, you've got to turn to the Internet.

One of the first stops for any fan of twisted humor ought to be www.redmeat.com. Written by Max Cannon, "Red Meat" is a borderline surrealist loony bin of absurdity. The rotating cast of characters includes a psychotic milkman, a bug-eyed freak and a 1950s style dad with some severe personality issues. Each strip has such senseless titles as "The Mellifluous Milk of Monotony" and "Asphalt

Bellyflop" and often contains little bits of wisdom such as "No man is an island... but if you tie a bunch of dead guys together they make a pretty good raft."

The site itself contains all the usual merchandise and is pretty easy to navigate. Though finding a specific strip can be a chore, you can search through the strips featuring your favorite characters. Brilliant stuff every week.

Next up is www.toothpaste-for-dinner.com, featuring the one-paneled, minimalist comic. "Toothpaste for Dinner" is a truly brilliant strip. Done in simple line drawings, chubby stick figure characters make strange observations about everyday life at home, out and about and at the office, the strip offers a sense of humor that makes you both shake your head and laugh in recognition. Recently the artist, "Drew," has taken to writing one strip a day for a whole year. While this often leads to some hit-or-miss moments, it does mean there is an extensive archive of wonderful material waiting for the casual browser to waste happy hours on.

Observations include such gems as "If I had a dollar for every time I had sixty cents, I would be Canada" and

"Bad Poetry! Oh Noetry!"

The strips are organized chronologically, which makes finding specific strips difficult, though the titles are at least mildly descriptive. The best joy comes from just scrolling randomly through strips and finding the hidden treasures.

Finally we have www.mnftiu.cc, the home of four comics by David Reese, including "My New Fighting Technique is Unstoppable," on karate and absurd humor, "My New Filing Technique is Unstoppable," on office life, "Get Your War On," on modern politics, and nature-oriented "Adventures of Confessions of Saint Augustine Bear." Reese's clip-art-and-profanity-based humor is as strange as it is funny and insightful. The highlight is "Get Your War On," which has been offering some of the funniest commentary on modern politics available. The main problem with the strips is that they are updated infrequently and sporadically, which means when you finish what is there you have to wait up to two months for something else to show up. Ordered chronologically, the strips are fairly easy to search through, and once again the fun comes from just starting at a random spot and scrolling through them.

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