# Gracies Dinnertime Theatre™

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"Because you can only have so much fun with animated vegetables."

I don't know about the rest of you, but for a very significant portion of my life, cartoons were all encompassing. I grew up in an area without cable, so Saturday became the holy of holies. I'd kneel in front of the great alter that was our TV and worship, along with my various superhero dolls (it varied from week to week which doll would have my favor, though Aquaman, Batman, and Superman made regular appearances. Hell, I even had a Batman costume that I'd wear). Ahh, I still miss The Justice League, The Littles, Dungeons and Dragons, and even those short segments of Captain Caveman.



Years of watching various cartoons has made something very clear; a definite pattern has arisen. There are three main groups of cartoons. The first mimics life. Cartoons of this kind are like the various "Japanimation" films, Dungeons and Dragons, Batman, etc. The characters are subject to the laws of physics, though they may possess powers allowing them to counteract physical law (like the jaws of all the men in the newer Batman cartoons. How those men can manage to keep their mouths closed with all that mass there is amazing).

The second main group of cartoons are those that mock life. The most obvious candidates for this category are The Simpsons, and any Loony Toon short (even those horrible versions where they tried to copy Disney). The characters can get blown to hell and still be ok for the next scene, or act in exaggerated ways.

The final group of cartoons are a hybrid of the two previous groups. They mimic life at one minute and mock at the next. These are just bad, and are often owned by HannaBarbarra. For some reason, HannaBarbara can make any cartoon cheap and soulless. Look what they did to Tom and Jerry. That was a great cartoon until HB got their meaty little hooks into it. Same thing with Droopy Dog. I don't know if HannaBarbarra was behind The Laugh Olympics, but I get the feeling that HB would have approved.

## Notes from the editors:

We made a spelling error in issue 13 The phrase "rape diem" should have read "rapere diem." Our apologies. In the past few weeks, we've received quite a few letters addressed to the barefoot girl, so, we're giving her her own column:

## Ask BFG

DEAR BFG,

I RECENTLY BROKE UP WITH MY GIRL FRIEND OF TWO YEARS. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE ALL THE LOVE GOES.

DEJECTEDLY YOUR,

Mike

### Dear Mike,

Well Mike, love is a phenomena that is not well understood; allow me to elucidate.

It's not well known that love is an allergic reaction to a specific type of pollen. You see, there is a small uninhabited island in the South Pacific where a very rare plant, known by a select group of botanists (all of them on the GDT staff) as *Mandragora aphroditis*, grows.

The reproductive cycles of these plants are extremely peculiar. When the plants reach maturity, their seed pods

burst, spreading millions of microscopic grains of pollen into the air. This pollen is then distributed throughout the world by the Southeast Trade winds (it's not a coincidence that cruise ships follow the Gulf Stream; they are taking advantage of the elevated *aphroditis* pollen levels). Eventually, every corner of the globe is saturated with the pollen (with the exception of the Sargasso Sea.

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The most logical and sensible people in the world can be found living on an immense raft community at the center of the Sargasso Sea).

The pollen imbeds itself in the avioli of the lungs. Through an interaction with the infected individual's antibodies, the allergic reaction of "love" is experienced.

Once bound to an antibody, the pollen becomes mature The gestation period necessary for this pollen depends on the individual infected: if the person is has a short attention span, the maturation can occur at an astonishing rate, but if the person is subject to co-dependence, the maturation may never occur. In fact much of the pollen will wither and die. Even when the pollen has nearly disappeared, the initial contaminant can remain; this is what causes listless love(usually exhibited in married couples).

When the pollen has matured it is released from it's host by the release a toxin, which instantly allows the body to reject it. A side effect of this toxin is displayed through resentment and disillusionment. Once the pollen is released through the sweat glands, it becomes airborne, and begins it's long trek home. Botanists are still unsure how it manages the incredible journey back to the island, or why it only germinates there, but they think it must have something to do with penguins and statues.

So, in short, all the love has gone to a small island in the South Pacific.

I hope this has helped.

### -BFG

Send questions to BFG c/o STH8884@RITVAX.ISC.RIT.EDU. She's not only wise...she a wise ass.

Send submissions and responses to GDT care of STH8884@RITVAX.ISC.RIT.EDU or 50 Grace Watson Hall, Rochester, NY 14623 To be placed on an electronic mailing of GDT, contact SMF1225@RIT-VAX.ISC.RIT.EDU

