

JINKIE

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1 **SPECIAL PREMIERE ISSUE** OCTOBER 1980

"On the Rag," or, About This Paper

Since The Uncle Floyd Show's humble beginnings in a cramped TV studio somewhere in West Orange (and boy, have things come a long way since then), there have been quite a few newsletters put out by fan clubs and individuals alike, everything from the exceedingly strange "Heavenly News" (1977) by Kevin "Pipe King" Kyle and Richard "Dot King" Delorenzo, right on up to Marci Mann's well-done "Floydian Press" (1980). There have been a rash of these fan rage within the past few months (if we stop itching, they might heal--sorry), and for those of you who think that this is just another one in that tradition, let me wholeheartedly assure you--it is. I know a good bandwagon when I jump on it.

However, I am aware of my obligation as an editor to try some unique things in order to sustain and/or prolong your interest. For instance, the title. I have long maintained that the viewers closest to and most fervent about the show constitute one big happy (?) family, be it called "the inner circle", "the rat pack", whatever. This is not an exclusive family--it contains many offshoots and branches, and is constantly expanding and changing. In fact, expense and change is the very object of this family. We are (or should be) thrilled to welcome in new siblings, and seek to acquaint them with the goings-on and traditions that are already old hat to us. I was lucky enough, when I got back into the show last year, to have some very kind friends who helped me along in this respect. Floyd has often said that it takes a couple months to be able to understand many of the "inside" things and jokes that are done on the air. For those of us blessed with caring friends, it takes much less time to make us feel "part of the crowd". I hope to share some of those feelings with the readers of this newsletter.

But, lest the title throw you, this newsletter is not about making remarks that go over the heads of everyone except, as Phil Ochs said, "a small circle of friends." It is meant to be about the friends, and about everyone else who reads it, too. At first, some things said in here will seem like cruel, inhumane backstabbing. They are not. Having had enough of that during my short but pitifully pointless life, I PROMISE you all that any such jabs are done with the FULL PERMISSION (and often sneaky cooperation) of the people involved. Moreover, I sincerely hope most of you know me and my harmless motives well enough by now to take it all in the good spirit of fun and entertainment with which intention it is written in the first place. I'm a comic, not a critic, and since I can't take it, I won't dish it out.

If, after all this, you're still offended (or confused) by anything contained herein, let me know. I'll explain it or amend it or apologize for it or shine your shoes or something, as long as it's understood that we're trying to make an "inside joke" that all will be privy to (and we may even make a few privy jokes, but that's a different topic entirely). Please, folks--it's all in fun; that's the punch line I hope everyone will understand. Feedback, please!

See you in the funny papers, *EW*

"INSIDE" THIS ISSUE:

Nastified Ads
"One Trick Pony" Night
Rattpacking
Contest

Fan Club Noose
Revioose
Fact From Friction

Vöttérý Kóóóóó Poetry
Upcoming Events
Editorial Box
A Special Birthday Card

and more...

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BELATED:

- October 3 - One Trick Pony Event
(see write-up)
October 5 - BABY BONZO, 19; also
Free Concert, S. Mt. Arena
IN TIME:

- October 11 - JOHN PICHITINO, ?
October 12 - SCOTT GORDON, 34?
MARY WALSH, also ?
October 17 - Stage Show--Center Stage,
Paramus (Mall), 8pm?
October 19 - FLOYD VIVINO, 29
October 26 - DEREK TAGUE, 19
October 31, Stage Show--Bottom Line,
November 1 4th & Mercer, NYC--HALLOWEEN
November 20 - Stage Show (MAYBE)--
Indian Hills H.S., Oakland,
November 30 - Stage Show--Fast Lane,
Asbury Park
December 2 - oh, you'll find out...

PICTURES off-the-wall

Starting in November, I'd like to publish viewers' artwork and such, stuff that you know won't get on the show for whatever reason (except extreme bad taste or obscenity--I may draw the line on that, depending on the picture). This section will be entitled (can you guess?) PICTURES OFF THE WALL. There are two stipulations. Because of the printing costs of this rag, I cannot take full page (8½ x 11) pictures. Make them ½ or ¼ page, although I'll accept teenytiny ones too. Also, PLEASE USE DARK PEN, no multicolor pictures, they don't reproduce well and it's not worth your effort to see your artwork come out looking shitty.

Deadline for submissions is November 1.



FACTS ABOUT LOBSTERS:

Did you know that---

The largest American lobster on record reached a length of 23-¾ inches and weighed 34 pounds.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for more fascinating lobster facts...



Also the place to see Uncle Floyd live in person etc. on September 6. The cast and cameras attracted many big-name viewers from near and far--among those who were not interviewed by the WWHT minicam crew of Whitman & Co. were TERRIE GEHEBE, FAITH FASANO, CAROL PHILLIPS, MARIA VITALE, CHRIS and PHYLLIS HEALEY (all of the above from the Empire State, yet), STEVE SCHARFF, CHRIS DENMAN, JOE BALITZKI and MRS. B., LINDA CORBY, DIANE PEYKO, and KAREN, BOB, and "JENNIFUH" BENEDEK. Those who did get on the air, shown on Monday, 9/22, included STEVE BIEBER (of Brooklyn!), MARCI MANN, DEREK TAGUE, JOE TOMASKOVIC, Carol's sister JOAN PHILLIPS (who gets my vote for center on the Uncle Floyd Show Viewers Girls' Basketball Team), RICK DeFARIA and his trucks (Joe B. really got a rise, so to speak, out of the "Hiya Toots" gal on the back of the Netto truck), and local Unionites ADRIANNE PETERPAUL and BABY BONZO. Jeff Friedman did a super job, in my opinion, given the close proximity of the viewers to one another (it did get quite scary at times), and even John Pichitino made a surprise appearance. Special thanks to Carol's parents for letting her come with Marci, Maria, Terrie, Faith and myself after the appearance to see "The Fiendish Plot of Dr. Fu Manchu" (Maria's review is found elsewhere in this very rag). Apologies to Charlie Stoddard are also in order, though a bit belated--we got our lines crossed; we ended up at Creation after the movie, he at Dodd's...all in all, a fun day which almost took away the pain I felt from my root canal work that morning...

* INSIDE JOKE is produced and created by me (EW). It is written for and by viewers and friends of The Uncle Floyd Show, and is intended strictly for entertainment purposes. Any criticisms or suggestions for improving INSIDE JOKE will be welcomed in the spirit in which they are given, and may even be considered.

* EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.....Elayne Wechsler
* CONTRIBUTING ARTIST.....Lynn Martin
* CONTRIBUTING WRITERS....Derek Tague,
* Maria Vitale

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R·A·T·T·P·A·C·King

The reason for this title being nothing to do with Mother's Day, but only that I've always felt the best way to exorcise an unpleasant label is to make fun of it, so this first installment commences...JOE BALITZKI's car has undergone so much repair work lately, he's considering burning his license in effigy... please let Joe know if Macy's is having a sale soon on grey flannel sheets, as he has to stock up...when asked about the status of the much-talked-about Balitzki Agency, Joe informed me, "We're franchising now. We plan on opening a branch in Woodbridge Center, right next to the Baby Bonzo Boutique, It'll have a grey neon sign out front, and we're building three floors. On the first floor we'll have grey flannel suits, hats, shoes, that sort of thing; the second floor will feature bedding; and the third will sell lingerie. Baby Bonzo is set to cut the opening ribbon by swinging her bonzos." Rumor has it that Joe will hire the services of underwear expert Gladys Merola as a consultant. Merola is best known for her use of colors...on the serious side, congratulations (yes, it is spelled with a "t") to Joe on his new position as Public Relations Staff Officer for Flotilla 44 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary... "SNAPPY" SUSAN DI NONNO is looking for a few more Dead Baby, Helen Keller, and Mommy Mommy jokes for her collection. I'm keeping out of this (unless I get overwhelming response from readers who want some printed up next issue)...one of the gems she related to me is too good to pass up, tho--What's the difference between a snowman and a snowwoman? Snowballs. Ba dum BUM...According to Sue, green M&M's are aphrodisiacs. I just sent out for a two-year supply... INSIDE JOKE is pleased to publish, you heard it here first, Sue's 2 "get-rich-quick" schemes. Quote--"Okay, Plan 1 is called 'Famous Beautiful Gorgeous Singers and Guitar Players'--see, in this plan we become a new band and get rich and famous off of our hit songs. Plan 2 is called 'The Harvard Plan'. In this plan we cruise the Harvard University campus for some young, rich doctors and we marry them, then the next day we divorce them and collect alimony." Don't know, Sue--that one's too close to real life...What's a RICH NISIVOCIA?...DEREK TAGUE's a college boy now, at Montclair State. He's taking up, as usual, space.

(Cont'd. in next column)

Derek's sense of humor(?) hasn't dulled, however. Two bits from the horse's mouth--"This season the producers of Archie Bunker's Place will kill off Edith, as you know, and Archie's new romantic interest will be a woman named Kate. This is apparently because Archie can't have his Kate and Edith too"...don't blame me... Number two--"What do you get when you cross Charlie and Netto? A Deadhead"... ADRIANNE PETERPAUL found a worthy subject for her school essay on "rising and falling stars"--her idol, Bruce Springsteen. She's still trying to recup from the chilling fact that Bruce and David Burd have the same birthday...SUE KOHOUT has also gone for higher education (no, that was not another Netto joke), at Centenary College, not "Cemetary". She says she only gets to see the show on Fridays when she comes home for the weekend, and she misses "you old-time Floydies and the cast members" very much. Sue would be delighted to hear from anyone who wants to brighten up her life a bit with news of the show and its viewers. You can write her at P.O. Box 313, Centenary College, 400 Jefferson Street, Hackettstown, NJ, 07840...Sometime viewer hangout--Claremont Diner on Bloomfield Ave. in Verona. Looks like something the '65 World's Fair left behind. Check out the bar, known as "the space room". One small stagger... CHRIS HEALEY's pictures of her Bermuda vacation are so gorgeous you feel like you are right there. A welcome treat on line (in the pouring rain) at My Father's Place. Chrissy reports she saw Oogie and Oogette puppets in a store in Hamilton for \$80 each...Speaking of vacations, lots of viewers on the move this past summer--PEGGY GAVAN stopped over in Lake George, where she met Sven Sveep's double, then on to Maine, yet (and didn't even bring me back any lobsters!); LYNN MARTIN had fun in Washington, D.C., chopping down Amy's treehouse; Derek was seen in Buffalo and Niagra Falls--Niagra Falls! Slowly I turn, etc.; MARCI MANN went wild in the woods--oops, make that, she went to Wildwood; and MARIA VITALE is, "as always, in the underground of questionable taste, in downtown Bensonhurst". And I thought I had it rough in "Little Newark"...for the life of me, I can't figure out how Maria can write such clever letters on such nauseatingly cute stationery...She is no relation to Floyd's lady LISA VITALE, who has one of those hold devices--no, it's

(Cont'd. on next page, really)

RATS cont'd.

not what you think--on her telephone. It's called "Call Waiting", and for those in eligible areas who do heavy phone work, it's well worth the extra couple bucks a month. Highly recommended, mmm... Speaking of no relation, Marci's not related to MARGARET MANN, the Grandma of Little Rascals fame; or HERBIE MANN, musician, or etc.etc., but she is related to the late LOU COSTELLO. Figure it... Guess who I met at a New York employment agency? STEVE BIEBER of Brooklyn. Instead of continuing our search for work, like we should have, we walked the streets of midtown Manhattan for an hour talking about the show...is the aforementioned Marci following in the previously mentioned Lynn's footsteps? Both are attempting to embark upon careers as professional models, with Marci signing with the John Robert Powers school and Lynn with the Ford Agency in New York. Look for the latter, "Barbizon Militant" Martin, in national magazines very shortly, sporting Bonjour jeans. On behalf of the readers of INSIDE JOKE, we all hope the Bonjour reaction is favorable, and not-so-little Lynny remembers us nobodys when she's rich and famous...I've given up my hobby for September, trying to understand JEFF MULLER and his wandering tape recorder...JOE TOMASKOVIC has converted all the Uncle Floyd records, Netto's single, the original "Wipeout" and "Peter Gunn" theme, and other weirdness to an eight-track tape which he plays to and from personal appearances. At last, a break from BABY BONZO's Pretenders tape and "Turning Japanese" 20 times an hour...Bonzo, whom I recently interviewed (formally, yet) at her college residence, told me she got a moving violation. That, I suppose, is a "create-your-own-gag" line...I think Bonzo has been bombed all weekend, celebrating her birthday 10/5...Speaking of which, GLORIA DE MASSI turned 20 with nary a scratch, but a record 8 well-wishing ads in the September Gazette; H.B. degrees to my very own doggie Teenee, 14 (that's 98 to you and me) on 10/9, and to my brother Jay, 18 on the 18th, who first got me into the show and who's now a freshman at my old alma mater R.U....Viewer Happenings Dept.--Look for write-ups on Union and the One Trick Pony outing elsewhere in this paper; Matawan was kinda quiet (except for the sound of branches being cleaned off Floyd's car), so I'll skip it; but watch

out for the Bottom Line on Halloween! I'm sworn to secrecy about some of the getups planned, but be thou prepared...Somebody wake up CAROL PHILLIPS! Contrary to popular belief, Charlie is not the half of that couple who's always out on his feet! The only thing keeping Carol awake on October 6 was the free concert near the South Mountain Arena in West Orange, where the place rocked to the music of The Bangs, Blotto, and The Shirts. Among those seen there, besides Carol and myself, were Derek, JOHN CAVANAGH, STEVE SCHARFF, JOAN SCHWARTZ, NETTO, CHRIS CARTER, CHARLIE STODDARD, and the one and only VIN SCELSEA. Afterwards, three of us (no names, please) hightailed it to Gaffer's for some liquid refreshments... ABBIE HOFFMAN LIVES!...Till next time, "keep thinking those good thawts"...

POETRY:

ANYWAY!

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.
LOVE THEM ANYWAY!

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
DO GOOD ANYWAY!

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
SUCCEED ANYWAY!

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
DO GOOD ANYWAY!

Honesty and frankness makes you vulnerable.
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY!

The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men with the smallest minds.
THINK BIG ANYWAY!

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
BUILD ANYWAY!

People really need help but may attack you if you help them.
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY!

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
GIVE THE WORLD YOUR BEST ANYWAY!

Anonymous

Fan Club Noose

LYNN MARTIN, who heads the CHARLIE STODDARD FAN CLUB #1, is looking for new members, and you don't have to be under 18. For information, write Lynny at 36 Home Place, LODI (07644)...FAN CLUB R-A-E-L in MILLBURN has gone down for the nonce, but former pres DAN REINHARDT is still kicking. Want to start it up again? Danny's address is 27 Bailey Road (07041) ...Nothing to report yet on JOHN CHANESKI and his MENSA FAN CLUB...FAN CLUB 16 in ROSELLE PARK keeps expanding--write to JEFF MULLER, pres, at 439 Faltoute Avenue (07204). F.C. 16 member WAYNE HASTRUP edits a newsletter entitled THE UNCLE FLOYD SHOW REGISTER, officially sanctioned by Floyd. For their latest issue send SASE to Wayne at 285 West Webster Avenue (07204)...DEREK TAGUE and I both contribute to that one, as we do to MARCI MANN's FLOYDIAN PRESS, one of the finest newsletters going. If you don't have a copy of that, get it. Marci's at 201 Ridgewood Avenue, GLEN RIDGE (07028, home of What's a RICH NISIVOCIA?)...I assume GLORIA DE MASSI and FAN CLUB 1019 (so christened after the date of Floyd's birth) are looking for more rowdies with bucks to kill for Gazette ads. Write Gloria at 1859 Paulding Avenue, BRONX, NY (10462)...SUE KOHOUT's trying to get university types for her COLLEGIATE FAN CLUB #19--write her for info (address in Ratt-packing column)...GLENN CUTLER and the original FAN CLUB 296 in EDISON want to spread the word about their club too. Membership gets one an official neat-keen card and newsletter with nice calligraphy and all. Glenn can be reached at 6 Cambridge Road (08817)...FAN CLUB NYUK in OCEANSIDE, NY(uk), has a newsletter; send SASE to JUST PLAIN ROBBIE at 245 Vermont Avenue (11572)...Also in NY, Queens specifically, TERRIE GEHEBE puts out The (FAN CLUB) 422 TRIBUNE. Since it is Terrie, half of the first issue is about JOHN PICHITINO, and the second one should cover JIMMY VIVINO. Seriously, it's well-put together, has nice feature articles, and costs 50c plus 15c SASE per month, to be sent to treasurer MARIA VITALE at P.O. Box 105, BROOKLYN, NY 11214. Written contributions can be sent directly to Terrie at 248-13 139th Avenue, ROSEDALE (11422)...Read all about the 36 members in FAN CLUB 312 in LINDEN by getting their newsletter, THE FLOYDIAN FILE. SASE to pres. John Schroth at 1900 Grier Avenue (07036) ...as I dot dot dot into the sunset...

MR. CLEEN fan club

Terrie Gehebe and I are considering forming a fan club for Mr. Cleen, a.k.a. The Vivino Brothers Band. I have always been a big fan of the music Mr. Cleen plays, from Calloway to Motown, and I think the band has been underrated and invisible in the background for too long. They have a great sound, and they're a nice bunch of guys besides. Anyone interested in this proposition please contact me or Terrie. As I said, plans are not yet formalized, but it almost definitely will not involve a newsletter!

Gazette

Have you subscribed to THE UNCLE FLOYD SHOW GAZETTE, the show's official newsletter, yet? If you haven't, please consider supporting the show which has given you so much entertainment (and for television, that's saying a lot). Send \$6 check or money order made payable to Floyd Vivino to P.O. Box 296, West Orange, NJ 07052 is the zip code...

Friends of Floyd....

Maria Vitale has formed this organization to serve the viewers of the show. Each and every fan has managed to make contact with another fan, usually someone far from home base, making it difficult to meet and socialize. The purpose of this "club" will be to try and provide a listing of viewers in specific areas so that carpools and group outings for personal appearances can be arranged.

Send your name and address on a postcard to Maria at P.O. Box 105, Brooklyn, NY 11214. If you wish, include specific interests (i.e., carpools, club membership drives, etc.).

There are no club dues or meetings, as this is not strictly speaking a club. Maria plans to publish a listing in the near future of names and addresses.

LYNNY IN LOVE

LYNN MARTIN IS IN LOVE - SO SHE SAYS - WITH A GUY SHE MET WHILE VISITING HER CLASSES AT LODI HIGH SCHOOL. CLASSES END AT 3:00 EACH DAY AND THE STUDENTS GO HOME AND FEEL MUCH BETTER BUT LYNN IS LOVESICK. ELAYNE IS GIVING HER ADVICE.

"THE FIENDISH PLOT OF DR. FU MANCHU"
by The Kid (Maria Vitale)

Hey, all you Peter Sellers fans, be sure not to miss this film. Bring along your favorite chopsticks and get ready for a Chinese feast of comedy.

"Fu Manchu" is based on characters created by Sax Rohmer, and although it is not an example of Sellers at his best, it is a very funny and entertaining film.

Sellers portrays Dr. Fu Manchu, the mad genius determined to take over the world at the ripe old age of 168, and his nemesis, Leland Smith, a former Scotland Yard inspector, an authority on "Chink crime" and who just hasn't been himself since his capture and torture by Fu Manchu and his Dacoits (six Chinese martial arts experts who display their talents during the opening credits of the film).

It opens (even before the title is approved of by Fu) with the Doctor's servant, played by Burt Kwouk (remember him as Kato, Inspector Clouseau's servant in the "Pink Panther" series?), accidentally pouring away Fu's "Elixir Vitae", a special potion which keeps him alive. What follows is a series of robberies in order to get the ingredients for a new elixir: two diamonds and a mummy from the British Museum. Involved in this mad caper are: a Scotland Yard commissioner (David Tomlinson); two FBI agents (Sid Caesar as Guiseppe Capone--"my friends call me Joe"--and Steve Franken); an obese security officer, hopelessly addicted to Chinese food, who is in charge of guarding the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London; a female constable (Helen Mirren), who impersonates Queen Mary; and, of course, a mechanical tarantula.

Throughout the film, one-liners, puns of very kind, and frequent electrical shock treatments for the Doctor to keep him going are numerous and very funny. Finally, the Doctor has his elixir and is rejuvenated. He invites Smith to join him by taking some of the potion so that they can begin again their struggles of evil versus good. Sellers dons several disguises as both Fu Manchu and Smith, and finally ends with a takeoff of Elvis Presley singing "Rock-a Fu".

It is somewhat difficult to watch this film without feeling a bit uneasy knowing that Peter Sellers is no longer with us, but there is solace in the fact that his films are still around to keep us laughing.

And we love every minute of it, don'tcha know!

OF MICE AND MAGIC, author Leonard Maltin with Jerry Beck (470 pages, McGraw-Hill Books, c. 1980) by Derek Tague

Film historian Leonard Maltin has done it again. The man who has chronicled biographies from Carole Lombard to the Little Rascals has a winner with Of Mice and Magic: A History of American Animated Cartoons. Everything you wanted to know about animation, from the first experimental cartoons at the beginning of this century to the decline of theatrical cartoons in the 1960's, is here. Note the word "theatrical" in the last sentence. This means that in the book, you won't be able to find anything about inferior TV cartoons like Hanna Barbera's TV output or Speed Racer, but you will find detailed chapters about the major cartoon studios: Disney, Fleischer (Popeye and Betty Boop), Walter Lantz, Paul Terry (Mighty Mouse), UPA (Mister Magoo) and, of course, Warner Brothers. You'll also read about studios that you may never have heard about before, like Ub Iwerks and Charles Mintz. To top it all off, Jerry Beck finishes off Maltin's masterpiece with a listing of every major theatrical cartoon that is known to exist, along with the copyright status of each cartoon and information on how to find the cartoons you want to rent or add to your film collection.

Maltin, who teaches an animation history course at the New School of Social Research in Greenwich Village and who has organized American cartoon exhibits at New York's Museum of Modern Art, really knows his stuff and has done his homework in the preparation of this volume (Maltin and Beck both happen to be avid Floyd fans, by the way, and also very good friends with Long Island viewer Paul Dial). If you've ever enjoyed watching Bugs Bunny, Popeye, Daffy Duck, Woody Woodpecker, or Tom & Jerry on TV, you'll enjoy learning the behind-the-scenes things that went into the creation and perfection (and the later decline) of these and other immortal characters.

I thought Of Mice and Magic was well worth the \$19.95 I shelled out for it. Have no fear, however--it's due out in paperback soon. Th-th-that's all, folks.

A RIDDLE (?)

What do you get when you cross an elephant and a rhino?

"One Trick Pony" Night

On Friday, October 3rd, "One Trick Pony" premiered in the New York area, so some local Floydians decided to make an event out of it. Gathering at 8:30 at the studio were me, Joe Tomaskovic, Baby Bonzo, Terrie Gehebe, Faith Fasano, Marc Fox, Carol Phillips, Lynn Martin, Marci Mann, Gloria De Massi and boyfriend Rob Gutierrez, and joining us at the Bellvue Theater in Upper Montclair, Derek Tague, John Cavanagh, Martin Vaughn, and Sue Kohout and company. Incidentally, this may sound like a "Who's Who" of big-time Floyd fans, but it was interesting that some familiar names met face-to-face for only the first time that night.

To get right to the part you're all waiting for, Floyd has been cut out, as you may have already heard. As I see it, this is in no way Simon's fault, but instead is the result of very poor and choppy editing. The only hint we have that Mr. Vivino was involved with the movie at all is a sign in a bar where Paul Simon's character and his band play a gig. The place is named "Floyd's".

So much for the hard part. Now for the review--"One Trick Pony" is an attempt at many things: Woody Allen's profound sarcasm; "Kramer vs. Kramer's parent-child pathos; even the "pity-me-I'm-so-alone-in-the-world-playing-my-music-on-the-road-nobody-understands-me" attitude that Jackson Browne portrays in his "I'm so mellow, I'm almost dead" songs. The film succeeds mildly in these endeavors, but it never achieves any one goal long enough to capture the audience. The main reason seems to be Simon himself. The one word which best describes his acting in "OTP" is "low-key". Almost everything Simon does in this film is low-key. When he's on stage in the "live in concert" segments, though, he sparkles, and there are some warm and touching moments (like an amusing Phil Rizzuto-Bill White impression) between Simon's character, Jonah, and his son Matty. But most of the time, Jonah (who presumably has "been through it all" before) just acts too bewildered by life to be believable.

At times, this works to Simon's advantage. For those who admire antiheroes, he plays the downtrodden dreamer to the hilt. It's easy to identify with a character who, through no fault of his own, finds himself in a world too unready and ignorant to acknowledge his true genius. This works well on a personal level, and it also attempts to tie in with the songs which are often randomly (again, due to the editing, even though the songs are good, may seem gratuitous) scattered throughout.

The plot, incoherent and at times nonexistent, involves a 1960's folk star (not unlike the real Simon, who insists the film is not autobiographical) who is trying to make the ultimate comeback, patch things up with his estranged wife (surprisingly--for this movie--well-played by Blair Brown), inspire his five-piece band who would like a hot meal for a change, and attain the usual peace and everlasting happiness. But his music is all he's got to go on, hence the title. A pony that can only turn one trick, no matter how polished and well-executed, will get nowhere in a world uninterested in that particular talent. Jonah must finally decide whether to keep beating his head against the walls of sleazy nightclubs in exchange for little money and no musical recognition, or to give up his lifelong dreams to work in the mundane and, to him, meaningless "real world". Like his Biblical namesake, Jonah must choose between remaining trapped in a figurative whale or carrying out his unwelcome task in life. This hits home very hard with those of us making those same decisions, and it being the whole point of "OTP", endeared me to it (and to Simon for putting it to words and music) from the start. If only Simon didn't take so many detours on the road to making this simple point.

The music is recommended, if you like Simon's stuff. He's not prolific, but he is consistent, and the album will probably go gold before too long. I'd give the movie 2½ stars at most, for a valiant first effort; for showing Route 22 in Union during an "on the road" sequence, and for the brilliantly morbid "Dead Rock Stars" game the band plays en route to another gig. Also, for the chance to get to see the B-52's sing "Rock Lobster", Sam and Dave (the original "blues bros"), The Lovin' Spoonful, Lou Reed (disappointingly boring), and Tiny Tim; for several all-too-brief moments. I feel like a heel saying I liked "OTP" when the general emotion felt by fellow viewers is bound to be anger or resentment, but like I said, it's a personal thing, and it works for me.

(addendum on page 9)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

FACT FROM FRICTION

ITEM #1: When I went to get my tickets for the show at the Union Club in Hoboken, the woman who sold them to me said that Floyd was thinking of having a "New Year's Party" show there. I asked Scott about this, and he completely denied it. "No way would we work on New Year's."

ITEM #2: There was a girl in Matawan wearing a T-shirt that read "Charlie Kissed Me." She absolutely bubbled over about Charlie Stoddard having kissed her at the Union Marketplace! When told of this ardent fan, Charlie was rumored to state, "oh, come on..."

ITEM #3: The Uncle Floyd Show is no longer taping on Saturday afternoons, due to a variety of reasons. In the words of audio man Peter Kean, "It was just too much." It is hoped that now that weekends are open, viewers will respect the privacy of the cast members enough to afford them some kind of normal social life. On a more depressing note, the date for the opening of the new studio, last slated for October 13, has been pushed back another six weeks.--sigh--

ITEM #4: My luck runs terrific this month. Just when I get some free time to go out and see Mother's Day, the reel broke. The usher insisted it was only the second time that had ever happened. Well, we got our money back, which paid for One Trick Pony the next night, and we heard the part with the show in the background, so no loss. No review, either.

ITEM #5: Joe Tomaskovic brought David a very nice 25th anniversary card at the final Saturday taping. Unfortunately, it was meant to be David's 26th birthday card and Joe got the two mixed up. He also left his car running in the parking lot, and Peter and Netto did some quick thinking. When Joe turned around, his car was gone! Lo and behold, Netto turned up in the nick of time with the keys, and the car turned up behind Creation...

ITEM #6: When informed that yes, Terrie Gehebe was driving all the way from Rosedale to Matawan, Sue Kohout remarked, "You know, if Terrie's car broke down, she'd push it all the way to an appearance!" So far, nobody has stepped forward to refute that remark....

Subscriptions to INSIDE JOKE are a 15¢ SASE (Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope) per month. There are no yearly subscriptions for three reasons: a) I hate math, and refuse to keep tabs on who has given me how much each month; b) I don't trust myself to use the money for the newsletter; and c) I have no idea if I even want to do this again next month, let alone next year! Voluntary contributions are, however, more than accepted, since this cost me around \$15 to print...

The other newsletters advertised for in INSIDE JOKE (see FAN CLUB NOOSE section) are also a 15¢ SASE, unless otherwise stated. Lastly, for this and all other newsletters, save confusion by putting the # issue (by month) you desire in the lower left of your envelope.

Contributions accepted at the mailing address for INSIDE JOKE, which is:

ELAYNE WECHSLER
418 East 3rd Avenue
Roselle, NJ 07203
Don't Avoid "Uncle Floyd"

(can you tell I got new address labels?)

~ CONTEST ~

By now, you've probably figured out that this is a contest! Very good--next week we start you on colors. But that's neither here nor there. This contest is open to all readers of INSIDE JOKE, cast members (as if they're not busy enough) as well as viewers. Hell, I'll be magnanimous (look it up), even non-viewers, ok? This month's challenge is to make up titles for "THE SHORTEST BOOKS IN THE WORLD". Examples: "The Skip Rooney Book of Original Jokes", "Uncle Floyd's Guide to a Happy Marriage" (neither of which can qualify because they've already been used on the show), etc.

Submit entries by November 1st for the next issue of INSIDE JOKE. Winners will be judged solely by me (one of the distinct advantages of being an editor is that I can hog things as much as I want) on the bases of originality, humor, the usual qualifications. And winners will, of course, see their entries in the next issue of this rag...

sheepdip department

SONGS FOR THE MEADOW part one

There was grass all around
But I never took to grazing
No, I never herded at all
Till there was ewe...

nastified ad

MORE THAN JUST A

DRIVING SCHOOL!

CHRIS HEALEY'S SCHOOL OF DRIVING

...where we adhere to Healey's Law, as proposed by Scott Gordon, which states, "If you back into a car, it will be the most expensive car around!"

YIPE!



You will learn how to expertly stall out while in reverse; how to offend rich, spoiled punk-brats; and most of all, how to worry about whether your insurance payments and court fines will prevent your next trip to Bermuda!

Take it from Floyd Vivino, who says, "Only one half-hour after talking to Chris Healey, I too managed to put some of her advice to good use during my car's subsequent excursion into the bushes off the Garden State Parkway!"

Yes, you too can benefit from years of experience and tickets! So forget all that crap you learned about "Defensive Driving" when you were a kid, and come on over to Massapequa to Chris Healey's School of Driving, "for people who like to live dangerously!"

nastified ad

Need money for gasoline to Clifton?
Pocketbook running low in a diner?
\$4 movies getting to you?

CALL the MARCI Store

for a loan! Borrow as much as you want, and don't worry about paying it back! She's more than glad to do it for friends, and the only favor she asks of you in return is that you allow her to spill her coffee creamer on you!

Remember Marci's motto: "Anyone want to go out after the movie? I'll pay--no really, I want to, okay?", and stop by the MARCI Store today! Now, back to the game...

THANKS TO
ALL MY
DEAR FRIENDS
(ESP. C.P., J.T.,
C.S., D.T., and M.V.)
FOR PUTTING UP
WITH ME DURING
PREPARATION
OF THIS...
LOVE
you!

Coming Next Issue:

Marci Mann Spelling Beeeeee
Meaningful Song Lyrics
Pictures Off-the-Wall
Shortest Books in the World
and a special feature, an
INTERVIEW WITH LISA VITALE

See
you
next
month!

nastified ad

Announcing the jeans that beat the pants off Gloria, Sergio, and the rest of those bimbos--

Lynn Martin
JEANS



Sleek and "polished" (we use our own 2-in-1), Lynn Martin brand designer jeans will cause everyone to turn and stare! And it may not only be the jeans they'll be looking at, either! You'll be the center of attention and attraction, even if you are only a minor! Yes, receive countless comments on your attire, like "hey, don't you think those pants are a little tight?" or "that top you're wearing with those jeans is a bit low-cut for someone your age, isn't it?"

Choose from our many styles and colors--palomino purple, stallion silver, gelding gold--all bearing the thoroughbred mark of your choice! So why not leave a lasting impression? REMEMBER,

*Everyone wants to get into
Lynn Martin's pants!*

'otp' cont'd.

As an addendum to the evening, fourteen of us trouped to the Tick Tock Diner on Route 3, where Marci did her famous creamer-spill on Carol, Derek serenaded everyone on kazoo, and Martin tried to remember everyone's name! All in all, even though the film may have been a downer to some, the company was great and it was an evening well-spent.

Ed, of course



Happy 29th Birthday

**"UNCLE"
FLOYD
VIVINO**



*from the staff of Inside
Joke*

