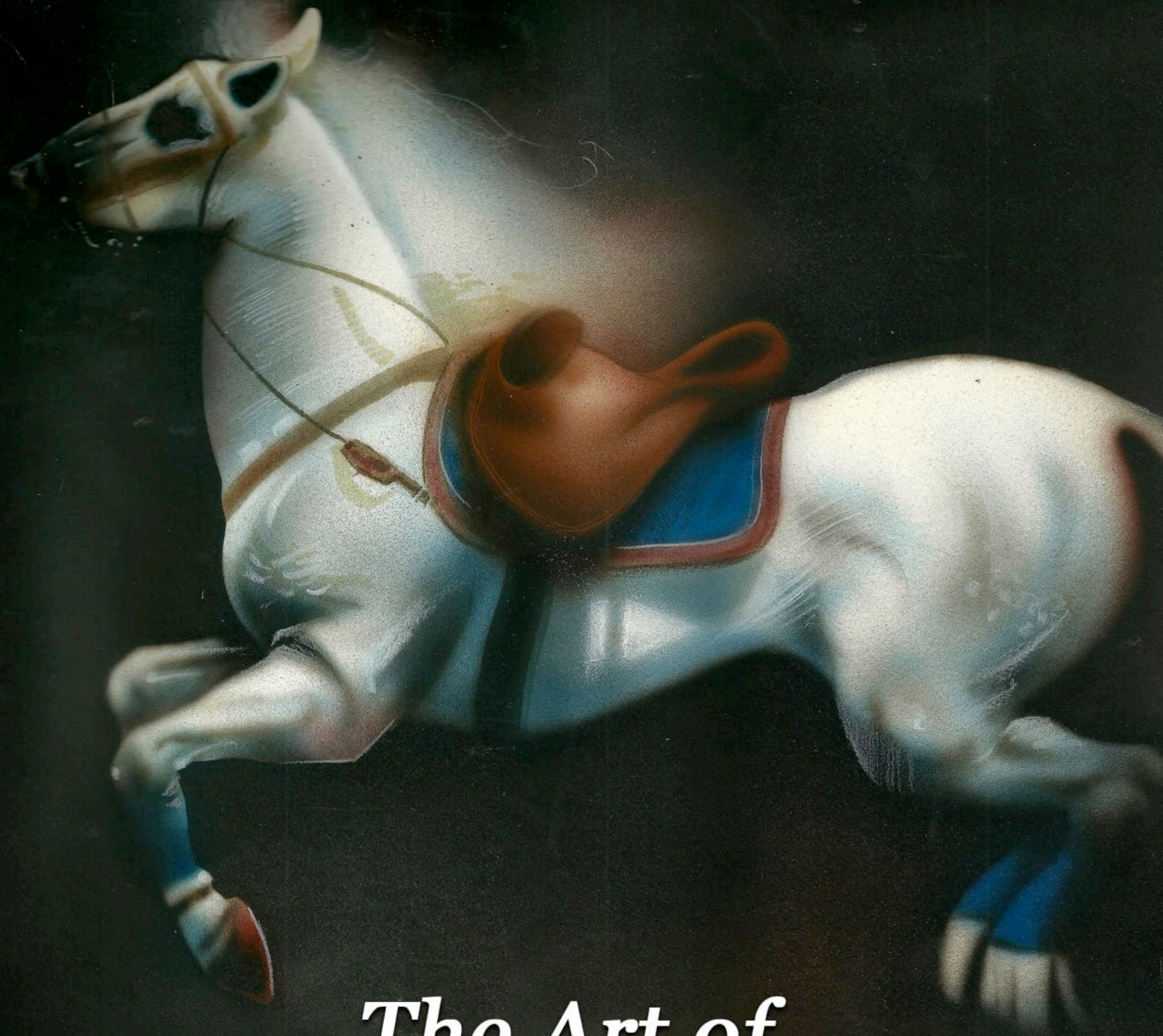


GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

THE MAGAZINE • MARCH 2021



*The Art of
Inspiration*



*You Wanted the Best... You Got The Best...
The **HOTTEST BAND IN THE WORLD**...
(well... not quite!)*

"KISS"

A Kodak photograph of me and my cousins dressed up as our favorite rock group. No doubt the music band were a creative inspiration to us all as we were too young to understand why we were dressing ourselves so radically different than normal, but looking back...it was a Kodak moment in time that captures the essence of inspiration. Why else would we put on makeup and look so ridiculous? LOL!

GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

THE MAGAZINE • MARCH 2021

The Rundown



Subways

A college project that went straight to Hell...but was an inspiration as an artistic endeavour.



Screaming For Vengeance

Never judge music by its cover



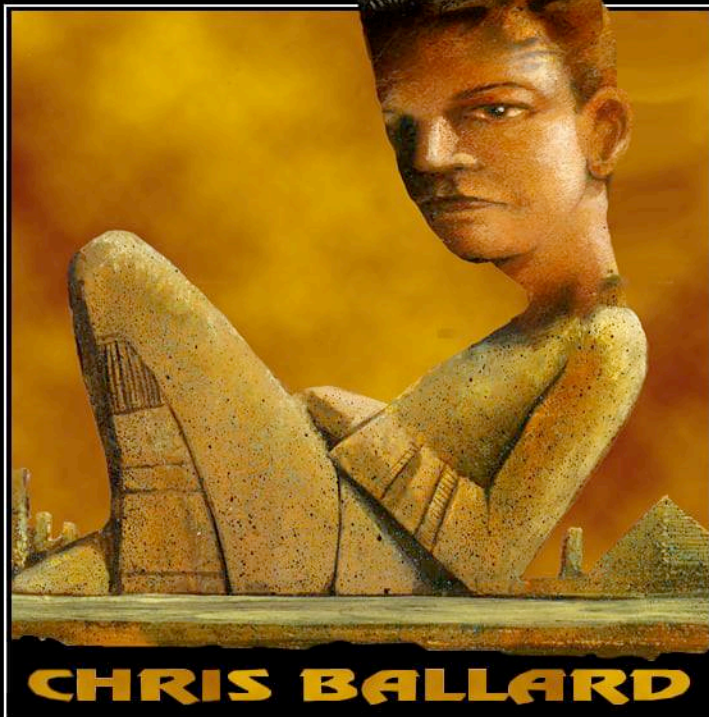
The Art of Inspiration

An introspective analysis of those things that had an influence on me through art.



A Brave New World

Reflecting upon Hank Aaron



My Self-Portrait while working at CNN. I must have thought I was some deity from some ancient civilization, but it was entertaining to see those of my colleagues and how creative we could be when it came to our own self-image.

Cover: A n airbrush painting I created from a Mark English painting that was so inspiring to me that I wanted to replicate through my own artistic style.

4: Introduction

A brief commentary on Inspiration.

18: Gourmet Gallery

Ideas for cooking during March Madness!

20: What Inspires You?

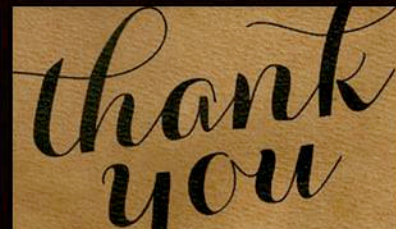
Take the quiz and see if it provides insight.

Back Cover: Another Mark English painting I replicated as I was drawn to his illustrative style. Many artists were influential



Bluebirds

An unexpected season of inspiration from my fine-feathered friends.



Cards

Saying Thanks to those who inspire you is a great show of love and respect for others.



Extras!

BONUS FEATURE!

A few pages from my "Subways" graphic novel created in college that was instrumental in my self-discovery through art to help build confidence for future ambitions.



The theme for this month's issue of *"Graphic Archives Magazine"* delves into those things that serve as inspiration. I believe that is often the source of my own motivation of will in that so much in life helps lead you to new ideas and creative solutions. The cornerstone of artistic exploration is a culmination of life's experiences that is often redefined through a more personal account of understanding what is driving those forces of introspective circumstances that have some relevance. That seemed like a complicated statement to me as well, but simply put...we are all inspired in life and that becomes our motivational tool to grow.

As one who enjoys history and origins of ideas, I often consider my own agenda. Oftentimes, there are more questions than answers and perhaps that becomes the driving force of understanding what it is that becomes so fascinating to our sense of self. After all, those things that are inspiring to us on a personal level begin to intertwine within our own thoughts and take shape and form with new ideas.

Each of us are unique and different, yet there are commonalities that we all share and that is what can be taken from this issue. It's sharing ideas through different perspectives that creates a better universal wholesomeness. At least, that is what I hope to inspire!

Love and Wishes!

s u b W A Y S

A graphic NOVEL
chris BALLARD



"Subways"

My Senior project in college allowed me to focus my efforts on my own artistic exploration in which I had become highly enthusiastic with possibilities of becoming a graphic novelist. One look at Bill Sienkiewicz "Stray Toasters" was all it took for me to expand my mind and release my own ambitious efforts in which there were no limitations to what I could create. His artistic endeavors as both writer and artist inspired me to follow a similar path and my recent experience in New York City's subway transit system provided the rails in which my ideas began to take me in new directions.

Imagine the metaphor of a subway train as the devil. It takes you underground through different passages as your last stop is Hell! You could've stopped anywhere along the way, but you chose to remain on that ride. That's basically the story in a nutshell of what I was attempting to relate through both words and pictures. My adolescent ignorance was just beginning to mature into something more introspective and through the learning process of higher education, I began to build confidence within myself. Art takes as much shape, form and structure as the artist and I learned more through my own self-criticism than those giving me a final grade.

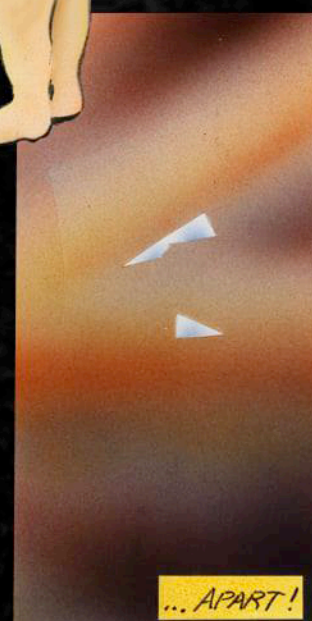
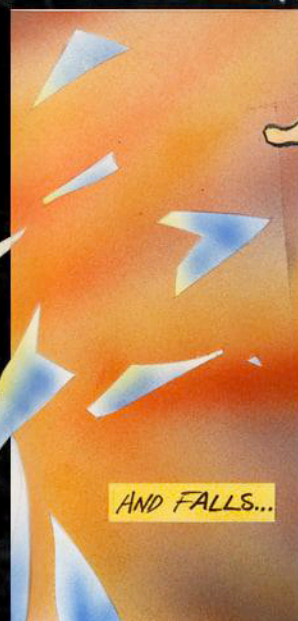
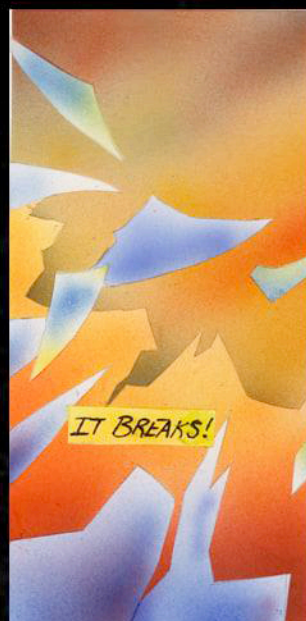
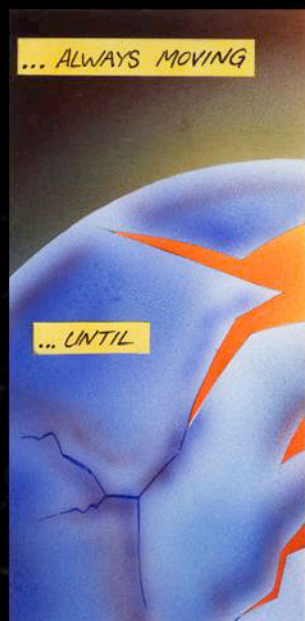
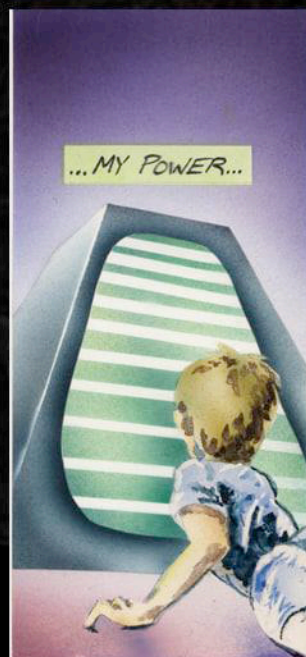
I had been inspired through the works of others as there were numerous influences at the time and so much of their talent became something I wanted to incorporate in my own work. "Subways" became both a challenge to my limitations as well as a playground of artistic expression. It was an ambitious project that took me through Hell! LOL!

From black and white pen and ink to full page airbrushed panels to acrylic painting or watercolors...and anything else I could find to generate something that I found to be a creative solution would become a self-managed exploration of skill. Most artistic endeavors focus primarily on one solution, yet I wanted to become more diverse with a variety of options to bring some visceral quality that wasn't limited with technical procedure. I think I achieved that, if nothing else in that the attempt of a graphic novel led to a more broadened mindset and had given me a full-range of creative solutions.

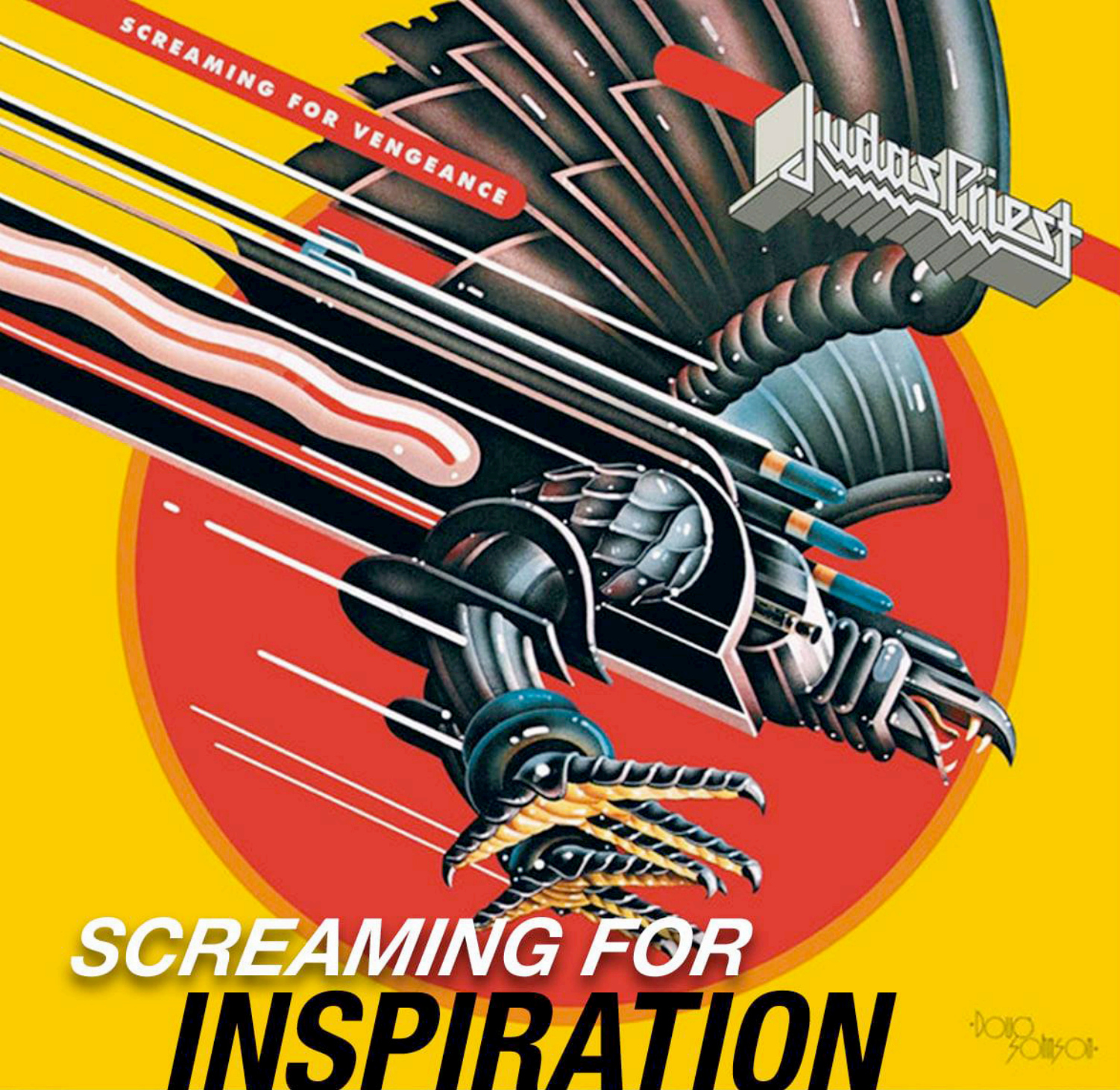
The illustrations led to more opportunities in which helped to build a career. I believe it was a turning point that the project was one of self-exploration through art that provided just enough ambition, determination, and willingness to showcase a portfolio that had potential.



Inspiration comes from many facets of life and my college project was evidence of how things began to slowly come together through a lifetime of experiences. It wasn't as if the sky parted and there was a sudden moment of truth. No, it was a consideration of everything that had formulated within my mind to somehow create a body of work in which I could express my own vision of ideas. I put in some extras at the end of this magazine issue containing original artwork from the story. It became the very essence of working through the challenges of a determined mind that simply wanted to create a better life for others as I had been inspired to do something similar.



A page from my "Subways" graphic novel in which I was showing the effects of tv on a younger generation that had the potential to corrupt their soul. Much of the storyline was created metaphorically to display a sense of evil that could penetrate the mind without understanding the truth of consequences.



High School has it's own challenges in that those years become a crucial point of development that often define our sense of self for years to come. It is also a time in which we begin to formulate aspirations that pull us in directions that we never calculated. Hey! I sucked at Math, but had this Art thing that seemed much more promising, but this story is best told in sequence.

Powell High School did not have it's own baseball field during my initial years as we needed to practice a few miles away in another location. As only Juniors and Seniors were allowed to drive, it became necessary for me to find a ride to practice. One of the guys had a super-cool camaro with amplified speakers and blasted Judas Priest louder than a concert hall! My left ear still echoes "*You've Got Another Thing Comin'!*"

It was hard-core Heavy Metal music with guitars that were screaming for vengeance and felt more like shock-treatment therapy than Rock and Roll. I was just beginning to get into music, but this was too much for me. I felt lucky to be part of the team as much as survive the transportation experience.

CATS Records and Tapes on Kingston Pike became one of my favorite places to browse new music. Record Albums were still prominent as cassette tapes were just beginning to become popular and had already replaced 8-track tapes. It was a thrill for me just to go inside and look through all the new releases and album covers because that always had an effect on me.

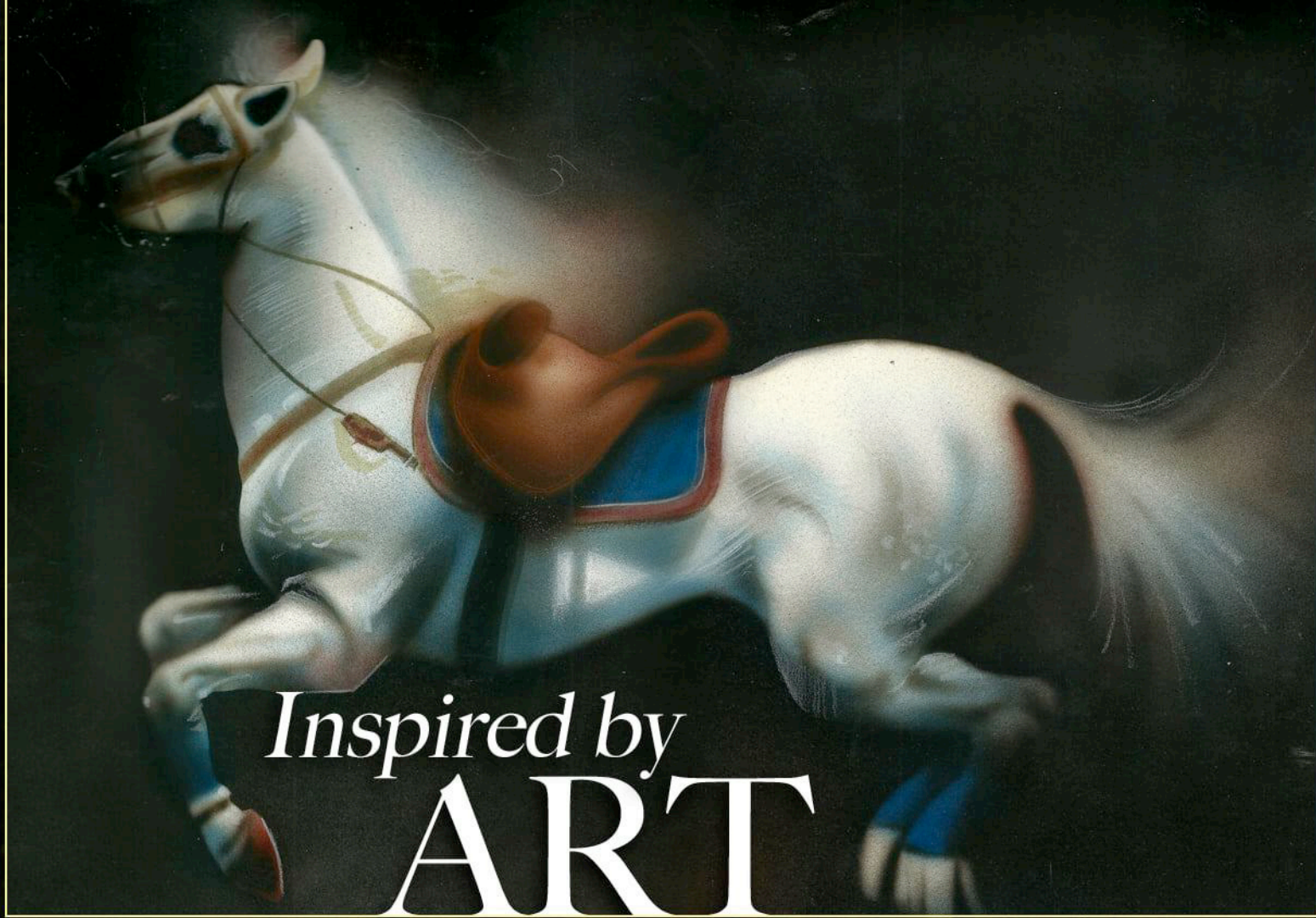
That's when I saw it! That album cover...Judas Priest's "Screaming For Vengeance!" I had to buy that new record because of the cover. I had no idea what the music sounded like and didn't care. The album cover was worth the price of the \$6.99 charge. As you may have guessed already...it was the same annoying music my baseball friend played going to practice!

How ironic! The cover art became an inspiration to me and I soon became a huge Judas Priest fan. It was many years later I began to learn more about the artist as he continued to create covers for their albums. Such strong compositions and as I eventually discovered that these were airbrush illustrations. I couldn't wait to get my hands on one of those devices in which you could paint by spraying through metal. It all seems fantastic, yet so much of my life's choices hinged on that album cover by Doug Johnson.

From album cover art to a pursuit in artistic aspirations along with expanding my appreciation for other types of music are all considered inspirations that drive my own ambitions.

My first attempt with an airbrush was abysmal. It was about as bad as you could imagine...No! even worse than that! I was discouraged, yet still wanted to learn. I was using a bulky Paasche model airbrush when my college professor showed me a more sophisticated Iwata brand. I had more control and began to learn how to paint with a tool I never imagined before. It was such a blessing because I was not comfortable with the more standard oil and acrylic painting techniques. The airbrush had become my form of artistic expression.

Consider this, however...the airbrush has it's own challenges. It becomes an extreme time-consuming process. I should've been a surgeon because I found myself cutting frisket film and rubylith with an X-Acto Knife with precision. Operation Airbrush Illustration in effect! My world seemed to revolve around a Heavy Metal tool, cover art inspiration, and echoes in my attitude that if I don't get my way in artistic exploration...*"You've Got Another Thing Comin'!"*



An airbrush illustration inspired by artist Mark English, a well-known and highly-respected illustrator. The original oil painting was a of distinctive style in which I wanted to incorporate a likeness into my own airbrush technique.

One of my first collective memories in life was my mom placing a sheet of paper in front of me making marks with a pencil. She wasn't an artist, but she was showing me something that seemed more like magic to me than anything else. A few lines and there was an image from an idea that came from somewhere...but where?

Naturally, I gravitated towards art because it was such a mystery to me and there was no formula that calculated some common denominator to any specific problem-solving solution. It is all still a mystery to me more than 50 years later as I have no more insight into any knowledge I can reveal to ensure some strategy that turns creativity into the truth. Perhaps that is why I am who i've become because I continue to search and look for answers that may never be revealed. I take as much comfort in that philosophy as any religion or otherwise because as one who continues to search is always discovering more to life than just drawing.

Life takes us to unexpected places and offers opportunities at times and that was my story from the beginning. It all seemed more like magic than reality. I won an Art contest in the First Grade, but was that significant in the big picture? It didn't seem real as much as fantastic in that I was just performing for credit upon a grade that I would be given. I was more intrigued with music than art and moved more in that direction in Middle School until I realized I was moving in the wrong direction. I didn't understand music either, but was better at creating art. Both are similar when it comes to articulation, but I had already developed a passion of creativity through pictures than music.

My father became angry with me when I lost the spelling bee contest within our grade-school system. He knew I intentionally misspelled something as to not want to continue to prove intellectual skills. Call it peer pressure from some of my friends that didn't find literature and spelling much of an admired quality. Life has its own irony and took me through many phases in which it became a method of self-discovery. Art always seemed to be the open door for any questions I had.

I spent much of my childhood through high school putting a pencil to paper to create something from my own imagination. It never seemed like work, but rather a pleasure from something that provided a means of self-value. I was drawn into those creative forces with a sense of purpose more than an escape.

My imagination became my greatest strength as I could create anything I desired and the only limitation would be my own mind. That was the moment I learned that others had gifted talents and I was no more special than they were when it came to creativity. All part of maturity when it comes to discovery within as you are not alone in a world that competes for some measure of value. I needed something more than magic...something that I could not purchase from the arts and crafts store that would become a tool to help transcend to another level.

Inspiration! It had been there all along and I never knew it. So simple, yet it never occurred to me that so many others had become woven into my mindset. Those impressions made within your neurological system of understanding become active particles that race along to provide something of an instinctive measure of your soul's desire. It's much simpler for me to talk about it through art than any other language of proprietary measure as it is a certain magic that exists through some fantasy that we experience through life's challenges.

Art is a subjective taste with a large variety of seasonings in which the recipe ultimately depends upon the particular palette of desire. A starving artist is one that has not yet found the recipe for success, but that is not the best analogy for one that becomes committed to a lifelong pursuit of happiness.

Creativity has always been at the core of my soul desires. Art seemed a natural gift, but that isn't the case at all. I must work hard at it to prove something to myself and to others. Those who go down the path of articulation of any measure soon realize they must put in the time, work, and effort to justify the ambition. Many gravitate towards a life of creativity, yet only those willing to sacrifice more of themselves are able to achieve something of significance.

Some days are more trying than others in that there is no break in the clouds in which illuminated ideas shine down to discover something unique for the next challenge. Artists often quickly learn inspiration with respect to others as they are influenced and are drawn towards a betterment of themselves through what they see as something to explore on their own. At least that is how I could describe my experience in that I had just enough talent and ambition to believe in myself that I could implement a work ethic to achieve my goals. I found art to be more of a solid foundation of my inner sense of self as an expressive means that was closer to reality than all the fantasies I could imagine.

I wasn't alone on my journey through a life of artistic exploration as there were so many helping to guide me through those challenges. From grade school and college professors, friends, classmates and other influential properties, I began to build a library of inspiration that continues to be a resource that drives my ambition. Inspiration is not a sole property of one, but rather an accumulation of many. That is what makes each unique in that the differences are comprised of a vast array of selective interests.

Critiques became a lesson in development. Those college years were brutal in terms of self-evaluation. Each day offered another fault which needed to be corrected and resolved. My greatest fears stared me in the face with every attempt to impress someone. Even with a hard work ethic and a bold-resistance to scrutiny, I had to discover something within myself to improve. I turned to those that I found inspiring to me and that was when everything suddenly changed.

Learn from the masters as artists once did long ago by replicating their talents through your own technique. That's what I did. If I were to pursue a career in the arts, I would need to mimic those things I admired most. It wasn't necessarily the most creative process as I was simply duplicating something that had already been created, but it put me in the mind of another to help resolve my own solutions.

The 27th Annual of American Illustrators book came out in 1986 and became my bible for creative solutions. It was an inspiration as it showcased the most respected illustrators and painters in the industry. I studied that book more than any other assigned textbook offered in college. A revelation more about a visceral connection with an audience than my own limitations as an artist. That is when it becomes clear an artist is not one of a master of technique, but rather an instrument to all.

About the same time, one of my professors introduced a commentary based upon the college experience.: “You are not here to learn a trade...but to expand your mind to discover the knowledge that becomes beneficial to all!”

That was perhaps the moment when the sea parted and the skies cleared and I finally understood the forces of inspiration. It was the truth in that my college experience was not a field of study, but rather an all-inclusive reach of learning how to better myself and put forth the effort to inspire others...as I had become so inspired.

The cover illustration is my airbrushed replication of a Mark English oil painting. It inspired me and I felt the need to understand the creative process. There is something to be said of those influential sources that lead us in new directions and that is inspiration.

I often consider those things in life in which I notice myself in a gravitational pull and consider why it becomes relevant. There's often a hidden reason that I must discover and that is what makes it all the more interesting. The questions are more interesting than the answers because it takes you on a journey through yourself to discover the relevance and how it may be of value to others.

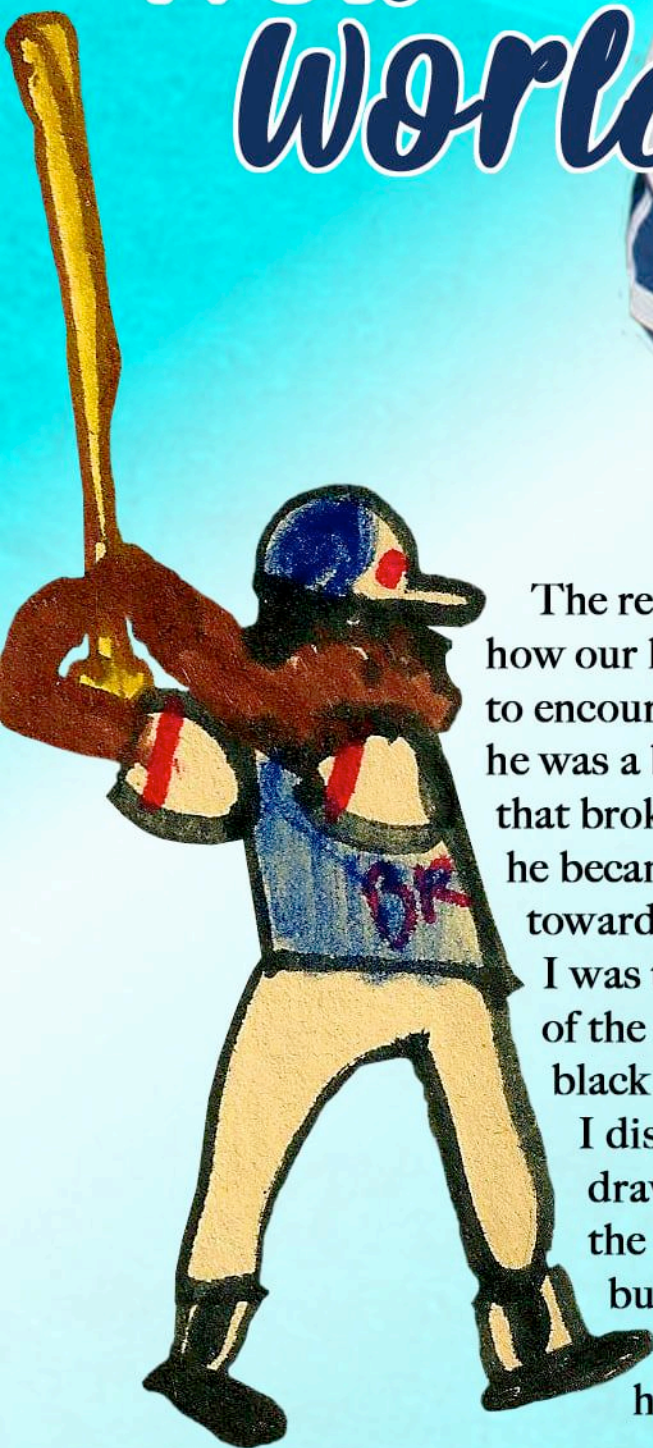
An artistic mind needs not a paintbrush to illustrate an idea. It can be revealed in so many different ways. We are all creative with new thoughts and a different mind explores options that may have never been considered. Inspiration comes to us in so many varieties. Art, Music, Literature, Friends and Family, Entertainment from any source...and even Criticism. Herman Cain once told a story about how he gained so much inspiration from those who gave him so much respect, but it was the one that had a difference of opinion in which made him think about an issue on a broader level. It's just that inspiration comes from the most unexpected places at times and is not always clear with a sense of absolutism.

One such inspiring moment for me came when I was working as a graphic designer for CNN. Only a few months into the job my supervising manager approached me to discuss a graphic I had created for news. It was a serious story about education in which I created the OTS (Over the Shoulder) graphic with an image that contained something “fun” or positive. I had to be truthful and honest with myself in that I had not read through the story and just found one of our reference resources that pertained to education. The Producer signed off on the graphic to implement as there are so many involved in a newscast, but it became evident my choice was not something fully representational of the story. Just a few months later, my supervisor approached me again to acknowledge how impressed the department was with my performance. Other factors were involved, but I told her I was working harder.

“NO!” she said, “You are working *SMARTER!*” It was such a complimentary assesment that inspired me to work as much through my mind than any other means of expression. Those are inspiring moments in life and may yours be many!

a BRAVE new World

Hank Aaron
1934-2021



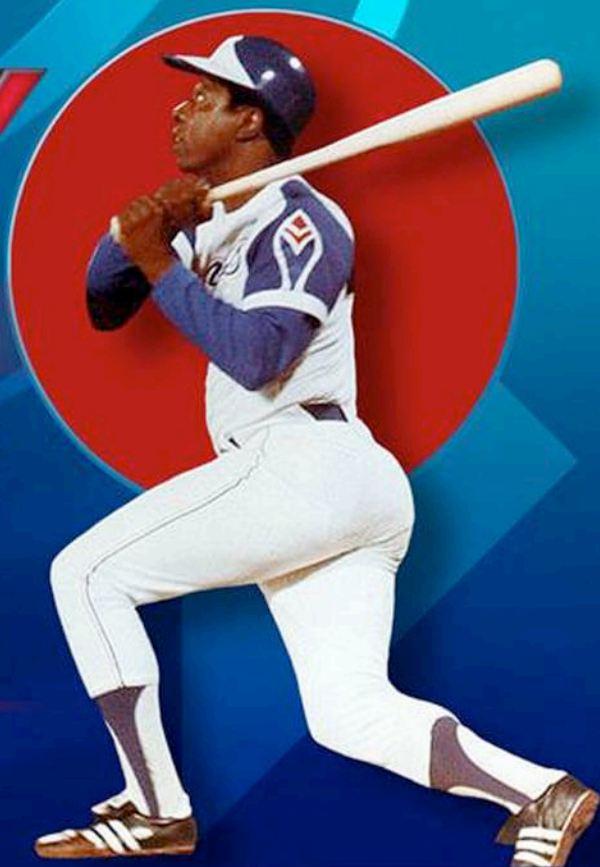
The recent passing of Hank Aaron was a reflection of how our heroes never truly die. Their inspiration lives on to encourage others through a legacy of human spirit and he was a bigger man for all humanity than simply an athlete that broke home run records. Known as *Hammerin' Hank*, he became an impression upon me as a child as I gravitated towards sports in general and he was someone to admire. I was too young to understand and was never even aware of the racial tensions that existed, but my mind was not black and white, but a full range of colors. Long before I discovered Superheroes, Hank Aaron was one I could draw upon for inspiration. Perhaps he was an idol from the attention he gained through his talent and abilities, but his affect upon mankind was greater than his baseball statistics. That is what makes for a true hero and his memory will forever stand beyond his time.

ON THE STORY

TONIGHT

**HANK AARON'S
40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
715 HOME RUN RECORD**

7pm ONLY ON GPB



A Fullscreen graphic created to promote a newscast just a few years ago. “On The Story” was a public broadcasting venture that focused on local news.

While working at CNN, I was in a rush to get to an audio session for an animation I had created when I passed by an attractive man in a suit and thought he looked very familiar...Hank Aaron! He wasn't wearing a sports jersey and perhaps that was why I didn't recognize him at the moment, but if I could go back in time I would've stopped him to express how much of an influence he was to me and so many others. Inspiration deserves both respect and credit for what it's worth and a simple *Thanks* is all that is needed for most.

Sports, Art, Fantasy, Superheroes, and everything else that penetrates my mind as inspirational becomes something special to consider and Hank Aaron seemed to be the one that hit the ball out of the park on every level of my topical interests. His memory will always be something to aspire to become in terms of utilizing his talents for something that will inspire others. Goals are reached through a determined mind and his legacy built from so much animosity based on racism without condemnation of others is true heroic quality in my assessment. Put a cape on him and let him fly through the universe as an angel in Heaven because there was no superhero from reality that did more for humanity than Hank Aaron!



Blue Birds

Just a few years ago the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources began a project of redevelopment just below my own property in what they consider a preserved area and a natural habitat for wildlife. As they cleared out the area to allow for an improved waterway system, many trees were cut down as construction began. I wasn't quite sure

at the time what was happening, but began to notice Blue Birds suddenly coming to my feeders. It then became obvious to me that the ecosystem had become disrupted and they flocked and gathered to the nearest food source to survive. I would get up each morning with my camera to capture those birds as they were new to my world. It was a blessing for me amidst a tragic circumstance for them in that they had to compete with others for food. As a shy bird, they avoid human dwelling as they prefer forest locations and orchards.



Bluebirds diet mainly on small insects and berries, but seemed highly interested in my home-made suet I provided which included wild bird seed, sunflower seeds, peanut butter, and small fruit offerings that are mixed with fat and vegetable shortening. Bluebird houses can be created or purchased to provide a living space, but most prefer to find their own dwellings in tree cavities within a wooded area.

Construction began in the fall and as winter had become a disruptive challenge for these birds, they had found a new source of food just outside my kitchen bay room windows.

It was majestic watching them feed as they

were unique and exclusive to my birdwatch. I took advantage of the opportunity to capture their activity at close range and found them exotic in that year was the one in which they discovered another means of survival. Both were blessed and it becomes inspirational to consider how progressive nature changes the landscape of environment that must adjust to those conditions. Most of the bluebirds have now escaped back into the woodland area and it is rare to see them through my window, but I do see them in the woods as I take my dog Gidget for a walk. Occasionally, one will sing a song of praise for me as they are gifted songbirds and that brings joy to my heart and soul.

<https://graphicasyllumweb.shutterfly.com/pictures/BirdWatch Photos>



the Fine Art of Cooking

March Madness!

Here are a few selections from the Tournament committee that are victorious while watching your brackets fall apart in the first round! I get excited with all the action during the college basketball games and enjoy those comfort foods that becomes a Slam Dunk for a Championship appetite!

Chipotle Chicken Nachos

Grilled or Rotisserie Chicken cut into bite-size pieces

2 tablespoons Olive Oil

One Onion, chopped

2-3 large Garlic Cloves, chopped

2 teaspoons Ground Cumin

2 teaspoons Ground Coriander

2 teaspoons Ground Paprika

2 tablespoons Chipotle Seasoning

One cup Chicken Broth

One bag Tortilla Chips

One cup Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese

Added Toppings as extras may include Chopped Tomatoes, Sliced Jalapeno Peppers, Sliced Red Onion and Chopped Cilantro.



1. Heat the chopped Onion and Garlic cloves in Olive Oil for a couple of minutes over medium heat. Stir to mix.
2. Add Spices and continue to stir.
3. Add Chicken and Chicken broth and let simmer. Turn temperature to low to slowly cook flavors together.
4. Layer Corn Tortillas in a large casserole dish. Add the simmered Chicken and cover with Shredded Cheese and Bake in oven approximately 15 minutes. Remove dish from oven and serve with extra toppings.

For More Recipes visit my website:

https://graphicasyllumweb.com/graphicasyllumweb.com/Gourmet_Gallery.html



the Fine Art of Cooking

WINGRAITHS



Chicken Wings and Drums • 1 1/2 cup Flour • 2 Tablespoons Black Pepper
1/3 cup Chili Powder • 2 1/2 tsp Onion Powder • 1 1/2 tsp Sea Salt
Large Bottle of Hot Sauce

1. Combine dry ingredients in a gallon ziploc bag. Place 12 Wing portions in the bag, seal, and shake until well covered. Lightly brush each Wing until there is a thinly coated spice layer. Assemble Wings on a standard plate and refrigerate 30 minutes.
2. After refrigeration, repeat the spiced coating process again and refrigerate for 10 minutes more.
3. Coat a Cookie Tray Pan with 1 1/2 Tablespoons of liquid Vegetable oil and bake the Wings at 375° for 30 minutes, turn Wings over and bake another 30 minutes.
4. Combine Hot Sauce with One stick of Butter in a small saucepan and warm until butter melts.
5. Once cooked through, let Wings rest 5 minutes, then serve in a bowl and pour on Sauce mixture.

What Inspires YOU

Here's something fun and entertaining for you to consider. What inspires You? I put myself through my own challenge and came up with some answers, but the entire point of inspiration is to get others to discover some things about themselves. You may find some commonalities through the threadwork fabric of introspective thought with your own answers.

#1: Favorite Movie: The most recent inspiring movie for me in recent years was "The Blind Side." It impacted me on a number of levels as it showcased a deeply-woven compassion for humanity without regard to race or social status.

#2: Favorite Song or Music genre: I have a wide range of music appreciation as I regard the realm of music as diverse as any artistic form. "Flamethrower" by the J. Geils Band is at the top of my list of songs from the '80's Rock era, but bands like Rush, Kiss and Night Ranger are amongst my favorites. I often listen to classical music during times when I need to focus and that has become an inspiration in recent years.

#3: Favorite Athlete/Sports Team: As a huge fan of many sports, Peyton Manning is one that gets my MVP award. It was always exciting to watch the games and I must admit to the fact that I bought the Dish Satellite primarily to see his every game on the NFL Network one year so as not to miss a game. That may have been the year the Colts won vs the Bears in the Super Bowl, but as for teams at large I gravitate towards the Atlanta Falcons as I have grown to live with their struggles and battles on the field of play and have had unique opportunities to see them play as a spectator and fan through the years.

#4: Favorite Book or Series: The Lord of the Rings was most impressionable on me in my youth and it's hard to compete with so much fantasy in Middle-Earth, but I really learned to read through the Hardy Boys Mystery stories which gave me a rather unique impression of how to solve problems through detection.

#5: Favorite Restaurant: Something for me that has more to do with the experience and companionship, but 'Chow Baby' in Midtown Atlanta was unique in that you could choose all the ingredients for your own stir-fry. Figo Pasta was always a lunch favorite whenever there was time during the day as well. 'Ye Olde Steak House' in Knoxville, Tennessee will always reign supreme for the good food, good times, and great memories!

#6: Favorite Comedy Act or Comedian: Saturday Night Live was always one of those escapes with humor that I watched consistently while growing up and well into graduate school as so many of those talents attracted their own audiences with new opportunities. I recently found some old recordings from "The Comedy Hour" that I listen to on occasion and think Brian Regan is one that puts me in the most pain with laughter!

#7: Most Ideal Vacation Retreat: My cruise trip to the Galapagos Islands many years ago was perhaps the most exotic vacation I've experienced, but I enjoy rest and relaxation more closer to home in a cabin near the mountains.

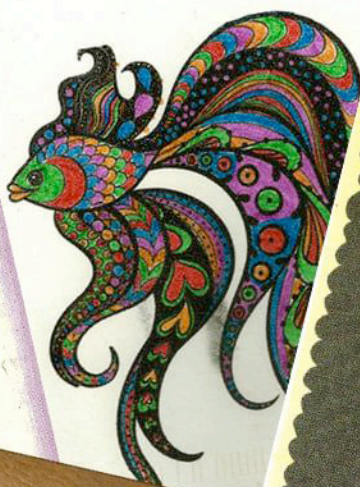
#8: Time Management (or how would you rather spend your time?) For me, it's a blessing as I enjoy creativity and it provides a productive measure to my soul value. Although much of it is work-related, it fulfills the desires and needs to actively pursue my own ambitions. Not all of us have a job consistent with our pleasure, but the question to the answer should bring an inspiring or motivating factor to something you wish you were doing.

#9: Ideas of Fulfillment: Don't even go down this road for me as there are far too many ideas in my head for me to absorb. You may have those thoughts as well in which you wished your dreams could suddenly appear from a magic lantern or some trick of light. It's been my experience that creativity and those ideas that you have take time, discipline and execution to generate from the mind's eye to reality. Prioritize your thoughts and ideas as to what is most important and see where that takes you.

#10: That One Moment in Life in which Made You Feel Most Gratified: Perhaps a better description would be that moment you felt most defined or rewarded. This will be different for each of us, but should give you some insightful indication of something that is important to you and will always be an inspiration to your own self. My moment was rather dull by comparison as I opened up a UPS package on a cold winter day to a box filled with graphic novels in which I had helped to create. I saw my name in print and my ego grew larger than my worth. Still, it had been a monumental effort at 24 years of age to get to that point of confidence within myself. It meant more to me as an artist than anyone else.

Answer the Questions yourself and see if it gives you some insight as to those things that inspire you. I could find a common cord of life experiences, memories, and working through problems through creative solutions that were all factors of my own development. Inspiration is all around us at all times and drives us to become something better than we thought we could ever become on our own. "All the world's indeed a stage and we are merely players...performers and portrayers...each another's audience outside a gilded cage!" I'm sure those song lyrics and music came from someone that inspired me!

Thank You!



I THANKS
a lot
THANKS
A MILLION
THANKS
a bunch
THANKS
A TON
THANKS
so much

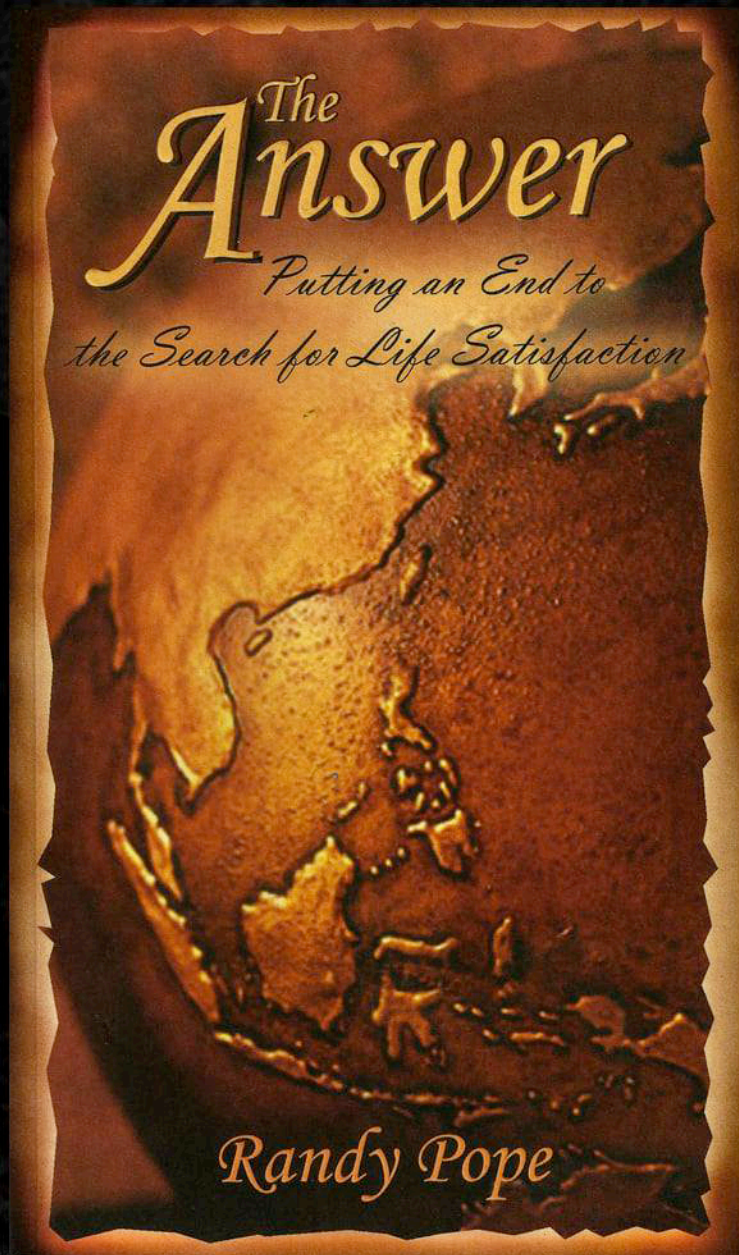
thank
you



Thank
You

Friendship
wraps
itself
around
the
HEART.

A few cards I have received from recent memory in which give me inspiration from those whom I have gained friendships, helped in their ambitions, and continue to build upon those relationships. It's easy to become lost in our digital age of instant text and messaging, but to send someone a "Thank You" card demonstrates a classic token of appreciation for others. I am just as guilty in that I don't do it as much as I would like to show others how much their efforts have rewarded me. Thank You cards are a gratifying source of my inspiration as it provides a sense of love and respect from those who found the time to acknowledge something significant about you.



The Answer

What is inspiration? Where does it come from? Many relate the word to some higher function of religious beliefs in that there must be some guiding light that shows us the way to eternal glory. While those beliefs are based on some moral regard for the human condition, it becomes lost upon others that continue to search for happiness. Randy Pope was a minister from a Church I attended on occasion and his service was always one in which inspired me with philosophy, history, and how The Bible contains so much about the trials and tribulations of our existence. His book providing "The Answer" was an introspective look at finding glory or satisfaction within yourself that helps to explain much of our search for happiness. Optimism is a key component to glory and the book contains much that gives some light to your own fulfillment.

Next!

"Self-Promotion and Marketing"

April brings new seasons of change as we transition from a bitter Winter to a new Spring. The theme for next month's issue will showcase some considerations that revolve around your sense of self. I hope you enjoyed this issue as it relates to inspiration, but next month will be a focus on how to challenge yourself to be a better You!" Feel free to send me some feedback from anything that has inspired you from this month or to simply request topics of interest for the future. Thank You for just being part of my world!

email: graphicasylum@yahoo.com

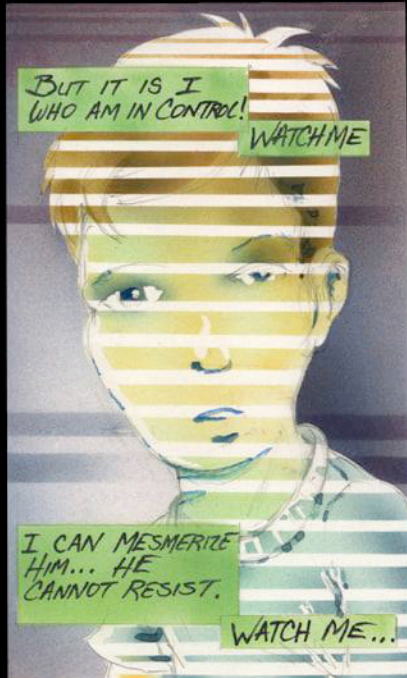




HOW TYPICAL...

TURNING ME OFF
JUST TO PROVE
I AM AT
HIS
MERCY...

WATCH ME...



BUT IT IS I
WHO AM IN CONTROL!

WATCH ME

I CAN MESMERIZE
HIM... HE
CANNOT RESIST.

WATCH ME...



WATCH ME...

WATCH ME...



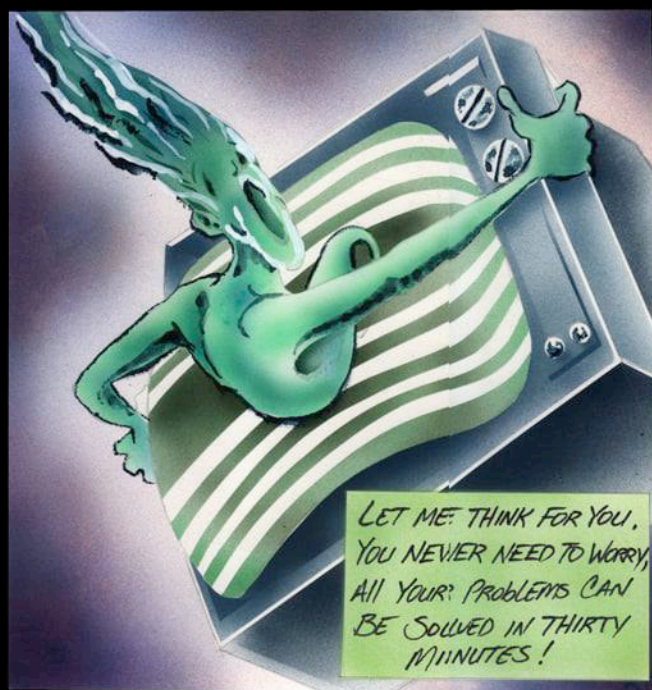
... WATCH ME FILL YOUR
WORTHLESS MIND
WITH CORRUPTION
AND LIES...

YOU THINK I
AM MAKE-BELIEVE?

YOU THINK I AM
A FAKE WORLD?

YOU THINK THAT
YOUR WORLD IS REAL?

YOU THINK TOO MUCH!



LET ME THINK FOR YOU.
YOU NEVER NEED TO WORRY,
ALL YOUR PROBLEMS CAN
BE SOLVED IN THIRTY
MINUTES!

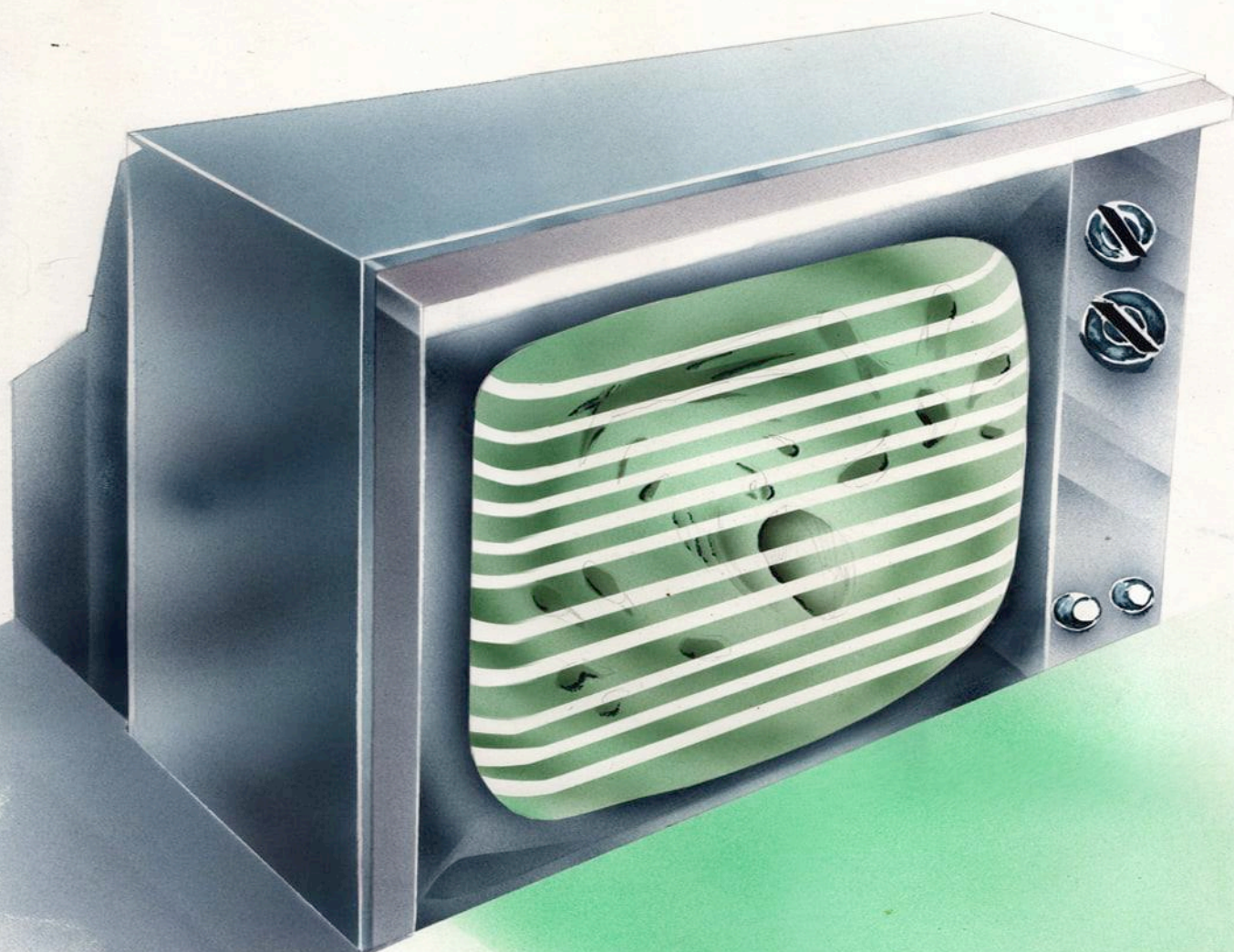


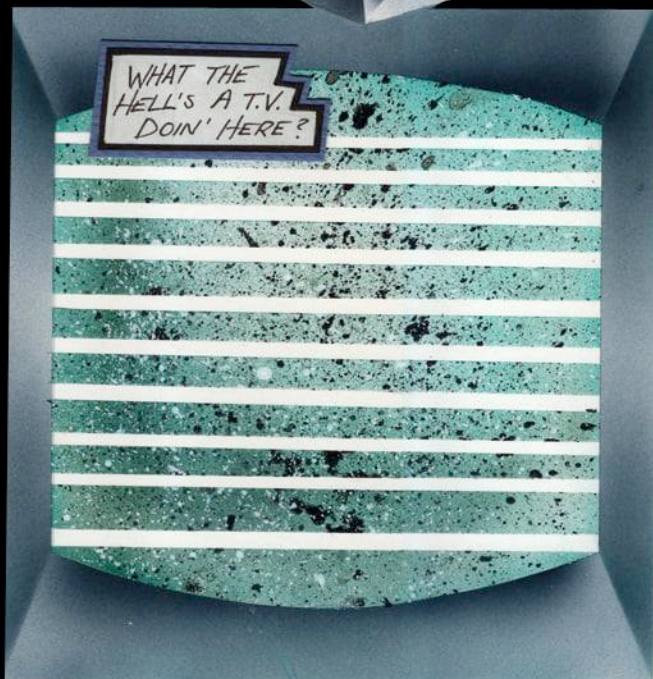
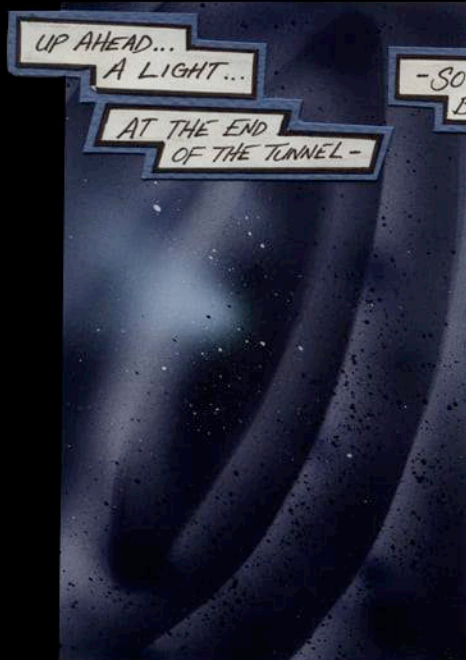
I CAN MAKE YOU LAUGH, CRY,
SCREAM... ANYTHING YOU WANT!
... I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!

BE A PART OF
MY WORLD

MY WORLD
IS SIMPLE...

WHO NEEDS REALITY?





HELLO AND WELCOME TO "YOU BET YOUR LIFE"
THE ONE GAME SHOW WHERE YOUR OWN
LIFE IS ON THE LINE- SO SIT BACK
AND GET READY FOR THE SUSPENSE
AND DRAMA AS WE BRING IN TODAY'S
CONTESTANT... O.K, BOB, WHO WILL IT BE?

THANK YOU, RICHARD...
TODAY'S CONTESTANT IS...
JOHN GOODMAN BROWN!

HEY- THAT'S ME!
THEY WANT ME!

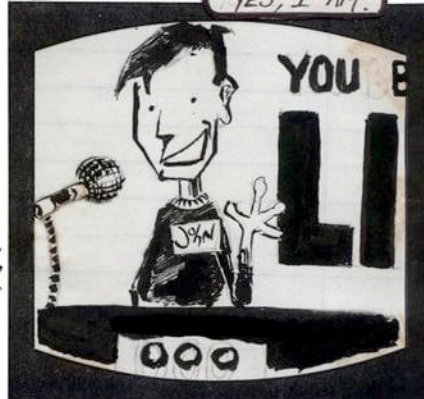


JOHN GOODMAN
BROWN-
"COME ON!
DOWN!"

HEY- I'M ON T.V.

WELCOME TO "YOU BET YOUR LIFE"
JOHN GOODMAN BROWN... INTERESTING
NAME- IS IT YOUR REAL NAME?

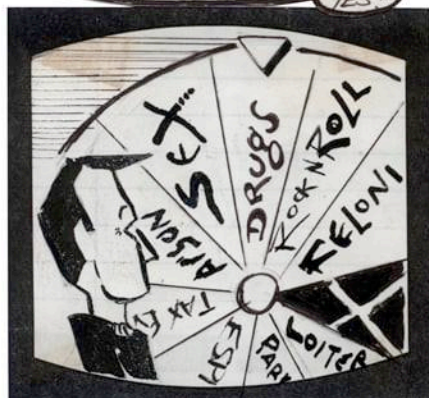
YES, UNFORTUNATELY... PARENTS
NAMED ME AFTER A BOOK BY
HAWTHORNE- WHERE HE LOSES
HIS FAITH- HIS WIFE
AND YOU'RE AN AUTHOR AS WELL...
YES, I AM.



O.K, MR. BROWN... ARE YOU READY TO PLAY
"YOU BET YOUR LIFE?" **YOU BETCHA!**
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE- SPIN THE WHEEL
TO DETERMINE THE CATEGORY- BE
CAREFUL NOT TO LAND ON 'X' OR YOU'LL
BE SENT STRAIGHT TO HELL- WITHOUT
PASSING GO OR COLLECTING \$200.
ARE YOU READY? **YES!**
THEN SPIN
AWAY!



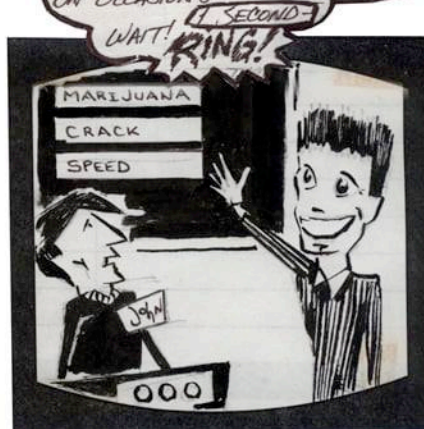
VERY GOOD SPIN, MR. BROWN- THE
CATEGORY IS DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE. YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO
ANSWER THE QUESTION CORRECTLY.
IF YOU SHOULD FAIL TO ANSWER OR
ANSWER INCORRECTLY- YOU MUST
FACE THE DECISION OF OUR SPECIAL
PANEL SURVEY BOARD.
ARE YOU READY? **YES!**



...ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED AN ALCOHOLIC IN
HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT OTHER SUBSTANCES
DID YOU FREQUENTLY ABUSE?

WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT IS THIS?
I WAS NEVER AN ALCOHOLIC...

...AND AS FOR DRUGS I NEVER
ABUSED THEM... I ONLY USED THEM
ON OCCASION'S-



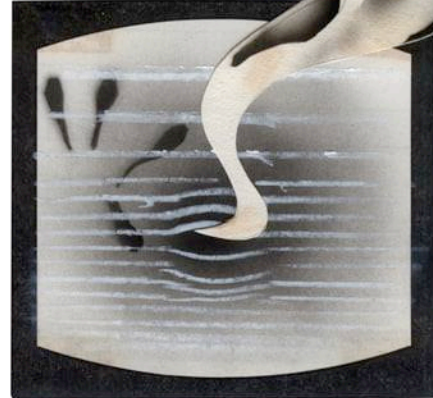
SINCE YOU FAILED TO ANSWER THE
QUESTION, MR. BROWN- YOU MUST FACE
THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SPECIAL
PANEL SURVEY BOARD... WHO HAVE
REVIEWED YOUR LIFE IN FULL.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
WHAT KIND OF GAME
IS THIS?



THIS IS NO GAME, MR. BROWN- THIS
IS YOUR LIFE... AND YOU'VE JUST
LOST ON "YOU BET YOUR LIFE!"

SOMEBODY
GET ME
OUTTA HERE..



THE BONDS OF A
MOTHER AND CHILD
ARE STRONG...

FROM ONE TO
THE OTHER.

THROUGH THIS BOND
FLOWS THE JUICE
OF LIFE.

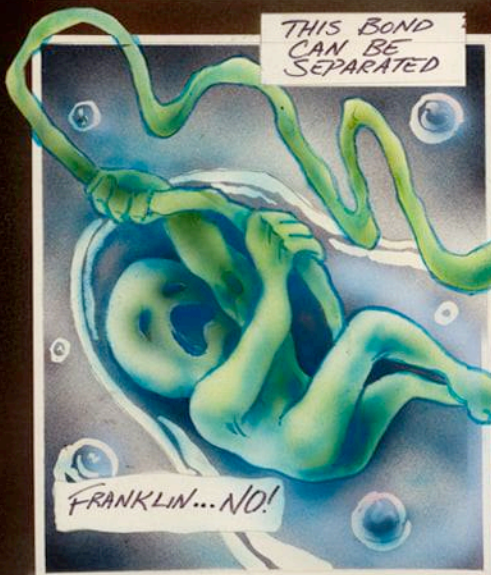
A UNISON...



THIS BOND
CAN BE
SEPARATED

Well, well,
so you DO have
a conscience
after all ...

BUT IT CAN
NEVER BE
BROKEN!



FRANKLIN... NO!



THAT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE AFTER
ALL THE **HELL**
YOU'VE PUT ME
THROUGH... HA! HA!

FRANKLIN ...
I'M SORRY ...
PLEASE ...
FORGIVE ME.



YOU WANT
TO BE FORGIVEN
AFTER WHAT YOU
DID TO ME?
YOU SENT ME
STRAIGHT TO
HELL, YOU
STUPID SLUT!



GOD?
THERE IS NO
GOD HERE -
THERE IS
ONLY HATE -
JUST LIKE
YOU HATED
ME!

NO... FRANKLIN,

I...

I ... LOVED YOU.

NO... FRANKLIN,
THEY MADE
ME DO IT...

Oh, God...

I AM SORRY.

LOVE?
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
LOVE?

Yeah, you
LOVED ME
ENOUGH TO
KILL ME!

NO! WHY
CAN'T IT
GO AWAY...

WHY CAN'T I
GO ON LIVING
WITH MY LIFE...

Oh! SO
NOW YOU WANT TO
FORGET IT EVER
HAPPENED...

YOU WANT
TO GO ON
LIVING YOUR
LIFE!

