

March 29, 2004

Issue #10

# The Ink Waster

Lo siento...

Is Spanish for sorry. I know it's been, what, a month and two weeks since the last Ink Waster? Don't worry, it's not disappearing in the mist, but I have been unable to write one for a while. But since it's the tenth issue, I thought it was time for a few changes.

Number 1: It's just "The Ink Waster" now. What does this mean? Well, it means that the Ink Waster no longer has a fixed schedule. So I might have one done in a week, or I might take a month again, but I'll keep getting it done, without fail.

Number 2: Due to popular reader request...

THE OLD FONT IS RETURNING!

So, without further ado, let's switch from Augie to Alvin's Hand.

**Crrr**whipAfoogah**NO**, f^ againi'mmelting!

Ahhh, that's better. But "I'm melting!?" I think this computer's been watching too much TV. So let's move on...

Ask Nick

Guess who's back? Guess who's back? Guess who's back?  
Guess who's back? Guess who's back? Guess who's back?  
Guess who's back? Dayayay hoo-day hoo-day hoo-day hoo-day  
hoo-day hoo-day hoo-dayayay hoo-day hoo-day hoo-day hoo-day hoo.  
Or something like that. But that's an Eminem song. Ask Nick, as you undoubtedly guessed, is back again for Issue #10. This week's story:

Q: Dear Sir Nick,

I'm having this big problem where my little sister is taking all my stuff. I constantly can't find any of my clothes. One minute they're in my closet, the next they're nowhere to be found. I ask her about it, and she always says, "No, why should I know where your clothes are?" and then we get into this huge fight about it. Then I'll go and look through her closet and I'll find the clothes hidden in little places where you would never think to look (but of

course I would, because I'm the smartest person in the world!)

How do I keep her from taking my stuff?

-Bummed in Chicago

A: Okay, "Bummed", I've got some big news for you. It's this brand new invention. You'll never believe the name. Ready? Here it is!

THE LOCK!

And it can work for you! Just place on the door, and whenever you need to get inside, just stick in the key and you're set! But here's the fun part. Anybody who doesn't have the key, like your little sister, can never get in. So now you're completely safe and secure. Just like that! The lock. Now available at a store near you.

And stop calling me "Sir". It's giving me unpleasant flashbacks to Sir Nicholas de Mimsy-Porpington, a.k.a. Nearly Headless Nick, of the first Harry Potter book. I'm glad my head is sewed on tight. Actually, if my head was falling off, when I stood behind little kids screaming "I'm Godzilla! I'm Godzilla!", at least they would react in some way. You know what I mean, Andrew. ;)

OK, back to the advice. Put a lock on the door, and if she tries to get past that, you might want to **HAMMER** it into her **BRAIN** that you don't appreciate that. Got it? Hammer? Brain? Keep trying to make the **connection**. In other words, let that construction guy follow-through with his swing. Get what I'm saying?



Yup. "First day on the job" is not a credible excuse when you've got nine pounds of titanium alloy through your head. Ouch.

Hello Clippy!

There comes a time in every funny newsletter's life where it writes a little about the Clippy, Microsoft's infamous paperclip. And that includes the Ink Waster. So let me tell you a little entirely fictional, but completely plausible, story about Clippy's life.

Ready? Here we go:

Clippy was born a long time ago in a big room in Microsoft headquarters with big windows overlooking a big city. The new version of Microsoft Office, and for a change, it was a halfway decent program. Obviously, any halfway decent program produced at Microsoft needs some "feature" added to it that will lower its rating below "halfway decent" into at least the "just plain bad" range. Given Microsoft's evil nature, it was important the feature be disguised as something REALLY GOOD. What's really good? Something that helps you use the program and get more out of it. But this something would have a Microsoft spin on it, turning it into one of the most horrible bits of technology in existence. A heated discussion arose between the Microsoft executives, until finally...Clippy was born! It was perfect. At first glance, Clippy appeared to be a great feature. That was, until, people started to get to know him. It all started when people began to realize the Clippy insisted on completely reformatting your entire document because it thought it looked like a letter. Some people were naturally insulted by this (hey, we could format letters back in the days of DOS, now some idiotic paperclip has to do it for us? outrageous!) and informed Microsoft of their feelings. Microsoft's response was to release "upgrades" that, of course, "upgraded" Clippy's personality to downright rude and annoying. And impossible to get rid of. Even if you "disabled" him, he would still come back with his "suggestions" and "tips." Have you had any bad experiences with Clippy. Yup. I feel sorry for you. If you haven't, go to <http://www.cexx.org/snicker/clippy.htm> and see for yourself. You'll get the picture pretty quickly.

### *Celebrating the Tenth Issue*

Ahhh...it's been four months and twelve days since the first Ink Waster went out, and so far it's been a great project. I'd like to thank anybody who has ever contributed, supported, or even just read the Ink Waster. Thanks a lot. It's been fun.

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