

February 9, 2004

Issue #9

The Biweekly Ink Waster

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Random Blurb of
the Day:

"Many computer
crashes are caused
by drunk driving."

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Late Night Ink Wastering

Yes, that's right folks, I'm late night Ink Wastering. It's quarter past 7 on a Sunday night (yes, the Sunday before it has to be written). Unfortunately, a little computer problem came up and John Facey's column got lost in cyberspace, so we'll have to wait till next week. Other than that, no problems.

The Morning

No, it's not what I'm dreading tonight, it's the name of my CD. I promise there's no singing on it. Its songs are created on the computer using Reason. I promise they're pretty good. More news on that later.

Ask Nick

Nick the Pirate is back again this week! Apparently, Nick takes his PowerBook along with him on his seafaring adventures. Let's read what this moron had to say:

Q: Nick,

My printer doesn't work.

A: Dear NOBODY,

Good for you.

The guy wasn't stupid enough to realize that he needed more details, which he kindly added.

Q: Nick,

My printer is making funny noises.

A: Dear Guy with a bad printer,

I'm glad to hear it.

As mean as Nick is, he did have time to pick up a degree in computer science. The problem intrigued him, and he did, in fact, decide to come over to Guy with a bad printer's house and see what was the matter. The following conversation took place at the Guy's house.

(Nick comes in to find the Guy munching on a grapefruit.)

Nick: Hey, you aren't the guy who emailed me last week, are you?

Guy: I dunno. Memory ain't so good.

Nick: I think you are.

Guy: That's rad, man!

(At this point, Nick began to doubt the man's psychological state.)

Nick: OK, why don't you show me your printer?

Guy: Sounds like fun!

(They walk over to computer.)

Guy: What should I do now?

Nick: Try to print something.

Guy: OK, dude.

(Guy opens a document in Microsoft Word. He tries pressing Alt+P. Nothing happens. Furiously, he pounds the keyboard. Nick whispers something unintelligible in his ear. Guy's face lights up. He grabs the mouse and chooses File > Print. A "Printing..." dialog box comes up, and the printer begins to make a strange screeching noise.)

Nick: That's one big problem you've got there!

Guy: Ya, man.

(Nick examines the printer.)

Nick: Uh, I found your problem.

Guy: Yeah?

Nick: There's a grapefruit inside your printer.

Guy: Oh yeah. I put it there because my printer was telling me I was out of yellow ink.

Nick: And?

Guy: Well, I thought, ink cartridges are expensive, and grapefruits are cheap, so why not use some grapefruit juice instead?

Nick (exasperated): That wouldn't work!

Guy: Oh yeah? And why not?

Nick (really exasperated): Guy, you're just gonna have to trust me on this one. Grapefruits do not produce usable ink.

Guy: Fine. Be that way.

(Nick opens up the printer, removes the grapefruit, and tries to print the document again. A message comes up, telling him to replace the yellow ink cartridge.)

Guy: All right, genius boy, now fix it!

Nick: Sure. Just lend me your car and \$350, and I'll buy you that ink cartridge. (Attempts to stifle a snigger)

Guy: \$350? Don't you think that's a bit much?

Nick (giggling): Prices have gone up recently.

Guy: OK, fine.

(Nick leaves for Staples. He returns and gives Guy his car back along with the yellow ink cartridge. Little does Guy know that the other \$325 left over is still in his pocket.)

Well, we'd turn Nick in, but nobody except us knows about it, and

let's keep it that way, all right? I'd say everybody else would like to continue to hear about the adventures of our friend Nick. Say Bye, Nick!

Nick: Bye, Nick!

Well, I guess everybody has time for a few old jokes.

Flashlights, Digital Cameras, and Batteries

Remember back in Issue #5 (Oooh...nostalgia) when I said that flashlights were cases for holding dead batteries? Well, I have a challenge for everybody. Lately, I've been noticing that my freebie digital camera, which runs on AA batteries, has been somewhat lacking in battery life, even without the display on. What about your cameras? Am I alone in my photography woes? I would like to know if anybody else has a digital camera that is giving them the digital heebie-jeebies. So drop me a line about that.

New Logos

I've created a few new logos since the first one, and if anybody would like to see them, they're only a few dozen clicks away.

"IM" still opposed to IMing

Well, now that I've dipped my toe into the world of IMing, I can say that I'm not too impressed. It doesn't seem very useful. Your buddies are never on. When they are, they don't always respond, and even if they do, their typing can be so slow, it would take them 8 hours to type an Ink Waster. By the way, if you do want to IM me, my screenname on AOL is Byronperpetua@mac.com. Just like Nick said, you are going to have to believe me in saying that that is in fact my screenname. It's the same as my email address. I try to be online whenever I use my computer, which is a lot, so try me.

Empty Space

Ink Wasters tend to look better if there is text all the way down to the bottom of the page. So, to stick with that rule, I have decided to put a paragraph of worthless text here until I reach the bottom. I know nobody will want to read it, and it will be ugly close up, but from a distance, it works a lot better. It's just one of those things. Boy, am I glad I don't have an editor - he/she'd be infuriated if I tried this! Unfortunately, it is against an unwritten rule of the Ink Waster kingdom to change the font size so it looks better. So, I am forced to use such harsh methods as this to compensate for the problem. I do, however, think that it is an improvement over the original appearance of this paragraph. Oh yeah, and Goodbye.

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