

# Students tell the truth: they lie

By Randy Feigenbaum  
The Daily Pennsylvanian  
University of Pennsylvania

When University of Pennsylvania junior John Ng lies to his parents about his grades, at least he knows he is not alone.

Ng said he has friends who lie so often that "eventually you can't tell if they're lying or not."

A recent study done by University of Virginia researchers validates Ng's experiences. College students throughout the nation lie in half of the conversations they have with their mothers, the study says.

Surveyed students did not talk with their fathers often enough for the researchers to obtain that data.

The study also reported that students lied in 28 percent of the conversations they had with close friends and in 48 percent of the discussions they had with acquaintances. When talking with strangers, the study participants lied 77 percent of the time.

University of Virginia researchers speculated that lying to strangers is easier than lying to one's parents.

But University students said lying to their parents about small issues was not difficult at all.

UP freshman Nancy Holt said she has not had to lie to her

parents yet, but could see herself doing it when "little things" arose.

"If they asked me what time I got in, I would probably say it was earlier than it was," she said.

UP Psychology Professor David Bersoff, who is doing research on morality, noted

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**- Nancy Holt, 01,  
University of Pennsylvania**

that "it's very easy to tell a story and know it's unlikely that you'll get caught."

"Parents are far away, and they can't check up on you," Bersoff added.

Holt made a distinction between lying about less

important issues and not telling the truth regarding more

significant topics, such as money or grades.

"I find it disturbing when it gets to bigger things" she said. "When it's little, it's not right, but it's not like you're harming anyone."

The lies described in the University of Virginia study varied tremendously in nature. Some told their parents a required book cost more than it did so they would send them more money. Others claimed to be studying when they were really going out.

But Bersoff said the study's results were "alarming"--no matter what types of lies were being told.

He added, however, that college students' lying patterns were probably not much different from adults.

"It's easy to think college students are particularly bad, but from my research I don't think that's true," Bersoff said.

And some students said they were not sure how accurate the study was because the results did not portray their behavior.

"I think I'm a lot more honest than most people," UP freshman Tara Pellegrino said.

# American Gothic

by Adria Kovaly  
Collegian Staff

X-Files-FOX 66, Friday, 9 PM. Okay, okay, so this one isn't new, but it's got it all--mutants, aliens, spirits, and government conspiracies. What more do you need?

It used to be if you wanted to see weirdos on television, you had to get up early and catch the talk shows that aired at 8:00 AM. Now, we can get our fill of freaks in the comfort of prime time. To keep it simple, I'll stick to the basic channels.

There are, of course, the standard Star Trek series' but here I'm addressing the newer shows. For example:

Space: Above and Beyond-FOX 66, Sunday, 7 PM. Space marines in the future battle aliens and androids who have no regard for human life. Each character has their own "story" and their varied personalities bring a lot to the show.

Sequest 2032-NBC (12) Wednesday, 8 PM. New name, new night, new captain. I admit, I don't watch it, so you'll have to check it out yourself.

Strange Luck-FOX 66, Friday, 8 PM. Photographer Chance Harper, lone survivor of a plane crash that claimed 106 people, tries to live an ordinary life. Unfortunately, he has a knack for being in the right place at the wrong time, with only his wild luck keeping him alive. Add a search for a long-lost older brother and you've got a really

strange show.

American Gothic-CBS (35) Friday, 10 PM. A sheriff ruthlessly controls a small Southern town through subtle manipulation. The only ones he can't control are a Northern doctor new to the town, a reporter from the city, and Caleb, a ten-year old whose family was murdered by the sheriff. Not weird you say. What if I told you the sheriff and the reporter have psychic powers, that Caleb has periodic talks with his sister's ghost, and that blood spells out warnings like 'Someone's at the door'. Weird enough for you?

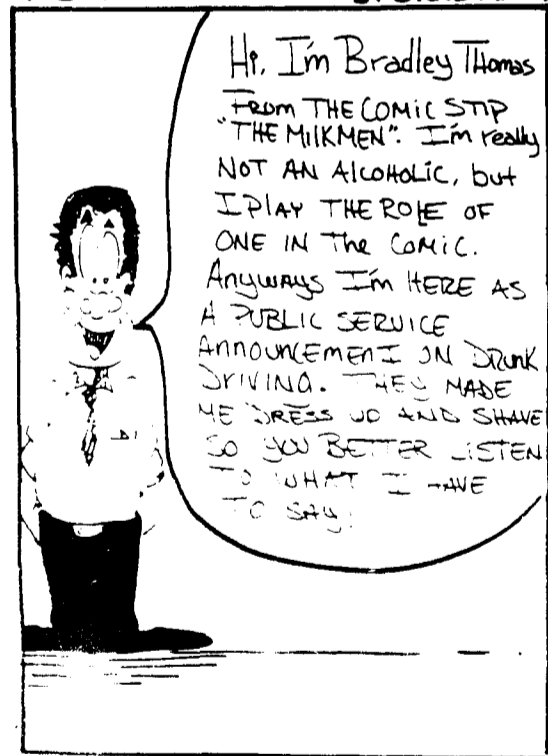
Outer Limits-Fox 66, Saturday, 10 PM. Recreations of a sci-fi show from our parents day. I've only seen previews, but if eyeballs coming out of the back of a guy's head isn't bizarre enough for you, I don't know what is.

Finally, if one dose of weirdness is all you can handle in a week, FOX presents a different sci-fi movie every Tuesday night at 8:00.

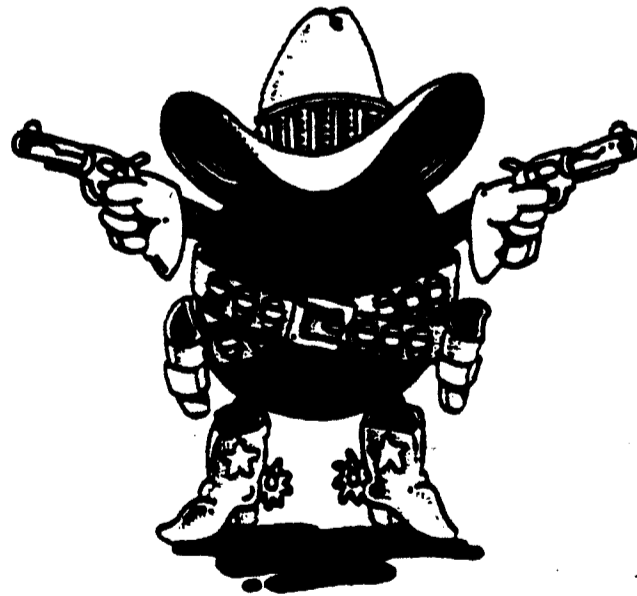
That's my quick recap of this season's new and really different shows. Gotta' go. Someone's at the door.

## THE MILKMEN

BY BRAD MARTIN



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