

Joe's Tidbits From Planet Earth

by Joe Albrecht

Having just come off a year in which every member of the government appeared to have Crackin' Oat Bran for brains, it's important that in 1989 we learn from our mistakes. We must take the proper steps to ensure that if George Bush is in a plane crash, Dan Quayle is on the same plane.

If 1988 was a year we learned to trust our president as much as the University of Oklahoma recruiting program, we must pursue this year with more caution than approaching Mike Tyson at a 4-way stop.

In 1988, wars raged, Ethiopians continued to starve, and the Monkees reunited for a tour of the states. Aside from these tragic events, the main problem with the world today is the names of several countries' leaders. Khomcini, Khadafy, and Pinochet sound more like names of gastro-intestinal diseases than heads of state. If more of these rulers had niceguy names I'm sure we would read more news stories like this:

Santiago, Chile (API) Chilean dictator Walter "Teddybear" Goodfriend announced today the release of all prisoners of conscience and anyone else who wanted to leave the prison facility. This prompted the U.S. and Russia to ban just scads and scads of nuclear weapons and go join a Wednesday (1st shift) bowling league. World peace is imminent but Plastic bowling balls will be outlawed, it was announced.

World leaders weren't the only ones boasting the same IQ as wallpaper paste. In our country, officials questioned what to do when a major forest fire threatened to reduce one of our treasured national parks to the aesthetics of an ashtray. The lesson to be learned here is if Mississippi's Burning, we must not put in charge the same brain-trusts who decided that the Yellowstone fire was "natural" and should run its course till the whole United States was one huge charcoal briquet.

Having obtained my information of that news item from the TV and newspapers, I'm probably making the situation sound worse than it actually was. The media does have a tendency to distort things a little bit. Like the time Geraldo Rivera, an ex-tackling dummy for the Green Bay Packers, expended valuable TV prime time for the expressed purpose of opening Al Capone's Secrete Door. He apparently did this to disclose riches beyond human belief and to inform America that he (Geraldo) has the same brain capacity as roofing shingles. This next news article describes more accurately what happened in Yellowstone.

Cheyenne, WY (UPS) From Wyoming's state capitol of Cheyenne it was announced today that in an attempt to gain something positive from the Yellowstone fire, the state's entire population formed a 300 mile-long human chain. The mass of humanity then blew southwest as hard as they could in an unsuccessful effort to reroute the blaze and burn the whole state of

California to the ground, especially the cast of LA Law.

When reached for comment, Governor Y. Oming responded "Hey, we tried. Ten years ago this country was promised California would break off and sank to the depths of the pacific. We were just trying to give them some motivation."

Through all of this, the most over-attended-to news item had to be the two whales trapped in the icy waters near Alaska. They received as much attention as if they were members of England's whiny royal family. They were coddled, pampered and catered.... Hey! wait a minute! Didn't this whole whale episode occur at the exact time Prince Andrew and Blubber-Hips Fergie were unable to be located while vacationing in the Arctic?

While these problems occurred, much was going on elsewhere. The entertainment industry remained a big influence on people, yet the movie-going public taught Hollywood a lesson. People avoided "Leonard Part VI" in droves showing that just because a major star, such as Bill Cosby, is contracted doesn't guarantee that a movie won't be a total flop. It seems to me they should have learned this lesson with Ishtar.

Question: Is George Michael caught in eternal stubble? How am I supposed to take this guy seriously when he only has two first names? Afterall, we live in an age when it's fashionable to have at least three, such as that role model of Friday night drama, Phillip Michael Thomas David Mickey William....

Switching to more melodious matters, I guess the new fashion

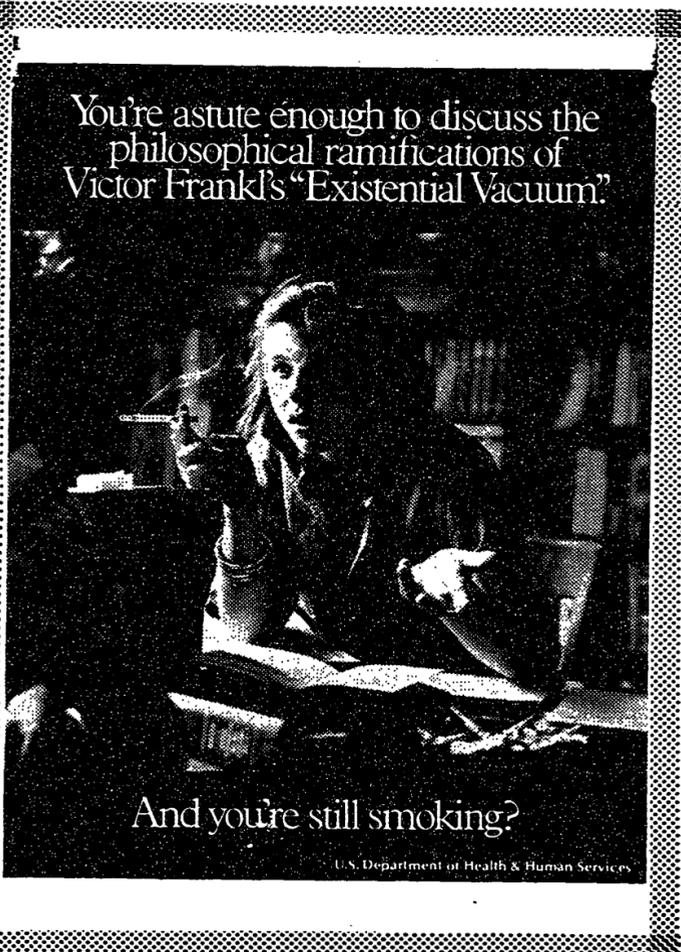
is for heavy metal bands to come out with deeply emotional, heartfelt and meaningful songs like "Every Rose Has It's Thorn".

Maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to me that Poison is to intellectual song lyrics what Tommy Lasorda is to Speedo bikini swimwear.

All in all, 1988 was an interesting year in terms of news and entertainment headlines. Unfortunately, it has left us and gone to a better place much like those burritos with salsa I ate last Friday night.

In 1989, it would be nice to be hopeful that George Bush and the rest of the world leaders will serve our planet peacefully so that all of our dreams will be fulfilled. I'm Referring especially to my dream where I'm trapped for the weekend at the Las Vegas Hilton with Lonely Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Models.

Note to Barbara Bush: Sak's called. Your \$14,000 per setting china is in. They also said to tell you that "Grey is out, babe."



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